

# BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter: March 2009

### NEWS ITEMS

#### SLIDE SHOWS

##### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle. "Exploring the High Andes" by Dave Williams.  
Admission, including coffee £2.50

##### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle. "Beautiful Cumbria" by Joan and Ian Martin.  
Admission, including coffee £2.50

#### PROCEEDS IN AID OF ARTHRITIS RESEARCH

##### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle. "Kilimanjaro and the Ngorogoro Crater" by Joan and Ian Martin.  
Admission, including coffee £2.50

#### COACH TRIPS

For several years we have been having Coach Trips at least twice a year. Only the odd one has run at a loss (I think). Unfortunately, due to modern culture of people wanting to wait until the last minute to book, it has become very difficult to organize these trips. This is especially so when meals are booked.

There are still a lot of people who like the coach trips, because it gives us the opportunity to go further field as well as doing linear walks of different lengths.

Seamus has offered to lead a walk from Goathland to Whitby, which would be nice in August. I had already agreed with Irene Powers that we would do a trip to Brimham Rocks. She would have led the A party and Ian and I would have lead the B party.

**In future we may have to take bookings before we book a coach, so people will have to commit themselves early. Also, a deposit of £5 at least would have to be paid on booking. This would be non-refundable; however, if we cancelled the coach, deposits would be refunded.**

*The biggest problem is that after nearly 30 years, (sometimes with the help of others), I have decided that I am not organizing any more coach trips. I think it's about time someone else took over. (Maybe one or two people could do the job between them).*

I am therefore putting it in the "melting pot", for people to think about whether we want coach trips or not. Also, if we organize a coach trip, do we want to book a meal?

**Please let the committee know what you think (or if you are prepared to help), before our next committee meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

*Joan Martin.*

### Interested in Caravanning?

New member Allan Rayner would like to know if anyone would be interested in joining him in a caravanning/walking holiday. He can be contacted by e-mail at: - [johnallanrayner@btinternet.com](mailto:johnallanrayner@btinternet.com)

## DALEGARTH

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Another visit to DALEGARTH. Currently 13 people booked but still some places available (accommodation for 19 people).

Anyone interested please contact Lis on 01833 650192

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Cleveland Way 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

The intention is to walk all of the Cleveland Way on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The CW has been split into 10 sections of between 8.9 and 14.7 miles, and the North York Moors National Park Authority is asking for a group of people from various walking groups and the public to walk one of the sections. A memento of the day will be presented to those who take part.

Barnard Castle RA Group will be walking the section of the Cleveland Way from Clay Bank to Kildale (9.2 miles). A **core** group of **14 walkers** including the leader will park their car in Kildale and be transported by National Park minibus (at **10.00am**) to the start of the walk at Clay Bank for 10.30am. **If you would like to be one of the core group of 14** please contact Frances (01833 631361) as soon as possible.

Everyone not on the core group should meet at the car park at Clay Bank (on the B1257, 2.5 miles south of Great Broughton, GR572035) ready to set off walking at approximately 10.30am when the minibus with the leader and the rest of the party arrives.

Walkers **not** in the core group will need **either** to make their own arrangements with friends to leave one car at Kildale and one at Clay Bank **or** to contact me to arrange a lift back from Kildale to Clay Bank by one of the core group of 14.

Please note that **there will be no meeting at the Health Centre on the 24<sup>th</sup> May**; and be prepared for a bit of hanging around at the beginning and the end of the walk because of transport arrangements.

Is anyone interested in buying 3 ft bunk beds? If so, please contact Joan and Ian on 01833 637825. The bunk beds can be made into 2 single beds and also include good mattresses. **However, the buyer must be able to collect them.**

### Alf Mitchell

There may still be some people who knew Alf Mitchell who was our Treasurer for a number of years. Sadly we have to report that he died on December 21<sup>st</sup>. His funeral was on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, which Ian and I attended along with a lot of his family and friends.

Joan.

### WALKS LEADERS

You will notice that there are one or two weekends without walks. Our list of Walks Leaders is getting shorter each year so could we ask any potential leaders or anyone who might be interested to contact the committee for information / advice on what is involved. ! It is also important that we have a variety of walks on the programme, so we would welcome anyone prepared to lead a walk of any length (short, long or in-between).

Also regarding Walks Leaders, would anyone who is currently on the list but not able to commit to regularly leading a walk, let myself or Donna know – just so we don't keep pestering you!

Please remember when sending walks in that we need to complete the programme about 4 weeks before it is required – to ensure we get it out to everyone in good time.

Thanks, Pauline

### ACCESS SNIPPETS

Access restrictions in Upper Teesdale, introduced as a precautionary measure for conservation reasons, are to be reviewed shortly. Following a meeting of all interested parties with Natural England in Newcastle in the autumn, there is optimism that restrictions will be relaxed to some extent. Public consultation will take place before any changes are made.

Durham County Council has initiated meetings with all Ramblers footpaths officers in the county to take place twice a year to discuss matters of interest and concern. The first, held in the autumn, was an introductory meeting. From 1<sup>st</sup> April this year, the Access and Rights of Way section will move from DCC's Countryside department to Highways. This fits well as public rights of way are highways in law, and there are links with the Local Transport Plan and walking, and the chance of more funding being available for rights of way. There should be more news on this after the next meeting, probably to be held in April.

We have submitted comments to Teesdale District Council in response to the 'Request for Scoping Opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment' for a proposed wind-farm to the west of Bolam. Up to 7 wind turbines, each with a total height of over a 100metres is proposed, which could threaten the tranquility of the countryside and pose a danger to users of rights of way. There is already local opposition to the proposal, and we await the publication of a planning application later this year, when we will be ready to make specific comments.

Jo.

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**[www.barnardcastleramblers.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleramblers.org.uk)**

Take a look at our website for updates and photographs of walks over the years