



East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Ramblers

Area News

April 2013



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WORKING FOR WALKERS

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Area AGM and Area Council Reports

Unprecedented cancellations

Well, what a winter we have had! Severe weather resulted in our AGM at Bishop Wilton as well as an unprecedented number of programmed walks having to be cancelled. Thank goodness for email and for Tony, our website manager, who has been kept exceedingly busy publishing up-to-date information. Sincere apologies to anyone who missed out on any communications.

Area AGM

We eventually managed to hold our AGM at Wetwang followed by a brief Area Council Meeting. Most of your Area team had agreed to stand again and were duly re-elected. Our President, Ann Holt, however had announced last year that we would need to find a replacement and Peter Ayling, who has given many years of service to the RA was unanimously voted into office.

New Area Secretary

In 2008, our Area Secretary, Malcolm Dixon, announced his retirement, but gamely agreed to remain in post until a replacement could be found. Five years on and he is finally at liberty to retire as we are delighted to welcome, Alison Hales to the Area Committee who has volunteered to take over. Malcolm has given exceptional service as Area Secretary for nine years as well as five years as editor of Area News. We will miss him enormously, but he definitely deserves a break.

Delegates to General Council

The AGM appointed two delegates, Peter Ayling and Roy Hunt, to the Ramblers' General Council which will take place in April. An invitation for other volunteers to attend as visitors got no response at the meeting, but since then, Pauline Hakeney and I have put our names forward if no-one else is interested in attending.

Motion to General Council

Peter Ayling proposed a motion including criteria to assist Areas when dealing with wind farm applications. These criteria would help to control the number and siting of industrial-sized wind farms in our countryside. After some debate, the following wording was agreed:



Ramblers' Chief Executive Benedict Southworth speaking at our AGM

Photo courtesy of Peter Ayling

1) Turbines should not be placed closer than fall-over distance from a public right of way on foot or even greater distances for other high-ways.

2) An application should be opposed if the turbines have a significant detrimental effect on the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

3) As a new criterion, we propose that there should be a statutory minimum distance of four kilometres between wind farms.

The full motion can be seen on our website.

After refreshments, Ramblers' Chief Executive Benedict Southworth gave a brief talk about his first year in the job. He has attended numerous meetings with Ramblers' volunteers all over the country and also a number of high level meetings where he has been able to raise the profile of the Ramblers and promote the benefits of walking which he feels are finally being recognised by the powers that be.

Area Council

The Area Council then met briefly and arranged dates for the next meetings - see p.4.

Dany Włodarczyk

Area Chair

A Message from our new Area President, Peter Ayling

Peter currently serves as Area Countryside Officer, but has fulfilled several different roles in our own Ramblers area and beyond.

First I would like to say how deeply honoured I am to have been elected as your next President. We have had a distinguished line of Presidents in recent years, most recently Ann Holt: Ann has chaired meetings to perfection with exemplary humour and self-deprecation, and she has done what few if any other members could do, that is, to enlighten us with scholarly articles on the history of walking and the crucial role the RA has played. I cannot emulate Ann, but will do my best in other areas.

I have been a keen walker since my school days in South Wales. I joined the Ramblers' Association in about 1973, after reading about walking and the RA in the Hull Daily Mail, and especially after an article in which Roy Dresser fought to save an old hedge. I joined the former Area Executive Committee in about 1990 in response to our perennial appeals for more volunteers.

After listening to David Rubinstein argue for the importance of publicity, I volunteered as

Publicity Officer for eight years and later served as Area Chairman for a further eight. I really enjoyed going all over the East Riding and Derwent area to meet our members, and was especially delighted to be involved with Ann Laing, Malcolm Dixon and Mike Addy and other splendid volunteers in the setting up of GYBO Group, and later Pocklington Group.

At General Council in 1999, I stood for the National Executive Committee. I was not elected then, but later on learned that several members had resigned and I was on the national EC. I was a member for seven years, a fascinating insight into how the RA works.

I also became the RA's representative on the European Ramblers' Association. How interesting to be in a room where twenty or so different languages were spoken. Now as your Countryside Officer, I am able as a botanist to deal with matters close to my heart. I look forward to meeting as many members as possible during my period of office. Please do contact me if you think I can be of any assistance.

Best wishes, Peter Ayling

Area Publicity Officer - Vacancy

Although most of our local groups have a Group Publicity Officer, there is a vacancy for an area volunteer to augment and co-ordinate this work, crucial to maintaining membership.

The specific ways that an Area Publicity Officer will carry out their role will vary. They may include:

- Producing an attractive display to publicise the Ramblers to be used in locations such as local libraries, local events, popular walking spots etc
- Contacting local media through press releases, articles or letters to highlight the

issues facing walkers and the contribution being made by the Ramblers

- Getting promotional Ramblers literature distributed to prime locations around the Area
- Talking to local walking groups, affiliated walking clubs or other groups about the important work of the Ramblers.

If you might be interested in joining the Area committee and promoting the work of our organisation to non-members in any of the ways suggested above, do please contact the Area Chair or Secretary.

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Coach Rambles

Ryedale Group Coach Ramble

On Sunday 30 June, we'll be exploring wonderful Wensleydale. There's a choice of three linear walks, of approximately 11 miles, 10 miles (but fairly flat), and 7 miles, all ending in Leyburn - there's something for everyone.

On our return, we'll be stopping off at the ever popular Anchor Inn at Whixley for a meal. Cost in the region of £23 per person (including the meal).

So if you're interested, then please do contact any member of the Ryedale committee on a walk for a booking form; or email us on ra.ryedale@btinternet.com or Anne on ryewalk@hotmail.co.uk; or phone Pat on **01751 474667**. Everyone is very welcome, including any of your friends whether or not they are members of Ramblers. Fine weather isn't guaranteed but we're usually lucky!

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING

Are you wondering what to do with your old boots now that Father Christmas has brought you a brand new pair?

Green Steps is a small weekly walking group run by *Next Steps* in Norton, a resource centre supporting adults with mental health issues.



"We go out every Friday at 10.00 am for a short local walk suitable for all abilities, and you are guaranteed to feel better afterwards," said walk leader Bridget

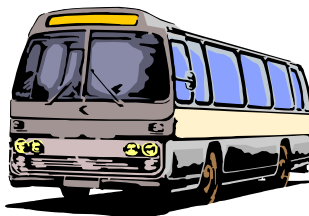
Robinson-Clark "but the problem is that many who come along don't have suitable footwear. So we are making an appeal. If you have any old pairs please donate them". Donated boots can be left at Trailblazer Outdoors, 17 Market Place, Pickering or given directly to Next Steps, 7 Church Street, Norton.

For further information, telephone Mike Dixon on **01653 690854** or visit www.nextstepsryedale.co.uk

BEVERLEY GROUP COACH RAMBLE

**Sunday, 19th May to Hawes,
Wensleydale. Cost £10**

E-mail courtddvd@fsmail.net or phone **01482 871703** for a booking form. There will be two walks (10-11 miles linear and 7-8 miles circular) and non-walkers are also welcome. Places are filling steadily, so book now to avoid disappointment.



York Group Coach Rambles

Sunday 12th May to Ribblesdale

Details and booking form are on the Area and York websites, or contact Vera on **01904 638134**.

also

**Sunday 29th September
to Upper Swaledale.**

Details will be on the websites shortly.

Next Area Council Meetings

**Tuesday, 26th March, 7.30 pm
at Fimber Village Hall**

**Saturday 18th May, 2 pm
at Bishop Wilton Village Hall**

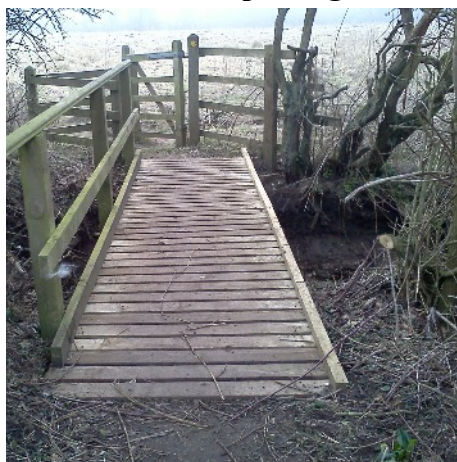
BLUEBELL WOODS

Our thanks to members of several groups who have told us where to find one e.g Hagg Wood, (Dunnington) Stittenham Wood (NE of Sheriff Hutton) Sutton Wood (Sutton-on-Derwent) Burton Bushes (Beverley) and Bratt Wood (Nunburnholme). If you have other suggestions, please let the editor or Tony Corrigan know so that they can be publicised in Area News or our website.



*Beverley Group enjoying a winter walk from Walkington on 3rd February 2013, a poignant occasion since the walk had been due to be led by our much-missed Group Secretary, the late Jean Cavill.
Photo courtesy of Christine Lovejoy*

Reporting Problems in the East Riding



At the recent Beverley Group AGM, Patrick Wharam, ERYC Countryside Access Manager emphasised that countryside officers rely upon walkers to be their “eyes and ears” as they cannot possibly inspect all R.o.Ws themselves. He recommended the use of the **online report form** rather than a phone call, letter or email. However, contact details are given overleaf in case you wish to send a photograph etc. The ERYC team has been re-organised and the map overleaf shows the territory now covered by each officer.

On a Beverley ramble from Goxhill in October, a vital footbridge near Wassand was found to be unsafe. After reporting, it has quickly been replaced. See photo of new bridge, left.

Area Mailshots

If you would prefer to receive mailshots electronically (i.e. Area News, your Group Newsletter, the Annual Report and the Rambles Programmes) please inform the Membership Secretary by emailing **areamembers@hotmail.co.uk**

Publicity leaflets and posters

If anyone has access for displaying Ramblers leaflets at their place of work or knows of anyone who may be able to do so, please contact Les Taylor, membership secretary for Hull and Holderness Group on **07932 798253** for leaflets and posters.



Victory for Forestry Campaign

The RA campaigned vigorously against recent Government proposals to sell off Forestry Commission land. Members were encouraged to write to their local MP and to sign an online petition. North Yorkshire Footpath Secretary David Nunns received the following update on the success of the campaign from Hugh Bayley MP who is one of our Area Vice-Presidents.

1 March 2013

Dear Mr Nunns,

As I expect you will know, the Government has now responded to the Independent Panel on Forestry's final report and has confirmed that the Public Forest Estate will remain in public ownership having formally dropped its previous policy of selling publicly-owned forests.

This is a huge victory for the hundreds of thousands of people who helped save our forests by signing the online petitions and contacting their MPs, and for those who set up and joined local campaigning groups around the country. I would like to thank you for playing your part in this successful campaign. It took two years for the Government to confirm they won't try selling off England's forests again but we got there in the end.

I have consistently argued for public access to and public ownership of Forestry Commission woodland and made a submission to the Forestry Panel in which I argued that public forests should remain public and more of our woodlands should be publicly owned because of the huge environmental, health and leisure benefits which would not be promoted by private land owners. I am pleased the Government's future forestry policy will focus on protecting, improving and expanding our public and private woodlands. I argued that the Government's overall policy should be to end up with more, rather than less, publicly owned forest each year, and this could now be the case as the Government has recognised the need to increase our woodland cover by up to 12%. The Woodland Trust has stated its intention to work with Defra, the Forestry Commission and other partners to ensure that the environmental, social and economic benefits of woodland assets are maximised now and for generations to come.

The Government will provide funding to ensure that high levels of public benefit can continue to be delivered over the remainder of the current Spending Review period. The Government's policy statement and full response to the panel's report can be found on the Defra website. As you will see, a new public body will be established in the longer-term to "hold the Public Forest Estate in trust for the nation". It is not yet clear what form this body will take. The Government must clarify its plans urgently. I am concerned by reports that the Government is considering merging the Forestry Commission with the Environment Agency and Natural England. Ministers have quietly cut 500 Forestry Commission staff and a quarter of its budget and have not set a legislative timetable for transferring public forests to the new trust or made clear where the money will come from.

The Government should allow the Forestry Commission to focus on tackling ash dieback which is set to wipe out 80 million trees, instead of embarking on another ideologically driven re-organisation which will distract and demoralise forestry staff who are our front line in the fight to protect our forests.

Please be assured that my Labour Party colleagues and I will be monitoring the Government's proposals on the future delivery of its forestry and woodlands policy and will continue to press for a well managed forestry and woodland sector.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Bayley

Labour MP for York Central

The Fate of our Woodlands

Woodlands and hedgerows, especially those of ancient origin, play a significant part in our enjoyment of walking in the countryside but they have taken a terrible battering in recent years as Peter Ayling explains:

First a virulent strain of Dutch Elm disease introduced in the 1960s on infected timber from North America killed over 25 million of the best specimens. This was followed by various diseases of oak, chestnut and alder that fortunately do not seem to have overpowered the host defences. Most recently an epidemic of ash die-back broke out last year. In December, about 300 ash die-back sites were notified throughout Great Britain. These are clustered in East Anglia and Kent, but extend up to Invernesshire.

How is the disease spread?

The disease is caused by spores of the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*. The fungus has an alternative stage to its life cycle, called *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*, that probably produces the infective spores. The fungus produces fruiting bodies on infected leaves from June to September, but fortunately the resulting spores are probably short-lived and high doses are needed to produce the disease, so infection is only a risk in the summer months.



Can walkers spread the disease?

There is only a low probability of spread via clothing, animals or birds, so there is no need for restricted entry to woodlands. About two to five per cent of ash trees show some resistance to the disease, but it would take a long breeding programme to introduce resistance into our woodlands.

Could the spread of the disease have been prevented?

Government policy over the progress of this disease from the continent into Britain has left much to be desired. It was clear the disease would eventually reach our shores from Poland, so there has been plenty of time to get a programme of defence organised, but many plant pathologists have been lost in cut-backs and a blanket ban on movement of ash saplings was only imposed in October. It was clearly dangerous practice to allow unrestricted import of saplings, especially from Holland with the disease spreading westwards. Recently it has been stated that some nurseries with infected stock have successfully lobbied to have their names removed from the published list. These practices pose significant problems for all our woodlands, especially the recently planted national forests, where it is possible that infected material may have been used, by the Woodland Trust for example.

The impact of ash die-back on local and national ash woods such as Millington may be significant, since ash is our third most populous tree and we already have one of the lowest densities of woodland in Europe.

As an environmental group, we have a duty to voice our criticism of the policies mentioned above, as indeed our members and the public will expect us to. I am sure the RA is closely monitoring the progress of the disease and will put out press releases if a significant increase is observed this summer.

Peter Ayling, Area Countryside Secretary
6th March 2013

EYDA Ramblers' 75th Anniversary

What's in a name?

Just before our AGM, I found myself leafing through the introduction to a book of walks, *Jubilee Rambles*, which was edited by Ann Holt, our Area President who was now about to retire. The book celebrates 50 years of the RA in our Area. A glance at the publication date, 1988, and I quickly did the maths. This must be our 75th year, which surely merits a special celebration?

In her fascinating introduction to the book, Ann recounts that a first meeting of the East Riding Ramblers' Federation was held in February, 1938, with two main aims; to expose the deplorable state of the footpath between Beverley and Cottingham and to arrange a public walk to draw attention to the scandal of the East Riding footpaths.

The Federation changed its name to the East Riding Area of the Ramblers' Association in 1949. A further name change occurred when local government re-organisation created the new county of Humberside. Part of the historic East Riding of Yorkshire was not included in Humberside but our organisation continued to operate in the historic territory of the East Riding. Hence the addition of "Derwent" to our name which we have retained following even more changes to local government boundaries.

Changing role of the RA

Further browsing through a stash of old EYDA Annual Reports dating back to 1972 which I discovered in a drawer left me full of admiration for the dogged determination of volunteers in our area to establish the network of rights of way which we enjoy today.

Although affiliated walking clubs provided programmes of rambles, it was almost 30 years until the RA began organising its own walks programme in this area. The 1981-2 report boasts 200 walks and the number has been rising steadily ever since.

After hundreds of ROWs had been claimed and put on the Definitive Map, often in the face of outright hostility from landowners and a distinct lack of co-operation from Local Authorities, volunteers such as Ray Wallis began linking rights of way to form linear routes as shown on the map opposite. The creation of such routes leads to increased use of hard won rights of way. In the 1982-3 report for example, Glen Hood mentions that 1700 badges had been issued to people completing the East Riding Heritage Trail that year. There is still plenty of scope for further new routes if readers have any ideas.

Dany Włodarczyk, Area Chair

Message in a Bottle

Ryedale Group recently proposed that all our members should be issued with a key tag which would contain emergency contact details in the event of an accident occurring on a walk. Area Council dismissed the scheme as being too expensive. A Beverley Group walk leader has drawn attention to the Lions *Message in a Bottle* scheme which could serve the same purpose.

The scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge, in a small plastic container which could easily be slipped into a rucksack.

These containers which are free of charge, can usually be found in your local chemist or doctor's surgery. The scheme is free to the user and can benefit anyone, including you. As a minimum it will save the emergency services valuable time identifying you and your emergency contacts.

By telling whether you have special medication or allergies, it is a potential life saver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and families.

All emergency services are aware of the Lions Message in a Bottle scheme, and will locate the bottle and pass it on to a doctor or hospital personnel in an emergency.

Long Distance Routes in our Area

I compiled the map below for our first Area website in 2006 to show the major long distance and challenge routes which criss-cross our Area, mostly devised by Ramblers' members. Distances are in miles. Unfortunately I omitted Richard Kenchington's Derwent Way (from Barmby-on-the Marsh to Lilla Howe) the Hull Country Way, a 50 mile route around the outskirts of Hull devised by Alan Killick and also the Holderness Way. I have been unable to ascertain the route of the latter. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows it or who has walked either the newly created White Rose Way or the Hull Country Way. Editor



●●●	79	Yorkshire Wolds Way from Hessle Haven to Filey Brigg devised by David Rubinstein, Geoff Eastwood, Dennis Parker and other RA members
●●●	84	East Riding Heritage Trail from the Humber Bridge to Filey comprising the Beverley 20, Hutton Hike, Rudston Roam and Headland Way, devised by Glen Hood of the EYLDWA and RA
●●●	215	Trans Pennine Trail from Hornsea to the Irish Sea. It is a section of the E8 European hiking trail from Cork to Istanbul (2,920 miles)
●●●	50	Minster Way from Beverley to York devised by Ray Wallis
●●●	20	The Howden 20 devised by Goole Rambling Club
●●●	40	Chalkland Way in the heart of the Yorkshire Wolds devised by Ray Wallis of the Ramblers.
●●●	83	Centenary Way from York to Filey devised by North Yorkshire County Council to celebrate the centenary of the council.
●●●	24	High Hunsley Circuit, devised by Dennis Parker of the RA.

Happy 10th Birthday Pocklington Group



Members of Pocklington Group at the start of their 10th Anniversary walk from Goodmanham, 21st February 2013

Photo courtesy of Pocklington Press

On Thursday 21st February, Pocklington Group celebrated its 10th anniversary with a walk from Goodmanham, followed by refreshments at the Goodmanham Arms.

It doesn't seem that long ago since Monica Isle got into conversation with Area Council member Ray Wallis on a Minster Way walk, about car-sharing and the lack of a Pocklington Ramblers Group. Monica learnt that a Wolds and Derwent Group had indeed once existed in the Area but had folded as volunteers could not be found to run it.

A seed was planted; Monica sprang into action and held a meeting of interested parties at her home. Progress was rapid and had the full support and assistance of the Area. A public meeting at Burnby Hall was a resounding success and attracted almost 120 people. A committee was established and as they say "the rest is history". Rather than slowly evolving, Pocklington Group burst onto the scene!

From Day One emphasis was placed on delivering a comprehensive walks programme and an attractive social calendar for members to enjoy.

During the decade the only change has been committee faces. Membership is maintained at around 200. Led walks number on average 125 a year and frequent social events take place including weekend walking breaks.

The enthusiasm, motivation and willingness of the founding committee, volunteers and all members ensured Pocklington quickly became established as a Ramblers Group. Of the first committee, Neville Kirkpatrick and Paul Harris continue to lead walks for the group.

More about the early days of the group, including newspaper articles and photographs can be viewed on the Area web site – <http://www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk/useful-info/articles-of-interest.html>

Contributions to Area News should be sent to Dany Wlodarczyk
49 Pasture Terrace, Beverley HU17 8DR Email danywlo@yahoo.co.uk

The deadline for the next issue is: **July 15th 2013.**

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