

East Yorkshire & Derwent Ramblers

AREA NEWS

APRIL 2006

Chairman's Report

Group and Area AGMs have now all taken place. We welcome some new officers in post, but not as many as needed. We are still looking for a Countryside Officer – an important post for someone who cares about the visual amenity when out walking, including contentious issues such as wind farms. Is there a member reader out there who will take on the challenge?

Perhaps you heard the interview with Thomas Sutcliffe on the Radio 4 Today programme. He likes the wind farm at Chelcliffe Reservoir on Ilkley Moor, and read his version of Longfellow's 'The Windmill' eulogising these things. The aesthetic we have is, it is claimed, down to Wordsworth and his poetry.

At the Area AGM the issue of Vice Presidents was raised. Why do we have them, how are they appointed and for how long? This was discussed more fully at the Area Council. An amended statement in the standing orders was agreed – we appoint past Area Presidents, people in public office who may benefit the RA, and others in gratitude for past lengthy service to the Association.

You may have noticed that we have no walks in the programme this summer from 17th to 23rd June (Know Your Paths Week). On this page you will find details of special walks for this week. The national "Use Your Paths" event organised by RA Central Office is now taking place from June 24th - July 2nd, a week later than expected.

In future we will not leave gaps in our programme to accommodate events organised by Central Office as they do not plan as far ahead as we do. We are unusual in having a programme prepared so far in advance, many RA Areas and Groups produce a walks programme covering only a few months at a time.
Chris Bush

KNOW YOUR PATHS WEEK 2006 JUNE 17th - 23rd

**A week to promote the use of local footpaths
across our area.**

The purpose of the week is 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 where 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 our 'Know Your Paths' week:-

Sunday 18 th June	10 a.m.	Driffield Eastgate Car Park	5 miles and 10 miles
Sunday 18 th June	1 p.m.	West Lutton Church 931692	8 miles D. Wlodarczyk
Wednesday 21 st June	10 30 a.m.	Goathland CP 833013	11 miles C. Mullender
Wednesday 21 st June	10 30 a.m.	Terrington Village Hall CP	10 miles C. Bush
Wednesday 21 st June	7.15 pm	Cloughton Wyke TA 019951	5 miles L. Atkinson

We hope to be able to offer more walks and events in our Area during this and the following week **June 24th to July 2nd** when the national **Use Your Paths Week** will be used by RA Areas and Groups to complete a number of grid squares for the **Use Your Paths Challenge** - (see enclosed flyer and further information about the challenge in this issue). You'll find more details of walks and events in the Summer edition of 'walk' or your Group's newsletter.

Please support these events and use YOUR paths.
See you there. All welcome.

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk

- working for walkers -

www.ramblers.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

AREA COUNTRYSIDE SECRETARY

Following Dennis Parker's decision to stand down, we are still seeking a 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 and planning appeals for consideration on behalf of the Area" There are also briefing papers and back-up available from the RA Central Office. 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.

RYEDALE GROUP needs a new Secretary 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**

BEVERLEY GROUP also need someone to take over as Secretary now that John Roach has stood down. Contact Dennis Parker on **01482-861988** for more information.

YORK GROUP are looking for someone to prepare and promote a series of walks using public transport in the York area. Contact either Malcolm Dixon on **01904-706850** or Vera Silberberg on **01904-628134** for more details.

Coach Rambles

If you are planning a coach ramble for your group, please notify Ray Fielden **01482-882499** of the date as soon as possible in order to avoid clashes

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

As you will see from the enclosed flyer, the RA is challenging walkers (whether members or not) to get all the Rights of Way in England and Wales walked, at least once, in the 18 month period between the 2006 Spring Equinox (March 20th) and the Autumn Equinox on September 22nd in 2007.

The ambitious aim is to raise the profile, and stress the importance, of the footpath network; to raise awareness of local paths among all walkers and educate them as to how to get path problems resolved and, in doing so, to raise the profile of the RA amongst all walkers.

It is also hoped that many people taking part in the challenge will discover new paths local to them, and will hopefully take greater 'ownership' of their path network as a result. By encouraging them to report any problems encountered it is hoped that walkers will 'connect' with the people responsible for the state of the network, and hopefully see a large number of path problems resolved.

2 Want to help? See page 3

AREA PROGRAMME AMENDMENTS and ADDITIONS

Apart from the "Use Your Paths" walks on page 1, please note the following amendment and additions to our annual walks programme:

On **Monday, 17th April**, the walk from Hanging Grimston (SE 807610) led by Vera Silberberg will start at **10.15 a.m.** and not 1.30 p.m. as published and the distance will be **10 miles**.

HULL & HOLDERNESS GROUP SUMMER EVENING WALKS

If you would like a copy of the Group's Summer Evening walks please send a SAE to Sue Ripley, 17 Clifford Avenue, Hull HU8 0LU

YORK GROUP SUMMER EVENING WALKS 2006

All walks begin at 7 pm and are 5-6 miles long. For more information please phone the Secretary on 01904-628134 or send a SAE to 41 North Parade, York YO30 7AB

YORK GROUP WEDNESDAY AMBLES			
DATE	START	GRID REF	LEADER
APR 12 th	COXWOLD VH CP	536 773	R. Crakles
APR 19 th	THIRSK (JUNC CEMETERY RD & NEWSHAM RD CP)	422 823	J. Whipp
APR 26 th	NORTH DALTON	934 524	K. Walker
MAY 3 rd	LITTLE RIBSTON VH	388 533	G&A Walsh
MAY 10 th	WENTBRIDGE	488 173	A. Bloomfield
MAY 17 th	HOWDEN	749 283	W. Hedison
MAY 24 th	KETTLESING HEAD (A59 Lay-By)	221 562	J. Van Der Burg
MAY 31 st	TERRINGTON VH CP	673 702	A. Hands

ALL WELCOME AMBLES COMMENCE AT 10.30 AM ENQUIRIES TO ALAN CLARK
01904-411969 SAE to Alan Clark, 12 Vanbrugh Drive, York YO10 5HE

COACH RAMBLES				
DATE	GROUP	DESTINATION	COST	CONTACT
Sunday	HULL	Castleton	£8.50	Jim Tulloch
Sunday May 21 st	YORK	Viking Way Lincolnshire	£9.00 +meal	Vera Silberberg 01904-628134
Sunday June 6 th	POCK	Matlock Derbyshire	c £7.50	Tony Ashbridge 01482-861215
Sunday June 25 th	RYEDALE	Teesdale, bar meal at Heighington	tbc	Pat Fielden 01482-882499
Sunday August 6 th	POCK	Lofthouse Nidderdale	c £17.50 Inc meal	Tony Ashbridge 01482-861215
Sunday September 24 th	YORK	Baslow Edges Derbyshire	c £9.00 +meal	Vera Silberberg 01904-628134
ALL WELCOME - PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT				

WELCOME TO WALKING WEEK – September 16th to 24th 2006

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

This year some activities will be jointly held with Clic Sargent, the children's cancer charity.

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 22/09/06 - 'In town without my car' day) or an 'elm walk' or all three!

National Walking Day, with ITV support will be on Sunday September 17th 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.

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

AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Chris Bush
Vice-Chairman	Karen Green
Area Secretary	Malcolm Dixon
Treasurer	Colin Mullender
Rambles Sec	Ray Fielden
Membership Sec	Ann Laing
Countryside Sec	'vacancy'
Access Officer	Tom Halstead
Publicity Officer	Peter Ayling
Minutes Sec	Ann Laing
'Area News' Eds	Dany Wlodarczyk
	Paul Rhodes

Footpaths Secs	
East Yorks	Mike Jackson
North Yorks	'vacancy'
Area Website	Dany Wlodarczyk
Co-opted	Ray Wallis
	Peter Leese
Beverley Group	Dennis Parker
Driffeld Group	John Jefferson
GYBO	Paul Rhodes
Howden & Goole	tbc
Hull & Holderness	Sue Ripley
Pocklington	tbc
Ryedale	tbc
Scarborough	Dennis Muir
York	Malcolm Dixon

Geoff Eastwood remains the Area President. Ray Wallis and Sheila Smith are members' representatives on the Area Council. Mike and Viv Harnan are the Area Auditors.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

More than 40 members turned up for an interesting and informative meeting on Saturday, 11th February 2006 at Strensall Village Hall.

As you will see from the above list of names, most of your Area team were re-elected with a slight re-shuffle and some doubling up of responsibilities.

Unfortunately there were no volunteers for the time being to fill the vacant posts of Countryside Officer and Footpath Secretary for the York and North Yorkshire territories. Let us know if you are interested in either of these posts.

After the formal business, we enjoyed very welcome refreshments admirably organised by Kay Sawkill. After the break, Nadia Nath-Varma (RA Footpath Policy Officer for Northern England) gave an interesting talk about aspects of her work leaving plenty of time for questions from the floor.

TAKING UP THE "USE YOUR PATHS" CHALLENGE

As you will be aware from the enclosed flyer, this ambitious project (the biggest ever walking project in the UK) aims to get every single right of way in England and Wales walked during the course of the next 18 months. Walkers all over the country will be asked to log each one kilometre square which they cover on a dedicated website www.useyourpaths.info and progress will also be reported in the RA's **walk** magazine.

At first this seems like a mammoth undertaking, however, a cursory glance at the OS Market Weighton Landranger map which covers a large part of our area shows that it has 1600 grid squares. Of these only about 500 contain any rights of way. Many of these will already be covered at least partially by walks in our Area programme. Walk leaders will be asked to notify which ones they have covered.

Some rights of ways are not of course part of a convenient circular route, so these will require special attention. However, they may well be regularly used by dog-owners, horse-riders, naturalists etc.

The event is being co-ordinated by the RA's Footpath Campaigns Team and if you are interested in joining in the challenge, you should contact them on **020-7339-8524/8526**, ask for circular 05/122 or go on the UYP website (as shown above).

If you would like to do your bit locally perhaps with companions from your group, then get in touch with our Area Secretary or your group committee.

MORE ABOUT YOUR FREEDOM TO ROAM - WHAT IS 'EXCEPTED LAND'?

Parts of the areas now designated as "Open Access", are not subject to the new right of access, regardless of whether or not the land is included in the yellow wash or green wash on the new maps.

The 13 categories of land were selected to help ensure that the new rights of access are exercised with consideration for other people and that the public are not placed in positions of danger:

- Cultivated land - land ploughed or drilled in the past year for crops or trees;
- Buildings and their curtilage (e.g. gardens or courtyards);
- Land within 20 metres of a dwelling;
- Parks and gardens;
- Public utility structures such as electricity substations or telephone masts;
- Quarries and other mineral workings;
- Railways and tramways;
- Golf courses, race courses, airports and aerodromes;
- Land being developed in one of the ways above;
- Land within 20 metres of a building used for housing livestock;
- Land in use for temporary livestock pens;
- Land habitually used for training racehorses between dawn and midday, and at other times when the land is actually being used for training; and
- Military land to which Ministry of Defence byelaws apply under section 14 of the Military Lands Act 1892 or section 2 of the Military Lands Act 1900 (e.g. training areas).

Such areas will usually be easy to spot on the ground, although they will not necessarily have hard boundaries. Sometimes, if excepted land is not obvious, there may be signs warning of the presence of "Excepted Land". Please pay attention to these and respect rights of property.

DRIFFIELD SHOW Wednesday July 19th 2006

Do come and join members of Driffeld, Beverley and other local RA Groups who will once again be manning a RA stall at this year's Driffeld Show, complete with the de-luxe gazebo acquired last year. If you can spare an hour or so to help, please contact Peter Ayling **01482 657240**. The Driffeld Group's walks booklet will be available along with other leaflets highlighting walks and other events which we are organising in our part of Yorkshire. Offers of help would be appreciated as would any photos of local 'triumphs', walks in open access land or other group events as we shall also be taking along our display boards.

We also hope to have a presence at the **Malton Show** on **July 30th** this year and other local shows too if enough volunteers can be found to man the stalls. Contact Peter Ayling **01482 657240** or your Group Secretary if interested.



A short "access" walk at Millington Pastures

Martin Biggs, a member of our area access team, has kindly contributed this walk which he led as part of our Open Access celebratory event on 5th November, 2005. It gave us a delightful opportunity, blessed by splendid weather, to see familiar territory from unfamiliar angles. We plan to publish more "access" walks in future editions of Area News and on our website www.eastYorkshireramblers.org.uk.

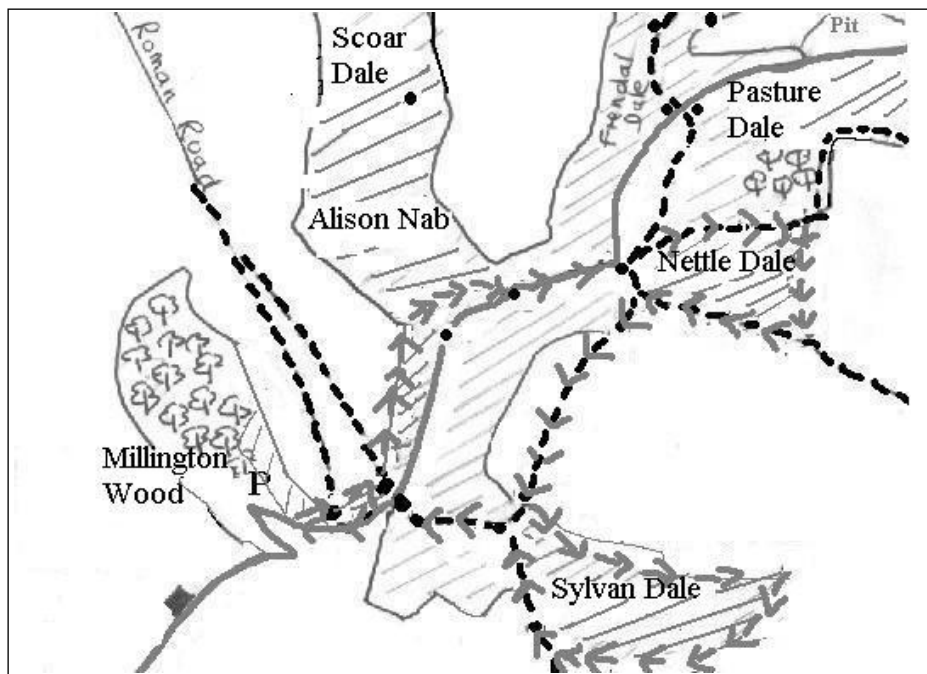
Start point: SE 838530 Millington Wood Car Park
Map: OS Explorer Map 294
Distance: About 5 miles, moderately easy
Terrain: There is one steep ascent at Nettle Dale. Some of the going is rough underfoot but generally the walk keeps to the top edges of the dales.

As you come out of the car park, go left on the road and take the first gate you come to on the left of the road. Go up the short hill to the next gate at the top. Do not go through but turn right along a faint track keeping the fence on your left. When you reach a "mini" dale leading back down to the road, bear left round the top edge passing a smaller, new wooden gate and two others. Go through the next metal gate and continue contouring on the fairly level track keeping the fence on your left. You will eventually see Scoar Dale ahead which is now access land. Make your way down through some sparse trees into the valley bottom and head for the gate on to the road.

Go left along the road until it turns to the left at the foot of Nettle Dale. Leave the road, go through the gate in front of you and take the footpath up the steep side of Nettle Dale bearing right on the Wolds Way to the edge of Jessop's Plantation. Here the footpath continues over the hill, but you turn right along the top eastern edge of Nettle Dale. Then take a right-angle turn along the field boundary, which is the southern edge of the dale. Continue along it until you hit the Wolds Way footpath again coming up from the bottom of the dale on your right.

Turn left over the stile and follow the footpath along the boundary edge of the field until the path plunges down the steep slope at the entrance to Sylvan Dale. Do **not** descend, but turn left here and walk along the top edge of the dale following the field boundary until you hit the footpath again. Bear right towards the bottom of the dale, then left back to the road using a bridge at the southern end of the small lake. It can be pretty muddy here.

Martin Biggs



Key	
Road	—
Right of way	- - - -
Route of walk	→ → → →
Open access	▨

Refreshments are available in Millington village centre at the Gate Inn and at the cosy Ramblers' Rest tea room. Opening times of the latter: Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also by appointment during the week. Evening meals can be arranged for groups and are highly recommended by our members.

ACCESS TO ACCESS LAND

Our area access team members are currently engaged in a coastal survey. Their next aim will be to seek to improve access to the open access sites in our area which are not actually accessible from rights of way. Many "access points" are already indicated by the familiar logo above. However, unless local restrictions require it, you do not have to enter access land at a particular place but you must not damage any walls, fences or hedges on your way in or out. The same rule presumably applies to fences etc within the access land itself. Our Access Officer, Tom Halstead, will report further on this matter in the next issue. In the meantime, you can find out more by visiting the access pages at www.ramblers.org.uk and www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

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, perhaps including new access land, and maybe on one of the less popular days of the week (i.e. other than on a Wednesday or a 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 walker with your group in order to volunteer. Perhaps you could offer a special interest walk, wildlife, local history, a family ramble or arrange a bar meal afterwards? We have particular difficulty finding people willing to lead half-day walks at a moderate pace. Guidance notes are available for walk leaders in the form of a short checklist.

In order to co-ordinate the walks programme, our area rambles secretary, Ray Fielden needs all walks to be submitted from groups by the end of June, so don't delay, please contact your group secretary now.



CAR PARKING

A dozen or more walkers' cars parked around a pretty village centre can be a nuisance as well as an eyesore, so we urge walk leaders to choose start points which are as unobtrusive as possible.

Welton has a car park near the footbridge over the A63, 300m south of the church.

For walks around **Huggate**, Mill Lane (the Warter Road) has hard standing at the roadside near the Minster Way (877543) and wide verges on York Lane (867557) near the Wolds Way.

Warter has a large car park next to the new primary school and **Wayram Dale** picnic site (835568) off the A166 is another good starting point.

Café Culture

Gasping for a cuppa after a ramble? Sadly, the café in Huggate has now closed, but we are pleased to hear that the one in Thixendale has re-opened, and there is also one in Fridaythorpe.

The Hovingham bakery, Wolds Village at the northern end of Bainton and the Ramblers' Rest at Millington are always popular. Do you have other favourites you can recommend? If so, we will list them with opening times on our website **www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk**

Barbara Brittan writes to say that the converted stables in Nunnington village will be open again from 10 am to 5 pm, from 22nd March until December, serving home-made soups, breakfast, cakes and lunches that change daily. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

FREEDOM TO ROAM

Many thanks to all the leaders who have been introducing us to new open access land on their walks. On the celebratory walks last November, we enjoyed the opportunity to explore the dales around Millington Pastures led by members of our Access Team. We had a perfect day to appreciate the successful outcome of all their hard work.

Dennis Parker took us into previously forbidden territory on the Beverley Christmas ramble and Peter Leese devised a delightful new route around Fimber. With the co-operation of local farmers he managed to combine new access areas together with some fascinating local history sites. Tom and Di led a walk from Fridaythorpe on a memorably frosty winter's day which included Brubberdale, and the route of Pocklington Group's February walk from Nunburnholme took in Cleaving Coombe, an excellent, sheltered spot for a coffee break.

By April, all the new OS Explorer Maps showing open access shaded in yellow are due to be published **but see warning notice below**. You can also find out where to go "roaming" and download printable maps showing access sites from the website **www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk**



WARNING - BUYER BEWARE!

If you are about to purchase new versions of OS Explorer Maps for our area showing Open Access land shaded in yellow and with the above brown and white "OL" logo on the cover:

Some early editions of Maps 300 (Howardian Hills and Malton, Yorkshire Wolds North) and 301 (Scarborough, Bridlington and Flamborough Head) are currently on sale **which only show Open Access land in North Yorkshire and not in the East Riding.**

Revised editions have been published which show **all** the open access land in the area covered by these particular maps. However, you are advised to check very carefully that you are buying the revised map, as shops may well be carrying old stock. **A quick check for Explorer map 300, is to see whether School House Dale is shown shaded yellow south of Sledmere (Grid ref 933631)**

Thanks to Sonia Donaghy for alerting us to the fact that the first incomplete editions may still be on the shelves as well as some other faulty versions of the original Explorer 300 with part of Scotland on the reverse!

BIRD FLU

In the event of an outbreak of bird flu, it is not envisaged that blanket closures of footpaths would be necessary as was the case during the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001. Each case would be assessed individually with the objective of keeping the countryside "open for business" as far as possible.

There would be a power to impose protection zones, normally of 3km, around an outbreak if necessary.

The Ramblers' Association accepts that closing paths and public access may be justified in some circumstances to reduce the risk of infection spreading and we would urge all walkers to comply with any restrictions.

There is no evidence to suggest that ordinary walkers would be at special risk of contracting the disease when visiting the countryside. In those few cases where humans have contracted the disease the patients concerned were in very close or direct contact with infected birds.



**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.

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

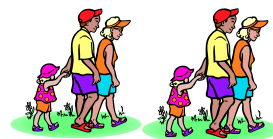
www.moors.uk.net/moorsbus

Also worth checking:-

www.dalesbus.org

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

traveline
public transport info
0870 608 2 608



HIGH STREET: "THE WOLDS' RIDGEWAY" AN UPDATE

Readers may remember the letter to the editor from Arthur Horne in our September 2005 issue concerning the missing link in the "Wolds Ridgeway". He has written to update us on his progress in attempting to claim this path.

"In the following week I received five letters all supporting my claim for the route to be a RoW. However only one writer (Mr C West of Hull) said he had walked the route in February 1990, alone.

I sent three copies of the article, which you provided, to these publications, with results as follows:

1 Hull Daily Mail - They replied saying they had passed the copy on to their News Desk. I don't know if anything was printed.

2 Dalesman - No reply. Too late for November issue. I am waiting to see December issue.

3 York Gazette and Herald - I think they printed the article in full in the October issue (I didn't see it). I only knew when a letter arrived from Mr R Hazlerigg of Wharram-le- Street. He walked the route on Christmas Day 2003 with four others.

So there we are. Including my own two traverses years ago I have "evidence of use" by seven persons on four different occasions since 1969. I must confess I am a little disappointed at this result, but more may turn up yet. I shall wait until January before sending the letters from Mr West and Mr Hazlerigg (I have two from each) into Northallerton to add to my application.

Please give my thanks to all of your readers who wrote to me and thanks again for your help.

Yours sincerely, Arthur J.Horne"

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

AREA NEWS is the official newsletter of the East Yorkshire & Derwent RA Area part of the Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration no 4458492

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 such contributions should be sent to either Dany Wlodarczyk at 49 Pasture Terrace, Beverley, HU17 8DR, Paul Rhodes, 23 Ash Street, York YO26 4UR or to Malcolm Dixon, 8 Horseman Avenue, Copmanthorpe, York YO23 3UF email to danywlo@yahoo.co.uk or paulrhodes16@yahoo.co.uk or m.s.dixon@care4free.net

The deadline for the SEPTEMBER issue is :- **JULY 15th 2006**



A VIEW FROM THE BACK...

THE RIGHT TO ROAM

I must confess I was rather lukewarm about the benefits of the right to roam in our area. No doubt, elsewhere it would be a bonus but, to my mind, it would be of little consequence here. For the most part, I have been perfectly happy to remain on rights of way with no thought of straying. And

when I learned that some access land in our area is actually landlocked (and so, without permission, accessible only by helicopter or parachute) and other bits consist of narrow cul-de-sacs - so you must leave by the way you came in - my prejudices seemed to be confirmed.

Moreover, roaming can be hard work as I discovered when I spent a day with the East Riding Countryside Access team – an impressively dedicated group of people. Our main task was to repeatedly climb the very steep sides of Wold valleys and sign the limits of the right to roam areas. This proved to be as tiring a day's walking as I have had for some time.

Nevertheless I could see that there were some obvious, if relatively minor, benefits; better picnic spots, close-ups of wild flowers and on occasion the chance to replace a stretch of road-walking with a more attractive option.

However, come Beverley's excellent Christmas-lunch walk from Fridaythorpe and my attitude changed. Dennis Parker led us along the hitherto out-of-bounds rims of some of the valleys between Fridaythorpe and Huggate and what an improvement it was. Wonderful panoramas now replaced the – let's face it - rather bleak and featureless views that you get from the valley bottoms in winter. A pre-lunch constitutional was turned into something much pleasanter. For me, that was a considerable plus and those who worked long and hard, locally and nationally, to realise the Right to Roam surely deserve our gratitude.

DAVID HOCKNEY

I imagine that members of the Driffield group were as surprised as I was to learn that David Hockney thinks the light in Kilham is very similar to that of California. And just to prove he really meant Kilham there is a very attractive account of it among the 36 watercolours he painted of the East Riding in the summer of 2004. They are a long way from the beautiful youths gathered round electric-blue California swimming pools.

He has, of course, painted the Wolds before but in oils (there is a nice selection of reproductions of the latter on sale at Sledmere Hall). But the watercolours capture the East Riding at its very best – in summer: wonderful vistas, remote dales, rolling fields at harvest time, wide-verged lanes with lovely, deep hedgerows. Well worth a look. I saw them at Somerset House but their permanent home is at Saltaire.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

What's in a name? When I was offered a regular spot in the Area Newsletter it sounded like a golden opportunity to pontificate about whatever took my fancy (walking-related, of course). Or, as my in-house Critic put it when she heard, 'business as usual, then?' But eventually doubts set in, mainly about blank pages and all the words you need to fill them. It began to feel more and more like a golden opportunity to fall flat on my face. That's when the idea of a pseudonym began to have its attractions.

Cleat Eastwood sounded suitably down-to-earth and out-doorish but then we already have one illustrious Eastwood in the Association. How about Dodgy Stiles? Apposite and all-too-familiar, I suppose. But a bit down market for a R.A. publication. Rohan Gilet had the opposite fault. Posh enough for our New Labour times but too genteel. And, as for Pacemaker, well, talk about tempting fate. So I have settled for 'Backmarker'. Not very exciting I know. But at least it matches the Ramblers' age-profile and now that I lack what mathematically-challenged football commentators call 'that little half-yard of pace' it fits me as well. Enjoy your walking,

BACKMARKER



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 countrysides. 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 other 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.

*.. the Original
Walking Company*

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