

South Cheshire Ramblers Yorkshire Dales May 2026 Holiday

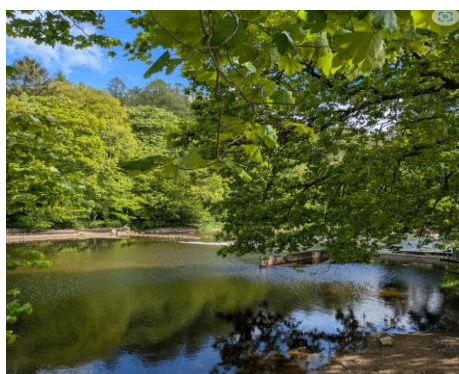
Sunday 17/05/2026 – Thursday 21/05/2026

Nineteen ramblers joined the walks on our 4 day holiday to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. The majority of us stayed in or close to the Premier Inn Gargrave, where you've got a train station, the Leeds & Liverpool Canal running right through, and the Pennine Way passing the village edge. Gargrave is a beautiful village with several pubs and restaurants – I think we sampled them all!!

A variety of group walks were offered, including one on the way to Gargrave and one on the return home. Please see SCR website for more photos.

17/05/2026 Walk offered on the journey to Gargrave

Nine ramblers met at the ABC Memorial Hall, in the pretty village of Hurst Green, Ribbles Valley for a 7 mile walk led by Andy Webb, called - Maybe Middle-Earth (Tolkien Trail). We walked along winding rivers, ancient bridges, and landscapes, said to have inspired J.R.R. Tolkien. How lucky were we to be walking the trail in 2026; the 25th anniversary of The Lord of the Rings film trilogy. We also got to see Stonyhurst College where Tolkien lived whilst writing The Lord of the Rings.



Stonihurst College



18/05/2025 Day 1 Ingleborough (724m): the second highest of the 3 peaks.

Ten ramblers met at Clapham to summit Ingleborough; an 11 mile walk led by Andy Webb. Ingleborough is the Second-highest of the Yorkshire Three Peaks and a walk that is so much more than reaching a summit. As we walked away from Clapham we passed by Clapham Falls, and then onto the caves of Ingleborough, one of the country's natural wonders and thought to be the best show caves in Britain (sadly we didn't have time to explore the caves

– maybe next time). The group then climbed the impressive Trow Gill, a narrow, steep-sided limestone gorge, thought to have been fashioned by melt water from the last or the previous ice ages, as a deep sheet of ice that covered Ingleborough slowly melted. We then viewed the remarkable Gaping Gill, a 98-metre-deep pothole, and one of the most famous caves and largest underground chambers in the UK. Several of us cautiously stepped onto a platform to take a closer look!!

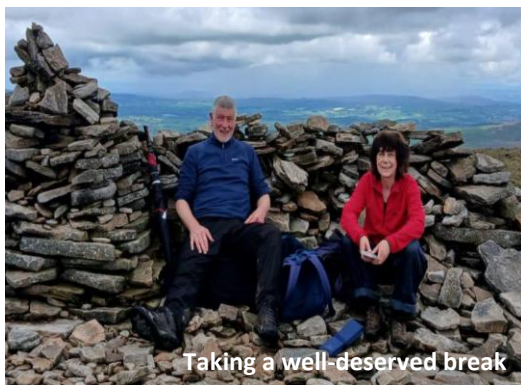
The ascent then became steeper as we headed up towards Little Ingleborough and then onto Ingleborough itself, which at 724m high provides views to the Lakeland Fells to the north and as far away as the Snowdonia range to the south. We also had a view of the Ribbleshead Viaduct which we would take a closer look at on day 3. We returned via Simon Fell Breast and a limestone pavement, before heading down Long Lane back into Clapham. The last section of the walk was via two tunnels; a fascinating feature of the Ingleborough Estate, reflecting the grandeur and privacy concerns of Victorian estate planning.



Gapping Gill



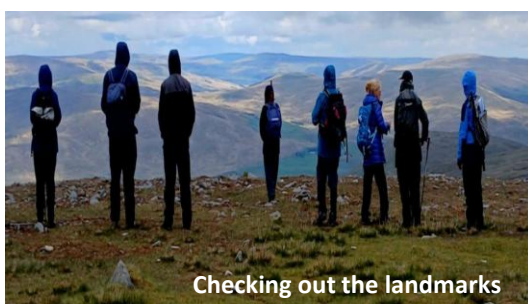
Good paths to Ingleborough



Taking a well-deserved break



We made it!



Checking out the landmarks

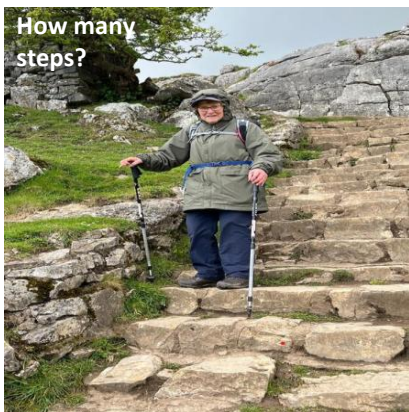


Ingleborough estate tunnels

18/05/2025 Day 1 Malham Cove voted 3rd best in ITVs Britain's Favourite Walks

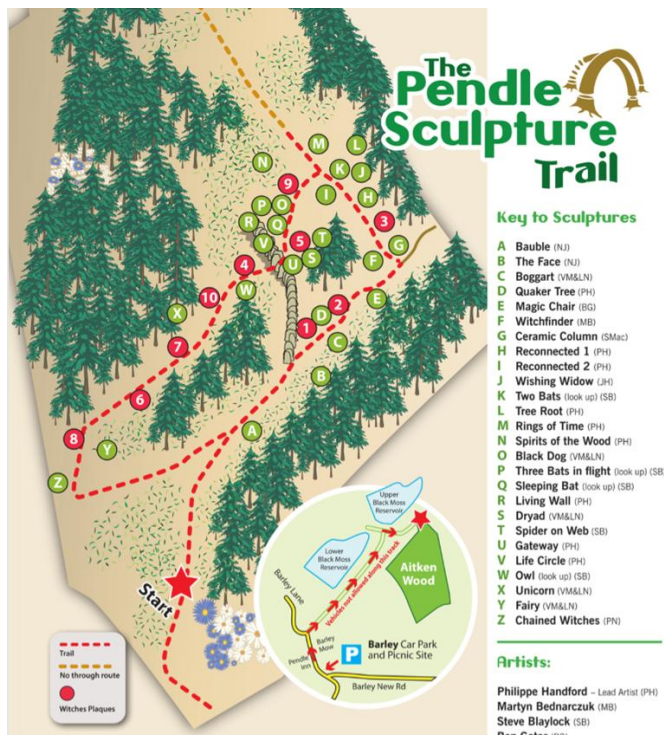
Four ramblers headed off to explore Malham Cove, Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss, a 6 mile circular walk from Malham led by Phil Guest. According to legend, Janet (or Jennet), queen of the fairies, lived in a cave behind the waterfall. Foss is the old Scandinavian name for a waterfall. Over the last 1.5 million years, Malham has been covered by three great sheets of ice. Gordale Scar was most likely formed by melting water creating a cavern that then collapsed. Each time the glaciers melted, the water and moving rocks scoured away the rocks, leaving the gorge that we saw on today's ramble. Gordale Scar was painted by J. M. W. Turner and has been the subject of an 1818 sonnet, by William Wordsworth.

The limestone pavement the group walked across has been formed by the movement of glaciers over time. The blocks of limestone are called 'clints' and the gaps or fissures in between them 'grikes'. Sadly, on this occasion we didn't see Harry and Hermione!! (a scene from the Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I film was filmed here, where Harry and Hermione set up a magical tent).



18/05/2026 Day 1 The Pendle Sculpture Trail

Alan and Sandy spent some time rambling around the Pendle Sculpture trail in an atmospheric woodland setting. Art, history and nature, clear to see against the stunning backdrop of Pendle Hill. Four artists have created a unique and intriguing range of sculptures; their work is inspired by the history of the Pendle Witches of 1612 and the natural world in this wild and beautiful corner of Lancashire. Please see SCR web page for more photos of this walk and [PENDLE SCULPTURE TRAIL | Lets Walk In Pendle](#)



Day 1 complete – with walks and sightseeing for everyone in the group to enjoy.

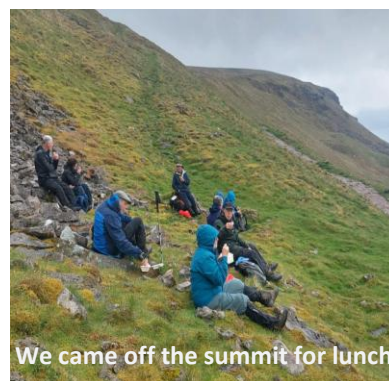
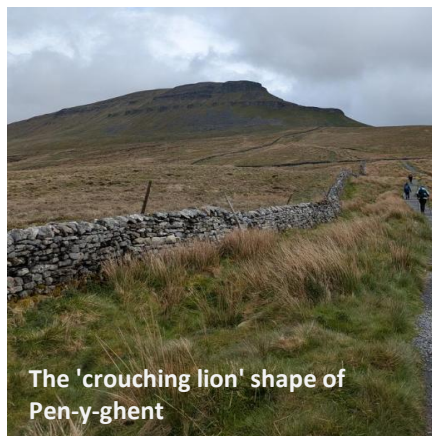
19/05/2026 Day 2 Pen-y-ghent (694m) the shortest of the 3 peaks.

Eleven ramblers completed the classic circuit of Pen-y-ghent led by Lynn Dudley. We took the popular route from Horton-in-Ribblesdale, with good paths, great scenery and the impressive Hunt and Hull Potts on the way back down. Horton in Ribblesdale was mentioned as far back as in the Domesday Book, Britain's earliest public record, commissioned by William I in 1085. Pen is from Cumbric and as in today's Welsh language means top or head. 'Y' is taken from the definitive article 'the'. Ghent is the uncertain part. It could mean edge or border if taken from a derivative of 'gint' but also may mean heathen.

We passed St Oswald's church, at the start of the walk; parts of which date back to the 12th century. We took a few minutes to explore some of the features including the Norman doorway and a tub font with herringbone decoration; leaving the church through a side entrance. We continued past the old primary school and then onto the buildings at Brackenbottom, where we turned left through the gate just before them. We then followed the sign for Pen-y-ghent summit, one and three-quarter miles, taking time to look back at the views. The 'crouching lion' shape of Pen-y-ghent soon became much clearer as did the two steeper climbs. We followed the Pennine Way sign as we started the first of two steeper

climbs (the first one was initially up the steps). At the end of the man-made stepped section we scrambled up the rocks (fortunately they were not too wet) reaching a plateau then headed towards the last steeper section with a little more scrambling. We then followed the flags to the trig point. The seat weather shelter on the summit of Pen-y-ghent gave a little respite from the harsh winds, although we didn't hang around there for lunch.

We continued our descent after refreshments and after battling a heavy downpour and a blast of hail stones, we took a short diversion to explore Hull Pot. We were rewarded with the most spectacular views of Hull Pot which is reputed to be the largest natural hole in England at 91m long, 18m wide and 18m deep. After periods of rain, the water can head along the top and form a waterfall over the side of the pot itself which we were lucky enough to see. In periods of extreme rain however, as seen on the 10th of January 2023, Hull Pot can completely fill with water (the equivalent of filling almost 200,000 baths!). We retraced our steps, and then followed the Pennine Way sign to Horton in Ribblesdale down the enclosed walled track and back to the car park.



19/05/2026 Day 2 Skipton, named UK's 'happiest place' to live in 2025

Five ramblers walked into Skipton along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. The 5 mile walk was led by Margaret Grindrod. Skipton's heritage reels back as far as the 7th century when Saxon farmers called it 'Sheep Town'. Perched on the edge of the National Park, this busy characterful town is known as the 'Gateway to the Dales' and the canal runs straight through its centre. Please see SCR web page for more photos



20/05/2026 Day 3 Ingleborough (736m): the highest of the 3 Peaks.

Nine ramblers completed the 8 mile Wharfedale circular walk led by Chris Bishop. We followed the classic trail from the Ribbleshead Viaduct, which carries the Settle to Carlisle railway across Batty Moss. Building of the viaduct commenced in 1869 by over 2000 men, most of who lived in shanty towns specifically set up nearby. Over 100 men lost their lives whilst it was being built. Some died in accidents, some through fighting and others due to disease in the shanty towns. Many of these are buried in the Church of St Leonard in nearby Chapel-le-Dale which has a plaque in their memory. In 1874 the viaduct was completed and the Settle to Carlisle railway line was opened for passengers in May 1876. The viaduct is constructed of 24 stone arches, which at its highest point are 32 metres above the ground.

We followed the Settle to Carlisle railway tracks, before climbing to reach the summit of Wharfedale. After a while by the railway, we reached Blea Moor Signal Box which, according to the Network Rail website, is the most remote signal box on their railways. We passed Force Gill waterfall and then as we hiked further we had a brief glimpse of Greensett Moss and Tarn to the left, before it quickly became covered in mist.

Due to the dense mist we almost overlooked the trig point indicating the summit of Wharfedale, which is just through the gap on the other side of the wall. The weather shelter provided us with a brief respite from the wind. We decided against lunch there and made our descent via a very steep path, looking for a suitable spot out of the rain. After refreshments, we followed the path back to the viaduct, left our wet gear in the car and headed off to the nearby pub for a warm and well-earned drink.



20/05/2026 Day 3 Parcevall Hall Gardens

Alan and Sandy Edwards rambled around the stunning Parcevall Hall Gardens today. The historic gardens, created in the 1920 by Sir William Milner unfold across 24 acres of formal terraces, woodland walks and sweeping views, described as a living tapestry shaped by time, beauty and devotion. See SCR website for Alan and Sandy's beautiful photos.

20/05/2026 Day 3 Ilkley Moor

Trevor and Ann decided upon a ramble on Ilkley Moor; a well-known moorland with incredible wildlife and natural scenery. Ilkley Moor is famous for many reasons, one being the impressive Cow and Calf Rocks, which can be found near the abandoned Ilkley Quarry. See SCR website for Trevor and Ann's fabulous photos.

20/05/2026 Day 3 Bolton Abbey

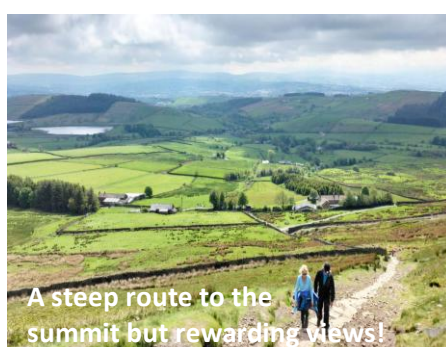
Phil, Mags, Sarah, Elie and Andrea set off for the incredible Bolton Abbey today. Bolton Abbey Estate takes its name from a 12th-century Augustinian monastery of canons regular, now known as Bolton Priory. The Priory was closed in the 1539 Dissolution of the Monasteries ordered by King Henry VIII. Phil led the group on a 7.5 mile ramble around one of the many miles of all-weather walking routes. Check out the stunning photos on SCR website.

17/05/2026 Pendle Hill: a walk offered on the journey home from Gargrave

Six ramblers met at the Barley Picnic site for an 8 mile walk led by Andy Webb, exploring the delights of Pendle Hill. A low level option was chosen by a 7th SCR.

Pendle Hill is one of the most recognisable landmarks in Lancashire. Rising a striking 557 metres (1,827 feet) above sea level, it gives its name to the borough of Pendle. The hill, only 53 meters short from being classified as a mountain, is famous for its walks and links with the Pendle witch trials and executions of 1612 and the Quakers.

It was a strenuous but steady climb up a stepped path, and this time we were rewarded with stunning views over the Ribble Valley. From the summit we followed a heavily eroded path and then down across the black peat hags of Barley Moor. We walked alongside the upper and lower Ogden reservoirs and then headed back to the car park for a well-deserved beer (tea for some) in a local pub; oh we managed a couple of bowls of chips too!!





Pendle Hill conquered



A tranquil lunch stop

Food and drinks

Most of the group met up for an evening meal together to reflect on the day's events and we were certainly fed well! We booked ahead as we were a large group, choosing the following local pub/restaurants. Check out the photos on the SCR website.

The Masons Arms (Sunday)

The White Swan (Monday)

The Frying Yorkshireman (Tuesday)

Bollywood Cottage (Wednesday)

A fabulous few days away exploring the breath-taking beauty of the Yorkshire Dales, making memories with an amazing group of ramblers, with something for us all.