

Ride2stride 2014

7 days

32 walks

3 talks

7 nights of music and song



"I came from Chicago. What's not to like? Settle and the Yorkshire Dales; the railroad and the music!"

Ride2stride 2014 was the 3rd Settle Carlisle Walking Festival. It's a week long celebration of the landscapes and culture of the Western Dales and Eden Valley and it took place from Tuesday April 29th to Bank Holiday Monday May 5th. With 873 people taking part it was the busiest yet.



The festival is co-ordinated by a small steering group who represent the various organisations that take part. Those organisations, 10 in all this year, are responsible for putting on all the activities that make up the festival.

"Sadly, Ride2Stride 2014 is over, but I would like to thank all concerned for another great few days, with great walks, great company and great music. This was my third Festival and I'm already looking forward to R2S 2015! Thanks again"

"Many compliments on the organisation...and thanks"

Walks.

There were 32 walks this year ranging from guided tours of Settle Water Tower and Ribbleshead Viaduct shanty town to strenuous hikes over High Cup Nick, Nine Standards Rigg, Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough. Some had a theme, a visit to the Hoffmann Kiln or to the archaeology of Chapel-le-Dale, others took in waterfalls or viaducts or wild flower woods. The Singers Stride Out stopped for a song at every bridge, the Wainwright Society recreated one of AW's Walks in Limestone Country. The strenuous walks all proved very popular as walkers new to the area appreciated the presence of an experienced guide in the more remote areas. We have had requests for a shorter walk in the same area as each long one in future so friends and couples can split up.



Inevitably weather played a part in the number of people walking with the numbers being lowest on the rainy Sunday and highest on Saturday with a whopping 237 people enjoying Ride2stride.

"We'd like to thank everyone for all their hard work in giving us such a great time. Everyone was so knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the railway and its history, and all things surrounding it. We were especially grateful to Mark and Pat for letting us all traipse through their home and to the three jolly blokes who led the walk/talk to the viaduct on Wednesday morning...lovely!"

"Loved the flower walks" "Lovely group: so friendly"

"Lovely rural country and away from traffic with timeless villages and good company"

Talks



All 3 talks proved popular this year with standing room only at the Friends Meeting House in Settle for the talk on the Droving Trade. Someone came especially from Derby to hear Dr David Johnson

speak. The Wainwright Society combined a walk with a talk about AW which proved a winning combination.

"We really enjoyed the talks especially where they were preceded by a relevant walk"

Special thanks go to Victoria Hall, Settle for all their help and support for "The Line That Refused To Die", a talk by Stan Abbott celebrating the campaign to save the Settle Carlisle line from closure.

Would anyone like to organise a talk further up the line, possibly in Appleby or Kirkby Stephen next year?

Music

Once again the music was a great success. At the end of every day's walking the singers and musicians from the 3 Peaks Folk Club gathered in a pub near the station. Over the week the core group were joined by performers from as far afield as Derbyshire and the North East. At the height of the festival there were 38 performers in the Station Inn at Ribbleshead on Saturday night. Without the musicians, many of whom are away from home all week, walkers would head straight for the train at the end of the day and the towns and villages along the Settle Carlisle line would never know we'd been.



"Great to finish with music at the end...much appreciated"

"It was a real pleasure to host the Ride2stride music session again, lovely people and a great atmosphere" Midland Hotel, Appleby.

"It's the music that puts the "Festival" into Ride2stride"

Feedback

Some walk leaders asked people where they were from, how they had travelled and where they were staying. Visitors came from the USA, Malta and Australia and in the UK from as far afield as Suffolk, Somerset, Essex, Northumberland, the Scottish Borders, Bath, Liverpool, Sussex, London, Peterborough, York, Darlington, Edinburgh and of course large numbers from Yorkshire and Lancashire. Two people even travelled from Bristol Walking Festival to see how we do it and presented Ride2stride with an award for our use of the trains.

Train was the most popular form of transport with most people we asked either using the train or staying locally in B&Bs, guest houses, pubs, holiday cottages, tents, caravans and motorhomes.

The only complaint we had about accommodation was that Settle was fully booked.

Sponsorship

Ride2stride is a free festival and everyone involved is a volunteer. The walk leaders, the speakers, the musicians, the people who distribute the programmes, the steering group - no one gets paid. We do have some costs though. We have a website www.ride2stride.org.uk and we design and print a programme. We are very grateful to Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line and Northern Rail for their cash contributions, to Victoria Hall, Settle for donating a portion of takings from Stan Abbott's talk, to Briggs Bros of Cononley for reducing the cost of printing, to Welcome to Yorkshire for giving Ride2stride free membership and to Skyware Press for maintaining the website and designing the programme.

A massive thank you from the steering group to everyone who took part in Ride2stride 2014. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Ride2stride Tuesday April 28 to Bank Holiday Monday May 4 2015

SAVE THE DATE

"Thank you to all in the Ride 2 Stride team. We did the 10.5 mile Dent - Ribbehead walk via Great Knoutberry hill on the Saturday, and the Horton in Ribblesdale circular on Sunday. Both were fantastic walks although Sunday's was made slightly more challenging by the effects of four pints and a late night at the music at the Station Inn the night before! Great week, well done and thanks"

The Numbers

Tues April 29th	Led by:	Distance	Numbers
Behind the Scenes	Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line (FoSCL)	½ mile	37
The Old Ways	Yorkshire Dales Society (YDS)	6.5 miles	29
Settle Circular	Friends of Dales Rail (FDR)	10 miles	24
	TOTAL		90
Wed April 30th			
Ribblehead Heritage Tour	FoSCL	3 miles/10 miles	30
Appleby Circular via Rutter Force	FDR	8 miles	15
Appleby Circular via High Cup Nick	FDR	15 miles	30
Appleby Circular via Dufton	FoSCL	10 miles	18
Landscapes of Upper Ribblesdale	YDS/ Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP)	7 miles	14
	TOTAL		107
Thursday May 1			
Historical Foray through Chapel-le-Dale	Ingleborough Archaeology Group (IAG)	6 miles	27
Nine Standards Rigg	FDR	15 miles	34
Singers Stride Out round Kirkby Stephen	FoSCL/3Peaks Folk Club	6 miles	13
Wigglesworth Wader Walk	Yorkshire Dales Millennium trust/RSPB	5 miles	9
The Droving Trade	IAG	talk	72
	TOTAL		155
Friday May 2			
Settle and the Hoffmann Kiln	YDS	8 miles	22
Singers Stride Out round Giggleswick	FoSCL/3 Peaks Folk Club	8 miles	10
Giggleswick Circular	FoSCL	12 miles	15
Garsdale to Hawes	Wensleydale Railway	6 miles/10 miles	24
The Line That refused To Die	FoSCL/Friends of A Dales High Way	talk	75
	TOTAL		146
Saturday May 3			
Ribblehead Heritage Tour	FoSCL	3 miles	16
Dent to Ribblehead via Whernside	FoSCL	13 miles	28
Horton to Ribblehead via Selside	FoSCL	8 miles	28
Settle to Ribblehead via Ingleborough	FDR	15 miles	27
Three Viaducts Walk	YDS/FoSCL	9 miles	40
Wainwright Walk to Victoria Cave	Wainwright Society	5 miles	30
Wainwright As I Knew Him	Wainwright Society	talk	68
	TOTAL		237
Sunday May 4			
Ribblehead to Horton via Pen-y-ghent	FDR	13 miles	7
Wharfe Woods and Smearsett Scar	FoSCL	13 miles	9
Horton Circular	FoSCL	7 miles	23
	TOTAL		39
Monday May 5			
Ribblehead Heritage Tours	FoSCL	3 miles/10 miles	15
Horton to Settle via Pen-y-ghent	FoSCL	13 miles	23
Settle Circular via Pennine Bridleway	FDR	10 miles	30
Highway to Ancient Woodland	YDNP	5.5 miles	31
	TOTAL		99
	OVERALL TOTAL		873

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