

Cheshire Walkers Walks Programme: Apr 2011 – Sep 2011

Sun 3rd Apr 2011: Lake District: Helvellyn from Thirlmere

Description: A walk with extensive views over many mountain ranges and lakes including Thirlmere, Ullswater and Conistone Water.

Initial steep ascent directly to the summit of Helvellyn from the car park, with views of virtually the whole length of Thirlmere.

From the summit, we will have time to look down on Red Tarn and Striding Edge.

Continue along the ridge to the south from Helvellyn to Nethermost Pike and Dollywagon Pike, and then descend to Grisedale Tarn, with views over Fairfield and St Sunday Crag.

Final ascent up Seat Sandal, then down to Dunmail Raise and back to Thirlmere.

Start point: Grid Reference: NY325136 - Wythburn Church car park - Thirlmere

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Jay

Sun 10th Apr 2011: Yorkshire Dales: Embsay Moor, Waterfall Gill and Embsay Crag

Description: Often ignored as it lies on the edge of the National Park, Embsay Moor is one of the quieter places in Yorkshire. We'll visit Embsay Crag (with good views of Simon's Seat near Bolton Abbey), the moor itself, and Waterfall Gill, a rather impressive waterfall. Note: due to ground nesting birds this walk is not suitable for dogs.

Start point: Small carpark in the centre of Embsay. GR SE 009 537, nearest postcode BD23 6RF

Level: Moderate

Distance: 10 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 17th Apr 2011: Cumbria: Hutton Roof Crag and Farleton Fell

Description: As you travel up the M6 to the Lake District, you may have noticed the hill to the right just before turning off at J36. Not many people stop here, but it's worth a look.

Start point: Plain Quarry car park near Burton in Kendal, SD552761

Level: Moderate

Distance: 10 miles

Leader: Tom

Fri–Mon 22nd Apr 2011: Easter Weekend 2011 - Isle of Man

Description: Friday: Free time

Saturday: Linear Walk Ramsay to St Johns following the Manx Mountain Marathon route. 16 miles, strenuous

Sunday: Linear Walk Peel to Port Erin following the cliff-top coastal path. Further details 12 miles, moderate

Monday: Free time

Accommodation and Suggested Itinerary: Travel as foot passenger by Seacat from Liverpool on Friday. Spend Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in Bed and Breakfast accommodation in Douglas (for public transport and entertainment reasons) Return to Liverpool by Seacat on Monday. Please book your own Bed and Breakfast accommodation and Seacat ticket. We can use buses to get to the walk start points. Please contact Alison before booking to confirm your place, obtain further details and ferry times. Early booking advisable.

Start point: tbc

Level: Saturday: Strenuous / Sunday: Moderate

Distance: TBC

Leader: Accommodation: Alison Walks: Tom

Sun 8th May 2011: Shropshire: The Breidden Hills

Description: A walk of panoramic views, with two steep hill climbs. We take in Rodney's Pillar 365m, Middletown Hill 367m and a gentle climb to Bulthy Hill 290m. The route up to Rodney's Pillar (Breidden Hill) should be carpeted in bluebells. No toilets at walk start, suggest a garage on route, one in Llandrinio on the left, about a mile from the walk start, or a garage on the A483, near Oswestry. Post walk drink in the Admiral Rodney off the B4393,

Note :- Could be muddy in parts, suggest gaiters, a walking pole is advisable. There are two hill ascents on this walk. The walk is technically in England- just , and with a few metres actually in Wales.

Start point: Walk start, Crew Green. SJ 321 153 - south of Oswestry off A483.

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Alfred

Sun 15th May 2011: Get Walking, Keep Walking: Yorkshire Dales: Wharfedale and Dentdale from Ribblesdale

Description: Wharfedale - one of the 3 peaks - is the highest peak in Yorkshire. We'll get the train across the Ribblesdale Viaduct (a marvel of Victorian engineering) to Dent, and then walk back via Dentdale, Wharfedale Tarns, Wharfedale itself, and (if time allows) the Twistleton Scars (some of the finest limestone pavements in the country).

This walk is part of the Ramblers' GET WALKING, KEEP WALKING campaign. Walking is an excellent natural exercise that can help you stay healthy and live longer, control your weight, keep happy, enjoy time with friends and family, learn more about places of interest and even look after the environment.

Start point: Large lay-by/informal carpark at the junction of the B6479 and B6255, about 4 miles north of Horton in Ribblesdale GR SD 765 792, nearest postcode LA6 3JF

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9-13 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 22nd May 2011: Cumbria: Howgill Fells

Description: There is a steep climb at the start of the walk up Cautley Spout, - England's highest waterfall, and then up to The Calf, - the Howgills highest point. The

path then follows the ridge along to Calders and Winder and down to the Rawthey Valley. The walk is 11 miles long and the highest point is 2,218 feet.

Probably go for drinks at The Bull in Sedbergh afterwards, as The Cross Keys doesn't reopen in the evenings until 7pm

Please let me know if you are coming by Saturday as there is really limited parking and we need to organise car share.

Start point: Follow M6 North, turn off at exit 37 and follow the signs for Sedbergh. From Sedburgh centre, take the road left on to the A683 for about 5 miles passing through Cautley and meeting at the layby by The Cross keys Temperance Inn. SD698969

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Jane

Sun 29th May 2011: Peak District: Coombs Dale & Longstone Moor from Eyam

Description: This walk starts from the plague village of Eyam and takes us along some lesser known dales and moors to the south of the village, including, the as yet unexplored by me, Combs Dale, and Longstone Edge and Moor.

As this is the late May bank holiday weekend you may want to make a weekend of it by staying over at one of the nearby hostels, campsites or B&Bs, but nothing is being organised!

Start point: Grid Ref: SK 216 767 Directions: Free Car Park in Eyam, behind pay and display car park. From the A623 take the B6521 into Eyam. Once in the village turn left and follow the road around past Eyam Hall. Turn right and the free car park is the second one on the right.

Level: Moderate

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Simon

Sun 5th Jun 2011: Cheshire: The Grit Stone Trail part IV

Description: A walk with truly STUNNING views !! .. starting at Rushton Spencer close to the Knot Inn, we walk a short distance along the Staffordshire way before picking up the Gritstone trail along the River Dane we then ascend through meadows above woodland where the views start to open out across Bosley Cloud (which we walk over in the next Gritstone part V walk at the end of July). We follow the Gritstone trail through farmland up onto Bosley/Wincle Minn, here the panorama is breathtaking of The Roaches, Shutingsloe, Bosley Cloud and the Cheshire plain. There is a track which takes us along the ridge of the Minn towards A54, where we left Gritstone trail part III. We drop down towards Butterlands farm and along a beautiful wooded valley and farmland, ultimately to Whitelee Mill where we pick up the Dane Valley Way back towards Rushton Spencer.

Start point: OL24 935624 car park near Knot Inn Rushton Spencer

Level: Moderate

Distance: approx 10 miles

Leader: Tracy

Fri 10th Jun 2011: Cheshire: Lymm Canal & Barn Owl Pub

Description: The Bridgwater Canal is just around the corner from the T junction Turning right by the old Lymm Cross, over the canal bridge on onto the Canal Tow Path, which we follow, after 20 minutes we leave the path, walk under a bridge, left up the lane, for a short distance & first left by the wood workshops, the Barn Owl Inn is up this lane on the left. Return walk :- Same way Bring a head torch or torch, just in case.

Start point: Lymm Car Park 7pm

Level: Easy

Distance: approx 2 miles

Leader: Alfred

Sun 12th Jun 2011: Snowdonia: The Moelwyns

Description: An interesting walk along the Cwm Croesor, and over Moelwyn Mawr and Moelwyn Bach, with a chance to explore the abandoned quarries of Croesor and Rhosydd. Likely to be muddy in parts. Opportunities for wild swimming if weather permits!

N.B. the start point is a long drive from North Cheshire so camping the night before may be a good idea. There is a campsite in Beddgelert. <http://www.caeducampsite.co.uk/>

Directions to Croesor:

If coming via the A55, at Bangor, take the junction for the A5 towards Capel Curig. If coming along the A5 through Betws-y-coed, head for Capel Curig. At Capel Curig turn right (left if from Betws) onto the A4086 towards Llanberis. At the Pen-y-Gwyrdd hotel continue ahead along the A498 to Beddgelert (note A4086 turns right over Pen-y-pass to Llanberis) At Beddgelert turn sharp left opposite the Prince Llewellyn pub over the little bridge and continue along the A498. About 1.5 miles after Beddgelert watch for the sharp turn to the left over another small bridge onto the A4085. After about 2 miles, just after a sharp right bend in the road, and just after the village sign for Llanfrothen, look for an ornate gate house on the left side of the road. Turn sharp left by the side of the gate house, sign to Croesor (it looks like you are driving into someone's driveway). From here carry along the narrow road for approx 2.5 miles until you reach Croesor. At the small crossroads turn left and then right into the National Park Carpark.

Start point: National Park car park in Croesor

Level: Strenuous

Distance: approx 9 miles

Leader: Andrew

Sat 18th Jun 2011: Challenge Walk: The Three Shires Challenge

Description: This year's challenge walk is to cover all of the (many) attractions around Macclesfield Forest, including some of the highest peaks of Cheshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire, in one marathon-length walk.

Start point: To follow

Level: Bl**ming strenuous!

Distance: 26 miles, 1600m ascent

Leader: Charles, Andrew

Thu 23rd Jun 2011: Evening walk: Cheshire: Pretty Poynton and Marvellous Middlewood

Description: A lovely evening stroll following the Macclesfield Canal, the Ladybrook Valley Interest Trail and a visit to Jacksons Brickworks Nature Reserve.

The route is muddy in parts so boots are preferable.

Start point: Car Park at Nelson's Pit Visitor Centre, Higher Poynton

Level: Easy

Distance: 4 miles

Leader: Alison S

Sun 26th Jun 2011: Moel Famau - The Southern Clwydian Hills.

Description: Hi everyone, I hope you can join me on a favourite part of Wales of mine.

We will climb Moel Famau 554m to the Jubilee Tower (this is the strenuous bit) followed by a ridge walk along the Southern Clwydian Hills part of Offas Dyke Path . Good views to Snowdonia, Snowdon and even Cadair Idris can be seen, with glimpses of the North Wales Coast, and a final climb up Moel Arthur, to look back at our ridge route. Do bring a camera as if clear the views are worth many pictures.

Drinks in the White Horse Inn after the walk.

Start point: Grid Ref SJ 168651 - Is just beyond the village of Cilcain. From the A55, take the A494, following the Ruthin signs, by-passing Mold. Turn right for Loggerheads Country Park, but do not enter the car park, but continue up the narrow road straight ahead, right at the T junction and follow to the village of Cilcain. Left here, the White Horse Inn is on the right, no parking in the village, but toilets here on the right, and brief parking in the residents car park whilst the facilities are being used.

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Alfred

Thu 30th Jun 2011: Evening walk: Cheshire: Bollington

Description: A pleasant summer evening walk around the Harrop Valley through woodland and meadows with lovely views of surrounding hills.

Start point: Bollington

Level: Easy

Distance: approx 4 miles

Leader: Tracy

Sun 3rd Jul 2011: North Wales: Mines, Moorland & Ruabon Mountain

Description: A long ramble much of it across moorland, with 700ft of ascent. The walk starts from Nant Mill and goes up the Clywedog Valley. Walking through the remains of Minera Lead Mines, we head out onto the heather moorland above to visit Cyn-y-Brain, Worlds End and Ruabon Mountain before returning to our start point.

Follow signs on the A483 to Clywedog. Turn right on the A525. As you enter Coed-poeth, follow signs for Nant Mill Visitor Centre. Free parking. Toilets available. Grid ref. SJ289501.

Start point: Nant Mill Visitor Centre Grid ref. SJ289501

Level: Moderate

Distance: 15.5 miles

Leader: Ian

Thu 7th Jul 2011: Evening walk: Cheshire: Styal Woods

Description: An evening stroll through the woods which were once part of the Gregg family estate, and a chance to play Pooh Sticks in the Bollin River.

Start point: Car park behind the Ship Inn in Styal Village

Level: Easy

Distance: 4 miles

Leader: Andrew

Sun 10th Jul 2011: Lancashire: Winter Hill

Description: Taking in Rivington Pike, Winter Hill, Witton Weavers Way, Great Hill, White Coppice and Anglezarke Reservoir.

Start point: Anglezarke Reservoir car park SD620160

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 15 miles

Leader: Tom

Sun 17th Jul 2011: North East Wales: Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog

Description: One of Wales's best-kept secrets. A pleasant walk exploring Open Access land at the remote upper reaches of the river Ceiriog. The walk features woodland, the meandering river Ceiriog, heather clad moorland and rocky glens.

Directions from Chester: follow the A483 south past Wrexham. Ignore the first turn to Llangollen. Take the A5 sign posted Llangollen and then turn left onto the B5070 to Chirk. In Chirk, follow the B4500 signed posted Glyn Ceiriog. Continue on this road (B4500) through Glyn Ceiriog (ignore all turn offs) for over 10 miles to Llanarmon. There are public toilets.

Start point: The centre of Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog Grid Ref: SJ 157328

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Sarah

Wed 20th Jul 2011: Evening walk: Cheshire: Macclesfield Forest, Toot Hill, Forest Chapel

Description: Evening forest walk - Iron Age hill fort, interesting 18th Century Chapel.

Start point: Trentabank Visitors Centre, Macclesfield Forest

Level: Easy

Distance: 4 miles

Leader: Andrew

Sun 24th Jul 2011: Peak District: The Goyt Valley

Description: Following on from last years successful joint walk with the Vale Royal, Halton and Warrington groups, we have another chance to meet up with our friends in the Ramblers Senior Groups.

The walk will start at the Horwich End car park (GR to be advised) in Whaley Bridge at 10.00 where we will rendezvous with members of the Halton, Vale Royal and Warrington

Groups. The walk route (class A) will go along River Goyt east bank along to Fernilee Reservoir and cross dam wall to pick up the lower path along the west side of reservoir. We will then cross Errwood dam wall to pick up the path on East side of Errwood and follow through to Wild Moor then Goyt's moss eventually crossing the Goyt again to head westwards through Deep Clough and Stake Clough on our way up to Shining Tor. We will follow the Torrs ridge north to Pym Chair and then on to Windgather Rocks before descending eastwards to pick up the Midshires Way which we will follow back to Whaley Bridge.

There will be the option of an easier walk (class C) led by a member of the other groups.

There will be opportunity for a drink in Whaley Bridge after the walk.

Directions: From Macclesfield, take the B5470 through Rainow to Whaley Bridge. At the crossroads in the centre of the town turn right (south) onto the A5004. Head south for approx. 1km towards Taxal to the car park/layby on the right. Parking is free. There are no toilets.

Start point: Horwich End car park, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, nearest post code SK23 7AA

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 13 miles

Leader: Andrew/Alan

Wed 27th Jul 2011: Evening Walk: Lymm Dam and Spud Wood

Description: A pleasant stroll around the centre of Lymm and along the Trans Pennine Trail.

Start point: Lymm Dam carpark, GR SJ 683 867, nearest postcode WA13 0AP

Level: Easy

Distance: 5 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 31st Jul 2011: Cheshire: The Grit Stone Trail part V

Description: This walk has the same start point as the previous Gritstone walk, part IV, but instead of walking over Wincle Minn we take a westerly direction through farmland and over Bosley Cloud from which we will see some beautiful views. We then join the Biddulph Valley way and Staffordshire Moorlands walks which lead us to the Talbot pub where we can stop for refreshments. The Talbot is at the midway point before we return to Rushton Spencer via farmland and interesting landmarks, it will also be the start point of the next Gritstone Trail part VI later in the programme!

Start point: OL268 936 625, CarPark behind Knot Inn off A523 postcode SK11 0QU

Level: Moderate

Distance: approx 10 miles

Leader: Tracy

Wed 3rd Aug 2011: Evening walk: Cheshire: Northwich Waterways

Description: Need a bit of tranquillity during your busy week, together with a little need of some gentle exercise? Come and join us on this pleasant riverside and woodland fast paced, easy walk up to Vale Royal Abbey and Golf Club in Whitegate, returning via Vale Royal Locks.

Old trainers, long trousers and long sleeved tops are advisable due to a short muddy and jungle-type woodland stretch.

Bring along some water and a head torch if you have one. Check the weather forecast beforehand and bring appropriate clothing.

For anyone wishing to join us for a fish & chip tea, we shall be meeting at "The Seafarer", a few minutes walk, opposite the Memorial Hall, between 6.00-6.15pm.

Start point: Northwich Memorial Hall carpark in the centre of Northwich. Meet by the front of the Memorial Hall.

Level: Easy

Distance: approx 7 miles

Leader: Alison and Rebecca

Sun 7th Aug 2011: Snowdonia: Carneddau from the Ogwen Valley

Description: This classic route includes the peaks of Pen yr Ole Wen, Carnedd Dafydd, Carnedd Llewelyn and Pen yr Hegli Du. The highest point of the walk is 1064m and there is a short section of grade 1 scrambling.

Start point: Gwern Gof Uchaf Farm. Grid Ref: SH672604. Near postcode LL24 0EU (approximate location only). The farm is on the south side of the A5 near the base of Tryfan. There is a small charge for parking. The farm also has a bunkhouse and campsite, please see www.tryfanwales.co.uk for details.

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 10 miles

Leader: Nigel

Wed 10th Aug 2011: Evening walk: Cheshire: Dunham Massey, Little Bollington and the Bridgewater Canal

Description: An evening walk that includes part of the Transpennine Trail, the Bridgewater Canal and Dunham Massey.

Start point: Transpennine Trail carpark on Henshall Lane, behind the Rope and Anchor pub. Nearest postcode WA14 5RP

Level: Easy

Distance: 6.5 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 14th Aug 2011: Peak District/Derbyshire/Cheshire borders: A circuit from New Mills

Description: Starting in the border town of New Mills we will follow the Sett Valley trail before taking the Pennine Bridleway up to Lantern Pike on the western edge of the Peak District. We will then make our way towards Mellor Cross, returning along the Goyt to New Mills, taking in the Torrs Riverside park and Hydro scheme.

Start point: Grid Ref: SK 000 855 Directions: Tor Tops Car Park in centre of New Mills. This is just off the B6101 in the centre of the town. Car park is free on Sundays. There are also 2 railway stations in New Mills so you may want to try and get here by train! I will look into the possibilities of this nearer the time.

Level: Moderate

Distance: 11 miles

Leader: Simon

Thu 18th Aug 2011: Evening walk: Alderley Edge to Hare Hill

Description: Enter Forest join up with track near Wizard Pub. Following tracks and lanes make our way to the Hare Hill Estate. Cut through the Hair Hill Estate to Join up with the track leading through the Forest at the edge of the Estate + Nat' Trust property, Following the Trail back through the woods to arrive at the 'Edge' hopefully in day light, then follow the Track Back to the Wizard pub.

Start point: Layby on the B5087 near the Wizard Pub

Level: Easy

Distance: 4 miles

Leader: Chris

Sun 21st Aug 2011: Snowdonia: The Lledr Valley & Ty Mawr

Description: A walk through the lower section of the picturesque valley of the Afon Lledr. We'll follow the river from Dolwydellan and then climbing via Cyfyng to visit Ty Mawr, a National Trust managed 1540s farmhouse. Return is via Foel Felen through forests and disused quarries.

Free road side parking past Saint Gwyddelans church on Church Street, Dolwydellan. Toilets are available in the village. Grid Ref: SH736524

Start point: Opposite Saint Gwyddelans church, Church Street, Dolwydellan

Level: Moderate

Distance: 8.5 miles

Leader: Kirsty

Wed 24th Aug 2011: Evening walk: Mobberley Circular Walk

Description: Easy Flat Walk around the Mobberley area, using lanes, tracks and roads we will take in a nice flat walk around and across farm fields etc taking in the Cheshire countryside

Start point: Car Park of the Roebuck Pub...Mill lane, Mobberley, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 7HX, GRSJ 789 795

Level: Easy

Distance: 4 miles

Leader: Chris

Sat/Sun 27th Aug 2011: Lake District: Westwater/Wasdale Weekend

Description: It has been many years since Cheshire Walkers visited this area. It contains some of the most spectacular scenery in the Lake District, including Scafell Pike (England's highest mountain), Great Gable, Pillar, Westwater Screes and Westwater (England's deepest lake).

It is a relatively quiet area by Lake District standards, due to the extra distance from the more touristy areas like Windermere or Keswick.

I am planning to do walks on both the Saturday and the Sunday.

Details of the walks will be published nearer the time.

Start point: Grid References: To be confirmed

Level: Strenuous

Distance: To be confirmed

Leader: Jay

Sun 4th Sep 2011: South Pennines: Wycoller (in the footsteps of the Brontës)

Description: The walk has changed from the original plan (see below). The idea was to do some right-to-roaming on access land; however, the intended route involved too much peat bog and heather and - given how wet the ground is - it's not safe to lead a group across it. Instead, we'll do a 9 mile moderate route that takes in Wycoller Hall and Boulsworth Hill, followed by a stop at the Wycoller Tea Shop & Craft Centre for tea & cake!

Original plan: The area around Haworth is famous for its connections with the Brontë sisters. Starting from Wycoller - a small attractive village on the outskirts of Colne - we'll visit the ruins of Wycoller Hall (Ferndean Manor in Jane Eyre), Boulsworth Hill, Ponden Kirk (a rock formation, and it's said that 'any maiden who passes through the Kirk will be wed within a year'), Top Withins, Ponden Hall (the last 3 are often thought to have inspired the locations appearing in Wuthering Heights). On the way back, we'll visit some more modern sculptures, including the Panopticon Atom. There will be a prize for anyone who completes the walk in full period costume!

Start point: Carpark just outside Wycoller, GR 926 395, nearest postcode: BB8 8SY

Level: Moderate

Distance: 9 miles

Leader: Charles

Sun 11th Sep 2011: Snowdonia: Nantlle Ridge

Description: One of the outlying ridges of Snowdonia that is not usually one for the avid Peak Bagger. The Nantlle ridge combines some fantastic high walking along with some short scrambly bits.

IMPORTANT (and sorry to shout but it IS important) The walk is a linear walk and I am arranging a mini bus taxi pick up to get us from the finish back to the cars. There is a maximum number for this service. If you want to come you MUST contact me and the earlier in the week the better. By FRIDAY 9th SEPTEMBER AFTERNOON AT THE LATEST.

Start point: Rhyd Ddu Car Park - SH572526

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 8 miles approx

Leader: Fiona

Sun 18th Sep 2011: Wales: Foel Fenlli

Description: The only peak in the Clwydians (I think) that hasn't yet been visited by the Cheshire Walkers.

Start point: Forestry Commission car park approx 2 miles west of Loggerheads, SJ171611

Level: Strenuous

Distance: 10 miles

Leader: Tom

Sun 25th Sep 2011: Cymru/Wales - Ysbyty Ifan & Carnedd y Filiast

Description: A chance to explore this remote and seldom visited area of north-east Wales, which lies just outside the Snowdonia National Park. The walk ascends the flanks

of Dyffryn Conwy, and then follows the ridge from Carnedd Llechwedd Llyfn to Carnedd y Filiast, with magnificent views over the Arenig. Directions: take the A5 from Llangollen. Approx 1km after Pentrefoelas turn left onto the B4407 and continue for approx. 2km to the village of Ysbyty Ifan. Turn left into the village and cross the bridge. The car park is on the right on the far side of the bridge. Boots and gaiters are recommended as the walk is likely to be boggy and muddy.

Start point: Car park in the centre of Ysbyty Ifan - over the bridge on the right

Level: Strenuous

Distance: approx 12 miles

Leader: Andrew