

RCHS North West Group – Outdoor Events July to October 2018 - Updated Notices as at 29 June 2018

North West Group – Thursday 26 July: A walk led by Mark Jones (distance 6 miles) to explore extant and former railways in the area south of St Helens starting from St Helens Junction and walking towards Widnes, including the former Clock Face Colliery branch. The walk will commence from St Helens Junction Station at 10.30 a.m, after arrival at 10.28 a.m. of the 10.02 departure (Trans Pennine Express) from Manchester Victoria (Liverpool train), also departs Earlestown at 10.24 OR alternatively by the 09.53 departure from Manchester Piccadilly arriving St Helens Junction at 10.28, this journey involves a change at Newton-le-Willows. Opportunity for pub lunch at Clock Face Hotel, located on Clock Face Road between villages of Sutton and Bold. The pub management requires our meal choices to be block booked (via Gerald Leach), at least two days in advance of the walk. Members wishing to order lunch in advance can access the pub's menu in the "Events" section of the RCHS website or send an email to Gerald Leach requesting a copy of the menu be sent to them as an email attachment. The closing date for submitting meal selections (by an email or phone call) to Gerald Leach is Monday 23rd July. Alternatively bring a packed lunch. At the end of the walk, return will be by bus from Farnworth to Widnes Station for onward connections to St Helens, Warrington, or Manchester. For additional information contact Gerald Leach - email: gerald.leach@btinternet.com - telephone 01565 654342.

2. North West Group – Thursday 30 August:

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A walk (Distance 5.5) miles in the Edge Hill - Liverpool area led by Bernard Parkinson, to follow and explore, as near as possible, the routes of the former Lancashire and North Western Railway's circular goods lines and other lines around Edge Hill and Wavertree and in to Central Liverpool. The walk will commence from Edge Hill Station at 11.00 a.m. approx. There are a number of options for possible train services from Manchester to Edge Hill and three of these are listed as follows: (1) from Manchester Oxford Road dep. 09.45a.m - arrive Edge Hill 10.50, this train stops at all stations en-route OR (2) From Manchester Piccadilly the 09.39 a.m. departure an East Midlands Trains semi fast service (also departs Stockport at 9.25 and Warrington Central at 09.58) - alight at Liverpool South Parkway (arr.10.15) and then board the 10.39 Northern departure, arrives Edge Hill at 10.50 OR (3) From Manchester Victoria dep 9.23 (via Earlestown 10.24 a.m.) arrives Edge Hill at 10.27. In view of the current operating problems and time table changes involving Northern Trains please check suitable trains and times nearer the date. Ticketing suggestion is to book a return ticket to Liverpool Lime Street. There will be a break for food at a small cafe in Old Swan or bring a packed lunch. Early escape locations are available along the route of the walk. Return will be from Liverpool Lime Street) for onward journeys to Manchester and other destinations. For further information contact Gerald Leach, telephone 01565 654342 or e.mail:gerald.leach@btinternet.com

3. North West & East Midlands Group – Thursday 27 September:

Please note that the itinerary for this walk has been changed from what was previously published in the May/June issue of the Bulletin.

Cromford & High Peak Railway Part 3 - Led by Paul Blurton, a walk along former track beds to explore further sections of the former Cromford and High Peak Railway. Walking distance is five miles approx. The Group will meet at Buxton Railway station at 11.00 a.m. following arrival at 10.49 a.m. of the 09.48 train departure from Manchester Piccadilly (also departs Stockport at 10.02). From Buxton a coach will be available to transport the group to Parsley Hay, where the walk will commence. Note that there will be a charge of £10 for travel on the coach. The morning itinerary will be a walk to view those parts of the line between Parsley Hay and Hurdlow, noting the 1892 route alterations. To save time the lunch break will be at the former Hurdlow Station picnic area so please bring a packed lunch. There is a pub in close proximity which can be used for purchase of beverages and use of toilets. After lunch the walk will continue along the 1869 track bed to Dowlow where we will view the incline and earlier track bed that the 1869 new route made redundant. Return via Hurdlow Township to the former Hurdlow station, where the coach will be available in mid-afternoon to make the return journey to Buxton Station, estimated arrival there at 4.30 p.m. Firm bookings are now being accepted, but to monitor the possible numbers, it would be helpful if members could provide to Gerald Leach an early indication of their interest in joining the walk. Such notifications will not be regarded as firm

commitments at this stage. The closing date for bookings and payment is 31st August. Gerald Leach's contact details are email: gerald.leach@btinternet.com - telephone 01565 654342.

4. North West & West Midlands Group – Thursday 25 October

Caldon Canal Walk: Hazelhurst Aqueduct to Stockton Brook. This walk (a joint North West & West Midlands Groups event) which will be led by Ruth Shaw and Roger Brice is currently being finalised. It is a continuation of our walk (28th Sept 2017) following the canal feeder and the Leek Branch canal. We envisage a walk of between 5 and 6 miles on mainly canal towpath with short distances on quiet country roads also being necessary. There will be a pub lunch. During the walk we will explore the changes in the routing of the Caldon Canal with its associated changes in the location of locks at both ends of the summit level as well as the site of a former rail-canal transshipment facility and other aspects of the history of the canal. The former North Staffs railway from Leekbrook to Stoke ran very close to the canal for the length of the walk and the walk notes will include the history of both railway and canal.

The walk will commence at the #18 bus stop in Longsdon at 11:10 following the arrival of the #18 bus 10:48 departure from Hanley (Stoke City Centre) bus station, stand G. Using public transport, the walk will be best accessed from Stoke station. The group will meet in the booking hall of Stoke railway station at 10:20 and then depart by bus to Hanley and on to Leek. Recommended trains are the 09:35 departure from Manchester Piccadilly (arriving Stoke at 10:11), the 09:31 departure from Birmingham New Street (arriving Stoke at 10:17). It will be very important that we leave Stoke railway station by 10:25. The return to Stoke will also be by the #18 bus back to Hanley and then on to Stoke railway station. Further details will be included in the September edition of the Bulletin but, in the meantime, please direct any queries to Roger Brice (01625 533959; 07702 303242; rogerbrice@microton.net). It is also recommended that anyone planning to join the walk consults the society's website (or contacts Roger Brice, by email if possible) nearer to the day to confirm final timings for the walk.