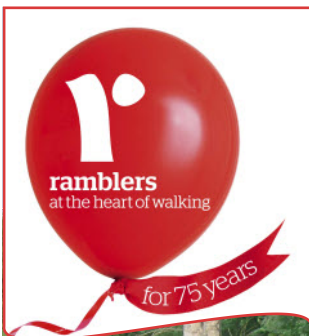




Ramblers 75th Anniversary Celebrations

Several of our local groups organised "baton" walks this summer as part of the national event celebrating this 75th anniversary year of the founding of the Ramblers (photos left and below).

Beverley Group chose to celebrate with an evening walk through Welton Dale since this lovely area was for so many years out of bounds to walkers. Former Area President David Rubinstein, who was instrumental in the Ramblers campaign to open up the dale, addressed the group, some of whom told us they were completely unaware that the route we all now take for granted was once forbidden territory. Peter Ayling kindly ensured that a glass of bubbly was provided for all and Dennis Parker proposed the anniversary toast.

York Group's baton walk fittingly went to Pond Head, which was the inaugural walk when the Group was formed some forty years ago.

As proposed in the April edition of Area News, 75th anniversary celebrations will culminate in our area with a special walk starting at Thixendale followed by refreshments at the village hall. This will now take place on Saturday, 16th October. All members and friends are invited to take part in either the walk or tea or both. It is not necessary to book for the walk as numbers need not be limited, but if you wish to enjoy the birthday tea at the village hall afterwards, please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, details below.

Above: David Rubinstein addresses evening walkers in Welton Dale.
Photo by DCW

Left: York Group's baton walk to Pond Head. Front, from left to right: Chris Bush, Ian Gibbs, Marilyn Skelton, Judith McCreery, Enid Nunns, David Nunns.
Photo courtesy of Marilyn Skelton

Below: Evening walkers enjoy the once forbidden territory of Welton Dale on Beverley Group's baton walk.
Photo by DCW



Ramblers 75th Anniversary Walk and Tea

Join us for an 8½ mile walk on
Saturday 16th October 2010
at 10.30 am from
Thixendale Village Hall
Grid ref. SE 843 611

Optional afternoon tea at 3pm

Just turn up for the walk, but booking is essential for the tea

To book, send £5 per person to
Colin Mullender
35 Holmechurch Lane • Beverley
HU17 0QP

by Thursday, October 7th
Cheques payable to
Ramblers' Association Beverley Group

The Original WalkingCompany
RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS
Tel: **01707 331133**
www.ramblersholidays.co.uk



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Group News

Ryedale Group

In July, we had our annual coach ramble, this year exploring the delights of Nidderdale. As usual we offered three different linear walks, followed by dinner at the Anchor Inn, Whixley. This was one of our most successful coach rambles in recent years – and we hope one of the most enjoyable. Members from our own group and others within the area, along with members of the public and other walking groups joined us, filling a 49-seater coach. Thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation and leading, and to everyone who came along and made it worthwhile. Where to next year?

Wendy Borman

Pocklington Group



Pocklington Group Coach Ramble to Castle Howard, photo courtesy of Steve Mullarkey. To view more photos, visit the Pocklington page of eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk



*Beverley Group Coach Ramble to Fountains Abbey
Photo courtesy of Steve Mullarkey*

Beverley Group

Fountains Abbey was chosen as the destination for the Beverley Group coach ramble in May, repeating the successful format of choosing a place of interest suitable for walkers and non-walkers alike, which helped to fill the coach and make a slight profit for group funds.

The group has a strong committee; two members now share responsibility for publicity and are regularly 'spreading the word' by distributing leaflets about our activities, resulting in a number of new faces on walks. A publicity stand at Bishop Burton during the European Pony Trials was also organised.

The group has recently helped to produce a booklet of walks from Skidby Mill with notes by botanist Derrick Boatman.

Congratulations to Dennis Parker, one of the group's founder members, still active on the committee, who celebrated his 90th birthday in June.

For details of our Christmas ramble and lunch on Sunday, 5th December, please phone Annette Clemenson 01482 887389 or email annette_clemenson@hotmail.com



*We wish Pocklington Group committee members Liz Ingham and Peter Reid every happiness following their marriage in March. They are pictured here at Selby Registry Office. See back page for full story.
Photo by Simon Roberts.*

York Group

Regrettably, the September coach ramble has had to be cancelled as no volunteers were available to lead the walks.
Vera Silberberg

Wednesday Ambles

For details of these weekly walks of 7-8 miles, contact:
Jackie Glew Tel: **01423 869489** Mobile: **07858 145079**
Email: glewj@ntlworld.com or
Margaret Green Tel: **01423 330242** Mobile: **07710 850790** Email: margaret@telgen.co.uk

Howden and Goole Group

*The group had an interesting visit to the highly-recommended Waterways Museum in Goole which included a boat tour of the Goole docks.
Photo courtesy of Steve Mullarkey*



The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England and Wales no: 1093577, in Scotland no: SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (no: 4458492). Registered office: Second Floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

Amendments to the walks programme

With this issue of Area News you will also have received your annual walks programme. Thanks to our enthusiastic and dedicated team of volunteer leaders and the sterling work of our programme co-ordinators we are able to offer a wonderfully diverse annual programme of some 700 walks.

Although every effort is made to adhere to the programme, it does very occasionally happen that details of a published walk need to be amended. Leaders have committed themselves to dates which may well be over a year ahead. In addition, unforeseen road works or extremely adverse weather conditions (such as we saw last winter and during the floods of 2007) may make it impossible to reach the advertised starting point or to walk the planned route.

The Area Council meeting in June considered suggestions made by Area and Group walks co-ordinators as to how we can best publicise any amendments to the programme. We need to bear in mind that programmed walks have been advertised not just to our own membership but to the public at large via the Walks Finder on both our own and the national Ramblers website. The following circumstances were considered and proposals made for a common Area policy (in italics):

1 If the named leader is unavailable

This can happen due to illness, injury or perhaps an unforeseen family event. Current practice is that the designated leader attempts to find his or her own replacement. Otherwise the relevant group secretary and/or rambles co-ordinator need to be informed and the group will attempt to find a replacement. On very rare occasions, this has proved impossible, in which case the Area committee has been approached for assistance in finding a new leader to enable the walk to go ahead.

- If a new leader is found at group level, there is no need to involve the Area Walks Co-ordinator or to make changes to the Walks Finder.*
- No walk should be cancelled until steps have been taken at Group and Area level to find a replacement leader.*
- In the worst case scenario, if no replacement leader can be found at short notice, someone should go to the start point to inform walkers of the situation. Email can be used to contact as many walkers as possible in advance, but this cannot be relied upon to reach all potential participants.*

2 If the start point is inaccessible

- In the event of severe weather or road works, any cancellation or amendment will be advertised on the Ramblers Walks Finder and also, where possible, on Area and Group websites.*

- If severe weather is forecast, it is the walker's responsibility to check the Walks Finder and websites for amendments (or to phone a friend who can) or as a last resort to phone the relevant Group Secretary before setting off for the walk.*

3 If the planned route is unwalkable or hazardous

The start may actually be accessible but the planned route could be obstructed or hazardous. Walking in deep snow, for example, is particularly strenuous and a shorter route might be considered in such conditions.

- Both the route and the distance can be altered at the leader's discretion.*
- It is not necessary to amend the Walks Finder if an alternative walk from the advertised start point can go ahead.*

If this proposed policy is agreed at the October Area Council, Roy Hunt will send Group Secretaries and Rambles Secretaries names of three people they can contact who are able to make changes to the Walks Finder. Please send any comments on the above proposals to :

Roy Hunt, Area Walks Co-ordinator

Email roy_hunt@btopenworld.com

Parking in North Newbald

Following complaints from the public, Newbald Parish Council feels it is their duty to ask that any walking club members who leave their cars in North Newbald park with consideration for local residents. Tractors need to be able to get along the roads as it is a working village, even on a Sunday. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated and we look forward to welcoming you to the village. Thank you,

Suzanne Smith

Clerk to Newbald Parish Council

Pocklington Group Secretary

Sheila Banks, 17 Mile End Park, Pocklington, York, YO42 2TH
Email sheilabanks@hotmail.com Telephone **01759 304466**
Please amend details in your walks programme if necessary.

Colin Coombes

It was with much sadness that those of us who knew him heard of Colin's sudden death, aged 90, on May 15, 2010. Colin was a long-time member of the R.A., and served for many years on the York group committee, as secretary, and on the footpath sub-committee. He was much involved in reporting badly maintained footpaths, sub-standard stiles etc, while his encyclopaedic knowledge of the path network informed many discussions. There are many stiles and bridges in existence that are the result of Colin's footpath work. When York was being enlarged in 1994 Colin drew up a walking route around the new boundaries well before the City of York's leaflet walk was even thought of, but decided not to publish it as a maplet.

Colin also led many R.A. rambles, managing to read maps in spite of poor eyesight. Those of us who walked with him will always remember that, if he thought a walk would finish a bit early, he could always produce a 'loop'. All his walking was recorded in detail in notebooks which have been passed on to the York group.

In later years he and Dennis Addison started the Wednesday Ambles, although he often went out with only his two 'minders', Lal and Alf. Unfortunately Colin was unable to walk any distance in recent years, but no doubt his love of music (especially opera) was of some solace.

He will be remembered with affection and respect and our condolences are with the family, especially Margaret (author of the following):

*Though even for the Rambler the road will have to end
He knows that heav'n is waiting for him just round the bend
Where landowners and farmers all welcome him with smiles
And he can go on walking eternal sunlit miles.*

The Original Brian Preston Way

Brian Preston completed walking this route of his own devising from Preston in Yorkshire, the largest county, to Preston in Rutland, the smallest county, in June of this year.

This walk is all my own work. I had the idea a few years ago but kept putting it off until "next year", so this was the year! It made it more appealing that my surname is Preston.

I completed the first sections up to Lincoln on day trips from home. I set off from Preston, in East Yorkshire, along the former Hull to Withernsea railway line and headed westwards, passing Hull Kingston Rovers Ground and also my former school Flinton Grove, 'Flinny Grove'. Yes it was an approved school, well my parents approved of it. Both of these were on my right-hand side (not my parents.) From there I got onto the Trans Pennine Trail to the Humber Bridge. In crossing the bridge it coincided with a section of the E2 European Long Distance Path. The E2 goes from Stranraer to Nice, 3,030 miles. The route starts in Stranraer (Scotland) and, yes, I have been there, where the E2 starts, but not where it ends. It would be 'nice' to do it.

Once over the bridge to Barton I headed to Melton Ross and turned right here on to the A18 as far as Barnetby-le-wold. Still aiming south to Caistor I was on the Viking Way for this short section. From there I went west to Market Rasen and onto West Rasen. Now heading south I was aiming for Lincoln via Wickenby, Scothern and Nettleham. This route from West Rasen to Lincoln is part of the Hull to Harwich cycleway. I used fields, footpaths and cycle paths. This was hard walking, but at least it cut the mileage down. In the 'planning?' of this walk I did a mini-survey (can't spell recky) and called at a bed and breakfast. I knocked on the door, a youngish man (30ish) opened it and I asked about details of the bed and breakfast. He said it was his parents' house. I asked if they did singles and he said, "I have only come to feed the animals, but I have a single bed." For some unknown reason I said, "I am married. I had better speak to your parents." (They were out.) I thanked him and went on my way... True story and no, I did not go back!

In early June, Brian set out to complete his walk.

Tuesday 8th June

From Lincoln I headed south from Steep Hill, (and it *was* steep) along Sincil Bank to the football ground and onwards up to Bracebridge Heath. (There has been a shooting there since I was last there in June 2010.) 'Nowt' to do with me.

Passing Waddington, famous for its air show, by now it was the afternoon and it had been raining all the time. About two miles from my bed and breakfast I stopped for refreshment at Navenby.



The rain had eased a lot by then, so I got my order, went and sat down to map-read and relax for a while. How ironic it was that someone had left an umbrella on the seat. So, as every East Hull kid would do, I took it to a member of staff and said, "Somebody has left this." She said, "Thank you," etc... my good deed for the day, week, month....

I carried on to Wellingore where I stayed overnight. It had rained all day so, as usual, I blamed the leader of the walk for the bad weather. After a bath I went downstairs for my meal and later I did what I always try to do on a long continuous walk - go for a stroll to find out the way to go the next day. As I took a slow walk back, the sun was shining and I had a pint in the village pub. Yes!

That's my kind of bed and breakfast. There was supposed to be a darts match on later, but they had not turned up

(although they did after I had gone to my room). Noted the dart boards were not treble boards so nobody could get 180.

The owner asked me if I wanted a pint. (I knew him by now). I said, "No thank you."

I hesitated before I said, "but I'll have the money instead." "Good to tell he's from Hull," he replied. They all laughed, even me, well I think I did, and no, I didn't get the money.

Wednesday 9th June

It was not raining today and I walked two miles before I got to Ermine Street. Now you all know about this street. I walked along this for five miles. For those of you who don't know what it is, it is a Roman road, built by.....? From London to York. From there I went to Carlton Scroop - yes it's a village. It does exist. I headed south to Grantham for a few miles, then west to Barrowby. This was the longest day. I found the O. A and I stayed in a big rambling house (no, it didn't move). The bath was deep and 6 feet, 8 inches long. Now that's what I call a bath. It had been a long 17 miles walked or 'staggered' today. Tomorrow should be easier as it's only 15 miles, but not as the crow flies.

Thursday 10th June

Breakfast here was a little different to the normal ones. The dining table was oblong and sat ten people. I was there on my lonesome, therefore the breakfast was spread out a bit. In fact I had to stand up to reach the toast. It was the start of a tiring day, but hey! It is pleasure but, as she who must be obeyed says, "You must want to do it."

I headed south again, now to Harlaxton, crossing the Grantham to Nottingham Canal. It was opened in 1797 and is 33 miles long. A sign on the bridge states 'To Barrowby 2,600 yards'. It also said the distance to the post office, shop and pub, in yards too. Don't worry, help is at hand, 1,760 yards is 1 mile. Now an interesting fact for bird watchers, and there are many, the distances in yards were as the crow flies.

Still heading south and slightly west to Market Overton and on to Ashwell, which is near Whissendine and well known in some circles. It was another fine day and it was certainly getting hotter. Fifteen miles covered today.

Friday 11th June

Ashwell to Exton today and the shortest day of the walk. Ashwell is infamous for its large prison, but

it is well away from the village. There is a cottage on the edge of the village named Tamborine Cottage. 'U' will notice the spelling. The thought of a dancing lady coming to the door playing one made me smile as I continued on my way.

Although today was only five miles it seemed a lot longer with it being so hot. Finally I got to the bed and breakfast near the end of the village. Tea and cake awaited in the garden - perfect. On the village green was a gathering of Aston Martin cars and their owners. One of the cars from the 60's had recently sold for £100,000. There was also a 2010 model Vantage. How much did it cost? If you cannot afford, you don't ask.

An unusual name in Exton is Pudding Bag Lane.

Saturday 12th June

The sun was shining *again* to Oakham today. I was well and truly in Rutland and nearing the end of my walk, but still about 15 miles to go. The E2 is in Rutland and I wondered, should I go to Nice or Preston. I opted for Preston. Seeing Rutland Water was an impressive sight located on the outskirts of Oakham.

I asked a local where a certain road was (Certain was not the name I was asking for.) He said, "I am going that way." So into the centre of Oakham we went and after a while we came to some

Posh People and Poor Walkers

Walking has always been enjoyed by all sorts of people – old and young, men and women, rich and poor. This makes it a bit surprising that walkers have so often complained about people who assumed they were walking because they were too poor to ride or drive.

A few examples will illustrate what I mean. The poet Thomas Gray told a friend in 1737 that his uncle thought him 'mighty cheap' for walking and reading rather than riding and hunting. Henry Crabb Robinson, a journalist and lawyer, walked thirty-eight miles from London to Royston in 1809 with two companions, only to find the father of one of them 'was displeased with his son. He was a country gentleman, proud of his horses'. Evidently both thought their relatives should not be walking about like a lot of peasants.

Most ramblers have shrugged off this sort of thing, but others did not cope so well. Charles Brown and John Keats were walking in the Lake District in 1818 when they met a young man who was terribly keen to convince them that he was a better off than he looked. He worried about his clothes, talked about his uncle's carriage, used classical quotations to prove he had been to Oxford. It's a portrait of a toff who had suddenly realised that if he did not look rich he might be taken, horror of horrors, for an ordinary person. On the other hand, in 1827 another journalist, William Hone, was surprised when a tollgate was opened for him and a companion, a courtesy usually reserved for

horse-riders and carriages. They decided it was because they were well enough dressed to be taken for gentlemen.

In which case it must have been early in the day, or they were unusually lucky with the weather. Walking is a pretty well unbeatable way of getting scruffy. Early in the twentieth century A. N. Cooper, a Filey vicar temporarily disguised by a long hot day on foot, walked into the Hertfordshire town of Hitchin and asked a policeman for directions to a good hotel. The reaction brought home to him just how unlike a hotel guest he looked. His clothes were muddy, 'and the heat and dust of the day had left their stains'.

More recently, there is the incident in Barry Pilton's 1986 classic (classically funny that is) account of walking the Pennine Way. He went into a country pub only to be ordered out of a bar full of people wearing cashmere and expensive shoes into one with 'the sort of furniture you find in high-security prisons'. Most galling of all, he reckoned that 'inch for Gore-Tex inch', he was the most expensively dressed person there. Pilton reflected grimly that a rucksack and boots identified him as a 'sub-species'.

Nowadays snobbery is less powerful than it used to be, but is still with us. Have any readers suffered similar slights from self-appointed guardians of proper behaviour?

Ann Holt



stocks. It was a very hot day and I had to rub my eyes because the stocks were made up of 5 holes. He said the reason for that was because in the previous stocks there were four holes but one regular customer had a wooden leg, so he only used one hole and that is why there is a one-hole stock. True story? Well you have to smile.

When I reached my bed and breakfast I went out in the evening and had a pint of beer and a pint of chips and that is a true story. I had walked eight miles plus today and it had been very hot.

Sunday 13th June

This was the day when map reading and walking would end (for now). It was six miles to Preston in Rutland and I was on the Leigh Lees Way and not many of you have walked on this. A young lady (well younger than me) was gathering flowers and she asked me, "How far are you walking?"

I said, "Preston."

"Hoo, that's a long way. Where's your car?" she asked.

I was tempted to say Hull, but then I thought it was Sunday so I explained what I was doing. What happened next is not for publication.

In the distance was Preston Church's spire. The area is fairly hilly here, but I finally got to the centre of Preston. I rang home at about 11.30am. I didn't say that I had to walk back to Oakham as there are no buses on a Sunday, which I knew, and just my luck I have a bus pass. Yes, I am old enough.

BUT I HAD DONE IT.

Yes, I had done it but now I had to go back to Oakham. I did not go back the way I had come, but instead I went along the edge of Rutland Water. There was a real holiday atmosphere here – was it because the weather was perfect? It was very hot and tiring as I returned to the establishment where I had my pint and chips the

night before. There were only two at the bar now. I had got my drink when the barman asked what walk had I done. "I'd have got you that pint," he said, "if I had known." Now where have I heard that before or something similar? I went back to the bar to order another pint, only to be told that it had been paid for. Wow! Days don't get much better than this. It was then back to the bed and breakfast for an early night; tomorrow the train home.

Satisfaction was at its highest.
Total distance 125 miles.

I would like to thank Rebecca L. for all typing and thanks to Ray Wallis for the loan of Lincs maps.

Some comments I have heard since I did this walk and they all made me smile:

- *I thought you were going to Preston in Lancashire. My reply was, "What does a Yorkshire man want to go there for?"*
- *Are you going to do all the Prestons?*
- *Did you go over the bridge or did you walk round?*
- *What about Preston near Brighton?*
- *My name is in Lincolnshire twice, does that count? (You know who you are.)*
- *How did you know there was a Preston in Rutland?*
- *Wainwright said (wrote) 'Anyone who does my Coast to Coast walk will find there is a pint for them behind the bar.' Are you going to say that about your walk?*

Free information: Rutland Water (a reservoir) holds 27,300 gallons of water and, before you ask, yes even when it rains.

Brian Preston

5



Swanland Path, FAQs

Readers may have seen recent unfavourable press and TV coverage of this item concerning a path which runs from Tranby Lane to Main Street in Swanland. On *Look North* our spokesman, Peter Ayling, was clearly not given enough time to explain the Ramblers' position. Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions:

In July of this year Swanland Parish Council voted to uphold the Ramblers' and villagers' claim that a right of way runs in the grounds of Swanland Primary School. This is the latest development in an 18 year dialogue about the existence of the path.

The Ramblers were approached by villagers to help claim the well-used path as a right of way after the headmaster proposed closing it in 1992. At the time Ramblers, the Parish Council and Humberside County Council supported putting the path on the Definitive Map – recognising it once and for all as a formal right of way. But this proposal was not acted upon.

Following the abolition of Humberside County Council, the new East Riding of Yorkshire Council took no action to protect the path and in 2004, the headmaster summarily closed the path, leading to complaints from villagers and the parish council.

Since then, the Secretary of State has ruled that a path order should be made, so that evidence of the path's existence can be fully examined by an independent inspector - at a public inquiry if necessary.

Do the Ramblers want to drive a path through a school?

Absolutely not. Throughout this process the Ramblers have supported a diverted route around the perimeter of the school.

In fact, the public have been using this diverted route since it was proposed in 1995. And, in 2005 the Ramblers played a full and constructive role in a Community Problem Solving Pilot, where all parties agreed to divert the path around the perimeter of the school site, using fencing to separate the right of way from the school premises.

In fact, the Ramblers recently wrote to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council asking them to make a diversion order that will formalise the process whereby the perimeter path (NOT the path through the school) will become a right of way.

What about school security?

This is paramount to the Ramblers. Our members are parents and grandparents themselves.

Specific legislation exists to close paths that could potentially expose pupils to violence, harassment, alarm or distress or any other health or safety risk arising from unlawful activity, and which run on school property. But the school, the Ramblers, parents and the parish council agreed NOT to use this legislation in 2005, because it was unanimously agreed that the path poses no risk of 'violence, harassment or distress.'

How did the Ramblers get involved?

The Ramblers provides expert legal advice, evidence and support to the public on rights of way. We are one of the few

charities able to do this. Concerned villagers turned to the Ramblers for help after the headmaster proposed closing the path 18 years ago, and again when the headmaster summarily closed the path in 2004. The charity would have provided legal advice to the school, too, if approached by them.

It has researched the history of the path, surveyed the evidence, and judges the path is a public right of way. It is not 'campaigning' for or against anything; the inspector will make the ultimate decision.

Why is it important for the Ramblers to support this case?

Public rights of way cannot - and should not - be closed summarily. The landowner is required to follow a democratic, legal process - whether they're a celebrity, a corporation or a school. This is the law that protects the public's rights of way, and your ability to get from A to B.

The Ramblers represents concerned villagers and the parish council in this case. We want to see the school follow the correct legal process.

Does the school lose out?

The path is under 150 metres squared in its entirety. The diversion that the Ramblers supports runs around the perimeter of the school.

To read the full case history, please visit www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk/paths or www.ramblers.org.uk

Coastal Access - Problems on the Horizon?

Two area officers comment on recent developments.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council signed up with Natural England for the East Riding to be one of the five pilot areas for developing Coastal Access. This would have meant creating a four-metre wide coastal path from Filey to Spurn with central government picking up the bill of about £330,000.

However Councillor Evison put forward a motion at a recent ERYC meeting to withdraw from the pilot scheme, and to call for the government to stop the scheme for the rest of the country, claiming it is a waste of money in the present economic circumstances. Her motion was passed.

I agreed to be interviewed live on Radio Humberside with Cllr Evison. Cllr. Evison said she didn't want the footpath going through people's gardens. The coastal path will NOT go through any gardens, these are exempt, the path will go around.

Cllr. Evison's final remarks were that walkers do not spend money because they bring a picnic. If you cast your mind back to the foot and mouth episode, Bridlington had a boom period with ramblers walking the cliffs, promenade and beach, and spending money in the shops and cafes.

According to the Ramblers' research, each mile of footpath will bring in an income of £375,000 per year and support 33 jobs. If the Government decide to cut back or cancel the

project that would be a shame, but for the ERYC to try and pull out of the pilot scheme is diabolical as the scheme would bring in tourists to towns such as Bridlington, Hornsea and Withernsea.

Mike Jackson

East Riding Footpath Secretary

However uncooperative ERYC's attitude might be, Natural England, which is responsible for delivering coastal access, have the powers to roll out the pilots without the help of the local authority if need be and, as things stand, they will be working on coastal access in the East Riding next year. Ramblers have received as firm a commitment as can be expected from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for Coastal Access that Ministers are committed to implementing the coastal access provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Act, including the coastal path, and that, despite rumours to the contrary appearing in some newspapers, they have not stopped the roll out. NE have told Ramblers that they are continuing to roll out pilots in the five areas, and that the availability of funding for a wider rollout of coastal access schemes will become clearer following the Comprehensive Review process in October. Despite these tribulations, our volunteer team is planning to make a start on its own survey shortly.

Tom Halstead

Area Access Officer

Missing Link Near Sledmere

Long-standing readers may recall a piece by Mr. A J Horne in September 2005 about a disputed ancient track near Sledmere. It appears to be part of a historic ridgeway running from Bridlington to Aldro and would provide a useful link to the Wolds Way. The author, now aged 97, has kindly sent this update. Please contact Mr Horne if you can provide evidence to help him to open the path.

Dear Editor

You may remember my article on the ancient track 'High Street' near Sledmere (printed in Area News in 2005) and thought you might like a further update.

I have a letter from North Yorks C.C. PROW Section informing me that they had contacted the two landowners, hoping they would be willing to dedicate the route as a PROW (public right of way), but they had not received a very positive response. They added, 'we will contact you when we commence the investigation'. No word on when that would be.

The two recent articles in Area News about the opening of the Wolds Way reminded me that one of the landowners is Birdsall Estates Co. Ltd. (Lord Middleton, who owns one third of the route at the western end). The other two thirds belong to Low Mowthorpe Farm, which is owned by the agribusiness, Albanwise Ltd.

Since the last update a number of people have written to me about the route, including a lady in Hull who leads a walking group (not Ramblers) who said they were unable to get through owing to the dense crop right up to the hedge (June 2007). In May 2009 a local lady led a party of 12 and reported that the route was unobstructed and there were no notices warning off the public. This and other 'evidence of use' has

been passed on the North Yorks C.C PROW Section.

It seems that the system of dealing with claims is very unfair. It enables NYCC to hold back a claim which they think will be difficult or cause conflict with their councilor-landowner masters. Claims should be dealt with in the order in which they are received. I was told there are hundreds of claims in front of mine, but we are not told how many are dealt with and completed each year. I have now been waiting over eight years.

In the meantime the County Council seems to be sympathetic and the landowners do nothing to scare us off. If they tried to prosecute they would not have a leg to stand on. This track forms a useful connection from the Wolds Way to Sledmere and buses to Driffeld, Bridlington, Hull and York. I hope more ramblers will provide me with written evidence of use to send in. Thanks again to those who have already done so.

Yours sincerely

A J Horne

27 Garden Flat Lane
Dunnington, York, YO19 5NB

Editor's note: The path in question runs along the north side of Towthorpe Plantation from SE 878 611 to SE 900 645

That's the way to do it!



Les Atkinson of Scarborough Group took this photo of a path through an oilseed rape field cleared by a thoughtful farmer at Thirlsly. (How about that for a tongue-twister!). Things were rather different near Walkington as Steve Mullarkey's picture of Jean Cavill leading a walk on a right of way (below) can testify.



Navigation training

Do you want to improve your navigation skills? Or learn about pacing, aiming off, hand-railing, leapfrogging and other techniques? Ryedale group is running free navigation courses to anyone from any group who is interested. So far, three one-day courses have been arranged, with a maximum of four people on each one. A fourth one is being planned, and further courses will be arranged as required. If you are interested in attending a course, then please get in touch with Sam Borman by phoning 01751 477325 or emailing ra.ryedale@btinternet.com. If you want help to put on a course for your own group, then also please do get in touch with Sam who can help you set it up.

?? Cryptic Equipment for Ramblers??

We hear of Slavs taking up hiking. (7,5)
Will keep you warm, also rip you off. (6)
Sea camp protects leader's route. (3,4)
Surprisingly, battle tower contains liquid refreshment. (5,6)
Rex goes off with rope and lamp to find the way. (8,3)

Answers on back page

Volunteer Profile

Area Secretary Malcolm Dixon

Malcolm is one of the most dedicated workers we have. Walking and campaigning can truly be said to be in Malcolm's blood. Hailing from Sheffield, his parents were actively involved in rambling and cycling groups and took part in the organised trespasses which led to the formation of the Peak District National Park in 1951. Malcolm came to the Ramblers thanks to this inherited campaigning streak, and cut his teeth on access issues in the 1980s - specifically the opening up of the moorlands around Sheffield.



Malcolm in a Ramblers' committee meeting where his unfailing patience and good humour are much appreciated by fellow volunteers.

Photo courtesy of Paul Rhodes

Arriving in York, he was soon indispensable to the Ramblers thanks to his organising and desktop publishing skills. Also active in the Trades Union, it was just a matter of time before a place on the Area committee beckoned, and Malcolm initially stepped in to rescue Area News from the proverbial waste paper basket.

He is very pleased by the success of the access team in our area. "This is something we can all be proud of". He makes light of all the various administrative tasks involved in being Area Secretary. "It is really not as arduous as people think" he says.

Malcolm was also involved in the setting up of Get Your Boots On (our Ramblers young persons' group) and the Howden and Goole group. More recently he helped set up and coordinate the York Group's public transport walks programme. A veteran of a number of General Councils, Malcolm remains a committed walker and believer in walkers' rights, successfully juggling his Area commitments with a number of others.

After 8 years as Area Secretary, Malcolm is open to offers from anyone looking to take on some or all of the secretary's role, but they will have big boots to fill and the Area is very lucky to have someone as dedicated as Malcolm working on its behalf.

Paul Rhodes



Rambling Rose bids Farewell

Dear Editors,

As you know, for a number of years Rambling Rose has selflessly devoted herself to the wellbeing of others. Not surprisingly this has taken its toll and sadly she herself is now suffering from chronic agony fatigue. She has therefore decided, reluctantly, that the time has come for her to retire and spend more time with her worry beads.

I invented the old dear because almost every publication these days seems to have an agony aunt and I couldn't see why walkers should get off scot free. I enjoyed her company and hope that she was sometime a bit of fun to read. On Rose's behalf, I would like to thank her fans for their encouragement and apologise to those who could not stand her. 'Sorry' also to those who would have preferred something more seriously relevant such as an Illustrated History of Walking Sticks or the Which Guide to Way-Marking.

And to the innocent few who never realised the column was a spoof, all I can offer is a humble word of advice: please be on your guard when the double-glazing salesman call.

Best wishes to all your readers,

Enjoy your walking.

Gerry Wallace.



Mystery Photo

Do you know where this picture was taken? Entries on a postcard to the editors by November 1st. Winner's name picked at random will be published in our next issue.

Answers to quiz on page 7

Walking poles, fleece, map case, water bottle, Explorer map

True Romance (or The Tale of the Gilet)

It takes something extraordinary to persuade Pete Reid to part with his iconic white Gilet, but this was what happened when he married fellow Rambler, Liz Ingham in March this year.

Admittedly it was a long and painful operation and the emotional trauma may last a long time, but with the support of Pocklington Ramblers (who, I have to say, looked on in frank amazement) he will no doubt come to see it as a price well worth paying!



Liz, Pete and The Gilet, pictured here by Derwent Water from below Catbells. Photo courtesy of Jill, a fellow walker

So when his fellow ramblers eventually saw the wedding photos, they hardly recognised the bridegroom who was the

epitome of sartorial elegance (except for his flowery '70s tie - a symbol of rebellion perhaps?).

Liz and Peter first met on a Ramblers hike (her first glimpse of The Gilet). Liz had recently returned to the UK after 23 years in Cyprus following the death of her husband and joined the Ramblers to meet new people and make friends. Peter had joined for similar reasons.

Almost a year later they met again at a 60s and 70s Disco, one of Pocklington Ramblers' many social events. They found they shared a lot of interests and started seeing more of each other. The romance blossomed. Several months later Liz moved to Selby to be with Pete, soon after which he proposed.

She has failed to drag Pete away from his attachment to The Gilet but has managed to introduce some new versions into his wardrobe!

They are still staunch members of Pocklington Group where they serve on the Pocklington Social Walkers Committee.

Liz Ingham

Area Mailshots

Thanks again to all those who have responded to our request to receive Area News and other mailings by email, thus saving postage and paper.

If you too would prefer to receive items such as Area News, your Group Newsletter, the Annual Report and the Rambles Programme electronically, please inform the Membership Secretary by emailing

areamembers@hotmail.co.uk

New Village Hall at Bishop Wilton

Available for hire. For details visit **www.bishopwiltonhall.co.uk**
Contact booking officer Andrew Hall on **01759 368577** or email **enquiries@bishopwiltonhall.co.uk**

Thanks to Pat Fielden of Ryedale Group for providing the above information



And finally, a message from Peter Ayling...Don't get ahead of the leader!

Contributions to Area News should be sent to either: Dany Wlodarczyk at 49 Pasture Terrace, Beverley, HU17 8DR or to Paul Rhodes, 23 Ash Street, York, YO26 4UR

Email to **danywlo@yahoo.co.uk** or **paulrhodes16@yahoo.co.uk**

The deadline for the next issue is: **November 1st 2010**

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