
Tameside Ramblers - July 2022

**Welcome back:**

Cannot believe we are almost at the end of July. I think this picture sums up where we are now—back out walking with friends having a great time. Long may it continue ..



Thanks to all the contributors for their input.

Alan

“Editor”

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Group Chairman

Phew, what a scorcher!

We have recently enjoyed some very warm and sunny weather, ideal for walking, although the 18th and 19th July were far too hot and I am glad that we did not have any walks scheduled then. I don't think that Prue and I will have been alone in staying indoors, trying to keep cool, for most of those two days.

It seems that Covid is still with us; in fact infections continue to rise although reports suggest that the symptoms are not as severe as they were with the Delta variant. Recently, it was estimated that just 15% of the UK population had never had Covid and that the majority of new infections (55%) were from that group. Prue and I succumbed to Covid for the first time in early July, causing us to cancel a walking holiday in the Lake District and we are only now starting to feel normal again although our energy levels are still not back to what they were.

Our August walks programme is now out and the September programme is almost finalised and as usual, there are some great walks on them. Being the holiday season, numbers on the walks just now are a little depleted and I expect that this will continue for the next couple of months. Our membership is now at an all-time high with 233 members, although there is some doubt about two new members, as their home address appears to be Kent! We shall see.

I am very grateful to Alan, our Editor, for all his hard work in putting the newsletter together and of course to the contributors.

It is packed with interesting and informative articles and I hope you enjoy reading them. I also hope to see you on a walk before too long.

Stewart Ramsden

Sponsored walk

In May, I did a sponsored 15 mile walk in London to raise money for the Royal Marsden hospital which suc-



cessfully treated my daughter Rachel when it was discovered she had throat cancer.

Thank you to fellow ramblers who sponsored me; I managed to raise about £300 and the total raised by all walkers was over £2million.

Photo shows me at the finish with my son in law Matt and his friend James.

Cheers
Pete

Focus On : Pete Summers—Social Secretary



I was born in 1952 in Glossop, although, apart from my first 3 months, I have lived in Lancashire.

I lived in Audenshaw in my early years, attending Aldwyn Primary and Audenshaw Grammar. At Aldwyn, I managed to play football for the school in a very successful team managed by the legendary Alan Millea. When I moved up to Audenshaw Grammar, football was not an option, so I took to cross country running. I was obviously hooked as, 50+ years later, I'm still running regularly.

From 1961, I started watching Manchester United in their great years, including attending Wembley for the 1968 European Cup Final. a great night. On finishing at Audenshaw in 1970, after gaining 7 O levels and 1 year doing A levels, I moved up to Preston as my Mother and Stepfather had moved there. This proved a turning point as I managed to gain good enough A levels to go to Newcastle University in 1972. Also, it started my love affair with Preston North End.

Newcastle was a great place to do my degree and explore the City, pubs and countryside. On graduation in 1975, I applied for a job as a

Trainee Accountant with Tameside MBC, encouraged by my Grandmother. I managed to be appointed. and became a qualified Accountant in 1980. I spent the rest of my working life at Tameside.

In 1977, I joined the Tameside Badminton Club where I met and started courting a certain Ruth Shenton, who at the time worked in the Salaries and Wages section at Tameside. It didn't take me long to realise that I should spend the rest of my life with her and we married in 1980. We went on to have 2 wonderful children, Rachel and Robert, and in January 2022, Robert's wife Lucy gave birth to our first Grandson, Arthur George, who is an absolute delight.

Both Ruth and I retired from Tameside in 2010. After a few months, we decided we needed something extra in our lives. Having always been interested in walking, we joined Ramblers in 2012 and were assigned to Tameside Ramblers on their creation in 2013.

I soon realised that this was a very friendly group to walk and socialise with and, in 2014, I started to get more involved by leading some walks, mainly local ones at first, but then branching out to other areas. mainly in the Cheshire countryside. Ruth and I became more involved when Ann Cookson retired as Social Secretary in about 2016 and we took over from her. The role of Social Secretary involves arranging meals out, weekends away. BBQs, etc. Hopefully, we have been able to offer other members a mix of events for their enjoyment.

As long as my knees don't give in, I hope to have many more years walking with the group. I have been to places I would never have been to if I hadn't joined. Also, Ruth and I have enjoyed walks with other Ramblers' groups, including a couple of great walks in Northumberland.

Regarding the Social Secretary role, I get great pleasure seeing people enjoy themselves at the events arranged. Long may this continue.

Annual BBQ

For the first time in three years due to the pandemic, the annual BBQ took place at Pete and Ruth's on 25th June.

This was attended by 14 members who enjoyed an evening of food, drinks and good chat.

We were fortunate that the evening started in fine sunshine, but this did not last long.

By the time we were enjoying the BBQ food, the heavens opened and we had a fantastic light show for about 40 minutes.

We had erected a gazebo and we just about squeezed all 14 of us under it as we tried to keep dry. We survived the rain and the rest of the evening we were able to relax and enjoy the occasion

Pete & Ruth

PS : Happy Birthday Cathryn



8 Top Tips for Solo Walking Solo

- **Your first solo hike**

Maybe you're feeling nervous about your first solo hike? Pick a location that is familiar to you and plan a short route to build your confidence hiking solo gradually. The more you solo hike, the more your confidence will build.

Alternatively, if you're not familiar with the area, choose a popular location, it means there will be plenty of people around so if you need help you can simply ask.

- **Tell someone your plans**

Before you set off on your solo adventure, tell a friend or family member your plans including the start point, route and approximate finish time.

If you've plotted the map on an app then send them a link to the route.

Agree to contact them when you're back from your hike and also a time for them to call for help if you've not returned, for any reason.

- **Check your kit**

On a solo hike you're entirely responsible for your own gear on the hike. Make sure you have plenty of water, food, waterproofs and a first aid kit.

It's not like when you hike in friends and you can ask to borrow something or eat their food! Be prepared with all your kit.

- **Don't take unnecessary risks**

This also applies when hiking with other people, but even more so on your own.

Trust your own judgement, if the route looks too tricky, there's a possibility you might get lost or the weather is getting worse then there's no shame in turning back or picking a different route.

- **Have a means of communication**

A phone is the obvious choice for most people, but make sure you have it charged. A phone is only useful if you can use it. In colder weather,

your phone battery will drain quickly so a power bank is a handy thing to carry on a longer hike.

Alternatively, if you do a lot of solo hiking in remote areas then a GPS satellite communicator would be a good purchase. Maybe a great gift for a loved one who goes off exploring!

- **Take a map and compass**

Although many people use online apps for navigation it's important to carry a map and compass too.

As well as knowing how to navigate using a map and compass, if you're hiking solo, it can help get you out of plenty of tricky situations!

Book yourself on a Ramblers navigation course if you want to improve your skills.

- **Emergency kit**

As well as the essentials, if you're solo hiking it's important to have the right kit if you end up in a tricky situation, even a twisted ankle could be risky if you're in the hills and unprepared.

Extra warm layers are essential in an emergency, to help keep your body warm, whilst you wait for help. And a whistle is a small but handy piece of kit to draw attention without losing your voice!

Another brilliant item is a survival shelter, you can buy them in different sizes, also handy on group walks.

Or for solo trips invest in a small 2-person shelter, it's amazing how much warmer you are when you're in them. Also, handy to have your lunch in on a rainy day!

- **How to get photos!**

And lastly, a fun tip on how to get photos when solo hiking! Get yourself a little tripod, perfect to capture moments on your solo adventure.

Foot Path Update

Repairs on the Tameside Way below Harsthead Pike after serving a Highways Act Notice on Tameside Council that the route was 'out of repair' and then using their formal complaints procedure when no action was taken.

Overall it has taken nearly three years since this was first reported.

The work was carried out using a contractor and Oldham and Rochdale are doing similar things so there must be more money available this year for rights of way!

There is an update of the current situation with footpath problems reported by Wednesday Walkers on their website.

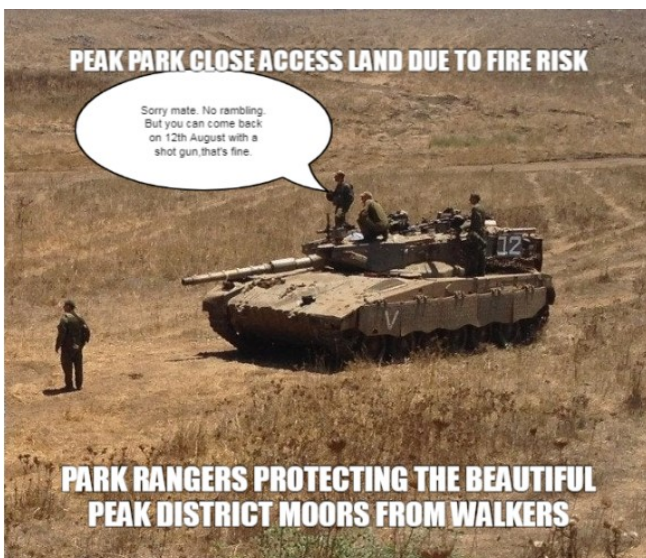
If you are passing any of these locations and either the problem exists or it has been solved, please let them know.

Thanks to Kevin Lawton

Wednesday Walkers Footpath Secretary



Funny !!



Haworth Weekend Away

On the weekend of 9th and 10th April, 35 members had an enjoyable weekend in Haworth. A number of people stayed at the Youth Hostel whilst others did B&B.

The walk on the 9th was led by Stewart, starting from Howarth and taking in part of the Pennine Way and Top Withens.

Pam led the Sunday walk from Ox-enholme with some superb views.



On the Saturday, we dined at the Bronte Hotel. However, due to a funeral the previous day, the pub had been drunk dry of decent beer and, much to the annoyance of many, beer choices were very limited.

Still, I think most of us enjoyed the evening, although some were perhaps more sober than usual!

Trip to Holmfirth Winery

I was asked by Pete and Ruth, our Social Secretaries, to organise a trip to the Holmfirth Vineyard as I live a cock's stride away in Holmfirth.

I decided to make a full day of it and set about planning a short walk, approximately four miles, so that this could be completed before the tour of the Vineyard and Afternoon Tea.

When I contacted the Vineyard I was told they had no Saturday slots available until November and the Vineyard should really be enjoyed in the Summer. It is a busy wedding venue for a large part of the year.

I was able to book a private tour for twenty people and the option was for each person attending to take part on the walk and enjoy afternoon tea afterwards. It sold out very quickly!!!! Wine, glorious wine!

The weather forecast was fair, but at the start low clouds were ominously hanging around. However, despite a little rain, with our waterproof jackets being put on and then taken off again etc. etc. the weather was kind and walk was enjoyed by everyone. It is always very pleasing for me to show everyone how beautiful the Holme Valley and surrounding area is.

On arriving back at the Vineyard, we were expertly told of the history by our guide, whose name I cannot remember sadly, and we learned all about how the Vineyard came about and how they have recently acquired land in Robin Hood's Bay totalling 160 acres to develop a further Vineyard under the Shelving name. The Holmfirth Vineyard is approximately seven acres and produces 7,000 bottles of wine on average. During the tour we were invited to taste each wine produced; white, rose and red. Some more than others!

Only certain vines can grow in the UK and are called 'hybrid vines. The grapes are picked, crushed, bottled, and labelled on the Vineyard premises, thankfully by machines now but we were told

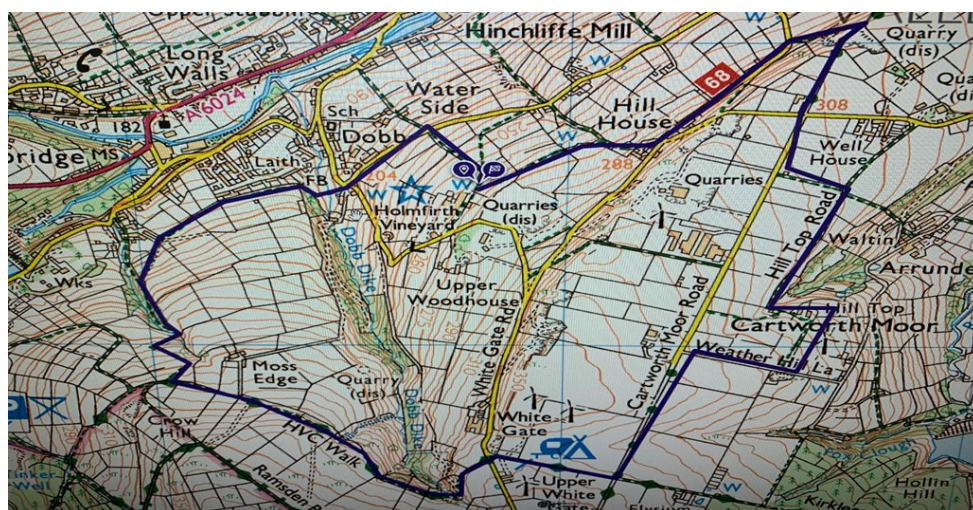
these tasks were completed by hand in the beginning. Not the grape crushing, thankfully!

After the tour, we were led into the main room used for functions and treated to a delicious afternoon tea, as you can see from the photos. The service was excellent and refills of tea and coffee were provided.

We were able to purchase bottles of the wine from the bar at the end of our visit. Only right, of course.

I would like to everyone for joining me for the day and from the comments I received it was thoroughly enjoyed!

Cathryn



Planned Spanish Trip

In October, seven members are flying out to Spain for a week's walking with Diane and Lennie, former members of Tameside Ramblers.

I'm sure we all remember them both; they emigrated to Spain with Gary two years ago and it was always anticipated that we'd visit them as soon as we could.

With travel opening up after the pandemic, we were able to arrange the trip.

Diane has arranged the walks, travel and accommodation and those going are really looking forward to meeting up with them again.



Pete and Ruth Summers

Social Update

Since the last newsletter, there have been two social events - the weekend in Harworth and the BBQ.

There are separate articles about these two events elsewhere in the newsletter.

Looking forward to Christmas, the Committee is hoping to arrange a couple of social events. Members will be informed of these when they have been confirmed.

Looking further ahead, we are hoping to arrange a weekend away in April 2023.

Currently, we are looking into three possible areas: Northumberland, Lakes or North Wales.

If anyone has any suggestions, please let Pete and Ruth know.

As in previous weekends away, there will be the opportunity of staying in a Youth Hostel or B&B, whichever is preferred.

Pete and Ruth Summers

Maps

Maps for Ramblers

In past issues of the newsletter, there have been articles about various apps that we can use to help us navigate on walks, such as What3Words or the OS Maps app.

Whilst there is no denying that these are very useful tools, they can have drawbacks: for example, the 'phone might run out of battery charge (tip: carry a power bank to be safe), or the screen can be difficult to see in strong sunlight.

Handheld GPS units are also excellent, have a much longer battery life than a 'phone but often have a smaller screen; they also cost several hundred pounds.

Most experienced navigators, whilst perhaps also using technology to navigate, would use a printed map as a primary navigation tool. A printed map allows you to see a much wider area than via a small screen and doesn't rely on batteries.

In addition, understanding and learning to read a printed map makes it easier to use digital app mapping.

Which printed map is best?

The most popular map for walkers is the **Ordnance Survey (OS) Explorer** map series, which comes in a scale of 1:25,000. The scale is more easily understood as 1cm on the map represents 250 metres on the ground, or 2.5 inches on the map equals 1 mile on the ground.

Keeping the metric scale in mind is more useful as the maps are divided into squares of 1 kilometre. We won't go into how to read or understand maps here, that can be for another time, this article is about which maps to choose.

The **OS Explorer 1:25,000** maps are the most popular choice for walkers, as they contain a lot of information, such as public rights of way being distinguishable from permissive paths and other footpaths and are so detailed that you can identify individual walls, hedges and buildings and even groups of rocks or large boulders, so that you can determine your precise location visually.

The Peak District is covered by two maps (the Dark Peak and the White Peak) and the Lake District is covered by four maps. The maps are printed on fairly strong paper but waterproof versions are also available.

On a walk, they are best carried in a waterproof map case, which makes them easier to handle. They also come with a QR code so that each map can be downloaded to a mobile device.



There is also the **OS Landranger 1:50,000** series. These are at half the scale of the Explorer series, i.e., 1cm on the map represents 500 metres on the ground or 1.25 inches represents 1 mile. These are closer in scale to the original and much loved 1-inch to 1-mile maps (1:63,360 scale) that many of us used to find our way over the hills.

The Landranger maps contain much less detail but cover a bigger area. However, it still takes three maps to cover the whole of the Peak District, for example, as each map also includes surrounding areas.

Subscribers to **OS Maps Online** are able to print off a section of the map, at any scale and with a variety of detail options, rather than carry a full map.

Harvey is another manufacturer of maps and is preferred by some. Harvey Maps tend to cover specific walking areas such as sections of the Peak District but also popular long-distance routes. They are produced as **Superwalker maps** at 1:25,000 scale, **Trail Maps** for long distance routes such as the National Trails and **Ultramap XT40** 1:40,000 scales.

Harvey maps are less detailed than OS maps but many regard this as an advantage. For example, OS maps show parish and local authority boundaries as broken lines, which can be easily mistaken for footpaths – rather confusing when the boundary line goes through the middle of a reservoir.

All Harvey maps are waterproof and they are lighter and more compact than OS maps. In particular, the **Ultramap XT40** series will fit into a shirt pocket but are perhaps best suited to experienced navigators.

Another series of maps is the **A-Z Adventure** series. These are similar in concept to the familiar A-Z street maps but use OS mapping at 1:25,000 scale. They are produced in book form and contain all the OS map symbols and have an index of places and features at the back. So, if you want to find Kinder Low, the index gives the square in which it is located (2C), the page number (40) and the Grid Reference (SK078 870).



They are interesting and great for planning a route at home but they are flimsy and not at all waterproof, so not advised for taking on a walk.

In summary, the best map overall for walkers is the **OS Explorer 1:25,000** series but it is very much a personal choice.

Stewart

The Committee

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