SOAR FEET

Newsletter of the Loughborough and District Ramblers. ***Summer 2017***

Hot and Wet

It has become something of a theme in the summer edition of Soar Feet to comment on the weather. Records show that 2017 was the warmest June since the exceptional summer of 1976, with eastern counties reaching the highest temperatures. In contrast it has also been recorded as the wettest June on record in many parts of the country with Northern England, West Wales and Scotland all experiencing nearly twice the average rainfall. Heavy rainfall was also accompanied by gales at the beginning of the month.

Unfortunately wet weather during the day, and a downpour just before the start, curtailed numbers at the farm visit on the 8th June. This was a shame as Julia Hawley of Brentingby Hall Farm was interesting and informative. Recently she has organised courses for county Access Officers and it was thought provoking to hear a farmer's views on rights of way and how to approach cattle when passing through fields. The evening ended on a memorable note as we watched a barn owl hunt for food below a near full moon.

Thanks once again go to our walk leaders for all their work in providing interesting walks. Typical was Gill Coates' walk on the 6th July. This was over what was expected to be familiar territory from Woodhouse Eaves but she uncovered some interesting facts, new tales, and places most had never visited

Numbers on walks this Spring and Summer have varied from two to thirty two and it's difficult to see any pattern of attendance. Mid-week walks are generally more popular and late July seems a time when many regular walkers have other activities planned resulting in longer walks at weekends being poorly attended. Evening walks have been welcomed by some who do not have the freedom that retirement offers. If you have a preference for day of the week or possibly a suggestion for a new walk please share it with a committee member.

AGM

1.00pm. 11th November

10.00am optional 5 mile walk.
Free Buffet lunch, followed by AGM.
More details to follow.

Note change of date

Meet the Member - Margaret Machin

Margaret was our Programme Secretary for two years and still serves on the committee as a member without portfolio. If you want an issue raised Margaret is the person to talk to.

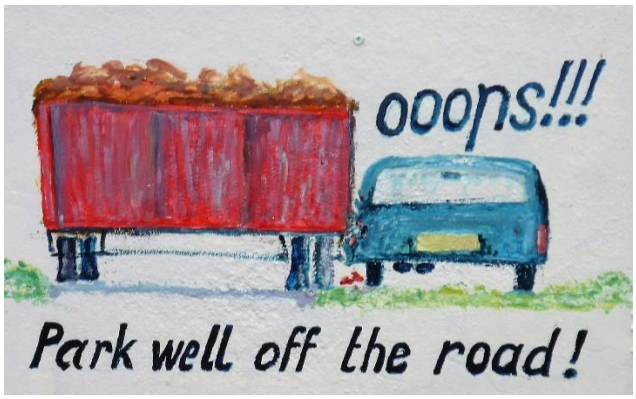


Margaret caught her interest in walking from her Dad. He was a mechanical engineer and project manager who liked walking, though family walks were relatively short until her brother was ill and could not go on the family holiday to the Peak District. The following year it was off with her dad walking in the Lake District, and Austria the year after.

Margaret was born in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, where she also went to school before moving on to Hatfield Polytechnic (now the University of Hertfordshire) for a degree in computing. A move to Loughborough followed where she studied for a post graduate certificate in primary education. However, she decided teaching was not for her and instead got a job at Nottingham Trent University in the department providing computing facilities helping students and staff.

Cont.

In addition to Loughborough Ramblers Margaret belongs to the Christian Walking Club and enjoys going away with them for weekends and longer holidays, mostly in the UK but occasionally abroad. Recently she enjoyed a week with them on Mull. In addition to Walking Margaret enjoys boating on canals and helps with the Peter Le Marchant Trust local charity. This interest led to a canal boat holiday with friends in the Spring with another exploring the Warwickshire ring planned for September. She considers herself lucky to sometimes have the opportunity to travel further afield with Malawi being her most recent adventure. An interest in wildlife has led to attendance at RSPB and Wildlife Trust meetings. Her favourite walking area is probably the Lake District and she manages to get there at least once a year, often with the Christian Walking Group at New Year.



A hand painted sign seen on a country lane at Kettleness, North Yorkshire which could well apply to some of our meeting points.

Congratulations



Peter and Joanna Richart on their wedding in Adršpach in the Czech Republic on the 28th May



2018 Holiday. Brecon Beacons National Park, South Wales

Friday 4th May to Monday 7th May 2018.

In 2018 Loughborough and District Ramblers are organising a holiday to the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Accommodation En suite rooms in HF Holidays' Nythfa Country House, located on the edge of the market town of Brecon. Spacious public rooms, attractive gardens and indoor swimming pool make it a popular and relaxing place to stay. If you do not want to spend all your time walking then there is a putting green, croquet lawn, and mini-golf and free Wi-Fi is also available. Plus of course fabulous food for which HF are famous. Single rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis and as there are a limited number please consider sharing.



Walking ? The Brecon Beacons National Park offers contrasting landscapes, from the high moors and glacial lakes of the wild Black Mountains to the rushing streams and tumbling cascades of Fforest Fawr Geopark and the flat-topped hills of the Beacons. On both the Saturday and Sunday of the holiday weekend there will be the choice of a long or short walk. In addition, for those who wish, there will be the opportunity to explore the immediate surroundings on both Friday afternoon and before returning home on Monday.

When ? Friday 4th May to Monday 7th May 2018.

Transport ? Car sharing will be encouraged.

Cost ? Three nights including bed, breakfast, three course evening meal, and packed lunch.
£249 per person. (Plus a share of fuel costs)

Booking ? To secure your place book before 11th August 2017 enclosing a £75 **non-returnable** deposit.

Further Questions ? contact Sue Mears. E-mail: susanmears16@gmail.com
Tel: 01509 231350 Mob: 07545 395817

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Please return by Friday 11th August 2017

To: Mrs Susan Mears, 7 Westmorland Avenue, Loughborough, Leics., LE11 3RY

Name/s: _____

Email address: _____

Please reserve _____ places for me on the Loughborough Holiday. £75 / person **nonreturnable** deposit.

Rooms. _____ Double Room _____ Twin Room

_____ Double Room, single occupancy (£60 supplement)

_____ Standard Single _____ Premium Single (£30 supplement)

I am willing to share (Large Twin Room) Yes / No

The Three Peaks

John Samson reports on the 2017 holiday in the Yorkshire Dales

In 1974, Whernside became the highest point in Yorkshire (736 m), as we learnt in the Yorkshire-themed quiz at our HF Malhamdale accommodation. Durham took Mickle Fell from Yorkshire in that year and it remains a sore point. The Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge predates this. It entails completing the 40km circuit of Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough in 12 hours (although those seeking more of a challenge should note the record is well under 3 hours). We choose a more sedate challenge: summit the three peaks in two days, not necessarily in a connected loop, and win the inevitable HF quiz (not the Yorkshire-themed one).

Arriving after lunch on Friday a warm-up took us past waterfalls and onto slippery limestone pavements, before finishing at Malham Cove where we watched climbers and a peregrine falcon. Saturday saw our (at times hands-on) ascent of Pen-y-ghent, coming down to the deep chasm of Hull Pot. Whernside and Ingleborough were left for Sunday: the rain at the famous Ribblehead Viaduct soon stopped, and those who completed both (or just one) were rewarded with fine views and plenty of exercise. Thanks to Sue Mears, Sue Bicknell and Dave Twigg for leading the walks, and to Sue M for her hard work in organising the weekend, making sure that everything fitted smoothly and that everyone got to where they needed to be when they needed to be there.



Descent from Whernside

Area Quiz

(Organised by Loughborough Ramblers)

Friday October 20th, 7.00pm

The Linford, Newtown Linford, LE6 0AD

Why not join one of our teams ? contact:
John Samson. **Tel: 07740306497**
E-mail: J.H.Samson@lboro.ac.uk

www.loughboroughramblers.org.uk

Coming soon Loughborough Ramblers' redesigned web site.

