

Ramblers Gems



A Spring Vale Rambling Class Publication

Volume 3 Issue 31

5th August 2022

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Blue Green Algae/ A Danger to Dogs**
- 2 Anyone Seen a Green Flag**
- 3 The Fanny Grey**
- 4 Walks with Taste / August Annals**
- 5 Rivington Terraced Gardens**

Blue Green Algae

Watch out for there is blue-green algae about.

Blue-green algae is a naturally occurring bacteria which produces toxic chemicals that are highly dangerous. It can make people very sick and has been known to kill livestock and pets.

The risk is particularly high in summer when water levels drop, and concentrations increase. This is when you can spot blooms which look like green-blue dye, green scum, or clumps of greenery.

If you suspect Blue Green Algae contact the Environment Agency's on their free 24-hour hotline telephone 0800 80 70 60.

A Danger to Dogs

With this spell of warm weather, it is all too easy to let your dog cool off by encouraging it to enter an area of standing water or allowing them to drink from stagnant water.

Blooms of blue-green algae can produce harmful toxins which stops a dog's liver from functioning properly. However, not all types of blue-green algae are dangerous.

Sadly, exposure to toxic blue-green algae is often fatal and can also cause long term health problems in dogs that survive after drinking or swimming in algae-contaminated water. Some types of blue-green algae can kill a dog just 15 minutes to an hour after drinking contaminated water.

Dogs who have been swimming in water can get the algae caught in their fur and can ingest it while cleaning themselves later.

Concentrations of the algae vary throughout the year and may not always be harmful - but you can't tell simply by looking at them whether or not they are dangerous, so it is best not to run the risk of allowing your dog to come into contact with water where the algae may be present.



Eleanor

A Bloom of Blue Green Algae

Anyone Seen a Green Flag

The Green Flag Award is an accreditation given to publicly accessible parks and open spaces, primarily in the United Kingdom, in order to promote standards of good management and best-practice amongst the green space sector. Well, that is the technical definition!

The section of the Leeds-Liverpool canal between Burnley and Blackburn was judged for a Green Flag Award on Friday, 1st June 2021.

It is with great pride that Canal and River Trust have announced that this section of the canal has been awarded the Green Flag Award. The Judges were very impressed with what they saw and heard. Many staff and volunteers have helped to make the canal and its surroundings look so good, a true team effort.

The representatives from the East Lancashire Area of the Canal and River Trust (C&RT) were invited to the scheme winners' ceremony at Doncaster Racecourse on the 27th July and were Mark Overum, Area Operations Manager, Barbara Sharples, Lead Volunteer for the Hyndburn Taskforce and Trish Grant the Lead Volunteer at the Rosegrove Hub. The latter two are members of the Spring Vale Rambling Class.



The Green Flag Award Ceremony at Doncaster Racecourse

Judging is not based on everything being in its place and looking prim and proper! It is based on a lot of other criteria - 'a welcoming place that is safe and secure, well maintained and clean'. Nominees have to ensure that the way the site is managed has a positive impact on the environment, locally and globally, both now and for the future.

The Leeds-Liverpool canal between Burnley and Blackburn is publicly accessible to all. It is a wildlife corridor of green space with a towpath for walking and cycling and a canal for boaters, fishing, canoeing and paddle boarding.



Barbara and Trish proudly holding the Green Flag award

It takes an awful lot of hard work to make sure that canals and rivers stay special. This is why C&RT have around 1,600 members of staff and hundreds of volunteers dedicated to making the waterways the best places they can be. From hydrologists to historians and ecologists to engineers, experts work together to ensure that every time you step onto the towpath you experience the best the waterways can offer. An enticing natural environment, a refuge where nature and history can exist alongside each other, ready for people to discover.

To achieve a Green Flag Award attention must be paid to the appropriate management and conservation of natural features such as wildlife and flora, landscape features, buildings, and structures.

Between Burnley and Blackburn there are dozens of volunteers plus lots of community involvement with other community groups and the private and public sector. There are many activities and opportunities for people to join in. Lots of marketing and communication is done through the C&RT website, videos, radio interviews, posters and social media. On a regular basis, C&RT evaluates how well the management plan is being implemented on each site and volunteers are allowed to contribute ideas at volunteer meetings.

When you see a Green Flag flying you can be sure that a lot of hard work has gone into achieving the award and that both professionals and many willing volunteers will have been involved in achieving the award.

Barbara S

The Fanny Grey

On the Spring Vale Ramblers' recent walk in the Blacko area several questions were raised but answers were not forthcoming. I was following walk instructions from an old book around Blacko and Whitemoor Reservoir, a Inn called Fanny Grey at Salterforth was mentioned. Who was Fanny Grey?

Well... a little digging on the internet and I found this... on a blog called "One guy from Barlick". It seems that the pub did not survive covid as they were still open until 2019. I reproduce the whole blog below:

This old pub is no more and has been converted into houses now, but a conversation ensued re the name and history of the pub.

This history of the inn was inserted within the menu at The Fanny Grey along with a photograph of the original building. The present-day building was built in 1914

FANNY GREY HOTEL

"...ye bruing vessell with other wood gear, £2-10-00."

Christopher Varley of Salterforth Lane Head died in 1679 and was interned in the graveyard of St Mary-le-Gill at Barnoldswick. Shortly afterwards on 2nd May an inventory was taken of all his belongings. The extract above shows that beer has been brewed/sold on this site for at least 330 years.

The original building, shown above, was a farmhouse, the farmer, having the raw materials to hand, would brew his own beer, and in times of plenty would brew enough to supply his friends and neighbours.

This was the origin of many of our countryside pubs, which, in time, was more profitable than farming.

The Fanny Grey stands on the old packhorse route from Colne, along which would come many trains of packhorses, carry wool to Barnoldswick for the "piece-worker" cottage weavers, or salt from the Cheshire mines, which they would take down the steep hill, "The Drag", through Salterforth(the salters ford) and on into Yorkshire. Thus a steady trade from thirsty packhorse drivers would be assured.

The earliest record I am able to find of the building as an inn is an entry in the 1822 Baines' Trade Directory, when it was called The Bay Horse and the landlord was Michael Pickles.

Some more records of the inn:

1841 Census, Lane Head, Hannah Simpson, 72, Innkeeper

1851 Census, Bowling Green House, James Barrett, Innkeeper and clogger

The large flat car park at the rear of the pub is obviously the site of bowling green.

1853 the first edition Ordnance Survey named the pub Lane Head or Fanny Grey Inn. This is the first and only record of the name Fanny Grey.

1861 Census, Lane Head, James Barrett, farmer of 14 acres and Innkeeper.

1871 Census, Lane Head Inn, James Barrett, licensed victualler.

1881 Census, Lane Head, Anne Barrett, Farmer of 16 acres.

Ann was the widow of James Barrett, there is no mention of the inn.

1901 Census, Lane Head Inn

Kelly's Directory, Salterforth 1908, Lane Head, Robert Barrett, Inn and farmer. Robert was the son of James and Ann.

Kelly's Directory, Salterforth 1911, Robert Barrett, farmer Lane Head. There is no mention of the pub. Perhaps the building was now in a state of disrepair?

The new building was erected in 1914 and named The Lane Head Inn

Kelly's Directory, Salterforth 1920, Lane Head Inn, Hugh Ellison

The Lane Head Inn reverted to the Fanny Grey in 1974 after some renovations had been done.

As for the elusive Fanny Grey, I don't think we will ever find out who or what she was. There is no record of a family called Grey. It has been suggested it was the name of a famous racehorse of the times and Michael Town, landlord of The Fanny Grey for many years, relates the story that a Mr Uttley, a manufacturer from Trawden, was riding by one day on his "grey" horse when he told the landlady, Mrs Sowerbutts, that he would whitewash the building if she called it The Fanny Grey.

Researched and compiled by: Ken Ranson Feb 2008

Submitted by Jane C

Walks with Taste

If you enjoy a short countryside ramble through some exceptional scenery within the Ribble Valley and then follow this up with a delicious meal at a country pub, then this series of walks is for you.

There are **16 self-guided, circular walks** in the series, all devised by Ribble Valley Borough Council and sponsored by Whalley Warm and Dry. They offer the perfect opportunity to walk in the stunning Ribble Valley countryside and finish with a hearty meal and a well-deserved drink.

Each route starts and finishes at a delightful place to eat, with the list including places like The Aspinall Arms at Mitton, The Inn at Whitewell, The Shireburn Arms at Hurst Green, with walks varying in distance and terrain so there should be something to suit everyone! The hard part will be deciding which walk you will choose first.

Each walk is contained on an individual leaflet which provides a detailed walk description as well as the routes detail marked on a section of the OS Map. You may park in the car park with each venue. The walks, which are all easy to follow, vary in distance and duration, so read the descriptions carefully to find one that suits you. The leaflets also provide brief information about the public house as well as a contact number as at certain times it is advisable to book a reservation.

The free walks leaflet can be collected in a pack from the Platform Gallery Clitheroe or from Whalley Warm and Dry, based in Whalley. They are also available to download from the Warm and Dry site at www.whalleyoutdoor.co.uk or [Download here](#)



Michael C

August Annals

The eighth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars, after 700BC when January and February were added to the year by King Numa Pompilius. August was named in honour of Emperor Augustus, who celebrated several great triumphs at this time, including the conquest of Egypt.

Anglo-Saxons called this time Weod Monath,. The Anglo-Saxon scholar Bede recorded in his essay 'The Reckoning of Time' that "Vued-Monath is the month of weeds, as this is the time when they grow most abundantly".

Lammas Day is the 1st of August and was time of harvest and thankings. The word come from Anglo-Saxon hlafmaesse which mean loaf mass. The first crop of wheat was made into loaves which were given to the church. These were then used as the Communion bread during a special mass for the harvest. When Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church the custom ended and now harvest festivals are traditionally at the end of the season – when everything is safely gathered in err the winter storm begin.

Lammas Day was also a time for fairs and foretelling marriage and trying out partners. Two folk could arrange to a trial marriage lasting the period of the fair (about 11 days) to see if they were suited to wedlock. If not they could part after the 11 days.

To bring good luck, farmers would let the first bread go stale and then crumble in four corners of their barn.

*"As in the bread and wine, so it is with me.
Within all forms is locked a record of the past
And a promise of the future.
I ask that you lay your blessings upon me, Ancient
Ones,
That this season of waning light
And increasing darkness may not be heavy.
So Mote It Be!"*

Faille, Lammas Ritual

Connie W

Rivington Terrace Gardens

The Rivington Country Park is an area most ramblers will be familiar with sitting between Belmont and Chorley on the edge of the industrial town of Bolton. Whenever Rivington Terrace Gardens are mentioned the things that immediately spring to mind are the parklands with grassed areas edged with trees, the family name of Lord Leverhulme, a local lad from Bolton and his summer retreat Roynton Cottage, the Japanese Gardens with their lakes and Pagoda style tea houses or the water engineering feats in the Italian Hillside Garden.

Rivington Gardens are an area that is being overseen by the Rivington Heritage Trust which is in partnership with Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside and United Utilities. The monies that they received from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of a £4.2 million restoration package unfortunately will not enable the Gardens to be restored fully to their original plan as this would be far too costly both to create and to maintain but would enable the group to ensure that the structures can be safeguarded and to allow them to carry out work to ensure that the spirit of Mawson, the original landscape designer, to live on.

It remains a fact that unfortunately commissioned landscaped gardens from these times are ephemeral and are subject to changes in fashion and are not maintained in their original intended form right across the country. They very quickly get overgrown and with no gardeners keeping on top of the landscape, as in days gone by, they soon become lost. The Rivington Heritage Trust has identified that the 11 Grade II listed structures will have a complete facelift, the Japanese Lake has been drained, de-silted and relined ready for refilling, path and drainage work will be improved, woodlands will be better managed to encourage variety of plants and animals and signage on the site will be improved.



Drained Japanese Lake

In this article I wanted to remind us of the other hidden images that Rivington is lesser known for. The ground around The Bungalow contains some wonderful examples of black and white tiled floorings both large and small, of terracotta floor tiling as well as stone bases for sundials. The majority of visitors will never see them or really know they are there but the stories that they could reveal! The circular ballroom with its ceiling of dark blue and gold stars highlighting the constellations on the night of Lord Leverhulme's birth date 19th September 1851 or what really happened when in 1913 the suffragette Edith Rigby burnt down the original wooden building.



Hidden Floor Tiles

The Sundial



After a gap of 2 years, this year will see a return to the area of a light and sound extravaganza participating in a Festival of Light. As it starts to get dark, magic will return once more with the Pigeon Tower and the Italian Lake all lighting up with temporary laser lights, together with music. As it is a family affair of celebration there will be no loud bangs and whizzes of fireworks, but the lake stage will form the base for live performances set to lights on the weekend of 21st October 2022. Admission is by ticket only.



Glenda B

Spectacular Laser Light Show