

## Chairman's report 2016

Good evening and welcome to our 2016 AGM. Once the official business is complete, and we've been suitably refreshed, we will be entertained by Bernie McClinden, Senior Ranger for the National Park Coastal area.

I'll keep my report brief, my main aim being to thank everyone who has made the group proper for another year.

First of all, thanks to Pam, who is retiring from being our group secretary after, I think, about 7 years. She made the fatal mistake of offering to stand in as secretary when the post was vacant. Not only has she done the job efficiently, but has hosted our committee meetings and provided refreshments and volunteered Dave to become Treasurer.

Thanks to all our group officers and committee members for their hard work and time over the year.

Thanks to all our walk leaders, webmaster Harry and social secretary Lisa and all the volunteers who have helped the National Park with r.o.w. maintenance and BVPI surveys.

When so many people help, it is easy to forget someone, so I hope I've covered everybody.

Individual group officers will bring you up to date with their reports but before they start, I just want to say a couple of things which are trespassing on both Trish's and Les's territory.

First of all, I want to mention progress on the County Council's duty to complete the definitive map of the Scarborough Central area, which was exempted from producing such a map as an urban area in the early 1950s. It's important to complete this task as, after 2026, no old rights of way that do not appear on the definitive map can be added. During 2015 and the early part of this year, I had a lot of correspondence with Councillor David Jeffels, who is my County Councillor and also current chairman of NYCC, with a view to persuading him of the importance of this project. Finally in February or March, he informed me that there was money in the budget for the rights of way team to get on with it, and suggested that the Ramblers might help by recording paths that we considered should be included. You may recall that I appealed for volunteers at this point. Anyway, some routes were walked and the tracks recorded on GPS and overlaid onto maps in a couple of different formats, which I sent to Cllr. Jeffels, asking him if this would be helpful and which format would the officers prefer. After a few weeks, he hadn't replied, so I wrote again. Eventually he replied expressing surprise that I had not heard from the r.o.w. team. So, I suspect that our contributions were passed on but ignored. In April, I attended a meeting of the NYCC Prow Local Liaison Group, at Helmsley on Les's behalf, where I raised the subject with Brian Mullins, r.o.w. officer representing the county council. He said that the definitive map team were currently fully occupied with digitisation of the definitive map, but promised that he would let me know what their plans re Scarborough were. He failed to do this, but Les again raised the subject at the following meeting at Northallerton, when he was informed that there are now plans to get on with the task and that it will be completed by 2026. So, we need to keep following this up at subsequent meetings, but hopefully we are making progress, albeit very slowly.

Finally, can I remind you of the meeting Trish has organised to take place at the Friends Meeting House next Saturday (27<sup>th</sup>) at 10am. The meeting is for both current walk leaders and, just as importantly, any member who might consider leading a walk. Please try and attend. If you don't gain anything else, you'll have been supplied with coffee and cake!