



ramblers
at the heart of walking

THE WEST RIDING rambler

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Journal of the West Riding Area of the Ramblers' Association

COVER PHOTO: Calder Valley in Spring

West Riding Area AGM –for those that missed it

The West Riding Area AGM was relatively well attended this year, held as usual at the Clarke Foley Centre in Ilkley on February 2nd.

In attendance was the new Area Support Officer for the North – Diane Simcoe; her role, created as part of a two-year pilot scheme delivered by the Area Support Team, focuses on building stronger working relationships between staff and volunteers, developing and delivering plans and training for volunteers and members across the North of England.

The guest speaker, Trustee Richard May, delivered an interesting overview of the current activities of the RA nationally. Whilst not ignoring ongoing problems – i.e. membership – his summary offered a different perspective, celebrating the changes and improvements being implemented currently and in the near future. For example, funding from the Peoples' Postcode Lottery has significantly contributed to the 3-year programme focused on data transformation – enabling the RA to gain a consolidated picture

of members and their involvement. By winter 2019, all membership secretaries will have access to the dashboards created to provide data on membership activity, numbers participating in walks etc. [all GDPR-compliant]. A new Director of Membership, Sarah Marfleet, has been appointed to develop a membership growth strategy in 2019.

He gave examples of positive developments and ideas across the country – for example, in Norfolk they welcome newcomers as they arrive by car, to avoid the sometimes awkward approach to a group of strangers. Other Areas have introduced “Pramblers Walks” i.e. for those with a pushchair in tow. Shorter walks and social events are also popular to newcomers.

Richard placed focus on ensuring that every walk was a great experience, making people feel as welcome as possible. Additionally, he stressed the importance of ensuring that all members “have a home” within their area – i.e. walks, activities and events that appeal to all.

In Norfolk, his local area, they've had success advertising walks on meetup.com – something that Susan Wilkinson, of Take a Hike also does. Steve Noble, Area Publicity Officer, plans to build on this to create a dedicated meetup group on the meetup website for the West Riding Area, not limited to TaH walks.

Alex Gardner was welcomed as new Area Vice President and events are planned for the summer to celebrate the life of Jerry Pearlman, with the suggestion that a “Jerry Pearlman Way” be created, perhaps along one of his favourite routes through Eccup.

Overall, I would conclude that whilst aware of the challenges it faces, the Ramblers Association remains an association of committed members, with steps being taken, locally and nationally, to continue the fantastic work it has achieved to date.

Caroline Spalding

The delights of ginnels and snickets - continued

As Footpath Officer for Leeds, which has an unknown number of ginnels, I welcomed Colin Speakman's celebration of these insufficiently appreciated ways. However, when his piece ends in the hope that "we can all protect them for the future" he touches on a topic which I have been wrestling with for some years. Are ginnels Rights of Way, and is their long-term future secure given the 2026 deadline for registering paths on the basis of historic evidence? The short answer to the first question is that a few are definitive Rights of Way, but the vast majority are not. As for the second question, the answer turns out to be "almost certainly" in a few cases and "possibly" in others, but for the majority it is hard to determine.

I can illustrate this by looking in detail at four cases of ginnels in NW Leeds.

To start with the ginnel in Colin's photograph. This runs in segments diagonally from Cliff Lane to Woodhouse Ridge, intersecting with the Grosvenors (Road, Terrace and Mount) and

Cumberland Road along the way. Fortunately, as it turns out, almost all of that length is definitive footpath (hereafter FP) - FPs Leeds 86, 85 and 88 starting at Cliff Lane. Notice that I say 'almost' because the few metres across a small open space between Grosvenor Terrace and Grosvenor Road are not definitive FP! (Don't ask why.) So as far as Rights of Way legislation is concerned this path is more or less

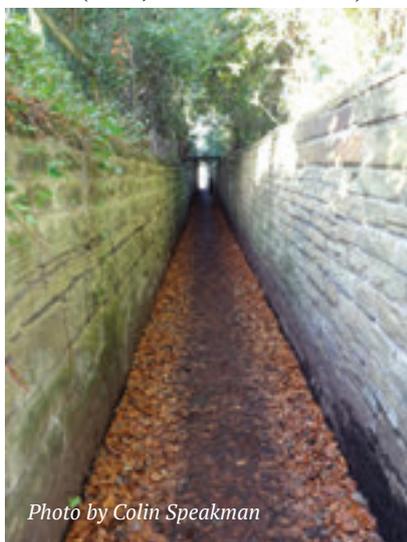


Photo by Colin Speakman

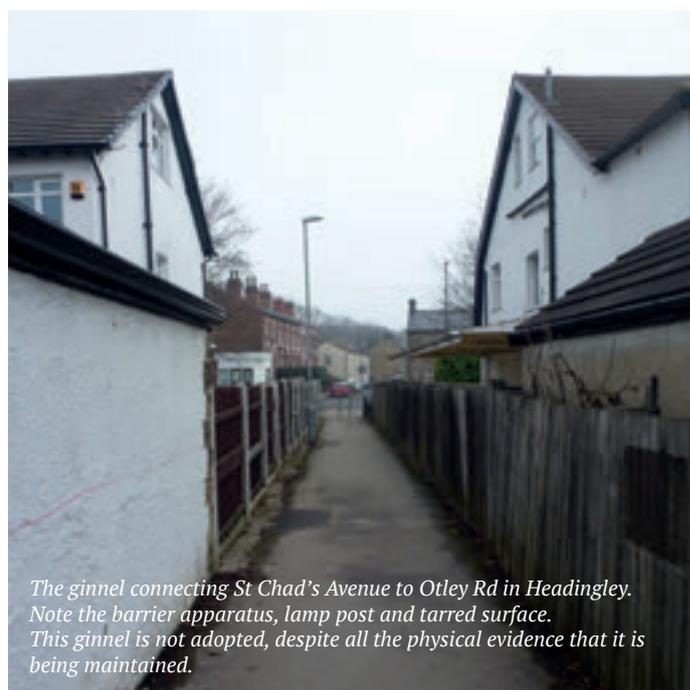
safe. It appears on the Definitive Map (DM). And it turns out that it is further protected by general highways legislation, because most of its length (again excepting the fragment off Grosvenor Road) is 'adopted' highway. How do I know that? Because the Street Register (SR) tells me so. This is a listing of all the highways for which Leeds City Council is responsible for maintenance. The register entry says it is 'public' (i.e. publicly maintained highway) and it appears on the map derived from the SR. So we could say that this ginnel has belt and braces protection.

At this point let me pause to say that while Ramblers are often concerned with the Definitive Map, they have been less concerned with the Street Register. However, in an urban area both need to be consulted. Because the Map and the Register spring from quite different sets of legislation the terminology and ways of working are different. Problems with ginnels typically arise because they fall between the two types of legislation. The DM is primarily designed to deal with paths running across private, often open, land, while the SR gives a grudging recognition to the fact that not all public highways are carriageways designed for wheeled vehicles. Not surprisingly, perhaps, anomalies arise where these different systems overlap.



The long ginnel connecting Kirkstall Lane and St Michael's Lane on the West side of the Headingley Cricket and Rugby grounds. Note the tarred surface, lamp post, and (a rare event) the small street-sweeping machine at work. This ginnel is adopted.

Now take the case of the long ginnel which runs from Kirkstall Lane to St Michael's Lane on the west side of the Headingley cricket and rugby grounds. It is much less picturesque than the first case, but extremely heavily used. The SR shows that it is publicly maintained (and it has lighting and a tarred surface) but when we look at the DM we find that it is marked by green dashes - the symbol for a "non-definitive footpath". This is a category used very frequently on the Leeds DM to cover paths which are well known and used locally but for which the evidence that would allow them to be promoted to Definitive status is lacking or possibly undiscovered. Fairly regularly I find lengths of ginnel like this - often access routes which developers have left when housing was being built - which do not appear on the DM. The Rights of Way team normally add them to the map as non-definitives when they are pointed out.



The ginnel connecting St Chad's Avenue to Otley Rd in Headingley. Note the barrier apparatus, lamp post and tarred surface. This ginnel is not adopted, despite all the physical evidence that it is being maintained.



The ginnel connecting Brantford Street to Toronto Place, Chapel Allerton. Note the lighting, but also the natural surface. This ginnel is not adopted, but the lighting suggests otherwise.

My next case concerns two short lengths of ginnel in the Church Wood area of Headingley, one portion of which connects St Chad's Rise to St Chad's Avenue while the other continues from the Avenue to the Otley Road. They are tarred and lit, and they look just as established as the previous case. The DM shows them as non-definitive FPs, but they do not appear on the SR map. Looking up St Chads Avenue by name in in the SR (don't use an apostrophe!) shows the two bits of path are recorded but designated as 'private'. In SR terminology this means only that Leeds City Council is not officially responsible for their upkeep, despite that fact that they have all the physical appearance of maintained highways. Cases such as this appear less well protected than the other two.

My last case concerns a ginnel which runs between Broadgate Walk and Broadgate Lane in the Horsforth Woodside area. Once again, it has a tarred surface and a gatepost at one end. However, this one appears neither on the DM nor on the SR map. Looking up the SR by Street name, however, I find that it is listed but 'private'. Now there is another matching ginnel at the other end of Broadgate Walk, running through between houses to Stanhope Drive. It turns out to be 'private' also, but



is shown as a non-definitive footpath on the DM!
I could go on, but readers' eyes may be glazing over at this stage. I hope I have demonstrated that the recognition of ginnels as Rights of Way, or alternatively as minor maintained highways, is a mess. A minority of ginnels have

Definitive status and are well protected. Likewise, those which the SR recognises as 'public' are as secure as streets and footways. Many more are in the 'non-definitive footpath' category. This does mean that, when they are likely to be affected by a planning application, Rights of Way will warn developers that there is a possible Right of Way on the site

which might become the object of a claim in the future. If the line of the path is affected by the application then there is normally a consultation about diversion. A few ginnels were locked off by gating orders because of claims about crime when that legal process was in force, but it has now been withdrawn. How this complicated situation arose is another whole chapter.

At some point after this article is published, I will report my last case to Rights of Way who will add it to the map as yet another non-definitive. It is only modest protection, but better than nothing. Leeds residents reading this might like to consult the online Footpath map and the Street Register to see how the paths in their neighbourhood are treated. Ginnels are a whole world in themselves for the Footpath officer!

Lee Davidson



DalesBus Summer network

DalesBus – the integrated network of bus services from West Yorkshire, York and Harrogate to the Yorkshire Dales, planned by walkers for walkers – begins its summer season on Sunday April 21st.

On that day and every Sunday and Bank Holiday until October, there will be a direct bus service (875) from Wakefield and Leeds to Buckden and Hawes, plus the 884 from Dewsbury and Bradford to Malham, (connection to Malham Tarn and Ingleton on 881), the 821 from Keighley and Otley to Pateley Bridge and Scar House via the Washburn Valley, the 822 from Selby, York and Ripon to Fountains Abbey and Grassington, and a new 825 service to Brimham Rocks from Harrogate continuing to Kirkby Malzeard and Masham . In addition the popular Saturday 74 Ilkley-Grassington via Bolton Abbey is returning, this year starting back at Bradford and Shipley. From May 19th onwards there will also be a service (830) to Upper Wensleydale and Swaledale meeting trains at Ribbleshead Station.

For full details of all DalesBus services and special tickets plus the programme of DalesBus Ramblers bus-friendly guided walks log onto www.dalesbus.org or www.friendsofdalesbus.org.uk.

Colin Speakman

The First Dales Way Walk



Taken in 1980 on a WRR celebratory walk of the Dales Way

The very first public walk on the Dales Way was organised by the West Riding branch of the Ramblers and took place on Sunday, March 23rd, 1969. Colin Speakman led 130 walkers along the first 12 miles of the brand-new long-distance trail from Ilkley to Burnsall, returning by bus. It was a great success.

This inaugural walk has been celebrated every decade since. The 50th anniversary walk is planned for Saturday, 3rd August 2019.

The creation of the Dales Way was the result of a lot of hard work and planning by the West Riding Ramblers, in particular 2 officials: Tom Wilcock (footpaths secretary) and Colin Speakman (access and transport secretary).

The impetus had come from the

Countryside Commission, who produced the Countryside Act (1968) which encouraged local authorities to create new footpath access to riversides. Tom Wilcock had worked diligently to develop a dozen possible new riverside footpaths in the region. In the end, it was decided to focus on a single long-distance riverside route.

In October 1968 the General Council of the West Riding Ramblers received a report from the Action sub-committee on progress with the Dales Way: "Tom Wilcock outlined the scheme and the progress so far. A deal of publicity had been obtained and he asked members to push this as much as possible through M.P.s and local councillors. He had spoken to the Westmorland County Planning Officer who was in favour."

A resolution was moved by Mr. Willson and seconded by C. Speakman:

"This Council Meeting of the West Riding Area of the Ramblers Association draws the attention of the West Riding County Council to the extensive press coverage, both national and local, afforded to the proposal for a long distance footpath to be known as the Dales Way, from the

Dales to the Lakes, with possible future extensions to the Leeds, Bradford and Harrogate areas.

"This Association sincerely believe that few projects could give so much pleasure to so many people at so little expense.

"It therefore urges the West Riding County Council to accept the proposals and to take the necessary steps to implement them forthwith."

By January 1969 the West Riding Ramblers Executive committee noted in its footpath report: "Mr. Wilcock reported that the County Council's consideration of the Dalesway is continuing very favourably. Also that all Authorities outside the West Riding are satisfied with the route in their localities. Progress is being watched eagerly."

The first Dales Way walk from Ilkley to Burnsall on that cold March Sunday had to make use of a "diversion" beyond Addingham, as the riverside path there had yet to be established. The route climbed high via Haw Pike and Highfield House before descending through Lob Wood to Bolton Bridge. From there the Way followed the familiar route of today.



Yorkshire Evening Post frontpage dated Monday 10th March 1969

This historic walk had been advertised in advance with a major article which appeared in the Yorkshire Evening Post two weeks earlier on Monday, March 10th: "A new Dales Way from Ilkley to Lakeland"

The success of this walk was quickly followed by the first recorded walk of the entire route by a group of young Venture Scouts from Bradford Grammar School.

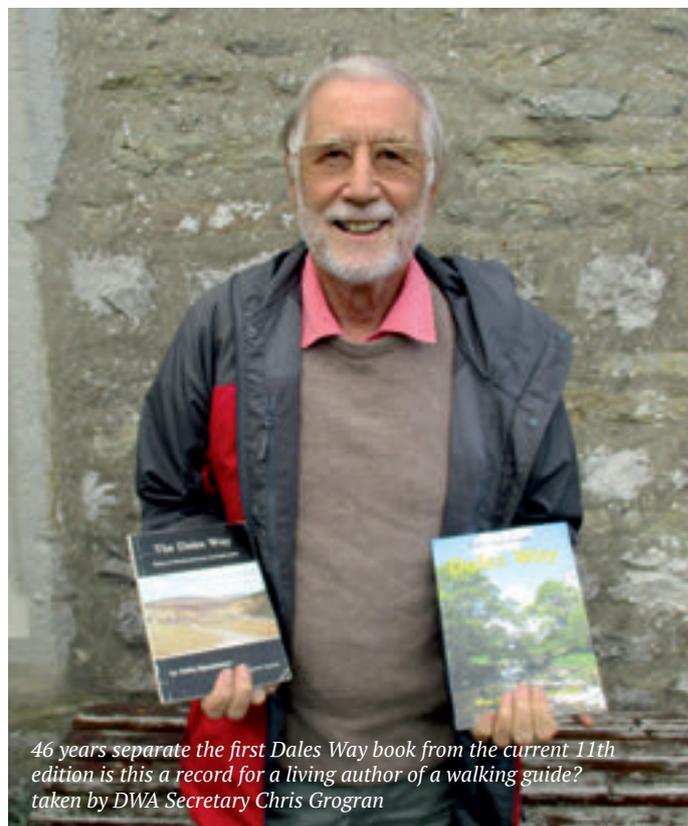
“ They completed the 73-mile trail in just 4 days, in early April, and in good spirits despite enduring appalling weather conditions



The Bradford Grammar School Venture Scouts start their 4-day pioneering walk of the new Dales Way 9 April 1969 reproduced with kind permission from Bradford Grammar School

Their efforts produced a full-page article in the Bradford Telegraph & Argus. (For a full account see <https://www.skyware.co.uk/dalesway/venture.htm>).

In May 1969 the West Riding Ramblers published a 6-page pamphlet outlining the new Dales Way route, produced by Colin Speakman and Tom Wilcock. In January 1970 the Annual General meeting of the West Riding Ramblers reported that the pamphlet "has sold several hundred copies and has allowed



46 years separate the first Dales Way book from the current 11th edition is this a record for a living author of a walking guide? taken by DWA Secretary Chris Grogan

many of our members to pioneer what is going to prove one of the Area's most exciting projects." (A copy of the pamphlet can be seen on the DWA Members area of our website - www.dalesway.org - Username and Password required).

In Spring 1970 the first edition of Colin Speakman's book "Dales Way", published by Dalesman Ltd., appeared. The book is now in its 11th edition (2nd reprint), now published by Skyware Press, and is without doubt the longest running trail guide in constant publication by a living author.

The rest, as they say, is history...

Tony Grogan (Jan 2019)

Dales Way Celebration – a special 50th anniversary

The two main ways the Dales Way Association will be celebrating the Dales Way's 50th anniversary will be first and foremost a "re-enactment" of the very first public walk along what was to become the Dales Way on Sunday March 23rd 1969 between Ilkley-Bolton Abbey and Burnsall.

Rather than risk a cold and snowy day and also to avoid clashing with the Golden Jubilee of the Cleveland Way in May, we are delaying the event until Saturday August 3rd, when anyone who wishes to join us can walk with myself and anyone else who did the walk in 1969 not as far as Burnsall (an awesome 13 miles) but as far as Bolton Abbey, a more manageable 6 miles. We will meet at Ilkley Old Bridge – the official start of the Dales Way at 10am. There will be a free (but £3 donation please!) shuttle bus service operated by vintage West Yorkshire Road Car Road Service buses of the type that were in use in the Ilkley area in 1969 – complete with uniformed drivers.

The other main event will be a month-long exhibition about the Dales Way in Ilkley's medieval Manor House throughout August, when the Manor House will be open to the public on Wednesdays and at weekends. We plan to open the exhibition at 3pm immediately after we all (hopefully) get back from the walk.

We hope to have a special souvenir booklet available for this event which will celebrate the remarkable achievement of West Riding Ramblers and Kendal Group, together with the Dales Way Association in bringing the pleasures of longer-distance walking to so many tens of thousands of people over the last half century.

More details will be available on the Dales Way website – www.dalesway.org.uk - but we'd love anyone who was on the original walk in 1969 or has any photographs or memories of walking the Dales Way in those first few years to contact us at info@dalesway.org.

Colin Speakman

Industrial archaeology in the Dales

The main attraction of walking in the Dales is the superb countryside, but there is also much evidence of former industries to enrich the experience. It is not difficult to plan walks which incorporate fascinating remains, especially those featuring Victorian mining and quarrying activity.

A few examples follow, most of which have information boards to enlighten passers-by.

Grassington Moor Lead Mining Trail



Grassington Moor Chimney by Colin Speakman

Lead mining has been taking place in the area north of Grassington from at least the 15th century, and by the mid-19th century it was a hive of activity. There are several types of the earlier structures to be examined, including a chimney that can be seen from a great distance.

The largely flat terrain has many good, wide paths, and is best approached from the parking space at Yarnbury, two miles north of Grassington. Buses no.72 and 74, from Skipton and Ilkley respectively, serve the village.

Craven Lime Works, Langcliffe

There is a surprisingly little-known set of major buildings half-way between Langcliffe and Stainforth, two miles north of Settle. The lime kilns are of national importance, particularly the huge Hoffmann kiln which operated from 1873 to 1931. Walkers may wish to visit the site on their way to Pen-y-Ghent.

Settle is easily reached by rail or on the no.580/581 buses, and the no.11 bus passes the lane leading to the lime works entrance.

Swaledale



Lead mine smelt peat store, above Grinton, Swaledale, by Colin Speakman

Swaledale and Arkengarthdale are replete with the remains of a massive lead mining industry, set in an extensive but bleak landscape of former pits. There are many substantial buildings to be found, plus the remains of hushes (flooded steep valleys). The whole area is criss-crossed with footpaths, providing a wide choice of walks.

Bus no.30 from Reeth serves several starting points along upper Swaledale, with Gunnerside being the most popular.

Bewerley Industrial Heritage Trail

Evidence of both lead mining and lime works are evident at this well-managed site, which incorporates Toft Gate. Lead mining began here in the 12th century, or possibly as early as the Roman occupation. Quarrying for limestone continues at Coldstones Cut, which has a panoramic viewing gallery.

The no.24 bus from Harrogate terminates at Pateley Bridge, with a three-mile uphill walk to Bewerley in prospect, ideally including part of the nearby Nidderdale Way.

Burton Leonard Lime Quarries

This is just one example of many small local sites of real interest. It contains lime kilns within an attractive nature reserve, using easy paths in the undulating countryside.

Burton Leonard is two miles from the no.36 bus route from Leeds to Ripon, and the quiet village of South Stainley, just off the A61, is an ideal starting-off point.

Beyond the central Dales there are of course numerous other such places to explore during country walks. Industrial West Yorkshire and Calderdale have many buildings that can reveal a heritage connection; Ravenscar Alum Works on the Cleveland Way is unique; the canals are once again meeting real needs, albeit for leisure rather than commerce; and finally, Barnoldswick has a 'Steam and Stream Trail'.

More information on all these areas is easily findable online, often with downloadable leaflets and maps.

Jim Vickery



*Reproduced with kind permission from North Yorkshire County Council
Richard Smith with Ian Kelly, Countryside Access Officer, and Catherine Inman, Public Rights of Way Field Officer*

Celebrating the work of our Footpath Officers

The valuable contribution Richard Smith has given as Footpaths Officer has been recognised by the North Yorkshire County Council by a presentation of a handmade miniature fingerpost.

Richard, of Lower Wharfedale Ramblers, has stepped down after ten years but remains an active member of the Group. His role responsibilities have been divided between Richard Brook – who leads the Group Working Party, and Antonia Woosnam-Savage, who has become Footpath Officer. Splitting the workload makes things easier and Richard Smith welcomes the chance to involve more people. He also says that after ten years, new people in key roles brings a fresh perspective and approach, a good example being Antonia, who only joined the RA one year ago. Lower Wharfedale Ramblers enjoy a full committee, with about 25 members involved in footpath maintenance projects, and the Chair, Keith Wilman, is keen to introduce succession planning, so that committee positions do not go unfilled in future.

Lower Wharfedale deals with three local authorities, but the partnership with North Yorkshire County Council began when they wanted to adopt a more productive and proactive agreement. Richard remains a member of the Local Access Forum and intends to continue to work alongside Richard Brook as a member of the Group Working Party.

They both agreed that the work is immensely satisfying, improving accessibility, whether by building new footbridges or repairing stiles. “Often when you finish [projects] people come past and notice something has changed, and they are very appreciative.” Richard Smith also explained that whilst a handbook exists, setting out the basic techniques required to conduct maintenance and construction projects, an exciting element was that every situation is different, requiring a unique solution.

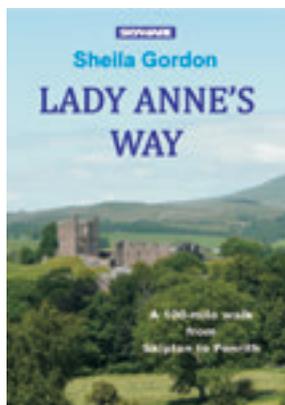
Lower Wharfedale complete projects on a needs-must basis, probably 10-12 over a 12-month period. Within the Working Party, Richard Brook explained that a team of 12-15 conduct the ‘heavy work’ i.e. construction projects, with a wider group involved in footpath clearance. It’s the responsibility of the Area Footpath Officer to pass on reported problems to the Local Authority, who prioritise the jobs to be completed.

Footpath maintenance, as part of preserving and protecting rights of way, is a crucial element of the work of the Ramblers Association. To find out how you can get involved, please contact your Group Footpath Officer – no experience necessary – only enthusiasm is required!

Caroline Spalding

BOOK REVIEW

LADY ANNE'S WAY (2nd Edition) SHEILA GORDON Skyware Ltd 2019 £11.99



Lady Anne's Way is a long-distance Pennine walk from Skipton to Penrith devised by Sheila Gordon. The walk takes its name from Lady Anne Clifford who inherited the vast North of England estates of the Clifford family, and set about restoring the castles and major buildings in the latter part of the 1600s. The walk starts from close to Skipton

Castle where Lady Anne was born in 1590 and follows "in spirit" some of the routes taken by Lady Anne as she visited Barden Tower, Pendragon Castle, Brough Castle, Appleby Castle, Brougham Hall and Brougham Castle, all of which she repaired and restored, as well as several local churches. The attractive route, waymarked throughout, goes via Wharfedale, Wensleydale and the Eden valley. It crosses from Wharfedale to Wensleydale on the track over Stake Moss, and from Wensleydale to the Eden Valley it follows the ancient route now known as The High Way. The walk can be divided into six stages or nine stages.

Sheila Gordon's convenient pocket-size guide is a nicely produced book with clear and detailed maps, and it is beautifully illustrated, in particular with numerous drawings by Frank Gordon. Sheila's text not only includes clear instructions to complement the maps, it reveals a writer who loves the Pennine countryside through which the walk passes and knows a lot about it too. En route, we also learn much about Lady Anne Clifford, her life and times. I've always considered that walking is not just something to be done for health, beneficial as this is, but a recreation that gives an enhanced appreciation of the places where we walk, the landscapes, the buildings and the history. What better way of doing this than walking Lady Anne's Way with Sheila Gordon's enjoyable guide!

Keith Wadd



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Invitation to all members – the West Riding RA "Brainstorming Conference"

There's been a lot of talk for some years now about the decline in membership across the Ramblers Association nationally, unfortunately a trend that continues.

In the West Riding, we'd like to address this and other topics at an event to which we extend an invitation to all members who have an interest in the continuation of the RA.

We propose to hold a "Brainstorming Conference" at which we discuss and debate the most pressing matters facing the West Riding RA currently. Clearly, the decline in membership is a big issue, but also of great importance are matters such as retaining new members after their first year, promoting footpath maintenance activity and whether we could do more to distinguish ourselves from the numerous other walking groups that do not require paid membership. How are the Ramblers perceived by wider society? Are we doing enough to make new faces and new members feel welcome? Do people realise that we are more than simply a walking group that enjoys a good hike – that we are a campaigning organisation whose work is vital to preserving our hard-won rights of way?

These are just some of the questions we want to put to members. Each Group will have different ways of doing things; we want to share what strategies are a success, discuss what feedback groups receive about their walks and ask what small changes could be made?

We want to bring as many different thoughts, ideas and opinions together as possible to open up a broad-ranging conversation, with the aim of creating new methods to prolong the good work of our organisation and, of course, encourage newcomers to join us. But we also want to know what you think about being a member – what do you gain from it? What made you join the RA? Are we creating enough variety of walks and events that appeal to all current members? Using information direct from our own members will help shape our approach to newcomers and non-members; understand how we are thought of, and how perhaps we could change?

If you have something to say and would like to take part in our "Brainstorming Conference" please do make contact directly with Caroline Spalding – caroline_spalding@hotmail.com – the event should take place in late spring/early summer – with further details to follow.

Caroline Spalding

From the editors...

The West Riding Rambler is a magazine for you. We would like to know more about the topics you wish to read about, whether it is walk suggestions, celebrations, current campaigns or matters arising in your area.

The Ramblers is first and foremost an organisation dedicated to protecting and preserving our rights of way. Let's talk about this, both at a local and national level. We know we have problems with declining and ageing membership and we must find a practical way to attract younger generations to our cause but ways of tackling this immediate problem are better solved with a pool of thoughts and opinions—not just by those in charge. Share your thoughts, share your ideas; perhaps just share a photograph of a beauty spot close to you. We want, above all, to write a magazine that appeals to you. Please do send any suggestions or contributions to editors@ramblersyorkshire.org

We welcome all contributions, however cannot promise to publish everything which we receive.