



**South Yorks &
N.E. Derbyshire**

AREA AGM 2023

SATURDAY JANUARY 28th Starting at 2PM

Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road, Coal Aston S18 3AX



Area Annual Report 2021/22

DO JOIN US

All Members Welcome to Attend and Participate

In person or via Zoom

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88346996691?pwd=UG03VWEyRm5VejVLV3NzUDDsa3pIUT09>
Meeting ID: 883 4699 6691 Passcode: 052941**

South Yorkshire & North East Derbyshire Area of the Ramblers Annual General Meeting 2023

All members and representatives of affiliated organisations are invited to join us
In the Coal Aston Village Hall on Saturday January 28th 2023 starting at 2pm
or via Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 883 4699 6691 Passcode: 052941

AGENDA

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence
- 2a. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks
- b. Appointment of Tellers (or Zoom Co Hosts)
- c. Remembering Area Members who have died during the last twelve months
3. President's Address
4. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
5. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes.
6. Annual Report for 2021/2022
7. Financial statement – Accounts for year ending September 30th 2022
8. Appointment of Area President and Vice Presidents
9. Election of Officers and Council Members:
Area Chairman Area Secretary Area Treasurer
Area Access Officer Area Footpath Officer
Area Webmaster, Area Membership Sec
Area Publicity & Social Media Officer
- 10a. Two Members' Representatives on the Area Council
(we already have two names but other nominations will be welcome at the meeting
but helpful if notified beforehand, with written agreement of nominees if unable to attend.)
- 10b. Group Secretaries should also provide details of up to 2 representatives
of their Group appointed at their AGM to sit on the Area Council
- 10c. Two Representatives from the 7 walking groups affiliated to the AC
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner (Treasurer to Nominate)
12. Affiliation to like minded organisations
13. Appointment of Area Delegates to 2023 General Council on April 1st at NEC
14. Motions to General Council and for Consideration by the SYNED AGM
15. Any Other Business / Notices (Please inform Chair/Secretary prior to start of AGM)

After the formal meeting and a short break:-

RICHARD MAY of the Ramblers Board of Trustees

and **Claire Watkins** (CO Regional Engagement Officer Midlands & East)
will speak on current Ramblers concerns, activities & campaigns

**Please indicate to Chair or Secretary if you have any other AGM business
you wish to discuss asap (and prior to the start of the Meeting)**

Please Note: This SYNED Area AGM will be Recorded

The Ramblers Association is a Registered Charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland SC039799
And a Company limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales 4458492
Registered Office: The Ramblers, 3rd Floor, 1 Clink Street, London SE1 9DG

Future SYNED Area Council meetings in 2023:-

Mondays February 20th ; May 15th; August 14th and November 20th 2023 (TBC)
Meetings are usually held at the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW starting at 18:30hrs.

These dates and venue are provisional and may change after the February meeting as we are currently reviewing how the Area Council operates and when, where and how often it meets.

Meetings will also be accessible via Zoom.

Contact the SYNED Area Secretary (secretary@synedramblers.org.uk) for details prior to the meeting date if you wish to use it to attend this way

2024 SYNED AREA AGM: January ??th 2024 (still TBA)

And will be hosted by

Morning Walk

There will be a shortish walk prior to the Area AGM, starting from the Hall.

(The Hall's toilets will be accessible prior to the walk starting from 09:30am.)

This will be leisurely paced but will include some climbs.

Walkers are asked to come suitably equipped and be ready to start at **10:00am**.

It will be led by local walker, Gavin Johns, a member of the Chesterfield Group.

Join Meeting via Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 883 4699 6691 Passcode: 052941

This is your chance to participate in the good governance of your local walking organisation and help it keep moving forward in these difficult times.

PLEASE NOTE: If its not possible to hold the Area AGM as an in-person physical meeting in the Coal Aston VH due to any new Covid Restrictions being put in place at the time - the Meeting will still go ahead on the 28th using the Zoom link shown above and also starting at 2pm

Seating will be suitably spaced out. Face masks can be worn if you wish but are not mandatory in this sort of venue. Sterilising handwash will also be available.

Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell or have any Covid symptoms

More details on the SYNED website :- <https://synedramblers.org.uk>

DO JOIN US

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND & PARTICIPATE

Chesterfield & NE Derbyshire group have a map & walking book library which they are gradually disposing of in return for donations to Air Ambulance & Mountain Rescue.

David Moore will be bringing it to the AGM for anyone interested in viewing it. See the list

at: "<https://chesterfieldramblers.files.wordpress.com/2022/09/maplibrary090922.pdf>"



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

Ramblers
Walking
Holidays **R**

Area Chair and Secretary's Report

I think this past year has been the most uninspiring one I can remember. Central Office tells us that everything is alright within our Association which is meant to be an association of equals. But it doesn't look that way to me and others at our grass roots level. Issues over walkers' insurance, risk assessments and having & using Assemble remain unresolved. Top down management edicts emanate from CO who fail to realise we are still a membership organisation doing things in our spare time and seem to be deaf to our concerns and ideas and suggestions of alternatives.

General Council has been reduced to just one day, which doesn't give sufficient time for discussion and networking. I think this has had an adverse effect with our members and Groups. We struggle at all levels to fill vacant positions and find ways to encourage more members to step up and help run our Groups and their activities.

As you'll see in this Report our Groups have continued to function as best they can. They will all say there is more that could be done so they will always be grateful if you can offer to help - whether its leading a walk, helping to repair a path or stile, organising a function to help raise funds or recruit members or just doing the more mundane committee work that keeps a group going. Just give them a call or email.

We would like to extend, on your behalf, our thanks to David Blunkett who has been our Area President for the last three years. Given the time lost to Covid and the related restrictions we possibly didn't see that much of him or use him as much as we would have liked but we always knew he supported us wherever he could.

Can we recommend the Motion that Chesterfield & North-East Derbyshire Group is proposing we take to this year's General Council at the Brum NEC. Other Areas may well be putting similar motions forward so it may well be joined with one or more of them. In these times when there is not a lot of government cash around, we, as an organisation that represents all walkers should be making our feelings felt so everyone can enjoy their time spent in the countryside.

Whilst we support this Motion we would welcome any other Motion for debate at the AGM from our other Groups, although only one can go forward to the GC.

I should add as Chair that our Area Secretary, Malcolm Dixon, has expressed the wish to step down this year. It has been a pleasure working with him and I think he will be missed. We could not have managed without him and his patience with using Zoom and the other technology that we are increasingly having to use as we take the Area (and Groups) into this new age and host hybrid meetings. So "Thanks", Malcolm from all of us.

In finishing can we all look forward to another year of increased activity. There is much for us to do and campaign about. At the same time we also hope that you all get chance to get out and enjoy walking in our beautiful local countryside.

Allen Pestell, Chair, and Malcolm Dixon, Secretary.
secretary@synedramblers.org.uk

Area Membership 2021-2022

	SD01	SD02	SD03	SD04	SD05	SD07	SD50	SD52	SD96	SD
	CNED	Done	Sheff	RothM	B&P	DVR	Sheff20	Sheff40	Not Allocated	
01/01/2016	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230		2329
01/01/2017	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233		2284
01/01/2018	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240		2196
01/01/2019	401	231	562	250	150	149	226	244	40	2237
01/01/2020	367	232	514	236	139	156	239	208	51	2195
01/01/2021	359	226	507	166	131	103	128	234	44	2020
2022 Monthly Figures:-										
January 2022	374	229	499	210	149	138	173	275	61	2108
February 2022	373	224	500	210	145	132	183	279	61	2107
March 2022	379	229	499	210	146	132	187	278	64	2124
April 2022	372	226	496	208	147	132	185	275	64	2105
May, 2022	367	225	494	206	145	132	189	274	66	2098
June, 2022	364	224	490	205	149	131	194	274	65	2,096
July, 2022	359	223	494	205	151	138	192	271	65	2,098
August, 2022	361	227	492	205	152	135	191	277	67	2,107
September, 2022	368	222	490	203	152	132	199	282	70	2,118
October, 2022	365	223	488	201	152	133	201	278	73	2,114

106,452
105,234
104,617
102,302
102,029
97,275
102,091
102,484
102,528
102,231
102,247
102,016
102,002
101,939
101,980
101,664

Barnsley & Penistone Ramblers Group

Albeit that we are still a fairly small group we have managed to put on regular weekly walks with the help of our committed walk leaders and various members of the group adding walks in when they're able. The walks cover the local area and further afield in Derbyshire and West Yorkshire.

They're usually around 8-10 miles long and are rated as 'moderate'.

We have a core group of some 12-15 members but have happily acquired several new members this year who are fast becoming regulars.

One of our walk leaders has recently set up a 'Ramblers Friendly Walking Group' for those of us, who for various health reasons, are not able to do the regular longer weekly walks. These walks are monthly and are usually no more than 2 miles long. They're always followed by a stop at a nearby coffee shop. We have found these shorter walks are gaining in popularity as old friends, who are still members of Ramblers, can reunite for a leisurely ramble followed by coffee, cake and companionship.

We're sure the membership for these shorter walks will increase further as time goes on, as they are being advertised on the B & P website along with the longer regular walks. Our website has also been updated recently by one of our clever techy members and now contains lots of information about the group and the areas we walk in. Although we have a Facebook presence we have long awaited someone who has the time and knowhow to update the website and are very grateful for his expert assistance. It can only hopefully help increase group membership and possible new members' awareness of the variety of walks available.

Our annual social get together is currently being organised to which all members, their partners and friends are invited.

As Chair I'm very grateful for everyone's input, be it leading walks, work on the website and the administration of our dedicated WhatsApp group, it all helps to keep members informed of group activities.

Carol Wood
Chair, Barnsley & Penistone Group

Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Ramblers

The last year has been easier than the preceding two as Covid has receded. Unfortunately it has not disappeared entirely and we have lost members to complications related to it. Although more people walked during the lockdowns this has not resulted in the surge in membership that we had hoped for, with membership remaining around the pre-Covid levels. The use of apps may be giving people the confidence to walk on their own following online routes rather than in large groups. They obtain the physical benefits of walking but miss out on social interaction.

We have tried to attract new members with slightly shorter walks on Saturdays and have almost doubled the number of Saturday walks. In addition, we have put on a few short evening walks. Unfortunately, one of these coincided with the extreme weather and it didn't take place. Despite these efforts we still have a lack of diversity in our group.

On a positive note, the number of walks in our programme is, with the exception of the Public Transport Walks, back to pre-Covid numbers. There have been reductions in the bus services and now there are problems due to the rail strikes. The programme relies on the keenness of members to walk and the hard work of walks organisers and the walks co-ordinator.

In spite, of putting information about how our walks are structured and the equipment needed on our website we have had issues with new walkers attending walks without food, water and waterproofs. There also seems to be reluctance amongst new members, even experienced walkers, to lead walks.

There remain problems with the condition of our footpaths. The temporary Head of Footpaths at Derbyshire County Council has been made permanent. He has more footpath officers working for him and has drawn up a list of priorities but as yet this has had little impact on the ground. In order to publicise the problem some of the committee met Toby Perkins MP.

The Chesterfield Walking Festival returned to its usual date and CNED Ramblers contributed four walks including the Chesterfield Round.

Comments about Risk Assessments have reduced but there is still a feeling that Central Office are not representing the views of the grassroots.

As in other groups we are struggling to fill positions on our committee. The Chair is stepping down after three years in post and so far we have only had an offer to undertake part of the role. Our secretary has agreed to continue for a fourth year as no one has come forward to take over.

Isobel McCormick C&NED Ramblers Chair.

Dearne Valley Ramblers Group

Dearne Valley Group have the pleasure to announce that despite another challenging year post pandemic, we've had only a few cancelled memberships, and we've also gained a few new members along the way. Members are starting to enjoy walking again, and we have seen both old and new walk leaders take up leading walks for the group.

We have continued our Wednesday walking programme this year, and now fill most Wednesdays as they have proved very popular, along with increasing numbers on our regular Sunday walks. We have also organised several shorter walks, including multiple wheelchair friendly walks to ensure the group is open to all.

This year we have been able to join forces with The Conservation Volunteers again, in order to lead some very informative walks about the local nature and areas which the TCV help support.

Post-pandemic we have started to introduce social meetings again. These were well attended, and feedback from members was great – we will be continuing these into the future year.

This year we organised two coach trips to Flamborough Head and Malham. Everyone enjoyed these trips and we look forward to organising more in future.

Due to popular demand, we have continued to issue a regular newsletter to all of our members. This has really good feedback, and we have regular input from our guest writers.

As a group, we cannot operate without the many volunteers and members who help us with everything we do, so would like to thank every single person that has helped us make the group what it is today.

Johnathan Revell (Chairman)

Treasurer's Report -
South Yorkshire & North-East Derbyshire Ramblers
Balance Sheet
October 1st 2021 to September 30th 2022

	Notes	£ 2022		£ 2021	
Fixed Assets					
Current Assets					
UnityTrust Current Account					
Opening Statement Balance		31,662		34,102	
Plus receipts		4,200		3,250	
Less payments		5,406		5,690	
Closing Statement Balance		30,456		31,662	
Plus outstanding receipts		-		-	
Less outstanding payments		-		-	
Net currents assets			30,456		31,662
Cash held by Treasurer			-		-
			30,456		31,662
Represented By:-					
Unrestricted Funds -					
Accumulated General Reserve	1	15,655		16,861	
			15,655		16,861
Restricted Funds -					
Bradfield Ancient Ways Initiative (BAWI)	2	9,989		9,989	
Clarion Call Account	3	4,812		4,812	
			14,801		14,801
TOTAL			30,456		31,662

Notes to the Accounts:-

1 Undistributed Accumulated General Reserve	£ 2022	£ 2021
Balance Brought Forward	16,861	19,301
Plus receipts	4,200	2,750
Plus Receipts (int)	0	-
Less Payments	5,406	5,190
Balance	15,655	16,861

2 Undistributed Restricted (BAWI)	£ 2022	£ 2021
Balance Brought Forward	9989	9989
Plus receipts	0	0
Less Payments	0	0
Balance	9989	9989

3 Restricted Clarion Call Account	£ 2022	£ 2021
Balance Brought Forward	4,812	4,812
Plus receipts	0	0
Less Payments	0	0
Balance	4,812	4,812

I am pleased to present the accounts of the Area for the year ending 30th September 2022

The Area has not required its full allocation from CO and distributed less than planned to Groups. During the year the Area received £4,200 from Central Office and distributed £2,256 to Groups in the Area.

The Area spent approx. £1,200 during the year on administering the Area, including production and distribution of the Area Annual Report

The Bradfield Ancient Ways Initiative (BAWI) balance of £9,989 was carried forward for Phase 2 of the project.

The Groups have asked the Area for approx. £6,252 funding for the coming year

We will be contributing £997 from our own funds in line with The Rambler's Reserve policy towards our budget of £7,997 and will therefore be asking Central Office for just £7,000.

Our thanks are due to our independent examiner, Ms Lorraine Watson.

Gavin Johns, Area Treasurer

"I certify that the above balance sheet and the following income and expenditure accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Rambler's Association guidance, that they reflect the transactions of the SYNED Area during the financial year and the state of affairs at 30th September 2022 and that records have been properly kept and payments authorised by the Area Committee during the year to 30th September 2022."

Lorraine Watson, Independent Examiner

Doncaster Ramblers

After the last AGM the committee considered whether it was possible or advisable to return to the printed programme we had pre-pandemic. We unanimously decided that it was not for several reasons, firstly that the system of having our walks available online only working well, that being online meant it was easy to cancel a walk or change the details at short notice, that it was not necessary to plan walks up to 6-7 months beforehand and finally that not producing a printed programme saved a lot of money and members' time.



Our regular walks programme has continued, with short local walks on Thursday mornings and longer all-day walks on Saturdays and Tuesdays. The Tuesday walks programme is usually filled several months in advance, with the Thursday and Saturday programmes being considerably more difficult to fill. We are indebted to several people who have stepped up and led walks to maintain the full programme, despite it not being convenient. We are delighted that some relative newcomers to the Group have started leading.

(This photo shows members on a local walk near Clifton)

We have provided a good programme to Doncaster Carers, with monthly walks to Lotherton Hall, Chatsworth, Brodsworth, Cannon Hall, and Wentworth Woodhouse. The majority of our guests choose to do the 'short' walk, often of 2-3 miles, or to stay at the venue. For this reason we introduced what, at about three miles, was still a short walk but one without a particular venue so that only people who wanted to walk would come. We chose the car park near the top of Mam Tor as the starting point and walked along the Great Ridge down to Castleton, where lunch was taken. All these walks give carers, and sometimes cared-for people, the chance to enjoy socialise, have a short walk and a lunch.

(This photo shows the carers walking near Lotherton Hall.)

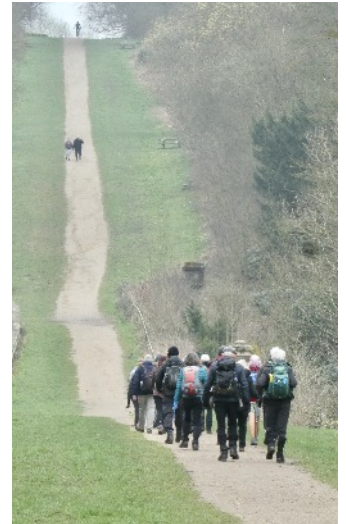
Our team of Footpath Wardens continues to dwindle in number which makes the task of walking and reporting on almost 600 paths increasingly difficult. With 29 geographical areas to monitor and a team of only 20 path wardens, some areas are not being checked regularly. We need additional volunteers to help, particularly in some of the more outlying locations, otherwise these parts of the footpath network will fall into disrepair. So far in 2022, reports have been received for approximately 250 paths/bridleways, although there are, no doubt, additional paths which have been walked but not yet reported. By the end of the calendar year we expect around 400 paths to have been walked and reports submitted, but this still leaves a significant shortfall.



This has been another frustrating year for our maintenance teams with the planned monthly sessions not always being possible. This has resulted in the list of outstanding work becoming even longer and some essential maintenance being neglected. Since the last AGM in November 2021, we have carried out work on just 7 of the 12 planned monthly sessions. Cancellations were due to a number of unforeseen circumstances, all beyond our control. We requested a meeting with the Rights of Way Department at the end of August to discuss matters of concern and it was agreed that we needed to

concentrate on reducing the backlog of outstanding repairs; only time will tell whether any improvement occurs.

This has also been a disappointing year for RoW claims. The two Claims that we are involved in made no progress. Regarding the claim for a footpath near Nursery Lane, Sprotbrough the RoW Dept sent an email to the PNFS officer and our footpath secretary in August saying she was preparing a report and eliciting comments, but nothing has been heard since then. Regarding Broad Oak Lane, Tickhill this has not yet been given Schedule 14 status, with 20+ evidence forms to the RoW Dept submitted in May 2020, nothing has been heard. The Public Rights of Way Forum has not met since 2019. An email in November 2020 saying the RoW Dept would investigate setting up an online Forum but we have heard nothing since. When requests are made for updates on progress with the Definitive Map the responses given are ones they are working on, with no details. No updates have been provided on problems our path wardens have reported since March 2021 despite requests.



Membership has been relatively stable; it currently stands at 233. One notable feature is the number of females joining the group, with more females than males joining in the last year or two. We believe that our Thursday programme of short walks may be a contributory factor, although there appear to be more females than males joining Ramblers across the country. In the last year or so several long-standing members have allowed their membership to lapse, mostly for reasons connected with the situation regarding risk assessments.

Publicity has been erratic throughout the past year with our regular page in the Doncaster Free Press being withdrawn for a couple of months before being resumed. Publicity in more local publications has continued. Early in May we were interviewed on community radio in Thorne, a 40 minute interview, an opportunity to explain who we were and what we offer. Doncaster Council re-booted the Get Doncaster Moving campaign after the pandemic and we were part of that process. In July we were represented at the Get Doncaster Moving annual conference with a modest stand pop-up banner (on loan from Central Office) and a collection of pens, badges and flyers. Their aim was to outline what DMBC is doing to improve the health of the least healthy citizens of the borough. Several visitors to our stand acknowledged the work we do. Pre-pandemic we had considered placing an advert in the DFP and, post-pandemic, we agreed to go ahead with this process. Apart from the publicity for ourselves we wanted to acknowledge to the DFP the free publicity we get from them. However, it has to be said that the advert appears to have no effect on attracting new people to the group, although our Facebook page continues to attract much positive feedback. The Trans Pennine Trail Association plan to feature one of our walks in their next Newsletter.

Finally thanks are offered to everyone who contributes to the success of the group, especially the committee, who give up their time for the benefit of others, as well as the people with roles who choose not to be on the committee, plus leaders and back-markers, without whom there would be no walks. We all make our contributions for the benefit of others and for the benefit of the countryside.



David Gadd, Chairman

Rotherham Metro Ramblers Group

It is nice to see we are back on an even footing, after the last couple of years of uncertainty, but it seems there are still clouds lingering on the 'covid' horizon which we have to consider in the future.

We are now back to a good average of footfalls in our walks programme, which is not surprising with the comprehensive list compiled by our walks co-ordinators, who together with all of our walks leaders, have produced a very successful and memorable programme over the course of this year. Many thanks to all of them.

The new programme for 2023 is well in hand with completion expected in time for the planned distribution of handbooks by Christmas.

I am personally sorry, and I apologise for, that due to health reasons I have missed so many of the walks, also the trips away which Linda and I have enjoyed so much in the past.

My thanks go out to the members of the committee who, as usual with their unbelievable efforts, and dedication to detail, have kept all the routine of the group ticking over, please continue to support them whenever you can.

The coming year looks to be quite exciting, with plans afoot already for numerous events, some of which are already in the making, so please don't miss out on the various trips planned.

Our trips this year were all well attended and much enjoyed and judging by the reports and photographs published on the new Facebook web site set up by Paul, much appreciated. I have heard many "likes" and excellent comments about the Isle of Man trip. Well done to the organisers, Margaret and Alan, for all the arrangements, which went without a hitch.

All these events need attention to detail by the planners if they are to be successful, and help is always welcome. I appeal to the membership to please come forward, to lead walks, offer assistance if needed and help to keep this group in its high esteem which has been gained over almost 40 years of its existence.

In essence, I think we can look forward to many more years of enjoyment in walking.

Graham Barker, RMR Chairman

Sheffield Ramblers Group

We still have problems finding sufficient walk leaders and the Group has become very reliant on a small group of people to lead our walks. But we have managed to continue walks on our regular Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, although some were put in at very short notice. Another factor was fitting our walks around an increasingly unreliable bus and train services but thanks to all our walk leaders for their efforts to keep our walks programme going.

We had 4 trips further away: to Grassington in the Yorkshire Dales; Bempton Cliffs, Flamborough Head and Filey, on the coast; Saddleworth Moor and the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and finally walks around the Hole of Horcum to Pickering.

The Group now has a new website thanks to Stuart Bloom, which incorporates the GWEM walks programme listing. A training session was arranged to introduce the new system to our leaders although some are still finding their way round it.



We took our publicity stall to the Sheffield Heritage Fair last January on its return to the Millennium Gallery. As it had coincided with our hosting the SYNED Area AGM at Crookes Social Club our resources were somewhat stretched. But 'Thanks' to everyone who helped at either/both events.

We also had a stall at the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival at the Showroom but didn't get much footfall. 'Thanks' to TH for work producing the display panels.

In April we celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the original Kinder Trespass. There was a big rally with a large turnout at Hayfield, with many walks over Kinder itself over the same weekend.

We hope the new awareness and publicity will help to renew the Freedom to Roam campaign once more. There is still plenty of work to be done.

Sadly, we marked the passing of Jack Burling (1935-2022) this year. A constant champion for public footpaths and access and the Sheffield Group's first footpath officer. He had worked night shifts as a hospital porter, whilst working day shifts in court at enquiries or in meeting rooms or out in the field putting the case for walkers. He later retired to Cornwall, but came back and helped as a footpath inspector and Trustee for the Peak & Northern Footpath Society. He was also a Trustee for the Open Spaces Society.

A lot of footpaths only exist and/or are shown on OS and definitive maps because of the sterling work and perseverance of Jack Burling.

Ironically this last year has probably seen the Group do the least footpath work in a number of years. We had done little legal work on modification orders, nor have we been able to re-establish our 'Fix-It' team to do the practical work – we are still looking for a coordinator to lead a new team of possibly younger members.

Our current membership figure was 495 (down from 515 in Oct 2021).

We have tried organising a couple of walks for new members to introduce ourselves and help them to get to know how we worked. We shall be repeating this again in 2023.



In July we hosted a local and largely urban walk for some visiting Hampstead Ramblers who were otherwise holidaying in the Peak District that week.

Hamstead Ramblers by the Cartimandua Circle on Wincobank Hill

My Thanks to everyone who has served on the Executive Committee over a fairly active last 12 months. We still remain without a permanent Chair but have continued to rotate the position around members of the EC. I had wanted to stand down as Secretary at the Group's AGM, but am now continuing for another year as no one has come forward to take over, but at least I now have someone to help take and produce the Minutes.

Malcolm Dixon, Group Secretary

Sheffield 20s & 30s Walking Group

Overview

In October last year (the end of the last committee cycle) we were starting to see improved attendance on walks and at socials with the current committee pledging to support and encourage this growth. I'm pleased to say that the group is thriving and back to pre-pandemic levels of membership numbers and group activities.

Membership

At the start of this committee term our membership numbers stood at 157. This number has topped 200 in the past couple of months. I put this improvement down to a few things; a return to 'normality' following the pandemic, our updated website and diversity of walks/socials that the group offers. Of course, the hard work of the committee shouldn't be overlooked when we reflect on this. We continually try to be friendly, welcoming and inclusive to all those who are interested in walking.

Weekends away

This past year has seen the group enjoy well attended weekends away to North Devon, Snowdonia & Malham. In addition to this, we ran our first multi day hike in the Peak District.

Walk leaders

In the first part of the year both Matt Burrell and Alistair Weaver (current 20s & 30s members) led navigation courses for the group. From their teachings several new walk leaders have emerged and now regularly lead for the group. In addition to this, several members attended the Peak District Rangers navigation courses. The feedback from the PD rangers course was it was good value for money and skills were well explained.

This year (compared to last) has seen a shift away from a small core group of walk leaders to a much wider, more diverse group of leaders with over 25 walk leaders taking the group out on a hike.

Finances

We started the reporting year back in October 2021 with total funds of £1,851 and finished with £2,089. This increase was mainly generated by selling weekend aways close to capacity (we set prices slightly higher than costs to account for less than full capacity sales). With regards to our core budget, we received a total of £246 from national Ramblers last year. Given that the cost of hosting our website is £216 by itself, this places some pressure on our administrative spending. As the new look website has proven popular with members and works well, the committee felt that it is important to maintain its funding. We instead decided to stop using our mail holding service, following years of decline in physical mail and an increasing in fees (£96). The largest single area of expenditure (other than weekend's away) was our 20th Anniversary Events which cost approximately £1,200 to host. This was covered entirely by ticket sales and a grant from the SYNED Area Ramblers.

Events of special interest

This July saw the group celebrate our 20th Anniversary. We held two events, a family friendly picnic in Millhouses Park and a party at Vodka Revolutions the same evening. The picnic proved to be very popular with many past members returning with young families and old friends reacquainting. Those who attended wish to make this an annual event. The party saw 40+ past and present members attend. The current Group Committee wishes to thank SYNED Area Ramblers for their support in making the celebrations possible.

This year we continued with our MIND (mental health charity) and Merrell collaborations. We lead specific mental health walks and continually raised mind health awareness on our social media. We had prize draws at both our Christmas and summer parties where we rewarded members who had led walks, donated to directly MIND or donated to our bring and buy sale.

Sheffield 20's Walking Group

Sheffield 40's Walking Group

Another great year for the Sheffield 40s!

Our membership continues to grow and currently stands at just under 300.

It's always great to see so many new faces on walks and at social events.

Welcome all!

Social activities continue to be a strength of the group and we can be proud of the amount and variety of events we have offered. This is due in no mean part to the efforts of our Social and weekends away Co-Ordinator and her team.

We are always looking for members to join in and help with ideas and arrangements, so have a word with the team or contact them via the group email if you think you can help.

Of course, our walks are our main focus, and we continue to offer a varied calendar of walking opportunities. It can't be easy making sure that there is a full calendar, however our Walks Co-Ordinator has risen to the task. We are always looking for new Walk Leaders so have a chat with any committee member to find out how you can get involved. We may be able to offer some more of the training we did this year.

We have been trialling a system of expenses this year. Our Walk Leaders have been able to claim for travel expenses to recces which lead to a walk being put on the calendar and for maps and first-aid kits.

This has involved a lot of work for our Treasurer to set up and it's great that we are going to continue to run the scheme this year.

Bev Kenyon, Sheffield 40's Sec

Access Report 2021-22

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

2022 promised so much with the implementation of ELMS (Environmental, Land, Management, Scheme) as a replacement for CAPS - the EU Common Agricultural Policy. Under ELMS there was a requirement for land owners and land managers to include better access to open countryside, in return for subsidies provided by the taxpayer.

After lengthy consultations of countryside organisations and assessment by environmental, conservationists, land owners and managers, a report was submitted to see what impact better access to woodlands, river banks and the wider countryside would have on the areas in question as well as the well-being of users of such access.

After submission to the Government, this section of ELMS was not released, and as such better access is not yet forthcoming.

No reasons have been given, and one can only assume that the results of the findings it did not suit some of the parties in the consultations.

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

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

Now is the time for us to seriously think of reviving the spirit of the 1930s and the 1980s campaigns for better Access to More - Land . Stay Safe and good roaming.

Les Seaman Access Officer

Affiliated Organisations

We are grateful for the support of these Walking Groups who have affiliated to the Ramblers:-

Doncaster Wayfarers
Dronfield Footpaths and
Bridleway Society
Peak Walking Group
Sheffield CHA Rambling Club
Sheffield Visually Impaired
Walking Group
The Rotherham Rambling Club
Todwick Ramblers Club

SYNED Area Ramblers are affiliated to the following like-minded organisations:-

CPRE - Campaign for the Protection
of Rural England - the
Countryside Charity
- <https://www.cpre.org.uk>
PNFS - Peak & Northern Footpaths
Society
<http://www.pnfs.org.uk/>
Peak District Green Lanes Alliance
OSS - The Open Spaces Society
<https://www.oss.org.uk/>

RAMBLERS have a goal:-

“that everyone should have access to a friendly short group walk, within easy reach of where they live, for their general wellbeing and to help them become and stay active.”

Visit the SYNED Area Website at:-

“www.synedramblers.org.uk”

with links to all our local Groups and their various walks programmes
- please make it your one-stop-shop for all things walking
in South Yorkshire and NorthEast Derbyshire



RAMBLERS

**South Yorks &
N.E. Derbyshire**

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