



Some Reflections from the Area President

Having nearly completed three years as your President, I think I'm eligible for one more year, if re-elected at the Area AGM on 23rd Jan in Scarborough. Hope you will be able to get there, especially if you haven't been before, it's our most important meeting of the year and it gives a chance to put questions to your officers, and meet old and new friends.

While there were expressions of interest in some vacant Area posts at our last Area Council meeting, nobody has yet volunteered for the two key posts of Secretary and East Yorkshire & Hull Footpath Secretary. Tom Halstead has generously acted as our Secretary this year, as well as being Access Officer, Vice-Chairman, and local coordinator for General Council in York 2016. Please do reflect on whether you could fill this post, even two years would be appreciated. It needs a sympathetic desire to assist members and a keenness to liaise with Ramblers Central Office, underpinned by reasonable computer skills. Mike Jackson is retiring for personal reasons after 15 years as one of our two Area Footpath Secretaries, he has a well-deserved reputation both in and beyond the Ramblers for his wide knowledge of footpath law and for expertly representing us at public inquiries. You would receive strong support and understanding from your fellow committee members for both of these posts.

You will see from the Annual Report and the latest Area News that we've had another successful year. Tom Halstead already has a team of volunteers in place for Ramblers General Council on 2nd-3rd April 2016, the most important event in the Ramblers' calendar. Finally, I do hope you will continue to support the Ramblers, and consider making a contribution as a volunteer to the well-being of the Area. For me, it's been a richly rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Peter Ayling



Area Pub Walk Lunch Group

Photo taken on 8th December during the Christmas Lunch walk at Ambleforth with 24 Members participating.
Tony Corrigan

All EYDA Ramblers members as well as representatives of affiliated organisations are invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting Saturday 23rd January 2016 at 2.00pm at the Friends Meeting House, Quaker Cl, Scarborough YO12 5QZ, TA021 884**

Prior to the meeting, Phil Trafford will lead a 5 mile walk starting from Throxenby Mere (YO12 5RJ, TA010 887) at 10am. Throxenby Mere is about a mile from the Friends Meeting House, although there is car parking available. The Meeting House will be open from 1pm if walkers wish to eat their lunch prior to the meeting; alternatively the Duchess Pub, Hovingham Drive (YO12 5DT TA018 882) is conveniently situated 5 minutes walk from the Meeting House.

After the formal meeting and a short break, Trustee Richard May will give a short address and this will be followed by a presentation from Phil Tapper of Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. There will be a draw for a RWWH voucher towards the cost of a home/overseas holiday.

VACANT POSTS Nominations for all posts are invited. No nominations have so far been received for the posts of Area Secretary, Publicity Officer & Footpath Secretary for Hull & East Riding.

Area Monday Afternoon Walks

Following the stepping down of Mike Jackson as leader and organiser of the Monday afternoon walks programme, a sustained effort has been made to continue and build on his good work for this popular item; accordingly and now under the heading of "Area" walks, with an almost seamless change, Monday afternoon walks are well under way. All start at 1 pm, are 5-6 miles, all are listed in the walks booklet and over the year they have started from some 35 or so different venues.

From April 2015 to the end of March 2016 some 51 walks are scheduled with 22 leaders from within the group; up to the time of writing (October) 24 walks have taken place from April to September with over 460 attendees, an average of 19 or so per walk; clearly some less, some more.

This seems a happy group, clearly filling a need; these pleasant countryside visits are more than just a stroll, but certainly not a chase and make a good start to the week. Thanks leaders for your efforts in making it so, and thanks walkers for keeping it going. Last but not least best wishes to Dany W for her continuing convalescence and safe return to her leadership in due time.

Colin Mullender.

A Path Falling into Disuse

One of the justifications for our walks programme is that it helps to keep rights of way clear. Although I have not walked much with Ramblers in the last 12 months, I have been active with other groups, including the National Park. One path in this category is in the Howardian Hills – indeed in Castle Howard grounds itself. It runs from Bog Hall south south west by south – starting at SE725 708. On a walk earlier in the year the route had been rejected by the leader because it was a little overgrown.

The route goes to the west of the farm buildings. It enters a field and is often ploughed so the diagonal line is unpleasant to follow, but the edge has, I find, been left clear most years. By turning right and following the edge round to the left, one will find a gap in the hedge which leads to an excellent footbridge. This in turn gives way to a path to a gate into the main field below the Temple and to the cattle bridge at the end of South Lake. The gate is visible next to a large tree. On passing through the gate, head for the finger post at the tip of the fenced area – again not quite the line shown on the OS map, but Castle Howard are content for walkers to go across the field.



The gap from the field – by the “Y” of Mill Hill Beck on the OS map 300. You need to look closely – the arrow indicates the path line.



The bridge over Mill Hill Beck; at the top end the path is just visible to the left.

Please make use of this path – and don't be put off by the soft vegetation or the fact that one goes off the line on the map!

Chris Bush, Acting Area Chairman

Area Camp, Ingleton, 10-13 June 2016

The East Yorkshire and Derwent RA camp will be held from 10-13 June (three nights) at Stackstead Farm, Ingleton, SD 686724. Once again tent campers, caravaners, anyone who prefers to use the local B & Bs or hotels, plus day visitors will all be welcome.

The facilities at the site are first class, and there will be limited access to the leisure centre, which has a swimming pool, gym and sauna.

The area offers many fascinating walks. Ingleborough and Wharfedale can be seen from the site, and Gaping Gill, Ribbleshead Viaduct and the Ingleton waterfalls are all within easy reach.

As usual, Harry Whitehouse and Phil Trafford will recce a short early bird walk for the Friday afternoon, full day walks with shorter options for Saturday and Sunday, and a final last gasp short walk for the Monday morning.

Please let Harry have expressions of interest (together with the number who might attend, and intended accommodation) as soon as possible, by email at hitw@peaksoft.co.uk or by phone at 07535 892131.



Later, Phil will be asking for first-night deposits (required by the site) to reserve places. These range from £6 a night for a single person in a 1-2 man tent, to £13 for 1-2 adults in a caravan

New Permissive Bridleway

A new permissive bridleway is in the process of being created by the North York Moors National Park at Newgate Bank.

Walks quite often start at the carpark there [SE615845], and you may already have used the bridleway which goes down the bank to the north, passing the viewing platform, and connecting with the track which parallels the top of the escarpment, and connects the B1257 with the Carlton road near Cowhouse Bank.

It is already possible to walk west on the lower track, then down the hill on the road to take the track towards Fair Hill farm, from SE 567896, but the new bridleway will go parallel to the road to a point just north of the Fair Hill track, thus making the road walk section very short indeed.

I am not sure when the bridleway will be open, since we did the preliminary clearance only on December 1, but keep a lookout – it is much pleasanter and safer than the route going straight up the hill from Fair Hill farm to SE565893, which leaves you with a walk up the hill, on what is often a busy road.

Happy walking! Vera Silberberg

Seal Pups at Donna Nook -a Wildlife Spectacular

As I get older, I think it is time I should be ticking the items off my 'bucket list'. As the Walks Secretary for Pocklington Ramblers, I take the view that if I want to do something, others may also want to. For example, we have been doing some of the long distance walks in stages, and this has proved to be very popular with fellow Ramblers. However a visit to see the seal pups at Donna Nook in Lincolnshire seemed perhaps, a 'step too far' as the time to see seal pups is the end of November, and nobody ever runs a coach ramble then, do they? So I asked for expressions of interest and was overwhelmed by the response. Consequently we ended up with the biggest coach available and a sizeable reserve list.



I looked for the optimum time to go to see as many pups as possible, and chose Wednesday 25th November for the date (a Wednesday was chosen, as the nature reserve is overrun with visitors at weekends). The day arrived and we were very fortunate to have picked one of the few dry and sunny days in November (it could have been a lot worse...). The cumulative seal count, taken two 2 days before our visit, showed that seal numbers were reaching their maximum (597 Bulls, 1437 Cows and 1316 pups).

On arrival at Donna Nook, we had a brief walk to the sand dunes and the seal viewing area. The initial impact was awesome: the sight of a beach full of seals and seal pups, the noise from the seals - from the fighting bulls to the mothers calling to their pups and the closeness of the seals to the viewing area

Whilst it was sunny, it was also windy with a cool north westerly. After some time viewing the seals, a brisk four mile walk along the coastal embankments was necessary to get warm again. We also took the opportunity for a lunch stop out of the wind and away from the crowds and the noisy seals! After lunch we went back to the viewing area with ample time to observe the seals and their pups, and to learn more about the grey seals.



Grey seals have been breeding on the Lincolnshire coast since the early 1970's. For much of the year the seals are at sea or hauled out on distant sandbanks, but during the winter they come to breed on the beaches of Lincolnshire. Pups are born with white coats and suckle from their mother for about 2 to 3 weeks. The mother then leaves the pup, she will mate again before leaving the beach. After one week's development, the foetus stops growing for about 100 days, after which it continues to develop and the pup is born the following November. The deserted pup sheds its white coat, after a while hunger drives it to make its way to the sea to look for its own food.



Some of us were lucky enough to witness a live birth, and many photos were taken to record the day. Pictures can be seen on our website www.eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk. Just click on the Pocklington gallery and look for the date (25th November) and description (Donna Nook). At 2.30pm, cold but elated, we left Donna Nook on the coach for an afternoon tea at a Grimsby hotel, that included a glass of sparkling wine, sandwiches, cakes, scones and a hot drink to warm us up. A perfect end to a perfect day.

So I have now ticked off something on my "must do" events list, and many people are asking "what next?" Many of you will have something you have always wanted to do, or a place to go to. Please let me have your ideas for the next coach ramble, because for all you know, I may have something like bungee jumping on my must do list!

Ramblers Big Pathwatch Project

Intended to survey the condition of rights of way in every OS 1 km grid square in England and Wales, this project ended on 31st December. Nationally, our Area did very well, out - performing most other Ramblers areas. We completed over two thirds of the 4886 grid squares that make up our geographical area. With a few more volunteers from our active membership we could have reached 100%.

So a big thank you to those members who gave up some of their time to complete surveys and contributed to this achievement. Analysis of collected data is ongoing, with a report of findings expected from the Ramblers Pathwatch Team during the spring. Tony Corrigan

Coastal Access

Members of our Access Team featured in the edition of "Inside Out" (Yorkshire and Lincolnshire) broadcast on BBC1 TV on 14th September 2015. The 10-min part of the program highlighted issues associated with the stretch of the English Coast Path along the Holderness coast. A small group of us who had been involved with the preparation of our reports on coastal access, were filmed on a short walk from the end of Seaside Road, Aldbrough to Cliff Farm at East Newton, led by Tom Halstead. The film also included very brief contributions from Kate Ashbrook (National Ramblers President) and Tom. Other contributors were Andrew Best (Senior Adviser, Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team, Natural England), Prof Mike Elliott (Hull University), a farmer, and a representative from the Country Landowners Association. A York Wednesday Walkers' ramble from Flamborough Head led by George Malcolm was filmed earlier but not used in the final programme.



We have now submitted to Natural England (NE) three reports, covering the whole of the Yorkshire coast from the Humber Bridge to the Newport Bridge in Middlesbrough, that set out Rambler's proposals for the route of this stretch of English Coast Path. NE have published their proposals for the stretch between Filey Brigg and the Newport Bridge and, encouragingly, these are in close agreement with those in our report. This stretch should be opened in the near future. It is important to note that the roll-back provision of the legislation will be invoked along all but the defended stretches of the coast, thus avoiding any future interruptions to the route due to coastal erosion. NE, disappointingly, are delaying work on the rest of our coast for 12 months in order to bring forward work on the stretch between North Bents (Sunderland) and Cresswell and, also, now to include the stretch to the south of the Humber Bridge down to Skegness. Tom Halstead, Area Access Officer

Hull & Holderness Group

When we moved to Hull we were already members of the Ramblers, so transferred our allegiance to the local group, Hull & Holderness. We went walking with H&H, and other groups like Howden & Goole and Beverley – the area is blessed with several groups and a good choice of walks most weekends.

Jim Tulloch, doyen of the group for 20 years and more, stood down this year. Thanks to Jim for so much sterling service. We volunteered to help as Chair and Secretary and see how it went. There are two other long-serving and hard working officers in the group, Steve Mullarkey (Walks) and Mike Jackson (Footpaths), so it functions. However it must be noted that of the four remaining group officers, only two live in the Hull & Holderness area.

We are fairly new to the group and were looking forward to meeting members on the walks. Unfortunately, two of the walks organised were both on days with gale force winds! Either nobody came or they were blown over the cliffs before we met them.

Our next walks are The Pilgrimage of Grace (using public transport from Pocklington) and across the Humber Bridge to North Lincs. All welcome. Please email elaintague@gmail.com. Please also use this email if you would like to lift share.

At the AGM there were ideas for doing long walks in stages – the Wolds Way and Hull Circular for instance. Interested? Any other ideas – River Hull, TransPennine Way through Hull? Spurn Point circular?

Anyway, we'll give it until Spring and see if any green shoots have appeared – meanwhile let us know what you think – we're on Facebook ("hull ramblers") and email.

Steve Lack and Elaine Tague

Ryedale Group Report.

We held our A.G.M. on 15th November 2015 at Pickering. The following were elected:-

Chairman, Treasurer	Terry Strickland.
Walks Co-ordinator	Terry Strickland
Footpath Secretary	Gillian Zewde
Social Secretary	Pat Donnor
Press Officer	George Donnor
Membership Secretary.	Ann Laing
Secretary	Post Vacant

John Harland will remain on the Committee with responsibility for progressing the Footpath Survey.

Clive Crossley has also joined the Committee

Open Access Walks Booklet

The 3rd (revised) edition of the booklet "Open Access Walks: North Yorkshire", published by the Area, is now on sale at a special price for Ramblers of £2+ p&p, available from Tom Halstead