
Tameside Ramblers - Issue 23 - September 2020

Chair Talk

Uncertainties, disruptions and frustrations continue for us all, as the Covid-19 pandemic remains with us. Our March to June walks programme had to be halted in mid-March but group walks re-commenced in early July as the national lockdown eased.

Ramblers advised all groups against publishing long-term walks programmes because of possible changes to government advice and the advent of local lockdowns.

In the light of this, our walks programme planning is dynamic, putting together walks just a few weeks ahead and publishing them one week in advance of the walk dates. This is achieved by scheduling the walks details onto the group's Facebook page and as an email message to all members (those that have given us permission to email them) to be published at 6.00pm each Saturday and Wednesday for the following Saturday and Wednesday and also posted onto our website.

Numbers on the walks are currently limited to just six, including the walk leader, and a place must be booked in advance. Many other Ramblers groups are operating a similar system whilst a few are still not doing any group walks at all.

In order to increase the walking opportunities for our members, we are endeavoring to put on TWO walks each Saturday and Wednesday although this does put a strain on our walk leaders who are now, on average, leading twice as many walks as they would normally do. Again, in order to increase walking opportunities, repeating walks is encouraged, particularly for example if a Saturday walk can be repeated on a Wednesday.

Some walk leaders are also inviting members to join them on walk recces, again limited to six people in total, managed to book onto walks and have been warmly welcomed in the traditional Tameside Ramblers fashion

Walk leaders also have to undertake a more rigorous Risk Assessment, to take account of risks associated with Covid-19, and have to keep contact details of those on walks for 21 days in case track and trace is necessary.

Our walks coordinators are in continual planning mode, responding to emails and phone calls, our group secretary is busy updating members weekly and welcoming new members and our webmaster is occupied in continually updating Facebook and the website with new walks and posting when walks become fully booked.

Membership: perhaps understandably we have lost some members during the lockdown period. Since 1st March, two members have resigned and twelve have let their memberships lapse. However, we have gained nineteen new members and one affiliate member so, on balance, our membership is growing. A few of the new members have managed to book onto walks and have been warmly welcomed in the traditional Tameside Ramblers fashion.

We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our approach where we can safely do so. Please bear with us and thank you for your patience.

Stewart Ramsden
Chairman

'Ramblers 75th Anniversary Walk Revisited'

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The Kinder Mass Trespass took place on 24th April 1932 and three years later, on 1st January 1935, the Ramblers Association was formed. In order to celebrate Ramblers 75th Anniversary in 2010, each Ramblers group was requested to hold a special celebratory walk.

At that time, I was a member of Manchester & Salford Ramblers (Tameside Ramblers did not then exist) and also a volunteer with *Get Walking Keep Walking*, which was a Ramblers project in Manchester designed to encourage residents of inner-city Manchester to walk in their local green spaces.

M&S Ramblers and GWKW decided to jointly host a joint celebratory walk and asked me to plan the route and to lead it. Others would plan the event as a whole including booking onto the walk and transport and it was to be held on Saturday 24th April (Kinder Mass Trespass Day).

My brief was: to plan and lead a walk of about 10 miles, to include the Mass Trespass route from Hayfield to William Clough and onto Kinder.

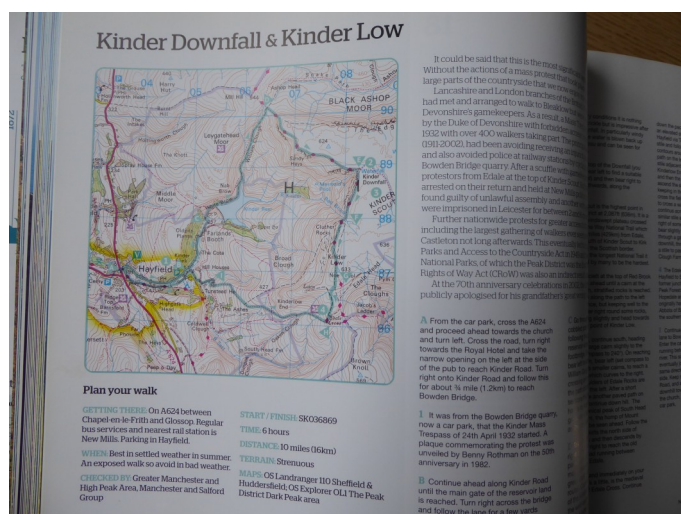
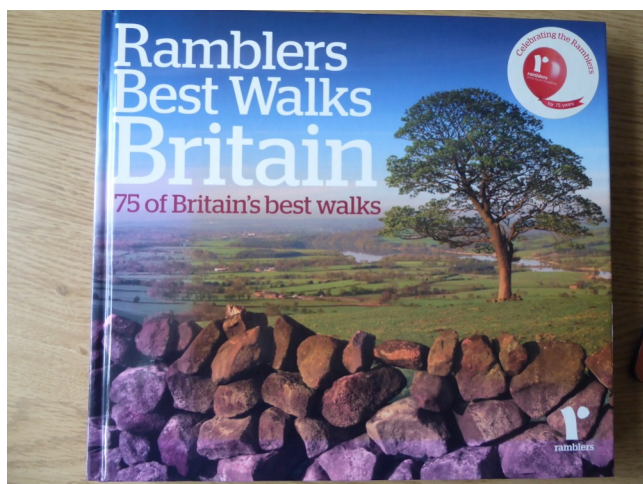
Ramblers were also planning to publish a book entitled '75 Best Walks Britain' and invited groups to submit a route for possible inclusion in that book.

With a view to submitting my route for the book, I needed to ensure that the details were as accurate and possible, so Prue and I undertook three recces of the route, taking details notes along the way, in February and early March 2010, and each day was perfect, frosty but sunny. Later in March I took five other people on the route and they were to be my back and middle-markers for the big day. Unfortunately, it snowed heavily and we couldn't see the paths and although that didn't matter to me it wasn't much use to the others.

On the day of the walk, the weather was good, with broken clouds, a light breeze and clear views. Rather to my surprise, in excess of 80 people turned up for the walk, including Ramblers then Chief Executive, Tom Franklin and I was glad that I had enlisted the help of the five back / middle markers to assist in shepherding all those people around the route. Everyone arrived back safely.

I was delighted that the route was published in the book and although it was credited to M&S Ramblers rather than me, I did receive a complimentary copy from Ramblers Chief Executive.



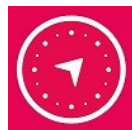


By Stewart Ramsden

Footpaths Problems

Report to PNFS:

Method 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

1. Open OS Locate to identify your location.
2. 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.

Method 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:

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

Method 3: via PNFS Website:

Go to the website and complete the form You will receive a reference number for the problem.

<http://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/pathcheckers/>

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.

Report via Ramblers Pathwatch:

There are two methods:



download the Pathwatch App onto a smartphone.

When a problem is encountered, open the app, and press Report It: the app guides you through, step by step, to determine the exact location, the nature of the problem and add a photo (the photo can be taken through the app) and finally to submit it.

Use the Pathwatch feature on Ramblers website, via a PC or laptop. You will need to have information to hand, such as the grid reference (using OS Locate app will help) and perhaps a photo.



Free from Ordnance Survey

Make the most of your adventures in the great outdoors with **OS Locate**. Used alongside your Ordnance Survey map, **OS Locate** is a fast and highly accurate means of pinpointing your exact location on the map, anywhere in Great Britain. If you have lost your bearings or simply would like a little reassurance, OS Locate is the ideal companion for all enthusiasts of the great outdoors.



Trig Points in The UK—By Ken Sever

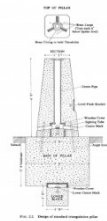


What was the retriangulation of Great Britain?

Triangulation is a mathematical process that makes accurate map making possible. In the early 20th century, map making was still based on the Principal Triangulation which was a piecemeal collection of observations taken between 1783 and 1853. The system was starting to collapse and couldn't support the more accurate mapping needed to track the rapid development of Britain going on after the Great War.

In 1935 Ordnance Survey, in a project led by Brigadier Martin Hotine, (Born in 1898 in Wandsworth, London) decided to implement a complete new control network for the whole country and at the same time unify the mapping from local county projections onto a single national datum, projection and reference system. This led to the OSGB36 datum and The National Grid, both of which are still with us today.

Hotine became head of the Trigonometrical and Levelling Division at OS. The Brigadier was responsible for the design, planning and implementation of the retriangulation and he designed the iconic trig pillar. He designed them to provide a solid base for the theodolites used by the survey teams to improve the accuracy of the readings obtained. As a result, they are sometimes referred to as 'Hotine Pillars'



The triangulation pillars determined the exact shape of the country, but what about distances? Triangulation itself only shows you the shape of the land, not the scale. The scale of the mapping was determined in 1784 by laying a series of glass rods along Hounslow Heath. Using this single measurement, plus the network of triangulation pillars, the size and shape of the country was determined to within about 20m!

How many trig points are there in the UK?

There are many dedicated trig baggers out there, logging their finds at trigpointing.uk. Rob Woodall completed his **14-year** mission to bag all of Britain's trig pillars - clocking up **6,190** in total. 17th Apr 2016
The number is in constant decline, as land use changes and their conditions deteriorate.



The **lowest trig point in Britain** is near Little Ouse River (S7538) near Thetford. ; it sits at 1 m below sea level.

The **highest trig point is Ben Nevis** (S1595) at 1346.911 Meters.

The first trig point used in the retriangulation of Great Britain was on 18 April 1936. On that day, a group of surveyors gathered around a white concrete pillar in a field in Cold Ashby and began the retriangulation of Great Britain.

You can only imagine how hard it was for surveyors of the past to not only map Britain, but to also locate sites for trig pillars and carry the materials to remote sites to then build the trig pillars too.



What Does the metal insert on a trig point mean?

The metal insert is called a Flush Bracket which is a type of bench mark. If they are not affixed to a triangulation pillar they are often referred to as Non-Pillar Flush Brackets (NPFB). Each has a number on it, but this is just a serial number and does not give the height above sea level.



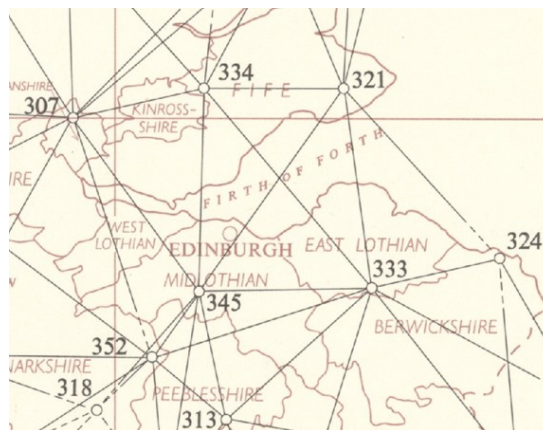
The lowest S-number on a triangulation pillar is [S1268](#), which means that there are no pillars with the S below the number.

What Is A Theodolite?

A **theodolite** was carried from one **trig point** to the next. ... The telescope within the **theodolite** would then be pointed at the next **trig point**. The vertical and horizontal angles would then be used to calculate the precise location of each **trig point**, building up a map of the country

We still use [theodolites](#) for survey tasks today, and you see people on construction sites and roads every day using these devices. The theodolite has long been a handy device for measuring vertical and horizontal angles.

Theodolites are fairly large and heavy, so it might surprise you to learn that these actually were packed along with a variety of other surveying equipment for Lewis & Clark's expedition through the Louisiana Territory. In fact, Thomas Jefferson lent the expedition one of his own theodolites, which was crafted by Jesse Ramsden who created the "Great Theodolite," which was used to help create accurate maps of the United Kingdom by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. While it was quite large and 200 pounds in weight, it could provide sighting for up to 70 miles, which was quite impressive and, to put it into perspective, this is a distance greater than the English Channel Tunnel, which is 31 miles long .



Lots of trolling around the internet so thanks to lots of unknown people for images and textual information. thrown together by me.

Classified Ads

Request for Walk leaders

Given the ongoing limitation on the size of walking groups, we continue to need at least 2 walk leaders per Wed & Sat.

We are about to run out of walk leaders in the next few weeks 😞

If you would like to lead a walk or have an idea for walk then please contact either Lynda or Christine

"Au Revoir"

We are saddened to hear that Lennie is moving over to Spain (and taking Dianne & Gareth) with him.

We wish them every happiness in their new adventure.

"Upcoming Nuptials"

We are delighted to hear that two of our Walk Leaders - Joanne & Harry, are planning to get married on September 5th at Rochdale Register Office.

We send them our very best wishes on their special day.

"Missing You"

Unfortunately around CV-19 we have had to postpone any plans for social events until restrictions are lifted.

Hope to meet up with you all soon !

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

Tameside Ramblers Annual General Meeting 2020

Our next AGM is scheduled to take place on Saturday 14th November 2020 at the Fairfield Moravian Settlement, Droylsden, starting at 1.30pm.

Car parking is available at the Fairfield High School for Girls, Fairfield Avenue, M43 6AB (off A635 Manchester Road).

An optional walk from Ashton-under-Lyne to the Settlement is planned, to arrive in time for a tour of the Settlement before the meeting.

NOTE:

We do not yet know what restrictions will be in place at that time, whether or not such a meeting will be allowed or how many could attend even if it is allowed.

We await advice from Ramblers Central Office and will inform members as soon as information becomes available.

The Committee

Chairman : Stewart Ramsden

Email : chairman@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Group & Membership Secretary : Prue Ramsden

Email : secretary@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Treasurer : Jo Manning

Email : treasurer@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Footpath Officer : Vacant

Email :

Walks Coordinator : Christine Harrison

Email : walks@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Walks Coordinator : Lynda Chandler

Email : walks@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Committee Member : Alan Lowe

Committee Member : John Harrison

Social Secretaries : Ruth & Pete Summers

Email : social@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Web Master : Alan P James

Email : webmaster@tamesideramblers.org.uk

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