
Tameside Ramblers - December 2021



Welcome

2021 is almost over but Covid-19 isn't over just yet and although our group walks are running mostly as normal, there are still some differences from how things used to be. We are only developing walk programmes two months at a time, rather than four months as we used to, just in case there are further restriction to come. We are also still asking people to book onto walks in advance for test and trace purposes – it is also useful for walk leaders to know who to expect on their walks.

The monthly short Thursday evening walks were very successful in the summer as are the current short pub walks on the last Wednesday of the month.

After a small decline, our membership is rising and is now the highest it has ever been.

And our social events are back too!

By the time you read this, we will have held our ninth Annual General Meeting and a short report of that is given later in this newsletter.

Let us hope that 2022 will be a better and safer year for us all.

Happy walking and keep safe :

Stewart Ramsden
Chairman

Merry Xmas
from your Committee



Wednesday Walk & Lunch (24th November)

The most recent walk was led by Eddie in fine weather around 4 miles of the Piethorne Valley.



“The Pub is that way ? !”



Focus On : **Stewart Ramsden, Group Chairman**



I live in Godley, Hyde, with Prue to whom I have been married for 32 years, and our cat Primrose. I have two daughters, Helen and Anne and four grandsons Samuel, James, Thomas and Daniel.

My introduction to hill walking was as a 12-year-old on a school holiday in Snowdonia during which I climbed my first mountain, Moel Siabod, followed by Snowdon itself. I didn't pursue walking after that until, as a 17-year-old in March 1965, I attended a four-week residential course at the Outward-Bound Mountain School at Eskdale Green, in the Lake District. After that, I was hooked.

Since then, I have been fortunate enough to have been hill and mountain walking in many wonderful and exciting places: Corsica, several ranges of the Alps in Austria, Italy, France, Germany and Switzerland, the Alpujarra in Spain, the Andorran and Spanish Pyrenees, trekking in the Himalayas and the High Atlas Mountains, walking in sub-Saharan Africa (Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia), Jordan, Arctic Norway and Central America, as well as our beautiful UK, of course. Prue has accompanied me on many of these trips, but not the ones that involved carrying a single change of

clothes on a two-week high-level mountain trek and overnighting in mountain huts!

My working life was spent mostly in the NHS and most of that was as Head of Procurement for the Tameside hospitals and community services. One of my specialist interests was contract law and I delivered many training sessions on that subject to NHS procurement staff throughout the north west region.

I later became Head of Procurement for a group of NHS Trusts in the north of Greater Manchester and finished my career as Financial Systems Project Manager at Bolton NHS Trust before retiring in 2008. Retirement is the best job I ever had!

In late 2010 I was surprised to be invited to be presented to HM Queen Elizabeth II at a reception at Windsor Castle, which was being held "for those involved in Rural Communities". I had been nominated to represent Ramblers by the then Chief Executive, in recognition of my efforts in the 'Get Walking, Keep Walking' project in Manchester over the previous three years.

Steve Slater, our former Footpaths Officer, and I had been approached in 2012 by Salle Dare who was then Chair of the Greater Manchester & High Peak Area of Ramblers, to assist with the proposal to form a Tameside group, Tameside being the only borough in Greater Manchester without a Ramblers group. Tameside Ramblers was formed early in 2013 and I was honoured to be elected as the first chairman of our group. The rest is history.

Tameside Ramblers AGM 2021

This year's AGM was held on the 20th November at the Fairfield Moravian Settlement – with thanks to Glyn and Kath Jones for facilitating the arrangements. The AGM was preceded by a short walk from Portland Basin to the Settlement with 17 walkers taking part – many thanks to Pete Summers for organising and leading the walk. In addition, a very interesting presentation and short tour of the settlement which was given by Janet Warr, who lives at the Settlement. We were also given access to the Settlement's Museum which contained some fascinating artefacts and information.



A total of 24 members attended the meeting and there were six apologies. The meeting followed the usual agenda, including reports from officers with questions from the floor and a vote to accept the Financial Statement.

All of the existing committee members agreed to stand for another year; there were no other applicants for any of the committee positions and the committee was re-elected unanimously. The post of Footpaths Officer remains vacant. Pamela Johnson was also unanimously approved to continue her role as Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

A few items were raised under Any Other Business:

It was requested that members of our WhatsApp group be reminded not to use the facility for booking onto walks or social events, rather to do that directly with the walk leaders/event organiser and also

to refrain from carrying out personal conversations as the continual notification sound can be annoying to others.

It was suggested that we occasionally have an additional category of walk for those members who still wish to participate in challenging walks but at a slower pace and with perhaps more frequent stops. These could be described as B grade walks at a C grade pace. These to be held just a few times a year. The Committee to discuss and Walk Leaders to be consulted.

The format and frequency of the newsletter was debated as it was apparent that there were not many downloads from the website. The general consensus was that the newsletter should continue but perhaps to be shorter.

A date for the 2022 AGM is yet to be decided but is likely to again be in November and any suggestions for a venue will be most welcome.



Christmas Meal



We have booked the Sportsman Tapas for Sunday 12th December at 6pm for up to 30 people.

Those attending will need to choose their meal in advance.

The Sportsman
57 Mottram Rd, Hyde,
SK14 2NN

Please let Pete or Ruth know if you want to partake on 0775 2765 039 or 0751 0512 502.

Ramblers Updates

Going Green



Our new, plastic-free, membership cards

In our ongoing effort to be more sustainable, we've 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

Coming Soon in 2022 - New Logo



Wednesday Walk & Lunch (29th September)

Thanks to Eddie for leading 18 of us on a 4 mile walk starting and ending at the Dane Bank pub (Denton). Great to see members out walk for the first time in a while. This was nicely followed up by food and drinks sat outside in the sun.

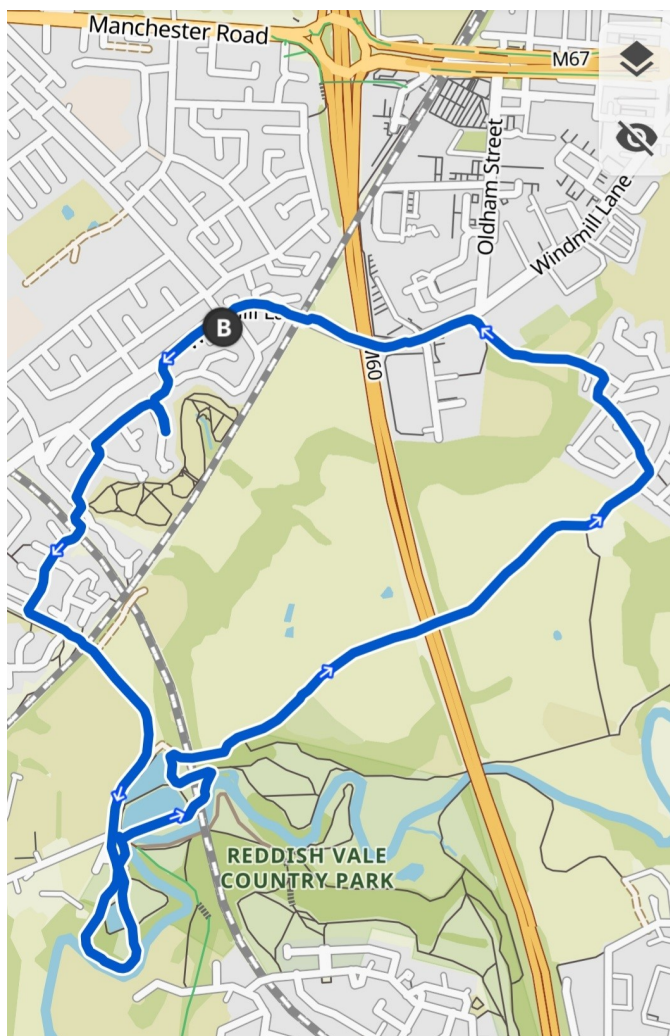


Maisie:
Our youngest walker ?



Wednesday Walk & Lunch (28th October)

Thanks to Peter for leading us a walk with Lunch at the Lowes Arms / Denton.



Area Walks



Your membership of the Ramblers entitles you to walk with any Group in the country.

So on days that we may not walk, you may wish to check out the Area walks program on our web site for other options.

NOTE : In an emergency ..

CONTACTING THE EMERGENCY SERVICES VIA MOBILE PHONE

With a phone signal –

Ring 999 or 112 and ask for Police/Mountain Rescue. Your phone will pick up any available network.

With a reduced phone signal

Try using Emergency SMS to text an emergency message to 999 or 112. To use this service you must register your phone in advance at www.emergencysms.org.uk

Castlefield Viaduct

The NT are in the early stages of a project to bring this Grade II listed viaduct back into use, transforming it into a green oasis created by and for the benefit of local people

This 330m long viaduct sits in the oldest part of the city – Castlefield. It's an area steeped in rich history. Castlefield is the site of Manchester's Roman origins, the world's first passenger railway, and was the terminus for the Bridgewater Canal, the world's first industrial canal.

The vision is to transform Castlefield viaduct



into a free-to-access park and meeting place for people and nature. Imagine a hidden oasis sitting above this busy city. It will be a space that respects the listed structure, celebrates the nature, beauty and history of the viaduct, and fits in with existing plans for the city.

As well as bringing people closer to nature in the city, it will be a stepping stone to other South Manchester green spaces and attractions on foot or bike.

The viaduct will take its place in this vibrant area for cultural and heritage, sitting alongside iconic Manchester venues including the Science and Industry Museum and The Factory.

Funding & planning permission requests are pending.

What are QR Codes ?

You may have seen “square” bar codes appearing everywhere and wondered what they are ?

A QR (or Quick Response) code is a type of barcode that can be read easily by a digital device and which stores information as a series of pixels in a square-shaped grid.

QR codes are frequently used to track information about products in a supply chain and – because many smart phones have built-in QR readers – they are often used in marketing and advertising campaigns.

More recently, they have played a key role in helping to trace coronavirus exposure and slow the spread of the virus.

The first QR code system was invented in 1994 by the Japanese company Denso Wave, a Toyota subsidiary. They needed a more accurate way to track vehicles and parts during the manufacturing process.

Standard barcodes can only be read in one direction – top to bottom. That means they can only store a small amount of information, usually in an alphanumeric format. But a QR code is read in two directions – top to bottom and right to left. This allows it to house significantly more data.

The data stored in a QR code can include website URLs, phone numbers, or up to 4,000 characters of text.

If we take the name of our web site ;
www.tamesideramblers.org.uk
and convert it to a QR code you get :-



It is a lot quicker to scan the code using the camera on your smart phone to reach the web site rather than typing it in.

We have included a number of QR codes in this newsletter for you to check out. Just point your smart phone camera at the QR code !

So when you check your Covid Passport or PLF (Passenger Locator Form) you know what the funny squares are !!

Social Side

Given the ever changing situation around CV-19 it is difficult to plan group meetings, but we are making plans for 2022.

January 2022:

Social night that was scheduled at the Sheldon Arms in Ashton on 13th January has been cancelled around Covid concerns

April 2022:

On 9th April 2022, we are having a weekend away at Haworth with 2 walks arranged on the Saturday and Sunday (details nearer the time). We have 33 people booked, with 12 in the Youth Hostel and others in local hotels.

There are at least five hotels in Haworth—the Bronte, Leeming Wells, the Fleece, Old White Lion and Old Silent Inn. Prices range from £70 to £105 for doubles, including breakfast. There are often single rooms available.

Walkers are invited even if they do not wish to stay over. See April Walks Programme.

Please let Pete or Ruth know if you want to partake on 0775 2765 039 or 0751 0512 502.

Pete Summers

Social Secretary

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.



WhatsApp Group



Recognising that not everyone is on Facebook and embracing new social media developments, we started our own WhatsApp group,.

We thank Eddie for his driving effort in setting this up.

It has become a valuable and well liked communication tool for welcoming new members and advertising upcoming walks.

If you are a member and wish adding to the group, then please contact Eddie on **0779 1745 541**

Note :

It is available to Members only, and purely for Rambling related topics..

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

Chairman : Stewart Ramsden

Email : chairman@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Group & Membership Secretary : Prue Ramsden

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Treasurer : Jo Manning

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Walks Coordinator : Christine Harrison

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Committee Member : John Harrison

Social Secretaries : Ruth & Pete Summers

Email : social@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Web Master & IT Support : Alan P James

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