

### **Chair's report – Terry Howard**

The Group continues to move forward in a very positive way, building on the traditions of the past while responding to the needs and demands of a changing “rambling” world. We have started on the path of electronically communicating with members, which is not easy for everyone, but we are gradually getting there. It has to be better forwarding current news rather than old news as before. For some it may be worrying as they don't want to be left behind, so we must recognise this and help where we can.

Our walks programmes, including “Walking Out”, continues to develop, offering several walks a week of varying length and interest which are well supported and enjoyed by everyone. The very successful “Walking Out” initiative has a new coordinator who is carrying forward the work of Bill McGuinness and will develop the programme with a more “interest” base of wildlife, cultural history and archaeology etc. It will also focus more on increasing the membership of the Ramblers.

Our membership numbers remain disappointingly low for a City the size of Sheffield but we must be realistic about the situation. Although we continue to attract new members this has to be linked with an ageing membership and two other Ramblers Groups in Sheffield which contribute to us showing a fairly static membership. Also the City has a vast array and choice of walking and rambling clubs along with family and friends groups, and not forgetting the many solitary walkers. It is these we should be encouraging to join our ranks. Although attendances on our walks remain high we could do even better without the competition. We must not forget that we are the only organisation working and campaigning for all walkers and ramblers across the City so we need to make more of this.

We have embarked on reviewing and reprinting the “Sheffield Country Walk” in a different form than before which is being done in partnership with Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Walking Forum. Other walks leaflets will also be printed along with a new historical “Inner City Round Walk”.

All the officers in the Group give a high degree of commitment and we remain indebted to them along with all committee members and supporters. We must also recognise and offer thanks to Bill McGuinness for his contribution to walking in Sheffield. It is a great pleasure to work and walk with members of Sheffield Group who are always friendly and welcoming.

## **Access – Les Seaman**

In the continuing theme of partnership, the Peak District National Park and the Sheffield City Council have put in place the Sheffield Moors Partnership (SMP), who have now issued the Sheffield Moors Masterplan 2013 to 2028 as a consultation draft.

The SMP is a partnership of the Peak District National Park (PDNP), The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Sheffield & Rotherham Wild Life Trust (SWLT), Natural England (NE), National Trust (NT) & Sheffield City Council (SCC). The aim of the Sheffield Moors Partnership is on similar lines to the Eastern Moors Partnership (EMP), and will manage the landscape and access to 56 square kilometres (21 sq. miles) of the National Park.

The key sites and landowners or managers of this plan are: North Lees & Stanage (PDNP), Redmires Reservoir area (YWA & SCC), Burbage, Houndkirk and Hathersage Moors (SCC), Blacka Moor and Wyming Brook (SWLT), Longshaw Estate (NT) and Eastern Moors Partnership (NT & RSPB, on behalf of PDNP).

The vision of the two partnerships is 'Through a shared vision and responsibility the partnership delivers extemporal conservation, heritage management, integrated and multi-use access, and inspiring and co-ordinated engagement'.

The key sites have differing priorities, so cooperation and consensus is required to deliver this plan. The National Park ethos must be maintained, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, tranquillity, and cultural heritage. Where there is irreconcilable conflict between the stakeholders, the Stanford Principle will be applied and conservation will be given greater weight.

Consultation by the National Park Authority is under way on a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on the Long Causeway at Stanage Edge. The TRO is to stop motorised vehicles from this by-way between Redmires and Dennis Knoll. The PDNP would like comments on this proposal, and also the Roych near Rushup Edge with another proposed TRO.

We were hoping to give some good news regarding High Riggs common land but despite all our efforts access has not yet been secured, but we have not given up. Further problems have arisen on Rod Moor where a new fence has been erected along High Riggs Road, meaning access on to the moor is via the public footpath at Crawshaw Lodge making the whole moor a cul-de sac, meaning there is no through route on the moor. We are talking to the PDNP on both these matters to get better access and some access to the common land.

Remember there are things you can do even from your living room, write to the PDNP about the TRO's on Stanage Long Causeway and the Roych at Rushup Edge and look at the SMP draft masterplan and comment on the ideas put forward.

## **Coach Rambles – Susan Rushworth**

As I write we are still looking forward to our last coach ramble to the Whitby area. The coach is fully booked and all have fingers crossed that, unlike two years ago, the walk along the coast will be in fine weather.

The weather was reasonably kind on our other two trips. In April we went to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The walks which took in many local highlights were led by Stuart Parker and Geoff Mullett, both members of Lincolnshire Ramblers Group. In May we visited the Pendle area. Both groups climbed Pendle Hill enjoying extensive views.

Many thanks to all the group members who led the walks which were very much enjoyed by all who took part.

Next year we are planning coach rambles to Howgills, the Yorkshire Wolds and the Buckden area of the Yorkshire Dales.

## **Membership – Malcolm MacKay**

During the last year, 75 new Ramblers members joined Sheffield Group, so recruitment is quite successful.

Group membership at the end of August 2012 was 747 compared with 738 for the end of August 2011, an improvement of a little over 1 %. This however is just a snapshot of one month and might not be representative.

Comparing the average of monthly totals for the two years smooths out the monthly variations. For 2011-2 this was 748, down compared with 751 for 2010-11, a fall of about 1/2 %.

It is probably fair to conclude that the group membership has not been significantly different to the previous year. Viewed optimistically, the recent decline in numbers may be coming to an end.

## **Rambles – Paul Pugh**

After another good year in 2012, the response from leaders to lead walks in 2013 has again been excellent. We have gained some new leaders and look forward to their walks. The route descriptions are always enhanced by their titles such as: 'Mushroom and Herring to Start, Ham to Finish'; 'In the Footsteps of the Romans'; 'Rollercoaster'; and 'Bring Your Own Golf Clubs' to name but a few.

There will be three Sunday Coach Rambles: the first to Sedburgh and The Howgills, second from the Yorkshire Wolds to Filey, and a third trip to has yet to verified and also a Tuesday Coach Ramble to Tittlesworth and The Roaches. Following on from previous years there will also be three Car Rambles too. There were a number of Tuesday dates not filled and so walks will be added to the website as the year progresses.

The job of receiving walks from leaders, collating and putting the Programme together is often complicated by requests for a certain day for a particular walk and this year is no exception, although all requests have been fulfilled successfully. At the end of the process there are always bus timetable changes and these have to be researched and the Programme altered to reflect these changes right up to days before the Programme is sent to the printer. So thanks is due to the Rambles Committee for all the hard work involved.

### **Rights of Way – David Woodhead**

Over the last twelve months we have continued our regular meetings with the officers in the Sheffield City Council Rights of Way Unit. There are positive signs that these meetings are worthwhile. We are consulted on all rights of way and access matters. In the last twelve months things have been fairly quiet with a feeling that things are just ticking over. As expected the processing of claims under the Rights of Way Improvement Plan has slowed down.

Concern was caused when some locals reported being stopped on the path to Wharnccliffe Woods from More Hall Bridge. We were asked by the Rights of Way Unit to gather evidence of use in case the path was challenged. We have since learned that someone may have been trying to enter the farm track rather than the right of way..

When members find a blocked path within the Sheffield boundary we ask them to report the matter directly to the Rights of Way Unit (Tel: 0114 273 4448) and let me know they have done so, as this is more effective, and we can follow the matter up and find out if any action as been taken.

### **“The Sheffield Rambler” – Christine Hewitt and Linda Cooley**

The last paper edition of our newsletter, “The Sheffield Rambler”, under Christine's editorship, was issued in the summer.

We then began a new venture: an electronic version. The committee took the decision to move into the age of electronic communications not only because it is a more economical way of keeping in touch with members, but to get news out more frequently and while it is still up to date. There will now be eight editions every year instead of two, one after each committee meeting.

The newsletter can be read on our website or members can sign up to have it delivered to their email box. We already have 78 people on our distribution list. Anyone who would like to be added to the list can register on the website simply by clicking on the Newsletter registration button and putting their name in the box that appears. If you have any difficulties with registration, please contact the Newsletter editor at: [newsletter@sheffieldramblers.org](mailto:newsletter@sheffieldramblers.org)

### **Transport – John Brightmore**

2012 has been a fairly quiet year for public transport into the countryside around Sheffield, with very few changes to the bus and train services. However, from 29<sup>th</sup> October all journeys on service 57 to Stocksbridge are now operated by Stagecoach,

with Sunday journeys at 55 minutes past the hour from Sheffield. The Supertram link from Middlewood now operates all day.

The number of passengers using TM Travel's 214 and 215 services to Bakewell and Matlock via Chatsworth has grown tremendously. Double-deckers are normally used on these services, and when a single-decker is used problems can occur. However most of the double-deckers used are old and second-hand. As TM's parent company Trent Barton operate a mainly single-decker fleet, what will replace them remains unclear. This will need to be watched.

### **Treasurers Report and audited accounts year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 - Jackie Knight**

We received £2,400 from Area as was requested for the year. This has proved to be adequate for the groups needs and we end the year in a strong position with £2,748.58 in the bank adjusted to £2,213.58 once account is taken of outstanding deposits and cheques.

The Lecture programme delivered a surplus of £47 which contributed to a donation of £50 to Edale Mountain Rescue. This was as a result of generally good levels of attendance and several lectures being delivered free of charge by our own members.

Income and payments for coach trips distort our formal accounts, which are included at the end of this report, as these run across financial years. In addition costs of the Barn Dance also cause a distortion. As the actual figures for coach trips are of more interest and relevance than those shown in the accounts the position is summarised below:

- ▲ Four coach trips were funded by members and resulted in an overall surplus of approximately £200 as all seats were sold on 3 out of four trips.

Once again all the tickets for the Barn Dance were sold fully covering the costs.

We have submitted a request for funding of £2,350 from Area for 2012/13 (£50 less than in 2011/12) which will be adequate to cover our needs and meets the reserve policy of the Ramblers – we are awaiting the outcome of this request.

### **Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group – Christine Hewitt**

Ramblers Sheffield Group was instrumental in starting what is now the Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group. SVIWG is now has a membership of about 130, half of whom are visually impaired and the remainder are sighted guides and we walk regularly 4 times per month.

This year a small party took on the challenge of Ben Nevis, raising around £3,000.00 in sponsorship monies for completing the climb.

Over the years Sheffield Group members have been very supportive, both as guides and as walk leaders. We have benefited greatly from the knowledge and expertise of experienced ramblers who know the area well and have lead us on excellent walks. We are extremely grateful to all those who have helped us and this Annual Report gives us a chance to say a heartfelt thank you.

One or two of those who have supported us so well over the past years are finding it a little more difficult as they get older so, as we begin to put together our walks programme for next year, we are looking for a few new walk leaders. Please, if you think you can lead just one walk for us, on either a Wednesday or a Sunday during 2013, please contact John Bater on 0114 2334080

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[www.sheffieldramblers.org](http://www.sheffieldramblers.org)

Name: Sheffield  
 Code:

Year ended: 30/09/12

Main					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
From CO (funding)			To CO		
From CO (other)			To Area		
From Area (funding)	2,400.00	1,900.00	To Group (funding)		
From Area (other)			To Group (other)		
From Group			To S/W Council		
From S/W Council			Walks programmes	1,054.00	1,457.10
T/fer from 'Self-funded'			Walks related	427.00	890.00
Donations	173.00		Walks leader training	160.00	97.00
Legacies			Newsletters/publicity	424.96	262.16
Grants			Publication/goods costs		
Fundraising			Campaigns/casework	30.00	
Deposit interest	2.43	3.60	Practical work		
Investment income			Fundraising costs		
Publication/goods sales		58.90	Meetings (inc. AGM)	262.50	257.00
Advert sales			Admin	190.76	307.90
Other	347.00	507.00	Other	659.00	1,250.45
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>2,922.43</b>	<b>2,469.50</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,208.22</b>	<b>4,521.61</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>-285.79</b>	<b>-2,052.11</b>			

Self-funded					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
Day walks	1,751.00	970.50	Day walks	2,110.00	915.00
Holidays		663.89	Holidays		399.50
Socials		1,230.00	Socials	750.25	1,000.00
Deposit interest			T/fer to 'Main'		
Other			Other		
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>1,751.00</b>	<b>2,864.39</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>2,860.25</b>	<b>2,314.50</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>-1,109.25</b>	<b>549.89</b>			



Name: Sheffield  
 Code:

Year ended: 30/09/12

Cashbook reconciliation					
		Main	Self-funded	Total	
Opening balance		1,208.78	2,399.84	<b>3,608.62</b>	[A]
Surplus/(deficit) on R&P		-285.79	-1,109.25	<b>-1,395.04</b>	[B]
<b>Closing balance (rows A + B + C)</b>		<b>922.99</b>	<b>1,290.59</b>	<b>2,213.58</b>	[C]

Closing balances (please give breakdowns below)	Cash	Bank	Total		Variance
	-	2,213.58	<b>2,213.58</b>	[D]	-

[C] - [D]

Cash		
	Held by	Amount
1		
2		
3		
4		

Bank account 1				
A/c no:	20168100	Institution:		
A/c name:	Ramblers Association (SD3) Sheffield Group	Balance per statement	2,748.58	
<b>Reconciling items:</b>	Date	To/from	Ref no.	Amount
	30/09/12	Self-Funded day walks in/from	Hewitt	51.00
	27/03/12	To Nat Trust - not cashed	300252	-38.00
	07/09/12	To J Knight admin	300270	-16.00
	24/09/12	To M Haythorne website/other	300271	-144.00
	27/09/12	To Hoggies Travel/day walks	300269	-375.00
	29/09/12	To FD Woodhead/admin	300272	-13.00
<b>Balance per cashbook</b>				<b>2,213.58</b>