

CRC Isle of Man Holiday 2026

Wednesday 15th April – Crossing the Irish Sea

Our party of 42 left Cheltenham early on Wednesday and were pleased to find Mike driving us once again! The coach drive to Heysham was smooth and gave us a chance to try a quiz on flowers! Luckily the panic for those who had not brought a passport or driving licence to use as ID on the ferry proved unnecessary, as ID was not checked. However, a few of us were chosen for random searching before the coach was able to drive onto the ferry. Although it was windy during the crossing, walking around was no worse than on a moving train.



Several of us took a look around the local area in Douglas after dinner, where amongst other things we learnt that the Bee Gees were from the Isle of Man. (Later in the week one group found that Tyson Fury currently lives on the island after he was spotted!)



Thursday 16th April – Around Peel

A Walk – Peel Circular (11 miles)

A group of 9 left Peel and followed the pretty river Nib before ascending steadily inland with fine views back over the town and beyond. We then descended through the magical Glen Mae crisscrossing the cascading waterfalls and lunched in the lush woodland to the sound of burbling water and birdsong. Reaching the beach, we had a steep climb to the undulating coastal path above cliffs and turquoise seas to the summit of Corrin's Hill and folly with its panoramic vistas. Finally, we descended back to Peel with amazing views of the harbour, St Patrick's Isle and the castle. (Leaders Lilli & Liz S)







B Walk – St Johns to Peel (6 miles)

Eleven of us formed the B group starting from the village of St John's. We were fortunate to enjoy warm, sunny weather and blue skies.

There was time to explore the church of St John the Baptist which is where the annual ceremony is held on Tynwald Day 5th July recognising over a thousand years of parliamentary history. The church site may date back to the tenth century, however a building dating from 1699 was demolished in 1847 and rebuilt.

We walked through woodland and the Slieau Plantation admiring views in all directions and then joined a stony track which took us up to more open moorland. This was quite a rugged route down which an accumulation of rain and springs was flowing, so we had to dodge around the streams until reaching a plateau. There were peacock butterflies amongst the gorse and we heard curlews calling above.

To save time and another intrepid uphill stretch on challenging ground we descended to the little village of Glen Maye where three members of the group took advantage of a bus and the remainder of the group continued into Peel. (Leaders Janet & Anne B)



C Walk – St Johns to Peel (4 miles)

This was an undemanding walk along the old Peel Railway track prefaced by a short visit to Tynwald Hill (the Manx Parliament) and St Johns Church. It was a fine day for 22 people of mixed abilities to stroll 4.5 miles to Peel. The route was a scenic walk alongside the River Ned that passed through open countryside. The pace was slow as we had several walkers that did find this walk challenging. We had an unforeseen highlight as a large man (A UNIT) came running along, passing us at the mid-point. This was none other than the boxer Tyson Fury (The Gypsy King) now a resident of the Isle. It was a talking point as half the group did not know who he was, and the other half were impressed to have seen him. Sadly, no pictures or autographs to prove the sighting. We finished at the seaside town of Peel, close to the castle and three replica Viking Boats. (Leaders Nic & Claudette)





Friday 17th April – Around Port St Mary

A Walk – Port St Mary Coastal Circular (9 miles)

The same group of A walkers as Thursday headed south from a blowy Port St Mary along the coastal path passing The Chasms, giant fissures in the rocks and onto Spanish Head. Around the headland we were treated to fine views of the Calf of Man and the Sound where we descended for lunch amongst the crashing waves and seals bobbing in the turquoise waves. Refreshed, we continued on the western side of the undulating cliff path for a more leisurely walk into sedate Port Erin with its cute beach huts and small fishing trawlers. Finally, we headed back to Port St Mary on a quiet country road passing colourful houses with pretty gardens and finished by rejoining the coastal path taking in the pretty harbour. (Leaders Lilli & Liz S)





B Walk – Port St Mary Circular (7 miles)



The walk passed through a hibernating Port St Mary before climbing up and making use of a variety of meandering paths between small pasture fields, some many-styled, to take us high above Port Erin and on to the Mull Road. An uphill stroll led into Cregneash and a chance to explore the varied historic buildings and admire the Loaghtan sheep, although only females were at home, so no spectacular horns. The Manx cats said to live on the village farms were

away on holiday. A well puddled track then took us down to the coast path and the cliffs of The Chasms before reaching gentler terrain and eventually joining the road back into the Port St Mary suburbs and the big white bus. (Leaders David & Liz J)



C Walk – Port Erin to Port St Mary (4.5 miles)

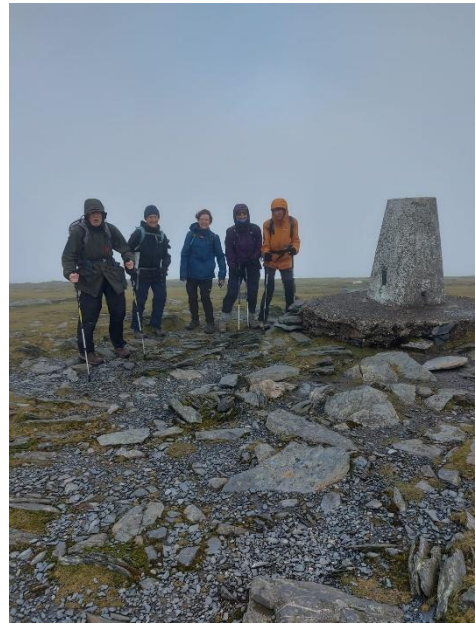
This was a more challenging walk with a steady ascent, leading to lovely views of the Calf of Mann, sea and countryside. There were 16 ramblers on this walk. Due to the wind and earlier rain, the first part of the walk to Cregneash was moved to the road as traffic was minimal. It was an enjoyable walk as we had a steady pace and the group stayed together. We stopped at Cregneash Heritage Village which was an interesting place with a very inviting tearoom. The rest of the walk was through the countryside in the sunshine taking in the Chasm and St Mary. The bus arrived for a respite from the wind and the chill it brought with it, thus an enjoyable walk. (Leaders Nic & Claudette)

Saturday 18th April – Laxey, Snaefell and Ramsey

A Walk – Ramsey via Snaefell and North Barrule (8 miles)

The first part of this walk for the six of us was to catch the Snaefell Mountain Railway to the Bungalow stop, part way up Snaefell (the highest point on the island). We had a great view of the Laxey Wheel as we ascended. We got out of the train into the wind, and began a fairly steep and sometimes rocky ascent up Snaefell, which was unfortunately in the clouds, so we couldn't appreciate the view when we arrived. We headed down the other side of the mountain across county (there was no path) and managed to arrive at the Black Hut (on the TT route), for a quick coffee stop before the next ascents. The rest of the walk was along a ridge, but there were a lot of ups and downs between the peaks, and as it was very windy we only stopped briefly on each one. There was bad weather approaching from behind, so we hoped to ascend our last peak, North Barrule, the island's second highest point, before the storm reached us. Unfortunately as we were nearing the top, hail and heavy winds stopped us in our tracks. We were quickly soaked and feeling cold, and as it was too dangerous to continue in that weather, we headed down. There was no path, but luckily it wasn't too difficult to find our way to the Ramsey road, which we followed before going down Elfin Glen into Ramsey (and by then the sun had come out again!). We soon found a café which served us hot chocolate and where we could start to dry off and warm up! (Leader Carol S)





B Walk – Cornaa to Ramsey (7 miles)

The walk didn't get off to a good start. Mike was unable to drive the coach down the A15 as it was too narrow. This added a mile, so a slight route adjustment was needed. We walked along the Quakers Road and stopped for our first break at the Quakers graveyard. On the opposite side of the road was a Neolithic burial site. In spite of the inauspicious surroundings it was a very attractive setting. Chopping out a trip to the seaside we continued to Maughold. The church graveyard contained Medieval stone crosses. It is thought to be the oldest church site on the IOM founded by an Irish outlaw who had 'seen the light!' Onwards to the coastal path, the Maughold Brooghs. We had just settled to a lunch break when we saw the skies darken over Ramsey and the rain coming our way. Luckily, after an uphill scramble, we found a cliff top shelter. We reached Ramsey via the beach and steep steps. About half the group returned to Douglas on the Manx Electric Railway, a very chilly affair for those of us sat in the open carriage! The rest returned by coach. (Leaders Gordon and Jenny)



C Walk – Laxey Circular (4.5 miles)

Laxey is derived from the Norse word for salmon which is laxa. The area was principally based on fishing until mineral deposits were found and exploited in the nineteenth century.

The C group spent a little while looking at the Laxey Wheel before setting off up a steep lane to the village of Agneash. We visited the little chapel which has information about the history of the area including the fact that the minister used to walk from Ramsey to provide a service before Agneash had its own church.



We then ascended uphill traversing rivers and gorges and going past ruined buildings reminding us of the area's mining past.

Towards the end of the walk we encountered King Orry's Grave although it is considered he is not actually buried there. This site was abandoned in Neolithic times.

Most of the walk was mild and sunny with views across to the coast with just the last short section after lunch being affected by rain. (Leaders Janet & Anne B)

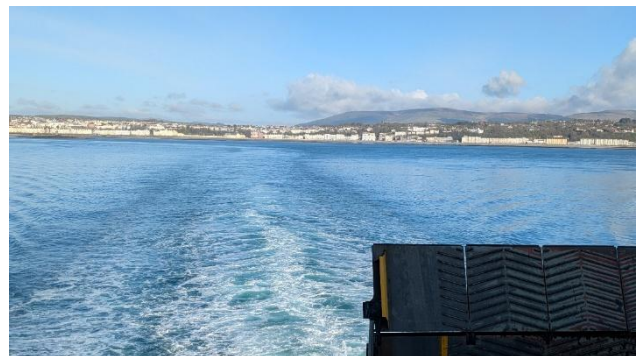
Talk by Local Tour Guide

On Thursday evening we learnt a lot about the island when we were given an interesting talk by a local tour guide, Rory McCann. He told us about possible origins of the IoM three-legged flag, why there are wallabies in the north of the island, where we might see a Manx cat (though unfortunately we didn't!) and how the island gets transformed during the TT races. As a result we knew what to look out for, and the next day some of us spotted the choughs he'd said we would probably see!



Sunday 19th April – Journey Home

After a very early and quick breakfast we set off at 6.45am! None of us needed searching or ID checking before the ferry, and the Irish Sea was very calm, so it was a quiet and enjoyable crossing back. We were tested with another quiz on the coach (this time on car parts and famous sailors!) and arrived back in Cheltenham at 5.30pm.



Thanks once again to David and Liz for yet another very enjoyable holiday (the 6th that they've organised for the club!).