

# Activity

The newsletter for the  
Walking and Cycling Section  
of the Camping and Caravanning Club



Sun setting over Bosham harbour at low tide



Issue 119  
Summer 2020



## TrevMasters' Voice, June 2020

At the time of writing, the first relaxation of lockdown has just been announced; a step very much welcomed by many, but one equally feared by others who see this as a political step taken for various devious and dubious reasons and one that risks a further onset of Covid.

As a Section we are, of course, dependent upon the Club's authorisation before we can resume meets. Personally, I believe the Club has been very switched on throughout this crisis. Deb and I were among those fortunate enough to have experienced a meet; the Wessex one at the Club's Hereford site. Cautionary steps were already very much in place and within days of our departure the Club ordered the closure of all sites and the abandonment of all meets.

So far we know of only one member of our Section to have been taken ill with the virus; Maureen Wood, our founder's wife and mother of Andrew, our President. As Andrew reports "she has had, but has beaten the virus – at 90 years of age! MAS/W&CS members are a tough breed!" Maureen is now in a care home and continuing to improve. We wish her well.

Like all of us we are very much missing our meets. Almost as if to rub it in, we keep our motorhome on our front drive. And it sits there, a constant static reminder that we're not going anywhere in it! On the other hand, unlike many millions, especially those living in flats, we have a garden that offers a constant source of pleasure. A multitude of flowers, shrubs and trees, all attracting birds, insects and other forms of wildlife! Bees and other pollinating insects may be increasingly endangered as species but they have found veritable havens in gardens such as ours.

One particular source of fascination has been a pair of blue-tits furiously feeding their chicks in the box hanging from our garage wall. I have just removed the box, unscrewed the roof and discovered a beautifully kept nest inside; all chicks having successfully fledged! A few years back Deb had actually been able to watch them all emerging.

Another reason we see ourselves as very lucky is that we live about a third of the way up Portsdown Hill. From the house we have views to the south across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. 10 – 15 mins walking uphill to the north takes us to the summit from which, to the north, we have views across to the South Downs, whilst behind us even more panoramic views to the Island.

As for keeping ourselves occupied Deb has been extremely busy making quilts. We now have two quilts made entirely of beautiful New Zealand fabrics which we can use when we eventually get out in the van. One of my main hobbies is playing music and a viola is not the most interesting of instruments to play on its own. However, with the recent easing of lockdown rules two friends, one a violinist and the other a cellist, have now joined me in our garden to play/murder an early Beethoven trio. Next week a second violinist and another cellist will also be here to play Schubert's sublime string quintet.

Like you all, we're finding it hard to wait to get out again in the van. But it does look as if we're still going to have to wait a bit longer and I'm sure all W&CS members are far too responsible to disregard the rules. None of us, I'm sure, are likely to indulge in such antisocial comings and goings!!

Regards to all,

Trev Masters.

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Hilary Bruce-Burgess tells me “Lockdown is passing quickly with the help of our rescue Chorkie, Reggie. He has kept us fit with regular walks and helps in the garden chasing squirrels away from the bird feeders. The motorhome had its first outing since the meet at Hereford in March. A photo of Mike and Reggie at Calshot on 3rd June before the weather changed. We are looking forward to meeting up with everyone soon.”

*Hilary and Mike EB*



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**Does your dog get you into trouble?**

Our neighbour has just got a puppy, and reminded me of the time when we had a dog, and how she sometimes got me into trouble. Amey, being a Great Dane, was a bit on the large size. She always used to follow me everywhere, never needed a lead, even into builders merchants where she liked to wander, and was always made a fuss of. In one builders merchants, I was told “leave your dog outside”, I was quite happy to do this and carried on shopping. The manager, being rather



frustrated, found me and said it's about your dog. “Yes”, I said “she is outside as you asked”. “We know, she is laid across the front door and won't let anyone in or out”.

Amey did not mind small children, they pulled her ears, cuddled her. She loved ice cream, and it was always one for me, and one for her. The problem, was, she could spy a toddler with an ice cream at quite a distance, and would steal it whenever she could, without even stopping. We entered obedience competitions. OK, it took a bit of time for her to sit, but was always good at the heel, (and the time she nicked a sandwich from somebody on the way round did not lose us any points) always good on the retrieve with her red squeaky wellington boot, much to the amusement of the working dog handlers. We, of course, never won.

*John M*

## Cambridge in Lockdown

Dave Summers cycled into Cambridge centre during the early days of lockdown and the town was deserted - absolutely deserted. Here are a couple of pictures, The first one is of Kings Parade with Kings Chapel visible on the left. Usually this area is chest deep in Chinese tourists but there was not a soul to be seen.



The second picture is "the backs", the river that flows past the backs of the colleges. Once again it would usually be crowded with tourist punts. It was a most surreal experience.



## **The Challenge of Flatland Keeping Fit** by Jenny Williams

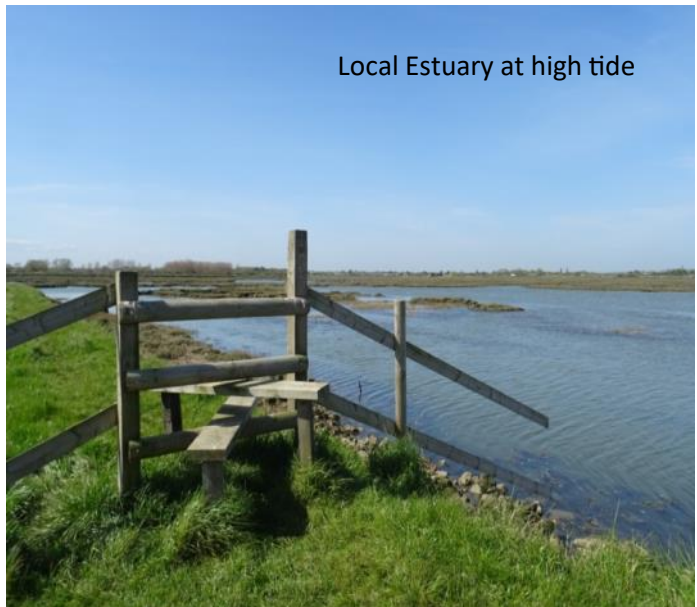
As some of you know, I live in the furthest South East corner of Essex. A few miles to the South I would fall into the Thames Estuary and to the East, if I could get past the forbidden MoD danger zone, I would be in the North Sea. To the North there are a number of estuaries with the top of the nearest one only half a mile away. I can get a glimpse of water from the bedroom window at high tide but the tide only penetrates this far for about an hour, so one has to be very lucky to catch it. Now as you can imagine this area is really noted for its huge hills and ridges, the sea wall must be all of 10 feet high and so takes an inordinate amount of energy to climb, I even think of stopping half way up for refreshment! My house is at the top of the local hill next to a 13<sup>th</sup> century church (I am the up side of a five metre contour line – Whoopee!)

Since this dreaded virus has put a stop to all our normal activities I have been trying to go for a walk every day. I have a few variations straight from home, two of which use the sea wall along the local estuary.

Big decision of the day – shall I walk on the South side or the North? Alternatively I can cut across country past a lovely old manor house, which goes back to Doomsday records, and pop out at the far end for the big excitement of a visit to the Co-op. I really know how to live it up!

I do hope that we will all be able to restart our meets soon but when we do please take pity on this 'octogenarian flatlander'. Proper hills will definitely come as a shock to the system. Perhaps I should bring my Zimmer frame, (other makes of walking aids are available).

*Jenny*



Local Estuary at high tide

During lockdown Christine Mason has done lots of reading, crossword puzzles and her favourite, code breakers. So she thought she would like make one for herself and for you to try, and here it is to print out (answers at the back).

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1	24	3	18		3		24	1	26	2	20	2	26	22
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24		10			2				26		3	10	10	26
20			15		25		14	9	18	10		14		
24	5	25	2	25	21				10			26		6
25			23				16		21	24	<sup>13</sup>	10	15	9
25			10				26					25		5
2		17			4	10	10		15	9	9	26	16	
25		9			10		<sup>5</sup>				7			
21	7	22			10		24	15	9	7	26		19	
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			24				8			2			1	
11	7	24	19	2	26	22				26	22	14	10	
			<sup>23</sup>				26	10	24				16	

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

## Funny year this.

It started very well for Wessex Walking and Cycling Section at the Hereford Club site. Defying the ghastly weather, we even did some walking and cycling. Not so much in the way of consuming tea and cake at the end of the day though (yes, I know, we're famous for it but none the worse for that, call it networking, debriefing, information-sharing or something). After Hereford, things went pear-shaped and here we are still in lock-down mode 3 months later.

However, at the time of writing this, things are now looking up a bit. As it seems possible that some of the Wessex meets will go ahead at the end of the summer, it's time to think about opening up the van. Time to return all the freshly washed bedding, that bottle of last resort you sourced from the cupboard in April and polish up the boots and bikes.

I am sure all those of you that haven't been working at keeping the country going, have already been tramping the local footpaths and are probably sick of looking at that same fly-tipped mattress. My guess is that the meets are likely to get very popular this year as we all want to see a bit more of the world, however lovely our gardens look after all that attention. This year we will have to book our places on Wessex meets to ensure we don't overload the sites, even though that might feel a bit restrictive.

It won't really be strange social-distancing in a field, probably not very much different to normal. We already know about keeping units apart for safety reasons (and not standing too close to others at the CDP for other reasons). We will just have to sort out our own walks and bike rides but if that sends us out scouting for routes, all the better, we can share these for future reference or pass on to others at the meet.

During lockdown, the Wessex committee have continued to keep in touch to make sure we are all ready to pick up where we left off when the time comes. (OK, so the zoom meeting wasn't as slick as the ones they show on tv but we gave that a go, despite the Covid hairstyles). We've missed the Wessex AGM of course (never mind the reports and all that proposing and seconding stuff, what about the buffet?) but we are planning for holding a meeting at some point. We have some new committee members to welcome in and need to look at the year past and year ahead. We are hoping that, post-lockdown, we will be welcoming more new members to our group and really living up to the new title of Walking and Cycling Section. Meanwhile I'll carry on with the garden and look forward to seeing everyone again.

*Lindie Pink*

Chair, Wessex Area

## Camping and Caravanning Club New Zealand Motorhome Tour 2020

### Andrew and Catriona Wood

In February and March this year Catriona and I joined a Club Motorhome tour of New Zealand to celebrate our Ruby Wedding year. It was to become a bucket list trip we never expected in more ways than one.

We didn't get off to a good start. The weekend before our departure via Singapore was spent trying unsuccessfully to arrange alternative flights to avoid Singapore due to Covid19 issues emerging there. At the time the UK was OK, or maybe just ignoring it?

So off to Singapore with a packet of face masks! It was quiet and we felt safe. Temperatures were taken everywhere we went and we avoided Chinatown and the metro. From Singapore we flew to Melbourne. We had a day at St Kilda walking the beach path back to the city, and a city day. A nice mixture of old and new. And free trams! We then flew to Christchurch and had 5 days with an old fire service friend of my dad who emigrated and joined NZ Fire Service 47 years ago. They are motorhomers defying their age, like many W&CS members. They took us out and about around Christchurch and the countryside to places we wouldn't otherwise have seen.

And so to the MoHo tour. There were 20 couples on the tour but it never felt like it. The roads are generally quiet, we didn't travel in convoy and often we never saw another club MoHo all day. And like any Club a social scene soon developed with many good evening events.



Our route firstly went South around South Island with camps at Dunedin, Mount Cook and Te Anau, a beautiful lakeside town surrounded by mountains which reminded me of Keswick. Whilst there we had the "must do" boat trip to Milford Sound. Off early by coach to join a convoy, due to winter landslides. On the boat trip it was pouring down so we saw many amazing waterfalls hundreds of feet high! No wonder it gets its reputation as the wettest place in New Zealand.

After three nights at Te Anau we headed north through the mountains to Queenstown, meeting up with friends doing their own tour and visiting their son. He works on the jet boats and organised an exhilarating freebie for us!





The weather turned really wet after Queenstown and on our way to Fox Glacier we drove through many floods, at one point having to wait three hours for the rain to stop and for flood debris and damage to be cleared and repaired. The diversion would have been 450kms! As soon as the rain stopped the council lads and their diggers turned up from who knows where, we were an hour from the nearest village.

Another hour and we were on our way again. It would no doubt have taken a UK local council 6 weeks just to arrange a meeting about it!

At Fox Glacier we did a booked Heli trip around Mount Cook and landed on the glacier but again the weather nearly thwarted it. We got the go ahead at 4pm and it was our special ruby wedding treat.

From Fox we crossed via Hanmer Springs to the east coast, stopping at Kaikoura and learning about the effect of the 2016 earthquake. The coast road north was badly damaged by the 2016 landslides and is still being rebuilt. Lots of traffic lights and convoys through roadworks.

We crossed to North Island with a smooth crossing on the Inter-islander ferry to the capital Wellington. The National Museum in Wellington was amazing, we were thrown out at 6pm!



We headed north to Napier – Taupo - Rotorua – Orewa and The Bay of Islands. Napier is a time warp town which suffered an earthquake in 1931 and was rebuilt in an art-deco American style. Very interesting place.

Taupo is thermal volcanic springs. We went out for the day and ended up having an evening skylift and dinner up a volcano. We even got a

good discount as we didn't book and rolled up at 4pm on the off chance. Very late when we got back to site.

Rotorua is a Maori culture area and we had a Maori village cultural evening with

the inevitable Maori greeting and chants as performed by The All Blacks!

Bay of Islands is stunningly beautiful and we had a group day boat trip seeing whales and dolphins, having lunch and a walk on an island that could have been in the Caribbean.

And so to Covid 19 and our return. At the start of our fourth week in the MoHo the UK had the Covid panic buying weekend. We had no concern in NZ, everyone seemed calm and being sensible about taking precautions but as the week went on NZ implemented self-isolation for newly arriving visitors. By the time we got to Auckland all stop-overs on the way back had been cancelled. Camp sites were also closing.

NZ was introducing lockdown at the same time as the UK from midnight Monday our return flight day. We were flying straight back with a transit through Singapore. It was a very stressful return - Auckland Airport was packed, Singapore was also closing its borders for transits at midnight and our Manchester connection left at 2am! We didn't want to leave Auckland without confirmation we would get the connection. They issued boarding cards for both flights at Auckland but as midnight approached at Singapore our flight was the only one on the board not cancelled! Both flights were packed with passengers from other airlines. When we got to Manchester there were no taxis, but fortunately, our son Chris was able to get a local taxi firm to pick us up.

It turned out that only 8 out of 40 members got out on their original return flights. Some had flights cancelled for a second time. 18 members were stranded in Auckland for 3 weeks. They were placed in Apartment Hotels, but like here couldn't go out other than for shopping, and bars and attractions etc were all shut. We stayed in touch via WhatsApp and they were fine but concerned as to when they would get home. The Club worked hard to arrange alternative accommodation and flights home.

So, an adventure to remember.

New Zealand scenery is fantastic and beautiful, from Mountains to Coasts, the people are friendly and helpful and we both really enjoyed our time there. I think any W&CS member would.

*Andrew and Catriona Wood*



## No W&CS Meets in your part of the UK?

As membership of the Walking & Cycling Section continues to grow we would like to explore the potential for holding meets outside of our Northern, Peakland and Wessex Areas. If you are interested in helping to organise meets in parts of the UK not covered by our existing Areas please email Section Chair Trev Masters using [trevormasters@walkingandcycling.org.uk](mailto:trevormasters@walkingandcycling.org.uk).

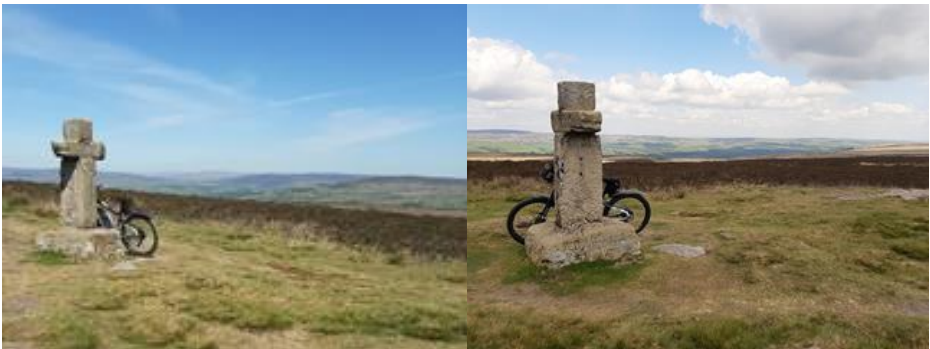


Sometimes you get lucky when taking a photo of the ducklings on the local pond. Photobombed by a black headed gull.

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A couple of photos taken on one of my regular cycle rides (to keep fit for when we can camp again) over Rombalds Moor (380M elevation at Cross but goes to 402M at Trig Point) and dropping down into Ilkley. On a clear day there are extensive views northwards over Wharfedale and in the far distance to the north west, Ingleborough Hill, Buckden Pike and Great Whernside. Menwith Hill RAF base to the North East and Beamsley Beacon on the other side of the valley.

*John*



## Walking and Cycling Section Officers 2019/20

(Further contact details may be found on the website)

<b>Chairperson W&amp;CS Executive Member (2020)</b>	<b>Trevor Masters (07400703731)</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson W&amp;CS Executive Member (2020)</b>	<b>Barry Cowlard (07770 287434)</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Andrew Wood (07852040724 )</b>
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	<b>Carole Booth (07788197649) Christine Stevenson Terry Bishop Diane Goodyear (07761949896) Anne and Howard Crosland</b>
<b>Secretary W&amp;CS Executive Member (2019)</b>	<b>Christine Mason (07751312330)</b>
<b>Treasurer W&amp;CS Executive Member</b>	<b>Tim Clarke (07867498825 )</b>
<b>PRO/Website Co-ordinator Elected Member (2019)</b>	<b>John Gerner (077348852656)</b>
<b>Membership Secretary Elected Member (2017)</b>	<b>Les Morton (07967900225)</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	<b>Sandra Wain (07858-529891)</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor Elected Member (2019)</b>	<b>Toni Busuttil-Reynaud (07762326340)</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Adrian Rose</b>
<b>Other elected Members to Section Council (2019)</b>	<b>Yvonne Plevy (07413293198)</b>
<b>Also W&amp;CS Executive Member (2019)</b>	<b>John Allen (07505906849)</b>
<b>Also W&amp;CS Executive Member (2019)</b>	<b>Barry Cowlard (07770 287434)</b>
<b>Advisory Officer to National Council</b>	<b>Les Morton</b>
<b>Deputy Advisory Officer (2018)</b>	<b>Barry Cowlard</b>
<b>Representatives to Section Council</b>	<b>Northern Area</b>
	<b>Peakland Area</b>
	<b>Wessex Area</b>
	<b>Vacancy</b>
	<b>Jean Morton</b>
	<b>Deb Masters (07765 040211)</b>
<b>Area Secretaries</b>	<b>Northern Area</b>
	<b>Peakland Area</b>
	<b>Wessex Area</b>
	<b>Jean Richards (07964902612)</b>
	<b>Sandra Wain (07858-529891)</b>
	<b>John Gerner (07734-852656)</b>
<b>Section Forum Reps</b>	<b>Trevor Masters, Debs Masters and Barry Cowlard</b>
<b>National Council Rep. to W&amp;CS</b>	<b>Steve Harris (07567183893)</b>

## **Terry Ilbery**

It is with great sadness that I'm reporting the death of Terry Ilbery, a much-loved member of Wessex Area.

Terry was not enjoying good health when he and Ann first joined us, but I very much doubt that any of us ever heard him complain about his condition. His manner was always one of gentle humour and warmth.

For several of their last appearances with us Terry and Ann brought his mobility scooter with them, on which he would embark upon excursions that were sometimes quite hair-raising and often way offsite!

One of my own fondest memories of him was at one of our usual teatime gatherings. Driving his scooter one-handed, Terry slowly circled the table laden with cakes, gently selecting each time another tasty morsel with his other hand! And with what I can only describe as a cheeky, beatific smile on his face.

Terry will be much missed.

Our love to Ann, who we hope will continue to meet up with us.

*Trev Masters*

## **W&CS Publicity**

Our smart new logo that was featured on the front cover of Activity Issue 118 has been approved by the Club's Communications Committee and can now be used on all our promotional materials. The June edition of the Club's Camping & Caravanning magazine featured the logo at the head of a short piece promoting the Section.

The Area publicity flags have been updated with the new logo and website address and the design work sent to the Secretary of the Communications Committee for their approval when they are next able to meet. Also on the agenda for approval will be new business cards for you to hand out to encourage others to try one of our meets. Hopefully the Communications Committee will be able to meet soon and approve the designs so we can go to print and distribute the flags and cards to areas.

As a quick fix, stickers have been produced to convert existing MAS direction signs to W&CS. Look out for these when you next travel to a meet.

*John Gerner, W&CS PRO*

## Meets for the rest of 2020

### IMPORTANT

W&CS has been advised that the Camping & Caravanning Club would like Meets back up and running as soon as possible, when legally permitted and when safe to do so for all concerned. The Club is confident that if the easing of lockdown goes to plan, then the Areas should be able to welcome members back to Meets from August.

**Please be aware that;**

- **We have not yet been given permission to restart our meets;**
- **Venues and stewards are subject to change; and;**
- **Meets may be cancelled due to changes to Government Covid-19 guidance, Camping & Caravanning Club instructions, site owners no longer being able to host meets, or on-site ground conditions.**

**Please check the latest information on the area Events pages of the W&CS website**

**<https://walkingandcycling.org.uk>,**

**the latest edition of Out & About Magazine, or by contacting the stewards 2 days before travelling.**



**TV and Camping Tray for Seniors !!!**

*You'll just be upset that you didn't think of this great adaptation.*



	<h1>Wessex 2020 Meets</h1>	 <b>The Camping and Caravanning Club</b> <i>The Friendly Club</i>
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**Due to anticipated high demand the following are now booked meets. Booking procedure to be confirmed.**

DATE	SITE	CS No AND MAP REF	STEWARDS
13 - 18 August <b>Booked Meet</b>	Cherry Tree (formerly Seven Acres), The Camp, Stroud, Gloucestershire. GL6 7EU. £12.00 per unit night.	CS795 163/897098	John and Polly 07734 852656
27 August - 1st Sept <b>Booked Meet</b>	Folly Farm, Common Rd, Beckley, Oxfordshire, OX3 9UR. £12.00 per unit night.	CS954 164/555108	Barry and Rosemary 01491 838707 or 07770 287434
10 - 15 Sept <b>Booked Meet</b>	Ebdon Bow Campsite, Wick St Lawrence, Weston super Mare, Somerset, BS22 9NZ £10.80 per unit night.	182/365654	Lindie and Mick 0781 1883552 or 07724 833091
24 - 29 Sept <b>Booked Meet</b>	Rectory Farm, Lawn Rd, Ashleworth, Gloucestershire, GL19 4JL. £10.00 per unit night.	CS785 162/803263	Toni and Annette 07762 326340
8 - 13 October <b>Booked Meet</b>	Summerlands Caravan Park, Rockbourne Road, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury, SP5 4LP. £8.40 per unit night	184/110234	Jon and Anne 07961 198814

	<h1>Peakland 2020 Meets</h1>	 <p><b>The Camping and Caravanning Club</b> The Friendly Club</p>
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Contacts: Les (Chair) 07967 900225 & Yvonne (Sites)07413-293198  
All sites open at 2.00pm unless otherwise stated

**Due to anticipated high demand the following are now booked meets. Booking procedure to be confirmed.**

DATE	VENUE	MAP REF	STEWARDS
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> - Sun- 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Swythamley & Heaton Community Centre, Gun End, Swythamley SK11 0SJ <b>BOOKED MEET</b>	118/979643	Colin & Yvonne 07413-293198
Th 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug-Tu 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Ranah Stones Farm, Hazelhead, Crow Edge, Penistone S36 4HJ <b>BOOKED MEET Bank Holiday Meet</b>	110/197029	Cindy 07402-918205
Th 10 <sup>th</sup> -Su 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Thorntree Farm, Uppertown, Ashover, Derbyshire, S45 0JF <b>BOOKED MEET</b>	119/320653	Mark & Amanda 07772-364835
Th 24 <sup>th</sup> - Mo 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	TBC		Sandra & Roger 07858-529891
Th 8 <sup>th</sup> -Su 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Cloverfields Farm, Kniveton, Near Ashbourne DE6 1JF <b>BOOKED MEET</b>	119/198492	Colin & Sandra 07948-560571
Fr 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct -Su 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	The Green, Main Street, Chelmorton , Near Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9SL <b>End of Season Meet/ BOOKED MEET</b>	119/113701	Christine & Graham 07840- 267102



	<h1>Northern 2020 Meets</h1>	
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## W&CS NORTHERN AREA 2020 Meets List

Please check the W&CS Website: [www.walkingandcycling.org.uk](http://www.walkingandcycling.org.uk) or the current month's Out and About, or by contacting site officers or stewards 2 days before travelling. There is also extra information about each meet on the website. Meets start at 2.00pm. Own sanitation is essential.

**Due to anticipated high demand the following are now booked meets. Booking procedure to be confirmed.**

Dates, nights and Map Ref	Site name and Address	Stewards contact	notes
13-18 Aug 5 nights 100/753890	Bank Top Farm Cropton, Pickering YO18 8HH	Geoff/Carole 07788-197649	
22nd - 27th Aug 5n	Lodge Barn, Settle	Inv from NELDA	See Nelda O&A entry
27TH Aug - 1st Sept 5n	Carr Bank, Arnside	Inv from NELDA	See Nelda O&A entry
10 – 15 Sept,5 nights.98/969722	Low Hall Farm, Kettlewell BD23 5RB	John/Jane 07842-133160	
24-28 Sept 4 nights 097/525646	Elm Grove Field Caton, Lancaster LA2 9HX	Chris/Colin 07968-226598	
16-19 Oct 3 nights 099/099733	Studfold Farm Lofthouse Pateley Bridge HG3 5SG	Dave/Viv 07949-649232	No facilities



During lockdown we've managed to do some lovely walks and cycles from our village in Higher Kinnerton in Wales. We're very fortunate to be surrounded by open countryside which we have enjoyed rediscovering.



The cycles into Chester were very surreal with an empty main Chester High Street and river front. Very strange especially as these were taken the Thursday before Easter.

*Hazel and Andy Caldwell*



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### **Hidden History & “Edges” at the Chatsworth Estate. Derbyshire**

Chatsworth is famed for its great house and events that draw thousands, but not many are aware of the “edges” hidden behind splendid woods. The popular Peakland Group meet in Chatsworth Grounds for 2020, where you would have enjoyed Sandra and Roger’s 6.5 mile walk, has unfortunately been cancelled. Look out for the gathering there in 2021 or whenever we can manage it. We recently had the pleasure of Sandra and Roger’s company as they guided us around this historical walk.

The circular 6.5 mile walk can be enjoyed in either





direction. Starting at Baslow Village we headed up Eaton Hill and Bar Road in a clockwise direction to reach Jack Flat where the first feature appears - Eagle Stone, a gritstone feature. Close by is the second, Wellington Stone, a cross to remember. Looking north other Edges are visible and noted for future walks. Continuing along the trail we came across a



“stoop” and a stone artwork, one of many located in the area. Crossing the A621 Sheffield Road, we spotted the resident Heilan Coos as we headed up towards Birchen Edge where the views are stunning. You can also find Nelson’s Monument and The Three Ships in honour of Admiral



Lord Nelson (rock formations in the shape of ships engraved with the names Victory, Defiance and Royal Sovereign). Walking down the grit stone edge and through the wood we arrive at the popular Robin Hood Pub. After crossing the A619 we descended the steps to cross the footbridge, recently replaced after recent floods. Following a straight level path we arrived at the grounds of Chatsworth where the rally would have been located. Here we viewed a stone to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Jubilee. Exiting the grounds via the circular kissing gate we arrived back into Baslow which has various cafés and eateries.

This most enjoyable circular 6.5 mile walk can be enjoyed in either direction and could be extended for anyone wanting to increase their mileage.



*Trevor and Irene Batchelor*

## Disconnected Jottings About a Walk in the Park



So here we are, all locked down and nowhere to go, by order of Boris and friends. One hour a day of exercise, and don't get too close to anyone else. Only three weeks to go, or is that six? What to do about this, then? The easy answer is to set out a local walk and do it every day to get in the required three, five or seven miles of keeping fit exercise. Can you do seven miles in an hour on foot? I think not, so you're really limited to about four miles, or breaking the rules in a way that no-one else notices. Living alone, even though part of a community of sorts, you can do this. The question still remains, where to go that isn't repetitively boring? The same walk each day would drive anyone mad. A bit of thought and

memory of the last few walks round the town gives rise to some possible routes to avoid too much repetition. The routes are through built up areas and through the town park. A sit and think and a look at an OS map or two comes up with a few alternatives, so the near future starts to look a little better.

In no particular order – there's a walk through a part of the town where the houses are huge, expensive and have very nice and well-kept borders and gardens. It's



hard surface walking, but it's a pleasure just looking at what has been achieved so close to the centre of civilisation. The houses are a variety of styles and some of the gardens and plantings are quite spectacular – it is assumed that there are gardeners employed round here!



Next is a park across the main road from base. This is good because there is room to keep social distance, the trees are nice to look at and there is a pond with ducks and

ducklings. Sitting with coffee brought from home in a flask in the sunshine after recent hailstorms is quite relaxing.



In a different area, a local coastal tidal millpond has a footpath round two sides of it along the bank that was built to form the pond hundreds of years ago. It's quite narrow, so the local "Friends of the Millpond" set up a one-way system to ensure that social distancing is not broken by having to pass someone going the other way.

Very sensible.

Then the weather starts to warm up a bit. Out come the shorts and even the sandals on a couple of occasions. Not being too far from the edge of town means that a walk in the woods is now on the cards, with not too many people clogging the paths, and getting back towards town even provides the opportunity to get an ice-cream from a kiosk. Another three mile walk through a local council estate leads to a part of town not previously explored, and there's another small wood with a lake in it.



Found a three mile circular route along a track to a nearby village and back. The track was very uneven and full of puddles from torrential rain overnight. The weather varies from tropical sun to tropical monsoon!! Another route went along the coastal promenade to a small wood and back. Social distancing – go west on the promenade, return east along the beach.

Another day was a seven mile circular from home and through the countryside.



There was another ice-cream on the way back. Solitary walking tends to increase the amount that gets noticed – no chatting, just looking. Plenty of trees, shrubs, flowers, houses and gardens, and people's attempts at decorating their properties with things to keep the passers-by amused.

A walk a bit further through the town leads to a big common. This again has



scope for walking alone, but with plenty to see both on the common and the route there and back. The variety of buildings in an old town is quite amazing, as is what can be done by proud owners to keep their places tidy and looking good.

As time goes by we are allowed to drive somewhere for exercise, so there's now the possibility of visiting the motorhome/caravan to make sure it's still OK, and while there a chance for a walk in a different

part of the countryside. The National Trust and RSPB still keep their properties closed as part of the lockdown, which limits some of the walking opportunities, but there are still enough public footpaths not too far from base to get out along and see the bluebells and smell the wild garlic.

Lockdown is being eased! Various friends are willing to go for a walk in socially distanced company and life is becoming slightly more normal. There are still loads of flowers on the ground and on shrubs to liven up the scenery as the walks progress. There are more ducklings around, though in one place a fox killed all six cygnets the day after they hatched – very sad. However, not all wildlife is out in the wild. Gardens provide pigeons, blue tits, long-tailed tits, blackbirds, a green woodpecker, squirrels, a fox, and even a baby deer (OK, so this garden's a bit bigger than some!).



Last but not least, the motorhome needed a run out just to check it was still useable, so it got used for a trip to the supermarket five miles away. There was a bit of a bang as we went over the speed hump at the entrance (at walking pace!!) and a visual check found that the rubber exhaust

mounting had shredded and the silencer was dangling very close to the ground. Fortunately the come-in-handly box had a couple of tiewraps in so a temporary repair was made to get home, but it proved the need for a road check before setting out on the first trip, whenever that might be.

*Photos Toni B-R & Tricia Anderson*



The wind has blown quite hard on a couple of occasions recently!!

### Christine's Wordbreaker answers

c	a	m	p		m		a	c	t	i	v	i	t	y
a		i			i				e			n		
r		l		a	x	l	e		n			n		
a		e			i				t		m	e	e	t
v			b		n			r	o	p	e		r	
a	w	n	i	n	g				e			t		h
n			k				s		g	a	z	e	b	o
n			e				t					n		w
i		j			f	e	e		b	o	o	t	s	
n		o			e		w				u			
g	u	y			e		a	b	o	u	t		l	
			w		t		r			n		m	a	p
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q	u	a	l	i	t	y				t	y	r	e	
			k				t	e	a				s	

### Editor's bit

Hello All, A goodly set of lockdown happenings for this issue— My thanks to all those who sent them in. For those who wish to contribute to future editions, my email address is [tonibr@btinternet.com](mailto:tonibr@btinternet.com) - please feel free to send anything there.



**Hi Everybody.**

**Please note that Peakland are now on facebook. Find us as 'Walking and Cycling Section Peakland Area'**



### Email Updates

Members can opt in to receive email updates on meets and other events by contacting;

For the Northern Area - [jeanrichards@walkingandcycling.org.uk](mailto:jeanrichards@walkingandcycling.org.uk)

For the Peakland Area - [lesmorton@walkingandcycling.org.uk](mailto:lesmorton@walkingandcycling.org.uk)

For the Wessex Area - [johngerner@walkingandcycling.org.uk](mailto:johngerner@walkingandcycling.org.uk)

### AND FINALLY.....

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