

NEW RA GROUP FOR HOWDEN & GOOLE WALKERS

Following a series of increasingly popular walks over the past 9 months around the area, a Public Meeting was held on Tuesday 15 March 2005 at The Courtyard, Goole.

It was attended by 19 people, in addition to 4 Area Officers,

A steering committee was appointed with Ken Boothman as Group Chairman.

The Group Secretary will be Marian Thomas 46 Boothgate Drive, Howden, DN14 7EW Tel 01430-431766

email: thomas.marian@btinternet.com)

With Diana Kitwood the Group's treasurer and Carol Daniels making up the committee to steer the Group through to its first AGM later this year..

Howden is a pretty East Yorkshire market town near the River Ouse on the north, and Goole is a Port that is undergoing a revival at the present time, to the south. They are further separated by the M62. Although the surroundings are flat, there are several rivers and canals with floodbanks woodland and nature reserves. A number of walks have been held over the last 9 months and included many of the rights of way in this area. These walks are regularly attended by upwards of 10 people – with one afternoon walk attracting 15, walking the marshes and fields near Gilberdyke.

The walks meet alternately at Goole or Howden to arrange car sharing. Many attend who are not members but have seen information in local shops and newspapers. In fact most walks start with a new face present. Many have only started attending since we had a publicity stall at the recent Hobbies Exhibition held in Goole Leisure Centre.

All members, and other walkers who live in the area, are more than welcome to join us. A walks programme to take us over the summer months is in preparation combining some evening walks with others at weekends which seem to be the most popular. It may also include a staged walk around the 'Howden 20'.

More details from the Secretary as shown above.

USE YOUR PATHS WEEK 2005

JUNE 18th - 24th

Use Your Paths is the RA's 'umbrella' footpath campaign for 2005. We want to make 2005 a year-long celebration of our footpath network by dedicating the year to the simple concept of 'Using Your Paths'.

In that way we hope to:

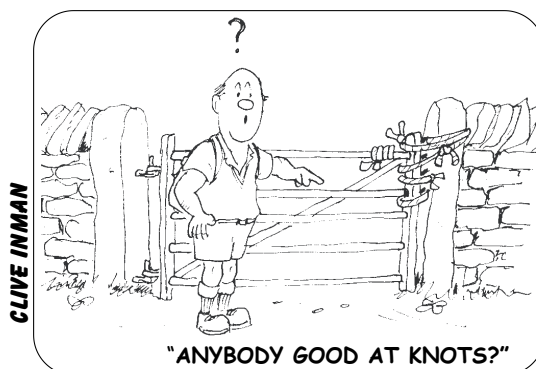
- raise awareness of the importance and value of rights of way to local people
- encourage people to use their paths more frequently and more extensively
- get more people out walking
- educate people on their rights concerning paths
- inform more walkers on how and who to report path problems to
- take advantage of lobbying opportunities throughout the year

A number of local walks have already been arranged to take place during the 'Use Your Paths' week:-

Sun	19 th	Riverhead, Driffild	10.30	TA 028573	7mls
		Along Driffild Canal to Wansford, Nafferton Beck to the Mere, return over fields.			
Tues	21 st	Burstwick, Pinfold Lane		TA 227277	4mls
Wed	22 nd	Coniston		TA 156352	6mls
Wed	22 nd	Kirkby Grindalythe	10.30	SE 918697	10mls
		Using underutilized paths in the Kirby Grindalythe – West Lutton parishes walking along the Gypsy Race (stream) between the two villages.			

We hope to be able to offer more walks and events in our Area during the week. You'll find more details in the Summer edition of 'walk', your Group's newsletter, the Area Programme or there may be a flyer enclosed with this mailing.

Please support these events and Use YOUR Paths.
See you there. All welcome.



www.ramblers.org.uk

- working for walkers -

THANKS & WELCOME

Can we thank all those members who have renewed their subscriptions to the Ramblers Association over the last few months and thank them for their continued support for the work and campaigns of the RA.

Could we also welcome all those people who have joined the Ramblers recently and we hope you find our varied walks, social programmes, campaigning, access and footpath work by the various Groups in our Area sufficiently repays your investment.

If not - please let us know!

And don't forget - if you want to help with the RA's voluntary work - be it walk leading, access or footpath work or surveying or whatever - contact either your local Group Secretary (see back of Area Programme) or the Area Secretary on 01904-706850.

East Yorkshire & Derwent RA Area

Area Chairman	Area Secretary
Chris Bush	Malcolm Dixon
23 Albemarle Road,	8 Horseman Ave,
York YO23 1EW	Copmanthorpe,
	York YO23 3UF
01904-612401	01904-706850

EY&D RA AREA EC

Chairman	Chris Bush
Vice-Chairman	Ann Cumberland
Area Secretary	Malcolm Dixon
Treasurer	Colin Mullender
Rambles Sec	Ray Fielden
Membership Sec	Ann Cumberland
Countryside Sec	'vacancy'
Access Officer	Martin Biggs
Publicity Officer	Peter Ayling
Minutes Sec	Dany Wlodarczyk
'Area News' Ed	Malcolm Dixon
Footpath Cttee	Ray Wallis
Footpaths Secs	
EYorks	Mike Jackson
NYorks	'vacancy'
Beverley Group	Dennis Parker
Driffeld Group	John Jefferson
GYBO	Paul Rhodes
Howden & Goole	tbc
Hull & Holderness	Sue Ripley
Pocklington	tbc
Ryedale	tbc
Scarborough	tbc
York	Malcolm Dixon

Geoff Eastwood remains the Area President. Dany Wlodarczyk, Ray Wallis, Sheila Smith are member's representatives on the Area Council. Mike and Viv Harnan are the Area Auditors.

YORK AMBLES PROGRAMME

All the Wednesday Ambles are open to all RA members (and their friends) who want a walk that doesn't "go too far or too fast".

They are between 6 and 8 miles long and commence at 10-30am.

A full list of the walks is available from either the York Group Secretary, Vera Silberberg, or the Ambles organiser, Alan Clark, 12 Vanbrugh Drive, York YO10 5HE.

A stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

For further information about the Ambles - call Alan on 01904-411969

Help Needed:

Working Parties are needed on 9th, 10th and 12th (Mon Tue Thu) May to install more board walk near Kirkham. This is part of an agreement under the North Yorkshire Community Paths Initiative with the Area. Everything will be supplied but willing hands are needed. Please Contact Chris Bush, 01904 612401 or text 07881597934 or email Chris.Bush@whsmithnet.co.uk if you can manage any of those dates between 10am and 4pm.

AREA PROGRAMME AMENDMENTS

H&H Cancellation in Area Programme

NOTE: Walk on Sunday 19th June North Cave Post Office SE 897 591 Cancelled. Apologies.

Pocklington 14mile Linear Ramble

(see Notes P2) On Sunday July 3rd

You need to be at Pickering NYMR Station for **10-15am** departure for Goathland.

H&H Amendments

Walk on 21st August will start from Elloughton Bus Station 945 280 at 10am and be c9 miles long

Chris Bush's e-mail should read:-

"chris.bush@whsmithnet.co.uk"

COACH RAMBLES

HULL & HOLDERNESS GROUP COACH RAMBLE. To STOODLEY PIKE

Reminder: It is still not too late to book on the H&H Group Coach Ramble to Stoodley Pike above Calderdale Sunday April 24th cost £7: 50p

Phone Sue on 01482 708026 to reserve your seat asap!

Leaves Hull at 07:45am first pick up Woodford sports centre then onto

Ferensway, Willerby Square and South Cave.

YORK GROUP COACH RAMBLES - SOME CHANGES

Sunday May 8th Coach Ramble THE LIMESTONE LINK

- Kirkby Lonsdale to Arnside with walks of 14mils, 10mils and 6mils

This linear walk starts at Devil's Bridge near Kirkby Lonsdale and goes westward through farming country, with views ahead of the limestone pavement which is encountered at Hutton Roof. The route descends to cross the M6 and the Lancaster Canal before going through woodland and a nature reserve where special flowers and red squirrels may be seen.

The walk ends at Arnside on Morecamble Bay, with views of the Lake District fells. Tea can be had in Arnside whilst you wait for the coach to collect us for the journey back to York.

A seat on the coach costs just £7. Book, preferably with a deposit to register your interest, to either Vera Silberberg on 01904-628134 or Malcolm Dixon on 01904-706850 giving your name, a daytime contact number and your preferred pick-up point. All welcome, bring your friends!

York Group will also be going to Calderdale on **Sunday September 25th 2005**. (and not 18th as shown last time) There will be A and B walks as usual.

RYEDALE GROUP has a Coach ramble on Sunday June 26th. Details 01439-770940

POCKLINGTON GROUP has a Coach Ramble to Derbyshire on Sunday August 28th. Details 01759-306829

AREA WEBSITE - UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A working party is meeting to put together an Area Website, which will have news pages, pictures, diary of events, along with the walks programme. Contributions from members are already welcome.

Send them in via the Area News editor.

There will also be links to the other Group's websites:-

York:	www.communicate.co.uk/york/yorkramblers2
Pocklington:	www.pocklingtonramblers.org.uk
Ryedale:	www.ryedaleramblers.org.uk
Hull	www.hullramblers.org.uk
GYBO	www.gybo.org.uk

JOIN US at the DRIFFIELD SHOW Wednesday July 20th 2005

Driffeld, Beverley and members of other local RA Groups will be manning a RA stall at this year's Driffeld Show. The new Driffeld walks booklet will be available along with other leaflets highlighting walks and other events we are organising in our part of Yorkshire. Offers of help would be appreciated as would any photos of local 'triumphs' as we shall also be taking along our display boards.

SITUATIONS VACANT

AREA COUNTRYSIDE SECRETARY

Following Dennis Parker's decision to stand down at January's AGM, we are now seeking a new Countryside Secretary. As is always the case the job is very much what the post holder makes it. This is especially the case with this post as it has such a wide ranging brief: "deals with matters affecting the environment, receives structure plans on behalf of the Area" So if you are interested in these things and how they can affect walkers, access and footpaths then get in touch with either the Area Chair or Secretary and they will give you a clearer idea of what's involved. There is also back-up and briefing papers available from the RA Central Office.

RYEDALE RA GROUP need a new Secretary as John Williams has recently resigned the position.

The Group Committee is looking for anyone interested in taking over. In the meantime the Group can be contacted via the Chairman, Mike McGrory on 01439-770940

WORKING FOR WALKERS

We're Affiliated Too!

We would like to record our thanks for the continuing support of the following organisations who are affiliated to the EY&D Area of the RA.:-

Bridlington Rambling Club
Bridlington Walking & Climbing Club
Bridlington Women's Walking Group
Derringham Bank Methodist Church
Rambling Club
Goole & District Rambling Club
Hessle Rambling Club
Hessle Town Council
Hornsea Walk Into The Week Group
Hull Group HF
East Yorkshire L. D. W. A.
Hull CHA Rambling Club
Malet Lambert PTA
Reckitts Rambling Club
The Yorkshire Wayfarers
Fred's Walkers
Patrinton Walking Club
River Foss Society
Rowntree Moor & Fell Club
Wheldrake Walking Club
The Windmill Walkers
North Yorkshire L. D. W. A.
Scarborough Rambling Club
Wykehyker Walking Club
York CHA & HF Rambling Club
York Hoboes Rambling Club
YHA Northern Region

HULL & HOLDERNESS RA SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2005

H&H group evening walks start on Tuesday April 26th. The first one is from Willerby square 4.5 miles. GD ref. 025 300 with a 7pm start. If you would like details of all the evening walks please send a stamped addressed envelope to Sue Ripley 17 Clifford Ave. Hull. HU8 0LU

PLEASE NOTE - A new series of walks (5-6 miles unless stated) led by Mike Jackson All taking place on Mondays. We invite you to take up the challenge and walk that extra few miles each week.

June	6th	Hornsea Mere	TA 200 474	1pm start.
July	4th	Kilham West Field	TA 008 642	1pm start
		B1249 Driffild to Langtoft Rd		
July	11th	Beverley Clump	SE 944 326	1pm start
July	18th	Watton lay-by	TA 018 500	1pm start.
Aug	1st	Farberry Farm Water	SE 895 493	1pm start 8 miles
Aug	8th	Kilnsea car park	TA 417 158	11am start
Aug	15th	Wayrham picnic site	SE834 568	1pm start 8 miles
Sept	5th	Hotham Church	SE 894 346	1pm start
Sept	12th	North Newbald	SE 912 367	1pm start 9 miles
Sept	26th	Holme on Spalding moor	SE 815 387	1pm start 5 miles

Further details from the Group Sec on 01482-708026 or at:- www.hullramblers.org.uk

YORK GROUP SUMMER EVENING WALKS 2005

DATE	DAY	PLACE	WALK LEADER
April 19	Tues	Easingwold Market Place	J. McCreery
26	Tues	Bishophorpe Library	A. Cumberland
May 05	Thurs	Scrayingham Church	J. Sawkhill
10	Tues	B & Q, Clifton Moor	P. Pendegrass
19	Thurs	Heslington Post Office	S. Roberts
26	Thurs	Nether Poppleton (war mem no10bus)	S. Hoather
30	Mon	Knivesmire Gates	N. Blenkin
June 10	Fri	Great Ouseburn VH CP	D. Nunns
16	Thurs	Fordlands Rd, Fulford Cemetery	J. Powell
23	Thurs	York Racecourse Grandstand (rear)	A. Sanderson
July 01	Fri	Dunnington Cross Keys	N. Emery
05	Tues	Aldi Car Park, Fulford Road	R. Taylor
12	Tues	Tadcaster Car Park	J. Van der Burg
20	Wed	Drovers Arms, Skipwith	S. Etchells
29	Fri	Nun Monkton (Green)	V. Silberberg
Aug 02	Tues	Copmanthorpe (Shops CP)	M. Dixon
10	Wed	Bilbrough Church	J. Smith

ALL WALKS BEGIN AT 7-00pm AND ARE 5-6 MILES LONG

For more information please phone the Secretary on 01904-628134

WELCOME TO WALKING WEEK – September 17th. to 25th. 2005

Once again, we need your ideas for a programme of walks for members of the public new to walking and who might be encouraged to join the Ramblers as a result.

All walks need to be less than 5 miles long or in a figure of 8 to allow people to drop out half way round. Can also be 'family friendly', 'car free' (esp if on 22/09/05) or an 'elm walk' or all three!

National Walking Day, with ITV support will be on Sunday September 18th encouraging people to take more exercise by walking on a regular basis.

If you've got any ideas - let your Group Secretary know as soon as possible.

NOTE:

The Festival of Winter walks will be between December 26th'05 and January 2nd'06

Some Dates for Your Diaries

The next EY&D RA Area Councils will be on:-

Wednesday June 15th 2005 at Market Weighton Community Hall starting at 7.30pm
There will be a walk (&meal) beforehand commencing at 4.00pm

Saturday October 8th 2005 at Terrington Village Hall starting at 2.00pm, with a walk in the morning commencing at 10.00am

ALL RA members are welcome to attend and participate in any of the above meetings. Affiliated organisations may also send representatives

Access : the vision becoming reality.

1 How far have we got?

We have not quite got there yet, but are now nearing the end of the mapping process, which determines the areas which will be designated as "open country" where we will have the right to roam.

The last stage consists of appeals by landowners to have land removed from the Provisional Map because they think it has been wrongly classified as mountain, moor, heath or down or registered common land. Once these appeals have been decided by a Planning Inspector, a Conclusive Map is issued showing the new areas of open country and a commencement order signed by the minister will allow us access to these areas. A number of Conclusive Maps have already been issued in other Mapping Regions and can already be viewed on the Countryside Agency's web site www.countryside.gov.uk/access, which carries their details as soon they are issued.

The Conclusive Map for Mapping Region 5, which covers the northern part of our RA Area is due to be issued on 7 March and will show the new access areas north of a line from York to Bridlington. These areas will be shown on the Ordnance Survey Explorer maps depicted in pale yellow edged with orange, which should be available when the commencement order is issued on 28 May 2005.

The larger part of our RA Area to the south of the Region 5 boundary line is in Mapping Region 8. In this region we are now approaching the Public Hearings where a Planning Inspector decides whether to allow or dismiss the landowners' appeals. These will take place from Monday 21 March to Thursday 7 April at the Beverley Arms Hotel, Beverley, with a gap for the public holidays at Easter. Your RA Area Mapping Group will be arguing for the retention on the map of all the appealed sites; except for one, which we agreed did not meet the criteria for inclusion.

We face some weighty opposition from determined landowners who have hired professional ecologists to argue their cases, but we put up a very creditable performance against the same opposition in Mapping Region 5. We achieved retention of the whole site in almost 50% of the cases and partial retention in another 20%. The landowners were completely successful with just under 30% of their appeals.

The current position in Region 8 is that we have made 73 submissions opposing the removal of sites from the map, more than twice the number for Region 5. Encouragingly, in spite of the higher number of appeals, there were 15 sites which were not appealed and which will therefore appear on the Conclusive Map. 48 of the appeals will be decided at Public Hearings and 25 by written representations.

We expect to have decisions on all the sites by the end of June, which should allow for the issue of the Conclusive Map in time for access to start in November 2005.

2 What will the benefits be ?

Although we cannot be absolutely certain which areas will be mapped we are likely to have significant new areas for walking in Thixendale, Millington Dale and around Huggate, also near Warter and in the Golden Valley. But we will not be able to assess

how far the new areas can be linked together or what new circular walks will be possible until we know the outcome of all the appeals. There will also be significant new opportunities outside our own RA Area to the north on the North York Moors and to the west of the A1. There should be substantial benefits to traditional RA walkers as the access to previously inaccessible dales should create the possibility of new circular walks, especially if the landowners and local authorities can be persuaded to create new PROWs to enable additional links to be provided as part of their Rights of Way Improvement plans.

The Act will also open up some small dales which may not be linked to other areas, yet in themselves provide a valuable facility for the less physically able or those who simply want an evening or afternoon stroll; a walk whose duration may be measured in minutes rather than hours. It is entirely appropriate for the RA, given its charitable status, to be seeking to maximise opportunities for this sort of short range walking as well as more demanding walks.

The right to roam will also make possible a new era in recreational activities in parts of the countryside which were previously inaccessible. These areas will now be available to those travelling on foot (no extra access for horses or bikes) for the appreciation of grasses, flowers, animals and insects; picnicking is permissible, provided no litter is left. No longer will those wishing to indulge such interests be officially restricted to the three foot wide linear pathway, they can wander where they will and tarry for as long as they wish. They can paint, photograph or simply look from any vantage point they choose, practise Yoga or Tai Chi or explore any features of the landscape which interest them. They can walk dogs, although these must sometimes be on leads. They may not, however, engage in organised games or camping, nor use metal detectors.

The legislation seeks to grant new rights coupled with responsibilities, so there are specific prohibitions on lighting fires, picking plants or damaging property. The aim is for the visitors to exercise their rights without inflicting any damage or inconveniencing those who live and work in the countryside.

3 Access Walks

We hope it will be possible to arrange some walks which take advantage of the access rights to create new circular walks in the next area walks programme. They will aim to reach the parts previous walks could not reach. Members of the area mapping group who are established walks leaders will lead some such walks themselves. We hope to organise a series of these walks in March/ April 2006, which will give plenty of time for planning the walks when full information about the extent of the new areas is available and which will not disrupt the normal programme in any way. We will also be very happy to provide information for any other walk leaders who wish to take advantage of the new opportunities provided by the CROW Act.

We also hope to arrange a celebratory short walk in a newly accessible dale on Saturday 28 May 2005, please see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for details. Do come and join us and be one of the first to set foot on a piece of newly declared "open country" in our area.

Martin Biggs, Area Access Officer

GYBO Takes Giant Strides Across The Cleveland Way

GYBO, the young persons' group has set its sights on the Cleveland Way this year. Divided up into nine sections, the walks will offer an excellent opportunity to experience the wild and varied sights on this popular walking route. So far, the group has hiked from Helmsley to a foggy Sutton Bank before striking out to Osmotherley through some picturesque scenery. "It is our most ambitious undertaking yet," says Chairperson Karen Green "and we are looking forward to some challenging but fun walking, and a celebratory pint and night under canvas at the end!" (GYBO walkers pictured to right)

Upcoming sections are as follows:

17 April '05	Sect 4 Clay Bank to Cook's Monument	11.5 Mls
1 May '05	Sect 5 Cook's Monument to Saltburn	12 Mls
11 June '05	Sect 7 Runswick Bay to Robin Hoods Bay	15.5 mls
9 July '05	Sect 8 Robin Hoods Bay to Scarborough	13.6 mls
20 Aug '05	Sect 9 Scarborough to Filey Brigg	9.6 mls

For a detailed step by step guide, please visit our website: <http://www.gybo.org.uk>

New Grading Criteria for Walks listed on the RA's Groups WalksFinder Website

The Grading Criteria used for walks listed on the RA's WalksFinder website was updated recently to make it both more accurate and to give more idea of what a walk involved. This is especially important to someone who is new to walking and want to know what they may be letting themselves in for. These are listed below.

As all the EY&D Area walks are now listed on the WalksFinder site it will be useful if all walk leaders will bear these walk descriptions in mind when submitting a walk to either their Group or the Area Rambles Sec., rather than leaving them to guess.

As a guide, the Area will be using the "Moderate" grade as it's default description. So please let them know if your walk is going to be either less or more strenuous than this. Please also give an accurate measurement of the likely walk distance (round up if necessary) as this will be listed separately and many people will be using it to decide whether to go on a particular walk.

Guidance on grades for the public

	(This information can be viewed by clicking on the grade in a walks listing.)
Easy Access	Walks for everyone, including people with conventional wheelchairs and pushchairs, using easy access paths. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Assistance may be needed to push wheelchairs on some section
Easy	Walks for anyone who does not have a mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Suitable for pushchairs if they can be lifted over occasional obstructions. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn.
Leisurely	Walks for reasonably fit people with at least a little country walking experience. May include unsurfaced rural paths. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are recommended.
Moderate	Walks for people with country walking experience and a good level of fitness. May include some steep paths and open country. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.
Strenuous	Walks for experienced country walkers with an above average fitness level. May include hills and rough country. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential. People in doubt about their fitness are advised to contact the organiser or leader in advance.
Technical	Walks for experienced and very fit walkers with additional technical skills. May require scrambling and use of ropes, ice axes and crampons. You must contact the organiser or leader in advance for further details.
Important:-	Grades are provided as a general guide only: if you have any doubt about your fitness for a particular walk please contact the organiser or leader in advance. You should also bear in mind the distance of the walk, regional differences in terrain and the possibility of bad weather, which can make a walk more difficult and possibly take longer than planned.

WALK LEADERS WANTED

Around about now, Group rambles secretaries start calling in favours and/or twisting arms as they gather volunteers to offer to lead a walk sometime in the next 12 months from next October.

What they would most like to see would be lots of new people coming forward of their own free will and offering new walks on new routes and maybe on one of the less popular days of the week (ie other than Wednesday or Sunday).

Could YOU be one of those people? Please think about it. Look through recent walks programmes - is there somewhere you like to go to which we haven't been to recently? Could you devise a walk, either short or long that would go there? It would need to have either a handy car park if a circular or good public transport links if linear. The rest is up to You.

Don't think that you have to be a 'regular', although coming along gives you a idea of the pace each group goes at. And as well as having a good time, you may also find someone who will help you on the day, either leading or back-marking. Why not try it - its easier than you think. Come and join us.

First Year for "East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint Local Access Forum"

The Local Access Forum (LAF) for East Riding and Hull has been in existence for just over one year.

It was created under section 94 of the CRoW Act 2000, and includes 18 representatives from land management (5 members); user groups (6); nature and conservation (3); health (1); business/user (1); tourism/user (1); transport (1). The Forum receives support from, but is independent of, ERYC, and its function is to advise ERYC on the implementation of CRoW.

It has so far met five times, with four meetings in Beverley and one training day in Pocklington. It has also formed two sub-groups, one for Rights of Way, the other for Nature and Conservation.

Janet Grayson from GYBO and I are on the Forum to represent user groups, and I am also on the rights of way sub-group. As with all members, we represent the broad interest group, rather than particular associations. Members of the public are welcome at meetings, and may speak with permission: indeed, I understand that a member of the public will speak at the March meeting on improvement plans for parish paths. So far the meetings have been conducted in a cordial atmosphere. Access land in Region 8 in the East Riding will finally be opened this autumn, and the Forum has an enabling power (but not a duty) to see that such land is freely available to the public. This will be relatively simple for access land close to existing rights of way, but links will have to be created for inaccessible areas of land. Resolution of footpath problems can be very difficult, but there is optimism that real progress can be made to improve the rights of way network. Peter Ayling



PUBLICITY

Approximately one year ago we members of the Ramblers' Association were asked by central office to consider methods of publicizing the activities of our organization. When this matter was brought up at the Drifffield Group meeting I volunteered to see if it was possible to get reports of our walks printed in the local paper.

So it was that I embarked on the business of submitting an article of about 500 words to the Drifffield Times on a walk that our group had done and with great fear of rejection asking if the editor would like to receive any similar copy. To my great surprise I was told that the paper would be very grateful to receive reports of RA walks and since then our Group has had 9 or 10 published. At first I was convinced that no one read them but over the months it has proved that one has not ploughed in vain. In fact to my certain knowledge there have been at least three people who have been inspired to enquire about membership by reading these articles. Also I have learnt that several people now make a point of watching out for the articles and enjoy reading them.

This small success has been achieved through a paper with a very small circulation, only just over 5000 a week. One is therefore caused to wonder what results may be gained if other RA Groups presented articles to their local newspapers? I am sure that there are among our number other budding journalists out there and the task is not really very onerous.

Another simple publicity strategy that the Drifffield Group has adopted is the production of A4 size posters advertising our next walk. They are not difficult to produce with a computer and can be displayed in libraries, schools, health centres and many other places. If any one out there feels moved to become publicity officer for their Group I would be very glad to share with them the experience I have gained over the time I have been acting in that role. So please do Email me and I will give you my wisdom such as it is and send you examples of what the Drifffield Group have produced. My Email address is: don118@ukonline.co.uk . Don Laing, Drifffield

RE : PUBLICITY

I found the above article by Don Laing useful and interesting. In Hull & Holderness we have followed similar approaches to publicity with posters and information in key places and regular support of RA publicity drives such as The Welcome to Walking Week.

The Hull Daily Mail will provide publicity for our activities but tends to be more interested in a weekly walking column of a standard that few of our regular walkers have time to produce on a regular basis. Writing or rambling? I know which I would choose. In time they may change to a more basic style!

However the main reason I am writing is to emphasise the power of on-line publicity. In November 2004 the Hull & Holderness website www.hullramblers.org.uk will have been on line for 3 years. It is a basic site which is generally kept up-to-date with group information, news, events, walking info and walk details. It provides links to the RA , GYBO, other walking sites and groups. It began as a pilot project but has since demonstrated the power of the Net as a publicity vehicle. The site provider's official data indicates the following amazing data :

Visits to all pages since November 2001 - 13,124 !!!! (Data for deleted pages not available but would add 1000+)

Visits to all pages since January 1 2004 - 4,685 (Traffic is increasing annually.)

Visits to the Home Page since November 2001 - 4,764

Visits to the Home Page since January 1 2004 - 1470 (increasing monthly.)

Most of the pages have had over 500 visits including The Minster Way , GYBO link page and the H&H group Newsletter. Area Rambles (updated weekly) tends leading the way with 1899 visits (509 since January 1 2004) followed by H&H Rambles / Evening Walks.

It is interesting to note that the two Rights of Way pages have attracted over 200 visits each

The Membership Enquiry page, which generates an on-line enquiry to the Group Secretary, has attracted 222 visits including 108 since January 2004.

Most interest seems to be generated every July and August with traffic almost doubling. Is this when we need our Walking Festivals? How this level of interest translates into actual new members is difficult to judge. There are obviously plenty of potential members out there and they are becoming aware of the Ramblers' Association through the Internet.

Unfortunately for Hull & Holderness many of the enquiries are from outside our area and have to be re-directed to our neighbouring groups by the Group Secretary. What is certain is that by 2005 many potential members will have been alerted to activities of the RA.

Publicity is fine but new members usually expect to receive more than the warm feeling of donating to a charity (RA). This might appear to be a negative statement but it needs to be considered when we are being constantly urged to increase membership.

The challenge for H&H is to translate this interest into attendance at rambles and then membership. We know there is a demand for shorter walks but finding leaders for a sustained short walk programme and organisers for social events is the problem.

Food for thought! Happy Rambling, George Barker (Chairman Hull and Holderness)



... the Original
Walking Co.

6

RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS have been organising walking holidays for over 50 years, so its not surprising that people go with them year after year. They have a well deserved reputation for well organised holidays that are designed to suit all tastes and ages, graded from 'Easy', 'Sightseeing' and six more grades up to hard walking and scrambling. They also organise downhill and cross-country skiing. There's challenge for the energetic, adventure for those with the pioneering spirit, walks to study birds or flowers and sightseeing in some of the world's most beautiful cities and countryside. All holidays are led by experienced people who will do their utmost to help you get the most out of your holiday as well as making sure everything goes as planned

And if you needed further reasons for going with Ramblers Holidays rather than any company then remember that any profits not required for running their business are covenanted annually to a charitable trust from which the RA can draw funds to support its work in helping to preserve and maintain footpath access to our own beautiful countryside.

So if you are thinking of going on a 'walking holiday' this year - please can you give those offered by 'RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS' some serious consideration.

To get a copy of their 2005 130page Summer Brochure write to:-

Ramblers Holidays Ltd., Box 43, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6PQ or phone 01707-331133. They also have a website at: www.ramblersholidays.co.uk

THE HDA's TOP 10 TIPS for getting more ACTIVE

- Take the stairs or walk up escalators instead of using the lift
- Walk to the next stop before getting on the bus
- Get a pedometer to record how much you are walking each day
- Enlist the support of a friend
- Leave your car at home for short journeys
- Go for a walk at lunch-time at work
- Play active games with your children and walk with them to school instead of driving them
- Get on your bike
- Try taking up a new hobby such as dancing or gardening
- Be more active in the bedroom

Check out the Health Development Agency's website at www.hda-online.org.uk

In Praise of Beauteous Boltby

Trudging round Newsome, the climate was gruesome,
Over in Keighley the storm clouds cleared briefly,
At Malzeard Moor we were chilled to the core,
It was drizzly and dark, roaming Sutton Bank Park

How we cursed Easingwold. it was so bitterly cold,
We bore the drops bravely, as we stomped around Staveley,
At Tadcaster Town, we all thought we would drown.
While at Linton-on-Ouse the mud plastered our shoes

It was foggy all day as we traipsed at Galphay,
On the Howardian Hills, we ail suffered chills.
At Kilburn White Horse, it was snowing, of course.
And limping towards Leake the outlook was bleak

But at Boltby. dear Boltby.
The walk was sublime.
The weather was perfect,
And the views were divine

As we strode around Drax we all needed our macs,
Twelve inches of snow, covered Kirkby Overblow,
Up in old Gillamoor, the gale was a bore,
While at Great Givendale, there was nothing but hail.

We were wet through and through, at Cawood, it's true.
And on Thixendale Heath, we had chattering teeth,
In Huby and Crayke, we all prayed for a break,
Trust the hike around Wass, to be a sopping dead loss.

Near Thornton-le-Clay, we were drenched all the day,
At Cliffe, in the street, there was nothing but sleet,
The City of Troy was too wet to enjoy,
And the mire through Church Houses simply ruined our trousers.

But at Boltby.y dear Boltby,
The walk made time fly,
The weather was perfect,
Not a cloud in the sky.

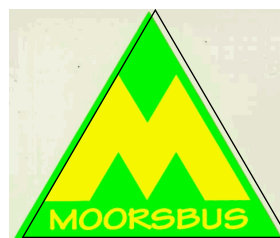
The wind was quite brisk. at Appleton Wiske,
At quaint little Stape, we were blown out of shape,
By the Old Mitre Inn, we were soaked to the skin.
On the tracks around Cattal. how the hailstones did rattle.

The deluge at Scotton well, it's best
forgotten,
In Holme-on-the-Wolds, we all picked up
colds,
And what a downpour as we paced Urra
Moor,
Close by Gelling East the slush was a beast.

The paths were so icy, making Boroughbridge dicey,
Oh the precipitation, down at Knaresborough Station,
At Wetwang you bet we were all dripping wet,
And at Wharram Percy the rain showed no mercy.

But at Boltby. dear Boltby,
The walk was so blessed,
The weather was perfect,
It was one of the best.

Alexander Mee



MOORSBUS - the greener way for you to discover the North York Moors

MOORSBUS - the highly acclaimed bus network which gives access to and through the North York Moors will be operating once again on every Sunday from April to the end of October from towns and cities surrounding the North York Moors including Hull, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, York, Scarborough and Northallerton.

All Moorsbus services operate on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Sunday March 20th to Sunday October 30th and daily from July 24th to August 29th (inc). Certain services operate as above plus Fridays, Saturdays & Tuesdays between June 3rd and September 30th.

Fares have gone up, the first time since 1999. An all day rover ticket now costs £6 per person to travel anywhere on the Moorsbus Network and just £3 for inner zone travel. Family tickets are also available for £12 and £6 respectively.

The Moorsbus Network has now been providing a reliable, high quality service into the North York Moors for twenty years as a way of enabling those without a car to access the area, and at the same time to encourage those with a car to park it securely for the day and catch the bus. The service aims to cut down on the problems of congestion, pollution and accidents which the increasing number of cars is bringing to the National Park. So please can we ask all walkers use and support this bus service if you can.

Moorsbus is supported by the National Park Authority, North Yorkshire County Council and the Countryside Agency and is seen as a national example of best practice for encouraging greener tourism and travel.

Timetables are now available from Tourist Information Centres and other outlets.

Moorsbus Enquiries 01845-597000

More information at

www.moors.uk.net/moorsbus

Also worth checking:-

www.dalesbus.org

www.pti.org.uk www.ukbus.co.uk



Youngest Members in the Driffield Group or in the Area?

On a very cold and blustery Saturday morning with gale force gusts of wind and muddy conditions, Maria (8) and Helen (5) walked with the Hull & Holderness group on an 6 mile walk from Bainton. They managed to keep up with the group for most of the time and we all finished together, with the girls chatting away most of the way. Maria was often out in front leading the way and looking for signs to guide us.

On last year's walk we saw a small herd of deer but this year we did not manage to spot them but we spotted other interesting things to keep the young people going. Congratulations to you both - you did exceedingly well .
Sue Ripley H&H Sec.

GPS Training

Geoff Richardson, who was our guest speaker at this year's AGM, has offered to give additional training on using GPS equipment 'in the field' to those members who would be interested in learning more these useful navigation aids. Initial sessions will be on Saturdays during April and May (apart from May 14th & 21st).

If you're interested - contact the Area Secretary on 01904-706850

KEEP ON WALKING – A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Why bother to be a member of the Ramblers' Association? Some years ago, an opinion dismissed the programme as a reason as being expensive. I don't think they were entirely correct, as I know many (including me) who are attracted by the range on offer each week. Many who join for the programme dismiss office holding from their thoughts. This seems a little short sighted because the groups are there to serve their neighbours by promoting walking locally. We need ideas and thinking at Area and group level, and need the people to provide the ideas and then implement them.

The area AGM – quite well attended by many standards – failed to produce an Area Countryside Officer when Dennis Parker stood down from this post. He has given many years service to the area and remains chairman of Beverley group. We continue to have a vacancy for North Yorkshire liaison officer to take some of the pressure off David Nunns. And Malcolm Dixon has three jobs for the RA – News Editor, Area Secretary and Chairman of York Group, all this because others did not volunteer at the time. Scarborough group, on the other hand, had two people to take on jobs at their AGM thus releasing others to fill vacancies. I still hope very much that people may come forward to fill some of these gaps, and to offer their thoughts in maintaining and developing our activities.

For most of us, walking is what we expect from the area. People new to the area have expressed surprise that leaders turn up 12 months after the programme has appeared. But those of us who walk with the RA regularly are confident about it. One of the consequences of being in a large organisation is that there are more threats to it than would be the case if we were local. And the RA attempts to be inclusive and care for first timers. Because we offer our programmes widely, it puts an extra burden on leaders. So the Chief Executive has commissioned some research to review our leadership procedures, because in litigious times, a claim may arise against a leader.

The objective is to identify whether walks are well led nationally and whether there is any case for monitoring and assessing performance. I know that there are some strongly held views, indeed concern, that any requirement for leaders to undergo such assessment will result in fewer walks. I have mixed feelings. To become a National Park Ranger I had to attend a weekend residential course. This certainly gives one confidence and, while a weekend would probably not be the time scale, there is a case for providing all leaders with a common experience.

So there are two issues that you might consider writing to AN or me about – although I shan't hold my breath in expectation! Please do write about what you think; should there be a training session before leaders are appointed (or volunteered)? The issue must be aired with careful thought: leaders and led should let us know how they feel on this issue.

Chris Bush

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ramblers,

Your Chief Executive today writes in the Press about why many people don't walk much.

He gives several good explanations for some people, but he ignores one: DOGS.

The horrible mess (even if the bulk is picked up, a nasty smear remains) and the infernal yapping/barking in an otherwise quiet environment (quietness is what most walkers want, apart from birds singing, etc.).

Not to mention the 120,000 people who get bitten every year!

We gave up on our local footpaths and parks long ago.

Sufferer, Scarborough, February 2005

Editor's Note:

As we've said before it seems that you either love dogs or hate them..

Dogs are welcomed on Area walks at the discretion of the walk leader. This is usually indicated in the Area Programme - so please do check BEFORE you set out.

The walk leader can also decide if there are too many dogs on a particular walk. In addition, you will probably have to keep your dog on a lead throughout the walk, not just when crossing farmland,

You should probably bring some extra food and water for your dog, especially if its a long walk. And please come prepared to clean up after your dog - as you would in town. If your dog misbehaves, you may be asked to leave it behind on future occasions.

The RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION exists to facilitate, for the benefit of everyone, the enjoyment and discovery on foot of Britain's countryside; and to promote respect for the life of the countryside.

The Association promotes rambling, protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside.

It is a democratic, voluntary organisation.

It is registered as a charity - no 1093577

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The Editor wishes to thank all correspondents and welcomes contributions: be they news, campaigns, opinions, enquiries, favourite walks, unusual rambles or places to visit, cartoons, book reviews, new footpaths or diversions, amendments and/or additions to the walks programme, etc..

Views expressed in such articles are those of its author and should not necessarily be taken as endorsed by the Ramblers Association, at either Area or National level, unless so stated.

All items for consideration should be sent to :-

AREA NEWS EDITOR, c/o 8 HORSEMAN AVENUE, COPMANTHORPE, YORK, YO23 3UF
or e-mailed to **eydan.editor@care4free.net**

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