

WARRINGTON H.F. RAMBLING CLUB

Affiliated with HF Holidays
Spring 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter

After a slow start, we are at last seeing some better weather and we have a excellent late spring/early summer programme for you. Can I commend, especially to our newer members, the summer evening programme: every other Wednesday evening, 19:00, 5 miles, followed by a pub). These are our best attended events; the first one is on 8th May.

At the end of the summer we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of our club. There are no founding members surviving, but we are having a special event on **28th September** (a special party) to recognise that what we have has been built on the ideas and shoulders of our earlier members. Please put it in your diaries.

As we go forward we are looking for a new Wednesday Walks Coordinator and a Social Secretary. We will circulate a spec for both of these committee positions. Please think about adding your contribution to keeping this 75 year old club refreshed and alive.

Peter Winter
Warrington HF Rambling Club Chair

2024 Bulletin Board

Dolomites Walking Week Tuesday 27th August to Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Autumn Weekend Away, Melrose, Scotland 18 – 21st October 2024
Club 75th Anniversary Party Saturday 28 September at St Joseph's



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.



Saturday 27 January 2024

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



Club Nights

Our Club nights provide the perfect opportunity for us to meet together in the winter and have a chat in the warm and dry. For the two club nights this Spring, we used a room at St Joseph's Parish Centre in Penketh, since St Oswalds was not available during the week.



Firstly on Tuesday 13th February - The White Witch

"Francesca gave a very interesting talk on a subject very few of us new anything about. For nearly ninety minutes she held the room 'spellbound' as she explained the origins of Witchcraft and how it has been portrayed in literature over the centuries and recent decades on film and TV. In contrast Francesca is a White Witch who practises her supernatural powers or 'magic' for the selfless purposes and benevolence towards others. She also gave a demonstration of a White Witch's repertoire with items she had brought along with her. A very interesting evening, and thought provoking, about a subject we knew very little of, and how it compares to the modern world". Thanks to Simon for both organising this and the write up.





Our second Club Night on Tuesday 19th March - Mick Clewes A talk in two halves

- Words and phrases' origins plus Training Ships in the Mersey

Thanks to Craig for recommending this month's speaker.

Mick Clewes gave an interesting talk about the efforts of mid nineteenth Century philanthropists to provide opportunities for waifs and strays, orphans and also those who fell foul of the law in the northwest, by setting up training ships in the Mersey. With his background in approved schools, he showed us how these evolved from the beginnings of the philanthropists' efforts.

After a break he took us through a fascinating look at words and phrases we use and hear everyday and unusual ways they came about.



We sadly said good bye to one of our longest standing members in March. Tony Hulme

Tony sadly passed away on 2nd March following sudden heart attacks. He had been a member of Warrington HF Rambling Club for over 46 years and served on the committee for several years.

At his funeral it was said that "Mountains were his religion" and he certainly embraced them, even completing climbing all the Munros (Scottish Peaks over 3000 ft) – a tremendous achievement.

He was instrumental in establishing the Higher Grade walking which the Club is still proud to offer.

He and Pat were regulars to support the Club Nights, which he still enjoyed over the last few years, even though through ill health, he was unable to join our walks.

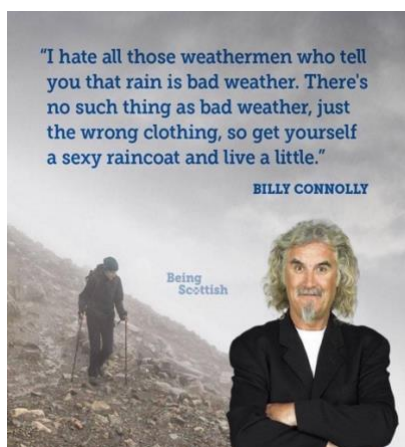
As he told me though, every time he renewed his membership, he lived in hope of walking again soon.

Many members attended his beautiful service, organised by his children and learnt how important walking was to him, alongside Rugby and Steam Trains.

He will be sadly missed.



Spring Weekend Away Barmouth 15 – 18th March.



The picture to the left, sums up what Wendy & Mike Hilton and Cathy & Dennis Carter kept telling themselves on the two days prior to our Barmouth Weekend. - it was so wet!!!

Thankfully, Friday evening when members arrived it cleared and there was even a beautiful sunset.

32 members enjoyed the weekend in Barmouth, 28 of us staying in the Min-Y-Mor Hotel which provided a friendly, warm welcome and staff could not do enough for us, including providing a bingo session on Sunday afternoon, which a few enjoyed.

Each day saw the offer of two walks – details and pictures below

Thanks to all the leaders, Dennis Carter, Mike and Wendy Hilton and Daphne Thomas, these weekends could not happen without you

Saturday 16 - Cregennan Lakes Walk Circa 10 miles and 1800 ft

Since the weather had been so bad and Saturday forecast was not too promising, we decided to shorten this from a 12 mile to a 10 mile walk, by catching the train from Barmouth just across the estuary (Thanks to Mike Hilton for this brilliant idea). After some slight apprehension when the guard could not be found to be told we wanted to alight at the first stop (it was a request stop), 23 of us enjoyed the ride over the viaduct.

After leaving the train we walked a short way along the Mawddach Trail, then across fields before crossing the road to start our ascent. Fortunately the rain held off and the cloud lifted which meant we were afforded stunning views across the estuary – a revelation since they were not visible due to mist on the recce.

The path took us up alongside a stream with a series of stunning waterfalls, seen at their best due to the heavy rain in previous days. After crossing a couple of steep ladder stiles, at the top, we crossed several fields to join a quiet lane which eventually led us to Big Lake (the first of the two lakes – the other being aptly named, Little Lake).

The lake was beautiful, nestled as it was on the northern slopes of Cadair Idris. Despite its idyllic location, it was the sight where criminals were taken to be hung from an oak tree in the 12th Century. Today however, it is more peaceful and managed by the National Trust with permits for trout fishing.

After a lunch stop here the track hugged the lakeside until we turned right to see Little Lake. From here we began the long descent, back to the valley. Passing on our way, the ruins of the cottage where the composer John Williams was born in 1740. After retracing our steps along the Mawddach Trail, we reached the viaduct which spans the estuary, this time crossing on foot before making our way back to the hotel.



Setting off across the fields.



Ascent alongside the waterfall



Ancient stone bridge



Arriving at Big Lake



John Williams, composer was born here

'B' Walk – Barmouth – Saturday 16 th March – 8 miles

Eight members joined the Saturday 'B' walk on the Mawddach Trail, a disused railway line which runs from Dolgellau to Barmouth. We took the bus from Barmouth to the Penmaenpool Toll Bridge. Crossing the Bridge we joined the path which would eventually take us back to Barmouth. The path meanders along the edge of the Mawddach Estuary providing an ever changing view of the river and the surrounding hills. It is mainly wooded on the left hand side but with open views of the river on the right. The tide was in so we didn't see as many wading birds as we might have hoped, but we did see several egrets. We also saw some paddleboarders, but I'm not sure that they count as wildlife. At the end of the trail, after a brief rest at Morfa Mawddach station, we crossed the railway viaduct over the River Mawddach and back into Barmouth.

Sunday Circuit to the Panarama Walk

Five cars met at the parking lot for the Panorama Walk high up above Barmouth. The twenty hikers were fortified with a chocolate before beginning the steep ascent up the road. After passing a few cottages the road petered out into a track as it wound its way up the hillside. The views over the surrounding countryside were lovely and we were very grateful to have had them before once again hitting the mist.

Eventually we left the track and headed across fields. At one point we were amazed that although we were only metres from a large mast we could not see it in the murk and the drizzle. We then emerged onto a road before going through a farmyard and walking through a lovely wooded area. We stopped here for a short and rather soggy lunch break. Luckily the weather improved when we reached the start of the Panorama Walk itself. Most of us negotiated the climb up to the viewpoint where we were rewarded for our exertions with spectacular views over the Mawddach Estuary. After a group photograph we retraced our steps to the main track and returned to our cars.



At least we got a view – we did not on the recce

As we walked on, the mist got worse!



But the sun came out at the end for the Panarama Walk so we got great views along the estuary

'B' Walk – Barmouth – Sunday 17 th March – 6 miles

Eight members took the train over the viaduct to Fairbourne. Alighting at Fairbourne we headed for the seafront. We then followed the miniature railway line for about two miles to the ferry, which takes pedestrians back to Barmouth, but only in the summer months. It was beginning to rain, but a very kind cafe owner, who was preparing for the coming season, let us sit at the tables and chairs under cover of his verandah. He even unlocked the toilets for us to use.

Retracing our steps for about a mile we took a path along the top of an embankment which went around the bay to Morfa Mawddach and once again we walked over the railway viaduct back into Barmouth.



Fairbourne Station



Good to see Craig back to normal ??



Still smiling despite the wet

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



I am delighted to report that 46 have already signed up for the Autumn Weekend. Surprisingly we still have 5 single rooms left at the Waverley Hotel if there is still anyone who would like to come. (£80 per person per night). If you want to book please email on secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com and send a £50 deposit to the Club account.

Spring Supper at the Red Lion Moore Thursday 11 April



Thanks to Jo Frankland for suggesting this as a venue for our Spring Supper. 25 of us enjoyed a pleasant evening, despite a somewhat long wait for the food to be served. – still it gave more time for people to chat and catch up. Thanks to all those who came to make it such an enjoyable event.

If you have suggestions for a venue for future suppers, please let us know by emailing 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 aim to publish it in January, April, July & October.

Good to see Craig back on walks again

After many messages regarding his heart attack and triple by-pass operation, we are pleased to see Craig joining us again on walks. As you can see, he hasn't changed – still striding ahead!! Well done Craig!!






Club 75th Anniversary Party Saturday 28 September at St Joseph's. Penketh

2024 marks the 75th Anniversary of our Club. Did you know that when formed, all walks were made using public transport? Even when I joined, instructions on how to get there were handed out on paper when we assembled to share lifts (1998 - I am not that old!!!)

So it is only fitting that we celebrate the event and since club members seem to enjoy a party, we have planned one for the autumn. We hope to invite former members who perhaps contributed to the running of the club or were members for a number of years, so please let me know of anyone who fits this criteria.

The evening will be held at St Josephs, Penketh and there will be a live group, Loose Connections, plus a hot buffet. We will have photos on show from the Club's formation to present day. We have hired the big room for dancing and also the bar area, to provide a quiet area where people can go to chat and catch up with old friends.


Full details will be released shortly, but do make sure you have the date in your diary. It would be great to see lots of members there.





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**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
VISIT: [HFHOLIDAYS.CO.UK/WALKING-CLUB](https://hfholidays.co.uk/walking-club)
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

Don't forget to visit your website: <https://warringtonhfwalkingclub.com/>

