

BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLER'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2009

SLIDE SHOWS

[Wednesday 4th November](#) - Ramblers' Slide Show

7.30pm on the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle. "The Azores" by Frances

Admission, including coffee - £2.50

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on [Thursday 12th November](#) in the meeting room of the St Marys' Parish Hall, Barnard Castle at 7.30pm.

Did you know that 40% of the UK's remaining upland hay meadows are found in the North Pennine's AONB?

Did you know that up to 100 different species of plant can be found in a single meadow?

If you want to know more there will be a presentation by Fiona Corby and Neil Diment on the "Hay Time Project" following the AGM. Neil is the Hay Time Community Officer for the North Pennines AONB Partnership and a member of the RA.

CHRISTMAS WALK AND LUNCH - Sunday 6th December

The walk (see Walks Programme) will be followed by lunch at [The Three Tuns](#) Pub at Eggleston at 1:00pm.

Price £12.75 for 3 courses.

The menu is as follows:

Starters:

Leek and Potato Soup with roll and butter

Three Prawn Salad

Homemade Pate

Melon

Main Course:

Turkey with all the trimmings

Stuffed, Rolled Loin of Pork

Roasted Teesdale Lamb with Yorkshire Pudding

Grilled Plaice in Hollandaise Sauce

Mushroom Stroganoff with Brandy Cream on Wild Rice

All served with fresh vegetables and gravy.

Dessert:

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

Sherry Trifle and Cream

Chocolate Gateaux and Cream

Coffee, Tea or Chocolate

Please let Lis know your choice of meal and numbers no later than Friday 25th November on 01833 650192 or mobile 07769 723 509 or e-mail - helmerrupert@tiscali.co.uk

COOPER HOUSE

The long running saga of Cooper House is drawing to a close. The Secretary of State has decided that the diversion of FP77 and the stopping up of part of FP81 will go ahead. It all remains for DCC to correct the mistake on the definitive map regards FP78 which is shown on the wrong side of a wall.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

From October 1st, the membership rates will go up for the first time in 2 years. The new rates are as follows:

Individual Membership	= £29.50	Joint Membership	= £39.50.	
Individual Concessionary	= £17.50	Joint Concessionary	= £23.50	Affiliated Club
= £40.50				

Life membership also available - Just ask me. **Please note: - Concessionary rates are intended for students, people on means tested benefits or solely reliant on the state pension. It should be noted that those in full time work should pay the full amount.**

We continue to have about 100 members. This fluctuates because as soon as we have new members, others seem to leave!! Of course the membership system is still far from perfect after nearly 2 years on the new system and I find it hard to know at times who has lapsed and who hasn't. **If you receive this Newsletter and Programme and you have resigned or left our group would you please let me know, so that I can delete you from my records. Either email on ijmar8@tiscali.co.uk or Phone 01833 637825.**

We now have over 50% of our members on email for their programmes. This is great, but could it be higher? If you are not yet on electronic mailing and you have an email, please consider changing as it is a lot cheaper for us and saves me a lot of time and effort.

Many thanks. Joan Martin Membership Secretary

AREA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Area Annual General Meeting is to be held on **Saturday 16th January 2010** in Heighington Village Hall at 2:00pm. Guest speaker will be Andrew Bibby, RA Trustee. He has been asked to speak on "How the Ramblers is Rising to the "Credit Crunch".

There will be an easy 5 mile walk starting from the village hall at 10:30am which may take in the Locomotion Museum. With regard to refreshment, there is a pub in the village and tea-making facilities in the village hall.

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY

For those of you who don't know, **2010 is the 75th Anniversary of the Ramblers Association**. For the 50th Anniversary, the RA organised a "Round Britain Walk", which linked all the Areas together via a continuous walk round Britain. This time it will be much less complicated. It is to be a "Baton" relay (however an actual "Baton" is not being passed around, but groups taking part will receive a baton).

The **North East** is scheduled to have its "Baton" walks in **June**. Therefore we are hoping to organise 2 walks from Bowlees on the same day, (**probably June 19th**). Ian and I will lead an 8 mile walk and Tom and Lis will lead a 10/11 mile walk. There is also the option of doing a 4 mile circular via High Force. Hopefully we can organise for us all to have a meal in Newbiggin Village Hall afterwards. Matt Baker put the Durham Dales "on the map" on Countryfile recently, showing wonderful shots of High Force. Also Paul Heiney showed Cow Green and Cauldron Snout on Countrywise, so **let us put Teesdale and Barnard Castle Ramblers "on the map"**. All the details will be finalised for the next programme. More details can be obtained from the main RA web site.

Joan Martin

SECRETARY

Lis has announced that she intends to resign as Group Secretary at the AGM in November. We will therefore be looking for a new Secretary. If anyone is interested, please inform one of the committee in advance if possible. (As they say in the job adverts, "no experience necessary" but a computer is essential). It doesn't have to be a person who walks regularly either.

TIT BITS

This is a letter I had published in the "Great Outdoors magazine", thought you might like this little tale.

THE TALE OF THE LOST MEMORY STICK

In November 2007 my husband and I went to stay with some Rambler friends who live in London. We spent each day visiting various famous sites of interest. One day we went to Greenwich, which was very interesting. We headed towards the river and there was filming going on for some period drama. We didn't find out what they were filming though. There were actors everywhere strolling around in the sunshine in their costumes. I didn't take any photos of them, but did have my camera with me. While sitting by the river I discovered that I had lost a computer memory stick out of my camera bag.

I walked back along the embankment looking for it, but it was no-where to be found. I concluded that one of the actors must have picked it up and put it in their pocket. I expected that I had lost it forever. To my surprise, 15 months later I had a telephone call. This was to tell me that my memory stick had been found.

This was the sequence of events. An actor had obviously picked it up and forgotten about it. Months later, someone who works for Angels (a costume company) had been going through the pockets of a costume and found the memory stick! Trying it on their computer they found that it had some Ramblers data on it. By coincidence, they have a friend working for the Ramblers on the Get Walking Keep Walking team at Manchester, so they sent it to her.

She therefore looked at the memory stick and deduced that I was the owner. She then rang me up and consequently sent the memory stick back to me. I think this is a really amazing chain of events and gives me great faith in human nature. There seems to be nothing but bad stories in the media and kind deeds very rarely get a mention. I have to thank wholeheartedly these honest people. After all, any one of them could have wiped the memory stick clean and used it themselves. I have to add that the memory stick mainly contained photos of our rambling group.

Joan Martin

THE DANGERS OF COWS WITH CALVES

There has been a lot of debate this summer about the danger of cows with calves and dogs, after a lady was trampled to death near to Hawes. Before we went away in July, the Teesdale Mercury contacted Ian for his view on the matter. (He did point out that it was his personal view and not RA policy). Subsequently there was an article in the Mercury.

While we were away at our daughters in Scotland, we were out walking on our own, when my mobile phone rang. (It isn't normally switched on, but our daughter likes to "keep tabs on us"). Anyway, back to the phone call, which was from a reporter at Radio Tees? I explained that we were out on a ramble, but she wanted a word with Ian about "yes you've guessed", cows with calves in fields with Rights of Way in them. The upshot was, Ian did a "live" broadcast the following morning for Radio Tees from our daughter's house in Scotland. Such are the wonders of technology!!

Joan Martin

COTTAGES IN DERBYSHIRE

There is a possibility that a Group holiday can be arranged in the Peak District of Derbyshire in 2010. It could be in September/October or in late March/April (avoiding Easter).

Self catering cottages or converted barns would be used. These would be of 3 or 4 star quality. Those who wish to do their own cooking can do so, lesser mortals may prefer to have a meal at a local pub. Because of the distance involved, about 140 miles, a 7 day holiday would seem preferable. The walking is excellent and varied. It would take in the Limestone Dales and the Gritstone Edges. I would anticipate that the walks would be 8 - 10 miles, generally of moderate difficulty. Those of a more heroic nature could do more, of course.

There would be no regimentation, people could do their own thing if they wished. Let's remember however, that it would be a Group holiday.

There will be difficulty in getting several cottages in close proximity to each other with the appropriate bedding arrangements (doubles or twins).

We do know of a complex of 3 cottages that will take 12 people. That would be either 3 doubles and 3 twins, or 2 doubles and 4 twins. They are nicely situated in the centre of the Peak, with walking from the door. This is an example, no doubt others can be found.

We need an indication of numbers before anything can be arranged.

In fairness to the membership, priority will be given to those who walk on a regular basis with the Group.

Please contact Walter on 01388 602120. Or email on [wbtees@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wbttees@yahoo.co.uk)

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR JOAN'S CLUB SCRAPBOOK

Would people taking photographs on walks please remember that I am still updating the Scrapbooks. It would help me if, when you email Maggie photographs for the website, you could also send a copy to me (I can print photos from email but not from the website). Better still, maybe you could print me a copy and give it to me as this would save me some ink.

Many thanks, Joan. (email ijmar8@tiscali.co.uk)

WEBSITE

Maggie, who does a wonderful job with our Web Site is appealing for someone to be "Back up" Web Site Manager. Anyone who is interested in doing this job, or would like more information on what is entailed in doing the job, please ring Maggie on 0191 4194612.

Group Newsletter: Autumn 2009/ Winter 2010 **North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

The AONB Partnership published its five-year Management Plan in the summer, consisting of three beautifully illustrated booklets in a folder, covering the issues, objectives and proposed actions for its management from now until 2014.

We are privileged to have this huge and splendid area of Cumbria, Northumberland and Durham, including Upper Teesdale, at our doorstep, and good to know that it is being managed in ways that will conserve and enhance its natural beauty. The remit includes landform, geology and features, plants and animals, and history of human settlement, and takes account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and rural industry, and social and economic needs of the local communities.

A wide remit! It is a balancing act, part preservation and enhancement and part sustainable development. The plan includes the possibility of a boundary extension to add Barningham Moor and Mid Teesdale, both of which were in the original proposals, but dropped before designation in 1988.

We probably know the Partnership best for organising walks and talks for the public on special features and projects being undertaken. These include traditional hay meadows (the subject of the talk at our forthcoming AGM), peat lands, woodland, flora and fauna, historical features such as former mines and quarries, heather burning, and how climate change will be tackled. It also covers provision of information for visitors as well as locals like us, for enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of the area, and to promote sustainable transport and tourism, including green tourism.

Many of the plans involve community participation such as hay meadow seed collecting, woodland planting, and projects on oral histories of mining and farming, with writing, photography, music, art and craft all playing a part. Support and encouragement is also being offered to rural economies and businesses such as farming, timber production, arts and crafts and local food.

There is a load more information on the website: www.northpennines.org.uk

Some copies of the Management Plan will be available at the AGM on CD or hard copy (printed on 75% recycled paper!). For me the latter, with its beautiful photographs, qualifies it as good enough for the coffee table!

Jo Bird

Access and Countryside Officer

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

www.barnardcastleramblers.org.uk

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