

Most of the recent tumultuous waterings have thankfully flowed under the bridge and we have been able to step out on firmer footpaths of late, our programme taking us further afield in increasing daylight, with destinations from Northleach to Llangollen being possible once again, and many members undertaking their own exotic adventures. I want to acknowledge, on behalf of all members, the unstinting contribution Kay and Richard Pinks continue to make through the fortnightly Sunday programme they coordinate and the monthly Saturday walks they continue to lead. Without their efforts our programme would look sparse.

Thank you to all walk leaders who continue to make a contribution. We have been reminded of their resilience in adapting to and responding to changed situations - medical emergency [Flore, March 3rd], challenging weather as endured across our Coniston weekend, and always the need for Plan B ... change of bus times, cancelled train [Llangollen].

Walking can be 'dangerous', even with careful route planning and all the right gear. Lorna hobbled painfully most of the way from Winchcombe to Broadway after unknowingly fracturing a toe, while Joan was jumped on during a U3A walk. Roland took an ulcer on the ankle, cause unknown, but each requiring medical treatment.

So into high summer, I wish all members safe walking on the miles ahead. A warm welcome awaits those returning from ailments.

David Shaw - Chairperson

Tale of the Unexpected

Following the Saturday walk at Leire [06/07], our members were invited to help themselves to a glass of Pimms, soon followed by "Please help yourselves to the food".

Enjoyment was immense, with lemonade and fruit on the table, the ladies' cocktail glasses soon filling up, a merry party in full swing.

Questioning the landlord's kind offer, it turned out that he was expecting a party of 44 walkers from a group called "Over The Top", booked in advance, and fully paid.

Apologies offered, he was very gracious, said "Not to worry, he would make some more drinks for the other party".



On the point of leaving, the other group entered!
A Special Walk indeed!

... an echo of Robert Burns
"The best laid plans of mice and men".

Working Party

During March four new waymark signposts were installed at Wolston.

April's work party cleared vegetation along 0.4

Miles on a footpath near Dunchurch; this was continued in May to clear a further 0.2 miles, totalling over half a mile ... that's immense!

John Lake would like additional volunteers to help with the maintenance work undertaken by the Footpath Working Group. Much of the work on paths we all use continues to be done because of their efforts.

Please consider volunteering, if only occasionally. The commitment does not have to be for every month.



John Lake pictured above on the finished footpath bridge at Vicarage Farm near Bretford.

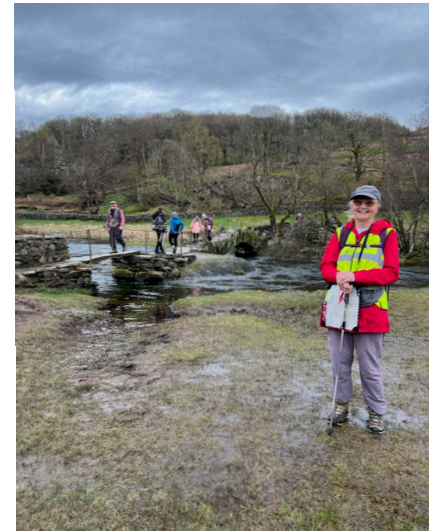
Walk Leaders

We are slowly replenishing our stock. Mary Bailess recently led her first Wednesday evening walk from Monks Kirby with the encouragement of Brian and Sandra (Townsend) on her recce.

It is a requirement that Walks are posted on the website before taking place. This may be done months in advance; please submit to Roland [rolandnclarke@aol.com]. A few days before the actual walk, please advertise details by submitting to Astrid astridremboldshimamura@gmail.com; she will then circulate to members, but needs time to do it.

August 2024 - leaders still required for evening walks.

Faith would like to remind all walk leaders that the recce expenses can be claimed back. If you have any question, just email Faith - faith.boyers@gmail.com



Carol Wood, one of the walk leaders in the Lake District weekend

Membership

Our membership fluctuates, we have comings and goings, often making deep friendships in the process. We are therefore sorry to learn that Martin Ogden and Norman Charles are no longer members.

We are invariably saddened to learn of the deaths of past members. These include:

Ray Gaunt was a member of Ramblers from 1980 and a guiding light in establishing and leading "Health Walks" in the Dunchurch area.

Dr Geoff Chilvers, a member from about 1992, later moving to Lancashire.

Jim Hopwood, a ' Rambler ' soon after retiring from working on the railway in about 1992 and a prolific walk leader.

Vic Donovan, a member from July 2004, passed away in May at the age of 79. Sporting a white beard, he will be remembered as a Father Christmas.

Emergency contact

It is advisable for members to carry at least an ICE [In Case of Emergency] card while on walks; David still has a few and usually offers them to members prior to starting a walk.

In the cycling world a helmet sticker is used, available from CERQL - see internet; this can contain up to 1500 letters of information, e.g emergency contact, address, NHS number, blood group, allergies etc, all in a QR code. You can also include a photo. Emergency services have QR scanners which allows them to access this information quickly (and act upon it). John Gabriel has an example of the sticker (which can be stuck to anything, eg. mobile phone case). They are available at £3 each or 10 for about £11 ... a bargain? He would be happy for anyone to contact him to see one 'in action.'

Key dates:

Elan Valley Residential Weekend - Friday August 30th - Monday September 2nd.
FULLY BOOKED

Coach trip IRON BRIDGE - Sunday September 22nd. Demand is likely to be high. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
We would welcome offers to lead walks. If you are interested, please contact David Shaw - ratreesh@aol.com



Gallery



< Lake District weekend - April 2024

Llangollen Coach Trip - April 2024 >



Lighthorne walk - July 2024



Recce in the Lake District

Acknowledgements with thanks to Vale Hargie, Sandra Bevan, John Gabriel and Nick Jakeman for their contributions.