



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hello Members,

Another year has passed and it will be time to soon turn back the clocks but the walking will continue!

I'd like to thank all of you who walk with us, support Ramblers and their broader activities by being members and all the walk leaders who enable the walks to happen. Also, in the background there are various committee members working to provide the website, walks programme, holidays, dinners, evening presentations and various other tasks. Thank you all.

The principal aim of Amber Valley Ramblers is to provide a range of walks each week and throughout the year for our members and welcomed visitors. It's not the only aim, we also provide advice and guidance on footpath issues and planning applications.

Currently we are being consulted and will be further consulted, about the proposed new pylons route through Amber Valley and the potential impact on footpaths/access.

However, with walks being our primary aim, each walk needs a walk leader. If we provide a walk each Friday and Wednesday, that's 104 walks a year plus there are still walks on some Sundays. Currently we are asking a smallish group of walk leaders to carry the burden of leading the 100 plus walks per year. Just a few more walk leaders would make a difference and lighten the load. We would welcome anyone who wishes to become a walk leader, whatever day of the week, of any length or degree of challenge. The more walk leaders we have the lighter the load for everyone and the greater the variety of walks we can provide.

There is support and assistance for new walk leaders. This can include pairing up with an experienced walk leader plus completing on line training which you can find at www.ramblers.org.uk and search for online training. You will need to set up a My Ramblers Account to access training. The course covers three short interactive modules. There is no pass/fail, it's very informative and interactive. Please speak with me or any others committee member if you are interested and we can help you through the process.

Happy Walking

Howard

October 2024



Ramblers

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ALLESTREE PARK

Allestree Hall, set within Allestree Park, was the home of the Evans family who prospered as the proprietors of Darley Abbey Mill. During the war it was, like many other country houses, used by the army. In 1947 it was bought at what seems like a bargain price of £23,000 by Derby Corporation. Some was sold for housing and most of the rest was turned into a golf course, a little bit of it around the lake became a public park. The park lay in Allestree & Quarndon parishes which were within Belper Rural District. In 1968 Allestree parish, including two thirds of the Park, was incorporated into Derby Borough, the remainder being in Amber Valley Borough. For more than twenty years the volunteers of Friends of Allestree Park beavered away and made footpaths for the public with gateways and footbridges.



John M



John M

They erected information boards and signposts, they marked out walking routes through woodland using natural materials and have put in steps on steep slopes. These routes are mainly in the periphery of the park and several access points



John M

were created. The paths are much appreciated and are well used.



John M

There is much woodland that is now quite old. Medieval Ridge and furrows (the remains of the fields on which the villagers depended) can be seen in several parts of the park. The golf course was closed in 2020 (not without dissent). Efforts, so far unsuccessful, were made to find an alternative use for the Hall which had served as the golf clubhouse. The course is being 'rewilded' with the help of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Meanwhile dog walkers are much in evidence and through them numerous new tracks have appeared. Many walking routes are now possible with some great views over the Derwent Valley.

It is not clear how the rewilding will turn out. Definitive footpaths are sparse (there is only one), a common finding in many old country estates. Our last 'Amble' of the season took place there on 10th October 2024.

Dr John Morrissey - President

John Willcox R.I.P.

John, together with Linda were great stalwarts of our Amber Valley Ramblers, right from the early days of its formation. There was a cremation service for John at Markeaton Crematorium on Wednesday 28th August at 1.30 p.m. There was a good turnout of ramblers at the funeral to support Linda and the family.

Keith H

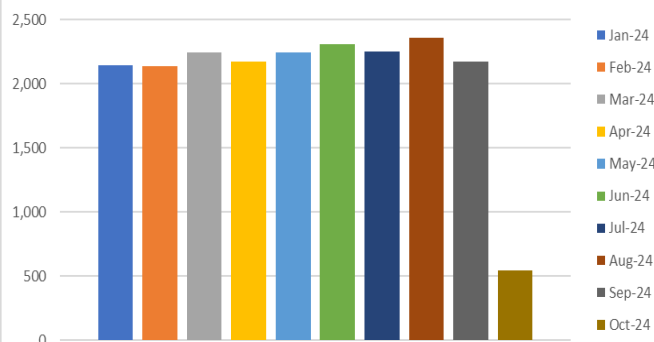
A FEW STATISTICS

Total Number of Members

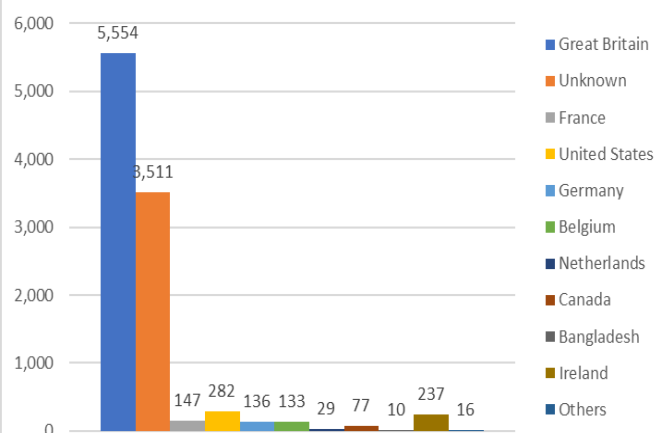
To September 2020	- 225 members
To September 2021	- 234 members
To September 2022	- 238 members
To September 2023	- 237 members
To September 2024	- 236 members

Keith H

Monthly Website Visits - David D



Website Visits by Country - David D



OUR RAMBLING YEAR 2023/24

17th November 2023

Annual General Meeting held at The Lion Hotel, Belper

Formal business to re-appoint Honorary officers and committee for 2023/24 was followed by a talk and slide show delivered by Derek Latham of Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust on the restoration of Wingfield Station. <https://www.derbyshirehistoricbuildingstrust.org.uk/wingfield-station-project> Derek told of the history of the station which was last used in 1967 with the restoration project commencing in Autumn 2019. During the course of this year our group has walked to the station and taken advantage of the coffee shop and 'facilities'. It really is worth a visit.

1st January 2024

New Year's Day Walk and Meal

Due to all the rain the walk was a little muddy but everyone said they enjoyed it and thanked Howard for leading. The walk was followed by a meal at Red Lion in Belper and was attended by 23 of us and a good time was had by all!! A nice way to start the year!



17th February 2024

Annual Dinner

A great evening with the normal good food and service provided by the staff at The Lion Hotel, in Belper. Our meal was followed by a 'guess the location' slide show with all photographs kindly provided by James W. We also had a free raffle with some great prizes! Thanks to all those who donated.

26th March 2024

Talk – Aqueduct Cottage



On the evening of Tuesday 26th March, a roomful of us gathered at Strutts in Belper to hear a very interesting talk delivered by Ian Hooker from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Ian is part of the team involved in the restoration of Aqueduct Cottage and he gave us the history of Lea Wood and surrounding land including the involvement of the Nightingale family. The talk was accompanied by a slide show which included several 'before' and 'after' photographs and the story of how the cottage was funded and subsequently restored to its present state.

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/aqueduct-cottage>

4th May 2024

Map Reading Training Course

Eight people attending this course in Edale run by volunteer rangers from the Peak District National Park. The morning was spent in the classroom learning different map symbols etc. culminating in plotting a route, and then in the afternoon time was spent out in the hills surrounding Edale following the course plotted in the classroom and putting into practice the skills learned in the morning session.

As a result of this course we potentially have 5 new people who can be added to our list of walk leaders once the simple training modules, required by The Ramblers Association, have been completed. This will take place at The Strutts Community Centre, Belper on Saturday 9th November 2024 10.00am to 1.00pm. Please contact any of the following to book a place ...

howardarthur@me.com

lyn.ramblers@gmail.com

julieramblers@gmail.com

AWAY BREAK – RIVERSIDE HALL HOTEL, BELLINGHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND 22ND TO 26TH APRIL 2024

A return visit for some of us to this lovely hotel. Here is a summary of the walks and a few photographs. Apologies to all walk leaders – for reasons I cannot explain I did not make a note of any names.

Tuesday 23rd April

A group of 10 repeated a popular 8 mile route first walked in 2023. Beginning on the coast at Craster and including the Northumberland Coast Path, King Charles III England Coast Path, the village of Embleton and Dunstanborough Castle. On the return journey a group of us spotted 'Three Dads Walking', <https://www.3dadswalking.uk/> all walking in memory of their daughters. They were probably a bit startled to see three 'mature' ladies running towards them waving money! Not something that happens every day!

Other walks this day included Tynemouth, Hareshaw Linn Waterfall and Kielder Water.



Wednesday 24th April

From the hotel in Bellingham, a group of 10 headed off across Hareshaw Common, including a short distance on The Pennine Way then to Rindeburn Waterfall and the village of Charlton. On the return journey a sheep was spotted which had rolled on its back and couldn't get up so three of the group gave it a hefty heave and put it back on its feet again.

Other walks this day included a trip to Beamish, an 8 mile walk to Harewood Linn which encompassed part of the Pennine Way and returned along the river.

Thursday 25th April

A 9 mile walk to Vindolanda <https://www.vindolanda.com/> beginning at The Sill then east along Hadrian's Wall past Housesteads Roman Fort, then across the moors returning to the wall and passing the remains of the stump at Sycamore Gap.

Other activities this day included A 12 mile walk over the moors and access land to West Woodburn, including lunch at the Bayhouse Inn and then a return trip over farmland crossing the River Rede Bridge; a trip to Cragside House near Rothbury; a walk along part of Kielder Water – this group had birds eating out their hands! A separate walk to Hadrian's Wall beginning at The Sill, this also included a bus ride to Housesteads and a return walk along Hadrian's Wall.



Yet again a great visit to Riverside Hall Hotel in Bellingham <https://www.riverdalehallhotel.co.uk/> The weather this year was mostly dry although there was a fairly cold wind on most days but that certainly did not spoil our enjoyment and thanks to all who lead the walks. Just like last year, the service and food were both excellent and our thanks to Helen and Joe Storer for organising. Helen and Joe worked hard to ensure we had another successful away break. However, it is time for them to take a break which means we are open to suggestions and offers to organise future breaks. Please contact a member of the committee or email lyn.ramblers@gmail.com if you would like to offer your services. Full support will be provided.

WHAT IS IT?

On 17 November 2023 Amber Valley Ramblers had a walk in Horsely Woodhouse and Morley. We crossed the line of the Roman road Ryknield Street which runs from left to right in the mid-distance in the picture below.



For more than forty years this cracked iron dome has been incorporated in a stile on Footpath Horsley 15 near Marks Hill. It is only 100m from Ryknield Street but this object is not Roman. John would be interested to hear your ideas via email john.morrissey2@btopenworld.com



JEAN AND ROY CUDWORTH

Jean and Roy Cudworth walked with our group from its beginning until quite recently. Roy reminisced that the lesson he took from his National Service in the RAF was 'Never volunteer for anything'. Nonetheless, when there was anything that needed doing, such as waymarking paths or organising our annual dinners, he was always there to spring into action. He passed away in 2022.

For several years Roy pressed for a proper bridge across a drainage ditch on Footpath Shottle & Postern 39 near the Hanging Gate pub rather than the dangerously sloping slippery plank that was there. I was recently checking paths in that area and saw that this had been rectified.



John M

FROM THE ARCHIVES - FIRST WALKS

76/4	<u>Programme of Activities.</u>			
It was agreed that the first Annual General Meeting of the Group shall take place in the first quarter of 1977, since owing to the date of the first public meeting being in mid-April it was not considered practical to comply with Model Constitution Rule 11. After discussion it was agreed that the following series of walks be scheduled —				Secy.
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leads</u>	
Sun. 16 May	1430	Wharfedale Station	R. Hall	
Thurs 3 June	1900	Progress Cafe, Tarnah Green	Ab. Nichol	
Sun 20 June	1430	Smalley's Car Park, Lea Bridge	J. Douglas	
Thurs. 8 July	1900	Triangle, Belpar	M. Crookford	
Sun 18 July	1430	Bufield Station	DJ Ogden	
All the walks to be open to members and non-members.				

GALLERY

