



SOUTH YORKSHIRE & NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE RAMBLERS

AREA AGM 2022

SATURDAY JANUARY 29TH Starting at 2PM

Crookes Social Club, Mulehouse Road, Sheffield S10 1TD



Area Annual Report 2020/21

DO JOIN US

All Members Welcome to Attend and Participate

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81553702347pwd=RElVa1VDeGtid3pmRUlqNm96OHJvdz09>

Meeting ID: 815 5370 2347 Passcode: 515215

South Yorkshire & North East Derbyshire Area of the Ramblers Annual General Meeting 2022

All members and representatives of affiliated organisations are invited to join us
at Crookes Social Club on Saturday January 29th 2022 starting at 2pm
or via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81553702347pwd=RElVa1VDeGtid3pmRUlqNm96OHJvdz09>

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AGENDA

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence
- 2a. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks
- b. Appointment of Tellers (or Zoom Co Hosts)
- c. Remembering Area Members who have died during the last twelve months
3. President's Address
4. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting (already distributed)
5. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes.
6. Annual Report for 2020/2021
7. Financial statement – Accounts for year ending September 30th 2021
8. Appointment of Area President and Vice Presidents
9. Election of Officers and Council Members:
Area Chairman Area Secretary Area Treasurer
Area Access Officer Area Footpath Officer
Area Webmaster, Area Membership Sec
Area Publicity & Social Media Officer
- 10a. Two Members' Representatives on the Area Council
(we already have two names but other nominations will be welcome at the meeting
but helpful if notified beforehand, with written agreement of nominees if unable to attend.)
- 10b. Group Secretaries should also provide details of up to 2 representatives
of their Group appointed at their AGM to sit on the Area Council
- 10c. Two Representatives from the 7 walking groups affiliated to the AC
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner (Treasurer to Nominate)
12. Affiliation to like minded organisations
13. Appointment of Area Delegates to 2022 General Council on April 9th at NEC
14. Motion to General Council :-
15. Any Other Business / Notices (Please inform Chair/Secretary prior to start of AGM)

After the formal meeting and a short break:-

SIMON OGDEN will give a talk on "Riverside Trails - what they do for our Wellbeing, Habitat,
Heritage and Climate Change Resilience

MARK CHUNG of the Ramblers Board of Trustees

will speak on current Ramblers concerns, activities & campaigns
the new website, Walks Manager and new Branding

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

Please Note: This SYNED Area AGM will be Recorded

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

Future SYNED meetings in 2022:-

Mondays February 21st; May 16th; August 15th and November 21st 2022
Access Countryside and Rights of Way (starting at 6.30pm) and Area Council (from c7.15pm)
Meetings are usually held at the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW
Although this may change after the February meeting

Meetings will also be accessible via Zoom.

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

2023 SYNED AREA AGM: January ??th 2023 (TBA)

And will be hosted by Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Group

Morning Walk

There will be a 5.5 mile walk prior to the Area AGM. From the Club's car park.
This will be leisurely paced but will include some steep climbs.
Walkers are asked to come suitably equipped and be ready to start at 10:30am.
It will be led by local walker, Dave Jefferies, a member of the Sheffield Group.

Join Meeting via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81553702347?pwd=RElVa1VDeGtid3pmRUlqNm96OHJvdz09>

Meeting ID: 815 5370 2347 Passcode: 515215

PLEASE NOTE: If its not possible to hold the Area AGM as an in-person physical meeting in the Crookes Club due to any new Covid Restrictions being in place at the time - the Meeting will still go ahead on the 29th using the Zoom link shown above and also starting at 2pm

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

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

DO JOIN US

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND & PARTICIPATE



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

Ramblers
Walking
Holidays **R**

Chair and Secretary's Report

If 2020 was characterised by stop/start lockdowns, Tiers (and tears) and other restrictions, we could say we were able to get more of our freedoms back in 2021 as vaccines came on stream from March and we slowly got the chance to come out and walk in Groups again. And felt safe (or safer) doing so. But there was much hesitancy, and still is, as we finish the year under Plan B because of another virus variant starting to spread its evil and threaten yet another Christmas festive season, despite most of us being doubled jabbed and now “boosted”.

The effect on our Groups has been varied. Some have bounced back better than others. Some Groups have sadly lost many walk leaders and Officers who found the additional bureaucracy that was required (although this requirement wasn't always obvious) too much and preferred to walk on their own or in small groups of friends rather than lead larger groups of walkers.

It has meant that for some groups, when we needed full programmes of walks to attract new walkers, we were struggling to fill them and were becoming ever more reliant on a smaller pool of leaders or having walks going in much later which wasn't always convenient. There are signs that this situation is improving but may be with us for much of the coming year. Top down management from a distant London office doesn't work in an organisation that has long relied on members to volunteer their time to fulfil its charitable mission to open up and safeguard the countryside for everyone. More effort should have been spent on talking with those member at the grass roots, rather than using a pandemic to hide the imposition of new forms of working and software, especially when those at the bottom saw little benefit from the changes.

Membership numbers have just about held steady over the last twelve months. Indeed they have increased for some groups. But those increases haven't reflected the greater numbers of people taking advantage of being able, and even encouraged, to take more exercise and get out into the countryside and urban green spaces more. They might find walking low cost and healthy but many didn't feel the need to join the Ramblers to be able to enjoy them. As an organisation, we need to find ways of bringing all walkers into our fold again. In the absence of a major issue for us to campaign around, our being more flexible and using social media more seems to be the new ways forward.

One of our important selling points has always been our footpath work. However, in many cases this has been one of the many victims of the pandemic and cuts to local authority services haven't helped either. Hopefully this situation will improve as the effects of the virus recedes and we can catch up with the many footpath problems that have built up over the last eighteen months.

Much work has been done on the Lost Ways Project to claim paths before the 2026 cut off under the CROW Act. Routes and maps have been produced, but the important and time consuming legal research work still needs to be done and that cut off date needs to be pushed back to a more realistic date to allow time for it to be completed.

As an Area we have tried to support our Groups as they have recovered. We have provided a Zoom account that can be used for meetings either totally online or as a back-up to in person gatherings. We also have a laptop, projector and screen that can be used for presentations at meetings. Many Groups have put on publicity displays that can be taken around the SYNED

Area explaining what the Ramblers are doing and give us a chance to meet our members in their localities and find out what they want us to do with and for them.

We know that many of you didn't join the Ramblers to come on our group walks and prefer to walk on your own or with your friends. You join to support our campaigning work to improve access and safeguard footpaths and, jointly with other organisations, the countryside in general. We know there is plenty of work to do and catch up on and we hope you'll join us in doing it. Please let us know, either directly or via your local Group, what you think the Ramblers should be doing more of – whether its campaigning or putting on a more varied and inclusive walking programmes.

Because of the various problems we have all encountered over the last 21 months, and many we know are still feeling somewhat isolated, we've made a special effort to get a copy of this Area Annual Report to all our members by either email or by post. We hope you enjoy reading and finding out what our local Groups are doing. And, please, can we encourage you to contact your group's membership secretary and give them your email address for all future communications. It makes things a lot easier and cheaper for us. We all believe that your subscriptions should be used for campaigning work rather than administration, however important.

We wish you all a better and safer 2022. We know there is work to be done – do join us in keeping the Ramblers moving forward – even if it seems to be only one step at a time.

Allen Pestell, Area Chair, and Malcolm Dixon, Area Secretary
contact via: "secretary@syndramblers.org.uk"

	SD01	SD02	SD03	SD04	SD05	SD07	SD50	SD52	not	SD	
	CNED	Donc	SHEFF	RothM	B&P	DVR	Shef f20	Shef f40	allocatd	SYNED	Nat bnal
01/01/2016	473	230	614	266	180	105	231	230	0	2329	106,452
01/01/2017	439	224	590	259	167	114	258	233	0	2284	105,234
01/01/2018	424	204	580	246	152	117	233	240	0	2196	104,617
01/02/2019	410	236	564	251	154	147	225	250	0	2237	102,023
01/10/2019	371	224	522	238	144	151	210	239	73	2172	102151
2020											
Sept	353	228	507	229	135	150	167	251	44	2064	98717
Oct	359	235	509	225	138	150	164	249	45	2074	99216
Nov	363	234	506	230	135	146	158	247	46	2065	99229
Dec	361	236	509	230	136	148	156	245	44	2065	99408
2021											
Jan	359	226	507	221	136	144	149	234	44	2020	97275
Feb	355	225	506	218	135	141	144	231	42	1997	96708
Mar	350	224	505	220	137	141	139	233	41	1990	96716
Apr	356	224	507	220	138	141	140	239	42	2007	97712
May	368	223	508	215	144	143	150	252	45	2048	98763
June	370	223	508	217	141	139	155	261	49	2063	99945
July	371	227	506	215	141	140	153	265	51	2069	100702
Aug	365	229	504	211	141	138	157	264	52	2061	100949
Sept	363	231	505	212	143	142	157	268	52	2073	101130

Barnsley & Penistone Ramblers Group

Once restrictions were lifted we were able to resume our walking activities.

Unfortunately due to illness, old age and death the numbers of members wishing to walk has reduced. The average number of people walking on a regular basis now is around 8-10. However, as we have several competent walk leaders and other members adding in the occasional walk, we have managed to put on weekly walks around the local area and in Derbyshire.

As we don't have a Group Committee, and therefore no regular meetings, we originally kept all the walkers in touch via a What's App group but have since extended our walk information onto our website and the SYNED website, which has resulted in a couple of new members.

Unfortunately, we have not managed any socials or walking trips away this year, but hopefully, restrictions notwithstanding, we can rectify that next year.

We have mooted around the group the question of maybe joining another local group, as we have such reduced numbers. However, the jury is still out on this thorny question and I get the general impression the majority of members are currently happy with the status quo.

We are aiming to have a Christmas get together in the next few weeks which will be great so we can renew long held friendships and actually all see each other, including some members who due to ill health are not able to walk.

Carol Wood Chair B & P Group

Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Ramblers

It has been another difficult year overshadowed by the Covid pandemic with another lockdown and suspension of group walks. Committee meetings were held on Zoom until July. The government guidelines and the changing guidance from Ramblers Central Office have made organising walks hard. Chesterfield and Northeast Derbyshire Ramblers had been operating an almost full programme of walks since April. The shortest have been around 4 miles and the longest about 14 miles. When we were restricted to walking in tiers, we briefly had a South Yorkshire walking section.

There has been a general feeling of grievance against the increasingly bureaucratic rules relating to risk assessments and now the need to keep these for three years. This has unsurprisingly led to reluctance to lead walks. The recent response from Central Office seems to boil down to put up and shut up which begs the question for whose benefit is the organisation being run. There has been difficulty in organising public transport walks in part due to cuts to the bus services and due to fears of buses being full and the risk of infection. From October we will be trying to return to a near to normal programme and not recommending booking on walks in advance unless the walk leader wishes to restrict the numbers attending a walk.

We have tried to appeal to new members by running some short taster walks in the evening during the summer and by adding some shorter walks to the Saturday programme. This is to provide some shorter walks for people who work during the week and to contrast with the longer Sunday walks. The number of members fell during the worst of the pandemic partly due to members delaying renewing their membership while the walks programme was suspended but it has now increased and is slightly above pre-covid levels.

We have tried to raise awareness of Ramblers by suggesting local walks and supplying routes to be published in the Derbyshire Times. Our Twitter and Facebook pages have attracted interest and Ramblers walk leaders led walks including the Chesterfield Round, in the Chesterfield Walking Festival.

Our members continue to report problems with rights of way and following a recent meeting with the acting Project Manager for Highways we are hopeful that the three unfilled footpath officer posts in Derbyshire will be filled. This should mean that reports can be dealt with promptly and pursued to a satisfactory conclusion instead of being received and noted as seems to have been the case for the last few years. Unfortunately, the meeting did not result in any progress on the issue of resuming footpath maintenance by Ramblers volunteers alongside Derbyshire County Council. It is frustrating that the council reject voluntary help despite being unable to fulfil their responsibility to maintain the rights of way in an acceptable condition.

Let us hope that the next 12 months will see things continuing to return to normal.

Isobel McCormick C&NED Ramblers Chair.

Dearne Valley Ramblers Group



Dearne Valley Group have the pleasure to announce that despite another challenging year cancelled memberships, but also gained a few membership numbers have remained relatively this past year.

landmark in our history, by reaching our 25th pandemic we decided to hold on the celebrations are delighted to advise we that had two afterwards to celebrate. The anniversary walk founder members along with old and new than walkers. Many thanks to our Pat, Chris, Phil and John for an excellent walk and social afterwards.

We have increased our Wednesday walking programme this year, and now fill most Wednesdays as they have proved very popular, along with ever increasing numbers on our regular Sunday walks. To try and give our members a variety of walking distances, we are also offered monthly Tuesday walks for distances over 10 miles which too have been popular. We have also organised shorter walks, (including a wheelchair friendly walk) to ensure the group is open to all.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to work again with The Conservation Volunteers, but we have kept in contact with them, so hope to work with them again in early 2022. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to meet virtually on Zoom and have done quizzes, had guest speakers and meetings, which have been well attended. In September we organised a coach trip for a coastal walk visiting Whitby and Staines, followed by fish and chip supper, which everyone that attended enjoyed greatly.

This year saw us form a new committee after some major members stepping down from the role in 2020. The committee have continued to work together as a team, and are going from strength to strength. We hope that the committee and members will continue to support and develop the group in the coming year and we would like to thank every single person that has helped us make the group what it is today.

Johnathan Revell (Chairman)

Doncaster Ramblers Annual Report

The pandemic has inevitably dominated the activities of the Doncaster Group during the past year. Our printed walks programme, produced but abandoned from Summer 2020, has yet to be resumed and, at the moment, it remains impossible to predict whether the programme for Summer 2022 will be produced in a printed version.

Nevertheless, the number of walks we have been offering has been high, with a combination of the usual Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday walks being supplemented by many Friday walks. The great majority of these walks have been within DMBC, including many of our longer walks, with car-sharing being considered unwise for much of the time. More recently, walks in Derbyshire, the Lincolnshire Wolds etc have resumed, as has car-sharing for many members. Numbers on walks have gradually been increasing, with many 'old faithfuls' resuming walking. A recent Tuesday walk near Wakefield had 24 participants.

We are indebted to a relatively small number of people for putting on a high number of walks, foremost of these being Peter Rowsell, who has planned and led more walks than any other member during the pandemic. The Tuesday programme has been full but the Saturday programme has had a few occasions with no walk offered. This has also happened to the Thursday programme at times. On the other hand the Friday walks are in addition to anything we've offered before.

The higher than usual number of short walks that we have provided has undoubtedly been the main reason for the significant number of new members who have joined us during the pandemic. On 1st October 2017 we had 208 members, in 2018 we had 230, in 2019 we had 225 and in 2020 we had 228. Our current figure is 234.



Our programme of walks for Doncaster Carers resumed in May this year with a walk in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. These walks are intended to improve the health of carers and cared-for people and as such we usually offer a 'long' walk of about 4-5 miles, a shorter walk of 2-3 miles and a very short stroll around the venue. Funding by the Stepping Out organisation, which covers all transport and lunch costs. The walk at the YSP notable for the appalling weather. As we started the long walk it started to drizzle and as we continued the drizzle became more pronounced. Our inexperienced walkers were not properly dressed for

such conditions and by the time we returned to the centre many were very wet. Stepping Out subsequently paid for a set of ponchos. In addition to wet walkers we had a very heavy electric wheelchair to deal with, its owner underestimating its ability to cope with sloping wet grass and the power in the battery.

In June we had a much more successful day with the carers. None chose to do our long walk of about 5 miles only a handful chose to do the 2-3 mile walk, the great majority deciding that walking within the gardens of Chatsworth House was the better option. In July we organised two walks from Brodsworth Hall, the long walk a linear walk from Hooton Pagnell and the short walk around the grounds. Another group organised a walk for the carers in August and we ended the series for this year with a stroll around the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Thanks are expressed to the members who have supported these walks.

Our network of footpaths within DMBC consists of just under 600 individual paths of varying length, spread throughout some 29 areas. Our present team of 22 volunteers walk each path in their respective area every year, reporting any issues which they encounter to Doncaster's Rights of Way Department. The reports are then collated and action taken either directly by the Council team, or by our Maintenance Volunteers who work alongside the RoW Department. Despite all the problems associated with the Covid 19 virus a number of our square walkers have continued check and report on their respective areas. Nevertheless, this means that some areas will have problems which remain unreported and which need identifying as soon as we are able to do so. However, with 29 areas to cover and only 22 volunteers, some are covering more than one area, which in one instance involves checking 60 footpaths. In short, need extra volunteers to reduce the present workload.

Our last maintenance session was in February 2020 when we erected way-mark posts at Wellingley near Tickhill. Since then our spades, loppers and wheelbarrows have remained on standby as the pandemic prevented any form of maintenance work. Unfortunately, the backlog of outstanding repairs has grown and is still growing! We are very much dependant on Doncaster RoW employees need to liaise in advance with farmers and landowners, as well as providing transport for all the materials needed. Our first session for many months was arranged for Wednesday October 20th at Hatfield, where 8 volunteers were ready to carry out work replacing two stiles with kissing gates and do repairs to a third stile. Unfortunately, we had to cancel at the very last minute because of difficulties with the transport needed to get the materials on site. This was extremely disappointing and frustrating for everyone involved. Particular thanks are offered to Tony Marsh for the work he does in liaising with the RoW department and co-ordinating our volunteers.



There have been no meetings of the Public Rights of Way Forum in 2021, although members were asked if they would like to participate in a Windows meeting but there was no follow up. To date we have received no updates on Orders, Claims and Diversions/Creations/Extinguishments. It is disappointing to report that there has been no progress with our two Footpath claims, Nursery Lane in Sprotbrough and Broad Oak Lane, Tickhill. Despite all the difficulties associated with Covid, our volunteers have still managed to check 275 RoW so far this year.

We continue to attract a reasonable amount of publicity with weekly walk descriptions in the Doncaster Free Press, although items are sometimes repeated and they are rarely in chronological order. Items are also printed in some more local publications like the Today Magazine and the Thorne Times. The big success has been Facebook, with items on all our walks - sometimes four in a week - being posted. These generate a lot of comments and questions including how to join Ramblers, whether dogs are welcome, etc. In addition to all this DMBC have launched a separate website dedicated to walking and two of us were interviewed on Zoom and featured in a video clip. There is a link to Doncaster Ramblers on their site and we have asked several times for this to be updated.

Finally I would like to thank everyone involved in the running of Doncaster Ramblers, to everyone who volunteers in any way whatsoever - to serve on the committee or fulfil another non-committee administrative role, to be part of the maintenance team, the 'square-checkers' team and, of course, to walk leaders and back-markers. Any members who would like to join the committee or to volunteer in any other way would be very welcome.

David Gadd, Chairman

Rotherham Metro Ramblers Annual Report

After almost a two year span of low activity, as with all groups, we are now getting back to a semblance of normality. I don't suppose things will ever be quite the same, as the culprit of Covid will always be hauntingly lurking somewhere in the background, but to move on from this period we have recently endured will help to heal wounds.

Our group has shown it's mettle by carrying on during the worst of the pandemic by "social walking" in reduced group "bubbles", which has, I am sure kept things together. We recycled the 2020 walks programme into 2021 on a rolling monthly basis, which worked remarkably well, due mainly to our tireless group secretary who never seems to sleep and to prove the point, we now have a full and comprehensive walk programme ready for 2022. Our walks programme booklet is almost ready for print and distribution to members due to the efforts of the committee members concerned, and thanks to all walk leaders who have put forward walks for next year.

Although, understandably, walk numbers fell during the past few months, they are now beginning to recover, along with our plans for social events and group travel over the coming year.

The committee has continued to meet via some fraught and even hilarious zoom meetings at first then onto an orderly return to official business as usual.

2020 and 2021 saw our planned trips away cancelled, delayed, put back and finally cancelled again, much to the frustration of all who had spent time and effort on their organisation, yet we kept upbeat, constantly planning with new ideas for the future.

At this point I would like to commend the RMR committee members for their commitment to the group and to all who kept faith with our efforts to overcome the Covid disaster that has taken a large slice out of our lives and our recreation. Just remember 'It's not over yet!

Our financial position is sound, due to a lack of spending over this period, and our volunteer work force have continued with their usual zeal.

We have plans for the immediate future involving our usual Christmas lunch, and I hope they have kept it warm for us, as it was cancelled last year, then the AGM time is upon us shortly after, not for dessert I might add, but to let the members know what we have planned for them.

In conclusion, after a very fraught year or two, we are on a very sound footing and looking forward to future Rambling.

Graham Barker (chair).

Sheffield Group Report for 2020/2021

Just as with other Groups, it has been a tough 12 months for us with various restrictions affecting our activities. But we were now slowly pulling through and getting out walking regularly again.

The restrictions of last and earlier this year had receded, with the welcome roll-out of vaccines, so that by April we could have a week long mini walking festival to start things off again with many groups of six out. Some six months later, we were now back to our regular Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday walks with between 12 and 20 people coming out regularly. The early pre-booking and limits on numbers were now rare but we have left it up to the leaders to decide.

Many of our walk leaders and members were still hesitant in coming out for a number of different reasons and we tended to get the walks put in the programme at short notice, which wasn't always convenient. The requirement for written risk assessments had put many leaders off. Most leaders were happy to do a pre-walk recce, but having to be registered and to write their findings down on paper or ticking boxes seemed an unnecessary imposition on them. So at a time when we needed more walks for members and the newly walking public, an additional burden had been added. Being imposed without consultation for the sake of Central Office staff and their/our insurers had made them very unpopular, with many leaders voting with their feet and now just walking with their friends

instead of with the Group. We hoped other members would come forward to replace them in leading walks but understood and supported their concerns. Having a good walks programme helped attract new members and helped support our other activities.

We had also managed a couple of coach rambles late in the year - one to Bolton Abbey, the other along the Yorkshire Wolds Way to Filey. We had made a bit of a loss on them but considered them worth doing as a way of our getting a bit further away than normal.

Overall things continued to improve as people had now had their jabs and boosters and felt more confident about coming out in larger groups and using public transport again.

However, the general unreliability of local public transport at the moment also continued to have an impact on our walks programme. Many members were reliant on public transport but were less willing to go out on walks unless they could guarantee getting home again. Reasons given for services being cut back included a driver shortage due to sickness or them going elsewhere.

Many members were not internet savvy and many felt there was a lack of accessible printed information being made available on what was running or not. This had started during the early Covid restrictions but had continued long after.

Most of our walks were now circular, with more people using cars to get out to them (and happy to give lifts). Although we would try to continue to use public transport whenever we could, it had been suggested that we should put on more walks using car sharing in a more formal way - something for our new walks committee to mull over.

Footpath work, whether done by us or local authority staff, had also suffered during the lockdown. It had often only been possible to do light path clearance work. We still needed more volunteers to come forward to help us fix the paths we used and a new Fix It Team coordinator to lead them was still been sought. There was a lot of work to catch up on.

Our membership numbers had remained fairly steady at around the 500 mark and we had attracted some new members to replace those who had left. Many had become regular walkers.

It had been a good year for moorland access. Many people had taken advantage of the various lockdowns to venture out to enjoy walking the moorside surrounding Sheffield. It was often busier there than on the High Street! We were still waiting to see how the new countryside grants would be used but hoped they would help improve things when they finally arrived.

A new website and walks programme system was being developed using the Ramblers-Webs template, so had the advantage of technical back up if required. It was a more simplistic system requiring no coding knowledge, which meant others could be involved in putting pages on it and hopefully they would 'look after' their own sections.

It also had a more modern look and would take a direct feed from the GWEM walks programme (or whatever replaced it). We were now waiting for the new national website to come on stream before switching ours. But this would also give us time to give most of our leaders the necessary additional training on the new system so they could continue to input their walks.

Due to the lack of most Group activities our year end balances had remained healthy and we hadn't needed to draw down any funding from Area this year. But would be asking for our full allocation next year as we expected our normal activities to resume.

We had also received a legacy of £500 which we could use for: "work on access issues and encouraging new people to take up walking". This would be reserved funding and was likely to be used for navigational or other training. An additional £30 had come from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays as a member had gone on one of their holidays and had nominated our group for such payments. Hopefully more people would be able to get away with them next year and would remember to support our Group.

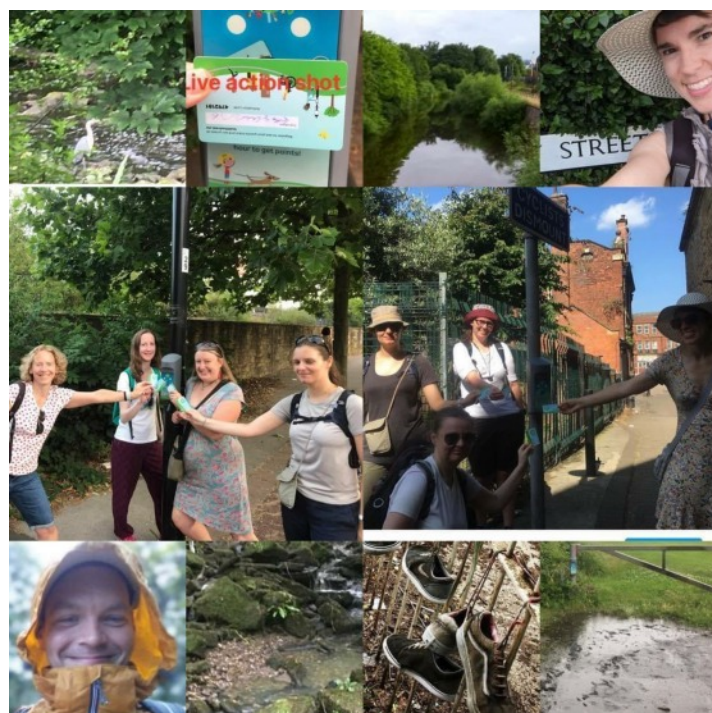
Thankfully, our Group had continued to function despite the many restrictions placed on us. EC meetings had been initially held on Zoom but were now in person or 'hybrid' as we slowly recovered and moved forward.

Malcolm Dixon, Group Secretary

Sheffield 20s & 30s Walking Group – Annual Report 2020-21

It goes without saying that the pandemic had a huge impact on our walks, weekends away and socials programmes this year – although we did keep the group with online meet-ups and games nights when we were unable to meet in person.

We used this quiet time and our budget surplus from previous years to revamp the group's website with the help of a professional web designer. Our new, more up-to-date look has met with a positive response and now represents the group in a more professional manner. The new website also makes it easier for prospective members to contact us and has forms for existing members to submit walks and social events, which facilitates programme organisation easier for the committee.



As a committee we feel strongly that we should not only help protect the environment in line with Ramblers' values, but give back something too. Following on from last year's popular litter pick around Redmires Reservoirs, this year we led a litter picking walk at Parkwood Springs, which was very successful. We promoted the new Ramblers' Countryside Code, the Don't Lose Your Way Campaign and the 'find local walks' facility of the Ramblers app. Members also used Facebook to share walk inspiration while group walks were suspended, including tips on the best decorated houses to walk past at Christmas and articles about pub walks (once the pubs were open again, of course).

Once into the warmer months, we held some new members' socials in pub gardens and

resumed our every-other-week rounders games in Endcliffe Park, which were well attended.

In September we held a big summer party at a new bar/club in the city centre, where it was great to see so many SWG members together again.

July saw sixteen of us take part in Beat the Street, a local competition that encourages walking by awarding participants points for tapping on 'beat boxes' throughout the city. Team members collected points largely independently, although three group walks to collect points took place as well. The team came in third place on the Community Group average points board, gaining a certificate and £75 used to celebrate with drinks.

In August, once restrictions had been lifted so that we could book shared accommodation, we organised a weekend away to the Lake District, staying at the YHA in Borrowdale. This gave members the choice between staying in a dorm or camping, which proved popular. Saturday's walk was held in collaboration with Summit Good, a fellow Ramblers group for people in their 20s and 30s. The second weekend of the year took place in the Cairngorms, where we booked a ten-bedroom AirBnB property as a 'hub' and others booked their own hotels or camp nearby. Given the length of the journey to Aviemore, we decided to make this a slightly longer 'weekend' than usual and travelled up on Wednesday. This likewise proved very popular and thankfully everyone made it home again despite the petrol shortage!



To round off what has been a successful year in spite of various restrictions, in September we led a walk for Sheffield Walking Festival around Houndkirk and Burbage Moors. The walk sold out quickly and we were joined on the day by photographers from The Outdoor City who've kept our details for further publicity work, so you can expect to see us in some promotional videos for Sheffield very soon...

Sheffield 20's Walking Group

Sheffield 40s Walking Group

During the course of the pandemic we were amazed at the response to our Facebook page and it was great to see the pictures of all the walks that so many of us were doing. Lots of our members discovered local paths and walks and we were reminded of how lucky we are to have such fabulous countryside on our doorstep. All those pictures prompted us to run an online "Guess where I am?" event which proved immensely popular. Facebook members posted cryptic pictures of their location and challenged fellow members to work out where they were taken. It was really interesting to see different aspects of some well-known areas and landmarks.

At the point where group walking restarted our Walks Coordinators were able to put together a comprehensive walks programme and we are seeing good numbers on walks and lots of new faces. We have also made the most of being able to socialise a bit more and members have enjoyed successful weekends away and a sports event in a local park. We are looking forward to more events in the coming months and a return to our usual Christmas celebrations.

The Sheffield 40's Ramblers group membership has also risen pleasingly and now stands at just over 280. We will be holding our AGM in November with details to be confirmed soon. We would like to thank our members for their support and our committee for all their hard work in getting everything sorted during difficult times.

Bev Kenyon, Sheff 40's Secretary

Access Report 2021

We have again managed to encourage many more people into the countryside this last year. The pandemic has made the open moors a safe place to be and therefore attracted more people to use them.

There has been much more publicity and discussion on the environment and the great benefits of the countryside for both recreational use and sustainability of the planet. A lot of the focus in our region has been on the Heather and Peat moorland within the Peak District, moorland management such as heather Burning and water retention schemes have denominated this conversation.

The Government have put forward several proposals since leaving the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) such as Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) which includes, improving Access, planting trees and hedges. Due to the Pandemic and changes in Government personnel we still await firm proposals.

Locally there have been no major changes of land ownership and the Sheffield Moors Partnership are now being more proactive on moor management.

Moorland closures for land management and other restrictions (i.e. No Dogs on Midhope ,Hallam, Bamford and Strines moors) have not changed these last 12 months.

So let's continue to enjoy the open moorlands and stride out through Heather and Bracken.
Enjoy your Roaming.

Les Seaman Area Access Officer

Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group

The Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group, Was perhaps hit the hardest when the Pandemic was declared, due to the Social Distancing Rule. We were unable to hold any of our organised walks because we could not guide our Visually Impaired/Blind Members.

We were shut down from March 2020 until June 2021 when our walks programme re-started. Since then we have been able to have our 4 scheduled walks each month.

It isn't just the walks we missed, it was the Social Interacting with one another as well. When we re-started we made the walks shorter and quite easy to give our members the opportunity to "Ease" themselves back in.

Our Annual Walking Holiday to Kendal in 2020 had to be postponed however The County Hotel kept it open for us and we went to the Lakes this year in September and it was fantastic, everyone enjoyed it.

To date we still haven't had our AGM which again has been postponed. We are hoping it won't be too long before we do. We will be having our Christmas Walk and meal soon, so that it's something to look forward to. We are still attracting new members, visually impaired and sighted guides which is pleasing.

All the best for your AGM, and thank you Ramblers for your Team Leaders that lead our members on fantastic walks.

Kind regards **David Cadet, Retiring Chairman , SVIWG**

Treasurer's Report

Most of this financial year was under Covid restrictions, so the Area has not required its full allocation from Central Office and distributed less than planned to Groups.

During the year, the Area received £3,750 from Central Office and distributed £4,651 to Groups in the Area.

The Area spent c.£538 during the year on administering the Area, including production and distribution of the Area Annual Report.

No copies of the "Clarion Call" books were sold this year.

The Bradfield Ancient Ways Initiative (BAWI) balance of £9,989 was carried forward for Phase 2 of the project, which is hoped to start once Covid restrictions are fully lifted.

The Groups have asked the Area for approx £4,048 funding for the coming year.

We will be contributing £91 from our own funds in line with the Ramblers Reserve Policy towards our budget of £5,691, and will therefore be asking Central Office for £5,600.

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

Gavin Johns, Area Treasurer

Affiliated Organisations

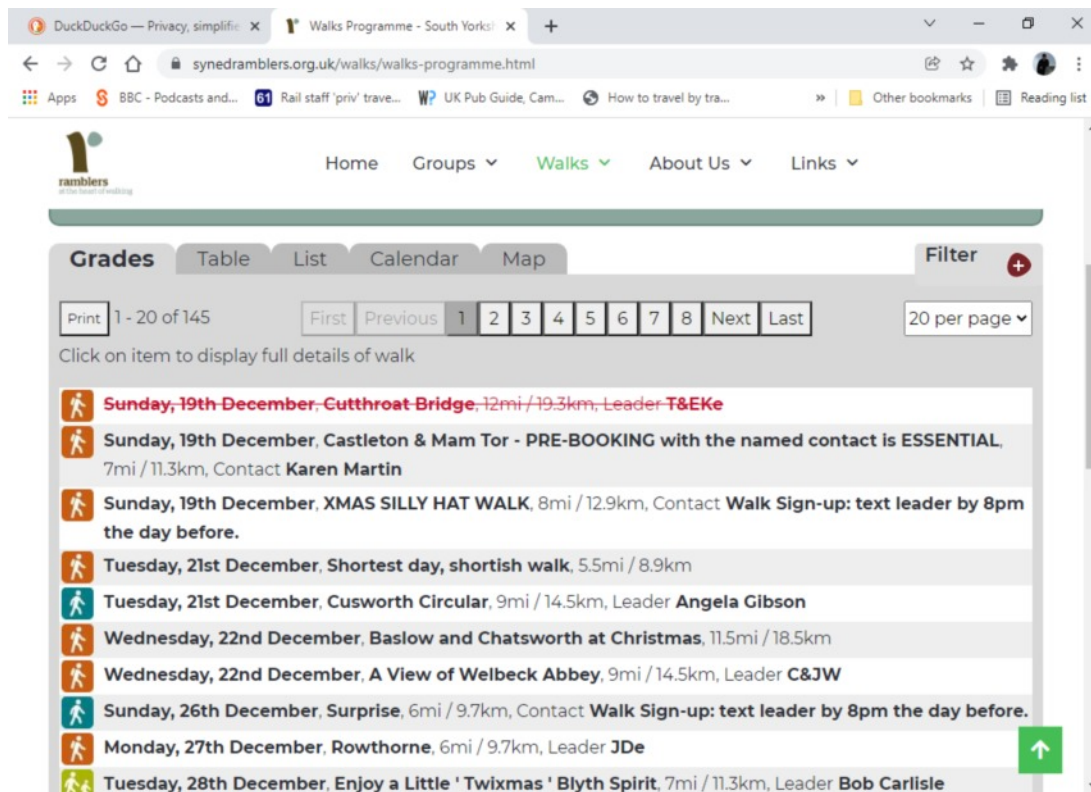
We are grateful for the support of these Walking Groups who have affiliated to the Ramblers:-

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

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

CPRE - Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
- the Countryside Charity
PNFS - Peak & Northern Footpaths Society
Peak District Green Lanes Alliance
The Open Spaces Society

New SYNED Area Website at:- “www.synedramblers.org.uk”



Our new SYNED Area Website can be found at:- “www.synedramblers.org.uk”.

Our previous website hosts decided to stop providing free web hosting so we asked Johnathan Revell, Dearne Valley Ramblers own webmaster to create a new look website for the Area using the Joomla based Ramblers-Web template, already popular with other Ramblers Groups.

As you can see it already has a GWEM plug in page so you can look up walks from all the Groups in the Area and - if you change the search criteria - walks throughout the country which you join.

The website has links to all the other Groups in our Area as well as to the national Ramblers website and we hope to make it your one stop for all things walking related. It is still a work in progress but, in time, it will also have Rights of Way information and more pages about footpath work and other activities.

Please make it your one-stop-shop for walking in South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire

