

WARRINGTON H.F. RAMBLING CLUB

Affiliated with HF Holidays
Autumn 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter

What a great summer of activities. The trip to the Dolomites, the 75th party and the Melrose weekend being but three highlights of a full programme. This newsletter is longer than usual, to get in highlights and pictures from the programme. The mid-week evening programme again proved very popular, with up to 30 walkers on several evenings and the weather being kind to us on alternate Wednesdays!!! We have a number of social events coming up, including two Christmas lunches. Rona has made some changes to reinvigorate the social programme; do join in.

Can I reiterate what a great committee we have making sure you have a varied and interesting programme.

Peter Winter

Warrington HF Rambling Club Chair

2024/25 Bulletin Board

Make sure these dates are in your diary!!!

- ♦ *Tuesday 19 November* Club Night 'DIY Surgery - an interactive talk and demonstration about keyhole surgery' - Dr Peter Sykes
- ♦ *Wednesday 4th December* Christmas Walk & Lunch Grappenhall Peter Winter
- ♦ *Sunday 15th December* Christmas Walk and Meal, Frodsham at the Netherton Arms.
- ♦ **Tuesday 14th January 2025 AGM**
- ♦ *Tuesday 11 February* Club Night, Quiz Night hosted by Peter the Magician
- ♦ *Tuesday 11 March*. Ten Pin Bowling Rona Bryce
- ♦ 4 – 7th April 2025 Spring Weekend Away, The Lakes
- ♦ 8 – 15th September 2025 Poland Trip

Website

If you haven't looked at your club website recently, then it is worth a look. It carries lots of information, including latest newsletters, the full programme and has an extensive gallery of club photos. – well worth a look

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/>

The big event this quarter was the Club stay in the Dolomites for a walking week.



Our thanks to Vini for organising the trip, we know it takes an awful lot of planning to ensure visits abroad run smoothly and we are very grateful to him for the time spent ensuring this was the case. Albeit speaking Italian was an advantage!!

Thanks also goes to Phil, Yvonne and Gary for co-planning and leading the walks.

The Club has visited the Dolomites before, and Vini selected a fabulous hotel in Canazei for the group. Canazei offered easy access to ski lifts, bus routes and had a variety of restaurants to visit for evening meals.

Thanks to Phil and Yvonne for the Group B Walk Reports and to Gary for the A Group reports and to Vini for editing.

A choice of two walks was offered each day, both groups setting off at the start of the walk.

The varied walks ranged from low-level valleys and riverside walks to high-level alpine ridges and challenging mountain tracks. Everyone commented on the stunning views, ski-lift adventures and spectacular scenery. Offering different options for walkers we were able to provide opportunities for those who wanted to follow more challenging routes, and who wanted to pause and enjoy the pleasant sunshine, refreshments, and panoramic views from some superb quality Rifugios en route.

Walk 1 Viel Dal Pan 7800 feet Group A accessed via gondola and cable car.

'A' Walk 11 miles and 600 ft of ascent

As a first walk this was a great start to the week with gentle ascent and a coffee stop at Rifugio Viel de Pan after two miles. The age-old trade route runs along the spine of the Padon and was used by grain smugglers in the middle ages to avoid taxes on grain. This route gave us some magnificent views of the Marmolada Glacier before we descended down to Lake Fedaia where we had lunch. From the lake some took the bus back, others walking back via Penia (with a further 2000ft descent), the rest walked back along the river to Canazei.

'B' Walk 5 miles Group B 600 ft of ascent

After walking with group A along the mountain pass with spectacular view of the lake at Fedaia and Marmolada mountain range (formerly used as a smuggler route to avoid taxes on corn!), we descended a steep path to Fedaia. Some walkers joined group A walking back to Canazei, others taking the bus back.



Walk 2 Sassolungo approx. 7800 feet

'A' Walk 12 miles 2300ft of ascent

Following a short bus ride to Campitello, we took the cable car to Col Rodella, before splitting into two groups. The 'A' group did this wonderful walk in a clockwise direction, with lunch at Rifugio Sasso Piatto (at 7,600ft).

This was a hard and demanding walk because of the undulating terrain and pressure to get to Passo Sella for 16:30 to catch the last bus or 17:30 for the last ski-lift!! Walking quickly, we got there for 16:00 some taking the bus back and some carried on to the ski-lift. This was apart from Andy who nearly had to stay the night (after staying for a few more pints) because the cable car stopped because of the horrendous thunder storm.

'B' Walk 8 miles 300 ft ascent

After taking the bus to Campitello Di Fassa and the cable car to Col Rodella we followed the mountain track taken by group A but at a steadier pace. We changed the route to avoid another very steep descent and enjoyed a light lunch and wonderful sunshine at Yak Rifugio, a superb quality staging point with great facilities and spectacular panoramic views.



Walk 3 Piz Boe 10,341 feet

'A' Walk The highest walk of the week, 7.8 miles, 1800 feet ascent

We took the cable car from Canazei and the cable car to Pecol, then walked down 1.5 miles to the lift station at Passo Pordoi which took us up the mountain to Sass Pordoi. From here we walked round then down to Rifugio Forcella Pordoi (2448 meters.) splitting into two groups here. Group A walked the mountain then scrambled rocks, using steel chains, ropes and a few metal bars to navigate to the top of Piz Boe (10341ft). The weather was kind here, giving us great views of the surrounding mountains, as we had a break before climbing down to the lower Rifugio for lunch.



'B' Walk 7.5 miles 900 feet ascent

Accessed via gondola and cable car to Col De Rossi we took the mountain pass to Pas De Pordoi before taking another cable car to Rifugio Maria at Sas De Pordoi. Now in the high mountains above the tree line we were treated to spectacular mountain views along a stony mountain pass. Taking a linear route to Rifugio Boe we meant to re-join group A who had taken the higher mountain pass, our narrow path presented challenges including the need to occasionally use steel guide ropes for safety. After reaching our destination we enjoyed lunch before retracing our steps to Rifugio Maria, then returning to Canazei on a heart-stopping bus ride down the winding mountain road.

Walk 4 Val Jumela 7800 feet

'A' walk 10 miles and 1500ft of ascent

After walking to Penia we took the cable car to Ciampac before walking down then up to the chair lift to Sella Brunech. The A and B groups separated here, the B group going down the valley to Pera. The A group went up and over the ridges to Rifugio el Zedron, enjoying great views the surrounding mountains and a well-deserved lunch stop. We walked back down the valley and joined up with the B group at the play park at Pera, then taking the river walk to Canazei

'B' Walk 4.8 miles 200 feet ascent

Taking the gondola at Ciampac then chair lift to Sella Brunech, we later descended through the alpine valley on what was a very pleasant day. Reaching a farm at Malga Jumela the group enjoyed an unexpected but very pleasant stop for beers and cakes, as the owners had the innovative idea of opening for refreshments. After a steep descent via a rough-made road to the village of Pera we re-joined group A to walk back along the river (another 4 miles) or take the bus back to Canazei.



Walk 5 Rosengarten about 7800 ft

'A' Walk 13 miles 3000ft of ascent, 4500ft of descent

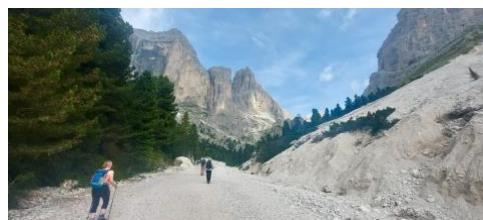
This walk's name refers to the magnificent red colours of the rocks at sunset – it was definitely the hardest walk of the week! We got the bus to Vigo de Fassa, then walked half a mile to the cable car which took us to Campiede. The A and B groups split here. The A group walked past Rifugios, Preuss and onto Principe, where we had a much-needed break. We traversed the sheer rock face, this took us up and over the rocky terrain.

The path led down to a valley and lake where Jean, Kerry and Doris enjoyed a paddle with thunder in the surrounding areas! After a long descent we took a bus back to the hotel.

'B' Walk 7 miles 1600 ft ascent.

After a 7-mile bus journey and cable car to Ciampiedie this route meandered through a pleasant nature reserve at Rosengarten to the Rifugio Gardeccia. As the route rose steeply at this point some of us enjoyed a leisurely lunch at this very comfortable family-run Rifugio.

For those who continued, at the junction we were faced with a choice of a narrow path access across the scree at Cresta De Davio or the daunting but more accessible climb to Rifugio Preuss with its imposing cross. We opted for the latter and after the steady climb were rewarded with great views and photos of the Rosengarten. On our return to Gardeccia, we re-joined the rest of the group before retracing our steps to Vigo Di Fass and a bus home with the distant thunder storm.



Recycling your gear at Cotswold Outdoor Stores



A big thank you to Daphne Thomas for sending in this information

Rather than throw out old walking gear, you can now donate it. As part of their ongoing mission to reduce our environmental impact, Cotswold have partnered with [The Phoenix Resource Centre](#) to help carefully repair and sort your kit - giving it a second life and helping others. **The Phoenix Resource Centre** is a registered charity dedicated to safeguarding and conserving the environment. Their initiatives advocate for waste reduction, reclamation, and utilising recycled products in the UK and beyond.

Before heading to our recycling points in-store, please check **what can and can't be recycled**.

You Can Recycle:

- All types of clothing including jackets, swimwear, wetsuits, and underwear
- Clothing accessories (hats, gloves, ...etc)
- All types of footwear
- Tents + tent poles
- Electronics incl. torches, headlamps, smartwatches, etc
- Rucksacks and bags
- Sleeping bags and camping equipment incl. stoves (remove gas canisters)
- Sledges, skis, and snowboards
- Climbing equipment

You Can't Recycle:

- Sharp objects (Knives or other objects that could be used as weapons)
- Liquids of any kind including gas canisters
- Food/perishables of any kind
- Maps and guidebooks (Instead, donate these to local charity stores)

To Recycle your gear, Simply **pop your kit into one of their Recycle My Gear bins located in-store**, and Phoenix will come later to collect it from our warehouse to sort and send it straight to projects worldwide. This gives your kit a second life helping others. Your kit will either be re-worn, reduced to raw material, or recycled to help make new gear.

To find out more click on to <https://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com/recycle-my-gear.html>

Or let a fellow member have them, ideally with a donation to Charity via the Club

Nearly new Scarpa Leather boots
Size 47 (12)
If interested please contact
Alan Kite 07792 812135



Below

Really good pair of ladies fell walking boots bought in 2017 but only worn very occasionally. They are Alt-Berg Fremington L (Lite) Ladies size 8 in Narrow fitting with vibram soles and leather uppers and cuffs. They would probably fit someone who takes a size 7 shoe, or even a 6.5 depending on the width.

If interested, please contact
Daphne 07762 897541



The items to the left are
available to whoever wants
them.

1 large rucksack – 75 Litre
2 Pairs of Men's leggings

If interested please contact
Pam Morrison
on 07532 186147





Club 75th Anniversary Party
Saturday 28 September
at St Joseph's. Penketh
7pm - 10.30pm

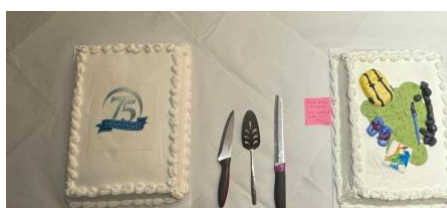
It is quite an achievement to have existed for 75 years and indicates how successful the club is.

We are fortunate in having an almost continuous record of its activities, although there are one or two gaps, including, perhaps not surprisingly, the very earliest membership and walks.

A continuous record of walks begins in 1951; but walks are believed to have started in August 1949, with early ones including Pickmere, Frodsham Hill, Kinder, Ashurst Beacon and Llangollen – all using public transport, since most people then did not have cars.

Over 70 past and current members joined us to celebrate our momentous event.

And we celebrated in style, with a live band, Loose Connections, and a delicious hot buffet provided and served by Bluebell Catering. St Joseph's did us proud too, with balloons and banners to add to the ambience.



Thanks to Rona for arranging and decorating two fabulous cakes



A presentation of photos on a continuous loop, showed members from the 1950's to present day. (Thanks to Paul Burgess for arranging this). Members reminisced over past members, some of whom are unfortunately no longer with us, plus their own images, sporting hairstyles perhaps best left in a previous era!!!

It was fascinating to see the equipment (or lack thereof) on the early photos. They had no Gore-Tex nor any lightweight waterproofs – we might complain about the weather sometimes, but we don't know how lucky we are.

Two past Chairmen, David Woolf and Dennis Carter, were invited to speak and spoke of how the fact that we are such a friendly caring club has contributed to its longevity. Dennis took the opportunity to thank Phil Barrowcliff for his outstanding contribution including providing many foreign holidays over the years.



David Woolf with Peter Winter looking on



←
Peter Winter
Presenting a card
to David Woolf



Phil Barrowcliff, Dennis Carter
And David Woolf.

Peter Winter took the opportunity to thank club members for their contribution. Initially presenting thank you cards to David Woolf who served as Chairman for 10 years and President for 12 years, then to Dennis Carter who was Chairman for 12 years and is our current President. He also expressed our appreciation for David's very generous donation of £500 which allowed everyone to have a free drink at the beginning of the evening.

Peter then went on to thank specifically all those who currently or in the past have served on the committee, those who have led walks and finally all those who have supported the club through their membership.



All those who had achieved 20 or more years of in the club were invited to come forward and receive a medal. Between them, this represented a total of 526 years of membership

David Woolf complimented the way the club is currently thriving and was sure that it would continue, with its current ethos – of being friendly and inclusive, watching out for each other, and this would take is through for at least a further 75 years.



Spring Weekend Away 2025

4 – 7 April 2025 at the Derwentwater Hotel near Keswick

Please note it is April this year, not March

Bookings are now being taken for the Spring weekend.
Initial allocation filled but the good news is, that we have managed to secure a few extra rooms.

£65 per person per night for a shared room

£85 pppn for single occupancy in a twin or double room

These rates are for dinner, bed and breakfast

To book on, please email secretarywarringtonhf@gmail.com
clearly stating your requirements ie:

Double/Twin or Single Room

No of nights – 2 or 3

Then send a £50 deposit to the Club Account.

The details you will need are:

Account Name : Warrington HF Rambling Club

Account number: 85115482

Sort code: 09 01 53

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

(NB it is a business account)



Club Night Tuesday 8th October 2024

For our first club night of the autumn, we enjoyed a fascinating talk on "What you may or may not know about birds" from our very own Chris Sewell. Chris explained that he had been bird watching for over 40 years and gave an interesting account of some of the differences between the various species and shared numerous bizarre facts along the way. Did you know that bird eggs are actually different shapes? And their different colours serve to act as camouflage to prevent them being spotted by predators.

As well as the slides showing the many colourful varieties, we were also treated to short videos showing eg an eagle's eye view of the world and some of the peculiar mating routines.

Chris's enthusiasm and knowledge for the topic led to a really enjoyable evening.

Thanks to Chris for the time and effort you expended on putting together such a great talk.






Chris wasn't being idle, he had to sit down so people could see the screen



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.



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
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

