



Manchester and Salford Ramblers

Newsletter No 62 June 2024

Our next weekend away will be Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September, Millers Dale, Peak District. It is another book your own accommodation and meet up for walks. It is near the Monsal Trail. Nearest village is Tideswell. Some will be booking spaces at Ravenstor Youth Hostel so if you want to you could link up with others on a shared room, similarly for car share. Salle Dare is the contact for now. More details to follow. salle_e_dare@yahoo.co.uk

Our motion was carried at General Council. This General Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to review how the Walk Attendance Register in the Ramblers Mobile App is used and how it can be developed to be of further use to Groups. It was moved by Barry Windle, our Chair who was one of the delegates from our Area to the General Council.

Publicity Mags our publicity officer has been very busy over the last few months, invited to and attending many events to publicise our walks, the work of the Ramblers in general and recruit new members. On some occasions she has been helped by other members but often on her own. Thanks Mags from all of us.



GM Moving Conference Monday 25th March promoting active lives for all. We had a well appointed stall with lots of interest and the event was well attended with over 900 participants registered. Alan Manning led a short walk around the Salford Quays area.

BBC Earth week – 24th April. I shared a table with Active Travel. Other participants were there to highlight the importance of protecting the environment.

Ready, Set, Cycle event - Saturday 18th May am at Castlefield Bowl again sharing a table with Active Travel and well organised by the Neighbourhood Climate Change people from MCC. More cycle focused but was able to give out our walk stuff.



Canals and Rivers Trust - Saturday 18th May at Middlewood Locks. We were invited by the MBBCS (Manchester, Bolton, Bury Canal Society). This was a very busy event, fabulous weather and an extremely good set up by Walk the Plank and plenty of interest in our stall. The MBBCS are excited about the discovery of a hidden canal.



Manchester Histories – Sunday 9th June at Manchester Central Library (change of venue from the Whitworth Hall) was a busy event with lots of interest in our stall. Maggie helped on this one.

And last, for now, We Invented the Weekend Festival 15 – 16th June at Salford Quays. Family fun, wellness workshops, sports activities.

Cath and Julia also did a good job promoting the Ramblers, our walks and Manchester Green Trail to a group who have been walking at Alexandra Park, Moss Side. Several said they will try out our offer of three walks before deciding to join. One was already a member.

General Election Alert: What you can do to help open up access to the outdoors

With a UK general election on 4 July, we have a golden opportunity to open up access to the outdoors - enriching everyone's lives and boosting the nation's health and wellbeing.



Almost 21 million people in England don't have accessible green or blue space within a 15-minute walk of home, whilst many others face physical or social barriers to making the most of the access on their doorsteps.

The next government will be faced with critical decisions on public health, the NHS and the environment, so we need your support to ensure all political parties recognise the value of people having access to nature.

We're calling on the next UK government to introduce a transformational new Access to Nature Bill that breaks down the barriers to the outdoors, and radically improves access to nature in England – please help by writing to your candidates today. Just follow this link, to the easy-to-use tool [to message the candidates in your constituency](#).

Greater Manchester Leisure Walking Strategy Latest

In May Andy Burnham was re-elected as Mayor of Greater Manchester. In his Manifesto he acknowledged the Ramblers' call for a strategic plan to improve and expand our leisure walking routes so that everyone has access to nature on their doorstep. He said that "this suggestion fits well with our direction of travel and I will ask Dame Sarah Storey to work with the Association in establishing a working group to support the development of the plan."

[This link gives some more details](#) of our initial thinking and we look forward to working with Dame Sarah.

GM Ringway Volunteer Stage Guardians needed.

The GM Ringway is Greater Manchester's walking trail. Covering all ten boroughs of the city-region, the trail explores an astonishing variety of landscapes, including parks, waterways and beautiful countryside.

The GM Ringway team are looking for volunteers, specifically they need 'Stage Guardians' on the Stage 18 Irlam to Altrincham and Stage 19 Altrincham to Stretford sections of the GM Ringway. You can find more information and how to volunteer on their website at www.gmringway.org Some other sections still need a second Guardian so if interested in another section, maybe as you live nearby then please offer. Click on the "Get Involved" tab then "Stage Volunteers" for more information on this volunteering role. An extract from their website about this role is shown below:

This exciting role involves looking after your local stage, or section, of the GM Ringway trail by:

- walking it occasionally to check that the route is open and problem-free;
- feeding back any issues to the team;

Also if possible

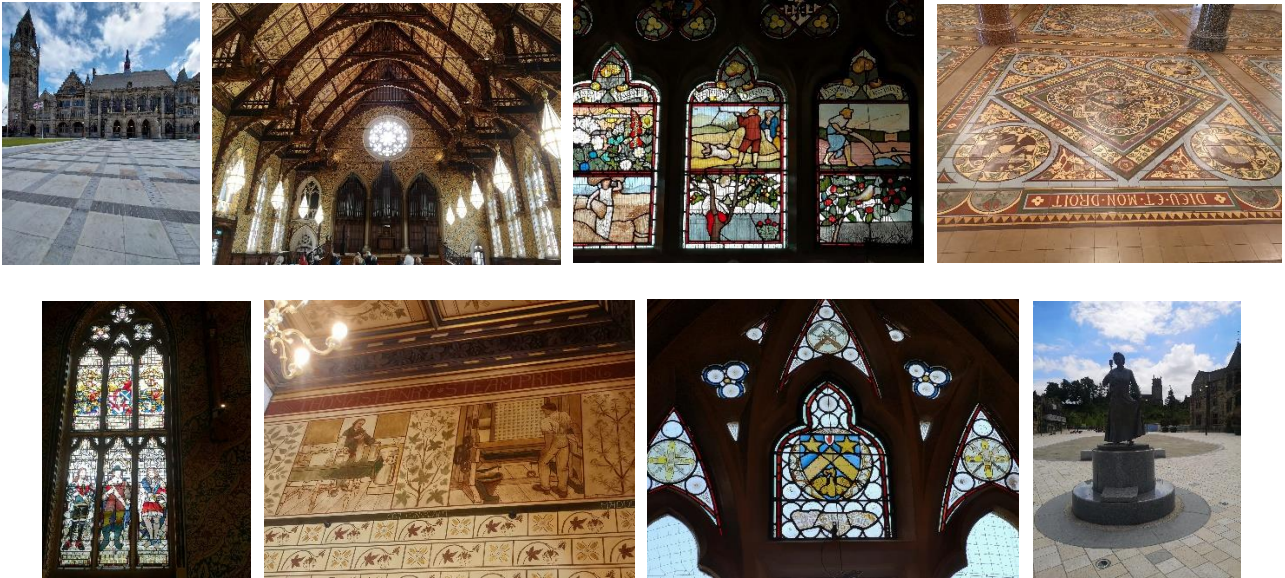
: checking that the app and mapping are accurate and up to date;

: promoting the trail stage to your local community, perhaps on social media or by organising walks.

Don't worry if any of this sounds daunting, as they'll give you plenty of support. What's more, there will be two stage guardians for each section of the trail, so you won't be on your own. Email us on info@gmringway.org to register your interest.

Our socials. A new type of social in April, a **Chinese Calligraphy** workshop held in the beautiful Portico Library Good fun. It was organised by Chris with Pauline from the coach rambles group.





In June we had a very informative guided tour of the magnificent **Rochdale Town Hall** after its major restoration. Heads of state are featured in the windows with Cromwell sitting in chronological order - if uncomfortably. Panels and windows pay tribute to workers and mill owners. A Statue of Gracie Fields in the refurbished square outside.

If you didn't get to the social, or even if you did, there is a chance to see the Town Hall and its impressive organ in action. Jonathan Scott and his brother should be returning there for their annual Christmas concert in December. Always a good event in my experience. Keep an eye on their [website](#)

Walking in Jordan. Margaret Squires. To walk in a country you have never visited before can be quite an intimidating experience. You are unfamiliar with all aspects of life in this new place. Luckily we had 'Wally', our Jordanian guide. Ex- army, rambling enthusiast, heavy smoker and a passionate ambassador for his country. Oh and with an invaluable knowledge of the whereabouts of 'Liquor shops.'



Our first walk took us round Amman, the capital of Jordan. From ancient high citadels overlooking a sprawling mass of buildings from horizon to horizon, to busy streets, thronged with market traders selling anything you might conceivably want, from shoes to spices. This was to lull us into believing this was going to be easy. What followed was anything but...

A walk up a gorge, tripping over sharp rocks and fighting the strong current, up to our knees in weirdly warm water. My toe nails still haven't recovered. A ten mile walk down a lonely valley, huge desolate mountains to either side. It had to be completed, our bed for the night was at the other end. Quick stop with a Bedouin who made tea for us over a camp fire and a sharp tussle with a large black goat who wanted my rucksack.

Our bed for the night was an Eco lodge of great charm and little electricity. Candles are very romantic in the right scenario but not when you're worrying that a gust of wind might set fire to your mosquito net. A sudden and prolonged storm of hailstones, some as big as golf balls, and the dry river bed a hundred yards away became a huge torrent of foaming water. The force of the water was capable of carrying boulders along, grinding together and flattening anything in their path. Nature is to be respected here.

Jordan is a harsh and ancient land. Any walking there is to be had, follows paths laid down millennia ago by pilgrims, traders, shepherds and invaders. No formal trails here but dusty rock strewn whispers of paths, made to avoid steep chasms and take advantage of water where it is scarce and hard to come by.

In Petra, we marvelled at the Great Treasury, hewn out of red sandstone by the Nabateans and reached through a long and twisted gorge, high enough to cut out the sunlight. The area covered by remnants of civilisation is huge. Nine hundred steep steps cut out of the rock and out into the bright sunshine to see ranges of rocky crags, stretching far into the misty distance and eventually the Greek Monastery, silent and still in the heat. Some people still live in caves in these mountains, as they have for centuries. The lady on the donkey with a plastic container strapped to its back is going for water. The little boy is caring for their precious goats. Others look after the stalls that line Petra's thoroughfares and try to sell to tourists who would barter for a carved wooden camel, as if the gap between us isn't wide enough.



Herod's fortress is a steep climb up and the sun on the white stones bounces back causing you to squint through your sunglasses. It is well worth it to look over the border into Israel and wonder at how peaceful it looks and realise what a complete illusion that is. This is where Herod beheaded John the Baptist but little is left to tell the story. Far, far below, the northern part of the Dead Sea can be seen, as though on a map or you are looking down from a plane. More steep climbing on another day took us high up to Aaron's tomb, a small white building etched against a blue sky. The wind came in sudden gusts and the steep drops to either side were unprotected. The views on the other hand were worth the effort.

Finally, the desert proper, the one with real camels. The encampment at Wadi Rum is a forty minutes swerving, bouncing ride in the back of a pickup truck from even rudimentary civilisation. We walked across wide sandy stretches and admired rocks carved into arches and fantastical shapes by many centuries of erosion. Home for the night was a small, dark tent with a single electric light, quite luxurious in the circumstances. Waking up in the middle of the night, the silence is complete. I was compelled to go outside. Not a good look, nightie and hiking boots but there was no-one to pass comment. Millions of stars sprinkled the sky and I sat in awe for a long time, trying to make sure that I would remember that spectacular sight.

Walking in places you have only read about previously brings everything to life. To see the famous places is a privilege. To see everyday life from someone else's perspective opens your mind and builds bridges. No other type of travel brings so much reward and so many incredible memories.

Whitby Weekend



Great M&S weekend in April in Whitby. Most stayed at the YHA, part of the Abbey buildings. Others in various places nearby. Thanks to Pam and Salle for coordinating. We all gathered in the YHA on Sat eve for a fun (?) quiz hosted by Janice but created by Barry. Thanks especially for the hard/weird ones!



Saturday saw nearly all of us get the bus up the coast to Runswick Bay for a sunny, though a bit windy, walk back to either Whitby, or Sandsend and get the bus back the rest of the way. It was a rather exhilarating climb up from the beach at Runswick Bay but all managed the scramble up the rocks by the waterfall, handrail provided, then the many steps up to the cliff. Of course what goes up must come down, several times on any walk along the North Yorks coast



Sunday was another sunny, but much windier, shorter walk from the YHA/Abbey via Saltwick Bay to Whitestone Point Lighthouse and a loop back. We could see the coastline eroding almost as we walked. Good views back to the abbey and down to the harbour piers.

Carers walks.



Debdale Park. Great walk, drizzly for some of the time, but plenty of chatting and laughing. 34 of us enjoyed the Walks. Those of us on the short walk were lucky to have chance for a few minutes rest, a brew and some good value shopping in the allotment shop. The long walk was most popular. Very organised lunch too!



Fletcher Moss Park, Parsonage Gardens and Didsbury Park. A lovely day, the sun shone, the flowers, trees and shrubs were at their springtime best and most of the mud had finally dried out. There are some lovely wooden carved sculptures in Parsonage Gardens, where the volunteers do an amazing job of looking after the flower beds and greenhouse. We had a delicious lunch in the Pavilion Café in Didsbury Park. What a find it was, a real winner, the food was fabulous! We'll definitely be back there.



We walked from Monton Unitarian Church along the Worsley Loopline in torrential rain. Carers from Wigan said 'Beautiful scenery and very posh houses entertained us and hot drinks & sandwiches brought us joy. Huge thanks to those who braved the weather lovely catching up.....now we'd like our nice weather back please!'

A carer said. 'Brilliant walk despite heavy rain. What a beautiful green space, first time I've been there. I'm planning to go again on my own on the bus.

Our walks. Including our newly introduced Slow Walks of 2 miles over 2 hours. They are popular so are continuing.



A lovely walk in Didsbury Park, Fletcher Moss, River Mersey and Parsonage gardens. Great weather.



Moses Gate to Radcliffe. We didn't get wet at all. A little drizzle in the last 400 yards in Radcliffe, otherwise dry!



Slow Walk in Heaton Park. Good turnout, not too bad weather, some blue sky towards the end! Lovely to see familiar faces and some new ones. Good feedback too.



A sunny walk up to and round Ogden Reservoir. Thanks for the photos to Alan Scholes who led the walk.



Wythenshawe 21 of us enjoyed another sunny day for our circular starting near Wythenshawe hospital. Crossing over Fairwell Brook we were then in Trafford. There was quite a lot of mud in Fairwell Woods but the blackthorn blossom, wild garlic and leaves coming out on the trees added colour. We strolled along Brooks Drive which should soon be designated as a bridleway, thanks mainly to the efforts of Martin Hampar from PNFS. We crossed open land to Newall Green Farm, back across the Brook, and a pleasant end coming along the traffic free end of Clay Lane.



GM Moving conference. Great opening number from various groups celebrating movement and a pleasant short walk led by Alan around the local area. 16 of us did the walk. Lots of interest in the Salford Trail and GM Ringway, the walk included sections of both.



A glorious walk under Cracken Edge & around Chinley Churn on Easter Saturday. Superb weather & views all round.



Good walk through Peel Park, around The Wetlands and back through Salford University and we managed to avoid most of the rain.



A well supported slow, short walk around Media City and the Quays. Great group of people, interesting route and perfect weather for walking. Some fabulous architecture, walked along the Centenary Walkway by Salford riviera and even got Alan in his Superman guise! 19 walkers enjoyed the interesting architecture, exciting media projects and water views. We waved at the water cruise passengers and enjoyed a lovely walk in the sunshine!



Stage 18 GM Ringway. Irlam to Altrincham 12 miles. Bit long for 5 so left the walk at Warburton Bridge & got the bus.



Levenshulme. Secret lake, Highfield country park & the bee sanctuary. Saw a coot on its nest. Lucky with the weather



Kinder Trespass anniversary. 16 enjoyed the walk from New Mills to the Kinder Celebrations in Hayfield.



May Bank Holiday Monday Walk. Good 5 Miles Failsworth & Moston Brook.



Lovely slow walk for nine around Buile Hill Park in Salford. The weather was great.



A small but appreciative group enjoyed better weather than predicted for the Wythenshawe Boundary 3 walk. The forecast had been downgraded from heavy to light rain only, and that only fell early on. The route follows the Mersey to Simon's Bridge, then passes through Northenden and Rose Hill Wood, with memorials to the Watkin Family who developed it, to pick up the boundary with Stockport at Gatley Carrs, finishing via Hollyhedge Park.



A small but enthusiastic group enjoyed an evening walk through NOMA, the Green Quarter and Northern Quarter of Manchester to the Chinese Arch. The weather turned out to be good despite some rain earlier. We had a quick visit into the New Century Hall which in the 80s & 90s hosted acts like The Rolling Stones, The Bee Gees, Tina Turner.



Lovely walk in Worsley, woods, looppines and towpaths, passed by RHS Bridgewater, finished at Worsley Green.



Lovely circular walk from Sale Water Park. Good turnout, lucky with the weather and walked on paths not used before by many of us. Nice to see some new (and visiting from Scotland) members too!



A sunny slow walk around Heaton Mersey. Thanks to new member Val who took these photos of the lunch stop and flower identification.



Evening walk. Marple to Romiley via Chadkirk. We dodged the worst of the rain, had a quick drink at Platform One and took a magical mystery tour on a rail replacement bus.



Enjoyable walk from Rose Hill to Marple. Lucky with the weather, sheltered for coffee break but sat out for lunch. Interesting stop at Oldknows lime kilns and Marple Memorial park, Janice even provided a carnival (almost!).

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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

If in your 20s and 30s longer and shorter walks are run by the Manchester and District walkers (MAD walkers) for people who live in and around the Greater Manchester area <http://www.madwalkers.org.uk>

The Manchester Weekend Walkers (MWW) is a walking group that provides regular walks, socials and weekends away. The group is primarily for people of working age who enjoy walking at the weekend. They expect their membership to be mainly made up of people in their 40s and older but welcome people of any age!

<http://www.mwwalkers.org.uk/home.htm>

Lots of other walks on Wednesdays and Sundays in our Area programme: <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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