

Ramblings

Trafford Ramblers Newsletter

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<http://www.ramblers-trafford.co.uk/>

May / June 2021



The
Supreme
Leader



Carries
tick
tweezers
(and
Glasses)

Easing of coronavirus restrictions.

From the 17 May everyone can meet outdoors in groups of up to 30 as restrictions are lifted but we need to continue to travel and walk safely.

Trafford Ramblers now have regular walks on Thursdays and alternate Saturdays and additional walks have been frequently added (Mondays, Tuesdays, Sunday) so we all need to check our web-site regularly.

Spring has arrived and Summer is coming so enjoy the outdoors.

Richard

What's in your rucksack?

I recently tidied out my rucksack and was surprised what I had accumulated over time and wondered what other people had in their bags.

Besides my flask and sandwiches. I had an emergency Mars Bar, Plasters, toilet paper (you never know when you are caught short), coins for parking, chap stick, Vaseline, Olbas oil inhaler, old pair of specs, angina inhaler (even though I don't have angina) and most important a towel. Very handy in case you fall off any stepping stones. On occasions I also have waterproof trousers and a fleece depending upon the weather.

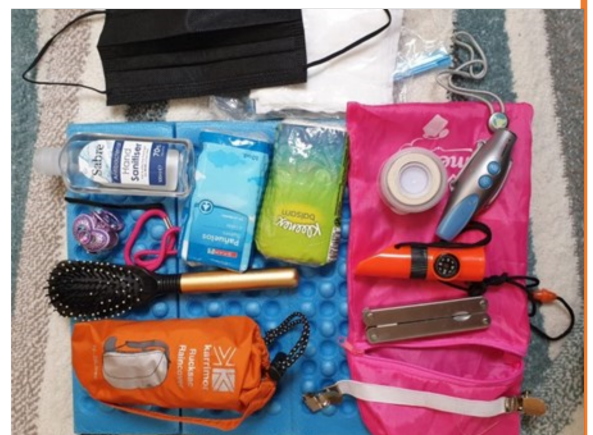
The first reply said and I quote "Satellite phone, inflatable helicopter landing pad, rigid inflatable boat, fold up stretcher, emergency beacon and finally flares". If you see a member with a large pack you will know who it is.

However I did get some sensible replies. A number our glamorous ladies mentioned lipstick along with other things like, face masks, hand sanitizer and pain killers. But getting on to the more serious things, I was surprised by the replies and variety of things carried.

Here is a quick rundown:-

Space Blanket, tissues, notepad and pen, towel, glasses, ICE card, First aid Supplies, Insect repellent, Sun Cream, mirror, map of area, glucose tablets, spare socks, spare hat, compass, whistle, pen knife, wipes, contact card, plastic bag.

I also had a photo sent to me of the contents of one bag and to be honest I have no idea what some of the things are. Perhaps it's best not to ask. Answers on a post card too....



One thing which was rarely mentions was The Ramblers Emergency Card. It's free and available on the rambler's web site. We should all have one in our bag.

Keep safe.

Neil Hughes

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Origins of the Ramblers Trafford Group

The inaugural walk and meeting to set up the new Ramblers Group took place on Tuesday 15th June 2010 in Sale Water Park, at Jackson's Boat pub. Many people and much preparation were involved in reaching that memorable day.

The date was chosen to coincide with the 21st anniversary of the opening of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) which passes close to Jackson's Boat. The TPT anniversary organisers were very helpful and allowed us to arrange our pre inaugural walk as part of the TPT celebrations as the 21st anniversary baton was carried through Trafford. Even more helpful was their agreement to allow us to use the marquee at Jackson's Boat pub, that the TPT had hired for the day, for our Ramblers inaugural meeting in the evening of 15th June 2010.

Prior to the inaugural meeting, there had been a lot of administration work to be done as the local Greater Manchester and High Peak Area arranged to have a new Group, our Ramblers Trafford Group, within their fold. All existing Ramblers members with a Trafford address had to receive a letter inviting them to join the new group, that meant agreeing the wording of the letter, making photocopies, having envelopes and stamps paid for and a volunteer put the letter into envelopes.

Many helpers and volunteers, too many to list by name, helped in the creation of our Group. A website was quickly designed, populated and maintained; an initial walks programme was put together and willing leaders pressed into service; the nitty gritty of finalising the Group's Constitution was carried out after several iterations by those who appreciated that as a registered charity, the Ramblers Association had to meet legal standards throughout its Area and Groups hierarchy. In Trafford there were, and still are, many "informal" walking groups. All supportive of the work Ramblers does in preserving the paths network but understandably wary of a new Ramblers Group being formed in their midst. So letters were written to all the informal groups to assure them Ramblers did not intend to put them out of business and to welcome their association, formally or informally, with our new Group.

The day of the inaugural walk and meeting, 15th June 2010, dawned fine and dry. The early afternoon celebrations with local Councillors, cyclists, walkers and interested members of the general public, cheered the TPT 21st anniversary baton as it was carried on its way through Trafford and this was followed by our Ramblers organised walk. The walk took us along the banks of the River Mersey and into the adjacent woodlands. The press release about our inauguration that the Greater Manchester and High Peak Area had published in the local "Messenger" papers resulted in very good turnout. At the end of the walk we lead the walkers into the (free) sandwiches and tea in the marquee at Jackson's Boat pub. The inaugural meeting opened with Bruce Fairbanks, Chair of Ramblers Area, welcoming the inauguration of a new Group. The formalities of electing a Group Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with supporting Committee members was dealt with swiftly and, as they say, the rest is history. Our very well established Group is now in its second decade and going from strength to strength.

June Mabon

The first Ten plus One years of Ramblers Trafford Group

written by **Malcolm Hunter**

will be published on our web site

Ramblings

Shorts or Trousers? Beware of Ticks

I have been aware of the danger of ticks and their associated risk of Lyme disease for several years now. The incidence of Lyme disease seems to have greatly increased over the last ten years. It has been suggested that the factors contributing to the rise in cases include an increase in the animal hosts of the ticks like rodents and deer and warmer weather during the season of tick reproduction. It is also thought to be associated with farmers not using sheep dip as regularly and in the UK is known to be prevalent in areas where sheep and deer graze.

As a result of many scare stories involving people who have suffered life changing illness Phill and I reluctantly decided to not wear shorts when out walking and keep our legs covered with full length trousers so we can reduce the risk.

Three years ago while on holiday in St. Ives Phill and I wanted to do the coastal path walk from St. Ives to Zennor. It is quite a hard walk with many steep rocky paths. As the weather was extremely hot we thought it was almost impossible to walk comfortably in long trousers so decided to risk wearing our shorts!

The walk was long and tiring in the hot temperatures. At one point in the walk we lost the path and ended up wandering through a large area of ferns and bracken along the cliff top. I think that this is where I was bitten by a tick. After we returned to St. Ives we had to get changed quickly as we had a meal booked at a local restaurant. I was only able to shower later before going to bed. It was only after our showers that we remembered to check ourselves for ticks. I ran my hands along my legs and found what felt like a tiny scab the size of a pinhead near the top of my leg. I thought it was maybe a scratch from the brambles on our walk. Phill photographed it on his mobile and then enlarged the picture. He thought it looked suspicious so very carefully removed it with tweezers! We put it on a tissue and could see its tiny legs moving! Thankfully it was all removed. I did seek some medical advice the next day and was told to keep a close eye on the area of the bite and to watch out for any swelling or circular rash appearing in the next two weeks.

The moral of this tale is please check your legs after walking particularly if you've been wearing shorts, use an insect repellent, and tuck trouser legs into socks.

Elaine

As Elaine says, be Tick Aware

High Risk Areas:- Grass or Woodland in Southern England and the Scottish Highlands

Check all exposed skin including the backs of arms and webs of fingers

Carry a Tick remover A specialised forceps with a hook

Don't Panic

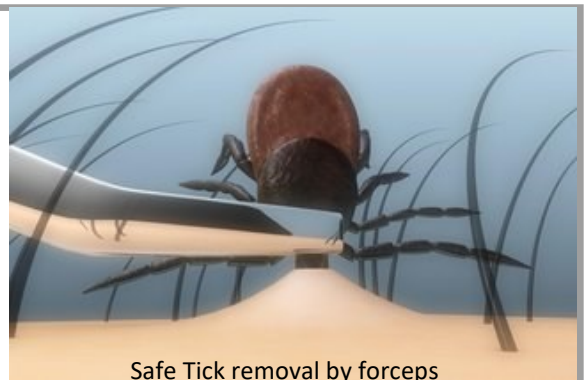
Remember less than 10% of ticks carry the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease.

But if you develop

- Flu like symptoms about a month afterwards
- A bulls Eye rash (or similar). This may not be present or appear as late as three months afterwards.

See your GP because it is easily treated with antibiotics

Vicky



Safe Tick removal by forceps



Bulls eye rash

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SOME WILD FLOWERS TO BE POSSIBLY SEEN MAY TO JULY Roy Hilton

The Derbyshire dales of the White Peak are undoubtedly the best place to see wild flowers in our area but many are local and require a specific type of habit. You need to look carefully and not be in a rush. This list is in no way comprehensive. It is easiest to learn if you have a good book such as Collins Wild Flower Guide.

Numbers = months flowering

Uncultivated calcareous grassland and particularly short turf on the valley sides of limestone dales

Early Purple Orchid 4-6 on limestone soil	Cowslip 4-5
Common Milkwort 5-6	Dwarf Thistle 6-9
Rue-leaved Saxifrage 4-5 bare areas-small	Fairy Flax 6-9 on bare areas - small
Salad Burnet 5-8	Agrimony 6-9
Lady's Bedstraw 7-8	Spear Thistle 7-5
Jacob's Ladder 6-7 local Lathkill Dale best	Small Scabious 7-9
Bloody Cranesbill 7-9	Musk Thistle 5-8
Various Violets	Self Heal 6-10
Devil'sbit Scabious 6-10	Barren Strawberry 2-5
Common Birdsfoot Trefoil 6-9	

Roadside and Woodland Edges

Wood Sage 7-9	Dog's Mercury 2-4
Bugle 4-6	Hedge Mustard 6-7
Common Valerian 6-8	Crosswort 5-6
Meadow Cranesbill 6-9	Red Campion 3-10
White Campion 5-10	Bladder Campion 6-8
Herb-Robert 4-9	Sweet Cicely 5-6
Cow Parsley 4-6	Common Comfrey 5-6
Silverweed 6-8	

Damp Areas and near streams

Ragged Robin 5-8	Lady's-smock 4-6
Water Aven 5-9	Alternate / Opposite leaved Saxifrages 4-5
Meadow sweet 6-9	Heath Spotted Orchid on acid soil 6-8
Hemp Agrimony 7-9	Common Butterwort in wet areas by springs 5-7

Dark Peak with acid soil

Bilbury	Heather 7-9
Bell Heather 7-9	Cross-leaved Heath 6-9
Tormentil 6-9	Heath Bedstraw 6-8
Common Cotton Grass 6-7	Marsh Thistle in wet areas
Creeping Thistle in grassy waste places	

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Protecting everyone by Vaccination

My Personal Experience Angela

I think that everyone who walks with RTG will have had the Covid vaccine. I hope so to protect themselves and others.

I have always been enthusiastic about vaccines which in the 20th century eliminated smallpox and almost polio as well as giving protection against many other diseases.

The value and importance of vaccination made a big impression on me when I worked as a doctor in Zambia for a year with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) 1966 to 1967 in a remote mission hospital. We had a routine where up to 100 outpatients would be seen and treated each morning by an African nurse practitioner and at the end of the morning a doctor would see a few patients the nurse wished a doctor to see. One day when I was on call I walked into the examination room to see a child of about 4 years old sitting on an examination couch covered head to toe in smallpox! Of course I had never seen a patient with smallpox but I knew from the text book description that it must be smallpox as the skin lesions (spots) were all at the same stage of development and denser on the face and limbs (the opposite of chicken pox which comes in crops and more spots on the torso). We had several patients over the next few weeks all under school age because when children started school they had the smallpox vaccination. People from WHO came to our hospital and I think this must have been one of the last smallpox outbreaks in Africa. We then took part in a vaccination programme in villages near the hospital. There were anti-vacciners then as when we drove the Land Rover into a village sometimes we could see children running away into the bush to escape!



A Brief History of Smallpox vaccination

Smallpox can have a very high mortality rate of 35%. Before the development of modern vaccines a method of inoculation called insufflation was practised in China and Africa. And was described by Chinese author [Wan Quan](#) (1499–1582). In China, powdered smallpox scabs were blown up the noses of the healthy. And had a 0.5–2.0% mortality rate.

Lady [Mary Wortley Montagu](#), wife of the British ambassador to Ottoman Constantinople, is widely credited with introducing this process to Great Britain in 1721.



In 1796, Sarah Nelmes, a local milkmaid, contracted cowpox and went to Dr Jenner for treatment. Jenner took the opportunity to test his theory. He inoculated [James Phipps](#), the eight-year-old son of his gardener, with cowpox lesions on Sarah's hand. After a mild fever James recovered. About two months later Jenner inoculated James on both arms with material from a case of smallpox, with no effect; the boy was immune to smallpox. He concluded that cowpox inoculation was a safe alternative to smallpox inoculation and with further such experimentation, in 1798 Jenner published his work.

An 1802 caricature by [James Gill-ray](#) depicting the early controversy surrounding Jenner's vaccination theory

Richard L

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PARTINGTON RAILWAY JUNCTION

The more you search the more you find! These monochrome photos have helped bring back to life parts of the route that have been totally reclaimed by nature. Old maps have also helped illustrate the extent of the main lines and sidings but have more interestingly displayed the layout of the tramways that delivered the waste for distribution across Carrington Moss.

The junction seen from Dunham road bridge, pictured right is looking west. The line branches to the left for sidings on the former gas works complex. At the junction signal box, a single line branches off to the right for the CEGB site. The short line in the left foreground, is



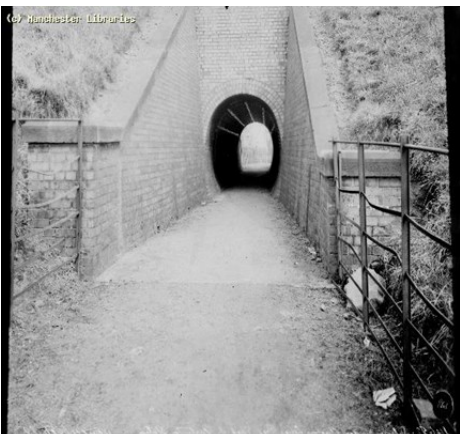
a siding that terminates below the bridge. In the distance you can vaguely see the last bridge that crosses the line prior to the ascending embankment that climbs to Partington station and eventually the ship canal viaduct. Left is a shot taken from the signal box steps showing the curve in the main route orientating it toward the embankment and station and eventually crossing the canal viaduct. The original 1870s route would have tracked straight ahead toward the right side of the bridge in the distance. This bridge carries the track that extends from Sinderland road but is not actually named on maps.

Another shot (Right), taken from Dunham road bridge looking east. The roof top right of picture is part of Brookheys Farm. Brookheys road crossing the line just beyond the pylons and the Birch road crossing point tantalisingly out of focus in the far distance. On the right is a shot from a similar position on the bridge with a somewhat different viewing outcome. The track beneath is an overgrown swamp getting progressively worse as you attempt to walk along the original line beneath the embankment toward the Manchester road, just below the station. It is as though the moss area is draining onto the track without it being able to release the excess. The view looking west is obscured by trees and undergrowth and therefore just another pointless foliage photo. Moving on to the station and trying to keep to the original track bed below the embankment conditions underfoot become increasingly difficult. However certain features are accessible for photos.



The original pedestrian underpass linking the two sides, semi pristine on the right but now a victim of the ravages of neglect, the south side entrance has been bricked up. Climbing back up onto the embankment I took some photos and made my way back down to the bridge and returned via Carrington Moss. With a little more research, the shot (Left) I have discovered is on the south side now bricked up. The design being mirrored on the north side.

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TRAMWAYS AND SIDINGS

As well as the main line cutting through the southern edge of the Moss a light railway (tramway) system also operated within it. These were common to industrial areas shunting goods and materials around the site. Carrington Moss has a grid system of paths/trackways six of which run north /south and two east /west.

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The central part of the grid has artificially straightened track beds to facilitate rails being laid on a clinker base; the residual waste of industry. The central track is Ashton road traversing the full width of the moss, it seems likely it was purposely created for connecting the north /south routes which I assume existed as former cart tracks snaking across the moss in ancient times. I need to do more research to validate some of the information that I already have. Not that I would tell lies of course though my nose has grown slightly in old age.

Pictured (Right) is Ashton road looking east from the Dunham road intersection. To walk the full length eastwards to Firs Way you need a good book one preferably with pictures of hills! Slightly to the north of this track is Common road/North road that crossed almost parallel to Ashton road. It has been partially gobbled up by the industrial complex at Carrington but was in use in the



pre petro chemical era.

The shots (Left) are of the intersection for the tramways fifty metres south of Dunham bridge. It appears this is the only point at which the tram tracks crossed over the main line, presumably extending the spread of refuse/night soil on the south side. Sidings continued east close to the main line and linking with it at Brookheys, a siding continued terminating adjacent to the Birch road crossing. These track beds are in part now used as footpaths enabling walkers to avoid the difficult scramble along the old railway



track.

Right is Birch road crossing the siding (now path) begins/ends on the left of picture and continues west adjacent to the main line as in the picture far right.

The tramway (the same method operated on Barton and Chat Moss) system on the grid was fed from Carrington Wharf, crossing the Manchester road, and intersecting the track on Common road and filtering out from there. By the mid 1930s the wharf had fallen into disuse and by the outset of WW2 most of the tram rails were lifted.

The wharf site was built over when the power station was erected at the end of the war. Apparently some refuse was still being distributed in the late 1960s but then ceased.



When the Moss was used as a decoy site in the early 1940s to divert bombers from Trafford Park etc it was under the charge of RAF Balloon Command!! That is fuel for a Monty Python sketch surely. The history of Carrington Moss is well documented for all to read so don't intend to bore you further on that subject-although the urge may come upon me.

I hope part four(ish) will illustrate the gradual reintroduction of the line for both a heritage/metro/ pedestrian route, but alas not any time soon, i will have been transported else where by then. That's all for now must rush I have a train to catch.

TERRY