

ANNUAL REPORT

2009 - 2010

Notice of 2011 Area Annual General Meeting

All members and representatives of affiliated organisations are requested to attend
the **Annual General Meeting at 2.00 pm on Saturday January 29th 2011**
in The Village Hall, Main Street, Etton HU17 7PG (GR: SE 978 435)
Prospective members may be introduced and are welcome (non-voting).

AGENDA

1. Attendance (please sign the record) and Apologies for Absence.
2. Chairman's opening remarks
3. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. Annual Report for 2009/2010
6. Financial statement – Accounts for year ending September 30th 2009
7. Election of Officers and Council Members:

President	Vice-Presidents	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Area Secretary	Area Treasurer	Walks Programme Compiler	
Publicity Officer	Countryside Secretary	Minutes Secretary	
Membership Secretary	Area News Editor/s	Area Webmaster	
Area Access Officer	Area Footpath Secretaries		

Area Council Members – nominations and volunteers will be welcome at the meeting
but helpful if notified beforehand, with written agreement of nominees if unable to attend.
Group Secretaries should provide details of up to 4 representatives appointed at their AGM
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Appointment of Area Delegates to 2011 General Council
10. Motions of which notice has been given in writing to the Area Secretary
in accordance with rule 13(f) of the Constitution.
11. Any Other Business.

After the formal meeting and a short break:-

**a Speaker from the Ramblers' Central Office
will report on "Future RA Campaigns & Activities"**

EAST YORKSHIRE AND DERWENT AREA RAMBLERS

2009-2010 Area Annual Report

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

This year we looked back in time to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Ramblers Association in 1935. It gave us the opportunity to reflect upon the heroic efforts of those early pioneers who laid the foundations of the rights of way network we have today. They were truly an inspiration to the generations of volunteers who have since carried on the task of securing and enhancing public access to the countryside. As part of the celebrations, Areas were invited to submit their favourite walk for publication in an RA publication of 75 walks. There was an excellent response from around the Area with Denis Parker's walk from Thixendale through Wharham Percy deserted medieval village, emerging the winner by a narrow margin. However, such was the quality of walks submitted that we are giving serious thought to including them in the Area Walks Programme in 2011.

Returning to the present and the two key areas of activity, namely, led-walks and rights of way/access work, the year has seen its highs and lows. The led-walks programme has been dogged by controversy over walk leader responsibilities. Ramblers Central Office had issued a set of guidelines which we felt placed too much responsibility on our walk leaders. We accept that there are good reasons for ensuring that walk leaders are competent to lead walks but we are not paid professionals and the majority of

our walks are in the easy to moderate capacity. We made our views felt and produced a set of guidance notes of our own embracing the responsibilities of walk leaders and individual walkers which have been accepted by Central Office. I hope that we can now put the matter to rest and reassure our walk leaders. Despite a recent dip in offers to lead walks we still offer some 700 led-walks a year and we want to continue to do so, not least because evidence suggests that the majority of new people join the RA to enjoy the led-walks.

This has been an eventful year for rights of way and access matters in our Area. The economic situation in the country is having an impact on our work but an area that our footpath experts are exploring is the 2026 deadline for registering unrecorded rights of way. The Stakeholder Working Group of which the RA is a member has recently published proposals to streamline the present cumbersome process of registering rights of way – these will go to DEFRA which, given the current economic climate is unlikely to act quickly. However, there are encouraging signs in East and North Yorkshire that the county authorities are taking a closer interest in this subject. There has been some disappointing news on the Coastal Access front in that the ERYC voted against participating in the pilot study of the East Yorkshire Coastal path, one of the 5 pilot sections of the English coastline

designated by Natural England. It hardly seems that long ago but this year marks the tenth anniversary of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. A Decadal review of the provisions of the Act is expected to take place early in 2011.

As to the future, change is in the air. Every organisation has to move with the times and the fact is that membership of the RA is falling and currently stands at around 120,000 about 5% of the walking population and down from around 140,000 at the start of the decade. It hardly needs emphasising that falling membership means falling revenues which means less funding for campaigning and a less influential organisation. The question is, how much of our past are we prepared to sacrifice in order to secure our future? It seems clear that we do have to broaden our appeal to try to attract the wider population to join us. I am sure that there will be much discussion as to ways and

means; programmes of shorter, themed walks, perhaps; a review of subscription fees; simplification of Area and Group structures to make it easier to set up and run new Groups. Central to the process of change will be a closer working relationship between Areas/Groups on the one hand and Central Office on the other in order to ensure that the decisions and actions taken are soundly based. Communication and Leadership are pre-requisites to a successful plan for the future.

Finally, as I come to the end of an interesting and challenging three years as Area Chairman I would like to express my deep thanks and admiration to all of you who have contributed to the success and wellbeing of our organisation – Area and Group committee members, walk leader, social secretaries, footpath and access officers and rights of way maintenance volunteers, etc.

PETER LEESE, Area Chairman

Area Membership Report (01/10/09 to 30/09/10)

At 30.09.2010		New Members
Beverley	332	35
Driffeld	71	11
Hull	185	23
Ryedale	181	11
Scarborough	110	9
Pocklington	206	28
York	660	76
GYBO	79	23
Howden & Goole	60	7
Unattached	2	
Total	1886	223

NOTE: Central Office altered the method of calculating the total membership after the previous year end so the 2009 figure of 2157 members is not a true comparison.

A more meaningful comparison is that during 2009 we attracted 269 new members and in 2010 this figure was 223.

Since January 2010 the membership total has been fairly constant, meaning that non renewals are a similar figure to the number of new members.

21 walking groups in the Area are also affiliated. (see page 27)

We thank them for their support.

Ann Laing, Area Membership Secretary

Footpath Secretaries Reports

1) East Yorkshire and Hull

It's been a slow year. Elloughton 4 was completed after 9 years. The public had two succesful applied to have footpaths added to the definitive map, Sproatley 3 and Paull 7. Both needed public enquiries because of landowners objections

Snaith & Cowick 33 and Beswick 4 were added to the map under section 26 creation orders, with the landowners help We have been waiting for 40 years for the Beswick order which conected 2 dead end bridleways, and so enabled a large chunk of the Minster Way to be rerouted off roads.

In Hedon, Twyers Lane was upgraded from a bridle way to a restricted byway and Middle Lane was added to the map as a restricted byway. In Hull we took legal action for the removal of a metal fence obstructing footpath 22 at King George Dock. At the last moment ABP applied for a 6 month closure order, and so action has been delayed till February.

This coming year we have a hearing into the diversion or Skeffling 5 which at the first enquiry the inspector refused to confirm, and at the second inquiry, the inspector put forward modification which we again objected to.

The is a public inquiry into Preston 7 where the RA is supporting the Parish Council who object to the narrowing of the footpath, because the builder has placed a garden fence on the footpath.

Other orders which have been sent to the Sec of State include North Cave 5 were the ERYC will not made an order to put Dryham Lane on the map. Swanland, were the Parish Council is supporting us as the ERYC have built a school across the footpath.

The work on schedule 14, (the claiming of new rights of way) has dried up since the death of Andrew Laws (head of the definitive map) last year in a road accident.

Mike Jackson

2) York and North Yorkshire

Footpath work in our part of North Yorkshire & York is undertaken by Chris Bush, as Area Footpath Secretary, and Scarborough, Ryedale, Pocklington & York Ramblers Groups.

For more detail of the work carried out you should look at the Group Annual Reports, or contact the Group Footpath Secretaries.

North Yorkshire

We belong, along with West Riding Area & N Yorks & S Durham Area, to an RA NY Liaison & Campaign Group to try and work towards common goals within that part of N Yorks outside the National Parks, but there has not been much progress over the year.

NYCC have not yet started on the promised updating of the path condition survey many of our members helped with. In view of the delay some of our members are once again checking the condition of paths by Parish, but only reporting Issues to NYCC that have possible Health & Safety concerns or difficulty in using paths, in line with the NYCC Business and Environmental Services leaflet 05 – “Public Rights Of Way. Using the network in North Yorkshire”.

The May condition survey database showed a backlog outside the National Parks of around 9500 Issues: Obstructions – 2800; Infrastructure (Stiles, Gates etc.) - 2700; Bridges – 200; Signposting and Waymarking – 2600; Surface / Vegetation – 1200.

This fluctuates a little over the year but we don't expect to see much improvement in the near future as NYCC do not appear to be replacing staff who leave. I estimate the cost of this work as over £6M, but we don't have any estimate from NYCC.

In May 2010 63% of paths were reported usable, a slight increase on the previous year's figure, but down from the 75% in 2006. We may have the final 2010/11 figure by our AGM.

During the year members looked into over 40 Definitive Map Modification Orders, some outside our Area, as Wakefield Ramblers are no longer cov-

ering former West Riding Parishes in the southern part of Selby District.

NYCC have trawled through inherited records to revise their part of the former East Riding Definitive Map up to 1971 and are now working on bringing it up to the current date.

They have also produced a working map for that part of Scarborough which has never had a Definitive Map, so they can start the work of adding these paths to the Definitive Map.

City of York

A Definitive Map Officer was appointed, after a gap of several years, as a result of which we looked into 110 possible Definitive Map Modification Orders within the pre 1974 City of York area. Unfortunately York have not yet legally confirmed any unopposed Orders due to lack of funding for this part of the work, so we still seem to be at the same position as when we surveyed these paths 15 and 25 years ago.

Some Orders were proposed to add paths to the former East & West Riding Definitive Map, so we may have at least a public footpath from Grange Lane, Acomb to Rufforth after a 50 year break, but we have not yet had any success with a claim for a footpath over the Ings from Wheldrake to Storrwood.

David Nunns

If reporting any issues or problems by e-mail, it is better to put a single item on each e-mail and if possible attach a photograph of the item.

E-mail: paths@northyorks.gov.uk , rightsofway@york.gov.uk

Led Walks Programme

This has been a very interesting year with perhaps more challenges, certainly than I was expecting, but also with some significant achievements.

The Led Walks programme continues to be very strong. Many thanks go out to the Group Rambles Secretaries whose work is essential in producing a wide variety of walks for us all to enjoy during the year. In addition, we must recognise the close to 200 walk leaders who give of their time freely to lead something in the region of 600 walks this year.

Speaking on behalf of the Groups, I know that it is becoming more and more difficult to find new leaders to replace those who can no longer lead for us. Putting together group programmes is not an easy task, so could I ask everyone to rise to the challenge of ensuring that our walk programmes continue to be as successful in the future as they have been in the past.

From April 2011 the Area Walks Booklet will be published twice a year (in April & September) instead of annually. For those groups who want to continue with an annual programme, the only change will be that Area will publish their walks in two halves. But for those groups who find scheduling six months in advance an improvement on scheduling annually, this will help.

The schedule I will be working towards this year is to ask groups to update their current programme during January and February with publication of the new programme covering the months April to September at the end of March.

During the year there has been fairly substantial correspondence between Area and Central Office on guidance and safeguarding issues. Without going into the details, we have produced our own guidance and safeguarding policy based on the draft that was published previously in Area News.

The fundamental differences between our document and the policies that were proposed by Central Office is that our guidance is aimed at helping all walkers, not just walk leaders, and it recognises the way that walks have always been conducted in our Area.

It also takes what we consider is a far more pragmatic approach to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The part that relates to all walkers will be included in the walks booklet so that it is available to all and in particular new members.

The part that relates to walk leaders has been distributed to all Rambles Secretaries and will be published in Area News when space becomes available.

Roy Hunt

Area Access Officer's Report

1. Coastal Access

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 places a duty on Natural England to secure a long-distance walking route around the English coast - "**the trail**" - and to designate an accessible margin of land in association with the route where people will be able to spread out and explore, rest or picnic - "**spreading room**". The first six areas selected to be surveyed were: Weymouth to Lulworth in Dorset this year and, Cumbria, **East Riding**, Kent, Norfolk and Somerset next year. Volunteers in our Area had already carried out a preliminary survey in 2006 and they were ready to carry out a detailed survey along the lines of Natural England's Scheme. In July, however, The East Riding Council decided to refuse to cooperate with Natural England and East Riding will now be replaced by Durham. Not only will the creation of a new right of way from Bridlington to Spurn Head be delayed but also the potential economic benefit to the region lost.

According to the report "A Framework for Action 2007-2012" produced by the

South West Coast Path Team, the South West Coast Path brings in over £390 thousand per mile per year to the region. The length of the East Riding coast is about 87 miles, therefore, if the East Riding can be compared to the South-West, the potential benefit to our region could be as large as £33 million per year.

2. CROW Access

The booklet "Access Walks: North Yorkshire" is with the printer. Five of the walks are to the west of the A1 and five to the east, with four in the Yorkshire Wolds. The walk from Burdale has been made possible since Birdsall Estates has given permission for the use of two new paths and entry points during the five months February to June, until 2013. North Yorkshire CC are printing 1000 copies to be issued free of charge, mainly to Tourist Information Centres in North Yorkshire. Ramblers CO have made a contribution towards the costs. A web site associated with the booklet is planned.

Tom Halstead

Area Countryside Officer's Report

1. Planning Applications, including Renewable Energy:

North Newbald, Sober Hill: a public inquiry in Dec. 2009 upheld an appeal against the ERYC's rejection of six wind turbines next to the Wolds Way, so the turbines will now be built. The Area gave evidence against the appeal. The Inspector acknowledged in her

report that the turbines would be detrimental to walkers, but the appeal was upheld because of: (1) current government advice, (2) lack of AONB status for the Yorkshire Wolds, and (3) lack of robustness in the ERYC landscape character assessment. Planning applications for wind farms

on the Northern Wolds are now expected.

Hessle Flood Relief Basin, W. Drain: protection for hedges requested in March.

Fimber/Wetwang: the Area neither supported nor objected to an application for a biomass plant at Gameslack Farm in May.

Spaldington Airfield and Spaldington Common near Howden: the Area objected to two wind farms in May, and to an amended application for Spald. Common in Sept. **Kilnwick Percy Golf Course near Pocklington:** a request was made in July to reduce the number of new chalets from 20 to 12, and to protect a claimed historic hedge. **Sancton near North Newbald:** the ERYC approved five wind turbines in Sept. (the Area objected to resubmitted plans in July).

Hilston in Holderness: an inquiry started in Nov. into an appeal for three turbines; there are already three consented wind farms in this parish.

2. School Science Fairs: a workshop on walking and the environment was run for eleven-year-olds at Brayton College Selby in June, with assistance from Tom Halstead.

3. Meetings attended and consultations: East Riding & Hull Joint Local Access Forum. East Riding & North Yorks LEADER rural development meetings. Yorkshire & the Humber "Walking for Health" Initiative Oct. Trans Pennine Trail 21st Anniversary celebrations, June, and Annual Meeting, Oct. ERYC consultations on biodiversity and climate change.

4. Group Environment and Countryside Matters: once again, warm thanks to Monica Nelson of York and Dennis Parker of Beverley, for their continued hard work for the environment and countryside.

Peter Ayling

Beverley Group Footpath Volunteers

We maintained our monthly schedule throughout the year, except for August, when holiday commitments depleted our team too far. The regular team of Peter Ayling, Ray Fielden, Geoff Hodges, Paul Picard and Ivor Jones were joined in February by Kevin Keogh (for a bridge building day at Beeford). We visited the Spaldington / Foggathorpe area three times install-

ing kissing gates, and Nafferton twice, where we experienced some of the practical difficulties involved in landowner/countryside access relationships, despite which we installed a bridge and kissing gates. More kissing gates were set up at Shiptonthorpe, also at Skidby and Eppleworth, whilst at Harpham we put in a bridge and finger posts.

Our December visit to North Dalton reminded us how difficult it is to dig holes in frozen ground but we all revived when we enjoyed our Christmas Lunch with our friends in the East Riding Countryside Access team.

We now have a waiting list for the team and we hope that the opportunity to invite new members will not be too far away.

Ivor Jones on behalf of the team.

York Ramblers Working Party

The footpath maintenance volunteers, under the expert guidance of North Yorkshire's David Otaway, have completed another programme of work on the network. This season's team comprised Stan Cooper, Nigel Emery, Ken Walker and John Wood.

The new season began in the spring at Gateforth, where reconstituted plastic decking was fitted to a bridge over a stream. In the same area a stile was demolished and replaced with a wooden kissing gate.

Tockwith was the next venue where a path was cleared through woodland to establish a new right of way, which is also a traffic-free route to school for local children.

At Cawood in June the biggest assignment of the season saw the building of a 6m footbridge across a stream near the Ouse.

In July the team was in action at Long Marston, Nun Monkton and Moor Monkton, rebuilding stiles, constructing a kissing gate and fitting a new wooden gate.

In August and September duck boarding was fitted across a boggy area of the appropriately named Jeffry Bog near Westow.

Towards the end of the campaign Ken Walker was in hospital for a knee operation. We wish him well, and look forward to seeing him back in action in 2011.

Nigel Emery

Area Webmaster's Report

The Area's Website is now many years old and is looking a bit 'tired' and there have been problems keeping it up-to-date.

Once again, can I appeal for anyone interested in helping to give the website a facelift to contact me.

Similarly, if there are any members interested in setting up and managing a group website, help is available from Central Office.

For inspiration visit GYBO.org.uk or yorkramblers.org.uk for excellent examples of local group websites!

Dany Włodarczyk
(Area Webmaster)

Area News Editors' Report

Three editions were produced in 2010 consisting of four pages in January and eight pages each in April and September. We were delighted to receive articles and items from new contributors this year including Brian Preston, Liz Ingham, Monica Nelson, Alison Parkes and Clive Inman. We are also grateful to Clive for continuing to supply us with cartoons and sketchmaps. Ann Holt has continued to provide further illuminating insight into the social history of walking.

Sadly, our agony aunt, Rambling Rose, recently announced her retirement and will be sorely missed.

Photographs to complement reports of Area and Group activities are always welcome. We are grateful to Les Atkinson, Peter Ayling, Rosie Broadhead, Tom Halstead, Marian Thomas, Marilyn Skelton and Steve Mullarkey for supplying contributions to recent issues.

Paul Rhodes and Dany Wlodarczyk (Co-editors)

Amendment or Cancellation of Walks in the Area Walks Programme

The disruption caused to our walks programme by last winter's severe weather focussed attention on the way the website could be utilised to publicise any necessary amendments to the walks programme.

Following discussions at June 2010 Area Council, proposals for procedures to be followed if walk details need to be altered were publicised in the September 2010 edition of Area News and have now been adopted as Area policy.

If you need to amend any walk details, please contact one of the following who are able to access the Ramblers Group WalksFinder website.

Roy Hunt	roy_hunt@btopenworld.com	01430 440272
Ray Fielden,	rayfielden@rayfielden.karoo.co.uk	01482 882499
Malcolm Dixon	m.s.dixon@talktalk.net	01904 706850

As well as making amendments to the various websites, the information will be e-mailed around the Area and other Group Secretaries to help cascade the information down to the membership and other walkers.

It might also help if either the walk leader or Group Secretary contacted their local radio station to ask them to make an announcement about the walk's cancellation.



Treasurer's Report

Financial year ending 30 September 2010

Central Office (CO) agreed a budget of £10,000 with the Area. This was £2,400 less than the original bid. The agreed budget comprised £6,000 allocated by CO, an Area contribution of £3,500 drawn from the Area Account and anticipated income from sales, donations etc of £500.

At the end of the financial year, overall spend was £7,066.18, much less than anticipated, and total income received from CO and from sales, donations etc was £5,676.28, also reduced. Those figures together produced an in year deficit of £1,389.90.

A significant factor in income reduction was CO's annual review of reserves held by Areas and their associated Groups. This review resulted in a reduction of £516 in our third quarter allocation. Income from sales, donations etc was also down and amounted to only £192. On the positive side the contribution from the Area Account was less than half the amount envisaged when the budget was agreed. The reduction in expenditure was helped by the Groups which overall requested less than their full entitlement. At year end the closing balance for the Area Account was £6,118.24 having started the year at £7,508.14.

Financial year ending 30 September 2011

The budget for 2010/11 is £11,000. CO has approved our funding request of £9,000, a more generous allocation than last year. The balance of the budget assumes other income from sales, donations etc of £400 and a contribution of £1,600 from the Area Account.

This funding from the Area Account is earmarked to cover a second issue of the Walks Programme around March 2011 to include additional walks in the second half of the current programme and also the anticipated expense associated with the Coastal Access work.

On behalf of Area I would like to thank Colin Mullender for all his hard work and effort in effectively managing the Area budget over the past 6 years and I would particularly like to thank Colin for the help and support he gave me when I took over the management of the Area budget.

The Area would also like to thank Vivienne Harnan for her independent examination of the Area accounts.

George Malcolm
Area Treasurer

Ramblers Association - East Yorkshire and Derwent Area
Accounts for period to 30 September 2010

	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>		<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>
Area Entitlement		5484		7500
Donations and Sundry items		113		72
Dividend (RA)		5		10
Bank Interest (Unity Bank)		8		45
Sale of Publications and Badges		66		173
Minster Way Books		0		763
		5676		8563
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Walks Programmes		375		600
Newsletters and Publicity				
Area News	3363		3377	
Publicity	336		421	
Membership Secretary	<u>119</u>	3818	<u>328</u>	4126
Campaigns and Casework				
Rights of Way	569		675	
Access	65		165	
Countryside	<u>28</u>	662	<u>204</u>	1044
Grants to Groups		1075		1792
Meetings (including AGM)				
Meetings	286		348	
Annual Report	445		898	
General Council Observers	<u>155</u>	886	<u>297</u>	1543
Admin				
Subscriptions	40		40	
Other Admin Costs	<u>210</u>	250	<u>465</u>	505
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£7,066		£9,610
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS +[-]		[1,390]		[1,047]

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION -
EAST YORKSHIRE AND DERWENT AREA
STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS at 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Fixed Assets - Written Down Value	0	0

Total Net Book Value	a	0	0
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(In accordance with RA Policy, only items costing over £5,000 need capitalising and shown as Fixed Assets. The Area owns display boards, a lap top computer, flag and gazebo costing in total less than this value.

Current Assets

Shares in RA Services Ltd - at cost	225	225
Balance at Unity Bank	<u>6,118</u>	<u>7,508</u>
Total Current Assets	a+b	7,733

Accumulated Fund

At 1 October 2009	7,733	8,780
Excess of Income over payments	<u>[1,390]</u>	<u>[1,047]</u>
	<u>£6,343</u>	<u>£7,733</u>

The above reflects the position on a receipts and payment basis.

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Ramblers' Area and Group independent examination guidelines, I consider the East Riding and Derwent Area accounts to have been properly prepared and give a true and fair view of the Area's finances for the year to 30 September 2010.

Signed Vivienne Harnan

Date 13 November 2010

East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers Area Group Reports

Beverley Group

It's been a busy year for the Beverley Group, we expanded our summer walks programme and many thanks go to all those who volunteered to lead walks.

A Mediterranean evening was held at Beverley College in the Longcroft Hall Restaurant in February attended by 20 people, who all enjoyed an appetising choice of meals cooked by the students.

We had another successful coach ramble for the group in May with 35 participants going to Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal for an enjoyable day.

We continued with our social activities. Our quiz nights were held in Nelles in Beverley.

Also we have had Jazz evenings in the Beverley Arms Fridays fortnightly.

A local walks booklet: 'Walks from Skidby Mill', annotated by the distinguished botanist Dr. Derrick Boatman and with maps by Phil Toft has been prepared for publication with the help of Dany Wlodarczyk.

The footpaths working party continue with their good work and go out every two months together with members from the Hull and Ryedale Group.

Christine Lovejoy and Shirley Dalby kindly agreed to take over as joint Publicity Officers.

Many thanks go to Peter Ayling for all his hard work. Peter has offered his valuable assistance from the experience in that role.

The highlight of the summer walks was the Baton Walk on 1st July at Welton led by Colin Mullender.

Former Area President David Rubenstein who was instrumental in the Ramblers campaign to open up the Dale addressed the group also Ann Holt and Dennis Parker attended and all the walkers enjoyed a celebratory glass of fizz arranged by Peter Ayling.

Further 75th anniversary celebrations took place on Saturday 16th October at 10.30am with a special 8 ½ walk at Thixendale followed by refreshments at the village hall. This walk will be included as this Area's walk in the forthcoming Ramblers 75th Anniversary walks book.

A group of helpers attended the Apple Fest on October 3rd and despite the bad weather there were a steady flow of visitors. Some of our group also attended the Bishop Burton Open Day in July.

Our Xmas meal is booked for Sunday December 5th at the Triton Inn, Brantingham. This will be held after a walk at 10.00am led by Gillian Bullock.

Jean Cavill, Group Secretary

Driffield Group

Following a poor turnout at the November AGM, we sent out an urgent appeal in the Group Newsletter in January, for new committee members to keep the group going. As a result three members volunteered to help with organising walks. After two informal meetings in March the first walk was led by Alan Hunton:-

A short 'Bluebell Walk' over Beverley Westwood. Only seven enjoyed an interesting walk led by our Woodland Trust volunteer, who got us to measure a tree and photographed it for 'record a tree' on the website:- www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk

The second extra walk organised by Yvonne Nadin, was an afternoon walk starting from Harpham. On this we attracted three non-members and a total of ten enjoyed the walk, visiting the two churches of Harpham and Lowthorpe. We had hoped to attract parents and children by putting posters up at the school but there was very little interest, advertising this way.

This walk over Beverley Westwood was repeated in this October's programme to see the autumn foliage. After a special mention in the Driffield Post we attracted some new people to join us, who may take up walking as a result.

The monthly walks continue to be well attended. These were led by our nine dedicated leaders. We would like more and then we could put on more walks. For the June walk we notified the local Countryside Access Officer (parish paths) about a field of rape-seed a month before. Then checking the path a fortnight before, nothing had been done and we spoke to him again. Luckily the farmer hired a cutter the Monday before the walk near Ulrome. He had cleared a field margin path. Yvonne Nadin took the walk over, when she realised our walks leader was committed to leading another walk.

Sadly, life member, Dr. Eric Chicken died in August. He was a keen and knowledgeable amateur botanist. He was instrumental in checking the Yorkshire Wolds dalesides for the CROW Act, and help identify potential access areas. He had also led Driffield Group on botanising walks and on his inspections of several dales he identified and listed the native wild flowers. In this way he helped considerably with the Area Ramblers' campaign. Our Chairman and Roy Padwick attended the funeral on the Group's behalf.

John Jefferson, Group Secretary

GYBO - the EY&D Area Young Peoples' Group

Another successful year for the group on all counts:

- 89 officially recognised members at the last count with another 10 or so to be reallocated from other local groups. Actual membership likely to exceed 100.

- Good attendances on all walks – regularly see group sizes in the 20s and numbers of 30 plus are becoming more frequent.
- Lots of new members have joined in the year and quickly become involved, they are also very welcoming to future potential new members.

A great programme of walks this year which started with the 20 mile Harrogate Ringway followed by a weekend away in Dufton to tick off High Cup Nick and Wild Boar Fell, then walks in Nidderdale and Swaledale, and closer to home, before seeing out 2009 with our traditional Christmas Carol service at Rievaulx Abbey.

In 2010, the great success of the year was walking the Cleveland Way in stages over the course of the year and the route proved very popular

with members. We also managed a full calendar around this with walks on the Moors, Wolds, Dales and coast. Long distance walks in Scarborough and Brantingham contrasted with the short walks for the 'Get Walking Day' which yielded a good handful of new members.

We also ran a full programme of Summer evening walks and dabbled with a couple of joint events with our Leeds equivalent 'Take a Hike'.

Weekends away this year saw the group have a snowy adventurous Easter in Glencoe, a very wet and windy weekend in Sedbergh and a slightly less wet weekend in Buttermere. We continue to hold our monthly social evenings and in summer enjoyed a trip to the Races as well.

Aside from walks our website was completely redesigned and re-branded and is a great asset to the group.
Kelly Temple, Group Chairman

Howden & Goole Group

During the year the group organised 32 walks; there were typically two walks per month on either Saturday or Sunday and also a series of summer evening walks. The highlights of the year included walks at Epworth, Austerfield, Bishop Wilton, Skipwith, Selby & Rawcliffe. There were also some social activities organised, including a very enjoyable winter evening pub meal & quiz and a

canal walk with a barge ride at the Waterways Museum, Goole.

Sadly, most of the group's committee decided to resign at the AGM in October 2010. This decision was taken after much thought and was due to the deluge of bureaucracy and administrative work from Ramblers HQ, such the child protection procedures and the proposed walk leaders check list,

which gave walk leaders responsibility for the safety of the walking group; the committee felt that this would put people off volunteering to lead walks.

In addition, the committee found it difficult to submit walks & get walk leaders for the annual programme 12 months in advance, since people did

not know their plans that far in advance.

However, at this year's AGM, 3 members did volunteer to stay on the committee to keep the group functioning and we have been able to put together a programme of walks for the next few months.

Marian Thomas, Group Secretary

Hull & Holderness Group

On paper the group is a success, we ran over 30 walks on a Monday afternoon, and 9 Tuesday evening walks, all which were successful.

However only 2 members lead these walks and the group has had no AGM or committee meetings, and the Group Secretary and her husband were spending more time with their children, who live in North America. Earlier this year they decided to stand down.

This left two members on the committee. Fortunately, at this year's AGM we had 6 members agreeing to become committee members. With a new Chairman, Jim Tulloch and a new Secretary, Christine Barker, it is hoped to get the Group functioning again with a full walking and social programme in the new year.

Mike Jackson, Group Treasurer

Pocklington Group

Pocklington group has continued to be a very busy group offering a wide and varied range of walks; midweek, weekends and summer evenings. Our thanks go to Tony Corrigan, (walks secretary) Jack Hutchinson (long walks coordinator) and Brian Billings (evening walks coordinator). Thanks also go to all our walk leaders, without their input we would not be able to offer such an extensive programme.

Our social group has also been busy organising; weekends away, a barn dance, a quiz, a disco, meals out and a chocolate tasting evening to name just a few. Our thanks go to Graham West and his team of willing helpers.

Tony Corrigan has agreed to take on the role of footpaths officer next year, a post that has been vacant for a few years, so is standing down as walks secretary. Tony Ashbridge and Liz Reid are also leaving the committee, we thank them for all their contributions during their time on the committee.

We hope to continue to run a wide programme of walks and social events next year but we can't do it without your support. Please consider volunteering to help your group, we need committee members, walks leaders and help with footpath surveys.

Your group needs you!

Sheila Banks, Secretary

This has not been such a very busy year for the Ryedale Group as last year. Although we have had two very major successful social events we have not been involved in many other activities. Our new social secretaries (Christine Harrison and Pat Donnor) asked our members for suggestions on what social activities they wanted. In view of the responses, they decided to continue to organise just the coach ramble and New Year's lunch.

We repeated our Christmas walk and tea in December 2009 which was again well supported. In January, we held our New Year's lunch at the Forest and Vale Hotel, Pickering, preceded by a short walk, which as usual proved a popular and enjoyable event.

A number of changes were introduced when organising our annual Summer coach ramble, which this year was to Nidderdale – different date, later start time, different type of meal at a different venue, different coach company, and lower price. This all seemed to make a big difference, and resulted in a sell-out for the first time in a number of years. The usual mix of members from Ryedale and other groups enjoyed a choice of three linear walks of differing lengths, but in addition it also attracted some members of the public, and we received some very positive feedback from those who went.

We decided not to attend any local shows this year as we do not believe we attracted any new members last year, and feel the amount of work required and the cost of the stands is not justified.

At the time of writing, since the last Annual Report we have only had ten new members, none of whom are walking with the group, although two of them would find that difficult as they actually live in Switzerland! The secretary has endeavoured to contact all new members, to welcome them personally to the group. This situation is probably one of the factors making it so difficult to recruit new committee members.

We intend to start a campaign in the New Year to attract new committee members, as we only currently have eight, soon to become seven, many of whom are doubling up on roles; some of the remaining committee have served for some time and are looking to step down. This may become a serious situation as if we do not get any volunteers, the Group would have to be dissolved, and the consequence of this must be explained to our members. An approach to Central Office regarding this state of affairs was both unrewarding and useless.

The committee is fast sinking under an almost daily deluge of new directives, instructions, guidance and information from Central Office, most of which is not usually helpful and often impractical.

While we have managed to put on a full walking programme this year, we have not been able to produce the same extensive programme that we did last year. This is due to no new leaders coming forward, and many existing leaders either not leading any more or leading less walks.

As with recruiting committee members, we intend to start a campaign in the New Year to attract walk leaders. This may also become a serious problem if we continue to see a reduction in the number of leaders, and again our members need to be made aware of the affect it will have on their choice of walks. However, our walks continue to be very well supported, by Ryedale members and those from other groups

in our Area, their friends and relatives, and also holidaymakers. But that of course can bring its own problems, as large groups are unpopular with leaders and walkers alike.

On a more positive note we have started offering navigation training. So far we have run five courses and are now offering the education to members of other Groups within the Area. We now have enough people for at least two more courses and will continue to advertise.

Feedback from participants has been very favourable.

Wendy Borman, Group Secretary

Scarborough Group

Following our November 2010 AGM, the group now welcome a new treasurer, Harry Whitehouse. Our thanks are due to Malcolm Hunter, who carried on doing the job for a full year after stepping down.

Our rambles organiser, Ray Johnson, once again put together a varied programme of Sunday walks and weekly evening walks in the summer. Where there were gaps in the Sunday programme, leaders often volunteered to lead extra walks, the details of which were announced via the "egroup". Margaret Ingham continued to organise shorter walks on a Thursday. Margaret is currently recovering from an operation, but the Thursday walks are being kept going by Harry Whitehouse with the support of other regulars.

Regular walk leaders are pleased that the year long wrangle with central office over the responsibilities of walk leaders seems to be drawing to a satisfactory close. The group thanks those at area level, particularly Roy Hunt, who have put so much effort into this. Perhaps we can now persuade some new walk leaders to step forward.

Attempts at organising weekends away have met with a mixed response. Pam and David Grimwood organised a weekend in Middleham, which I understand went well, although most of the participants were from the LDWA, rather than our group. Les and Margaret had to call off the proposed weekend at Kettlewell as there were insufficient people wanting to go.

Les Atkinson, our footpath officer has been extremely busy over the last twelve months. As well as dealing with footpath problems and commenting on proposed diversions, he has attended various meetings with the National Park Officers, with the North Yorkshire CC footpath officers, spoke on our behalf at a Scarborough Borough Council regarding an application to add a new right of way to the definitive map, and attended a meeting at Filey with the chairman of Natural England.

Together with the Ryedale Group, the committee have been discussing how we can more evenly distribute the area of the National Park between ourselves and Ryedale in our area and Cleveland Group in the North Yorkshire and South Durham area. At the moment our group includes a small chunk of park in the south eastern corner and Ryedale actually have none of the park in their area. Ourselves and Ryedale organise 10 mile walks in the park on most Sundays, reporting footpath problems as we find them.

However, consultation over applications for diversions is with Cleveland group. So if there is an application, for example, for a change to a footpath in Pickering, this will be sent to the Cleveland group footpath officer, who will need to travel 70 odd miles here and back to check the site, despite the area being in Ryedale's back yard and familiar to their members. Obviously, this is not an efficient use of the Ramblers' resources or volunteers' time, not to mention being very ungreen. We had been lead to believe by the chairman of the Cleveland group that they wished to discuss ways of solving this problem. Sadly, his committee have overruled him and wish to maintain the status quo. In the new year, we shall be discussing our next steps with the Ryedale group.

We have again enjoyed regular meals out organised by Lisa Crozier as well as a Christmas ramble and carvery organised by Peter Fahy.

Phil Trafford, Group Chairman

York Group

Although the May coach ramble to Patterdale was oversubscribed, lack of volunteers to lead it meant that we had to cancel our proposed outing in September. We have, however, booked two dates, in faith, for 2011.

Improved publicity coordinated by Marilyn Skelton and Malcolm Dixon has resulted in greater numbers on our summer evening walks, averaging about 10, and recent Saturday afternoon walks [inspired by requests from new members].

Another enjoyable New Members' evening was held at the Black Swan pub in York [which hosted our inaugural meeting in 1968!].

The Wednesday Rambles and Ambles, which are enjoyed by the whole Area, were again arranged by two York group members, Steve Hoather and Jackie Glew.

The longer Rambles had a full programme of 64 walks during the year, although 2 of these had to be cancelled during the severe weather in

January. Attendances varied from single figures up to 43 - on the latter occasion the group was split into 2. A considerable number of new regulars have joined during the year, often as a result of the publicity in the local press. Many of these have teamed up with others living nearby to share transport.

Whilst preparing the programme for 2010/11 a number of regular leaders were "lost" for various reasons of health, which made it difficult to fill the complete programme. More volunteers will be needed next year. Many York Group members also participate in, and lead, walks on Sundays organised by the Ryedale Group.

In July we held two 'Baton' walks to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Ramblers : an afternoon walk from Crayke on July 10, and on the first part of the Minster Way walk, which celebrated its own 30th Anniversary during 2010, on July 24th .

Our planned participation at the annual Rowntree Park celebrations did not occur because of late cancellation of the event due to high winds.

Tom Halstead, assisted by Martin Biggs, Cathie and Brian Odell and others from this Group and our Area, has written a guide booklet 'Access Walks in North Yorkshire' containing details of 10 walks taking advantage of Access Land outside the National Parks. This is being published by NYCC with some financial contribution from Ramblers Central Office.

Planning and Environment issues included the new developments at

Terrys, Derwentthorpe, Manor School, the Edmund Wilson baths site, and the proposed Park & Ride at Upper Poppleton.

The Footpath sub-committee work has been boosted by some new members, so that it has been possible to allocate all parishes (including a few outside the Group area) to specific people. Only issues of Health & Safety or difficulty in using paths are reported to NYCC. There appears to have been little progress on the City of York Council RoW. Improvement Plan, but paths in this area were also being checked. Within the city most applications for alleygating orders have been approved. The committee examined some 150 Definitive Map Modification Orders, and some 20 planning applications which affect the public path network. David Nunns has represented us on the N.Y.C.C. P.R.O.W. Liaison group and notes the large backlog of R.O.W. problems, probably amounting to a cost of at least £6 million.

The footpath maintenance volunteer group [Stan Cooper, Ken Walker, John Wood & Nigel Emery], under the guidance of NYCC officer David Ottaway, completed a programme of building stiles, bridges and kissing gates as well as path clearance and fitting duck-boarding in various parts of our area.

Sadly, we lost two stalwart members this last year : Colin Coombes, who worked for many years on the committee and footpath inspection, and Pat Rattenbury, who was active on the footpath sub-committee as well as

with organisations, such as the Foss Society until shortly before his death.

Although it is difficult to compare figures, given the problems at CO with their 'new' CRM system, membership of this Group, in common with most, appears to be slightly down at 660. However, even with over 600 mem-

bers, like other groups in the Area we have problems in recruiting new committee members, or even getting help in coordinating coach rambles etc.

Do get in touch if you can help us in any of these areas.

Vera Silberberg, Group Secretary

Officers and Area Council Members 2009-2010

President:	Ann Holt	
Vice-Presidents: (Past-Presidents)	Hugh Bayley MP, Jack Bower, <u>Roy Dresser</u> , <u>Geoff Eastwood</u> , <u>David Rubinstein</u> , Sheila M Smith, <u>Dennis Parker</u> .	
Chairman	Peter Leese 01377-236274	The School House, Fimber, YO25 9LY peter.leese3@bt.internet.com
Vice-Chairman and Publicity Officer		Vacancy
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Countryside Secretary	Peter Ayling 01482-657240	25 Westland Road, Kirkella, Hull HU10 7PH
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Access Officer	Tom Halstead 01904-448380	1 Derwent Drive, Wheldrake, York YO19 6AL
Membership & Meetings Secretary	Ann Laing 01377-272524	25 Burdale Close, Drifffield, YO25 6SG
Area Website	Dany Wlodarczyk 01482-864124	49 Pasture Terrace, Beverley, HU17 8DR danywlo@yahoo.co.uk
Area News Editors	Dany Wlodarczyk Paul Rhodes 01904-783364	As above 23 Ash Street, York, YO30 7AB paulrhodes16@yahoo.co.uk
Independent Examiner	Viv Harnan	9 Portisham Place, Strensall, York. YO32 5AZ
Area Council Members		Sheila M Smith, Ray Wallis

Additionally: each local Ramblers Group may also elect up to three of its members to the Area Council (in addition to its Group Secretary).

EY&D Area RA Group Secretaries (as at November 2010)

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York	Vera Silberberg	41 North Parade	01904-628134
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 Hessle Town Council
 Hull Group HF
 Hornsea District Walking Club
 Hull CHA Rambling Club
 Malet Lambert PTA
 North Yorkshire L. D. W. A.
 Patrington Walking Club
 Reckitts Rambling Club
 Rowntree Moor & Fell Club
 Ryedale Walking Club
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 The River Foss Society
 The Yorkshire Wayfarers
 The Windmill Walkers
 Wheldrake Walking Club
 Wykehyker Walking Club
 York CHA & HF Rambling Club

We appreciate their
 continuing support

Area Secretary's Afterword

I hope you have found reading this year's Area Annual Report both interesting and stimulating, and that you welcome our experiment in combining the Report with January's 'Area News' as a good way of containing our costs whilst still communicating with all our members. Let us know what you think.

Last year to save costs, we tried just distributing the Annual Report via meetings and Group walks, rather than sending it out to all our members.

As a result many of you will not have received a copy, as the boxes in my office show. (Do contact me if you still want a copy).

However, you have all paid your subscriptions and, we feel, should get some return, and get reports from the Area's Officers and Groups on how our share of that money has been spent.

The Area Report is the chance for all our Officers and Groups to say what they have been doing locally to promote the Ramblers' various charitable aims. It is their chance to shine, and to say what went well and also to report on what they had problems with and what they possibly still need your help with.

This is very important as we remain a membership organisation, driven as much by our local members' wishes, as by resolutions passed at the annual General Council and by Central Office missive or email.

We are both a campaigning organisation that goes walking & promotes walking as well as a walking organisation that campaigns for all walkers.

Two recurring themes possibly wind their way through the Group Reports and they are: (1) the need for new walk leaders to come forward to assist our regular leaders and to give us the chance to provide a greater variety of walk lengths and locations; and (2) the need for more members to get involved in the governance and activities of their Groups and at Area level.

At least two of our local Groups came perilously close to being wound up or merged because of this latter problem, but luckily have found new people willing to help and take their Groups forward.

But they (and we at Area level) need more people to help them do so.

As well as getting more members involved in running the organisation we need to get more members into it. Throughout our organisation there is a need to halt the net decrease in our membership. Not just to get people to join but to get them to stay in it and involved in our activities. Walking continues to be one of the most popular activities in the country, and barely a month goes by without some learned body saying it is the best way of taking exercise, or of refreshing the brain or enjoying the countryside. We would agree – the task is now to encourage more people to join us & do it.

The Ramblers has been doing that for some 75 years and I'm sure will continue to do so successfully for the next 75 years with your help and active support. There is still plenty to do and plenty of good walking to be had whilst we do so. Do join us in enjoying it.

Malcolm Dixon, Area Secretary