



Notice of 2020 Area AGM

All East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Ramblers members and representatives of affiliated organisations, are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting at 2.00 pm on Saturday January 25th 2020 at Welburn Village Hall, Ryedale, North Yorkshire YO60 7EG, grid ref. SE 722 678.

Parking is very limited at the hall, so please either park on the road in the village or on the grass by the church, which is 100 yards up the road from the hall. Prior to the meeting there will be a 5 mile walk starting from Welburn Village Hall at 11.00am. The hall will be open from 1.30pm.

There will be no mail shot in January, if you wish to receive a copy of the Annual Report by post please contact Ann Laing by 31st December, either by email laing25@tiscali.co.uk or send a text message to 07919 105401. Copies of the Annual Report will also be available in January on the Area website, from Group secretaries and at the AGM.

After the formal meeting and a short break for refreshments, a speaker (yet to be decided) will address the meeting on a topic of interest to our Area.

VACANT POSTS Nominations for all posts are invited, but in particular the posts of Chairman, Area Membership Secretary and Webmaster.

BBC Countryfile Live 15th-18th August at Castle Howard



Countryfile Presenter Tom Heap at the Rambler's Stand with volunteers

The BBC Countryfile Live event is a country fair featuring a range of activities including live discussions with the TV programme presenters and other TV personalities, craft and countryside pursuits, food, drink and cookery demos, farm animals, horses & dog shows and plenty of shopping opportunities. The event had been held for the last four years at Blenheim Palace, with many thousands of visitors over the four days of the show. In 2019 the organisers decided to also run a show in the north of England in the grounds of Castle Howard, from 15th-18th August.

Our Area Committee took the decision to participate in this event in order to raise the awareness of the general public of the role of the Ramblers, not only in organising led walks but in the maintenance & repair of footpaths and the creation of long distance walk trails. The cost was prohibitive for our Area to hire its own plot and marquee, to greatly reduce the costs it was agreed that we would share a large marquee with the National

Trails, North York Moors National Park and the Howardian Hills AONB.

An Area working party was formed to progress arrangements and plan the organisation of the stand. A new Ramblers pop up banner was designed and purchased; other items were obtained or borrowed from national Ramblers. The stand had display boards with numerous free Ramblers leaflets, walks details, quizzes, free pens, badges, balloons and sweets. 29 Area members volunteered to look after the stall over the four days of the show, drawn from nearly every group in the Area.



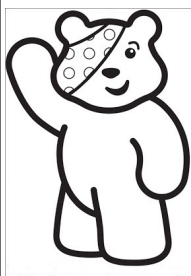
Stephen Down (Area Secretary) with volunteer and Tony Corrigan (Webmaster)

The event was a great success with more than 50,000 people visiting over the four days. However as it was the first time it had taken place at Castle Howard, there were various teething troubles - not least the massive traffic jams of cars trying to get both to and from the grounds of the stately home. There were visitors from all over the UK, not just our area. We estimate that at least 700 people viewed our display, some of the public appeared to be genuinely interested and impressed with the work of the Ramblers. We may not have had many new members as a result of participating in the show, but we certainly waved the flag for the Ramblers. Thanks to Ann Laing, Terry Strickland, Marilyn Skelton and everyone else involved in the organisation of our stand.

Marian Thomas

Children In Need Countryfile Ramble

Sunday 13th October



Please save the date. We are organising a short 3-4 mile ramble starting at 11am at Castle Howard to help raise funds for Children in Need. It will be open to all so invite your families, neighbours and friends to come along. It will be free and include the opportunity to walk through the Castle Howard estate. Volunteer helpers needed. (Pudsey Bear hats optional)!

You can help me raise money for this great cause by donating directly to my fundraising page - <https://www.justgiving.com/Ryedaleramble>. JustGiving sends your donation straight to BBC Children in Need and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. Thank you for your support!
Penny Hudson

York Group

We have two new developments in our group activities. We now have another walking group - the Public Transport Trails group, which will be identified as PTT in the walks booklet. This is in fact a sub group of the established Public Transport group, and has been set up by Roger Brooks. He will be leading walks on established trails which require a minibus to deliver and collect the group from the starting and finishing points, and will require walkers to book a seat in advance. These walks will take place once a month, in conjunction with the Public Transport walks programme.

We are making progress with the footpath surveys and improvements work in our area, now that Simon Lyle has met with the NYCC officers who are keen for us to take a more practical approach than before. This will involve training members in basic footpath maintenance, and improved reporting of problems.

Our coach ramble on 29th September is to Staithes. There are three walks, and details can be found on the York Group website.
Ian Reavill

Photo below shows Hull and Holderness Group at Gloxhill on the Hornsea Triangle Walk

Area Membership Secretary

I shall be stepping down at the AGM in January 2020, so hopefully one of our 1,500 members will offer to take over the role.

To do the job you should be computer literate, comfortable with e-mail and have a basic knowledge of spreadsheets. There are other tasks which I will explain when a volunteer steps forward, but none of the tasks are complicated if you have a very basic knowledge of computers. I will give whatever help and support is needed, ideally starting from now until the AGM so that the new person is ready to take over in January.

Contact me on 07494512322 or email areamembers2@hotmail.com or contact the Area Secretary Stephen Downs email stevie@getdown.org.uk Marilyn Skelton (current Area Membership Secretary)

Maintenance of the Yorkshire Wolds Way

At a meeting with the North Yorkshire Countryside Access Team, it was stated that the southern end of the Yorkshire Wolds Way was looked after by a group of volunteers. This leaves the northern end with gates that need oiling and T.L.C.

This area covers a number of Groups within the Area, especially Ryedale and Scarborough, so if a few of the Members would like to help please contact myself and I would be pleased to put you in touch with the personnel at County Hall.

Jane Preston, Ryedale Secretary

National Young Ramblers is coming to York!

Get Your Boots On (GYBO) is delighted to have been selected to host National Young Ramblers 2020 in York. This is now an annual event that brings together young Ramblers from across Great Britain for walks, social events and to look at wider issues affecting the Ramblers. We are confident that the great range of walks that we can offer will be a popular draw, and we hope that this will be the first NYR to break 100 participants.

The weekend will take place in May or June next year. If you are interested in finding out more about the weekend, and being among the first to know when we have confirmed the date, then sign up on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nationalyoungramblers.
Stephen Down



David Rubinstein (1932-2019)



It was with great sadness that Area members learned that David Rubinstein died suddenly but peacefully at home with his dear wife Ann on Sunday 28 July 2019. David was a ceaseless campaigner all his life for rights of way and the environment, and for public transport - perhaps his greatest achievement for the Ramblers was his part in the creation of the Yorkshire Wolds Way.

David was born in Cleveland Ohio, USA, in 1932. In 1952 he had a cycling holiday in Britain and France and fell in love with both. So in 1954 he came to study for a PhD at the London School of Economics and then spent most of his career at the University of Hull as Lecturer in social history. He married Shirley Livingstone, and they had three sons. After their divorce, David married Ann Holt.

After arriving in Hull, David soon became involved with the Ramblers' East Riding Area, talking some of his University friends into taking part in a Ramblers 1965 protest walk and rally over Millington Pastures, trying to maintain public access. He soon became Area secretary at a time when the Area had a strong committee that was working with its team of over 50 footpath inspectors to improve the rights of way network and campaign for East Riding County Council to publish its provisional footpath map required by the Countryside & National Parks Act 1949 - the last authority in England to do so. In 1968 David initiated a successful campaign to create the Wolds Way and in his autobiography he wrote "We were astonished at the immediate and favourable publicity which our sketchy proposals for a Wolds Way generated when we published them". Following support from the County Council, he wrote its first guide book which was published by Dalesman in 1972 (the official opening not coming until 1982). In 1968 he and David Nunns helped launch the York Ramblers Group. After stepping down as secretary in 1971, he became Area vice-chairman, served briefly as treasurer, and remained on Area Council until 1984. In recognition of his outstanding work, he was elected president from 1991-1997, and then vice-president until stepping down in 2012.

In addition to his work for this Area, David became a member of the Ramblers National Executive Committee (EC at the 1967 General Council in Birmingham), during a time when membership nationwide was increasing rapidly because of the public's recognition of the importance of the rights of way network and the need to protect the countryside. He served as EC vice-chairman from 1980-3, and chairman 1984-7, and stood down from EC in 1988. He was elected vice-president in 1989 and served until 2003. David was chairman in 1985 when the Ramblers' held a rally at Edale, which was the start of the Access Campaign, with Tom Stephenson speaking aged 92.

After early retirement at Hull University, David worked for Tower Hamlets Borough, and lectured in France at the Universities of Tours, Angers and Boulogne. On full retirement, David and Ann moved to York and became active members of York Ramblers, with David campaigning as an effective environment secretary against several poor planning applications for the historic centre of York. At this time, David suddenly suffered a major stroke, but against all the odds he made a remarkable recovery, with help from his devoted wife Ann.

David was a man of many parts, respected academic and effective campaigner nationally and locally for access to the countryside and for the protection of the environment, sometimes ahead of official thinking. Latterly he wondered whether he had been too critical of some professionals, but although he could be sharp, he always apologised if he felt he had overstepped the mark. We send Ann and David's sons and families our sincere condolences.

Peter Ayling and David Nunns

Area Camp June 2019

This years' Area Camp was from Friday 7th June to Monday 10th June, at Kettlewell Campsite, Kettlewell, Yorkshire Dales. 28 members attended the camp, organised on behalf of the Area Ramblers by Wayne and Donna Dosdale. There were 12 tent campers, 4 in camper vans, 8 were in B&Bs, 2 rented a cottage, and 2 stayed at relations' home. Various groups from the Area were represented, plus 2 guest members from the Amber Valley, Derbyshire.

As usual, there was a short walk on the Friday afternoon, this was from Kettlewell to Starbottan via Cam Head; the full day walk on the Saturday 8th was from Burnsall to Appletreewick via Trollers Gill circular and the full day walk on the Sunday was Grassington circular; finally the short walk on Monday morning was Buckden to Hubberholme circular.

Wayne and Donna Dosdale



Volunteer Roles - New

Are your computer skills sufficient for you to send an email or make an on line booking or purchase? If so you may be able to help your group by volunteering for tasks that you can do from home.

1. Group Walks Editor

Before embarking on a led walk it can be helpful, especially for newcomers to have a little prior information about it, e.g. terrain, route direction etc. Your task would be to liaise with the Walk Leader a few weeks before the walk for information and then add a brief paragraph to The National Walks Finder. You would also be able to correct errors e.g. location, start time, grid ref, etc. Time involved – minutes per walk

2. Group Web Page Editor

Promoting your Group to members and the public using a dedicated local webpage on Ramblers main website. Your task will involve adding information about your group; features; events; displaying images; creating sub-pages for specific items e.g. footpaths surveys and maintenance

Time involved – once created then as and when detail needs to be published

More information on this role is available at <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer-zone/support-and-development/volunteer-toolkits-alphabetically-sorted/area-and-group-web-pages-toolkit.aspx>.

It is hoped sufficient interest will be shown whereby a workshop will be set up to demonstrate the two systems [that could be undertaken by one person] and instructions on how to use them.

Please contact your Group Chairperson or Secretary for more information; alternatively contact Tony Corrigan (Area Webmaster) and Geoff Richardson (Area Walks Coordinator) who will arrange a workshop.

Free First Aid Training Courses

National Ramblers are working with St John Ambulance to provide free First Aid training courses. They are putting on an extra 85 sessions from October to December at locations across Britain. The new course have been specially designed to cover the essentials, as well as the scenarios you are most likely to face on a group walk. You will cover key skills including how to assess and treat an unresponsive casualty and perform CPR – with topics including bone and muscle injuries, heart attacks, and emergencies resulting from weather extremes.

The course lasts three and a half hours, and will be delivered by an expert St John Ambulance trainer. It is a practical course, with time to practise your new skills and ask questions. Thanks to support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, the training is free of charge. We will also reimburse travel expenses. You can find all the details on the first aid webpages. There are two courses at Pocklington running on 11th November, but unfortunately both are now full, however there are still spaces available on courses at Durham (18th Oct), Cleethorpes (21st Oct), Doncaster (23rd Oct), Thirsk (23rd Oct) and Leeds (1st Nov).

The English Coast Path (Norfolk section)

If walking the 2333 miles of the English Coast Path is on your list of "50 things to do before I die" then the Norfolk section might be a good place to start. It will take 84 miles off the total, is almost flat and it can be done by staying in one place, using public transport for some sections and a car together with public transport for the rest.

The Norfolk Coast Path starts in Hunstanton and ends a few miles beyond Great Yarmouth at Hopton-on-Sea. Norfolk is one of the first counties to have its entire coastal path included in the English Coast Path. Not all of it is close to the sea. At times the sea is at least a mile away, sometimes not beyond a sandy beach but beyond an atmospheric endless stretch of salt-marsh (think Magwitch coming out of the marshes in Great Expectations). When beaches are part of the route as at Holkham Gap, they are among the best in England.

Most of the walking is easy, following well-maintained tracks, paths and embankments, often on the tops of sand dunes. However, sometimes there's a sting in the tail. Just as you find yourself thinking, "These embankments are great. I wish North Yorkshire CC kept its paths in such good order," you notice the bit in the guide book that says "after Cley Marshes Nature Reserve begin an enervating 4-mile walk along a substantial shingle ridge". The clue is in 'enervating'. I could think of a different adjective. Enough said!



Then there is the current diversion which we weren't aware of until it was too late to do anything about it. It is due to 'sandscaping' which means that 1.8 million cubic metres of sand is being brought in to protect the huge Bacton Gas Terminal and two nearby villages from coastal erosion. The short section of the coastal path that would have been walked along the beach from Walcott to Bacton has been closed and re-routed as an extra 5 mile stretch inland. Would the last bus of the day from Mundesley to Wells-next-the-Sea know that we were coming!!

And then there is the final stretch. Once the seafront at Great Yarmouth has been passed, the route has to cross the River Yare. It goes along miles of tarmac through some of the most rundown areas of the town. Luckily it gives way eventually to the lovely beach and the small-scale resort of Hopton by the Sea for a pleasant ending. The enjoyment certainly outweighed the occasional drawbacks. Marilyn Skelton