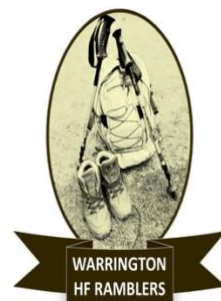


WARRINGTON H.F. RAMBLING CLUB

Affiliated with HF Holidays Autumn 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter

The evenings are closing in and we are now well into our Winter programme. Thank you to all of you who have offered to lead walks on our new programme: its looking good.

We had a great weekend of walks near to Hadrian's wall, due to a lot of work by Cathy, Sue and the other walk leaders (Daphne, Mike and Wendy). We had about 50 people for the weekend....more than we have ever managed to accommodate on weekends away.

It is during the coming months that we have our evening social events. Simon has been working hard to get this series of events together: do put them in the diary and come to some , if not all, of them.

A number of the events for the autumn are highlighted in this newsletter, very soon we will be taking bookings for the various Christmas walking lunches. This year we are having the Party evening as a new year event on 27 January.

Thanks to Paul Burgess we have a new web site, which is aimed at attracting new members as well as serving you. Remember this is your club and if you think there are events we can add then please let your committee know.

Thank you for your support of our special club

Peter Winter, Chairman

2023/24 Bulletin Board

Club Nights – all on Tuesdays 24 October, 21 November, 13 February & 19 March
Christmas Walk and Meal -Sizergh, Cumbria Sunday 10 December 2023
Christmas Walk and Meal - Axe & Cleaver - Dunham Massey Wednesday 13 December 2023
AGM & Cyprus Presentation Tuesday 09 January 2024, St Oswalds
New Year Party Saturday 27 January, St Oswalds
Spring Weekend Away, Barmouth 15 – 18 March 2024



We have a new Website!

Our website is crucial to attract new members. It also carries useful information about the club.

If you haven't already done so, please check it out on

<https://warringtonhfwalkingclub.com/>

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

Thanks to Paul Burgess for sourcing a new host site and constructing such an attractive website.

Autumn Supper Thursday 28 September 2023 at Café Caruso



34 of us attended a very enjoyable evening at Café Caruso in Warrington for our Autumn Supper. A little noisy, but that is typical for Italian restaurants. Fabulous food and it seems everyone had a great time. Thanks to Simon for booking this.

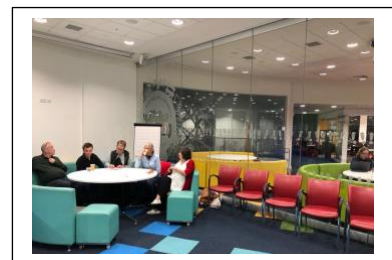
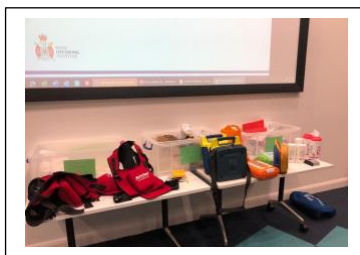
Save a Life Course at Safety Central Tuesday 3 October 2023

13 Club members attended the Save an Adult Life (Heartstart) at Safety Central, Lymm on 3 October 2023. This was such a comprehensive training evening in a fascinating building. It started with a tour of the training house, with specific rooms set up with safety hazards to spot and discuss. We observed a mock up of a laptop left on a bed, which quickly set fire to the entire room. Other training set ups included a railway station, a canal tow path, a substation, roadway with car crash. Each of us had the opportunity to learn how to deal with the following:

- Assess an unconscious person
- Place them in the recovery position
- Deal with choking
- Manage serious bleeding
- Drowning
- Help someone who may be having a heart attack
- Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

D.R.S.A.B.C was a useful acronym to use when assessing and dealing with a casualty. We all received a Certificate of training, Safety leaflet and a key ring with a CPR Face Shield. I would highly recommend this event to all members. It can also be booked individually.

Thanks to Jan Pritchard for this report and photos



New Members

To sustain our club, we are always on the look-out for new members.

We encourage you 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

Autumn Weekend Away 6-9th October 2023 in Northumberland



Northumberland proved a popular venue for the Autumn Weekend with 50 booking to go. Inevitably with such a large group, we had 4 cancellations in the week prior, but that still left a record 46 members attending.

41 of us stayed at the George Hotel, Chollerford, which served us well, especially since we had a private room for the weekend. 3 varied walks were offered on each day and the weather was really kind although we could see it was raining in the distance.

Saturday Walks **Walk 1. Heaven Fields & Codlaw Dene Grade C+, Approx 8 miles with around 850ft of ascent.**

Sue Ramsdale led a party of 11 along a quiet country lane near the village of Wall to join the Hadrian's Wall Path and head east towards Heaven Fields. On the way we passed a section of the wall called Planetrees, where the Roman builders reduced its width, probably to speed construction.

Heaven Fields is the site of a battle that took place around 633AD between King Oswald of Northumbria (StOswald) and the Welsh King of Gwynedd (Cadwallon), which the Northumbrians won decisively. We stopped for coffee behind St Oswald's church, where we enjoyed panoramic views over the steep battle field towards the Cheviots and Scotland. Some of us looked inside the church, where there was information about the history of the site.

After coffee we continued east along Hadrian's Wall path with the "Vallum" or defensive ditch on our right most of the way. We then turned southwest to head back towards Wall through a varied landscape of fields and woods, and watched a sheep dog at work near Codlaw Hill before entering beautiful Codlaw Dene where we enjoyed a late lunch. Before returning to the hotel, we walked through the picturesque village of Wall, built from stone taken from Hadrian's Wall itself



Saturday Walk 2. The Sill to Housesteads along Hadrian's Wall -Grade B+. Approx. 11 miles and 1800ft of ascent

Wendy and Mike Hilton took 25 on this classic route. Leaving the Sill carpark they walked up towards Hadrian's Wall. The path climbed to the ridge in a series of steps before following the Wall along cliff tops passing Milecastle 39. They descended to Sycamore Gap, (unfortunately due to the awful recent event – minus the iconic sycamore) then climbed up again to overlook Crag Lough and then to Hotbanks. Here the walkers enjoyed the 360 degrees view over the magnificent local countryside. After descending towards Rapishaw Gap the group detoured to the edge of Housesteads Fort and looked over the fence at the Roman remains while having a coffee stop.

They then retraced their steps to cross over the Wall and follow a rather muddy Pennine Way across undulating moorland with Greenlee Lough in view. The terrain north of the Wall is different to that south as it is more rugged and bleak. They crossed various fields and stiles before hitting a track which took them around isolated farms. Excitement was created when they had to cross a footbridge over a previously small stream. After the heavy rains the water was gently lapping over the top of the bridge but fortunately all the walkers managed to get safely across. They eventually came to a quiet road which was followed to Steel Rigg and then back down to the Sill.



First Ascent. – it is steep.

First Mile Post on the walk

Carnage at Sycamore Gap

Saturday Walk 3. 5.5 mile circular walk from Chollerford - Grade D

9 members set out on this walk led by Daphne. The first mile was along the road, where we paid a visit to the remains of Turret 26B and a short section of Hadrian's Wall. Then on to the lovely village of Wall.

A very steep climb followed but it was worth it for the lovely views from the ridge at the top. On to the village of Fallowfield and then back to Hadrian's Wall and St Oswald's Cross. This is the site of a battle in 635 where Oswald, Christian king of Northumbria triumphed over Cadwalla, heathen leader of the British tribes. We were very grateful for the nearby St Oswald's Chapel where we were able to sit inside to eat our lunch and shelter from the cold wind. We also chatted with three ladies who were walking the wall, two from Canada and one from New Zealand.

To everyone's relief the next part of the walk was all downhill, although the path was very rough or even none existent. Down past a disused quarry, then a short section on the A6079, and then back alongside the North Tyne river and into Chollerford..



Village of Wall



Beautiful Garden



Sunday Walk 1 Tyne Green and Warden Hill Grade C+ Approx 9 miles Approx. 800ft of ascent

Sue Ramsdale's walk started from Tyne Green Country Park and took a party of 21 west along the River Tyne Trail.

This 135-mile trail from the source of the South Tyne in Cumbria to the sea at Tynemouth was devised by the Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care charity and is dedicated to anyone affected by cancer.

On the way, we saw the remains of an old Border Counties Railway Bridge across the river, which used to connect Hexham with Scotland. We also passed "Waters Meet" where the North Tyne from Chollerford joins the South Tyne from Hayden Bridge to form the River Tyne, and fishermen are often seen.

We eventually reached Bridge End, home to the actor Robson Green who grew up in this area. (And no, we did not see him, but he is often sighted in Hexham's Waitrose).

We enjoyed a morning break on the benches outside the Boatside Inn which was closed for refurbishment.

From Bridge End, we left the river to walk up through fields and woods to Warden Hill, where the earthworks of an Iron Age hill fort could be seen along with panoramic views across the Tyne valley. Some of the party had lunch at the summit, while others waited lower down.

After Warden Hill we descended through fields to the village of Fourstones where, after a close encounter with a train at a level crossing, we rejoined the river and walked back to Tyne Green along Cycle Route 72. At the end of the walk, there was the chance to explore the historic town of Hexham before driving back to the hotel.



Spectacular views



The Boatside Inn



Robson Green's house

Sunday Walk 2 Haltwhistle Burn to Cawfields and Hadrian's Wall – Grade B Approx 9 miles. Approx. 1200ft of ascent

Ten walkers enjoyed Wendy and Mike's walk along the Haltwhistle Burn on a good path up a gorge to the B6318 Military Road. After crossing the road they headed through fields to Cawfields Quarry where there were picnic tables and toilets, perfect for a morning stop. They then climbed up to Hadrian's Wall near Milecastle 42 and followed the path alongside the Wall where most of the group climbed to the highest point of the Wall at 1100ft. Here the group enjoyed the spectacular scenery of this part of Northumberland as well as seeing further afield into Cumbria and possibly even Scotland.

After lunch they retraced their steps to Caw Gap then crossed fields towards the Milecastle Inn. The walkers then followed a quiet road for a short while before turning off across more fields and down steps to return to the valley of the Haltwhistle Burn. After a drink at a local pub the group took it in turns to stand on the plaque which donates the very spot claiming to be the Centre of Britain. A quick tour of Haltwhistle then produced one of the highlights of the walk – salmon leaping up a weir on the South Tyne River.



Centre of Britain

Mike & Wendy
Where they married
48 years ago



Sunday Walk 3 5 mile linear walk from Hexham to Corbridge Grade D

9 members and one visitor drove to Hexham for Daphne's walk. There was a gentle climb out of Hexham through Dukehouse wood.

We then reached a wide forest track and headed east towards Corbridge. It was a lovely wood full of old, native trees, but as often happens in woods the path was very muddy.

Leaving the wood at Dilston, we followed the Devils Water to the point where it met the River Tyne and then in a large loop along the river and over the 17th century stone bridge into Corbridge.

There was just enough time for coffee and cake before catching the bus back to Hexham.

A big thank you to all those who organised and led walks, Sue Ramsdale, Daphne Thomas, Wendy & Mike Hilton, without whom, we would not have enjoyed a walking weekend.

After the walks we enjoyed dinner at the hotel and quizzes each night courtesy of Sue Lawton - thanks Sue



Spring Weekend Away Barmouth at the Min-y-Mor Hotel Friday 15 to Monday 18th March 2024



If you enjoyed the weekend in Northumberland, then hopefully, you will love Barmouth. It offers fabulous scenery with some stunning walks, from easy rambles along the estuary, to the more demanding Panorama walk and for those who like a challenge Cadair Idris is nearby. The Min-y-Mor is a friendly family run hotel on the South Promenade at Barmouth, with extensive sea views. There is also plenty to see around the area if you do not want to walk both days.

Since it is a small hotel, they have requested a non refundable deposit by the end of November, so I do need to know if you would like to come to enable me to secure rooms.

Costs are: £82.50 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast in a twin or double room

There are 3 single rooms also available at this price,

plus a further 5 single occupancy rooms (with double or twin beds) at £92.50 per night.

Last time we visited the hotel was fully booked so please book early to secure a place.

To book, **please email by the end of October**, with details of whether you require:

a single, double or twin room ,

the number of nights you wish to say

send a £50 per person deposit to the club account.

The details you will need are;

Account Name : Warrington HF Rambling Club

Account number: 85115482

Sort code: 090153

Reference: your name (plus what it is for eg. WE March)

(NB it is a business account)

There are plenty of B & Bs and other hotels if you wish to book yourself, but please let me know that you are going so that we can plan walks.

Look forward to hearing from you
Cathy (07947 817755)

Yet another Walk with a Difference – we certainly get variety with this Club!

Back in July, Chris and Kathy Sewell organised a steam train ramble from Burrs Country Park, Bury. 30 club members boarded the train at Burrs Country Park station for a 35 minute ride along the Irwell Valley to Rawtenstall. We left Rawtenstall station, passing through an old mill and then followed the river and railway back to Burrs Country Park. On route we passed through Irwell Vale, Chatterton, Ramsbottom and Summerseat. The route crossed the river and railway a number of times before finishing back in the country park.



The Railway

East Lancashire Railway is a 12.5-mile (20 km) heritage railway line in North West England which runs between Heywood, Greater Manchester and Rawtenstall in Lancashire. It was open to the public until 1972 and carried freight until 1980, becoming the East Lancs Railway in 1987

Our Train. – 257 Squadron

Built in Brighton in 1948, one of the first engines to be built for British railways. It began life as a night train ferrying passengers from London to Ferry Terminals in Kent. Withdrawn from service in 1964, it was rescued from the scrap yard in 1984. With a mixed history, it was again taken out of service during 2003, but eventually refurbished and back running in 2018. Out of service again during 2021 and now, after its loan to East Lancs railway it is back with the Spa Valley Railway.

Rawtenstall

A cotton mill town, which also hosted shoe making until the last factory closed in 1980s. Home to the last Temperance Bar – Fitzpatrick's Herbal Health and birthplace of Jane Horrocks (actress).

River Irwell

The river we walked along is 39 miles long, rising at Irwell Springs, just north of Bacup and running into the Mersey at Irlam, via the ship canal. It merges with the River Roch and River Croal, Irk and Medlock

It became very polluted and the Victorians who ran river trips, were forced to stop them due to the smells

Happy to say it is now clean and has many fish including Brown Trout

Ramsbottom

An other Mill Town dominated by Grant family, 19th Century industrialists. The Grants' employees were paid in tokens that had to be redeemed at a public house owned by the company. The landlord converted the tokens into cash, but only after deducting threepence per person, which had to be spent on beer

Robert Peel, Prime Minister and founder of the Police, was born in Bury in 1788. He bought land in Ramsbottom.

We have seen Peel Monument on Holcombe Moor (39m high) when walking in the area

Some fascinating facts, some shared on the ramble – thanks to Chris and Kathy for supplying these.

Don't forget if you have any walking related articles for the next Newsletter (due out mid January 2024)
Please send them to secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com

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