



Manchester and Salford Ramblers

Newsletter No 63 October 2024

M&S AGM and walk. Heaton Park.

Saturday 2nd November. Walk meet 12 noon at Heaton Park Metro. Lunch 1.15pm in the Classroom, Stables café. Meeting 2 pm. Speaker Steven Pleasant on the work of GM Moving.

GM & HP Area AGM and walk. City Centre

Saturday 30th November. Walk Mayfield Park and City Centre. Meet 11am at Piccadilly Station near the Taxi rank, Fairfield Street Entrance. Hot drinks 1pm & Meeting 2pm Cross Street Chapel, M2 1NL



From Janice our Secretary 'Thanks everyone for the beautiful flowers and good wishes following my injury.' She is now recovering well from a fall.

Weekends Away. Keswick, Lake District 25 to 27 April 2025. Another DIY weekend. This has worked well for two recent weekends. It means book your own accommodation, but members get together if they want to share a Room at the YHA or similar. We will set up a WhatsApp group for this, car share and arranging walks so if interested contact Salle Dare salle_e_dare@yahoo.co.uk

Elan Valley, Mid Wales 12-14th September 2025. There are a limited number of places still available. If you are wishing to go the company require a £30 non-refundable deposit. The total cost is £245. Not cheap but a bit of a treat! What is included - basically everything! Check out <https://www.elanvalleylodge.co.uk/about-us> We need to secure any extra places by 20th October. Contact Carol Hibbert to get more details & pay the deposit. Cehibbert@yahoo.co.uk

Ramblings with Clare Balding Amar Latif Ramblers National President, was on Radio 4's Ramblings in lovely Nidderdale. Worth a listen on this link [Ramblings](#) or get the Ramblings podcast.



Photos

GM Ringway Really good event on Bank Holiday Monday to celebrate the completion of this stage of the development of the GM Ringway. First a sunny walk, with around 100 on it, on Stage 20 the end of the route, from Stretford to the City Centre and onto HOME for the afternoon event. M&S Ramblers had a good turnout. At HOME we ate, drank, socialised and had speeches, first from Andrew Read, Ramblers member and originator and developer of the route. Then several people spoke who have been involved in this stage of its development, with the grant from National Heritage Lottery fund, including checking the route, waymarking it all, making sure it is accurately on the website and Go Jauntly App, linking in with heritage and hospitality venues along the route. This has involved

people from all backgrounds, including those who may not usually walk in the countryside. All sections are accessible by public transport, there are some shorter circular linked walks, many step free.

It was good to have Lucy Robinson, Chair of Ramblers Trustees, speak to highlight our involvement, along with CPRE as the main sponsors. Barbara Keeley, MP until last July, our Area President also joined us. We shared plans for the future of GM Ringway. Stage Guardians have been recruited to make sure there is at least one person, and preferably two, checking their stage a few times a year in case waymarks need replacing, or any problems with the path. A Friends of GM Ringway has been set up to ensure the ongoing success of the trail. If you don't know much about the Ringway or want to see all the updated information, or get involved see the website

<https://www.gmringway.org>

The GM Ringway will also be on **Ramblings** from October 17th with Andrew and others from the team. [Click here](#)

Volunteers needed. There are 3 roles on our group committee which will soon become vacant and we are looking for members who may like to step into one of these positions, at the November AGM. There is a brief description below about each role. You will get lots of help & support so please think about joining us.

Walks organiser. Salle is stepping down as walks organiser so we need to find someone who will be able to take over from her. The work is not very difficult or time consuming. The main job will be to create a 3 monthly programme of varied walk 4 times a year. This involves:

- We have a list of walk leaders so you will need to contact these every three months to ask them to lead a walk
- Checking the details they give you and putting the walks programme together
- asking them to complete a risk assessment form which is on the website
- asking the leaders to keep a register of participants so we have an idea of numbers and can identify any non-members to follow up and ask to join the Ramblers.
- circulating the details to Alan Manning – to put on the website, and Janice Kerrigan to get the details out to members

In addition, there are occasional tasks

- Adding new walk leaders to your list
- pointing new walker leaders in the direction of training and providing a bit of support to them
- making alternative arrangements if a walk leader cannot make a walk – or cancelling the walk – asking Janice to get the information out to members
- adding new walk leaders to the volunteer data base
- on rare occasions discussing with walk leader issues of cancelling a walk because of the weather.
- Answering queries from people about the walks (not everyone will read the programme or website)

Therefore good communication and I.T. skills are needed. Job share might be available. If you would be interested you can come along to the AGM or give Salle a ring on 07523 871475

Footpaths Organiser. The role involves carrying out footpath inspections and arranging for other members to help with inspections to identify obstructions, passing more serious clearance to Manchester City Council and occasionally arranging small teams of volunteers to undertake minor clearing. We have a good range of tools for path clearing, currently stored in the garage of one of our members.

If anyone is interested and would like to discuss the role then contact Barry Windle (07952860747) or Maggie Walker (07947195875)

Newsletter Editor role. We produce a newsletter 4 times a year, alternating email only versions with email plus paper ones. The editor can decide what to put in it. Usually includes notices of any Manchester and Salford Ramblers Group, and sometimes Area, meetings, socials & other upcoming group events. Plus reports on walks. For more information contact Margaret Manning.

Footpath work Manchester An MCC updated reporting system has been developed via [this link](#)

Report an obstruction on the road, pavement or public right of way (verintcloudservices.com)

It allows the person reporting on a Public Right of Way to drop a pin on a map to show where the issue is and then to describe it. We're told that the reports go to the Neighbourhood Officer. More info contact Maggie Walker

Follow up to the General Election

As part of the Outdoors Unlocked campaign the Ramblers nationally have prioritised lobbying for improved access to the countryside and green spaces. Groups have been asked to try to seek support from the MPs in their areas. We believe that to get the best hearing an approach to an MP should ideally be a) by one of their constituents b) begin with an issue(s) within that constituency. We have identified the MPs whose constituencies are covered or partly covered by our Group boundaries and their current roles and will be trying to contact them over the coming weeks.



More walking in Manchester and Salford!

Ramblers have responded to two separate consultations on developments in Manchester and want to see more opportunities for walking in Manchester!



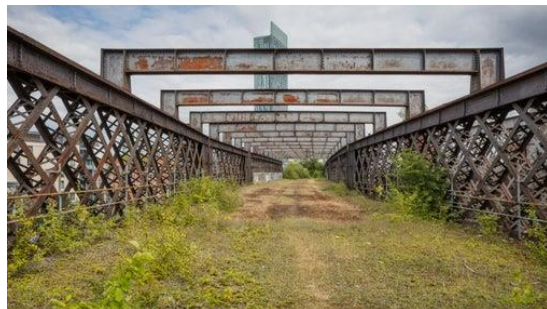
MIX: Manchester This was formerly known as Airport City North and we want to see more walking, wheeling and cycling through the site and to strengthen the existing rights of way and links to the wider area.

Holt Town: This is a Neighbourhood Development Framework we welcomed the overall recognition of walking but have real concerns about the impact of the scale and density of canal side development on Ashton Canal and in the Valley Area. [For more, follow this link.](#)

Our Salford footpath officer has made a submission on our behalf on the large Peel housing development on land next to RHS Bridgewater and East of Boothstown. He is also monitoring proposals by Salford City Council on the Irwell Linear Park.

Castlefield Viaduct

We were represented at an event on the Viaduct in July to hear news of the next steps. They have secured funding and are now progressing a planning application for work to extend the gardens to more than double its current length and with a second entry and exit point on the east side of Egerton Street.



Greater Manchester Leisure Walking Strategy: Latest

When Andy Burnham was re-elected as Mayor of Greater Manchester he gave a manifesto commitment to work with the Ramblers for a strategic plan to promote leisure walking. There have been some initial discussions with the initial aim to sketch out the broad aims and connections. We have stressed the importance of walking to health, transport, nature recovery, culture and heritage.

[This link gives some more details](#) of our initial thinking and we look forward to making progress.



Footpath work Salford. The Swinton and Pendlebury footpath clearance team of Manchester and Salford Ramblers removing vegetation from a short section of the Salford Trail just off the East Lancs Road. The first photo from a walk in June shows how the route was totally impassable the last photo how it was after the hard work. Thanks all.

Walking Elsewhere Kettlewell. In February I enjoyed a fine winter's weekend in Wharfedale. We stayed at Kettlewell Hostel, a place I remember from its YHA days, but now a well-appointed independent hostel, with a large dining room, decent self-catering kitchen and a quiet upstairs sitting room. We self-catered or ate out at the pubs, but the hostel provides meals if required. The village itself has its attractions, with many fine old buildings. These include the Grade II* listed St Mary's Church and over 20 other listed buildings, including the three pubs. The main two, the Blue Bell and the Racehorses, which stand opposite one another, both have decent beer and good (if pricey) food. The Racehorses wins out for character in my opinion.

Our first walk took us into nearby Grassington via Conistone Dib. After gentle walking on quiet lanes to Conistone village we began the climb up Conistone Dib - a limestone dry valley and gorge that required a short, steep scramble at the end. The route then follows the Dales Way into Grassington, passing through an area rich in archaeology, with over a dozen sites of Scheduled Monuments, including the remains of hut circles, field systems, old pasture enclosures and two mediaeval village sites. After refreshment in Grassington some walked back to Kettlewell but a few of us took the bus.



The stony path up Conistone Dib



The Dales Way above Grassington



Along the path to Buckden

On the Sunday I opted for a shorter walk, again following the Dales Way but heading north to Buckden. This is a fine path, never straying far from the river, but with only a couple of boggy spots. Here are all the ingredients that make the Yorkshire Dales so distinctive: dry stone walls, stone barns, lush meadows and views of the moors and hills above including here Buckden Pike (702m) which rises above the village. Buckden has a pleasant green, a fine old bridge (listed Grade II) and just the one pub - the Buck, a former coaching inn. There's even a Sunday bus service, which I took for the short ride back to Kettlewell. Waiting for others to return from their longer walk, I explored the village further before heading home. So ended a fine weekend in an area offering many other walks. Richard Cleverley



Socials Very interesting tour of the Lion Salt Works (now a museum) just near Northwich. We had an excellent and very informative guide. The brine from below ground was pumped up and boiled in large pans until the salt began to crystallise and was scraped off. Interesting items, some encrusted with salt crystals in the recreated pub.



Carers Walks. In June Carers week walks in Heaton Park, RHS Bridgewater, Salford Quays & Highfield Country Park.



Joint monthly walks at Dunham Massey, our Big Day Out, Sale Water Park and Peel Park. All walks much appreciated. 'I had a brilliant time at Durham Massey today. Great company. Great walk and Good exercise. It's so good to take a break from caring role. I feel Mentally, Physically and Spiritually rejuvenated. Also Excellent fresh food. THE BEST MEDICINE. Thank you so much to You, The Ramblers and Carers Manchester. Forever Grateful.'

Our walks.



The Salford Trail between Clifton and Roe Green. Though we were never far from the motorway system parts of the walk had quite a rural feel. We passed Wardley Hall the official residence of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford.



Tandle Hill. Midsummer walk Thoroughly enjoyable, replacing the event scheduled for last December that was cancelled due to the weather. It was very sunny. Fabulous walk, great company and perfect weather. And we all made it up the hill. We hope to make this an annual event alongside the pre Christmas one.



Wonderful Edale circular via the southern edges of Kinder, and Grindslow Knoll. Five completed the circuit and two chose to do an out-and-back walk along Grindsbrook.



A small but highly appreciative group for the walk Heald Green to Gatley - two minutes in a straight line on the train, but we managed to fit in 5 miles of leisurely walking through the surviving open spaces, plus a Stockport frog, in an area transformed in the 20th century by suburban housing.



Stewart from Tameside, together with his friend visiting from Canada, led six members of M&S Ramblers along Stage 7 of the GM Ringway, from Marple to Broadbottom via Werneth Low. Nice walk after the early rain had stopped.



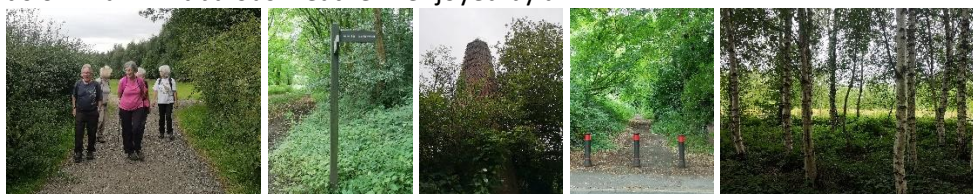
A really beautiful Entwistle circular. Highlights included reservoirs, woodland, moorland and wildflower meadows. We also got panoramic views, a close-up kestrel, tree fungi, only a few spots of rain & a (very) swift pint at the end.



Gorton Heritage Trail explores some surprisingly historic parts of the inner city suburb.



Heaton Park Great slow walk in fabulous weather - enjoyed by all.



Hurst and Nuttall Woods Stand Lane to Hurst and Nuttall Woods. Great walk, so interesting.



Pendlebury Lots of group photos - none with a bridge !



10 of us enjoyed a SLOW walk from Piccadilly Station through the gay village, Sackville Gardens, Vimto Gardens through the old UMIST buildings to Mayfield Park. Thanks to everyone who came along.



A circular from Altrincham taking in Hale, the River Bollin and Ashley Hall. We had one short but heavy shower amongst a mix of weather.



A rather damp and drizzly affair. Starting from Greenfield station we walked past Uppermill and back. We had a coffee break in a rather busy and disorganised Lime Kiln Cafe. It rained quite heavily while we were inside but was much better for our return walk. Everyone was cheerful and glad to be out in the open air.



A lovely walk around Newhey today. It was my first with this group, and turned out to be a really enjoyable day with great company. Liz Baker. Editor-thanks for the photos Liz, glad you enjoyed the walk and hope you do many more.



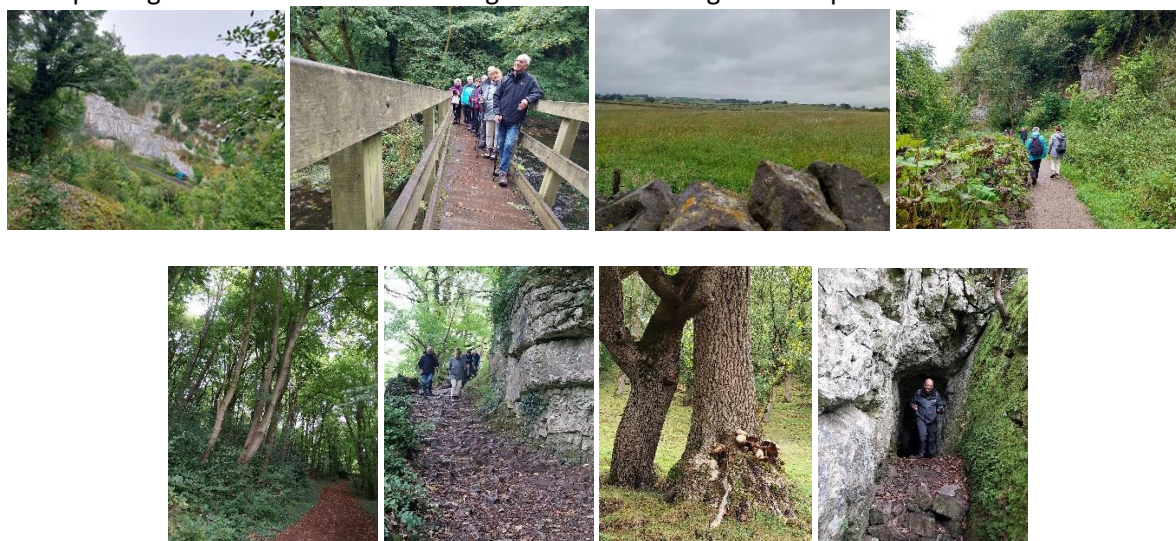
All enjoyed a sunny walk around West Didsbury, the River Mersey and Chorlton Water Park. Apparently they were on the edge of the playing fields (in West Didsbury) where Marcus Rashford played when he was young.



Ravenstor weekend 13-15 Sept First little walk of the weekend away: from Miller's Dale Station towards Cheedale. Tunnels on the Monsal Trail featured in all the walks, always with the warning for horses to keep left!



On a glorious Saturday we left the hostel grounds to walk across the beautiful ridge of Bellamy's Bank-see plaque photo. Several climbing spots alongside the river Wye, old mills now fancy apartments. Up to Monsal Head then a lovely woodland walk down to river and weir. A grassy walk by the river, back up to the Monsal Trail where we saw many runners passing the 30 mile mark on the High Peak 40 challenge. A steep descent & a brew outside the hostel



Last walk of the weekend away: a circular, high pasturelands & Tideswell Dale - lovely despite the showery weather



Good walk from Littleborough, the sun shone most of the day and the rain never reached us. An interesting route and luckily the weather gods were on our side. We walked through Ealees Wood, along the Pennine Bridleway, over then under the M62 and via Rakewood, an old hamlet, to Hollingworth Lake. A busy spot for coffee watching various people pursuing watersports but a pleasant walk round the lake and down to the canal for a short spell back to the station. On the Pennine Bridleway. We encountered several runners one of whom can be seen here.

You're receiving this communication because we believe that it would be of interest to you as a member/supporter. If you'd rather not receive similar information in future, please let us know. You can email ramblers@ramblers.org.uk, change your preferences online at ramblers.org.uk/myaccount or call (0)20 3961 3300

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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