



East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Ramblers

Area News

September 2011



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www.ramblers.org.uk

WORKING FOR WALKERS

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk



The White Swan, Ampleforth. June 14

Pub walks group at Ampleforth , June 14th 2011

Photo courtesy of Norma Collins

Area Pub Lunch Walks

The last pub lunch walk of this year will be on Tuesday, 11th October, starting at 9.30 from the Royal Oak, Nunnington. The 2012 programme will begin in March.

If anyone would like to lead a six mile walk with pub grub at the end, in any month from March to October next year, please phone Marilyn on **01347-824520** or email marilyn@marilynskelton.wanadoo.co.uk

Information is circulated by email or telephone, not via the Walksfinder, so if anyone who is not on the mailing list would like to be included next year, please get in touch.

Marilyn Skelton



Apologies from the editor to Harry Whitehouse, whose photo was wrongly attributed in our April issue. The picture was taken by him on a Scarborough group walk near Lockton.

Front cover: Approaching Skelton's Tower on a walk from Hole of Horcum, 4.9.2010

Area Council Report

At our June meeting, we discussed whether so-called "flexi-groups" within the area might help to provide a greater variety of walks. These could operate independently of our existing geographically based groups to provide, for example, a programme of family walks or walks with a particular theme. They could be organised mainly by email with minimum expenditure and no need for formal committee meetings, rather like the Pub Lunch Walks (see opposite). If you have an idea and would be willing to help form such a group, please contact the Secretary.

Of great concern at present is the number of applications for wind farms in our area. Our Countryside Secretary, Peter Ayling writes: "There are now so many wind farm applications that I am unable to keep track of them all.....we really need another volunteer in Ryedale or Scarborough" (to look at applications and attend enquiries). However much we may support "green" energy production, we have to question the possible industrialisation of our unique and unspoilt Wolds landscape with ranks of 120-metre high turbines (as tall as 30-storey buildings) alongside some of our favourite routes. Please see details of an online petition on page 11.

DCW

Group News

Hull and Holderness Group

Hello to all of our 174 members. We hope you will like the new extended programme of walks organised by Steve Mullarkey. In addition to Mike Jackson's very popular Monday afternoon walks, Steve has organised a number of Saturday walks.

Steve also plans to increase the number of walks in the Holderness area. It has everything; seaside, river banks and rural peace. Come and see for yourself how lovely and tranquil it is. An additional benefit is that there are NO big hills. It is not called the Holderness Plain for nothing!

Of very great interest to the whole area is the continuing situation on the Victoria Dock footpath. Mike Jackson will update separately on this very important topic.

The AGM for Hull and Holderness will be at 2pm on Saturday 8th October at the Victoria Dock Village Hall. The meeting will be preceded by an 8 mile walk starting at 10am also from the Village Hall, so put the date in your diary and come and enjoy yourself. All welcome at the AGM.

Hull and Holderness Committee.

Scarborough Group

In May, Tricia Mumford led a successful *Get Walking Day* event from the Sealife Centre which attracted a number of potential new members.

Congratulations are due to Footpath Secretary Les Atkinson for his success in achieving gold level in the National Navigation Award Scheme. Les's story appeared in the local press, gaining valuable publicity for the group. You can read it in full on the group's new website:

www.scarboroughramblers.co.uk



Scarborough Group "Get Walking Day" May 2011

Photo courtesy of Les Atkinson

Scarborough Group has alerted us to the fact that new car parking charges introduced from March this year at such places as Goathland, Grosmont, Thornton-le-Dale, Hutton-le-Hole, Newton under Roseberry, Saltergate, and Sutton Bank are set to continue during the winter months.

Howden and Goole Group

The group's 2011 - 2012 winter programme can be printed out from the group's web page:

www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk/howden

York Group Coach Ramble

**Sunday, October 2nd, 2011
to Guisborough area**

Choice of three walks of 12, 9 or 7 miles
Booking form and details on area website
or contact Vera on **01904 628134**

**Walk in the Woods Week
Oct 1st - 6th 2011**

The group has arranged four woodland walks to support this event - details are in the printed programme.

Group News

East Riding Footpath Volunteers



Ray Wallis receives his memento.

Photo courtesy of Peter Ayling

We are engaged in replacing broken, rotten and missing Minster Way signs along the route. Having started in Beverley, we are on our way to the end of the East Riding boundary where I hope our friends from the York team will be ready to take over.

We think that this is a particularly appropriate project for us to carry out as the walk is very much a Ramblers' creation having as its instigator Ray Wallis (pictured left with Peter Ayling).

This thought was so prominent in our minds as we removed the first broken sign that Peter Ayling decided to present the finger section to Ray as verification that we really were on the job!

Ivor Jones

Beverley Group

In March, catering students at Beverley College once again laid on an impressive menu for us (see picture below).

After a wet start, the sun shone for our coach ramble to Bolton Abbey in May. Thanks go to Tony Frankish and Colin Mullender who led the walks. and to all who were involved in the organisation. Members of Beverley and other groups enjoyed a very pleasant and sociable day.

Evening walks included the Elwell trail in Beverley, to look at the current outdoor exhibition of the artist's work.

We are very pleased that two new members of our committee have volunteered to be "apprenticed" in the demanding areas of footpath and countryside work.

Beverley Group Christmas Lunch Sunday, 4th December 2011

A five mile morning walk will be followed by lunch at the Lairgate Hotel, Beverley. For details and booking form, please phone Annette Clemenson **01482 887389** or email **annette_clemenson@hotmail.com**



Members and friends of Beverley group enjoying a meal out at Beverley College. More pictures of the event can be viewed at www.eastyorkshireramblers/beverley

Photo courtesy of Steve Mullarkey

Pocklington Group

A walk with a difference will take place on Wednesday 7th December 2011 at 10:00 at Tophill Low Nature Reserve

Richard Hampshire, warden at Tophill Low Nature Reserve will provide a two-hour guided tour of the reserve. This will be followed by a 7 mile walk led by Martin Hill in the surrounding area, shorter than normal Wednesday walks by Pocklington Group but the guided tour will already have entailed approximately two miles of walking.

The guided tour promises to be a fascinating insight into the variety and richness of wildlife that flourishes in and around the reserve and Richard is exceptionally knowledgeable, passionate and enthusiastic about his subject. This is a date not to be missed and the winter months bring a variety of wildlife to the reserve. You could see an otter trail (or even the otter that left the trail) and a rare visitor such as a smew (a duck!) among the birds landing on the reservoir at the reserve.

There is a nominal admission charge per person of £2.80 (or £1.20 for 65 and over). **No dogs** are allowed on the reserve.

The reserve is to the east of the A164 Beverley to Driffild road. Turn off the main road at Watton (signposted Tophill Low Pumping Station) and follow the brown tourist signs along an unclassified road for four miles. Turn right at the main gates and follow the road round to the car park.

There is more information on the website, **www.yorkshirewater.com/tophill** and the grid reference for this walk is in the Area Programme of walks

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**

LAKE DISTRICT HOLIDAY
Sat 26th May - Sat 2nd June 2012
All welcome

Chris Spencer of Pocklington Group is currently organising a Ramblers holiday staying at Hassness in the Lake District to walk the Cumbria Way (grade D+). Cost is £499 per person based on a twin room, £30 single supplement. This includes full board and daily transportation costs. Jim Tulloch will be our leader for the week.

Anyone interested should contact Chris a.s.a.p. as the holiday is "blocked" for our group for a limited time. To date, six people have committed themselves to the holiday, so it should definitely go ahead.

To contact Chris: tel. **01430 872868** or email **spencer.christin@talk21.com**.

Nora Straker

Readers will be sad to learn that Nora passed away on 23rd April 2011 after a short illness. Nora served as Minutes Secretary to the Area Executive Committee for a number of years. She will be much missed by her walking companions, not least for her wry sense of humour which enlivened many a walk. A poem by Nora is printed overleaf.

Her daughters, Jill and Tina, write:

'We would like to thank all the friends who helped us keep her spirits up while she was ill and made her laugh a lot about all the fun times they had had.

We will be putting up a bench at Rosedale in memory of Nora and Jack. We collected in excess of £320 in Nora's memory which is to be split equally between the bench for Rosedale and the equipment fund for the Queen's Oncology Centre at Castle Hill Hospital.'

Ode to the Ramblers' Association

Eleven o'clock on a Sunday morn,
The ramblers roll up at the start of a walk.
Where is it today, is it moor, fell or dale?
A fight with Farmer Leason or the Dalby Forest Trail?

It might be with Geoff at Lockington or Lund.
Or it could be Malcolm and his yearly treasure hunt.
We could be climbing muddy cliffs with Dennis out in front
Or joining the Pied Piper on his annual Welton stunt.

When the weather turns inclement, the landscape changes hue.
From rucksacks neatly packed emerge cagoules of red and blue.
Like a rainbow fallen from the sky
With back-cloth of green they please the eye.

The summer months bring evening walks at venues close to home.
Beverley or Hornsea Mere, Brantingham or Paull.
The starting point is crowded, walkers new appear.
"We'll do the walk if that we must, but we're really here for the beer."

Then come dances, dinners, films, designed to cure all winter ills,
But walkers don't go overboard for any other kind of sport.
But do take heart you ladies three, *Olwen, Eileen, jolly Dorothy.
The Barn Dance is a great event and Camra ale means brass well spent.
The dinner dance held once a year lets us show off our other gear,
So keep it up and don't despair,
The faithful few will all be there

Committee meetings are hilarious, discussions, arguments, many and various.
Money problems, constitution, who will second Richard's motion?
We try to keep the footpaths free of barbed wire fences, fallen trees.
The farmer's plough we try to stop, when on public paths he plants his crop.

So walkers all, come join our band.
Help save our paths throughout the land.

Nora Straker

*The area social committee. If anyone recalls the Pied Piper, and his "stunt" do please let the editor know. Otherwise little seems to have changed since Nora wrote this poem in the 1970's apart from the start time of our walks. The poem has been slightly abridged.

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.

Romances Arranged

Does anyone else remember the old joke about RA standing for 'romances arranged'? For all I know the idea doesn't occur to anyone now, but walking as the accepted means of fostering a romantic inclination, courting we used to call it, was the way things were long before the RA arrived on the scene.

I was reminded of this when I came across a touching description of the Sunday evening couples observed by Samuel Bamford, an early nineteenth century radical and writer. He was at the time walking from London to Manchester – not that unusual for poor people in those days. After all, if you had no money, were in London and decided you wanted to go home to Manchester, what else could you do? Walk, and sleep and eat when and where you could, that's what.

Anyway, near Northampton, as the cool evening came on after a hot summer's day, he noticed 'by the hill-sides, or along the valleys, or up the meadow paths, appeared young and happy couples, the lads in their clean smock-frocks and the lasses in their new pumps, smart caps and ribbons, and all seemingly so full of happy, contented and hopeful love, that the tears dimmed my eyes'.

The local gossips were no doubt always on the look-out, but walking has given generations of young people (and the rest of us too, for that matter) a partial escape from supervision by the family, the boss, whatever. In the days when going for a walk in the evening after work filled the space now occupied by television, it was difficult to prevent young people meeting each other, by accident or design, while out taking an innocent walk.

Hugh Miller, born in Cromarty in 1802, was working as a stonemason when he first noticed the young woman he was to marry. Her mother was not keen on her daughter marrying a manual worker and tried to discourage any contact. However, the

daughter's evening walk could just happen to be in the same place as that chosen by the handsome mason. As Miller naively put it 'the similarity of our tastes for natural scenery led us always into the same lonely walks about the same delicious sun-set hour'.



Even the well-known regency courtesan Harriette Wilson, who had, shall we say, a professional interest in courting, used walks to get acquainted with her men friends. On a hot summer's day in London, she walked a potential lover over Primrose Hill and on towards Hampstead. When he complained that he was 'quite unused to walking' and wanted to stop, she decided he didn't have the required degree of stamina and left.

Ann Holt

Diary Dates

Sunday 2nd October
York Group Coach Ramble

Sunday, 5th October
Ramblers' display at Beverley Applefest

Saturday, 8th October 2pm
Hull and Holderness Group AGM

Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th October 2011
A Walk in the Woods Week
Details of walks in Area Walks Programme

Wednesday, 12th October 7.30pm
Area Council Meeting at Fimber VH

Tuesday, 8th November 7.30pm
Beverley Group AGM, Tiger Inn, Lairgate

Sunday, 4th December
Beverley Group Christmas Walk and Lunch

Saturday, 28th January 2pm
Area AGM at Welburn Village Hall

Sunday, 13th May 2012
Beverley Group Coach Ramble to Pateley Bridge. Details to follow in January issue.

Sat 26th May - Sat 2nd June 2012.
Holiday at Hassness

RAMBLERS 999 CAMPAIGN

The vast majority of Ramblers' walks occur without incident. However, worrying reports have been received by Central Office from Walk Leaders stating that, when an accident has occurred on a walk, the Ambulance Trust contacted could not understand the location if it was given as a grid reference. They requested a postcode. If this has happened to you, please contact Led Walks Officer Karen Inkster Tel **020 7339 8519** or email **karen.inkster@ramblers.org.uk**

In June this year, Ramblers launched a campaign, urging Ambulance Trusts across the country to ensure that they can pinpoint distressed walkers, or anyone dialing 999, no matter what their location. The Ramblers call for:

- All Ambulance Trusts to take responsibility for rural incident responses by ensuring they have adequate software and offer comprehensive training to control room staff to interpret grid references and ensure all countryside users are within their reach.
- The Department of Health to produce a 'best practice' guidance document which should be distributed to all Ambulance Trusts encouraging them to ensure that the software they use to process calls can handle grid reference locations.

Which emergency service do I call?

- If you are somewhere where an ambulance can reach you such as a country lane or roadside, call 999 and ask for the **ambulance**.
- If you are in a remote location where an ambulance can't reach you, a hillside or forest for example, you need to call 999 and ask for the **police**.
- In an emergency at the coast, where an ambulance can't reach you, like a cliff or the shore, you should ask for the **coastguard**.

Please help Ramblers call for the Department of Health to address this situation by emailing them via the Ramblers' website to voice your concern.

Rohan

John, the Store Manager,
would like to thank
East Yorkshire and Derwent
Ramblers for their custom at
the **Rohan** store at
22, Butcher Row, Beverley.

Our autumn range is now
in. 10% discount is offered
on all items on production
of your membership card.

Volunteer Profile

Ann Laing has been Area Membership Secretary since 2004. Her face will be familiar to many of you as she has led walks for several different groups over the past 15 years as well as representing our organisation at events such as Driffield Show.

Ann was previously Area Secretary (from 1996 to 2004) and helped to set up the GYBO group. She organised the initial meeting and led some of their first walks. She has also served on both York and Ryedale group committees. She explains how she became involved as a volunteer:

'My late husband and I originally joined Ramblers in 1984 to do the York evening walks. A couple of hours of fresh air after a busy day at work on a warm summer evening was very enjoyable. I started to walk on Wednesdays, which was my day off when I worked on a Saturday. I was then hooked and started walking on a weekend as well. I volunteered because Ramblers gave me so much when I was on my own after my husband died. I wanted to put something back.'

Describing her current job, Ann writes:

'The end of each month is a busy time when I receive membership updates from Central Office for all our groups. I send out local information to all the people who have joined during the last month. This includes the relevant group newsletter, latest Area News and the walks programme, together with a welcome letter and a new member's questionnaire. I then send the groups their membership list and list of updates. For a while, this job could be frustrating when



Central Office had serious teething problems with its new computerised membership system. Obviously each group knows its own members better than I do, so any inaccuracies in the information provided by CO are usually spotted at group level.

Ann also co-ordinates the Area "stuffing" evenings which are held three times a year in Beverley to send out mailshots to all our members. These are great fun and a very sociable occasion, with lots of tea and biscuits on offer! Describing the role of volunteers, she says:

'Many Ramblers jobs are not as onerous as people think, and the more people who volunteer, the more these jobs can be broken down into smaller segments, so my advice to anyone thinking about volunteering for a job is not to hesitate. Have a word about it whilst on a ramble or contact the Area Secretary. You will find it very worthwhile.'

Current Vacancies

We will shortly need a new Area Secretary and are also looking for a Publicity Secretary and Assistant Area News Editor.

All in a Day's Walk...

Eh up! Fancy that being there!! How many times have we said that?

Recently we've seen army tanks, wind farms and all manner of wildlife, but a day last February took the biscuit.

I had set off from Pocklington with a lady companion to do a walk from *Car Free Countryside Walks* by Patsy Pendegrass.



The Albatross

Photo courtesy of Mike Addy

The walk turned out to be excellent; towards the end we took a track leading to Pocklington Wood, passing one of those newfangled wind masts looking all forlorn and alone near the track. Of course it wasn't working! Maybe this one doesn't like breezy days. We passed a raised bank to our left, aware of farm buildings beyond, turned left and, lo and behold, what the! About 50 yards away in the mist, a plane!!

The area was deserted, the barns and sheds empty. We gradually sidled up to the plane in a somewhat furtive manner. It was a jet plane, a two-seater. Now, I knew this was a jet plane because it had nowhere for the propellers, and that is just about the extent of my knowledge of aircraft. It was grey-coloured and the roundels were red, yellow and blue. It looked in good condition but the cockpit, (I hope I aren't confusing you with all this jargon) was uncovered and open to the elements.

The next day we met Tony Simms in a local hostelry, someone I hadn't seen for some months, but I knew he was an aircraft enthusiast who even builds his own aircraft! Just the mention of aeroplanes and he and his friend, Stuart Murray, bombarded us with questions. We could only give scant details of where the aircraft was, near Pocklington

Wood and near a wind mast and just off a metalled road. That's about as much as we could impart.

Next day he made contact and said that, even in the dark, he and Stuart had located the aircraft and had identified it as an L29 Albatross manufactured pre-1974 by Aerovodochody of former Czechoslovakia. The roundels were those of the Bolivian Air Force.

Some time later I met Tony at his home. Well, I met him

with his head in the fuselage of another aircraft he was building. Tony and Stuart are members of York Air Search, an organisation which uses aircraft to help the police and other agencies to spot things from the air such as missing aircraft and persons, stolen vehicles, etc This group needs to have training exercises and he had arranged for them to use the Albatross in some of these. Later in the month, nine aircraft from York Air Search searched for and found the Albatross on different occasions, a good and successful series of exercises.

Tony and Stuart had made contact with the owner and learned how the aircraft found its way into the area. It had been used as a prop in the making of a TV advert and when this was completed the aircraft was surplus to requirements and was given to him.

Again, it's surprising what you find on a walk!

Mike Addy

York Group

On the Wolds

Sculpture Project

An innovative sculpture project by Visit Hull and East Yorkshire (VHEY) is attracting interest among walkers using the Yorkshire Wolds Way national trail. The sculpture trail is part of a development plan which aims to raise the profile of this area as a visitor destination.

Walkers will see 'sculptured' benches that are inscribed with poems to add interest. These have been erected at various points along The Yorkshire Wolds Way.

The benches have been well received so far for artistic attraction, location and importantly providing a place to rest weary legs.

Tony Corrigan

Help protect the Wolds

Unlike the Lincolnshire Wolds, the Yorkshire Wolds have not been designated as an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Many people believe they deserve and need the protection from development that this status might help to achieve.

If you agree, you can sign an online petition at **www.southdalewindfarm.co.uk**

Next issue January 2012

Some contributions have been held over until the next issue due to lack of space.

The editor would like to hear from anyone who has recently walked the Derwent Way and also from readers who customize maps using the OS Getamap service.



Sculptured bench on the Yorkshire Wolds Way above Millington

Photo courtesy of Tony Corrigan

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

The deadline for the next issue is: **November 15th 2011**

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Navigation Training

Sam Borman of Ryedale Group is continuing to offer navigation courses, so if you want to get to grips with using map and compass or improve your skills by learning techniques such as handrailing, pacing, walking on a bearing, and leapfrogging, then this is the course for you! You can do some of the preparation at home in your own time, using a CD-rom or a book, or both if you prefer. This is followed by a whole day out on the moors, when you'll learn to put all your knowledge into practice.

As group sizes are kept to a maximum of four, you'll get plenty of opportunity to do this. Courses are arranged on a day which suits all participants. All materials required will be loaned, including the book, CD-rom, map and compass. And it's completely free!

For more information, please get in touch with Sam by phoning **01751 477325** or emailing ra.ryedale@btinternet.com.

Load off your Back

For those times when you would rather walk independently and discover Britain totally at your own pace, Ramblers Holidays now offer you a brand new collection of self-guided walks!

Simply visit our new website and select which of Britain's long distance paths and national trails you'd like to explore. Choose from the many options we offer on the path you want to walk and we'll take care of all the arrangements for you, from accommodation to guidebooks, and even arranging the transfer of your baggage to your next overnight stop!

Perfectly complementing the Ramblers Worldwide Holidays portfolio, these great new breaks for independent walkers allow you yet another hassle-free way to discover why Britain's more beautiful on foot.

<http://www.loadoffyourback.co.uk>

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