

So we did it, finally made it, let's wave the flag, quite a few flags in fact. Is the Peak District our favourite National Park?

If Roland could make our website give an affirmative nod, recent walks in this beautiful landscape of such variation are sufficient evidence to back up the hypothesis - Castleton, Miller's Dale, White Peak & Bakewell, Chatsworth, Ashford-in-the-Water, Crich Tramway, Kinder Plateau, Derwent Edge, Matlock... and HARTINGTON, with 46 seats taken and some disappointed late applicants to join the trip.

Extended thanks to our walk leaders who trialled the terrain to ensure a rewarding day under a cloudless sky. We will be returning soon - Stoney Middleton coming up.

Hundreds more miles were also travelled

by walk leaders to ensure the success of our Sedbergh weekend, hiring a self-catering cottage in Dent Village in order to carry out their mission.

Fully booked, even our Chairperson had to find outlying sleeping quarters in order to Spend Time with us in the Wild. Lasting memories are made from these adventures. Much relief that Doris was hauled out of a bog, others reflected on sore knees from descents too steep for ordinary ramblers.

But replacement body parts do not indicate premature retirement from rejoicing in the Great Outdoors. There were notable achievements.

Summer storms or heatwaves, we need to be out there. Stay safe.

David Shaw - Chairperson

Walk Holidays

Weymouth weekend [September 8th - 11th 2023] is fully booked, though for personal reasons some members are having to relinquish their places. Philippa will hold a walk leaders meeting on July 19th.

Details of our April 2024 residential at **HF Coniston Weekend** have already been made available, places filling fast. Hilary Prince has spared no effort in trying to find us the best location and we are already benefitting from her experience in hotel management.

Coniston - AA Road Atlas 2023 page 34-35; there's probably a grid reference and a postcode for SatNav users, but regret What3Words' is beyond me.

Weymouth -
Dorset



Coniston -
Lake District

Picture: Jonny Gios
- Unsplash



WORKING PARTY

Most members focus on the next walk on the programme, but how many are aware of 'work' that volunteers carry out to make our walks possible?

The footpath maintenance work carried out by our dedicated volunteers passes largely unnoticed, a monthly venture on each second Tuesday enabling the network of stiles, gates, bridges and footpaths to be sustained. The April working party made repairs to a ditch crossing at Cosford while the group have recently installed a new sleeper bridge near Hill/Leamington Hastings.



Photos of the sleeper bridge before and after repair.

John Lake, Richard Pinks and Alan Pinder lead the team of 'unsung heroes'; others include Alain Foote and Clive Buckley... thank you to all who contribute.

PUT ON YOUR DIARY

Coach trip Following the pre-Covid pattern of excursions, we expect to run our autumn trip on 1st October, destination to be confirmed.

AGM - 7th November

Music Night 5th December - Country and Irish with De T'ree Fellas, not to be missed.

Walks

Our walks are still found on the website managed by Roland. Wednesday walks, summer evenings and autumn mornings, are still maintained by enthusiastic volunteers, likewise regular Saturday walks and longer Sunday walks fortnightly. The number of active walk leaders has contracted though and members do need to step forward to promote the programme. Hopefully, in due course new leaders will soon emerge.

Initial walk details to Roland [rolandnclarke@aol.com] for the website; walk leaders advertise their walk through Astrid at ask@rugbyramblers.org.uk. We are immensely grateful to all who contribute.

Committee

Alain Foote will step down as **Footpath Secretary** from November 7th [AGM], so this interesting post becomes vacant. The role of **Social Secretary** is also vacant for one or more members to take up the reins of supporting Rugby Group's events. New committee members will be encouraged to define their own role.

Several members attended the **Area AGM** at Castle Bromwich, made their presence felt and were well rewarded with an excellent carvery lunch.

OBITUARY

Inevitably we have sad news to report on occasions.

Lynn Jones, member from May 2005, passed away on Christmas Eve after suffering from cancer for the previous few months. She was very popular with all who knew her, always jolly and cheerful and ready to lend a hand. As well as leading the kitchen teams on 'Soups and Puds' evenings, she led many short walks, particularly Wednesday evening walks and came to many weekends away including the Isle of Wight only last year. Some members may remember she even brought her Dad along on occasions! Memories! Many of you attended her funeral at St. Mary's Church, Clifton, on January 20th.

Older members will have fond memories of **Brenda Coleman**, a member from 1978, and sadly she passed away on January 2nd after being treated for lung cancer. She was Social Secretary until 1989 and with her husband Derek led walks until 1990. Some will recall her "hands-on" catering for early Ramblers Weekends at Talybont and Ripponden, stretching to a DIY Annual Lunch at Brinklow's Scout Hut. She loved the Lakes and her family granted her wish to see Ullswater one last time during Christmas. Her funeral in January was sadly also followed by the loss of Derek.

More recently we lost **Tony Gibbons**, a member from 1993. He volunteered as walk leader from 1996 until 2013. He also loved 'knowledge' and from February 2003 he 'organised' Quiz Nights with Barry Matthews up until February this year. (We were denied the pleasure of his company because his car wouldn't start!) He retained his love of Rugby Group by remaining a member even when he found cycling more amenable to long-suffering knees. Many of you attended his funeral at Rainsbrook.

