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**Officers’ reports**

**Chair’s report - Richard May**

I’m happy to report on another successful year for Norfolk Area, a year in which we have together managed to run a comprehensive and varied programme of walks, continued to both fight for and help to maintain our path network and embraced opportunities to make things better.

A huge component of the Area’s success is down to the success of the Norfolk Groups. I am delighted that our newer groups, Legstretchers and Breckland Brisk Walkers have become established groups within the Area and are going from strength to strength. I wonder what will be the next Group that we will form? Perhaps a “Pramblers” group for parents with push chairs, prams or small children, or a special interest walking group such as a history group or a photography group. Whatever groups we can add to our Area family will make the whole Area stronger, and increase the perception that Ramblers is the natural home for every type of walker.

Whilst thinking about numbers, Ramblers nationally has just over one hundred thousand members, whilst it is estimated that the number of people in England, Scotland and Wales who list walking as one of their hobbies is nine million. To put it another way, for every ninety people who enjoy walking, only one of them is a member of the Ramblers. When you think of it like that, there is a huge potential market of people who are benefitting from the work that we all do but is not contributing in the form of membership. There is a responsibility at all levels of the organisation: Trustees, Staff, Areas, Groups and individual members to make our walks and events the best that they can be, and to be totally welcoming to potential new members, so that we can increase that proportion of walkers who are Ramblers members.

I am particularly excited by the Digital Data Transformation programme that Central Office is currently undertaking, for which I am a member of the advisory working group. Already the Area and Group membership secretaries are benefitting from the new systems with a powerful dashboard that allows them to get a much better understanding of our evolving membership. I am also pleased that Hike Norfolk are starting to try out the digital walk register, which is now available for any walk leader to try out. Over the next two or three years there will be a lot of exciting innovations coming out from this project including a new volunteer website and a smart phone app for all members. I am confident that Norfolk Area volunteers and members will continue to display a constructive attitude towards these innovations.

I would like to specifically mention one event, namely the [Festival of Winter Walks](#festival). This festival is run annually by Central Office along with all participating areas and groups. Norfolk has always taken part in this festival, but this year we got far more engaged with the event. A great deal of thanks are due to Julian White who enthusiastically drove the festival planning forward, as well as everyone who led a festival walk, or who joined in the walks and welcomed the many potential new members who experienced the walks. Some of you may have heard Heather Boon and I on Radio Norfolk at the start of the festival, promoting the coming walks. Hopefully, you will see the results of the walks later in this report, but suffice to say that all of the walks were very well supported indeed, even on Christmas Day, and the festival walk led by Southern Norfolk group was the highest turnout ever for one of their walks.

There are many people that I want to thank. Firstly, I would like to thank the area officers, who have done another year of great work, keeping the Area operating efficiently. Secondly, I would like to thank all of the volunteers; those on group committees, walk leaders, and path maintenance team members, the achievements of Norfolk Area are down to the work of all our volunteers in area and the groups. Finally, I would like to thank all our members in Norfolk, who have shown their support for Ramblers by renewing their membership or joining anew.

Have a great year of Rambling ahead!

**Treasurer’s report - Peter James**

Our income from central office was £12,000. Book sales were £492 mainly from donations at shows. From EDP Magazine we have £600, £300 of which is still to come in. Our total Income was £13,092.

Expenditure for the year was £2801 to Groups, and £676 for the Footpath Secretary and 2026 work. We anticipated spending more on 2026 but the volunteers do not seem to be coming forward.

We have had a constructive year of practical work, doing 2 large projects and other smaller jobs replacing bridges and cutting paths. The total spend for the year including restricted funds was £9003. The Blickling boardwalk will come in over budget as there was an increase of 20% on the timbers; we still have some timbers to replace on the section from the road. The Banham boardwalk was well funded as we received £1000 from the Parish council.

Area news costs were £4507, Publicity £1220, and meetings and admin £681.

Total expenditure for the year including Restricted funds was £18,931.

We have received our full budget request for £13,400.

We will need to plan for further work at Blickling and Erpingham as some of the old sleeper’s rot.

Kings Lynn has contributed £2200 and Mid Norfolk has contributed £300 to a boardwalk on the path between West Acre and Castle Acre which gets very muddy.

**Secretary’s report - Ken Hawkins**

Both Vic Cocker and I have continued to participate actively in the Norfolk Local Access Forum. Membership has to be individual - it is not possible to represent any particular organisation; nevertheless, it has proved fruitful to be aware of the concerns of The Ramblers, and equally to ensure that Area Council has known about LAF thinking, particularly in responding to the development of the 2018-28 Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Mention should also be made that Ian Mitchell and Neil Cliff have attended the LAF’s PRoW subgroup, which is comprised of LAF members plus representatives of outside organisations - Ian representing The Ramblers, Neil there on behalf of U3A.

After a lull in visible progress on the England Coast Path, the report for Weybourne to Hunstanton (the third of the four Norfolk stretches) was issued in March; as for the earlier stretches, a response was generated from within the Area and agreed for submission with Central Office. While much of the report’s content was as expected, and fully acceptable, we were particularly concerned about:

* the intention to route the Path through Cley town, because of the continuing obstruction of Footpath 4 and the lack of any viable alternative;
* the proposals to exclude the public from substantial areas of what would otherwise be spreading room;
* the routing of the Path alongside the A149 in the Titchwell area; and
* the low sum allocated to establish the Path.

We await the regularly postponed report for the Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge stretch (but now understand a further delay may be delayed following a legal ruling requiring Natural England to prepare fuller reports than previously where sensitive land is affected.

Ian has mentioned our ‘2026’ work: we have 43 volunteers on our mailing list, being encouraged to work together. A copy of *Rights of Way: Restoring the Record* was donated to the Norfolk Record Office, and a photography permit was bought for £100 for the use of our volunteers. Ian Mitchell joined the RA Volunteer Advisory Board, taking forward the work called for in the successful resolution Norfolk had put forward the previous year.

We grappled with the data protection requirement of the General Data Protection Regulation, challenging a restricted view from RA which could have resulted in many members no longer receiving our Area Newsletter.

**Membership Secretary’s report - Derek Goddard**

In November an interface called Dashboard/Insight Hub was launched by Central Office and Membership Secretaries will have access to it. Very soon CO intends to discontinue sending out updates by email; therefore, in order to view their group’s current position, MS’s will have to log onto this Dashboard. Courses on how to use it have been arranged on-line for those affected. From the GDPR point of view this will enhance the security of members’ personal data.

During the year I sent out the usual welcome letters to those of no group and I also cleared a few glitches.

**MEMBERSHIP IN 2018 AS AT END OF MONTH SHOWN**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | MARCH | JULY | DECEMBER |
| Norfolk Area | 1883 | 1873 | 1859 |
| NR01 King’s Lynn | 309 | 304 | 295 |
| NR02 Norwich | 398 | 389 | 396 |
| NR03 Sheringham | 181 | 171 | 165 |
| NR04 South Norfolk | 173 | 177 | 173 |
| NR06 Great Yarmouth | 89 | 92 | 86 |
| NR07 Wensum | 186 | 187 | 183 |
| NR08 Mid Norfolk | 144 | 139 | 142 |
| NR09 Fakenham | 96 | 93 | 91 |
| NR30 Brisk Walkers | 149 | 153 | 162 |
| NR50 Hike | 66 | 72 | 73 |
| No group Norfolk | 92 | 97 | 102 |
| UK national total | 103,402 | 102,717 | 102,003 |
| Overseas total | 300 | 305 | 309 |

**Footpath Co-ordinator’s report - Ian Mitchell**

The sub-committee which is chaired by Simon Walpole meets 3 times a year and is open to any member. The following attend meetings when they can: Alan Bowell, Neil Cliff, Mark Elvin, Ken Hawkins, Peter James, Ray Longman, Keith Thomas, Roy Wheeler, Julian White.

It is open to anyone on the sub-committee to take a particular interest in some aspect of our work or assume a particular responsibility. We are grateful for Mark Elvin looking out for planning applications that might affect paths in King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, Ken Hawkins looking after the same in Breckland and Simon Walpole looking at applications in South Norfolk. Commenting at the planning stage can often warn developers that existing rights of way have to be taken into account, although the County Council seems to be hotter on this nowadays. We have currently 5 diversions in process arising from planning applications and a further 6 proposed diversions for other reasons. Some of these are proceeding very slowly.

Ray Longman has recently had to give up attending meetings of the National Trail Partnership and we were grateful for his reports. Ken Hawkins is a member of the Norfolk Local Access Forum and reports on its discussions, as well as the LAF public rights of way working group which he chairs. Alan Bowell continues to take an interest in railway crossings and new roads. We maintain regular contact with Natural England in their development of the Coast Path and Norfolk Trails who deal with the signage and add on circular walks.

There have been a steadily growing list of applications for Definitive Map modification orders, that is claims for public rights of way or upgrades to their status.

We have been trying to co-ordinate with various individual in research into and claiming paths which are not already on the Definitive Map of public rights of way and which must be claimed before the end of 2025. For the 7 years left, we have hundreds of paths to claim which might yield an extra 300 kilometres of rights of way. A particularly vital part of this list is the 120 “gaps” where a path on the map does not quite reach another public highway. These gaps range from 20 metres to several hundred metres, but from 2026, they could be closed off leaving many public paths dead-ended. Others are paths which are so obviously public that everybody in the 1950s thought they were County roads and did not have to claim them then. It now turns out that they were not “owned” by the County so they need claiming now!

A list of changes to Norfolk Rights of Way during 2016-2018 is [appended](#changes).

**Working Parties report - Peter James**

Banham Footpath 13: we spent 2 days with volunteers clearing Brambles and making the path accessible. We replaced 2 bridges and widened the 3rd bridge. We replaced the boardwalk which was in poor condition, and we have cut the path twice more during the year at a total cost of £2,125, funded by £1,000 from Norwich group and £1,000 From Banham parish council.

Blickling FP19 and Erpingham FP3: we have replaced 40 metres of rotten boardwalk on Blickling FP19, also replacing the netting. On the section from the road to the first bridge we have put timbers in to strengthen this; it now needs some sleepers replacing. On the Erpingham side we have replaced 12 metres of boardwalk and extended the boardwalk with netting by 70 metres. The total cost of this work is £5,200, with £1,840 coming from groups and Norfolk Trails.

We have replaced bridges in Bunwell and Forncett. We have done general path cutting.

Working with volunteers from the village of Tibenham, we installed a 40 metre boardwalk on Tibenham FP29 which floods and gets very muddy in the winter; this has been fully funded by the parish.

*Forthcoming projects*

Boardwalk at Dilham: we have committed £800 to this but I have been informed that there are other sections that need looking at: it is possible that a further £800 may be needed.

Geldeston riverside: possibly £1800

West Acre FP2: new 60 metre boardwalk between the bridges - £2500 funding from King’s Lynn and Mid Norfolk Groups.

**Internal and External Communications - Julian White**

Firstly, I’d like to thank everyone who was involved with the Festival of Winter Walks towards the end of 2018 and into early 2019. This was on the theme of engagement and loneliness, and we were featured on Radio Norfolk with Richard (area chairman) and Heather (Hike Norfolk walk leader) being involved in a great live interview in a car park in Overstrand…... Lots of groups engaged with the event in different ways, and the turnout on most walks was high, above our expectations, and I received over 30 emails about walking from those who wanted to find out more (and countless more about whether they could bring their dog). Hike Norfolk also gained a few new members from the campaign and we’d like to do this again in December 2019, hopefully involving every group.

The progress towards our new aim of having groups type in their walks just once, so we can use them on the national walk finder, on the local web-site and the area programme without rekeying, is progressing. The last area programme saw Norwich group switch to the new layout and system, and we’re hoping to move a few more groups over in 2019. We will also now start to look towards revamping the area programme to give it a more readable feel, without removing any of the useful features that it currently has.

We use Facebook and Meetup widely in terms of social media, and we’re intending to use Twitter and Instagram more widely in 2019 as well. We get positive engagement from these channels and it brings people into the organisation. We have also attended numerous shows in 2018 and we will look towards attending a similar number in 2019, to bring our message to a wide as audience as possible.

**Publications Manager’s report - Peter James**

Book sales are negligible now as all the books are out of date with many permissive paths now disappearing.

**Walks Features Editor’s report - Sue Walker**

I would like to take this opportunity to thanks everybody who has helped with the walks for the papers, especially

* Tony Smith for his help with editing the walks
* Diana Smith for walking them with me and taking photos and finding some walks
* the people from the Wensum group who have contributed walks - Richard and Sally, Mike, Ian and Malcolm and Susie
* those who helped with footpaths and problems with walks.

We have managed to produce a walk each week despite the state of the paths this year. I am rather disappointed that the papers did not include our Winter Walks Programme this year. I still think the walks are of value for getting the public out on the footpaths and sometimes even joining the Ramblers.

**Area News Editor’s report - Richard May**

In last year’s AGM report I spoke of our plans to move to a new method of entering walks for both Area News and the national website. This project is moving forward, although at a slower pace than I had initially hoped.

So far, Norwich group have moved onto the new system, and you will have noticed that in the last edition of Area News, the listing for Norwich group was in the new house style. Hopefully you all liked the new style, as I haven’t had any complaints (yet!). It is the expectation that at least one more group will move onto the new system for the next edition of Area News, with more in each subsequent edition.

I would like to thank Phil Harbord, Julian White and Peter James for their help so far, and hopefully for their ongoing support with this process.

As ever I would like to thank the group walk co-ordinators over the last year for always getting their walks programmes to me on time, and for the volunteers in each group who have stuffed the booklets into envelopes and posted them out to the members. Finally, I would also like to thank Malcolm Palmer who took over from Brian Ansell in the distribution manager role. He collects the copies from the printer and splits them between the groups, along with the correct number of envelopes and stamps. This largely hidden role is very important in the smooth distribution of Area News.

**Festival of Winter Walks - Julian White**

We received a communication from Ramblers nationally in October 2018 saying that they’d like to make this year’s Festival of Winter Walks focus on loneliness and inclusion. As this is part of a theme which Norfolk Ramblers is engaged with, I thought that the area should really pursue this as best as we could in the time that we had. I’m delighted at how much help we received from Ramblers centrally, as well as from so many members in Norfolk.

Usually the Festival of Winter Walks is a slightly loose group of walks, we just badge up existing walks which take within the period that it’s held in. This year’s festival ran from 21 December 2018 until 6 January 2019. I’d like to thank every group in the area who took part in that festival, but also big thanks to Legstretchers, Hike Norfolk, Norwich Group, Mid Norfolk, South Norfolk and Sheringham groups who either put on walks specially, or who rebadged existing walks at short notice.

Hike Norfolk led the first walk on 21 December 2018 and this was attended by BBC Radio Norfolk, who gave us some useful publicity. We also promoted the festival across all of our social media and we received hundreds of ‘likes’, ‘shares’ and correspondence. More importantly, I received over the period around thirty e-mails from people who had heard that we were an organisation who were welcoming and they wanted to walk with us. Most of these explained they were nervous about walking with a group, but really wanted to.

We had some relatively large attendances at walks: Hike Norfolk got 30 people on some of their walks, of which they put on seven across the festival. Legstretchers, the long distance walking group, got 17 people on their walk and South Norfolk got 37 people at their walk, one of their highest turnouts in recent years. Huge congratulations to Maria as well from Norwich group - she had 22 people turn out on Christmas Day, exceeding our expectations. This was a reminder that there are people who want to enjoy some company on Christmas Day, and we will look to repeat this annually.

The numbers attending walks isn’t necessarily important for the Ramblers (and I know that some of our groups routinely get large numbers), it’s the engagement that we have with those walkers. However, many of those attending walks were new to the Ramblers and we received some excellent feedback and some new members. We were delighted just how many people turned out at these walks, and just how much correspondence it generated (even though it took many hours to deal with, it was worth it!). I also received tens of e-mails asking about whether people could bring dogs, something which we must always bear in mind is the question most often asked.

It is my intention to run the Festival of Winter Walks again in December 2019 and we will hopefully use the same theme of inclusion and tackling loneliness. I have a number of walk leaders already keen to help and hopefully with this extra planning time we can get involvement from every group if they’re willing.

I would add that it is an important reminder that a significant number of people find it difficult to join a group walk because they’re too shy or lacking in confidence. These are people of all ages, backgrounds and life stories, and the more we can engage the better.

**Group reports**

**Breckland Brisk Walkers - Keith & Linda Thomas**

We are currently offering around 450 walks per year in the Attleborough, Mundford, Swaffham, Thetford, Watton and Weeting areas.

The walks are well supported and we have anything from 15 to 50 walkers attending on our walks.

Unfortunately a number of our walk leaders are having health problems and we are always hopeful that more volunteers will step forward.

We are grateful for a small number of walkers who have offered to help with the scheduling and admin tasks.

**Fakenham - Barbara Rumley & Vic Cocker**

The highlight of the past year has been the completion of the Norfolk Coast path from Hunstanton to Hopton by 14 of our members. We used a car shuttle system after we had walked beyond the limit of the Coasthopper service, finishing with 3 consecutive days of walking from Bacton to Hopton with a 2 night stay. The experience was a first for some newer members who enjoyed the satisfaction of completing the route.

Our regular programme of short mid-week walks and longer weekend walks has been well supported. This has allowed us to make the transition to now having one walk each week alternating mid week short and weekend long.

We continue to attract new members but also to lose them especially after 18 to 24 months. The Group has been discussing ways of connecting with members and encouraging a better retention rate. At the end of September 2018 we had 91 members, a net reduction of 4 on the previous year. We had gained 9 new members but lost 13. This is disappointing after efforts to improve the frequency and vary the distance of our walks offering.

**Great Yarmouth - Ros Ambrose**

Great Yarmouth continues to thrive, with a handful of new members, but as with other groups, is starting to struggle to find leaders for walks, as health issues take their toll. However, walks continue to be supported, especially those involving food.

**Hike Norfolk - Łukasz Banka**

Throughout 2018 we continued to build our positive image of a friendly social group that welcomes people of all backgrounds and abilities, organising short as well as long walks with most of our walks being dog friendly. 2018 has been another satisfying and challenging year for Hike Norfolk. Overall between the beginning of January and the end of December we managed to organise 50 walks including 9 walks with Legstretchers group with which we continue to cooperate. End of the year was amazing for the group as we actively participated in the “Winter Walking Festival” leading a total of 8 walks between 21 December and 2 January, attracting a large number of new walkers.

Even though we are still one of the smaller groups and still struggle with small number of volunteers to lead walks, especially throughout autumn and winter months, we are tackling the problem, actively encouraging our members to lead walks and organising whatever help we can give them to help with walk leading such as organising our very own walk leading training day (organised on 29 July by Julian W. and Richard M.) In 2019 we plan to organise more events such as walk leading training as well as actively advertise to a larger audience and younger crowd i.e. by leading walks for “Do Something Different Festival” organised by UEA in February. By the end of 2019 we plan to reach 100 members.

Our 2018 social calendar was well supported. A Big thanks to everyone who supported our events. These included, monthly meals, gig nights, pub nights, fireworks, canoeing and hiring a boat on the broads to name just a few. Our monthly meals proved very popular with both existing and new members, who found them a great way to meet and talk with our experienced walkers about our walking programmed. All events were booked to capacity, with a record turnout for our Christmas meal. Just under 40 brave walkers enjoyed the night which finished with our first ever awards ceremony. Overall Hike Norfolk organised 19 social events in 2018.

We look forward to 2019 as we will work hard to keep Hike Norfolk growing with our amazing group of volunteers.

**King’s Lynn - Gerald Pepper**

It is with great sadness we report the death of three leading members of the King’s Lynn Ramblers who have died this year: Liz Elvin, Joy Jones and Carol Longman, all of whom have made significant contributions to the running of our group over the years and they will be greatly missed.

Our 45th AGM was held on 17 November attended by 53 members and a guest appearance from Peter James.

Membership remains fairly constant at 302 compared with 304 this time last year.

We have seen a number of changes on our committee: James Fisher has retired from the Chairman’s role but remains on the committee; Bill Coomes retires as Treasurer and is replaced by Jean Cook; Paul Offord has agreed to stand as Vice Chairman; Mark Elvin has stood down as Area Representative and is replaced by Derek Rockley (Mark remains on the committee as Footpath Secretary); Sheila Drewery and Ray Longman have stood down as walk co-ordinators and are replaced by Pam Andrews and Hugh Pearce. Ray Longman has also stood down from his role as Webmaster and a replacement is urgently sought. Grateful thanks go to all those members for their much valued support and efforts on behalf of the group for many years.

Last year saw the installation of two new signs, funded by the group, on NWT Roydon Common. We have also agreed a donation of £2,200 for footpath repairs at West Acre.

We shall host a stall at the Sandringham Flower Show in 2019 on behalf of Area and grateful thanks go to Peter James for his support.

We offer walks on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and the first Monday of the month. In keeping with most groups, we are always looking for walk leaders.

**Legstretchers - Julian White**

2018 has been a positive year for Legstretchers, which is the long distance walking group of Norfolk Ramblers. The group was refounded in February 2017 and so it was a bit of a test period for us in the first couple of years to see if there was sufficient demand. I’m pleased to report that we get on average around 15 walkers on each of our monthly walks, and we have a full complement of walk leaders.

In 2019 we are taking a group of around 20 people to Yorkshire on our first group holiday, and we’re also launching our first social events. We have a number of walks in conjunction with Norfolk & Suffolk LDWA, an arrangement which has helped both groups gain members. There’s more information about the Legstretchers at <http://www.legstretchers.org.uk/> and we will always welcome new walkers.

**Mid Norfolk - Jenny Atterwell**

Mid Norfolk ramblers have enjoyed another year of wonderful walks in the Norfolk countryside. Average numbers of walkers with the group remain steady at 15, despite blips caused by the ‘Beast from the East’ and torrid summer temperatures.

Our AGM in October was well supported with over 20 attending the short walk, followed by a lovely lunch, the business at hand, our own Sheila Burns telling us of her Rwandan charity Abana, supporting young people in that country with education. Thanks to Richard May, our Area Chair for attending and supporting us with a few words on Rambler issues.

Our Xmas meal was a resounding success too, definitely a right decision to make this a day time event with nearly 30 attending.

Our Mince Pie and Sherry walk on 30 December was well advertised as part of the Winter Walk Festival and attracted 31 walkers, 10 of these being non members trying us out. It was very clear that the Meet Up website attracted most of the ‘guest’ walkers, one gentleman being on holiday from the Midlands. We hope they were made to feel very welcome and if all the lively chat was anything to go by we succeeded. We hope to see some of them again. Mince pies and sherry were served halfway round on this lovely walk and much enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Sheila Burns for organising this event.

We are eternally grateful to our loyal band of walk leaders who continually fill our walks programme. Without them none of it would be possible.

Look out for a steam train opportunity in the next programme!

We look forward to another year shared with people, members and non members, loving our countryside and enjoying friendly company.

**Norwich - Peter James**

The Group have had another successful year with trips away to Lincolnshire, the Lake District, Whitby and Derbyshire. We have more trips planned for next year and always welcome walkers from other Groups.

The membership is slightly down on last year.

Sadly, the Short and Leisurely walks are no longer running as part of the Group because of a decline in numbers and lack of leaders; we are directing people wanting the shorter walks to the Wensum Group.

We offer walks on most Sundays, 2 Wednesdays a month and 2 Saturdays a month: we are always looking for new walk leaders. We have a new Chair Person Sara Barney, leading an active Committee of 11, meeting 3 times a year. We tend to use our finances towards projects on footpaths.

**Sheringham - Steve Guratsky**

During the last year Sheringham Group have enjoyed another year of interesting and varied walks in this lovely area of North Norfolk.

Most walks take place on Wednesdays and Sundays in alternate weeks. Wednesday walks are around five miles and Sunday ones eight to nine miles. The number of participants in walks varies, with the average of between 10 and 20 reflecting our relatively small number of active members.

Special walks have included a new year’s day walk, a picnic walk, a Sheringham Carnival walk, an evening walk with fish and chip supper and a walk to see the seals at Horsey.

Social events have included a January Festive Lunch and a BBQ in August.

Jane Holmes, Linda Coleman and Richard Lee stood down from the committee after more than 10 years of excellent service between them. Rebecca Hitchens has joined as Membership Secretary and Linda Tai as Social Secretary. All committee positions are now filled.

**Southern Norfolk - Margaret Wilde**

The Group has had a difficult year with poor walks attendance and limited walks leaders due to age and ill health, however at the Group's AGM in November some helpful suggestions about a way forward were made.

The programme of walks will be given more structure, so people know what to expect i.e. a short walk on the first Sunday of each month and a longer walk on the 3rd Sunday.

Leaders can also offer additional walks if they wish.

Steve proposed some Wednesday walks when Norwich group are not active.

A monthly Thursday walk led by Sheila will also continue.

Group walks will be advertised on Meetup (this resulted in a 5 mile Festival of Winter Walks event in Wymondham having 36 people attending). Thankyou Julian.

Many thanks also to Richard May for his support as Acting Chairman, which he has agreed to continue for another 12 months as there is still no volunteer.

**Wensum - Tony Smith**

The Wensum Group continues to attract large numbers of ramblers to its weekly walks on Thursday mornings with an average of 47 attending each week over the past year. The walks are within a radius of approximately 25 miles from the centre of Norwich and typically 6 miles long though a shorter (e.g. 3 mile) walk at a more leisurely pace is also provided. The group also runs full day coach rambles to places further afield on the third Thursday of each month between March and October. In addition the group continues to offer afternoon walks on the third Sunday of each month with an average of 14 ramblers per walk over the past year. However, due to a lack of walks offers from leaders for Monday summer evening walks, these have now been discontinued.

Wensum Group members also devise and write up walks for submission to the Eastern Daily Press and the Eastern Evening News each week. The walks are co‑ordinated by Sue Walker and appear in the Saturday edition of each of these newspapers.

Members participated in the Area Walking Holiday to Lincolnshire in September. These annual holidays are organised by Joyce Smith. Some 50 members attended the Christmas Lunch at the Banningham Crown in December.

**Changes to Norfolk Rights of Way during 2017-2019**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parish** | **Path** | **Ends Grid References** | **Change** | **Means** | **Date of confirmation** |
| Thursford | RB10, from Church Ln to churchyard | TF 9852 3384 TF 9838 3381 | Addition | W&CA81s53 | Oct 2017 |
| Burston & Shimpling | FP21 round edge of field | TM 1531 8298 TM 1548 8268 | Diversion | HA80s119 | Oct 2017 |
| Felbrigg | BR6 | No change | Upgrade from FP | W&CA81s53 | Oct 2017 |
| Swafield | RB2 | TG 2808 3337 TG 2860 3345 | Addition | W&CA81s53 | Nov 2017 |
| Corpusty | FP28 | TG 1142 2999 TG 1135 2995 | Dedication | HA80s25 | Mar 2018 |
| Buxton | FP12, FP13, FP14 | TG 2299 2213 TG 2300 2212 | Dedication | HA80s25 | June 2018 |
| Garboldisham | FP4 | TM 0154 8239 TM 0178 8235 | Diversion | HA80s119 | June 2018 |
| Norwich, Bowthorpe | FP5 | TG 1802 0886 TG 1813 0870 | Dedication | HA80s25 | July 2018 |
| Norwich, Sprowston Road | FP6 | TG 2386 1090 TG 2390 1086 | Addition | W&CA81s53 | July 2018 |
| Dereham, Cherry & Hall Lanes and branches | RBs 36 to 41 | Various ends | Addition | W&CA81s53 | Aug 2018 |
| Downham Market | RB20 and RB21 | TF 6158 0244 TF 6211 0268 | Addition | W&CA81s53 | Aug 2018 |
| Paston | RB6 | No change | Upgrade from FP | W&CA81s53 | Sept 2018 |
| Pentney | FP10 | TF 7219 1397 TF 7220 1397 | Diversion | T&CPA90s257 | Sept 2018 |
| East Ruston and Honing | FP27 part and FP15 part | TG 3446 2721 TG 3438 2717 | Diversion | HA80s119 | Sept 2018 |
| Mattishall - within a housing estate | FP21 | No change | Diversion | T&CPA90s257 | Oct 2018 |
| Trunch | RB9 | No change | Upgrade from FP | W&CA81s53 | Dec 2018 |

**Abbreviations:** BR=Bridleway FP=Footpath RB=Restricted Byway BY=Byway Open to All Traffic

HA80s25 = Highways Act 1980 section 25 Agreement (between NCC & landowner)

HA80s118 = Highways Act 1980 section 118 extinguishment order

HA80s119 = Highways Act 1980 section 119 diversion order

HA80s119A = Highways Act 1980 section 119A diversion of railway crossing order

W&CA81s53 = Wildlife & Countryside Act section 53 Definitive Map Modification Order

T&CPA90s247 = Town & Country Planning Act 1990 section 247 to stop up & provide alternative

T&CPA90s257 = Town & Country Planning Act 1990 section 257 (and s261= section 261)