



Chorley Ramblers

Out and About

Contribute to the next issue of Out and About

Emailed contributions are great:

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CONTACTS

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Chorley RA Committee Members are:

Chairman	Brian Allman
Vice Chairman	Marian Owen
Closures and Diversions	Sue Lomax
Secretary	Barbara Williams
Treasurer	Walter Mc Dermott
Footpath Secretaries	Kath Allman
	Marian Owen
Membership Secretary	Janet Blakeman
Programme Secretary	Pat Hough
Publicity Secretary	Joan Taylor
Countryside Officer	Pat Beresford
Executive Officers	Syd Jones

Adlington Parish Footpath Checker

Thank you to Pat Beresford for volunteering to check the footpaths in Adlington.

Our website address is:

www.chorleyramblers.co.uk

Chorley Group - Rambling Matters

Deadlines

Walk leaders are invited to contact Pat Hough as soon as they can to bag their places on the next **Walks Programme** which will run from **1 July 2010 to 31 October 2010**. The **deadline** for submitting walk details is **15 March**.

Articles and photographs for the May 2010 edition of **Out and About** to: Marian Owen by **1 April** please.

Dates of Committee Meetings

The next Chorley RA Committee Meetings will take place on 1 February, 13 April, 7 June. Advise Barbara Williams or another member of the Committee of topics you would like to have discussed.

Matters discussed at AGM on 10 November

We reported the following on our activities in 2008-09

- Chorley Ramblers membership has grown steadily from 288 in October 2007 to 308 in October 2009
- 31 Chorley Ramblers walk leaders led an impressive 125 walks consisting of 16 strenuous, 42 moderate and 59 leisurely walks plus 8 Scramblers walks for children.
- 5 new proposals for closures or diversions were received, 1 amended proposal and 2 temporary diversions orders were made. No objections were made but assurances were sought regarding the temporary footpaths to divert FPs 6,7, and 9 in Cuerden
- 95% of Chorley Rights of Way were checked from October 2008-September 2009; 135 Footpath issues were reported to LCC and LCC cleared 88 issues.
- We have increased the display of laminated programmes across Chorley borough
- Capitation for 2008-9 was £772 and expenditure was £672.42 (plus £ reserved to pay contribution to First Aid course)
- At 30/9/09 we had £1121.65 cash at the bank.
- Capitation for 2009-10 will be £509

Chairman Brian Allman's Annual Report

Items picked out of our 36 year history were mentioned, such as Rail Rambles, early footpath checking, our stand at the Leyland Festival, and our coach rambles and Long Distant Paths.

In both the Walks Programme and in Footpath Maintenance we improve year by year. Can this be sustained? We are a group with vitality; a growing group; a watchdog on development; good at publicity; efficient at running activities and administration.

Our challenge and concern for the future is to encourage more young people and children to walk (with us).

And as to the the future... Continue to offer walks for all, improve footpaths, make access land more accessible, robust attitude to development and footpath alteration, more membership involvement in policy making.

Thank you committee, walks leaders, footpath checkers and members.

Thank you Brian

Thank you, Brian, for all your efforts this year, last year and for all the last 36 years in your support of and leadership of Chorley Ramblers. It is very much appreciated by us all.

Harry Pickup

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Harry Pickup. Harry was a member of Chorley Group's Committee from July 1982 to March 1997 along with his wife Beth.

Harry was our Footpath Secretary for many years and he was instrumental in the 'creation' of the Footpaths in Euxton Park. Beth and Harry were very committed to footpath checking. On one Parish Footpath check we thought that they had got lost or had been overtaken by some disaster, but no, it was their meticulous reporting of each obstruction that had delayed them.

Harry showed a willingness to tackle new things later in life. After retirement he studied and passed an Open University degree. In his seventies and eighties he was very active in leading walks. A favourite of his were the hills around Whalley and Pendle. He had a quiet manner that got things done without fuss. We are sorry at his passing and send our sympathy to Beth.



End of Offa's Dyke Path

Coach Rambles

We finished the 19th and final stage of Offa's Dyke Path on 12 December. It was an excellent 12 mile walk down through the last of the Clwydian hills to Prestatyn and the Irish Sea. We arrived at Prestatyn as the dusk was deepening and were treated to a walk through the pretty Christmas lights of this seaside town and then on to dip our boots in the Irish Sea under cover of darkness.

Then on for a celebratory meal. Our old friend, Ron, the coach driver, and his wife joined us for the meal and it was great to see him looking so well.

Denny awarded certificates for those members who had completed Offa's Dyke Path and then she awarded certificates for those who had completed 40 Arc South.

Bernard Parkinson had actually completed every stage of both walks but Janet Blakeman had only missed this target by a whisker and I know she will get that missing leg of 40 Arc completed in the New Year.

So, now we move on to 40 Arc North, starting on 9 January. There will be no coach in February but we'll be doing 40 Arc on the second Saturday of March and every month after that until we have completed it.

Do talk to Denny about your dreams and ambitions for future Long Distance Walks, I know she's eager to hear our ideas.

Christmas Day 2009

Persuaded to do a Christmas day walk a few years ago, I've did a fourth one in 2009.

A bit apprehensive as the day approached with all the snow around but no problems on the road (thanks Terry). We car-shared to Haworth, caught the bus to Oxenhope, and did a linear walk back.

Few buses run on Christmas day but these are different, they are from the bus museum in Keighley, run by volunteers, and free. These services have run for 15 years, and are now well established.

We went on a 1961 ex-London Transport Routemaster which worked in London till 2004, 43 years service, then we rode on a 1956 ex-Halifax Daimler up to Black Hill.



From Marsh Top, above Oxenhope, we walked up through Marsh village, slithering on the pavement, then followed the Millennium Way in 6" deep snow, over Penistone Hill, then joined the Bronte Way along the slopes of Haworth Moor. One set of footprints showed us the path up here. Dropping down to Bronte Bridge, the Bronte Falls were more of icicles than waterfalls, and the Bronte Chair, a big armchair-size rock, was covered in snow, comfortable perhaps, but cold on the bum. So we had Christmas lunch sat on stones behind a wall, sharing goodies that June had brought.

Before freezing to death we followed part of the Pennine Way to the valley of the River Worth, then on through the village of Stanbury, a bridleway above Sladen Bridge, and over the field to Haworth parsonage and the old church in Bronte village, then down the steep hill on the stone setts to the station.

A little early fog then brilliant sunshine all day, we had a few bum-falls on padded snow but nothing serious. Quite a few other ramblers were out too, we were back in Chorley just after 4pm, still time for Christmas dinner.

Bernard



SILKY FEET

Our walking hobby can really take a toll on our poor old feet!

Barbara Houghton gave me a tip recently, courtesy of the "Good Housekeeping" magazine.

Mix 2 tablespoons of olive oil (not Extra Virgin) and 2 tablespoons of sugar. Massage your feet with the mixture and leave for 10 or more minutes. Wash off and towel dry and marvel in your newly revived silky smooth feet.

By the way, make sure you have a seat, a bowl of hot water and a towel at the ready as this is a messy process but well worth the effort and all natural products too.

Membership News from Janet Blakeman

We extend a warm welcome to the following 'new' rejoined members:

Ms.M.Aspinall, Mr. R.Cleave and
Ms.S.A.MacGregor

And to new members:

Mrs.Freda Edge, Mr.and Mrs.Peter Hankin,
Mrs.L.O'Riordan, Ms.Cate Marsden, Mrs.T.L.Kumari,
Ms.R.Hornsby, Ms.M.E. and Ms.E.R.Wilson,
Mrs.Janet Atherton, Mr.T. and Mrs.C.Harwood,
Mr.A.Butterworth and Ms.L.H.Hamre,
Mr.E.Pederson, Mr.P.Haley.

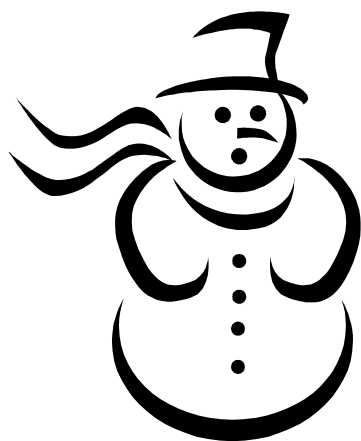
Our membership now stands at 301.

A Christmas Story

20 December 2009

Chorley Ramblers walk to Pike Lowe and Withnell Fold.

Start. 1.00pm Whins Lane lay by, off A674 Blackburn Road. Distance 4.5 miles.



12 noon. Things weren't looking good. Roads were impassable. Airports had closed. Thousands of people were trapped in the Eurotunnel. Even in Leyland, snow was falling like the final scene in White Christmas.

We looked at each other. "We'll have to go to the starting point in case anyone turns up"

The journey from Leyland to Whins Lane lay by was an adventure in itself. There was little traffic and the world was muffled in silence by the snow. We drove carefully along Dawson Lane, then from the A6 to Blackburn Road via Town Lane. A convoy of cars was struggling to climb up Shaw Brow from Waterhouse Green, wheels spinning wildly. As we turned into Town Lane for the long climb up to St Chad's I hoped that no-one else was foolish enough to be on this road, so we wouldn't have to stop. So it was. With only a gentle touch on the accelerator we slowly climbed up the hill, over the humpback canal bridge and up to Blackburn Road. Even the main road was covered in snow and was quite hazardous, but the worst was over and we were at Whins Lane.

The trouble was, no-one else was there. We sat in the car and the minutes ticked by.

1.00pm... No-one 1.05pm...still no-one. We looked at each other. That's it. Let's go home.

Then, 2 headlights appeared through the swirling snow and a car parked in front of ours. At first my heart sank. "Oh heck, we'll have to do it now".

We thanked Christine for turning up and we thanked our guardian angel for sending her. If she hadn't appeared, we wouldn't have done it ourselves and we would have missed a treat.

It was Christine, from Preston (she works at Salwick). She looked anxious. "I was really looking forward to this, but I don't suppose you'll be doing it now, will you?" she said. We said "Well, we don't know of any Chorley Ramblers walk that's been cancelled because of weather, and ours isn't going to be the first, so if you want to do it, we'll do it". Possibly a shortened version, we added.

But, as we started the walk, the snow stopped, leaving a sparkling white blanket over the world, we passed some cottages looking just like a Christmas card, the sun broke through the angry clouds and the scenery was fabulous. Oh, let's do the full distance!

The whole walk was very enjoyable - the climb through the fields and golf course to Windy Harbour, the great views from Harbour Lane to the snow covered hills to the east, the views to the coast on the long descent from Pike Lowe to Withnell Fold, then Withnell Fold itself, a fascinating village and mill, with an intriguing history.

From Withnell Fold we returned to Whins Lane via the canal towpath and Lower Simpson Fold. On the towpath we met Linda Southworth, so she will verify that the walk really did take place!

Although there was only one walker and two leaders it had been very successful. The mince pies and rum went down well, too. Christine wished she had brought her friend, Susan. We said "Don't worry, we'll put the walk on the programme again - next Autumn, sometime".

Ron