

WALKS LEADERS NEEDED

We are by far the largest group in the Area (640 members, a third of the total membership) so it should be possible to find enough leaders to put on a varied programme of walks.

Thank you to everyone who has offered so far, but **leaders are still needed for our short walks programme.**

If it is a lack of confidence that is holding you back, contact the person who is organising the walks. A 'mentor' will help you to plan and recce the walk and will be a co-leader on the day if you wish.

Sam Borman of the Ryedale group runs a one-day course to help with map-reading and navigation. Several York members have been on the course and found it useful. Contact him on 01751-477325 or email wendyandsam@btinternet.com

Offers to lead the walks below are needed by 10 Feb so please make it your New Year's Resolution to participate, even if you do not normally walk on these days:

Tuesdays 7-8 miles on 29 May, 19 June, July 31, 18 Sept. 10.30am start.

Contact: marilyn@marilynskelton.wanadoo.co.uk
Tel: 01347-824520

Summer Evenings Tuesdays or Thursdays 5 miles from May to August. 7pm start with easy access from York.

Contact: gibbs.ian@homecall.co.uk Tel: 01347-822729

Saturday or Sunday afternoons from April to September 6 miles

Contact: vera@silberberg.org.uk Tel: 01904-628134

CLIFF BLOTT

Cliff, who had been an active York member for many years, sadly died on 3 December aged 91. To pay tribute to him we hope to include an obituary in the form of 'memories' from Ramblers who knew him, in the next Area News. If you have any memories of Cliff please send them to the Secretary by 31 January.

COACH RAMBLES

We plan to run two coach rambles again this year in spring and autumn. The first will be on **Sunday 27 May** to the Peak District. 2012 marks the 80th anniversary of the Kinder Scout 'mass trespass' and there will be three walks offered in the area.

Still only £10 despite the recession! Put the date in your diary NOW.

A.G.M NEWS

At the Group A.G.M. in November, Chris Bush's resignation from the committee was accepted. He was thanked, in his absence, by the Chairman for the work he had done over many years in support of the Group.

Ian Gibbs and Ian Reavill were welcomed as new committee members.

At the meeting it was agreed that David Nunns, our long-serving Footpaths Officer, will be nominated as an Area Vice-President at the Area A.G.M. on 28 January, in recognition of his many years of service to The Ramblers (see overleaf). Everyone is welcome to attend the Area A.G.M. to support David and to see what business is being transacted. Details of the meeting are in the enclosed Area News.

The Group committee members are

Chairman:	Tom Halstead
Secretary:	Vera Silberberg
Treasurer:	Kay Sawkill
Footpaths:	David Nunns
Walks Secretary:	Steve Hoather
Public Transport Walks:	Malcolm Dixon
Environment:	Monica Nelson
Publicity:	Marilyn Skelton
New members:	Ian Gibbs & Ian Reavill

Full reports of the Group A.G.M. can be read on the York website www.yorkramblers.org.uk or by post from Vera Silberberg 41 North Parade, Bootham, York YO30 7AB Tel:01904-628134 (s.a.e. please)

YORK RAMBLERS 1975

One of the ongoing tasks in all groups is to recruit new members in order to replace the 5% who fail to renew each year. Our subscriptions provide an important part of the funds which support the work of the Ramblers, and pay the salaried staff.

York Ramblers are fortunate in having many long-serving members who are to be congratulated on their years of support. There are 38 members who have been members since the late 1960s or 1970s, many of them Life Members

Central Office records in their current form started in 1975 and there are several York members on that list.

Robert Brock moved to York in 1969 and became a committee member soon after that. Together with David Nunns and others he produced a booklet 'Walks in the Vale of York' in 1977. They also established the evening walks programme. One of the reasons Robert joined the Ramblers was because, at a time when paths were far less used, he was keen to support the efforts to keep them open. Walking has been a lifelong passion since he was a young boy, walking with his father. He still walks but prefers walking solo or with a small group. He says that walking has given him untold pleasure and has kept him fit.

John Parker has been a member since 1968. *At that time Yorkshire and the North were new territories for him, so he benefited from the Ramblers maps and suggestions for walks. Although he no longer walks, John has maintained his membership of the Ramblers.*

Alfred Horne came to York in 1967. He has walked mainly on his own, but has had a lifelong interest in matters to do with footpaths and rights of way. He has been trying for many years to get part of an ancient Ridgeway running from Bridlington to Aldro on the Wolds registered as a right of way. You can read the interesting article that he wrote about the track in the Sept 2005 Area newsletter (online on the Area website). He is now in his 100th year. What a birthday present that would be if ROW status was granted to the route in 2012! Alfred is still interested in reading the Area newsletters.

David Nunns David's active involvement with walking groups has been continuous since 1961. His interest started in London when he discovered Ramblers Special Sunday Excursion trains, and on returning to Leeds he saw that West Riding Ramblers also arranged occasional Special train trips, followed by Dales Rail and Coach Rambles after the Beeching cuts.

Moving to York in 1966 he walked with York Hoboes and discovered that many members belonged to the Ramblers, and they had been involved in surveying the local area for the North Riding Definitive Map following the 1949 Act. In 1968 David, Geoff Eastwood and Richard Kenchington decided to set up a York Ramblers Group. At first David was doing the work of the equivalent of 6 committee members – General, Footpath, Environment, Membership, and Walks Secretary, and even Treasurer for a short time! Eventually he became solely the York Group's Footpath Secretary, a role which he still carries out.

Memories include: *proving at the Magistrates' Court that there was a public footpath along the Foss between what is now Morrisons and the new Hungate Bridge; helping to produce York Group's booklet 'Walks in the Vale of York'; bouncing across fields in his estate car (pre-4x4s) carrying Council members during the Public Inquiry into the paths that we now have around Wharram Percy on Lord Middleton's Birdsall Estate; petitioning the House of Commons for improvements to the British Railways Selby Coalfield Diversion Bill for Footpath users; researching and attending a Public Inquiry proving that the riverside path at Newton upon Ouse had not been lost to the river; and spending a year as part of a team conducting a Best Value Review of North Yorkshire's Countryside work.* And meanwhile, along the way, he found time to contribute walks for the Foss Walk book, and helped to create the York to Selby Cycle Path along the old railway track with support from Sustrans and Selby District Council. He was also a voluntary warden in the Yorkshire Dales National Park for a few years.

David would like to thank the many people and Ramblers who have helped him over the last 46 years, but it is obvious that Ramblers in general and York Ramblers in particular owe him thanks for his unstinting involvement over such a long period.

Janet Robinson took out life membership of The Ramblers Association whilst at college in 1966. A very shrewd move considering Janet has now been a paid-up member for 45 years! She came from a walking family, and one of her reasons for joining the Ramblers was that she believes in 'the right to roam' and intended to keep walking all her life. As a young girl she walked with her father with the Yorkshire Wayfarers, which was the walking group of the Yorkshire Insurance Company, based then in St. Helen's Square. That group devised The White Rose Walk.

Cliff Blott Sadly Cliff died on 8 December, aged 91. He led walks regularly for the York Wednesday Ramblers when they first started. Later, Cliff led many York Ambles when that group formed, alternating with Dennis Addison. Even now, the Amblers are doing some of the walks which Cliff reccied and recorded. He was a meticulous timekeeper, and could finish one of his led walks within minutes of his estimated time, without ever rushing. He was always a keen walker with a love of Scotland, and went there every year until age caught up with him.

Francis Ashcroft joined the Ramblers Association in the 1950s (no later than 1958) because he supported the aims of the association. He did not walk with a group at first. From 1966 he walked in Manchester, moving to York in 1986. Francis walked in later years with U3A groups.