

Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

Volume 2 Issue 12

20th March 2021

For further information or to submit a contribution email: svrcramblers@gmail.com Web Site <http://www.springvaleramblers.co.uk/>

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Start of the Season

The new syllabus, detailing our walks programme for 2021 is now available. You can become a member of Spring Vale Rambling Class walking group by sending a cheque for £5.00 together with a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Secretary at 103 School Lane Guide Blackburn BB1 2LW.



We are hopeful that we will be able to start walking as a group in a limited way from Monday 12th April. We have arranged for an additional ramble to the syllabus on the **Wednesday 14th April**. The walk will be a 6 mile circular from Sunnyhurst Wood Information Centre Darwen and passing the golf club, Winter Hill, Higher Whitehalgh returning via Red Lee and Crow Trees Farm back into the woods. Meet at 11.00 am.

You must be a member of the Class to attend and have your name added to the list by telephoning the Secretary or using the above email address. Do **not** just turn up.

Strict Covid guidelines will be followed.

The second change to the syllabus is the cancelling of the Whernside walk on **Saturday 17th April**. It is considered to be outside the range of being classed as local. We have replaced this with a walk from Avenue Parade Accrington, up to the Coppice and then over to Hamildon Hill returning via field paths passing High Riley and Arden Hall. This will be a 7 mile walk involving some hill climbing. Meet at 11.00 am

You must be a member of the Class to attend and have your name added to the list by telephoning the Secretary or using the above email address. Do **not** just turn up.

Strict Covid guidelines will be followed.

Details for the start of all the walks are given on our website. It also contains a link to Google maps to indicate the meeting place. Car parking does not always coincide with this meeting place.

Michael C

Entwistle Halt Haunting

Entwistle is a rural request stop (country halt) within the West Pennine moors. It is on the single rail line between Darwen and Bromley Cross. It is one of four railway request stops in East Lancashire. The others are Huncoat, Hapton, Pleasington and Burnley Barracks.

There's been a station at Entwistle since 1848, when the halt at Whittlestone Head, at the end of the Sough Tunnel was moved. Building the 2,000-yard tunnel, and several long cuttings, embankments and a viaduct over the Wayoh Reservoir required lots of manpower. A camp was set up to accommodate 3,000 men, women and children during construction, which lasted three years and cost three lives.

A feature of the station was the overhead, pulley-driven ropeway, which transferred materials between the railway yard and the Know Mill Bleachworks. Extending the Wayoh reservoir in 1958, however, involved the demolition of the bleachworks and led to the demise of this once bustling station.



Entwistle Station today

The station has been used as a location for filming on more than one occasion. In the 1986 film adaptation of Jeffrey Archer's novel *First Among Equals*, the sequences at the fictional Redfern Station were filmed there.

In Episode 2 of *Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere*, the station featured as "Middlewood station due to its supposedly rural backwater location. *Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere* is a British sitcom starring and written by Peter Kay and Patrick McGuinness. It was broadcast on Channel 4 and began on 12 November 2004, running for six 30-minute episodes up until 17 December 2004.

[Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere](#)

Just prior to the Second World War a child was commonly seen running around the fields near Entwistle Halt. In the 1940s, the boy was seen standing at the crossing-gates, looking incredibly sad. It seemed that for some reason he was waiting for a particular train to pass before going back to his home, because when the 5.29 train appeared, he would disappear. Fifteen years earlier in the late afternoons, a boy would wait at the crossing for his father's horse and cart to come home. One day, no-one ever knew why, the lad spotted his father and ran over the crossing, straight into the path of the 5.29. The boys were brothers, the younger brother died in a similar way on the train line and they have been seen holding hands near the tunnel!



Sough Tunnel Air Vent

SVRC hosts lots of walks along the tracks and footpaths near Entwistle train station, the adjacent pub, the Strawberry Duck, the two reservoirs (Entwistle and Turton and Wayoh) and more walks a short distance away across the West Pennine Moors.

This is just one of at least 68 haunted places in Lancashire! More ghostly stories can be found in Lancashire Folk at <https://lancashirefolk.com/>.

Jean G



Entwistle Station in its heyday

The Worm Moon

Look out for the next Worm Moon on Sunday 28 Mar 2021 at approximately 19:48.

The Moon's phases and the months of the year are inextricably linked. It takes the Moon about 29.5 days to go through all of its phases, meaning that each month has on average one full moon (which occurs when the entire face of the Moon is illuminated by the Sun). This figure is not the same as the time it takes the Moon to orbit Earth – that's 27.3 days.

Over time, different cultures have given names to full moons across the lunar calendar. Many of the Moon's nicknames have come to us from Native American culture because for their way of life, the cycles of the lunar phases were just as important a method of timekeeping as the longer solar cycle of the year (from which the modern Gregorian calendar is derived).

Native Americans called this last full moon of winter the worm moon after the worm trails that would appear in the newly thawed ground. Other names include chaste moon, death moon, crust moon and sap moon, after the tapping of the maple trees.

This year, because it is the first full Moon to occur after the spring equinox on March 20, March's full Moon is the **Paschal Full Moon (Lenten Moon)**. This means that its date determines the date of Easter (April 4, 2021)!

March's full Moon goes by the name **Worm Moon**, which was originally thought to refer to the earthworms that appear as the soil warms in spring. This invites robins and other birds to feed—a true sign of spring!



It is also called Lenten Moon, Crow Moon, Crow Moon, Chaste Moon, Sugar Moon, and Sap Moon. The worm moon is recommended as a good time for clearing, decluttering, and detoxing! This Moon makes us cheerful and open-minded; it reinforces the desire for harmony in us.

Barbara S

The Worm Moon

A poem by Al Lane for World Poetry Day – 21 March 2021

Every dog has his day,
And the worm gets its moon...
Not an obvious choice
for celestial nomenclature.
Its wormy good points
Buried beneath the surface
Of secretive earth.
Blind. Emotionless.

But they carry on, they wriggle on,
Chewing through the endless
To reach destinations unseen
By routes non-linear

Surviving scissor cuts of
Inquisitive children
And early morning raids
By well-prepared birds

Just existing, and being,
Content as they are
Ready to one day,
Turn

Wavelets on the Pool

written by Daniel Cheeseman

Tiny wavelets on the pool today, a gentle breeze and raindrops fall with a rhythmic pitter patter.

The ducks and wildfowl pay no heed, around the sedge bob and feed.

The Heron standing as if frozen, his cunning eye a prey has chosen.

And the elegant Swan glides, the Cormorant beneath the water slides.

And the grey clouds float on by on this quiet day at the pool, the reeds sway and insects hide away, dry wings are required to survive.

The Otter on its back dines on an unlucky Crayfish, seems well at ease with his surrounds, and the Water Vole enters a hole to the squeak of hungry mouths.

In the centre of the pool a love dance, two Crested Grebes court, ducking, bobbing, all magic to the eye.

All this beauty in the pitter patter, life goes on it does not matter.

Nature gives in many ways, and as always this heart enslaves.

Submitted by Pesto Cenorr

Into the Forest

We all know how good being in nature makes us feel. The sound of the forest, the scent of the trees, sunlight playing through the leaves, the fresh clean air. These things ease our stress and anxiety, helping us to relax and think more clearly.

Not all of our walks involve forest or woodland, but just being in nature gives us back energy and vitality - refreshes and rejuvenates us.

Some cultures venerate this experience. The Japanese have a word for those feelings that are too deep for words - Yugen. Yugen gives a profound sense of the beauty and mystery of the universe. In more earthly terms it has been described as 'wandering in a huge forest without thought of return'.

This forest wandering is usually referred to as 'Forest bathing' or Shinrin - Yoku. The art of forest bathing is the art of connecting with nature through our senses. All we have to do is accept the invitation for Mother Nature does the rest. First find a spot within the woods making sure you have left your phone and camera behind. You are going to be walking aimlessly and slowly.

You don't need any devices just let your body be your guide and go where it wants to take you. Follow your nose and take your time it doesn't matter if you don't get anywhere.

You are savouring the sounds, smells and sights of nature and letting the forest into your soul. The power of the forest is the five senses. Let nature enter through your ears, eyes, nose, mouth, hands and feet. There is no medicine you can take that has such a direct influence on your health as a walk in a beautiful forest.

Alan R



Changing Times

In the last 12 months the pandemic has made many people so much more appreciative of the natural world they have right on their own doorstep. This has been a turnaround from the recent past particularly among the younger generation, where concerns were expressed that they were more interested in sitting in front of a computer screen than getting outside.

Growing up in the 1960's my generation didn't have the distraction of a computer or a games machine. School holidays were spent on outdoor explorations with friends, somewhat similar to the adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. For those who are not aware, Tom would spend carefree days exploring the surrounding countryside, and having many exploits with his friends. My parents would hardly ever see me from morning till evening except for mealtimes.



Although schools do engage in outdoor nature projects, exploring forests and pond dipping for example they are strictly regulated, with the pupils even having to wear hi-vis jackets. In this day and age, it would be difficult to imagine children climbing trees.

Tony C

The RSPB

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was founded in 1889 and incorporated by Royal Charter in November 1904.

Their reserves are at the heart of what the RSPB do, forming a vital role in their conservation work and a unique space to get close to nature. So, when the opportunity arises, visit the Leighton Moss Reserve near to Silverdale to give them your support.

Michael C

Hadrian's Wall Walk

On 23rd May 2003 Britain's thirteenth and newest National Trail, Hadrian's Wall Path in the border country between England and Scotland was opened to the public. The trail is 84 miles from end to end and follows the course of Northern Europe's largest surviving monument, a second century fortification built on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian in AD122. The wall was to stretch between Wallsend in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in the west effectively creating a border frontier between England and Scotland.

To say that creating such a path would be a problem is an understatement as this would be the first National Trail to follow the course of a UNESCO World Heritage site, as such, every time a fencepost, signpost or waymark was driven into the ground an archaeologist had to be present to ensure that the integrity of the wall was not compromised in any way. To indicate how careful they had to be – it took ten years before the path was opened to the public yet it took only six years for the second and sixth legions of the Roman army to build the whole wall.

Though by far the most famous, Hadrian's wall was in fact just one of four earlier Roman frontiers built between the South of Britain and those tribes living in the Northern part of the island which we know as Scotland. After the Romans withdrew the wall fell into disrepair and what was a unique awe-inspiring work of military architecture became a convenient source of ready worked stones for local landowners and farmers to use for their own building work.

Apart from the historical interest and value, the walk itself is probably the flattest of the long distance walks and well within the capabilities of the average walker. The nature of the walk makes it possible to complete the walk in stages on different days, over several weeks.



Sycamore Gap

The tree made famous in the Kevin Costner Robin Hood Film

The walk covers a variety of terrains and landscapes through Northumbria into Cumbria, in parts following the Great Whin sill. The sill is a long ridge of Dolerite rock, an extremely hard rock that forms escarpments and crags along the route. It was due to this hardness and difficulty to work that the Roman builders used the softer carboniferous limestone quarried from nearby to build the wall.



The Great Whin Sill with the Wall running alongside.

In the North East area 'Whin sill' is seen everywhere and it's hard and wear resistant qualities make it ideal for road making material. Origin of the word 'Whin' is said to be a long-used term in Northern Britain for any hard rock which was difficult to dress into shaped blocks.

To describe the whole of the Hadrian Wall Walk in one article would be way too long so I will just outline the various stages that will cover in future editions.

Stage 1 – Wallsend to Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Stage 2 – Heddon-on-the-wall to Chollerford.

Stage 3 – Chollerford to Once Brewed/Steel Rig.

Stage 4 – Once Brewed to Banks.

Stage 5 – Banks to Carlisle.

Stage 6 – Carlisle to Bowness- on- Solway.



A Section of Hadrian's Wall

Alan S