



The Tameside rambler

Tameside Ramblers Newsletter | Issue 17 | November 2018 v.1.

Chair Talk

Phew! What a Scorcher! Yes, the late spring and summer of 2018 were certainly hot and dry, perhaps too hot for many. The period wasn't without its problems either, particularly with the extensive fires on our local moors and on Winter Hill.

The dry weather did mean that we had many walks without any sign of mud – a most unusual experience. However, winter approaches so please heed our Winter Walks Weather Warning and look out for any changes or cancellations on Facebook or our website.

The **General Data Protection Regulations** which came into effect in May this year, and required organisations, such as Ramblers, to obtain positive permissions from people in order that the organisations can send emails to them. This has caused us and other Ramblers groups some problems and there is more about this later in this newsletter.

The Walks Programme. The July to October walks programme had walks every Wednesday and Saturday, except for bank holiday weekends, when we traditionally do not put on a walk. This full programme was enabled by our having a few new walk leaders.

Sadly, the November 2018 to February 2019 programme has a few gaps, as you will see, on both of our walking days. A few of our regular walk leaders have had health issues which have prevented them from walking and we do not have sufficient walk leaders overall to cover all of the walking dates. As a policy, we do not want any individual walk leader to have more than four walks in any one programme i.e. an average of one per month, although even leading just one walk will help.

We need more walk leaders to be able to maintain our walks programmes into the future.

So, another plea: if you feel that you would like to lead a walk then please get in touch with Chris Harrison or Lynda Chandler, or have a chat to one of our regular walk leaders. Walks do not need to be complicated or in remote areas and any aspiring walk leader will be given assistance from someone with experience. It doesn't need to be a new walk – repeating previous walks is fine, especially if done at different times of the year. Yes, the thought of it it can be a bit scary at first – but so is riding a bike for the first time – but it is also very rewarding to have led a group of people on a walk in our countryside. So why not have a go?

Stewart Ramsden

Chair

On the Social Side

Since the last newsletter, we have only had a couple of social events.

BBQ: The annual BBQ took place on Saturday 23rd June at 19 Poplar Grove. Fortunately, the weather was kind for the 17 of us who attended (but still cold enough for Pam to need a blanket or 2). The food and drink went down extremely well; the fact that hardly anything was left at the end of the evening spoke volumes. As usual, the punch had a good mix of sangria, gin, possibly some brandy and maybe other liquids and, again, it was all consumed by the end of the evening with no fatalities nor serious headaches! We can now look forward to next year's BBQ on a date to be fixed, but probably near the end of June



Chester: On Saturday 8th September, a 16-seater mini bus transported a group of us to Chester for the day. On arrival, we walked in the rain from the railway station to the Cathedral for a welcome coffee, cake, etc break. At about 12.15pm, we set off (yes, still raining) from Chester Cross on a 5.5 mile walk down across the River Dee, through woods, a country estate, fields, and river paths back to Chester (now raining heavier). We did a recce of the Panda Mami restaurant before a visit to a Pete recommended, Good Beer Guide pub, the Brewery Tap, which was an old Jacobean hall. There were at least 6 real ales on draft and Pete and Mark did their best to try them all between them. By now, needless to say, it had stopped raining. At 5pm, we all went to the restaurant for an excellent Chinese buffet before making our way back to the railway station for the journey back home. Apart from the weather, a great day all round which will be repeated in the not too distant future.



Dates for the diary (see the walks programme):

Place Names Talk: A talk by guest speaker and published author Anthony Poulson-Smith, on the origin of place names will take place on the evening of Thursday 6th December, start 7pm, at St. James's Church, Ashton-under-Lyne. This will be free to members of Tameside Ramblers and non-members will be asked to make a small donation towards costs. Details are in the current newsletter and programme. Please let Pete or Ruth know if you wish to attend.

Christmas meal: this will be at the Smithy Fold, Glossop on Thursday 13th December from about 7.30pm. No bookings required.

New Year meal: This will be at Umeeds in Stalybridge on Sunday 13th January from 7pm. This is an Indian restaurant with a set menu, price £13.95. You will need to let Pete or Ruth know if you wish to attend and a deposit of £5pp is required, payable to Tameside Ramblers (contact Pete or Jo for bank details). Bring your own alcoholic drinks.

Trip to Stockport: on 16th February 2019, we will be having a day out in Stockport, starting with a linear walk, followed by a visit to the air raid shelters museum and afternoon tea at the Plaza. Details in the walks programme..

Weekend away Spring 2019: this will be on the weekend of 5th to 7th April at Sill Discovery Centre at Once Brewed near to Hadrian's Wall. The centre is a youth hostel with numerous rooms, but also, there is a pub nearby called the Twice Brewed Inn, which does accommodation. Details have been e-mailed to members, but are also shown separately in this newsletter. Further details will also be in the next walks programme (March to June 2019)

We'll continue to look at different types of events and would be delighted to hear from any of you if you can come up with suggestions, especially something completely different from what we organise currently.

Pete and Ruth Summers
Social Secretaries

Weekend Away at Hadrian's Wall



Regarding the weekend away on Friday 5th April to Sunday 7th April, based at the Sill Discovery Centre YHA in Northumberland, the cost of staying at the Youth Hostel is £65pp for a shared dorm (not en-suite) and £75pp for private dorms (en-suite). The accommodation includes bed Friday 5th, breakfast, dinner and bed Saturday, and breakfast Sunday. For your information, there are 8 x 2-bed dorms en-suite, 8 x 4-bed dorms en-suite, 2x 3-bed dorms (not en-suite), and 8x 4-bed dorms (not en-suite). As members will be arriving at different times on the Friday, then we suggest you arrange your own evening meals; the Twice Brewed Inn is nearby (literally just a couple of minutes walk away) and has an extensive menu to choose from.

Payment will be required prior to booking with the hostel; please pay direct to Tameside Ramblers. Contact Pete Summers or Jo Manning for bank account details. Bank transfers are preferable, but cheques will be accepted.

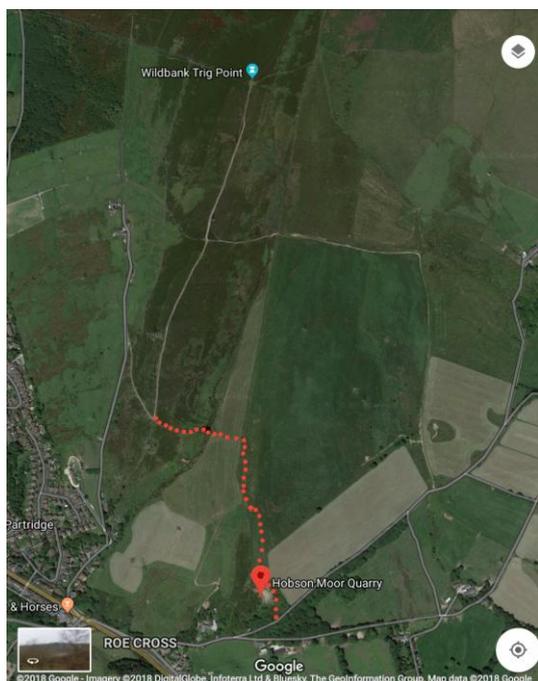
Members who have opted-in to receive emails have already been notified of the above information. If anyone else wishes to go, please contact Pete Summers (see Committee details at the end of this newsletter for contact details).

The Twice Brewed Inn also does accommodation. If you prefer this option, please contact the pub direct to book, but let Pete and Ruth know. www.twicebrewedin.co.uk Tel: 01434 344534

Footpath Success

It was back in January 2014 that Steve Slater, our group's Footpaths Officer, received reports that a well-used footpath crossing open access land at Gallows Clough, had been illegally blocked at each end. This had been done by the tenant farmer who intended to plough up the area and invoke a change in its status from open access land to agricultural land – a process allowed under the Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Tameside Council helped in negotiating with the land owners and the tenant farmer to allow continued access to the path, although the farmer still carried on with his process of changing the land into pasture for his cattle. Steve set about gathering evidence, from regular users of the path, that the path had been used by walkers and runners unhindered for many decades. The evidence was submitted to the then Stalybridge District Assembly of Councillors, where it was unanimously agreed that the path should be accorded Public Right of Way status. The disputed section of path formed a short section of a longer path that ran up the side of the disused quarry (now used for climbing) on Hobson Moor Road and which connected with the path ascending Wild Bank Hill, none of which was an official public footpath. TMBC submitted the whole length of that path for the long legal process for it to be granted PRow status, which was eventually granted. The path is now designated as STA126 and has been added to the Definitive Map (this is a map, maintained by each local authority, showing the true line of all PRows in its area). At the time of writing (late September 2019) the council have had new metal kissing gates installed along the path together with a handrail on the short section of dam crossing Gallows Clough (see photo). Public Footpath signs and waymarks are also to be added. Throughout this process, we had a lot of help from TMBC's Sustainable Travel Officer, whose responsibilities extend to cyclists and horse riders as well as ramblers. The newly-designated path is shown as a red dotted line on the illustration below.

It has to be said that the tenant farmer has made a good job of creating a meadow for his cattle out of a small area of moorland; it is just a pity that he went about it in such an aggressive manner initially. Now, thanks to Steve's dedicated work, we have a new Public Right of Way that can be enjoyed for generations to come.



GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulations came in to effect in May of this year. This requires that members of organisations such as Ramblers now have to positively 'opt-in' to give Ramblers permission to send emails to them. Members, for whom Ramblers head office had email addresses, were requested, although not very clearly, by email to give this permission. Most of our members have done so but many who previously used to receive emails have not yet opted-in.

For those of our members who have not yet opted-in, it means that Tameside Ramblers can no longer send them information by email, for example, the advance information about the Hadrian's Wall weekend. To have sent this information by post would have cost almost £100, taking into account printing, postage and envelope costs, not to mention time.

If you know of any member who has email but has not yet opted-in, please urge them to do so. It will help us give a better service to our members. Even if one member of a joint membership has opted-in and one hasn't, it causes us a lot of extra administrative work each month.

Greater Manchester Walking Festival 2018

It seems a very long time since May, when we participated in the Greater Manchester Walking Festival for the third time. Tameside Ramblers was not involved in the 2015 festival but for 2016, 2017 and 2018 we included all of our May walks. We only had six walks in the festival this year and the average number of walkers on the walks was down on the previous two years. Most striking was that there were only five non-members participating (although some of those came on more than one walk). This may have been down to the way the festival was advertised, i.e. instead of having all the walk details in a brochure as previous years, the 2018 brochure only gave minimal details of the walks with the full details being on the TfGM/walking website. Unfortunately, there was no indication on the pages showing the walks in the brochure that the full walks details were on the website. The website address was given but only towards the back of the brochure and even then it did not indicate that the walk details could be found there.

The results for Greater Manchester show a year on year increase in the number of groups involved, the number of walk and the number of participants but not the number of participants per walk.

In 2018, we did not attract any new members as a result of the festival and the number of participants declined. Preparing for the festival walks and the administration following is more complex than for our standard walks. A decision is yet to be made as to whether or not we participate in 2019's festival.

Tameside Ramblers	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of led walks delivered		8	9	6
Number of participants		157	152	80
Number new to the group (included above)		44	35	5
New members immediately following the festival		1	6	None
Average walkers per walk		19.6	16.9	13.3

Greater Manchester	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of groups involved	17	34	47	57
No. of led walks delivered	132	209	348	370
No. of participants	1290	2700	4764	5105
Average walkers per walk	9.8	12.9	13.7	13.8



The Committee
<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman Stewart Ramsden – 0771 444 5118 chairman@tamesideramblers.org.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Group & Membership Secretary Prue Ramsden – 0161 366 1740 secretary@tamesideramblers.org.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer Joanne Manning – 0776 194 940 treasurer@tamesideramblers.org.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Footpaths Officer Steve Slater – 01457 832 226 Footpath.officer@tamesideramblers.org.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Webmaster Alan James webmaster@tamesideramblers.org.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Social Secretaries Pete & Ruth Summers – 0161 339 0346 social@tamesideramblers.org.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Co-opted John Harrison Alan Lowe</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NB: The committee membership may have changed at the October 2018 AGM</p>

Our website is at www.tamesideramblers.org.uk



Join our Facebook group – search Tameside Ramblers on Facebook



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