

# RAMBLERS GEMS

## A SPRING VALE RAMBLING CLASS PUBLICATION

### Walking Restrictions

In these present times it is important to keep active and maintain your fitness, but also remember that you must keep up with the social distancing. The new rules states that exercising can take place outdoors as often as you like, as long as you observe the physical distancing rules and are alone or with members of your household. We can now also walk with one person from another household so long as we keep to the 2m social distancing rule.

You can, if you wish, drive to other local destinations to exercise. Again, you must follow social distancing guidelines and be alone or with members of your own household. This means that at the moment we cannot recommence our summer walking programme.

### Out and about



### Celebrating our history



This year in March saw our first and only walk of the new season commencing from the Visitor Centre within Sunnyhurst Wood Darwen. It was an ideal opportunity for the Class to reenact the walking style of a bygone era and the majority of walkers who joined us for this ramble dressed in the attire of the early Spring Vale early members. The Mayor of Darwen also accompanied us on the first section of the walk entering into the spirit of the occasion and joined us sporting the style of an Edwardian lady. The photo above shows the President Michael Counter and Club Secretary Glenda Brindle.

It is at this time of year that the woods are awash with the bright fresh colour of the bluebell. They are out in abundance under the dappled shade of the forest floor just prior to the new leaf growth on the trees that will hide their full beauty and impact. As an individual flower they appear insignificant, small and without great form. But see them as nature intended, smothering the ground in a carpet of magnificent blue hues, highlighted by sun and shade and it is this contrast that is a sight to behold. It is an image never forgotten and lingers forever in the memory of all walkers.

## Walking the Moors above Darwen

---

11 May 2020

Many years ago the moors were well trodden by pack horse and pedlars, farmers and workers trudging to their daily toil. But in the late 1860s the Lord of the Manor, the Rev. W. A. Duckworth, began blocking ancient rights of way over the moors rich with game.

Five men - three labourers, a gardener and a mason - took up the fight and were joined by hundreds of local folk. Eventually, after bloody skirmishes, prosecutions, and protracted negotiations, nearly 300 acres of moorland passed into the possession of the people in September, 1896.

The suggestion of a tower the following year quickly took off. Councillor Robert Shorrocks, chairman of the parks committee, formally proposed at a town meeting that a tower be built above Red Delph quarry and more than £1,500 was quickly raised by public subscription

To some the Tower was built in celebration of Queen Victoria's long reign. To lovers of the wild moorland it is a symbol of freedom.

