

BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS – NEWSLETTER AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS
NOVEMBER 2012 – FEBRUARY 2013

Group Annual General Meeting

This will be held at 2pm on Saturday November 17th 2012 at the United Reform Church Hall, Queen Street, Barnard Castle. There will be a **walk in the morning** starting at 9.15am from the Church Hall. This will be a 7 mile circular via Lartington. There will be time to eat packed lunches in the hall after the walk and before the meeting. After the meeting there will be tea and cake and time to socialise. Please support your committee by attending. This **is your chance to see “how and who” runs your group.**

Group Annual Lunch

Due to problems with the weather and suitable venues, it has been decided not to have a Christmas walk and lunch this year. We have therefore decided to have an Annual Lunch instead. This will be held on **Saturday April 13th 2013**. The venue is **The farmhouse Kitchen at Holwick in upper Teesdale.** There will be a walk in the morning as usual, with details on the next programme. The cost of the meal will be £13.50 per person for 2 courses plus tea/coffee and mints.

Choices of the 2 course meal are :-

Main course.

Roast Silverside of Beef and Yorkshire pudding.

Roast Loin of Pork and Apple Sauce.

Oven Baked Salmon and Parsley Sauce.

Peppers stuffed with Cous Cous and melted Stilton.

Sweet

Rhubarb Crumble and Custard.

Baileys Cheesecake.

Meringue with Banana and Toffee Sauce.

There will be a £3 per bottle corkage charge if you take your own wine. Soft drinks are available to buy.

The meal will be at 1pm and anyone wishing to join us just for the meal will be most welcome. **Please give your choice of meal plus £5 deposit to Joan Martin by April 1st 2013.**

Coach trip for 2013

It has been proposed that we have a coach trip next year to walk part of the Northumberland coastal path. We would end the walks in Seahouses where there are plenty of Pubs/Fish and Chip Shops for a meal. As always there would be different length walks. As yet no date has been fixed but it will probably be May or June. When it has been decided we will email everyone and it will be posted on the website.

Group BBQ for 2013

Saturday July 1st at John and Linda's. Perhaps anyone who isn't intending to do the walk, would consider helping Linda with the food preparation.

Ken and donation to the Air Ambulance

Just to let you know that Enid is coping well and was overwhelmed by the large donation of £200 we sent to the Air Ambulance in memory of Ken. If anyone wishes to call and see her there will be a warm welcome.

Reports for the Teesdale Mercury and the website

As most of you know, I have been writing reports about the walks, for the Teesdale Mercury for over 30 years. These are widely read and give us lots of free publicity. Unfortunately Ian and I aren't out on a lot of the walks, so over the years I have been trying to encourage the walks leader to write a report. The reports also end up in the “scrap books” and of course now that we have moved into the 21st century, they now go on the website. I would therefore urge the walk leader to write something (long or short), but hopefully interesting or amusing and email it to editor@teesdalemercury.co.uk and to Maggie at bc.ramblers@yahoo.co.uk

Joan Martin

Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership

There has been very little progress on the Paths for All People programme, which is disappointing. We now learn that Durham County Council is unable to employ the necessary extra member of staff to undertake the work to be funded by the Partnership. The hold-up is that match funding needs to be found. One of the main projects is enhancements to the Teesdale Way, and also improvements to paths in Flatts Wood and Tees Bank, the latter suffering from poor drainage in places.

County Durham Local Plan

Public consultations on the draft for this new Plan have taken place at a number of venues. It outlines plans for developments and conditions until 2030, and Teesdale Action Partnership is keen to see included, the South Durham Heritage Corridor, which includes the opening up for recreational use of the former Bishop Auckland to Barnard Castle railway line; protection of the Teesdale landscape from intrusive developments (not *all* developments), especially near the Pennine Way and Teesdale Way; and the development at some time of a relief road for Barnard Castle. All these things have relevance for walkers, and we should welcome their inclusion.

National Trails Campaign

The Ramblers are campaigning for a body to oversee the management of national trails, rather than for each to operate as separate entities, with probable different levels of funding, management and promotion. This is what Natural England has proposed when it drops its role in that capacity. Our national parks are managed individually, but with overall management by The Campaign for National Parks, formerly Council for National Parks. The Ramblers would like to see a similar body, a Trust of elected members to take on that role. Natural England will be making a decision at the end of November, so anyone who has not yet signed the petition in support of a national trails trust, please do so now, it's on the Home page of the Ramblers' website, www.ramblers.org.uk.

Storm Damage

Some public paths suffered damage in the recent storms, some of it quite severe. DCC's rights of way officers collated all the reports and obtained photographs in order to make a case for extra funding for remedial work, and were successful. It really is important to report path problems, as otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Report them to prow@durham.gov.uk, and to our footpaths secretary, John Bird. It is also useful to copy to the relevant parish council, so that they are aware of the state of their paths. If they know that work needs doing they are more likely to want the support of the DCC's Parish Paths Partnership, which operates from a different financial 'pot'. And there is also terrific satisfaction from finding a reported problem resolved. This happened to me today when I found a section of the track that is an unclassified county road from Broomielaw to Humbleton had not been ploughed again this autumn. For several years this had been regularly ploughed and blocked by crops, but today it was dry and clear, and the track which the farmer had wanted the road diverted onto was a stretch of bogs, rubble and potholes that would have been impossible to walk. Just as rewarding were footprints showing others had passed that way recently.

Persistence pays off!

Jo Bird

Access and Countryside Officer

Visit To Dalegarth-22nd To 26th April 2013

Quite a number of members have already booked for this popular walking holiday but there are still one or two places. If you're interested in going, please contact Judith on 01642 700062 or by email at j.baker574@btinternet.com

Slide Shows 2013

I'm trying to put together the usual programme of four slideshows in 2013. If any member (or group of members) is willing to give a show, could they please contact Judith as above.

Judith Baker

Treasurer

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW.

Take a look at our website www.barnardcastleramblers.org.uk for updates and photographs of walks over the years