



**ramblers**  
at the heart of walking

# **Derbyshire Area News**

## **Annual Report 2016**



**Derby Silk Mill, site of the  
worlds first factory.**

***Photo: Keith Shiers***

Visit our website at [www.derbyshireramblers.org.uk](http://www.derbyshireramblers.org.uk)

# ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR

Please raise your hands.

**Don't sit on them.**

This is your chance to get your voice heard at the highest level.

Take it. We really want to hear what you've got to say. Join us at the **AGM**

**AREA AGM**

**SATURDAY 21st JANUARY 2017**

**at 2:00 pm**

**WEST HALLAM VILLAGE HALL,**

**THE VILLAGE,**

**WEST HALLAM,**

**ILKESTON**

**DERBYSHIRE, DE7 6GR**

**There will be a short walk (approx. 4 miles) in the morning starting from the village hall at 10:30 am**

**The hall will be available from 12 noon until 4pm. Refreshments will be available but people to bring their own lunch.**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**There will be a guest speaker from Ramblers World Wide Holidays. The organisation is renowned for being a forerunner in providing various types of walking holidays that now encompass the globe. For many years they have supported Ramblers with charitable donations, latterly supporting the Big Pathwatch Project. Individual Groups can also benefit from their generosity, details on how are at the back of this issue.**

***Getting there***

*West Hallam Village Hall is a Grade II listed building located in the heart of the village. It can be approached from the north from High Lane West (the A609 Ilkeston road) via either Station Road or St. Wilfrid's Road or from the south from Ladywood Road (the A6096) Ilkeston to Spondon road via Cat & Fiddle Lane and then Station Road.*

*There is a large car park at the shopping centre opposite the hall.*

*There is a bus service from Derby and Ilkeston that stops close by.*

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### **Notice of a proposed motion for discussion at the AGM**

The Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Group wish to propose a motion for submission to Ramblers' General Council 2017 and are asking for the support of Derbyshire Area members. This Group is not formally part of the Derbyshire Area, however, it has been agreed that it will be an agenda item for discussion at the Derbyshire Area AGM to be held at West Hallam Village Hall on 21st January 2017.

#### **Background:**

Landowners are required by law to reinstate a public right of way within 14 days of disturbing the surface of the path. The Highway Authority has a power to prosecute, under the Rights of Way Act 1990, where a landowner fails to reinstate within the prescribed limit. Equally, it has a power to prosecute where crops obstruct a right of way.

The motion has been proposed due to the continued negligence of some landowners not to reinstate public footpaths that are affected by disturbance due to ploughing and cropping under their statutory duty to do so. Some are repeat offenders and there is frustration that some local Highway Authorities are not pursuing offenders rigorously to improve the situation.

#### **Proposed Motion:**

*“Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Group consider a motion to the General Council to the effect that Central Office be instructed to take the lead in highlighting continuing unnecessary ploughing and the illegal ploughing of field edge paths, plus repeated cropping obstructions and the inaction by some Highway Authorities with adverse consequences for all walkers seeking their lawful rights. We suggest in addition that Central Office open a dialogue with NFU to seek their co-operation.”*

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## Note from the Editor

Despite the familiar depressing news that austerity continues to bite and affect the ability of local authorities to provide the RoW and Countryside services we have previously enjoyed. All the Groups continue to enjoy good walking programmes and in some cases, increased attendances. Welcome news and long may it continue. So a BIG THANK YOU to all the Area and Group Officers, Walk Leaders, Volunteer Footpath teams and everyone else that help organise everything to keep us walking and enjoying our beloved countryside. Not forgetting you too for your support as a member that allows this to happen.

Well, that's it then. This will be the last edition under my editorship and possibly the last issue altogether. Unless a miracle happens and someone would care to take up the challenge and bring a fresh pair of eyes to keep it going. Good walking to all. *Keith Shiers*

## Cover Picture

Derby Silk Mill is on the site of the first ever factory in the world, and on the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site which stretches from Matlock Bath to Derby. The current building dates from the early 20th century when a fire destroyed most of the original buildings leaving only the tower. It now houses mostly industrial artefacts as part of Derby Museum. It can be visited as a slight detour of the Arthur Osborne and Keith Walkerdine Memorial Walk that starts from the Cathedral opposite,

A pleasant riverside walk can be taken up to Darley Park and onto Darley Village and mills, another World Heritage site. Built by the Evans family, for many years the village was not allowed a public house as it may have adversely affected the workers. Now it has two; one of which is the remains of part of the old Abbey, it also has quite a nice restaurant in one of the mill buildings overlooking the weir.

Cross the weir and pass the toll booth (free to pedestrians), a right turn leads you to Darley Fields and a pleasant return walk passing the old Roman fort site of Derventio before crossing the river on an old railway bridge to then return whence one came.

### **Obituary for John Beadle**

We were very sorry to hear earlier this year that John Beadle, a long standing member of the Ramblers, and the long standing President of our Area, had died. John lived to the south side of Derby and he came without fail to our Area AGMs until the 2015 AGM when his Parkinson's had developed to the extent that he decided that he could no longer continue with his presidential duties. That did not stop him from coming to our 2016 AGM as our guest speaker was the Chief Executive of the Peak District National Park Authority, with which John had been very much involved as can be seen in the following statements from Kate and the PDNPA. At the AGMs John would always give us an interesting update on the PDNPA and his views on matters relating to access and Rights of Way.

Martin Pape, Area Vice-President

Kate Ashbrook (ex Chair and President of the Ramblers and now a Trustee; Chief Executive of the Open Spaces Society):

John Beadle was chairman of the Peak District NPA from 1981-93 at the time we were reviving the access campaign. He strongly believed in access and was proud that the Peak District had led the way in making access agreements under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, though we argued firmly that we needed rights not agreements (and I suspect that John agreed but wasn't able to say so).

PDNPA:

John Beadle chaired the Peak Park Joint Planning Board – the forerunner to the Peak District National Park Authority – from 1981-1993, steering the organisation through an important period for public access and landscape and wildlife conservation during which we acquired the Monsal Trail, the Eastern Moors Estate, and Warslow Moors Estate. He was a passionate advocate for National Parks and a strong voice in the campaign for strengthening legislation to protect them during his tenure. He saw National Parks as an investment in Britain's future.



**Ramblers Derbyshire Area**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**at Darley Dale Methodist Church at 2.00 p.m.**

There were 39 attendees. The meeting was chaired by Nick Stephens of Derbyshire Dales Group who welcomed members, especially our past President John Beadle, Sarah Fowler our guest speaker and Roy Hunt a Board of Trustee member.

Before the start of the AGM Sarah Fowler Chief Executive of Peak District National Park Authority gave us an insight into the PDNP and then took questions on a variety of topics. Sue Weatherley proposed a vote of thanks.

Martin Pape remembered Ron Blanksby who passed away in September and had held various positions within Ramblers and other organisations.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** These were received from Mike Hufton.

**2. Minutes of the 17th January 2015 AGM and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved. This was proposed by Dave Pearson and seconded by Keith Shiers.

**Matters arising**

**Item 4 (MP)**

A grant was offered, subject to conditions, for restoration of a historic pathway from Winster to Birchover but this offer has not yet been taken up.

The Centenary Way from Ilkeston to Ashbourne has been walked and route instructions and physical improvements to the route identified prior to adding to Ramblers' Routes.

**Item 10**

MP was tasked with writing a letter to the Ramblers' Chair on members' concerns about proposals for a new Governance Structure for the Ramblers, this has been done.

**3. Consider the Annual Report for 2014-2015 of the Area Council**

**NS** This was included on pages 8 & 9 of Area News Annual Report 2015. As there were no questions this was accepted. Proposed Keith Shiers, seconded Tony Beardsley

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### 4. Consider the Area Accounts and Financial Statement for year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and the Independent Examiner`s statement

The Area Accounts and Financial Statement had been circulated previously and copies were available at the meeting.

**MP** summarised the Financial Statement which had been examined by Roger Torr an independent examiner. He also proffered his thanks and that the customary ex-gracia gift (bottle of wine) be given him.

Tony Beardsley asked whether we could invest Restricted funds to secure a higher rate of interest.

#### **Action - Mike Hufton**

Isabella Stone asked what is returned to Groups from subscriptions. **MP** responded that Groups put forward a budget to the Area which it then consolidates and submits to Central Office to cover planned expenditure.

Sara Ashmead moved that the Area Accounts and Financial Statement be approved and this was seconded by John Dyson

### 5. Appointment of Honorary Area Officers

**President:** No nominations

**Vice Presidents:** Martin Pape and Tony Beardsley.

**Chairman** – No nominations so as agreed at previous AGM`s to be rotated round the Groups on an annual basis. **NS** appealed to members as he said this is not an ideal situation. Sue Weatherly will carry out the duties on behalf of Derbyshire Dales Group.

**Secretary:** No nominations so Ange Dunlop has offered to step in and take on the essential duties.

**Countryside Secretary** – Vacant

**Footpath Initiative:** Basil Merry of Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire has taken on the role of Ramblers` Footpath Co-ordinator for Derbyshire. Given this and the efforts of Group Footpath Secretaries, it was considered there was no requirement for an Area Footpath Secretary. Members were asked if they were happy for this arrangement to continue and they were. Thanks were offered to Basil in his absence.

**Publicity** – Vacant.

All other officers being willing to stand for re-election and there being no further nominations, the Area Council will be as follows:-

**Vice Presidents:** Martin Pape and Tony Beardsley

**Chairman:** Groups in rotation – 2016 Derbyshire Dales

**Secretary :** Ange Dunlop

**Minutes Secretary:** Carol Shiers

Prop. Sara Ashmead,  
seconded Keith Shiers

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Membership Secretary:</b> Chris Vaughan | Prop. John Morrissey,<br>seconded Keith Shiers  |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> Mike Hufton              | Prop. Keith Shiers,<br>seconded John Dyson      |
| <b>Access Officer:</b> Sue Weatherley      | Prop. Peter Widdowson,<br>seconded Keith Shiers |
| <b>Area News Editor:</b> Keith Shiers      | Prop. Martin Pape,<br>seconded John Morrissey   |
| <b>Web-site Manager:</b> Chris Vaughan     | Prop. Carol Shiers,<br>seconded Keith Shiers    |

### **6. Election of representative of individual members**

John Dyson was re-elected.

### **7. Election of representatives of affiliated local organisations**

Derek Roome generally represents affiliated local organisations but was not present at the meeting.

### **8. Appointment of representatives to General Council**

Sue Weatherley and Keith Shiers. Carol Shiers to attend as an observer.

### **9. Appointment of Independent Examiner to the Accounts**

Roger Torr – Mike Hufton has spoken to him and he has agreed to continue. Proposed by Peter Widdeson, seconded Martin Pape.

### **10. Motions, recommendations to the Area Council or any Group motions for submission to the next General Council of the Ramblers**

A proposed motion in support of SYNED`'s draft motion to Ramblers` General Council 2016 regarding termination of the current governance review and that Derbyshire Area second the motion was rejected as members felt they could not support a draft motion, not knowing what the final motion would be.

After considerable discussion it was decided to submit the following:-

This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to end the current governance review. It calls upon the Board of Trustees to re-examine its approach to governance review.

Proposed by John Dyson, seconded by Chris Vaughan.

This was carried by majority vote.

### **11. Any other business**

The Chairman asked attendees whether there were any matter they wished to raise.

There were none.

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Martin thanked Nick for arranging and chairing the meeting.

Nick thanked Martin for leading the pre meeting walk. He also thanked Martin on behalf of members for the work he has put in on their behalf and presented him with a certificate signed by Kate Ashbrook Ramblers` President, in recognition of his services. Carol thanked him on behalf of the Area Committee.

Martin thanked his fellow Area Council members for their efforts and support during his time as Area Secretary.

Thanks were also proffered to Roy Hunt BoT member for his contribution to the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 4.10pm.**

**Date of 2017 AGM organised by Erewash Group to be advised.**

### ***REMEMBER !*** ***YOUR FOOTPATHS NEED YOU***



Walk your local footpaths regularly.

Become a local Footpath Warden for your Group and monitor their state

Join a footpath working party with your Group and help maintain the footpaths

Research old maps for your Group—remember the 2026 cut off date for claims

Report any problem you find to: [eteprow@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:eteprow@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Enjoy your walk!

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### **Area Secretary's Report**

Ange Dunlop

During the year October 2015 to September 2016 we held three Area Council meetings all in the lovely building that is the Herbert Strutt Community Centre, Belper and we thank Gerry White for organising them. Thanks too to all attendees.

Our AGM was in January 2016 at the Darley Dale Methodist Church, Darley Dale. There were 39 attendees. The meeting was chaired by Nick Stephens of Derbyshire Dales Group who welcomed members, especially our past President John Beadle, Sarah Fowler our guest speaker and Roy Hunt a Board of Trustee member.

Before the start of the AGM Sarah Fowler Chief Executive of Peak District National Park Authority gave us an insight into the PDNP and then took questions on a variety of topics. Sue Weatherley proposed a vote of thanks.

Martin Pape remembered Ron Blanksby who passed away in September and had held various positions within Ramblers and other organisations.

During the year we were saddened to note the death of John Beadle who had been our Area President for an impressive 41 years.

There continues to be a lack of volunteers to take up roles on the Area Council so it was agreed that the chair would continue to rotate. Following the resignation of Martin Pape as secretary Angela Dunlop offered to take on essential duties. Basil Merry of Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire has taken on the role of Ramblers` Footpath Co-ordinator for Derbyshire. Given this and the efforts of Group Footpath Secretaries, it was considered there was no requirement for an Area Footpath Secretary. Members were happy for this arrangement to continue. Thanks were offered to Basil in his absence. There were no nominations for President at the AGM but John Morrissey has since agreed to take up the post.

The Area get-together on 2<sup>nd</sup> October was once again a huge success. This was led by Derby and South Derbyshire this year and was attended by 63 people taking in a variety of walks round Calke area.

### **Area Access Officer's Report**

Sue Weatherly

I continue to attend the quarterly meetings of the Peak District Local Access Forum and also meetings of the two sub-groups dealing with Access and Green Lanes.

Off-roading continues to be an important topic with consultations in progress on Washgates and Derby Lane near Monyash. Careful readers of Area News may recall that Washgates has been mentioned several times in recent years. It continues to be a high priority route and the process of consultation is still ongoing. Hopefully there will be a resolution for this route in the next year.

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The Green Lanes Sub Group of the Local Access Forum have begun to look at the condition of priority routes in the northern part of the Peak District National Park and site visits have taken place in Sheffield and Kirklees.

The Access Fund which was established to celebrate 10 years of Access Land continues to grow and Derbyshire and Sheffield Ramblers have both made significant contributions. The Fund is being used to establish new Access points as and when opportunity arises and maintain Access Land paths.

The Derbyshire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan will be reviewed in 2017 and both the Peak District and Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forums will be contributing to that work.

The National Park Management Plan is also being reviewed and the Access Forum is contributing to that work.

I have also attended meetings representing the PDLAF in discussions about the South West Peak Landscape project which is in the process of finalising the details of a Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

### **Derbyshire Rights of Way Report** Basil Merry

In 2015 we reported on the 7 Derbyshire Ramblers Groups working together with a joint committee to ensure we fulfil our charitable objectives of protecting, maintaining, improving, and promoting the use of public rights of way in the county.

The latter was perhaps the easiest part as the combined guided walks offered by the groups already number of the order of 750 walks a year. It must be remembered that Ramblers members can walk with any group in the country, not just county, and that all our walks are open to the public on a trial basis.

As with everything we must be vigilant to ensure that last offer is not abused by the few who walk regularly with us, but don't join the Ramblers. Sadly, some do try it on and we need to resist.

Protection comes from groups monitoring planning applications, responding to diversion consultations, reporting path issues (preferably with photographic evidence), to meeting with DCC to act as 'critical friends' to them.

We cannot choose our Highway Authority and however much we may dislike what they do and don't do we have to make the best of our relationship. No other organisation in the county can provide the range of information that our Derbyshire membership of nearly 2000 can. Many popular walking organisations do not even

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try and fail to report fallen trees, chained gates, and maize fields as high as an elephant's eye across rights of way.

Maintenance and improvement comes from the Footpath Practical teams operated by most groups. Activities range from surveying paths to replacing stiles with wicket gates, to basic bridge installation. If your Group doesn't have one consider setting one up. If it does why not join the current activists who are given training, and provided with insurance either by DCC or the Ramblers depending on the particular task.

So, the joint committee and what flows from it, is operating well and provides mutual support and ideas to FP Secretaries. Best practice is the aim and 'creative swiping' is welcome.

All sounds good but DCC is severely hampered for funding. The number of RoW Inspectors is reduced and the number of Rangers will be reduced.

DCC's capacity to maintain the network is considerably reduced, our practical teams may have to fill more of the shortfall.

One avenue we must exploit is the ability of parish councils to take 'ownership' of their paths, monitoring, carrying out basic strimming, and reporting faults. Some parish councils are very good already but far too many are either disinterested or generally invisible.

We need to stir them up in 2016. Please don't just read about what we do but join in. Contact your FP secretary without delay. WE need to move up from Rippling\* to paddling hard.

*Derbyshire Footpath Co-ordinator*: RIPPLE stands for 'Restoring and Improving Public Paths for Local Enjoyment'. I'll work on paddling!

**The Big Pathwatch continues!**

**Look out for news of the re-launch and how you can become involved.**

To: Members of The Ramblers' Association  
Derbyshire Area

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

I present overleaf the accounts for the Group for the year ended 30 September 2016.

**Basis of Preparation**

Income and expenditure are recorded in most cases on a cash basis. Expenses paid to Committee members in respect of costs incurred in performing their duties relate primarily to the year in which they are paid.

**Summary**

**There was a net deficit for the year of £547 (2015: £860 deficit)**  
**The Area's General Reserves stand at £1,786.**

**Income**

Total Area funding received from Central Office was £4,100 (2015: £3,200), of which £3,422 (2015: £3,170) was for the Groups, and £678 (2015: £30) for Area purposes. Revenue for advertising in the Area News generated £95 (2015: £205). Interest received on the bank account amounted to £11 (2015: £14).

**Expenditure**

Funding payments to the Derbyshire Groups amounted to £3,422 (2015: £3,170). Area administration costs totalled £931 (2015: £1,109). Of this £549 (2015: £707) relates to the production of the Area News distributed to members. The balance of £382 (2015: £402) covers AGM, Council and Footpath meetings, and attendance at General Council.

A contribution of £400 was made to the Peak Park Access Fund from the restricted reserves.

**Balance Sheet**

The Area's funds at 30 September 2016 total £12,618 comprising Unity Bank deposits of £12,628, less £10 accruals.

The reserves comprise General Reserves of £1,786, and £10,832 designated reserves (received from the Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society in 2011 on the closure of this organisation in particular for the purpose of maintaining the Centenary Way).



M S Hufton  
Area Treasurer

**RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION - DERBYSHIRE AREA**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2016**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

| 2015         |                                     | 2016  |              |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| £            |                                     | £     | £            |
|              | <b>INCOME</b>                       |       |              |
|              | Head Office funding                 |       |              |
| 30           | Area                                | 678   |              |
| 3,170        | Group                               | 3,422 |              |
| 205          | Advertising revenue                 | 95    |              |
| 14           | Bank account interest               | 11    |              |
|              |                                     |       | <u>4206</u>  |
| <u>3,419</u> | <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                 |       | <u>4,206</u> |
|              | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                  |       |              |
| 3,170        | Group funding                       |       | 3,422        |
|              | Peak Park Access Fund - donation    |       | 400          |
|              | Administration Expenses:            |       |              |
| 56           | Room Hire: AGM and Council meetings | 173   |              |
| 120          | Room Hire: Footpath meetings        | 99    |              |
| 44           | Area Get-together                   |       |              |
| 85           | General Council attendance          | 100   |              |
| 15           | PDGLA                               |       |              |
| 707          | Area News                           | 549   |              |
| 62           | Postage, stationary, other admin    | -     |              |
| 20           | Sundry                              | 10    |              |
| 1,109        | Subtotal administration expenses    |       | 931          |
| <u>4,279</u> | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>            |       | <u>4,753</u> |
| <u>(860)</u> | <b>NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME</b>   |       | <u>(547)</u> |

**BALANCE SHEET**

|               | <b>AREA FUNDS</b>                 | <u>Designated</u> | <u>General</u> | <u>Total</u>  |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 14,025        | Balance as at 1st October 2015    | 11,232            | 1,933          | 13,165        |
| <u>(860)</u>  | Surplus / (deficit) for the year  | <u>(400)</u>      | <u>(147)</u>   | <u>(547)</u>  |
| <u>13,165</u> | Balance as at 30th September 2016 | <u>10,832</u>     | <u>1,786</u>   | <u>12,618</u> |
|               | <i>Represented by:</i>            |                   |                |               |
| 13,165        | Unity Bank Account                |                   |                | 12,628        |
|               | Accruals                          |                   |                | <u>(10)</u>   |
| <u>13,165</u> |                                   |                   |                | <u>12,618</u> |

M S Hufton - Treasurer

Audit Statement

I certify that the above accounts reflect accurately the transactions of the Area during the financial year and of the state of affairs at 30 September 2016, and that records have been properly kept and payments authorised by the Area committee during the year to 30 September 2016.



R Torr - Honorary Auditor



### Rambler's General Council 2016

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Keith Shiers  | Delegate |
| Sue Weatherly | Delegate |
| Carol Shiers  | Visitor  |

This year the General Council was held at the University of York, a modern and attractive campus close to the village of Heslington, a ten minute bus ride from York. Our thanks go to all who were involved with our stay, both university and Ramblers' staff and also to East Yorkshire and Derwent Area volunteers who were our hosts.

The format this year was slightly different from previous years in that it had been decided to incorporate a 'members day' beforehand. This gave an opportunity for those that wished, to be involved with a number of workshops and discussions on various topics prior to start of business. This appeared to work quite well as it left the rest of the time to deal with the more formal aspects, though there were still some overruns.

Council commenced with the usual presentation from chair and chief executive that highlighted the tremendous work and effort of the past year done by all – staff and volunteers - in promoting Ramblers and the successes that included the £250,000 award from The Postcode Lottery, confirmation of the Coastal Path, the success of the Big Pathwatch project and the continuing association with McMillan in Walking for Health. There are still difficult times ahead with continuing local authority cuts and future legislation impacting on the paths and countryside.

BOT candidate hustings were interesting with Kate Ashbrook demonstrating once again her campaigning passion and appeal to members and was voted as a member of the BOT together with Roy Hunt (East Yorkshire and Derwent) and Robert Peel (past Honorary Treasurer) all of whom will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the board. The evening also incorporated the hustings for the vacant Agenda Committee posts, the chance for a one to one consultation with each candidate.

The first session of council started with a request for an emergency motion. There had been ill feeling on the decision by the Agenda Committee not to issue the background notes with the motions as had been the case in previous years. The background notes help to give the delegates a clearer picture of the reasoning for the motion and help in the debate. An emergency motion was proposed that background notes be included with the motions and was passed.

The minutes of General Council 2015 were approved and a presentation given on the annual report and accounts. There were two outstanding presentations from the chairs of Wales and Scotland; both young women whose nations have put in considerable effort to promote Ramblers, something we should learn from. Finances are in good order though there is still heavy reliance on maintaining membership numbers. The accounts were approved and auditors re-appointed.

Second session of Council and down to business. Kate Ashbrook (retiring president), Jonathan Kipling (past chairman), Brian Reader (retiring Agenda Committee chair) and Dave Morris (Rambler's Scotland) were elected vice presidents – an honorary

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post in recognition of past achievements. Notification of results for Trustees and Agenda Committee were presented to council; then onto motions.

This General Council was of particular interest to us as Derbyshire Area, together with Kent and South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire (SYNED) had proposed similar motions with regard to ending the current governance review. The Agenda Committee (the supervising body that deals with the legitimacy of motions and their order of debate) had previously suggested that the motions be composited (joined) and a suitable amended motion was finally agreed that was to be proposed by Kent and seconded by SYNED with Derbyshire adding comment from the floor. As there were motions from Surrey and Lincolnshire on specific issues of the governance review, an appeal was made to the Agenda Committee to rearrange the debating order such that, if the composited motion were debated first and passed then the Surrey and Lincolnshire motions would be annulled, thus saving time on further debate. This was rejected and the debating order stood but with the emergency motion inserted as a priority. In all, Council debated 9 motions in the time available, with all bar one being passed that included our joint motion.

One of the positives about General council is the opportunity to meet delegates from other Areas, some old and some new and exchange views. We had some interesting conversations with members from Leicestershire & Rutland, Northants, Buckingham, Shropshire, Surrey, Highlands and Islands and Lothian & Borders. We found that most Areas encourage participation in supporting 2 visitors; that some Areas are fairly advanced in following up 'Lost Ways' with one Area linking with the BHS and using their contact at Kew for completing research (it costs but is cheaper than sending someone down there). Some likely to be affected by HS2 are already progressing proposals for mitigating loss of paths.

General Council is not to everyone's liking. However, it is our democracy in action, it holds our elected Board of Trustees to account and helps plot a course of progress for the Ramblers. As a legally registered organisation we shall always require some form of governance. To this end, like it or not, we must support and embrace it and preferably be involved with it from the grass roots as a member right through the Group and Area structures.

*Keith Shiers*

### General Council 2017

Derbyshire Area is allowed two delegates whose attendance is paid for by Central Office including travel expenses. Delegates are allowed to vote and participate in the discussions.

The Area Council have agreed to also fund two visitors to attend. They are not allowed to vote nor join in the formal discussions.

If you want to know a little bit more how Ramblers' operates then consider taking the opportunity to attend as a delegate or visitor.

### **Group Reports**

#### **Derby & South Derbyshire**

The walks programme continues to offer a variety of walks on Sundays and Wednesdays. The longer Sunday walks have been varied & interesting from July onwards, getting further north into the Dark Peak in the summer months. Weather in August, September & early October has been mainly dry & good for walking.

Well over 20, mainly longer Sunday walkers, enjoyed four good walks around Whitby in September, blessed by dry, often sunny weather. There was a post Xmas lunch organised by the longer Sunday Walks group which was well-attended although the preceding walk was - well, a bit wet underfoot.

Well over 20, mainly longer Sunday walkers, enjoyed four good walks around Whitby in September, blessed by dry, often sunny weather.

The shorter Sunday walkers group have continued to offer a varied programme of walks within a 20 mile radius of Derby. Between 15 and 25 people attend ... with the higher number on good weather days. The walks seem to attract quite a lot of occasional walkers and RA members visiting the area. Almost all of the walks end with a pub or cafe get-together. In the next programme over half the walks will be from new starting points. The group is continuing to enjoy good turnouts with over 30 quite frequently. Sometimes an easier or shorter alternative route is still offered by the leaders.

The Wednesday Group has recently had several very nice walks which have been enjoyed by all despite the bad weather. Some of the walk leaders have organised a second shorter walk or a shortened version of the main walk on a couple of occasions. On recent walks the turnout was usually just below thirty

### ***There are no other Group reports in this issue***

Walking's easy, I have done it since I was a toddler.

*Anonymous Grandson*

# Derbyshire Area News - Annual Report 2016

## Running the Ramblers

*Sue Weatherley*  
*Acting Chair and Area Access Officer*

We all do our bit in 'running the Ramblers' by leading walks and contributing to the excellent range of walks on offer in Derbyshire but The Ramblers is more than a collection of walking groups, it is the national body that acts as a guardian of our rights as walkers. The network of footpaths, bridle ways and Access Land that we enjoy is truly a national treasure and it needs to be safe guarded. Locally we do work on checking and maintaining paths but there is also work to be done on a national level and by and large we leave that to Ramblers Head Office. We probably all feel that they generally do a good job but we probably also all have the odd moan about HQ being 'out of touch'. Human nature being what it is we all assume that it is their fault for this without really appreciating the intense lobbying and discussions with various other organisations undertaken on our behalf as well as supporting all of the Groups and Areas at a national level.

I would like to make a case for more Derbyshire folks to get involved at all levels. Area Council is the local organisation that makes the link between local groups and HQ and we are struggling to get people to help. At the moment Area Council needs a chairman and we shall shortly need a Minutes Secretary and an Editor for Area News, we also need more folks to represent their local groups.

Last year Derbyshire sent three people to the General Council in April. In 2017 this will be in Southampton on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Our constitution allows for two delegates to attend, paid for by Head Office. Area Council have decided to set aside funding so that 2 more people can have the chance to attend as visitors. It gives members the chance to learn a bit more about how the Ramblers works, meet some of the staff, have their say in the discussions and, perhaps most usefully, meet ramblers from other places and find out what they do and think. You do not have to be on Area Council to take up one of these places and it is a really good way of finding out more about what Ramblers do nationally and how the organisation works.

Interested? Get in touch with me, Ange, or your local Area representative. Contact details are on page 26.

### *Editors Note*

*Sue apologises there is no Adventures in Access Land article in this edition.*

### **Derbyshire Rights of Way**

*Basil Merry  
Derbyshire Footpath Coordinator*

In 2014 all the Ramblers Groups in Derbyshire started working closer together to protect and improve the rights of way in Derbyshire and Derby City.

The objective was to ensure that the Groups, which are in 3 different Ramblers Areas, co-operated in dealings with the councils to best effect. It proved to be a timely step.

During 2015 the need to speak with one voice has become more apparent. As we all know, councils are under financial pressure and the maintenance of rights of way is no exception.

If things were in order to start with, the impact may have been less. But sadly, both councils are not up to date in definitive maps and statements, the processing of legal orders, and path maintenance.

New ways of working need to be introduced and this could mean an increased role for parish councils, and other volunteers. Difficult times are ahead in any case.

But it's not all bad news. The Ramblers Derbyshire Rights of Way Committee (RDROWC) has asked DCC to protect the woodlands and green spaces they own by dedicating them for public use in perpetuity. We have obtained a commitment that all greenways that do not presently have public right of way status, will be given that protection. We understand that a Derbyshire Walking Strategy should be in the next Improvement Plan, some years after the already agreed Derbyshire Cycling Strategy.

RDROWC will continue to press councils to see walking as an essential component and the most cost effective tool in improving public health. Through tourism it also benefits the local economy.

Good paths will be needed more than ever and that's our objective.

Please get involved in helping us to achieve that by helping to monitor, maintain, and improve your local rights of way. Contact your Group Footpath Secretary and see how you can make a difference.

### Lost, Missing or just Confused Ways

Basil Merry  
Derbyshire Footpath Co-ordinator

There have been many words spoken, and much written about 'lost ways', but on investigating most turn out to be just 'missing' and the only certainty is confusion.

Each Group should have a copy of an excellent book 'Rights of Way – Restoring the Record' issued by Bucks and Wadey from the British Horse Riders Society. Some Derbyshire members have attended training sessions given by them for the Ramblers in which they relate how to check historical records for 'lost' paths.

If you don't know what we're talking about, please keep up. Any historical paths shown on maps prior to 1954, will be unable to be claimed as public rights of way after 2026 to give certainty to land owners. You can still claim paths based on 20 years of continuous unfettered use after that year.

Some are missing by virtue of drafting errors or omissions in transferring records to the latest digital version of the Working Copy of the Definitive Map of public rights of way. Others will have been overlooked on the transfer from the original map to the digital representation available .

To try and cut through the confusion a flow chart has been drafted and is now being trialled by the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Group to filter path suggestions submitted. Two paths are in the process of being 'claimed' using different methods.

The flowchart is reproduced overleaf for other Derbyshire Area Groups to try. Please get involved. We really need a grid square by grid square approach of our patches – for that we need a few interested people. Please contact Basil Merry for further information and notes on the flowchart.

At the end of it all you may be able to point to a line on an OS map and say 'that's there because of something I did'.

How many people can say that?

As the now recognised great philosopher Winnie the Pooh said 'It's best to know what you're looking for before you look for it'. A A Milne.

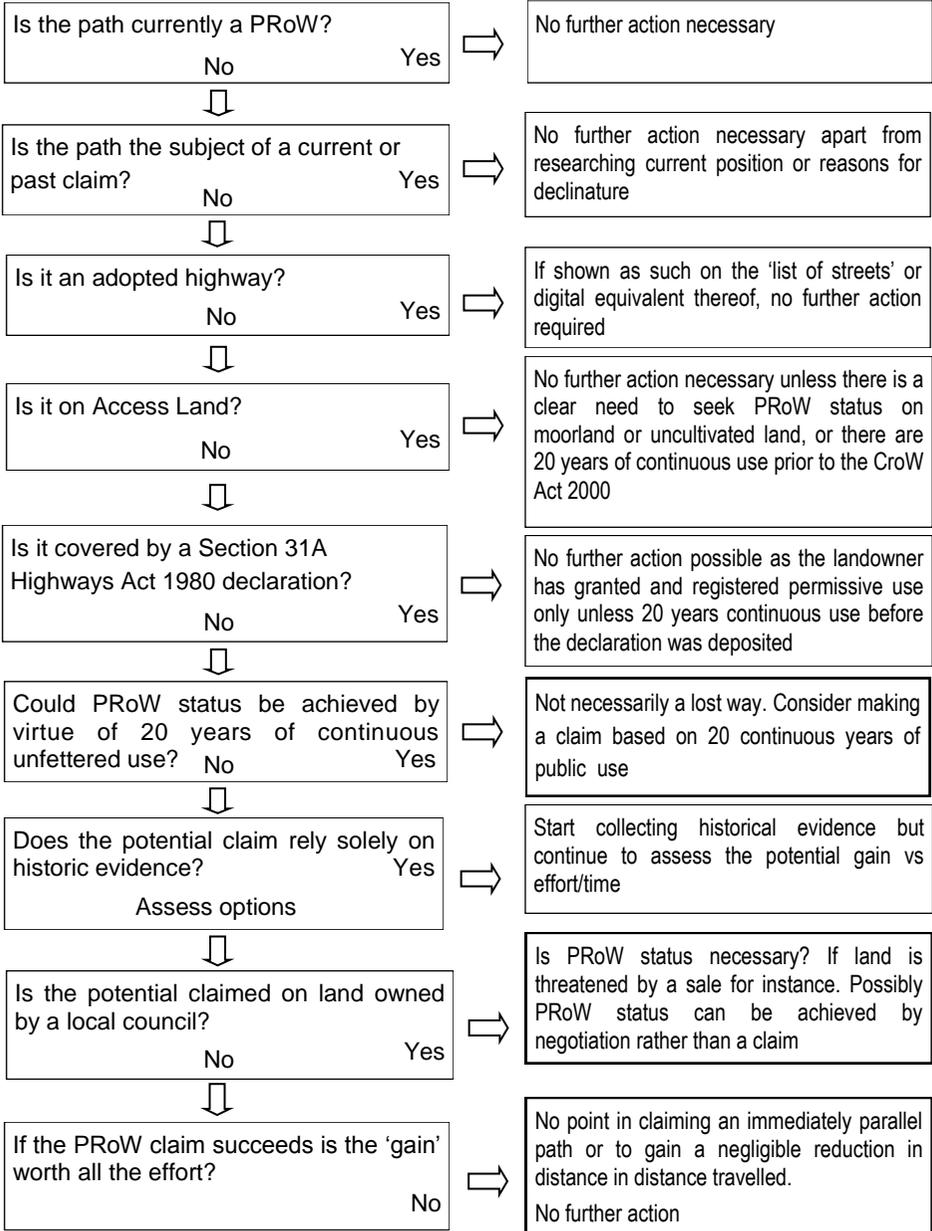
#### *Editors Note*

*2026 may seem a long way off, but I can remember this being said for a number of years now and nothing seems to have changed. Don't leave it to the few, get involved ,it might be something different to do on dark nights. You may even enjoy the process!*

# Derbyshire Area News - Annual Report 2016

## Possible 'Lost Ways' PRoW Claims Analysis

Path Concerned.....Grid Reference.....Date commenced.....



### **Seasons come, Seasons go**

David Davison  
Amber Valley Group

Soon, the rustling of leaves beneath our feet, gossamer cobwebs drifting from the hedgerows, glinting in the early morning light remind us that autumn is here. The chill winds of winter are just around the corner, when many of us will become unrecognisable, wrapped and cocooned in warm layers, with thoughts of summer long gone and spring too far ahead to contemplate. But, already the too few volunteers of our groups are planning ahead for the coming year, programmes of walks and talks to organize, holidays and meetings to formulate, enabling the enjoyment of our members to be fulfilled.

Next year will be the tenth, since moving to this wonderful Derbyshire, the welcoming hills, dales and people proffering recreation and friendship which we gladly accepted and in turn became part of. Such was the experience and the continued amity of our companions, the openness of the countryside with its myriad paths and ways that we felt fortunate and grateful taking pleasure provided by those who work to keep our rambling groups alive.

It has been gratifying to have the opportunity to be able to give back a little of those things freely given in time and companionship, by becoming a volunteer and in some small way, helping to maintain and promote that which we love and enjoy.

Many of us now approaching our third age will soon have done our bit and wonder who will continue in our stead. Will it be you? What I can guarantee and assure is that you will find it truly rewarding.

*If you have the time and inclination to lend a hand no matter how little, then, just have a word with any leader and they I am sure, will point you in the right direction.*

**For your safety when out walking**

**Dark nights: wear something bright**

**See and be seen**

**Carry a torch and use it**

**Area Get Together**

The 2016 Area Get Together was held on Sunday 2nd October and hosted by the Derby and South Derbyshire Group. Meeting at Calke Abbey for a 10 o'clock start.

There were 63 people who attended the event to enjoy any one of three walks in the surrounding area.

Our thanks to Derby and South Derbyshire Group for organising the event, to all of the walk leaders and to the refreshment team. Another successful event, enjoyed by all.

**Area Get Together 2017**

The Area Get together for 2017 will be organised by the Derbyshire Dales Group.

The provisional date is Sunday 15th October 2017.

All details will be confirmed and publicised on individual Group websites.

It is proposed to meet at the Old Station Car Park, Rowsley for a 10am tiered start. This car park has recently been enlarged; we estimate is now large enough to take 20 - 30 cars. At the moment it is free of charge, but this may be subject to change. Further parking is also available across the A6 at the Peak Village complex but is subject to a limit of 4 hours free parking after which there is a charge.

It is intended to provide 3 walks of 6, 9 and 12 miles from Rowsley with the lunch stop at the Birchover Reading Room. Drinks and hot soup will be provided; seating, tables and toilet facilities are available.

*Nick Stephens*

## Derbyshire Area News - Annual Report 2016

### **ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE—ALPINE OVERLAND**

Since 1980 Alpine Overland has organised and operated holidays to suit those who love the Alpine scenery and environment. They are well known for their friendliness.

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Hotels used are usually family owned, often in areas not visited by other tour companies. All rooms have private facilities and some single rooms are available. Saunas and swimming pools are sometimes available but are not guaranteed. Entertainment is organised some evenings, sometimes visiting local village venues.

Walks are graded at 'A', 'B' and 'C' standards and experienced Leaders accompany each holiday. At the evening meal they tell the party about plans for the following day and will discuss any queries or problems and offer advice to any passengers wishing to walk independently.

For further information or to request a brochure please contact:

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Tel. 01282 817017

[www.alpineoverland.co.uk](http://www.alpineoverland.co.uk)

### **My Contact Details Form**

If you already carry one, please ensure the details are up to date.

Importantly, always carry it with you—it will help others help you if the need arises.

If you haven't got one, contact your Group Secretary for details.

## Group Contacts

*For up to date information on who to contact then visit:*

[www.derbyshireramblers.org.uk](http://www.derbyshireramblers.org.uk)

[www.ambervalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.ambervalleyramblers.org.uk)

[www.derbyramblers.org.uk](http://www.derbyramblers.org.uk)

[www.derbyshiredalesramblers.org.uk](http://www.derbyshiredalesramblers.org.uk)

[www.erewashramblers.org.uk](http://www.erewashramblers.org.uk)

### **Ramblers Holidays Partnership**

Your Group can benefit from direct financial support from Ramblers Holidays through The Walking Partnership; register your Group at: [www.thewalkingpartnership.org.uk](http://www.thewalkingpartnership.org.uk). The company makes a payment to the Group of £10 per UK holiday, £20 per European holiday, and £40 for long haul bookings if a member nominates the Group when booking holidays.

This does not cost the individual anything – all it needs is a mention of the Group, which is recorded on the booking documents. The nomination must be made before the holiday is actually taken.

The Chesterfield Group has previously received £400 in one financial year from Ramblers Holidays in respect of members who have nominated the Group when booking holidays. All funds are put to good use such as footpath improvements.

## Derbyshire Area News - Annual Report 2016

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to Derbyshire Area News over the years. My thanks too to the advertisers who have given unstinting support that has gone some way to cover the cost of publication.

Please check your local Group or the Area websites for information regarding Derbyshire Area Ramblers events..

**Which just leaves us now to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and Good Walking in the New Year**



**And don't forget the AGM!**



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