



## Report from Newton Stewart, April 2016

In April this year 42 members of Kendal Ramblers spent 42 nights in Newton Stewart, Dumfries & Galloway. Most of the group stayed at the Bruce Hotel, with 10 having to do 'B&B' next door at the Crown – but we all ate evening meals together at the Bruce. The **manager & staff at the Bruce** were wonderful, very friendly and efficient, and with excellent food too **we were very happy**.

As usual we split into various groups each day – some people did walk every day, but others explored the area, which was new territory for many of the people on the holiday. We visited the **Mull of Galloway**, and the **Isle of Whithorn**, finding very dramatic coastal scenery in both places. Other walks started at **Portpatrick**, a delightful fishing village in the far west of Galloway. The 'high' walks were saved until the last day when we had the better weather; **14 climbed Merrick**, the highest mountain in S.W.Scotland while a small select group preferred to do a **ridge walk along Cairnsmore of Fleet**, just 3 miles from our hotel.

For the keen gardeners amongst us, the **Logan Botanic Gardens, and Castle Kennedy** were both close by. And the **N.T. garden at Threave**, which boasts over 200 varieties of daffodils, was visited by many people en-route either to or from Newton Stewart. What a wonderful garden it was too. For the artists amongst us a visit to **Kirkudbright**, the 'artists' town', was also a must. Finally, quite a few in the group stopped off to see the **Red Kites** being fed at a location close to **Loch Ken**. An impressive sight.

The weather overall was a little disappointing in that we had a lot of cloud – it certainly didn't match the previous year's sunshine at Alnwick. But we didn't have too much rain either, so all in all we were satisfied – and here's to the sunshine booked again for 2017!

**Margaret Pook**

**Many thanks to Margaret for arranging such a successful trip once again.**

**Ed**

## SLOVENIA HOLIDAYS £595pp B&B

**September 24th-October 1st 2016**

**and May 20th-27th 2017**

**not including flights to Venice or evening meals**

We have received details of two walking trips being run by **Kendal Mountaineering Services** to an alpine style chalet which caters for 8 people with two double and 2 twin rooms, in the village of **Kal Koritnica**.

All we have to do is get to Venice and they will do the rest! The chalet itself is surrounded by some of the most beautiful and unspoilt landscape that Europe has to offer in the **Soca Valley Slovenia**.

The walking guide is Iain Gallagher who is a **highly qualified mountaineering and walking instructor**. He brings a lifetime of hill going to the holiday and is passionate about the outdoors and the **Julian Alps**. The chalet has a large lounge, well-equipped kitchen, dining area and outdoor seating area where you can also do evening BBQ's.

Over the course of the week they would aim to cover **five full days of walking between five and eight hours** a day, providing a packed lunch and exploring the area around the local peaks and flower filled meadows of the Soca Valley. **A day off is scheduled midweek** when you might like to take the opportunity to join one of the local sports agencies in activities such as rafting, paragliding, biking, canoeing or just soaking up the atmosphere of one of the European cafe culture in a small town.

This sounds like good fun! **For further information email them at [info@kendalmountaineeringservices.co.uk](mailto:info@kendalmountaineeringservices.co.uk)** or call Iain on 07761 483364.

Would anyone like to get a party together?

Contact [terrydee@talktalk.net](mailto:terrydee@talktalk.net) or 01539 721998

## Committee July 2016

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## Alison and Dorothy's Walking Saga

Another section of our walk across Scotland completed!

This time it was the Speyside Way from Buckie on the Moray Coast to Aviemore - a **distance of 92 miles**.

This is a well marked route with the Thistle emblem to follow though there have been some minor diversions from the way it is marked on the map.

The **first stretch** along the coast was **wild and windy** but with breakers and seals to watch still enjoyable.

Turning inland at the mouth of the Spey the weather improved and we **had only one really wet day** and lots of sunshine. Quite a lot of the way uses the old Speyside railway line where the scents alternated between the coconut of the profuse gorse and garlic and blossom, **not forgetting the distillery aromas**. Lots of wild flowers.

For Kendalians the best stretches were 2 days that included hills and gave beautiful views across Speyside. One was the spur walk that took us **from Tomintoul, over Carn Diamh to Ballindalloch**. Accompanied by Curlew, Oystercatchers and Cuckoos we had 360 degree views including the snow topped Cairngorms. A bonus halfway was the **Glenlivet Distillery** where, believe it or not, we refreshed with scones and gallons of tea and not a "wee dram"! That came later at the end of the walk in Aviemore.

We gave ourselves some extra time on the penultimate day to include the **Loch Garten observatory** and were rewarded with lovely views of the Ospreys with two chicks.

For whisky lovers the Speyside way passes close to a number of Distilleries open to the public but you need to take more than the 7 1/2 days we did to sample all the delights.

**Alison Jones and Dorothy Bayliss**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The 47th Annual General meeting of  
Kendal Ramblers will be held at  
Abbot Hall Community Centre on  
**FRIDAY 18 November at 7.30 pm**

The agenda for the AGM, together with various reports, will be sent out before the meeting.

Will members please note that **nominations for Committee** membership, and motions for consideration at the AGM, must reach the secretary **no later than 28 days** before the meeting.

## HINCASTER TRAILWAY

The Hincaster Trailway AGM attracted interested parties from North Lancashire Bridleways Society, Dallam School Charitable Trust, Hincaster, Heversham and Beetham Parish Councils. The Chairman reported a successful year of events.

The self guided walk leaflets continue to prove popular and the Heversham leaflet has been updated to include the new pavilion at Tristrams playing field. Ashley Reece will continue as Chair and Eve Borrino was elected as Vice Chair. Sarah Dickinson was re-elected as Treasurer and Bridget Pickthall as Secretary. The diversion created by Egg Homes during the development at Viver Green is due to be lifted on 19 July 2016. [www.hincastertrailway.co.uk](http://www.hincastertrailway.co.uk)  
**Bridget Pickthall**

## HISTORIC COPPER MINES

The 400 year old **Coniston Copper Mine and Penny Rigg Mill sites** spread across 57 Hectares of the south west of the Lake District below Coniston Old man and **have won a £450,000 grant** from the Lottery Fund. A two year project will focus on conserving more than 150 items of repair; stabilising and reconstructing ten different structures at the two sites. There will be **training and volunteering opportunities** to get involved including conservation and archeological survey work. Sara Hilton Head of Heritage Lottery Fund north west said "Copper Mining is indelibly linked to the heritage and landscape of Coniston. If anyone **would like to get involved** this summer, email [archvol@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:archvol@lakedistrict.gov.uk) or telephone 01539 724555.

## COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD

For those of you driven mad by my shocking memory in  
Newton Stewart, either walking in a sopping wet garden, or  
the following day over breakfast in our charming hotel,  
herewith the text of the pome which I tried to remember after  
the sighting of numerous shags on the walk along the shore  
the day before:

The Common Cormorant or Shag  
Lays eggs inside a paper bag  
The reason you will see no doubt  
Is to keep the lightening out.  
But what these unobservant birds  
Have failed to see are  
Herds of honey bears with buns  
Who steal the bags to keep their crumbs

Ed

## STAINTON AQUADUCT

**The Canal & River Trust have confirmed that** the £250,000 works to stabilise Stainton Aqueduct were completed recently including a temporary dam. The work took approximately six weeks to complete, and are part of a multi-million programme of emergency works needed as a result of the flooding. The CRT have applied to CumbriaCC for funding from their government flood compensation grant, but a recent national appeal for funds only raised about £100,000 - they are anticipating a cost estimate for the full repair works any day now.

On **2nd June**, the **Westmorland Gazette** included an article urging MP Tim Farron to intervene in order to get a firm timetable for permanent repairs. Neighbours Geoff and Carol Wilson fear that the dam will be in place for years, and that the wildlife on their doorstep may disappear.

Waterways manager Chantelle Seaborn confirmed that specialist engineers regularly inspect the aqueduct but that as a charity the full restoration of the Grade II Stainton Aqueduct is not something they can do overnight and they do not currently have the necessary funds although they have had initial talks with Cumbria County Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Ed

## 12-14 Ramblers from Wyre

We have received a request for suggestions for accommodation for the above, who wish to walk in the Lakes in July 2017, providing Bed, breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal. Hassness, Buttermere, and Glenthorn Grasmere, have been suggested. Any more bright ideas? Please email to [aj@alanwakefield.co.uk](mailto:aj@alanwakefield.co.uk)

## WALKING ON ACCESS LAND

It is hoped that within the next 4 years the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ( CRow ) will be reviewed. Wales began their review last year which proves that where there is a will there is a way.

In preparation for that day we need to hear from members. We need **accounts of your experience** in walking not along PROWs but exploring the **open spaces of Access Land** as designated by the Act. Almost anything is useful, good or bad. It may be possible to **resolve problems you raise** within the current legislation. However others may point to areas for reform.

In some cases you may want to report instances of your **failure to reach or cross Access Land**. You might have been stopped by walls fences, barbed wire etc or even unhelpful landowners. In contrast the opposite might have been the case with **helpful signs and stiles** and farmers pointing you in the right direction to achieve your objective and that elusive top! By compiling a record of experiences we will be **better placed to campaign** for a review and reform of the Act.

Please send your reports **with map references** to [dstaton19@googlemail.com](mailto:dstaton19@googlemail.com). **David Staton**

## THE A WORD RETURNS

I don't know how many of you caught the last series of The A Word but this terrific drama, largely filmed in Cumbrian locations including Ambleside, Broughton-in-Furness and Keswick, has been re-commissioned. The story, about an autistic boy and his family starring Christopher Eccleston as the Dad, is well worth watching - do look out for it when it returns. **Ed**

## What Does a Footpath Officer Do? No 2

Typically Ramblers FP officers receive complaints and pass them on to the Highway Authority (HA) Access and Rights of Way (RoW) Officers.

While anyone may make a complaint or report (called an "Enquiry" by the HA) **many are unfamiliar with** the process and forget where to call etc. The FP Officer does this frequently and **knows the RoW Officers** personally. Many complaints come in a form from which it may be difficult to ascertain the precise place, and the first job is to do this (usually using the web-based maps) but sometimes by visiting the site. Having done this, **a record is made of the problem** and it is passed to the HA.

Currently problems are dealt with by the HA on the routine maintenance (every six years) unless a priority can be given. Priority is raised when **multiple complaints are received**, and by holding a record it can be seen whether the HA has neglected a problem. Pressure can be applied.

**Obstructions** should be removed promptly. Where this does not take place, a **legal Request** (s130A Highways Act 1980) can be issued which effectively **obliges the HA** to take action. These are rare mainly because Ramblers in Lake District have an understanding that we do not serve Request notices, **provided** that the HA deals with obstructions promptly. Nevertheless, a few have been required over the last few years.

This activity of a FP Officer depends very much on the willingness of Ramblers and others to **report path faults**, a willingness which is not particularly obvious. People are **too tolerant of defects**. It is important to realise that Public Authorities provide only the standard of service demanded. "If you do not ask, you do not get!" **Ernie Robin**

## 2016 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th July 2016	Committee Meeting
19th October 2016	Committee Meeting
21st October 2016	Quiz Evening
18th November 2016	AGM
13th December 2016	Christmas Lunch

## News of your Committee

Our Treasurer Alison Jones has asked me to thank all of you so much for your kind messages, good wishes and support whilst she and the family were refugees! The floods have now receded from Kendal and from our minds and from July 4th, the Jones family **are back in their own home**. She has also asked me to remind you of the **Quiz Evening** on the **21st October**. **Ed**

## Next Copy Date

Is the 7th November 2016. All articles please by this date to [terrydee@talktalk.net](mailto:terrydee@talktalk.net) or telephone 01539 721998. **Ed**

## PENDLE WALKING FESTIVAL

This year's event runs from **Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st August 2016** and to book all you need to do is visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and type in "**Pendle Walking Festival**". You should be easily able to find your preferred walks by using the search function on that website. Pendle have **cut back the numbers** they are allowing on many of the walks so if you wish to go, it would be smart to **book as soon as possible**. Accommodation bookings can be made via **Discover Pendle Centre** on 01282 856186 or <mailto:DiscoverPendle@gov.uk>

## WALKS BRING CUMBRIAN MUSEUMS TO LIFE

Trails of the Unexpected will take visitors out in the footsteps of writers, artists and empire builders in celebration of the artworks and artefacts of **galleries, museums and historic houses** in Cumbria.

The walks have been developed by Cumbria Museum Consortium in association with award winning writer Vivienne Crow for you to download from "**Trails of the Unexpected**". Clear maps and instructions are given and the six trails include Wordsworth's Grasmere, the Romans at Hadrian's Wall, A Windermere Arts and Crafts Wander, Romanticism Around Rydal Water, Reivers in Carlisle and an Art Adventure in Kendal.

From W.Gaz. article 1.7.16

**Ed**

## BLENCATHRA

For those of you who have been following this saga, the Lowther Family has now **withdrawn the mountain** from sale, having been forced to sell off works of art and other property in order to meet the deadline for payment of the £9m inheritance tax due at the end of May 2016, following the death of James Lowther, 7th Earl of Lonsdale.

A group, the **Friends of Blencathra**, gathered £250,000 in donations from the public in an attempt to "secure ownership of the mountain for the public benefit". Questions remain as to **how much access** to the mountain visitors will continue to enjoy, although it is part of the Lake District National Park and is a site of special scientific interest.

**Friends of Blencathra has said it still hopes to buy** the mountain to ensure access for future generations but the prospect appears remote. **Ed**

## LEO HOLDING'S AMAZING CLIMB

For those of you who didn't spot it, here's a repeat of part of an article in the W.Gazette concerning Leo's solo climb of the iconic **350 metre high** Pillar of Wisdom which lies within Jordan's Wadi Rum - also known as the Valley of the Moon - in the south of the country. Leo, from Staveley, said he did the climb after Playstation challenged him to come up with his own "**uncharted adventure**" for the launch of its new game called Uncharted 4. **Congratulations Leo**. **Ed**