

WARRINGTON H.F. RAMBLING CLUB

Affiliated with HF Holidays
January 2023 Newsletter



Happy New Year to all members!

Happy new year friends. We will review 2022 at the AGM. The weather in 2022 gave us one of the best years walking, with not so many wet days. It is worth noting that during 2022 we have offered members 80 walks, 2 weekends away (Whitby and Cumbria), autumn and spring suppers, 5 club social nights, a First Aid course, a canal trip and a Christmas party. We will also return to overseas walking in 2023 with a week in Cyprus. These events do not happen by themselves and I would like to record my personal thanks to all those who have helped put on this great set of events and oiled the wheels behind them. We can all help in this so please do not be shy in coming forward. Have a chat with a committee member or one of our longer standing members if you have thoughts of how you can contribute.

I would like to record special thanks to Cathy and Diane as secretary and treasurer who keep the information and the funds flowing.

Both of our Christmas lunches have been very successful and well attended, thanks to Jane and Simon. Incredibly, we are already now turning our thoughts to the Spring and Summer 2023 programme, to which many of you will I am sure contribute with your favourite walks. We have an excellent core of walkers, but we need more; please don't keep us as your special secret. Tell your friends and family: remember we welcome a wide age range. Dogs are welcome on most walks; the walk leaders always advise in their notes if a walk is unsuitable for dogs.

So looking forward to a vibrant programme in 2023 and seeing you out on the trails.

Peter Winter, Chairman

Our new venue for 2022, St Oswalds, has proved popular and all club nights below will be held there

2023 Bulletin Board

Tuesday 17th January - Club AGM

Tuesday 14th February - Sue Holden takes a lighthearted look at the Ins and Outs of our Legal System

Tuesday 28th March - An evening of Magic with Peter Turner

Spring Weekend Llandridod Wells - 10-14th March 2023

Autumn Weekend Northumberland - 7 – 10th October 2023.

Membership subscriptions are now due!

No change to fees (still excellent value).

£12 for walking members. £8 for social members

As far as possible payments to the club should be made by bank transfer. Given the number of small payments, e.g. lunch deposits, etc., this is the best way of helping the treasurer operate efficiently and provide you with a good service. We realise that in some cases members may prefer to pay by cash to either the organiser of an event or the relevant committee member. As far as possible it would be helpful if members avoided using cheques, as these involve a somewhat greater administrative load.

Account Name: Warrington HF Rambling Club Account number: 85115482 Sort code : 09-01-53

Reference: (your name)



New Members

To sustain our club, we are always on the look out for new members. We gained 19 new members during 2022, but there are many current members on our list who have not been out on walks and so may well not rejoin.

So how do prospective walkers discover us? Many of have come through recommendation of existing members, some through the website and a couple through the Public Facebook Page. So please do not hesitate to recommend us to any friends or family who enjoy walking.

Feel free to invite friends/relatives along as your guest to try us out. They are allowed to attend a couple of club activities before we ask them to join.

If you know of anyone who might like to join, please ask them to email: secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com

Committee News. - Peter Hough

Peter stepped down from the committee just before our last meeting. On behalf of all members, the committee would like to thank him for all his hard work as Weekend Walks Co- Ordinator.

Peter will continue with running the Club Facebook Group which he Initiated and also, will manage (with Linda) the forthcoming Spring Weekend at Llandridnod Wells.



**Autumn Weekend Away -
Fri 7 to Mon 10 October 2022 Lake District**

Despite 7 fairly last minute cancellations, 33 of us enjoyed a fabulous autumn weekend in the Lake District, staying at the Derwentwater Hotel in Portinscale. The weather was kind and we enjoyed a varied selection of walks. Thanks so much to all the walk leaders, Gordon Sloane, Craig Manchester, Howard and Shirley Thornley, Sue Bell and Dennis Carter.



Saturday saw 3 walks offered. - Cat Bells, Newlands Round and a more leisurely stroll around the Lake

Gordon and Craig's Walk

On the Saturday morning we gathered in the lovely Lakeside Garden of the Hotel. 20 walkers decided to join the walk to Cat Bells.

The name Cat Bells is thought to have come from a corruption of Cat's Bield, meaning a wild cat's shelter and may stem from days gone by when wild cats still roamed our countryside. Whatever the reason for its name, Cat Bells is a notable part of the skyline of Borrowdale which you simply cannot miss. After leaving the village of Portinscale the route passed the marina at Nichol End on the Northwest shore of Derwent Water. The walk then headed South on the Cumbria Way through the woodland of Fawe Park. As we emerged from the Wood the steep path zig zagging up to Skelgill Bank came into view. We soon reached the foot of the fell where the climb began. Climbing steadily it wasn't long before the lovely views began to emerge. There was a short scramble over a rocky outcrop before reaching the top of Skelgill Bank. It was onwards and upwards to reach the summit of Cat Bells at 1,500 feet. The weather was clear and the views were spectacular. A small group set off from the summit lead by Craig to negotiate the Newlands round



The rest of the party descended still in a southerly direction to reach Hawse Gate, where the path descended steeply along the Eastern flank of the fells. Eventually the group arrived at the southern end of Derwent Water, where we met the walkers who had walked around the shore of the Lake from Keswick. We then walked along the West shore of the lake along the Cumbria Way back to Portinscale for a well earned drink.

Howard and Shirley's Walk - The alternative walk on the Saturday was around the lake.

13 walkers set off for a circuit of Derwentwater in dry but cloudy weather. We already knew that as a result of heavy rain in the preceding days we could have difficulty following the original intended route. The water levels were so high that all the landing stages around the lake were submerged, meaning that the boat service was not running. Anyone who might want to do a part of the walk and return by boat would be stymied.

From the hotel we walked the path to Keswick where the market was in full swing. Sandwiches and drinks were bought before we headed for the lake side. The east side involved a mixture of boardwalks, beach walking and rough paths with tree roots everywhere before we were forced to walk on the road as a few normally passable areas were flooded. On the way we sneaked a view of Lodore Falls from behind the hotel of the same name,

After this came the main disruption to our plans. The Chinese Bridge leading to the west bank was inaccessible, as the path was under water and we had to add between 2 and 3 miles of detour via Grange. However we found a lovely spot by the river for lunch and there were ice creams at the shop. Many walkers were happy.

From here the way took us onto the return trip via the west side, when we spotted the group returning from their climb over Cat Bells. We joined forces and came through the woods and estates together. From this side of the lake there were some wonderful views, not least of Skiddaw. As we approached Portinscale some members took the opportunity to stop off at various tearooms to round off the day. It had been a good day at leisurely pace and the extra distance meant we had covered about 13 miles.



On Sunday 2 walks were offered

The first, led by Dennis Carter took 25 of us from Keswick Launches up through Cockshot Wood towards Castle Rigg. From here we ascended to reach Walla Crag. After admiring the fabulous views we crossed the moor at the top to eventually descend for a lunch stop at the beautiful Ashness Bridge. Thereafter taking the Lakeside path to return us to Keswick. Circa 8 mile and around 1500 ft of ascent.



Sunday easy walk.

A small group of walkers led by Sue Bell (currently living in Keswick) left the hotel on foot and picked up the footpath leading north along the banks of the river Derwent. The group made their way across fields, past remnants of the old railway line to the hamlet of Howe.

Walking through the farmyard the group left the river to walk across the Bassenthwaite Plain which afforded a 360 degree panorama of some of Lakelands best fells including Catbells, Grizedale Pike and the Coledale Horseshoe and Skiddaw. The path led us across the A591 and through the villages of Millbeck and Applethwaite as we returned south towards Keswick across several fields.

The group stopped at The Pheasant at Crosthwaite for welcome refreshments before picking up the old railway line parallel with the A66 for a few hundred yards and then through the grounds of Crosthwaite Church where the grave of Poet Southey was seen. From here it was a short hop back to Portinscale and the hotel. Approx 6.5 miles.

Club Nights

We were treated to 2 club nights in November, due to having to postpone the October evening. Both were well attended

Tuesday 8th November

"From Hell's leathers to Gods family – a life's journey from a broken home" – Colin & Anita Pownall

Colin related the story of his life from being abandoned as a child to finding God and travelling the world. I am sure no one could have failed to be moved by his fascinating account of his life. It was also really interesting to hear Anita's take on his journey. Thanks go to both of them.



Tuesday 22nd November

The Ups and Downs of Walking. David Woolf

A fascinating look back on decades of club walks which attracted some of our former members as attendees. David also shared some stunning photographs of walks he and Ann had enjoyed across the world, including New Zealand, Japan and Africa. As it this wasn't enough, there was a Play your Cards Right type quiz with prizes! Thanks to David for putting together such an interesting presentation.



Great to see healthy attendances on both evenings.

Two Christmas Walks and Meals

Once again, the club offered two Christmas Walks and Meals. Thanks to Jane Burton and Simon Payne for organising them.

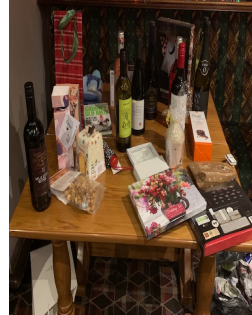
The first was the weekend walk and meal on Sunday 4th December. A pleasant walk circa 8 miles along pleasant lanes and tracks on the Wirral. Then 30 of us returned for a delicious meal at the Hinderton Arms.

The second was a walk on Wednesday 14th December. 30 members from enjoyed a 7 mile walk round the Cheshire countryside returning to be joined by another 4, to the Plough, Whitegate for wonderful lunch



Christmas Party Saturday 17th December 2022

The Red River Band did not disappoint – nearly everyone was up and dancing. There was also ample in the way of refreshments. Perhaps the icy weather, or possibly people being too busy so near to Christmas led to a disappointing turn out. With only around 44 signed up to attend, it was also a shame that 4 had to cancel on the day through illness. Too many bugs around. Those who did brave the weather enjoyed a great night out. Thanks to all those involved in organising this, especially Simon.



The raffle raised a whopping £90 for the British Heart Foundation (chosen since they provided us with a free First Aid Course earlier this year). Thanks to all those who donated prizes and bought tickets.

Your Club/Your Newsletter!

Thanks to Gordon Sloane for this fascinating article on the Compass –

a tale of excellent service and a little advice on compass care



Has your North ever pointed South and has your South ever pointed North? If so, read on.

I was walking on The Cloud in Staffordshire, doing a reccy for a club walk. We came across quite a few stiles on the planned route, I'm sure some of you remember them. As we climbed the stiles often there was no obvious path on the ground. So, it was helpful to take a bearing from the map to the compass, it was then a straightforward procedure to follow the bearing. All was well, we arrived on the summit of The Cloud as planned. However, as we started walking to leave the fabulous views behind us to make our descent, I noticed the compass needle was acting somewhat erratically. At first, I thought there must be some form of magnetic field affecting the compass. We made the descent, carried on following the planned route without having to use the compass. When we reached a section of the walk where I knew we were walking North, the compass needle was actually pointing South.

Alas, I had bought this compass, a SILVA expedition 4 some 20 years ago, so I assumed old age had taken its toll. I sent for a new compass online, as you do these days. The new compass arrived, the needle was pointing North, excellent. The old compass was consigned to the recycle bin eliminating any chance of getting them mixed up.

After I'd had the new compass for about a year or so, low and behold it too started to behave erratically. I thought this can't be right, there is something wrong here. I started to investigate on the internet. Very soon I discovered that this was a Phenomenon called reverse polarity, I'd never heard of it. So, the compass points had reversed. North was pointing South and South was pointing North. Apparently, the compass cannot do that itself. It must have been in contact with a magnet. or a metal object with a high ferrous content. I didn't know how this had occurred, as I read more, I realised what had happened to my compasses. I had got into the habit of putting my phone and my car keys into the same compartment of my rucksack as my compass. Which is a definitely not a good idea. That is what caused the reverse polarity, it will not correct itself.

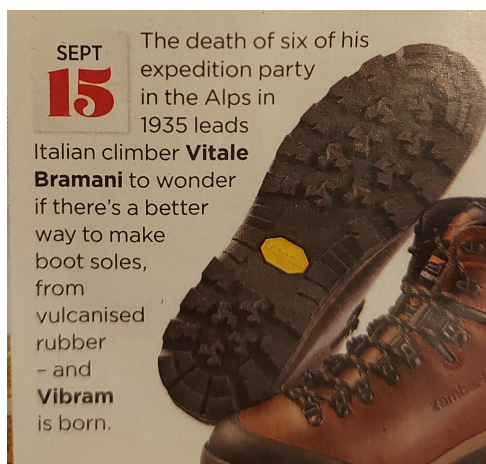
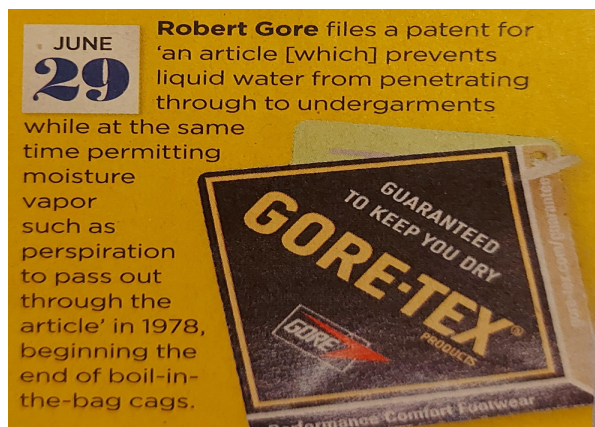
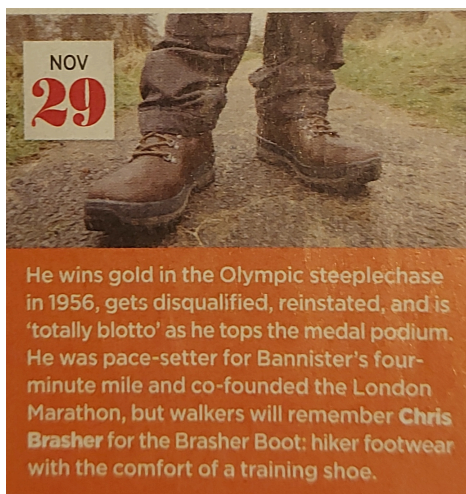
The good news is that SILVA who are the manufacturer of the compass do provide a free repair service, no matter how old the compass is. I sent it to them on a Friday afternoon and it came back on the following Tuesday, unbelievable. The bad news is that if I hadn't been so hasty throwing my old compass away, they would have repaired that too.

The reasons I decided to write this article is firstly to commend the magnificent service provided by the SILVA company and to let others know this service is available. Another reason is that walkers should be aware that this problem could happen to you. Develop a routine of checking your compass on a regular basis. I was fortunate that on both occasions where my compass malfunctioned, I was out on a clear day, I could navigate without using my compass. It could have been so different if I had been on a mountain in mist or fog.

Do not store or carry your compass near any metals with a high ferrous content or any electronic devices.

Thanks to Jo Frankland for the following facts and tips!

I had not realised that boot technology dated back so far



STOP SWEATY BOOTS GETTING SMELLY
Put a dry tea bag inside when you get back.

DODGE BLISTERS NATURALLY
Put small clumps of sheep's wool collected from fields/barbed wire in boots that rub to magically fix them
Emma Powell

AVOID THAT MUSTY PACK SMELL
Keep a tumble-dryer sheet in your rucksack.

ALWAYS CARRY A BLACK PONCHO!
When you really need a wild lady wee and there's no bush to hide behind.
– *Christina Edwards*

AVOID WINTER GLOVE FRUSTRATION
Use plastic fuel-gloves from garages as liners and you can put them on/off as many times as you want, regardless of how wet your hands! – *Tim Dalby-Quenet*

We welcome anything you feel may be of interest to members to publish in the newsletter.

Please feel free to send any items of interest or amusement to secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com for inclusion

Very much looking forward to seeing you out walking again soon

Peter Winter and all of your Committee (Cathy, Diane, Jayne, Vini, Simon and Wendy)