
Tameside Ramblers - February 2022

**Welcome :**

Welcome to the first News Letter for 2022.

We start with a new style News Letter , new Ramblers logo and full of optimism for a great year of rambling and catch ups !

Thanks to all the contributors for their input.

Keep safe

Alan
“Editor”

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Group Chairman

What a hardy lot we are: the recent strong winds, heavy rain, snow and hail, have not put us off - we keep on walking. Fair-weather walkers we are not! Our walks programmes for April and May are now being compiled and they will continue with the very popular monthly Wednesday pub walks and the equally popular Thursday evening walks will be reappearing in April too. A lot of people will also be looking forward to the Howarth weekend away in April, so fingers crossed for good weather then.

Now that Covid restrictions have eased, many will be keen to book holidays either in the UK or abroad. Some, no doubt, will book with *Ramblers Walking Holidays* and if you do, please remember to nominate Tameside Ramblers for the *Walking Partnership*; that way our group receives a small donation from RWH for each person taking the holiday.

Our walk leaders do a great job, in identifying, checking and leading walks, but they are relatively few in number, so the same names keep appearing in the walks programmes. **We really need some more walk leaders**, even just to lead one or two walks a year. They don't need to be original walks; they can be from a guide book or even walks we have done previously. New walk leaders will be given all the help they need from existing leaders and from Ramblers online resources. So, if you would like to have a go, please get in touch with me.

Stewart Ramsden

Snake Pass

The A57 Snake Pass was closed on Monday 21 February 2022 following damage caused by torrential rain as Storm Eunice and then Storm Franklin battered the county.

Inspectors found movement in 3 locations along a mile-long section of the road and a decision was made to close the road between Glossop and Ladybower Reservoir to protect road users. Visitor facilities at Fairholmes are unaffected and can be accessed via Sheffield.



Two of the areas of slippage were already being monitored carefully following previous movement but a third, more serious slip, has now appeared along the road where the verge has dropped by 2 metres.

Teams will continually monitor the situation but as the ground is still moving they are unable to come up with any final designs to repair the road until it has stabilised, which will be dependent on many factors including the weather.

At this stage, a one-month closure is in place however it is too early to say when the road will be able to reopen following any necessary repairs due to the unstable nature of the ground.

Focus On : Membership & Group Secretary



All my full-time working life I was employed by the NHS, first as a Dental Nurse, training and working at Manchester Dental Hospital. My next post was as Senior Dental Nurse in the Oral Surgery Department at Tameside General Hospital, followed by two years in Salford Community Health.

Dental Health Education became my primary interest and eventually I was fortunate enough to be offered a health education post in Manchester, based in Moss Side Health Centre and working in the surrounding areas.

Being Secretary and Membership Secretary of Tameside Ramblers can have its 'challenging' moments, it also gives me the opportunity to be part of a friendly, supportive group of committee members

Most of you know me as the group and membership secretary and a fellow walker, however it was not always thus.

When Stewart and I first met we discussed our various interests and hobbies, mine included clubs, pubs, package holidays to sunny places and being with friends. Stewart's were walking in the hills and mountains, camping trips with a couple of pals, being in lonely places.

Fortunately, we both shared a love of music, listening, playing and performing, so we started from there.

Gradually I came to appreciate walking in the great outdoors, so much so that Stewart and I have enjoyed walking holidays in The Himalayas, Tanzania, Jordan, Zambia, the Austrian and Italian Alps and many more places. My 18-year-old self would never have believed it!

Stewart has enjoyed the odd package holiday too, and we both like pubs and the company of friends.

The requirements of Group Secretary are not particularly demanding, I take the minutes of our committee meetings or send out other information given to me by the committee members or walk leaders, I also deal with emails from advertisers, commercial establishments, other charities and general enquiries.

Being the Membership Secretary takes more of my time and is more involved; it requires me to keep abreast of everything concerning group membership, including keeping up to date with the Data Protection rules, sending welcome letters to new members, adding or removing members' contact details from our group as appropriate, to name but a few.

When I retired from work I did not retire from life, I was fortunate in that I already had Stewart, friends, family and a love of walking, gardening, reading, learning new skills; retiring from work gave me the opportunity to do the things I never had enough time for before; I'm rarely at a loss for something to do.

Prue.

Christmas Meal

The Xmas meal was held at the Sportsman Pub in Hyde on Sunday 12th December

The event was a Tapas meal (plus free glasses of wine or prosecco) attended by 23 members.

From the feedback we've had, everyone enjoyed the evening; a few people actually stayed in the pub following the meal to enjoy a few more drinks.

It was just great to enjoy ourselves in good company. Another positive is that no-one attending tested positive for covid!

Pete & Ruth



Kinder Trespass

Open Invitation to Ramblers – 90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Kinder Mass Trespass

Saturday 23 April in Hayfield, Derbyshire

Royal Hotel

- Stalls & Exhibitions from 1pm
- Rally @ 2.00pm – Speakers include: Stuart Maconie (President of the Ramblers), Kate Ashbrook (OSS, Ramblers), Yvonne Witter (Mosaic & PDNPA Member), National Trust and Local Campaign Group
- Launch of a new book ‘Forbidden Kinder’ – The 1932 Mass Trespass Re-visited’ by Keith Warrender
- Music by Brian Peters, ending with Manchester Rambler
- Stalls and displays in the Marquee at Royal Hotel. Details to follow.
- In the evening there will be an excellent rock band ‘Recover’ in The Royal Hotel.
- On Saturday 23 April & Sunday 24 April, walks organised by Ramblers groups Manchester Weekend Walkers, Manchester and District Walker with New Mills

Details will be on Manchester Weekend Walkers mwwalkers.org.uk and already on <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/find-a-walk-or-route.aspx?group=MR40&tab=walks>

MAD Walkers <https://www.madwalkers.org.uk/>

Area website www.manchester-ramblers.org.uk

Travel Options to Hayfield –

1. Trains from Manchester Piccadilly Station
 - to New Mills Central Station then a) 358 Bus & 61 Bus to Hayfield Bus Station OR b) easy 3 miles walk along Sett Valley Trail to Hayfield
 - to New Mills Newtown Station then a) 61 Bus to Hayfield Bus Station OR b) short walk to join the Sett Valley Trail for an easy 3 miles walk along the Trail to Hayfield

- to Glossop Station then 61 Bus to Hayfield Bus Station

2. Bus 358 from Stockport

3. Car Users - Limited Parking in Hayfield

Suggestions for a parking space at:

a) Hazel Grove Park & Ride (389 car park spaces) b) Bredbury Park & Ride (100 car park spaces)

then train from Hazel Grove Station and Bredbury Station to New Mills Central then a) 358 Bus & Bus 61 to Hayfield Bus Station OR b) 3 miles short walk along Sett Valley Trail to Hayfield

4. Guide Bridge Park & Ride (140 car park places) then train from Guide Bridge Station to Glossop Station then 61 Bus to Hayfield Bus Station

All train and bus times available on www.tfgm.com website.

Call to Members to help with staffing the Ramblers’ stall

We are looking for a number of volunteers to staff on rota the stall during the day from 1pm. We would welcome any amount of time you can give to help us on the day with the stall. If you are interested to join us on the day at the stall, please ring **Pauline on 0161 448 1821 (leave a message if no reply)** so we know how many volunteers to expect on the day.

But you can also drop in at the stall anytime on the day if you wish, we will be so happy to see you and most grateful for your help. You will still be able to hear the speakers from the stall in the marquee.

Winter Layering

The Base Layer: Moisture Management

As the name suggests, the base layer is worn next to the skin. Its main purpose is to regulate your body temperature by retaining heat and wicking away moisture.

Merino wool is highly effective across a range of temperatures and activities. It has insulating properties and excellent moisture wicking, as well as being anti-microbial, which means it needs to be washed far less often. This versatility makes merino base layers a reliable choice for most outdoor activities.

Synthetic base layers, such as those made from polyester and polypropylene, are ideal for high intensity activities like running, because they are quick-drying in hot and cold conditions.

The Mid-Layer: Insulation

Sometimes called the insulation layer, the mid-layer provides your warmth. Usually, your mid-layer is either a fleece or an insulated jacket. Like a base layer, a mid-layer should be breathable and able to retain heat.

Fleeces are available in different thicknesses and are quick-drying and breathable, offering warmth by retaining heat and removing moisture. Down insulated jackets are packable with an excellent warmth-to-weight ratio, whereas synthetic insulated jackets are able to retain heat even when wet.

It's best to avoid cotton mid-layers, as they will retain moisture which can lead

to you getting cold. The most important consideration is to choose the right level of warmth to suit your activity and weather conditions.

In milder conditions, you may not need anything on top of your mid layer, but when the weather closes in, an outer shell will be necessary.

The Outer layer : Weather Protection

Hard Shells

The classic outer layer that will defend against the most adverse of conditions is the waterproof hard shell. Features to look out for include taped seams and suitably weatherproof zips to ensure it will keep the rain out. Durable water repellent (DWR) coated hard shells can also work well as a light outer layer in warm conditions and for low intensity activity.

Soft Shells

Depending on weather conditions, the outer layer does not necessarily need to be fully waterproof. Soft shell jackets offer excellent comfort as they are stretchy and flexible, provide good wind resistance and are more breathable than waterproof hard shells. Soft shells can also work as an excellent mid layer in cooler weather conditions, with a waterproof hard shell on top

Insulated Jackets

In very cold conditions an insulated, synthetic or down jacket is highly effective as the outer layer, but it is important to have a waterproof outer layer to hand if there's any chance of rain or snow

Winter Layering (cont)

The Layering System is all about keeping you warm and dry in all types of weather. The environment (and your body temperature) changes throughout the day, so add or subtract layers as needed.

Base Layer



- Wicks sweat away from your body to keep you dry & warm
- Can be made of natural or synthetic material
- Fits snug to your skin



Mid Layer



- Insulation to retain body heat
- Fleece and puffy jackets are commonly used
- Ideally lightweight, quick drying and packable



Outer Layer



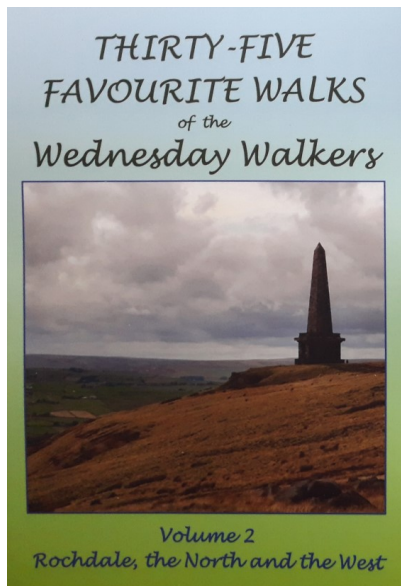
- Protects you from the elements
- Should be windproof, waterproof and durable



Walk Guides

As some of you will know that when I'm not walking with the Tameside Ramblers, I'm probably out with the Oldham Wednesday Walkers.

The WW was founded thirty five years ago and to celebrate this event it was decided to produce a book of thirty five walks.



There are five different walking groups and each was asked to nominate seven or so of their favourite walks. Before being submitted for inclusion each was 'road tested' by someone unfamiliar with the walk to ensure that the walk description was accurate.

The spiral bound guide is in two volumes each containing walks varying between 5 and 12 miles and within an hours drive of Oldham

If you would like to have a copy, the cost of which is £8, please let me know and I'll do the necessary.

Peter Raffle

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Group update

Ad-hoc updates ;

- We have 228 members
- Summertime Evening Walks. Eddie Clift has agreed to lead 4 evening walks between April and August. Remaining dates will need to be filled by other walk leaders.
- Wednesday pub walks will continue.
- Walks Programmes will continue to be compiled every two months and published monthly.
- Booking onto walks will continue

Proposed Spanish Trip

Around 2 years ago one of our members left the UK to start a new life in Spain.



We wish Lennie well and hope he is happy over there with Diane & Gareth.

The Social Team are looking at a “trip” to Spain to catch up with Lennie & participate in a few walks around Murcia.

In the autumn, we are hoping to arrange a walking week in the Murcia region of Spain in the company of Diane and Lennie, who moved there in the autumn of 2020.

Further details will be sent to members nearer the time; the trip will obviously be dependent on the situation with the pandemic.

It is hoped that the week will comprise of four walks with a local walking group organised by Diane, plus a couple of visits to local towns.

We will arrange the accommodation with Diane. There are regular flights from Manchester airport to Murcia. The numbers going will be limited to 15 people.

Pete and Ruth Summers

Social Update

Unfortunately, the event arranged for early January, at the Sheldon Arms in Ashton, had to be cancelled around Covid precautions.

An event which is still going ahead is on the weekend of 9th and 10th April 2022, where a number of us are going to Harworth. There are 2 walks on the Saturday and Sunday and an overnight stop in either the local youth hostel or a local hotel. After the Saturday walk, an evening meal has been booked in the Bronte hotel.

Hopefully, the annual BBQ will take place in summer 2022 after a 3 year absence.

Irrespective of whether the trip to Spain happens or not, there may also be a weekend away in the autumn. Ruth and I have suggested a Youth Hostel near Ironbridge for the weekend; however, there has been no decision made on where and when and any other suggestions would be welcome. An advantage of the Ironbridge hostel is that there are about half a dozen pubs offering accommodation within a mile or so of the hostel, if people prefer pub accommodation to youth hostels.

Please let us have your suggestions for other social events. I know a member has suggested a visit to a winery near Holmfirth which may prove popular.

Pete and Ruth Summers

Path Clearance

One of members raised a query on “path clearances” as organised by other Groups.

We used to have a “Paths Officer” but sadly this position is vacant and so we have no one to organise such clearances.

However, the proposal is being looked at and needs to consider;

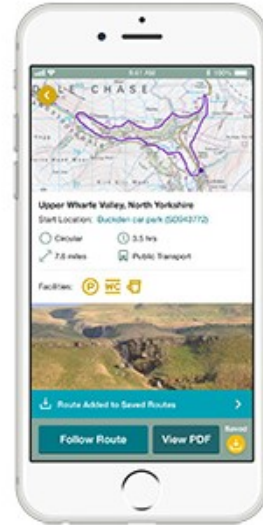
- 1/ who would organise such a clearance ?
- 2/ which path could we look to adopt ?
- 3/ after the clearance—who & how do we get the “rubbish” removed ?
- 4/ would Tameside MBC assist with collecting the “black bags” after the clearance ?
- 5/ Peak and Northern Footpaths Society will also be contacted to ask if they know of any paths in this area in need of improvement

We are looking to meet with TMBC to see if they would work with us on any of the above ?

Update to follow

Alan

The Ramblers App



With the Ramblers app which is exclusive for members, you'll be able to find the latest Ramblers group walks anywhere across Great Britain, explore 3,000 walking routes with friends and family and access exclusive member offers.

Features available in the app include:

- **3,000 walking routes** for members to explore with friends and family
- Great walking features including the latest gear reviews
- Access to your **latest member offers and news**
- Searchable library of **50,000 Ramblers group walks** across Great Britain.



Ramblers Updates

New Logo



The Ramblers have rebranded themselves and so we have new Logo's on our web site & news letters ;

New, plastic-free, membership cards

The Ramblers have recently switched from plastic to dry-peel compound material for our new membership cards, so you can recycle it as paper or compost it when you no longer need it.

It's a great step towards helping to reduce our impact on the environment, which we know is an important issue for so many of our members.

The new cards will begin arriving with membership renewals from next week. We hope you love your new greener membership cards.

Ramblers HQ

Freeze to membership fees



The Ramblers annual membership fee review takes place on 1 October each year.

The Ramblers board of trustees have decided to hold fees at 2019/20 rates for an additional year to the end of Sept 2022, to recognise the disruption to members caused by the pandemic, at a time when not all benefits could be accessed, especially our group walks.

They believe this is the right thing to do for our members, whose support and loyalty during the last year is hugely appreciated, and to help those members who may find themselves in financial difficulty.

Thank you again for your continued support. You are the driving force behind increasing access to green spaces and opening up more places to walk for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you.

Ramblers HQ

Future News Letters

Any thoughts or proposed contributions for the next news letter should be sent to Alan at ;

alan@c-i-t.co.uk



The Committee

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