



VINE'S 'INSPIRATIONAL NATURE' CONFERENCE
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY - 1ST - 3RD APRIL 2008.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RELEVANT TO THE RAMBLIN' VINE EVENTS

The following feedback is a summary of comments relevant to the rambles. It certainly seems to have inspired people! It comprises:

1. Feedback entered by delegates on to the feedback form provided to them during the last session of the conference. Many of the walkers were not in attendance so some feedback has unfortunately been lost. Perhaps ramble leaders received comments direct in which case we could add a further section to this review?
2. 19 delegates offered to be contacted about future ramble events. This is an enormously encouraging response.
3. Ramble locations and ideas suggested during the Conference debate.
4. Chris Kaighin's 'ramble guidance' used on the Clougha walk.
5. The Arn video and Clougha slides can now be viewed on the website.

This is being sent to everyone who we have noted as attending the rambles so further feedback welcomed to help us consider future events. Please send to: timkemp@firststepmanagement.com; with a copy to me: john@ragdon.plus.com

1. Information provided on the feedback forms:

Ramblin' Vine events on Tuesday 1st April

- o Missed the walk - very sorry I did.






a) Clougha:

Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
4	-	1	-	-

- o I hope we don't need to use the word 'ramblin'!






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b) Arn:

Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
				
2	4	-	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Weather uncooperative.				

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Ramblin Vine presentation Thursday morning

Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
				
12	21	-	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Could have used more intro of Vine concept at start to the discussion.o Vine needs to be clearer about its aims and possible outcomes (for the rambles) in medium to long term.o Very good - especially as I had not been on them.o Ramblin' Vine expedition (Originally entered under 'Best Things').o Incorporate the rambles into the body of the Conference. (Originally entered under 'Any recommendations').				

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2. Responses entered on feedback form to the question 'Would you like to be involved with local rambling Vine events in your area?'

- o Will engage re Natural England sign up to the project.

(If yes, please give your contact email address or telephone number. Please print:

- o 19 addresses supplied
 - o REPLY: THANK YOU. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
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3. Ramble locations and ideas suggested during the Conference debate:

Locations:

- o Wye Valley, Nr Chepstow. (Tom Burditt)
- o River Dart - silent walk (John Barkham)
- o Lancaster SSSIs - his workplace (Bill Grayson)
- o South Dartmoor Woods (Stephan Harding)
- o Essex marshes - watch the kids play. (N. E)
- o Salisbury Plain at night (Guy Hagg)

Ideas:

- o Pass the baton from ramble to ramble. (Joyce Gilbert)
- o Link with Isle of Wight walking festival. (Rowan Adams)
- o Papers, pencils and quietness. (Susan Cross)
- o City people need to be shown things. (Judith Hanna)
- o Meditation; small things; Chequers and world leaders. (Peter Phillipson)
- o Landscape story; climate (Lisa Schneidau)
- o Coal pit walk - on and under ground. (John Rodwell)
- o Leads inspirational walks (John MacPherson)

- When, where, how - journey through spring; sounds of spring. (Matthew Oates)
- Effects on body of view from the Malvern Hills from front door every morning. (Val Cooper)
- Talks to interesting people. (Roger Cartwright)
- Time of day - dawn, night time. (Tom Burditt)

4. Clougha Ramble Guidance provided by Chris Kaighin:

Stations of the Rambling VINE – an experience in Bowland 2 April 2008

Eight VINE conference members took a 6km walk through heather moorland, valley mire and upland oak woodland, to the gritstone edge of Clougha Pike with views over the Bowland Fells and Morecambe Bay to the Lake District.

On our walk we experimented with using different inspirations to stimulate our senses and awaken a sense of place. Through our senses we tried to connect with what we experience in the natural environment, how it has played a part in our lives, how we value it and how we communicate that.

We began our ramble with a Sound walk: we agreed not to speak for the first 15 mins and to focus on listening to sounds of the environment. We took a few minutes to stop and share and reflect on that experience. Following that after a short climb up to Windy Clough (and it lived up to its name!) we stopped for a Texture station: by closing our eyes, sometimes assisted by a partner, we explored more keenly the feel of the bushes, trees and rocks around us. Then up to the millstone ridge of Clougha and a Smell station – passing around handfuls of moss and pinches of gorse blossom to smell. Passing above Little Windy Clough we took shelter by a stone wall and experienced the Taste station, sharing around cubes of fell lamb and bread laden with heather honey from bees that forage on the Bowland fells. Climbing over the wall via a rickety stile we entered the Vision station, trying to really look at the heather moorland and rocks around us and appreciate both the long view and the close up look of where we were. We used digital cameras to capture these views.

After a tricky descent through very uneven and boggy ground we met up with other VINERs who had opted for a lower level ramble. We shared drinks and the Memory station: remembering the key events and people in our lives that helped to connect us to the natural environment. We wrote and drew pictures on cards to share these memories and some of us spoke to the video camera about these memories. (Unfortunately all there was on the sound track was wind noise, so this was the least successful part of the day).

Further feedback:

Received 12. 4. 08:

“Reading Chris Kaighin's notes I wish I had gone on the Clougha walk - it sounds like it was really good fun. The Arnside one didn't have so much structure or guidance and after a while became just like any other 'conservation management' walk. All work and no play.....”

I feel that if these walks are to work as something different and specific they will need some very focussed facilitation and for the participants to understand that they will be expected to interact with that facilitation. Stephan probably already does something of this sort at Schumacher and we might be able to enlist his help.

I still think it was a really great conference; I'm still reflecting back on it, even now more than a week later which is long after I would have ceased to remember a lesser event.”