

WARRINGTON H.F. RAMBLING CLUB



Affiliated with HF Holidays Autum 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to your Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to your Club Newsletter. We are enjoying a relatively dry Autumn, giving dry conditions underfoot. Do take advantage of this time in a feast of walking, which has been assembled with care, for you to enjoy. Just get out there and enjoy this delightful walking weather, with a sensory reward from the autumn colours.

Thanks to Cathy Carter for organising the Llandudno weekend, which even Storm Amy could not flatten. Thanks also to Chris and Kathy Sewell who went above and beyond in their remote organising and support of the Polish expedition.

We already have a range of social events over Christmas and New year (see below) and throughout the coming five months. Also we have two delightful weekends away for 2026 (Church Stretton and Borrowdale). Places may still be possible on these if you decide quickly.

Please look at the website; (see below) Paul Burgess is doing a great job on this important facility for the club.

Finally we have the club AGM at St Oswalds on 14 January 2026. Please join us to review what has happened during the year and what is planned. Bring along any ideas you may have for the club.
Keep walking.

Peter Winter
Warrington HF Rambling Club Chair

2025/26 Bulletin Board

Make sure these dates are in your diary!!!

- ◆ Wednesday 19th November at St Oswalds, Trekking at Machu Picchu, Norman Hunter
- ◆ Sunday 7th December 2025 Christmas Walk and Meal – Warrington Sports Club
- ◆ Wednesday 17th December 2025 Christmas Walk and Meal – Boathouse, Wirral
- ◆ Wednesday 14th January 2026 AGM & Poland Presentation at St Oswalds
- ◆ Saturday 31st January 2026 New Year Party – St Oswalds
- ◆ Wednesday 11 February 2026 Quiz Night (hosted by Peter Turner) at St Oswalds
- ◆ Wednesday 11 March Alba – We've got your back at St Oswalds
- ◆ 13-16 March 2026 Weekend Away, Church Stretton
- ◆ 19 – 22 June 2026 Weekend Away, Glaramara



Website

Please 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.

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

Walking week in Poland – Monday 8 – 15th September 2025

31 of us enjoyed an amazing week walking in the Zakopane Area of the Tatra Mountains in Poland. Chris and Kathy Sewell unfortunately had to withdraw from the trip, due to Kathy's health, however, they continued to organise everything on our behalf and the trip ran like clockwork. We were all very grateful to them for their hard work and wish Kathy all the best.

Day 1 Tuesday 9th September - Koscieliska Valley

A relatively easy route was selected so that our expert guide Hanna could assess our capabilities. I think we tested her leadership skills with 31 of us but she was strict about keeping behind the leader at all times.

As well as being an expert walker she was very knowledgeable shared the history and geology of the area.

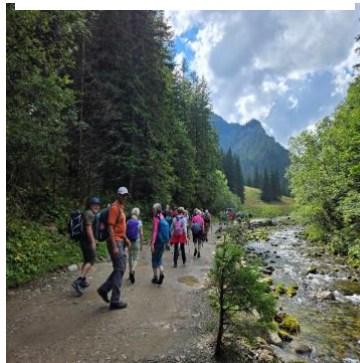
The walk was around 14km or 16km for those who included the gorge. We used mini buses to transfer to Kiry.

The hike began through the beautiful Kościeliska Valley then a climb to the Smreczyński Lake. This Lake is at a height of 1226m (4022ft) and was created in the depression of two glaciers. Stopping at the Ornak mountain lodge for a lunch break. For the more adventurous on our return there was a walk up the Krakow Gorge. Here we were tantalised by ladders and chains that led to a cave through the mountain – for another day!



Hanna briefing us before the walk

Koscieliska Valley is one of the most popular walks in the Tatra National Park



Above is one of the only photos of all 31 of us kindly taken by Hanna

Scenery was stunning



Smreczyński Lake - a popular beauty spot

Had to include photo below since Carol Rylett nearly broke her leg falling off a rock to take it - her phone did not survive



Some went along the gorge. Ladders and chains at the end of the Krakow Gorge, leading to a cave going through the mountain - If only!

A wonderful introduction to walking in the Tatras Mountains, which not only allowed Hanna, our guide to assess our capabilities, but gave us an idea of what to expect in the coming week.

One thing that was surprising and heartening, was how many locals enjoyed the walking and so many bring the whole family, including young children. I have never seen so many babies in the mountains.

Walk 2, Wednesday 10th of September - Gesia Szyja (shorter option)

We transferred by coach to Toporowa Cyrhla. The hike commenced through a beautiful forest along High Tatras. We ascended hikes to the top of a rock called Gesia Szyja where we enjoyed outstanding views. The way down took us through Rusinowa Polana, a grassy open area, with a cheese hut where we sampled the local cheese and then down through Wiktorawki with a wooden church down to Zazadnia before meeting the coach. Pietri led us today and for the rest of the shorter walks

Well signed paths, but look at the root hazards on the right



Easy uphill



Extensive pastures for the sheep farming

Beautiful wooden church



Walk 2, Wednesday 10th of September. – Five Lakes Valley 17km (longer option)

The walk started from Palenica Bialczanska, with an easy path to the Adam Mickiewicz Waterfall, and then steeply up to Roztoki Valley to the Siklawka Waterfall. From there we ascended to a mountain lodge for lunch and views of the Five Lakes.



Adam Mickiewicz Waterfall

Lindsay at the Siklawka Waterfall



Looking back down the valley



One of the Five Lakes

Descent down the valley



Walk 3, Thursday 11th of September - Kasprowy Wierch up-down (shorter option)

The plan was to go by cable car up with a walk on top of Kasprowy Wierch to a viewpoint, however, it was heavy rain and mist ensured we had no views whatsoever. Thus after a short walk along the top, Pietri decided it was too dangerous to continue and we returned to the cable car and came back down. All was not lost however, since we regrouped at our hotel, donned dry clothes and found a superb café for cakes and coffee.



Walk 3, Thursday 11th of September – Kasprowy Wierch – 10km (longer option)

We took the Kasprowy Wierch cable car to a height of 1987m (6519ft) and then descended by Goryczkowe Czuby to the Kondracka Pass and down the Kondratowa Valley. The cable car was interesting, with a power cut adding to nerves! Unfortunately the clouds descended today and we had to wait until the afternoon to see the views. The route down was slippery and challenging in places.



Enjoying the cable car

Andy on the Poland Slovakia border



Tricky descents



Our first view of the valley

Beers at the Kondratowa Mountain Lodge. This Lodge has been rebuilt after being destroyed by a landslide.



Walk 4, Saturday 13th of September - Sarnia Skata (shorter option)

We transferred to Biaty Potok Valley by coach. Beautiful walk from Bialego Potok to Strazyska Valley through Sarnia Skata rock with an amazing view at Giewont and Zakopane. The planned extra on the way, a short walk to Siklawica waterfalls, was cancelled due to the heavy rain the previous day and rocks being really slippery. At Strazyska Meadow there was a small hut selling food which made a welcome break before our return to the coach.



Poland's primary national ski jumping centre is the Central Sports Centre - Olympic Preparation Centre in Zakopane, which features the famous Wielka Krokiew ski jump.



Strazyska Valley through Sarnia Skata rock



Toilets provided along the routes in the national park
A welcome surprise!



Descent (left) looks innocuous but was lethal – so slippery
Worth it when we reached Strazyska Meadow where we enjoyed tasting the local cheese



Walk 4, Saturday 13th of September Giewont mountain (the Sleeping Knight), 1894m (6214ft) – 14km (longer option)

We started at Kuznice, where the previous walk had ended, again passing the Kondratowa Mountain Lodge. Then ascending Giewont via the Kondracka Pass, and returning by Wielka Polana Malolacka (the Great Small Meadow). As experienced on all days the route was very busy. Plus the weather was closing in, with risk of thunderstorms (in 2019 4 people were killed on the mountain by a lighting strike). So, we didn't make the final ascent to the peak.



All happy on the way up



Giewont Mountain. In Polish folklore it is associated with legends of sleeping knights, who will awake if Poland is in danger. The cross was built in 1901 and the mountain became a site of religious pilgrimages and a national symbol.



Some scrambling on the way down

Jean Gleadell on the descent



Day 5 Morskie Oko Lake – 16km

Many decided against walking on the last day due to the horrendous forecast – hats off to those who did venture out on what was promised as some of the prettiest walks of the trip.

The rains came down! We started at Palenica Bialczanska, the same start point as the Five Lakes walk, and walked gradually up hill to Morskie Oko Lake. At the Lodge, by the Lake, we found welcome refuge and sampled the local delicacies. We then retraced our steps, it actually stopped raining by the finish. Morskie Oka is one of the most popular destinations in the Tatras. It's the largest Lake and the start point to walk to Rysy, the highest peak in the Tatras.



Morskie Oko Lake,
Rysy in the clouds!



Our guide, Hanna,
attentive even in the rain



Brave soles with the Lake in the background.



Welcome refuge in the Lodge

Thanks to Paul Burgess for the walk descriptions and photos of the longer walks.

Our guides for the week were Hanna (for 1st walk which we all did, then all the longer walks and Piotr for the shorter walks. Both were excellent, highly experienced walkers and very knowledgeable about the local area. For anyone planning a trip themselves to this area, would recommend using their expertise.

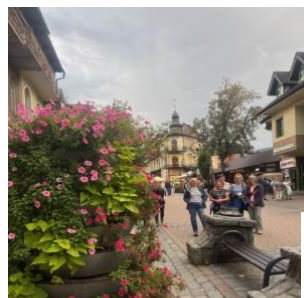
To contact them use their websites:

Hanna - <https://bazatatradv.com/>

Piotr - <https://zakopanehiking.com/>

Their command of English was superb, so very easy to understand and converse with.

Finally, Zakopane was a fabulous place to stay, lots of restaurants and cafes, parks and shops. See a few photos below:



The Grand Starmary Hotel in Zakopane

It would be remiss not to mention the fantastic hotel we stayed in which contributed to such a fantastic stay. I think everyone there would agree that we could not have had a nicer hotel. The breakfasts were superb and everything was so comfortable.



Overall it was a fabulous holiday with many happy memories. Our guides, Hanna and Piotr were exceptional, we could not have wished for better.

Thanks once again to Chris and Kathy who arranged this, so very sorry that you were not able to join us.

Stirling effort for Charity by John Henley



We always like to acknowledge when one of our club members has done something remarkable. John Henley is a long standing member of our club although he has not been on many of our walks this year, since he has been busy with a series of challenges he set himself to raise money for charity - in particular, St Rocco's Hospice.

You may remember me inviting members to join him on an overnight Snowdon walk, (thanks to those who did) but he has done much more.

During 2025, he has completed a dragon boat race, walked from Llandudno to Warrington (74 miles), undertaken a half marathon and walk up Snowdon to be at the top for sunrise. These activities along with friends, have raised a staggering £30,00 plus, with John having contributed to over £2000 of this.

He is about to face his arguably biggest challenge yet – he is dancing in a Strictly Some Dancing extravaganza at Haydock Race Course in November, in front of hundreds of people. (Event is sold out, but you can watch on St Rocco's Facebook Page – live on the night – Sunday 30th November)

If you would like to support him, you are still able to donate (even small amounts help) at:

<https://stroccoshospice.enthuse.com/pf/john-henley>

A big thank you to those who have already done so.



Autumn Supper Wednesday 24th September



Our Autumn Supper was held at Bombay 8 in Westbrook (Voted the nation's best curry restaurant at the 2021 Curry Awards staged by the Curry Magazine .The Curry Life awards celebrate the unique fusion cuisine of Indian food in the UK).

20 of us enjoyed a really pleasant evening catching up with others in the club over a delicious meal.

Thanks to Rona for organising

Autumn Weekend Away in Llandudno 3 – 6th October 2025

You can plan for everything on a weekend away except the weather, but storm Amy did not deter 38 of us from enjoying the weekend at the Marine Hotel in Llandudno. Thanks to Dennis Carter, DaphneThomas and Mike Hilton for leading the walks and for these walk reports.

Saturday B Walk

As storm Amy hit Llandudno on Friday, we decided to keep safe. Saturday saw winds of upto 60mph and so we decided the West Side of the Great Orme would be too dangerous, therefore, in heavy rain, we set off along the promenade to Little Orme and round the sheltered side to Angel Bay, where we saw plenty of seals sheltering from the storm.

As the summit would have been too dangerous, we followed a low level path which took us back to the promenade and led some of us to the oldest Pub in Llandudno the Kings Head, for lunch and drying out.

With dry weather although still very strong winds, we walked on the sheltered side to the summit of Great Orme.

The walk was about 11 miles and 1000ft of ascent. - Thanks to Dennis Carter for this.



23 of us were mad enough to set out

Angel Bay – looking for the seals who were sheltering from the storm



We spotted a few seals though

Below - Made it to the top of Great Orme



Saturday C Walk. Llanrhos and Deganwy – 6 miles

Saturday started off as a very wet and windy day. 13 walkers started off from the hotel but we had only got around the corner when 3 decided to abandon ship. (Not that I blame them, if I hadn't been leading I might have joined them.) We made our way south through the streets of Llandudno and came out near the hospital. We then took an uphill path at the edge of the golf course. By this time the rain had stopped but it was still very windy and quite precarious on the top of the stiles. Unfortunately we came to a typical Welsh farm where we were ankle deep in slurry and could find no sign of a footpath. And here I lost another member who decided to turn back. Fortunately there was a farm track leading down to the main road which we were able to use. This brought us down to the village of Llanrhos and St Hilary's Church, which dates back to the 6th century, and St Mary's Well, which predates the church and used to be the main water supply for the village. From Llanrhos we headed up and around the Vardre which was once the site of Deganwy Castle. Up on this hill we certainly noticed the strong winds. We dropped down into Deganwy and joined the North Wales Path where we managed to find a shelter to sit and have our lunch with lovely views across the Conwy estuary to Conwy Mountain. (One of my favourite walks!) We followed the North Wales Path along a promenade and through the sand dunes back into Llandudno.



Sunday B Walk

After the wind and rain of Saturday we had better conditions for the Grade B walk on Sunday.

A short drive from Llandudno took us to the car park at Sychnant Pass above Conway. Our party of 18 then followed a good path climbing steadily into the mountains. On the way we looked back to fine views of the Conway valley, Conway castle and the Ormes at Llandudno.

We then headed on to some rougher ground as we headed below the peak of Tal Y Fan where we encountered misty conditions and some small difficulties with the now indistinct path. We quickly found our way again to cross over the ridge and started the steep climb down to the next valley. After enjoying a good view of the Menai Strait and Anglesey we found a good sheltered spot for lunch. We then walked to a minor road before picking up a path which circled the East side of Tal Y Fan before picking up the original path back to the car park.

The total distance for the walk was 10 miles. The walking conditions were good for this moderately strenuous walk which was enjoyed by all the participants.



Fabulous views all the way round

Sunday C Walk Nant y Gamar and the Little Orme – 6 miles

14 of us set off from the hotel along the prom towards the lifeboat station. We then headed inland and uphill to Craig y Don. We followed a really pleasant path through woodland and around Coed Gaer. We passed St David's College (a boarding school) and came out in the village of Penrhyn-side. Passing through Penrhyn-side we headed up the main road to the Little Orme. Here 4 members of the party departed as they had to drive home. The rest of the group set off to walk around the Little Orme. 4 members decided to climb to the trig point at the top via a direct route while the rest stuck to the path. Eventually we reached Angel Bay and were rewarded with a lovely view of about 20 seals on the beach or in the water. This is where we had lunch. We continued on the path around the Orme but missed a side path and ended up walking through some houses and a very steep walk up the road. Then it was downhill all the way back into Llandudno.



Club Night - Wednesday 22nd October at St Oswalds Petra and ... oh yes Jordan

October saw our first Club night for the autumn and it was well attended with around 35 members enjoying a fascinating talk on both Petra and Jordan. Gillian Winter enthralled us with a detailed description of the life of those living in this area. Petra, it seems was a thriving crossroads for trade and attracted travellers from across the globe.

Gillian informed us that the area around Petra had been inhabited from as early as 7000 BC, and was settled by the Nabataeans, a nomadic Arab people, in the 4th century BC. Petra would later become the capital city of the Nabataean Kingdom in the second century BC.

Gillian took us on a fascinating tour of the buildings in Petra revealing the many tombs, shops and cave dwellings, ruins of which can be seen today. She then went on to other parts of Jordan and shared its interesting history.

Gillian provides these talks for free, however, money for the talk is donated to charity.

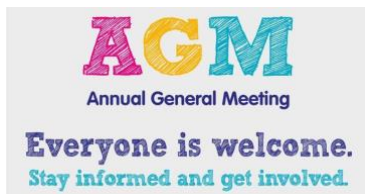
The charity, which Gillian supports and where she is a trustee, is *Wood Street Mission* which is based in Manchester and it provides essential equipment to families living in poverty, brand new school uniforms for children, new reading books for children to keep and childhood experiences such as trips to the theatre or a day in countryside.



Thanks to Gillian for taking the time to deliver this interesting talk for us.

Make sure the date is in your diary for the next Club Night - Wednesday 19th November at St Oswalds

We will have an external speaker, Norman Hunter, talking about Trekking at Machu Picchu. (This topic was selected by a vote so hopefully we will see a good turnout).



Club AGM and Poland Presentation Wednesday 14th January 2026
At St Oswalds Social Club, Padgate

Just a few words about our AGM in January. So why should you bother to attend?

The meeting is of course required by our Constitution, but Annual General Meetings seem to have acquired a bad reputation for perhaps being boring and irrelevant. Hopefully I can dispel that myth.

What it is:

This is your opportunity to hear what the club has done over the past year and meet the committee who are responsible for running the club. It is the meeting where we agree who will be on the committee the following year. It also offers you the opportunity to raise anything you wish about the Club. It also allows us to thank all those who help to keep the club running smoothly

So will I be cajoled onto the Committee?

Absolutely not. We have never (in the 26 years I have been in the Club, dragged anyone on to the Committee at the AGM). If there is a vacancy for a role on the committee, this will be advertised prior to the meeting and nominations invited. Then that person can be elected at the AGM

How long does it last?

The AGM itself usually takes less than an hour (sometimes far less) but we will have a presentation of photos from the Club's trip to Poland this September to entertain you.

Finally, we hold the event in St Oswalds, so it is informal and a great opportunity to meet with fellow walkers and enjoy a drink in the warm and dry!!



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 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.

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