

Tales from DalesRail

A Blast from the Past – 1980

Craig Ward

DalesRail may not be operating in 2020 but that doesn't stop us sharing our many interesting experiences about our journeys. We hope you will share your interesting stories, favourite walks, fascinating anecdotes and pictures about DalesRail. Please send them to richard.watts.crl@gmail.com or Simon Clarke at simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com.

This article and pictures have been taken, with permission, from the website of the Rail Ramblers and is about one of their Rail Rambler specials – so not DalesRail but travelling to places that DalesRail reaches on occasions using a coach link from Langwathby.

Just to remind you of happy days of yore we will be sharing photos from our archive during the enforced postponement of our walking programmes.

It's Bank Holiday, August 25th, 1980 and a packed Rail Rambler Excursion starting from Blackpool at 07.30 headed to Hexham via Blackburn and the Settle – Carlisle Line. Passengers from Chorley and Leyland could travel to/from Preston at no extra cost. The fare was £3.50 adults & £2.10 children from all stations. Being a Bank Holiday, the train had a fair number of family groups including grandparents on it. There were seven guided walks on offer ranging from a 17 mile strenuous to a 7 mile easy. I was leading the E Walk – a 9 mile moderate walk starting at Bardon Mill and finishing at Haltwistle in reverse to that advertised.



A guided walk along part of Hadrian's Wall

My party was a large one of over twenty people including children, parents, grandparents and dogs plus regular Rail Ramblers of all ages. Those who know Hadrian's Wall will be aware

that walking it is no easy stroll as there are lots of short steep climbs and descents. As the walk progressed members of the party wanted frequent stops to take photos etc and rest. The pace was slow as many were obviously not regular walkers and it became increasingly clear that we were getting behind schedule and were still quite a distance from Haltwhistle. Eventually, I had to explain to the party that, at the pace we were walking, we could miss the train and that we must walk faster. This was met with a few grumbles, but the message was understood, and we did arrive back in Haltwhistle with time to spare and much relief on my part.

Source:

<https://railramblers.wordpress.com/>



Returning from Haltwhistle on a Swindon DMU.
Nearest the camera is Howard Hammersley who did so much to develop DalesRail.