



Area AGM

At the Area AGM held in York on 24th January, there were no nominations received for the vacant posts of chairman and secretary and these offices remained unfilled. Subsequent to the meeting, Chris Bush (a former Area Chairman), has come forward and has been co-opted as Chairman for one year.

Peter Ayling and Tom Halstead are standing-in for the Secretary for the time being.

Area Committee

Chairman	Chris Bush (one year)
Vice chairman	Tom Halstead
Area secretary	vacant
Treasurer	George Malcolm
Footpath Sec. (Hull & East Riding)	Mike Jackson
Footpath Sec. (York & NYCC)	David Nunns
Walks prog co-ord.	Roy Hunt
Countryside sec.	Peter Ayling
Access officer	Tom Halstead
Area news editor	Marian Thomas
Webmaster	Tony Corrigan
Membership Sec.	Marilyn Skelton

New editor for Area News

Dany Wlodarczyk has stood down as Area news editor after doing a wonderful job for more than seven years. I have volunteered to take on the role, so please send me your news items, stories & photos. Marian Thomas

View from the Chair - Chris Bush

It was, to say the least, an unfortunate coincidence that both the Chair and Secretary had to stand down for personal reasons and that there were no successors available or willing hands at the Area AGM. On the basis that if I had volunteered at the AGM no-one else would have done so, I kept quiet. It was quite unreasonable to leave the burden to one or two people and Area Council subsequently agreed to co-opt and appoint me to the Chair. It had not crossed my mind that I might find it necessary to take up this position again. I was fortunate the last time I stood down to have a successor in waiting. Dany Wlodarczyk served the Area for quite a few years and saw to some important matters that needed attention.

The Walks Programme continues and we maintain our numbers – at least from my own observations on returning to participate after a couple of years absence. Along with the footpath work parties and rights of way matters the members have been well served. One welcome change is the emergence of an affiliated group in Pickering. With such a widespread area smaller groups like this can only help to promote walking and keep paths clear in the locality

Apart from sharing the task of chairing meetings, my main objective must be to find replacements for the two vacant posts. I am not sure whether it is fortunate that many of the newer faces I see on the walks I have been with over the last six months or so, will not know me. Clearly that is at least one source to recruit – and the advantage will be that the women or men recruited will be able to understudy the role as there are some excellent people who serve you, the members, on Area Council.

A Camera Never Lies!

Whilst out walking we often encounter attractive, amusing or even puzzling sights that inevitably crop up in subsequent tea stop conversations.

The following snap shots from walks are examples – what category they fall into is subjective!

Waymarks provided by a helpful farmer (left)
Birds taking up occupancy of a waymark post (right)

So any photographs you take please send them for possible inclusion in Area News or on Area's Web Site.
Tony Corrigan



YORK GROUP COACH RAMBLE to CLAPHAM

SUNDAY 17th May 2015

There will be three walks to choose from:

Walk A: 11 miles from Clapham going up Clapdale past Gaping Gill to the summit of Ingleborough. Return via Simon Fell, Long Scar and Long Lane.

Walk B: 9.5 miles from Austwick taking in the Norber Erratics and Crummack Dale

Walk C: 7 miles from Clapham going along Thwaite Lane, Nappa Scar and Crummack Dale.

The coach will pick up at: -

08:25 Hospital Fields Road Fulford Join the coach at Ingleby's Depot at the bottom. Parking along the road.

08:40 Memorial Gardens

08:50 BP Garage Great North Way near the A1237 Nether Poppleton roundabout

COST £11 per person. To book use the booking form on the Area or York website or phone Vera on 01904-628134. (There is also a booking form in the York newsletter, available to view under the tab 'Document Store' > Group newsletters > York on the Area website).



POCKLINGTON COACH RAMBLE TO BOLTON ABBEY ON 7th JUNE 2015

This year we are travelling to Bolton Abbey, which is in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales and is situated on the banks of the River Wharfe. The coach will be starting from Beverley at 8am with pick up points at Market Weighton and Pocklington. Three walks are planned as follows:

7 mile walk from the car park at Bolton Abbey. The route will follow footpaths through the Bolton Abbey estate, going north to Barden Bridge before returning back towards the starting point. This walk will encompass most of the attractive features, monuments and ruins of the estate.

10.5 mile walk which involves a stiff ascent to Simon's Seat, a viewpoint on the moors at an elevation of over 1500ft. The route will incorporate a walk through the Valley of Desolation and its waterfalls, as well as incorporating an attractive route through the Bolton Abbey estate. A longer walk of 12/13 miles is planned but details are still to be finalised.

There are also many short walks in Bolton Abbey for those who do not want to take advantage of a led walk. There are just under 30,000 acres of beautiful countryside with over 80 miles of footpaths. You can explore the ruins of the Priory and wander along the riverside, woodland and moorland paths, enjoy local produce in the many restaurants, tearooms and cafes.

The cost per person will be £10 for the coach and this is non-refundable and is payable on booking.

Early booking is recommended as we have been oversubscribed for the last two years. Please make cheques payable to "PSW" and send to Martin Hill at 4 Keldgarth, Hutton Cranswick, East Yorkshire YO25 9RJ. My e-mail address is mph60@btinternet.com if you require any more information.

Please include the following information when you book: your name and address, a pick up point for the coach, a home and mobile telephone number, an e-mail address if at all possible.

Ryedale Group

Coach ramble in Derbyshire, Sun. 28th June. All are very welcome to join us. Contact Pat Donnor 01751 474667

Walking in Yorkshire –website with free walks download

Walking in England is a free website (paid for by advertising), which gives hundreds of walks all over England on a county by county basis. These can be downloaded and printed free of charge. See www.walkinginengland.co.uk

John Harris the webmaster has drawn our attention to the dozens of walks in our area. This is a useful resource and worth exploring. www.walkinginyorkshire.co.uk



Pocklington group enjoying a walk in the snow. Courtesy Martin Hill

**COACH RAMBLE TO DONNA NOOK ON
WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2015 TO VIEW
THE SEAL PUPS**

Pocklington Ramblers are proposing a coach ramble to Donna Nook in November on Wednesday November 25th to coincide with the peak arrival time for the birth of seal pups.



For much of the year grey seals at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trusts' Donna Nook National Nature Reserve are at sea or hauled out on distant sandbanks. Every November and December, the seals give birth to their pups near the sand dunes: a wildlife spectacle which attracts visitors from across the UK.

The British population of grey seals is of great international importance and we are fortunate to have a thriving colony on the Lincolnshire coast at Donna Nook

The arrangements for the 25th November are provisionally proposed as follows; the coach will leave Pocklington at 8am, with pickups at Market Weighton and Beverley. It is expected to arrive on the Lincolnshire coast around 10am, followed by a 5 mile walk to the seals at Donna Nook. We will have plenty of time to view the seals and their pups. We expect to leave the nature reserve before 2.30pm with a planned stop on the way back for tea and cakes. The cost will be around £10 to £12 for the coach depending on numbers. Entrance to the Nature Reserve is free.

It is difficult to anticipate demand for this trip and it will only run if there is sufficient interest. If you would like to join us on 25th November please contact Martin Hill, Walks Secretary, Pocklington Ramblers by 30th April 2015 to register your interest and provisionally book your place. Contact me by e-mail, mph60@btinternet.com or by phone on 01377 270731

**Proposed improvements to the footway
alongside the B1230, Beverley Westwood.**

If the East Riding of Yorkshire Council sends a letter headed, "Proposed Improvement to the footway across the Westwood alongside the B1230", the Ramblers should be saying thank you. However on reading the small print, which says they intend to widen the footway from 1.5 to 2 metres wide to accommodate a combined Cycleway/footway, one starts having doubts. Sustrans and Natural England both say the minimum width of a combined cycleway/footway should be 3 metres, but in exceptional circumstances it can be reduced to 2 metres provided it has a 0.5 metre verge between it and the carriageway. Also, because the route is over a "Common" the Secretary of State has laid down rules. Any land over 200 sq. m required for this sort of work has to be exchanged with land elsewhere. Originally ERYC offered 710 sqm from Longcroft Secondary School, but the Pasture Masters objected as the land was classed as useless to them.

Now ERYC have offered the land known as "Fishwick's Mill", all 4107 sqm. The only problem is the public have used the land continuously for 150 years, and the land is now classed as "Access Land". We also notice that a large section of the Common on York Road has been fenced off, so depriving the public of their legal rights, and the East Riding has done nothing to protect these rights. So the question to ERYC is; what do the walking public get for giving their rights up to this scheme and why are they not building the cycleway to national standards?

Mike Jackson Footpath Sec, East Yorkshire

JOKES

* I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

* I have to walk early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing

Sylvester Lane, Beverley

Sylvester Lane has run from Ladygate to Walkergate in Beverley for hundreds of years. When the area was redeveloped a few years ago to build the Bus Station, houses and shops, they turned the Lane into a covered walkway. This led to the new residents complaining of anti-social behaviour, but nothing could be done at that time. Then the residents obtained planning permission to erect metal gates at each end. (This did not give them permission to close them or lock them).

However one of the shop owners who lived on site used to unlock the gates in a morning and lock them at night. The Ramblers kept quiet. He then moved and no one would continue unlocking the gates. East Riding then made a gating order, allowing the gates to be locked legally 24 hrs per day, with all the residents having keys. The Ramblers objected on the grounds that the East Riding did not have the powers to make the order, because at least one business needed the footpath to access their premises and the law says the gates can only be locked outside their opening time, and no department with a budget at East Riding would pay anyone to lock and unlock the gates.

After an onsite meeting with East Riding officials it was agreed there was no anti-social behaviour during the day and we agreed it could be locked on a night. But again no one would unlock the gates so we complained. East Riding said they would write to the residents. Still it remained locked. Then East Riding said they would put up notices, saying the gates must be left open. Still they remained locked. So in January we wrote complaining again. East Riding said they would have a meeting with the residents, and in the meantime the Footpath committee agreed to start legal action against the East Riding. We haven't done this because the gates have remained open, even at night. So next time you're at Beverley Bus Station, look to see what modern planning can do.

Mike Jackson Footpath Secretary East Yorkshire

Chris Clark

Members of Ryedale Group were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Chris Clark in January 2015. She was a member of the Ryedale committee, and worked tirelessly in her role as Footpaths Secretary, playing a crucial role in the implementation of the Ryedale Footpath Survey. She was a member of a number of committees including the N.Y.C.C. Local Access Forum.

Chris was a thoughtful member of the Area Council and served on the Area footpath sub-committee where her views will be much missed. She was a staunch volunteer, always willing to lend a hand at events such as Driffeld Show and our 75th Anniversary celebrations. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

York Public Transport Walks

Our thanks are due to Malcolm Dixon who started the YPT walks several years ago and has been organising the programme very competently ever since. The good news for Malcolm is that he retired from his job as a train driver last year. The bad news for our group is that he is now free to move back to Sheffield, and even with a decent train service between York and Sheffield he cannot be expected to commute to keep tabs on the transport walks.

However, fortunately Avis Strudwick has agreed to take over coordinating the walks, assisted by Lynda Doughty and Doreen Felton. You will find the new contact details in the notes in the next Area walks booklet, enclosed with this mailing. Thanks go to the three volunteers for keeping this very worthwhile section of our walks programme going.

Malcolm has made a significant contribution over many years to the York Ramblers and also to the Area committee and his input will be missed. We wish him all the best in the future and hope that he will keep in touch.

E-mail or Snail Mail?

Ninety members have opted to have the three annual mailings from Area sent as e-mail attachments, which saves postage and paper.

If you wish to have your documents sent electronically please send a message to areamembers2@hotmail.com or alternatively use the contact form on the Area website by clicking the 'Members' tab on the home page and selecting 'Electronic Mail shot of Newsletters etc'.

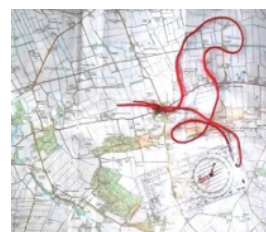


Navigation skills Training days

Sam Borman has volunteered lead some navigation skills training sessions, for potential and existing walk leaders. Although initially developed for Ryedale group members, the sessions are open to members of other groups, both novice walk leaders and those who wish to improve their navigation skills.

Anyone interested in a training course should contact Sam Borman on phone 077 5280 1488 or e-mail at

sambo1950-nav@yahoo.co.uk courses will be organised according to demand. If a group is interested in putting on similar training for their members, Sam would be happy to assist.



Big Pathwatch Project 2015

This June the Ramblers are launching an ambitious project to coincide with our 80th year. The aim is to carry out a survey of all paths (rights of way on OS maps) in England and Wales. This is a huge undertaking, starting in June and running into autumn. A large number of volunteers will be needed to conduct surveys of the paths in their area. A free smart phone app will be available for easy uploading of responses but a paper survey system can also be used.

The findings will be published next spring. It is important to celebrate our paths and things that make walking great, as well as highlighting the problems walkers encounter. There is currently no national picture of the path network. The survey will provide reliable data on the most frequently occurring path problems & engage with the public to encourage more people to care about their local paths. More information will be available soon on the Area website.

LONGER WALKS

Monthly walks of around 14 or 15 miles have been organised by the Pocklington Group for several years. Because many participants are members of other Groups these will now be shown as "Area" walks in the next Programme.

Additionally walks of around 17 or 18 miles are arranged on an occasional basis at short-notice with notification by email or telephone. If you would like more details of these walks please contact Jack Hutchinson on 01759 303461 or email jack.hutchinson1@which.net.