

Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

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COVID 19 Update

The recent announcement from the UK government stated that from the 14th September 2020 social gatherings of more than six people will be banned in England - although there are some exemptions. The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity and Ramblers group walks are one of those exemptions. Ramblers and Walking for Health organised group walks are categorised as '**outdoor physical activity events**'. Ramblers group walks in England will continue to run, for up to 30 people (or less should the group or walk-leader set a lower limit), whilst following the guidelines.

These are exempt from the latest restrictions, due to the fact that the Ramblers have already met the required protocols, and have put extra measures in place to reduce the risks of COVID-19.

We are seeking a better understanding on this ruling as to whether this equally applies to clubs affiliated to Ramblers, such as Spring Vale Rambling Class who would also follow their stringent guidelines. Until we obtain this clear clarification, we will not be resuming our walks programme.

Spring Vale Station

Looking through the collection of Spring Vale Rambling Class old syllabuses it is recorded that many of the rambles commenced by boarding the train from the railway station at Spring Vale for an outward journey into the Ribble Valley or East Lancashire. Where is the station now and what happened to it?

Spring Vale railway station was the station that served the community of Spring Vale, Darwen. Access to the station was via a small gate and down a ramp on the bridge at Grimshaw Street near to the Borough Hotel. On the station platform were a couple of small waiting rooms and very little else in the way of comfort. The station was opened by the Bolton, Blackburn, Clitheroe and West Yorkshire Railway Company on 3 August 1847 and was originally named *Sough*. At first, it was the southern terminus of the line from Blackburn (Bolton Road); the line south of Sough to Bolton opened on 12 June 1848. The station was renamed *Spring Vale and Sough* in November 1870, and eventually just *Spring Vale* on 1 March 1877.

The station finally closed on 5 August 1958, two days after nearby Lower Darwen also closed. It achieved noteworthiness when, on the night of 25 September 1931, Mahatma Gandhi alighted from a train there to spend the night with a local family whilst visiting England to see the effects of his cotton making campaign on the British textile industry.

Michael C

River Sources

Whenever I am planning a ramble, I am always irresistibly drawn to footpaths that follow rivers and streams and walkers attending such rambles seemed to appreciate such routes. However, I am unable to resist getting out my maps and investigating such water courses to find out where they go, are they a tributary of some major river or where is there source?

To my mind they throw up some fascinating facts. For example, the River Wyre is one of the few rivers, that both starts and ends in Lancashire. Its source is close to Wards Stone, between Mallowdale and Lee Fell in the Forest of Bowland and flows south west into Morecambe Bay between Fleetwood and Knott End. Even one of Lancashire's most famous rivers the Ribble begins in Yorkshire as Cam Beck, rising on Cam Fell and Gayle Moor. There is a hamlet called Ribble Head a couple of miles to the South West.



However, there is often controversy about exactly where the source of a particular river is, with differing claims often being made. Back in the 19th century there was a big international row about the source of the River Nile, the world's longest river. Since ancient times there had been myths and legends about the source. The Royal Geographical Society based in London saw it as a matter of national prestige to send explorers out to be the first to find the source. There was also a political impulse to map out the 'Dark Continent' as many European countries were keen to compete to plunder Africa and exploit its inhabitants.

When returning to Britain, there was also a bitter conflict between different groups of explorers as to who had found the true source. Anyone looking at a modern map of Africa will be able to appreciate the confusion, with all the different small tributaries, streams and lakes, both large and small. It was only in recent years with the aid of satellite technology that the question was finally settled.

Photography Quiz Answers

These are the answers to the photography quiz from last weeks edition of Ramblers Gems issue 19.

1. Twin Bridges, Sunnyhurst Wood, Darwen
2. The Jubilee Cairn on Nicky Nook
3. St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst
4. 'Cotton Famine Road' section of Rooley Moor Road
5. Pepper Pot, Eaves Wood, Silverdale
6. Mellor Moor Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post
7. Cockersands Abbey
8. Foulridge Tunnel, Leeds Liverpool Canal
9. Lune Aqueduct, Lancaster
10. Sawley Abbey
11. Armshouses at Stydd nr Ribchester
12. War memoria, Bold Venture Park Darwen
13. Metal Art Sculpture & Seat, Padiham Greenway
14. Meccano Seat, Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal in Little Lever
15. The Halo, Haslingden

The Birthday Boy on the Cockersands Abbey Walk
Michael Counter

Barbara S










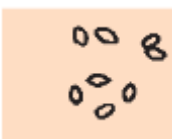





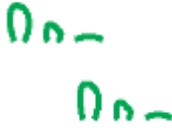

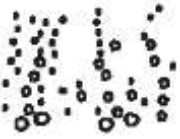








Signs and Symbols Quiz

As we get ready to go out on walks together can you identify the Signs we see when out on a walk and the Symbols used on the OS 1:25 000 scale @ Explorer maps?

SIGNS 1 - 6 - Name the sign/way-marker from the colour for 1 point, plus 1 point for who is the route open to?

SYMBOLS 7 – 24. 1 point for each of the map symbols.

1. 	2. 	3. 
4. 	5. 	6. 
7. 	8. 	9. 
10. 	11. 	12. 
13. 	14. 	15. 
16. 	17. 	18. 
19. 	20. 	21. 
22. 	23. 	24. 

Good luck. Answers in the next edition. Just for fun.

Barbara S

Whalley Abbey

We used to start our walks from the middle of Whalley, but now because of the difficulties of car parking around the centre we park and gather at Spring Wood car park at the top of the hill. This denies us the opportunity to walk and explore the remains of Whalley Abbey. I would recommend that you take some time to visit the Abbey for it is both historic as well as being idyllic in a peaceful surrounding.

The Abbey was founded in 1289 for the Cistercian Order of monks who were originally housed in Stanlaw Abbey in Cheshire. The buildings at Stanlaw were severely damaged by the erosion from the sea and after the tower of the church collapsed, permission was given by the Pope to re establish the Order at Whalley. The building work took many years to complete, with the first consecration taking place in 1306, the church was begun in 1339 but it was not until 1380 that the first mass was said in church.

In 1480 the North East Gatehouse, providing a new entrance into the Abbey was completed. In the 16th century, John Paslew, the last Abbot of Whalley, reconstructed his own lodgings and added a Lady Chapel.



The Gate House

In 1534 Henry VIII, with the consent of Parliament, took the control of the church away from Rome and the authority of the Pope. Many of the northern Abbeys rebelled against this, this is known as the 'Pilgrimage of Grace'. One of the key organisers was the Abbot from Whalley, John Paslew. He was implicated in the rising, was arrested and sent to Lancaster to be tried for high treason.

Abbot Paslew was found guilty and duly executed with his body being returned to Whalley where it was displayed on a stake at a site now known as Paslew' Mound.

After the Dissolution, the Abbey was first acquired by Richard Assheton of Downham. The abbot's house and the infirmary buildings were demolished and a large Elizabethan manor house built on the site. In the 17th century most of the remaining church and monastic buildings were pulled down.



The Conference Hall

In 1923 the Church of England acquired the property and it is now a conference and retreat house for the Dioceses of Blackburn.

Only the foundations of the original church now exist. The remains of the former monastic buildings are more extensive. The west range, which was the lay brothers' dormitory, consists of two stories, and is roofed. This is currently used as a Roman Catholic church hall. To the south of the cloister, part of the walls of the former kitchen and refectory remain. The east range is more complete and includes parts of the walls of the former monks' day room, parlour and vestry.

Although not usually open to casual visitors, there are several days during the year when the house is open for viewing. The grounds are open to the public most days of the year.

Michael C

A Walk up Whernside



Looking Back at Whernside after the Steep Descent

The Route

This is a walk we had planned to complete in this year's programme, but it was not to be. Here is the route and a brief description if you wish to walk this classic hike. Walking distance 8 miles Challenging.

Parking on the roadside at Ribbleshead walk on the path towards the Ribbleshead viaduct. This path starts opposite the road junction coming up from Horton in Ribblesdale.



Follow this path, which runs parallel to the viaduct and at the steps, climb these and continue following the path. Once the bridge over the railway is reached continue over on this path with the stream on your left. Where the path forks, take the left hand fork, which sweeps round in a wide arc, as it continues to climb. This eventually reaches the main rocky ridge of Whernside. The trig point is found through the narrow stile.



After reaching the summit continue along the ridge before the path descends gradually and then more steeply. When the path levels out, the route now turns left and starts a very steep decent to Bruntscar Farm. Once at the farm buildings cross the stile and then turn left onto the track that is signed to Winterscales. The bridleway goes through the farmyard at Ivescar. At the farm bear right and turn quickly left passing diagonally across the first field over Lockiddy Hill and pas through two stiles. After a short downhill, cross to a stile in the corner of the field and continue diagonally across rough pasture through another stile and eventually reaching a farm access road . Turn left after 300m and then turn right to cross the bridge over Winterscales Beck. Passing Gunnerfleet Farm follow the vehicle track for ½ mile under the viaduct and returning to the car park.

Eleanor