



Committee

At the AGM in November the following people were elected to serve on the committee:

Chairman: Ian Reavill
Webmaster: Tom Halstead
Ambles Rep: Doreen Felton
Environment: Mike Willis

Secretary: Vera Silberberg
Footpaths Secretary: David Nunns
Membership: Marilyn Skelton
Other members: Lynn Dickie and Dave Gibson

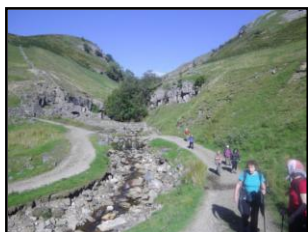
Treasurer: Lynn Croskin
Walks Secretary: Steve Hoather
Publicity: Andrew Brownlie

Ian, our new chairman, gives his comments on the AGM and the work of the group:

"It was heartening to have a good attendance at our AGM – perhaps the chance of good food and beer was an incentive to attend.

Tom chaired the meeting with his usual good humour, and treated us to some splendid photographs from walks, plus an excellent PowerPoint presentation which gave a useful backdrop as each officer delivered their report.

Once again our walks organisers, Steve for Wednesdays, Marilyn for Tuesdays, Malcolm Dixon and Vera for public transport walks and Judith Tosh for the Amblers, have put together an impressive programme which has been very well supported. We seem to be doing the right thing, so much so that we now have extra walks on Wednesdays to accommodate the increase in numbers.



David Nunns gave a comprehensive report on the work that he does as the Footpaths Officer, warning us that some local councils are cutting back on their responsibilities with regards to public rights of way.

We are fortunate to have such effective committee members acting on our behalf but it was sad to lose Kay Sawkill who has retired as our extremely efficient treasurer after many years. Marilyn Skelton has also relinquished her post as publicity secretary, which she has carried out very effectively for five years, but she will continue to plan the Tuesday walks, produce the newsletter, and deal with membership items

Tom Halstead has passed the chairmanship to me after nine years. He has been tireless in working for our members, particularly with matters regarding Open Access and the Coastal Path. I should like to thank

him for all he has done, and I am delighted that he is to stay on the committee, continuing to update the splendid website that he has developed over the years and giving us the benefit of his experience.

Once again Vera Silberberg has kept us all informed due to her invaluable work as secretary.

Doreen Felton will continue to represent the Amblers on the committee.

It was very gratifying to have new volunteers stepping up to take places on the committee and we look forward to working with Andrew Brownlie, Lynn Croskin, Lynn Dickie, Dave Gibson and Mike Willis."

AREA AGM

This will be at 2:00pm on Saturday 24 January 2015 in Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Rd, York YO23 1BW

Guest Speaker: Maria Castellina, Media Manager from Ramblers Central office

Parking available in Scarcroft Primary School car park almost opposite the Hall. £1 per car will be collected in the meeting hall.

Vera will lead a 2-hour walk starting at 10:45am. Packed lunches can be eaten in the hall or pub lunches available nearby. Hot drinks available.

Please support the volunteers who work to keep the wheels oiled.

E-mail not Snail-mail

Thank you if you have already signed up for e-mail documents.

Instead of having the documents in the 3 annual mailshots sent to you by post, please consider having them sent as email attachments.

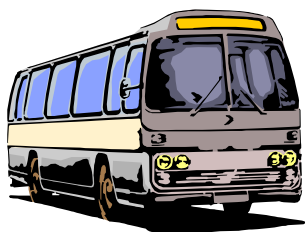
The annual cost from Area funds for the 3 mailings is about £1800, much of which could be saved if more of us opted for e-mailshots (and think of the trees we could save).

If you are put off because you like to have the walks booklet as a 'proper' book, arrangements could be made for you to collect one on a walk, whilst receiving the rest of the documents by email.

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

To opt for email attachments, send your request to **areamembers2@hotmail.com** or alternatively at **www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk** click on the tab 'MEMBERS' and select 'ELECTRONIC MAILSHOT OF NEWSLETTERS'. It would be helpful if you would quote your membership number which is printed on your membership card and say which group you belong to.

Coach Rambles



There will be 2 coach rambles next year, one in late May or early June, and one in late September or early October.

Possible venues which have been suggested so far are The Calderdale Way, the Ingleton area, The Rotherham Ring, Pendle, or Whalley.

Nothing has been decided yet so if you have other ideas let any committee member know on or before 14th January when decisions will be made.

Final dates and venues will be in the March newsletter.

This year the September coach ramble operated at a loss due to the low turnout. Please try to support the group in its efforts to provide a varied programme.



Check it out!

Footpath volunteers needed

In times of council cutbacks it is vital that walking groups monitor the state of the footpaths and stiles, gates and bridges and do what they can to bring the problems to the notice of the relevant authority.

Our group has a team of checkers, but some parishes still need volunteers. It is not a very time-consuming task, generally a once-a year job of walking the footpaths in a parish to check on their state.



If you would offer to check one or more of the following parishes, David would be delighted to hear from you:

***Heworth Without Knapton Riccall Skipwith
Nether Poppleton Upper Poppleton
Stockton on the Forest***

Contact David Nunns

Email: den3mil3@talktalk.net Phone:01904-791187

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Occasionally it is useful for both Ramblers Central Office and our committee to contact you by email.

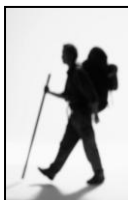
Many members did not have an email address when they joined the Ramblers, or have changed their address in recent years.

Please contact Ramblers membership on **membership@ramblers.org.uk** and update your details.

Alternatively phone 020 7339 8595 during office hours 9:30am to 5:30pm Mon – Fri.

Walking News

As Ian said in his report, we are putting on a varied and successful programme of walks. In the current six month period from Oct to March the total number of York walks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Ambles, and YPT is 90 (even more now that some Weds walks need two leaders). That's in the region of 200 walks a year.



So what do we need? We need **LEADERS**. Thank you to those of you who already offer, but we need more people to volunteer. We have a thriving membership of 550 so it shouldn't be too difficult to get leaders – but it is! Even if you don't walk with one of the groups you might still consider leading one walk. You would be welcomed with open arms.



Steve needs volunteers before 21st Jan, other groups by 30th January at the latest.

Contact Steve, Vera or Marilyn (contact details at the back of the walks booklet) and put a smile on somebody's face.

Wednesday Walks – Start Time

There has been much discussion in recent months about the start time of Wednesday walks. At present we start at 10:30 for most of the year, but at 10:00 during November, December and January to ensure that the walk is finished before dusk.

It is clear that several people hold strong views, so we intend to hold a ballot of those who are regular Wednesday walkers.

There are two walks on Wed 21 Jan, from Aberford and Welton. During the course of both walks a show of hands will be taken to determine preferences.

If you would like to register your vote, but will not be going on either of these walks, you may do so by e-mailing stevehoather@tiscali.co.uk or phoning 01904-783433 by 23:00hrs on Thursday 22 January.

The result of this vote will determine the start time for the summer programme.

Steve Hoather

Stella Boaden 1927-2014

A tribute from David Nunns, who knew her well.

Stella was always adventurous. She was a member of the York Mountaineering Club and often went off to The Lakes and further afield, climbing and skiing, sometimes with her trusty campervan. After one particular holiday a group of people met up at Bill Cowley's farm at Potto and decided to walk across the top of the North York Moors from west to east – the Lyke Wake Walk was born.

She was a member of the RA long before we set up the York local group. She also walked with the York Hoboes, Rowntree's Moor and Fell, and with other groups of friends. Latterly she walked with a U3A group, often leading walks for them.

Although rarely walking with the York Group, she spent many hours checking local footpaths and was Chair of our Footpath Committee for many years.



She was delighted when the CROW Act came about, as she had followed the campaign for Open Access for many years. Stella was one of Tom Halstead's volunteers, mapping the Wolds for possible Open Access sites and counting the flora and other vegetation to see if it met the relevant guidelines.

She had been suffering from glaucoma for some time and her sight continued to deteriorate until she no longer felt able to continue with our footpath work, but still remained a Ramblers member.

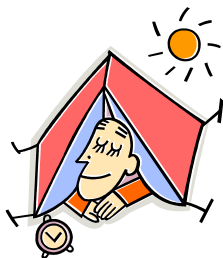
She instilled a love of the countryside in her nieces, and one of them, Helen Boaden, was recently elected President of HF Holidays.

Meet the M.P

Our group invited York M.P. Hugh Bayley, an Area vice-president, to join them on a walk. Because of constraints on his time Mr Bayley was not able to do this, but agreed to meet some of the committee and York members for an hour in a local pub.

Some of the points made by the York Ramblers were that National Parks funding has been cut drastically, leading to problems of path maintenance. This is having an effect in the North York Moors National Park where many of the group's walks take place. Similarly within the North Yorks County Council area, cutbacks have led to the loss of one of the Rangers, which has meant that the group's volunteer maintenance working party has not been given any work for almost two years.

Mr Bayley said that, if elected in 2015, Labour would not promise to change very much in the first two years, but would expand services after that. This could include improving footpaths and access as a way of promoting walking as an activity which is beneficial to health. One of the main points which came out of the discussion was that countryside groups should talk to each other to show a common purpose, and that lobbying MPs and being persistent is sometimes the best way of achieving success.



AREA AUTUMN CAMP – OCTOBER 2014

Also known as Eric's Camping Capers

Eric Smith reports: -

Our Ramblers Autumn camp took place over the first weekend in October on a site next to the Jet Miners Inn, Great Broughton, Stokesley. Three of the usual suspects and four innocent newcomers signed up to experience a few days of good walking. We made use of five tents and one caravan. The campsite was fairly basic but what it did have worked well, was clean and well maintained. The shower in the male toilet block provided an effective, controlled ice cold to very hot deluge of water.

A notice above hand wash basins in both male and female toilet blocks came close to making us wish we had signed into a less severe regime. Site owners instructed **'DO NOT WASH YOUR BOOTS IN THE WASH BASINS'**.

For the first evening everyone cooked for themselves, so there were no complaints about quality of either food or service with any salmonella being self-inflicted. Afterwards, we all walked to the nearby Jet Miners Inn to test their hospitality, before booking a table for the following night's meal. The hostelry was only 150 metres from our most distant tent. This was helpful when negotiating the short wobble back to our beds, in a beautifully clear moonlit sky and a blustery but warm wind.

On Saturday, an additional Rambler joined us as we were setting off for a walk to the Wainstones, via Solomon's Porch, Broughton Bank, Hasty Bank and return via Plantation. The weather wasn't very kind and we had persistent drizzle on our route from the flat lands around Broughton towards the almost alpine facade of the very northern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors. Our exit from Broughton was difficult caused by a combination of factors e.g. poor map reading, lack of way markers, missing paths that had been ploughed out both across and to the very edge of fields – nevertheless it was patient character building!

Moving on from Solomon's Porch our route was clear and easy to follow, albeit terrain was much harder. Meeting two lady Ramblers at Hasty Bank they informed us their walk was the final part of training for their track to Everest Base Camp! [If I'd known this earlier I may have reconsidered our assault on Wainstones in a different light and embroidered it a bit!]. Returning to Broughton 'Base Camp' we then rewarded ourselves with a visit to Lordstones café for tea and muffins. To anyone unfamiliar with the area, a visit is recommended; it's a great place with service and food to match.

Continuing the theme of eating we had an excellent evening meal at the Jet Miners in a relaxed, social setting that was complimented by the brilliant company.

Sunday's ramble started with a short car ride to Great Ayton. From there we walked in dry and sunny conditions to and up Roseberry Topping from the north side, down the south side and across to Captain Cooks Monument from where we ascended back to Great Ayton.

Camp was disbanded in the late afternoon and we all returned to relative civilisation, everyone having had at least survived and hopefully enjoyed the experience.

Basic accommodation, good food, great walking and above all, a fine company of Ramblers. We may do it all again in the spring.

Ramblers Worldwide Holidays give money to group funds each time we book a holiday, so make sure that you let them know that you are a member of Ramblers when making your booking. The further you travel, the more the group will benefit!