

Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

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Limestone Hushings

The first Spring Vale Ramblers walk this year on the 12th March saw us walking in the Hurstwood area of Burnley. Our route took us to Shedden Clough and we were soon walking through a strange undulating landscape called "limestone hushings" on the OS map.

Between 27,000 and 18,000 years ago, the moorland in which Shedden Clough is located was covered by an icesheet. The slow-moving glacier brought rounded cobbles of sandstone from east Lancashire and limestone from the Yorkshire Dales. As the ice melted about 10,000 years ago this jumble of erratic stones was deposited into a thick layer of boulder clay, now called till, across this landscape. In this area of Shedden Clough a considerable thickness of till can be seen all around. The importance of limestone and the process of turning it into a useful commodity has been known since ancient times.

With this extensive resource basically on the doorstep, the local farmers and their labourers have worked extracting this limestone since medieval times and the resulting landscape is a product of this long-standing process.

A labour-intensive process called hushing was used to extract the limestone from the till. A dam was built at the top of a slope to collect water in a pond or reservoir. In the dam was a gap surrounded by large flat stones and sealed with wooden planks. The ground below the dam was broken up with picks and shovels. The planks were removed and water 'whooshed' down the hillside, washing the fine material from the till, leaving the boulders behind.

Some of the hushings are so steep that it seems likely that a series of dams at different levels were used sequentially. The local streams and goits provided an abundant supply of water. The boulders were sorted by hand, sandstone piled up in waste heaps and limestone taken to the limekilns.

If you have never visited the area, then it is well worth exploring this unusual landscape.



Glenda B

Cannibal caterpillars

April marks the emergence of one of our most abundant butterflies - the **orange tip**. One of the earliest butterflies to be seen, orange tips can be found flitting through meadows, woodland glades and hedgerows, as well as gardens with tasty flowers.



The male orange tip is pretty easy to spot - he's white with, you guessed it, orange tips on his wings. The female, however, is white with black tips on her wings. Both have gorgeous green mottled underwings, which helps to differentiate the female from the small white butterfly.

You'll generally only find one orange tip egg per flowerhead, as the caterpillars are cannibals, and will happily munch on another orange tip egg or caterpillar they meet. To avoid this, the females produce a pheromone to deter other orange tip females from laying an egg on the same flower.



Jane C

Collective Nouns used for trees

What would you call: - Here are the answers to the questions posed in **Ramblers Gems Vol 3 Issue 14**

1. Withy	13. Hangar
2. Coupe	14. Plantation
3. Forest	15. Thicket
4. Orchard	16. Hagg
5. Spinney	17. Break
6. Avenue	18. Copse
7. Clump	19. Covett
8. Coppice	20. Stand
9. Browse	21. Wood
10. Dingle	22. Bush
11. Grove	23. Weald
12. Stand	24. Boskage

and finally, some tree species

1. a group of maples? - A Canvass
2. a group of aspen? - A Clune
3. a group of birches? - An Advance
4. a group of boxwood? - A Chamber
5. a group of oaks? - A Majesty
6. a row of limes? - An Avenue



A Withy of Willows

Jean G

Dynamic Dunescapes

Dynamic Dunescapes is an ambitious project, rejuvenating some of England and Wales' most important sand dunes for people, communities, and wildlife. These coastal dunes are internationally important habitats for wildlife, listed as one of the most threatened environments in Europe for biodiversity loss.

Many of us know and love sand dunes as beautiful coastal landscapes, but they are also important biodiversity hotspots. These dunes are a sanctuary for rare species which are perfectly adapted to live in sand. At a healthy dune, you could find orchids, natterjack toads, birds and sand lizards thriving!

However, dunes are suffering from over stabilisation and vegetation growth. This is putting wildlife at risk. Healthy sand dunes need to be free to move and be dynamic. Many species need areas of open sand to thrive so Dynamic Dunescapes will bring back life to the dunes by creating areas of open sand. Sand dunes are ever-changing structures that characterise our coastline. All dunes begin life as a singular grain of sand or shell fragment, blown inland by the offshore winds which accumulate on vegetation above the strandline. Overtime, our distinct mountains of sand have formed, standing at the forefront of our coastal weather systems and naturally shifting. Some of Cumbria's sand dune systems started to form five thousand years ago.

The Cumbria Dynamic Dunescapes team is covering works happening at Fleetwood. The sand dunes at Fleetwood are truly special for a diverse range of coastal plants and wildflowers adapted to live on the sandy mobile dunes. Fleetwood dunes are abundant with sea holly, sea spurge, rest harrow, sea cabbage, important for our pollinators. The sandy dunes system found at Fleetwood are becoming a nationally scarce habitat.

Sea Holly



Along the promenade you can see a lot of bright pink flowers. This is *Rosa rugosa* (it is also found at the Sefton Dunes). It is very pretty but it is a non-native species which outcompetes rare and specialised plants putting dune wildlife at risk. *Rosa rugosa* is a species of rose native to eastern Asia. It is a vigorous shrub, which can quickly establish, take over and spread across a dune system. This species is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in England and Wales therefore, it is also an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow these species in the wild. It is appearing in dunes, shingle banks and cliff tops. It has entered the wild through establishment from seed and through garden material being thrown out. Its large, orange or red hips are attractive to birds.

Rosa rugosa



Rosa rugosa will be removed along the promenade by a conservation team. It will be dug out mechanically or removed by brush cutter in sections with follow up control to reduce disturbance. Where patches are removed, the sand will be protected and covered whilst pioneer species colonise.

This is a popular spot for locals and visitors exploring landmarks along the coast including Rossall Point, the Mount and Marine Hall with views stretching back across Morecambe Bay. A walk from Rossall car park to Fleetwood, where you can enjoy a visit to the town and Market Hall, is about 4 miles. You can use a bus pass to return to the start!

Barbara S

Henry and Grace Remembered

On our Good Friday walk which this year started from Hurst Green, our route went by way of the house at Greengore. We passed the recently installed plaque dedicated to our past members Henry and Grace Culverhouse who both sadly passed away in 2019. The new plaque was sponsored by Tony and Bev Culverhouse and was provided by the Peak and Northern Footpath Society who install footpath signs throughout the Peak District and Lancashire.



Photograph from Anita D

IN LOVING
MEMORY OF
HENRY AND GRACE
CULVERHOUSE
1931 TO 2019
LATE MEMBERS OF
SPRING VALE
RAMBLING CLASS
"WHAT IS THIS LIFE IF FULL
OF CARE WE HAVE NO TIME TO
STAND AND STARE"
BY W.H. DAVIES

Further details of the walk will appear in the next issue.

Michael C.

The Arctic Tern's Prayer

by Mary Anne Clark

Tell the air to hold me in the rushing heart of it
And keep its paths straight
Away from home let there be a land that
Flows with fish and flies
And let it taste like it tasted at home
Home take this salty scent of home from my head
Cut away the memory of its last ultraviolet
Flash beautiful beneath me
Don't turn me to a twist of salt to fall to
Sea's saltiness if I look back at my home
Let me look back just once let me
Look back



Pesto Cenorr

The Arctic Tern holds a unique distinction within the animal kingdom because this seabird ranks as the most highly migratory of any known species. In fact, it spends the majority of its life in the air. Its migration patterns show that individuals relocate south for the summer, some actually experience two summers each year. The average distance covered per year approaches 44,100 miles

Lancashire's Castles

Castles within our local area of North Lancashire are not as prolific as they are in some other areas of the country. One still stands high, mighty and proud. One is in partial ruins, one is in total ruin and has no access and the fourth is now mainly demolished and rebuilt as a modern residence between 1847 and 1850.

Lancaster Castle is arguably Lancashire's most famous castle and it overlooks the city of Lancaster. This is a strongly built medieval castle believed to have been founded in the 11th century on the site of a Roman fort which overlooks a crossing of the River Lune. It's often known as the John O'Gaunt's Castle and once stood as a bastion against the marauding forces of the ancient Picts and Scots tribes. The castle is owned by The Duchy of Lancaster (Her Majesty the Queen is the Duke of Lancaster). Some significant scenes witnessed in the castle over its magnificent history include religious persecution, the trials of the 'Lancashire Witches' and 200 executions range from murder to stealing cattle. More recently, Lancaster Castle was a fully functioning HM Prison until 2011 and provides a glimpse into England's past through a range of tours and special events which can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages.

Lancaster Castle



Greenhalgh Castle, Garstang was built in the late fifteenth century by Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby, who had the castle built to provide a defence for his estates around Garstang. The land on which the castle was built is said to have been a gift to Stanley from his stepson Henry Tudor for his assistance in defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. As seen to day the castle lies in a state of medieval ruin,

Greenhalgh Castle



Clitheroe Castle, is a ruined medieval castle dominating the Clitheroe skyline for hundreds of years. The castle is thought to be of Norman origin - although this is sometimes disputed - the castle was the administrative centre of a large estate stretching along the western side of the Pennines. Clitheroe Castle was built in 1186 by Robert de Lacy and has been a proud feature of the town ever since. Standing high on Castle Hill, the castle and surrounding park was bought in 1920 by the people of Clitheroe by subscription and declared a memorial to the men who had lost their lives in the Great War. Later a cenotaph was built in the newly created Garden of Remembrance and was unveiled in 1923.

Clitheroe Castle



Hornby Castle The castle sits on a hill with dramatic views overlooking the Lune valley and Ingleborough. It is thought that the castle was originally built for the Neville family in the 13th century; this is the most likely date of the base of the tower at the back of the castle. In 1285 Margaret de Neville was the owner and "had writ for livery" at Hornby Castle. The polygonal tower rising from this base dates from the 16th century, and was built probably for Sir Edward Stanley, The central Keep tower dates back to 1520 but the house was rebuilt c1820 in an early Victorian style with splendid ornate ceilings and carved wood panelling. The castle is now a private dwelling set in beautiful grounds with its own private fishing, clay-pigeon shoot and lovely walks.

Hornby Castle



Eleanor