



Rochdale Branch Newsletter No 195

August 2026

Welcome to the August newsletter, we really can't complain about the weather in July, although I heard that that a strange event happened during Jim Hargreaves walk last Saturday, when something called "rain" descended from the heaven's, helping to remind the people on the walk what normal conditions are like on top of the Pennines. I for one was very grateful for what rain fell on the garden, giving me a couple of days off hosepipe duties. Watching the shocking news on TV showing the wildfires on the continent, they desperately need some prolonged rainfall to help to assist in getting the wildfires under control, lets see what August brings, fingers crossed.

SOCIAL SECRETARY ROLE (Update)

As most members will be aware, Gill Hollas has held the role of Social Secretary for the past 4 years and has done a brilliant job!

Gill indicated that she would step down at Christmas after organising the Ulverston coach trip, the Potato Pie walk and the Christmas Meal at The White House.

Six members said they were happy to be involved in arranging social activities going forward - Jane Short, Anne Ballantyne, Mike Beaman, Nicola Almond, Katia Chadwick and Amanda Thorp. This group will be known as the Social Group and are meeting for the first time at the end of July. Jane will coordinate the group and keep the committee informed of activities etc. If anyone has any suggestions for events or activities then please let any of the Social Group know.

We are aware that a number of members are in bands, choirs, theatre groups etc. If this is you and there are events which we could promote to Rambler's members then please email Jane on jane.short@icloud.com with details.

TALK ABOUT CHEESDEN VALLEY

The South Pennine Archaeology Group have a talk on Wednesday 5th August at 7.30 pm which may be of interest. Details below.

"Forgotten Mills, Living Waters: Cheesden Valley's Past and Present Intertwined"
A Talk by Adrian Cornforth

Description: Focusing on the upper section of the valley where most visible archaeology can be seen and interesting but much less obvious features related to Cheesden and the Ashworth /Greenbooth reservoirs.

Location: Ashday Lea Masonic Hall, Rawtenstall BB4 6QX

Cost: £5 members £6 non-members

Refreshments: Tea, coffee and biscuits included

I am a member and go to many talks. The quality of speaker varies but most of the talks are interesting!

Amanda Thorp

MORECAMBE BAY WALK (Update)

The cost of the coach has been reduced to £18 per person. The money could be refunded but it has been suggested that the £2 overpayment is donated to the RNLI. If anyone is not in agreement, please contact Margaret for a refund.

We had thought that some members would like to use the Morecambe Bay walk as a sponsored walk-in support of the RNLI.

If you wish to do this you can consider the following:

1. Sponsorship forms can be obtained from the RNLI website. Money can be collected and sent to them individually.
2. You can collect money using the above (or informally) and hand it to Margaret Haygarth on the coach.
3. Just donate a sum yourself.
4. None of the above!!

Sponsorship forms enable the use of Gift Aid if people are tax payers and should be considered for serious sums.

Dove Stone Reservoir RSPB Request

You've probably heard about the devastating fire at RPSB Dove Stone near Oldham. The new RSPB Manchester local group volunteers are doing a relay walking round the 200-mile Greater Manchester Ringway path to raise money for restoration work - we thought that you and your members may be interested in participating in a stage (or more!) or making a donation.

We'd be hugely appreciative of any help you can give - all links and further info can be found here – <https://group.rspb.org.uk/manchester/news-blogs/blog/help-us-help-dove-stone-reservoir/>

Many thanks,
Joe - Local Group Main Contact

Email
rspbmanchester@gmail.com

Edale Walking Challenge for Maggie's

My name is Ella and I am part of the fundraising team at Maggie's. We support people with cancer and the people who love them, to access free professional services with our expert team of Cancer Support Specialists, Benefits Advisor and Psychologists.

On the 12th of September, we are taking on the Edale Skyline Challenge to raise money for Maggie's. The walk is located in the picturesque village of Hope and has two options of distance- 10 miles and a more strenuous 20 miles. The challenge commences at 7am with tickets sitting between £40 and £50. Further details are available at:

<https://www.maggies.org/get-involved/events/edale-skyline-challenge/>

The aim of our event is to take on a scenic challenge all whilst fundraising for Maggie's to help us support people living with cancer and their loved ones.

With your group promoting health and exercise, we hope this challenge will be a good fit. We know from last year that this event will be a rewarding adventure, commemorated with a Maggie's Medal.

This year, Maggie's is celebrating 30 years of providing free, life changing cancer support. We would love you to be a part of our celebrations.

If you would like any additional information about our event or our centres, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Ella Brownbill-Meehan

Local Historian Greg Egan

Greg produces short informative videos on Facebook, covering the history of Rochdale and the surrounding areas, having a look at these short video's give more information on places like Healey Dell and the Turner Brothers Asbestos factory. David Butterworth is very knowledgeable with regard to these sites and always passes his knowledge on when leading a walk, these video's will give you some additional information if you are interested in knowing more.

Healey Dell video:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19f3bNmkFT/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Turner Brothers Factory video:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/199Gpj1B8x/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Our "Summer Evening Strolls" are proving very popular, not sure if it's the time of day that's the attraction, or the lure of a well-earned drink at the end of the walk !!, we have four walks planned during August, and they are listed below, and in the August walks listings on the following pages

SUMMER EVENING STROLLS 2026

4 August	Bernadette Taylor	Meet outside The Bull's Head, Ogden Lane, Milnrow, OL16 3TE
11 August	David & Maureen Butterworth	The Donkey, 21 Syke Road Rochdale, OL12 9TB
18 August	Amanda Thorp	Helmshore Textile Mills Museum, Holcombe Road, Helmshore, BB4 4NP
25 August	Katia Chadwick	Meet car park The Pack Horse Inn, Birtle Rd, Heywood, BL9 6TY

Rochdale Ramblers August Walks

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

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

Tandle Hill Sunday, 2nd August

This is a moderate walk at a brisk pace around the scenic area of Tandle Hill.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: Car park, Tandle Hill Country Park, Tandle Hill Road, Oldham, OL2 5UY

Grid Ref: SD906087

Postcode: Location is 305 metres to the West SouthWest of OL2 5UY

[What3Words: ///smart.ideas.oven](http://www.smart.ideas.oven)

Distance: 7.8mi / 12.6km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Name: Jon Hallett

Ogden Saunter (Summer Evening Stroll) Tuesday, 4th August

This is the fifth in a series of Summer Evening Strolls on Tuesdays in July and August. We will enjoy a scenic walk in the Ogden area and those who wish can enjoy the facilities of The Bull's Head afterwards.

Circular Walk

Start time 6:30pm

Estimated finish time 8:30pm

Start place: The Bull's Head, Ogden Lane, Milnrow, OL16 3TD

Grid Ref: SD951120

Postcode: Location is 134 metres to the West NorthWest of OL16 3TE

[What3Words: ///rejected.blizzard.cyclones](#)

Distance: 5mi / 8km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Name: Bernadette Taylor

Castleton Leisurely Thursday, 6th August

This is a leisurely walk from Castleton heading towards the outskirts of Tandle Hill Park. Canal path start and finish sections, some farm fields with stiles.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: On road parking at the far end of Gorrells Way, Trans Pennine Trading Estate, OL11 2PA

Grid Ref: SD885110

Postcode: Location is 199 metres to the North West of OL11 2PA

[What3Words: ///varieties.remedy.ears](#)

Distance: 5.5mi / 8.9km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Name: Stuart Smithies

Turton Bottoms from Holcombe Saturday, 8th August

This is a varied walk, mostly farm-land starting near Peel Tower heading to Turton Bottoms and back (circular route). There are some short steep sections.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 3pm

Start place: Car park on Lumb Carr Road(B6214), BL8 4NN

Grid Ref: SD781162

Postcode: Location is 132 metres to the North of BL8 4NN

[What3Words: ///direction.majors.vitamins](#)

Distance: 8.8mi / 14.2km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Name: Stuart Smithies

Syke Summer Evening Stroll Tuesday, 11th August

This is the sixth in a series of Summer Evening strolls during July and August. We will have a lovely walk in the scenic area of Syke and those who wish can then enjoy the facilities of The Donkey public house.

Circular Walk

Start time 6:30pm

Estimated finish time 8:30pm

Start place: The Donkey, 21 Syke Road, Rochdale, OL12 9TB

Grid Ref: SD902148

Postcode: OL12 9TB

[What3Words: ///plants.answer.crab](#)

Distance: 5mi / 8km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Name: David and Maureen Butterworth

Even Better with Ice Cream at the End Thursday, 13th August

This is a very scenic walk with the bonus of an optional stop at Holden's Ice Cream Shop at the end of the walk.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:30pm

Start place: Car park, Barlow Institute, 216 Bolton Road, Turton, BL7 0AP

Grid Ref: SD741166

Postcode: BL7 0AP

[What3Words: ///counters.overlaid.satin](#)

Distance: 7mi / 11.3km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Name: Margaret Haygarth

The Tacklers Trail Sunday, 16th August

This walk combines woodlands, moorland and spectacular views to make the trail well worth the effort. There are a couple of short steep slopes and some rough moorland paths. This walk will be at a brisk pace.

Additional Notes:

The walk will start promptly at 10am so please allow plenty of time to find the start point and meet up with the group.

Circular Walk

Estimated finish time 3pm

Start place: Sunnyhurst Woods Car Park, Sunnyhurst Street, Darwen, BB3 1JX. It's a free but small car park but there is also street parking nearby.

Grid Ref: SD679223

Postcode: BB3 1JX

[What3Words: ///owls.remit.grin](#)

Distance: 10mi / 16.1km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Name: Andy & Denise

Helmshore Summer Evening Stroll Tuesday, 18th August

This is one of a series of Summer Evening Strolls on Tuesdays in July and August. We will enjoy a walk around Helmshore and Irwell Vale and then those who wish can take advantage of the facilities at The Loom Bar or The Robin Hood.

Circular Walk

Start time 6:30pm

Estimated finish time 8:30pm

Start place: Helmshore Textile Mills Museum, Holcombe Road, Helmshore, BB4 4NP

Grid Ref: SD778214

Postcode: BB4 4NP

[What3Words: ///chess.sleeper.kinds](#)

Distance: 4.5mi / 7.2km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Name: Amanda Thorp

A Tottington Meander Thursday, 20th August

This is a pleasant and leisurely walk from Greenmount along the old railway lines and into Tottington village for a lunch stop in Whitehead Gardens. We then walk up to Holly Mount before returning to Greenmount. There are 3 stiles and a shortish steepish field (which we will take slowly) but overall, the paths are good.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: Roadside parking on Brandlesholme Road, Greenmount, BL8 4DN near the cricket club and near the junction with Vernon Road.

Grid Ref: SD779141

Postcode: BL8 4DN

[What3Words: ///gears.those.coast](#)

Distance: 5.1mi / 8.2km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Name: Amanda Thorp

Down to the Woods (Annual Memorial Walk) Saturday, 22nd August

We start the walk by remembering those members who have died in the last year. After this we follow the river Spod through the naturalised area of the abandoned asbestos works.

Following common land, we eventually reach Syke Woods, now a local beauty spot. We return to the start by way of the old railway line.

After the walk members are cordially invited for refreshments at 52 Fallowfield Drive.

Circular Walk

Start time 1pm

Estimated finish time 3:30pm

Start place: On-road parking in Dell Road, Shawclough, OL12 6BG

Grid Ref: SD879154 Postcode: Location is 219 metres to the South of OL12 6BG

[What3Words: ///person.rests.slice](#)

Distance: 5mi / 8km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Name: Gill Hollas

Summer Evening Stroll Birtle Reprise Tuesday, 25th August

This is one of a series of Summer Evening Strolls on Tuesdays during July and August. We will enjoy a walk in the scenic Birtle area and those who wish can then enjoy the facilities of The Pack Horse.

Circular Walk

Start time 6:30pm

Estimated finish time 8:30pm

Start place: The Pack Horse Inn, Birtle Road, Heywood, BL9 6TY

Grid Ref: SD835124

Postcode: BL9 6TY

[What3Words: ///files.slows.will](#)

Distance: 5mi / 8km

National Grade: Leisurely



Contact Details: Name: Katia Chadwick

Cribden and Swinshaw Moor Thursday, 27th August

An exploration of the Limy valley with a fine moorland section over Swinshaw Moor.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 3:15pm

Start place: Marl Pits Leisure Centre car park, Newchurch Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 7SJ.

Grid Ref: SD819230

Postcode: BB4 7SJ

[What3Words: ///report.wished.sits](http://report.wished.sits)

Distance: 7.5mi / 12.1km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Name: Jim Hargreaves

Up to Dog Hill Sunday, 30th August

This is a scenic and varied walk including inclines and moorland walking.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 3:15pm

Start place: Meet in the layby on the A58 (Halifax Road) above the White House pub opposite Turvin Road (Cragg Vale turn).

Grid Ref: SD974180

Postcode: Location is 687 metres to the East NorthEast of OL15 0LG

[What3Words: ///bravery.birthdays.shredder](http://bravery.birthdays.shredder)

Distance: 9.5mi / 15.3km

National Grade: Moderate



Contact Details: Name: Mick Chatham

Who Knew? Oxygen is Discovered!



Illustration of Priestley's discovery of oxygen, by Henry Granger

English chemist [Joseph Priestley](#) made his most famous discovery, during an experiment at Boxwood House in England on the 1st of August 1774. Using a 12-inch-wide glass "burning lens" he aimed it at a lump of mercuric oxide placed in an upside-down glass container in a pool of mercury. The gas his experiment emitted he announced five or six times as good as common air."

Priestley called this air "dephlogisticated air" and his findings enabled French chemist Antoine Lavoisier to discover its role in combustion and name it oxygen in 1778.