

# BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS

## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017



### From the committee:

#### Allan Rayner

As you know, Allan resigned as Chairman of Barnard Castle Ramblers with effect from the end of April; he has now left Teesdale to move down to be with his family in Somerset. As well as his roles as chairman and walks leader for the Ramblers, Allan was very active in countryside and conservation in our area, planting trees for Cotherstone, organising and planting Trees for Teesdale and working hands-on to clear invasive species from the Tees banks. His final project was to help establish Walkers are Welcome in Barnard Castle.

So, thanks, Allan, for all you have done for walking in Teesdale, and best wishes for your future in Somerset.

### Election of New Chairman

Our vice-chairman and secretary Pauline Fawcett is acting chairman until the next AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, when we shall need to elect a new chairman. All 89 current members of Barnard Castle Ramblers are eligible to serve as chairman and we would welcome new people to the committee. It is not a very onerous role – there are three committee meetings a year, at the end of January, May and September. If you might be interested in taking the role, or know of someone who might, please get in touch with one of the committee to have a chat. All committee members are elected (or re-elected) for one year, having been nominated and seconded as required by the constitution.

### From Richard Hughes

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

There are still a few places left on the coach on 24<sup>th</sup> June, so please ring Richard : **01833 660780** or mob. : **07932 180 575** or email [bcramblers@gmail.com](mailto:bcramblers@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you would like to come.

The coach leaves Barnard Castle (outside Charles Dickens Lodge) at 08:15, and will pick up in West Auckland at 08:30 (need to notify Richard). Arriving Rothbury 10.15. There will be two led walks or you may just wish to visit the town or nearby Craggside (National Trust – admission applies for non NT members).

Cost of coach approx. £12 depending on numbers. Booking to Richard with £5 deposit.

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

B- Walk : 6 leisurely miles. An interesting, varied and reasonably level walk. Leader : Frances.

### Summer Barbecue on 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**. The cost will be £8 and numbers are limited. We need to have some idea of the numbers before then, so please ring or email Richard **now** (details above) to book your place. (Absolute deadline 9<sup>th</sup> July.)

There will be an afternoon walk (open to all), starting from outside Cotherstone Parish Church at **13.00**. A 7 mile Cotherstone circular, Leader : Lynda. See Walks Programme for full details.

**From our Footpath Officer John Stephenson      Footpath news**

The Heritage Way in S. Tyneside and Co. Durham is now almost complete, with waymarking and maps. The Co. Durham section is around Beamish and Chester-le-Street.

Nearer home, Snotterton footbridge, near Snotterton Hall, Staindrop, which is closed for repairs, may not be re-opened for some time. (Alternative route available). Many footpaths are in need of repair as a result of winter storms. The county council has granted £300,000 over 3 years to do some of these repairs.

There is a temporary closure (possibly up to 6 months) of a footpath near Green Lane, Barnard Castle while building work takes place.

Do you know of any historic routes or lost ways which are not included on the County Durham Definitive Map? 2026 is the cut-off date for adding them to the map.

You can report footpath problems or issues directly to DCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) team - either by email to [prow@durham.gov.uk](mailto:prow@durham.gov.uk) - including a photo of the problem if possible, -or via the Durham County Council website – go to the **Report It** tab.

To discuss local footpath problems or possible lost ways you can also email John Stephenson [jst\\_ayhope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jst_ayhope@yahoo.co.uk)

**Social Evenings July to October 2017**

Everyone is welcome to the informal Tuesday evening social gatherings; just turn up at 7.30 for a drink and a chat at the following hostelries:

- 4/7/17 - The Milbank Arms, Barningham
- 1.8.17 - Sun Inn, Wackerfield
- 5.9.17 Moorcock, Eggleston
- 3.10.17 Crosskeys, Gainford
- 7.11.17 Countryman, Bolam
- 5.12.17 Three Horseshoes, Barnard Castle
- 2.1.18 Redwell, Barnard Castle

**From Pauline Fawcett: Slide Shows in July and September 2017**

The slide show programme continues on the following Thursdays at Trinity Church Hall, Barnard Castle at 7.00 pm. Everyone welcome.

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**

### **A big "Thank you"**

I would like to thank everyone for making my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday so **special**. Thanks first of all to June and Frances for leading the two walks. Also Mary, who made so many delicious cakes and scones for my "Open House". Thanks to everyone for all the cards, flowers and good wishes. Although the open house was hard work I really enjoyed having everyone. I know that Joan C was busy in the kitchen but not sure who else was. I really could not have done this without my wonderful husband Ian. I do know he spent his time making pots of tea!! We were both pretty shattered after washing all the pots and sorting the house out again.

Frances shared my actual birthday on the Wednesday and it was nice that Ian and I managed to do the full eight miles of the walk. I am pleased that nearly everyone stayed back for tea and cakes at the Lune Springs Garden Centre. June sprang a surprise by ordering a cake which was big enough for everyone to have a piece. It didn't end there, as with her usual sense of fun, she had bought me a birthday card which made us all laugh. I feel blessed that I have so many wonderful friends.

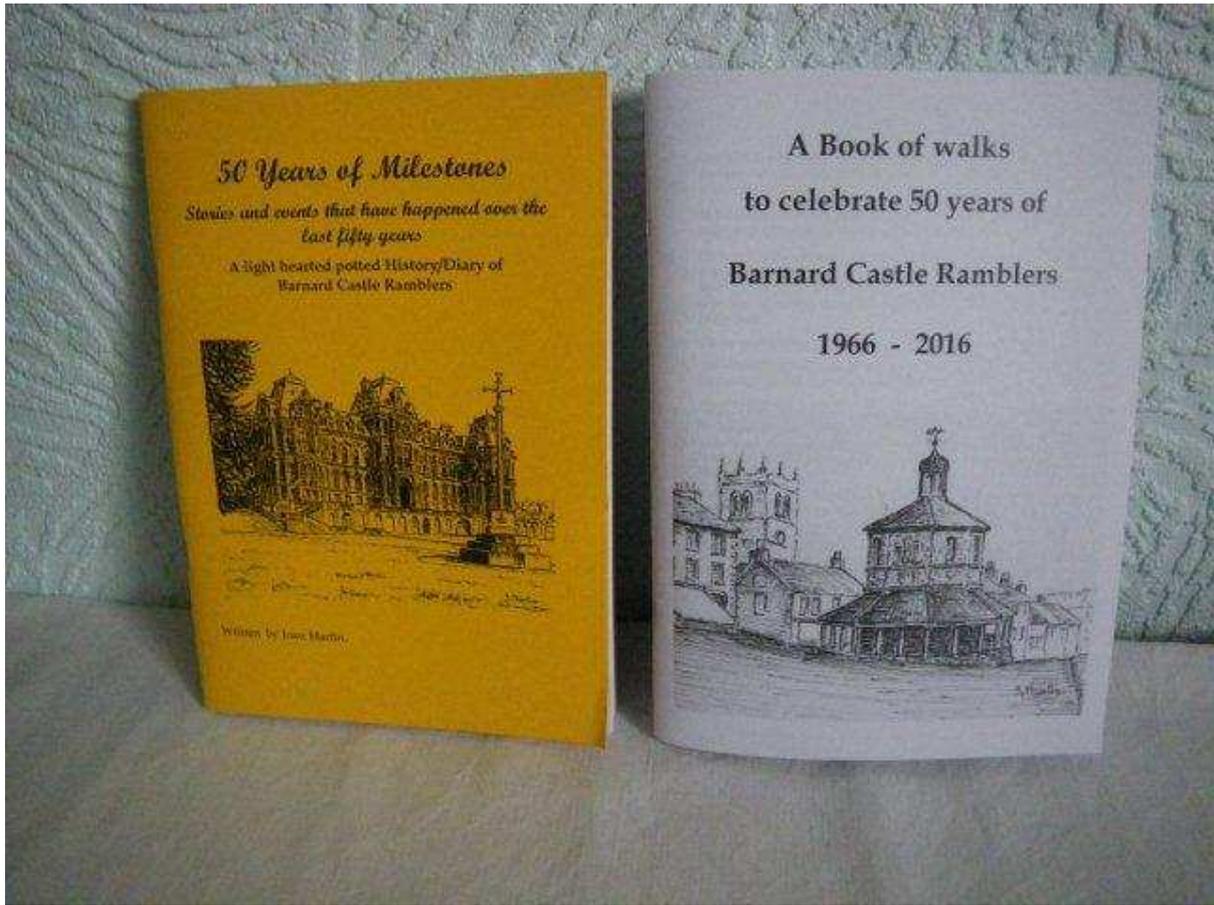
Ian and I can no longer manage the Saturday walks but we still hope to be out on some of the Wednesday walks. After all, the Ramblers have been a big part of our lives

### **Anniversary books**

I don't need to remind everyone that 2016 was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the group. For our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I wrote a potted history of the group. I sold all the copies myself and donated any profits I made to the Air Ambulance and Fell Rescue. I don't seem to have any record of how much I donated.

I consulted with John Bird who thought a book for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would be a good idea. I said I would write one, but as with the other, it would be my own project. I therefore started in 2015 so that it would be ready for May 2016. In the meantime, the committee decided it would be a good idea to produce a book of walks. Ian and I ended up sorting out the walks, walking them more than once to make sure "we had the Instructions correct". Along with Richard doing the maps, this project took several months and the Anniversary book got put on the "back burner" so to speak.

Having written some of the book over a year earlier it took a lot of "getting back into it". However in the spring of 2017 I spent hours pouring over my scrap books trying to sort out some interesting titbits. The book was completed in April and I have had 50 produced. Last time it was easy as I was just getting another 10 photocopied at the Teesdale Mercury when I needed them. This time they have been done at Prontaprint the same as the walks books. They are a much better quality, but of course more expensive. This time round I will be lucky if I make any profit at all. Still I enjoyed writing it and those who have already bought one say they have found it interesting. They will be a limited edition of 50. As with the walks books they are good value for money at £2.50 each. If anyone wishes to buy either or both of these books, just give me a ring on 01833 637825. Incidentally we have now sold over 500 copies of the walks books!



**Two dates for your diary:**

**Barnard Castle Ramblers AGM 2017** will be held at 2.00 pm on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

There will be a morning walk as usual, and full details of the venue for the AGM and the walk will be in the Autumn newsletter and programme.

We intend to have a Barnard Castle Ramblers **Christmas lunch** again this year. The chosen date is **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**; we are still considering possible venues (any recommendations will be welcome). Again, there will be a morning walk, and full details of walk and lunch will be available in the Autumn newsletter and programme.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our summer walks and events, hopefully under summer skies.

Frances Walker  
Richard Hughes