



YORK GROUP NEWSLETTER

January 2017

YORK AGM ON THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2016

The Minutes have been prepared as the usual full and accurate record, but here are a few informal comments from the Editor about her first York AGM. About a dozen of us had a convivial meal at The Bay Horse, enjoying the generous portions of good pub food. The venue was a room with a large blank wall, so Tom Halstead could project photos of many walks by the various groups, in various types of weather, while we ate. As part of Tom's report to the meeting, he demonstrated the huge amount of information available on the York website. Clicking on almost any part of a page will give a link to somewhere else, or a drop-down menu, with maps, photos, satellite views, and much else that is interesting and useful.

After the Elections, our new Secretary, Jill Wiseman, introduced herself. The new Committee looks like this:-

Chair	Ian Reavill	<i>poppletonrev@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Secretary	Jill Wiseman	<i>jillmoncur21@gmail.com</i>
Treasurer	Lynn Croskin	<i>lynn@croskin.myzen.co.uk</i>
Footpath sec	David Nunns	<i>den3mil3@talktalk.net</i>
Rambles sec	Steve Hoather	<i>stevehoather@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Publicity sec	Andrew Brownlie	<i>janda@broadheath.myzen.co.uk</i>
Minutes sec	Stephen Sanger	<i>sangers2009@googlemail.com</i>
Ambles rep	Doreen Felton	<i>doreen@felton5437.fsworld.co.uk</i>
Newsletter	Vivien Irish	<i>virish@theiet.org</i>
PT walks rep	Avis Strudwick	<i>avisbrian2@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Webmaster	Tom Halstead	<i>tkh1@york.ac.uk</i>

Meanwhile, retiring Secretary Vera Silberberg had been recording the proceedings, working to the very end – and the Minutes were yet to come. Chairman Ian Reavill thanked Vera for her admirable 22 years in post, and presented her with a Certificate of Recognition of Service from Central Office, and a bouquet. (For an appreciation of Vera's work for York Ramblers, see below.)

After the meeting, Area Chairman Roy Hunt explained some of his

aims for the future. He would like more emphasis on the activities which attract charitable status, such as our work on footpaths and rights of way, and encouraging more non-walkers to walk, eg by liaison with Health Walks. He also hopes to encourage more new members to renew after one year – currently we lose 45% at this stage. Since York has been congratulated on making first-time walkers feel welcome, we are already doing the right thing on that front at least.

VERA SILBERBERG

Malcolm Dixon writes:-

Vera, who is retiring as Group Secretary at this AGM was already in that position when I started being involved in York Ramblers in 1994 having taken over Colin Coombs, and has been Secretary all the time we lived in York. In that time she worked with four Chairmen, including myself, and many other Committee members. I think only David Nunns has served in the Group for a longer period.

She has been a continual presence in the Group albeit usually in the background and has seen the

Group expand in membership as well as offering an ever greater variety of walks to members and the general public. She has seen the organisation's administration move from being heavily paper based with monthly packages of Circulars which needed copying & circularising through to the more modern usage of computers, emails and websites.

She has been most peoples' first contact with the Group and is often the person the local media will call. She probably took your coach booking and until recently produced the Group newsletter.

Like all good Group Secretaries if no one else volunteered to do something it would be usually Vera who would end up doing it, although often, & understandably, under protest.

Like many whose retirement from work meant taking on many other activities, Vera was also involved in her local church. She was an enthusiastic walk leader as well as a rambler, filling gaps in the walk programmes when she felt she could, often relying on routes she had picked up as a Ranger for the North York Moors National Park, for whom she also volunteered on a regular basis.

Whilst she will be missed on both Group & Area committees, I'm sure, if nothing else, she will continue to come out walking with this and other Groups, when her background, knowledge & experience makes her good company to have on any walk.



YORK SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jill Wiseman

Thank you - to members of York Group for their support as I take over as Secretary

- to Vera for diligently handing over the reins

- and not least to Vivien Irish for her fascinating and engaging talk on Walking in the Antarctic which was enjoyed enormously by all who attended the AGM.

Help needed! - Volunteers wanted for the footpath survey team.

We are looking to set up small groups of volunteers from York group members to help with surveying and maintaining footpaths in our area. At present there is a small team doing the surveys, but their numbers have reduced, due to people retiring. This is vital work, and can be done by members on their own, or in a small group, under the direction of David Nunns, our footpath officer, and can involve people as much as they feel able to do. The footpath maintenance work has stopped in our area, as NYCC have ceased to support this work. However, the

council is running a trial scheme with members in Lower Wharfedale, and we hope it may be extended to our area.

If you are interested in helping with the footpath surveying, then please contact a member of the group committee as soon as possible, as we can make use of you straight away. Those of you who would like to help with path

maintenance - mending stiles, sign posts, and clearing paths - please contact us, but understand that it may be a while before we can start doing the work. We can arrange a meeting of those who are interested, to discuss what we hope to achieve. Please respond to this request if you are interested. It is one of the vital elements of the Ramblers Organisation, and it can be fun!

OTHER NEWS

A thank you was received from York Lions Club for the £30.00 donation from members of York Group Ramblers for the 'Message in a Bottle' pots. They have just launched, with the backing of York Ambulance Service, an updated version - 'Message in a Wallet' with the aim of being carried at all times and to be distributed in the York Area.

Hi Vis Jackets

The wearing of these by Walk Leaders and Backmarkers is to be encouraged when walking on

roads. It is hoped to have a number of them available shortly.

People's Postcode Lottery

Following their successful partnership in 2016 with Walkabout, PPL wish to thank members of the Group who lead or participated in walks. PPL have awarded funding in 2017 which will enable Ramblers to promote the benefit of walking to everyone through the Festival of Winter Walks 2017 and Spring Walkabout 2018.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

There are two vacancies: 1. The Environment Secretary keeps the Committee informed about statutory and other plans which affect walking, at local and wider level, participates in local environmental forums, and where appropriate liaises with the Footpaths Secretary; 2. The Area Council Representative attends Area Council four times a year and reports back. If you would like to participate, or would like more details of what is involved, please contact Ian. Alternatively, if you know someone who would be able to contribute by holding one of these posts, please suggest their name to Ian or any other Committee member.

POST-AGM TALK

After the business part of the meeting, Vivien Irish gave an illustrated talk on Walking in Antarctica. She was based in Union Glacier Camp at 83.15 W 79.45 S, well beyond the Antarctic Circle, and hundreds of kilometres from the sea, the only source of food, so the only life was human. The

camp is on the flat, slow-moving ice. The 50 or so staff have single person tents while visitors have the luxury of two-person tents with a rigid floor and camp beds. All staff posts are doubled in case of incapacity, because the Ilyushin transport jet visits only once a week, with no possibility of getting to mainland Chile except on Fridays.

The small walking group was taken out, wearing boots good for -40 degrees, but not exactly light or flexible, in a six-wheel drive vehicle on ruler-straight tracks marked with flags and by GPS codes to avoid straying into crevasse territory, then allowed to walk freely in spectacular valleys, with solid ground below the snow – provided they did not go out of sight of the leader.



The four Arctic-trained chefs cooked amazing food, available 24 hours a day, for communication engineers, meteorologists, and pilots of small planes providing support and rescue to scientific researchers and climbers and cross continent skiers etc in the left hand half of the huge Antarctic continent. And of course it never

gets dark around the New Year, making it hard to sleep.

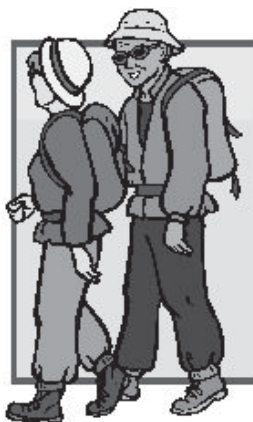
Vivien then explained that the only waste which can be discharged is pure water. Everything else, really everything, (think about it), is airfreighted back to Chile. She was privileged to be one of only 450 people a year who visit the camp.

THE YORK AMBLERS ARE 21 YEARS OLD!

This important anniversary will be recorded in full in Area News, but of course York needs to congratulate the group, too. Doreen Felton writes-

"It was in 1995 that the late Dennis Addison founded the York Amblers. Dennis recognized that in his advancing years, a 6-8 mile was more in keeping with his capability, and the Amblers were born. Dennis along with Tom Petfield and Cliff Blott produced the very first Amble programme, limited then to Spring and Summer seasons. When Denis retired for

health reasons in 1997, Alan Clark and Bill Hedison continued with the programme, ably assisted by Alf Sanderson, and then Ken Walker. When Alan 'retired' Jackie Glew and Margaret Green took over, and today Judith Tosh is at the helm."





TUESDAY WALKS

For about 5 years the Tuesday walks have had a monthly 6 mile walk followed by a pub lunch, with an 8 mile walk on offer in the other weeks. The aim in setting up these walks was to give another option to people who wanted something in between the longer Wednesday walks and the shorter Wednesday Ambles.

The pub lunch walks are very popular, but take-up of the 8 mile walks is sometimes quite low. A few walkers have said they would like shorter walks, so from April there will be a 6 mile walk each month on one of the Tuesdays if enough leaders volunteer. Please support the walks if you can, either by walking or leading.

If you are willing to lead a walk please email marilyn@marilynskelton.wanadoo.co.uk or phone **01347-824520**.

YORK GROUP COACH RAMBLE

Sunday 21 May 2017 to **Hathersage, Derbyshire**. There will be three walks, 12miles, 10 miles and 8 miles. The coach will pick up at:

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- 08:25** Hospital Fields Road (join coach at Ingleby's Depot at the end of the road, on-street parking)
- 08:40** Memorial Gardens
- 08:50** BP garage, Great North Way near the A1237 Nether Poppleton roundabout.

BOOKING: *Cost £11 per person*

There are two ways of booking your seat:-

1. Download the booking form from the York Ramblers website, or use the form below. Cheques should be made payable to Ramblers Association, but please note that they will not be cashed until after the ramble. Please post the completed form and cheque to:

Lynn Croskin, 18 Beech Court, Pocklington, York YO42 2NE.

2. Alternatively you can pay directly into our bank account at: Sort code 608301, Account no. 20129521, please use your surname as a reference and email your form to ***lynn@croskin.myzen.co.uk***

Please assume that your seat is booked unless you are told otherwise, and please supply email or phone number.

Sunday 21 May 2017

COACH RAMBLE BOOKING FORM

Name(s)

Pick-up at

Cheque for £ enclosed

Email

Or telephone

Although you can make your final choice of walk on the coach, it would help the leaders if you would indicate which walk you are likely to join.