

Our LSA u3a Walking Group Year 2022



Photo by Graham

A **January** trip to the beach, sunglasses required but buckets and spades left at home. Later that month, Ron presented a large group of us with a ramble around Tockholes with its woods and reservoirs. **February's** walk from Rivington to the war memorial of a crashed WW2 Wellington Bomber was blown into March by Storm Eunice. Early **March** we captured the final flourish of snowdrops on display in the grounds of Lytham Hall, constant drizzle and inappropriate clothing meant an early bath for one. Along the river Brock, soaked by heavy **April** showers then blown dried by a strong westerly, lunch at Barton Grange Garden Centre. In **May**, Richard gave us a tour of Cuerden Valley Park where we met a Giant and visited the ruins of an old Victorian print works, followed by a pleasant lunch at the Ley Inn. On a sunny day in **June** we were in Carnforth, but the planned lunch at Milford Junction café wasn't the Brief Encounter it was advertised to be. **July** saw us climbing to Darwen Tower via a spooky wishing well and the Lyons Den, two did a runner from the pub without realising they hadn't paid and are now barred for life! Also in July Jim and Anne delivered a new-to-us route around the old favourite Nicky Nook with its great views, lunch in the gardens of the Applestore Café. In early **August** we were taken on a very well prepared walk from Owld Nells by Sita and Anja, however we almost got lost once and were rescued by Jim, and we avoided having to climb over some gates by using our Scouts and Guide skills at untying knots.

Later in **August** we were treated to blackberries from the hedgerows and Ice Cream in a variety of unusual flavours from Bonds Ice Cream Parlour by Susan. In **September** we walked with Anja from the Euston Hotel in Fleetwood to Cleveleys and for the return journey we rode a Tram back to Fleetwood. **October** we prayed for the rain to stop at an outdoor Catholic Church in Ladywell in Preston, but to no avail, luckily it wasn't raining in the Anderton Arms. In **November** we admired Waterfalls both natural and man-made in Roddlesworth woods and we practiced crossing rivers on stepping stones by holding hands and going slowly. After a hard frost, early **December** found us entranced by large blue skies and gently falling leaves in the tree lined avenues of Miller and Avenham Parks in Preston, and we walked a figure 8 taking in the old Tram Road. Later in **December** we partied with a 3-course Xmas lunch at the Salters Wharf Pub in St Annes after another trip to the beach in the middle of a freezing cold snap, again no buckets and spades needed (The sand was frozen), and a careful walk around Fairhaven Lake avoiding the black ice where possible, trying to remain vertical where not, an impromptu stop at the Fairhaven Lake café, recently refurbished, cappuccinos and hot chocolates all around providing a temporary thaw after freezing rain, then imitating Spitfires in a child-like fashion, arms outstretched, a photo opportunity not to be missed.



Photo by Salters Wharf

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Thanks to all Walking Group members for supporting our LSA u3a Walking Group in 2022 and a Special Thank you to all of our Walk Leaders.

Graham and Mike