



View from the Chair

General Council

The Ramblers' General Council took place in April at Reading. This is an important fixture, as it is the RA national annual general meeting. Its proceedings can affect all our activities. Two motions are particularly relevant. Item 7 requires the Trustees to produce a strategy on how the RA should address climate change and was passed. An amendment calling for a consultation about whether this is appropriate was lost. However our practice of having walks over a vast area meaning long car journeys may need looking at. I wonder if allowing leaders to choose their venues is still appropriate. Item 10 raised the issue of led walks. This was remitted – the Trustees will have to follow it up and it could result in formal training and monitoring of leaders. More importantly our own motion concerning isolated parcels of Access Land was carried.

Wolds Way 25th Anniversary

Our innovative arrangements and publicity have resulted in almost full 53-seater buses, and I thank all the leaders, back markers and bus bosses for their hard work – and Rosie Broadhead for her leaflet design. Team work has been the key. I hope we shall have support for the anniversary day – Tuesday October 2nd. A lunch time event for those available will be followed by an early evening mini-rally to include those not about in the day.

Group AGMs

Looking ahead it is the season of AGMs for our groups. New faces are always welcome on their committees. It is important that groups plan ahead – not least to maintain membership numbers – but also because the Area gets money from the centre based on budgets, which are the costed plans of the committees. This gives each group an opportunity to plan a special event for new members or to attract others.

Area AGM

Finally, please look ahead to the Area AGM. I shall be standing down, and hopefully have a successor. More importantly Malcolm Dixon has signified his intention to relinquish the Area Secretary post. He has worked very hard for all members and been an effective and helpful team member. More next time – but we need someone to come forward for this vital post.

Chris Bush

Area Chairman

See overleaf for details of the
**YORKSHIRE WOLDS WAY OPENING .
ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

Wolds Way Walks



Undaunted by severe storms, walkers set out from Hessle Haven on the first stage of the Wolds Way anniversary walk, June 16th, 2007. Photo courtesy of Ann Laing

STOP PRESS Foot and Mouth Disease

At the time of writing Foot and Mouth disease is back. If the outbreak is not contained The Ramblers' Association has published the following advice:

Walks need not be cancelled or routes of planned walks altered unless in the vicinity of infected farms.

Farmers and landowners are understandably worried about this outbreak so please use disinfectant buckets, and clean boots and shoes thoroughly between walks.

If you find any unofficial notices erected by farmers or landowners, please notify the relevant highway or access authority immediately.

Use Your Paths Challenge Turn it Green! Deadline Approaches

By September 22nd the RA aims to have all rights of way walked and problems reported. Have you done your bit? Go to the website www.useyourpaths.info.uk, click on "INTERACTIVE MAP" and enter a place name or grid reference near you to see progress so far. Even if you can only manage to complete and turn one or two squares green, your efforts will be much appreciated.

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The *real* opening of the Wolds Way

When the Wolds Way was opened in 1982, Kate Ashbrook (now Ramblers' chairman) was a newly-elected member of the executive committee. She recalls the *real* opening of the Wolds Way and the controversy surrounding it.

In the April issue of Area News, David Rubinstein notes the huge amount of work which RA volunteers (himself, Geoff Eastwood and Dennis Parker, to name a few) put into securing the Wolds Way national trail. But he misses a most dramatic part of the tale. For the Wolds Way opening would never have made the national TV news had it not been for the Ramblers' alternative opening on the same day.

Having campaigned for the route since 1968, we were incensed when the Countryside Commission invited local landowner Lord Middleton, the twelfth baron and president



Start of stage 3 of the Wolds Way 25th anniversary walk from Londesborough Church on 28th July 2007
Photo courtesy of K. Green

of the Country Landowners' Association, to open the route in October 1982 at Fridaythorpe. Lord Middleton disputed many paths which the Ramblers had claimed over his 12,000 acres in East Yorkshire. Moreover, he had prevented the Wolds Way from passing through the deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy, on a path which the Ramblers had shown to be public, and one of the most dramatic sections of the route. Instead the Way followed a metalled road.



Nettledale 28th July 2007
Photo courtesy of K. Green

David Rubinstein regrets including what he now calls 'a gratuitous attack on the Countryside Commission' in the 1975 speech he drafted for Kevin McNamara, MP for Hull Central and former Area president. In fact, in calling the Commission the 'landowner's poodle', he was dead right - as we subsequently demonstrated.

In June 1982, our chairman Eddie Hibberd wrote to Derek Barber, the notoriously pro-landowner chairman of the Countryside Commission, urging him to rescind the invitation to Lord Middleton. But Mr Barber responded: 'We would be deliberately nourishing conflict and the effect would be to create a long-term divisive situation having national repercussions beyond the Wolds Way and Yorkshire'. The conflict being nourished with the RA didn't seem to bother him.

We held our rally at Pocklington, where speakers included Alan Mattingly, our president Peter Melchett, Kevin McNamara, MP and Michael Wheaton, leader of Humberside County Council and Area president, as well as David Rubinstein, vice-chairman, and Chris Hall, former secretary of the RA. Then we walked the Way from Millington to Huggate and, at Millington Pastures, eight-year-old Helen Eastwood, daughter of the Area secretary Geoff Eastwood, cut the ribbon to open the route.

Executive committee member Trevor Noyes attended the official opening as a mole, and hurried across to tell us that our event was overwhelmingly better attended, and that, whereas we had remained dry, it had rained on the shabby parade organised by Lord Middleton and the Countryside Commission.

Kate Ashbrook



Welton Dale, another beautiful area where rights of way were bitterly opposed
Photo courtesy of Ray Wallis

Join us on Tuesday October 2nd 2007
to celebrate

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
YORKSHIRE WOLDS WAY OPENING

RALLY AT 17.30

at the original site of the Ramblers' Association
inaugural ceremony at Nettledale GR SE 848 541

The rally will be preceded by a celebration lunch at the Farmers Arms, Fridaythorpe at 12.30 for 13.00, followed by a walk to Nettledale near Millington at about 14.30. Transport will be provided for return to Fridaythorpe at about 18.00.

Speakers at the lunch will include
Kate Ashbrook, RA National Chairman,
who was at the original ceremony.

If you would like to join the buffet lunch, please make a payment of £5 towards the cost of return transport and food (includes a pint of Wolds Ale). The lunch is a joint event with Natural England.

Cheques, made out to the Ramblers' Association EYDA, should be sent to Chris Bush, 23 Albemarle Road, York YO23 1EW to arrive by Wednesday, 19th September.

SUPPLEMENTARY WALKS INFORMATION

The information below supplements that which you will find in our 2007 - 2008 programme booklet. All members, friends and potential members are welcome to join any of our walks. Details of all the walks in our programme including links to maps showing the starting point are also available at **www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk**

HOWDEN AND GOOLE GROUP AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2007				
Date	Time and Meeting Place		Walk Details	Leader
16 SEPT SUN	10.30	Goole Leisure Centre Car Park	Thorne Moors 6/7 miles Bird watching & identifying fungi	Roy Dresser
22 SEPT SAT	1 pm or 2 pm	Howden Hailgate Car Park Bielby SE 790 438	Pocklington Canal, 5 mile canal walk & boat ride, must book phone D Kitwood 01405 769888	Gerry Turner
7 OCT SUN	9.15 or 10.00	Howden Hailgate Car Park Church Fenton SE 510371	Church Fenton circular, joint walk with York public transport group, 11 miles	Malcolm Dixon
21 OCT SUN	9:45 or 10:30	Goole Leisure Centre CP Millington Church	Millington to Bishop Wilton circular 7 miles	Dennis & Brenda Kelly
3 NOV SAT	10:00	North Duffield Playing fields	North Duffield/ Skipworth Common 10 miles	Nina Bramley
6 NOV TUES	7.30 pm	Hook Village Hall	AGM with refreshments & slide show on local walking	Speaker TBA
18 NOV SUN	10.00 or 10.30	Howden Hailgate Car Park Drewton Manor SE 923 332	Drewton Manor circular 4/5 miles	Diana Kitwood
9 DEC SUN	9:45 or 10:30	Goole Leisure Centre CP Pocklington Station CP SE 802 489	Pocklington to Millington circular 7 miles & Xmas pub lunch, must book lunch. Phone D Kitwood 01405 769888	Dennis & Brenda Kelly
6 JAN SUN 2008	10.30 am	Barmby on the Marsh Car Park SE 681 286	Barmby on the Marsh circular 5 miles	C Edwards & D Cox

Where the meeting place is Goole Leisure Centre Car Park or Howden Hailgate Car Park, car sharing will be arranged to the start of the walk. For further information contact: Ken Boothman tel: **01405 769156** or Marian Thomas tel: **01430 431766** mobile **0790 403 1193** or e-mail thomas.marian@btinternet.com.

YORK GROUP WEDNESDAY AMBLES

Date	Time	Miles	Meeting Place	Grid Ref	Leader
WED SEP 5	10.30	c 8	DREWTON MANOR	924 332	K WALKER
WED SEP 12	10.30	c 8	ALMSCLIFF CRAG	265 491	M GREEN
WED SEP 19	10.30	c 8	BIRDFORTH	486 759	P HAYNES
WED SEP 26	10.30	c 8	BARMBY BARRAGE	682 286	J VAN DER BURG

FOR THE NEXT AMBLES PROGRAMME, CONTACT ALAN CLARK TEL: **01904-411969** OR MOBILE **0793-022-7254**

YORK GROUP PUBLIC TRANSPORT WALKS

Plans for the coming year include:- the Selby Horseshoe in February 2008, the Beverley-York Minster Way in March, April, September and October and the Ainsty Bounds Walk around York, via Tadcaster, Wetherby and Hammerton in May, June, July and August. We also plan to walk the Millennium Way and the Whitby Way in six stages going into 2009 as well as organising some shorter Sunday afternoon walks. **Walk with Howden and Goole Group, Sun 7th October 2007, see details above.**

For more information on our current programme or any of the above contact Malcolm Dixon, PT Walks Convener, 8, Horseman Avenue, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3UF tel: **01904-706850** or mobile **0784-364-7062** or email m.s.dixon@talktalk.net

Details will also be published on the York Group website **www.communicate.co.uk/york/yorkramblers**

KIRKHAM PRIORY CAR PARK

Please be aware that parking is no longer free at times when the Priory is open to the public. Check with English Heritage **0870 333 1182** for opening dates and times. Current opening hours are shown on the right:

Dates	Opening Times	Days
1 Apr-30 May	10am-5pm	Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1 Jun-31 Aug	10am-5pm	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1-30 Sep	10am-5pm	Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1-31 Oct	10am-4pm	Sat, & Sun.

General Council April 2007

Paul Rhodes from GYBO takes a tongue in cheek look back on his first visit to General Council

To the outsider, this is an unusual gathering. In March this year, like migratory birds, walkers converged from all corners of the country. Flocks of old friends assembled in bars at Reading University, and very convivial and welcoming it was too.

The next day we were marshalled into a large auditorium and there were some set piece speeches. Then the real business of the Council started and the confusion began. Motions (for suddenly normal English was remitted) were chosen, seemingly at random, for discussion. Startled members, breathless from the long walk to the podium struggled to make their point, then – out of time! It seemed to take every ounce of national chair Kate Ashbrook's authority to keep proceedings on track. Apparently the system works, but exactly how is unclear. At one point I may have accidentally voted to downgrade a boat (a footpath term I discovered much later), an incident that haunts me still.

The young people's groups had a series of sessions of their own, which were useful, but also meant missing the key

debates and served to re-emphasise the 'them and us' mentality that continues to characterise RA dealings with 20s and 30s groups.

In our secluded break-out group we learnt more about our place in the association from Kevin Matthews (former vice-chair) who was both knowledgeable and passionate about the future role for younger ramblers. Better though were the shared workshops where we learnt more about the campaigning side of the association which was very refreshing, as well as rolling up our sleeves in solidarity on key issues like recruitment and retention of members.

For all its many idiosyncrasies, I would recommend visiting General Council to get a far greater understanding of the work of the RA, meet the faces behind the many circulars and gain a fuller appreciation of the passion and commitment of our members.

Paul travelled with GNER and stayed in the Halls of Residence as a guest of the Area.

Walking etiquette?

We recently published the RA guidelines for walk leaders and have also been discussing how best to look after new members. In this letter, Roy and Lauren Hunt suggest further guidelines for leaders and the need for more information for new members about what to expect on a walk.

My wife Lauren and I have been members of Pocklington Ramblers for two years now and we get a great deal of pleasure walking with different groups in the area and some further afield. Being relatively new members we can remember our nervousness on our first few walks – indeed on the first two walks I was sent out alone to find out what was expected. Now we have become more regular walkers we can appreciate how things might be improved for the benefit of both new and established members of our groups.

We believe a walking code or etiquette for new members would be useful and also extra hints and tips for walk leaders about how to deal with common occurrences on walks. Let us give a few examples of problems on walks:

How does a leader best deal with a couple of walkers who choose to walk along at an amble on a ten mile walk, or accommodate a new member who is genuinely struggling

with the pace on their first walk, or manage those who choose to race ahead of the leader? What is the role of the back marker?

We personally feel that if we can give guidance on matters such as this, new members will know what to expect and what is expected of them. Also we might encourage new walk leaders by explaining what is expected of them and how they might best deal with problems that might occur. But of course, for all members, whether they be leaders or walkers, they will have a yardstick by which they can judge how they fit in with the general expectation.

If you have an opinion on whether it would be helpful to create guidelines for walkers and leaders please e-mail **roy_hunt@btinternet.com** and include if you wish things you would like to see in any future documents.

Regards

Lauren and Roy Hunt

This issue is going to be discussed at a forthcoming Executive Committee meeting, but Area News would also welcome your views. Do we need more guidance? If so, what sort of situations should it cover? Please write to the editors at the address on page 8.

POCKLINGTON GROUP CAR SHARING SCHEME

This year for the first time Pocklington Ramblers will, by fairly popular request, be introducing a car sharing scheme open to anyone who is coming on one of our walks further afield.

The walks where car sharing is available are those in the North York Moors. They are identified in the walks programme with "CS" in the notes. All car sharing walks will start at 10:15 with one exception where the walk

is in the North West of the North York Moors where the start time is 10:30.

To join the car sharing scheme, simply turn up at the car park behind Pocklington Bus Station (SE 803 486) **before 8:45** and make arrangements with others who are there.

We have no idea whether there are likely to be a dozen cars turning up or none. The success of the scheme will depend entirely on how many people use it. RH

Situations Vacant

Your area committee will soon need a new secretary and a publicity officer is also required. If you enjoy walking, support the RA's aims and have a little time to spare, please consider joining our team of volunteers.

AREA SECRETARY

The Area Secretary is expected to

- Arrange the AGM and Area meetings
- Act as primary point of contact with RA Central Office, receiving regular weekly mailings
- Maintain area records and keep Central Office up-dated.

The secretary needs to

- Be well-organised and good at administration
- Be able to build good relationships with fellow volunteers
- Be reasonably computer literate, comfortable with word-processing and email

Excellent support is available from the Volunteer Support Team at RA Central Office, the annual Area Secretaries' Conference and the Area Secretaries' handbook which is provided.

Further Information

Read what other Area Secretaries have to say about their role on the Ramblers' website

www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer/roles/bitesize/area-secretary or contact

Andrew Chadwick, Volunteer Development Manager,
Tel: **020 7339 8520** or email andrewc@ramblers.org.uk

The Wilberforce Way, by John E Eckersley

*Available from the author, The Vicarage, School Lane, Heslington, York, YO10 5EE, and East Riding Tourist Information Centres price: £7
Profits will be donated to Christian Aid.*

This book describes a 60-mile walk from The Deep, in Hull, to York Minster, and incorporates circular walking and cycling routes along the way.

The route includes many places associated with William Wilberforce including Pocklington School.

The 56-page book represents good value for money, describing the main and circular routes with clear maps, lots of excellent colour photographs and plenty of relevant historical information.

My only criticism, from a long-distance walker's perspective, is that the main and circular walks are described together. I would find this confusing so would prefer more separation.

This is an interesting and useful publication, adding a new long-distance walk to our area's established ones. I look forward to walking it.

Ray Wallis

PHOTOS

Now that we have some pages in colour, the editors welcome photos taken by readers for inclusion in Area News or on the area website (preferably by email) to the address on page 8.

AREA PUBLICITY OFFICER

The job of the **Area Publicity Officer** is to keep the RA in the public eye locally. This post could well be shared by two people. Currently this involves both media and publicity work, including:

- Notifying the local media about our events
- Preparing publicity material (leaflets, posters etc) with the help of other Area officers
- Helping with our membership campaign at local shows and events

Reasonable word-processing and emailing skills are probably essential. The work is very much a team effort - other committee members share in the tasks, and most of our Groups now have their own publicity officers. In addition, our staff in Central Office are always there to give professional advice.

Even after two spells in post, and now helping out, I find it fascinating and enjoyable work.

Please contact me if you would like to chat about the post:

Peter Ayling, telephone: **01482 657240**

Email: panda@peterayling.karoo.co.uk

RAMBLERS HOLIDAY CRETE SEPTEMBER 2008

Many of our members are already devotees of Ramblers Holidays and regularly travel with them. Jim Tulloch, a Ramblers Holidays leader for the last twenty years, and a long-standing committee member of the Hull and Holderness Group hopes some of you will join him in Crete next year. Jim writes...

It has been my pleasure to take a Pocklington RA Group to Hassness in the Lake District for the last three years. Now I feel it is time for a change.

How about an extra-special Ramblers holiday on Crete? Relaxed breakfasts, a bus or taxi to the walk, then time for the beach afterwards and typically Greek meals in local tavernas.

The grade of this holiday is "D", moderate terrain with average walking less than five hours per day. There is the opportunity to visit Knossos and usually the Samaria Gorge.

The date that Ramblers Holidays have ear-marked for me is **9th September, 2008** at a provisional price of £866 for two weeks (half board, departure from Gatwick).

If you are interested, please phone me on **01482 587128**. Depending on the interest, a decision will be made by the end of November.

THIXENDALE VILLAGE HALL

Hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes are served 11 am – 4 pm on Sundays. Open throughout the year (Sundays only) unless booked for a private function. The hall and a meeting room are available for hire. Contact Lynne Boyes, **01377 288401**

GPS found near Helmsley in March - contact the editors

5

Alex Mee

One minute's silence was observed prior to the York Amble at Leavening Brow on 6th June 2007 as a mark of respect for Alex Mee who sadly died earlier that week.

Alex was a very popular member of the Amblers, and, prior to his illness, was ever present on Wednesdays often remarking on the companionship and the real enjoyment that he experienced participating in the variety of venues found in the Ambles programme.

His personal contribution of leading many ambles particularly on the North Yorkshire Moors and around his home village of Bishop Wilton will long be affectionately remembered together with his wonderful sense of humour.

I will always treasure a comment he made prior to leading a fairly strenuous amble at Sneck Yate when he advised everyone they were about to start an "Educational Walk" because at the finish he expected everyone to comment "Well, that's taught me a lesson!".

His poetic prowess was a further attribute that will always be associated with Alex. A classic example is the following poem that he composed following John Wood losing his apple down a rabbit-hole whilst on an amble at Harewood.

On behalf of everyone associated with York Amblers, thank you Alex for all the treasured memories. We shall miss you but not forget you.

Alan Clark



An Apple a Day



Out with the Amblers near Harewood one day.
John Wood dropped his apple in a careless way.

The apple rolled as most apples do,
Then suddenly disappeared from view.

A startled bunny down a rabbit hole
Exclaimed, "Well I never, and bless my soul!

Oh what a pity and such a waste,
This fruit, I'm afraid, is not to my taste".
Meanwhile the ambles were filled with mirth,
Seeing John lying prostrate on the earth.

He stuck his whole arm in, reaching down,
Which caused the rabbit to fret and frown.
After giving the creature a dreadful fright,
John poked a stick in to left and right.

But still the apple remained below,
Despite him having another go.

On standing he uttered, "What a to do,
I'd so looked forward to a bite or two."

Then just as he started on his way,
He heard, "Drop a carrot another day."
Turning round, he gasped at what he saw,
A buck giving the V-sign with his paw.

"Quote ... unquote"

"Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend."

Albert Camus, philosopher

"Thoughts come clearly while one walks"

Thomas Mann, novelist

You have to stay in shape. My grandmother, she started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 today and we don't know where the hell she is."

Ellen Degeneres, comedian

"Walking, ideally, is a state in which the mind, the body, and the world are aligned, as though they were three characters finally in conversation together, three notes suddenly making a chord."

Rebecca Solnit, writer on walking

Tom Petfield

Chris Bush writes: A letter awaited my return from holiday advising me that Tom Petfield had died 10 days earlier. I remember him when I first joined the York group (25 years or so ago). Tom and Hilda often did Saturday afternoon walks, and I recall one which used public transport to Appleton Roebuck. This introduced me to the walking possibilities in the area east of the River Wharfe. Bob Marsham, who knew him well "in the old days" has written the following obituary:

Tom was a member of the R.A. for many years prior to his move to York, where he soon joined the York Group and began his long service on the committee. During this time he served as publicity officer, secretary and, for a short time, chairman.

However Tom will mostly be remembered as the one who, with his wife Hilda, started the Group's Wednesday rambles and later, helped to start the Amblers section. For these things alone he will be remembered, not only by those who knew him, but also by many who know only of him but are still able to appreciate his efforts in bringing the pleasures of rambling and ambling to so many.

To those of us who did know Tom, he will always be thought of a kindly man who could be completely relied upon to give of his best to any task he was asked to perform.

Tom is survived by his wife Hilda, who was always a willing help to him in his various R.A. duties and to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.

Bob Marsham

News from our Groups

YORK GROUP WORKING PARTY

The group has met monthly since the spring. In March we installed a new kissing gate in Tollerton to replace a broken stile at Ings Lane and did several other repair jobs around the village paths.

In April we had a challenging task reversing the hinges on a replacement post of a field gate at Moor Monkton. Refitting a nearby gate concluded the working day.



Before...



and after at Stowton

The programme for May started at Tadcaster re-laying part of the riverside path boarding before moving on to Nun Monkton to attend to three damaged stiles.

Stutton and Towton were the sites for the assembled group on 28th June 2007 where we replaced a stile with a kissing gate at G.R. 482405 and then cleared the lengthy bridleway between Stutton and Towton.

The Working Party will continue to meet monthly until October when shorter daylight hours restrict the value of going to sites.

GYBO



Photo courtesy of Paul Rhodes



Hebden Bridge walk

The young people's group has been enjoying a series of evening walks (like the one pictured left at Newton-On-Ouse) and is looking forward to a weekend in Ingleton in September.

More on GYBO from www.gybo.org.uk and from our new Facebook account: www.facebook.com - then type in gybo in the search box.

RYEDALE GROUP

Ryedale Ramblers Barn Dance
will take place at

Kirkbymoorside Memorial Hall
on Saturday 27th October 2007.

Further details from Wendy Borman tel: **01751 477325** or Pat Fielden tel: **01482 882499.**

POCKLINGTON, HOWDEN AND GOOLE

Congratulations to these two Groups for organising car sharing schemes for some walks from September. See details on pages three and four.

HULL AND HOLDERNESS



Hull and Holderness Group evening walk on the River Hull flood bank near Hull Bridge DCW

The summer programme of evening walks was very popular, sometimes attracting over 30 walkers. Some routes had to be adapted to avoid flooding and water-logged paths.

SCARBOROUGH GROUP AGM

Thursday 22nd November 7.30 pm

At the Friends' Meeting House, Quaker Close, off Woodlands Drive. Ray Johnson will entertain us with a talk and slides of his fortnight long "Tour of the Matterhorn".

We will be electing the 2008 officers and committee so please consider whether you could spare some time to help run the group. After a three year stint Dennis Muir will not be standing again for Secretary.

Christmas Lunch Walk Sunday 16th December

There will be a choice of two walks from the Hayburn Wyke Hotel, a 7-miler led by Peter Fahey starting at 9.30 or a 4-miler led by Bill Lythgoe starting at 11.00. Both walks will conclude with lunch at the Hayburn Wyke at 1.30. Please ring Peter **01723 365117** to book your lunch places. All welcome.

BEVERLEY GROUP



The "Summer Specials" programme included a visit to the North Cave Wetlands (above) and several mid-week walks followed by bar meals, more of these to be arranged.

Please note the date of the Beverley Group AGM has been changed to Tuesday, 13th November. See group newsletter for details.



Backmarker has returned from his leadership course determined to put into practice all he has learnt...

Good morning everybody. Thank you for coming along. My name is Johnny Keen and I shall be leading the walk today. Can I just check if there are any new members? Viv and Tim? Excellent. You are doubly welcome!

We'll be off in a few minutes but first I must make a few safety checks as suggested by the Ramblers' Association. Perhaps you would like to chat among yourselves? Apparently I need to assess the fitness and equipment of the party. I guess that there are about 40 of us today so this may take a moment or two.

I hate to sound judgmental but one or two people don't look - well, to put it bluntly - too healthy, at least to my layman's eye. I'm not quite sure what my response is supposed to be. Anybody else know? No? Well, in that case we had better forget about it. After all, you are obviously keen to have a walk and can all stand unaided.

So, next we'll take a quick butcher's at the equipment. Sorry to sound like a doctor! Good to see you all have waterproofs because it's going to be pretty wet. I'm a bit bothered, though, about some of the boots - they don't look completely waterproof to me. Worth remembering for next time, perhaps.

Just before we get on to identifying special needs, please be careful when we are crossing the stream. The stepping stones are always slippery and we don't want any accidents. Although, of course, I do have a first-aid kit in my rucksack along with a mobile phone, GPS, whistle, torch, and a couple of survival bags. Should be enough for a six-miler. Hopefully!

Sorry to be inquisitive, but does anyone have any special needs or, at least, ones they feel they can talk about in front of 40 or so people? What? You're not too good over stiles? No problem, we'll help you with that, as and when. And you sir? You need to go a lot? What a nuisance for you but just let the backmarker know when you need to take a breather.

It's a bit of a bore, I know, but at this point I must advise dog owners on Group Policy. I've got it here somewhere. I distinctly remember packing it along with the fluorescent jackets and my route card timings. No rest for the wicked eh! Perhaps, I could get back to you on that one? I'll definitely look it up at the coffee stop and let you know what the policy is. Sorry, I agree, I really should know it.

OK the big moment has almost arrived. According to Area News, I just need to count you and then signal the start of the walk. We used to count at the first gate or stile but that's progress for you. As for the signal that the walk has begun, well being a bit old fashioned I won't fire a gun or anything! I propose simply to walk off at the front and hope you will follow. Also, we need to be aware of our impact on the countryside. So you may need to tiptoe at one or two very sensitive spots.

Just one more thing. Is everyone alright for getting home afterwards? If not, I'm sure we can arrange something. Finally, do enjoy the walk.

BACKMARKER

From our Postbag

Dear Rambling Rose,

In the April edition of Area News it was reported that Backmarker was away on a leadership course and you had muscled in.

Some may say you did a fair job answering walkers' worries but must you always look at the world through rose-tinted spectacles?

By contrast, Backmarker is a mud and blisters type of guy who knows what it is like to catch up at the very moment the Leader says, "Let's move on!" He is my choice because he tells it like it is. He should be immediately reinstated.

SAS, Beverley

The editors reply: As you can see, SAS, Backmarker's absence was only temporary. However, Rambling Rose remains on standby to address those thorny problems which occasionally beset our readers.



????????????? Griddles ????????????????

These clues should lead you to some popular starting points for walks in our area. If you get stuck, the grid references below will help, but are NOT in the correct order.

1. Look ahead to find somewhere thrilling tonight on the A64
2. Martha 'n' Bing meander arm in arm up lovely wolds dale.
3. Catastrophe! Churchman goes to pieces as township boils!
4. Improbable creatures are sighted next to the green in the brown land.
5. We found jeans next to sandwich filling in village shop near scenic railway.

SE 947 309

SE 833 906

SE 912 368

SE 797 554

SE 854 742

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The deadline for the next issue is: **November 15th 2007**

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