



RAMBLERS

Sheffield

The 2022 Annual Report of the Sheffield Ramblers Group (SD3)

All members and representatives
of affiliated organisations
are requested to attend
the **Annual General Meeting**
on Monday November 7th 2022
Quaker Meeting Rooms, St James Street
Sheffield S1 2EW
starting at 7:30pm
(Refreshments available from 7:00pm)



Rocks on Kinder - August 2022

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starting at 7:30pm**

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Appointment of Tellers
4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting
and any matters arising
5. Adoption of the Annual Report for 2021/2022
6. Treasurer's Report – Adoption of Accounts for year ending September 30th 2022
7. Vote of Thanks to the Independent Examiner
And Appointment of Independent Examiner for the accounts ending Sept 30th 2023
8. Election of a) Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
b) Other Executive Committee Members
c) Group Representatives on SYNED Area Council and other bodies
9. Agree which Officers will authorise Bank Transactions on behalf of the Group
10. Affiliations to Kindred Organisations
Recommendations are: CPRE; Peak & Northern Footpaths Society;
Friends of Kinder; the Peak District Green Lane Alliance (PDGLA);
Friends of the TransPennine Trail and the Open Spaces Society.
11. Any Other Business / Notices
(Please inform Chair/Secretary prior to start of AGM)

After the formal meeting and a short break:-
we will be showing the documentary film

"Ramble On"

ALL MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND & PARTICIPATE

(Please DON'T attend this meeting if you are feeling unwell or are suffering from the onset of the most common Coronavirus symptoms such as a high temperature, a new irritating & continuous cough or a change in or loss of your sense of taste or smell)

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity
(England and Wales no: 1093577, Scotland no: SC039799)
and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales no: 4458492.
Registered Office: The Ramblers, Third Floor, 1 Clink Street, London SE1 9DG

**Draft Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting
of the Sheffield Ramblers Group (SD3)
held on Monday November 8th 2021
at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sheffield and via Zoom App technology**

AGM: 2021.01: 33 Members attended the AGM - 25 in person and another 8 joined via Zoom. (See Appendix) We were also joined by Andrew McCloy, Chair of the Peak District National Park.

Neill Schofield had been elected to Chair the Meeting and he both thanked and welcomed everyone to the Meeting - our first physical one after two quite difficult years that we were still recovering from. We couldn't have imagined then what was going to hit us and affect how we lived our lives and the Group.

Tonight was one of the important steps to getting our show back on the road again, with restarting the walks programme being equally important. And it was going to still take quite an effort from all of us to get there, but we were gradually doing that and regaining the important role the Ramblers had in the lives of our members and for Sheffield in general.

AGM: 2021.02: Apologies for Absence: Fariba Ardubili, Andy Irwin, Jan Randall, Liz Savage & Margaret Seaman.

AGM: 2021.03: Appointment of Tellers: Judy Gathercole and Linda Cooley

AGM: 2021.04. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting and any matters arising (The 2020 AGM was Postponed due to Covid concerns) included in this year's AGM pack.

Secretary apologised that this had only gone out as a PDF via email. We had not been able to post it out as address labels had only just arrived. Would go out instead with SYNED Area Annual Report & AGM Notice shortly.

2019 AGM Minutes were formally adopted as a 'True Record'

CARRIED

Matters Arising: Issues had been dealt with within the confines of Covid restrictions. NOTED

AGM: 2021.05: Adoption of the Annual Report for 2020/2021

The **Secretary's Overview** gave a brief outline of what had happened over the last 12 months and how the various restrictions had affected our activities. But we were now slowly pulling through and getting out walking regularly again.

The restrictions of last and earlier this year had given way, with the welcome roll-out of vaccines, so that in April we could have a mini walking festival to start things off again with groups of six out but were now back to our regular Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday walks with between 12 and 20 people coming out. Pre-booking and limits were now rare.

Some walk leaders and members were still hesitant in coming out for a number of different reasons and we tended to get the walks put in the programme at short notice, which wasn't always convenient. The requirement for written risk assessments had put many leaders off. Most leaders were happy to do a pre-walk recce, but having to write their findings down on paper or ticking boxes seemed an unnecessary imposition. So at a time when we needed more walks for members and the newly walking public we had decided to add an additional burden, imposed without consultation for the sake of Central Office staff and their/our insurers. But many leaders had voted with their feet and now walked with their friends instead of with the Group.

Despite these issues, which he hoped would be ended soon, he repeated an earlier request asking other members to come forward to help with leading walks. Overall things were getting better as people had their jobs and felt more confident about coming out and using public transport.

Footpath work had also suffered during the lockdown, whether by us or local authority staff. We needed more volunteers to come forward to help us fix the paths we used and a new Fix It Team coordinator to lead them was still been sought.

Our thanks to Christine Whittaker for doing what she could.

But there was a lot of work to catch up on.

He thanked the various members of the EC who had continued to meet and work with him regularly through the year initially on Zoom, although not everyone could use it. We now were able to meet in person in hybrid meetings, despite some technical issues - which we endeavoured to overcome. The Group had continued to function and was slowly recovering and moving forward. We were developing a new website and walks programme system and would keep our members informed of these developments. A number of the EC were stepping down and needed to be replaced.

Secretary was thanked for his report and for his efforts in holding things together over last 18 months.

This was echoed by others at the meeting with a round of applause.

Rambles Sec Report – Judy Gathercole had little to add to what was in her report. But reminded members that she and others were in the process of arranging Christmas Meals and would need people's menu preferences asap. The dates were Tuesday December 7th, Wednesday 8th and Sunday 19th. She was thanked for her Report and work on the Rambles Committee which she was stepping down from.

Fix It Report – due to lack of volunteers, footpath work, when allowed, had been mostly path clearance work by Christine Whittaker and Steve Hughes.

Membership – Simon Gray reported that we had maintained our numbers in the Group and many of our new members had become regular walkers. There were others who we didn't see and maybe would come out if "new members' walks" were offered every 2 to 3 months to encourage them to join us. NS suggested it was a good sign that our numbers had held up, it hadn't for all organisations.

Access – Les Seaman suggested it had been a good year for access. He had never seen so many people out enjoying walking the surrounding moorside. Often busier than Sheffield High Street!

Nothing much has changed Moors For The Future and the Sheffield Moors Partnership had been active and there had been a lot of activity around the lakes and reservoirs with improving bridleways. Some restrictions remained due to land management issues. But there were proposals and possibly money to help improve access to moorland in the future but we were still waiting to see it on the ground.

Public Transport – John Brightmore reported that things continued to be unsatisfactory with services being cut back, compounded by a driver shortage due to sickness or going elsewhere. There was a lack of available printed information which started due to Covid but had continued long after.

Northern Trains had said they would start publishing timetables again, but had now decided not to. Still using two coach trains even though platforms had been lengthened to accommodate longer ones.

He continued to try to attend User Group meetings but many had been on Zoom which he had problems using. He hoped to attend the Meetings scheduled for January and will raise concerns there.

A discussion followed about the general unreliability of public transport at the moment which had an impact on our walks. People who are reliant on public transport are less willing to go out on walks unless they can guarantee getting home again. Issues of buses being cancelled or running late. Most walks were now circular and more people were using cars to get to them (and happy to give lifts).

Linear walks were more likely to be done in summer time. A recent case where walkers had been waiting two hours (at Baslow) in the dark for a 218 bus back. Luckily not on their own and ended up getting a shared taxi back. But could have been and we needed to raise this issue on behalf of all walkers. It was suggested that we could do more walks using car sharing in a more formal way (like other Sheffield Groups).

JB reported that the 65 timetable had been reduced on Sundays and TM who ran the 218 service said they were short of drivers. We needed to complain and get these disruptions logged with the bus companies and the SYPT.

Chair asked the EC to consider this further when they next met.

(Note: Louise Haigh, Heeley MP, had launched an App to complain about disrupted bus services in Sheffield at <https://betterbuses.louisehaigh.org.uk/>)

New Website Prototype was displayed on the screen at the meeting. Why was it necessary?
– Dave Jefferies who had created our current website and walks programme wished to step down and we needed a system that could replace what he had done. We were adopting a system already used by a large number of other Ramblers Groups, so had the advantage of technical back up if required. It had a more modern look and would also take a direct feed from the GWEM walks programme (or whatever replaced it). It was a more simplistic system requiring no coding knowledge, which meant others could be involved in putting pages on it and hopefully they would 'look after' their own sections.
Chair thanked SB for his work in developing the new website which look very good and also thanks to DJ for all his work over the years with the current website.

Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group – report supplied by its Chair, David Cadet, who wasn't present. We had supported this Group for many years and were glad to see it continued to prosper with its worthwhile activities.

Treasurer's Report – Our year end balance had been £1,176 (main account £1,016, self-funded £160) a decrease of £360 over the previous year (main account -£130, self-funded -£230). Total receipts were £1,376 and total payments were £1,736.

We had not drawn down any funding from Area this year as we had adequate monies for the groups limited needs. But would be asking for full allocation next year as expected normal Group activities to resume.

Further to her written report, Jackie Knight wished to draw the meeting's attention to three particular things. We had received a legacy of £500 from a Carol Walter towards: "*work on access issues and encouraging new people to take up walking*". This would be considered "reserved funding" but could be used for navigation or other training for example.

On coach trips – we had expected to have a shortfall due to costs (which included a large parking charge at Bolton Abbey) and fewer people on the coaches, but that came out of a self funded pot which we would have to build back up again. But worth doing as a way of getting away a bit further than normal.

Finally Ramblers Worldwide Holidays gives a donation to any Group a member who went on one of their holidays so designated. This had brought in an additional £30 this year and she hoped anyone able to go on a RWH tour next year would nominate our group for such payments.

Chair thanked JK for her Report and for her work looking after our cash.

AGM: 2021.06: Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 30/09/21

"That we formally adopt the Annual Report and Accounts"

AGREED UNAM

AGM: 2021.07: Vote of Thanks to the Independent Examiner

Had previously been Wad Klos but he had been too ill to do them, so had asked Dr Jess Cawley to examine them instead. Formally be 'thanked'

AGREED

AGM: 2021.08: Appointment of Independent Examiner for the accounts ending Sept 30th 2022. Dr Cawley was willing to do them next year too and was formally re-appointed.

AGREED

AGM: 2021.09: Officer Elections-

a) Chairman: We had received no nominations for this position, although it would be useful to have this position filled on a more permanent basis.

It would be covered by an EC member on a rotating basis.

b) Secretary :Malcolm Dixon was re-nominated as Secretary and thanked for his work.

AGREED

c) Treasurer : Jackie Knight was re-nominated as Treasurer and thanked for her work.

AGREED

d) Other Executive Committee Members

Neill Scholfield was stepping down from the EC. Dave Jefferies was stepping down from the EC but would continue to assist with the website. Judy Gathercole was stepping down as Rambles Sec but wished to remain on the EC.

Andy Irwin, Gabby Macpherson, Jam Tidy and St John O Donnabhain were willing to join the EC and were all nominated.

AGREED

Stuart Bloom, John Brightmore, Linda Cooley, Judy Gathercole, Simon Gray, Christine Hewitt, Terry Howard, Malcolm MacKay, Liz Savage, Les Seaman and Christine Whittaker were re-nominated to the EC and thanked for their services during the last 12 months.

AGREED

e) Group Representatives on SYNED Area Council and other bodies

Judy Gathercole and Malcolm Dixon were nominated as the Group's representatives on the SYNED Area Council. St John O Donnabhain would be our Footpath Officer and work with the other Sheffield Groups' Footpath Officers. John Brightmore and Judy Gathercole would represent the Group on the Transport Users Committee.

AGREED

AGM: 2021.10: Jackie Knight, Malcolm Dixon and Liz Savage were authorised to continue making payments or signing cheques via the Unity Trust Bank on behalf of the Group.

AGREED

AGM: 2021.11: Affiliations to Kindred Organisations

Recommendations are: CPRE; Peak & Northern Footpaths Society; Friends of the Trans-Pennine Trail and the Open Spaces Society.

AGREED

Not sure if "Friends of Kinder" or the "Peak District Green Lane Alliance" were still going. But we hadn't subscribed to them for over 12 months.

TH would investigate and report back to the EC.

AGM: 2021.12: Any Other Business / Notices

a) Change name of 'Rambles Committee' to 'Walks Committee' reflecting what they covered and removed any confusion about having the Ramblers Group Secretary and a Rambles (Committee) Secretary.

AGREED

b) Consultation on Bingham Park Cafe Proposals The Rangers Hut had been demolished as was structurally unsound and Council were proposing to replace it with a Cafe and meeting room, probably with toilets. This was on the Sheffield Round Walk route but in a relatively quiet but popular parkland area. Consultation would run until November 19th if members wished to respond.

NOTED

c) Notice of Tree Felling in Rough Standhills and Limb Valley due to onset of Ramorum Disease in Larch trees. Also reports of work starting around Forge Dam

NOTED

AGM: 2021.13: Andrew McCloy, Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority and Chair of National Parks England then gave an illustrated talk on the effects of Climate Change on the Peak Park and other National Parks and the countryside in general.

As well as Chair of the PDNPA, he was also a Parish Councillor in Youghreave, so part of the local community. Joined the Authority 10 years ago and climate change had been a top priority throughout his time there because of its profound long term effect on the Park.

1. An Unspoilt Oasis – PD was first National Park surrounded by the metropolitan areas of Sheffield and South Yorkshire. Manchester, Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Midlands provides a buffer from them all joining together.

Whilst also providing an area for all that population to escape to for peace and

recreation.

2. Our Roots – Andrew was not only a member of the Ramblers but had previously worked for them as an information officer, so felt pride that the Park had played a key part in the historical battle for access and was where the CroW Act was initially rolled out in 2000, although hoped there would be continued future improvement in access provision in the Park.

3. First Statutory Purpose: to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage - as laid down in the 1949 Act.

4. Second Statutory Purpose: to promote understanding and enjoyment of the park's special qualities.

5. Had a Duty to foster social & economic wellbeing of local communities in pursuit of those Purposes.

6. There were many Pressures and Challenges

7. Environmental Damage

8. Traditional Land Management

9. Signs of Change – extreme weather events

10. Impact on Diversity

11. Peak District NP – the evidence base

12. Regulation through our planning functionality

13. A Sustainable Approach to Land Management

14. Encouraging fresh approaches to Transport

15. We encouraged research and understanding

16. Opportunities: we spark debate and ideas

17. We form landscape and access partnerships

18. We educate and influence public opinion

19. Peak District National Park – climate change and the future

20. Climate leadership – working together towards a net zero National Park

Some additional links to websites for more related information:-

<https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/climatechange>

<https://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/>

<https://www.nationalparks.uk/climate-change/>

Andrew McCloy was "Thanked" for his excellent and informative speech

Neill Schofield was "Thanked" for his expert Chairing of this AGM and for his service to the EC and the Group over many years

Everyone "Thanked" for their attendance at this Meeting and participation on the EC and with the Group and its activities over the last twelve months

The Meeting was recorded. CO = Central Office

Appendix 'A': AGM Participants:- Neill Schofield, Malcolm Dixon, Andrew McCloy, Rafik Al Sakka, Jam Tidy, Jackie Knight, Gabby MacPherson, Anne Vickers, Margaret Brown, Val Coleman, Chris Gamble, Pauline Heather, Simon Gray, Linda Cooley, Susan Rushworth, John Brightmore, St John O Donnabhain, David Goodchild, Sonia Gayle, Judy Gathercole, Stuart Bloom, Terry Howard, Dave Jefferies, John & Joan Taylor, Tony Allsop, Ruth Price, Malcolm & Cath MacKay, Peter Judd, Angela Coles, Les Seaman, Liz Pickles and Jo Meredith.

Group Secretary – Malcolm Dixon, 27 Longford Drive, Sheffield S17 4LN

e-mail: secretary@sheffieldramblers.org or 0784-253-0128

www.sheffieldramblers.org

Secretary's Review of the Year Oct 1st 2021 to Sept 30th 2022

I wish I could finish this year feeling as optimistic about the Group as I did 12 months ago. Then we were recovering from the Covid Pandemic and the restrictions that had been brought in were being lifted and all our activities were restarting.

Some hesitation was noted due to a number of factors. Booking for walks was no longer required but numbers coming out were still down. Many people had found alternatives to Group walks. We still had fewer walk leaders offering walks and we were becoming reliant on a fairly small group of leaders putting walks in – often at short notice - for our regular Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday walks programmes. Although I'm glad to say we are now more able to offer walks on all three days most weeks of the year.

In addition we have been able to enjoy coach trips away – to Grassington and Kettlewell in April; to the East Yorkshire cliffs at Bempton, Flamborough Head and Filey in April; walking across either Saddleworth Moor or along the Huddersfield Narrow Canal to finish in Marsden in July and finally to the North Yorkshire moors around the Hole of Horcum finishing in Pickering in September. We were lucky with the weather on all four days and had good turnouts for all these enjoyable days away.

We successfully launched our new website (view at www.sheffieldramblers.org) and also transitioned to using the GWEM (Group Walks & Events Programme) for listing our walks. A training session was arranged for our walk leaders showing them how to input walks and, although we may miss those emails notifying us of next week's walks, we all seem to have adapted to using it without too many glitches and problems. Our thanks to Stuart Bloom for all his work getting this set up.

Last January we were one of many of Sheffield's voluntary organisations who brought their stalls to the Sheffield Heritage Fair in the Millennium Gallery. Sadly it clashed with the SYNED Area AGM which we were hosting at Crookes Social Club the same Saturday so we had to stretch our resources quite a bit to cover everything. Thanks to everyone who helped at either event and especially to Dave Jefferies, Val Coleman and Judy Gathercole who turned up for a rather damp pre AGM morning walk.

Our publicity team was back in action again when the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival (ShAFF) returned to the Showroom in March. Sadly poor signage and low footfall meant our helpers weren't too overworked. Possibly the good weather that weekend meant many of the Festival's likely customers were out in the countryside's enjoying their adventures. Thanks to Terry for his design work on the display panels for both events.

In April, members joined with others to help celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the 1932 Kinder Trespass event at Hayfield. Many others took the opportunity to walk over Kinder itself during the weekend as they do most weekends – surely the best reason for campaigning for greater access to the countryside. The weekend's events were also used to kick-start a renewed "Right To Roam" campaign as there are still too many places in the England & Wales that the public is not allowed to wander over.

Sadly this year saw the passing of Jack Burling (1935-2022) an indefatigable access campaigner and defender of footpaths and rights-of-way. He formed the Sheffield Ramblers footpath committee and was its first footpath secretary. He was a founder member of the Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland. Following retirement and a spell away from Sheffield in Cornwall, he returned to Sheffield and resumed being a path inspector for the Peak & Northern Footpath Society. He was also a Trustee of the Open Spaces Society.

I doubt if Jack would be happy with the amount of footpath work the Group has been doing over the last twelve months as we haven't been very active, either in the legal sense of

reporting paths which are blocked or are in need of repair or objecting to diversions or just doing the practical work of helping to repair them. Our Fix It Team remains without a Coordinator to get work parties set up and running.

Members have been able to identify some local 'Lost Paths' but more works need to be done. At least the 2026 cut off date for claiming paths has been lifted.

On the plus side the Council's own Rights of Way Team is finally back at full strength and has plenty of work to do and catch up on.

Local Access and Walking Forums are starting to meet again.

Back in May the Group organised a couple of walks for new members, an endeavour we may try again as a gentle introduction to the Group. In July Graham Jones and Sheila Verity took members of the Hampstead Ramblers on a well received urban walk from the Canal Basin through Neepsend and Parkwood Springs and ending at Meadowhall. It provided a change from the rest of their week exploring the Peak District. There was another Sheffield Walking Festival in September which Group members contributed to and most of the walks were well received and attended, despite limited publicity.

At a national level concerns over insurance, the need for written risk assessments, the use of the Assemble website and other aspects of an increasingly top-down management style continue to be raised but not resolved. Making the General Council meeting a short one day affair doesn't help and reduces the time available for proper discussion and informed debate. But that assumes the Trustees and Central Office staff were prepared to listen to grassroots activists' views in the first place.

I continue to be grateful for the support I have had from my EC colleagues over the last 12 months. My thanks go to: Stuart Bloom, John Brightmore, Linda Cooley, Judy Gathercole, Simon Gray, Christine Hewitt, Terry Howard, Andy Irwin, Jackie Knight, Malcolm MacKay, Gabby MacPherson, St John O'Donnabhain, Liz Savage, Les Seaman, Jam Tidy and Christine Whittaker - for all their work, assistance & companionship over the last twelve months. Over the year we've met here in the Quaker Meeting Rooms, down at the Showroom and upstairs at the Red Deer pub usually in hybrid meetings mixing in person and online using Zoom. Sadly, most of the latter were beset with technical problems, so I think future meetings will continue to be just 'in-person'.

I, and at least one other member of the EC, have indicated our wish to step down from the EC at this AGM. This now means we need new people to put themselves forward and take our places. The EC still doesn't have a regular Chairman but have rotated the position around members of the EC. It might be useful to have one person doing the job in future - giving a lead on issues and being a more public face for Sheffield Ramblers. Having a regular Minute Secretary would be useful too.

Would YOU be interested in joining the EC? Please consider it. There is plenty to do and we need to find some new (and possibly younger) people within the Group who can come on board and help move us in that direction. We need to engage more via social media. The EC meets roughly every two months through the year, with possibly additional time and discussion done via emails or when out on walks.

Our first Meeting after this AGM will be Monday December 5th at a venue still to be arranged starting at 7:30pm.

Together we shall continue taking the Sheffield Ramblers Group forward - promoting it and the joys of walking in and around Sheffield and its delightful urban green spaces and surrounding countryside.

I do hope you enjoy your walking over the next twelve months - whether with us or with another group. On your own or with family members - its addictive but it's always good for you.

Malcolm Dixon, Group Sec (secretary@sheffieldramblers.org) **Access Report 2022**

Access Report

It is 90 years since the Kinder Scout and Abbey Brook mass trespass and these events have been widely commemorated this year and have helped kick start campaigns for greater public access to the countryside.

2022 promised so much with the implementation of ELMS (Environmental, Land, Management, Scheme) as a replacement for CAPS - the EU Common Agricultural Policy. In ELMS was the requirement of land owners and land managers to include better access to open countryside, in receipt of subsidies provided by the taxpayer. After lengthy consultations of countryside organisations and assessment by environmental, conservationists, land owners and managers, a report was submitted to see what impact better access to woodlands, river banks and the wider countryside would have on the areas in question as well as the well-being of users of such access. After submission to the Government, this section of ELMS was not released, and as such better access as of now is not forthcoming. No reasons have been given, and one can only assume that the results of the findings it did not suit some of the parties in the consultations.

Perhaps it is now time to consider our approach on how to expand better access to woodlands, waterside, grassland and Green urban fringe areas throughout England and Wales so more people can enjoy nature closer to their homes.

We are fortunate to have the Peak District National Park close to our Area as well as an excellent Public footpath system, enabling us better access to the countryside, other areas of England and Wales are not so lucky.

So let us seriously think of reviving the spirit of the 1930s and the 1980s campaigns for better Access to More - Land .

Stay Safe and good roaming. **Les Seaman Access Officer**

Walks Secretary Report

2021/2022 has seen a return to a more normal pattern of walking following the variable restrictions on group numbers and walking locations imposed during the pandemic. While many walkers have enjoyed retuning to regular walking there has been an impression of lower attendance on walks which is perhaps unexpected given the general upsurge in interest in walking during the pandemic. This can not be evidenced as we do not record numbers on walks but there is a need to continue with efforts to recruit new walking members and retain existing ones.

This has been a year which has seen the successful transition to our new website and to entering our walks on GWEM on the main Ramblers site. Thanks to Stuart's training and support this has been an easy transition with leaders finding the walks entry straightforward though some have reported difficulty accessing Assemble.

There have been three led walks each week. However the number of leaders putting in walks has decreased and many walks are put in at short notice. While we owe a big thank you to those leaders who have put in walks we need to find ways of recruiting and supporting new walk leaders and bringing back some previous leaders.

The walks committee has become depleted in numbers this year. A priority for next year will be to ensure we have representation from all our walking groups for effective management and planning of our walks programme and good leader training and support.

Coach Rambles 2022

This year we have had four coach rambles, three on Sundays and one on Wednesday. On each trip there have been two led walks. An A walk of around 12 miles at a moderate pace and a B walk of 6-8 miles at a more leisurely pace.

The first trip took us to Grassington for some ups and downs in the Yorkshire Dales. In May the coach took us to Flamborough for walks along the coast past Bempton Cliffs with lots of seals and nesting birds followed by fish and chips in Filey. The Wednesday coach ramble was to Marsden for walks along the Huddersfield Narrow canal and across Saddleworth Moor. The final trip was to The North York moors with walks in and around the Hole of Horcum. A big thank you to all the walk leaders who put a lot of effort into recceing the walks as well as leading on the day.

Unsurprisingly given the rise in the price of fuel coach costs increased this year but with only a small price increase we have managed to cover costs. As usual the seaside trip was the most popular with a fully booked coach, but the Wednesday trip to Marsden was also popular.

We are currently planning for 2023 and any suggestions for destinations are welcome.

Liz Savage, Walks sec

Public Transport Report

What an un-coordinated mess our Public Transport Services are now in. The Bus Operators and Transport Authorities are still required to work to the 1985 Transport Act which was brought in by the Thatcher Government to de-regulate Bus Services in 1986 which meant that services which Operators could not run at a profit had to be subsidised by the Local Authority. Since then they have seen their grants cut year by year by Central Government which has led to withdrawals and cuts in frequency to services which Operators have deemed to be un-profitable. It has now reached a point where something has to be done but what?

The present Government does not seem to have any co-ordinated Bus Policy at all. The Bus Partnership which was formed in 2012 between South Yorkshire PTE and our Local Operators appears to have been a cost cutting exercise which has only produced frequent Timetable Changes and route withdrawals and neither the Operators or SYPTA are interested in providing any written information such as timetables or route maps and since the latest cuts on 2nd October the information on many of the Bus stops has not yet been updated.

Derbyshire County Council also seemed to have abandoned production of their excellent Timetable books. Fortunately our two main services into Derbyshire the 218 to Bakewell and the 272 to Castleton are still fairly frequent although the 218 can be un-reliable with missing or late running buses. One bright note is that Hulleys, despite having to make Timetable changes, have provided a reasonable service to the Moscar and Ladybower area. From 2nd October this is now the 257 with most buses continuing to Bakewell and Sunday buses to Fairholmes have been restored.

On the railways reliability has been patchy due to cancellations and strikes. When these will end who knows. The Government are insisting on "modernisation" - which seems to mean Ticket Office closures - which nobody wants, service reductions and less staff which have all been tried before and just produce a worse service. On a brighter note 3 coach trains are promised in December on the Penistone-Huddersfield line which should mean less overcrowding.

Let us hope for a better 2023-

John Brightmore -Public Transport Representative

Membership 2022

At the beginning of October 2022, Sheffield Group SD03 membership stood at 495 (in October 2021 the membership was 515). The group has gained 26 new members since the last report. This is fewer than in the previous period, when 37 joined. The higher figure perhaps reflecting an increased interest in outdoor exercise and social opportunities following the lifting of many Covid-19 restrictions that year. The annual decline of about 4% in membership this year matches the changes experienced in the years up to 2020. However, overall membership within the three Sheffield groups is still almost 1000, and numbers have been maintained nationally.

Simon Gray, Membership Sec



Book with us and we'll contribute funds through
The Walking Partnership to your group.
Visit ramblersholidays.co.uk

Ramblers
Walking
Holidays **R**

Treasurers Report - year ended 30th September 2022

We received £400 from Area this year. Our year end balance is £652 (main account £323, self-funded £329) a decrease of £524 over the previous year (main account -£693 self-funded £169).

Total receipts were £2,818 and total payments were £3,342.

Included in payments is £144 funded from the legacy of £500 we received last year leaving a reserved legacy balance of £356.

Subscriptions to other organisations (CPRE, PNFS, OSS, FOTPT) totalled £116.

Hire of rooms for the last AGM plus five face-to-face Committee meetings and a walk leaders meeting totalled £697.

We paid out £2,075 on four coach trips and received £2,244 in payments increasing our self-funding pot by £169 which now has a balance of £329 at year end. This may well be needed to help fund much higher coach hire costs in 2022/23.

We received £80 from Ramblers Holidays in respect of member' bookings and thank those members who support us in this way.

We have agreed to accept a basic allocation (based on member numbers) of £618 from Area for 2022/23.

Jackie Knight. Treasurer October 2022

South Yorkshire & North East Derbyshire Ramblers Area AGM

We hope you will be able to join us and fellow members of our many other local Ramblers Groups and Affiliates at the **2023 SYNED Area Annual General Meeting** on **Saturday January 28th 2023 starting at 2pm.**

This will be a physical AGM at the **Coal Aston Village Hall**, Eckington Road, S18 3AX Area President David Blunkett hoped to be in attendance. 44 Stagecoach bus route from Sheffield.

Speakers from Board of Trustees and Central Office staff

We shall consider the Area's Annual Report and Financial Statement.

All Area Officer and Area Council positions will be up for election.

We shall be selecting our Area Delegates to the 2023 Ramblers General Council
This is your chance to participate in the good governance of your local walking organisation and help it keep moving forward in these difficult times.

DO JOIN US

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND & PARTICIPATE

Join Meeting via Zoom (TBC)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88346996691?pwd=UG03VWEyRm5VejVLV3NzUDdsa3p1UT09>

Meeting ID: 883 4699 6691 Passcode: 052941

email secretary@sheffieldramblers.org

or call/text me on 0784-253-012

Provisional Date of Sheffield Ramblers Group (SD03)

2023 Annual General Meeting:

Monday November 6th 2023 7.30pm

Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield,
S1 2EW