

LWR NEWS & VIEWS

Editor – publicity@lowerwharfedaleramblers.co.uk

"These boots are made for walkin'

And that's just what they'll do

Are you ready boots? Start walkin' "

Lee Hazlewood (US songwriter)

ONCE A YEAR DAY - ONCE AGAIN



Whenever I talk to fellow Ramblers in other groups, the one thing they all envy, is our hierarchical structure. Many groups in the West Riding struggle to mount one walk a week. As a result, the weekly walk always has to target the middle ground, effectively excluding those who want a shorter, longer or more strenuous walk.

With our A+ to D structure, LWR have a walk for everybody. It means members who once coped easily with a 14 mile trek, can drop down through the groups as age, health, knees, energy or family commitments, make their demands. Equally members recovering from surgery or illness can start their recuperation on the shorter walks in the company of friends.

However the danger with so many groups is that it is very easy to forget that we all actually belong to the same group – Lower Wharfedale Ramblers.

ONCEAYEARDAY is our opportunity to gather together as one and celebrate being part of LWR. It's a great opportunity to catch up with old walking friends, now in different groups, and new ones in your current group.

With around 400 members, we have many who for a variety of reasons no longer walk. We value their support and want to stress ONCEAYEARDAY is not just for walkers, it is for all our members. We have deliberately selected a venue with plenty of seating, where it is easy to park outside the door and very accessible for public transport. You're very welcome and who knows who you may bump into again ?

If your memory has dimmed, Chris Bower's, ever popular, amazing collection of photos, covering 25 years of LWR walks, will take you back.

The venue is once again 'Outside the Box 'on Tuesday 20th May. LWR have exclusive use of the 'Box' from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Many of you will be familiar with venue. It has stone floors for muddy boots, plenty of storage space and ample toilets.

The price is £7 per head, which covers tea/coffee and cake. We have deliberately tried to keep the price comparable to that you would pay in a reasonable café after a walk. The ' Box ' is a registered charity dedicated to enabling adults and young people with learning difficulties and other support needs to achieve and have greater independence in their lives. All your payments will go to the charity and for this reason we will not offer refunds, once members have booked.

You can sign up as follows:-

PAYMENT BY ONLINE TRANSFER (OUR PREFERRED METHOD)

SELF	Send £7 to LWR account
GUESTS/PARTNERS/FRIENDS	Add £7 per head. Please email our treasurer with the names of the people involved. mikerogers2308@googlemail.com
ACCOUNT NAME	The Ramblers Association (WR10)
SORT CODE	60.83.01
ACCOUNT NUMBER	20441377
BANK	Unity Trust Bank
VERY IMPORTANT	You must include (WR10) in account name

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO	The Ramblers Association (WR10)
PUT	Your name and all the people covered by your cheque on reverse side. NB £7 per head
SEND CHEQUE TO	Mike Rogers 8 Park Gate Knaresborough HG5 9DR

ONE IMPORTANT LAST THING

Please let Amanda know you have signed up and if you or any of your group have any food allergies.

amandasiswick@gmail.com

OTLEY WALKING FESTIVAL 2025 (Saturday 28 June – Sunday 6th July)

The Otley Walking Festival has been rated by the 'Guardian' Newspaper as one of the best ten walking festivals in the UK. The great news for us is that the OWF is right on our doorstep. All walks are free (excluding transport costs in some cases) and all commence in and around Otley.

Most of the walks are simply scenic walks of varying distances. However there are many walks that cater to specific interests from Witches to Railways. Whatever your interest, with around 50 walks, there is something for everybody and below is a selection of what's on offer this year.

INTEREST	WALKS	DATES
BIRDS	Birdsong	June 17
	Early Birds in the Wetlands	June 30
	A Swift Walk	June 30
PUBS	Five Pubs Walk	June 28
	Four More Pubs	July 5th
RAILWAYS	The Old Railway Track	June 29
	Bramhope Tunnel	July 3rd
GARDENING	Allotments Walk	June 30
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY	Kirkstall Forge	July 1st
WITCHES	Timble Man & Timble Witches	July 1st
HISTORY	Chevin Forest Park	July 2nd
ART	Leeds Street Art & Food Trail	July 4th
POETRY	Poetry in the Wetlands	July 4th
RELIGION	Bradford Faith Trail	July 5th

All walks are insured by Ramblers Insurance and Ramblers guidelines are used on all walks (e.g. Walk Leaders, H&S, and First Aid etc.)

Full details can be found on the Otley Walking Festival 2025 website or in the free brochure which can be found in most local libraries and sports centers.

IN MEMORIAM



Brian Armitage
Picture taken on a C Group walk on Ilkley Moor

We remember Brian as a kind, thoughtful gentleman, always willing to engage in conversations on walks, on all manner of topics. We would meet at the Old Bridge and he was always willing to give lifts, being very proud of his hybrid car, praising its environmental and pecuniary benefits. A great music lover, a lasting image of him is of one sunny day in early autumn, on Ilkley Moor, walking amongst the purple heather. Enchanted by the weather and the spectacular views, he and fellow walker, Pauline, burst into song. Thankfully the moment was captured in the accompanying picture.

Chrissy White, C Group



Colin North
Picture taken at Grange in Borrowdale in 2023.
Colin and Hazel were introduced to Grange on a LWR holiday.

Colin was a member of LWR for 20 years. He had always walked on holidays but until he retired his spare time, at home, was filled with supporting his beloved Halifax Town FC or working his allotment. On retiring, he was encouraged by 3 friends to join them on LWR walks.

There was only one group at that time but eventually Colin and his friends became loyal members of the A group. He stayed there for many years, eventually drifting to the B's and C's as he got older.

Sadly due to problems, including pharyngeal cancer, Colin was tube fed from early 2020. He continued to walk with the C's for 3 years. Both Colin and I were very thankful for the support of our friends in LWR, always supporting Colin to enable him to lead a normal life.

Unfortunately in 2023, Colin required treatment for unrelated skin cancer. During tests, it was discovered that the pharyngeal cancer had returned and he died in September 2024.

Despite his problems and with the help of his many friends (many from LWR) his happy until the last few weeks.

Hazel North (Colin's wife and C group member)

STEVE GETS STUCK IN TO NEW ROLE



Getting to grips with his new role as Area Chair, Steve Rawlings has been out and about meeting as many people as he can to gather their views and ideas about the future direction of the West Riding Area. Already he has met, either face to face, or via Zoom Keith Wadd (former WR President), Mike Church (former WR Chair), plus the Chairs of Leeds, Craven, North Kirklees and Wetherby Groups

On Saturday 15th February, Steve joined Leeds Ramblers on a 9 mile walk around the Swinsty and Lindley Woods area of the Washburn Valley where he had the opportunity to chat with many walkers and committee members. Steve is the man in red with a lady in red next to him. Immediately behind her is Aileen Busssoa, Chair of Leeds Ramblers and, on her right, Helen Wood, a Leeds committee member. Huddersfield Ramblers is next on the list.

Your views matter and you can send them to Steve at – chair@ramblersyorks