



## From Our New Chairman - Roy Hunt

I recall at a very young age visiting my grandmother. We had to take a bus to the main terminus from where we caught a trolleybus to get us to our destination. As we arrived at the terminus the bus conductor would call out "ALL CHANGE". Well, that is a bit like how it feels taking over the chairmanship of our Area.

Unfortunately I missed our AGM in Scarborough and was not there to personally thank those handing over their mantles to others. So let me take this opportunity to thank in particular Chris Bush who stepped in as Chair last year setting a standard that I will be pleased to match and Mike Jackson, after many years as Rights of Way Officer, for the energy and expertise he has brought to that role. I also welcome all those new to Area Council and of course thank those who are remaining in post.

Last year I was elected to become a Ramblers trustee. One of the things that I have learnt is that the relationships we have between members, Groups and our Area committee is not repeated 100% across the country. Whilst "governance" has become a bit of a thorny subject for those who follow what happens at board level and General Council, it is undoubtedly the case that some Areas and Groups are not blessed with the quality of relationships that we experience. Also, it would appear that a lack of volunteers to take on committee roles is a widespread problem and seemingly getting worse. Part of my job will be to encourage those that we have to stay and to attract others. Perhaps one way I can start is to make sure that our Area Council meetings are interesting, pleasant and to the point.

In April we have the honour of hosting Ramblers General Council at York University. Tom Halstead has taken the lead in organising the arrangements to ensure that we, as the hosts, provide what is needed. I haven't been involved at all, but what I hear from Central Office is that Tom and his team are doing a great job. Let us trust that General Council 2016 will be remembered as the one where standards were at the highest level.

This year, after I believe seven years, I am handing over the responsibility for compiling the Walks Booklet to Geoff Richardson. Like me, Geoff believes that the booklet is very important to our walkers, so he is very willing to take it on. We have agreed to work together on the next edition to try and make the handover as seamless as possible. As your new Chair I have to remember that our membership is much broader than I sometimes think. We have many members who support us for the work we do and who are largely invisible to our walking community. They provide valuable support that allows us to run an active Central Office in London as well as the satellite offices in Scotland and Wales. With their support we do a good job as protectors of our rights of way.

In a presentation I saw a few weeks ago there was a phrase that I like immensely. "The outdoors is our gym; we look after it and encourage others to use it". So please, keep walking but remember that we are not just a walking club, we do a lot more for the benefit of everyone.



The curlew is heard throughout our area with its evocative call and instantly recognisable down-curved bill and long legs. Copyright Whitfield Benson of Yorkshire Dales National Park.

## Area Committee 2016

Chairman	Roy Hunt
Vice chairman	Tom Halstead
Area Secretary (acting)	Tom Halstead
Treasurer	George Malcolm
Footpath Secretary (Hull & East Riding)	Post Vacant
Footpath Sec. (York & NYCC)	David Nunns
Walks Prog Co-ord.	Geoff Richardson
Countryside Sec.	Peter Ayling
Access Officer	Tom Halstead
Publicity Officer	Chris Bush
Minutes Secretary	Stephen Downes
Communications Officer	Ann Laing
Area News Editor	Marian Thomas
Webmaster	Tony Corrigan
Membership Sec.	Marilyn Skelton

## **Area AGM 23rd January 2016**

Roy Hunt (also a serving member of the Ramblers Board of Trustees) was elected as our new Area Chairman. Dany Wlodarczyk was appointed as an Area Vice President in recognition of her many years of excellent service in a variety of roles. Mike Jackson has retired as Footpath Secretary (Hull & East Riding), after many years of diligent service, his post remains vacant. Chris Bush has now become Publicity Officer and Stephen Downes is Minute Secretary. The rest of the 2015 team of Area Officers were re-appointed.

## **Pocklington Walks Programme** (Sally White, Pocklington Group Secretary)

Martin Hill, Pocklington Walks Secretary, has arranged some real treats for the 2016 spring/summer programme – all members welcome! To register your interest, book, or to request further details for any of these events please check the Ramblers website, or contact Martin Hill for further details by phoning on 01377 270731 or by e-mail: mph60@btinternet.com

## **St Hilda's Way**

St Hilda's Way is a long distance trail created in 2014 to celebrate the birth of Hilda 1400 years before. The 40 mile trail begins in Hinderwell and crosses the North Yorkshire Moors to Danby, before following a route back to Whitby. It will be walked in 4 stages on the following Wednesdays: 8th June, 13th July, 10th August and 7th September. All are linear walks using public transport, and each walk will be in the new spring/summer programme. Any member is welcome to join us for any individual stage, as all of the sections are great walks in a beautiful area.

## **Coach Ramble to Swaledale on April 24th 2016.**

3 walks are planned:

1. 12.5mile walk from Reeth to Richmond
2. 9.5mile circuit from Reeth into Arkengarthdale, and back to Reeth
3. 6.75mile circular walk from Muker to Keld, before returning back to Muker

Anybody not requiring a led walk is of course, welcome to join us on the coach for a day out. You could choose to spend the day in the attractive town of Richmond with its Norman castle, Georgian architecture, a large cobbled market place, museums, monuments and abbeys, the fast flowing river Swale, and breath-taking views and scenery. We will end the day with a meal in Richmond. Pick-up points will be Beverley, Market Weighton and Pocklington, with other locations being considered, if there are sufficient numbers.

## **Night Time Walk**

Martin will lead a walk on Thursday 15th September during the evening. It will be mainly in the dark, but in the light of the harvest moon. It will of course be weather dependent and the walk will either be cancelled, or rescheduled for Friday 16th if weather conditions are more favourable. The walk will start at 7pm and sunset will be 7.15pm. It will be a walk of 6 miles from Millington Wood CP and should be finished well before the pubs shut!

## **Walk and lunch at Wold Top Brewery**

On Wednesday 21st September, Martin Hill will lead an 11-mile walk from Filey Station that incorporates a lunch at the Wold Top brewery. The route taken to the brewery, will be along the Wolds Way, with a return after lunch, along the Centenary Way to Filey. There is also an option to walk 6 miles, joining the 11 mile walk at Muston and finishing at Hunmanby on the return section (a good bus service operates between the two places). For anybody just wishing to join us for lunch, there is ample parking at the Brewery. We have booked a lunch at 12.30pm at the brewery. There will be a savoury buffet consisting of a selection of open sandwiches, quiches etc. and teas and coffees at £11 per head but booking is essential. All dietary requirements can be catered for, if booked in advance. There will of course be a bar, and a charge of £5 for anybody not taking lunch.

## **SEPTEMBER WALKS FESTIVAL**(Vera Silberberg)

The Ramblers organisation has been awarded £200,000 as part of a long-term partnership with PPL (The People's Postcode Lottery).

They are using some of the money to introduce and promote a festival of Ramblers' walks throughout Great Britain between 3rd and 11th September 2016.

All groups have been asked to put on a selection of the types of walks that are normally offered in the walks programme so that members of the public can be made aware of what Ramblers have to offer.

York Group has responded to the request by putting on

extra walks so that every day in that period has at least one on offer. Long and short walks, public transport walks and a pub lunch walk will be offered. More information is available on the Area website:- [eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk](http://eastyorkshireramblers.org.uk) and on the national website [ramblers.org.uk](http://ramblers.org.uk)



## **Glen Hood (12/9/1928 – 3/1/2016)**

It was with sadness that we heard that Glen Hood, aged 87, of Willerby, had passed away on January 3rd after a battle with cancer. Glen was a very committed member of East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers during the 1970s and 1980s. He served as Vice-Chairman of the Area (1978-84) and as Chairman of the Area Footpath Sub-Committee for the East Riding/Humberside. He continued to serve on the Area Council until 1987.



Anyone who met him could not fail to be impressed by his energy, drive and determination. It was these qualities which led him to devise and establish one of the area's first long-distance routes, the 85-mile East Riding Heritage Way. This was eventually to consist of four stretches of approximately 20 miles each: the Beverley 20 (Humber Bridge to Beverley Minster), the Hutton Hike (Beverley to Driffield), the Rudston Roam (Driffield to Bridlington) and the Headland Way (Bridlington to Filey). By mid-September 1979, about 500 badges had been issued for the first section, many of them to small family groups including a five year old boy. Nearly all the letters received spoke of the very pleasant nature of the route and, in particular, expressed much appreciation of the way-marking carried out by Ramblers volunteers.

In the following year, the next three stages of the walk had become more firmly established and previously little-used paths were in far better condition as a result. The route was now becoming nationally known and almost 4000 badges had been issued for the first section. Humberside County Council produced leaflets for sections of the Way and also helped to provide stiles and signposts. The Hull Junior Chamber of Commerce inaugurated an annual sponsored challenge walk for young people along the Beverley 20 in 1983.

Glen went on to become a founding member of the East Yorkshire Long Distance Walkers Association and was also a member of the Patrington Walking Club. In later life he took up running with the City of Hull Athletic Club and continued this passion well into his eighties. Dr. Robb Robinson paid tribute to Glen at his funeral service: "He was an incredibly competitive runner but at the same time a gentleman. He lived for sport and his enthusiasm was infectious." He recalled how impressed he had been by Glen's encyclopaedic knowledge of the East Riding footpath network and also by the fact that Glen always carried a pair of secateurs along with his map and compass! In his working life, Glen taught science in Hull at Shakespeare Hall School and Greatfield High School. Colleagues remember that he devoted a great deal of time to extra-curricular sporting activities, passing on his enthusiasms to his pupils.

Glen was a keen swimmer and met his wife of 17 years at the Albert Avenue Pools. She describes him as a caring and romantic man – "He brought me flowers every week and we went out every Friday – it was always a surprise, I never knew where we were going." Glen's funeral was attended not just by his family but by very many friends who had shared his interests over the years. His family includes eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Donations were collected in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Service – some of our readers may well remember the occasion when the YAA came to the aid of Glen's wife, Dorothy, on a walk. Glen has left a lasting legacy to walkers in this area with the route he worked so hard to establish. Our thoughts are with his wife and all the family at this sad time.



For details of the East Riding Heritage Way (cost free) send an A4 S.A.E (2nd class Large Letter 250g postage) to Michael Collins, 5 Headlands Drive, BRIDLINGTON, YO16 6XZ  
Telephone 01262 679144

Dany Wlodarczyk (with Peter Ayling)

## **Coastal Access Update (Tom Halstead- Access Officer)**

The Secretary of State has decided to approve Natural England's proposals for access on the 68 mile (110 km) stretch of the coast between Filey Brigg and Newport Bridge. Part of the route of the England Coast Path, defined in these proposals, corresponds to the Cleveland Way and it should be formally opened later this year.

Work is in progress on the stretch from Easington to Filey Brigg. NE's staff have been working in the East Riding, meeting land owners/occupiers and discussing options for the route of the path, between Kilnsea in the south, and Filey Brigg, beyond the county boundary, in North Yorkshire. Since the development of the accelerated programme however, and the confirmation of a timescale for delivery in the Humber estuary, beginning in 2016, it has become apparent that it would be preferable for the extreme southern extent of the existing stretch, at Kilnsea, to be included in their work on the Humber estuary, so that this stretch will now end at Easington rather than Kilnsea.

## An Update on Chalara Ash Die-back Disease in Woodlands and Hedges (Peter Ayling)

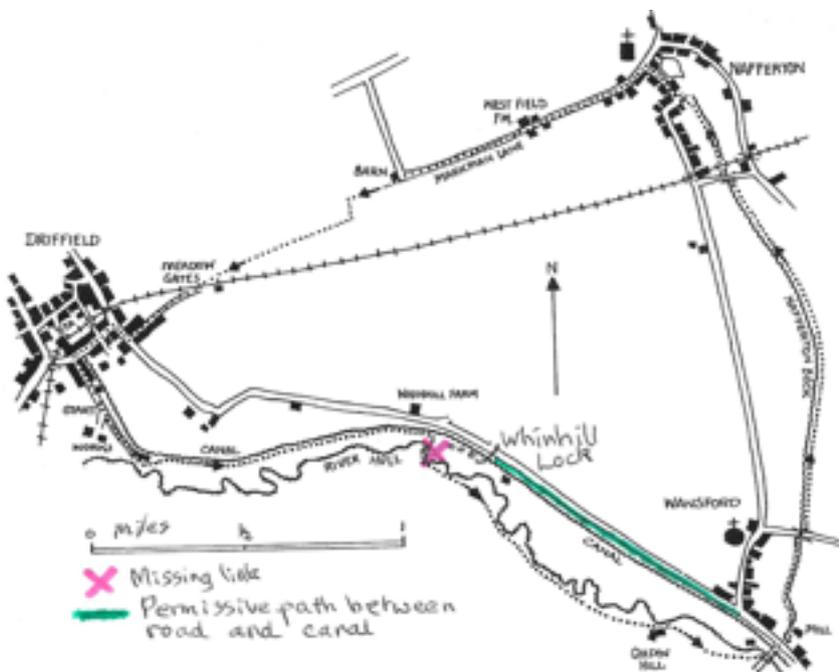
Common ash or *Fraxinus excelsior* (not to be confused with Mountain ash, *Sorbus aucuparia*) is one of the largest and most handsome of our native trees, and is common in many woodlands, e.g. Millington Wood, and hedgerows (always remembering that the East Riding has one of the lowest densities of woodland in England). Besides its beauty and economic importance, it is host to a large number of animals. So the announcement of Ash die-back, a fungal disease spread by wind-borne spores that kills ash trees, in a nursery in Bucks in Feb 2012 and then in other sites on the east coast, was received with horror. (See Area News page 9 April 2013.) At present there is no known cure, and it's suggested that at worst 80% of the 80 or so million ash trees in Britain could be infected and possibly succumb.

To recap, the fungus probably originated in Poland, the outbreak was predicted, and it was traced to infected saplings imported from Holland. (Some of the saplings on sale were described as British, but they had been raised in Holland from British seed). A blanket ban on imports was imposed later in Oct 2012. The Forestry Commission uses the common name "chalara ash die-back". There is little evidence that government policy has restricted the spread of the disease, which has now spread up through Northumberland into Scotland, south to Kent, west to Cumbria and a few sites in Cornwall and Wales, and is present in about a thousand sites.

Symptoms include dead or dying tops of trees (but uninfected mature trees sometimes show this feature), wilting leaves especially in the early season, long diamond-shaped dark lesions on the bark, and dieback of leaves with brown leaf stalks. Small circular white sexual "fruiting bodies" containing the infective spores then appear on fallen leaf stalks. Although a large dose of spores is needed for an infection, and the spores are short-lived, many spores are produced on infected material. Small trees and saplings die quickly, but mature trees may be able to survive the attack. Ash is quite varied genetically, and some trees seem to tolerate the disease, so there may be some natural resistance. The future for ash is not clear; we can only hope the disease does not spread as relentlessly as Dutch elm disease, which removed most of our English elms. Importing live plants with soil poses an obvious risk.

## Driffield – Wansford – Nafferton Circular (Dany Wlodarczyk)

A pleasant 7-mile level route, much of it alongside waterways, appeared in "Wolds Walks around Driffield" which was published by Driffield Ramblers in 1982. Unfortunately, the route as described in the book has not been walkable for many years due to a missing link from the canal-side path via a footbridge known as Bobby's Bridge, to a footpath south of the River Hull leading to Wansford. Until recently, walkers had to use an alternative busy stretch of road between Whinhill Lock and Wansford. In 2014 however, the Driffield Canal Partnership arranged for a permissive path to be cleared along the north side of the canal. The work was undertaken by volunteers with funding from the Inland Waterways Association, the Horace Taylor Trust and other local bodies. The path has now been cleared and completed from the lock all the way into Wansford village, linking with the path along the south side of the canal from Driffield.



**Start:** at River Head, Driffield, Grid.

Ref. TA 027 573

**Distance:** 7 miles

**Parking:** roadside at River View

**Public Transport:** a short walk to the start from the station and bus station.

**Refreshments:** Driffield: various, including Speedy's Café next to the Bluebell Inn at River Head, Wansford: The Trout Inn, YO25 8NX Tel. 01377 254204 (closed Sundays), Nafferton: The Star Inn, Tel. 01377 255548

The permissive path is highlighted below in green on the original sketch map which appeared in the Driffield Group publication. I have not yet been able to find out who drew the map – thanks are possibly due to Mr. D. Golden or Mr. T. Grimshaw who both provided delightful illustrations for the book.

## National Ramblers Members Day - Saturday 2nd April, York University 09:00-17:00

Ramblers are holding a members day event that is open to all members and is free, including refreshments. This is an opportunity to learn more about the organisation, what we do as a charity, and the impact that we make. There will be a variety of workshops and question and answers sessions with experts. The day will finish with a walk.

To register for a place, or to find out more e-mail [membership@ramblers.zendesk.com](mailto:membership@ramblers.zendesk.com) or phone 020 7339 8595

## A PENNINE JOURNEY

THE STORY OF A LONG WALK IN 1938

*A. Wainwright*



### **Book Review (Phil Catterall, Ryedale Ramblers)**

A Pennine Journey - The story of a long walk in 1938 by A Wainwright (213 pages - available in paperback and hardback). Most Ramblers will know and possibly own the set of 7 Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells first published between 1955 and 1966. Wainwright devised the Coast to Coast Walk and authored over 40 other books. He had a great interest in pencil drawings and books of these were also published. In addition to the seven guides, he produced a lesser known 8th Pictorial Guide to Lakeland's Outlying Fells.

In 1938, as a young man of 31 and not many months before the outbreak of World War II, Wainwright decided to walk from Settle Railway Station up to Hadrian's Wall and back via an elliptical route. The walk of around 250 miles took him each side of the North Pennines. When he returned he wrote this book, however the manuscript laid gathering dust until it was published almost 50 years later in 1986. In fact Wainwright admitted that he forgot about his manuscript until he was asked to write "Wainwright on the Pennine Way" around 1985. He mentioned his Pennine Journey manuscript to his publishers, Michael Joseph Ltd at the time. They read it and immediately agreed to publish it, without any editing whatsoever!

"A Pennine Journey" cannot be compared to Wainwright's Lakeland Guide Books, but it is, in my opinion, one of his best works. The book is best described as being a "walking travelogue". The sort of writing that in this day and age would likely be produced as an Internet blog.

The book reveals the feelings of the young Wainwright and tells of his encounters and character assessments of the people and families of the North Pennines whom he met on this journey. Their thoughts, feelings and plans about the likely outbreak of war are recorded in detail. His experiences of finding lodgings as he went along the 247 mile route are quite amazing. On his arrival in Buckden in the pitch dark after walking from Settle Wainwright wrote "having found a window, I passed my hand along the wall until I found a door, and I knocked on it, hard. The door opened, which suggested human agency, but I could see neither the doorway nor the person who must now be standing there. I addressed the night in general, and asked for a room. A woman answered"... and so it goes on...

Describing places familiar no doubt to many Ramblers like myself, such as when he arrived at the Tan Hill Inn during mist and rain: "a huge fire was burning in the grate, a fire big enough to feed a factory boiler. I sat on a chair in the middle of the floor and a small pool began to form around my shoes. I had a drink and some bread and cheese. There was the innkeeper, who is, I believe, first and foremost a shepherd, a grizzled companionable old fellow who came in out of the mist and straightaway wolfed a meal that would have lasted me a week using his spoon as a shovel".

Wainwright was undoubtedly a ladies' man - this comes out in the book, with many comments describing the females he encounters on this journey. Yet it is not until the last chapter that you discover that when he wrote the book he was actually married, unhappily as it later transpired. His first wife Ruth divorced him almost 30 years later, on his retirement from his job as the Borough Treasurer for Kendal.

The book and journey have quite a "cult" following and in March 2012 the Pennine Journey Supporters Club was formed. A pictorial guide book was produced in 2010, written by David Pitt and initially published by Francis Lincoln, and latterly by Sigma Press. The book, similar to a pictorial guide in format, traces a route which Wainwright would have walked today using public rights of way and access land. In 1938 Wainwright's route used moorland tracks, rough ground and public roads but his route and the guide book route used today have very much in common with the countryside, the villages and towns visited.

The Pennine Journey is now a maintained and monitored long distance walk of 247 miles in length. The route is shown on the latest Ordnance Survey Maps and I completed the walk in 2013, using the guide book by David Pitt, as part of a group of six walkers.



### **Ramblers Worldwide Holidays- Walk Leaders needed**

The Ramblers are in partnership with the walking holiday company Ramblers Worldwide Holidays (RWH). At our AGM in January, Phil Tapper from RWH gave a presentation on the types of holiday organised- from weekend or mid week breaks in the UK to a couple of weeks at a long-haul destination. Holidays are graded to cater for all levels of fitness. For more information visit [www.ramblersholidays.co.uk](http://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk) or phone 01707 331133.

RWH are currently embarking upon a recruitment drive for new leaders for their walking and sightseeing tours throughout the world. They would be very interested to hear from walk leaders, or group members, who might enjoy leading for the RWH, initially on a voluntary basis. As a volunteer leader they might only wish to commit to leading for just one week of the year or they might prefer to lead several parties over several weeks. RWH can offer training and mentoring and are particularly interested in hearing from individuals who have command of a foreign language. When leading for RWH the cost of flights, accommodation and meals are covered and walk leaders can also negotiate a discount on the tour price for an accompanying partner.

If you are interested in becoming a walk leader for RWH, you can visit the following link <https://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/page/become-a-leader>. If you would like an informal chat about becoming a walk /tour leader you can phone Karen Groenewald on 01457 851511 or e-mail [kareng@ramblersholidays.co.uk](mailto:kareng@ramblersholidays.co.uk)

## **Blocked Footpaths - Using Cross**

### **Compliance** (John Harland- Rydale Ramblers)

In last year's Autumn edition of the Walk magazine (p74), a reader (Bernard McGonnell) sought advice on what further steps could be taken when complaints to the local authority did not produce any action to get a local farmer to reinstate footpaths that were ploughed over every year. In replying to the letter, Emily Shaw from Central Office suggested that Bernard could try reporting the problem to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). She explained that in order to receive payments under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, farmers have to adhere to a set of rules known as "cross compliance" One rule, for example, requires that footpaths, bridleways and byways open to traffic, must be kept open and accessible. According to Emily Shaw, reporting such problems to the RPA has achieved some successful outcomes.

Following our Survey of all the paths in the NYCC-managed area of Ryedale, which identified many such problems that were also not being dealt with by our local authority, we were very interested in exploring the RPA option. We were a little disappointed to find that the rules only apply to 'visible' rights of way, but these concerns were allayed somewhat when we read the following qualification in The Guide to Cross Compliance in England 2016 (available from the RPA website): 'This includes any rights of way which would be visible if it wasn't for breaches of the rules.'

In the light of this advice, we are currently re-visiting about ten blocked paths in different parishes across Ryedale with a view to reporting five of them to the RPA in the next couple of weeks. We are, of course, seeking NYCC's co-operation in submitting these cases to RPA, but if this support is not forthcoming, we will proceed without it. In addition to photographs and the usual information of a description of the problem, grid references and the date observed, we are trying to ascertain and submit the name and addresses of the farmers thought to be responsible for the agricultural land over which the paths cross.

We would be very interested in hearing from other groups and readers who have had experience of reporting possible cross-compliance infringements to the RPA.

e-mail: [j.harland400@btinternet.com](mailto:j.harland400@btinternet.com)

### **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.

If you are put off because you like to have the walks booklet as a 'proper' book, arrangements can be made for you to collect one on a walk, whilst receiving the rest of the documents by email. Spare walks booklets are available from most walks secretaries, from Geoff Richardson the Area walks programme co-ordinator, or from the Area membership secretary.

## **York Group Coach Rambles**

**Sunday 22nd May**

**To Malham - Cost £11**

Three different walks of varying lengths and difficulties will be available. Book early to avoid disappointment.

For further details and a booking form, please see York Group website [yorkramblers.org.uk](http://yorkramblers.org.uk) or contact Vera on 01904 638134



### **Greetings from Bill Heppell** (Peter Ayling – Area President)

After reading the note in the September 2015 edition of Area News about York member Bill Heppell's time with the partisans in Greece during WWII, I sent him a birthday card on behalf of the Area members, for his 93rd birthday.

He phoned and wrote a letter back describing his joy of walking as a young man and that he had walked a considerable distance in the Pindus Mountains with the Greek partisans during WWII. After the war he wished to continue rambling and joined the York Hoboes Rambling Club (affiliated to Ramblers Association). He was chairman of the Hoboes for several years and led nearly every monthly ramble mainly off the map without any reces, as none of the members owned a car and the rights of ways maps had not been published. They walked mainly on the Moors but did not walk much in the Wolds because the footpath network on the Wolds was in a poor state and it was difficult to know which paths were rights of way. He recalled being refused permission from the Garrowby Estate to walk that way, on what turned out to be a right of way.

His comments make us realise how fortunate we are nowadays as the Wolds mostly provides excellent walking routes. Papers for Area negotiations in the 1970s with the Garrowby Estate over footpaths were archived in Beverley in 2013.

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](mailto:areamembers2@hotmail.com) or alternatively use the contact form on the Area website by clicking the 'Members' tab on the homepage and selecting 'Electronic Mailshot of Newsletters etc.'