

Cheshire Walkers Walks Programme: Apr 2010 – Sep 2010

Fri-Mon 2nd Apr 2010: Scottish Borders: Melrose - Easter Weekend

Description: This Easter we will be venturing north and spending our Easter weekend in the Scottish Borders staying at the Melrose YHA. On both Saturday and Sunday, we'll be organising linear walks. Booking details were circulated via email in February 2010. There is one female and one male place still available. Your valid Ramblers Association membership number (you need to be members for insurance reasons) will be required.

Start point: Melrose

Level: Moderate

Distance: 15 miles Saturday, 10 miles Sunday

Leader: Kirsty

Sun 11th Apr 2010: Bollington & Lyme Park Along Some of The Gritstone Trail

Description: The full Gritstone Trail follows the Gritstone Edge for 35 miles, providing views of the Peak District and Cheshire Plain and runs from Disley through to Kids Grove station. This walk will take in part of the Gritstone trail from the heart of Bollington to Lyme Park.

We start by walking along the historical recreation ground, river Dean and pretty cottage lined streets made from local Kerridge Stone and after a short steep climb, reach the landmark monument White Nancy. Here we see the Cheshire plain to the West, The Peak District to the East and Bollington below us with Clarence and Aldelphi cotton Mills seen alongside the canal, as evidence of Bollington's heritage. Here we join the Gritstone trail to Lyme Park, with undulating terrain and some steady climbing across farmland, woodland and brooks. Looking back we see Kerridge Ridge stretching behind us, which features in an evening walk in June. Eventually we reach another panoramic viewing point, taking in Shutlingsloe, Windgather Rocks, Shining Tor, Kinder Scout and on a clear day as far as Long Mynd.

The path then leads us into Lyme Park (this is a great place to bring a kite on a windy day !) which opens into Moorland with views of Manchester. Our return route is mainly downhill taking us past the earlier viewpoint, after which we depart from the Gritstone Trail to Bollington along pleasant Harrop brook valley and back to the cars. Here The Vale Inn currently The Macclesfield Express Pub Of The Year, awaits our return with its very own brewing company!

Start point: OL24 931 781

Level: Moderate

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Tracy, Helen

Sun 18th Apr 2010: Peak District: Mickelden Edge and Margery Hill from Langsett Barn

Description: This walk takes in the moors in the north east of the Peak District, on the Yorkshire side of the watershed. We will start from the busy Langsett Barn car park before climbing up Mickelden Edge to Margery Hill, and then over Outer Edge before dropping

to the headwaters of the River Don.

Start point: Langsett Barn Car Park at Langsett Reservoir, just off the A616 between Holmfirth and Stocksbridge. NGR SE 210 005

Level: Moderate

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Simon

Sun 25th Apr 2010: Derbyshire: Cracken Edge and South Head

Description: Starting from Chinley, we ascend to Cracken Edge, which was formerly a quarry. There are lovely views of Shining Tor and to Kinder. We continue to South Head before returning to Chinley. Its a fairly short walk, so please note the slightly later start and have a well-earned lie in.

Start point: Station Car Park at Chinley. From the A6, follow signs to Chinley, then to the Station

Level: Easy/Moderate

Distance: 7–8 miles

Leader: Alison S

Sat/Sun 1st May 2010: Bala and Llyn Tegid Weekend

Description: The first May bank holiday weekend of 2010 will be spent in the beautiful surrounding area of Bala and Llyn Tegid. There will be a large mountain walk on the Saturday, a large mountain walk on the Sunday and if there is demand and good weather a shorter half day walk around the lake on the Monday.

Start point: TBC

Level: Strenuous

Distance: TBC

Leader: Rebecca

Sun 9th May 2010: Blackpool to Fleetwood - A Shoreline Walk

Description: A linear coastal walk virtually flat we are at sea level !!! Views out to the Irish Sea , if clear the Isle of Man and the Lake District can be seen

Route :- M6 to M55 to the end. Follow signs for Starr Gate & Airport, passing the airport on the left, continue straight ahead. On reaching the promenade at Starr Gate, turn right along the prom, (this is where the Illuminations start) continue for 1 mile, car park on the left.

Note :- Car park - 7.50. - expensive in Blackpool - please car share where possible. We will return by the Tram or the Bus from Fleetwood, Bus 2.20. Bus or Tram that goes to Starr Gate- the route follows the promenade back. Please have plenty of 1 coins and 50p's as the machines do not give change, & make sure all the coins drop before pressing the green button !! and 20p's for the toilets on route !! and change for the Tram/Bus return.

Start point: The seafront car park opposite the ' BIG ONE ' the high roller coaster ride on the pleasure beach. No toilets here, but plenty along the prom. Walking shoes please and gaiters useful should we be able to ' beach walk ' for some of the way low tide permitting.

Level: Easy

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Alfred

Sun 16th May 2010: Peak District: Three Shires Head, Axe Edge Moor, Flash!

Description: A pleasant walk along the Dane Valley Way, to Three Shires Head, through the eyrie post industrial landscape of the Danebower quarries, up onto the expanse of Axe Edge Moor, eventually leading to Flash, the highest village in England.

Take the A54 towards Buxton. At the Rose and Crown Inn at Allgreave turn sharply right, signed towards Quarnford. Follow this road for approximately 2 miles until it passes over the River Dane by a chapel. 200m along turn right, signed to the Scout Camp. The car park is 100m on the right.

Start point: National Park car park at Gradbach GR: SJ998663. The car park is free but places are limited so please car share where possible.

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Andrew

Sun 23rd May 2010: South Pennines: Haworth to Hebden Bridge

Description: Haworth, and the surrounding moorland, is almost synonymous with the Brontës. On this walk, we'll start in Haworth, travel (either by bus or by car, depending on numbers) to Hebden Bridge, and then walk back. On the walk back we'll walk through Hebden Dale; during the industrial revolution this was a centre for cotton-making, but has since returned to woodland and the only surviving mill is now a (rather nice) cafe. Then we'll head up onto Wadsworth Moor and the Pennine Way to Top Withins - a ruined farmhouse, the location of which is often thought to have inspired Wuthering Heights - before returning to Haworth in time to sample its eclectic mix of shops and cafes.

Start point: Car-park by the Brontë Parsonage in Haworth, GR SE 029 372

Level: Moderate

Distance: 12 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 30th May 2010: Peak District: Lathkill Dale and Stanton Moor from Over Haddon

Description: Starting in the village of Over Haddon we will drop down to Lathkill Dale and then head south to Youlgreave and then Stanton Moor before returning to Over Haddon.

Start point: Car Park in Over Haddon. NGR SK 203 664. The car park costs 4.70

Level: Moderate

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Simon

Wed 2nd Jun 2010: Evening walk: The Kerridge Ridge and Macclesfield Canal from Bollington

Description: A short evening walk to blow away the mid-week blues. We'll walk along the Kerridge Ridge, affording good views across the western side of the Peak District, and then return along the Macclesfield Canal.

Level: Easy (with one short, steep bit)

Distance: 5-6 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 6th Jun 2010: North Wales: Llangollen Pengwern Vale and Y Foel

Description: This pleasant circular walk explores an area south of Llangollen overlooking Pengwern Vale, a wide U-shaped dry valley that was once the main course of the River Dee. The walk takes you through the edge of attractive Pen-y-coed wood, then on field paths, before climbing steadily on a track high above the valley, with views of the Ceriog Valley and the Berwyns. The walk includes parts of the North Berwyn Way and the Llwybr Ceiriog Trail.

Start point: Car Park, Mill Street (A539), Llangollen.

Level: Moderate

Distance: 10.5 miles

Leader: Sarah

Sun 13th Jun 2010: Snowdonia - Rhobell Fawr and Ddualt

Description: Starting from the village of Llanfachreth near Dolgellau, this walk takes in the isolated peaks of Rhobell Fawr (734m) and Ddualt, between Dolgellau and Bala Lake. There should be good views of the surrounding mountains of southern Snowdonia.

Start point: Grid ref. SH756225 the village of Llanfachreth, near the school. Post code - LL40 2DY

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 12 miles

Leader: David

Sun 20th Jun 2010: Cheshire's Castle Country (Bulkeley & Burwardsley)

Description: A scenic walk giving fabulous views of Beeston and Peckforton Castle, which were built on strategic hilltop sites to keep the Welsh at bay, even though they never saw much battle. Parts of the walk will be on the Sandstone Trail and the Peckforton Estate. A wonderful grove of sweet chestnut trees on a broad shelf rimmed by low sandstone crags will be one of the many highlights of the walk!

Start point: Verges at end of tarmac on Coppermines Lane, off A534 (near Bulkeley and the Bickerton Poacher), parking is also available there. Grid reference SJ520550

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9.5 miles

Leader: Doerthe

Thu 24th Jun 2010: Evening Walk: A Midsummer Walk: Wildboarclough, Cessbank Common, Bullstones.

Description: An interesting little walk exploring the historic and geographic features of the area above Wildboarclough. As well as earthworks, tumuli, and boundary stones there is the chance to see one of the best preserved bronze age stone circle and burial site in Cheshire. If we are back in time there may also be the chance of a pint of something at the Crag Inn.

Start point: Car Park/Lay-by just south of Wildboarclough GR SJ974678

Level: Easy

Distance: 3.5 miles

Leader: Andrew

Sun 26th Jun 2010: Challenge Walk, Yorkshire Three Peaks

Description: Details to be confirmed closer to the date.

Start point: TBC

Level: Very strenuous

Distance: TBC

Leader: Tom, James, Andrew

Wed 30th Jun 2010: Evening walk: Frodsham and Helsby Hill

Description: Due to the unseasonably nice weather, there's going to be an extra evening walk this week. It's a 5-mile stroll around Frodsham and Helsby Hills along the Sandstone Trail.

Directions: Assuming you're coming into Frodsham from Jn 12 of the M56, go along the A56 into Frodsham Turn left onto the B5152. After about 1 mile, turn right onto Manley Road (signposted Manley, Forest Hills Hotel). Take the 4th right onto Simons Lane (by the Forest Hills Hotel and Frodsham Golf club signs). The carpark is 1/2 mile down this road, near the transmitter, on the right.

Start point: Beacon Hill carpark

Level: Easy

Distance: 5 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 4th Jul 2010: Shropshire: The Long Mynd

Description: A circular walk starting and finishing in the pleasant town of Church Stretton. It starts in the town and climbs up on to the Long Mynd (Long Mountain) giving fine views towards the Welsh Borders in clear weather. Well walk along most of the ridge, including the highest point Pole Bank (516 metres /1693 feet). This is the walk originally scheduled for February 2010, postponed due to snow.

Start point: Long stay park, centre of Church Stretton opposite Cooperative store

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Kirsty

Sun 11th Jul 2010: Lake District: High Street from Mardale Head

Description: A strenuous walks with sublime views.

Initially, climbing the 2-3 mile ridge which leads directly from the edge of the lake to the summit of High Street (2,718 ft), via the summits of Rough Crag and Long Stile.

From High Street, we then descend to Mardale Ill Bell and the Nan Bield Pass. Then, final ascent of the day to the summit of Harter Fell, with supreme views of Haweswater & back down to the car.

Start point: Car Park at Mardale Head (Free Parking) - south west end of Haweswater Lake/Reservoir

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 7 miles

Leader: Jay

Wed 14th Jul 2010: Evening walk: Alderley Edge

Description: The first known publication of the Legend of Alderley was in 1805 in the Manchester Mail. A newspaper correspondent is thought to have obtained the story from a servant of the local Stanley family, a Thomas Broadhurst, also known as Old Daddy. However, Parson Shrigley, the Rector of Nether Alderley was believed to have recounted the tale as early as 1753.

Since the 18th Century the legend has inspired writing and poems, most notably the novel *The Weirstone of Brisingham*, by Alan Garner in which two children are pursued by the forces of evil and rescued by the mysterious Wizard.

Join me for an evening of adventure as we wander in the footsteps of Colin and Susan in search of the elusive Iron Gates. There will also be the opportunity for a drink in the Wizard Pub afterwards (Colin and Susan will have to wait outside in the car with a bottle of pop and a packet of crisps).

Start point: Alderley Edge National Trust Car Park on the B5087 Macclesfield Road. There is a charge for this car park for non-members. Toilets available. (If car park is closed then look for layby at The Lodge, just before the Wizard Pub).

Level: Easy

Distance: 3.5 miles

Leader: Andrew

Sun 18th Jul 2010: Lancashire: The Lancashire Coast and Lancaster canal from Glasson Dock

Description: We will walk south from Glasson Dock (also known simply as Glasson) towards the coast, passing Cokersand Abbey. We will then head inland through Cockerham and then return via the Lancaster Canal.

Start point: Car Park adjacent to marina in Glasson Dock village. NGR SD 446 561 Glasson is on the B5290 west of the A588 Lancaster to Blackpool road, about 5 miles south of Lancaster.

Level: Easy

Distance: 12 miles

Leader: Simon

Sat/Sun 24th Jul 2010: North Pennines: Dufton weekend

Description: A chance to visit the north pennines, an area often seen in the distance, but rarely visited. We will be staying at Dufton youth hostel. Camping and B&Bs are also available in the village. We will visit the highest point of the Pennines, Cross Fell (Saturday) and High Cup Nick (Sunday). Further details will be sent to the group mailing list.

Start point: TBC

Level: Strenuous

Distance: TBC

Leader: Tom, Alison

Sun 1st Aug 2010: A Linear Walk :- Llanfairfechan to Conway.

Description: Coastal Views for most of the way, Anglesey and Puffin Island, Stone Circles, and a hilltop view looking down to Conway Castle. Maybe an ice cream along

the way too. There is a choice of cafes in Conway and there will be time to explore the interesting town for those who wish afterwards, there is also a super fish & chip shop !!

Logistics !! The train journey is just 10 minutes, and it would be impossible!! for the train guy to dispense 20 or so tickets in that time. Therefore I will pre book tickets for those who book to go on the walk by 0900am Friday July 30th !! Any member deciding to come along after that time MUST either get a ticket from their local station or pay on the train.

Route:- A55 North Wales Coast Road to Conway, follow the signs to the town, on entering Conway, take the first left, through the archway, and down the hill, road bends right and the car park is on the right, approx 2.00. The station is a short walk up the hill.

Start point: Meet at the Car Park grid Ref :- SH781773 at 10.15am. Train leaves Conway Station at 10.45am, arrives Llanfairfechan 10.55. fare :- 3.60. If you miss the Train you miss the Walk !!

Level: Moderate

Distance: 10 miles

Leader: Alfred

Sun 8th Aug 2010: Snowdonia: Moel Eilio from Llanberis

Description: This is a rewarding circular walk taking in four peaks, Moel Eilio being the highest at 726m. There are great views of the surrounding areas, including Snowdon, weather permitting. The walk includes some steep ascents, but no scrambling.

Start point: Car park next to the Electric Mountain visitors centre, off the A4086 in Llanberis. Postcode for satnav users is LL55 4UR. Grid reference SH 581 601.

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 8 miles

Leader: Nigel

Sun 15th Aug 2010: Yorkshire Dales: Calf Top

Description: From Barbon, we head up to Castle Knott (536 m) and Calf Top (609 m), before descending into the Lune valley and returning to Barbon.

Start point: Hodge Bridge, just off the A683, Grid ref SD623825.

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 13 miles

Leader: Tom

Sun 22nd Aug 2010: Peak District - Black Hill

Description: Starting from Crowden in the Woodhead Valley, the walk covers part of the Pennine way, and tackles the moorland peak of Black Hill (470m) and West end Moss.

Start point: Crowden, SK13 1HZ, just off the woodhead pass A628

Level: Moderate

Distance: 10.5 miles

Leader: David

Sat/Sun 28th Aug 2010: Llyn Peninsula Weekend

Description: A camping, B&B weekend on the beautiful Llyn Peninsula. On the first day will be a walk including Yr Eifl, on the second day a coastal walk with potential for swimming! Further details to be released closer to the date.

Start point: TBC

Level: Moderate

Distance: TBC

Leader: Andrew

Sun 5th Sep 2010: Yorkshire Dales: Ingleborough and Crummackdale

Description: Wainwright himself reckoned that Ingleborough was ‘the undisputed overlord of the limestone country, the most compelling presence... and surely the most interesting of all British heights’, and it certainly deserves a more leisurely visit than that on the Challenge Walk! We’ll use the classic ascent from Clapham taking in Trow Gill and Gaping Gill (the largest cave in Britain), before descending via Crummackdale to see the strange rock formations of the Norber erratics.

Start point: Carpark in Clapham, GR SD 746 692

Level: Moderate

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 12th Sep 2010: Peak District: Three Shires Heads and Axe Edge Walk

Description: Starting at the Cat & Fiddle (the second highest pub in England) this circular walk is mostly over open moorland. It takes in Three Shire Heads, the meeting point of the counties of Cheshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire. On a clear day there are some great views in all directions. There are short sections of rough walking and some modest climbing.

Start point: Opposite the Cat & Fiddle on the A537 Buxton to Macclesfield road. Please note there is not a lot of car parking space so if possible please car-share. There is another car park about a mile away at Derbyshire Bridge that cars could be left at if necessary.

Level: Moderate

Distance: 8 miles

Leader: Alison

Sun 19th Sep 2010: Lake District: Easedale Tarn, Sergeant Man, High Raise & the

Description: A popular walk which takes in 5 Wainwrights and the beautiful Easedale Tarn.

Starting in Grasmere Village, we initially ascend to Easedale Tarn.

From Easedale Tarn, we ascend to Sergeant Man (2,414 ft) and then High Raise (2,500 ft) - possibly the most central fell in the Lake District & has fine views.

From there, we make our way to the ridge linking Calf Crag to Gibson Knott and Helm Crag - better known as the ”Lion & the Lamb”.

Then descending from Helm Crag back down to Grasmere for a tea or coffee.

Start point: Broadgate Car Park in Grasmere Village

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Jay

Sun 26th Sep 2010: Hurst Green and Three Rivers (near Clitheroe)

Description: A delightful walk round Middle-Earth, as rumour has it that Tolkien drew great inspiration from this particularly beautiful area of the Ribble Valley for his creation of The Shire. The walk will start in the village of Hurst Green, otherwise known as Hobbiton, and then follow the rivers Ribble, Calder and Hodder, taking in woodlands, a fine viewpoint of well known Stonyhurst College and a secret dell.

Start point: Hurst Green village hall, parking is also available at Hurst Green village hall or on roadside adjacent to the hall (there are public toilets in the centre of Hurst Green).
Grid reference SD684382

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Doerthe