



# SHEFFIELD RAMBLERS

Annual Report November 2018

## Chair's Report

The Chair's position has remained vacant this year following last year's Annual General Meeting and the resignation of Terry Howard. Individual members of the Executive Committee have taken on the role of 'chair' at their meetings this year. The Sheffield Group continues to be proactive on all matters walking. The Officer's reports that follow outline the challenges faced and the activities undertaken by the group this year.

Val Coleman Secretary

## Access Officer's Report

The long hot summer did not lead to moor closures because of fire risk, which for us as walkers was very good. Areas to the west and northwest of the Peak District were not so lucky and moorland fires were a major problem.

The area of concern, which we highlighted last year, was namely CAP and the implications of it on the countryside and our access to it. To this end the Government has published:-

'A Green future: Our 25 year plan to improve the environment'

This plan is committed to the National Parks and AONB and it also says that when we leave the EU, the environment regulations already in place will be enshrined into UK law. It says that the very high standards now in place will be maintained, of course this is always subject to available finances.

Next year is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the setting up of the National Parks and the Peak district National Park came into being. Let's hope it will continue and keep the improvements we all have achieved such as the CROW Act in 2000.

The moors around Sheffield and South Yorkshire are managed by a consortium of different organisations, such as PDNP, NT, RSPB, SWLT, SCC and YWA. These bodies are accountable and as such consult with the users of the moors and countryside, so when such consultations take place please get involved and make your feelings known so action can be taken to resolve any grievances you may have. So let's hope we can continue to enjoy the freedoms to roam in our wonderful moorland, and good roaming in the year to come.

Les Seaman

## **Coach Rambles**

This year we have once again had four coach rambles. The first Sunday trip in April went to Saltburn where both the A walk and the B walk went along a scenic part of the Cleveland way to finish by the seaside giving an opportunity to finish the day with fish and chips. The Sunday walk in May went to the Yorkshire Wolds where both the A and the B walks followed parts of the Wolds way through the amazing chalk landscape with its chalk valleys finishing in Pocklington. In June the Tuesday coach ramble went to Hartington for a walk through Dovedale taking in the stunning limestone scenery. The last Sunday coach ramble of the year in September went the Yorkshire Dales. The B Group were led on a circular walk from Grassington while the coach took the A group further up Wharfedale to start their walk in Buckden ascending Buckden Pike and walking above the valley before descending to Grassington.

We were able to fill the coach for the April and September trips though there were some empty seats in June and May. Most people joined one of the led walks, but some came on the coach but did their own short walks or explored the area. We were also pleased to welcome some members who do not regularly walk with our groups. With the price for all trips set at £12 we were able to cover costs this year.

We are planning our trips for next year and welcome suggestions for destinations and walks. Currently we are consulting on the feasibility of a Wednesday coach ramble in July or August.

Liz Savage

## **Rambler's 'Fixit' News**

I am pleased to report that FIXIT is ongoing and working on the first Monday of each month, (unless it is a bank holiday or the weather so bad working is impossible)

Regular members of the team are:- John Taylor, Joan Taylor, Chris Dauris, David Hogg, Barry Ashton, Cynthia Ashton, Laurence Turner, Liz Savage, Jan Randall  
We have also welcomed Will Carlile this year, who joined us on several occasions.

Sheffield firms have been generous in interest and donations for our work this year:-

- Arnold Laver for seasoned timber to construct hand rails on steep-stepped footpaths
- Hillsborough Firm for strips of non-slip aluminium to make wooden plank bridges safe in winter.

We have enjoyed good working relations this year with The Rights of Way Department at Sheffield Council. We discuss, view and consider jobs with Tony Andrews and work with his team of Rangers, who bring transport, tools and materials to the working site. The Rights of Way Department have however suffered from cuts in money and staff this year.

Many thanks to members of Sheffield Ramblers who have fed us jobs that they have identified while on walks or noticed in their home area. This input is invaluable. Jot down a location reference, preferably with a grid reference together with a brief description of work needed. Give it to any member of the team listed earlier, or put it on the Ramblers blog, and it will be considered.

Our team can tackle the following types of job:- Plank bridges, Path widening/levelling/surfacing, Cutbacks, Dry-stone walling repairs(simple), Gabions and Retments, Removal of invasive plants, Drainage ditches and pipe laying, Handrails and barriers, Simple bench replacements, Footpath signs and Litter picking (occasionally)

Jan Randall

### **Membership Secretary**

We are still successfully recruiting, and members transfer to us from Sheffield 20's and 30's, and from Sheffield 40's.

Sheffield group membership at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 was 560 individuals and we recruited 40 new members during the previous year. Unfortunately we ended the year with 24 members less than a year earlier.

The group structure invented to encourage younger walkers to join the Ramblers has changed the original recruitment pattern where Sheffield Group attracted new starters of all ages who then stayed with the group, with some eventually becoming leaders and committee members. Younger potential recruits are naturally attracted to the Ramblers groups that target their age group, but this reduces the numbers likely to join Sheffield group with its mix of ages. There is also an obvious attraction for members of the other groups to stay with their friends as they get older.

In spite of these disadvantages, Sheffield group is still large and active. In the "Good Old Days" there was only the one regular walk each week on the Sunday. We now offer a choice of days and distance with the result that many more members are taking part in the group walks.

There are many ways to measure success.

Malcolm MacKay

### **Rambles Report**

I think I could just send last year's report and it would be accurate again!

Once again, we have had good walking during the year and that is thanks to all our leaders – and perhaps the weather helped this summer! But, as before, a few of the leaders are doing more than their fair share, especially when it comes to filling in late gaps in the programme. It would be good to share that load.

About 10 of our leaders are doing 50% of the walks. If you don't lead at all at present perhaps you could try just one walk and if you are one of the 20 or so folk who have led one perhaps you could add another? Every extra walk would help and we do realise how much people appreciate the variety of walks in the programme and more leaders helps sustain that variety.

We've had some comments about the fact that leaders' names are not always shown on their walks. This is all due to the new legislation that means everyone has to give their permission for their name to appear. Some may have deliberately withheld that permission but others may be having difficulties with the form. If you are one of the latter please get in touch with the Rambles Committee ([rambles@sheffieldramblers.org](mailto:rambles@sheffieldramblers.org)) and we will help you through it. You can opt to have your name shown on both the website and the emails which go to members only, or only on the emails.

As ever we are looking forward to more good walking during the rest of the year and in 2019.

The Rambles Committee

## **Rights of Way**

This last year we have had no Footpath Officer, but we decided that work would carry on with various members taking on some of the tasks. This was also an opportunity 'to bring on board' the other Sheffield Ramblers groups. We met on several occasions with Sheffield Rights of Way Team to discuss rights of way issues and to look at new shared initiatives. We decided to research and survey several stiles between Worrall, Bradfield, and Dam Flask which were considered difficult to use and potentially unsafe. Several were on the 'Sheffield Country Walk'. From this survey we have put together a project which we are hoping will bring in funding, (with match funding from the Rights of Way Unit), which will enable the stiles to be made easier and safer to use. Some of the work can be carried out by our own highly regarded 'Fix It' team along with Ranger Teams. The title of the project is 'Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvements' (BAWI).

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area of the Ramblers have put together a 'Ploughing and Cropping' campaign to map and take action against those who don't reinstate paths or allow crops to block footpaths. Members can be involved in this campaign by reporting problems. Details of how to report problems can be found on the email to members who want to receive them as well as on the annual leaflet which will be circulated to all members.

We have also been involved in the 'Lost Ways' where we research possible rights of way that have been lost or 'stolen'. Christine Whittaker has made the first claim on

behalf of our group for a lost right of way at Moscar. Much work was done for this claim so well done and thanks. More are on the way.

Terry Howard

### **Public Transport Report**

It has been a mixed year for public transport into our countryside. The chaos concerning the new timetable which should have started in May for train services operated by Northern Trains continues to rumble on, with trains cancelled and buses substituted and hasn't been helped by the continuing dispute between the RTM Union, Northern Trains and the Department of Transport over the future of guards with many one day strikes being held.

However we have seen the welcome introduction of Sunday morning train services on the Sheffield to Lincoln line, which have given access to walks around Kiveton Park area and Chesterfield canal.

In May the Ramblers were invited to take part in filming by the BBC for a new programme which I understand is to be called 'Rambling by Train over the last 100 years', which should be screened sometime next year. Three members from Sheffield and two from Area met TV presenter Michael Portillo at Edale station and filming was done outside the Nags Head Pub and on a short walk up Grindsbrook. Terry Howard talked about the famous Sheffield Ramblers GHB Ward and the Kinder Mass Trespass. So watch out for this being around.

On the buses the bulk of the 65 route to Buxton was taken over by Stagecoach in July, who are doing a good job to promote the route through their timetable leaflets and route branding. Please note that from September all services on the 61 and 62 route to Bradfield now start once again from Hillsborough Interchange. This is probably due to lack of numbers being carried from the city centre.

New editions of the excellent Derbyshire CC Timetable Books for the Peak District and N.E. Derbyshire are now available price £2.50. However these can no longer be bought in Sheffield, nearest outlets are Chesterfield Bus Station and Bakewell and Matlock Tourist Information Centres.

For information on Public Transport in our area visit: [www.travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com)  
[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses)

John Brightmore

### **Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group**

It has been a good year for recruitment with new members joining both V. I. P.s and sighted guides. We have also been contacted by the Sheffield Brain Injury rehab

team, who wanted to know if we could help any of their clients by guiding them on our walks.

One of our V.I.P.s has been voted 'Cricketer of the year' and as a result was selected to coach other V.I.P.s in the West Indies and was very successful coaching cricketers male and female of all generations.

We did not have a coach ramble or fund raising challenge this year, but our annual walking holiday departed on the 16<sup>th</sup> September to Shropshire.

David Cadet

## **IT Report**

I was looking forward to a fairly quiet year with one thing to do which was to write some notes for our new deputy IT Officer Stuart Bloom. Then in April I found out that we had to make some major changes for the new privacy legislation (GDPR) which has involved a lot of work and large sections of our web site and other parts of our IT system have had to be checked and re-written.

The regulations are sensible and necessary given the way that personal information has been handed around by some companies and charities. The change means that you have to explicitly give your consent to receive communications from the Ramblers including the Sheffield group by post, paper or (my concern) email. Walks leaders also need to consent to having their name visible to other members or on our public walks lists. They also need to give consent for their contact details to be displayed in members-only walks lists etc. However many members who received emails in the past have not given their consent to continuing to receive them so it is difficult to keep in contact. A number of walks leaders have not given their consent for their name to be displayed so that their walks list entries do not have the leader's name. Some leaders might not know that their name is not being shown for their walks so you might want to point it out. I know that many members look at our public walks list as their main source of information and knowing who is leading a walk is very useful but the decision about what will be displayed is up to the walks leader.

If you, or any member you know, want Sheffield Ramblers emails but are not getting them the simplest solution is to phone the Ramblers membership services on **020 7339 8595** and ask them to record your consent to getting emails. I can then update our email lists when I see the membership list at the start of the following month.

If you are a walks leader you can manage your consents by logging in to the Walks Leaders pages then selecting **Edit Leader** from the menu. Read the notes and tick or fill in the boxes. If you are happy for your name to be visible to both members and others tick both the consent boxes. If you are not on email contact a member of the Rambles Committee who can help.

Dave Jefferies, IT & Web officer, [it@sheffieldramblers.org](mailto:it@sheffieldramblers.org)

## **Treasurers Report - year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

We received £750 from Area for the year. This has proved adequate for the groups needs and we end the year with a balance of £2,108 in the bank adjusted to £1,615 (Main Account £1,264 + Self Funded £351) once account is taken of outstanding payments (an increase of £241 over the previous year - Main Account + £91 Self Funded £150).

Total receipts were £3,595 and total payments were £3,354.

We spent £199 on producing and delivering the annual walks programme.

We spent £210 on walk recce costs and walk leader and backmarker coach fares.

Hire of rooms for Committee meetings including the 2017 AGM plus a walk leaders meeting totalled £453.

Group administration costs including web hosting charges totalled £91.

Sales of Sheffield Country Walk booklets amounted to £90 for 44 booklets leaving a stock of 206 booklets.

We received £430 from Ramblers holidays in respect of member's bookings.

In the 2017/18 financial year we paid out £2,175 on 5 coach trips and received £2,325 in payments. This fully funded coach costs and produced a £150 surplus to increase the balance in our self-funding pot to £351.

We have agreed to accept a basic allocation (based on member numbers) of £651 from Area for 2018/19 rather than bidding for any additional funding.

Jackie Knight October 2018