

Message from the Chairman

Hello everyone,

I have now completed my first year as Chairman (second time around) and the healthy state of the group was confirmed at the AGM on 11 November where we had a turnout of over 30 people and a very positive meeting . All areas of the group are functioning well and I would like to particularly mention the fact that the footpaths survey is now fully complete thanks to Tony Corrigan and a team of a dozen or so volunteers who all deserve our thanks . Also Martin Hill has worked indefatigably on the walks programme and the Cleveland Way project was greatly appreciated by all who undertook it - but he would appreciate a few new leaders so please come forward if you are willing to lead a walk - support and help will be given !

Indeed my thanks go to all the committee members who together try to ensure that we have a walking and social experience that meets the needs of all the members . If it doesn't please say so and we will take note of what you say and make changes if the need is there.

Two members of the committee have stood down. Brian Billings, as many of you know , is battling ill health at present and we thank him for all his work over the years running the summer evening walks programme . We are fortunate that David and Evelyn Archer have offered to organise the programme for next year and our thanks to them . Janet Brader is also retiring from the Treasurers post and her input both here and on the social side will be much missed . Once again we have a willing and able replacement in Diana Barrett and we welcome her onto the committee.

Finally I would like to thank all of you , the members , for supporting the group in all its walking and social endeavours - there have been many great walks , weekends away and social events all enhanced by the diverse personalities and strong camaraderie within the group. It remains a privilege and a pleasure to share them with you.

Best wishes, Tony

E-mailshots

Instead of having the documents in the three annual mailshots sent to you by post, please consider having them sent as email attachments.

The annual cost of postage from Area funds for the 3 mailings is about £1800, much of which could be saved if more of us opted for e-mailshots.

If you are put off because you like to have the walks booklet as a 'proper' booklet rather than receiving it online, let me know and I will try to arrange for you to collect one in addition to getting it as an attachment.

Give e-mailshots a try, and if you don't like it you can always revert back to hard copies.

To opt for emails, send your request to areamembers2@hotmail.com or alternatively on the Area website click on the tab 'MEMBERS' and select 'ELECTRONIC MAILSHOT OF NEWSLETTERS. It would help if you would quote your membership number which is printed on your membership card and which group you belong to.

Thank you

Marilyn Skelton

Area Membership Secretary

East Yorkshire & Derwent Ramblers Area AGM

The Area AGM will be held at 2pm on **Saturday 24th January 2015 at Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Rd, York YO23 1BW**. There will be a guest speaker and all members are most welcome to attend.

NB: Scarcroft School [directly opposite Clements Hall] has agreed for members to use the play-ground for parking on the day of the AGM. Cost is £1 per car and this will be collected in the meeting hall.



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Committee Contacts

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Secateurs in your Rucksack

Why – to cut back minor overgrowth such as hawthorn and fast growing bramble that we find blocking paths e.g. wrapped around stiles, gates and fingerposts.

Local authority maintenance of footpaths is spasmodic, invariably being more reactive than proactive. We need paths to be unobstructed for encouraging walkers to use them i.e. more use = less undergrowth to keep under control.

So carry a pair of lightweight secateurs in your bag and snip back obstructing foliage when out walking.

Report obstructed paths, defective signs etc. to ERYC Countryside Access Office – contact details on the Area Website.



Ramblers Holidays Walking Partnership

Don't forget that Ramblers Worldwide Holidays will directly support your Group with funding [£10, £20 or £30] every time you take a holiday.

The Esk Valley Walk

The plan is to walk the Esk Valley Walk in 4 stages on Sundays, and in consecutive months, starting in May 2015.

The Esk Valley Walk is a 35-mile waymarked trail which starts from the source of the River Esk and ends at the estuary where it joins the sea at Whitby harbour.

Long Distance Walks in Stages for Summer 2015

Our walks along both the Wolds Way and Cleveland Way in stages have proved to be very popular and we are proposing to walk other longer distance routes during the 2015 Spring/Summer Programme. After listening to your feedback we are proposing to walk two further routes this year (see below) following the following principles:

- All stages will be linear walks with a start point and a different finish point, and public transport will be utilised to transport us between these points.
- Each stage will be in the walks programme. This means that any member can join us on any (or all) stages.
- A record will be kept of those who complete each stage, so that we can keep a record of those completing. Any missed stage can be walked on a different date as public transport is being used.

An Opportunity to Trial a New Regional Route

At the Pocklington AGM in November, Malcolm Hodgson, the local National Trails Officer, said that there was a proposed new Regional Route and asked if the group would be interested in being the 'guinea pigs' to trial this walk. The new route links the one end of the Cleveland Way at Filey to the other end at Helmsley and uses existing footpaths and trails such as the Wolds Way, Centenary Way and Ebor Way.

It is proposed to offer all Ramblers' members the opportunity to walk this proposed new Regional Route in six monthly stages on Wednesdays in 2015 starting in April 2015.

Social Events 2015

Social meetings 1st Monday of every month at The Cross Keys Pocklington 7:30 pm. Come along for a chat and ideas for other social events.

Barn dance Saturday 21st February with The White Horse Ceilidh Band at Burnby Hall Pocklington 7:30pm tickets from Graham £8.50. Don't miss out on this enjoyable evening of dancing, neither experience or expertise are required so come and enjoy a great night. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Walking Weekends

Staintondale 17th to 20th April 2015

Kettlewell 6th to 8th March 2015

Clapham 10th - 12th July 2015

Ellergill Barn, Littondale September, date to be arranged.

Come and join us on these weekends with great walks to suit all levels, great food and a fun time.

For more information contact Graham or Chris and book your place with a £10 deposit.

The 2015 Pocklington Coach Ramble – Sunday 7th June

A note for your diaries is the ever popular Coach Ramble. This year we are planning to go to Ilkley with three walks of varying distance. It is a great area for walking and if anybody can suggest suitable walks and/or offer to lead a walk, please contact Martin Hill.

We are also planning to offer an optional meal at the end of the day and full details will be in our next newsletter in April, and also on the website.