

Marsden 03 November 2013



Today we have two coaches for our trip to this Kirklees village. The Burnley and Blackburn coaches will rendezvous at Birch services on the M62 and then travel together to Marsden via A640, A6052 and A62.

After our drivers have dropped us all off they have to clean the coaches for the following day. To help make their days a bit shorter it would be appreciated if we could collect up all our rubbish and try and minimise the grass and mud we fetch onto the coach (e.g., change boots off the coach). Our couriers will be passing around rubbish bags after the morning stop and on the journey home.

Today's Walks

- A Walk** **Chris Thornley** **12 miles Strenuous**
From Marsden Station via Standedge Visitor Centre follow the Station to Station walk up Willy Kay Clough to where it joins the Pennine Way at the A640. Follow the Pennine Way southeast over Northern Rotcher and Millstone Edge (443m). Cross A62 and continue to Black Moss reservoir then down to the Wessenden Valley, across Wessenden reservoir embankment and up to Wessenden Head reservoir. Follow a high level path above the valley towards Marsden then tracks and paths back into Marsden.

Great moorland views.
- B Walk** **Robert Eccles** **10 miles Moderate**
We will start from Newhay station and walk to Marsden station in not that straight a line. From the station we pick up Carr Lane to take us to Tunshill Lane and the Rochdale Way. We continue to Windy Hill, which is bound to live up to its name, and then pick up the Pennine Way to our highest point on White Hill (466m). Continuing to Standedge we could well run into the A party before we love them and leave them to head for Redbrook Reservoir and then, picking up the Standedge Trail, into Marsden.

A moderate walk of just 463m gradual ascent with welcome tracks after the rain; however we also have some soggy moorland to tackle.
- C Walk** **Paul Brown** **7½ miles Moderate**
We leave the coaches in Marsden village and walk northwards, climbing quite steeply for over a mile, then walk eastwards on moorland paths and country lanes towards Cop Hill. We descend to Booth Bank, walk under the railway and then follow tracks through woodland to Slaithwaite.
From here we will return to Marsden along the towpath of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Good views of the Colne Valley, and some interesting history of the canal and railway to learn about.

Please be ready for mud in some places on this walk.
- D Walk** **Rodger Haythornthwaite** **6 miles Moderate**
From Marsden, take the towpath of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal to Slaithwaite. Walk through part of the town and take a steepish road path up to a link to the Colne Valley Circular Walk, above the town. Follow the path to New House, Hill Top and the ruins of a house. Walk up to and cross a road leading to Piper Stones then drop down into Marsden.

The walk is very pictureque and pleasant with superb views of the Colne Valley throughout.

Pick-Up Times and The Return Journey

Today we have just the one pick-up points.

05:30 PM	Marsden	Station Car Park	Walks: A, B, C and D
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Blackburn coach is down to drop off at Darwen first and the Burnley coach at Padiham. Any additional stops are at the discretion of our drivers and couriers but need to take into account everyone's desire to get home quickly.

Our Next Trips

Today we'll be taking bookings for Haworth via Hebden Bridge (01 December), Settle (05 January) and Grange-over-Sands (02 February). Ticket cost is the usual £13:00 / £6:50. After today, or to book beyond February, then contact Robert by email at bookings@coach-rambles.org.uk, telephone on 07795 250502 / 01282 798145 or on-line at www.coach-rambles.org.uk/book.

Group Annual General Meetings – all at 19:30

Nov 18	Hyndburn Ramblers	Accrington Town Hall
Nov 19	Rossendale Ramblers	Crawshawbooth Community Centre
Nov 21	Burnley and Pendle Ramblers	Brierfield Town Hall
Nov 26	Clitheroe Ramblers	

Events

- Dec 06 Burnley and Pendle Christmas Social at St Cuthberts Church Hall. Buffet and dance starting at 19:30; tickets, £7, are available from Margaret Clark (Burnley coach)
- Dec 14 Hyndburn Christmas Social at Duckworth Hall, Oswaldtwistle. £12.50 for two courses or £17.50 for three. Please book by end of November with Michelle (61 Sparth Avenue, Clayton le Moors, BB5 5QT).

Ramblers Area News October 2013

We've had three good, if not the most profitable, trips since our last news.

July took us to Layburn for a fantastic hot, sunny day in Lower Wensleydale. The logistics were quite interesting to say the least and saw us having a quick game of "musical coaches" at Aysgarth so that different coaches could serve each of the four led walks. The day proved a little too hot for the more strenuous walks but made refreshments at the end all the more welcome.

August was Hutton-le-Hole for another fine day in Ryedale. We last tried to get there in 2007 when the Blackburn coach refused to go up Sutton Bank. This time, whilst it was a slow agonising climb with our drivers finding additional gears from somewhere, both coaches made it up to spontaneous applause from all. It took a while for the B walk to find Guncroft Lane and when they did they wished they hadn't; Nettle Alley would be a more appropriate name for it. Over-all though, there was good walking and a good finishing point.

September saw our first trip ever to Frodsham and The Sandstone Trail. When you think Cheshire you think "flat", which is essentially true, but there is a sandstone ridge running north / south across the plain. All our walks took advantage of this for fantastic views across the Mersey estuary. Many thanks to Trevor for leading an impromptu "Town Tour" and Alan for stepping in at the last moment to juggle A and B walkers with road-works and extra miles.

We've just had our meeting to discuss the coach in 2014. Many thanks to all that attended or provided comments and suggestions prior to this. After a couple of hours of on- and off-topic discussion we came up with our twelve destinations for 2014. These; running from January to December respectively; are Settle, Grange-over-Sands, Hawes, Llangollen, Ashbourne, Pooley Bridge, Eyam, Conway, Reeth, Hathersage, Ambleside and Otley. (Fingers crossed Hawes isn't under water this time!)

Financially we're doing Ok and increased our reserve by £690 during 2012/13; money, for the moment at least, is no longer an issue. Other issues are minor, in-hand or on the back-burner. A serious issue, that is now becoming critical, is the lack of leaders. We saw a consequence of this at Frodsham and the situation will be much worse during 2014. It's now time to be blunt: we have to have more leaders; people have to step forward and lead a walk or two. If we fail to get more leaders for 2014 we will lose one or more of our four walks; during 2015, if the current trend continues, we could start to lose coaches.

Talking of 2015, but in a lighter mood; this will be our 50th birthday and I'm still looking at ways to celebrate it. Main suggestion to-date is for a long weekend somewhere like North Wales / Snowdonia where we will have the coaches for the duration to service trips and walks. I'd appreciate some suggests for this important event.

Finally, our next trips are to Marsden (03 Nov), Haworth via Hebden Bridge (01 Dec) and Settle via somewhere TBA (05 Jan). To book: visit the web site at www.coach-rambles.org.uk, email bookings@coach-rambles.org.uk or telephone 07795 250502 / 01282 798145.