

Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

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

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Replace your Maps

You may not realise it, but May was National Walking Month. With lockdown restrictions easing further, combined with the longer daylight hours, now's the perfect time to get out and enjoy walking further afield.

If you need to stock up your map library or replace an old edition, then head off to the [Dash4it](http://dash4it.com) website for an extra 10% off the already discounted price of their OS maps. Typical examples are:

The OS Explorer 287 -West Pennine Moors RRP £8.99 Normal 30% discount £6.29 saving £2.70 and applying the additional discount of 10% reduces the price to **£5.66 a saving of £3.33**. Free p&p

The OS Explorer Active (Laminated) Explorer 287 - West Pennine Moors RRP £14.99 Normal 30% discount £10.49 saving £4.50 and applying the additional discount of 10% reduces the price to **£9.44 a saving of £5.59**. Free p&p

Simply use code: **WALK10** at their checkout.

Enjoying the Rain

How to really enjoy the rain:

1. Stand at the window (Inside)
2. Put non-tea drinking hand on hip.
3. Sip tea from mug
4. Mutter "look at that rain", "it's really coming down now" or "the garden needs it".
5. Say "good job we got all the cushions/washing in".
6. Eat all the biscuits.



Short Rain Jokes

Q: When does it rain money?

A: When there is "change" in the weather.

Q: What's the difference between a horse and the weather?

A: One is reined up and the other rains down.

Q: What do you call it when it rains chickens and ducks?

A: Foul (fowl) weather.

Jane C

Romans, Knights and Boggarts

The next Spring Vale Rambling Class walk on Saturday 29th May visits Ribchester, Stydd and the Written Stone, so here's just a few introductory notes; to whet your appetite, which Michael may expand upon during the walk.

Ribchester was chosen by the Romans as a site for a fort known as Bremetannacum, established by Agricola in AD 80. It marks where a ford crossed the River Ribble, and Roman roads linking York, Carlisle and Chester converged. The 'chester' comes from the Roman word 'caestre' or a fort.

The garrison supported 500 cavalymen and was the main administrative centre for the region until the 4th Century. Little is known about immediate post-Roman Ribchester, but the Roman Museum and excavated sites are worth a visit. St Wilfrid's Church was built nearly over the headquarters area of the Roman Camp.

The Roman Bath House still has stones in their original place indicating the layout of the facilities. The Bath House remained in continuous use for about 200 years. It was designed to serve the needs of the soldiers garrisoned in the fort and later for the local civilian population. However, it was built outside the walls of the fort because of the ever-present risk of fire from the furnaces used to heat the various rooms.



The Roman Bath House at Ribchester

While you may have heard of the Knights Templar, you might not know of another similar order – the Knights Hospitallers. This fighting religious order was also associated with running hospitals for pilgrims in the 'Holy Land' during the middle ages. In Lancashire, they came to own the small church at Stydd, together with its medieval hospital and surrounding estate.

St Saviour's Church stands in the nearby settlement of Stydd, a remnant of a Knights Hospitallers establishment.

The Stydd Alms-houses were built in 1728 under the will of John Sherborne, 'for five persons of his estate to live separately therein'.



The Arms Houses at Stydd

The Written Stone is a large sandstone block, 9 feet long, 2 feet wide and 18 inches deep resting in the bank near the entrance to Written Stone Farm. It is inscribed: RAVFFE: RADCLIFFE: LAID: THIS STONE TO LYE: FOR: EVER: A.D.1655. Briefly, a murder took place—the Radcliffe family of Cottam House, being the alleged conspirators, several of the family died in strange circumstances. Despite inscribing and placing the stone on Boggart Lane (the local name), strange happenings put down to a mischievous spirit (Boggart or Poltergeist) took place.



The Written Stone

A later tenant moved the stone to the farm using six horses and local help. However, anything placed on it would either fall off or be 'thrown off'. Milk soured and chickens died mysteriously on the farm. Moving the stone back took only one horse; the stone seemed to move 'of its own accord'. Peace and quiet returned to the country lane.

Dare you touch the stone?

Alan R

Heritage Names Challenge!

Look at the SVRC programme for 2021-2022 and see if you can work out the possible origin of the places we will be visiting and who might have lived there given that place name?

The North West has several place name origins. A mixture of three main historical place names Old English, Old Norse and Old Welsh and there are different spellings from Old English or Old Norse e.g., birch or birk and church or kirk.

Some places names are from the Cumbric language spoken by the Celts, the Anglo Saxons or they are of Latin origin from the Roman occupation with some French and German elements thrown in. North of the Ribble we have some Northumbrian influences whereas south of the Ribble can be of Mercian origin.

Here listed below is a little table to help you decipher the local place names.

It gets more complicated because we have a lot of 'mixed names' with elements of more than one language e.g. *Kendal* combines the Celtic name of the River Kent with Old Norse (dalr), Viking /East Norse (dale) or Old English (dael) meaning 'valley' so we arrive at Kendal - 'valley of the River Kent'. Keswick actually means 'cheese farm' from 'Cese-wic' – the cheese town!

So, can you find one place name that we might visit for each of the Origins in the table?

Now please don't get upset, but did you know that there are almost no written sources mentioning Lancashire before William the Conqueror's Domesday survey of 1086 – even then it was not called Lancashire but was still included under Yorkshire. And, before the Scandinavians arrived what is now called Lancashire had nominally been a part of the kingdom of Northumbria, whose south-western boundary was the River Mersey.

Origins	Endings and beginnings
Old English	Ton, ley, sham, ford
Latin and the Romans	caster and chester (caster meaning fortified camp)
Old Norse and Viking settlers	by,
West Norse (Norwegian)	kirk, gate (street), scale (hut), fell (mountain or mountain side), beck (stream or brook), tarn (small lake), gill (ravine or mountain stream), breck (slope), holm (island), slack (valley), thwaite (clearing), wray (nook or corner)
East Norse (Danish/Danes)	thorpe, hulme, on
Celtic river names	Calder, Cocker, Derwent and Kent and Lune would mean 'health-giving' river
Old Welsh (Cumbric)	pen (end, top, hill), cum (valley), glen (valley) - look at the beginning not the end of the names
Old Gaelic (Ireland)	cross (Christianity), kirk (church). Often linked to saints such as bride (St Bridget),

Barbara S

A Walk from Hornby

This 8 mile walk starts in the village of Hornby on its one and only main street. Walk up the street heading north and at the junction bear left towards Gressingham. Now follow this road for about half a mile to reach the narrow old Loyn Bridge across the River Lune. Before the bridge look out on the right for the well-preserved motte and bailey castle, Castle Stede. If time permits the castle is well worth a visit to explore.

After crossing the bridge and passing a small lay-by enter the field on the right and follow the riverside path along the Lune for two miles. The route goes through Thrushgill Wood and eventually reaches the village of Arkholme. Aim to pass to the right of the white house and onto the track which eventually leads on to become the village's only street.

Off to the right is another ruin of a castle built in the wake of the Norman conquest and St John's Chapel. Follow the road uphill through the village, passing a variety of old houses dating from the early 1600's, to arrive at the main road, turn left here and take the second footpath on the right. The route goes into the drive leading to the farmyard, then through the gate and after 30 metres, climb the stile on your right then skirt the farmyard passing through a gap stile by the gate.

Now walk across the field heading to the left-hand side of the line of trees. Follow this track, look for the footbridge on your left, cross the stream and head off in the direction of the roof of Locka Farm. Go through the gate in the wire fence and across the small paddock beside the house. Leaving this area by the gate at the far side, walk around the house, across the yard in front of the cottages to the minor road. Turn left along this road and walk on down to the main road.

On reaching the road turn right and cross over. The estate on the left is Storrs Hall with its gothic style mansion. Walk past the main driveway and look out for the green door in the wall at the footpath sign. Now walk along a short, railed section to the stile at the end. Look to the right to locate a stile in the wire fence, head to this and climb over aiming for a second stile on the hill. Once over this, veer right to reach a field gate in the corner by a small wood. Once through walk down the narrow road into the village of Gressingham.

In the village and at the fork in the road, bear right walking downhill to the T junction and go straight across and down a short lane. Using the footbridges, cross the stream and up the path on the far side, turning left along the narrow lane. After a hundred metres look out for the yellow waymarker on the right indicating the route goes up the drive. When at the end go through the gate and up the narrow paddock beyond to the stile in the left-hand corner. After the stile, head towards the oak tree in the top right-hand corner of the field and climb the stile to continue walking steeply uphill into the right-hand corner of the field. A further stile is negotiated here which allows entry into a long narrow paddock. After crossing the field, a wire fence is reached. Pass through the wire mesh gate and then walk to the field gate. This leads onto a farm track continuing to the minor road.

This is the hamlet of Eskrigge. Cross the road and walk along the track opposite and through the gate after the cottages, to follow the right-hand field boundary. At the end of the field climb the stile and bear right to the stone gateposts. The route now goes along the old lane for a few metres, before forking to the left following the sunken lane to the top and then bear right along the fence line. The line of the path now climbs the hill and down the other side along a field path, heading towards the house called The Snab. After passing the house continue down the drive and after a hundred metres go through the gate on your left. Walk down the slope passing the large pond on your right now heading for the River Lune, cross the stile on the left and then continue to follow the riverside path back up to the Loyn Bridge. Once on the bridge turn right and follow the road back into Hornby along the route previously walked.



Castle Stede near Hornby

Michael C

Living Streets

Living Street is a UK based charity for everyday walking. Their vision is to see a nation where walking is the natural choice for local, everyday journeys reducing the risk of preventable illness and social isolation and making walking the natural choice. They believe that a walking nation means progress for everyone. Their aim is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.

For more than 85 years Living Streets has been a beacon for walking. In their early days they campaigned to establish the UK's first zebra crossings and speed limits. Now, their campaigns and local projects deliver a real change to overcome barriers to walking and the ground-breaking initiatives such as the world's biggest Walk to School campaign encourage millions of people to walk.



The need for social distancing highlighted the inadequacy of our local streets. They were one of the first charities to call for more space for walking. Emphasis was placed on the importance of walking as the most accessible and environmentally friendly form of exercise. Local groups campaigned and called on local councils to re-allocate space and in response the Government committed £250m to an Emergency Active Travel Fund to prioritise walking and cycling. As schools returned last September, they worked with the Department for Transport to develop methods to promote walking to schools on social media and also hosted walk to school with a number of MPs.

Progress starts here: one street, one school, one step at a time.

Glenda B

On the Track- Colne to Skipton

This is my seventh article on the once thriving railway routes throughout Lancashire that later would become redundant. The construction of the Skipton-Colne 'branch' was an initiative born on the east side of the Pennines as an extension of the Leeds and Bradford Railway (L&B), later it become part of a trans-Pennine route when it joined the East Lancashire Railway at Colne.

The contract for the line from Skipton to Colne was awarded to Messrs G Boulton & Co on 9 September 1846 at a cost of £67,000. An agreement was reached between the East Lancashire and Leeds & Bradford railway companies that each would work its own line to Colne and that there would be a joint station at Colne which the L&B would construct.

When the line was opened 1848 and because it was operated by two independent companies, passengers travelling between Lancashire and Yorkshire had to change trains at Colne. In 1923 when the two companies amalgamated to become the London Midland and Scottish (LMS), this situation remained. Colne became a frontier station between the Central and Midland divisions of the LMS, which were reluctant to co-operate with each other. As a result, passengers still had to change trains at Colne.

The closure of this line was not due to the Beeching Report of 1963, which axed many of our local lines, for the route survived until February 1970 before closure. The route was deemed to be not viable, because of mounting losses.

The old route was abandoned but failed to have any sections reallocated for walking or cycling routes which has been the case with other disused lines.

Founded in 2001, SELRAP (Skipton East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership) is campaigning to reopen the Skipton to Colne railway line, as part of the rail network of the United Kingdom. The campaign has attracted much support from councils and businesses with its strong economic case to restore the 11½-mile link. The reopened line would probably have one intermediate 'West Craven Parkway' station to serve Earby, Barnoldswick and the surrounding area.

Eleanor