

Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

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I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

by William Wordsworth

A sure sign that Spring is well on the way is when all the daffodils are in full bloom and the sun is shining.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils.

Pesto Cenorr



**Don't forget to put your
clocks forward by 1 hour
this Sunday 28th March at
01.00 Hrs**

A Lighthearted View

A Spring Vale rambler was walking along one day when they came to a narrow part of the River Ribble. Seeing another rambler on the other bank, he called out, 'Hey, how do I get to the other side?' The other rambler, who incidentally came from Yorkshire looked carefully along the bank to the left, then carefully along the bank to the right, thought a bit, then called back, "You are on the other side."

The Bowl

Mike and Alan were on a walking holiday in the Yorkshire Dales. They became thirsty so stopped at a little cottage to ask for something to drink. The lady of the house invited them in and served them both a bowl of soup by the fire. There was a little pig running around the kitchen, running up to Alan and giving him a great deal of attention. Alan observed and commented that he had never seen a pig this friendly. The housewife replied, 'Ah, he's not that friendly. That's his bowl you're using.'

In a Rut

A rambler became stuck in a rut.
Having tripped, falling down on their butt.
They were wedged in so tight,
They might be there all night.
It's risky to text while you strut.

Ode to Rambling

Deserting my day to day ramble
When the weather is nice, I will amble,
Just taking my time
While I'm still in my prime
My destination strictly a gamble



I didn't know he had been ill



I knew I should have kept away from Worsaw Hill

Three Spring Vale Rambles were out walking through the countryside one day when suddenly, they stumbled upon some tracks. While the first rambler said that those happen to be deer tracks, the second rambler said that those were actually rabbit tracks for sure. The other lad was eventually hit by a train.

A Yorkshire Lockdown

A Yorkshireman was out on his daily permitted walk in the Dales where he lived. He was enjoying the wonderful views and beautiful countryside when he noticed coming towards him down the path a striking older chap with a long white beard and flowing robes. He looked familiar. Then the penny dropped.

"Aye up, God." said the Yorkshireman, "What are you doing around these parts?"

"Well", said God, "Like a lot of people I am working from home".

One Liners

Venetian blinds - what a great invention - without them it would be curtains for the lot of us.

Hedgehogs - Why can't they just share the hedge?

I've decided to sell my Hoover - well, it was just gathering dust.

Conjunctivitis.com - there's a site for sore eyes.

I'm good friends with 25 letters of the alphabet - I don't know why

Eleanor

Warts and Trigs

Wart/ward vord, virt/vird, firt/fird, are all from Old Norse varða meaning a watchtower, cairn or a heap of stones placed on a hill or mountaintop and they feature in many Shetland place-names.

Trigs are often located on or over warts. The Ordnance Survey erected these concrete triangulation stations, 1936-1962, when creating the British National Grid, the co-ordinate system still used today.

One of the most remote trig points I have visited is Virda Field, which is on top of a cairn, of prehistoric date, on the summit of Papa Stour. Papa Stour is a Shetland island situated in St Magnus Bay and can be reached by ferry from West Burrafirth or passenger aircraft from Tingwall.

I visited Papa Stour -The Big Isle of the Priests – on 15 May 2019. The myriad of sheer cliffs, geos, skerries, sea caves, stacks and natural arches have won Papa Stour international recognition as a Special Area of Conservation.

We could not do the whole island walk due to the ferry timetable. We went on a Wednesday and if we had missed the 1545 return ferry we would have been stuck on the island until Friday! There is no accommodation or shop on the island and there are only 15 residents. 14 had left the island on the first early morning ferry before we arrived so there were just the nine of us and one island resident on the island all day! We had the whole island to ourselves which felt incredibly special.



Ferry terminal waiting room

We started from Housa Voe and followed the tarmac road west then south to the Biggins. Da Biggins is the possible site of a stofa (traditional house) belonging to Duke Hakon of Norway.

A stofa was a building-style originating in Scandinavia in the later Norse period. It was built using logs which had notched corners to fit them together. Not many trees on Shetland so the logs must have been imported. On our walk we visited Kirk Sand, erected in 1806, walked across the airfield runway and took off across moorland to Hamna Voe and Mauns Hill. Continuing around the shore of Hamna Voe we visited the ruined horizontal watermills at the head of the voe. Then turning north, we walked along the cliff tops arriving at Aesha Head for our lunch stop.



Aesha Stack natural arch - lunch stop

After lunch we followed the coast north and then took the steep climb to the summit of Virda Field for a great view of St Magnus Bay and the treacherous reefs of the Vee Skerries before descending back towards the airfield and the ferry waiting room at Housa Voe.



Virda Field Trig Point

Is this the most remote UK trig point visited by a SVRC member, if not and you can go further then send in your story and a photograph?

Barbara S

Pollinator Superhighways

Have you thought about adapting your garden to benefit pollinators? It isn't as difficult as you think to get your garden buzzing. Pollinators are in decline and gardeners can make a difference to help reverse this trend.

Fill your garden with pollinator plants, grow a range of plants for year-round flowering, avoid plants with double or multi-petalled flowers, allow lawn 'weeds' to flower by cutting less often, provide water for pollinators, never use pesticides on plants in flower, provide nest sites for wild bees and do not spray or kill dandelions as they provide much needed nectar for pollinators early in the year.

When you are shopping for spring and autumn flowering bulbs, shrubs, plants, herbs etc please try to buy **British** and **look on the plant and packet labels for the logos below**. Sorry I have not seen a Lancashire grown logo!



If we all did this, we would create corridors of pollinator-friendly habitats across Lancashire, forming superhighways for bees, butterflies and other insects to thrive in. There are wildflower meadows and pollinator highways being created all over the UK by numerous environmental and wildlife charities and we can support their efforts by doing our bit in our gardens too. Everyone can play their part in conservation. Remember to buy British and Local too.

Did you know that you often walk near to wildflower meadows, through nature reserves and past dedicated butterfly glades on your Spring Vale Rambling Class walks? One example is Bell Syke Meadows, Slaidburn!

Jean G



The Open Spaces Society

The Open Spaces Society has been defending the open spaces that people love in England and Wales since 1865. It is Britain's oldest conservation charity and depends on public donations to keep fighting for village greens, commons and footpaths for everyone to enjoy. The Society has three main aims:

- To campaign for stronger protection and opportunities for everyone to enjoy commons, greens and paths.
- To defend open spaces against loss and pressures from development.
- To assist local communities so that they can safeguard their green spaces for future generations to enjoy.

Here are a few of examples of the work the O.S.S. undertake and the campaigns they are involved with:

The Society can provide a much-needed objective view when conflict arises between the various user of open spaces like disputes with walkers and cyclist, local residents, friend and neighbours. They help local individuals and communities come to an understanding on how best to share the open space that matters to them.

The new threat to open spaces is from the government's proposed demolition of the planning system. Step by step our cherished planning system is being destroyed. Last year the government's white paper, 'Planning for the Future' was slated by OSS. Now the government intends to extend permitted development rights. This would mean that schools, colleges and hospitals can be extended without planning consent—threatening open spaces, and slashing local democracy and public participation.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill is currently progressing through parliament. This bill will create numerous new criminal offences, which will affect the rights to peaceful protest and the ability to camp on land. Much in the bill is uncertain and ill-defined, and there is a concern that it could create a climate of hostility within the countryside, The Society are keeping a close watch on the bill and working with other organisations to protect our rights of access.

Michael C

A short walk from Brinscall

This 4-mile walk commences from Brinscall Baths, a location that as a group we have used many times. The Baths were first opened on June 22, 1911 and were originally a gift for the mill workers from the owners. It was built to commemorate the coronation of King George V, which took place on the same day as the baths opened. From the car park our walk sets off along the right hand side of the old mill lodge and follows the track straight ahead and through the wood.



The Lodge adjacent to the Baths

Keep to the right and don't proceed up the drive to the house. The path eventually reaches the side of the old railway bed. This was the old Blackburn to Chorley line. When work commenced in 1866, the line was originally intended to carry coal from Wigan to Blackburn and onto East Lancashire, but Brinscall became a focal point for more than just coal. It was a centre for goods such as milk and livestock as well as locally quarried stone and also textiles. The path now goes off to the left and follows a field track to a stile onto a lane. Once over the stile keep straight on and continue along a rather boggy wet section to arrive at Tootles Farm. The way now takes a right and then left to arrive at the concrete driveway which is followed downhill to the small bridge and ford.

Once on the road we have arrived on the edge of the hamlet known as White Coppice. Now turn left and follow the road passing small reservoirs, No. 6 lodge which are now used for fishing, but originally along with the other lodges worked a small water powered factory belonging to Ephraim Eccles. Mr Eccles was ahead of his time, because within the mill he provided a "meeting room" which was for prayer and also reading rooms and a games room that had a billiard table. He was also responsible for the cricket field which is reached further along this road.



The view across the cricket field with 'The Lowe' forming the backdrop

The cricket ground set within idyllic surroundings contains the most uneven and sloping cricket pitch one will ever see, but this I think adds to its charm. If you undertake this walk on a weekend and a match is in full swing, take time to stop a while and enjoy the sight of leather on willow surrounded by the backdrop of dramatic heather moors. Leave the cricket ground by the gate on the far side and then turn immediately left. This path running parallel to the 'Goyt' goes all the way back into Brinscall and the start of the walk. The Goyt is a section of canal used for transporting drinking water from the reservoirs at Roddlesworth to link into the one at Rivington. The section of this canal through Brinscall is currently covered, an indication to the large amount of air pollution that existed during the heyday of the village's industrial past.

The return route along the Goyt is tree lined and supports a canopy of branches which is a delight to follow no matter what time of year the walk is undertaken.



The start of tree lined Goyt at White Coppice

Glenda B