



Chesterfield & NE Derbyshire Ramblers

Newsletter

December 2018



Once again it's time for the annual **Rambblers 'Festival of Winter Walks'** Since our winter programme is planned well in advance we simply dedicate our six walks between 21 December and 6 January to the festival. These are all fairly local and are listed in our printed booklet and on [Walksfinder](#) Take the chance to stretch the legs this festive season and bring along friends and family – even if they are not existing members.



Looking a bit further ahead to the spring, our SYNED (South Yorkshire & NE Derbyshire) Area are arranging a walk on Saturday 27 April 2019 to celebrate the **70th anniversary of the 1949 National Parks Act**

A rally is being held in the Winnats Pass, near Castleton, between 2:00 and 4:00 pm.

The speakers will include:

- * David Blunkett (President of the South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area of Ramblers)
- * Sue Hayman, Shadow Environmental Minister)
- * Andrew McCloy (Chair of the Peak Park National Park)
- * Hilary O'Grady (Director General of the National Trust)
- * Maxine Peake (actress / activist and star of the recent film 'Peterloo')
- * Ruth George (MP for the High Peak)

To mark the occasion, and to take part in the rally, Doncaster Ramblers will lead a nine mile walk at 10.00 from Hope station and visit the iconic Ward's Piece and the Great Ridge to Mam Tor before descending to the rally.

The return route will follow the path via Goosehill Hall into Castleton and then the path alongside Peakshole Water back to Hope.

We are all invited to join the walk / attend the rally.

The **Annual General Meeting** was held at Chesterfield's Library Lecture Theatre on Saturday 24 November.

Gavin Johns retired as Treasurer at this meeting after thirteen years in the position. He explained that Paul Peters, a retired accountant, was happy to take on the role and that a series of handover meetings had taken place.

Gavin proposed his appointment and John Graham seconded the motion.

Our great thanks to Gavin for all his work and support over the years – and to Paul for taking over.

It was explained to the meeting that John Graham had carried out the role of Secretary for three years and was now looking to step down, assuming that someone would replace him.

There were no offers at the meeting from anyone to take over the role and John kindly agreed to carry on for another year.

The appointment was proposed by Tricia Graham and seconded by Gavin Johns.

Basil Merry proposed and John Graham seconded David Moore as Chairman, who accepted.

A review of holding a Saturday AGM (especially when it may clash with a walk) will be undertaken, and members' views on the subject will be welcome.



Views / comments are always welcome

A Ramblers Dream

Sheffield Clarion Ramblers was founded in 1900 ; the Spire Rambling Club in 1931. Both are now defunct but they easily beat the Ramblers, founded in 1935 and our Group founded in 1967.



Interestingly the Kinder Mass Trespass took place in 1932, before the Ramblers were officially formed.

Fortunately we, the Ramblers, did some catching up - being increasingly involved with the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (which ordered the production of definitive maps of public rights of way), the Countryside Act 1968 (which required the sign posting of rights of way), the Highways Act 1980 (which allocated responsibility for protection and maintenance), the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (which requires definitive maps to be under continuous review) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (which opened up vast areas of mountains, moor, heath, and down to public access).

This has not stopped with on-going campaigns for a Coastal Path and other improvements.

But to most of our members we are, first and foremost, a walking group. Organising around 400 guided walks tells you that, and around a quarter of our members participate to some extent.

No problems with that but without public paths where would you walk? Without sign posting, maintenance, and improvements, without monitoring planning applications to ensure paths are not built over, how difficult would using those paths be?

Less than 2.5% of our membership show any interest in all that. It's taken for granted.

That's why I have a dream.



** I dream that more members would participate in some of our 2019 plans for paths as follows:*

** To walk the routes set up by the Group and the County Council Promoted routes, check their maintenance and sign posting and report any faults found to Derbyshire County Council.*

** To create a new Chesterfield Inner Circular Walk (around 10 miles) using Ramblers routes.*

** If time and volunteer resources permit resurrect the Mosborough Round Walk involving Sheffield Group.*

** Commence claiming some of the many paths identified which are not on the Definitive Map.*

** Publicise our non-walking activities more widely.*

** To resume our footpath volunteering if a suitable agreement can be reached with Derbyshire County Council (Central Office are already in a dialogue with them).*

All we need to do so is to increase our participation in these activities by just 1% i.e. 4 people.

To participate all you have to do is contact cnedra@btinternet.com and make my dream come true.

A lonely Rambler

It's with regret that we hear of the recent death of **Dennis Ransby**.

He had been battling motor neurone disease for the last few years and Beryl, his wife, was his prime carer.

Dennis was a Chesterfield Ramblers member for a number of years and was a prime mover in revamping the [Round Walk](#)

He was passionate about it and spent a lot of time on the leaflet, signage and ensuring the route was walkable.

He will be sadly missed.

A service of Celebration takes place on Thursday December 20, 2018 in Bolsover Methodist Church at 2.30pm

[Derbyshire Times obituary](#)



Spotted whilst walking *

Tāne Mahuta, one of the largest trees in the world – a kauri specimen in New Zealand's Northland with a girth of 18.8 metres. Estimated to be between 1250 and 2500 years old. Not threatened by any high speed rail, but vulnerable to dieback disease.

*not on Walksfinder

Please report any unusual walk sightings you come across.



The Season's Greetings to all the Group



Ramblers Charity England & Wales No: 1093577