



Kendal
MARCH 2024

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Website: www.ramblers.org.uk. Regional website: www.ramblers.org.uk/lake-district

NEWSLETTER

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING

The other day I met an old friend who reminded me that many years ago I had purchased a new pair of boots which were irritating my feet and got into a discussion with his wife over the problem. It ended up with my offering to give them to her (we had the same size feet) and after some argument, settling on an amount which she would give me to take them off my hands.

Well, it's unfortunately many years since I walked, and many years since she died, but meeting her husband at a function the other day, he reminded me of the event and then informed me that not only had his wife happily walked in these boots, but after she died, so had her sister and subsequently his daughter took them over and is still using them.

So, it is worth ensuring your new boots are the correct fit, paying quite a lot for them and then wearing them until they fall apart!
Terry Doherty

CONISTON COPPERMINES FOOTPATH

Members may wish to know that the footpath from Coniston Coppermines YH towards Levers Water will be closed for a few weeks after Easter.

I have no updates, as of yet, to add about the process of the England Coast Path. Ian Brodie

KIRKSTONE PASS CLOSED

For those who have missed the recent publicity, this is a reminder that this pass is closed until the end of March to vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, in order to complete a multi million pound safety scheme. Diversion routes are in place. Westmorland and Furness Council say they have been working closely with the local community in order to try to minimise disruption.
Terry Doherty.

PETER STANDISH

24th April 1933 - 4th February 2024

A goodly number of Ramblers Members attended Peter's funeral at Beetham Crematorium on the 20th February where Colin, his son, gave the eulogy and told us all sorts of things that we didn't know about Peter's life! Who knew he played the clarinet? Or played tennis, badminton and cricket? He was both a rock climber and a pot holer.

He started his working life at O.S. at the age of 17 and then moved on to a firm of architects in Bolton as he was not called up for National Service owing the hearing problems which stayed with him all his life.

Peter, did voluntary service and met his wife Stella at the Tennis Club in Kendal - both were passionate walkers but regrettably their children did not inherit this trait (too many memories of being dragged up a wet fell when little). He was a member of HF, CHA and U3A. He attended pottery and art classes and his paintings are "rather good".

The reading was of a piece by Alfred Wainwright - 'Give me a map to look at and I am content...'

Peter said he was a 'lucky man'. All the music was Acker Bilk playing the clarinet starting with 'Strangers on the Shore' until the end when we were treated to 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong. What a lovely epitaph!

His son Colin sent the following message:

I would like to extend my thanks to you and your fellow ramblers for coming to my dad's funeral today. It meant a lot to me to see so many of you and it was the best send off I could have hoped for him.

The collection raised £450 for Kendal Mountain Search and Rescue which I think is a tremendous amount and I'd like to thank you all for such generous donations.

Terry Doherty

KENDAL RAMBLERS - Social Diary

The next events are:-

April 5th

Abbot Hall Social Centre

7pm start

Talk and photos by Steve Livingston

'Five weeks of ups & downs. A Cycle Circuit of Albania'

Followed by tea/coffee/homemade cake - and chat!!

May 3rd

Kendal Civic Society led guided **Walking tour of Kendal.**

Details to follow in due course. Likely to be early /mid evening. Followed by a drink in a local pub for anyone who fancies it.

May 31st to June 2nd

Weekend away staying at Buxton Premier Inn

If anyone else would like to join us please book your own room and let **Wendy** know that you have done so on joneswendy501@gmail.com or 07890 996929.

We will probably have two lengths of walks each day depending on what people want to do - details to follow. Buxton and environs offer plenty of non-walking options too.

Car share to be arranged amongst ourselves for those who would like.

Meal deal available at restaurant adjacent to hotel. Wendy has reserved space in the restaurant for the group, and will confirm numbers with them a bit nearer the time.

I have enough ideas up my sleeve for the rest of the year, and a draft programme, though I may alter some of it here and there....so watch this space !!

Wendy Jones, Social Secretary

KENDAL MOUNTAIN RESCUE EVENING

We spent a very enjoyable and informative evening with KMR on 1st March. Our hosts were Tony, Neil, John and Jura the rescue dog . In the early years of KMR the local Constabulary would scour Kendal's pubs for members when urgent call-outs beckoned —more effective than telephoning apparently ! Farm gates were regularly used as stretchers and junior members were tasked with taking them back up the fell once the rescue was over. There were many amusing tales like this, but of course these are distant memories and a far cry from the supreme professionalism demonstrated by the team these days as they work hand-in-hand with the emergency services and other Mountain Rescue Teams across the County. To show our appreciation, KR raised £247 in donations on the night, finishing the evening with a lovely meal at Le Pekora Nera.



Kendal Ramblers Christmas lunch

This year the lunch was held in the Hayloft Suite at Crooklands Hotel on the 5th December.

About 16 of the group (I guessed from the facebook pictures!) enjoyed a walk in the Crooklands area along the canal, fields and lanes. This was planned and led by Jill. They then joined the rest of us at the hotel to make it 46 people sitting down to the meal.

The Hayloft was suitably decked out for Christmas and Steve was inspired to use ivy and baubles on our beams at home. Crackers were pulled and the sound of corny jokes and some interesting conversation starters from the contents, such as "If you were an animal what would you be?"

The staff were very efficient and the food hot and tasty. As I have a sweet tooth I had found it difficult to pre order from the four desserts. I had decided on the Christmas trifle which came in a sundae glass and I was not disappointed.

We thanked and applauded the staff for a lovely meal and all felt very Christmassy as we headed for home.

Mary Rowlinson—former social secretary

SMARDALE VIADUCT UPDATE—from Cumbria Wildlife Trust

I am sorry not to have been in contact sooner about the Smardale paths that you all so tremendously donated to last Spring. The reserves officer Andrew (known to most folks as Wal!) has told me your funding has supported repair work to the accessible path, that includes repairs to water damaged surfaces and a better water management to prevent future damage. A Big thank you ! Unfortunately due to ash dieback the footpaths have been closed for the removal of trees that are unsafe or pose a risk to public safety where they are close to the paths. Where trees aren't near footpaths or the main track we will leave them alone. This work is now estimated to last until the end of March. The reserve is still accessible from the Newbiggin end and the viaduct is now open but if you plan a walk at Smardale it is worth checking the website for the latest news, <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/smardale> .

Alison Jones reports that Kendal Ramblers have donated £500 to improve footpaths at Smardale.

Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership

As the name suggests this is a multi-group coordination which includes a plan to improve the experience of walking along the Lancaster canal.

Initial work has concentrated on the Northern Reaches from Millness to the outskirts of Kendal.

Some of you may have walked the stage from Stainton Bridge to Well Heads Lane and noted the improvement in the quality of the canal path. Extra funding has recently been received which should see an extension of this work.

The idea of the Towpath Trail is to encourage more usage of the canal path and to make it a more interesting outing. To enable this aim several metal structures, embedded in stone bases, are in the process of being placed at intervals along the canal. When completed they will show details of the history of the canal.

Kendal Ramblers contributed a donation towards the sculptures and it is good to see that “our” sculpture is now installed at the south side of the Change Bridge on the path into Kendal. When complete it should have a QR code giving a link to Kendal Ramblers website.

Anyone walking north from Stainton Bridge north will notice some more activity on the next stretch of the canal. Lancaster Canal Trust and a WRG party have been busy clearing the undergrowth and the shape of the canal is reappearing!

If anyone is interested in helping with this satisfying project they would be very welcome.

Contact Peter Jones: peter@cpsj.me.uk

Alison Jones
February 2024

Photos to the right show:

*Change Bridge Sculptures (top and middle)
Hincaster Tunnel Horse Path (bottom)*



Kendal Ramblers Committee January 2024

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TRAINING FOR EASE OF USE SURVEYS - for LDNPA

I'm just getting in touch as Friday 26th April looks to be the day that all who'd been in touch with an interest in this session are available. We've therefore now booked Cartmel Fell Parish Hall for this date (expecting the session to last from 9.30am to 2.30pm). Parking is available at the Parish Hall. We will send out full details in due course but usually deliver a presentation at the venue on why we complete these surveys and what we want surveyors to record, before heading out to survey a few of the local rights of way. Trainees will need to bring suitable footwear and clothing for the weather, and a packed lunch (hopefully the weather may be conducive to us having this whilst out for the walk!). The parish hall is equipped with a kitchen so we should be able to provide tea, coffee and biscuits. It's also very helpful to bring your own clipboard and pens/pencils.

I've contacted the secretaries for all the Ramblers groups within the National Park – if any of you are interested in taking up Ease of Use surveying (or wanting to have a refresher) then please do contact me.

Kind regards, Will

Will Hinchliffe

Trainee Rights of Way Officer
Lake District National Park Authority
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Further photos from our evening at Kendal Mountain Rescue:

Left: early rescue equipment

Right: Jura the rescue dog