



**Morecambe  
Bay**  
Partnership

# Celebrate Chapel Island with us

Join us for a special two-part event crossing the sands near Chapel Island and discovering its rich history & nature



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

Registered charity : 1173489





## **Morecambe Bay Partnership** has been connecting people with the nature, heritage and culture of Morecambe Bay for over 25 years

**We're now delighted to run a very special two-part event crossing the sands near Chapel Island on foot and uncovering its fascinating past & present.**

**Part One:** Online History & Nature Talk about Chapel Island, Wednesday 25th September at 7 - 8 pm &

**Part Two:** Crossing the sands near Chapel Island, Saturday 28th September 2024 at 2.00 pm. Please note, this walk will cross the sands near to Chapel Island but not venture onto it. And we'll visit historic Collins Weir. Please see 'Walking Route' for more information.

**Your ticket will cover both of these events.**

## Where and what is Chapel Island?

Chapel Island is a limestone outcrop that lies in the Leven estuary of Morecambe Bay, less than one mile (1.6 km) from the shoreline at Bardsea.

A small chapel on the island once served the needs of travellers and fishermen working in the Leven and the island itself was refuge to those caught out by the tide while crossing the sands on foot.

Now uninhabited, this small island offers up a rich and deep history, and currently plays a vital role protecting the Bay's birdlife.

Before railways, travelling between the towns and villages of Morecambe Bay was quickest by foot across the sands, and at low tide. Chapel Island played its part in as a refuge for travellers caught out by the incoming tide.

Picture credit: 'Crossing the sands' by David Cox, 1848. Lancaster City Museum.



Your ticket will cover TWO events as follows:

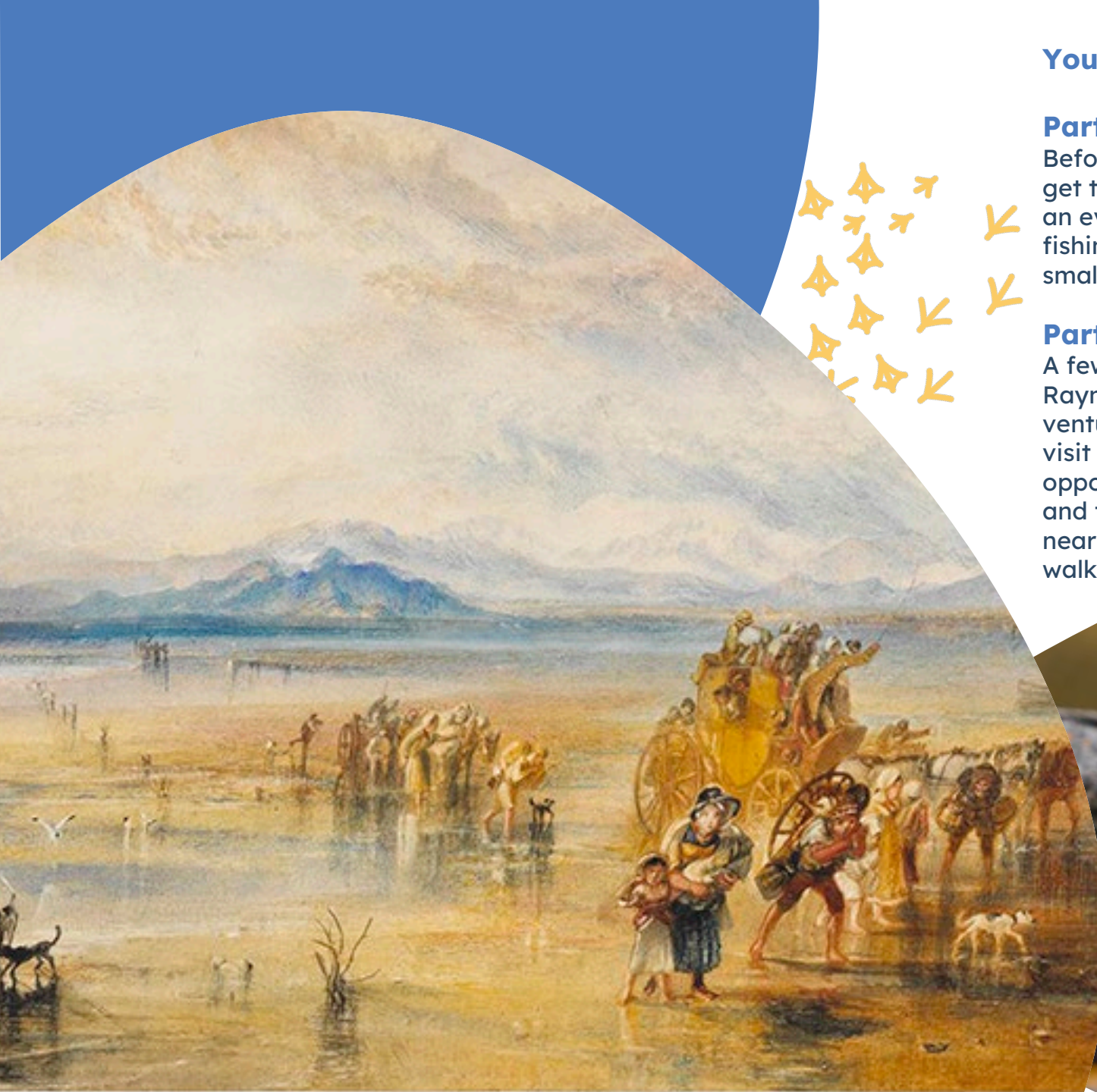
**Part One: Wednesday 25th September at 7pm**

Before we walk together on Saturday 28th September, we invite you to get to know Chapel Island and the surrounding sands. Join us online for an evening of historic bay crossings, monks, travellers, quarrymen and fishing communities. We'll also look at nature and the pivotal role this small island now plays in protecting Morecambe Bay's wildlife.

**Part Two: Saturday 28th September 2024 at 2.00pm**

A few days later, on Saturday, we'll cross the Bay on foot. Led by Raymond Porter, Guide to the Leven Estuary, this special walk will venture onto the sands, passing near to Chapel Island and making a visit to Collins Weir. This lesser known route across the sands is a rare opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Chapel Island's monks, fishermen and travellers. Please note we cannot walk onto the island itself but pass nearby. Please read 'Our Walking Route' for full information about the walk itself.

Picture credit: 'Crossing Lancaster Sands' by JWM Turner, c.1826, British Museum; Male Eider Duck, Getty images; Cormorant, Getty images



## Our walking route

Morecambe Bay is extraordinary, perpetually dynamic and notoriously dangerous. With ever-shifting sands and river channels shaped by fastmoving tides and rainfall from the hills, its river channels change course and take new routes through the sands.

Recently, a river channel has shifted to cross in front of Chapel Island. This makes access onto the island itself very challenging and unsafe. **At this moment in time, there are no safe routes onto Chapel Island so our walk will pass nearby but not directly onto it.**

**Recent tides have also uncovered historic Collins Weir. This old cart line (begun in 1847 and pictured opposite) has remained hidden under the sands for over 78 years but the Bay's dramatic tides have revealed it once again.**

Raymond Porter, our Guide, will confirm our walking route close to the date of the event itself and provide a safety briefing at the beginning of the walk.

**Duration:** 2 to 3 hours approximately

**Distance:** 4 to 6 miles (depending on the route)

**Terrain:** The walk itself will cover a variety of terrain from rock, mud, sand, water to possible slippery conditions.

**Route:** The exact route and duration of the walk will be governed by tides, channels and the sands expertly and safely navigated by our trusted Guide.

We'll visit historic Collins Weir which was built by the Ulverston Canal Company and begun in 1847. Photo credit: Guide over Sands Trust



## The Online Talk

We hope as many ticketholders as possible will join our online talk on Wednesday 25th September at 7pm. If you are unable to join however, we will make a recording available to you before the walk so you can listen and discover before the walk on Saturday.

## The Walk Timetable

The walk itself will begin at 2.15pm but we ask all walkers to arrive early to check in with us, Morecambe Bay Partnership, and to attend a safety briefing given by our Guide, Raymond Porter.

**Where:** Meet at Sandgate shore, Flookburgh, LA11 7LD

**1.30 to 1.50 pm:** Check in to the walk with our team at Sandgate

**2.00pm:** ALL to assemble for the beginning of the walk

**2.10pm: Safety Briefing with the walk starting at 2.15pm**

**Distance:** 4 to 6 miles (depending on the route)

**Duration:** 2 to 3 hours approx

**End:** The walk will end where it started at Sandgate, Flookburgh at approximately 5.15pm (or earlier).

## Safety on the Walk

To ensure everyone's safety, the route across the sands is checked and marked by the Guide shortly before the walk takes place. Once the walk begins, all walkers must follow the instructions of the Guide and all walkers must move as a group. Any pauses or stops in the walk are determined by the Guide only and made on his expert judgement.

## What to expect

Our walking **terrain** will be mixed. You'll need suitable footwear for the beginning of the walk which can be uneven and slippery. Once we step into the Bay, you will navigate sand, water and mudflats. Barefoot is often the best option for walking the sands.

On a cross bay walk, **you can expect to get wet** (sometimes up to the knees or over).

The Bay is exposed and can offer up heavy rain, hot sun, dense cloud, mist and winds so we recommend you **plan for all eventualities**. You'll need waterproofs, layers and sun block!

## Fitness to walk

Walking the sands of Chapel Island is extraordinary and an adventure. While the Bay's sands are reasonably flat, the rippling terrain can be demanding underfoot and you will navigate water channels. All walkers must be fit enough to tackle uneven terrain and walk at a leisurely pace for both the duration and distance of the walk. Once we set off with the Guide we move together as a group with any pauses or stops determined by the Guide only.

## PLEASE NOTE - No Dogs

Please note, due to the sensitive nature of the area and sands around Chapel Island we will not be permitting dogs on this walk. This is to preserve the safe and tranquil nature of the sands around the island for birds and other wildlife.





Eiders nesting on Chapel Island. This image was captured via a camera trap to minimise human disturbance.

## Transport

There is **limited parking at Sandgate shore** with some additional parking available (with kind permission from local farmers). It is possible to **park at Flookburgh village** and then make the 0.8 - 1 mile walk to Sandgate. If you plan to arrive by car, **please consider lift sharing and do park considerately at Sandgate and Flookburgh.**

For those preferring **public transport**, the nearest train station is Cark Station. This is just over 1 mile away on foot.

## Toilets

**There is a portaloo at the beginning and end of the walk but there are no toilets out in the Bay once we start the walk.**

The **nearest public toilets** are in **Cark** (Station Road, Cark-in-Cartmel, LA11 7NY) or in **Grange over Sands** including: The Promenade (opposite Lido), Grange-over-Sands, LA11 7DQ **OR** Ornamental Gardens, Grange-over-Sands, LA11 6EH

Further toilets are shown here:

<https://my.southlakeland.gov.uk/mysouthlakeland.aspx?SouthLakes/MyMapsSouthLakes&x=348968&y=489433&z=150000&Layers=Toilets&tab=2>

## Cancellation

Due to the ever-changing nature of the Bay, it is possible that the walk may be postponed or cancelled. Our guide, Raymond Porter, will be monitoring conditions and if we are unhappily forced to cancel for safety reasons, you will be contacted by email and we will offer refunds.



Raymond Porter, King's Guide to the Leven Estuary

# The King's Guide

Our walk exploring the sands around Chapel Island will be led by the King's Guide to the Leven Estuary, Raymond Porter.

A fisherman from Flookburgh, Raymond Porter is an experienced hand at navigating the sands. He knows the Bay well - and how unpredictable its sands and tides can be - so all walkers must follow his instructions at all times.

Raymond follows in the footsteps of many generations of royally appointed guides. Since the 1500s our reigning monarch has appointed Guides to the Sands and vested each one with the responsibility of navigating the treacherous tides and quicksands and guiding people safely across the sands.

The walk will also be accompanied by marshals who will ensure your safety and enjoyment.



# How your ticket will help to raise money for Morecambe Bay

This walk is one of many vital fundraising events for 2024. The fee for each ticket is as follows:

- **Earlybird tickets (Adults & Children 11+ yrs)**  
**Available until Thurs 15 Aug: £17.50**
- **Full price tickets (Adults & Children 11+ yrs)**  
**£20.00 each after Thurs 15 August**

The Guide over Sands Trust charge us £7.00 for every place we offer. This year we're offering 100 places for walkers and these have been paid for upfront by Morecambe Bay Partnership.

In addition to paying The Guide over Sands Trust, the booking platform, Trybooking, charge a fee (£1.15) to handle payment and process every booking.

**We ask you to consider doing two things to create maximum support for Morecambe Bay:**

**1) We invite you to cover the booking fee of**

**£1.15** when you book your place on the walk. If you choose not to, Morecambe Bay Partnership pays this on your behalf.

**2) Make a one off donation of £7.00 on top of**

**your ticket to Morecambe Bay Partnership.** This covers the fee we pay to the Guide over Sands Trust and means 100% of your donation goes towards caring for Morecambe Bay. Thank you so much for considering making this donation which you can do at the time of booking.

Your ticket and your support is helping:

- NATURE which is under great threat.
- COMMUNITIES who are facing poverty & inequality.
- YOUNG PEOPLE to improve skills & life chances.
- ACCESS FOR ALL to the Bay's coast and countryside

If you would like to find out more about what we do, please see our [current projects](#), [impact](#) and our [short \(2 min\) film](#) on our home page.

We use your money responsibly and accountably – making sure that ticket sales and donations support the Bay's nature, heritage and culture. We don't spend your money on event 'freebies'. We appreciate medals and t-shirts can be fun, but we're committed to low carbon events that are financially sound. Producing single use items can create waste which comes at financial cost to the charity and at a cost to the environment. So instead, why not consider supporting a local business and buy a lasting memento of the event? Bay Apparel makes clothing ideal for exploring the Bay with 35% of profits from sales of featured items donated to Morecambe Bay Partnership to support the culture, nature and heritage of Morecambe Bay. You can visit their [shop online here](#).

**Please note** that all tickets are **non-refundable and non-transferable**. We cannot issue refunds in the event of transport issues such as train strikes. However, if the Guide cancels the walk for safety reasons you will be offered a refund.

We hope you choose to join us at this very special event

# Morecambe Bay Partnership

Registered charity : 1173489

[www.morecambebay.org.uk](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk)

Contact Us: [info@morecambebay.org.uk](mailto:info@morecambebay.org.uk)

