

# Ramblers Gems



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## Rural Crime

Neighbourhood Watch has launched a rural crime section on their website?

Neighbourhood Watch want to raise awareness of rural crime across their networks. They feel it is vitally important to the rural and farming communities to bring to the forefront the issues that they deal with and how Neighbourhood Watch can help.

Rural crime has no set definition however it can be very broadly classified as any crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in rural areas.

Rural crime is often linked to Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) who target and exploit rural communities across a range of crime types for example organised plant theft, livestock theft, burglaries targeting firearms, poaching and hare coursing. The cost of Rural Crime has been rising over the past eight years.

The NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council) has developed a [Rural Affairs Strategy](#) which sets out police priorities in this area:

- **Farm machinery**, plant and vehicle theft - including quad bikes, modern and vintage tractors, tools and equipment from outbuildings;
- **Livestock** Offences- including theft, worrying sheep and attacks.
- **Fuel** theft – including heating oil, diesel and petrol.
- **Equine crime** – including horse trailer and horse box theft, horse theft, tacktheft, fly grazing and neglect.
- **Fly tipping**- including household and commercial waste, waste through organised criminality.
- **Poaching** which crosses over with the wildlife priorities - including hare coursing, deer poaching, fish poaching.

Neighbourhood Watch have joined together with regional leads and national charities, including the National Farmers Union (NFU), National Rural Crime Network and the Countryside Alliance to highlight rural crime and by raising awareness of the issues faced by these communities, they can help with identifying and reporting any suspicious instances.

If you spot a crime while out walking report it to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/rural-crime>

**Barbara S**

## Hours in Heaven

*The following is an extract from an article published in the 1933 Spring Edition of "Over the Hills". This was a quarterly magazine produced by the Holiday Fellowship and featured a variety of short pieces on holiday suggestions and recollections. It might be that some of our early members went on these holidays!*

Last June, I left this humdrum world for a short time and dwelt in an atmosphere of beauty and joy, for I was privileged to be one of the party of young people who were doing the HF, Lakeland Walking Tour. From the moment when a bend in the road revealed our first encampment, we felt we had entered into a new world, and resolved to enjoy to the full the loveliness that was spread before us. On the right, the rocky profiles of the Landale Pikes peered over the shoulders of their lesser neighbours; Lingmoor Fell's bulk rose on the left; while ahead of us, Bow Fell raised his majestic head to the clouds.

It would take too long to tell in detail of the blissful days that followed - I can only attempt to describe some of the times that linger in my memory with special distinctness. Such a one is the sunset hour when we visited Blea Tarn, whose dainty sweetness the frowning mountains only served to accentuate; the afternoon when we stood at the summit of Pike o' Stickle admiring the vast panorama of mountain and lake that stretched away on every side; the night when we were awakened by the sound of thunder reverberating amongst the rugged heights around us, while almost continuous lightning flashes illuminated our cosy bedroom, and the pelting rain beat a wild tattoo on the roof.



Blea Tarn

We fell in love with our Glenridding "camp" in the moment when, having climbed up the rocky path from the road, we stood at the common - room door and looked through the trees upon the smiling face of Ullswater. How happy were the hours we spent in

boating on the lovely lake and bathing in its clear waters! I remember the minute of awed silence that ensued as we gazed upon Aira Force, white and fluttering as the garment of a fairy queen; and the time we halted in Glencoin Woods on the way back from the fall, to admire the winding reaches of the lake their beauty subtly veiled in the golden haze of twilight.

Of a very different character was the scene that met our gaze as we paused for rest on the steep slope of Sticks Pass, for the bareness of the distant hills was only relieved by the sunbeams and shadows that chased each other across them, and grey mists writhed round the heights ahead of us; but what joyful pride was ours when we stood on the topmost point and from the living map beneath us picked out the silver shapes of Thirlmere and Derwentwater and distant Bassenthwaite.

I shall never forget our little voyage across island studded Derwentwater to our last "camp," hidden among the trees of the further shore; an early morning stroll through the dew drenched fields of Newlands Vale returning over gentle sloping Catbell's; an evening spent in exploring the foxglove guarded paths of Brandelhow Forest, where squirrels frisked amongst the beeches and the thrushes trilled their evensong of praise. The sunny hours sped all too quickly on the morning when we borrowed the "Hawse End" boats and idly drifted from one beautiful backwater to another, alone save for a stately swan that glided gracefully from its reedly retreat. And on the afternoon when we bathed in the seclusion of a rocky little bay.



Derwentwater

Alas! the day arrived when we had to turn our backs on this delectable district and return to everyday life once more - rather saddened at the thought of leaving such loveliness behind us, but with a store of memories of a perfect holiday, the remembrance of which would surely lighten the dark places of our lives.

**Michael C**

## Now you see Me

I have long been fascinated by streams and rivers and I've spent many a time studying maps to see where a particular river or stream goes. Does it meet up with a famous river? Is it a tributary of a major river? Of course, all rivers are a practical aid to route planning and finding your way, so it is not entirely a trivial pursuit. (That would be a good name for a board game!).

Now I do not expect for one moment that everybody reading this article will jump up and get out their maps and start investigating water courses, but if anyone does get intrigued, they will find many curiosities when it comes to limestone areas. Some streams or becks in the northwest section of the Yorkshire Dales start off on the high fells and then suddenly appears to vanish. When you explore the area of Malham Tarn on foot you will come across the famous spot where the stream leaves the tarn and sinks into the ground apparently without a trace. On OS maps this spot is indicated as "Water sinks". Limestone is a very porous rock and this explains why water courses in such areas sometimes disappear on maps.



Around the world there are several underground rivers which never emerge onto the surface, but in the Yorkshire Dales, there are many streams which emerge from the mouth of caves. In order to try to solve these mysteries, there have been experiments carried out using harmless dyes which have been poured into the water courses before they disappear into the water sink following this up by trying to identify where the coloured water emerges. This has produced some surprises, dispelling widely held beliefs and assumptions that an emerging stream came from a particular source only to find that this was not the case. It became apparent that the coloured water could reappear anywhere in the area and not from where you might think was the most obvious. It is difficult to predict exactly where the coloured water would emerge.

**Tony C**

## Snowdrops and Aconites

by Joe Cole

We all look forward to the snowdrops  
The harbinger of spring  
In many shades of white  
Offtimes tinged with green  
Beautiful, oh so beautiful  
Sweeping swathes of green tinged white  
But they shrink into nothingness  
Against the aconite  
Aconite of deepest gold  
Brighter than the sun  
Aconite the first to show  
Amid deep winters gloom  
When the aconite first does show  
Bluetits start to flit and sing  
You see it's not the snowdrop  
Who is the harbinger of spring

## The Winter Aconite Fairy

written by Cicely Mary Barker

Deep in the earth  
I woke, I stirred.  
I said: "Was that the Spring I heard?  
For something called!"  
"No, no," they said;  
"Go back to sleep. Go back to bed.

"You're far too soon;  
The world's too cold  
For you, so small." So I was told.  
But how could I  
Go back to sleep?  
I could not wait; I had to peep!

Up, up, I climbed,  
And here am I.  
How wide the earth! How great the sky!  
O wintry world,  
See me, awake!  
Spring calls, and comes; 'tis no mistake.



**Submitted by Pesto Cenorr**

## Walking Oddities

Score a point for each one that has happened to you.

1. Insisting you weren't lost when you absolutely were.
2. Sank knee deep into mud and struggled to get out.
3. Forgot your compass and attempted to navigate by the sun.
4. Fell into a river, pond, stream, bog or rather large puddle.



5. Wrung out your clothing at the end of a very wet day.
6. Celebrated reaching the top before spotting the real summit.
7. Got your dog's lead tangled around a gate, tree or yourself.
8. Being unable to refold the map the correct way.
9. Fashioned a sun hat out of what you had to hand.
10. Assumed you'd just stepped in mud until the smell hits you.
11. Been chased by a cow, sheep, angry goose or other animal.



12. Been the first in your group to shout "Are we at the top yet"
13. Fell over and slid downhill at least ten yards on your backside.
14. Walked really fast to overtake a slightly slower group.
15. Believed the leader when they said "It's just over the next hill"
16. Found yourself in someone's garden after taking a wrong turn.
17. Got caught in heavy rain or a storm with no shelter in sight.
18. Realised your bottle leaked and soaked your pack through.
19. Eaten all your snacks during the first hour of your walk.
20. Been yelled at by a farmer for accidentally trespassing.
21. Been smacked in the face by a low-hanging branch.
22. Found the pub or cafe you planned to stop at was closed.
23. Got stuck in/on a stile and needed help to get through it.
24. Under-estimated your speed and finished your walk in the dark.
25. Had a laugh with your companions at the end of the days' walk about any of the above.

1 - 7 *Need to get out walking more.*

8 - 15 *Average walker*

16- 20 *Take more care.*

21 -25 *Check your life insurance.*

**Score**

**Eleanor**



## **Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership**

Pendle Hill Heritage Lottery Fund Project (the Pendle Hill HLF Project) is a Landscape Partnership Scheme which conserves, improves, and promotes the landscape and heritage of this big Lancashire hill. The project is managed and run by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Pendle Hill HLF Project was successfully in securing £1.8 M from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2018 for a four-year endeavour which, along with other match funds, has helped to support the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership. A wide variety of projects, focussing on natural heritage, social history, community engagement and creativity have been undertaken. The sole purpose was to benefit this wonderful landscape and the people living in and around the area.

Initially the aims of the Project were to:

- Restore, enhance and conserve the heritage and landscape of Pendle Hill
- Reconnect people with the landscape and its past.
- Bring together both sides of the hill.
- Create a sustainable future for the environment, heritage and visitors.

Some of the improvements that can now be seen include:

Substantial amounts of drystone wall rebuilding and hedge laying which has re-establish the boundaries. The removal of Non-Native Species and the creation of 6 new woodland sites; The restoration of important habitats like the heather moorland, limestone grassland and flower rich hay meadows. A large amount of footpath restoration has been carried out on the well-worn paths both up to and along to the summit. A new summit shelter has been built into the drystone boundary wall along with a new kissing gate and field gate allowing easier access.

For a full list of the projects undertaken and an update on progress made visit [www.pendlehillproject.com](http://www.pendlehillproject.com)

**Michael C**

## **Remember the Rules**

During the initial lockdown, many of us enjoyed the respite that a short walk offered us. Whilst the weather might not be as welcoming this time round, it remains incredibly important for our mental and physical health to stay active and connected to those around us. The new rules for England have been broken down to help you stay safe, active and connected. So, wrap up warm and continue to walk but from home.

This guidance is applicable to people living in England only.

You are allowed to walk with people in your immediate household, as you're already in contact with them in your home. However, be mindful not to walk in a large family group and take up the entire pavement. As we know, many of our pavements aren't very wide and can be restricted with parked cars because people are staying at home! Try and leave at least two metres room between yourself and others in order to pass confidently and safely.

You cannot go into someone else's house or garden, unless they live alone and you are in a support bubble with them. However, you can meet up with one other person from outside your household in a public space, such as a park, for a walk.

That means walking is one of the ways you can safely keep in touch with others during this time!

It might be cold but, as long as you wrap up warm, then you will benefit from being active and staying connected to your friends, family and neighbours during these quite isolating times.

When you do meet with them, you must continue to comply with physical distancing guidelines. That means staying 2 metres apart, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place, such as wearing face coverings.

Children under school age or those dependent on round-the-clock care do not count towards the limit on two people meeting outside. For example, a parent/carer and their toddler, could meet with another parent/carer and their toddler.

**Glenda B**