



Manchester and Salford Ramblers

Newsletter No 70 June 2026

<https://www.manchesterandsalfordramblers.org.uk/>

Socials. We've got a couple of events in the pipeline for the next few months.

There is still time to book on the one below, **I've extended the cut off date until June 10th**

JUNE 23RD MARVELLOUS MANCHESTER MEMORIES: Andy's History of Pubs.(Invisible Cities)

Invisible Cities is a social enterprise that trains people who have experienced homelessness to become tour guides in Manchester. The tours offer a mix of history, social projects and personal knowledge and are all designed by the guides themselves. 100% of the profits go towards supporting those affected by homelessness in Manchester.

Andy will meet us 2pm at the entrance to Manchester Cathedral and take us to see some iconic public houses. Sam's Chop House, Old Nags Head, Britons Protection, Peveril of the Peak etc and learn about their history. The social cost is £15 Hopefully this will appeal to you. If so could you please book your place by June 10th.

Send me an email and bank transfer £15. Chris Quinn. c20kew@googlemail.com

SUMMER DAY OUT IN KNUTSFORD JULY 8TH (hope you've got the date in your diaries). Thanks to the help received from the staff at the heritage centre we have planned the day. - a walking tour of Elizabeth Gaskell's Knutsford; a talk explaining the beautiful Millennium Tapestry which fills one room of the centre. It depicts the whole town and it's history; lunch together at a local café. Make your own arrangements for travel to Knutsford either by train or car. We will meet just before 11am at the centre. 90a King Street, WA16 6ED. Half the group will do the tour (1 hour 10 mins approx) The other half will stay at the centre for the talk. After lunch at a local cafe (please let me know if you wish to be included) In the afternoon we will swap over for the other experience. The reason for the group being split is due to the narrow streets.

The cost is £17.50. Email Chris Quinn to book and pay. c20kew@googlemail.com

Festival of Nature. Sunday 28th June. Heaton Park, Stables cafe, 12.00 till 4.00pm. It is a free family festival, celebrating wildlife through arts, crafts and musical activities. There will be the Pollinator Parade at 1 till 1.30. There will be mindfulness, forest bathing, wildlife recording, willow weaving and scavenger hunts amongst lots of other things. Our group will be offering short walks to the Dower House in the park to look at the bees and their hives. Please come along and join in.

Autumn weekend away. This will be 18th to 20th September. It will be in Scarborough. As for our last few weekends this will be one where members book their own accommodation, hopefully many in the same hotel or hostel. Walks and a social will be arranged. More details will be circulated soon.



Manchester Histories Festival 2026 held in the Rates Hall, Manchester Town Hall Extension. Saturday 6th June was the celebration of this event with over 40 organisations displaying Manchester's History and Heritage. There were family fun events and activities during the day. We had plenty of interest in our stall. Did a roaring trade in leaflets for the Manchester Green Trail and Salford Trail. Mags Metcalf.

The Manchester Green Trail was successfully re-launched in October last and is linking in now with the Cyan Lines Project which is a partnership between Manchester City Council and the Private sector to improve access to walking throughout the city. This of course overlaps with the work we have done on the Salford Trail and the Manchester Green Trail so we see ourselves as an important partner in this project. We also hope to access some of the funding they have access to, for path improvements.

We have "stage Guardians" for all but three of the Manchester Green Trail stages. If you would be able to take on one of these and keep an eye on it we would welcome you with open arms. The three stages are

Stage 3 - Central Park to Boggart Hole Clough

Stage 4 - Boggart Hole Clough to Heaton Park

Stage 6 - Queens Park to Ardwick Green.

All that is involved is checking the route once a year and replacing any waymarkers and reporting back any problems - like blocked paths or poor quality paths that need attention or any changes that you think are needed to the route to improve it. We supply the waymarkers - 2 sorts: plastic discs (with the nails) to nail to wooden posts and structures (not trees) and plastic sticky sheets to wrap around lampposts or other metal posts on the route. Stage 4 has been checked because we are leading a walk along this route, so needs minimal work for a year. If you wanted to get more involved you could always make contact with the Friends groups for the parks the trail goes through, and of course lead a walk along your section of the trail. But this is not essential.

If we get more than three volunteers - and I am sure we will, we would put people together so that you are not doing it alone.

If you live in Salford and would like to get involved in monitoring the Salford Trail then let us know and we can pass your details onto the team who look after the Salford Trail.

Let Salle know on salle_e_dare@yahoo.co.uk. In the meantime, enjoy your Spring walks!!

Mersey Valley Way. Funded by Defra, the Mersey Valley Way is part of the government's ambition to deliver 9 river walks in each region of England by 2030 to engage more people with their local river environment for health, recreation and well-being. The Mersey Valley Way is 21km long running from Stockport Town Centre to Ashton-on-Mersey. Stockport Ramblers Group intend to walk the full length of the trail over 3 stages.

The first Walk Stockport Interchange to Didsbury Village was on June 9th. The second Didsbury to Sale Water Park is on Tuesday 7th July. Details on their website <https://www.stockportramblers.org.uk/> The last one will be featured there when arranged. Ramblers from all groups are welcome.



George Sharples memorial plaque

https://www.manchester-ramblers.org.uk/george_sharples_memorial.php

A few months ago Andrew King, a keen ramble who lives in Milnthorpe, Cumbria, spotted an old memorial plaque to Manchester Rambler George Sharples on a bench halfway up Hampsfell behind Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria. The plaque was only partially legible so Andrew, who wanted to get a new plaque made with the correct inscription, set out on a mission to find out more about George. He contacted our Area and, with some detective work, we discovered an internet article and photograph from August 2012

(https://memorialbenchstories.wordpress.com/.../grange...) where the plaque was more legible. The words on the plaque clearly read as IN MEMORY OF GEORGE SHARPLES MANCHESTER RAMBLER DIED HERE APRIL 7th 1968 and after asking around we found that some of our current members still remembered George.

Andrew has kindly had a new plaque made in stainless steel rather than brass as it will be easier to maintain. It looks very good and I'm sure many of our members, and groups, would like to visit the bench when walking in the area.

Andrew says "While I was fixing the plaque, a passing dog-walker came to talk to us. His name is David Martin and he was the person who replaced the old rotten timber on the bench and is now planning to give it another coat of preservative. He was delighted that someone else was taking an interest." "The bench is at GR SD 404 787. I'm sure George would welcome a visit!

If you start from the Windermere Road car park in Grange-over-Sands, walk away from the village for a few hundred yards then take a narrow entrance into the woods, Eggerslack Wood, on your left and follow major paths up through the woods to George's bench. Just to the right of the bench is a small gate onto a strong path and you can easily follow your nose from there to the top of Hampsfell (GR SD 399 794).

Try and choose a clear sunny day and you will be well rewarded with a 360 degree view from the roof of the "Hospice on the top of the hill. It's one of the best Value for Effort views in the country: S: Morecambe Bay; W: the coastline towards the Isle of Man; N: the Lake District fells; E: the Howgills and Pennines. Put a touch of snow on the tops and it's perfection! "

Thanks so much to Andrew King and David Martin for all their work to ensure George will not be forgotten. Much appreciated by the current Manchester Ramblers. Alan and I managed to pay the bench a visit and go up Hampsfell on our way back from the Ramblers Weekend at Ulverston. Both worth the walk.

Carers walks volunteers celebration. As we are coming to the end of our very successful walks for unpaid carers project we held a small celebration at The Terrace. It was good to share stories, successes and a few mishaps with each other. Thanks to all those who have volunteered over the last 8 years.



Films of interest to Ramblers both recommended by Barry Windle

THE NORTH. The story is of two good friends who haven't seen each other for 10 years and decide to reconnect by walking the West Highland way and Cape Wrath trail, a total of 500 Km. As expected they have their usual ups and downs along the way but become closer despite not speaking to each other about their lives and concerns. The usual mix of wind, rain midgets and sun along the way captured by some breathtakingly beautiful shots of the Highland scenery. [Review here](#)

OUR LAND is about the ongoing campaign to establish the same right to roam as they currently enjoy in Scotland. The film provides a reasonable debate between landowners and campaigners, although the leading spokesperson for the landowners, Frances Fulford does their cause no good and comes across as a pompous old fool. [review here](#)



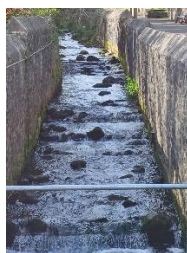
Social. Interesting tour around Manchester Museum



Footpath problem solved. M&S Ramblers on our weekend away want to say a big thanks to Peter Qiggin and the Furness Path Fix Team. When Alan and I did the recce for the walk up to Birkrigg Common we struggled with a gate on the way down. It is a very heavy 6 bar metal gate and the lower gate hinge bolt had broken off. It was almost impossible to open and close. The walk was on the list of self guided walks for the upcoming Ulverston Walking Festival. Alan contacted the local authority and the walking festival team. He got a very quick response from both of them. The Path Fix team, many involved with the Walking Festival, soon had it checked out and did a temporary fix in time for our walk. Peter met us at the gate which was good of him.



It's a well used restricted byway and the Westmorland and Furness Council also did a permanent repair the day after our walk! They got a contractor to re-hang the gate and install a new batting stoop and latch, to replace that rotting wooden one. So it shows that contacting the local walkers as well as the council can bring good results.



Ramblers Ulverston weekend. Friday afternoon we did Town Trail inspired by Laurel and Hardy, whose museum is there. Laurel was born in Ulverston. The Cumbria way starts in Ulverston at the sculpture.



Saturday we walked the short distance from Canal Head to Canal Foot, a shoreline walk to Plumpton Hall, then back across fields to Ulverston with an optional ascent of Hoad Hill which most did.





Sunday a great walk from Bardsea beach up to the Trig point and back down past the stone circle. Glorious views of Morecambe Bay and the Lakeland hills.. Wonderful in every way!

Carers Walks. We're coming to the end of running walks with unpaid carers, due to difficulties in keeping getting grants. So in March we were pleased that despite the threatened rain for our walk at Dunham Massey we still had a bumper turnout. In the end, despite grey skies, 57 of us enjoyed a dry walk round the Deer Park and gardens. The short walk spent more time in the gardens on accessible paths, and the longer went further into the deer park.

Following several dry days the mud had dried out and paths were all fine. We all saw a few deer, mainly at a distance but one very close. The gardens had a stunning display of daffodils, tulips, camelia, bluebells, Wood anemones, hellebores, magnolia trees and many more. The glade of silver birch trees looked wonderful as usual.

The Stables restaurant staff did a magnificent job as usual by supplying a tasty lunch for us all as did the National trust staff who made everything run smoothly for us. Special thanks for this walk to our Ramblers volunteers who worked really well as a team to ensure the walks and the whole event were enjoyed by all the carers, given the larger than usual numbers. Our last walk in June will hopefully be as successful.



Our Walks.



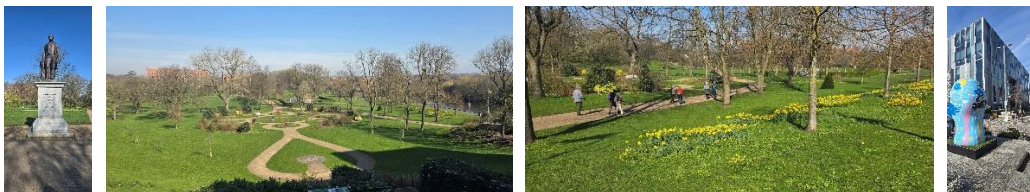
A walk of around 4 miles from Bury town centre to Elton Reservoir and back. Bury Council and the Combined Authority seek to destroy this valuable wedge of green belt land that separates Radcliffe from Bury. The photos show how these meadows are an important wetland ecosystem and much of the area is designated a Site of Biological Importance.



Great walk from Prestwich, through the clough into Drinkwater park. Signs of spring everywhere, flowers and blossom, fungi(glistening elf cap and scarlet elf cap... thanks Rob). Lunch at the former Philips Park Hall, memories of my youth there! Lucky with the weather and good company.



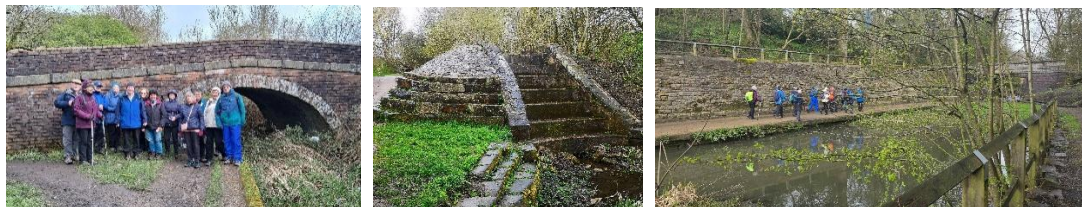
Roe Green, Kearsley and Wardley. VERY muddy walk 👍. Enjoyed the company & the walking. The mud not so much. We were rewarded with fungi, moss and a temple cat.



Pleasant, interesting, short "slow walk" around Peel Park, The Meadow and the Salford Uni campus



Cadishead to Irlam. . Amazing how big Chat Moss is and not that far from the city. Little Woollen Moss Great walk and we ended with a pint! 'The Magnificent Seven' walked Salford Trail stage 10 today. We weathered strong gusty winds, hail, intermittent sunshine, and completed the walk in great form.



An interesting route following parts of the Tameside Trail and Oldham Way, the remains of the Hollinwood Branch of the Ashton Canal, and the cycleway into Ashton that follows the route of a former railway line..



A very pleasant walk "Vic to Pic" across Manchester. Lots of interesting historical and modern buildings.



Lovely walk from Rose Hill to Marple. Canals, boats, rivers, interesting bridges, Lime Kilns.



Interesting walk from Piccadilly station round Islington basin and Ancoats with added historical information.



A sunny day for a walk from Longford Park in Stretford via Turn Moss to Sale Water Park.



Lovely day for celebrating the 94th anniversary of the Kinder Trespass with a walk from New Mills to Hayfield along the Sett Valley Trail followed by a picnic, beer, speeches and singing The Manchester Rambler.



Good walk from Victoria Station to Peel Park circular. Included some paths we rarely go on.



Starting off from Monton we enjoyed a lovely walk along the Bridgewater Canal past RHS Garden Bridgewater and back through Worsley.



Nine of us for the slow walk around Sale Water Park. Good weather and good company.



Lovely walk on a beautiful day from Whaley Bridge, round the Memorial Park and along the Peak Forest canal. Shorter alternative due to heat wave. With the temperature reaching into the very high 20s the leader abandoned the planned route involving some 800ft of ascent and we enjoyed a stroll around the Memorial Park and along the canal to Bugsworth Basin.



EVENING WALK Sale Water Park, the Mersey and the Bridgewater Canal A very select group (all three of us 😊) for the evening stroll round the Mersey Valley and canal this evening. A perfect evening for enjoying the nature we have on our doorstep



Hindley, Haigh Windmill and Boredane Wood There were 12 of us on the Hindley, Haigh Windmill and Borsdane Woods walk. Weather was good - sunny, not too hot. Had lunch beside lily pond observing a large number of large fish ! Unfortunately the photo doesn't do the fish justice. All really enjoyed the walk.



On our spring walks there were so many flowers, fungi, animals and interesting objects, signs.

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RAMBLERS WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS PARTNERSHIP The Ramblers have an agreement with Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. 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

For more walks in our Area see the website <https://www.manchester-ramblers.org.uk/>

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