



**ramblers**  
at the heart of walking

## BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS

### NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017, with lots of news and dates for your diary.

#### From Christine Hughes      Group Holiday 2017

Following the success of our visit to Shropshire last year if anyone is interested in another holiday at an HF Country House I will be happy to arrange this. The following locations have been suggested for October:

Derbyshire

Coniston

Please let me know by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2017** if you are interested at [bcrmembers@gmail.com](mailto:bcrmembers@gmail.com) or 01833 660780 and say which option you prefer.

#### Summer Barbecue      Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Linda Bird has again extended her kind invitation to Barnard Castle group members to a summer barbecue, in memory of John, at Cotherstone starting at 17:00, with an afternoon walk beforehand. Cost will be £8 and numbers limited, members only on a first come basis, and must be pre-booked by contacting Richard tel. 01833 660780, mobile 07932 180575 [bcramblers@gmail.com](mailto:bcramblers@gmail.com) by Sunday 9th July.

#### Coach trip to Rothbury, Northumberland      Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Coach leaves Barnard Castle (outside Charles Dickens Lodge) at 08:15. Arriving Rothbury 10:15. There will be 2 led walks or you may just wish to visit the town or nearby Cragside (National Trust - Admission applies for non NT Members). Both walks will return to Rothbury in time for refreshments before leaving at 18:00 - ETA Barnard Castle 20:00.

Cost of coach approx £12.00 depending on numbers. Booking to Richard with £5.00 deposit **Before 31st May 2017** tel:01833 660780, mob:07932 180575, mail:[bcramblers@gmail.com](mailto:bcramblers@gmail.com).

**A-Walk:** Simonside Hills - 10 moderate miles with exceptional views, 480m ascent, well trodden paths and forestry tracks, few stiles. Leader: Richard. see contact details above.

**B-Walk:** There will be a shorter more leisurely B-Walk of 5/6 miles. Details to follow.

#### From John Stephenson      **1. Social Evenings**

7/2/17 - The Angel, Gilling West

7/3/17 - The Bay Horse, Ravensworth

4/4/17 - The Mowden, Darlington

2/5/17 - The Four Alls, Ovington

6/6/17 - The Stanwick, Aldborough St. John

4/7/17 - The Milbank Arms, Barningham

Meeting at 7.30 pm      Everyone is welcome, more details in the walks programme.

## **2. Hamsterley Forest**

Please note the parking price rise for early 2017 – entry to rise to £6 per car / £10 on any Bank Holiday weekend.

Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to be installed by April but enforcement (i.e. fines) not to start until Autumn.

Hopefully, people will still be able to visit us for free, but we may need your registration number so you avoid fines. We will keep members advised as the Forestry have not worked out how to deal with our visitors as yet.

## **3. North Pennines AONB**

Appeal for volunteers to assist with repairs to be done to the Pennine Way, to be done this Spring/Summer. No dates/times as yet, but anyone interested should contact Sarah Tooze or Simon Wilson on 01388 528801 or email [sarah@northpenninesaonb.org.uk](mailto:sarah@northpenninesaonb.org.uk)

### **From Pauline Fawcett**

### **Slide Shows**

The following Slide Shows have been arranged. We have gone for Thursday evenings to avoid any Wednesday walks. Venue Trinity Church Hall, Barnard Castle at 7.00 pm.

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May

John and Julie Stephenson

Vietnam and Cambodia

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July

Jenny and Gordon Selley

Nepal

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September

Joan and Ian Martin

Tasmania and Kangaroo Island

### **From Joan Martin**

### **Walks Books**

The sale of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary walks books is going well. In 9 months we have had 450 books printed which are nearly all sold. A further 50 are ready for the start of the new tourist season. We have just about broken even on the sale of the books which were only intended as a publicity tool. As well as selling them through outlets, we sell them direct, making a profit of £1 per book. If anyone can sell a book to a friend, I always have a supply and can easily be contacted. We have had some very positive comments from people we have met, who tell us that they have used the books to do some of the walks and have found the instructions very easy to follow. This makes the hours of hard work taken to produce the book very worthwhile.

### **From Richard**

### **Saturday parking at Barnard Castle Health Centre**

In the near future the Health Centre will be starting to offer Saturday appointments. They do not anticipate being as busy as on weekdays and think there will still be room for us to park there so have kindly agreed to allow us to continue (thanks to Jo Bird for renegotiating this). But, from now on, will you please park considerately at the side or back of the car park by the trees, and leave the centre section for patients attending the Health Centre.

## **BLOG**

We are in the process of creating a Blog (On line newsletter with ability to submit feedback). It should be up and running within the next few weeks and will be reachable from the group website so keep watching. Anybody without internet access needn't worry we will still send out printed copies of the Newsletter and Walks Programme to those requiring it.

### **Walk Programme and Leaders**

We hope you will enjoy the next walks programme of Saturday, Wednesday and Bank Holiday walks from March to June. Don't forget to check on the website regularly for updates on walks, and, particularly, details of events which may have a deadline for booking. Perhaps you could pass on news to any members who are not online.

We have two new leaders – Barry and Norman (no not Barry Norman! He is on the telly!) go easy on them on their first walk, and Jenny is back in the fold. The walk programme, this time, was filled before the deadline a first in the 5 years I have been compiling it so a big Thank You! goes out to the leaders. We are always looking for new blood to inject some variety into the walks programme. If you have an idea for a walk (or even a coach trip) have a chat with a committee member when you are out on a walk, or email Richard [bcramblers@gmail.com](mailto:bcramblers@gmail.com).

### **Nine Standards Paving**

The crowd funding for the Paving of the Coast to Coast route over the notoriously boggy Nine Standards was successful and we will have a walk up there as soon as the work is complete, though still not in sandals!

### **Committee Members**

Present committee: Allan Rayner (chairman), Lynda Bares, Jo Bird, Maggie Donnelly, Pauline Fawcett, Christine Hughes, Richard Hughes, Ian Martin, Joan Martin, John Stephenson, Maureen Raw, Tom Vlaming, Frances Walker.

Frances Walker  
Richard Hughes

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