

LWR NEWS & VIEWS

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134 for 7 – NOT OUT!

No – not the latest score update from Headingley but the number of people who went on one of the 7 walks offered by LWR as part of the 2026 Otley Walking Festival.

DATE	WALK	GROUP	LEADER
Tues June 30th	Reservoirs, Farms, Moors & More	A+	Ian Haigh
Tues June 30th	Lower Washburn Round	A	Caroline Davies
Tues June 30th	Chevin Up Westwards	C	Antonia Woosnam-Savage
Tues June 30th	Brief Historic Highlights of Otley	D	Jim Heslop
Weds July 1st	Fame is the Spur		Chris Tye
Thurs July 2nd	Washburn Wander	B	Amanda Siswick, Gina Brooks
Sat July 4th	The Otley (Literature) Run		Chris Tye

Firstly thank you to the leaders who led the walks and the many members in all our walking groups who turned out to support them.



The record goes to the combined B groups who attracted 39 walkers, probably the Festival record, but also congratulations to the D group with several times their normal number giving 25 people a fascinating tour of Otley.

The primary purpose of the LWR participation in the Festival was to raise awareness of our 6 groups and attract new members, as 60/70% participants are local residents.

We certainly raised awareness but judging the impact on recruitment will be a slower burn, although the A+ group have already attracted 2 new members.

There were two big challenges:-

1. Walk leaders had to commit to a walk 6 months in advance in order to meet brochure printing and website deadlines.
2. The OWF relies on raffle ticket sales on walk to raise funds (largely for insurance) and nobody enjoyed selling them!

All the walk leaders have provided feedback on their walk experiences. These have been compiled and will be discussed at the next LWR Committee meeting to decide whether to support the OWF in future years. The feedback has also been provided to the OWF organizing committee.

The OWF 2026 review and AGM, to which all walk leaders are invited, will take place at the Otley Labour Rooms, Nelson St, Otley on Wednesday 14th October, 7:30pm – 9:30pm. (NB this is a change from the original September date)

KEITH WILMAN STEPS DOWN AS TUESDAY B GROUP WALK COORDINATOR



Keith



Lesley (left of Trig Point), Roger (right)

Former LWR Chair, Keith Wilman is to step down as the Tuesday B group walk coordinator. Keith founded the group in July 2023 following concerns that the numbers attending C group, often up to 40, had become too large and an alternative Tuesday B group would help alleviate the pressure. Starting with 2 walk leaders and a handful of walkers, the Tuesday B group has now become an established LWR walk group in its own right.

Keith will be replaced by Lesley Holmes and will start in her new role with the November 2026 programme.

Keith started the Tuesday B group with Roger Bullen as his IT support. Roger will continue to support Lesley. He will also continue as C group IT support until such time as they can fill this role from within their own ranks.

The committee would like to thank Keith for his role in creating the successful Tuesday B group and Roger for his ongoing support to two groups. Thanks also goes to Lesley for replacing Keith. Please give Lesley every support.

FACEBOOK TRIAL LAUNCHED



Many LWR members will already be familiar with Facebook on a personal basis. Following positive feedback from other Ramblers groups on the use of Facebook to publicize walks and attract new members, the LWR committee has decided to adopt the use of this technology on a pilot basis.

The first two steps are a generic LWR Facebook page and a dedicated A+ group Facebook page. Ian Haigh set up the A+ page a few months ago and it has been very successful. Ian also created the generic LWR page but Mike Briers and Chris Tye will be developing content.

The idea would be that somebody looking for a walking group in our area would find the generic LWR page which would give an overview of us and provide links to all 6 walking groups. At the moment these links would be to the LWR website but in time we hope each group will also have their own dedicated Facebook page.

When 'What's App' was first introduced into LWR, it was intended as a message board to quickly communicate walk cancellations, traffic delays, unexpected change of start points etc. However, over time, 'What's App' has developed into a social message board with walk photos, holiday snaps, wildlife photos etc. There is nothing wrong with this but the risk is that important messages can get lost.

Facebook enables as many photos and messages to be posted as members wish. It is a much more versatile social platform than 'What's App'. Also it is a forum open to any registered Facebook users which means many more people learning about LWR walks, members, footpath maintenance, social events etc.

We're on a learning curve. If you are a registered Facebook user, have a look at the LWR pages. If not, on your next walk, ask somebody who is, to give you a demonstration of the LWR pages. If you would be interested in setting up a Facebook page for another LWR group, please contact Mike Briers

LWR MEMBERS WALKING FOR OTHERS

Congratulations to a number of LWR members who braved walking in baking heat to support worthy causes.

Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association	MacMillan Cancer
	
Tim Wilkinson, Adrienne Eaton , Ann Tew (All C group)	Mike Rogers (A & B groups), John Jackson (B)
Tim, Adrienne and Ann took part in the 'Three Peaks Challenge' organized to raise funds for the UWFR, There were three walks on offer, all of which took place simultaneously on June 27th. They selected the ' Dalesway & Paradise walk' of 4.5 miles, a smart choice given the heat, which ended with tea and cake at the UWFR HQ . (Photo courtesy of Cookridge Camera Club)	John organized a group of friends, including Mike, to take part in the MacMillan Mighty Hike on June 27th. This involved walking 26 miles across the Yorkshire Dales to raise funds in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The walk started at 7:30am on one of the hottest days of the year ending with a climb up and down Malham! Despite the oppressive conditions, all of John's team completed a grueling course and, to date, have raised £24,000 between them.

BACCHUS, BINGO & BRONTE – YOU CAN'T BEAT LWR FOR VARIETY!



LWR FOLLOW THE YORKSHIRE WINE TRAIL

Holmfirth is probably most famous as the setting for 'Last of the Summer Wine'. Well the BBC may have to change the title because, believe it or not, Holmfirth now has a vineyard and LWR are going on a visit.

The Yorkshire Wine Trail is a series of vineyards across Yorkshire which welcome visitors. Amanda Siswick organized a walk in the Holmfirth area followed by a tour of the Holmfirth Vineyard, including tasting their products. Following the tour the group will be having dinner in the Vineyard restaurant, overlooking the Holme Valley.

The first trip on September 3rd sold out shortly after being advertised so Amanda organized a second one on September 10th, which also sold out! You can put your name on the reserve list for both trips by contacting Amanda

You can find a map of the trail and more details of the 10 vineyards open for visits, including Holmfirth, at – www.yorkshirewinetrail.co.uk

SINGO BINGO

This event was so popular in 2025, that it is being repeated.

The date is Friday 30th October and once again the venue is Burley Social Club

More details to follow nearer the date.

CELEBRATING THE BRONTE'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On December 29th 1812, the Rev Patrick Bronte married Maria Branwell at St Oswald's Church in Guiseley. They had 6 children. The rest is history.

The B group walk on Tuesday December 29th 2026, using an 1822 map, follows their wedding procession from Woodhouse Grove School (where they met) to the church and back for the reception, visiting St Oswald's and other locations the happy couple would be familiar with 'en route'.

The twixt Christmas and New Year B walk is always a relaxed affair, reflecting the season. As the round trip is 6.77 miles, the C group has accepted an invitation to join the walk.

The wealthy rode on horseback to the wedding, the poor walked behind! Join the poor and experience the joy of walking though woods and footpath, in your wedding finery, in mid-December.

Meet Rawdon Meadows Car Park (free), Harrogate Rd, Calverley, Bradford, BD10 0NP - 10:30am.

Full details will be available on the LWR website, Tuesday B walks and C walks, nearer the date.