



KENDAL

November 2023

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NEWSLETTER

Kendal Ramblers AGM

38 members attended our AGM on 10th November, which thanked retiring Chair Syd Searle for his two years in post, and whose report and thanks to those serving on the Committee was read out. We were given the sad news that Tony Rhodes had died by Margaret Pook who had that day received an email from Marilyn, his wife.

A new Committee was elected comprising:

Steve Rowlinson (Chair and Publicity),
Richard Cartwright (Secretary),
Alison Jones (Treasurer- for her 13th and final year!),
Jill Hayes (Walks Programme),
Dave Harrison (Membership and Footpaths LDNP),
Sara Barlow (Footpaths outside NP),
Rona Wilson (General and asst Footpaths outside NP),
Wendy Jones (Social Secretary),
Mary Rowlinson (General and Asst Social Secretary),
Terry Doherty (Newsletter),
Cath Williams (General and Dales Way Association representative).

It was noted that **for Kendal Ramblers to continue to function** well, there is a regular need for volunteers both as walk leaders (inc shorter walks perhaps ending with a Meet to Eat social time), and to bring new input to your Committee as need arises, so do consider such needs for 2024.

We then enjoyed a social time over plentiful and delicious refreshments (as usual), before John Holman gave a fascinating talk on Lakeland Tarns, which had to be postponed from an earlier social event.

Richard Cartwright

New Gate at Helsington

A new gate linking Scout Scar with Helsington Church. (Grid Reference SD492897) has been **installed by Kendal Ramblers** in collaboration with the National Trust.

Margaret & Dennis Pook of Kendal Ramblers noticed the lack of a suitable gate onto the Scar in 2021 and contacted Sam Sharples of the NT to see if a resolution could be found and **the new gate installation** has recently been completed.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Just a reminder that the deadline is Friday 24th November for booking a place for the Christmas lunch to be held on Tuesday 5th December at Crooklands Hotel. 12.30pm.

All the details about payment and the menu were attached to the original mailing. As usual we will have a collection for the staff at the end of the meal.

Please let me know if you require your food to be gluten free or vegan.

Email your menu choice to me at kendalramblers03@gmail.com

Looking forward to a lovely festive event.

Mary Rowlinson
Social Secretary

DISCOUNTS FOR YOU

As a member of the Ramblers, you get 15% off* when you shop at [Cotswold Outdoor](#), [Snow+Rock](#), and [Runners Need](#). Use the code AF-RAMBLERS-D2 when shopping online or show your membership card in-store. Every time you use your discount, the Ramblers receives vital funds to protect the paths, tracks, and trails that help us all explore. **Ed.**

Conrad does it again

Kendal Rambler's Conrad Slater of Windermere completed his 300th Park Run this summer at the age of 88.

This amazing milestone took place at Fellfoot Park on 19th August and Conrad summed up the occasion "I'm thrilled, you know, very excited. I just keep going. I started off on one and I got into the habit, so it's quite easy."

March 2024 Copy date

All copy please to the Editor by the 10th March 2024 terrydee@talktalk.net or 01539 721998. Many thanks.

Committee November 2023

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Alison Harrison

9th November 1950-10th August 2023

The life of Alison Harrison, wife of Dave Harrison our Membership and Footpath Secretary inside the Lake District National Park, was **celebrated on the 8th September 2023** at Beetham Crematorium. Filled with the music she loved, including Wheatland and Cakewalk by the Oscar Peterson Trio and Blues in B flat performed by the Modern Jazz Quartet, **we were treated to slideshows showing her widely varied walks throughout Europe and the UK.**

It was a short but perfectly formed service during which we were given a potted history of Alison's life including both her working life as a Secretary in the **University Computer Laboratory Cambridge where she and Dave met**, Marks and Spencer and The Research Council. She had wide interests both in the Arts (she undertook a **degree in Art History after retirement**), and sport, holidaying with Holiday Fellowship and walking throughout her life all over Europe.

She played bridge and became Secretary for her Bridge Club in Cambridge. After retirement and moving to Kendal, Alison served as **Secretary for U3A**. She loved tennis and once got to go to Wimbledon - and finally she followed West Ham - well we won't hold that against her! Dave summed her up as "The least selfish person I have ever known" - **what a wonderful epitaph.**

Donations were taken in her memory for Kendal Mountain Rescue and we were treated to a celebration tea at Castle Green Hotel. **Ed.**

Dates for your diary

5th December 2023 12.30pm	- Christmas Lunch Crooklands
12th January 2023 7pm	- Committee Meeting Abbott Hall
15th-19th April 2024	- Holiday Scottish Borders

SMARDALE GILL VIADUCT

A group of Kendal Ramblers walked to the Swardale Viaduct this summer and were pleased to see **work underway** as we contributed to the restoration fund. We were lucky to have several sightings of the Scotch Argos butterfly and finished with a heather walk over Swardale Fell in sunshine. Another lovely visit to this historic monument. **Alison Jones**

Stainton Heritage Trail Event

Kendal Ramblers Representatives were invited to this event on **27th**

October.

Others attending were **all the organisations** that had contributed funding and support for the improvements on the Northern Reaches of the Lancaster Canal, and a wide selection **from the Canal and River Trust to Local Government and volunteers.**

The celebration was to mark the restoration of the Stainton viaduct and the **near completion** of the Canal Heritage Trail.

The latter includes improvement to the towpath and informative signs from Millness to Kendal. **Kendal Ramblers' £1,500 donation** was listed and we were thanked for our contribution. Our particular project is an information board to be placed at Change Bridge in Kendal.

Planning issues have delayed the whole project but we were informed that "our" board should be installed by the end of the year. The board includes a QR code to link to the group's website.

We'll let you know when it is in place when you will be able to take a walk along the canal and admire your contribution

Alison Jones Treasurer

England Coast Path

We are not nearer knowing if the proposed route of the ECP though our group territory has been signed off by the government. In the meantime some of our neighbouring stretches are being worked on before they can be opened. Our Lancaster colleagues have a major issue where the path is proposed to cross the salt marsh at Warton as this is Common Land.

National Office have been helpful to our work and we hope to continue to press them to ensure that once established the route can be made even better for walkers.

Ian Brodie

WALKING PARTNERSHIP HOLIDAYS

Just to remind you, it costs nothing for you to nominate Kendal Ramblers when you book with a holiday with **Walking Partnership, Adagio or Cruise and Walk** and they pay us £10, (UK), £20 (Europe) or £30 (Worldwide) for each person booking. These payments have, over the years, provided very welcome additions to our funds, which amongst other income enables us to support worthy causes such as the **new gate at Helsington** or the **Swardale Gill Viaduct** but it would appear that no-one has gone on holiday with any of these companies over the past six months. Please do nominate us if you make a future booking. **Ed.**

In Deepest Britain (wellCumbria actually)

At 10.30am on Friday 22nd September, nine intrepid Ramblers assembled at a parking space near Fangs Brow. (no, I hadn't ever heard of it either!) at the start of the **Kendal Ramblers weekend away**. The day had started gloomy with thick mist as we drove up the A6 beyond Selside. So, it came as a pleasant surprise when the visibility improved at Shap summit, and it brightened up for the rest of the journey. Fangs Brow is about a mile from Loweswater, a peaceful place with sweeping views at the edge of the Lakeland Fells. We took a gentle path upwards to Burnbank Fell, and along to Blake Fell and Gavel Fell, before returning along a good track above Loweswater lake. **It was the perfect start** for the weekend, rounded off with a drink at the Kirkstile Inn.

Our accommodation was at the **Premier Inn at Howgate** near Whitehaven. Here there was ample free parking, a warm and friendly welcome, a clean and comfortable room, and food at the Brewers Fayre. The staff sorted us out with one table at the far end of the Dining area, and we all enjoyed the value-for-money Meal Deal, comprising two courses, a drink, and a full English Breakfast the following morning.

We awoke next morning to find blue skies and sunshine, and soon we were driving off to the National Trust Car Park at Buttermere. Judy Sharps, who led all the walks, had chosen the outstanding trek of the area, with a steep ascent up Red Pike, pausing at **Bleaberry Tarn**, where two hardy ramblers had a very refreshing swim. (Brrr) while the rest of us enjoyed our coffee, and a well-earned rest. It clouded up as we headed upward from the Tarn. Initially 'Fix the Fells' had done a good job in making steps in the path to The Saddle, but beyond that point it was **steep scree** all the way nearly to the summit.

Here we enjoyed an extensive view from Red Pike down the rarely visited Ennerdale valley, and over to Pillar; also beyond Buttermere to Robinson. But the nearby tops were our next target; firstly, High Stile where we had lunch, and then High Crag, before our descent to Scarth Gap and the Lake, where one rambler actually had her second swim of the day! The rest of us padded along the lakeside, tired but contented, and glad of a drink at The Fish Inn before heading back to Howgate.

The forecast for Sunday was not good: a storm was heading our way, with high winds and rain. **But there was no sign of bad weather**, so we decided to go to **Whitehaven**, and walk along the cliffs from the harbour. The large harbour was packed with vessels, and there was plenty to see here, including the Beacon, and the site of the **Wellington Pit** where 164 miners lost their lives. Overlooking the Harbour there was a café where we rounded off our weekend before the journey home.

Huge thanks to Wendy Jones who organised the accommodation and sent emails back and forth to us; and also to **Judy Sharps** who organised and led the walks (and swimming). It was a really enjoyable weekend.

TONY RHODES

Tony was born in Radcliffe, Bury, Greater Manchester, and was very proud of the fact that he attended Bury Grammar School.

After a year working on a farm in Oxfordshire leading him to realise he was more interested in trains than cows, he started work as an articled pupil which led to him **qualifying as a Civil Engineer**, working in the **Highways Departments of Lancashire and later Cumbria**.

Always enjoying the Great Outdoors, he enjoyed walking with friends, skiing holidays, and also Scottish Country dancing. But his **lifelong passion** was railways, large and small, or more correctly standard gauge and narrow gauge. He actively worked on the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways as a young man.

But alongside that he was a **talented clarinet player**, joining various music groups throughout the years, most **recently the Westmoreland Orchestra**. He had an instinctive ear for music and a wide knowledge about composers and styles, but rather **kept that light under a bushel**.

After retirement he fulfilled his lifelong wish of building a garden railway. **His engineering skills** allowed him to **use the contours** and the lie of the land to **integrate the railway** into the garden and it has been much admired and **brought him great joy**.

Funeral details are : Service at Helsington Church on Tuesday 18th November at 11.15am followed by a private cremation. Donations if desired to The Stroke Association, Captain French Trust or Brigsteer Village Hall % A.G.Clarke, The Ashes, Cartmel Fell, Grange-over-Sands LA11 6NU.

Marilyn Rhodes