

# Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

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

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## The National Protocol

We have successfully restarted our walking programme and the reason we are able to do this is because we are following the rules established by the Ramblers. Although they may seem excessive and over the top, they must be adhered to in order to comply with the current guidelines.

The Ramblers are exempt from the rule of 6 in relation to walking. This exemption is because the government says the regulations do not apply to outdoor fitness events organised by a “national governing body, club, registered instructor/coach, business or charity; and/or involve someone who has received an official license to use equipment relevant to the activity.” We have paid to affiliate Spring Vale Rambling Class with the Ramblers which means that we are a club aligned with the Ramblers and have a national governing body on the Sport England database.

Leaders and attendees do not need to be members of the Ramblers. The Ramblers have confirmed that we can now rely upon their exemption as an affiliated club. We are therefore exempt from the rule of 6 and can organise walks with up to 30 people if their protocol is followed. (We have currently limited our numbers to a maximum of 20 members)

These are the four steps we are currently following:

1. All walks must comply with the Ramblers protocol. This requires a risk assessment using a form based on their template being completed. A copy of this form is now available from the Secretary. The Risk Assessment must be carried out before the start of the walk. If the leader requires any guidance in completing the form, then please ask Michael C.
2. It is also necessary to have a means to track and trace – Currently the walks are only open to members and all attending a walk must pre book and will have their names recorded. Booking can be achieved by sending an email to [svrcramblers@gmail.com](mailto:svrcramblers@gmail.com) or ring the Secretary.
3. It is also necessary to refer to and use the Ramblers general guidelines which have been printed previously in Ramblers Gems.
4. Finally, the guidelines need to be re-enforced on every walk and are to be read and understood by all attending a walk.

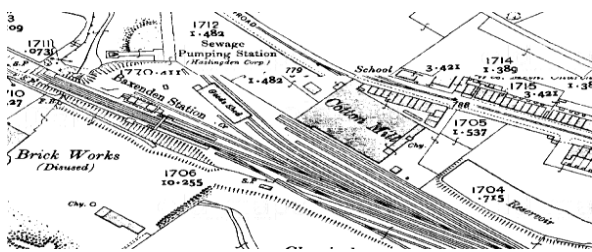
Thank you for your help in making our walking possible, this protocol is undertaken with your safety in mind.

**Michael C**

## On the Track - Priestley Clough

In this, the third of the series of articles on once thriving railway routes, I have investigated the disused railway track bed that once formed the line between Accrington and Haslingden. This redundant line served the local community linking east Lancashire to Manchester, it was once a hive of activity operating to serve the local community and industries when the railways were king.

The old railway running down Priestley Clough in Accrington, originally ran from Accrington Station to Stubbins passing through Haslingden and then linking into the Manchester and Bolton Railway at the Clifton junction. A new company had been formed, the Burnley, Accrington and Colne Extension Railway and they proposed to extend the line from the Stubbins Junction to meet with the Preston to Burnley route at Accrington. The amalgamation of this and the Manchester Bury and Rossendale Railway Co. would become the East Lancashire Railway Company.



The entire 7.4 miles section of the line opened on 17th August 1848, with stations at Baxenden and Haslingden. The station at Baxenden was located some distance to south of the village closer to Rising Bridge. This line was a double track and Baxenden station was provided with two platforms, a waiting area and a roof projecting to form an awning providing a limited protection from any inclement weather. Later a footbridge would be added to link the two platforms together. There was a goods yard which had a 10-ton crane and a shed. The local sidings served the cotton mill which were later taken over for the manufacture of Holland Pies. The station here closed in 1951, with all evidence of the site having now been obliterated.



The Woodnook Vale Local Nature Reserve runs along the old track bed and now forms a 51 hectares site of woodland, heathland and wetland on either side of the steep-sided river valley of Woodnook Water. A multiuser route starts from Ormrod Street in Accrington, passing through Woodnook, Priestley Clough to arrive at Baxenden. Spring Vale Ramblers have on several occasions walked along this route, forming a circular ramble through a variety of different landscapes. At this time year you can see Bluebells and Wild Garlic as you stroll along the route passing beneath overarching woodland, with Wild Cherry, Hawthorn and Dog-rose bursting into blossoms in the hedgerows and scrub. You may hear the Great Spotted Woodpecker or see Dippers as you walk alongside Woodnook Water. Meadow Brown and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies are now seen feeding along the embankments in the sunny grassland and Speckled Wood butterflies bask in the sunshine on the woodland edge.



Meadow Brown



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Priestley Clough is an ancient woodland, which means it has been a wooded area since AD 1600. The woodland gets its name from John Priestley, a cotton manufacturer who once ran Woodnook Mill. There was a mill pond which held the water to power the mill's water wheel. Like the rest of the valley, the Clough has a long association with coal mining and its medieval name was Coal Pit Holme.

A new cycle path has recently opened as part of the East Lancashire Cycleway Network project. This is part of the £7.5 million scheme that has extended the existing cycleway beyond Haslingden to link it into the route passing through the Irwell Valley Sculpture Trail and onto the Burrs Country Park at Bury. A new cycle path has been installed in Haslingden, with a section running parallel to the Haslingden bypass which was the original route for the old railway.

**Eleanor**

## A Spring Quiz from Barbara S

I hope this quiz will entice and inspire you to come walking with SVRC during 2021.

1. Which religious building was founded in 1146 on land given by William, third Lord Percy? The Percys, Northumberland's greatest family, remained patrons of the abbey for much of its existence. It is set near the River Ribble and its grounds have made a great spot for a SVRC picnic lunch stop.
2. Which 14<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse belonged to the nearby Cistercian abbey, which was once the second wealthiest monastery in Lancashire? The first floor was probably a chapel. A road known as The Sands runs directly through the gatehouse.
3. Who was immortalised as a statue, in the village where she came from, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of some infamous trials?
4. What would you find at these locations – What3Words?
  - a) darts.dragonfly.bet
  - b) fell.watches.myths
  - c) pints.notes.adopt
5. What would you find at these Grid Reference Locations?
  - a) SD 427 537
  - b) SD 498 878
  - c) SD 767 271
6. What foods do these three start locations have in common – Churchtown, Inglewhite, Chipping?
7. Gloriously varied and unspoilt countryside awaits those who walk Pendle's Three Peaks. But which three hills make up Pendle's Three Peaks?
8. Why might this location be important in December and what is it called? (Latitude and Longitude in degs, mins, secs)  
53°42'20"N 02°30'42"W

9. What is the name of the Country Park covering a 36-hectare site located on the banks of the River Irwell? Three sculptures on the Irwell Sculpture Trail can be seen here and the East Lancashire Railway's newest station, opened in January 2017, is located here.
10. What is a CRoW? Lower North West (area 2) covers Lancashire including this area – can you name this excellent area of limestone pavement access land. A network of small trails leads across the rocky ground with dwarf thorny bushes and lovely springy grass in between! A fine place to walk. It features a trig, a flush bracket and a spider. SD 55599 77456. Here is an extra clue for Geocaching (*G/LD-052*) 899ft asl.



Trig



Flush Bracket



Spider

## Home Thoughts from Abroad

A Poem by Robert Browning

Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!

And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops—at the bent spray's edge—  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
—Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

Submitted by Pesto Cenorr

## April: Pink Super Moon

### Did you notice the Pink Moon last Tuesday?

April 2021's Pink Moon, named after phlox, the pink phlox flowers that cover the ground in North America, and bloom in spring, is a Super Moon. Phlox subulata—commonly called creeping phlox or moss phlox—also went by the name “moss pink.”

When the Full Moon or New Moon occurs during the Moon's closest approach to Earth, its perigee, it is often called a supermoon.

The first Full Moon in April known as the Paschal Moon in the ecclesiastical (Christian) calendar, because it is used to calculate the date for Easter; the first Sunday after the Paschal Moon is Easter Sunday. The ancient Hare Moon and Egg Moon names are often referenced a potential reason for the emergence of the modern Easter Bunny laying Easter eggs.

This spring why not plant some British pink phlox to remind you of the pink moon! Phlox paniculata Adessa Rose Eye, Phlox paniculata 'Grenadine Dream' all four are perennials and recommended as plants for pollinators.



### Other Moons to look out for

On May 26 12:13pm and we can expect a Super Flower Moon. On June 24 and there will be a Super Strawberry Moon at 7:39 pm.

Many cultures refer to May's full moon as the flower moon thanks to the abundant blooming that occurs as spring gets going properly. Other names include the hare moon, the corn planting moon, and the milk moon.

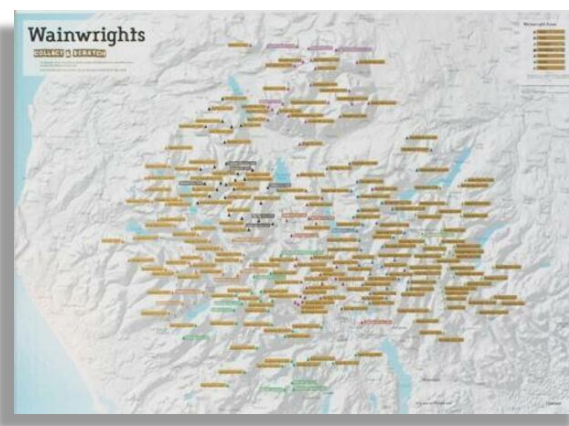
In North America, the harvesting of strawberries in June gives that month's full moon its name. Europeans have dubbed it the rose moon, while other cultures named it the hot moon for the beginning of the summer heat. **Jean G**

## An Itch to Scratch

A new idea that is catching on quite quickly is the Scratch Off Map. Each of these maps are brightly coloured and have panels naming places to visit within a given location, or notable hills to climb or bird and animal you have spotted. When you have achieved one of the goals you can simply scratch it off on the panel to claim that you have reached your goal or to simply remind yourself that you have been there, done that. Some of the places are included for the view they offer, some for their height or even for their remoteness. As well as being an attractive wall decoration they are a great way to encourage children to get out and about exploring the countryside.

There is now available a greater assortment of areas that are covered, with one containing all the National Parks. There is one just for the Lake District and another for Dartmoor. Available soon will be one for the Peak District and Snowdonia National Parks.

If you are bagging the 214 Lake District Wainwright fells, then there is a Scratch Off map for you. This map allows you to document each of the fells you have climbed by scratching off the protective foil to reveal a colour beneath and the total tally can be recorded with a pen on the side.



The Wainwright Scratch Map

I am not out to sell you a map, nor am I on any form of commission for promoting these maps, I just thought they were a novel approach for recording your achievements. It would be a good idea to be able to record your walking achievements with Spring Vale Ramblers in this pictorial form. Just a thought.

**Glenda B**

## Historic Canal Walking

Spring Vale Ramblers are walking round the Glasson area and along a section of the Lancaster Canal on Saturday and in a fortnights time from Bilsborrow on the Brock walk. I thought I would provide a little background information on the canal system at these locations.

During the late 1700's the industrial demand for transport between Manchester, Preston, Lancaster and Kendal, gave rise to proposals to build a broad beam canal from Westhoughton, east of Wigan to Kendal. Mr John Rennie the Scottish civil engineer was commissioned and produced a survey which included several aqueducts, but with only eight locks near Tewitfield at the Kendal end. This survey was used as the basis and construction of the canal began in 1792.

The canal between Preston and Tewitfield took only 7 years before it was opened, and this included building a large aqueduct over the River Lune near Lancaster. At the same time, the southern section between Chorley and Clayton Brook was opened, resulting in a five mile gap across Preston and the River Ribble. To temporarily solve this, a tramway was built to complete the connection, albeit this was not a long-term viable solution. The tramway only survived until 1857 and the two sections of canal have remained separated, leaving the Lancaster canal isolated from the national canal network. The construction of the M61 motorway say the end of any hope of reconnection. Completed in 2002 a lock and canal section was built near Preston enabling suitable boats to cross the Ribble to the River Douglas and enter the network at Tarleton Lock on the Leeds and Liverpool canal.



Tewitfield Locks

In 1819 the north section from Tewitfield was extended to Kendal, and a spur built to connect to Glasson Dock. The Glasson Arm, as it is known, has six locks to enable the canal to achieve sea level at Glasson Dock Marina. This means that the Lancaster canal from Preston had only eight locks over the whole length from Preston to Kendal, and only six locks allowing access to the sea. This gives a length of just over 41 miles of lock free canal.



SVRC walking along the Glasson Arm.

A waterbus ran as a daily service between Kendal and Preston until 1849. The journey originally took what would be today, a staggering 14 hrs. In 1833 to compete with stage coaches this time was reduced to 7 hrs 15 mins. The service was highly successful, carrying 14,000 passengers in the first six months of its operation.

The southern end of the original canal was leased to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company. In 1885 the rest, the northern end was sold off to the London and North Western Railway. The building of the M6 motorway in 1968 resulted in the canal north of Tewitfield being abandoned, and the canal shortened, thus removing the eight locks from navigation. Schemes have been proposed to re-open the canal upto Kendal, but the cost and complexity of locking under the M6, plus re-purchasing sections now under farmland, mitigate strongly against such plans.

**Alan R**