



YORK GROUP NEWSLETTER

September 2017

Coach Ramble in October - see back for details

Parish Paths Appeal

We have had a magnificent response to the appeal in the last Newsletter. Out of 89 parishes, only 13 have not yet been adopted! We would like to say a huge "thank you" to all of you who have adopted one or more parishes. It's great that you are contributing to the upkeep of our path network.

HELP US TO REACH 100% COVERAGE OF OUR AREA!

Volunteer to adopt one of the remaining thirteen. It is not an onerous task, you need to walk the paths in your patch only once a year, and report any problems you find to the council. Training is available together with a guide and a map showing your parish boundary. If you are interested, please contact me at lynn@croskin.myzen.co.uk . Lynn Croskin

Walks and New Walk Leaders

(With the Parish Paths Appeal doing so well, can the success be extended to other York Ramblers tasks?)

In the last couple of years, we have seen an increase in the number of members joining our walks, which has led us to offer more walks, particularly on Wednesdays. This is excellent news, but unfortunately it hasn't been matched by the number of people offering to be leaders. When it comes to drawing up the six month programme, it is a struggle to fill all the dates, meaning that some members are having to lead several times each half year.

The solution seems to be for people who haven't led before, having a go. This may seem daunting, but we are able to help anyone who would like to try taking the lead for the first time. We can help in planning a route, in carrying out the recce with you, and in supporting you on the actual walk. Please understand, you won't be sent off on your own, we'll help you out at every stage.

So, when the call comes for leading walks in the new programme, do please think seriously about helping in this way. If you would like to discuss it, just contact anyone on the committee. Ian Reavill

Group Webmaster

(and another area where help is needed.....)

Unfortunately for York Ramblers, Tom Halstead will be moving to Birmingham for family reasons, which means that we will lose his many skills, especially so far as our website is concerned. The Internet is a vital tool for promoting the Ramblers to the wider public, as well as communicating with members.

We are looking for someone who already has knowledge of basic website management, so that the Group website can be maintained and updated, both in content and in structure. This means we can continue to present the work of the Ramblers and its charitable aims in a clear, jargon-free way. The sources of information to be presented are local groups and officers, as well as central office, so the content of the website is available and does not have to be generated. In addition there are technical resources in the Website toolkit in the Volunteer Zone, and there is a Volunteer Support Officer, contactable on volsupport@ramblers.org.uk and on **020 7339 8520**.

Part of this, but possibly a separate job for a second person, is the task of keeping up to date the "List of Start Points" on the website. This involves, every 6 months with each new

programme, entering the dates of each walk and usually adding a few new start points together with their links to the Bing and WTP (Where's The Path) maps.

If you would like more information on what is involved, or if you would like to offer your assistance to help us maintain our service to members, please contact Ian Reavill on **01904-794645**.

Environment Secretary

(yes, it's another plea for help)

This is an important job with both local and regional/national aspects, and it's about planning matters. The local aspects are to keep the Committee informed about statutory and other plans affecting the urban and rural walking network, to co-ordinate the Group's response to such plans, and to monitor their implementation. The job-holder might also liaise with City of York and North Yorkshire County Council officers.

Regional/national issues would involve liaising with RA area contacts about nation-wide proposals, publicising them, commenting on them, and contributing to consultations.

Could you do part of this job? With the importance of this post, perhaps this would be suitable for a job-share?

If you could help, please contact any Committee member.

More About Walking Poles

In the York Group Newsletter March 2017 I wrote about using walking poles. Here is a short update.

I wrote that poles hanging on your rucksack can catch on somebody else, and I myself used that arrangement until recently. Now I have the solution – a collapsible pole that fits into a daysack. I have personal experience of two models, although there are many more on the market.

The type that I bought is made by Enkeeo. It has two push-fit joints and one external lever lock joint, which allows the length to be altered between 1 metre (39 inches) and 1.25 (49 inches). When folded it is only 40cm (15.75 inches) long, and easily goes into a sack. Amazon sell it for £16.79.

A friend has a version by Black Diamond. It is very light weight, but has only two push-fit joints, so its length cannot be changed, and it is much more expensive. *Vivien Irish*

Are you leading a friend astray?

Not astray in the geographical sense, but by giving bad advice of non-members of Ramblers who walk with us.

There is a rumour that some non-members regularly join us, because other walking groups ask for payment every time, and we don't.

You may have guessed by now, this short note is about that boring subject – Insurance. Not the sort of insurance that covers you for an accident, but cover if you CAUSE an accident, either physical injury or damage to property.

If you are a paid-up Rambler you are covered by the organisation's Civil Liability Insurance, so if you do something that affects a third party, such as leaving a gate open so cows escape, or if someone trips over your pole because you are careless with it, and hurts themselves, any costs incurred will not fall on you personally. The same applies to non-members on one of their three permitted "taster" walks – after that, they are expected to join, or stop walking with us. For the fourth walk, they are not insured and an accident which they cause would be their own responsibility. That could be expensive for them. The same applies to you if you walk in front of the leader, you will be considered to have left the group and will be uninsured.

Of course, there are circumstances when the leader tells the group to go ahead, eg to walk up a hill at their own pace and wait at the top, or when s/he is helping someone who needs assistance, but people who persistently walk ahead can force the pace of the walk, which is bad manners. So common sense applies, as always. *Vivien Irish*

YORK GROUP COACH RAMBLE

Sunday 15 October 2017 to **Hawes, Wensleydale**. As always, there are three walks: Walk A (11 miles), leader Sylvia Fishwick; Walk B (9 miles), leader Eric Smith; and Walk C (7 miles), leader Doreen Felton. Full details are available on the York Group website. The coach will pick up at:

- 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 15 October 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.