



# **Footprints**

**Newsletter of the Derbyshire  
Dales Group of the Ramblers**

**May 2018**

**Editor: Martin Phillips**

## **Nick's Natterings**

**Nick Stephens (Chairman)**

During the brief spell of snow, when most of our country came to a halt and some of our walks had to be cancelled, I read a letter in the Daily Telegraph from a Swedish reader saying that in Sweden they have much deeper snow but none of the schools were ever closed and, with winter tyres compulsory, cars keep moving. With luck we will not experience a third Beast from the East and hopefully we can start to enjoy the lighter evenings and sunny days.

The Walk Leader Checklist printed in the last issue of Footprints caused some consternation amongst a few of our members. "Don't shoot the messenger" came into my mind, since 95% of the Checklist is taken from the Central Office website. There is a short article elsewhere in this edition of Footprints regarding insurance and how to access the information on the website.

Our Footpath Secretary, Dave Pearson, would be grateful if walk leaders could report to him any problems encountered when out on walks, e.g. broken stiles or missing signposts, and he will report them to the Derbyshire County Council.

In a recent episode of Radio 4's Ramblings, supposedly walking from Winster to Robin Hood's Stride, very little mention was made of the actual route. Most of the programme concerned Ed Byrne, who was being interviewed by Clare Balding. I wrote to the BBC complaining but to date have not had a reply.

I thought a little-used footpath through the southern side of Shining Cliff Woods would present a few challenges to the group I was leading, with the thought that they wouldn't ask me to lead any more walks after having scrambled over numerous felled tree trunks & through holly bushes, etc. Such thoughts were foiled when they all emerged with smiles on their faces having enjoyed the experience. Some members even asked if we could do more walks like that!

# A Tragedy in Dovedale

Geof Cole

'Now breaks the marvellous Glen upon my sight.  
A beaten sheep-path to a hawthorn bower  
Ascends; and seated near, on a green height,  
The valley's central knoll, I feel the power  
And beauty of the prospect – from the flower  
Whose novelty attracts me, as it peeps  
Above the herbage, to yon shelves that lower  
In anger still – threatening the death he sleeps,  
Whom erst they hurled, both horse & rider, down their steeps.'



From *The Tour of the Dove or A Visit to Dovedale*, a poem by John Edwards, 1821.

John Edwards was a provincial poet whose work was admired by Wordsworth. *The Tour of the Dove* is a topographical poem that follows the course of the Dove to its source in the Peak District, and includes historical and geographical views along with extensive notes for travellers. The quoted stanza relates to the section of Dovedale by Reynard's Cave, and a tragic accident that occurred there in 1761.

By the mid-1700s attitudes to areas such as the Peak District had changed. No longer seen as the "howling wilderness" described by Daniel Defoe in the 1720s, places such as Dovedale attracted many visitors to see romantic rock formations, such as Reynard's Cave.



One such trip involved the Rev Dean Langton, a clergyman visiting from Ireland. After viewing Reynard's Cave, Langton decided to return to Ashbourne by riding his horse up the side of Dovedale rather than back along the River. Miss La Roche, described as a young lady with great spirit, begged to accompany him in this bold adventure. After they had climbed some way up the side of the dale, the horse slipped and they tumbled down the hillside. The horse and the Dean fell to the bottom of the dale, but the young lady's descent was stopped when her hair caught in a thorn bush. The Dean was carried to Ashbourne where he died after a few days. Miss La Roche was found 'in an insensible state' and, after "disentangling her from her perilous situation", she was also taken to Ashbourne where she recovered. The horse, though, only received a few bruises. Buxton Museum has a contemporary drawing showing this incident, but you will have to look carefully to see the horse and riders tumbling down.

There is a small memorial to the Rev Dean Langton on the north wall of the nave in St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne. Miss La Roche may have a more lasting memorial as her story may be the basis for the tale of a young lady jumping off Lovers Leap in Dovedale, but not falling to her death because her skirts caught in the bushes.

*Pictures courtesy of Buxton Museum*

## **Special Event**

### **Sue Weatherley**

There will be a special evening swim walk in the programme this summer, to take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 pm. I will organise this and arrange a walk at a suitable venue. Details to be finalised when I have some idea of numbers attending. If interested contact me: 01629 636350 or [iweatherley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:iweatherley@tiscali.co.uk).

# Desperately Seeking Summits in 2017

Sue Weatherley

You can picture the scene; there we were having a pleasant New Year's Eve in Ambleside with a group of old friends. We had plenty of good food and drink and chat and I have to admit that we got very mellow, the sort of mellow which means you can do silly things. The particular silly thing we did was to add up all our ages, it came to 497, and think what a good idea it would be to climb that number of summits in the following year. It turns out that, though we had had enough to drink to do the aforementioned silly thing, we had not had enough to have forgotten about it the next day. As it happened, by Lake District standards, it was a fine day on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 so we all set off and got to the top of Loughrigg where we celebrated in the time honoured tradition with Prosecco and Pringles.



*Ian at Rhunahaorine Point, 2 metres, on the coast of Kintyre; in the distance is Gigha, another island we climbed a day or two later*

There was no going back, the challenge was on.

It was quickly agreed that any one summit could be climbed by all of us and each ascent would count but each team member could only count a particular summit once. There were eight of us involved and in case you are thinking that 497 is rather a low total for eight old folks like us I need to point out that Emily, the 8 year old grandchild of our friends, was included and this brought the average age down. Emily is a keen hill bagger and was looking forward to reporting on the conclusion of the project at school at the beginning of term in January 2018. She had, as visual aids, a rather worrying amount of champagne corks to present to the class.

I agreed to draft some Rules of Engagement and being the conscientious person that I am I set about this task with a will. After all it could not be that difficult.

I suggested that a summit could be:

1. A Trig Point
2. The high point of an island
3. A summit appearing on a list of any kind, Munro, Wainwright, etc
4. Any named foreign summit

I did suggest that we put in a minimum height but no one was interested in this. Unfortunately I omitted to spell out that man made structures did not count. I thought that this was self-evident but my refusal to include Sydney Harbour Bridge on the list led to endless wrangling. I stood firm even when threatened

with legal action and in the process I learned a valuable lesson: when planning a challenge details need to be made clear, as someone keeps saying – ‘the devil is in the detail’ in this case it was lack of detail that was the problem.

What followed was a lot of fun and the enterprise was quickly christened *Desperately Seeking Summits*. I think there were days when all of us experienced the *Desperate* element of *Seeking Summits* as we went forth on various adventures, in rain, hail, sun and snow, crashing through forests in search of trig points and across bogs looking for obscure summits.

The no minimum height decision turned out to be a very good one as much enjoyment was had seeking out obscure and low trig points. Islands were great fun as well, we have developed a great enthusiasm for tidal islands and on one occasion two of us swam out to bag an island in Derwentwater.

We were, however, all unprepared for the consequences of the any summit on a list rule. As time went on and we became more addicted to the project, research produced a bewildering number of lists of different categories of summit. Eventually we discovered Tumps and this provided a ‘catch all’ list. A *Tump* is a summit of more than 30 metres that has a minimum ascent of 30 metres. There are thousands of these and Tump Bagging has led all members of the team to discover a whole new range of hills.

Such was our enthusiasm that the original target of 497 was reached by the end of July but no one wanted to stop so we carried on and met up on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 for one final summit to bring our total to 928.



*Ian and Sue on The Muckle above Rockcliffe in Dumfries and Galloway; in the background is Rough Island, it is tidal and we had walked out there, at low tide, obviously, earlier in the day*

Along the way we clocked up summits in New Zealand, Australia, Spain and Italy as well as the length and breadth of the UK. The highest was Mt Ruapehu, in New Zealand, at 2,675 metres and the lowest Rhunahaorine Point on the coast of Kintyre at 2 metres. We went from The Wrekin to the Western Isles and we all have lots of special memories. A personal favourite is The Bastard on Kintyre, when you find a hill with a name like that it has got to be climbed.

So there you have it, once all the Wainwrights, Nuttalls etc are ticked there is still plenty of scope for new challenges for the determined hill-bagger. Me? Well in 2018 I'm going swimming.

# Footpath Wardens – An Update March 2018

## Dave Pearson

We now have 35 wardens covering 78 parishes which contain over 2,000 ROW and the aim is that the ROW in the parishes are walked once a year reporting on any faults that they find.

97 problems have been reported in the last 6 months and until the ROW are walked again we will not know how many are completed.

The ROW department at Derbyshire have been reduced in numbers and we need to support them more than ever to maintain our ROW in good repair.

We have 28 parishes without wardens and we list below the free parishes:

Alkmonton	Hassop	Norbury & Roston
Boylestone	Hathersage	Offcote & Underwood
Bradbourne	Hazlebadge	Outseats
Brassington	Hollington	Rodsley
Cubley	Hungry Bentley	Snelston
Doveridge	Kniveton	Somersal Herbert
Eaton Alsop	Longford	Stoney Middleton
Fenny Bentley	Little Hucklow	Sudbury
Great Hucklow	Marston Montgomery	Yeaveley
Grindlow		

If interested in becoming a footpath warden, please contact Dave Pearson on 01629 734576 or [dave.pearson@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:dave.pearson@tinyworld.co.uk).

## New Members

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members. In this issue we welcome the following to the Derbyshire Dales Group of Ramblers and hope they will enjoy the range of walks we have to offer.

Mr M Bennett & Ms L Jarvis	Mr M Healey & Ms C Labelle
Ms M Byrne	Mr R Hingston
Mr P & Mrs J Cooper	Ms L Johnston
Mr W Frase & Mrs G Jones	Ms J McAdoo & Mr G Styles
Mr R Gage	Mr R & Dr L Merriman
Mr N Gratton	Mr A & Mrs S Taylor
Miss S Green	Mrs L Wild
Ms H Haggis	

# Clarification regarding the Walk Leaders Checklist

## Nick Stephens

Within the Leader's Duties and Responsibilities in the previous issue of *Footprints*, one bullet point, appearing under the sub heading **Submit the Walk**, stated "To be covered by Ramblers insurance, a walk must be a recognised Ramblers activity", caused some confusion. Ramblers explain this in their "Ramblers Insurance Guide 2016-2017" as follows:

### **Group Walks**

*To be considered an official Ramblers walk, and covered by the liability insurance, all walks, including coach rambles, must:*

- *Be brought to the attention of the Programme Coordinator, who ideally has confidence in the Walk Leader's ability to lead the walk*
- *Be publicised as a Ramblers activity, in advance, in at least one of the following ways:*
  - *On the Group Walks Event Manager*
  - *In a printed programme*
  - *On the group/area website*
- *Have a nominated Leader, and ideally a Backmarker who (together, or separately) have ideally recce'd the walk. Both the Walk Leader and Backmarker **must** be members.*

The Ramblers Insurance Guide 2016-17 can be accessed from the Ramblers Central Office website, **provided you have logged in**, by typing 'insurance' into the search box (top right corner of screen).

(The remainder of these instructions are aimed at members who have not accessed the screens before.)

*For those who cannot log in, because they are not yet registered, click on 'login' on the top of the screen, then click on **register now** three lines from the bottom of the screen, enter your details & submit.*

Once logged in, and having entered 'insurance' in the search box, on the next screen approximately 50 entries will appear. Click on the second entry – Insurance Toolkit – click 'more'. The Insurance Toolkit screen will appear. Click on the second entry down – Insurance Guide 2016 2017 PDF **Download**

At the bottom of the screen click the open box and the Ramblers Insurance Guide will be presented.

Read through the 15 page document, preferably all sections, but noting especially what section 3 has to say.

Once read, return to the previous screen where you can select:

Insurance/Certificate 2017-2018 PDF (Summary of Insurance document)

and / or the Insurance Frequently Asked Questions, if you are interested.

**(Do not forget to Logout when leaving the Ramblers website)**

## Long Live the Extra Leisureries (XL's)

### Kath Cartlidge



*Hardy individuals from the XL group walking (!) in the Alstonefield area on the 6<sup>th</sup> March*

A walk planned by Brian ... who then went to the extreme length of being hospitalised when he looked at the projected weather forecast.

In the true spirit of rambling, I volunteered (not having the wit to research predicted weather patterns!) and consequently had a really great time with Sue and Jennie.

On our return we met more members of the group for a well-earned and most enjoyable lunch in the George.

### ***Please note***

1. The *Footprints* editor would like more articles to be submitted.
2. There have been complaints about some of the walks being far in excess of their published distances, and therefore finishing well beyond their normal finishing time. Please could walk leaders restrict their walks to the advertised distances and normally expected finishing time (within reason).
3. Our social secretary is keen to hear from any member who might be willing to provide a talk for the Friday afternoon sessions. Or, if there are any recommendations regarding suitable speakers/topics.

### **Next Edition**

Last date for copy for the next edition: **19 July 2018**; please contact:

Martin Phillips  
Tel: 01773 829180 / 07743 370968  
[footprintseditor@btinternet.com](mailto:footprintseditor@btinternet.com)

Nick Stephens  
Tel: 01629 650092  
[nick@stephensneeson.plus.com](mailto:nick@stephensneeson.plus.com)