

# The Sheffield Rambler



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## Secretaries: past and present

Since our appeal for a secretary in the last Newsletter, Val Coleman has been formally accepted as our new Group Secretary, and will be ably assisted by Christine Whittaker. What a team! They will follow on from Neill Schofield, who has just retired. Over the years Neill has made a massive contribution to the Sheffield group. He won't be missed (joke!) as he will continue to be a member of the Committee and I am sure he will make his usual very positive contributions. Thank you very much Neill for all your hard work and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Val and Christine. I'm looking forward to working with you.

## Terry Howard Chairperson



## Walking Out 2014 Appeal for new walk leaders.

The loss of several leaders led to a reduced programme for Walking Out in 2013 and more have dropped out since. So far, though, increased publicity has resulted in good attendances and a gradual upsurge of new walkers, which means more potential new members for the Sheffield Group. In fact, most new members are being recruited via Walking Out.

Sheffield Group is proud to be the last remaining survivor of this initiative, but to maintain this tradition new walk leaders and back markers are required for 2014. Volunteering to lead or back mark just one walk will ease the pressure on the established group of regulars and keep Walking Out alive.

One Tuesday a month we run a Strollers walk of less than 3 miles. One Thursday and one Saturday a month we run a Striders walk of between 5 and 8 miles. We meet the group at the Travel Interchange at 10am and accompany them to the start of the walk. If you would like to become a leader, back marker or both, please contact me at [roberthaslam0@googlemail.com](mailto:roberthaslam0@googlemail.com) or ring 0114 287 9466. To see the leaflet for 2013, visit <http://www.sheffieldramblers.org/documents/WalkingOutProgramme2013.pdf>

**Terry Howard and Rob Haslam, Co-ordinator, Walking Out in Sheffield.**

## Possible new concessionary bridleways on the Longshaw Estate?

The National Trust has consulted us on plans to make three footpaths on the Longshaw Estate into concessionary bridleways. This would mean that they could be used by cyclists and horse-riders as well as walkers.

The paths concerned are three broad tracks – the track that goes from Longshaw Lodge to the Wooden Pole (at the junction of the A625 and the B6054), the track from Longshaw Lodge to the A625 near the Grouse Inn, and the track from the Longshaw gatehouse on the B6521 Grindleford road to the bottom of the Burbage valley. The thinking behind it is to improve the connections with other bridleways for cyclists and horse-riders, so that they can avoid busy roads.

Landowners have the complete right to introduce concessionary paths at any time. It is very important for us that no-one is proposing to change the legal status of the paths. If there are problems with a concessionary path the concession can simply be withdrawn.

The main thing that we have pressed for is that all users – existing as well as new ones – must be able to enjoy the paths and feel safe while doing so. Naturally we are concerned about how the change impacts on ramblers, but at Longshaw there are particular issues about young families with push-chairs and toddlers, elderly people, and wheelchair users. They need to be able to continue to use the paths and to feel safe in doing so.

People from cycling organisations have spoken about the need to ensure good behaviour by cyclists. There must be an absolute rule that cyclists give way to horse-riders, and that both give way to walkers. The new users must treat walkers – of all ages and types – at all times with respect.

We also want the use by horse-riders to be monitored, particularly in terms of their impact on the surface for other users – including push-chairs and wheelchairs.

We have pressed that the whole situation must be actively managed by the National Trust. Sufficient National Trust resources such as rangers must be devoted to it, and lessons must be learned from other situations. There are examples where conflict between different types of users has been avoided, but also where unacceptable situations have developed, such as on the Monsal Trail. We want the National Trust to take the time to learn from best practice elsewhere, and not rush the changes through without adequate resourcing.

We also want the National Trust to think about how walkers can get more out of Longshaw. There have been some good new footpaths on the Estate over the last year or two – and of course it is still the case that the vast majority of paths are only for walkers. But walkers were instrumental in raising funds for the original purchase of the Estate for the National Trust, and there are still opportunities to improve the footpath network for us.

**Neill Schofield**  
C o m m i t t e e  
member



## Walks Leaders' Meeting: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 at Burton Street Community Centre – 7 for 7.30pm

We have arranged a meeting for all walks leaders and for anyone who might consider leading in the future. Do come along if you haven't led before – you will find other leaders more than willing to help you, perhaps pre-walking with someone and backmarking for them, or joining with someone to do a walk together.

The main purpose of the meeting is to tell you about our new way of sending in walks for next year's programme. Dave Jefferies (our web manager) has been working very hard setting up a computer programme that gives us a very straightforward online form to fill in, which is almost identical to our old forms. It then transforms the information into suitable formats for the printed programme and the Ramblers online Walksfinder.

Dave will go through the whole process and there will be hand-outs to take away to remind you of what to do. Please don't worry if you don't have Internet access as we will be making sure there is provision for your walks to be included.

We hope this system will give people a chance to choose their own walks dates – though obviously, as before, the earlier you put them in the better chance you have to get your preferred dates.

There will be 'nibbles and cold drinks' (non-alcoholic!) before the meeting which will include other relevant items and general discussions. Unfortunately, we couldn't get a city

centre location for the meeting but Burton Street is very close to the tram (Bamforth Street) and there is street parking nearby.

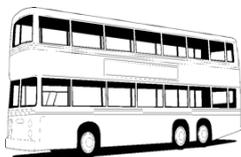
Please make every effort to come if you are in Sheffield on that date. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Rambles Committee



Pictures courtesy of  
<http://www.freedigitalphotos.net>

## TRANSPORT: BUS CHANGES from Monday 22nd July



Would members please note that the week-day **214** service from **Sheffield to Matlock via Chatsworth House** operated by TM Travel is to be withdrawn completely due to withdrawal of support funding by Derbyshire County Council. To cover for this the **218** service from **Sheffield to Bakewell** is to be extended to **Matlock via Chatsworth**. This bus runs via Abbeydale Road and Totley.

The changes will mean that from Monday to Saturday the only buses serving **Foxhouse** from Sheffield will be the **65** and **272** and the only ones serving **Grindleford** and **Calver Sough** will be the **65** and **275**.

Timetable leaflets for the new 218 are not yet available, but the new timetable is on Derbyshire County Council's website:  
[www.Derbyshire.gov.uk/Buses](http://www.Derbyshire.gov.uk/Buses).

These changes will affect the following **Wednesday walks**: 24th July, 14th August, 25th September, 2nd October, 6th November. These walks will now use the **09.20, 218 Matlock bus**.

From **27th July on Saturdays only** there will be additional buses on the new **218** at **08.20** to **Matlock via Bakewell** and at **08.40** to **Bakewell only**.

**John Brightmore**  
**Public Transport Rep**

## Policy on obituaries

Following a query from a member of the Ramblers about obituaries appearing in the Newsletter, the committee has decided that, in future, we will not include obituaries.

We took this decision because the Newsletter is published only after committee meetings and these are held rather irregularly during the year. This means that it may be several weeks after a death occurs that a Newsletter appears and it seems inappropriate to write an obituary weeks after the event.

We will, however, announce the death of any member where we are made aware of the situation so that the news is spread to those who may not have heard about it, and we will mention any particular contributions that the person has made to the Ramblers.

**Linda Cooley**  
**Editor**

## JOHN BUNTING

John Bunting, our longest serving member, who worked tirelessly for the Ramblers for many years as Area Vice President and National Vice President died recently. Obituaries will appear on the Area Website and other Ramblers' information outlets.