



ramblers  
at the heart of walking

# **MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH DEVON RAMBLERS!**

A special edition of Devon Ramblers Area News. Sept. 2009.

The Ramblers is Britain's largest charity working for walkers and much of the work is done at a local level by volunteers. One example of a recent campaign co-ordinated by the Devon area Ramblers is the campaign for access to Vixen Tor. Walkers like you play a variety of roles in the Devon area Ramblers and we are currently looking for new volunteers to help ensure this work continues.

You now have a chance to help take the Ramblers work in Devon forward as there are several vacancies which we need to fill at the next AGM in February. You don't have to make a decision about this now but if you would like to find out some more about what is involved in any of the roles described below, please contact the area chairman, Mike Soper, phone 01803 324946 or email [chairman@devonramblers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@devonramblers.org.uk). Don't worry if you have little experience of this type of role – other members of the committee can provide advice and support.

Without people like you volunteering their time, the Ramblers cannot continue to campaign on issues such as protecting access to the countryside, defending the beauty of the countryside and promoting walking as a fun and healthy form of exercise. Please consider getting involved.

Below are short descriptions of the roles we are seeking to fill. However these are a guide and general outline only. The way the job evolves will partly be decided by anyone who takes the job on. More details can be found at: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/Volunteer/> or by contacting a current area committee member.

## **Area Secretary**

**Purpose of role:** To take the leading role in promoting the charitable work of the Ramblers at Area level. This is done by working with the Area committee to ensure a clearly defined role for the Area and by identifying priorities and opportunities for the Area where it can best contribute and make a difference to the local walking environment. The area secretary also provides a link with the Ramblers Central Office.

**Duties :** To ensure that the Area committee has a clear sense of direction and purpose and that these coincide with the charitable aims and objectives of the Ramblers. To maintain a clear overview of the Area's differing activities and to monitor their success. To ensure that achievements and the work of the Area are brought to the attention of all members in the Ramblers to the wider public.

### **Area Publicity Officer**

**Purpose of role:** To ensure that the charitable work of the Ramblers is given a high profile in the Area. It is a role which focuses on non-members. Through this work, the Ramblers will become more effective by winning over more support from the public either through greater awareness or through increased membership.

**Duties:** The specific ways that an Area Publicity Officer will carry out their role will vary. They will depend on the skills and interests of the Officer and the committee as well as the resources available in the Area.

### **Area Countryside Officer**

**Purpose of role:** To contribute to the Rambler's work in preserving and enhancing the beauty of the countryside for the benefit of the public.

**Duties:** to act as the Group's main point of contact with the Ramblers on countryside matters, receiving and responding to information from Central Office and from the Area Countryside Officer; to work together with Group Countryside Officers to discuss the local Rambler's response to countryside issues and to co-ordinate activities; to keep the area committee informed regularly of activities; to work with the Group Newsletter and web editors to ensure that the Group membership is aware of local countryside work; where a local response to a countryside matter is appropriate, to liaise with Group Publicity officer to gain local media coverage.

### **Area Newsletter Editor**

**Purpose of role:** To communicate and promote the work of the Ramblers in the Area in print to all the Area membership. By doing this, the aim is to inform members of the concerns facing walkers locally and valuable work of the Area to address them. The newsletter can therefore be used as a tool to strengthen the Area, encouraging members to see the relevance of the Area, to remain members of the Ramblers and to increase the likelihood of their active involvement. The newsletter is also a valuable tool for communicating with the public and raising the profile of walking and our work.

**Duties :** To produce an attractive and accessible Area newsletter on a regular basis (normally 2-3 times a year) and ensure that it is distributed amongst all the members of the Area. Working with other committee members to ensure the newsletter is used to promote the Area to the wider public.

This will involve: Working with the Area Campaign Officers to gather relevant local campaign issues. Selecting relevant material from Central Office communications and other sources which highlight issues and campaigns for walkers. Co-ordinating with Group Secretaries to gather information about their activities.

### **Minute Secretary.**

**Purpose of role:** To assist the Area Secretary by producing minutes of Area Committee and Area Council meetings and ensuring that they are distributed in a timely manner.