



Dear *York Rambler members*

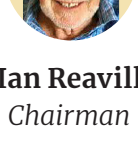
I hope you have been enjoying some good walks this year, either on one of our many group walks, or with friends, or on your own. We're sending this newsletter to update you with what has been happening in the group.

We are very pleased that all our different walking sections are operating successfully, and are well supported. Of course, this can only happen if members are prepared to take their share of leading. We've been pleased with the attendance at the Thursday evening walks.

Sadly, our wonderful group secretary Viv Taylor, has been forced to resign, due to unavoidable family issues. I should like to thank Viv for her unfailing dedication and efficiency, and we are delighted she will remain on the committee.

However, I am delighted that Tony Tew, supported by his wife Carys, has taken on this very important role, and has stepped swiftly into action.

We were saddened to hear that a very loyal member of the committee in the past, Mike Willis, had died. Sadly, his wife Hazel died shortly afterwards.



Ian Reavill

Chairman

PARISH FOOTPATHS

I agreed to take on this task from Simon Lyle at the committee meeting on 7 March 2023, and the current position is as follows.

In the Ramblers York group area there are 46 parishes in North Yorks County Council, 31 in City of York and 10 York wards, making a total of 87. Two of the wards do not have any footpaths, and the number of "Parishes" for monitoring purposes is therefore 85. It should be noted that a number of small parishes have been included in larger adjacent ones and these have been counted as one for this purpose.

On receiving the details from Simon, I contacted all the existing path monitors, and with very few exceptions all said they were willing to continue. One monitor (Brigid Holdsworth) could not be contacted as she appears to have changed her e-mail address, but as the record shows she did her 2 parishes in 2022 and I am hoping she will continue.

This resulted in about 18 parishes being uncovered. (Some parishes have never had volunteers), but monitors have now been found for all of these.

The booklet has been re-issued to include the new reporting procedure for NYCC and distributed to all monitors.

To date I have received forms or confirmation that 6 parishes have been completed. I hope to receive a lot more over the next 3 months, and around the end of September I will start chasing those which have not been reported.

Steve Hoather



TUESDAY WALKS

Linda Gall

Tuesday walks continue on a fortnightly basis. There has been an average of fifteen walkers over the last few months. The walk details are usually on the website at least two weeks before the walk.

Thanks to all who have lead walks this year.

WEDNESDAY AMBLERS

Judith Tosh

An average number of 15 walkers have taken part in a full programme of Ambles of 6 to 8 miles. We have travelled in all directions from York to differing locations and discovered some new routes thanks to the volunteers who have researched and led the walks. Without the efforts of the volunteer walk leaders there would not have been such a varied programme.

WEDNESDAY RAMBLERS

Mike Norman

So far this year the Wednesday Ramblers Group have led a walk every week with a total attendance of 623 walkers and an average of 23 per walk.

We cover a diverse area and have had walks from Leyburn, Brantingham, Pateley Bridge and Runswick Bay. We also have walked more locally from Welburn, Terrington and Tadcaster.

Our Walks are about 10 miles in length and include a lunch stop and a morning and afternoon break. We welcome all walkers and if you have not walked with us before and are capable walking 10 miles come along and give us a try.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT WALKS

Annette Bond & Anne Cornford

Between March and 1 July we offered 17 walks with an average of 13 walkers per walk. The group continues to flourish and a few of them have planned to go to Kirkby Stephen Youth Hostel for a walking weekend. Again, their leaders have had to contend with rail strikes and bus cancellations and on one occasion the bus was too full, so the leader offered an alternative walk on that day. We are very grateful for all the hard work of the leaders. We have now started planning for the next three months.

EVENING WALKS

Stephanie Windsor

Stephanie apologised for her lack of availability and thanked Mike for stepping in and organising the walks. Mike reported that the walks are going well, typically with 10 – 12 walkers each time. Walks start and end at a pub car park. The programme is full and walks will cease sometime in September due to the darker evenings.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRAILS

Roger Brook

The current trail The Pennine Way is going very well. I have a regular group of 7 that works well as we have often to hire an 8 seater minibus to connect to the nearest bus/train.

We have already completed over half of the total 268 miles. Our next section on August 12th is from Bowes to Middleton in Teesdale 11 miles that passes Anna Hauxwell's old farmhouse.

It is hoped to be able to continue by daily public transport as far as 5 miles from the Scottish border.



COACH RAMBLE

Haworth

The Coach Ramble was on Sunday May 21st and organised by members of the Public Transport Group.

The coach was nearly full which was good as we did not make a loss on our first attempt at arranging the ramble. The destination was Haworth but we dropped off the B group in Hebden Bridge (9 miles) and the A group at Midgehole just outside Hebden Bridge (11miles) to commence their walks to Haworth.

The C group were dropped off in Haworth (7miles) which was a slight problem as it was the 40s weekend which made getting to the car park slow but nothing that could not be overcome by getting off the coach at a slightly different drop off. The weather was kind and not too hot and there was a nice atmosphere in Haworth on our return with the 40s weekend still in swing and plenty of cafes and bars. The walks were successful and the coach was ready to leave on time at 5pm. I hope everyone had an enjoyable day.

WEBSITE

The Committee members would like to thank Tom Halstead for his continued work in keeping the website up to date.

AGM

The next AGM is to be held at The Tithe Barn, Church Lane, Nether Poppleton, York, YO26 6LF

At 2pm.

There will be 2 walks taking place before the meeting, and these will be advertised on the website nearer the time.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

MIKE & HAZEL WILLIS

Readers will be saddened to hear of the passing of both Mike and Hazel Willis, members of the York group. Mike died in May and Hazel in June. They had been married for 51 years and have three daughters.

They moved to York in 2007, motivated by a love of history. Mike became a Minster guide, where he was able to put his fluent German to good use. Hazel regularly attended at the Dringhouses History Society talks.

They led many walks and Mike had also been an HF leader. They loved walking and being outdoors and were very fond of the Lake District, both being from the North West. They enjoyed the annual trip to Derwentbank with the Ramblers.

They were a talented and modest couple. Mike graduated from Cambridge University and Hazel from Leeds. Both worked in education and Hazel later changed careers to work in speech therapy, gaining a further degree in the process.

As well as walking they loved travel and theatre and Mike was a keen Blackburn Rovers supporter.

Sadly, ill health brought their Rambling to a premature end. However, they were not the sort of people to give up altogether, and they formed a walking group with neighbours, going for shorter walks near to their home.

What a wonderful couple they were and they will be greatly missed by all those fortunate enough to have known them.

