

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire (SYNED) Area Ramblers

www.synedramblers.org.uk

**SYNED AREA
NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2011**

New Newsletter

Chair's Chatter

Welcome to this trial bulletin that we hope to issue quarterly to keep Groups informed of what has been happening in the South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire (SYNED) Area. If you think it is a good idea and would like to see it continue please let us know. It is predominately aimed at Group committees, though there is no reason why it cannot be passed to individual members.

Since the AGM at the end of January, our Chairman, Lee Farmery, has had a very busy first few months. Keeping up to speed with what's happening on a national level, in addition to those of Area and local importance all takes time. Lee spent time sorting out the website and handing it over to our newly elected officer, in the absence of an IT officer last year, and

the system is now running smoothly, but is instead now filling in for the Footpath Secretary and the Countryside Officer. We have also been involved with the South Yorkshire Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid by supporting the initiative and ensuring we are included within the scheme. Unfortunately due a

hectic schedule Lee hasn't yet been able to visit the Groups in person as planned, but hopes to soon. He did attend a meeting recently in connection with Chesterfield Groups evaluation of moving to an alternative Ramblers Area and took part in the national General Council in Oxford.

The Walking Environment

Footpath Focus

We currently do not have a footpath officer, but our Chairman has been stepping in to ensure that action is taken where necessary on behalf of

Access to Access

Our Access Officer, Les Seaman continues to have a presence on Local Access Forums and is continually monitoring any concerns that may impact on the Peak District.

Countryside Corner

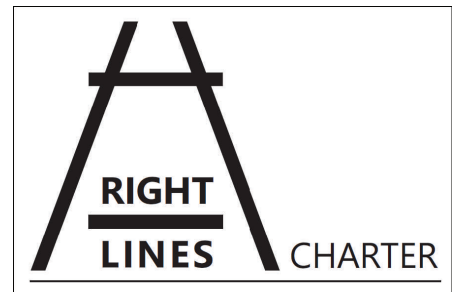
A countryside officer is yet to be formally appointed, however our Chairman has been involved with keeping an eye on things. We have

DEAD END



the Area. To get a basic grounding Lee attended a workshop about Rights of Way organised by Central Office in Leeds at the beginning of April. Links have been made with the regional Institute of Public Rights of Way and Access Management (IPROW) to ensure the SYNED Area have good liaison with them on a regional level and offer our support during the potential cuts. Speaking of cuts, we have communicated the effect of cuts within the Area to Central Office as part of their Dead End campaign.

One of the motions passed at the General Council was to persuade Ordnance Survey to reintroduce the access point locations on their maps to gain entry to all of the wonderful access land at our disposal. If you can't wait, Sheffield Group have a list of points for the Eastern Moors on their website here: <http://www.sheffieldramblers.org/eastern%20moors.htm>



been in close contact with John Esslemont, chairman of the Buckinghamshire Area regarding the potential High Speed Rail Link in SYNED Area and monitoring the situation. Additionally we have been involved in the review of Peak District National Park Management Plan, and our comments will be submitted in due course.



Other important factors concerning access is the proposed stalled forestry sell off. The Forestry Commission has seen severe cuts of around 25% and we will be monitoring how this affects us within the SYNED Area.



The IT Crowd

Christine took over as IT Officer 3 months ago, and, although she developed, and updates a simple web site for Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group, the BT Community Web Site has taken quite a lot of getting used to. However, she thinks she know what she's doing now!



Luckily, Carol Wilkie, our Publicity Officer, has recently suggested lots of new ideas for the design of the SYNED site, and Christine is busy implementing them at the moment. My main problem is content. Being new to 'the job', she is never sure what to include on our site, and worry about just duplicating what is on other Rambler's sites. We do need more 'interesting/original' items.

Please do send Christine any suggestions! If you haven't checked out the website in a while, please take time to check it out here: www.synedramblers.org.uk

The Treasury

Gavin's main role, as the Area Treasurer, is to maintain the accounts of the Area, paying in and out money as required to help further the objectives of the Ramblers.

Another important part of my role is to co-ordinate the completion of the annual accounts for each Group within the Area and the Area itself each October. These accounts are then passed to Ramblers Head Office for review and consolidation with other Groups/Areas.



Each year, Gavin also co-ordinates the completion of budgets for each Group and the Area for the following financial year. These are then agreed with Head Office prior to the start of the next financial year. Part of this process is to agree any funding from Head Office required to support the Area's finances and enable it to fund each Group's requirements for the year.

To date, he has kept the accounts up-to-date, reporting on their position at each Area Council meeting.

He is also in discussion with Head Office regarding various queries of last years Group and Area accounts, especially where their balances are too high in relation to their needs.

Publicity Menace Nr 1

Our publicity officer, Carol is young, fresh and fired up ready to go. She has already arranged 3 Ramblers stalls at Weston Park and Peace in the Park in Sheffield and Wirksworth Festival with childrens' activities. She has also been intensively assisting Christine in updated website. Carol has also made further links and some new links with the Get Walking initiative and Environmental Weeks initiative, the Wildlife Trust group and other 40s groups with joint events (Hants 40+ and One Step walkers Notts). Not only this, but she has also introduced Area Family walks, organised an Area leaflet with 11 groups website address on and is pushing to get a book of favourite walks together.

Have you got a favourite walk in your Group's region that you would like to be included in the Area Book? Please let Carol know.

Peak District Green Lane Alliance

The SYNED Area has received a thank you from the relatively new PDGLA for the donation of £50.00 that is focused on campaigning to preserve our Green Lanes from destruction.

Friends of the Peak District are planning a protest walk to highlight the destruction caused to the lanes towards the end of July, please keep your eyes peeled for further information and lend your support.



Chapel Gate Traffic Ban

The Peak district has announced 'That the Authority makes an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order under Section 22 BB(2)(b) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that will have the effect of prohibiting use by recreational mechanically propelled vehicles (motor vehicles) at any time along Chapel Gate for a period of 18 months at the end of the County Council's current temporary closure for maintenance.'

SYNED supported the proposed Traffic Ban order at Chapel Gate

General Council

This years General Council was held in Oxford over the weekend of 16th and 17th April. SYNED Area delegates were Lee Farmery (Barnsley & Penistone Group) and Judy Gathercole (Sheffield Group) with Neill Schofield on the Agenda Committee (Sheffield Group) and Kath McKay in capacity of Vice Chair (Sheffield Group). The minutes and details of the motions passed will be available on the Ramblers website but a brief summary is included below:

To continue to raise the profile of the benefits of walking and discourage any cuts to funding of the rights of way network (i.e. continue the Dead End campaign)

To ensure there are adequate expert staff at Central Office and that they are provided with training to ensure that someone is always available to scrutinize Highway Authority Orders and similar documents received by the Ramblers in our role as a body that must be consulted.

To join other like minded bodies in campaigning against HS2 in respect of the High Speed Rail (HS2) Right Lines Charter.

Improve Central Office consultation on initiatives and allow an adequate timescale to implement the ideas.

To continue and expand the Get Walking Keep Walking Scheme

To consider restructuring the Greater London Area Ramblers boundaries.

To oppose the Forestry land sell off until such time as the Ramblers 5 key tests have been met.

Improve Central Office communication regarding progress on campaigns and motions passed at General Council

To ensure DEFRA guidelines on the authorisation of path structures by local authorities, with emphasis on the least restrictive option is recognised by the local authorities and footpath officers alike.

To provide guidance for footpath secretaries in relation to the development of equestrian establishments, in conjunction with the British Horse Society.

To work with Ordnance Survey to reintroduce the marking of access points to CROW Access land on maps
To ensure Rights of Way remains a high priority on all future Ramblers Business Plans

To work with Ordnance Survey to ensure multi-user routes on maps are clearly defined as such, rather than just cycle routes which leads to confusion.

To publish the annual accounts in Walk Magazine.

Area AGM



morning. We had an inspiring speech from our Area President, Prof David Hey.

Thanks to Sheffield 20s & 30s Walking Group for hosting the event and for leading a walk on the

Longshaw is 80!

SYNED Area have invited to attend the 80th Anniversary of the handover of Longshaw to National Trust of Longshaw Estate at Longshaw Moorland Discovery Centre.

Membership Drive

Our Membership Secretary, Jenny, has been keeping a close eye on how we are performing as an Area in terms of the Ramblers ambitious aim to end the year with more members than we started with. We are currently falling short of this target with a 4.4% overall drop in membership. Congratulations to Barnsley & Penistone Group, Sheffield 40s and Chesterfield Young Ramblers who have seen their numbers increase this month.

Group Newsround...

A summary of what each of our groups has been up to, as reported at the Area Council in February.

Barnsley & Penistone

sees their specialist 20s-30s subgroup steadily attracting new members and raising their profile by taking part in a dragon boat race. Barnsley council have announced cuts of around 15% to their Rights of Way Budget.



Bolsover

We were pleased to welcome Bolsover to the Area Council after a long absence. It was reported that the Group is struggling with numbers. Any assistance to raise the groups profile would, I am sure, be appreciated.



Chesterfield



Chesterfield took part in the Peak District walking festival. Dates were given for the Moscar estate closures, which do not affect footpaths. We were advised that the old coking works, a blot on the landscape for years, were being cleaned-up. There was also a reported death of a bull due to a discarded plastic bottle. If you see discarded litter please pick it up.

Dearne Valley



Sheffield Group

Sheffield held a special 'thank-you' event for their leaders, with a guest speaker from the Primary Health Care Trust. Representatives had also met three local MPs to discuss financial cuts. Angela Smith and Clive Betts had both responded positively, hoping to influence the council, with Nick Clegg still to respond.



Sheffield 20s & 30s Walking Group

Sheffield 20s-30s have continued to arrange Walk Leader training with Foothills and they were providing a half-day of

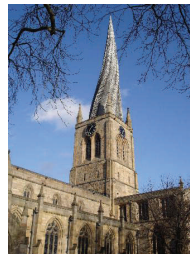


map-reading training themselves. Members have also been participating in conservation days.

Chesterfield

Young Ramblers

The whippersnapper Chesterfield Young Ramblers have expanded to include a Saturday walks programme and their website is currently recording 50 hits/day. To aid publicity they have provided a display in the Chesterfield library.



Doncaster

The council's Rights of Way Department had recently discussed Group members doing some maintenance work for them; previous offers had been turned down, the change in attitude is most welcome.

took part in six walks during Doncaster Council's Festival of Winter Walks.



reported that The Environment Agency hoped to open-up the Dearne for recreation and the Group was represented on the consultative committee.

Rotherham Metro



Rotherham Metro were grateful for the donation from Area for the Harry Rogers memorial walk, and it was provisionally planned to put a plaque on a stile in recognition of the Ramblers. Walk training for leaders was being organised through

Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers

The agreeable Co-operative Ramblers inform us that they have decided not to develop a website at this time. They raised concerns of the increased cost of civil liability insurance and difficulties in financing it.

Sheffield 40s Walking Group

Sheffield 40s is 'buzzing' and is currently seeking to establish a national network of 40s Groups, hoping to form links for walks, weekends away, etc. Members are emailed fortnightly with reminders about the walks plus any relevant information on bigger issues. They have also arranged for a display in Ecclesall library.



Sheffield Visually Impaired Group

Are holding a special event day at Chatsworth on 3 July, when possibly 250

people, including guides, would attend. Any additional leaders are asked to get in touch. The cost would be £12, covering a buffet.

