

# Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

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## St. Swithin's Day - 15th Jul 2021

St. Swithin's Day, St. Swithun's Day as it was spelt in old English, is a day on which, according to folklore, the weather for a subsequent period is dictated. In popular belief, if it rains on St. Swithin's Day, it will rain for 40 days, but if it is fair, 40 days of fair weather will follow.

St. Swithin was bishop of Winchester from 852 to 862. At his request he was buried in the churchyard, where rain and the steps of passers-by might fall on his grave. According to legend, after his body was moved inside the cathedral on July 15, 971, a great storm ensued. The first textual evidence for the weather prophecy appears to have come from a 13th or 14th-century entry in a manuscript at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Let us hope for good weather on the 15<sup>th</sup>.  
**Barbara S**

## Another Kind of Journey!

In 2020, I wrote an article for Ramblers Gems (Volume 1, Issue 28, Page 3, Forgotten Books) about the Independent Chapel at Tockholes and Thomas (Haigh) Fawcett, a joiner and builder, aged 45. Thomas as I have discovered is one of my ancestors who lived at the Dye House Silk Hall in Tockholes.

I received this email from Judith via Ancestry.co.uk. which read as follows "*Are you BS from the rambler's newsletter? If so, you say you are a direct descendent of Emma Jane Fawcett. Well so am I! My gran was Elizabeth Crawford, and I guess your ancestor must be Tom Fawcett. If so, hi, and let me know if you manage to find the Dye House in Tockholes. I live in Surrey now, but travel to Blackburn a lot (or at least I did before the pandemic) and would like to see the place.*"

So, you never know who is reading Ramblers Gems and where they live! When I go walking, I drive past Silk Hall, Tockholes and think of my roots. The old dye house became Rose Cottage. I have now travelled from Duluth, Minnesota to New Zealand and Tasmania tracking down all my ancestors. I have photographs and have found out a lot more about Emma-Jane Fawcett (my great grandmother), Alexander Crawford her husband from Scotland and discovered many more Fawcetts back to 1765.

Now to plan a walk past Silk Hall via the churches in Tockholes.

**Barbara S**

## Nature in July

In your garden put up a butterfly feeder. This year's Big Butterfly Count will run from the 16th July to the 8th August. If you want to take part in this year's count then download the free app [HERE](#) and an ID Chart [HERE](#).

Wading birds are returning from their breeding grounds - but what else is happening in the wild during the month of July?

High summer is here and the hedgerows and road verges that haven't been mown are bright with marjoram, knapweed, field scabious and thistles. These flowers attract a range of butterflies such as meadow brown, marbled white and gatekeeper. See if you can spot the stripy cinnabar moth caterpillar feeding on the bright yellow flowers of the ragwort.

No prizes for guessing where you might find the caterpillar of the privet hawkmoth, and the huge snake-mimicking caterpillars of the elephant hawk moth as they lurk among the leaves of willowherb and garden fuchsias.

On the coast in a few places, colonies of little terns are rearing chicks, and young ringed plovers crouch for camouflage amid the shingle.

Dragonflies are at their best. A visit to a lake or pond will produce brown and southern hawkers and common darters as well as the slender azure and common blue damselflies.



**Dragonfly at Brockholes NR**

Try and photograph a dragonfly, early in the day is best before they warm up. These magnificent insects are more sluggish and easily photographed if the weather is a bit cool.

For wading birds, the summer is already over as adult birds start to arrive back on their estuaries from breeding areas as far away as Siberia and Canada. Their youngsters will arrive in August or September.

You might see the energetic wren, its tail aloft flagpole, and those currant-black eyes. It is a fast flyer with a loud voice. It can be found in woodland, farmland, heathland, moorland, and our gardens.



**Wren**

The summer months are a great time to get a good view of owls. The light evenings are a great time to take a late evening walk and to listen for, and hopefully catch a glimpse of an owl.



**Barn Owl**

Plant wildflowers in your garden and lookout for foxglove on your walks. Look for bees crawling inside the flowers, nearly always starting at the bottom and working their way up. As well as providing pollen for bees, foxgloves are also food for the rare and beautiful Heath Fritillary butterfly. It also feeds a variety of other butterflies and moths which these in turn provide food for bats.

**Jean G**

# The Crosses of Stonyhurst

Whilst I was doing some research for the recent Hurst Green walk, I came across this website <https://bowlandclimber.com> that has an extensive library of walks – yes you have guessed it – in the Bowland area and surrounds. One in particular caught my attention, the whole article can be read here, <https://bowlandclimber.com/2020/07/15/a-stonyhurst-crosses-walk/>

The walk details the many crosses around Stonyhurst estate and how the author tried to connect them all on one walk. Historically the pupils of Stonyhurst would visit each cross on a Palm Sunday pilgrimage. The internet gives up this information: *In the countryside around Stonyhurst, 5 crosses are situated, and on 16th March 2008 (Palm Sunday), a pilgrimage was made from the College to all of them. This entailed a 5-mile walk that completely encircled the College and showed off the wonderful countryside in a dramatic way. It is hoped to repeat the same next year, and even make it an annual event. Fr John Twist, Stonyhurst College Chaplain, led the group on an attractive circular walk,*



I began to wonder if this could be a walk for next year's syllabus and the author thoughtfully included a map in his walk, as he does for all his walks.

However, it is apparent that the walk does not stick to public footpaths and in his blog he talks of climbing over walls, fighting his way through bracken, electric fences and even visiting a cross in someone's garden, so think it is best if this is not included next year!! However should you wish to explore yourselves here is what he says about the Stonyhurst crosses.

Hurst Green centre has two obvious large modern crosses, one on the roundabout for World War 1 and

the Celtic design cross on the green commemorating the Boer War.



WW Memorial, Three-sided - Right, Bailey and



**Cross Gill Cross** is situated near the River Ribble and Cross Gill Farm atop a conical hill, which unfortunately is on the wrong side of an electric fence with no public footpath. It is shown on the OS 25:000 map. The cross has a carved base which looks older than the rest of the cross.



An internet search stated that this cross came originally from a local church, and folklore says that the farmer threw the original cross into the River Ribble, when his cows started dying, he hurriedly erected a replacement-which would possibly explain why the base and cross don't match.

**Hague's Cross** is also in Over Hacking Woods at the top of some steps, but not shown on any maps, so a rummage of the footpaths will be needed to find this one. As you walk through the wood with the River



Hodder on your right, it is somewhere before the right hand footpath to Ryddings Farm according to the Bowland Rambler. Again, there is no further information to be found.

## Woodward's Cross

All that remains of this cross is the base, in Over Hacking Woods, near a side stream. It is not shown on modern Ordnance Survey maps, but it is recorded on the 1894 OS map. There is no further information about this cross that I could find on the internet.

**Continued on page 4**

## The Crosses of Stonyhurst

### Continued from page 3

Walking from Rhddings Farm onto Kemple End brings you to **Paulinus Cross**, where Spring Vale Ramblers lunched on our recent ramble. Legend says that St Paulinus preached here around 619 – 633 AD during his Christian mission to North England.



The **Paulinus Cross** is also thought that it may be linked to fertility rights and lay lines.

**St Paulinus** was a Roman missionary sent in 601 by Pope Gregory I to Christianize the Anglo-Saxons from their native Anglo-Saxon paganism. Paulinus arrived in England by 604 with the second missionary group. Little is known of Paulinus's activities in the following two decades. After some years spent in Kent, Paulinus was consecrated a bishop in 625,

He accompanied Æthelburg of Kent, sister of King Eadbald of Kent, on her journey to Northumbria to marry King Edwin of Northumbria, and eventually succeeded in converting Edwin to Christianity. Paulinus also converted many of Edwin's subjects and built some churches.

Close to the gate leading into the field, which SVRC did not see on their recent visit, is a thin standing stone, with a round hole near the top. One thought is that this acted as a marker for pilgrims visiting the cross.



So – that is the first 6 crosses of Stonyhurst. Next time I will complete the walk with; the cross with no name, The Pinfold Cross and the secret hidden cross.

Jane C

## Wildflower Quiz – can you name them from Vol 2 Issue 27? The Answers

1 Cowslip	2 Field Poppy	3 Ox-eye Daisy	4 Red Clover
5 Yellow Rattle	6 Wood Anemone	7 Wild Garlic	8 Sweet Violet
9 Herb Robert	10 Lesser Celandine	11 Primrose	12 Red Campion
13 Foxglove	14 Common Gorse	15 Greater Stitchwort	16 Cow Parsley
17 Common Dog Violet	18 Dog Rose	19 Dogs Mercury	20 Snowdrop
21 Bluebell	22 Lady's Smock	23 Archangel	24 Ribwort Plantain

## The Owl

by Edward Thomas

Downhill I came, hungry, and yet not starved;  
Cold, yet had heat within me that was proof  
Against the North wind; tired, yet so that rest  
Had seemed the sweetest thing under a roof.

Then at the inn I had food, fire, and rest,  
Knowing how hungry, cold, and tired was I.  
All of the night was quite barred out except  
An owl's cry, a most melancholy cry

Shaken out long and clear upon the hill,  
No merry note, nor cause of merriment,  
But one telling me plain what I escaped  
And others could not, that night, as in I went.

And salted was my food, and my repose,  
Salted and sobered, too, by the bird's voice  
Speaking for all who lay under the stars,  
Soldiers and poor, unable to rejoice.

Pesto Cenorr

## The Sense of Sound: Fields

This is the fourth in my series of articles based on typical walks undertaken by the Spring Vale Rambling Class using the same foundations that our founder Mr. J.T. Fielding pioneered when he started the group. That was to introduce members to nature whilst out on the walks, to sounds that they could not identify the actual source and on today's walk we are just concentrating on the sounds of birds.

A typical walk where we might hear this group of birds would be on a mainly field path type of journey starting from Chatburn and the edges of that little village before it breaks out onto open field paths which work their way over towards the little rural hamlet of Downham nestled at the foot of the majestic Pendle Hill.

### SWALLOW

Even before leaving the village of Chatburn you will be excited to hear the sweetest of songs from a group of high flying birds. House Martin's may chitter chatter, Swifts are known for their screaming notes but the chirrupy song of the Swallow combines this group of sounds to create a more acceptable soundtrack to the human ear. The Swallow's song can be heard while they are high in the blue sky, whilst on their nest or even whilst they are sat on telephone wires. But perhaps you may be more aware of its most impressive sound which is when they start to congregate in the Autumn. With their bags packed they are ready to head back on their extraordinary intercontinental journey back to Africa. With the last few young stragglers bounding over the hill with their mates desperate not to be left behind, although they are singing the same song, they are full of joy as this will be their first, big adventure.



### SKYLARK

As our path opens out before us the many sights, sounds and smells of British summertime assaults our senses and the spotting of the Skylark is an important element in this heady, alchemical mix.

They fly high and continually hover above the meadow grasslands and all the while they continue to sing crystalline enchantments before they parachute down into the undergrowth. Perhaps they feel totally protected by their notes of song which are a mixture of short-spaced whistles and warbles. Western Skylarks have between 10 to 12 songs, but their eastern cousins have between 50 and 100!! I am sure many people believe that as this little bird rises for all to see, his voice continues to break people's hearts.



### BLACKBIRD

As we approach the quaint little clutch of cottages which have appeared in film and on TV, Downham, we hear the sounds from the most common bird in Britain, the Blackbird. It was originally a woodland bird but over the years it has become more and more brave and is now at home with his new urban setting. His song contains reassuring clucks, and his melodic notes are appreciated everywhere by everyone. But beware! If you accidentally step within ten metres of his nest this brave little bird will stand his ground and will stare you out eyeball to eyeball! He will sound his alarm as if he was the captain of a burning boat encouraging the singing of battle hymns in the face of forty-foot waves. This bird operates as an early warning system to protect all the other birds in the locality. So, woe betide any troublesome cat who is out there stalking around the territory. He will raise the alarm at the first opportunity.



Although you will come across other birds on a walk of this type, you may find they get a mention in other articles in this series. Happy spotting!!!

### Maggie A