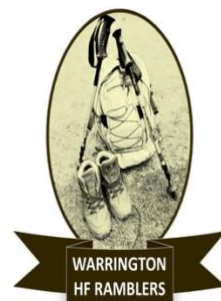


WARRINGTON H.F. RAMBLING CLUB

Affiliated with HF Holidays Winter 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the Winter Newsletter

You will see in this newsletter that we are developing an exciting programme for 2024: this includes: a very full summer programme with our four different walk programmes; weekends away in Wales and Scotland; a great week in the Dolomites.

Whilst we have our established programmes, we can fit almost any walk into the programme, if there looks likely to be a demand for it. Please do come forward with walk ideas.

We are also interested in excursions: the trip down the ship canal and the Llangollen canal trip have both been very well supported in previous programmes. So please put on your thinking hats on ways to build variety into our programmes of activity. Simon is always looking for topics for social evenings; help him.

Please enjoy and embrace the Club's programme. I look forward to seeing you all out on the trails.

Peter Winter, Chairman

2024 Bulletin Board

New Venue for Club Nights – Tuesday 13 February & Tuesday 19 March at St Josephs Parish Centre
Spring Weekend Away, Barmouth 15 – 18 March 2024
Spring Supper Thursday 11th April 2024
Dolomites Walking Week Tuesday 27th August to Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Autumn Supper Thursday 26th September 2024
Autumn Weekend Away, Melrose, Scotland 18 – 21st October 2024



Website

Our website is attracting new members. It also carries useful information about the club. To improve our ranking on google, please continue to visit our site. It now shows photos of recent walks and carries all the newsletters.

<https://warringtonhfwalkingclub.com/>

Let us have your feedback and any suggestions for anything you would like to see on it.

Please note that photos taken on walks are displayed on the website and on Facebook. If you do not wish your photo to appear, please make sure you stay out of shot when the "obligatory" group photo is taken.

Club Nights

We are a friendly club and our club nights provide a perfect opportunity to mix with other club members and enjoy a natter. St Oswalds is a comfortable venue and allows everyone to buy a drink if they wish. We held two Club Nights in the Autumn.



Firstly on Tuesday 24 October - A Fun Quiz Night

Unfortunately the speaker booked for this evening rang the week before to say unfortunately he was in hospital - we obviously wished him a speedy recovery. Undeterred, Simon quickly arranged a quiz night. Simon, Cathy and Sue Lawton provided fun quizzes to keep everyone on their toes. Despite a relatively low attendance (20 members), the evening went well with plenty of laughs and some friendly challenges to the given answers. Thanks to Simon and Sue for their efforts.

Secondly on Tuesday 21 November – “ From Sea Ports to Airports”

Having used up the idea of the Quiz Night for October, Simon Payne volunteered to share his experiences after leaving the Royal Navy up to his retirement in 2006 from British Airways.

It was obvious he really enjoyed his career and considered himself fortunate to have had such an interesting job and that he was happy to share with people.



Unfortunately, since St Oswalds is not currently opening during the week, we have taken the decision to move our Spring Club Nights to St Joseph's Parish Centre (where we held the AGM). It is a lovely venue, with lots of parking space and a cosy room to enjoy events.

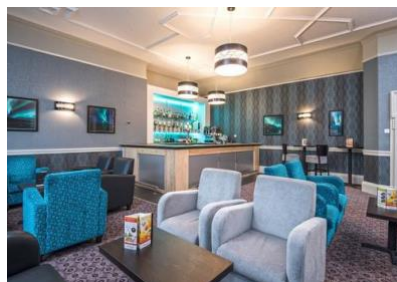
Looking ahead in 2024 -

Spring Weekend Away Barmouth 15 – 18th March.

We already have 32 people signed up Barmouth, with walk leaders planning some stunning walks. All single rooms have been snapped up, but it may be possible to take extra bookings for twin or double rooms.

Please email me if interested – secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com

Autumn Weekend Away, Melrose, Scotland 18 – 21st October 2024 at the Waverley Hotel



Full details for booking will go out after the Barmouth weekend, however, you may wish to put the date in your diary. There appears to be lots of beautiful scenery in the area and three long distance walks pass through. Website says there are lots of walks in the area.

Costs will be £63 per person per night for dinner bed and breakfast in a twin or double room
£80 per person per night for dinner bed and breakfast in a single room

Unfortunately, the hotel does not allow dogs, but there are lots of nearby dog friendly hotels and bed and breakfasts so we will be able to join the walks.

AGM & Cyprus Slideshow. Tuesday 09 January 2024

After discovering on the Sunday evening before this event that we could not have St Oswalds, we were very lucky to be able to transfer the event at such short notice to St Joseph's Parish Centre. We are really grateful to all of those who managed to attend.

Chris Sewell treated us to an excellent presentation of the photos from our Cyprus holiday with the added twist of setting the slides to music from the very appropriate, Cliff's - We're all going on a Summer Holiday to start with then music appropriate to each walk, eg The Four Villages Walk to the sound of the Kinks - The Village Green Preservation Society and the Witches Gorge was accompanied by the Cream's Strange Brew to mention just a couple. Thanks to Chris and Kathy for organising this.

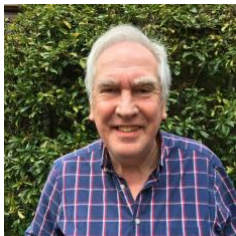


Following the presentation, the AGM ran smoothly and each committee member delivered their report, taking the opportunity to thank those who had helped the Club be so successful over the previous year.

We would like to welcome two new members to the Committee - Gary Walker who takes over the role of Treasurer and Paul Burgess who will manage the Website.

Meet the Committee:

So that you know us, below are photos of the committee, biopics for each of us can be found on the website.



Peter Winter – Chairman



Gary Walker – Treasurer.



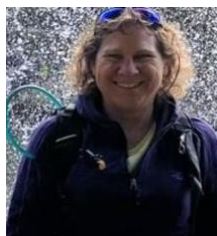
Cathy Carter – Secretary.



**Simon Payne –Wed Evening Walks
& Social Events Co-ordinator**



**Vini Martino -
Higher Grade Co-ordinator.**



**Lindsay Richards -
Weekend Walks Co-ordinator**



**Heather Trelease
Wed Walks Co-ordinator**



**Paul Burgess
Website Manager**



Together we are the team that work behind the scenes to pull together the programme of walks and social events, which we hope you will enjoy. We are all club members like yourselves and want to make sure our club continues to be successful. Please talk to us on walks if you have any suggestions about the Club.

We are always looking for ideas to improve things and I am sure Simon would welcome suggestions for interesting speakers for Club Nights or venues for Spring and Autumn Suppers.

Not on the committee, but vital to our communications, thanks goes Jane Burton for maintaining our Public Facebook Page active presence on Facebook. She is also taking over the members Facebook page since Peter Hough has let us know that he and Linda will not be renewing their membership, having found a club they like closer to their home. We thank Peter for setting up and maintaining the page since 2017.

Safety on Walks

How do you know which way to go, if the Group has gone ahead?



As a club, we try to keep rules down to a minimum, we want to be friendly and welcoming and we are very grateful to leaders all put a lot of time and effort into planning and receiving walks so that we can enjoy them.

Every year, on some walks we “lose” some walkers (temporarily I am pleased to say) when leaders turn off onto a different path. ***This is not the fault of the leader!!***

Particularly with the large numbers we have on some walks, it is all too easy for this to happen. Leaders will play their part by checking behind to see that the group are following them, and ideally they will have a back marker to ensure no one goes astray, however, it is not all down to them, all walkers can help ensure the walk runs smoothly.

So what part do you play?

- Know where you are in the group (*ie who is still behind you*)
- Whenever you come to a turn off the path, check that those behind know where they should be going – if necessary stopping until they do see where you are turning off
- If there is a big gap ahead, let those in front know so that they can ask the leader to wait

Let's try to remember this year, even if we are busy chatting, if we turn off, we need to look back!!!



Carry a whistle in your kit

Also, we recommend that everyone carries a whistle. (Manufacturers recognise the importance of this for hiking and put one on most rucksacks).

A short sharp blast might get the attention of those ahead, where shouting fails to reach them. Of course, we hope not to have to use it, but if you do get lost, it might literally be a life saver.

Did you know?

The international distress signal is 6 blasts of a whistle every minute. The recognised reply is 3 blasts every minute. (TIP if you are calling for assistance and hear a reply, KEEP blowing the signal until rescue appears in sight, otherwise your rescuers will not be able to find you if you stop too early!)



We always like to thank Club members who help to keep the club running smoothly.

At the AGM all the committee praised those members who volunteer to lead walks, without whom, there would be no club at all. We do encourage new leaders to request help from existing leaders.

This time, it is a big you to Sandra Black. Sandra is a long standing club member and last year and this, she has quietly been working with some of our new leaders to impart her vast knowledge and experience of planning a route and leading a walk.

She has worked with them and accompanied them on recces so that they can lead a successful walk themselves.

So thank you Sandra for being so generous with your time and sharing your knowledge.





That was the message that went out to the Club, and lots of you responded. Unfortunately due to an issue at St Oswald's it was necessary to change the date from that advertised in the programme, however, despite some unfortunately not being able to make the new date of 27th January, over 40 enjoyed a really great evening.

The Red River Band were fantastic (as usual) and had the dancefloor filled in no time. In fact, at one point, there were only 3 or 4 people sitting down.

The raffle was well supported, both by donations and tickets sales, raising £150 for charity.

We need to decide which charity we will support this year. Last year we gave a donation to Heartstart in Lymm who provided free First Aid training for our members, plus we gave £200 to Children in Need, raised on the weekend away. In the past we have supported Air Ambulance and Mountain Rescue.


If you have any suggestions for a Charity, preferably connected with walking, that you would like the club to support – please let us know. The Committee will announce a decision later in the year. Email: secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com




This is your club. As a committee we strive to make it run smoothly but if you think there is anything we can do to improve things, either email secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com OR speak to any of the committee on a walk and we can raise it at the next committee meeting

Also, please let us know of anything you want us to include in this newsletter

We publish it in January, April, July & October.




TAKE A HIKE





**AWARD WINNING HOLIDAYS
IN THE UK AND ABROAD**


Discover our favourite walking routes and enjoy accommodation in exceptional locations. We know the ingredients for a perfect hike – enjoy full days walking with fellow guests and leave all the planning and navigation to us; it's what we do best.




**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK
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CALL: 020 8732 1260**

Book and travel with confidence. Please go online for our most up-to-date offers and prices plus full details: hfholidays.co.uk


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