

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire RAMBLERS



ramblers
at the heart of walking

Annual Report 2019/20



Walk with us

CHAIR & SECRETARY'S REPORT

Carol Wood, secretary of the Barnsley and Penistone Group, welcomed everybody to the last AGM, in January, 2019, at the West Bretton Village Hall. As usual the meeting was preceded by a short walk. In his President's address Lord David Blunkett thanked Roly Smith in particular for the work he has done towards the success of the Clarion Call book and his writings over the years highlighting the pioneers of the access movement. David also commented that there was an awakening interest in the countryside and heritage of South Yorkshire.

Also at the AGM Nikki Speakman proposed a motion regarding the improvement of public transport in this area. The motion allowed SYNERGY to increase the pressure on the decision-makers, with David Blunkett agreeing to speak to Dan Jarvis, Sheffield City Region mayor, and Paul Bloomfield, MP for Central Sheffield. Clearly any improvement to public transport involves politicians and it cannot do any harm to have expressed our views to our local politicians.

In April the Spirit of Kinder event, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the National Parks Act, was held in Castleton. The event was preceded by a number of walks to the village. Unfortunately the weather was atrocious - it was almost impossible to stand up on top of Mam Tor - but the event itself still attracted several hundred people. David Blunkett spoke eloquently about his experiences of walking and of his time in government. Jarvis Cocker followed and described his introduction, as a schoolboy, to the great outdoors as well as the National Trust's 'People's Landscape Day' in Edale in later in the year. It was pleasing to see the number of young people at the rally.

One of the most important things undertaken in our Area recently has been the Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvement (BAWI) project. Many of the paths, stone stiles, etc in this area had gradually deteriorated and the project aimed to improve them to increase the accessibility of many of these ancient routes. SYNERGY made the initial commitment to fund the project, which encouraged various other bodies, such as the Bradfield Parish Council, to commit funds. The target of £16,000 was

reached and work started in the summer. Much of the work involved re-building stone walls around stiles and squeeze gates and was carried out by contractors. However, a number of small projects were undertaken by local groups. The project has been a huge success in various ways, by improving the footpath network in this interesting and attractive area, by improving accessibility, by improving inter-group cooperation and by raising the profile of Ramblers in this area.

Area Council has been discussing the issue of the decline in the number of groups affiliated to Ramblers in the SYNED Area. In 2012 there were 29 walking groups affiliated to Ramblers in this Area, there are now eight. With no consultation central office, under the previous chief executive, raised the fee for affiliated groups from £45 to £95, a 112% increase. This led, inevitably, to a decline in the number of affiliated groups. We believe that affiliated groups are important to Ramblers because they inform more people about the work of Ramblers, which in turn means they are more likely to promote us. Additionally, they allow us to speak with a louder voice. We have decided to write to groups currently affiliated to thank them and remind them what we do. The next stage is to try and contact as many of the 'lost' groups as possible to encourage them to re-affiliate.

Unfortunately, the Ramblers website is not helpful to any group seeking to affiliate at the moment, with nothing useful found if they search for 'affiliated groups' and, even if they do manage to track down the appropriate section, the link to the necessary form is inactive.

In the last few months the Chesterfield 20s Group has folded. The Group has had a membership of around 20 for several years but more recently members have not stepped forward to take on a committee role. This is a problem in many groups throughout the country. After consultations involving the Area chair, Allen Pestell, and the Chesterfield 20s Acting Chair, Tom Flowers, the remaining members of the Group have agreed to join the Sheffield 40s Group, a group with a similar age profile. (Please note that in the figures below numbers for the Chesterfield 20s Group have been included, with the transfers to the Sheffield 40s Group yet to take place).

FIGURES FOR THE GROUPS WITHIN SYNED - as at October each year:

Group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Barnsley & Peniston	195	186	175	152	143	145
Chesterfield&NED	515	478	441	433	422	378
Chesterfield 20s	29	36	26	23	24	21
Dearne Valley	103	103	107	116	139	153
Doncaster	230	234	227	208	230	225
Rotherham	266	270	268	248	251	244
Sheffield	657	617	605	584	565	529
Sheff 40s	215	233	231	232	253	242
Sheff 20s	220	232	261	232	228	217
SYNED	2420	2420	2365	2264	2294	2206
NATIONAL	107369	107990	105990	104694	102818	101746

Clearly membership continues to decline despite some groups putting on a wide range of walks, including short walks for people new to walking, despite doing maintenance work on the local paths network and despite creating a lot of publicity. The trend is national and the many causes are understood. Central Office, and individual groups, are working hard to increase membership.

As usual we would like to thank all members of Area Council and all Group officers who give their time and effort so that this great organisation of ours can thrive.

Allen Pestell (Chair) & David Gadd (Secretary)

BARNSLEY AND PENISTONE RAMBLERS

We have had another busy year, which started off with the group hosting the Area AGM at Bretton Village Hall. Sir David Blunkett was the main speaker accompanied by his lovely dog Barley who was an absolute star.

The group walk on both Saturdays and Sundays. We've also had several weekends away exploring other parts of the countryside, despite some of the awful wet weather we have been experiencing. On average our attendance for each walk is between 15-20. We have had a couple of new members join the group which is always good news. Our membership is over 100 but we have a core group of regular walkers of about 25. The walks programme is distributed far and wide across the Barnsley area through libraries and resource centres.

We liaise regularly with the local Council through the Local Access Group, but as ever due to funding cuts some paths are not maintained.

Unfortunately, due to lack of membership our 20-40s Group has had to close. A couple of members tried to keep it going but without support on walks there was no option but for it to be wound up.

The group has also had several successful social evenings during the year to which members' family and friends are invited. The Christmas social is a highlight especially as 'musical chairs' always gets very competitive!! We also had a Reunion in June. A member mentioned that the group was 30 years old so it was decided to hold a Birthday/Reunion party to which lots of past members were invited. A very successful evening reminiscing about past adventures and looking at old photos.



A member of our group organised the following:-

On August 17th I organised a charity awareness day for Mountain Rescue. A couple of team members did a walk taking in all the War information on the moors and I did a walk for the disabled and families with an environmental theme! We did leaf threading and tree hugging amongst other things. Home made cakes and refreshments were available all day. A grand total of nearly a £1,000 was raised. We had amazing feedback from the public. Next year's date is September 5th.

I would like to thank all our walk leaders for their hard work and commitment to the group and organising such a varied walk programme also for members attendance at walks and socials.

Carol Wood (Chair)

CHESTERFIELD & NE DERBYSHIRE

Having reported last year that membership numbers had stabilised, this year the trend has reverted back to previous years with numbers dropping by approximately 10% in the last twelve months. Despite this reduction the walks programme has remained full with leaders extending themselves to provide it.

There is however one worrying trend and that is the lack of Guiders for our Visually Impaired Group, without new volunteers there is a risk that this provision may cease. Members have taken advantage of the national First Aid training and a walk leadership course provided by an external provider.

As well as the annual programme, this year, our leaders have supported the annual Chesterfield Walking Festival, the second Chesterfield Canal Trust Walking Festival and our own inaugural Clarion Festival masterminded by one of our long-standing members. All three festivals have been very well attended making the effort required worthwhile.

The Footpath Maintenance Team has to all intents and purposes been discontinued, even with the support from Central Office in attending meetings with Derbyshire County Council. The council continue to be very disappointing in their awareness as to the benefits of walking and the requirement that Rights of Ways should be regularly cleared and maintained to allow the public to take full benefit of a true asset. The group live in hope that the council have a change in direction.

The group continues to support the Air Ambulance and Mountain Rescue with donations they have collected during the Chesterfield Walking Festival and the Clarion Walking Festival.

John Graham, Secretary

DEARNE VALLEY RAMBLERS

Dearne Valley Group are delighted to report that our membership has continued to rise throughout the year, as have the numbers of members attending our walks and social activities. Throughout 2019 we have linked with The Trans Pennine Trail to help them celebrate the

Trail's 30th anniversary. This involved displaying the TPT's special anniversary logo on all our walks which included part of the trail, in both our on-line and printed walks programmes. In return our group has been publicised on the TPT's website. We also continued to work with The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership as it concluded its five year programme on our patch and with the Conservation Volunteers whose rangers have led some very interesting short walks for us. This latter partnership continues and several joint walks are planned for the coming year. Once again, this results in reciprocal publicity which benefits both organisations.

As in previous years, we have had a wide variety of walks, ranging from 3 to 11 miles covering a huge area. Some leaders have 'gone the extra mile' and incorporated refreshments into their plans. Sometimes it's arrangements for cafes to open early to supply sustenance before the start of the walk. Sometimes it's provision of a lunch or teatime booking for fish & chips. Sometimes the leaders have provided food



after the walk at their own homes or in one recent instance at a local church hall.

This year's Pot Luck Picnic returned to our previous venue of the cricket field at Low Bradfield where we enjoyed superb weather and a truly magnificent spread of food all provided by our members. Although our members enjoy the walking and companionship above all else, refreshments are always very welcome and greatly appreciated. On the subject of walks and leaders, we are so pleased that several members have stepped up during the year to lead their first walks. All have done an excellent job and we sincerely hope that they enjoyed the experience and will consider leading in our future programmes. Any member who thinks they would like to have a go at being a walk leader can be assured of plenty of support from more experienced members.

Alongside our programme of walks we have enjoyed range of social activities. These included guest speakers at two of our monthly meetings – one a local historian and the other representing The Samaritans. Our meetings are open to all and are held in a licensed club where members are able to stay on after the business of the meeting to spend time socialising. In addition, thanks to the hard work of our social team, Pat White and Christine Hebden, we have had a theatre trip to see Kinky Boots and coach trips to Ilkley and York during 2019. As Christmas approaches, Pat and Christine are busy organising our Christmas Party Pie & Pea Supper which traditionally follows our December meeting, and our Annual Christmas Dinner at the Manvers Arms at Adwick on Dearne.

We believe that the Group's success is greatly helped by the publicity we generate. Our social media is very efficiently managed for us by Johnathan Revell. We have several very keen and capable photographers in the group and every week Johnathan loads large numbers of pictures onto Facebook and Flickr which showcase the beautiful scenery we encounter on our walks. These generate a lot of interest and many of our new members appear to have found out about us via this route. The social media platforms are also used to great effect to publicise any last minute changes or additional information relating to our activities. In addition, our more traditional publicity efforts continue with John Watson and Tony Swaby ensuring that our Group's activities are featured in a wide range of the local press covering Doncaster, Rotherham, Barnsley and Sheffield. John

Watson also wears the Treasurer's hat and manages the Group's finances very efficiently, keeping us entertained with his topical and amusing financial updates every month! Finally, on publicity, we ensure that our website which sits on The Ramblers platform is kept up-to-date and informative.

We are indebted to Phil Lee who investigates issues as they arise in his role as our Footpaths Officer, while also representing us at SYNED meetings as our Area Rep.

Our half yearly Walks Programme with its pocket size and lovely photographs of previous walks is as popular as ever and we are very grateful for Barbara Brown's work in putting it all together.

As this article goes to press, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all our members, the committee and the walk leaders, without whom we would not have the Group we have.

Nigel Hebden (Chairman) & Sue Haywood (Secretary)

DONCASTER RAMBLERS

The walking programme has continued to be very successful. We offer walks of around 10 miles on Tuesdays and Saturdays, a programme of 2+ hour walks on Thursday mornings, a programme of 5-6 walks every 6 months for DMBC as part of their Get Doncaster Moving campaign, and a series of 3-5 walks for carers as part of the Stepping Out carers' walks project, funded by National Lottery through Sport England. We aim to provide a good programme of walks for serious walkers but also to encourage people new to walking to discover the joys - physically, socially and emotionally.

Both the Tuesday and Saturday walks continue to be highly successful, with 30+ usually walking on Tuesdays and around 20 on Saturdays. The shorter walks programmes have achieved varying degrees of success. Our Thursday morning walks during the summer attracted an average of twelve walkers, many current members but with some newcomers. We have decided to reduce the weekly summer



programme to two walks per month in the winter. Generally, the Get Doncaster Moving walks have been disappointing, with less publicity from DMBC than we expected. This year the carers' programme was much-reduced due to funding not being arranged until mid-way through the year. There is also an issue in that we have designed short walks that finish in a very attractive venue like the Yorkshire Wildlife Park or Wentworth House. On these occasions the lure of the venue is greater than the lure of a walk and very few carers have walked. We hope that by altering the design of the programme for 2020 we will create more opportunities for carers who actually want to walk.

The coach trip in 2019 was to Pateley Bridge, with short, medium and long walks of varying lengths offered. The weather was brilliant, walks were enjoyed, and Pateley Bridge was explored. Coach trips are about much more than the walking, brilliant though it invariably is, with plenty of time to enjoy the company of others.

Our Rights of Way committee has continued its excellent work. One footpath claim in the Doncaster area has been pending since 2007 and, after advice from central office, the secretary has written to the Cabinet member responsible, copying the CEO, indicating that Ramblers believe there is a legal case to answer. The monthly maintenance sessions have been slightly disrupted this year due to several unexpected reasons. We are dependent on the RoW officer to arrange the necessary vehicle and liaise with landowners but sometimes his other commitments take priority and planned sessions have been cancelled. Nevertheless a considerable number of kissing gates, way markers and even two 'dog gates', by special request from a member of the public, have been corrected/erected. The checking of the rights of way network was 100% successful in 2018 and we hope for similar success in 2019.

We have continued to achieve a lot of publicity in the local press, with a full-page article with a walk description, two or three photos and a referral to our website in the Doncaster Free Press very often. There are frequently items in the free magazines which are distributed in different parts of Doncaster. The most interesting item of publicity this year was the article, headlined 'Walking Saved my Life', regarding a senior member of the group who had a serious health issue about 30 years ago and credits walking with enabling her to lead a normal life again.

Membership figures on 1st October for the last three years were: 2017 - 208, 2018 - 230, 2019 - 225. The huge increase in members in 2018 has never been properly explained. We held a successful walking festival in May, 2018 but didn't feel that it led to an increase in members. However, despite the slight drop in numbers this year, we always see a significant number of recently-joined members, evidence that the group is very much 'alive'.

The website continues to provide a lot of information on the group. The number of walks which have a photographic record and a written report has increased, with the Thursday and Saturday walks usually having a report in addition to the Tuesday walks. The number of members taking photos and writing reports has increased, as has the number of people entering these items onto the website.

Thanks are offered to everyone who contributes to the successful running of the group, to the members of the committee, all of whom contribute time and effort in making the group success.

David Gadd (Chair)

ROOTHERHAM METRO RAMBLERS

Let me begin by thanking so many people who have been involved in making the past year a resounding success. We are fortunate to have so many willing and tireless workers who accept any challenge then make it happen.

Our existing secretary Loretta West, whose workload for the RMR continues to amaze us all with the amount of information she transmits to everyone, has shown how capable she is following in the footsteps of her predecessor Rosemary Boyle. No mean task.

The committee itself continues to operate quite successfully after one or two adjustments in positions. We have a very capable group of members who are ready to step in to help out with walks etc, if for some reason a walk is threatened with cancellation, or if for any reason someone needs help in routing a walk.

We had a problem at the end of last year following the untimely death of one our important members, John Wadsworth, who had handled our IT commitments. This gave us a problem with the walks programme, but thanks to Sue Cresswell and Mike Briggs these problems were sorted.

Our social events programme has been successful, with some interesting evenings spent with knowledgeable talkers on local subjects, together with some evening rambles supplemented with welcome refreshments afterwards.

The team of volunteers which carry out various projects tidying up after our public have of course been very busy once again, together with the ranger group, and the Rotherham Rambler group in our area, so many thanks to them for their efforts.

Our footpath secretary Christine Parrott who ties in with the area footpath committee is tireless in her activities.

We enjoyed a week away at Eastbourne in early April, where the weather was kind to us, which included two walks every day, over some challenging country. Later, in July we had our usual one-day coach ramble, this time to Beverley, where we had a long walk and a short walk. This was once more well attended and is always quite popular. We are planning a visit to Arnside next Spring for a six-day visit including once again, a long and a short walk on each day, with a further week end away in the Autumn to the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Membership numbers remain fairly static at around 250 members.

I would like on behalf of the committee, to thank all our members for continuing to support the work undertaken in this very active year including all the contributors to the walking programme, the social events programme and all the group activities that have provided us with an extremely successful year for the Rotherham Metro Ramblers Group.

Graham Barker (Group Chairman)

SHEFFIELD RAMBLERS

Highlights of the last twelve months have to include our involvement in the Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvements Project which has seen 35 stiles made more easily accessible for walkers. Many of these were on our "Sheffield Country Walk" between Worrall and Low and High Bradfield. The money for this project came from our Area's Ivy Cohen Fund, Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust, "Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Project (HLF)", Bradfield Parish Council and Bradfield "Walkers are Welcome".

This was a highly successful project greatly assisted by Sheffield Group's "Fix It" team who were pivotal to the project. The Project was also partnered with Sheffield City Councils Rights of Way Unit and was also very ably supported by Rotherham Ramblers Metro Group and

members of the other Sheffield Groups who all willingly gave their expertise help.

Another project we are helping take forward is a Footpath Warden scheme, with major steps being made this year and anticipate a full team of volunteers from across our three Sheffield Groups being in place by early 2020.



For well over a year now the Sheffield Groups have been meeting with the Public Rights of Way Unit to discuss rights of way matters, and this we will continue with and hope to help set up a three Groups Footpath Committee properly constituted with a Chair and Secretary.

In March the Ramblers celebrated with many other kindred organisations the launch of the National Parks 70 years ago with a Rally in Castleton. This was later featured on BBC Countryfile - though if you blinked you would have probably missed our Group members present! The Spirit of Kinder also held its annual Celebratory Rally in April. It had been intended to be in the Winnat's Pass but adverse

weather meant it had to be held indoors. However, it was still well attended.

In 2020 it will be 20 years since the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act. This Act opened up the mountains, moors and Heath land to the Freedom to Roam, which has been a great asset to all hill and fell walkers.

The management of the Eastern and Sheffield moors under the PDNP along with, NT, RSPB, SRWLT, YWA and Sheffield City Council as we reported last year has been a great success. These organisations are now opening up some areas for better access via Bridleways for multi use, walkers, horses and cyclists. This venture does not seem to be causing any major conflict of interest and any misuses should be reported and the conflict resolved.

By the time you read this report we may still be, or not, under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Whichever policy of countryside management we have here, we will still have to make sure that our hard fought rights of access and freedoms are not eroded away.

In August, we welcomed 43 walkers from the Liverpool & Wirral Ramblers Groups. Our members took the party on three different walks around Sheffield's inner city, exploring the remnants of its industrial past and delighting them with the sheer amount of green spaces now available so close to the city centre. The walks were rounded off by the glorious views from our hilly tops and a sociable drink before our new friends returned home. Although this venture did not involve many Group members, all will have the chance to go on a reciprocal walking visit to Liverpool sometime in 2020.

Our various walk programmes have continued to be supported by members throughout the year. As always we made good use of all our lovely local countryside in our walking programme and thanks for that goes to all our leaders who do such a great job getting us out enjoying the scenery, fresh air and friendship (and the occasional shower!) 3 times a week all year round. However we could always do with more to come forward and lead.

A number of members also went on First Aid training courses organised by the Ramblers.

Our Sunday Coach Rambles have been to the Howardian Hills to finish at Castle Howard in April. Whilst in May our seaside trip started in the Yorkshire Moors before going along the coast to Ravenscar and on to Robin Hoods Bay. Both trips had good weather and ended with excellent fish and chips. However, our September trip to Reeth & Swaledale had to be cancelled due to a major cycling event, amid atrocious weather, going through the village.

Midweek coach rambles have taken us on moorland walks around Marsden and similarly a moorland walk around Haworth, with some members visiting the Bronte Parsonage and Museum and some taking a trip on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

The Group's membership at the end of August 2019 numbered 534 individuals - 26 fewer than in August 2018. However, 24 new members have joined the group in the same period.

Group membership continues to decrease at about the same rate as seen in the previous few years. However, total Ramblers membership in the three Sheffield groups remains at more than 900 - exceeding the number recorded twenty years ago and making up 41% of the membership of the SYNED Area.

We continue to use public transport for most of our walks and raise concerns (along with a growing number of other local organisations & individuals) about the continuing decline in the number and reliability of local services as subsidies are cut by the South Yorkshire PTE.

We are using the 'retirement' in a year's time of our IT & webmaster to review our current website design and how it services the Group. We are looking at ways it can be updated and improved. Although we will set the parameters of this work it is likely to be done by a professional website designer, whilst we look for a replacement webmaster for & within the Group.

At this year's Group AGM David Woodhead, Angela Coles, Pat Langford and David Cadet will have stepped down from the Executive Committee after many years of service to the Group.

David Woodhead especially who has been the Group's Chair, its Rambles Sec as well as latterly the Footpath Sec. Angela has

steadfastly taken & written up the Minutes, whilst Pat has been an Assistant Secretary. David Cadet chairs the Visually Impaired Walkers Group and has been their representative on our EC. In addition, Jan Randall stepped down this year as Coordinator of the Fixit Team - our team of volunteers who repair stiles and footpaths, lately out at Bradfield.

Our 'Thanks' to all of them for all their work. They will be missed and hopefully active volunteers within the Group will come forward to replace them on the Executive Committee.

Malcolm Dixon, Secretary

SHEFFIELD 40S WALKING GROUP

Our current membership stands at some 240, which means we are more or less maintaining or increasing our membership year on year and as always we have healthy numbers on our walks and at socials.

Our 45 or so different leaders led about 160 walks in the last year, mainly in the Peak District but also in the surrounding areas of Sheffield, Rotherham and Chesterfield and occasionally further afield. During the summer months this year we continued to offer our evening walks.

This year we have set up a Pathwork group in conjunction with the other Sheffield Ramblers groups and we hope that this will help to keep all our local paths open and useable for the future.

The group is committed to providing a varied and extensive walks calendar. We have in place a walk mentoring programme where confident leaders will help a new leader plan and recce walks and leaders have met regularly over the year. This has helped to encourage new walk leaders and ensures that the calendar is as full as possible. We have continued to subsidy navigation training for leaders and have encouraged all members to take part in the first aid training offered by Ramblers.

The group continues to enjoy regular social activities and we are committed to ensuring that all tastes are catered for. We have a 'Socials and Weekends Away' Committee which meets regularly and have socials every month, ranging from meals to pub crawls, music and beer festivals and trips to the coast and we have even held a traditional style Sports Day!

Weekends away have always been at the heart of the Sheffield 40s and trips to York, Llandudno and Dent were organised for 2018. We use a mix of group booked accommodation and encourage others to join us and make their own arrangements. Further weekends away are planned for 2020 and information about future events can be found on our website (www.s40wg.org).

Bev Kenyon, Secretary

SHEFFIELD 20S AND 30S WALKING GROUP

During the 2018-19 SWG committee term, the Chair has represented the group at the area Ramblers meetings. This Year, the chair has been instrumental in the development and publication of updated safeguarding and inclusion guidance in the form of policies.

Some of our members attended free First Aid training which was provided by the Ramblers.

Over the course of the year we have had a core group of walk leaders providing walks both at weekends and during the week. A group of members undertook the Yorkshire Three Peaks earlier this year.

Providing a full walks programme has proved to be a challenge at times this year due to limited new walk leaders coming forward to lead walks. Work is ongoing to try and encourage more newer members to lead walks.

There have been a variety of weekends away over the year, including trips to Snowdonia, The Lake District and a very successful trip to Scotland. Some weekends have already been booked for the

2019-2020 term, including a trip to the Norfolk coast, where the accommodation will involve staying in a converted windmill!

With regards to the groups cashflow, it has generally been positive this year and we have built a self-funded surplus which has enabled us to pay for socials and events in advance.

An issue for this year's committee has been the lack of a website coordinator, with some of the other committee members, in particular the Vice Chair, taking up the slack here.

There have been a variety of successful socials this year, including a successful Christmas Party, It's a Knockout Event, and lots of meals out and a pool tournament! The group continues to have a monthly new member meet which also doubles as a monthly pub meet up for current members.

Membership has reduced over the course of the year, from 250 in October 2018 to 218 in October 2019.

SHEFFIELD VISUALLY IMPAIRED WALKING GROUP (SVIWG)

In this last year we have managed to complete all the scheduled walks except one, which was cancelled due to severe weather conditions.

Our Membership is increasing - we have attracted some new V.I.P. members and new sighted guides.

This years Fundraising Challenge (The Dukes Road) was a 12.5 mile walk. It took place on the 11th of May and was attended by 18 members, who between them raised £1400 pounds.

We had our annual walking holiday in September, when 28 members (VIPs and guides) travelled to Llandudno. We were kindly assisted on two of our walks by the local ramblers association.

We are all looking forward to our end of year walk and Christmas Party in December, at the Garrison Guard House Hotel, Hillsborough.



Plans for 2020 include: A training day for new sighted guides, and Basic Life Support and C.P.R. Training.

David Cadet (Chair)

AREA ACCESS REPORT 2019

By the time you read this report we may still be under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) or not. Which ever policy of countryside management we have the UK or EU we will still have to make sure that our hard fought rights and freedoms are not eroded away.

In 2020 it will be 20 years since the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW). This Act opened up the mountains, moors and Heath land to the Freedom to Roam, which has been a great asset to all hill and fell walkers.

The management of the Eastern and Sheffield moors under the PDNP along with the, NT, RSPB, SRWLT, YWA and Sheffield City Council, as we reported last year has been a great success. These organisations are now opening up some areas for better access via Bridleways for multi use, walkers, horses and cyclists. This venture does not seem to be causing any major conflict of interest and any misuses should be reported and the conflict resolved.

Being vigilant about any potential change of use of Access Land is the responsibility of all our fellow ramblers, a recent planning application to change the use of Access land at Riggs High Road to a Natural Burial ground is now under consultation (19/01274/FUL) comments have been submitted to SCC Planning department by local groups and individuals, and we await the outcome of this application.

This last year saw the 70 year celebration of the establishment of the Peak District National Park and in 2020 we can celebrate 20 years of the Crow Act. We have something to celebrate which allows us to enjoy the open moorland and not to forget the many fellow ramblers past and present for their dedication to the cause of freedom to roam, we thank them all.

Thank you fellow Ramblers and good roaming.

Les Seaman (Area Access Officer)

REPORT OF THE SYNED AREA TREASURER for the year ending 30th September 2019

I am pleased to present the accounts of the Area for the year ending 30th September 2019

During the year the Area received £6,400 from Central Office and distributed £5,796 to Groups in the Area.

The Area spent approximately £723 during the year on administering the Area, including production of the Area News.

We allocated £19,217 from the Ivy Cowen Trust Legacy Fund to the 5 year Ivy Cowen Project to support the Area and Groups to meet the Ramblers charitable objectives. To date we have spent £1120.

The Clarion Call earned £896 in book sales

The Groups have asked the Area for approx. £6,124 funding for the coming year

We will be contributing £974 from our own funds in line with The Rambler's Reserve policy towards our budget of £7,474 and will therefore be asking Head Office for £6,500, an Increase from last year.

Our thanks are due to our independent examiner, Mr Andrew Milne.

Gavin Johns (Hon. Area Treasurer)

AGM 2020

The AGM will be hosted by Sheffield Walking Group (Sheffield 20-30s) - on Saturday 25th January at the Victoria Methodist Church, Strafford Road, Sheffield S2 2SE

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SYNED Area Ramblers Website Editor –
Christine Whittaker
Anything for the website? Please let me know.
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Doncaster Ramblers on their way to
the April Spirit of Kinder event. Did
they ever arrive?

