

Tameside Ramblers - February 2021

Chair Talk

We are now over a month into the third lockdown in England, with no clear end date in site. The Prime Minister is due to make an announcement on 22nd February about the possible easing of some restrictions but I feel that it will be many more weeks before our group walks can resume.

Personally, despite all the frustrations of lockdown, I am in no hurry to see restrictions eased to any great degree. In the meantime, we can continue to walk locally, either on our own, with our household / bubble or with one other person.

There have been some wonderful programmes on television recently related to walking and the outdoors; there may be others but the following are highly recommended:

Winterwatch as always, had lots of images of wildlife, some of which we may be lucky enough to see on our walks.

Winter Walks was a series of 30 minute programmes filmed in 2020 in Yorkshire and Cumbria.

The Life of a Mountain – A Year on Helvellyn, an outstanding 90 minutes of beautiful photography and inspirational narrative and interviews.

The Life of a Mountain – A Year on Scafell Pike which was a repeat of a programme first shown six years ago, by the same film maker as the Helvellyn programme.

The Life of a Mountain – A Year on Blencathra the original sequel to A year on Scafell Pike.

The Great Mountain Sheep Gather, a film showing how sheep on Scafell Pike are gathered down to the farm for shearing. A repeat from April 2020 and well-worth watching.

A Perfect Planet, whilst not directly related to the other programmes, this series of five one-hour films gave a fascinating insight to the world we live in.

If you didn't see them, or would like to see them again, all the above programmes are available on *BBC iPlayer* for about a year, with the exception of the *Sheep Gather* which is only available until the end of February.

Cornwall and Devon Walks with Julia Bradbury, the title says it all and the series is currently available on the *ITV Hub*.

Hadrian's Wall with Robson Green, a light-hearted yet informative three-part series, currently streaming on *My5*.

The continued roll-out of the vaccination programme gives us all hope for the future, when hopefully we will be able to walk these wonderful areas again but in the meantime, stay local, stay safe.

Stewart Ramsden, Chairman



Walking near Canals & Rivers in Winter

How to stay safe on the canal & River:

- Plan your route – think about where you want to go and how long you want to be out for
- Take a friend – it is safer to walk with others
- Slow down – the colder it gets, the greater the likelihood of icy and slippery surfaces underfoot. It's easier to stay safe, spot potential hazards and avoid accidents near water when you reduce your speed
- Tell someone where you are going – in case you are out for much longer than you say, you can be found more easily
- Stay away from the edge - especially when trying to practice social distancing. Although you may be able to see the edge of the towpath even in the snow, it may be slippery
- Check the weather – look at the forecast and see what's coming your way
- Wear the right clothing – waterproofs, sturdy footwear, warm layers can all help your body cope with the wintry conditions
- Take your phone (or even a whistle) – if you get into trouble, or see somebody else in trouble, you can call or whistle for help
- Teach children not to go on the ice – it's important for children not to go on the ice under any circumstances
- Try to keep to well-lit areas - time your walks to make the most of the daylight; if you need to walk in the evening only use well-lit areas or take a route away from water
- Keep dogs on their leads – keep dogs on their leads when near ice and don't throw sticks or toys onto the ice

What to do if you see someone in the water :

Don't get into the water, instead:

- Call the emergency services on 999 as soon possible

- Keep an eye on the person
- Keep talking to them, and stay near them
- If you can, throw line to them or use a tree branch to reach out to them
- Even strong swimmers may face difficulties in icy water

You may feel you can help by getting into the water too, but remember that the water is freezing:

- All year round the shock of the cold water can really take your breath away and cause your muscles to cramp, making it very difficult for you to stay afloat.
- There may be objects hidden under the water that could cause you harm.
- The water may be deeper than you think. Canals don't normally have sloping sides and there are only ladders at locks so it's not easy to get out – especially wearing heavy, wet clothes and helping someone else.
- Staying on the surface is much harder when you are trying to help someone else, they may panic and push you under.
- Boaters might not be able to see you in or under the water and won't know to stop – if a boat hits you it can cause serious harm to you and the other person .

What to do if your dog gets into the water :

Please keep your dog on a short lead along the towpaths so they don't run off and risk jumping into the water. If your dog does go into the water, don't jump in after it, instead:

- Encourage your dog to swim over to you where you can lift them out more safely
- If they are unable to do this, try to reach them with a line or long branch

For more advice on keeping safe by the water this winter see the RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society UK) website.

“A Place in the Sun”

By Lenny



Hola mi amigos as us dogs say in Spain.....

Its been a while, but since I last saw you guys I have to say it's been traumatic!!

Come to Spain they said, You'll love it they said. Do I love it? Do I hell

First of all they emptied my house of all the things I loved, then all of a sudden we went in the car for what I thought was a nice country walk. Four hours later we were in a town that stank of fish and had giant white birds flapping around everywhere.

Just when I thought that nightmare was over, I found myself in a tiny room with mummy and daddy and the floor was moving all over the place..... Mummy often told me of nights she had experienced like that, but in her case she was sick at the end of it and couldn't take me out for a walk for two days... Lazy person !

The only time I was let out was to go to the toilet on what daddy called the “shit deck” which in my opinion was a fairly accurate description.

After 24 hours of this hell we were finally back in the car. Surely we were going for a walk now? No chance! Hour after hour stuck in the car with a space about the size of a Vietnamese prison cell. I feared the worst..... Dog trafficking! I could no longer do anything to earn my keep. No more sleeping on the bed, getting fed amazing human food and generally getting away with just looking cute. Hard labour was in my future! I couldn't sleep the whole way, but I could see no escape.

Finally 8 hours later we stopped. What was my fate to be. What horrors would I be facing. I got out the car. It was dark and quiet, but believe me it was hot! If I had any bollocks, I would have been sweating them off!!! I was led up some stairs and into my slavery quarters.....

Well I've been here a few months now and this slavery lark is not as bad as I thought it would be. I still get to sleep on Mummy and daddies bed. It's always nice and warm. Food is a bit shit and I always hang around mummy at dinner time in case something better comes along.

Everything is the same, but a bit different here.



I still get to go on lots of walks in many new places, but I no longer get piss wet through every time we go out.

My garden has nowhere to shit. Where's the grass gone? I have to go out on a lead and dump on the gravel now. Mummies friend, Teresa has grass on her terrace, so I often save it for when I go there. Everybody gets quite excited and start to run about when I drop a load there, so I must be doing the right thing...

One bad thing is I can't sit on the window sill and do my security checks any more. I would normally bark at cats, see off strangers passing by and generally make sure the place is safe.

I can still hear those smarmy feline pussies out there, but I can't see them. It drives me mental....

All in all though, things are not so bad after all. I can sit in the sun, paddle in the sea and run on the beach.

My new vet seems nice. Can't understand a word he says, but he's not stuck anything up my back passage yet, so can't be all bad.

Maybe one day I can see you guys again and we can go on some more walks where you give me loads of your lunch to make up for the crappy food I get here.

Hasta Luego Ramblers

Lenny

**Download my report as
an hilarious video at;**

www.tamesideramblers.org.uk/lenny.mpg

On the link, download the file and then double click it and play with your speakers turned 'on' if you want to hear me !

PS : Apologies for the swearing in the video !

Thousands raised for injured Patterdale Mountain Rescue volunteer



A FUND-RAISER set up to support a mountain rescue volunteer who was seriously injured in a fall has raised almost £19,000 in a single week.

The team member, who has not been named suffered "life changing" injuries after falling 150m down steep ground during a rescue operation on Saturday.

The team were called out to an individual with chest pains, who was camping on Red Screes, above the Kirkstone Pass.

The experienced volunteer, a man in his 60s, suffered injuries to his face and spine and was airlifted to hospital by a HM Coastguard helicopter.

Two men who were camping, from Liverpool and Leicester, were fined for breaking lockdown restrictions.

Following the incident, the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association reiterated pleas for people to stay at home.

A Tameside Ramble : 1

Title : Godley / Werneth low Circular

Distance : 5 ½ miles

Grade : C

Starting Point : Station Road, Godley

From Station Road, walk down Almond Way, turn left into Firethorn and follow to the end. Go thru the “A gate” and pick up the Trans Pennine Trail. Turn right towards Hyde.

At the end of the trail, climb onto Apethorn lane then head up hill until you reach Audi, Gee Cross.

Cross the main road (towards the Grapes), take the second on the right into Bowlacre. At the last house on the left (Ricky Hatton’s home) , take the path to the left, down the side of the house (see below).



Follow the path uphill, keep looking for the next gate.



When you meet a track running left to right - go straight over at the sign post and head up between two Farm buildings.

Continue up the concrete track to the next road at the top. Turn left and head for the Hare & Hounds Pub and a good view over Greater Manchester.



Continue past the Pub, until you reach the Red Telephone box. Follow the road to the car park entrance, cross over the road and take the footpath facing the car park entrance.



Keep on this path heading towards the Cenotaph.

Before the Cenotaph is a junction of paths & bridle ways. Go thru the gate and turn immediately right on the pathway down hill looking for “Kerry Foods” in the distance.



This path leads downhill thru the trees , down some steps, thru a small gap next to the gate along side the cottages and onto the main road.

Cross the main road, bear left to Green Lane. Follow Green lane down hill until you reach the house with a “To Godley”

sign (as circled in yellow on next Photo).



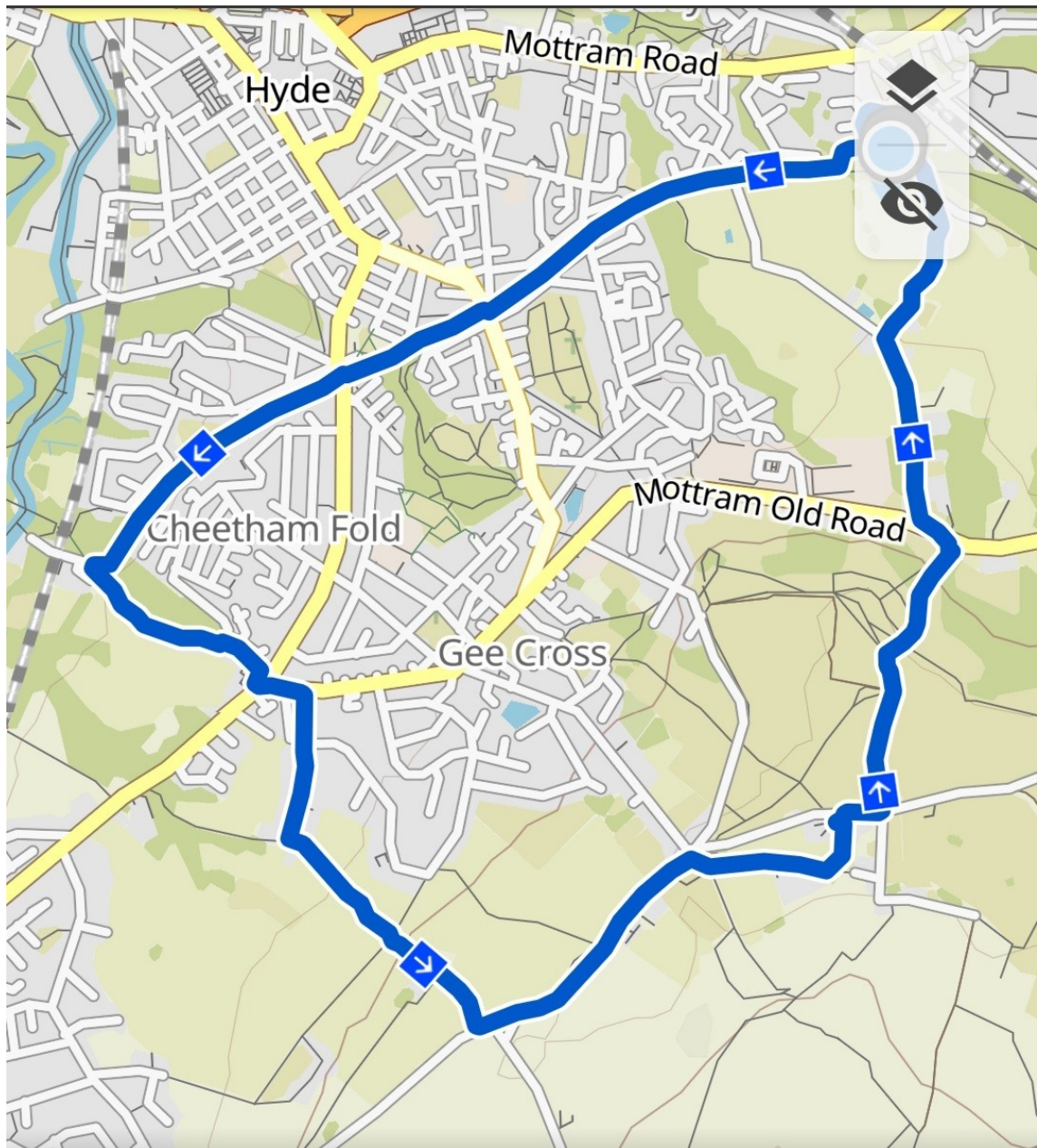
Turn right and head towards Alberts farm , go past the gates and pick up the path in the left hand corner through the fields.

Follow the track down hill until you reach a gate. Pass thru the gate and turn left onto the track passing under the railway bridge.

Very shortly Station Road will come back into view.

Alan P James

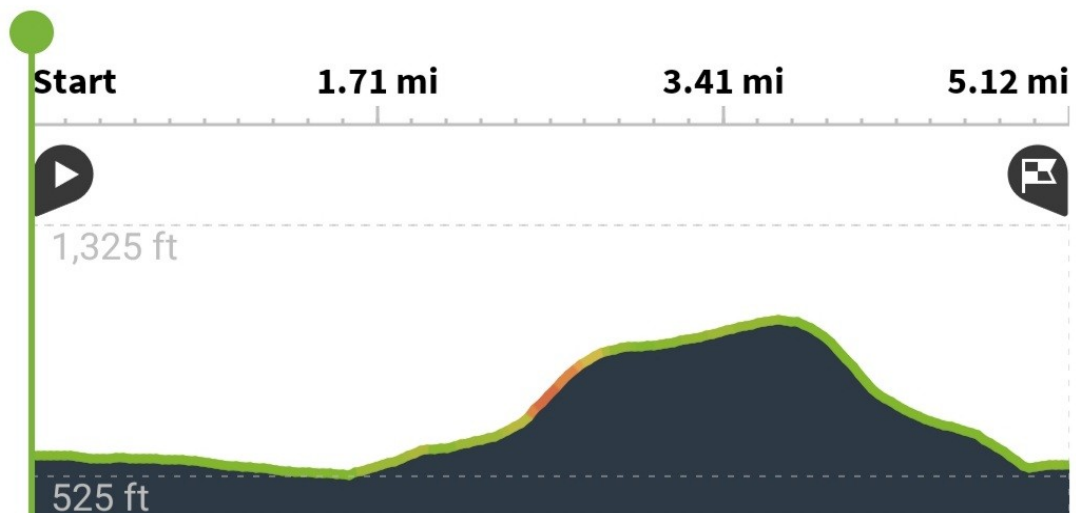
PS : When circumstances change, check out the Godley Hall Inn on the far side of the railway line.



Elevation Profile



↔ 5.12 mi ⌚ 2 h 23 ↗ 550 ft ↘ 575 ft



Belated Christmas Quiz

Answers are either True / False or Multiple Choice. (See last page for answers)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Frostie the Snowman has a carrot for a nose |
| 2 | LadBaby had two consecutive Xmas Number Ones in 2017 and 2018 |
| 3 | White Christmas (with Bing Brosby) is the highest-grossing Xmas movie of all time |
| 4 | Elvis Presley had which colour Xmas A) White, B) Red, C) Blue |
| 5 | In Holland, gifts are given on 5th December |
| 6 | Which of these scientists was born on Xmas day A) Charles Darwin, B) Isaac Newton, C) Tycho Brahe |
| 7 | Boxing Day is so called from an 18th century traditional boxing match between Oxford and Cambridge |
| 8 | In Hungary, the traditional Xmas meal contains a spicy fish soup |
| 9 | Rudolph the red-nosed Reindeer is a Scandinavian invention |
| 10 | The Christmas Star was actually Halley's Comet |
| 11 | Which of these movie stars died on Xmas day A) Charlie Chaplin, B) James Cagney, C) Rock Hudson |
| 12 | In which decade did Coca-Cola start using Santa in their ads A) 1930s, B) 1940s, C) 1950s |
| 13 | Jesus was born in A) Nazareth, B) Jerusalem, C) Bethlehem |
| 14 | Boxing Day is the feast of Saint Stephen |
| 15 | Ebenezer Scrooge was engaged to be married to A) Alice, B) Emily, C) Fan |
| 16 | Norway is the world's largest exporter of Xmas trees |
| 17 | In 2000, the UK Xmas Number One was Bob the Builder with "Can We Fix It" |
| 18 | You can tell a turkey's emotions by the colour of its head |
| 19 | Which was the UK best seller at Xmas 2007 A) Xbox 360, B) Nintendo Wii, C) High School Musical Dance Mat |
| 20 | Which of these has been voted the best part of the traditional Xmas lunch A) Turkey, B) Roast Potatoes, C) Gravy |

Dovestones Avalanches

The winter of 1963 was particularly severe. The intense and prolonged cold meant much hardship for many people. On the other hand, it was good weather for ice-climbing and the Wilderness gullies in the Chew Valley were suitably plastered in snow and ice.

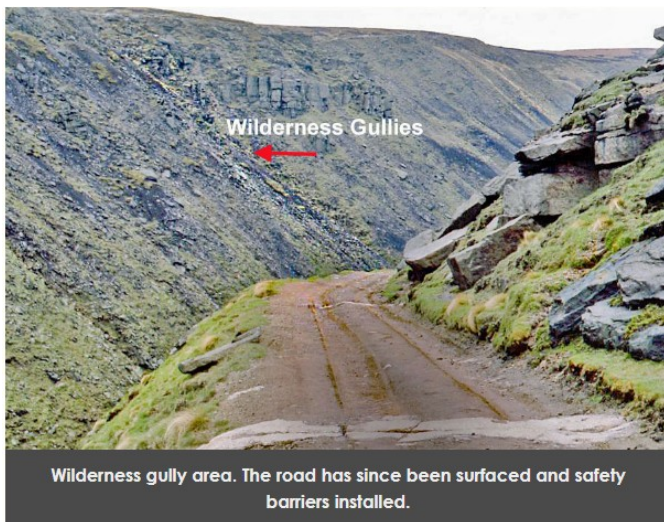
It was such a time on Sunday 23rd January 1963 that four climbers, all members of the Manchester Gritstone Climbing Club, decided to attempt the 200 feet Wilderness gully east (which is considered a more rewarding gully climb than the west gully).

The climb was led by Graham West (29), a highly experienced local climber together with his friend Michael Roberts (27), and they were accompanied by two young climbers, Allan Wheeler (16) and John Smith (19).

tons of snow and ice. John Smith managed to find Allan Wheeler and pulled him out of the frozen debris. Sadly, despite immense efforts, they could not locate Graham West and Michael Roberts.

They went to the nearby Chew House, a remote Water Board dwelling occupied by a reservoir keeper. The police were called and further efforts were made to find the two men but without success and the search was called off late in the night.

The following day, searches resumed with members of the Royton ATC Mountain Rescue Team, the RAF and an Army unit from Preston. The bodies of Graham West and Michael Roberts were found later in the day and taken down to Greenfield.



According to Allan Wheeler, the two lead climbers were about 60' above the two younger climbers when there was a loud 'crack' and the shout of 'AVALANCHE'. Three of the climbers, West, Roberts, and Wheeler were knocked off the climb and fell from the face of the gully together with

In 1964, another terrible event occurred on the wild Bleaklow moor when three young scouts died on an annual scout walk, the FOUR INNS, during blizzard conditions.

Following the Four Inns disaster and together with the above avalanche tragedy, authorities realised that, despite there being many worthy voluntary rescue teams, better organisational improvements were required.

These two incidents, and after many others previously, stimulated the authorities to form an organised mountain rescue system in the Peak District.

Moorland

The moorlands are wonderful places for walking and much of the moorland in the UK is open access land. The heather on our moorlands in August and September is glorious and although its scent is subtle, in certain conditions particularly in warm calm weather, it can fill the air.

There are many types of heather and certain heathers are favoured by bee-keepers for giving floral notes to their honeys. There is more heather moorland in the UK and Ireland than anywhere else in the world and it is believed that it represents 75% of the entire heather in the world.



The moorlands are one of our most important habitats, which in addition to heather have a plant called sphagnum which has an amazing ability to capture carbon which is then stored in the peat below it. When growing healthily, this plant takes as much carbon out of the atmosphere as all the forests in the UK and France combined.

Sometimes we come across expanses of exposed, black soil on the moors. This is bare peat, and without a protective layer of plants covering the surface, peat is vulnerable to erosion. As it erodes, peat releases carbon back into the atmosphere, blown away in the wind and washed downstream into waterways, turning the streams brown.

Peat is formed from decayed sphagnum moss, but the sphagnum continues growing from its tip to further cover the peat and protect it. Sphagnum moss, of which there are many types, holds up to 20 times its weight in water, hence the boggy conditions that we encounter on our walks. There has been, and continues to be, a lot of conservation work on the moors to restore heathers and sphagnum which have been eroded by 200 years of industrial pollution and wildfires. Black Hill used to be a muddy quagmire but is now carpeted in heather and sphagnum moss. In 2011 a five-year project was started on the Kinder plateau, as part of the wider Moors for the Future project, which saw the construction of new fences designed to keep out the sheep to protect new plantings of sphagnum and heathers, and other conservation work.



'Planting sphagnum moss in the Peak District'

There are areas of moorland all over the UK and some of the best are within easy reach of Greater Manchester. Although a little distant for a day trip, the North York Moors is one of the biggest continuous expanses of moorland in England and the Northumberland National Park is almost 70% moorland. Closer to home is the Forest of Bowland and Marsden Moor is very easily accessible.

Enjoy them but protect them.

RIP Captain Sir Tom



“For Captain Sir Tom”

Stand at ease soldier,
Rest your weary soul,
You've served your country,
You've walked your last patrol.
Stand at ease soldier,
Rest your generous heart,
You brought inspiration to many
lives,
You certainly played your part.
Stand at ease soldier,
Rest and ease your mind,
You've served with honour and pride,
You've protected mankind.
Stand at ease soldier,
Rest your senses, go with a smile,
You've shown you were a warrior,
You walked that extra mile.
Stand at ease soldier,
Rest in Peace, as we remember you,
You've done all you can,
You've been there to see us through.
Stand at ease Captain Tom,
You're no longer part of this charade,
We'll salute you and say farewell, Sir,
On this, your last parade.

Words by Kay Roberts

Rambling in Lock Down ?



Ode to the Spell Checker

Eye have a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight 4 it 2 say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!

Mobile Phone App's

Smart Phones allow you to load lots of useful programs and many have been produced for Walkers.

Please bare in mind that touch screen and phones may not work when wet, and battery life is much reduced in cold weather.

A map may be old school but is still the best aid !!

Thank you to Computeractive for their kind permission to reproduce these articles.

Footpath Route Planner

Free* (for five saved routes. From £1.42 per month for unlimited)

iOS www.snipca.com/37087

Android www.snipca.com/37084

Tap the pen and draw a rough route on the on-screen map, and Footpath Route Planner



will snap your line to real footpaths and roads on the underlying map. It's extremely quick, and much easier than manually plotting your route on paper or an onscreen street plan. You can save five routes in the free edition.

OpenWeather

Free

iOS www.snipca.com/37087

Android www.snipca.com/37088

This weather app takes a scientific approach to presenting upcoming conditions, with hourly forecasts for the next two days and minute-by-minute



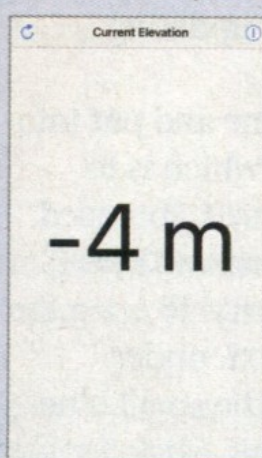
temperature and rainfall updates for the next hour. It's packed with information, presented using smart, flat graphics, and includes official warnings, like snow and ice alerts.

Altimetry

Free

iOS www.snipca.com/37086

Use your phone's built-in pressure sensor to get more accurate elevation readings. If you're a keen walker or cyclist, this app could give you a real sense of achievement when you see how far you've



climbed. Tap 'View Raw Data' and you'll see information relating to atmosphere (barometric) pressure, such as humidity and temperature, helping you make better choices about when to go for a walk.

Mobile Phone App's cont.

MapMyWalk

Free*

iOS www.snipca.com/36779

Android www.snipca.com/36780

If you're bored of your regular walks, this app could help. We found dozens of new circular and point-to-point walks in our local area (up to 40km in length). You can track your progress on screen while the app measures your pace rate, bookmark your favourites and create challenges if you need a target to work towards.

Best For Finding new walking routes



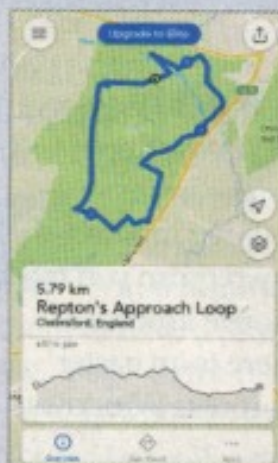
Footpath Route Planner

Free*

iOS www.snipca.com/36777

Trace a route with your finger and it will snap to roads and trails on this app's map. You can create routes for a variety of activities aside from walking, including running, cycling and even canoeing. You can follow the route on screen, but by upgrading (between £1.99 and £21.49) you can also export it or have turn-by-turn directions.

Best For Planning unfamiliar routes



Walkmeter

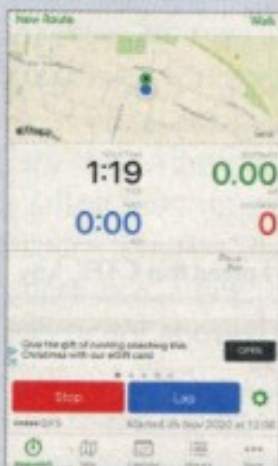
Free*

iOS www.snipca.com/36782

Android www.snipca.com/36783

Track your walk, calories burned, distance covered and more, and use voice control (for an £8.99 upgrade) so you don't need to keep looking at your phone while you're exercising. You can also use it for a range of sports, including hiking, skiing and kayaking, and analyse your performance using stats, graphs and time records.

Best For Analysing your walks



Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

The Peak & Northern Footpaths Society has been active for well over 100 years, promoting the interests of public footpath users in the North Midlands and North West of England. They **monitor**, **protect**, and **improve** the footpath network for the benefit of all.



Monitor: Their team of over 100 volunteer footpath inspectors regularly walk footpaths checking for problems and reporting them to the responsible local authority. They also monitor proposals affecting rights of way. Local authorities in the region are required by law to inform us about all such proposals.

Protect: They work with local authorities (who are often short of resources) to get footpath problems resolved as soon as possible. They investigate planning proposals and respond to them to ensure that the interests of walkers are properly taken into account.

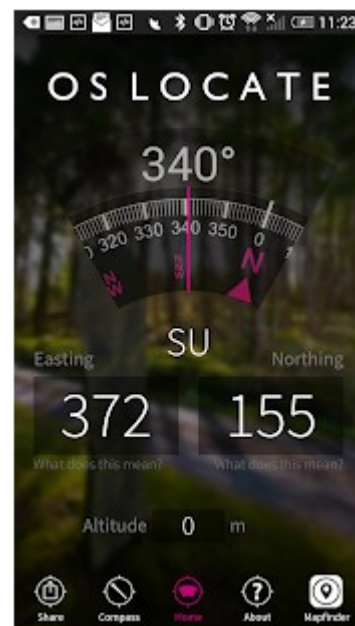
Improve: They erect signposts and bridges to help walkers. There are hundreds of our signposts and dozens of our bridges in the region, and more are being added all the time.

To report a problem;

1/ take a photo



2/ record your position using a map or App such as OS Locate / What 3 Words



3/ email it to ;

inspection@pnfs.org.uk

Muddy Foot Paths

Whilst it is good that so many people have discovered walking during lockdown it is concerning that an increase in footfall has placed a strain on many footpaths, this combined with wet winter conditions has badly eroded the footpath network, caused drainage problems and rendered many paths almost impassable.



Quoting The Ramblers , "We are lobbying at Area and national level and it would strengthen our case if we had a number of examples of very badly eroded paths and routes."

If you have come across any of these problems on your local walks could you please let Stewart, know where they are (grid reference would be useful) and send photos to :

Stewart.ramsden@gmail.com

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)

Quiz Answers

1 - False	8 - T	15 - C
2 - False	9 - T	16 - T
3 - False	10 - False	17 - T
4 - C	11 - C	18 - T
5 - T	12 - B	19 - B
6 - B	13 - C	20 - C
7 - False	14 - T	

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