

## **West Yorkshire - Walks Secretary Report**

### **For 2021 AGM**

Unfortunately we got off to a rocky start at the beginning of 2021 with the pandemic still being in full force. However, once we got the go-ahead from the NEC it was overwhelming to see how many people wanted to lead walks for us. We had obviously all missed walking in a group and enjoying each other's company. The walk leaders adapted to the new guidelines that had to be put in place, ensuring the safety and welfare of our members was top priority.

The first walk in the calendar was in April 2021 led by Ian Hull. This was the first walk Ian had led for West Yorkshire and was well received and here's hoping he may lead for us again.

As always the programme has been varied, including the Calderdale Way led by Chris over 2 separate sections. The chance to walk a long distance footpath over 2 separate walks was a great idea and enjoyed by all. In addition, Iain Connell led the Airedale Walk, again, over 2 weekends. Iain had not led for us before, and his walks were well attended and all the hard work he had put into the route was appreciated.

It is great to have all of our existing walk leaders back leading for us but always good to welcome new leaders, including Adrian Gosling and Christine Stratton (who will be leading for us later in the year); and not forgetting John Phillips who has led and continues to lead walks for West Yorkshire. All of leaders make our walks programme very attractive, and dare I say, the envy of a lot of other Clubs!

Thank you to all of our leaders for providing such an extensive programme of walks.

However, the walk which stands out for me this year, was the "Virtual" 100 – Ilkley Moor Bah Tat Walk. Massive thanks go out to Karen and John for allowing us access to their home over the whole of the weekend and the facilities for both walkers and CP staff were first class. Karen's aunties and uncle were brilliant and giving up their time to support everyone over the weekend was truly amazing. It was great to see a collaboration of members walking from West Yorkshire, South Pennine and Cumbria walking together and congratulations to all of them. Special thanks also to our marshals for all their hard work over the weekend, including John, Iain, Sarah (my daughter) Mick and Jackie; and from East Lancs Rob and from Calderdale, Roger. The whole weekend was a great success and encapsulated the true spirit of the LDWA.

Finally I would also like to thank all my West Yorkshire LDWA "family" for all the love and support they have shown both me and Ralph at the end of 2020/early 2021 whilst I was very poorly indeed. The prospect of going out walking again with the Group was the best incentive for me to get better and stronger.

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