

Dear Richard

My apologies for emailing somewhat out of the blue, Diane Simcoe let me know that you are the new Area Chair for Northumbria so congratulations on your new role!

My name is Sara and I am one of the new delivery officers here at the Ramblers. I work from home in the Yorkshire Dales and will be working across the North of England.

The main part of my role will be to deliver Walk Leadership Essential Training; there have been requests for this for a while and we are delighted to say that we will be rolling these out over the coming 9 months. This training will be across England and I'll be organising and delivering sessions in ten Ramblers areas in the North.

I would like to deliver sessions in your area and was thinking of:

- **15<sup>th</sup> May – Morpeth area**
- **16<sup>th</sup> May Chester-le-Street area**

I was wondering if you had any thoughts on these dates/locations – do let me know if these dates clash with something big that is going on in your area. I know I won't be able to please everyone who would like to attend, but we would like to make the training as accessible as we can, hence offering one of the dates on a weekend. If you have any recommendations for venues that we could use, please do let me know – we are looking at Village Halls, Scout Huts etc as my budget is quite tight for these!

We will organise the training centrally and it will be free for members to attend – we will pay for the venue and light refreshments (participants would bring their own lunch). All training materials will be supplied. It is a day course and covers the 'softer' skills of walk leader training, so not navigation or first-aid, but what makes a good walk and walk leader, safety on a walk, insurance etc. The morning is classroom based and the afternoon includes a short walk for people to practice their skills. The course is suitable for new walk leaders and experienced leaders and I am really keen that people learn from each other and have a chance to share good practice, so everyone is encouraged to attend.

We have had great feedback from the course so far – in fact we ran 2 in Manchester in January and had waiting lists of over 30 people who wanted to attend. We can only offer 15 places per course, and I'd be happy to let you know in advance when the bookings were going live (we use the Eventbrite system) so that you could tell your area members and encourage them to book.