



ramblers
at the heart of walking

Barnard Castle Group

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013

Barnard Castle Group AGM 2013

The Group's AGM takes place on Saturday 9th November at 2pm at the United Reformed Church Hall, Queen Street. There will be a walk in the morning (full details in the programme). This will be a momentous occasion, as Ian Martin, our chairman for the last 26 years, will be standing down. The Group will therefore need to elect a new chairperson, and the Committee invites any member who is interested in taking up the position, or who wishes to nominate someone, to contact Pauline (secretary) pvfawcett@tiscali.co.uk or Frances (minutes secretary) on 01833 – 631361. Any other nominations and any apologies to the same officers, please.

North Yorks & South Durham Area's 72nd AGM - Advance notice

The Area AGM is hosted by each of the Area's groups in turn, and in 2014 it is the turn of Barnard Castle Group. It will take place on Saturday 22nd March at the United Reformed Church Hall. More details of this and a short morning walk will be in the next newsletter.

Barnard Castle Ramblers Christmas Lunch Saturday 30th November 2013 1:00pm ,The Redwell Inn, Harmire Road, Barnard Castle

Main Course

- Choice of Roast Turkey or Roast Beef with all the trimmings
- Wild Mushroom Risotto
- Tomato Penne Pasta with Goats Cheese

Desert

- Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
- Crème Brule
- White Chocolate and Raspberry Cheesecake

Tea & Coffee

Cost £13.00/head

Menu choices to Richard on 01833 660780 or email to bcramblers@gmail.com by 23rd Nov 2013. No deposit required.

There will be a 5/6mile walk beforehand (optional) see walk programme for details.

Important - Saturday Oct 26th 2013 – Cow Green to Bowlees

If you intend going on this walk then please contact John Bird on 01833 650034 or email to bcramblers@gmail.com as soon as possible as we need an idea of the numbers to book the bus to take us up to Cow Green (cost approx £5). See the Walk Programme for full details.

North Pennines Walking Festival – “Inspired by the North Pennines” - Jo

This new walking festival from Saturday 28th September to Sunday 6th may well be over by the time you read this. Many thanks to several of our members for leading walks, and for running the October slide show as part of the festival.

54 Degrees North - Joan

Despite rumours, 54 Degrees North is not closing down. In fact, the other day when we were in they were unpacking boxes of new stock. Don't forget if you show your Ramblers membership card you should get 10% discount.

Dalegarth, Lake District: 28th April – 2nd May 2014 - Judith

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are visiting Dalegarth House, Buttermere, from Monday April 28th to Friday May 2nd 2014. I'm opening the booking list now. Please contact me at j.baker574@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01642 700062 if you wish to go.

If you are simply interested at the moment and require further information, please contact me, as above, or speak to any member who goes regularly. Full information about Dalegarth House can be found at www.dalegarthguesthouse.co.uk and pictures of the group enjoying themselves on previous visits are on the group website.

For a number of years now we've enjoyed good walking and companionship here. There are walks at all levels in a beautiful situation plus a bus service to take us into other valleys too. The accommodation is clean and homely and we are given a warm welcome.

It is also relatively inexpensive by Lake District standards with a good drying room. We purchase our evening meals at Dalegarth and packed lunches are available at reasonable cost if required. We take our own alcoholic or soft drinks with us.

Don't leave it too long-there are only nine bedrooms!

Coastal Access - Jo

Natural England advises that the Durham, Hartlepool, Sunderland stretch from North Gare to South Bents was approved by the Secretary of State in July. Work is currently being undertaken with DCC to establish the route, along with planning and preparation for the opening of the new rights. Commencement of new rights will be in Spring 2014.

Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership - Jo

At last, work on Flatts Wood is imminent! The paths are to become designated as public rights of way, and in due course will be shown on OS maps as red dotted lines. They will therefore be secured for use by the public for all time, under the care of DCC's Rights of Way team, following the Heart of Teesdale work. Further funding from the government's Paths for Communities fund has been obtained for improvements, following a successful bid. Work will include drainage and replacement of one or two bridges, renovation of old seats, and new signs. This work has to be completed before February, and the Partnership will be publicising works in the local press immediately prior to commencement, to keep everyone in the picture. New circular routes and improvements to the Teesdale Way will follow, and will include replacement of some stiles with kissing gates. As a member of the Paths group of the Partnership I am keen that while improvements take place, the natural character of Flatts Wood and Teesdale is maintained.

Donate a Gate - Jo

This is a scheme set up by the North Pennines AONB for funds to install kissing gates in place of difficult stiles on the Pennine Way, on stretches of the route that are otherwise accessible by the less mobile. The first, in memory of Bob Pendlebury, a former Area President, has been installed near Saur Hill Bridge. The group is raising funds for another through its slide shows.

Giant wind turbines - Jo

There have been applications for giant wind turbines at Woodland and near Eggleston, neither of which provided the required background information and, after several objections, both have been withdrawn. We may well see more of these applications as a turbine manufacturer has advertised in the local farming press. The company does all the work of writing and submitting the planning application, erecting and maintaining the turbines for 20 years and providing links to the national grid. All the landowner/occupier does is make the land available and receive a financial reward. Tempting! But there are regulations to be complied with.

Update on members, past and present - Joan

As most of the "gossip" filters through our house I thought I would just give you an update on some of our members. Ian says that our house is a "clearing house" for Barnard Castle Ramblers.

First of all, I informed members a few weeks ago that **David Race** had bowel cancer. I am delighted to be able to tell you that he is doing well. They have operated on him and cut away 12" of intestine and have therefore removed all the cancer. He hasn't got to have any chemo or radiotherapy so it's always good to have a happy ending to a story. Some of you may remember **Heather Johnson** who used to live at High Lands. David keeps in contact with her and along with husband **Ray**, they are still enjoying life in Scotland. Keen bird watchers, David says they are learning to kayak so that they can bird watch from more inaccessible places. I am hoping we may be able to meet them one day when we are staying in Portpatrick in November.

Many of you ask me if I have heard from **Seamus**. Unfortunately despite writing to him and **Catherine**, I have had no reply. One assumes that they are both enjoying married life, so we wish them well. Hopefully in the not too distant future, we will see them again, (maybe on a walk).

Some of you know that **Joan Collier's** sister Molly had a nasty fall while walking in the Lake District. She had extensive bruising, broken bones in both arms and a broken leg. Thankfully, despite having a bump on the head, there is no brain damage and no problems with her spine. By the time you read this, she will have had the plaster removed from one arm and the cage taken from the other arm. Her leg may stay in plaster for 3 months, but she should be walking around on crutches. Despite everything she is progressing well and with lots of determination and physiotherapy she will gradually improve.

Last but not least, **Enid** is doing well. Again by the time you read this, Ken's son **Terry** and his wife **Patty** will have been over from America to stay with Enid. Just a reminder that you are all assured a warm welcome if you call to see her. If you are lucky, you may even get a homemade scone!!

Web Site Changes - Richard

The Website has been enhanced to include Zoomable OS maps of the start point by clicking on the Grid reference in the Walk Description.

Route details and a map showing the route taken will be available shortly on the scrapbook pages.

This has been achieved using the Bing Maps platform and Google Earth. An aerial view rather than the map is available by clicking on the tab marked 'Ordnance Survey Map' at the top right and selecting 'Birds Eye View'.

Contributions for the next issue will be welcomed towards the end of January please, to jobird9@tiscali.co.uk

www.barnardcastleramblers.org.uk