

North East Lancashire Ramblers – Coach Ramblers Hollingworth Lake Sunday 7th January 2018

Due to very low bookings for today we will have a feeder coach on the Colne to Clayton Le Moors route meeting up with the bigger coach at Darwen services. This one coach will then take us all to Hollingworth Lake and on the return journey will meet the feeder coach again at Darwen services. If you are intending to come to Ingleton on 4th February please book as early as possible to make the arrangements for the day so much easier to plan. Please make sure you join the correct walk and will independent walkers leave details of your names and routes with your courier on the coach and a mobile phone number if available. We welcome a new leader – at least to the coach rambles – today Michael Bates has joined the “gang” of leaders and we all say a big Welcome and Thank You.

A Walk Leader Anthony Fleetwood 12 miles Moderate

We alight the coach by Hollingworth Lake, following the Rochdale Way until we meet the Pennine Bridleway. That takes us past the Windy Hills, Hanging Rocks and Great Withens Reservoir up to Dog Hill. Returning with a bit of a yomp to the Old Packhorse Road and Roman Road. Time permitting we take in Blackstone Edge (472metres) with good views towards Manchester. Good pathways and no great gradients.

B Walk Leader Chris Thornley 9 miles Moderate

From the coach we head off towards Rakewood and go under Rakewood Viaduct to follow the bridleway to Tunshill Lane and then join the Rochdale Way for a short while. We continue to Windy Hill to meet the Pennine Bridleway at Rook Stone Hill and follow this route along the southern flank of Blackstone Edge. We reach the summit of Aiggin Stone and then take the roman road to Lydgate, on to Owlet Hall then down to Lanefoot and back to the coaches.

C Walk Leaders Barbara Shaples and Tony Culverhouse 8 miles Moderate

We begin at the visitors centre and follow the lakeside towards Bear Hill. On this walk we will cover sections of the Rochdale Way, sample the local leisure and riverside footpaths, follow the Pennine Bridleway to a junction with an old pack horse route/Roman road (allegedly), descend to two reservoirs and Summit Quarry and then pass locks on the Rochdale Canal towpath before returning through the country park to the visitors centre. If the weather allows we will have views of seven peaks and a few valleys. We have yet to enjoy these as visibility was down to 200m when the reccy was done! No stiles, some mud, a couple of steady climbs and a steep downhill. The route has been chosen to take advantage of better terrain after so much rain.

D Walk Leader Michael Bates 6 miles Easy

We leave the lakeside in a north easterly direction through the Country Park towards Lydgate eventually passing through an attractive wooded area (path likely to be boggy in areas). The path takes us right at Owlett Hall alongside a golf course reaching the Pennine Bridleway where we turn southwards eventually crossing over and then under the M62 motorway. There are nice views from the higher parts looking across to Rochdale and Greater Manchester. We then return to the lake via Longden Brook and complete the walk by walking around the lakeside. No stiles on this walk. Uphill gradients are fairly gentle on mainly broad tracks.

Pick up time for return journey. Returning Home: 5.00pm from the coach park. Please do not ask the driver for extra stops on the way home as this can be dangerous and make the return journey longer for everyone.

Book today for our next two coach rambles – **Ingleton on 4th February and Grange Over Sands on 4th March.** After today telephone Kathleen Parker on 01254 396894 (6.00pm and 9.00pm) for the Blackburn coach, or Margaret Boothman on 01282 692901 (6.00pm to 9.00pm) for the Burnley coach. **Please note: We need at least 80 bookings to cover our costs so we have increase out ticket price to £15 for adults and £7.50 for children from 1st January. (Our last price increase was in 2009)**

Leaders needed We still need an A leader for Ingleton on 4th February and A and B leaders for Grange over Sands on 4th March and Llandudno on 8th April. . Plus other dates throughout 2018. If you are willing to lead at any time just let me know, or want more information give me a ring. Tel No 01254 235049 . Thanks to all our leaders and helpers. Sue.