

BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Unless you contact Ramblers HQ and indicate to them your preferred means of communication we will not be able to communicate with you at all in the future!

This situation is because Ramblers HQ considers that it has notified all members of the need for you to notify them of your preferences in means of communication. This has supposedly arisen due to the relatively new GDPR regulations. It does mean that if you don't notify Ramblers HQ of your preferences then you will receive **NO** communications from either Ramblers HQ or the Barnard Castle ramblers. If this is your preference it will make it impossible for the group to communicate with you, except by the web-site.

You may be communicated with in any or all of 3 ways. These are by:

- 1) telephone - means giving your phone number.
- 2) Post.
- 3) e-mail – giving an e-mail address.

The way to notify Ramblers HQ of your preferences is by e-mail or phone – to the membership department. The phone number to use is **0203-961-3232**. The e-mail address to use is: membership@ramblers.zendesk.com. The easiest way, I would suggest, is to pick up the phone.

If you wish to receive communications from your group then you need to notify Ramblers HQ of your wish. **Please act NOW.**

Chair's Notes

As I write this Jenny and I are about to join 9 other members on a group holiday to Glen Coe in Scotland, looking forward to it in great anticipation. What is the weather going to do, what mountains shall we climb, where shall we go? Autumn is an exciting time, full of colour; the weather can be calm and then stormy. It is also a time to reflect, on the summer and on the past year.

We should feel blessed by what the group has done and achieved, in no small part due to the efforts of our volunteers. Thanks go in particular to our walk leaders in providing a full programme, when through one reason or another we have been few in number. Whilst we haven't had any coach trips this year we have gone further afield, visiting the Lakes, North York Moors, Dentdale and Whernside, as well as the usual Dales. We also had an evening Pub Walk at Langdon Beck which was well received and may be repeated next year.

On a different note we have objected to a proposed closure and diversion of Footpath 10 which is the path passing close to Teesdale School heading north-west towards Stainton. If you wish to have more details of the proposal see a member of the committee. We have finally agreed to a diversion of a path at Toft Hill with an understanding that it will not be fenced.

We had a successful one day Leaders Navigation course in June, led by Steve Owers, and organised by Lynda. At the end of June we enjoyed a final magnificent barbecue, hosted by Linda. And to show it wasn't all pleasure, we had our own litter pick along Dark Lane at the end of March organised by Pauline.

There are a few activities coming up in the next couple of months worthy of note. We have our Annual General Meeting on Saturday November 10th. See the note in this newsletter with details of the day. A month later we shall have our annual pre-Christmas Lunch and again the details of it are to be found later in this newsletter. Please come to one or both events.

Finally please read the piece about our COMMUNICATIONS with you, owing to GDPR and the interpretation put on it by Head Office. Please ACT on the advice given there. We don't want to lose you but we will if you don't indicate to Head Office how you wish to receive communications both from us and head office.

As I have said before if you have ideas for the group or comments you wish to make, please let me know or alternatively a member of the committee. I want to thank again all the members of your committee for the work they have done on your behalf.

Gordon

BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS AGM

SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER AT ROMALDKIRK VILLAGE HALL

As usual there will be a morning walk before the afternoon's AGM:

Meet the leaders on the green at Romalldkirk near the Village Hall for a 10am start. A circular walk via Cotherstone using the Teesdale Way and Tees Railway walk. 5 leisurely miles with a coffee stop. We aim to arrive back at the Village Hall for 1pm. This will give members time to eat their packed lunch in the village hall before the meeting at 2pm.

Leaders: Joan and Ian. Mobile 07745 451 198

At 2.00 pm there will be a short presentation by Steven Gater, Chair of Durham Wildlife Trust. Steven is the editor of the just published 5th edition of "The Natural History of Upper Teesdale", a wonderful book bringing together experts' accounts of the flora and fauna, geology, climate, and conservation issues facing the dale.

The AGM will follow, giving you the chance to hear the Officers' reports, elect the next officers and committee, and tell us of your views and concerns.

We conclude with tea, coffee and refreshments, and the chance to chat with your fellow Ramblers, so we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS ANNUAL LUNCH

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018

Please notice the change of day and date.

This year's lunch will be held at the Langdon Beck Hotel. It will be a two course lunch plus coffee and mince pies costing £15.50. The menu choices are as follows:

Main Course

- Roast Turkey Crown, Pigs in Blankets and Festive Stuffing
- Slow Roast Beef
- Homemade Vegetable Bake

All served with roast and mashed potatoes, homemade Yorkshire pudding and a selection of seasonal vegetables.

Desserts

- homemade Traditional Christmas Pudding
- Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding
- Homemade Apple Crumble

Complimentary Mince Pie and Coffee

Please book your places as soon as possible. The absolute deadline for choosing, changing or cancelling your order is the end of Monday 3rd December. Bookings will be taken at the AGM on 10th November or please contact Lynda on 01833 640258 or lyndabares@gmail.com

Ramblers Walking Holidays

The 2019 Ramblers Walking Holidays brochure has just arrived. It covers “Guided Walking Experiences” in the UK, Europe and Worldwide. Included in the brochure is a “Private Group Holidays” brochure and two complimentary tickets to “Destinations”, the holiday and travel show which is held in Manchester (17th-20th January 2019) and London (31st January – 3rd February 2019).

If anyone is interested in these please contact Pauline on 01833 638020 or email her at pvfawcett@tiscali.co.uk

50th Anniversary Book of Walks

Sales of the walks books have slowed down this year. There are different factors for this: Curlews bookshop changed hands in spring and the new owners are not interested in selling walks books. The Conduit in Middleton also changed hands before Easter. Although Michelle who now owns it says she wants to sell them, in fact only 3 were sold all summer. Unlike Lynn who used to have them on display in a box, Michelle has them in the back with just a copy hung on a string. Tom continues to sell some to people at his holiday let. The place which sells the most is the Teesdale Mercury.

This is all coupled with the fact that since we wrote our book, Walkers are Welcome have done a lot of single walk leaflets and so have the Witham. I had hoped we would sell the last 50 this year, but that is unlikely now. Sadly it looks as though it is going to be into next year, especially as Bowlees will close for most of the time after the school holidays in October.

Joan

The lost Acorn!!

Recently I had one of my rare glimpses at our website. Instead of just looking at the walks programme, I decided to have a look at the members section. Looking at the photos I couldn't believe it when I saw the one of Ian holding a wooden Acorn which the group were presented with for walking a section of the Cleveland Way. To mark its 40th anniversary the whole route was done as

a continuous walk on the same day, with various groups doing a linear section. Frances led the walk for our group.

Each group was rewarded with a beautiful carved Acorn which is of course the emblem of long distance footpaths. As it was presented at the start of the walk we had to carry it the whole of the way. After the event it was agreed that members keep it for a while and then pass it on to someone else. It first went missing years ago but was found on top of someone's wardrobe. The last person to have it was Tom, who says he passed it on to someone else, but can't remember who. It would be really nice to be able to solve this long standing mystery.

Joan.

Barningham Moor Tracks Eyesore

Three years ago I lodged an objection on behalf of the Group, to a planning application for tracks and two car parks on Barningham Moor, on the grounds that they would have a damaging visual impact. Several members as individuals also submitted objections, but the application was approved. DCC's Planning Dept advised that because the Moor is registered Common Land, some of the works would also need approval from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), but didn't say which ones.

But there is a weakness in the system as PINS apparently takes no action against those who should consult them but don't. Last autumn it was found that the footpath beside the wall, from the junction with the Carter House track leading up towards How Tallon as far as the crossing bridleway, had a wide and considerably raised and waterlogged earthen surface. Not only was this unsightly but it was also difficult to walk on: even vehicles had used the adjacent moorland instead of the track.

The only course of action for us would have been via the courts, which can be a huge cost, and since the tracks and car parks don't actually prevent access on foot, there is no certainty this would succeed. In any case, it would be almost impossible to restore the moorland to its original state, where 'works' had been found to be unlawful. Alternatively, imposing a fine would not restore the moorland, though might deter others from ignoring the legal process in the future. So we could only remain hopeful that in time vegetation would encroach and the scarring would be less evident.

However, in September this year it was found that there has been no encroachment of vegetation on the track and car park areas. A further track on the North Yorkshire side also remains in the original state, and this was 'surfaced' prior to autumn 2015. I have spoken to a geologist who confirms my belief that the surfaces are subsoil rather than topsoil, and therefore will be resistant to growth of vegetation. It is also likely that, while the track was firm and dry enough to walk on after the dry summer, it will again become sodden and difficult to walk on after recent rain.

One redeeming feature is that the car parks are not visibly intrusive from a distance. Surface material bulldozed to form banks on three sides, to the height of about 5 feet, is rich in moorland vegetation.

Jo Bird

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. Please remember to look at our website regularly as new walks are posted in the Walks section as they are received by Richard. There may also be changes and, particularly during the winter, last minute cancellations due to bad weather or road conditions.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our events and walks.