

OCTOBER 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026



Last year, as a trial, the committee moved the AGM back to Ilkley and held the meeting during the afternoon, instead of the evening. Members' feedback was so positive that the 2026 AGM will be held at the same venue during the afternoon.

The venue is Church House, All Saints Church, Church St, Ilkley and the date is Wednesday 18th November. More details will be sent to you nearer the date but, at this stage, please put the date in your diary. Members' views are important and this is your opportunity to meet with all the committee, both formally and informally.

NEW WALK COORDINATOR FOR A+ GROUP



After 6.5 years as A+ group walk coordinator, Ian Haigh has decided to step down.

He will be succeeded by Bob Osborne (third from left) who took over the reins on September 15th

The good news is that Ian is not leaving the scene altogether. He will continue developing the very successful A+ Facebook page and providing holiday cover for Bob.

Mike Briers thanked Ian for his contribution over the years and welcomed Bob into his new role. Mike also thanked Ian for supporting the new Facebook initiative and acting as LWR website backup during Tim Moon's illness

LOWER WHARFEDALE IN THE PAPERS

The following article appeared in both the 'Ilkley Gazette' and 'Wharfedale Observer' on Thursday 3rd September.

5/9/26

6 ilkleygazette.co.uk wharfedaleobserver.co.uk TH



Members of Lower Wharfedale Ramblers present a donation to members of the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association (UWFRA)

Donation boost for volunteer rescuers

A DONATION from Lower Wharfedale Ramblers is set to help support the work of the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association (UWFRA). The ramblers, who meet for walks every Thursday, began their August 20 outing from Grassington, providing an ideal opportunity to visit the rescue team's headquarters and present a cheque for £473.

The money was raised earlier this year at a members' social event organised by Lower Wharfedale Ramblers' social secretary, Amanda Siswick. Guest speaker Johnno Ellison, author of *Walking the Wharfe*, gave his talk free of charge, while attendees were invited to make a voluntary minimum donation of £5.

Amanda presented the cheque on behalf of the group during the visit to the rescue base. UWFRA is a volunteer-run organisation which has been rescuing people and animals for more than 75 years.

Duty team members Ken, Derek and Jean were on hand to receive the donation and gave the walkers a tour of the facility.

Lower Wharfedale Ramblers chair Mike Briers, who joined the walk, thanked Amanda for organising the fundraising event and praised the work of UWFRA volunteers. He said the rescue team's year-round service benefits not only ramblers, but also dog walkers, potholers and many others who enjoy outdoor activities in Wharfedale.

HELEN TURNELL (1949 – 2026) R.I.P.



Helen passed away on August 20th at the Marie Curie Hospice in Bradford, with her family at her bedside.

Helen and her husband, David, moved from the Midlands to live in Otley, in order to be nearer to their daughter, Cathy, and her family, who lived in Horsforth. Both became regular members of the C group until Helen's long-term illness prevented her from walking. Many will remember them arriving for walks in David's electric car which was quite pioneering at the time.

The funeral took place at Rawdon Crematorium on September 17th.

All members of the C group send their sincere condolences to David and family.

“Drinking good wine with good food in good company is one of life’s most civilized pleasures”



The quotation is by the late wine connoisseur and critic, Michael Broadbent, and Amanda Siswick, Social Secretary, provided two opportunities for LWR members to put it to the test.

Before you ask, Compo, Clegg and Foggy were not picking the grapes and Nora Batty was not straining grape juice through her stockings but, believe it or not, Holmfirth has a vineyard. It is called ‘Sheverling Wine Estate at Holmfirth Vineyard’, covering seven acres and sits roughly 800 to 840 feet above sea level with spectacular views over the Holme Valley. The Vineyard produces White, Red and Rose wines.

Amanda organized a trip to the vineyard, with a local walk beforehand. After the walk, attendees had a tour of the vineyard, a sampling session, followed by dinner in the on-site restaurant. Such was the popularity of the trip, it sold out very quickly. Fortunately Amanda was able to organize a second trip which also sold out immediately.

The first trip was on September 3rd and the second on September 10th.

Our pictures show the LWR group who visited on September 10th. As you can see from the pictures, the weather was more Yorkshire than Nappa Valley but the aerial photo looking out over the vines to the assembled visitors, including LWR, learning about the vineyard, illustrates the spectacular location. The wine was good too!

Holmfirth Vineyard is one of 9 Yorkshire Vineyards open to the public. You can find details about all of them at – www.yorkshirewinetrail.co.uk.

SINGO BINGO RETURNS



So popular was Singo Bingo in 2025 that another musical evening has been arranged by Amanda Siswick for 2026. Details are as follows:-

DATE – Friday 30th October

VENUE – Burley in Wharfedale Social Club, Main St, LS29 7JW

TIME – 7:00pm for 7:30pm eyes down and ears up

COST - £10 per person

All profits will go to The Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Last year, LWR raised a massive £1,155.

Tickets are completely sold out but if you would like to go on the standby list, contact amandasiswick@gmail.com— and she will contact you if places become available.

The X84 bus stops outside the club so if you live between Headingley and Ilkley, you don't need to worry about drinking and driving, or parking, and with your bus pass—it's free.

NB – Even if you are not attending you are welcome to make a donation. Just contact Amanda for details.

VOLUNTEER LEADERS STEP FORWARD FOR D GROUP

Following an appeal in this newsletter, three members of the B group have offered to lead walks on behalf of the D group. They are Kath Isherwood, Lesley Holmes and Keith Wilman

Jim Heslop has expressed his thanks to the three people concerned and says he hopes this will lead to other qualified walk leaders putting their name forward.

Please contact Jim directly if you are a qualified walk leader and happy to lead a walk on behalf of the D group, who walk on a Tuesday.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS



Richard Smith & Geoff Midgley



Richard Brook



Some 'Old Hands'

Following on from the new guidelines introduced earlier this year for walk leaders, Ramblers HQ has now introduced new guidelines for volunteers who work on footpath maintenance.

New online training programmes are being introduced for team leaders and volunteers. As with the walk leader training, previous experience counts and Richard Brook, LWR Footpath Maintenance Team Leader will be able to sign off those who have worked on the team for a while.

New team members will be required to do the online training courses or attend an offline training session run by the team leader.

Richard will be attending a one day training session for Team Leaders, funded by the Ramblers centrally. Nick Dybeck, the Footpath Officer for Bradford Ramblers is also attending. Nick, who lives in Ilkley, often works with the LWR maintenance team which means we will have two qualified leaders available to provide coverage.

Richard stresses that the new requirements will not replace our current 'on the job' training approach which relies on the 'old hands' like Richard Smith, Geoff Midgley, Antonia Woosnam-Savage and himself passing on their knowledge through 'on the job' training.

All team member training must be completed by May 31st 2027.

FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE TEAM – BUSY AGAIN!



Before and after photos of gate install off Denton Rd, 10 August 2026



Before and after photos of bridge repair and gate reinstall, near North Rigton, 4 September 2026

On 10th August the team installed a footpath gate and reinstalled a farmer's gate on a path off Denton Rd. Adam Ianson, NYC field officer delivered the new gate and timber to the site. A drystone wall end had to be rebuilt which was interesting. On 4th September a footbridge was repaired near North Rigton and the gate on the end of the bridge was rehung. The footings of the bridge and supports were in good condition, so new cross planks could be fitted fairly easily.

There is still no progress with plans to spend the £500 funding awarded by Otley Walking Festival for repairs and improvements. North Yorkshire have questions about whether the stile repair east of Covey Hall Farm should be a gate install instead. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

If you are interested in joining the Footpath Maintenance Team, or want more details about the new training requirements, please contact Richard via the LWR Website/Contacts.