



Derbyshire Area News

Summer 2014

Welcome to Derbyshire Area News

In this issue:

2014 AGM & General Council

Access Land Walks Week

Don't Worry, be 'Appy

An Unusual Volunteer

Working from Home in the Peak District

Walking in Erewash

**Robin Hood Stride
Derbyshire Dales
Picture: Keith Shiers**

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Note from the Editor

It is sad that so few members turned out for the AGM which, as usual, provided lively discussion and an interesting and different talk by Naseem Akhtar, vice chair of the Board of Trustees.

There appears to be a malaise in members not wanting to get involved in Area activities with 4 key roles remaining vacant after the AGM and which, in some cases, is reflected in Groups. So, even if you don't fancy a post on committee, included in this issue is a review of volunteer groups work so there is no excuse for you not to get involved in some capacity.

This issue there is also focus on the Peak and how we can enjoy it and help preserve it. It is amazing that, even today when we thought it to be safe, it is still under threat. I hope you enjoy this issue.

Keith Shiers

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Cover Picture Walk

At some time one has to venture out to explore this outcrop of rock and the discreet Hermits Cave close by. To walk this area is to enter a time capsule with much evidence of ancient habitation, of standing stones and stone circles and abandoned mines. A wild place at times but exhilarating walking.

Starting from Winster, you can make a nice 9 mile walk taking in the outskirts of Birchover and Youlgreave with a pleasant return through Elton. A bit 'up and downy' and mud guaranteed but lovely views. What more could one ask for. Leave Winster taking the side road by the shop just down the road from the NT's Market House and that turns into a footpath passing a play ground on the right with a view of Birchover on the hill opposite. Follow the path down and then up hill heading for Upper Town Farm. On reaching the track turn left and follow it round to its junction with a minor road. Before turning left, take time out here to investigate the village stocks opposite and threaten any miscreant colleagues to leave them locked up here. Return and just past the farm take the track on the right that leads onto a field, follow the path along the field edges as it drops slowly down to Rocking Stone Farm, continue straight ahead as the path drops to meet a track. Turn left and follow the path to a bridge at the road. Turn left and follow the road for a short distance, turn right onto the Limestone way and follow this uphill, past Robin Hood Stride and across fields to a road. Follow the farm track opposite around Harthill Moor farm to then re-join the Limestone Way as it drops down towards Youlgreave. At the road turn left and after a short distance, turn left at the sign post and head uphill past Mawstone Farm, follow the track through the wood to reach Bleakley Plantation. Continue ahead at the crossing of paths and pass the rock outcrops of Anthony Hill. At the road turn right and go downhill then turn left at the footpath sign and follow the path uphill into Elton. Turn left at the main road and after walking through the village turn right at the bridleway sign and follow the Limestone Way back to Winster.



DERBYSHIRE AREA

2014 AGM

Our 2014 AGM was held, at the Duffield Parish Hall in January with a very disappointing attendance of only 30 members. Our thanks go to the Derby and South Derbyshire Group for all the arrangements, for leading the morning's walk and for providing refreshments. The venue was ideally situated behind the church in a superb and comfortable hall all enhanced of course by the delightful home made cakes.

Angela Dunlop, Derby & South Derbyshire Group Chair, chaired the meeting and 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.

Our President, John Beadle, sent his apologies that he would not be attending the AGM due to illness and was therefore unable to give his customary address. There were apologies also from Mike Hufton and Joyce Mold.

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. In Matters Arising, Keith Shiers advised that the query regarding the portway at Stanley had been dealt with and a DMMO had been applied for. The Annual Report had been circulated previously and was available at the meeting.

The Financial Statement was circulated prior to the meeting with copies also available at the meeting and had been examined by Roger Torr. Martin Pape summarised the report. The Annual Report and Financial Statement were duly adopted.

There were no nominations for the vacant posts of Chairman, Footpath Secretary, Publicity Secretary and Countryside Secretary. However, it had been agreed at the January Area Council meeting that if there was no volunteer for Chairman then it would be rotated round the Groups on an annual basis. Martin Pape made his annual plea for help in filling the vacant posts as they were all important for the future success of the Ramblers and outlined the role of the Publicity and Countryside Secretaries. Geof Cole gave a brief outline of the role of the Footpath Secretary, this partly being to act on behalf of the Group Footpath Secretaries in dealing with the Highway Authorities. All other officers, being willing to stand including representatives of individual members and affiliated local organisations, were re-elected. Roger Torr was re-appointed Independent Examiner to the Accounts.

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

There were no proposals of motions for this years Rambler's General Council; Martin Pape and Keith Shiers agreed to be the Derbyshire Area representatives at the event whilst Carol Shiers will attend as an observer.

The Erewash Group has agreed to organise this year's Area Get Together to be held in October. It was agreed by Area Council that to avoid conflicts with Group holidays, the event will be fixed in future as the 3rd Sunday in October.

A matter arose regarding the future publication of Derbyshire Area News. The editor asked the meeting if they would accept one publication per year, which would include the Annual Report. It was becoming increasingly difficult to get articles from contributors and there was more a trend for electronic communication with some very good group websites available together with the use of 'facebook' and 'twitter' social media. 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 was agreed by an overwhelming majority.

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.

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

Naseem then gave an interesting and thought provoking account of her work in getting ethnic communities interested in getting fit. A surprising statistic she revealed was that Asian men had a life expectancy not much beyond 65 and that women were only perhaps two years better. She showed how she had introduced women to fitness gymnasiums and developed fitness through fun with other activities.



RAMBLER'S GENERAL COUNCIL 2014

Martin Pape

Delegate

Keith Shiers

Delegate

Carol Shiers

Observer

The General Council this year was held at The Adelphie Hotel, Liverpool, a renowned hotel from a more affluent past. Our thanks go to all who were involved in our stay, both hotel and Rambler's staff and also Merseyside and West Cheshire Area who were our hosts.

As usual there was a good display of wares available and a chance to wander and talk to other delegates, trustees, officers and members of staff. As well as the normal business of Council, to elect the Board of Trustees, a President and to listen to and participate in debates there was also a programme of workshops and fringe events.

Introductory presentations.

Jonathan Kipling, Chairman, opened the meeting followed by a welcome from Dave Callan the Merseyside and West Cheshire Chairman. Benedict Southworth, Chief Executive, gave a resounding address on what we have achieved together and the significant contribution of volunteers. In his financial review the Honorary Treasurer, Robert Peel, again warned of the necessity to not only increase but also retain membership; whilst there had been some success in funding opportunities, were it not for substantial legacies then the financial position would be different. In his closing address to the session, the Chairman outlined the future challenges the organisation faces mainly in governance and forming a vision for the next 10 years, both of which would be the theme of the workshops. He was pleased to announce a 3 year agreement with Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust that will provide £300,000 over the period to help further develop walking.

Appointments.

In the election of officers, Kate Ashbrook was elected President; the Vice Presidents were re-elected en bloc and Keith Wadd was nominated and elected as a new Vice president; Crowe Clark Whitehill were appointed Auditors. There was no election for the Agenda Committee as there were five candidates and five positions available, so all were automatically awarded a place on the committee. Similarly, there were three ordinary Board positions available and only three candidates so all three were automatically awarded a place on the Board of Trustees.

The three Trustee candidates were invited to answer a number of questions pre-set by the Agenda Committee. Both candidates that spoke, Christine O'Byrne and Paul

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Rhodes, were young and enthusiastic and availed themselves well. Unfortunately, Andy Rogers, the previous Derbyshire Area nominated Trustee was unable to attend and so did not speak.

Motions.

There were seven Policy Motions submitted and discussed and all were passed.

- Publicity for the 2026 cut-off date—Sussex Area (with amendment)
- Guidance on 2026 cut-off date—SYNED (with amendment)
- Waymarking—West Riding Area (with amendment)
- Guidance notes for footpath workers—North Wales Area (with amendment)
- Biodiversity Offsetting—Avon Area (with amendment)
- Barbed Wire—Merseyside and West Cheshire Area (with amendment)
- Access points to access land—Mid-Lancashire Area (with amendment)

Presidents Award Ceremony

Once again there were many Areas and Groups who had shown tremendous endeavour over the year and the displays showed some impressive achievements. Our own Chris Vaughan was nominated for Running the Ramblers award but was pipped by Aled Jones of Tiger Bay Ramblers.

Guest speaker Maria Eagle MP

Maria Eagle is the MP for Garston and Halewood in Liverpool, was a Minister in the Labour government and has been the Shadow Environment Secretary since November 2013. She spoke of the respect that Ramblers has in parliament and stressed the importance of maintaining this contact.

Chairman's address

Jonathan expressed his thanks again to volunteers and paid tribute to the hard working staff and to the BoT. He was confident that together, the Ramblers would achieve much more in enhancing the walking experience and protection of the countryside.

President's address.

Kate gave her usual rousing message of thanks, encouragement and determination to press on to work towards the vision we had set ourselves. She reiterated her passion to be involved and wished to be called upon to assist with any project or problem that her expertise could help with.

One cannot help but be inspired by her enthusiasm.

Workshop and Fringe notes

Consultation and discussion on the Ramblers Governance and Vision

A series of discussion groups to debate the challenges identified by the Governance

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Review steering committee coming out of the report by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the development of a new long term vision for the Ramblers to address questions raised by volunteers at consultation sessions and at the strategy weekend at Edale. The governance aspect considered a root and branch review of the current Area and Group set up and the future format and frequency of the General Council.

Talking about Walking

Aimed at publicising Groups and their activities. Planning is important, think about the message, where is the information going to and what is the audience and their interest. Find a story associated with the walk, be it about health benefits, interesting sites visited, milestone events, anniversaries (the Press like facts and statistics). Publicise the Ramblers as welcoming, inspiring (be passionate), straightforward (use plain language, not technical terms) and expert.

The member experience

Discussions following a presentation by members of the Surrey Area who presented some novel ideas. A neat slogan: Remember 2BA Rambler -

Recruit better with a more inviting website

Aim for a wider age group, not just the retired

Make your walks a good experience

Be prepared to try new ideas and not be inflexible

List the names and groups of walkers on an attendance sheet

Emails and web pages make for more flexible programmes

Ramblers, be proud of the unique things we do.

A new rights of way and access strategy—how we will protect the places we walk.

Discussion groups on what access we envisage for the future. Would the Scottish model work in England and Wales, or would more specific access such as woodland and waterside be more achievable together with more robust application of current RoW legislation.

Going green needn't cost the countryside.

The Ramblers' charitable objectives include protecting the beauty of the countryside. But in many areas this beauty is under threat from new housing, transport and energy infrastructure. How we generate our energy has become particularly pressing and the English countryside is now hosting increasing numbers of wind and solar farms. These help guarantee energy supplies, reduce the household bills and tackle climate change but without careful planning they can also damage our precious landscapes. The Ramblers' needs new policy guidance which will enable us to respond to this..

2026—Sword of Damocles or new dawn

This was a presentation given by Janet Davis, Senior Policy Officer, who gave a brief history of the campaign for RoW from the initial acts to the present discussion in parliament of the Deregulation Bill. There are concerns that, despite agreement between the stakeholder partners on path modification orders, there are some lobbyists who are trying to change this. We need to be vigilant and oppose them when necessary.

AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT

Martin Pape

Our Area AGM was in January in Duffield. It was well organised by Derby & South Derbyshire Group but it's a shame that more members didn't attend. Our guest speaker was Naseem Akhtar, Vice Chair of the Ramblers' Board of Trustees. She is a busy lady, doing good work in Birmingham encouraging people to exercise and walk as well as her activities as a Ramblers Trustee.

Thanks to those who supported Area Council by attending the AGM and the preceding walk. I regret that we are now without an Area Chair, Area Countryside Secretary, Area Footpath Secretary and Area Publicity Secretary. In addition the only one of our Groups with a Countryside Secretary and a Publicity Secretary is Erewash Group. Well done Erewash, but we are not doing things that we should be doing elsewhere given the reluctance of members to have a go at these tasks, which are not necessarily onerous. As I have said before, if you could spare a few hours a month to help with the running of our Area or Groups, please let me or your Group Chair know. With some tasks there may be the possibility of sharing the work so no-one needs worry about being forced to take on too much.

At the AGM, those Group Chairs present agreed to take turns at chairing Area Council meetings. My concern about not having an Area Footpath Secretary, one of whose duties is to coordinate contacts with the Highway Authority - Derbyshire County Council - has been to some extent alleviated by Basil Merry from Ramblers Chesterfield & NE Derbyshire Group agreeing to act as Ramblers FP Coordinator for Derbyshire. Our Area does not cover the whole of Derbyshire as NE Derbyshire comes under the Ramblers' South Yorkshire & NE Derbyshire Area and NW Derbyshire comes under Manchester & High Peak Area. Basil's role will be to liaise with Group Footpath Secretaries across the whole of Derbyshire, noting that the bulk of Ramblers' FP work will continue to be done by Group FP Secretaries.

I am writing this article in April. Recently, Keith Shiers and I were our Area's delegates to the Ramblers' national AGM ("General Council") in Liverpool, with Carol Shiers as an observer. Keith's report on the GC is elsewhere. I found the GC an interesting and at times entertaining event, and it was good to talk to Ramblers volunteers from other Areas. Ramblers is keen that delegates to GC should not be the same people year on year so if you would like to attend a GC, please let me know. Next year's GC is at Cambridge University in April and it will run from mid-morning on the Saturday to early afternoon on the Sunday.

At our last Area Council, there was some concern about possible effects of budget cuts on Derby City Council's ability to deal with footpath matters. I was actioned to write to the Council and I received a welcome assurance that the Council will be seek-

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ing not to weaken its Rights of Way service.

Returning briefly to the Ramblers General Council, we were very pleased that Chris Vaughan (our Area Membership Secretary and Webmaster) had been short-listed for a "President's Volunteer Award" in the "Running the Ramblers" category. He didn't win but his citation may be of interest:

"Chris has worked closely with the Ramblers IT Team to help local groups and areas set up and maintain websites via the [Ramblers-Webs initiative](#). The website hosting is funded by the Ramblers in bulk offering significant savings to local groups. The websites – for groups ranging from Scotland to Cornwall, West Wales to the East of England, give an excellent view of the character of individual groups and encourage more prospective walkers to join the Ramblers. Chris continues to provide an excellent service on a voluntary basis and has set up some 100 websites. Chris has also provided input on Ramblers digital projects such as the re-launch of the Ramblers website."

I might add that Chris has also been very active in helping Central Office to improve their membership records and membership renewal procedures.

Ramblers' subs are increasing from £32 to £33 (individual) and from £43 to £44 (joint) from 1/5/14.

Thank you again for your support through your membership of Ramblers. Please contact me if you want more information on the above. Please support the Area Get Together on 19th October at which there will be a choice of walks of different lengths all of which should meet up for lunch.

GROUP REPORTS

DERBYSHIRE DALES

The walks programme continues with 8 or 9 walks a week of lengths between 6 and 22km. The programme of social evening talks over the winter months has been well received. Helen Abraham volunteered to take over as Footpath Secretary but there are still vacancies for a Countryside Secretary and a Publicity Secretary.

There were no reports from other Groups at the time of going to press.

Area Get Together

19th October, 2014

Start: Stanley Village Hall
Park Avenue (off Coronation Road)
Stanley
Ilkeston
DE7 6FF (Explorer Map260; SK420408)

Time: 10am

Lunch: The Eventide Hall,
Hayeswood Road,
Stanley Common

Choice of 3 circular walks:

6-7 miles

8-9 miles

10-11 miles

Pick and choose and mix 'n match your walks,
start with one and if you like, finish with another.

See you all there, we shall be pleased to see you.

The event this year is organised by Erewash Group

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Whats On

22nd June to 29th June 2014

Access Land Walks Week.

Join Derbyshire Dales Group in a week of walking to celebrate 10 years of the CROW Act that allowed access to open country.

13th September to 28th September 2014.

Autumn Footprints, the Amber Valley and Erewash walking festival with a choice of over 30 walks. Both Amber Valley and Erewash Groups have walks included in the programme.

19th October 2014.

Area Get Together. Stanley Village Hall for 10am start. Choice of 3 walks that can be mixed and matched if desired.

Books and Guides

Keith Shiers

Derbyshire Ramblings

(Walking in circles down the Derwent Valley)

Ashley Franklin & Mike Warner

Published by Foxglove Publishing Limited

ISBN: 9781909540019

www.info@ashleyfranklin.co.uk

Our Group recently had the good fortune to host a talk by Ashley Franklin and his walking colleague, Mike Warner, on their venture walking the Derwent Valley Heritage Way and this book relates that experience. It describes 19 circular walks varying from 3-4miles up to just over 11 miles that use the route from the river's source near Ladybower Dam to its exit into the River Trent near Shardlow.

As Ashley says, this is not a book for the rucksack but it does make a pleasant reference book. There is a map of each walk and lots of anecdotes regarding the history of the area and of their journey along the way. It is full of some breath taking photographs too, both of the landscape of the area and the wildlife.

A coffee table book perhaps, but one that can be leafed through whilst both relaxing and enjoying the pleasures of walking.

Viewpoint

Protecting the Peak District

David Selkirk (Derbyshire Dales)

We all enjoy the beautiful Peak District and walking through its many varied and often dramatic landscapes. It is good for both body and soul. But it is all too easy to take the Peak District for granted. We tend to think that it has always been much the same, and will automatically stay that way, but of course neither is true. We can only enjoy it now thanks to battles fought by previous generations, and the next generation will only be able to enjoy what we do if we are active in protecting it.

In 1927, the Duke of Rutland put his huge moorland Longshaw Estate (11,500 acres) up for sale. It is difficult to imagine now, but there were no curbs on development in the countryside in those days, and plans included building an airport, golf course, and housing. To prevent this, a group of local people got together and raised some £11,000 by public subscription, sufficient to buy Longshaw Lodge and the surrounding estate. It was given to the National Trust soon afterwards.

The group developed into an organisation called Friends of the Peak District dedicated to conserving the local landscape for the future, for the public and for its own sake. They succeeded in gaining legislation to stop inappropriate development, now embodied in the Town & Country Planning Acts.

They were also in the vanguard of the national parks movement, which is why the Peak District was the first of our national parks to be created. The same legislation (National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act) also gave us our current system of legal rights of way and treasured heritage of footpaths & bridleways.

The big battles have been won, but Friends of the Peak District is still vigilant and active. There are continuing attempts to nibble away at the curbs on inappropriate development, so it scrutinises every planning application in the National Park. Sometimes the nibbles are large bites! It has recently fought long (and expensive) campaigns to stop quarrying on the iconic landscapes of Stanton Moor & Longstone Edge. Its current "Take Back the Tracks" campaign seeks to stem the rising tide of off-road motor vehicles causing great damage to historic green lanes and spoiling them for walkers.

I support the Ramblers because they protect the paths I love to walk on, and I support Friends of the Peak District because they protect the places I love to walk in. If we don't support these organisations, they will wither away and what then?

My message is simple. If you love the Peak District, please help us protect it. We need your support.

Find out more and join at <http://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk/>
or phone 0114 279 2655

Access Land Walks Week

Sue Weatherley (Derbyshire Dales)

What is Access Land all about? Perhaps we all have our own ideas: the right to roam, exploring off the beaten track, the opportunity for a personal challenge or, quite simply, the joy of being in the great outdoors.

The stories of the Kinder trespasses in the 1930s are well known and it is worth remembering that they were the start of the access movement which we now rather take for granted. The story has continued more recently with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW to its friends.) This gave rights of access to areas of upland and open country and covered the whole of England and Wales. Though the act was passed in 2000 it was only in 2004 that these new areas of Access Land were opened up and mapped. The Peak District was, quite rightly, at the forefront of this.

Now we walk freely over the moors and hills of the Peak District. We have been able to walk over the Kinder and Bleaklow moors for decades and since 2004 more areas are open to us. Some of these, like Parkhouse Hill or Carrhead Rocks have become firm favourites but other places are less well known. In fact the situation continues to change and develop as new access points are added when opportunities arise. Last year new stiles appeared above Pilsbury in the Dove valley and on the moor at Fallinge bringing new places to explore.

Now it is ten years on and I think it is time to celebrate and also to pause and reflect. Many people fought for years for access to open country and it was hard won. What we have as a result is some of the best walking in the world, right here on our doorstep.

In June the Derbyshire Dales Group are arranging a whole week of walks that will all take in some sections of Access Land and two special evening walks are included as well. This programme runs from 22nd to 29th June. What better way to celebrate mid-summer.

Of course, the Derbyshire Dales programme of walks is always interesting and on every walk there is something new or fresh to encounter but I have heard some comments about access land being 'difficult'. Of course, if you explore by going through a new access point you don't know what you will find or where you will end up! What's the worst that can happen? You are hardly likely to slip through a rabbit hole into a parallel universe: though that would be an exciting prospect it is, I am afraid, beyond even the bounds of Access Land walks to facilitate.

One of the great pleasures of walking is finding new places to go and new views of areas we think we know well. Come exploring this summer- take a walk on the wild side and leave the footpaths behind.

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DATE	TIME	WALKS DETAILS	M / Km Grade	CONTACT
SUN 22 JUNE	10.00	Grindleford Station Approach 251786 Carhead Rocks, Stanage and Padley Gorge Includes Access Land.	11 / 17 M	Rita 01623 552985
MON 23 JUNE	7.00 pm	Minninglow CP 195582 High Peak Trail, Minninglow, Roystone Rocks Access Land	4 / 7 L	Sue W. 01629 636350
TUES 24 JUNE	10.30	Park in Lay-by, top of Deepdale 158685 Sheldon and Deepdale Access Land	6 / 10 M	Brian / Hilary 01332 760113
WED 25 JUNE	10.30	Lay-by near Flash Damn 302644 Uppertown and Matlock Moor Access Land	7 / 11 L / M	Ken 07736 783 640
WED 25 JUNE	10.00	Alstonefield WC CP 131556 Drabber Tor, Biggin Dale, Wolfscote Dale Access Land	13 / 21 S	Roger 01335 346673
WED 25 JUNE	10.00	Buxton Railway Station 059737 9.27 Train to Chapel-en-le-Frith Combs Moss, Errwood Res, Whetstone Ridge, Cheeks Hill, Axe Edge, Grin Low Check start time with leader Access Land	14 / 22 S	Jane / Steve 01332 551837
THURS 26 JUNE	10.00	Hayfield, Bowden Bridge Quarry CP 048870. Kinder Trespass Route, Kinder Downfall, Kinder Low Access Land	8 / 13 M	Bridget 01773 827804
FRI 27 JUNE	7.00 pm	Monsal Head 185715 Monsal Trail, Cressbrook Dale, Wardlow Hay Cop Access Land	5 / 8 L	Sue W. 01629 636350
SAT 28 JUNE	10.00	Alstonefield WC CP 131556 Wetton and Narrowdale Hill Access Land	6 / 10 M	Hilary / Brian 01332 760113
SUN 29 JUNE	10.00	Hartington Market Place 128605 Carder Low, High Wheeldon and Longnor Includes Access Land	11 / 17 M	Sue / Ian 01629 636350

Adventures in Access Land

Sue Weatherley

The tenth anniversary of the CROW act has made me think a bit more about the Dark Peak and its well established access.

Recently I was up on Kinder as a volunteer working on a new project to monitor climate change. This made me look at the area from a new perspective and as we were walking back towards Edale on a fairly recently repaired section of path, the conversation went something like this:

Question: Do you know where these paving slabs come from?

Answer: The old factories and mills in Lancashire.

Question: Do you know the cause of the pollution that damaged the moors?

Answer: Air pollution from the old factories and mills in Lancashire.

Of course the second answer is only part of the story, however, though I knew both these facts I had not put them together in that way before.

The very fabric of these factories is being used to mitigate the effects of the pollution they caused: neat isn't it?

Earlier this year I was walking over Black Hill north of Longdendale. This was famously described by Alfred Wainwright as *'well named. The broad top really is black. It is not the only fell with a summit of peat, but no other shows such a desolate and hopeless quagmire to the sky. This is naked and unashamed. Nature fashioned it, but for once has no suggestions for clothing it. Nothing can grow in this acid waste.'* AW described the scene very well but in fact its appearance was not natural but the effect of the aforementioned pollution. Well, now it isn't black any more (excuse the pun), it is green and most folks walking the Pennine Way will not pause to think about this, it looks, I suppose, unremarkable. In fact it is very remarkable indeed.

The Moors for the Future Project has been working to regenerate large areas of the moors and it has been running for ten years now. It has grown and expanded over the years building on success and it is one of the most remarkable conservation projects you are ever likely to hear about. The techniques they have developed are complex and still developing and the effects are far from just cosmetic as establishing vegetation where there was previously bare peat is crucial in several specific and significant areas:

1. Reducing the amount of peat washed away into the surrounding reservoirs.
2. Holding water in vegetation helps reduce flood risk.
3. Protecting the moors in their role as a carbon sink of great significance.

I could go on but I hope this gives you the gist.

Next time you are up on the Dark Peak moors looking round at a sea of heather and moorland grass - think on: last time you were there it may have been a big area of bare peat. Wow! Look at it with new eyes, it is a wonder and something to celebrate, respect and enjoy.

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If you want to get involved and help this project you can join up as a volunteer by going to the website: **www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk**

There is also a newer project operating under the Moors For The Future umbrella. This is the Community Science project and it involves monitoring climate change in various ways. You can help this one very simply by reporting on common moorland birds or get more directly involved in a variety of ways, you can find out how on

www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/community-science

PS. I do have one new access point to report. A new stile has been put in on Fallinge Edge at GR 276662. This is a potentially very useful link. There is a path climbing up from Northwood which goes past Little Bumper Piece and joins the Rowsley Bar road at GR 276659. More or less directly across the road there is access to the moor and the new stile is approximately 200m to the north on the National Park boundary. This gives access to Fallinge Edge and the moor which stretches north towards Beeley Moor. The walking in this area is rough but in time I am sure a path will develop.

Editors Note:

Sue is our latest TV personality having appeared on Ian Hislop's Olden Days. So now you know who she is!

REMEMBER !

YOUR FOOTPATHS NEED YOU



You can help by becoming a local Footpath Warden for your Group

Join a footpath working party with your Group

Research old maps for your Group

Report any problem you find using www.espro@derbyshire.gov.uk

Don't Worry, be 'Appy

Robert Browne (Broxtowe)

If, like me, you are of a certain age, then a mobile phone does what it says on the tin. You might still be getting to grips with that Christmas present, so are driven into the world of “smart phones” with a hidden mass of tech: this thing probably has 10-20 times the processing power of that first computer that took up the whole of your desk. If, like me, you are slow to deduce this (“smart phone-dumb owner” my kids say) a whole load of walking based technology could suddenly be open to you.

Most obvious within the “apps” (short for application) are those for navigation. You will have seen computer programmes advertised in “Walk”, which synchronises your intended walk (or an RA tested route) from a computer screen version of your beloved OS map to a hand held device. When walking, an arrow and a circle depict both your direction and position. However, most of these programmes can also be bought for use on a smart phone with the GPS (Global Positioning System) enabled. Take care! Your phone will be hungry for power-I still take a print out of the route. The same programmes often allow those who are health conscious to be able to plot their speed and calorific expenditure, although I personally don't want to know that I will have to walk another 20 miles to burn off that bit of cheesecake. Some of these will have a “buddy beacon” feature, in other words, a spot depicting a chosen ‘other’ with the same app on your electronic map: so if you want to detour and they don't, you can still see where they are. Sorry, but it will be no more “I had to wait in the pub/cafe dear, I couldn't find you”. What excites me though is the possibility of allowing those with early dementia to walk independently, with the safety of knowing where they are.

The same GPS is useful for weather apps as well: my favourite being the BBC's or Met office's own and not just because they are free. Not only do they tell what the elements are going to throw at you where you are, but also what it is like where you are going to. Putting memories of Michael Fish to one side, this is surprisingly accurate, particularly on the day of use. Last month, it did state that the four horsemen of the apocalypse would visit on the day of the Wilmot Wander, complete with a biblical sunshine ending, and Lo! It was so.

One app that I hope we won't have to use is “Ashtag”. This (also free) app not only allows you to recognise an ash tree with Ash die back disease, but you can then photograph it (using the phone, of course), the GPS function allows it to log exactly where it is. This information can then be reported to the scientists who are researching this potentially deadly successor to the Dutch Elm disease.

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In a similar vein, the Great Butterfly Count has an app for the i-phone which has potential to do the same. Android/symbian users will have to wait (ask your teenager which “platform” you have, it will make them feel superior). I would urge you to log onto this website, print out the butterfly recognition sheet, (or download it to your phone of course!) and report your sightings (period is in July/August). Your walk will be more rewarding, and you will be the eyes of the naturalists who want to build a recurring picture of the health of the British butterfly: what better excuse for a pint in a pub garden (“It’s science dear”). There are apps for plant, tree and bird recognition to further enhance your walk.

The phone as a camera is not a new concept, but the recent improvement in the quality of the pictures with most Smartphones are. No need to hunt out the camera, you are likely to carry the phone anyway, take what you see, and show it to others: I have enticed would be walkers out this way. But please edit-not everyone will be fascinated by your collection of the electric pylons of Britain. Moreover, why the need for a post-card? Take a picture, send it with a message via an app. such as “WhatsApp” (again, free, you can see a pattern forming here) to your friends who would have the same app. Social media sites such as Facebook will do the same thing, but personally, I’m not a fan: I think some folk are discovering why they lost touch with old school/college/work friends in the first place.

You can get on the internet whilst you are on a long walk using either the “data package” (via your phone service, accessible mostly everywhere) or “Wi-Fi” (via a computer modem in your hotel, some youth hostels, cafes and pubs, within the confines of the establishment). The former costs, but may be part of your monthly package, the latter may be free, so do use it to save some dosh. I could start an argument here, as you can then access e-mail, news, sport, check your bank account, download music, even go shopping: watch out though if the point of getting away from it all is to, err, get away from it all. Your partner may feel differently, I will not be held responsible for any breakdown of relations. Of course, if that happens “Relate” does have a “live chat” service available from your phone....

I will end this with the app I want, but is not here yet. Imagine: come across an obstruction, photograph it, “geotag” it, send the problem simultaneously to the council and footpaths officer, the programme within the app converting the information into the definitive map format. OK, I can dream, but if the Cycle Touring Club can do the same with a pothole app, why should we let them get ahead of us?

An Unusual Volunteer

Keith Shiers (Erewash)



Stone delivery on its way

Working with Derbyshire County Council Volunteer Co-ordinator, Steve Cresswell, Erewash Ramblers volunteers have been involved with installing a flight of steps as part of a rights of way improvement scheme suggested by them for Ockbrook Footpath 26. It required the cutting out, boarding and stoning of over 50 steps to improve a difficult section of path in the Dale Hills area.

The site is isolated which provided a logistics problem in getting the stone from the storage area to the work site. Fortunately Sue Pratt of Columbine Farm and kennels which is close to the work site, came to the rescue with the offer of using her Clydesdale horse 'Sunny' and cart to help transfer the material.

So it was that on the lovely sunny morning of 24 March 2014, 'Sunny' was hitched up to help with the task. Whilst Steve Cresswell worked with John Blackburn to complete cutting out the remaining 3 steps, John Harrison and I started to shovel the stone from an 'Everest' size pile of stone delivered in the previous week. Horse and loaded cart then had to negotiate a way over a couple of fields of undulating terrain.

What a lovely sight it was to see his measured pace in pulling the loaded cart to site and the skill and patience of Sue and her helper, Helen, in manoeuvring both horse and cart to the desired loading and tipping points.

The tipping mechanism was interesting, consisting merely of a bar with offset pins at each end that acted similar to a cam. Once twisted and removed, the body tipped. The weight of the cart was fully appreciated however, when we had to return the body to its normal position; I can tell you it took two hefty blokes to struggle and get it back in position.

Three deliveries were sufficient to keep the volunteers busy for the day before retiring 'Sunny' for a well earned rest.

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There is still work to be done to complete the stoning of the steps which we hope to accomplish in one more session. However, 'Sunny' still has another task to do in transporting more stone to enable us to build a causeway near a stream in his field through which there is also a footpath.



Tipping in progress

This has been a most interesting

project with quite a number of issues to resolve not least the size of the task for a small group to undertake and its isolated position. Which, had it not been for Sue in allowing us to park at her farm would have made the task much more difficult.

A big Thank You then to all members of the volunteer team that were involved and to Steve Cresswell of DCC. Special thanks to Sunny', Sue Pratt and Helen for an enjoyable and unique experience.



Stoning of steps in progress

Sunny technical details:

Type: Clydesdale breed; 1 horse power.

Age: 10 years

Propulsion: four legs, also has short tail to aid view when steering

Weight: 800Kg approximately

Performance: pulls a ton with ease

Consumption: a few bags of hay a day

Other features: placid, good with people, environmentally friendly.

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

Footpath Volunteer Groups

I have received a letter from Jane Rogers of **Denby Footpath Group**:

Dear Mr Shiers

Having read the Derbyshire Ramblers Annual Report 2012/13, I note that you mention that there are two established footpath groups, namely Findern and Melbourne. (Page 6).

I would like to bring your attention to Denby Footpaths Group. This too is a well established group and has been very active making improvements in Denby Parish, it is hoped that you have enjoyed some of our efforts. As well as improving or replacing over 50 structures, we clear paths, lead walks, report obstructions that we are unable to deal with and generally try to keep our paths open and usable. We also have claims in progress for eight Forgotten Paths as part of the Ramblers initiative. Our next project is to replace 7 stiles with wicket gates to open up an area of the parish with improved access.

We are very proud of our achievements and hope that Derbyshire Ramblers would recognise our group efforts when mentioning footpath groups in future publications.

Kind regards

Jane Rogers

Denby Footpaths Group

Many thanks for this Jane and I am more than happy to put the record straight and apologise for my serious omission previously. You also sent me a comprehensive report on the work that you have done but unfortunately I do not have the space to include it in this issue so my apologies for that too.

Amber Valley Group

Here is an update on the Amber Valley Footpath Maintenance Working Group; from Gerry White;

There have been some wet days this past winter but it is credit to our team of volunteers, led by Michael Poyser under the supervision of Steve Cresswell from Derbyshire County Council, who have turned out regularly on a monthly basis to undertake footpath repair and maintenance projects around Amber Valley. There is no doubt that this work will be of great value to the walking communities, whether doing a serious walk or merely the daily constitutional with the dog.

Localities worked have included:

- Three visits in December, January and February to a 150 metres long path in Marehay. Well used by locals it had become very muddy and overgrown. Efforts concentrated on cutting back the brambles, pruning and lopping overhanging branches and all side growth. This path is now unrecognisable from its

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former state.

- Two visits to a path in Codnor, clearing 25 metres of a badly overgrown and virtually impassable stretch.
- The repair and upgrade of a stile at Mapperley. DCC provided a good load of limestone ballast to in-fill its approach and the materials to repair the stile.
- The repair of a 150 year old Belper path—known as Belper 68—which leads off the well used Chevin. This involved the replacement and shifting of some stone slabs, clearing a retaining wall of vegetation and the clearance of over-hanging foliage. Again this is a path much used by locals.

A big thank you is conveyed to those attending these sessions, in mixed weather at times and giving their time and energy. The groups number between 6 and 12 per session and are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and work carried out.

Erewash Group

The Erewash Group Footpath Volunteers have continued to be busy working on the long term project of installing steps on Ockbrook FP26 in the Dale Hill area. This has been interspersed with clearing vegetation in and around steps on Long Eaton FP36 flood bank and clearing a stretch of path on Ilkeston FP4 and installing steps. A 'SWAT' team comprising a volunteer and Steve Cresswell also cleared a fallen tree and overgrowth on Stanley FP20 reported by a walk leader following a programme walk.

Our programme of work continues to grow both in tasks to do and their diversity. This makes for interesting and satisfying work. It also brings us into contact with the public at large who can see and hopefully, appreciate, the work being done. It is also a useful means of meeting farmers and landowners and demonstrate to them our commitment to protecting the countryside. A positive step all round.

Value Added?

All of the hours that the volunteers put in are logged by DCC.

So apart from the practical benefits It has been suggested that currently, all the volunteer teams who work with the DCC Volunteer Co-ordinator may have raised the equivalent of £60,000.

Editor Comment

I would like to echo Gerry's thanks to all the volunteers who are involved with footpath work who are working to keep our paths open so that the majority of us can enjoy the benefit. If anyone does fancy volunteering ,I am sure there is a group near you that would be pleased to see you. To find out more contact any of the officers listed on the Contacts page at the back or Steve Cresswell , DCC Volunteer Co-ordinator:

Working from Home in The Derbyshire Peak District

Mike Hunt

When we moved to the pretty Peak District village of Foolow in 1993 we still had “proper” jobs and not an idea that some eleven years later we would be running a small business from home based on our many years experience of walking and mountaineering. In fact it was not until after we bought a house in 2002, high in Spain’s Sierra Nevada Mountains that we thought of the possibility of being able to run some walking holidays, hence the name of our company, *“Mountain House Holidays.”*



A Peak District Navigation Course

At that time one of my voluntary jobs was as a Director / Treasurer of Mountain Leader Training, so I thought it only right that I should gain the requisite qualification (International Mountain Leader) to legally lead walks in the hills and mountains of Spain. The lengthy route to becoming an IML involves first gaining the British Mountain Leader Award. There are many facets to this but pivotal is being very competent with map and compass navigation in difficult terrain, both day and night.

Although not mountainous, the Peak District moors provided the perfect terrain for practicing the difficult navigation required to become a Mountain Leader and so with Jane (my wife) in tow we roamed the moors both day and night looking for obscure stream gullies, contour features and many aircraft wrecks. We became addicted to

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difficult navigation exercises though more importantly we were having great fun! Jane also embarked on the process to become an International Mountain Leader and in 2004 as (British Mountain Leaders) we started running navigation training based from Foolow as “Peak Navigation Courses.”



Aircraft Wreck on Ashop Moor

As Peak Navigation Courses, all of our introductory courses are based from Foolow Village Hall. We are so fortunate having this facility as a training room, and the spin off to the village is that our booking fees cover the cost of running the hall, which was built by residents of the village. In the last 12 months we used the hall for 17 day courses. Some people attending our courses are local, however a good number travel from afar and support the local economy by staying in various B&B's. It feels good to know that our small business helps in some way to support other small businesses in the Peak District.

After qualifying as International Mountain Leaders we started running overseas walking holidays and currently spend about 5 months a year overseas, mainly in Spain's Sierra Nevada where we work as mountain guides and organise walking holidays. Other places where we regularly lead walking holidays are Slovenia's Julian Alps and

the Highlands of Scotland. Many of our clients are from Derbyshire, Sheffield and the surrounding area.

It's mid April and I'm writing this article at our house 1300m above sea level. This time last year we hosted a group from Chesterfield Ramblers during a week that was made memorable by fantastic weather and were able to run an "A" walk and "B" walk every day (the benefits of working as a partnership).



Chesterfield Ramblers Walking with us in Spain

A lot of people comment on how attractive they see our lifestyle, out walking all the time! Running a small business like ours depends on good marketing, fortunately Jane is gifted at being able to build websites and a combination of using "social media" and blogging has ensured that we can be found near the top of most Google searches. It's more difficult in Spain as our remote mountain house has no mains electric or telephone so we rely on mobile internet to keep up with business. In Foolow we are more fortunate, an office in the back garden with a proper telephone. However Foolow is too far from the telephone exchange to get a good or guaranteed broadband internet connection. For this we rely on satellite broadband, which is reliable and 40 times faster than our previous internet provider.

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In addition to our work, running navigation training courses and leading walks; organising the business (marketing, etc); we have to keep ourselves current and up to date. We are regulated by The British Association of International Mountain Leaders who make sure that we undertake regular training, are insured and hold a current wilderness 1st aid qualification. The Peak District is an ideal place for us to operate from with a host of small business's that can support us. Our last 2 days of training were both at Thornbridge Outdoor Centre near Ashford in the Water and we go to High Peak 1st Aid near Hope for our 1st aid updates.

These days we spend about seven months of the year based in Foolow. When in the U.K. we work most weekends but if we have a free day we walk with Sheffield 40's Ramblers.

As a small business we rely a lot on others for feedback about our marketing and especially about our websites. Take a look and if you think we can improve please give us your comments!

www.peaknavigationcourses.co.uk

www.sierranevadaguides.co.uk

www.mountainhouseholidays.co.uk

My Contact Details Form

(Don't forget to keep this updated)

Some time ago, Kate Lee of Derby & South Derbyshire Group introduced a form that could be filled in with useful Personal Information that could be carried in the 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.

The form includes such details as : full name and home address; contact names and phone numbers; car registration details; Doctors name and address.

There is also space for additional useful information including 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, if known, can also be recorded.

So please, if you carry one ensure the details are up to date.

If you don't have one, then contact your Group Secretary who may be able to provide a form and plastic wallet.

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

Walking in Erewash

Keith Shiers (Erewash)

Erewash, an area you pass through on the way to here and there and not one to stop and savour, mores the pity. Normally associated with its great industrial past where money was to be made from the coal beneath the ground in areas around Ilkeston, or the great mills and factories at Ilkeston and Long Eaton producing goods for the world, the iron produced at Stanton and of course the canals and later, railways, that enabled all these products to be moved eventually on a global scale. Much of this industrialisation has now gone though some mills remain as a testament to days past and some refurbished for 'to-days living', whatever that means.

So where do you start for a walk in Erewash? It had a rich history before the industrial revolution and much remains if you look carefully. Its industrial heritage belies a large rural community with green rolling hills and secret lanes where there is much to explore. The area around Stanton was occupied during the Iron Age where iron smelting was believed to have been undertaken even then. The Romans had a villa close to the village of Ockbrook and the roman Rykneld Road passes through the area on its relentless march north. There was once a great abbey at Dale owning some 24,000 acres, where now only the arch of its great east window remains, the rest of it being dissipated over the surrounding area and not least the church at Morley that has much of the stone and the window. Outlying farms, or Grange, of the abbey still remain tilling the earth much as before. Industrialisation brought its rewards, belatedly, in the great houses and parks once the preserve of the coal barons such as at Shipley (Amber Valley) and Locko but which we are now, also, allowed to enjoy.

In answer to the question then, there can be no better start than the leaflet walks published by Erewash Borough Council and available in print form from any local library or to download from their website. Erewash Ramblers help support these in undertaking regular surveys and way marking of routes to keep them up to date. There is a choice of about twenty walks and their titles give clues to the rich heritage and diversity of the area with such titles as 'Hermits Walk', 'A Walk in the Clouds', 'The Miners Walk', 'The Coffin Walk', 'The Romans Walk', 'The Millers Walk', 'The Pack Horse Trail', 'The Trent Meadows Walk', 'The Ryknild Trail', 'The Navy's Walk', 'The Cat and Fiddle Trail', 'The Farmers Walk', 'The Cranfleet Trail', 'The Dragonfly Trail' and 'The Coalfields Walk'. All are between 3 and 7 miles but for the adventurous there are also two challenge walks, one of 12 miles and the other 17 miles.

It may not have mountains but there are places that provide vistas over 5 counties and others where you can wander for a whole day and not meet another. I have given some ideas to the area so please, now go out and try it, you will be most welcome.

Derbyshire Area News—Summer 2014

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Area News. As reported earlier, in future Derbyshire Area News will only be issued once yearly, in December as an annual report. This then, will be the last Summer edition unless someone would care to take on editorship for two copies per year.

And don't forget the Area Get Together

Sunday 19th October 2014

Stanley Village Hall

If you would like to see Derbyshire Area News in full colour then visit:

www.derbyshireramblers.org.uk

Finally

Items for the next Area News, including Annual Reports, should reach me by

Sunday 26th October 2014 please.

email: kashiers@tiscali.co.uk

The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company Reg. No. 4458492. Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1093577. Registered office: 2nd Floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

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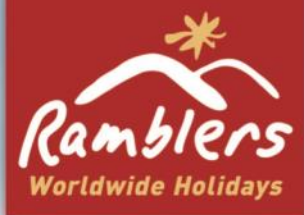
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