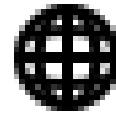




Manchester and Salford Ramblers



Newsletter No 64 December 2024



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2024 Monday December 16th Meet in St Anne's Square at 6.30, by the church, and have a festive tippie in the Christmas markets. We will then walk over to Oxford Road to the Paramount Wetherspoons for food, drinks and of course our Christmas Quiz!! No need to book just turn up on the night. If it's easier for you, meet us in the Paramount at 7.30 when we have exclusive use of the mezzanine.



Manchester & Salford AGM & Walk

Good walk around Heaton Park, including the bee hives, luckily all dormant! Tasty lunch from the Stables café. Well attended meeting with Steven Pleasant from GM Moving who gave an overview of all they do and welcomed Ramblers involvement. Most of the officers and committee members are carrying on for the next year. However Alan Scholes is our new walks organiser. Salle is looking after Manchester Green Trail. MGT.

Please note. Following discussion at our AGM, routine posting of information, twice yearly, will stop after March 2025. Members with no access to email will still be able to receive a walk booklet and newsletter but it is hoped this move will cut down on time and expense. More details will be forwarded in March.



Greater Manchester Area AGM & Walk

Another enjoyable walk from Mayfield Park to Angel Meadow following the MGT. The AGM was also well attended. Pleased to elect as our President Tom Ross, Leader of Trafford Council and keen walker. He gave an interesting presentation of getting walking during the lockdowns, doing the GM Ringway, the importance of Rights of Way and work being done by Ramblers at Greater Manchester level. Mark Chung, National Trustee brought us up to speed with development at Ramblers across the country. You can see both presentations on the Area Website [here](#) Three of the main officers are now M&S Members with Alan Manning as General Secretary, Margaret Manning as Chair and Salle Dare as Vice Chair. So we are well represented.

Walking Elsewhere. Walking on the Isle of Ulva. Alan Manning.

Just off the north west coast of Mull is the Isle of Ulva. It is 7.5 miles long 2.5 miles wide and has a resident population of 16. It has a rugged remote southern shore, large stands of mature broad-leafed woodland and open moorland. We were met at the jetty of the hamlet of Ulva Ferry by Andy our host from the hostel and were efficiently transported across the Sound of Ulva in his little RIB. From the landing we walked through woods to an open area of reeds, salt marsh and a bouldery shore line with views back across the sound. A straight green lane brought us to low cliffs with good views to the small rocky island of Eorsa in Loch na Keal. The day was warming as we followed the base of a wooded escarpment. As we turned Ben More, the highest top on Mull, was emerging from its cloud cover.



A path led down into mature woodland. There were mossy rocks, dappled with sunlight through the trees before we reached a good track to the hostel – once a shooting lodge, following the clearances now one of the assets of the community owned island.

It was overcast when we got up the next day but a couple of deer were grazing in the meadows that we could see from our bedroom. We followed a track past the grazing fields and out onto the open land with a view down into the small inlet of Soriby Bay. But it was the hillsides to the west above the

Loch that stood out, covered in bluebells they were a magnificent sight.

We zig zagged up through woodland and the sides of the path were full of wild garlic in bloom. We emerged onto more open grassland with good views down to the bay. Orchids and butterwort and expanses of blue bells were also in view.

Our way was traversing on a grassy path around the lines of small crags that topped this shoulder of land with fine views along the sweep of Loch Tuath to the hills above.



We eventually began to retrace our steps as we came back it was a hot late afternoon and the shade of the woodland was pleasant. Back at the hostel we enjoyed coffee in the sun amid the bluebells in front of the hostel with Ben More finally in full view.



We had a leisurely breakfast and sat in the sun enjoying the views before we set off and walked down the tree shaded lane – fine views across the little islands at the end of Loch Tuath and the Laggan Bay. We had super coffee and cake sat in the sun outside the Boathouse – then the short crossing via the regular ferry to finish our short visit to Ulva.

Walk Organiser Report Alan Scholes. First and foremost I wish to thank Salle for her commitment over the last couple of years being the Walks Co-ordinator, I always found her more than helpful when I was a walk leader and her guidance is appreciated. Also, I thank her and various members of the Manchester & Salford Ramblers committee for the help during the transition into the post I fill now.

During my first month in the role the response from the walk leaders for the forthcoming walks in February, March and April has been really first class and I wish to thank you not only for the response but also for volunteering for the role of Walk Leader, myself and the rest of the committee are extremely grateful for your continued support. As it stands the walk dates through till the end of April 2025 are now all taken but if any walk leader does wish to either buddy with another walk leader or even fit in the odd extra date please do let me know, also, I wish to thank you for

the various areas selected around the Greater Manchester area for these walks, it was great to see North, South, East and West of the City Centre well covered.

A couple of weeks ago I joined an online Zoom Call with the National Ramblers which was set up for Walk Organisers and a couple of items of interest came out of this meeting, the first was the fact that the online RA (Risk Assessments) are no longer compulsory. This was something I discussed with my colleague Alan Manning at a meeting we had in Manchester and we both agreed that when a Walk Leader does a Recce, that in itself is a Risk Assessment, plus of course the briefing the walkers get from the Leader when they meet for the walk.

The other major item which was discussed was “How to recruit Walk Leaders”, one of these was through advertising on Facebook, for those of you who are members of the Manchester & Salford Facebook group you may have already noticed that I have placed a recruitment message on there. If you are not yet a member of that group I can highly recommend it. I will continue to explore ways to strengthen the already excellent team of walk leaders as we go into 2025.

Finally, as we move into the Christmas and New Year period I wish all Walk leaders and all walkers a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year, hopefully we will see each other on the varied forthcoming walks.

Carers Walks

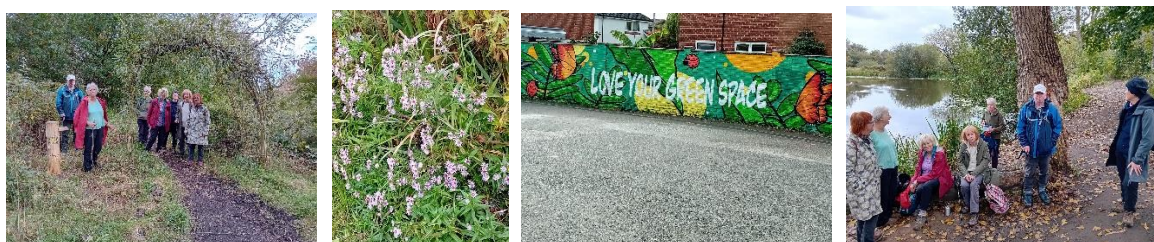


Heaton Park. We were very lucky with such good autumn weather. 26 of us enjoyed strolling through the park with the autumn colours in the trees and the bright display of plants outside Heaton Hall and a look at the Somme memorial, always poignant. All walked round below the observatory, with good views across to the Pennines, some went up to get an even better view from the highest point in Manchester, and most made it down to the lake. The longer walk also took in a look at the animals in the mini farm.

As there was no official carers walk in November several joined in our M&S walk Etihad Stadium to Piccadilly.



Our walks. Lots of good autumn colours on this seasons walks, flora & fungi – some above & Rob composed a lovely collage of them for our facebook. Unfortunately one walk, from Todmorden had to be cancelled due to Storm Bert.



Levenshulme to Highfield Country Park and the Secret lake. The sun shone and we avoided the rain.



Castleton, Rochdale to Bury. Following part of the Rochdale Way the way climbed to embrace extensive views all round from above the Cheeseden Valley before descending along an old pack horse route into the Bury suburbs, to the walk's end at the Towler Inn. The route would have continued to Burrs Country Park but due to the later start we finished here, getting the 474 bus into Bury.



For the Slow Walk in Didsbury we couldn't have had better weather. Under blue skies and in sunshine, 7 M & S Ramblers enjoyed a circular walk from Didsbury Village tram stop. We wandered through Didsbury Park, Didsbury Community woodland - a first even for locals, Simon Playing Fields, Stenner Woods, Fletcher Moss Rockery and Rose Garden before having lunch in the sun in Parsonage Gardens. We walked back through the St James development to Didsbury Park with its well-maintained borders and cafe.



Pleasant walk along part 1 of the Salford Trail. From Salford Quays tram stop to Salford Museum and Art Gallery. A good turn out with 20+ on the walk. The weather was good too, giving us fine views.



11 of us enjoyed a glorious sunny walk from Chapel en le Frith to Whaley Bridge. Interesting route via Combs Reservoir, with its open water swimmers and paddle boarders, Taxal churchyard and past the huge amount of work being done to make Todbrook reservoir Dam safe for the future. Lovely mural painted on the hoardings, sorry I only got two thirds of it on photos. Amazing autumn colours and managed to avoid the worst mud. Lucky with good route, weather and trains running on time!



Thirteen on the Irlam walk on a decent calm day. A nice enjoyable flat walk. A group picture in front of a beautiful carved wooded owl, the railway bridge crossing over the A57 & Manchester Ship Canal & a model wooden house.



Walkden to Worsley. An excellent walk, perfect day for fourteen of us. Great walk, nice and flat.



Lovely weather for the joint Ramblers/Carers walk. Etihad stadium to Piccadilly via City Way. This section of the Medlock Valley is on our Manchester Green Trail. Amazing as well that one of our members on the walk had a photo of the sign at Gort River walk in Ireland as her sister lives nearby. Good to know people have created walking trails in so many places, not just the really well known ones. Mayfield Park at the end with good coffee and the lights set up for their festive evening lights trail, including lots of glitter balls over the river.



Hopwood Hall woods circular excellent walk, we even saw some deer!! Perfect day for the walk, good company, Hopwood Hall, currently mired in controversy, fine woodlands beyond the college, returning via the Rochdale Canal.

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RAMBLE WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS PARTNERSHIP The Ramblers have an agreement with Rambler Worldwide. We will receive a payment for holidays booked by our members. So don't forget if you take a Ramblers Worldwide Holiday tell them you are a member of Manchester and Salford Ramblers and quote MR10

OTHER RAMBLERS WALKING GROUPS IN OUR AREA Lots of other walks on Wednesdays and Sundays in our Area programme & all groups also on our Area website. <http://www.manchester-ramblers.org.uk>

Members can also go on walks with any other group in the country, see their website links on the national website.

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