



Rochdale Branch Newsletter No 193

June 2026

Welcome to the June newsletter, May rewarded us with much fine, sunny and hot weather, and hopefully everyone remembered to pack sun screen, head coverings and sufficient water in their rucksacks for the length of the walk they were taking on.

CALLING POTENTIAL WALK LEADERS!!! (Amanda Thorp, Walk Coordinator)

As a group, Rochdale Ramblers is very fortunate in being able to provide a full-walks programme. Many groups struggle to do this due to insufficient walk leaders. We have about 30 walk leaders who are willing and able to offer a range of walks, and I am extremely appreciative of their massive support for our group.

Walk leaders are the lifeblood of a walking group and it's important that new leaders come forward to ensure our walks offer remains resilient. If you walk with Rochdale and there is a walk you do regularly then, perhaps, you could offer this to the group? The priorities of a walk are fresh air and exercise and social interaction. The actual route is secondary and, although it's great to have new and varied walks, it is absolutely not essential!

The Ramblers nationally has really useful online training modules for new leaders. As a Group we offer an experienced walk leader to do the recce and support you on your first - and later walks if required. I have also put together Guidelines for New Walk Leaders which includes a helpful checklist. If you would like a copy for information, please let me know.

I know full well that being responsible for a walk can be a daunting prospect and, even some experienced leaders probably prefer not to be leading! However, it's in the best interests of the group to lead a walk now and again if you possibly can.

Please let me know if you are interested in giving it a go. You may find it satisfying and an achievement afterwards, or you may think it isn't something you'd ever like to do again!

Either way, you'll never know until you try!

COACH TRIP TO ULVERSTON - SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

Gill Hollas has asked that anyone who has not already put their name down for this trip, please contact her directly on 07899 995837 or email gillhollas@gmail.com

Payment will not be required until Margaret starts asking for it, but it is important to know numbers, so we can fill the coach.

This year our annual coach trip is to Ulverston. We are leaving Rochdale at 8am and the walk will start approximately 10am. Return to Rochdale is between 6.30 to 7pm. There will be 3 walks to choose from. Andy and Denise are leading the longest walk (approximately 11 miles), Jon Hallett and Amanda are leading one of approximately 8 miles and David and Maureen are leading the short one (about 5 miles).

We wanted to let you know a bit more about the longer walks after the initial recces. The 11 and 8 mile walks will take the same mainly coastal route to the Kadampa Buddhist Temple which has lovely grounds for a lunch stop. We are on mainly good paths and, unlike our home ground walks, there are no inclines to speak of! Please see Andy and Denise's more detailed description of the longer walk below.

Obviously, the shorter walk will be finished much earlier than the other two but there is plenty to look at in Ulverston including the Laurel & Hardy Museum, a market and interesting-looking antiques and charity shops. There is a nice garden centre (Ellie's Hill Foot Garden Centre) just 14 minutes' walk from the station where the coach drop-off will be. Also, there is a Booths supermarket (with cafe) and an M&S Food.

Please give names to Gill Hollas and money to Margaret Haygarth. The cost is £22.50 per person which is preferred in cash. If there is a problem with cash then please let Amanda know.

Ulverston Coach Trip longer walk led by Andy and Denise. This is a moderate 11 mile walk starting from Ulverston train station, we then walk down the picturesque Ulverston Canal after which we do some coastal walking.

We then head off to "The Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist Temple" which is dedicated to mental peace through meditation. We will have lunch here and have a short break to explore the area.

We then go back to the coastal path before turning off and heading up to The Birkrigg Trig Point from where we will get fabulous views (weather permitting). We will then walk back to Ulverston via the unique Outcast Rope Walk.

I have attached some photos to whet your appetite!







Photos curtesy of Andy Holmes

PNFS Path Checker App



Download from your App store

Peak & Northern Footpaths Society promotes the interests of public footpath users. As a registered charity, we monitor, protect and improve rights of way for the benefit of everyone. Whether footpath users are ramblers, runners, dog walkers or just strollers, we're here to help each other. We are dependent on donations and membership to fund our work which is all done by volunteers.

Our team of over 150 **Footpath Inspectors**, all volunteers, regularly walk footpaths, checking for problems such as broken stiles. They report any issues to the responsible local authority, and follow up each case to ensure the problems are resolved. **Path Checkers** also report footpath problems to us, which we investigate.

Area's, we Protect



We often provide funding to assist in the repair of damaged footpaths and bridges. We investigate planning proposals, and our **Courts & Inquiries** team take action to ensure that the interests of walkers are properly taken into account.

Photos curtesy of PNFS web site - <https://pnfs.org.uk/index.htm>

Stuart Smithies and Greg Goddard are working on any right of way issues, and using the PNFS app is a great way of recording any R.O.W. issues you come across when out walking.

HF Walking Holiday 2027

As our 2026 HF walking holiday proved so popular, we thought we should plan a 2027 spring holiday asap to secure the best prices. We have been offered 3 possible locations for a self-guided walking holiday for 3 nights from Friday 2nd April to Mon 5th April 2027. The locations are:

Alnmouth, Northumberland Coast
Brecon, Brecon Beacons National Park
Dolserau, Snowdonia National Park

The cost in a classic room is £329 per person based on 2 people sharing either a twin or double room and £344 for a single room.

If you are a member of HF you will benefit from a £30 discount. You can join HF by paying a one-off fee of £100 per person.

As previously, board includes the following:

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

If this is something you would like to take part in, please email Katia Chadwick at: secretaryrochdaleramblers@gmail.com to confirm your interest and should we receive enough interest we will proceed with the booking.

June Walks Programme

Please note that dogs (other than assistance dogs) are not permitted on our walks.

Start time is when the walk commences. Please arrive earlier to ensure you are ready for the start

Thursday, 4th June: Windmills Turning, Trump Churning

From the car park we shall walk to Naden Reservoir before taking the steep climb up to the highest turbine and then use the maintenance roads for the walk back with the fabulous expansive views. After rain there will be lots of mud about. There are a few stiles and one significant steep climb to negotiate with a couple of streams to cross too.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 3pm

Start place: Meet at car park opposite Owd Betts pub, Edenfield Road, Rochdale

Grid Ref: SD830159

Postcode: OL12 7TY

[What3Words: ///rescue.thickened.maddening](#)

Distance: 7.1mi / 11.5km

National Grade: Moderate



Ascent: 919 ft/280 m

Contact Details: John Blackburn

Saturday, 6th June: Hopwood Woods Stroll

This is a leisurely walk in a pretty area going past a deer park and a Gruffalo carving.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 1:45pm

Start place: Meet at St Anne's Academy, Hollin Lane, Middleton

Grid Ref: SD867078

Postcode: M24 6XN

[What3Words: ///melon.drops.snows](#)

Distance: 5mi / 8km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Bernadette Taylor

Sunday, 7th June: Barley, Pendle Water and Newchurch

This is a scenic walk in great walking country. There will be some inclines and rough ground but nothing strenuous.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 2:45pm

Start place: The Visitor Centre car park, The Avenue, Barley Parking is £3 but there may be some free roadside parking if available.

Grid Ref: SD823403

Postcode: Location is 135 metres to the North Northwest of BB12 9JT

[What3Words: ///presses.types.inflates](#)

Distance: 8.5mi / 13.7km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Chris Shore

Thursday, 11th June: Tower & Turrets

This is a moderate 6 mile walk going through the village of Chapelton and including two reservoirs.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: Meet in Last Drop Village upper car park, Gledhill Way, Bromley Cross

Grid Ref: SD722140

Postcode: BL7 9PZ

[What3Words: ///mats.shin.rocks](http://mats.shin.rocks)

Distance: 6mi / 9.7km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Bernadette Taylor

Saturday, 13th June: Moors, Canal and Lake!

This is a varied walk going up to the White House and along the Pennine way and past the reservoirs (going round the end one) and back along the canal and around Hollingworth lake. There will be rough ground and inclines as well as good paths.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 2:45pm

Start place: Layby at Lydgate, Blackstone Edge Old Road

Grid Ref: SD955164

Postcode: OL15 0LQ

[What3Words: ///hires.groups.line](http://hires.groups.line)

Distance: 8.5mi / 13.7km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Jon Hallett

Thursday, 18th June: Longridge Fell from Hurst Green

The approach to Longridge Fell is outstanding and providing the weather is favourable we should be rewarded by some of the finest panoramas in the north of England.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 3:30pm

Start place: Meet at car park in front of Hurst Green parish hall, Avenue Road, Hurst Green. Parking at parish hall (small donation required) or roadside parking available in village.

Grid Ref: SD684381

Postcode: BB7 9QB

[What3Words: ///surface.tile.shuttered](#)

Distance: 8mi / 12.9km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Jim Hargreaves

Sunday, 21st June: Windy by Name, Windy by Nature

We are going round the reservoir over to Windy Hill, across the road over to White Hill making our way back past Readycon Dean reservoir and dropping down to Piethorne reservoir. Some gradient and a short steepish section, mostly moorland walking.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 2:30pm

Start place: Meet at Ogden Reservoir car park, Ogden Lane, Littleborough

Grid Ref: SD952122

Postcode: Location is 175 metres to the South West of OL16 3TQ

[What3Words: ///business.nodded.carbonate](#)

Distance: 9mi / 14.5km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Margaret Haygarth

Thursday, 25th June: M62 and Hollingworth Lake

A few gradual ascents and some stiles, following the M62 towards Hollingworth Lake for lunch before returning through Milnrow.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2pm

Start place: Meet in Milnrow Memorial Park, 115 Newhey Rd, Newhey

Grid Ref: SD932118 Postcode: OL16 4JF

[What3Words: ///mole.woes.eager](#)

Distance: 5.5mi / 8.9km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Craig Hodgkinson

Saturday, 27th June: Rawtenstall, Irwell Vale & Edenfield

We are walking from Whitaker Park along the river to Irwell Vale and back through Edenfield going on both sides of the A56. The walk is on mainly good paths but there are a number of longish steepish inclines.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: Meet outside the Whitaker Museum off Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall. Parking is available to the left of (behind) the actual museum as well as on the entry road itself.

Grid Ref: SD805226

Postcode: Location is 137 metres to the West Southwest of BB4 6RQ

[What3Words: ///jams.scenes.tennis](#)

Distance: 7.7mi / 12.4km

National Grade: Moderate



Ascent: 1057 ft/322 m

Contact Details: Amanda Thorp

The White House on Blackstone Edge, formerly Coach and Horses Inn

We are hoping to hold our Christmas walk and meal there on the 6th of December (Date TBC) by Gill Hollas in due course

Then and now: The White House on Blackstone Edge, formally The Coach and Horses was built around 1671 as a resting place for horses and passengers on the Turnpike Road. It is reputed that the writer Daniel Defoe stopped here during a snowstorm in 1724 and was quoted as noting 'the locals' love of good ale' (that's still the case, I suspect.)



Photos curtesy of Neal Buckley Rochdale Past & Present Facebook page
(Well worth a visit to this Facebook page for lots of local historical Information)

Frank Langman - Editor