



Rochdale Branch Newsletter No 196

September 2026

Dear Rochdale Rambler welcome to the September newsletter, August is behind us now and we enjoyed some excellent Tuesday evening strolls during both July and August, as well as a coach trip to Morecambe Bay enjoyed by many members. This month we have the Ulverston coach trip on the 5th of September (more info below) Amanda is going to do a piece about the Tuesday evening strolls in the October newsletter as I will be away on holiday.

If you have free time next week then you may enjoy a day out in Caernarfon - a coach trip very well organised by Maureen Lindsay from Oldham Wednesday Walkers (who very kindly organised our Morecambe Bay walk outing on Sunday). Full information is below. If you are interested then please get in touch with Maureen.

WEDNESDAY WALKS DAY TRIP TO CAERNARFON

There is a Wednesday Walker's Day out trip to Caernarfon on Wednesday 2 September 2026. I have 12 free spaces on Coach 1 which incorporates a 1.25 hour guided tour of Caernarfon and a 2.25-hour beautiful steam train tour from Caernarfon to Porthmadog.

I also have 16 spaces on Coach 2 where people could walk with Alan Dufton on an approx. 7 mile walk through the beautiful Welsh countryside. If you are back in time, you could join a 1-hour boat trip from Caernarfon harbour.

I would like you all to consider joining us to help me with my costings because I have had quite a lot of cancellations. There is a lot of work preparing these trips and I do like to keep my costings to you all to a minimum.

Please consider joining the day out and also consider bringing your friends, family with you. If you would like to join us, please telephone me or e-mail me ASAP.

Maureen Lindsay

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ULVERSTON COACH TRIP WALK

There are a couple of places available on the coach trip to Ulverston on Sunday 5 September. If you wish to go then please let Gill Hollas or Margaret Haygarth know. Three walks are available as follows:

LONGER WALK (led by Andy and Denise Holmes)

The longer walk is 10.5 Miles and starts from Ulverston Station. There is then a bit of urban before we reach "The Outcast Rope Walk; from where we head to Ulverston canal and then down to the coast.

We then go to The Kadampa Temple where we will spend around 20/30 minutes, allowing time for lunch and a look around. Then it's back to the coastal path before we have a short steady incline up to The Birkrigg Trig Point which offers fabulous views all around.

We then take a number of well-defined paths back to Ulverston, when people can have a look around.

There are very few obstacles of any type, the climb is a gradual incline to the trig point, pace will be moderate with a good few stops to take in the scenery. I am sure that most people would enjoy this walk!

MEDIUM WALK (led by Jon Hallett and Amanda Thorp)

The medium walk is about 8 miles and starts from Ulverston Station.

We walk out of the town towards the Ulverston canal and then down to the coast, where we will have a short snack /drink break and (weather dependent) admire the view.

We then go to along the coast and turn up through some woods to The Kadampa Temple where we will spend around 20/30 minutes, allowing time for lunch and a look around.

After lunch we take mostly well-defined paths, including the Outcast rope walk, back to Ulverston, where people can have a look around.

There are very few obstacles of any type, though we do have to get up onto a little footbridge, and there's very little ascent, pace will be quite relaxed.

SHORTER WALK (led by David and Maureen Butterworth)

The 5/5.5 mile walk this year is a little different from past walks.

It will include: -

A canal side walk down to the beach, which we follow, admiring the grand views.

A visit to a Buddhist Temple, with time to visit the Temple, pop into the café and have a toilet break.

We return to Ulverston through woods and fields and a short walk back up the canal.

There are no significant inclines and only 2 or 3 stiles.

The pace will be relaxed with plenty of time to enjoy the views of Morecambe Bay.

Below are some photos from the longer walk being led by Andy and Denise Holmes







September Walks Programme

Please Note the two items below:

- a) Please note that dogs (other than assistance dogs) are not allowed on our walks.
- b) Start time is when the walk commences. Please arrive earlier to ensure you are ready for the start

Thursday, 3rd September Haslingden Grane

This is a leisurely walk in the very scenic Grane area of Haslingden. There are some uphill stretches at the start but we will take these very slowly and be rewarded with superb views of the reservoirs and surrounding countryside. There are 3-4 stiles and a very boggy patch.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: Helmshore Mills Textile Museum car park, Holcombe Road, Helmshore, BB4 4NS (free car park and cafe/toilets at the end)

Grid Ref: SD778214

Postcode: BB4 4NS

[What3Words: ///inversely.insolvent.such](#)

Distance: 5mi / 8km



National Grade: Leisurely

Contact Details: Alison Lythgoe

Saturday, 5th September Coach Trip to Ulverston

We are leaving Dixons Funeral Service, 2 Manchester Rd, Rochdale OL11 4HY at 8 am and return is between 6.30 - 7 pm. The cost is £22.50.

There will be a choice of 3 walks - distances approx. 5, 7.5 and 10 miles.

Please contact Gill Hollas to book a place and give payment to Margaret Haygarth in cash or pay by bank transfer. Bank transfer details available from Margaret or Amanda and have been emailed to all members.

Additional Notes:

Pre-booking and pre-payment are necessary for this coach walk.

Circular Walk

Start time 8am

Estimated finish time 7pm

Start place: Roadside parking outside Dixons Funeral Service, 2 Manchester Rd, Rochdale, OL11 4HY

Time: 8am

Grid Ref: SD892130

Postcode: OL11 4HY

[What3Words: ///went.thinks.wedge](#)

Distance: 7mi / 11.3km



National Grade: Moderate

Contact Details: Gill Hollas

Thursday, 10th September The Halo via Crawshawbooth

This walk has two significant long inclines as we are going up two sides of the Rossendale Valley, however the views are great and we visit The Halo panopticon as well as passing the historic Friends Meeting House in Crawshawbooth.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 3pm

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

Grid Ref: SD819230

Postcode: BB4 7SJ

[What3Words: ///rust.golf.reply](#)

Distance: 7.5mi / 12.1km



National Grade: Moderate

Contact Details: Amanda Thorp

Saturday, 12th September Piethorne - A wander around the Reservoirs

This is a very pleasant walk in the scenic area of Piethorne. An added bonus - we pass a really nice pub at the end of the walk if anyone fancies a drink!

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: Ogden Reservoir car park, Ogden Lane, Milnrow, OL16 3TQ

Grid Ref: SD953123

Postcode: OL16 3TQ

[What3Words: ///hoping.desktop.crucially](#)

Distance: 5.5mi / 8.9km



National Grade: Leisurely

Contact Details: Bernadette Taylor

Sunday, 13th September A Carrbrook Circuit

This is a 10.5 mile walk which will be at a brisk pace so is at the moderate end of strenuous!! The walk takes in the area of Carrbrook which is a village east of Stalybridge, in Greater Manchester. The area still has many seventeenth and eighteenth-century buildings and much of the late-nineteenth and the early-twentieth-century village was built during the industrial boom brought by the printworks. The view to the east of Carrbrook is dominated by the steep-sided Buckton Hill, on the summit of which is located Buckton Castle.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 3pm

Start place: Castle Clough Car Park, Carr Rise, Carrbrook, SK15 3NY

Grid Ref: SD988010

Postcode: SK15 3NY

[What3Words: ///crossings.trample.skidding](#)

Distance: 10.5mi / 16.9km



National Grade: Strenuous

Contact Details: Andy & Denise

Thursday, 17th September Grotton and Around the Pike

There is a short climb out of Grotton with a gradual incline to below the pike. Then a walk across fields to Knott Hill nature reserve, before looping back and climbing up to Mosley cross and finally back into Grotton. Some stiles with good views on both sides of Hartshead Pike.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:15pm

Start place: Car Park at the bottom of Station Road, Grotton, OL4 5QS

Grid Ref: SD964043

Postcode: OL4 5QS

[What3Words: ///levels.shapes.petal](#)

Distance: 5.5mi / 8.9km



National Grade: Leisurely

Contact Details: Craig Hodgkinson

Saturday, 19th September Chorley Three Peaks

This is a really interesting and varied walk taking in three hills - Great Hill, Winter Hill and Rivington Pike and a bonus of the Two Lads cairns on Crooked Edge Hill, an outlying summit on Winter Hill.

The walk includes farmland, woodland, and open moorland and, obviously, three specific ascents. The Winter Hill ascent is quite steep and can be a bit of a scramble underfoot in places.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 4:30pm

Start place: Lower House Car Park, Belmont Road, Rivington, BL6 7SD (Recommended to use What3Words for this location)

Grid Ref: SD637148

Postcode: Location is 864 metres to the East SouthEast of BL6 7SD

[What3Words: ///trick.wound.landscape](#)

Distance: 12.3mi / 19.8km



National Grade: Strenuous

Ascent: 1969 ft/600 m

Contact Details: Jon Hallett

Thursday, 24th September A Wander from Watergrove

A 7 mile walk from the car park at Watergrove, down to the Rochdale canal, through Littleborough and then up to the Pennine Bridleway for the walk back to Watergrove.

Additional Notes:

There are two stiles right at the start of the route - but none after that. If there has been rainfall it will be muddy in the fields but most of the walk is on good quality tracks, paths and some tarmac.

Circular Walk

Start time 11am

Estimated finish time 2:30pm

Start place: Meet in Watergrove Reservoir car park, Ramsden Road, Wardle Grid Ref:

SD911176 Postcode: Location is 383 metres to the North of OL12 9NH What3Words:

[///loved.solar.chase](#)

Grid Ref: SD911176

Postcode: Location is 386 metres to the North Northwest of OL12 9NH

[What3Words: ///loved.solar.chase](#)

Distance: 7mi / 11.2km



National Grade: Moderate

Ascent: 679 ft/207 m

Contact Details: John Blackburn

Sunday, 27th September Witton Country Park and Pleasington

This is a varied walk taking in Witton Country Park which is a mixture of woodland, parkland, farmland and rough grassland with open access. It is mainly on good paths with no significant inclines.

Circular Walk

Start time 10am

Estimated finish time 3:15pm

Start place: Pleasington Playing Fields Car Park, 0.2 miles from the start of Tower Road, Blackburn BB2 5LE

Grid Ref: SD655267

Postcode: Location is 231 metres to the West NorthWest of BB2 5GX

[What3Words: ///assure.modern.tend](http://www.what3words.com/assure.modern.tend)

Distance: 9mi / 14.5km



National Grade: Moderate

Contact Details: Chris Shore

Start of World War II

Front page of the NY Times for September 1, 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland



Curtesy of the "On this day" web site

Frank Langman - Editor