

# The Sheffield Rambler

## Spirit of Kinder



It's that time of year again. The "Spirit of Kinder" event will be held at Edale Community Centre (in the car park) on Saturday 22nd April 2017 at 2.00pm. It will celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the 1932 Kinder Trespass with contributions by speakers who will focus on Kinder and its future, the rewetting and restoration of the upland moor. The speakers will be Helen Ghosh, Director General of the National Trust, Steven Trotter, Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust and Vanessa Griffiths, Chief Executive of the Ramblers (tbc). Entertainment provided by Sally Goldsmith, Sheffield singer song writer, and Roney Robinson of Radio Sheffield who will MC the event. There will also be the launch of the much anticipated book based on old glass slides and photos of the 1900s and 20s, "Clarion Call". See you there.

**Terry Howard**

**Chairperson**



## Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group (SVIWG)

<http://www.sviwg.co.uk>

This walking group, which is affiliated to the Ramblers, is unique. If you google “visually impaired walking group” the only one you will get is us. Consequently, we get enquiries from around the country from people interested in different aspects of what we do and how we do it. Here are a couple of examples of the kind of enquiries we get and where they lead us.

In March last year we were joined on a Sunday walk by Matt Writtle, a professional photographer exploring what people now do on Sundays instead of going to church, as the majority of people used to do. I am pleased to say that Matt contacted me recently to say that the SVIWG made it into the final cut for a book he is planning to publish. So we will be looking forward to more news of that. He has also entered the SVIWG pictures in The World Press Photos Contest. He says not to get excited about that. He has entered this competition every year for a number of years but has not won anything yet. You never know . . . this might be his lucky year! For more information about Matt go to his website: [mattwrittle.com](http://mattwrittle.com)

This year we will be joined on a couple of occasions by a research worker from Exeter University who is engaged in a project examining the role of nature-based settings in promoting a sense of wellbeing amongst people with visual impairments. We are very pleased to help with this kind of research work.

For more information contact Christine Hewitt at [hewitt.c4@sky.com](mailto:hewitt.c4@sky.com)



## Annual Closure of Moors for Bird Nesting

Over quite a number of years the moors to the west of Sheffield have had an annual closure for bird nesting. This period has been from mid-May to mid-June; however, as of now we have received NO notifications of closures this year. These moors are now owned by the Haddon Estate, so we are assuming that, being under new management, must be a new policy. If we hear anything to the contrary, we will inform you.

Good roaming to all.

**Les Seaman**

**Access Officer**

## The Position of Group Chair (Chairman)

I have been Chair of the Sheffield Group of the Ramblers for far longer than any other previous member of the group. I feel that it is now time to try and infuse new thought and enthusiasm into the Group, so I will definitely be retiring as Chair at the AGM in November. For several years now I have invited other members to consider being the next Chair, but, as yet, no one has come forward, even though we have many members who are more than capable of carrying out the role. I am informing everyone well in advance of my retirement in order to allow plenty of time and opportunity for members to consider who to nominate for the next Chair. There may also be other officers who want to consider their retirement or changing the present role they play on the committee. Perhaps we need to have a wider discussion on Group Officeholders.

**Terry Howard**

**Chairperson**



## A Favourite Walk of Mine

I suppose in Sheffield terms I am still a fairly newcomer, although it's been three and a half years now since I came here. I remember arriving and knowing no-one except my children, who already lived here. You know, they come to study and never leave, they settle down and suddenly, you find yourself following them up here. But having just retired, I wanted to pursue friendships and hobbies as well. So I studied the Sheffield Telegraph and, being a walking fan, I looked at the outdoor events column.

I read about a walk being organised by the Walking Out programme for that week and, having got directions to the Sheffield Interchange, (and I won't even go into the change of language needed by a Southerner to negotiate this far!), I looked around for a likely walking group. Problem: there were several, all waiting in small groups at different stops. Which one to choose? The one I first tried turned out to be the Visually Impaired Walking Group, but they said I could join them if I wanted to. I held out for a bit longer, and found Neill Schofield and a little band of very untried and hesitant walkers. We ended up taking the bus to almost the very part of town where I lived – I could have walked there from my house. Ha ha! But it was a brilliant walk over Parkwood Springs and beyond, with an extended local history lesson thrown in, on a bright sunny day with excellent company and plenty of laughter. When the walk ended and Neill said he was walking back to the start point, as that was where he lived, I walked back with him at a faster pace and then walked home. I was exhilarated and knew I would stay with the Sheffield Ramblers.

I gradually joined longer and longer walks and then settled with the Tuesday group, mainly because they know how to walk, but also to stop and stare and chat about things we come across. But every group has been so welcoming and many walkers have taken the trouble to point out places of interest to me along the way (and teach me Sheffield expressions like “claggy” and “mardy”!) I realise now that I know more about Sheffield and surrounding district than I ever knew about the Kentish area, where I used to live. And I have made some good friends.

I have so many favourite walks and destinations, but one walk, that stands out, began at Calver Sough and led us over the hill via Great Longstone, to Bakewell river meadow for our lunch, then on to Calton Lees. It was a varied and demanding walk, and near Great Longstone we passed through a summer flower meadow in full bloom, gently moving in the breeze: I just wanted to stay there, it was magical. So quiet, so perfect, so sudden and unexpected. Not seen by anyone except those on foot (and the farmer of course). It made sense of my need to walk, filled me with total awe.

So, there you go: I was smitten. And now I just keep putting my walking boots on whenever I can, and see what walk is on the Ramblers' programme.

Margaret Ford



**Beginning in Calver Sough**



**On to Great Longstone**



**Passing by Bakewell River Meadow**



**And so to Calton Lees**

