

Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

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Pennine Lancashire Linear Park

There is a proposal to create a Pennine Lancashire Linear Park to provide opportunities for people to live, play and be inspired along its length. The Leeds & Liverpool Canal was the original 'super highway' of the Industrial Revolution that transformed Pennine Lancashire. The plan is to repurpose this great infrastructure to meet industry and community needs.

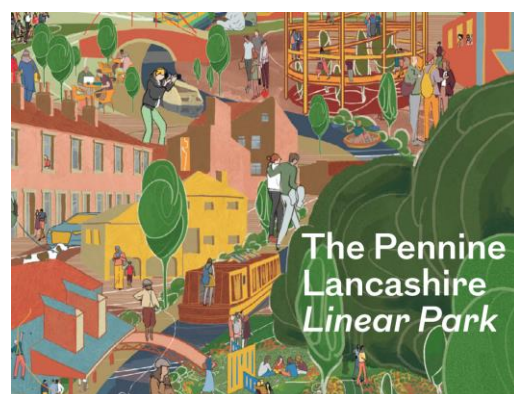
The plan, supported by LCC, Arts Council England, Canal & River Trust, UCLan and all the local councils along the route, has been developed with the belief that a playful landscape builds healthy communities. The canal provides the backbone of a new, linear park that showcases this rich post-industrial, semi-rural landscape to offer a contemporary leisure and living experience – to become a visitor destination, with extreme sports facilities and water sport opportunities, great new spaces for eating and drinking, exciting arts and culture programmes.

The plan is to maintain the highest standards of design and landscape quality along the routes 20+ mile stretch, from Blackburn to Pendle, with a number of opportunities for new leisure hubs currently under development, including Northlight Mill, Brierfield, UCLan's new campus at Sandygate Square, Burnley as well as ambitions for other impressive heritage sites such as the Coke Ovens in Hyndburn and Imperial Mill in Blackburn. The plans will involve new cycling, canoeing and walking opportunities to help build a greener and more productive future for individuals and families.

Physical improvements to the canal towpaths early on would bring immediate benefits to the identity of the area.

New social infrastructure, such as cultural, community and educational programmes, in parallel would strengthen communities and improve quality of life.

For more information read [The Proposals](#)



Eleanor

Walking with Sherlock

We have had articles exploring walking with the Brontes, we can also walk with Sherlock Holmes – or at least his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the area around Ingleton and Masongill, in the Yorkshire Dales.

But first a little back story.

Doyle was born in Edinburgh in 1859, to an alcoholic father who was eventually placed in an institution where he died in 1893. During his youth Arthur was supported by wealthy uncles ensuring his education at Stonyhurst College in Hurst Green, another Jesuit College in Austria and then it was on to the Edinburgh Medical School.

Doyle's mother, Mary Doyle took in lodgers whilst living in Edinburgh, and one of these was a Dr Waller a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. He became a dominant figure in both Mary and Arthur's lives, persuading Arthur to train as a doctor and Mary to move to Masongill – where Dr Waller was the squire from 1877 living at Masongill House. The cottage where Mary lived was possibly Masongill Cottage, across the fields from Masongill House.

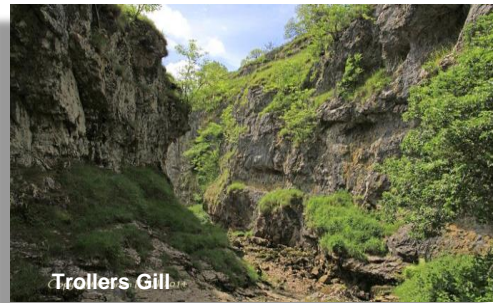
Mary Doyle lived in Masongill from 1882 – 1917 during which time Arthur visited her frequently, and would, be inspired by the surroundings, its people and places.

St Mary's Church at Ingleton contains a memorial to Randall Hopley Sherlock, who was struck by lightning and killed at Ingleton station, and one of the many woods in the area is Holme Woods??



St Mary's Church Ingleton

Although most of Sherlock's great adventures occurred in and round London, his creator would spend much time walking on the fells. Moorstone Crag* overlooking Kingsdale was one of his favourite haunts and was possibly the stimulus for The Hound of The Baskervilles. Local researchers on Holmes sources believe that the origin of the Hound of the Baskerville's story was actually inspired by the mythical Barguest who lived in Troller's Gyhl by Skyreholme and who was supposedly a saucer-eyed, wolf-like creature.



Who knows perhaps Ingleton Falls became the Reichenbach Falls where Sherlock "fell" to his death?



Sherlock falls to his death at the falls

There was also a wiff of a sex scandal – Mary Doyle was 15 years younger than Dr Waller – but they had a long 'friendship' and Mary would often visit Masongill House, and even when Dr Waller married – he would then visit Mary at her cottage!! Apparently, Arthur Conon Doyle was not happy with this arrangement, being that Waller was only 6 years older than him.

There are lots of low-level walking routes in the area, or you could head out through Masongill up onto the Turbary Road to Yordas Cave, (but don't go in!), then return via the quiet Kingsdale road.

Jane C

*I have not been able to discover Moorstone Crag on the OS map, can you?

Drinks On-the-Go

The Spring Vale Ramblers syllabus of 1920 states that rationing was still operating. The SVRC Ramblers instructed to take their own provisions when calling at the tea stops. Ramble destinations were still restricted by the Railway Company.

By 1922 provisions were now optional, but ramblers were reminded that, now vacuum flasks are so plentiful and cheap, of the saving of time there would be if these were generally used.

In 1892, Scottish scientist Sir James Dewar invented the vacuum flask. Through his work in cryogenics, he identified a need to keep a chemical placed in a flask at a stable temperature. To do this, Dewar placed a glass bottle in another larger glass bottle and evacuated the air between the two bottle walls. In doing so, Dewar created a partial vacuum to keep the temperature of the contents stable.



Sir James Dewar with his new invention - The Flask

When WW11 broke out, virtually all the capacity of Thermos Ltd was changed over to the requirements of the British military forces. Every time a thousand bombers went out on a raid 10,000 – 12,000 Thermos vacuum flasks went with them.



The 1925 Thermos Flask

Many a Rambler will remember the glass internal workings within the flask and with the slightest of knocks and it would shatter into a thousand pieces. Thermos introduced the world to their first stainless steel vacuum bottle in 1966.

2002 saw the introduction of the high-performance IceBound line. Made with exclusive Isotec™ multi-layered insulation and a leak-proof interior lining.

Now, in 2022, we have so much choice when it comes to keeping your brew hot on a chilly day and drinks cold on a hot hiking day. We don't usually call at 'tea stops' during walks these days. Preferring, instead, to visit establishments for tea/coffee or a beer at the end of a walk.

What to look for – size 470ml to 1.8 litres; good hot and cold performance; secure cap so no leaks; a wide mouth for easy cleaning; robust and durable, stainless steel with no metallic taste or odour. Maybe a twist and pour spout, an integrated cup or on-the-go operation that allows for drinking on the move or one-handed operation.



The 2022 Thermos Flask



The 2022 Stanley Flask

Can you believe it but in a recent 2022 test and review of sixteen of the best vacuum flasks, the Thermos Ultimate Series 500ml was considered the best buy at approximately £30. Assessed by Outdoors Magic who review a lot of hiking kit, prices of flasks can range from less than £10 to £75 plus!

For a larger 1L bottle I might be tempted by the Stanley Classic Legendary Bottle at approx £36. The double-wall vacuum insulation of this flask keeps all your drinks hot for 24 hours and cold for 120 hours with ice! The Stanley all-steel vacuum flask was invented by William Stanley Jr. in 1913. Other vacuum bottles and food flasks are available...

Barbara S

Trees versus views

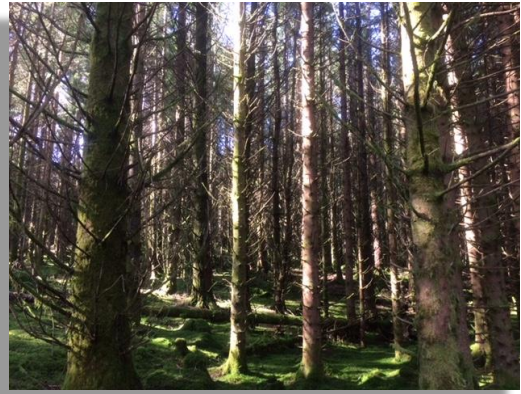
Most ramblers really appreciate the beauty of walking through woodland, but have you ever been on a path that just endlessly followed a barren mountain top or high ground that was featureless and eventually made you realise that you had a craving for woodland? Just that leafy tangle made you feel enveloped in a living, breathing landscape and helped to point out just how identical the hills were even if the views went on for miles.

In Britain many people typecast a forest as a single landscape without realising that there are many different types and that alternative seasons can offer walkers so many varied experiences. Celtic rainforests, beech wood glades, Caledonian pine forest and millenia-old yew groves are but a few. When you add the sounds and smells that accompany the different seasons for each type you can start to see that the list is starting to grow. By adding the magic of the carpet beneath the trees with the roots below, the branches above to enhance the atmosphere and you can see how easy it is to set the scene for magical stories with talking wolves, gingerbread cottages and trees passing messages to each other but more of that next week.



Let's start with the hardest forest to love, a plantation of conifer trees. Usually, a block of impenetrable darkness where nothing else can live and every tree looking like a clone of the last one. Half of Britain's woodland was sown by the Forestry Commission in response to the timber crisis during World War 1. The trees tend to be non-native Douglas Firs, Corsican Pines, Sitka Spruces, and deciduous Larches, chosen for their rapid growth and straight trunks.

But pine plantations have their own unique charm. Nowhere else is the silence so thick especially where the fallen needles lie underfoot padded with moss which further cushions sounds. The tops of the trees treat the wind in such a way as to change it into a haunting whisper.



Some walkers prefer to experience the full immersion that a pine forest offers. Colour is offered by birds like the Firecrest or the brick red or yellow green of the common Crossbill. Red squirrels in areas where this habitat is their last stronghold offer a flash of deep rust red. Where the firs thin out on the edges then lizards may be spotted basking in the sunshine if conditions are good. Fritillaries flutter and on summer evenings you might even hear the churning call of the Nightjar.

But how were these trees planted to meet the volume of what was required and on terrain that went up to the tops of the hills as the lower ground was needed for planting arable crops or for the animals? It would have been back breaking work planting the original miniature saplings. Many people will not be aware that it was the Duke of Atholl, a nineteenth century aristocrat, who shot pine cones from a cannon up onto vertical cliff faces in order to seed the clinging, impossible trees.

But this is enough of the relatively "modern" pine. Next week we will take a look at what did we have before that and how where they established? The wild woods with moss, lichens, and liverworts or even places where thousand-year-old Yews mix with trees that like to talk, to give us the inside story of the Ancient Spirits.

Have a good week.

Glenda B

Leading the Way

The Spring Vale Rambling Class was founded in 1896 by J. T Fielding and it was Mr Fielding who led all the rambles contained within the published syllabuses from 1896 until 1930. When he passed away on 21st December 1930, the leadership of the Class was undertaken by three of the members, Mr John Kershaw, Mr A. Hurst and Mr David Tattersall. John Kershaw later took on the role as full-time leader for all the walks, a duty which he carried out from 1932 until 1965. As the health of Mr Kershaw deteriorated, he could no longer join the Class on the walks, but still used his knowledge and experience to plan and arrange a varied walks programme. He moved from Bog Height Road Darwen to Croft nr Warrington in 1958 and it is believed that Mr William Moss the Secretary-Treasurer at the time, actually led the walks on behalf of Mr Kershaw until he also stepped down in 1966. There then followed a four-year period where no designated leader was appointed but the walks were led by the stalwart experienced members of the Class. In 1970 the Class established the tradition in having two named leaders for each ramble.

Recorded in the 1969 season syllabus is the death of Mr Kershaw on the 8th August 1968 and his tribute reads respectfully:

“For over 30 years he gave the class the benefit of his unsurpassed knowledge of the Ribble Valley and its environs. He was keenly interested in the old Manor Houses and the families who had lived there and had many interesting stories to relate regarding their history. Many old landmarks would have been unnoticed during our rambles but for Mt Kershaw, who would stop and call your attention to them and often had some information regarding them.”



The original Dinckley Footbridge

Contained within the Spring Vale Rambling Classes archive are the handwritten notes by Mr Moss. These describe many walking routes in the Ribble Valley which he would have used to assist him lead a walk on the day. Below is one of his many route descriptions that can still be followed today.

Wilpshire to Clitheroe

Blackburn Corporation Bus at 1-30pm to Wilpshire. Take the bottom road going up past Clayton Manor to FP past St Peter's Church at Salesbury. Going into Ashes Farm and on to Lovely Hall into Copster Green,- Carry on to De Tabley Arms. Here turn right to Connerie Bridge over brook to Old Salesbury Hall- (Very old building) and up to where you enter Sale Wheel Woods- the proper name for this is Marles Wood. You carry on by the River [Ribble] to Dinkley footbridge. Now go over bridge and the first you come to is Trough House and then go up to Hurst Green for tea, passing Lambing Clough and Shireburn Arms Hotel. After tea go up the road to Stonyhurst Cottage and go right to the college and turn left. Go straight up the [road] and turn right to another main road where you will find a stile facing you. This will lead you to Throstle Nest, follow this up to the top and then right incline to gate. This is Kemple End, go forward to the road and this is Birdy Brow, go down the road and this arrives at Higher Hodder Bridge. Go up to the crossroad and cross over, don't turn off, carry on until you find a stile on the right after about half a mile. Turn right here for Briery Forth. This footpath goes along way across the fields, thirty acres, and you will cross the Manchester pipeline. There is a stile just beyond here. Keep to the hedge side until you come to the stone stile. Cross over this turning left for the road and bus route or turn right for Edisford Bridge and Clitheroe. Walking Distance 11.5 miles.

Michael C



Stonyhurst College Hurst Green