



Tameside Ramblers—December 2020



**Merry Christmas
from the Committee**



Chair Talk

As 2020 comes to an end, we have come out of a full lockdown and entered Tier 3 and this means that we have been able to resume our group walks.

Whilst Ramblers group walks can legally have up to 30 people on them, we have decided on setting a maximum of 12 including the walk leader, although individual walk leaders can decide to have fewer if they wish. This level is in common with many other groups in the country. Walks are currently scheduled for Saturdays and Wednesdays up to the middle of December and for the whole of January.

It is necessary to book a place to join a walk and we will continue to publish the walk and walk leader contact details one week ahead at 6.00pm by email to all members for whom we have addresses and also on our private Facebook and WhatsApp forums. The details will also appear on our public website.

Annual General Meeting

Just like everything else this year, our 2020 AGM was completely different from any we had held before. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that the AGM had to be held online. Ramblers suggested using Zoom to do this, but after considering options it was decided to circulate the necessary documents by email and hold an online ballot for the essential business. In order to make this more manageable, members were first asked to commit to participating in the online AGM and those who did so were sent the documents and invited to vote online.

It mostly went well and despite a couple of minor hiccups, we had responses from all but one of the intended participants, owing to a technical problem at their end. There was no competition for any of the committee positions or for the Independent Examiner of the Accounts and all were voted in for another year. The 2019 minutes, 2020 Annual Report and 2019/2020 Annual Statement of Accounts were all approved.

Thanks to everyone who participated and I really do hope that we can hold a traditional AGM in 2021.

The online ballot had provision to make comments / ask questions and the following two questions were asked:

Question 1. Why are there no A-grade walks organised?

Question 2. Should any paths problems be reported to members, PNFS and Ramblers?

Our responses are;

Q1 : A-Grade Walks: See Page 5.

Q2 : Reporting footpaths problems: There was an excellent article about this in the September issue of *The Tameside Rambler* but in case anyone missed it, and for new members, the information is repeated on Page 6.

**Finally; The Committee
wishes all our members
a Happy Christmas
and New Year.**



“A Place in the Sun”

By Diane Woolnough

Hola mi amigos

Our dream to retire and live in Spain started in 2006 when we visited a sleepy Spanish town called Corvera. Gareth and I stood on top of a hill, looking down on the vast landscape below us, where there was plans to transform the area in to a Golf and Country Club. Standing there, we were surrounded by the Carrascoy Mountains which generate warm thermal winds making the hot sun bearable, we immediately fell in love and knew one day this was where we were going to retire

Fourteen years later and thanks to the Coronavirus, we had lots of time to reflect on our life in the UK and consider options, to realise our dream of retiring and living in Spain. We did a lot of soul searching and rationalising for 3 months and in the end decided to sell our UK home, leave our jobs and move to Spain permanently. Following a quick sale of our home, we packed the car and left the UK on 23rd

September..... I am happy to say two months later there have been no regrets.

Corvera is in the region of Murcia which is located in the southeast of Spain on the Mediterranean coast.



The capital city is called Murcia (20 mins from Corvera). There is also a second beautiful Roman City in the Region called Cartagena (30 mins from Corvera).

The Region of Murcia has a fantastic Mediterranean climate with mild winters and warm summers.

Murcia has the greatest natural lake called the Mar Menor (Small Sea). It's a salt water lagoon, adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea. Its special ecological and natural characteristics make the Mar Menor a unique natural place and the largest saltwater lake in Europe. It is separated from the Mediterranean Sea by a sand strip 22km in length and between 100 and 1200 m wide. It is known as La Manga del Mar Menor (The sleeve of the Little Sea), where people live. There are numerous beaches along the Mar Menor as well as mud baths at Lo Pagan, where people cover themselves in the mud and then allow it to dry in the sun before washing it off. The mud is said to help with rheumatism, arthritis, gout and rehabilitation after bone fracture.



We've had our own Coronavirus restrictions to conform to, namely no movement outside of our municipality, luckily, we have some beautiful places to explore in our municipality like **el valle y carrascoy**, **Santuario Ntra. Sra. de la Fuensanta** and **Castillo de la Asomada**. These walks are all close to the City of Murcia, so once you have climbed high enough, you get some magnificent views across the City.

The walking routes are designed for encouraging people to get out and exercise and are easy to follow. The rocks are marked with the relevant walk colours at regular intervals, so even the most inexperienced walker can't possibly get lost! The trails are through Pine forests, the smell is amazing and remind me of Christmas. The difficult bit is walking wearing a face mask, which is mandatory in Spain for now .



More local to Corvera is an 8KM walk, which was developed around the perimeter of our urbanisation, so I have no excuses not to walk daily.... Unless it is too hot of course!



I'm looking forward to exploring further a field once this is possible. I've connected with a walking group called **WARM** (Walkers around the region of Murcia). Pre-Covid, they have had group walks a couple of times a week, some with a starting point of a couple of hours away, which shows the size the Murcia region.



These walks once they resume will truly allow me to explore the Spanish terrain much like I was fortunate to do with Tameside Ramblers

The map below, shows the four National Parks in Green which I am looking forward to exploring soon.



I am hoping that in 2021, once I have explored and mastered a sufficient number of walking routes (and the pandemic has calmed down so it is safe to travel), that maybe some of you would like to come to Murcia for a walking holiday / social event, much like we did in China.... Food for thought!

I'm loving seeing the walks you are posting on Face book. Walking in the beautiful British countryside with likeminded people is the one thing I do miss, although not when it's cold and wet.

Take care all. Stay safe and keep in touch

Diane

diane.wool@gmail.com



Grade 'A' Walks

The lack of grade A walks was raised at the AGM and so reviewed here.

The definition of Grade A walks varies across the country and between organisations.

We define it for our walkers as;

A Strenuous, usually 14 to 17 miles. For experienced country walkers with an above average fitness level.

A+ similar to **A** but may be hillier, harder or slightly longer.

The Walk Coordinators always aim to put together a walk programme which best suits the range of walks in our Group. A-grade walks have not proved to be popular in the past, so walk leaders have not been submitting them for our walks programmes.

We will ascertain the level of interest amongst members and walk leaders and if appropriate we can include some A-grade walks during the summer months when the days are longer. They might possibly be included as an option to a lower-grade walk on the same day

Christine and Lynda are more than happy to include Grade A walks on the programme and look forward to our walkers sending their contributions for inclusion so that we can meet their needs.

Email your thoughts to ;

walks@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Footpaths Problems ?

Most of us will have been exploring and walking our local paths during the lockdown period, possibly discovering new paths or finally walking those we had known about but never got around to walking on them. Some of you will undoubtedly have come across problems, perhaps a broken stile, a missing waymark or a path blocked by undergrowth or even blocked deliberately by a landowner.

One of our members came across ten such problems within a very small area close to his home. These problems were all reported to the Sustainable Travel Officer (sometimes called the Rights of Way Officer) at Tameside Council who responded that they would all be recorded and inspected. They were also reported to Ramblers via their Pathwatch system and to the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society (PNFS).

PNFS were very quick in fixing one of the reported problems which was a fingerpost that had all four of its Public Footpath fingers missing; PNFS affixed waymarks to the post as a temporary measure.

Ways to report footpath problems:

The simplest and best way to report footpath problems is online, either to Ramblers via their Pathwatch scheme or to PNFS. Both organisations will report to problem to the relevant local authority and in the case of PNFS they will send one of their volunteer inspectors to look at the problem.

1/ From your smart phone



First, download the free phone app 'OS Locate' (it works on Android and iPhones) and install it on your phone. OS Locate can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Then, when you find a problem: Take a photo of the problem

- Open OS Locate to identify your location.

- Click on Share my location
- Click on mail and send to **pathcheckers@pnfs.org.uk**.

- Your name (and phone number if you wish
- photo of the problem
- short description
- Send the email

PNFS will acknowledge receipt of your email and investigate the issue. Then they will inform the Highway Authority so that they can take action.

2/ By email

When you find the problem out in the countryside, if possible, take a photo and note your location preferably as grid reference. When you get home send an email from your PC or laptop to **pathcheckers@pnfs.org.uk**. providing the following:

- brief description of the issue
- attach your photo
- the location of the problem as a grid reference
- your name and contact phone number (if you wish)

If you have any problems reporting, then please contact Alan or Stewart for advice



Stewart's Celebrated Hot Mulled Wine



Ingredients:

- One bottle of red wine (my preference is an Australian Merlot).
- Two tablespoons of granulated white sugar.
- One sachet of mulled wine spices (e.g. Schwartz or supermarket own brand – search in the spices section - Sainsbury's definitely have them).
- One cinnamon stick, a few cloves and small pieces of nutmeg.

Method:

- Pour the wine into a saucepan and heat **gently**.
- Add the sugar and stir well to dissolve.
- Add the sachet of mulled wine spices, the cinnamon stick, cloves and nutmeg.
- Bring **almost** to the boil, remove from the heat and leave to stand for 10 minutes.
- Strain into a clean saucepan. Re-heat to serve, but **do not boil**.

And whilst you are enjoying your Christmas drink, here are four groan-worthy Christmas Cracker jokes from Prue.....



Q. What do you call Santa's little helpers?

A. Subordinate Clauses.

Q. What says "Oh, oh, oh"?

A. Santa walking backwards.

Q. What goes "Ho, ho, woosh, Ho, ho, woosh"?

A. Santa going through a revolving door.

Q. What goes "Ho, Ho" thump?

A. Santa laughing his head off.



Trig Points

My trig bagging notes—Karen Wang

A lockdown can do all sorts of things to one's mind. As soon as we were allowed to do more than one hour of exercise, I set myself a target of 10 trigs to bag by end of August. I got my *50 walks in the Peak District* book out and picked the nearest walk named Avoiding the Black Stuff, a route from Old Glossop to Higher Shelf Stones (S2627). Looking back, how brave (reckless) I was and my son and I went without a map or other aid but full of enthusiasm out of ignorance.

At one point I debated whether to call Stewart or the Mountain Rescue team as there was not a soul around and the night was descending. Wainwright once wrote those who got on it were glad to get off it. That is exactly how I felt then.

Once you started, nothing can stop you from setting new targets. The advice and support I have received from fellow members are just endless. With Lynda's instruction, I managed to locate the trig on Hough hill (S2801) which is on a private land and the farmer let me stayed on for a while. Harry and I started a race of 3 trigs walks in the summer and I have one 4 trigs walk up my sleeve for next year. Look out for it!

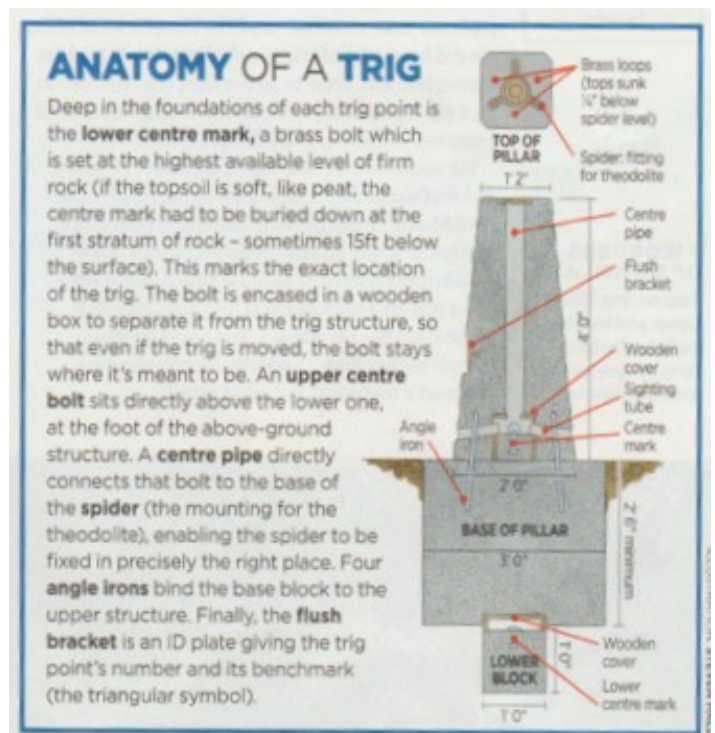


Trig point bagged by Alan on Saddleworth Moor

Top trig trivia (off the Internet)

1. The survey control network of trig pillars was accurate to 20 metres over the entire length of Great Britain. Today the receivers that make up the OS Net network are coordinated to an accuracy of just 3 mm over the same area.
2. 6,500 trig pillars were built for the retriangulation of which around 5,500 are still standing. In total the retriangulation had in excess of 30,000 coordinated points. The modern OS Net network performs the same function with just 110 points.
3. Measuring angles by eye from a trig pillar meant the retriangulation was reliant on good weather – perhaps part of the reason it took until 1962 to complete! Modern GNSS surveying works in all weathers and is available 24 hours a day.
4. Trig pillars are mostly made of cast concrete but a few are built from local stone cemented together.
5. Like an iceberg, there is more of trig pillar below the surface than above it.

Anatomy of a Trig Point



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Stewart

Chairman



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

Please send ideas for future news letter to the Editor (aka Alan)

Xmas Wishes



A number of members have had health issues during the year, we hope they all made / make a speedy recovery ready to start walking again in 2021 !



The Committee

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Footpath Officer : Vacant
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Committee Member : Alan Lowe
Committee Member : John Harrison

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