



Derbyshire Area News

Winter 2014/15

&

Annual Report

2013/2014

Welcome to Derbyshire Area News
In this issue:
2014 Annual Reports
Walking in Access Land
Let's RIPPLE

Cranfleet Lock
Erewash
Picture: Keith Shiers

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AREA AGM

SATURDAY JANUARY 17th 2015

at 2:00 pm

STRUTTS COMMUNITY CENTRE,

DERBY ROAD, BELPER

DERBYSHIRE, DE56 1UU

SPEAKER: ANDY RODGERS

**There will be a short walk (4/5 miles) in the morning starting from
Strutts Community Centre at 10:00 am**

**Room 14 has been booked in the Community Centre and will be
open at 12 .30pm with tea and coffee available from machine
(free) at lunchtime.**

Our AGM guest speaker will be Andy Rogers, a member of the Ramblers' Board of Trustees since 2011. Andy was Chair of the Ramblers' Nottingham & Derby 20s & 30s Walking Group from 2008 to 2010, and in 2010 he set up One Step Walkers – a Ramblers group for those in their 40s and 50s covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire & Staffordshire. He was also Chair of Nottinghamshire Area from 2011 to 2013. Our AGM will provide an opportunity to discuss the merits of special interest groups in the Ramblers as alternatives to our traditional geographically based groups.

Getting there

Travelling from Derby, the Strutt Centre is directly opposite the Babington Hospital. Look out for The Tavern Pub on the right and the car park is alongside.

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It is Area AGM time again so don't forget—**Saturday 17th January 2015**—this time hosted by Amber Valley Group. Included in this issue is the 2014 AGM Minutes that might inspire attendance at this years event. Please show your support by attending and possibly volunteering for any of the vacant posts.

A disappointingly smaller issue than normal due to a lack of contributors which is sad for a lovely walking area like Derbyshire. Perhaps the right decision then to reduce future editions to one per year. Signing off for a year.

Keith Shiers

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Cover Picture Walk

The Cranfleet Cut was built in 1797 as part of general improvements to the Trent Navigation to overcome the shallow and turbulent waters of the River Trent and ease the passage of boats that transported the goods of the day. In modern times, it is a quiet stretch of water away from the hustle and bustle of its near neighbour, the Erewash Canal and Trent Lock that serves as its outsource to the River Trent. Even so, one might be lucky enough to witness the passage of one of the ornately and colourfully decorated narrow boats as it continues on its tranquil journey.

With untouched river banks and flowing river in its vicinity, it is a haven for the naturalist with an abundance of wildlife and an ever changing view throughout the year. There are also sand and gravel workings close by and lagoons where exhausted workings once were, a further haven for wildlife particularly waterfowl. Being flat, the area provides ample opportunity for walks with young children and pushchairs as well as for invalid 'trampsters' or wheelchairs. An ideal stretch to walk off that Christmas dinner or for a quiet evening stroll in the summer.

The Erewash Country Walks Leaflet No.16; The Cranfleet Trail is a straightforward easy route devised specifically for easy access for all. Though only 2½ miles long, it gives ample opportunity for further exploration of the Trent Lock and Erewash canal environs or the Trent Meadows nature reserve situated at either end of this mainly linear walk. The walk starts from Trent Lock public car park where there are toilets for the disabled. Follow the road past the Trent Navigation Inn towards Erewash Canal. Cross the first bridge on left and turn right then simply follow the towpath round to left and continue up to Cranfleet Lock and the Lock Keepers cottage. Continue straight on to follow path alongside river, passing through gates to a permissive path that leads to Pasture Lane. Turn left and follow this lane before turning left at next road junction and continue on to Cranfleet Lock car park. Turn right and retrace steps back to Trent Lock car park.



DERBYSHIRE AREA ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 30th September 2014

AGM to be held at Strutts Centre, Belper

Derbyshire on Saturday 17th January 2015 at 2:00 pm

Secretary's Report

Martin Pape

During year October 2013 to September 2014 we held three Area Council meetings.

Our Area AGM was in January 2014 in Duffield organised by Derby & South Derbyshire Group, chaired by Angela Dunlop, and preceded by a pleasant but rather muddy walk in the surrounding area led by Petra. Tributes were paid to Charles Wildgoose, Reg Williamson and Peter Grundy. Given the continuing absence of a volunteer to take on the role of Area Chair it had been agreed that chairing of Area Council should be rotated round the Chairs of the groups on an annual basis, with Gerry White continuing for 2014. Geof Cole stood down from his role as Area Footpath Secretary and was thanked for his work for the Ramblers. This left us without an Area Footpath Secretary, an Area Publicity Secretary and an Area Countryside Secretary, limiting what our Area can do on these important topics. We are considering what the role of Area Council can be given the absence of volunteers to take on these Area officer posts. There were no proposals of motions for the 2014 Ramblers General Council. Our guest speaker was Naseem Akhtar, Vice-Chair of Ramblers' Board of Trustees, who told us about her efforts in Birmingham in encouraging members of ethnic communities to have more healthy lifestyles.

Apart from the AGM, our other significant Area event was the Area-Get-Together in October 2013 which was at Cromford / Holloway organised by Nick and Pat Stephens of Derbyshire Dales Group and again with a good turn-out of over 70 members. We have two members on Local Access Forums – Sue Weatherley on the Peak Park LAF and Geof Cole on the Derby & Derbyshire LAF. Three members attended Rambler's 2014 General Council in Liverpool as delegates from our Area - their report was in the summer 2014 edition of Area News.

Through correspondence and a meeting, and with valuable assistance from Basil Merry of NE Derbyshire Group, I have been seeking co-ordination of Ramblers Group Footpath Secretaries who cover the whole of Derbyshire in respect of dealings with

the County Council.

We were sorry to hear of the death of John Riddall. John had been Countryside Secretary for Derbyshire Dales Group for many years but he was more widely known in the Ramblers as co-author of the “blue book” – the bible on rights of way legislation used by council ROW staff as well as ramblers.

My thanks to those members who have contributed to Area activities, and to those many walkers who support the Ramblers through their membership of the association.

Area Access Officers Report

Sue Weatherly

I have attended three of the four meetings of the Peak District Local Access Forum this year and also meetings of the two sub-groups dealing with Access and Green Lanes.

Off-roading continues to be an important topic and 2014 has seen some significant developments. Permanent TROs are now in place on Chapel Gate and Long Causeway which means that vehicles are no longer allowed to use these routes. This summer DCC has carried out extensive repairs on Long Causeway and the result is impressive and I can recommend a walk up there to see the improvements to the surface of this route. Consultations are also taking place on other routes in the Peak District and the Green Lanes Sub Group has started to look at the priority routes in Staffordshire.

PDLAF has also contributed to the Peak District National Park Cycling Strategy which should be published in autumn 2014. Also on the cycling front there are plans to extend the Monsal Trail south to Matlock. A consultation on the detailed plans took place in August/September and as the funding is time limited work should start on this soon.

Natural England is presently looking at the National Nature Reserves in the Peak District with a view to extending the dedicated Access Land on these reserves and as part of this work the Access Sub-group has made suggestions about enhancing access in these areas.

2014 has seen the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the Right to Roam. Derbyshire Dales Group held a week of Access Land walks in June. Each day during the week a walk took place which included some sections of Access Land. The PDLAF held a special event in September to celebrate this anniversary and DADLAF also held an event in October. Following on from this anniversary the National Park will be producing a Newsletter which will highlight any developments to access and areas of access which may not be particularly well known. A special fund has been created

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which will allow for provision of new access arrangements, though this is limited the dedication of special funding is a significant step given that other sources of funding have dried up and it provides an opportunity for other groups to make donations.

Sue Weatherley,
Area Access Officer

Group Reports

Amber Valley

Whilst our Walks Programme continues to be our staple diet, with good attendances on Wednesday and Fridays, but lesser so on Sundays, the efforts of our Footpath Maintenance Group deserves special mention .Projects have been completed since the Spring in the Weston Underwood and Mugginton area clearing around a foot-bridge and steps and later the installing of steps and creating a bridge down a very steep embankment. There are good photographs of this project from start to completion on our website and the team are justifiably proud of completing this work under the supervision of Steve Cresswell of the DCC Countryside Service.

A similar project has been done at Sough Wood Bank, Heanor Gate, cutting back foliage and clearing the approach and repair of a stile and gate and also work near Codnor.

At a time when Local Authority activities are being reduced it is encouraging that the R.A. are contributing in a practical way locally and significant when we liaise with them on promoting new routes such as the Ecclesbourne Way, which will run from Duffield to Wirksworth, we hope, from the New Year.

We have once again led well attended walks for the Amber Valley and Erewash Autumn Festival of Walks this year. The walks were from the Alport Heights, Hazlewood, Belper and Whatstandwell localities, distances ranging from 4-10 miles.

The Group have just returned from a splendid Autumn break in Skipton. Walks were enjoyed around Skipton and Flasby moors, Hetton, Gargrave and Grassington.

Our membership continues to increase gradually, now touching the 200 mark.

Gerry White
Chairman

Derbyshire Dales Group

Whilst we knew that John Riddall (our Countryside Secretary for many years) was suffering from lung cancer, to hear of his death in July brought sadness which was felt by local ramblers right up to our president, Kate Ashbrook.

As reported in his obituary, printed elsewhere in this newsletter, John had spent many years of his life doing really important work for the Ramblers' and other associated organisations.

For those who knew him, he was an extremely likeable person with genuine feelings for those causes for which he was fighting. When looking for a replacement Countryside Secretary, I made the comment that I didn't think we'd ever find someone who would do the job as brilliantly as John had carried out his work. As an ex barrister (& like a dog with a bone), he would not let go of any problem until it had been totally resolved.

Many thanks to Sue Weatherley for organising the week of walks on Access Land, in celebration of 10 years of the CROW coming into being.

Whilst we continue to provide a good variety of walks each week, which I believe are generally well attended, our Friday night social talks have not attracted the audiences required to make a profit. The talks, which are checked out beforehand, are always interesting. As an experiment to attract more members, our February and March talks are to be rescheduled to the afternoon of the Friday at the Dale Road Methodist Church Hall (beside Whitworth Hotel at Darley Dale). If this is not successful, our social events will have to come to an end, which is a pity as it has always provided a way for members of the Group to meet up who would not otherwise do so.

Nick Stephenson

Chairman

Other Groups

At the time of going to press there were no reports from Derby & South Derbyshire and Erewash groups.

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To: Members of The Ramblers' Association
Derbyshire Area

TREASURER'S REPORT **YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

I present overleaf the accounts for the Group for the year ended 30 September 2014.

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. Accruals and prepayments are provided if significant.

Summary

There was a net deficit for the year of £105 (2013 - £114 deficit)
The Area's General Reserves stand at £2,793.

Income

Total Area funding received from Central Office was £4,186 (2013 - £4,800), of which £2,680 (2013 - £3,440) was for the Groups, and £1,506 (2013 - £1,360) for Area purposes. Revenue for advertising in the Area News generated £265 (2013 - £260). Interest received on the bank account amounted to £14 (2013 - £14).

Expenditure

Funding payments to the Derbyshire Groups amounted to £2,680 (2013 - £3,440), reflecting lower requests for central funding offset by utilisation of Group's own reserves. Administration costs totalled £1,680 (2013 - £1,738), the majority of which relates to the production of the Area News distributed to members. There was no expenditure in the year from the restricted reserves (2013 - nil).

Balance Sheet

The Area's funds at 30 September 2014 total £14,025 comprising Unity Bank deposits of £14,035, less £10 accruals. The reserves comprise general reserves of £2,793, and £11,232 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

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RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION - DERBYSHIRE AREA ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2014

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2013		2014	
£	INCOME	£	£
	Head Office funding		
1,360	Area	1,506	
3,440	Group	2,680	
250	Advertising revenue	265	
14	Bank account interest	14	
		4,465	
5,064	TOTAL INCOME	4,465	
	EXPENDITURE		
3,440	Group funding	2,680	
	Administration Expenses:		
216	Room Hire: AGM and Council meetings	225	
1,490	Reprographics: Mainly Area News	1,444	
24	Postage, stationary	3	
8	Sundry	8	
1,738	Subtotal administration expenses	1,680	
5,178	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,360	
(114)	NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME	105	

BALANCE SHEET

	AREA FUNDS	Restricted	General	Total
14,034	Balance as at 1st October 2013	11,232	2,688	13,920
(114)	Surplus / (deficit) for the year	-	105	105
13,920	Balance as at 30th September 2014	11,232	2,793	14,025
	Represented by:			
13,940	Unity Bank Account			14,035
(20)	Accruals			(10)
13,920				14,025

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 2014, and that records have been properly kept and payment authorised by the Area committee during the year to 30 September 2014.



R Torr - Honary Auditor



Ramblers Derbyshire Area

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18th January 2014

at Duffield Parish Hall at 2.00p.m.

There were 30 people present. The meeting was chaired by Angela Dunlop of Derby and South Derbyshire Group who welcomed members and Naseem Akhtar a Board of Trustee member and our guest speaker.

The following members were remembered, having passed away since our last meeting:- Charles Wildgoose of Derbyshire Dales, Reg Williamson of Erewash and Peter Grundy of Derby & South Derbyshire.

1. Apologies for Absence: These were received from John Beadle, Mike Hufton and Joyce Mold.

2. President's Remarks

Unfortunately, due to illness our President, John Beadle, was unable to attend today's meeting.

3. Minutes of the 2nd February 2013 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. This was moved by Dorothy Dent and seconded by Gerry White..

Matters arising:

12. Old Portway – Stanley. Keith had followed up on this and a Modification Order applied for.

4. Annual Report

The Annual Report had been circulated previously and copies were available at the meeting.

Sue Weatherley moved that the report be approved and this was seconded by Chris Vaughan.

5. Financial Statement

This was circulated prior to the meeting with copies available at the meeting and had been examined by Roger Torr. Martin Pape summarised the report.

It was moved the accounts be accepted by Reg Murray and seconded by Tony Beardsley.

6. Appointment of Honorary Area Officers

President: John Beadle was re-elected.

Vice Presidents: Joy Osborne and Tony Beardsley.

Chairman – It had been agreed at the January Area Council meeting that if there was

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no volunteer for this position then it would be rotated round the Groups on an annual basis.

Publicity Secretary – No nomination

Countryside Secretary – No nomination. Martin briefly outlined the role as being to check planning applications to see how they impact on the walking environment.

Footpath Secretary – No nomination – Geof gave a brief outline of the role – this partly being to act on behalf of the Group Footpath Secretaries in dealing with the Highway Authorities.

Area News Editor – Keith – see AOB

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

President: John Beadle

Vice-presidents: Joy Osborne and Tony Beardsley

Chairman: Groups in rotation.

Secretary: Martin Pape

Minutes Secretary: Carol Shiers

Membership Secretary: Chris Vaughan

Treasurer: Mike Hufton

Access Officer: Sue Weatherley

Area News Editor: Keith Shiers

Web-site Manager: Chris Vaughan

Martin thanked Geof Cole for the work he'd carried out on behalf of the Area as Footpath Secretary and presented him with a Certificate.

7. Election of representatives of individual members

John Dyson was re-elected. There were no further nominations.

8. Election of representatives of affiliated local organisations

Derek Roome was re-elected. There were no further nominations.

9. Appointment of representatives to General Council

Martin Pape and Keith Shiers. Carol Shiers to attend as an observer

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner to the Accounts

Roger Torr

11. Motions, recommendations to the Area Council or any Group; motions for submission to the next General Council of the Ramblers

There had been no notice of motions or recommendations to the Area Council or any Group and there was no proposed motion for submission to the Ramblers' 2014 General Council.

12. Any other business

(1) Area News

Keith asked the meeting if they would accept one publication per year, which would include the Annual Report. It was noted that there is still a need for printed material as not all members have access to the internet. It was suggested that additional information could be included with the walks programme as well as on the web and by email. A vote was taken on producing one issue a year of Area News and agreed by an overwhelming majority.

(2) Access Officer

Sue Weatherley handed out literature on the Community Science Project “Your moors need YOU”. This is a long term project monitoring the effects of climate change on the moors. There are various projects to get involved with and training is available. One of the surveys will be the monitoring of birds like the Swallow, Red Grouse and Curlew easy to carry out whilst walking the moors. She mentioned another interesting aspect, this being the use of paving slabs from the old mills, the onetime polluters of the moors, to form pathways to protect against erosion.

Martin Pape thanked Angela for arranging the accommodation, Petra for leading the walk and Sue and Kate for the refreshments.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

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

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John Riddall 7/3/1928 – 21/7/2014

It is with sadness that we record the death, of lung cancer, of John Riddall at the age of 86. A small, unassuming-looking man, many people never realised his cleverness and his ability as a feisty fighter. He would not be shoved aside by bureaucracy and persisted with any problem until he got an answer and action was taken to resolve it. Being the Countryside Secretary of the Derbyshire Dales Ramblers' Group for numerous years was just one of his many jobs. He held office in the Ramblers' Derbyshire Area and was Vice-President of the Ramblers' Association. Within the Open Spaces Society (OSS) he had been Vice-President since 2003 and a former trustee & local correspondent. He was also a trustee of Friends of the Peak. Although never a practising barrister, he rose to the position of senior lecturer in law at the University of Leeds.

He wrote a number of law books, including many editions of *Land Law*, *Jurisprudence* and *The Law of Trusts*. With John Trevelyan, he was co-author of the 2nd, 3rd & 4th editions of the famous 'blue bible' *Rights of Way: a guide to law and practice* and was the author of the 2nd edition of OSS's book *Getting Greens Registered*.

John's clear analysis of 'as of right', upheld more than once in the House of Lords/Supreme Court, has saved many green spaces and paths and will continue to do so. We have much to thank him for his crucial role in legal cases concerning highways and village greens. He fought wind turbines with ferocity and was constantly firing off letters to the Peak District National Park Authority, challenging it on quarrying (on which he was an expert) and planning. He campaigned against overweening and unnecessary road signs. Serving on the Ramblers' Access Committee for many years, he helped to work out the details of right-to-roam legislation and he was overjoyed when the access map for the Peak District was published, after the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, revealing that he had won new access to Bradwell Moor. (John spent his retirement in Bradwell.)

For those who got to know him, John was a delightful person with a dry but powerful sense of humour. He had a surprising range of interest, including gliding, for which he held a pilot's licence. He first met his wife Lilian at the Great Hucklow airfield above Bradwell. Late in life, he took up stone-masonry. He gave numerous talks on a range of subjects, all of them highly amusing. In 2008, he wrote the script for the village panto, *Snow White and the Seven Bears*, which caused much hilarity. He was a loving, caring man and the death of his wife Lilian, in May, left him devastated.

John enlightened society and leaves us impoverished.

Nick Stephens.

Derbyshire Dales Ramblers' Group chairman.

With extracts kindly reproduced from Kate Ashbrook's tribute on the OSS website <http://www.oss.org.uk/?p=10062>

See also the Bradwell newsletters. The September one contains tributes to the Riddalls http://www.bradda.org/Newsletters/Issue_147.pdf



John Riddall

A quote from our President, Kate Ashbrook:

'John kept us all on our toes, with his attention to detail and refusal to take no for an answer. He was fun to be with and extremely knowledgeable on a wide range of subjects. I loved to join him in walking his home patch, and I can see him now on Bradwell Moor, demonstrating the famous Bradwell Echo. We miss him enormously.'

Adventures in Access Land

*Sue Weatherley
Area Access Officer*

September saw the tenth anniversary of the introduction of Access Land and various events have taken place which served both to celebrate the Right to Roam and also to remind us that there are still areas where improved access is needed. This anniversary made me to look through my past articles and realise just how many areas have been opened up for us to explore. However, I was surprised to find that I had never included Lathkill Dale in my 'adventures' so I thought I should rectify this omission.

This dale is local to me and one of the most popular walks in the area with lots of circuits, long and short that I am sure you all know very well. These can be varied by using Access Land towards the top half of the dale and if you don't know about them already they are highly recommended.

If you start at the Monyash end and walk down into the dale, at the point where the dale proper begins, there is a concession path which takes you round and into Ricklow Quarry. At the point where this concession path drops back into the dale at GR 166661 there is a way through the wall which enables you to carry on at a high level. This path is now quite well developed and takes you along the top of the dale side, the views down from this vantage point are stunning so make sure you do this on a good day. The path eventually meets the route that comes in from Haddon Grove Farm at GR 175656. At this point you can drop down into the valley and join the main path again or you can carry on at high level and reach a point above Carters Mill, here you can descend down the steep hillside to join the path that comes from Mill Farm at GR 184658. Walking back up the dale from this point you can then take the path up Cales Dale and after a short distance join the Limestone Way at GR 173653. You can turn right here and head back to Monyash or go left up the steep steps. However you can also go straight on further up Cales Dale. Where the dale divides take the right hand route and this will take you up to join the footpath at GR 168646 which heads off over the fields back towards Monyash. There is a further variation at GR 158657 where another concession path is signed; this takes you down Fern Dale and back to the top of Lathkill Dale.

This area is lovely all year round but the spring and summer flowers are very special so try these walks in May when the early purple orchids are at their best or late June and early July when the Jacob's ladder is in flower.

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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.

Travel is by coach with free pick up points available in Derby. The coach stays with the group throughout the holiday, are air conditioned and have on board toilets. Hot and cold drinks are also available.

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

ADVERTISING RATES

The '**Derbyshire Area News**' is published annually and circulated at the end of November to its 1500 members and other associated organisations within the area. If you would like to advertise our rates are very competitive:

Colour Advertisements - back page, inside outer cover only.

Full page (18.5cm high x 12.3cm wide) £60

Half page (12.3cm wide x 8.5cm high) £35

Black and White Advertisements

Full page (18.5cm high x 12.3cm wide) £45

Half page (12.3cm wide x 8.5cm high) £25

Quarter page ((6.15cm high x 12.3cm wide) £15

Please contact Keith Shiers on 01332 665902 for further information or email your own material to kashiers@tiscali.co.uk.

Let's RIPPLE

Basil Merry
Derbyshire Footpath Coordinator

Derbyshire Ramblers are rippling - but let's make waves

In 2005 Chesterfield group started undertaking practical work to protect, maintain, improve, and promote a 34 mile circuit of paths around the town. This route is now well known as the Chesterfield Round Walk and has pride of place in the yearly Walking Festival.

It was a catalyst for the creation of connecting routes - North Chesterfield Way, Drone Valley Way, South Chesterfield Way, and the (not fully launched but on Ramblers Routes) East Chesterfield Way.

Importantly the practical work expanded from a monthly basis to weekly and from route paths to all those in our base area, now including Bolsover. Practical work in its widest sense encompasses the essential background work of surveying, monitoring of planning applications, commenting on proposed diversions, possible path upgrades, and new path claims. It also includes getting involved in relevant consultations such as for council plans and HS2.

Thus, the Group has been involved in a RIPPLE since 2005 - one of the pioneers. If you don't already know what RIPPLE stands for it's **Restoring, Improving, Public Paths, for Local Enjoyment**.

To give credit, the acronym RIPPLE came from Bedfordshire Group who have followed a similar process. Recently the main Ramblers web site recorded that West Berkshire Group has surveyed all their 63 parishes since 2003. They're now on the third circuit of checks. As a result over 200 wicket gates have been installed. Other Groups have done something similar, a few with much more noise.

In Derbyshire both Erewash and Amber Valley Groups have established practical work teams. Others monitor planning applications etc. Over the border Sheffield Group commenced practical work in 2014.

Good - but slow progress - there is so much more that could be done in Derbyshire and Derby City.

Looking at the background of council cuts (DCC Countryside Service budget is being cut by a third) it becomes important we do far more.

If you're prepared to throw a pebble into the Derbyshire pond please get involved. You can even do that from your chair to some extent. Research of the mapping portal and monitoring planning applications can be done in the warm and dry. Or

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just outside your door you can walk, monitor, and report on local path conditions, perhaps adopt a parish or part thereof.

To get involved please contact your Footpath Secretary. Failing that email cnedra@btinternet.com

As a further aid to help make this happen, please ensure your Group is registered with the Ramblers Holidays—The Walking Partnership, see back page advertisement. This exciting new initiative, supported by Ramblers Worldwide Holidays, aims to provide direct financial support to the grass roots of the walking community in the UK and your Group might benefit. Visit the website to see how to register and view what has already been achieved.

Remember: Some go walking, ***Ramblers' help make that possible.***

Let's make waves in Derbyshire.

Area Get Together 2015

Advance Notice

The Area Get together for 2015 is being organised by the Amber Valley Group. As always, there will be a choice of walks that you can mix and match with.

Details of the event are yet to be confirmed but have been proposed as:

Date:	Sunday 18th October 2015
Start point:	Alport Heights car park (SK304515)
Start Time:	10 am
Lunch stop:	Alderwasley Village Hall

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

Walking Together

*David Davison
Amber Valley*

Like most groups in the Derbyshire area and I daresay throughout the country we enjoy the benefits of going away as a group twice a year, nearly always for a long week-end. This year has been no exception our last excursion being to Skipton in Yorkshire. We stayed at the Rendezvous Hotel, which met all our needs of comfort, good food and all walks within easy reach of the hotel. This hotel, I might add, is one we would highly recommend to other groups who have not yet tried this area.

There were forty plus of us and fortunate to have enough leaders to ensure all abilities were catered for on varying lengths of walk. The hotel is situated on the banks of the Leeds and Liverpool canal which offered easy walking for those who only wished to stroll along its scenic towpath or perhaps drop into the nearby town, one mile distant. Again, as in years past, we were fortunate with the weather, although on this occasion early mist hampered the early starters. But brighter weather ensued as soon as the autumnal sun had burnt its way through, to provide us with excellent walking conditions. Next year we are trying something new to us, a four day mid-week break, that has already become oversubscribed.

These breaks, away days or holidays, I believe are essential to the well being of any walking group, providing time and space for us all to meet, rather than just the once a year opportunity at say the Annual dinner or the Annual General Meeting. In our particular case, we offer three walks a week. Inevitably this means that those who only partake in short walks may never meet those members of the longer walking fraternity and vice versa. Regular contact such as these breaks, helps to keep the group healthy, being able to draw upon the experiences of all, in its running and organization.

The next week following our return, it was the Sunday set aside for the area get together, another chance of meeting and getting to know one another this time on an area level, where all the groups in Derbyshire area are invited to attend. Around sixty ramblers choose this as their preferred Sunday outing, members from all the groups in Derbyshire attended, bar one. This year's walks of three differing lengths, was ably hosted and organised by the Erewash group, six, eight and ten miles, all roughly having the same numbers committed to each walking distance. All departed from Stanley village hall and all met again for a lunch break in Stanley Common Eventide Community centre where tea and refreshment was provided. Being amongst the last to arrive back at Stanley, it was nice to see that the organisers had arranged for the toilet facilities to be available, a nice thought.

The host groups are arranged in alphabetical order, so next year the onus is on Amber Valley to supply the venue and find some interesting walks. The Derbyshire area has in excess of fourteen hundred members and it would be nice to see all groups encouraging a few more of their members to take part in this annual event, originally conceived as an exercise to enhance and nurture stronger bonds within our area. May we look forward to seeing you next year?

News Roundup

HS2—A change of plan?

The uncertainty of the route through Derbyshire has been even more confused with announcement that the village of Breaston, in Erewash, could be an alternative site for a hub to that of Toton. This possible change of route will have an even more devastating effect on the local countryside and amenities as it will be over mainly open countryside and a number of footpaths will be affected.

Infrastructure Bill -Save our Forests and Woodlands?

The government has promised not to transfer any publicly owned forests to the organisation responsible for encouraging house building. Local Government minister Lord Ahmad made such a commitment during a recent debate on the Infrastructure Bill in the House of Lords. The proposed legislation includes powers aimed at simplifying the process of moving land from 'arms length' bodies to the Homes and Communities Agency, which is responsible for housing and regeneration. Lord Ahmad said he would bring forward his own amendment to the bill to make it clear that no publicly-owned forests would be transferred to the body.

Nationally, the Ramblers are heading a campaign to make more forests and woodlands accessible to walking.

Derbyshire Tops?

“Derbyshire County Council scored top in a recent National Highways and Transport satisfaction survey of paths. However, there is much work to be done to establish control procedures for outstanding problems, particularly in the area of cropping and ploughing obstructions, and to reduce the backlog of cases of paths waiting to be legally protected.”

The Survey measures public satisfaction with highways and transport services, as well as examining travel behaviour. It is a national survey and allows benchmarking of performance between local highway authorities. Results of the 2014 Survey published on 14th October show that, out of the 24 participating County Councils, Derbyshire was ranked first for overall (local) satisfaction with all the services that were surveyed.

Derbyshire County Council was also ranked in the top 3 for the following areas:

- Rights of Way (1st),
- Road Safety Environment (1st)
- Street Lighting (2nd)

Full results can be found at <http://www.nhtsurvey.org>

Derbyshire Area News—Winter 2014/15

What's On during 2015

20th December 2014 to 4th January 2015

Festival of Winter Walks

Take a walk in a winter wonderland this festive season and join our Festival of Winter Walks, we have a number of Group walks to choose from. So whether you want a short stroll to burn off the Christmas dinner or a heartier ramble to kick-start your new year's resolution, we've got something for you. See your local Group's programme or visit any of the other Group's websites for further details.

Saturday 25th April 2015

Friends of the Peak District's 'Magnificent Walk'.

This event has been organised as part of the Peak District Walking Festival. It offers a choice of 4 circular routes from Hope that include a range of 4, 9, 14 and 20 miles. Entry fees apply, all proceeds from the event support the charitable work of Friends of the Peak District. You can book online at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk, phone 0114 279 2655, or email mail@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

9th May 2015 to 17th May 2015

Chesterfield & NE Derbyshire Walking Festival

Select from a choice of up to 60 walks with a fair number provided by the Chesterfield & NE Derbyshire Group. There may be a small fee for some walks on the festivals programme but this will be the odd exception.

12th September 2015 to 27th September

Amber Valley & Erewash Districts Autumn Footprints Walking Festival

Over two weeks of walking fun with up to 40 walks to choose from. Both Amber Valley and Erewash Groups have walks on the programme.

To be confirmed:

Sunday 16th October 2015:

Area Get Together hosted by the Amber Valley Group Details will be confirmed and published on Group websites.

Please support the walking festivals. A lot of work is put in to them by many volunteers to make them a success. Lets help them be successful.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Area News. My thanks too to the advertisers who have given unstinting support that has gone some way to cover the cost of publication. As reported earlier, future Derbyshire Area News will only be issued once yearly, in December as an annual report.

Can you ensure that items for the 2015 edition of Area News, including Annual Reports, reach me by:

Sunday 25th October 2015 please.

email: kashiers@tiscali.co.uk



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!



Group Contacts

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

www.derbyshireramblers.org.uk

www.ambervalleyramblers.org.uk

www.derbyramblers.org.uk

www.derbyshiredalesramblers.org.uk

www.erewashramblers.org.uk

My Contact Details Form

(Don't forget to keep this updated)

Included at the end of this issue is a form that can be filled in with useful Personal Information and can be carried in a rucksack or on the person. In the unlikely event of having an accident or being taken ill on a walk, this information will be invaluable for others to help you.

Simply cut out the form, fill in the details, fold the form along the box edges of the Ramblers logo on the reverse side and pop into a plastic wallet.

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.

Personal Information: In the unlikely event of your having an accident or being taken ill on your walk this information will be invaluable for others to help you. To make it easy to find, **put it in the plastic wallet and attach it to the inside of your rucksack.**

Full name:

Home Address:

Contact names:

1

Phone:

2

Phone:

3

Phone:

Car reg:

Make:

Colour:

Doctor's name & address:

Phone no:

Additional useful info: Include relevant medical history / medication / hearing problems / allergies etc - anything that might be beneficial for others to know if for some reason you are unable to speak.

Blood Group:

Don't forget to keep this updated

Fold along the square

My Contact Details



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