

Ryedale Ramblers

Autumn 2015 Newsletter



Ken Fletcher

Sadly, Ken Fletcher has died recently. Members' attention is drawn to a eulogy for Ken in the accompanying Area News.

AGM

The Group's AGM will be held at The Friend's Meeting House, 19 Castlegate, Pickering (YO18 7AX) on Sunday, 15th November, 2pm. The venue is about 150 yards south of the castle. Starting from Pickering's main roundabout at 10.00am, a six mile walk will precede the meeting (see Walks Programme).

Social Programme

The Coach Ramble

Unfortunately, the coach ramble booked for June 28th to the Peak district in Derbyshire had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

Christmas mince pie event

On a more positive note our pre-Christmas walk followed by mince pies, stollen and a cup of tea or coffee will be held on Sunday the 20th December at the Institute on Maltongate, in the centre of Thornton Dale. This will be preceded by an eight mile walk led by George Donnor from the car park in Thornton Dale at 10.00am.

New Year's Lunch

2016's New Year's Lunch, which costs £21, will be held at the Forest and Vale in Pickering on Sunday, 10th January. All are very welcome and a booking form is included in this mailing.

Walks Programme

The Ryedale Walks programme for the Winter period includes a number of Sundays where I have been unable to get a leader to lead a walk. We do need new leaders for Sunday walks, please contact Terry Strickland email terrystrickland717@gmail.com if you are interested in leading a walk.

Gillian's first few months as Footpaths Secretary

I offered to take on this role in February following the very sad loss of Chris Clark. I really had no idea what I was taking on but felt that the role must be filled as we couldn't let all the good work Chris had done fall apart. I received lots of helpful information from Ramblers head office and our Ramblers Committee, then the emails

started coming in from area, David Nunns, Ramblers HQ and NYCC. My inbox has never been so busy. There are many facets to the role.

1. Path orders (diversions, extinguishments, creations) Ramblers are one of the user organisations that Highways has to consult before making any order. It is my job to look at the proposals on the ground, consult with the committee and give our response to NYCC. A long very complex procedure then has to be followed and it has taken me some time to learn the terminology and the processes involved.
2. DMMO Definitive map modification orders These happen where evidence is produced that justifies a change to the definitive map. If there is a dispute, it may go to a public inquiry, as happened at Sherriff Hutton Hall where the parish council proposed the addition of a path. The outcome of this was that the western end of the route was accepted, but the eastern end around the hall was not.
3. Footpath problems Problems come to me from various sources. If the public report to Ramblers HQ, they get sent down the line and eventually arrive in my inbox. I need to investigate, report to NYCC and reply to the sender. Our survey has been invaluable in helping me in this respect.
4. Planning applications I was asked to look at the planning application for the solar farm near Sheriff Hutton as it ran just north of the Foss Way. This application has now been accepted by RDC so it will be interesting to see how it develops.

Please continue to report path problems directly to paths@northyorks.gov.uk and it would be useful if you could c.c. the report to me. I would also like to know if you discover problems that have been resolved, especially longstanding ones.

Ramblers big pathwatch As we have only just completed our own mammoth survey of Ryedale parishes, your committee decided in February that as a group we would not participate in this project. If individual members would like to do so they are very welcome. All the details are on the Ramblers website. Just click on big pathwatch and register to begin. I would like to know how you get on. I will be happy to answer any queries you may have; my email is gillzewde@hotmail.com

Ryedale PROW Survey

On 1st June we launched the report of our survey of all the paths and bridleways in Ryedale. Called *The State of Ryedale's Paths*, the report demonstrated the extent to which the NYCC is not managing Ryedale's PROWs effectively, with almost two in every five paths presenting at least one problem. The evidence showed that NYCC is especially weak in enforcing rights of way requirements with landowners.

Unfortunately and perhaps predictably, NYCC's reaction to the report was dismissive, but other Ramblers Groups, pressure groups and several parish/ town councils have responded very constructively. The *Yorkshire Post* newspaper (24.06.15) ran an interesting article on the report and this was followed by a discussion of the survey's results on a Radio York programme. Ryedale's new MP, Kevin Hollinrake has taken an interest in the report and has offered to chair a meeting between NYCC, Ryedale District Council and ourselves. This will take place on Friday 4th September. If you would like a digital copy of the report, please email j.harland400@btinternet.com