

SATURDAY 5th March 2011 - Way out West

B WALK - BLACK COMBE

13 miles strenuous

Alight Foxfield return Silecroft.

Foxfield - Coal Gate - Broughton In Furness - Duddon Bridge - Wrayslack - Windy Slack - Fenwick - Stoneside Hill - Swinside Fell - Whitecombe Head - Black Combe - Townend Knotts - Silecroft.

Leader: Mike Codd.

E WALK - CLASSIC CUMBRIAN COASTAL WALK.

7.5 miles easy

Alight Green Road return Millom

Cumbria Coastal Way along Duddon Estuary: Millom Marsh - Millom Ironworks - Nature Reserve - Hodbarrow Point - Hodbarrow Lighthouse - RSPB reserve - Steel Green - Millom.

Leader: Craig Ward.

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL6- The English Lakes South Western Area.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

We will catch the 0842 train from Preston to Carlisle via the Cumbrian Coast, calling at Lancaster 0903. Connections to Preston depart Blackpool North 0744, Bolton 0735, Chorley 0758, Leyland 0808, Bamber Bridge 0749, Clitheroe 0707(change at Blackburn), Blackburn 0735, Colne 0650, Accrington 0719.

Return from Silecroft 1611, Millom 1619.

SATURDAY 19th March 2011 - Rocks, Tors & edges.

C WALK - CAT & FIDDLE TO DISLEY.

12 miles strenuous

Alight Macclesfield return Disley.

Bus to Cat & Fiddle (fare extra) - Shining Tor - Cats Tor - Pym Chair - Windgather Rocks - Taxal Edge - Five Lane Ends - Charles Head Farm - Gritstone Trail - Sponds Hill - Bowstone Gate - Lyme Park - East Lodge - Hollinhurst Bridge - Green Lane Disley.

Leader: Chris. Thornley.

E WALK - A CLASSIC PEAK DISTRICT RIDGE WALK.

7 miles moderately easy

Alight Macclesfield return Whaley Bridge.

Bus to Cat & Fiddle Inn (fare extra) - Shining Tor - Pym Chair - Windgather Rocks - Taxal Edge - Taxal Church - Toddbrook Reservoir - Whaley Bridge.

Leader: Craig Ward.

Maps: Ordnance Survey OL1 - Dark Peak. OL24 - White Peak.

TRAVEL DETAILS

We will catch the 0948 train from Piccadilly to Macclesfield. Connections from Blackpool North at 0744, Preston 0812 or 0817 or 0847, Chorley 0822 or 0833 or 0856, Clitheroe 0740(change at Bolton), Blackburn 0803 or 0832(change at Bolton, Colne 0650(change at Blackburn and Bolton or come by bus).

Return from Whaley Bridge at 44 past the hour or Disley at 53 past the hour. Please note that as our outward journey is on the Macclesfield line and our return is on the Buxton line, a Wayfarer ticket is strongly advised.

SATURDAY 2nd April 2011 - Ilkley

C WALK - MENSTON TO ILKLEY

13 miles strenuous

Alight Menston return Ilkley

Menston - Barks Crag - Rocky Valley - White Crag Moss - Whetstonegate - Shepherds Hill - Black Hill - Moorside Farm - Cragg House - The Holmes - Dales Way - Ilkley.

Leader: Tessa Rowe.

D WALK - ILKLEY MOOR WITH OR WITHOUT A HAT.

9 miles moderately easy

Alight Saltaire return Ilkley.

Saltaire - Shipley Glen - Baildon Moor - Ebor Way - Cow & Calf - White Wells - Ilkley.

Leader: Stuart Leese.

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 297 - Lower Wharfedale & Washburn Valley.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

Travel on the 0729 from Blackpool North which calls at Preston 0754, Blackburn 0810, Accrington 0817, Burnley Manchester Road 0826. Clitheroe 0740(change at Blackburn), Bamber Bridge 0730(change at Blackburn), Bolton 0719(change at Blackburn) or travel via Manchester catching the 0748 from Victoria. We will all need to change at Bradford Interchange and walk across the city to Forster Square. There is a 0941 to Saltaire and a 0946 to Menston.

Return from Ilkley at 21 or 51 minutes past the hour to Bradford. The 21 minutes past gives a good connection into the Blackpool train which departs Interchange at xx12.

SATURDAY 16th April 2011 - Derbyshire's Eastern Edges

C WALK - HIGH NEB & STANAGE EDGE.

12 miles moderate

Alight Hathersage return Grindleford.

Hathersage - Greens House - High Neb - Stanage Edge - Upper Burbage Bridge - Toads Mouth - Longshaw Lodge - Padley Gorge - Grindleford.

Leader: Hilary Bell.

D WALK - A WALK ON THE EDGE.

9 miles moderately easy

Alight & return Grindleford.

Padley Chapel - River Derwent - Derwent Farm - Bee Wood - Curbar Edge - Froggatt Edge - Grouse Inn - White Edge - Longshaw Lodge - Grindleford Station.

Leader: Craig Ward.

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL1 - The Peak District, Dark Peak Area.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

The train to Hathersage/Grindleford departs Piccadilly at 0945. Connections from Blackpool North at 0744, Preston 0812 or 0817 or 0847, Chorley 0822 or 0833 or 0856, Clitheroe 0740(change at Bolton), Blackburn 0803 or 0832(change at Bolton, Colne 0650(change at Blackburn and Bolton or come by bus). Return from Grindleford at 29 mins. past each hour.

SATURDAY 14th May 2011 - The Wirral and its Islands

C WALK - NESTON & WEST KIRBY

12 miles moderate

Alight Neston return West Kirby.

Neston - Parkgate - Wirral Way - The Dales - Old Field Farm - The Dungeon - Thurstaston Hill - Caldly - West Kirby.

Leader: Tessa Rowe.

E or D WALK - WIRRAL WAY

7 or 10 miles easy

Alight and return West Kirby.

Grange Hill - Caldly Hill - Thurstaston Hill - Thurstaston Country Park - Wirral Way - Marine Lake - West Kirby. Optional visit to Hilbre Island (3 miles).

Leader: Geoff. Sherrlocks

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 266 - Wirral & Chester.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

The train to Bidston/West Kirby departs from the Wirral line platform at Liverpool Central at 1010 but those intending to do the 'C' walk may wish to guarantee the connection at Bidston by catching the 0955. From Preston catch the 0841 to Ormskirk changing onto the 0920 to Liverpool Central due 0950. Connections to Preston from Blackpool North at 0744, Chorley 0811, Bamber Bridge 0749, Clitheroe 0707(change at Blackburn), Blackburn 0735, Colne 0650, Accrington 0719.

On the return journey trains to Liverpool depart West Kirby at 06,21,36 and 51 minutes past each hour. Those offering the best connections at Moorfields or Liverpool Central for the Ormskirk/Preston service are the 1506 and the 1621.



GUIDED WALKS PROGRAMME MARCH 2011 TO AUGUST 2011



LANCASHIRE RAIL RAMBLERS - WHO ARE WE?

We are a diverse and friendly group of people who enjoy walking in the beautiful countryside of north west England. As our title suggests, we are particularly keen to use public transport to reach our destinations and we have been promoting this idea for over thirty years.

We are not a walking club as such, we don't have a membership fee and we are open to all. Our supporters obtain one of the walks programmes or find details of our activities on the internet, catch the relevant train and join us at the station where our walks start. One of our leaders will be there to meet the party. Some of our supporters are regulars, some are occasional and all who turn up are made to feel welcome.

Our activities and walks are co-ordinated by a group of walks leaders who are all members of the Ramblers Association. Our walks vary in length and difficulty to suit all needs and graded as below:

A & B walks :- **Strenuous** - walks may be rough, steep, lengthy or against the clock.

C walks :- **Moderate** - no scrambling - suitable for experienced energetic walkers.

D walks :- **Moderately easy** - a generally easy walk that may include steep climbs.

E walks :- **Easy** - a slower pace than for moderately easy walks with short rest periods.

F, G, & H walks :- **Easy stroll** - suitable for those not accustomed to walking in the countryside.

Should you have any doubts about your capabilities then avoid strenuous grade walks. For all walks you should have strong footwear, warm clothing and rainwear. On most walks stops are made for lunch or tea, so remember to bring your own food and drink with you.

If you enjoy walking in interesting places and want to discover more of our region without using your car the Rail Ramblers are the ideal way to do so. For further information visit www.railramblers.com or send a sae to Craig Ward, 19 Hollowhead Avenue, Wilpshire, Blackburn BB1 9LD Tel. 01254 240526.

We look forward to seeing you on one of our walks.

DALESRAIL 2011

If you would like to use public transport to get to the Yorkshire Dales, Eden Valley and the North Pennines and have a scenic ride, then why not use the DalesRail service which runs from Blackpool to Carlisle via Preston, Blackburn, the Ribble Valley and Settle to Carlisle Railway.

A full programme of guided walks is organised from the train. DalesRail runs on Sundays during the summer months starting from Easter. A brochure will be available in late March 2011. Pick up a brochure from manned stations, Clitheroe Interchange or tourist offices or visit www.dalesrail.com.

* **GMPTE** Wayfarer tickets must be purchased in advance from manned stations within the Manchester area, Bromley Cross, Chorley or Clitheroe Interchange. The tickets cost £10.00 for adults or £5.00 for over 60s and others are available for children and groups. The tickets are of the scratch card type and must be validated before travel with the date of travel.

Tickets can also be ordered by post from: Wayfarer Ticket Sales, GMPTE, Wythenshaw, Manchester M22 5RG. If ordering by post please send a cheque payable to GMPTE.

TICKET INFORMATION

Millom & Black Combe: Book day return to Silecroft or Millom, otherwise it may be cheaper to buy a day return to Lancaster and a Lakes Day Ranger Ticket.

Macclesfield: Book a day return to either Darwen or Chorley then use a "Wayfarer."*

Ilkley: Book day return to Ilkley.

Wirral: Book day return to West Kirby.

Derbyshire: Book a day return to either Darwen or Chorley then use a "Wayfarer."**

SATURDAY 11th June 2011 - A Manchester Meander.

E WALK - MANCHESTER

4 to 5 miles easy stroll

Alight Manchester Victoria return Oxford Road.

The city created by the Romans and ransacked by the Danes. The headquarters of the Parliamentary cause in the Civil War. The first industrial city. The city of radicals and reformers. The city where a Catholic bishop was buried by protestants on the proviso that they could insult him. The city which Queen Victoria would not visit and where Pankhurst snubbed Churchill. The city where Rolls met Royce.

Our route through Salford, ending at Oxford Road, takes in Parsonage Gardens, St. Annes and Mulberry Passages, Tasle Alley, the W. H. Auden Way, the Halle Bridge, the Lock Keeper's Cottage and Catalan Square.

We visit a racquets club, a flat iron market and a model lodging house which never had keys. Note the shored-up bank, Ship Canal House and a provincial Bank of England. Look for Mr. Thomas' Chop House, an Ape and Apple, a hidden gem and John Owens' Tomb. Ewe discover an underground temple, the Lass o' Gowries pisetiere, a Thirsty Scholar and much, much more.

Leader: Stuart Leese.

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 277 - Manchester & Salford, Oldham, Rochdale.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

We will meet in the booking hall at Victoria Station at 1000. Trains from Blackpool North 0820, Preston 0849, Leyland 0854, Chorley 0902, Clitheroe 0826, Blackburn 0903, Bamber Bridge 0830, Colne 0750(change at Blackburn), Accrington 0819(change at Blackburn).

WHIT FRIDAY 17th June 2011 - Past Landscapes No.77

Bands and Banners. Whit walks and brass band concerts in the Pennines.

Alight at Greenfield station and ask the way to Saddleworth, you will be lucky to find anyone who knows its location or who lives there although Saddleworth is all around you. They will undoubtedly claim that they live in Delph, Denshaw, Diggle or Dobcross, Grasscroft, Lydgate or Roughtown; Springhead, Greenfield or Uppermill, the villages which have come together as a political entity to make Saddleworth.

No wonder then that only the "initiated" know of the great secrets of these scattered high Pennine settlements. Firstly Saddleworth is the centre of the largest Brass Band Contest held in England, the final of which is decided on Whit Friday after the second of Saddleworth's secrets - the Whit Walks. A morning when the Church processions set out in the early morning and walk behind the local brass bands to assemble on the big field in the centre of Uppermill for a service. Then, after an early, often picnic lunch, all the churches and brass bands parade through the main street of the town before going on their way home, marching back to their home church. Probably the biggest church parade in Britain is over for another year.

So, after many special requests we shall be there.

G WALK Easy stroll. Alight Greenfield.

Leader: Howard Hammersley.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

Before 09.30 Book day return to Greenfield.

After 09.30 use a wayfarer fro Chorley or Darwen.

The train to Greenfield departs Manchester Victoria at 1037.

Connections to Manchester Victoria are: Blackpool 08.20, Poulton 08.28, Preston 08.49, Leyland 08.54, Chorley 09.02, Bolton 09.25, Accrington 08.16 (change at Blackburn), Blackburn 09.03, Clitheroe 08.26.

Return from Greenfield at 51 minutes past each hour.

SATURDAY 16th July 2011 - Glossop.

C WALK - BLEAKLOW

12 miles strenuous

Alight and return Glossop.

Glossop - Manor Park - Doctors Gate - Old Woman - Bleaklow Head - Far Moss - Clough Edge - Cock Hill - Moorside - Glossop.

Leader: John Barnes.

E WALK HADFIELD TO GLOSSOP

8 miles moderately easy

Alight Hadfield return Glossop.

Hadfield - Bottoms Reservoir - Valehouse Wood - Rhodeswood Reservoir - Longendale Trail - Little Padfield Farm - Swineshaw Reservoir - Old Glossop - Glossop.

Leader: Stuart Leese.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

The train to Glossop/Hadfield departs Piccadilly at 0948

Connections from Blackpool North at 0744, Preston 0812 or 0817 or 0847, Chorley 0822 or 0833 or 0856, Clitheroe 0740(change at Bolton), Blackburn 0803 or 0832(change at Bolton), Colne 0650(change at Blackburn and Bolton or come by bus).

Return from Glossop at 09/39 minutes past the hour.

SATURDAY 13th August 2011 - Past Landscapes No.78

Great Budworth, a country parish in Cheshire.

Great Budworth, the quintessential English Village, selected by Collins as one of the first ten books in their iconic "New Naturalist" series, published in 1951 "Great Budworth" - A good copy of the book commands a price of around £200.

On 8th February 1986 Harold Jones and Howard Hammersley, both founder members of the Lancashire Rail Ramblers, led a "Perambulation of the Parish of Great Budworth." Just over a quarter of a century later we now repeat it.

E WALK 8.5 miles moderately easy

Alight Plumley return Northwich.

"The Harold Jones Walk" - A perambulation of the Parish of Great Budworth.

Pickmere - Aston by Budworth - Arley Green - Arley - Budworth Heath to Great Budworth - time to explore the village - bus to Northwich (fare extra).

Leader: Howard Hammersley.

TRAVEL DETAILS:

Book a day return to either Chorley or Darwen then use a wayfarer.

The train to Plumley/Northwich departs Manchester Piccadilly at 0917.

Connections from Blackpool North 0744, Preston 0811, Chorley 0823,

Bolton 0835, Clitheroe 0740(change at Bolton), Blackburn 0803(change at Bolton), Colne 0650(change at Blackburn and Bolton or come by bus).

Return from Northwich 1637 or 1737.

FUTURE DESTINATIONS - 2011

17th September

PARBOLD.

15th October

LUNESDALE.

5th November

THE OTHER SUMMER WINE COUNTRY - COLNE VALLEY.

19th November

CARNFORTH & SILVERDALE.

3rd December

PAST LANDSCAPES - YORK.

17th December

AN EXPLORATION OF PENDLE HILL.

2012

7th January

HEBDEN BRIDGE.

NOTE RE. TRAIN TIMES:

The train times shown in this leaflet are based on the timetables current at the time of going to press. Please check our website for any changes consequent upon the timetable changes due in mid May.