

# RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

## BARNARD CASTLE GROUP NEWSLETTER – Spring 2011

### Old Books

Some of you will remember Rene Glass who used to walk with us and died last year in her 80's. Well I have had a message from her daughter-in-law Katy. Among Rene's books Katy and Neville have found some old walks guides. An example is **Ramblers Guide, Side Tracks by Stan Cardwell (the Stan Cardwell Bridge)**. It is forwarded by someone called Jim Boyden and it cost 3/6. I gather there are others and are obviously collector's items. Katy wonders if anyone in the group would be interested in having them. As Katy and Neil live in the Lakes it isn't a matter of just popping round to look and see what there is. If anyone is genuinely interested they can ring me and I will follow it up. 01833 637825  
Joan.

### Membership March

The RA is running a "Membership March" campaign in March 2011. Any Group which signs up new members, who pay by direct debit, during this month will be able to keep the first years subscriptions to spend as they wish. In our case, we will spend them on the first aid training described below.

**If you know anyone who might sign up, please get them to do so in March and ensure that the reference R11G3P appears on the form in addition to the pre-printed code. (Judith)**

### First Aid Training

The committee is currently discussing our first aid provision on walks, as some of our trained first aiders no longer walk as frequently as they did and cover is patchy. The answer seems to be to train up a number of people in outdoor first aid.

**If you are interested in training (or have any already) could you please let any committee member know before the next meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please also let them know whether or not you are prepared to pay all or part of the cost yourself, as contributions will be used to boost numbers. (Joan)**

### Slide Shows

There will be the usual Programme of four slide shows this year featuring:-

- 6<sup>th</sup> April - Dave Williams - 'Hakuna Matata' – a slide show about Wildlife in Tanzania
- 1<sup>st</sup> June – Walter Balderson – 'Walking in the Alps'.

Full details are in the programme and everyone, whether a member or not, is welcome. Proceeds go to Group funds. It's great to see a wider group of members giving shows.

**If you would like to give a show in the future yourself, please speak to me (Judith) when we're out walking.**

### Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter Lunch and walk

Meet at the Health Centre at 9am to motor to Low Way Farm (The Farmhouse Kitchen) to start the walk at 9.30. Bowlees, Dirt Pit, Holwick Head Bridge, Holwick. 6 moderate miles. (If time allows another mile could be added by going to look at High Force). Leaders Joan and Ian. Tel. 01833 637825. Mobile on the day 07745451198. The meal will follow the walk at 1pm. Members are welcome to just join us just for the meal. The cost of the meal is £11.50 per person.

### Menu

Roast Beef and Yorkshire pudding  
Roast Pork with Apple Sauce  
Baked Cod with Tomato and Mozzarella Sauce  
Creamy Broccoli Bake.

All served with roast and mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Apple Crumble with custard, cream or ice-cream

Meringue with bananas and hot toffee sauce

Bailey's crème Brule.

Followed by coffee and mints.

Please note that the Farmhouse Kitchen is not licensed for alcohol, so it's bring-your-own beer and wine. (Please note there will be a £3 corkage charge for each bottle of wine). Soft drinks are available.

Please book with Joan by April 2<sup>nd</sup> with choice of meal. 01833 637825 or email. [ijmar8@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ijmar8@tiscali.co.uk)

[Dalegarth](#) (23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May) currently fully booked. If you would like your name to go down on a waiting list please contact Liz or Tom on 01833 650192

## [Coach Trips](#)

### **Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> Coach trip**

8.30am outside Charles Dickens Lodge, Galgate, for coach trip to Whitby. Pick up points on route, Piercebridge, Darlington and Teesside.

- **A walk.** Linear walk from Goathland to Whitby. 12 miles. Leader Seamus. Tel. 07816 625395. Mobile 079 33760204
- **B walk.** Linear walk from Blue Bank to Whitby. 7/8 miles. Leaders Joan and Ian. Tel. 01833 637825. Mobile on the day. 077 45451198

Alternate lively spend the day in Whitby. Time after the walks for Fish and Chips in Whitby.

Coast of coach approx £10/£11 depending on numbers.

**Names with £5 deposit to Maureen Raw by May 28<sup>th</sup>. Tel. 01833 637601**

### **DCC Rights of Way Budget not to be cut!**

Thank you to everyone who wrote to Cllr Neil Foster at Durham County Council pointing out the value of walking and the need to maintain the funding for rights of way work. Although many decisions are still to be made on funding, we have heard the good news that the rights of way budget is not to be cut. But there is a vacant post that is to remain unfilled, so staff will be working at pressure. Thank you again to everyone!

At the recent Rights of Way Liaison Group there was a discussion about how we can help officers, which was also a topic for discussion at our Group meeting in January. One way is to assist with **clearing paths of vegetation**, (surface and side growth) which could be either by joining DCC's Volunteer Rangers scheme or, if there is enough interest we could form our own group working under the Parish Paths Partnership scheme. It can be very satisfying work and lots of fun too! Any clearance work needs to be with DCC approval as landowners' agreement is needed. I am already being notified of tasks and dates, usually with fairly short notice. Days are usually Tues, Wed or Sat.

Another worthwhile and perhaps less strenuous way of helping is to **survey a path, or paths** in a specific parish and report anything needing attention. There are some guidance notes to help with assessing standards of paths and path 'furniture' and I shall shortly be arranging some dates for surveys in Boldron. To **take part, or find out more** about either of these activities, please contact me, Jo Bird, on 01833-637756 or [jobird9@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jobird9@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Open Access**

Further moorland access restrictions have been relaxed, mostly during the summer months, with restrictions retained from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March for winter feeding of black grouse. One of the main black grouse lekking areas near Langdon Beck, which many people visit to observe, strictly from the seclusion of the road and their cars, has restrictions removed except from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May. Access is limited, though, by the Langdon Beck, unless you are prepared to risk at least wet feet! To view open access maps go to [www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess) and follow the links. New access restriction notices should be posted on sites where changes have taken place, and notices retained wherever access and restrictions apply.

### **Coastal Access**

When East Yorkshire CC declined the offer to be one of the pilot areas for Coastal Access, Durham was chosen by Natural England to take their place. In fact the length of coast now being considered is from South Bents in the north to Teesmouth National Nature Reserve at the southern end. NE is working at the outset with representatives of the Ramblers from our Area and Northumbria Area, landowners, Durham Local Access Forum, Durham Heritage Coast scheme, and all local authorities involved, from the outset. Sensitive areas are being assessed and a route mapped out before 'walking the course' in early summer. The aim is to provide a continuous route with seaward spreading room, and some spreading room inland where there is no cultivation, to enable picnics, informal recreation and activities such as bird-watching. The other benefit is that the path can be moved inland in the event of coastal erosion. There will be draft proposals and consultations, including a 12-week web consultation. NE plans to move on to other stretches of coast after each of the pilot areas is completed, and expect 40% to be available in 10 years, and the entire coastal access to become available in up to 30 years.

### **Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership**

Several public meetings have been held to publicise how people can be involved in this Heritage Lottery Funded scheme, and to contribute their ideas on how the landscape can be enhanced for the benefit of all. Our committee

has suggested an improvement to the Teesdale Way at the Wilden Beck, Cotherstone, by replacing the stepping stones, which are unsightly and not very easy to negotiate, with a footbridge, and to replace the nearby awkward stile with a gate. It is likely to be among other suggested improvements to our probably undervalued regional trail.

### Forestry Commission Sales

Everyone will have heard one way or another about the government's proposed sell-off of all its Forestry Commission woodland, and the public outcry that has followed. Barnard Castle Group has added its voice to the local campaign, Hands off Hamsterley, promoted by the Teesdale Mercury and Helen Goodman MP. There is to be a rally at the visitors' centre there on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am. Hamsterley offers a great deal in the way of access and events, appreciated by thousands of visitors each year, and it is unlikely that any other owner would provide as much. Nor should we be placated by the announcement on 11<sup>th</sup> February that sales are being halted. While it is good that the government has clearly taken note of the public outcry against the sales, those which are being halted are an annual 15% of woodland sales that would have taken place anyway, and is not related to the entire Forestry Commission sell-off. We need to remain alert.

Members will be able to read more about this in the next issue of Walk and to find out how you can help. There is also information on the Volunteer section of the website, and plans for Ramblers walks at some of the threatened woodlands closer to the time when the government's consultation period ends, on 20<sup>th</sup> April, which we may wish to be involved in.

### Get Walking comes to Co Durham, and Teesdale!

For a few years now the Ramblers have run Get Walking, Keep Walking grant-aided schemes in a number of cities, and were recently commended by the World Health Organisation for the benefits it has brought to many people new to walking. Now Durham County Council has involved the Ramblers in Get Walking schemes in Teesdale, Wear Valley and Derwentside as part of its 'Changing the Physical Activity Landscape' project, by funding two specially appointed Ramblers staff members to work with volunteers. The walks are aimed at people aged 45 – 75 who are at risk from cardio vascular disease, and any of their family members and friends who would like to join in. The walks are to be informal, and at a gentle pace for around 1 hour a week for a few weeks, with encouragement being given to participants to walk on their own as well between sessions. Anyone who would like to help with this worthwhile scheme should contact Marianne Patterson [marianne.patterson@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:marianne.patterson@ramblers.org.uk), who is based in Durham and can also be contacted on 07557-119497.

**Jo Bird**

**Access and Walking Environment Officer**

### Photographs for Joan's scrapbook

➤ Please remember to send Joan copies of any photographs from walks for entry into the Scrapbooks. Hard copies would be much appreciated, where possible, or email to: [ijmar8@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ijmar8@tiscali.co.uk).

### Forthcoming Events

➤ **BBQ** for Group members - Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 in Cotherstone (John and Linda).

➤ Keep a note in your diary for **Joan and Ian's Golden Wedding** walk and meal on Saturday October 15th. Invitations will be sent out in due course.

➤ **Coach Trip on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Bay crossing starts from Arnside at 11.15, so we should have time to have some "brunch" and go to the toilet before we start the walk. Once we set off there is nowhere to eat or drink, but it is advisable to take a snack **and a drink** to "eat on the hoof".

The walk across the sands is approximately 8 miles long and should take about 3 hours, arriving in Kent's Bank about 2.15/2.30. The first part of the walk is around part of the bay and is on rough stones/sand/pebbles. The walk across the bay will have puddles and depending on the amount of rain the day before, will dictate the amount of water there will be in the River Kent, which we have to cross. The river could be as deep as 2 feet, so you **will get wet**.

The best gear to wear is shorts and old trainers that you discard after the walk. Crocs are also suitable **but not Wellingtons**.

The coach will pick us up at Kent's Bank where **there are no toilets**. When everyone is back we will drive to Grange over Sands where there are toilets. There will then be a couple of hours or more to relax in Grange over Sands or for the fitter members a walk up on to Hamps fell to the Hospice (very interesting). Will need walking shoes for this. We will look into booking a meal for about 5.30 in Grange, so if we do, don't eat a large lunch after the walk (just snacks).

Odd notes: - We will be out in the open with no shade for at least 3 hours. Hopefully it will be a nice day, so don't forget a hat and sun cream (otherwise a raincoat if it's wet). Take a change of clothes to leave in the coach as well as a towel and maybe a spare bottle of tap water to swill off the sand.

If I have forgotten anything, there is plenty of time to ask me questions before August. This is our 4<sup>th</sup> time of doing this trip and it will be the last I organise, because as with all facets of life there is now a lot of “red tape”. Anyway, let’s have a “fun day out”.

[List of Committee Members elected at the Group AGM in November 2010](#)

<b>Chairman</b>	Ian Martin
<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Jo Bird.
<b>RA Secretary</b>	Lynda Bares - 01833 640258
Group email address for all enquires	<a href="mailto:bc.ramblers@yahoo.co.uk">bc.ramblers@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Judith Baker
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Joan Martin - 01833 637825
<b>Footpath Secretary</b>	John Bird - 01833 650034
<b>Deputy Footpath Secretary</b>	Tom Vlaming
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	Frances Walker
<b>Programme and Newsletter, Co-ordinators (alternate)</b>	Donna Harris and Pauline Fawcett
<b>Programme Distributers</b>	Donna Harris (email)
	Maureen Raw (post)
<b>Local Access Officer and Countryside Officer</b>	Jo Bird
<b>Website Manager</b>	Maggie Donnelly
<b>Deputy Website Manager</b>	Lynda Bares
<b>Slide Shows</b>	Judith Baker with Maureen Raw and Christine Brass
<b>Area Representatives</b>	Frances Walker and John Bird
<b>Committee Members</b>	Walter Balderson and Lis Vlaming

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

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