

LANCASTER GROUP NEWSLETTER

www.lancasterramblers.org.uk

contributions to Gareth Thomas

newsletter@lancasterramblers.org.uk

October 2020

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity in England & Wales (no. 1093577) and Scotland (no. SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no. 4458492). Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87–90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW.

Welcome to Your Autumn/Winter Newsletter

The newsletter is also available on the Lancaster Ramblers website www.lancasterramblers.org.uk/information/group/newsletter.

Walk and trek reports, path news, personal news, and any other contributions to the next newsletter will be very welcome.

Gareth (newsletter@lancasterramblers.org.uk)

Notice of 2020 Lancaster Group Annual General Meeting

We cannot hold a traditional AGM this year because of the covid-19 situation. Instead, we are publishing "standard" AGM proposals at the link in the email sent with this newsletter and you will be able to express your support or otherwise for them using an on-line voting system. The Statement of Accounts and any other supporting documents will be available on our website at www.lancasterramblers.org.uk by 10th November 2020. If you have no means of accessing the website, you can request paper copies by sending a SAE to me.

If you have any additional proposals you would like to be considered, contact me and include the name of a seconder for your proposal. The proposal will then be included on the on-line voting form. Unfortunately it will not be possible to deliver paper copies of any additional proposals to members, but we will put as much information about them as possible on the on-line voting form (if you have signed up or wish to sign up for our email delivery service, you will receive new proposal details). Proposals must reach me by 24th November 2020.

How to vote:

Use your personal voting link in the email sent with this newsletter to vote on-line. Voting closes on 8th December 2020. If you have any difficulty voting please contact me.

David Johnson secretary@lancasterramblers.org.uk

Tel: 01524-811366

Lake District Area Notice of the 84th Annual General Meeting 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers' Association Lake District Area will be held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 4.30pm (the meeting will be virtual via Zoom).

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's introduction
3. Minutes of the annual general meeting held on Saturday 18th January 2020
4. Matters arising
5. Annual report
6. Financial statement
7. Election of President
8. Election of officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Membership Secretary
 - Footpath Secretary
 - Countryside Secretary
 - Press and Publicity Officer
 - Access officer
 - Newsletter Editor
9. Election of independent examiner
10. Motions received in writing by the Secretary (28 days notice please)
11. Any other business

The Agenda and Annual Reports will be available on the area website at www.ramblers.org.uk/lake-district before the AGM. The draft minutes will similarly be available shortly after the AGM, as are the minutes of the previous AGM. If you are unable to access these please contact the Area Secretary to obtain a copy

Note: Nominations for officers must be submitted in advance to the secretary as AGM NOMINATION SLIP (cut off and copy as many as you require).

If you wish to join the meeting please register by emailing David Dixon, daviddixon1939@gmail.com, or telephone 01768 863155. You will be sent an invitation link to join the meeting nearer the time.

NOMINATION SLIP

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION LAKE DISTRICT AREA - AGM 19/01/2021

You are invited to make nominations for the following positions for the forthcoming year: chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, membership secretary, footpath secretary, countryside secretary, press & publicity officer, newsletter editor. Please check before making a nomination that the nominee is able and willing to serve, if elected.

Position	Proposer
Second	

Please return this slip, before 18 December 2020, to the area secretary, David Dixon, Oaklea, Beacon Edge, Penrith CA11 8BN

or e-mail nominations to daviddixon1939@gmail.com

Please note that we require nominations for the following positions

Area Newsletter Editor

Area Access Officer

All of the other serving officers are prepared to stand for re-election.

Newsletter

Because of the uncertainty of being able to print and distribute newsletters and walks programmes, we have suspended our production of regular newsletters for the time being. However, we continue to use email to provide news and updates from time to time. Register for this service on the website at www.lancasterramblers.org.uk or contact me.

David Johnson

Lancaster – Halton – Caton Buses

There have been some changes to local bus services which may be of interest to our members. Services 80 and 81 (Lancaster - Ingleton/Kirkby Lonsdale) now go along Caton Road, over the Gateway bridge, along Low Road in Halton and on to Caton. The Bus Users Group have succeeded in

getting a new bus stop at the Crook O'Lune (Caton side of the road bridge) which may be useful for some linear walks. More details at www.lancsbus.blogspot.com.

David Johnson

Group Walks in the Covid-19 Era

Group walks restarted in July with groups of up to 6 people. Subsequently, it was agreed that Ramblers walks were deemed as organised outdoor team events provided that certain conditions were met, such as adherence to distancing protocols, risk assessment and collection of track & trace information. The maximum group size for such events is 30, but (as of October) locally we recommend groups of up to 10, with two groups if desired. Booking for walks is required, both for limiting numbers and for track & trace, and walkers meet at the start of the walk.

It should be recorded that our walk leaders have stepped up to the challenge, maintaining a near-full programme despite the extra work involved in organising a walk, and we are very grateful to them.

It is impossible to plan our walks far into the future in this constantly changing environment, so we are currently scheduling a month or two in advance. Details of walks are on our website at www.lancasterramblers.org.uk, and you can receive notification emails about new walks by registering for emails on the website or contacting me.

David Johnson

Safety

There have been widely publicised incidents in northern England in which walkers have been harmed by cattle this summer. The Ramblers website has advice about safety when walking near livestock and hillwalking, including equipment every walker should carry, at www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/safety.aspx.

In case anyone has missed the recent news, a 'jet suit paramedic' is currently training to attend emergencies in the Lake District by flying up the fells: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-54331994.

Gareth

GPX Files of Ramblers Walks

The .gpx files of some walks Lancaster Ramblers have completed will soon start being made available to download on the newsletter webpage (www.lancasterramblers.org.uk/information/group/newsletter). We aim to develop a dedicated walk archive page. Please send a .gpx file of any completed walk you would like archived to me at newsletter@lancasterramblers.org.uk.

If you do not use a GPS device or a smartphone/tablet app while walking you can simply view a route on your computer using an appropriate app (e.g., ViewRanger, OS Maps, Komoot) or a gpx viewer website.

Gareth

Members Walk Stories

Unusual Sighting on a Walk

Our weekly walks continue to surprise. On the walk around Lupton at the end of September, the first group, led by Neil Herbert, came across a group of very agitated cattle, including young bull calves, in an adjacent field. They were making a lot of noise, were in a tight group and moving in a circle trampling their feet aggressively. At first we thought one of the cows had upset another's calf but, on closer inspection, it transpired that they were all bullocks and that a heron was to blame. The irate animals trampled on the bird and actually killed it. What the poor bird had done we do not know. Once they'd killed it, they all then surged off together across the field, still making a din and very agitated.

None of the group had ever seen the like before, has anyone else?

Neil Herbert

A (Busy) Lockdown Summer

What a strange summer. I don't know how yours has been, but mine has been saved by two Rambling friends. One, my walking companion Gareth, who has generously taken me in his car to do these fantastic walks. The other, Cynthia, who gave me a mission to fulfil!

Cynthia, who as you may know loves bagging anything over 1000 feet, introduced me to the Yorkshire Dales 30. Thirty hills in the Dales rising to the status of mountains at 2000 feet or over. Could I climb them all this summer? Sadly not, but Gareth and I have got quite a few in the bag. Here are just a few of the highlights.

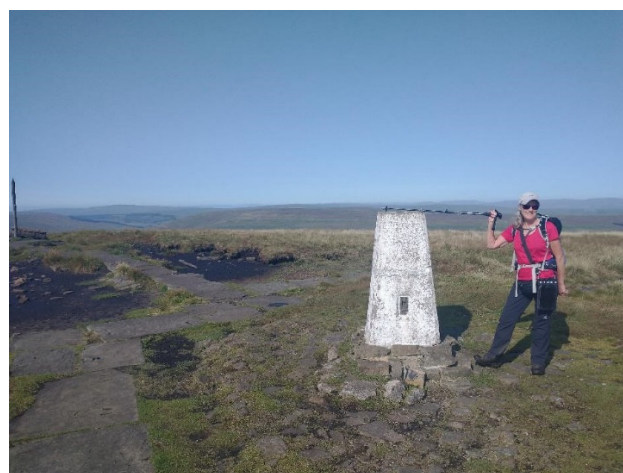


Lovely Seat

Trudging through tussocks, peat hags and bogs on a beautiful, scorching hot day to reach the top of Baugh Fell and then over Swarth Fell to reach Wild Boar Fell on a marathon 16 mile, 10 hour walk. My favourite moment was sinking down up to my knee in a slurpy bog! Then celebrating with ice cold water and a cereal bar when we finally reached the trig point on Wild Boar Fell.

Another beautiful day to bag Great Shunner Fell followed by the wonderfully named Lovely Seat. No trig point there, but someone has indeed erected a very lovely seat to rest on.

Great Whernside and Buckden Pike were completed in the fullest of foul weather on a day out in Wharfedale. I was of the opinion that the clouds never rise off the tops overlooking that valley, but more recently we returned to climb Buckden Pike again on a beautiful sunny day with views to make your eyes water.



Buckden Pike

Most recently, we added Yarlside (I have never climbed up anything so steep!) and Randy Gill Top. Another grey and misty day but fantastic views of Cautley Spout on the way back through Bowderdale. I'm looking forward to putting that one (not for the faint hearted!) on next summer's programme.

There have been more too; Whernside (twice!), Calf Top, Yockenthwaite Moor, Gragareth, Great Coum and High Seat. Others had already been climbed; Ingleborough, the Calf, Pen y Ghent, Great Knoutberry Hill and Plover Hill. They may need to be revisited. What a fantastic place we live in to have all of this on our doorstep!

Altogether, nine remain to be conquered. Hopefully next year...

Judy Steele

Sorties into the Unknown

Anne and I have been walking together every Thursday since July. My plan is to think of a destination not too far away and Google, e.g., circular walks around Carnforth. We limited ourselves to around 7 miles but, sometimes, walked 8 or 9 due to diversions, i.e., we got lost!

One notable walk began at Levens Hall with lunch atSizergh and back to Levens for tea in their delightful courtyard. En route we had seen the black fallow deer, the smelly goats and a wonderful array of nuts and fruits including sweet chestnuts, horse chestnuts, damson and, of course, blackberries.

We have found these sorties into the unknown quite exhilarating and have learnt a lot and hope to use them at some future date for the club as a whole. Up to now we haven't got tired of each other's company but will be back with the club when we can.

Viv Lowery



Levens Hall