

# BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS

## NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER 2018

#### Chairman's Chatter

There are some changes afoot in our Ramblers group and this Newsletter should bring you all up to speed with the latest information.

#### **GDPR**

Yes it is THAT ONE again! And it won't be short. It even affects groups such as ours – unfortunately. Much of this is directed by Ramblers HQ. Every member should receive in the relatively near future (and some already have) a communication from HQ asking how you wish to receive communications from them in the future. I understand it will offer 3 means of communication: e-mail, letter post and telephone.

You NEED to reply.

Otherwise we as a group will not be able to communicate with you. And however you want Ramblers to communicate will be the form you receive communications from us as a group. Phew!

NEXT: People who walk with the group know that photos are taken usually on each walk. In future you will need to give your verbal assent to your photo being taken. (In practice I would suggest that if you don't want your photo taken you make sure that you are out of range of the camera.)

We are waiting for further advice from Ramblers.

#### **Navigation Training**

We had a very successful day, led by Steve Owers, with 10 participants. The day was made up of an introduction to maps and an outdoors practical session of navigation. A more advanced session may be run next year.

#### **BBQ**

This will be held on Saturday June 30th by kind permission of Linda Bird at her home in Cotherstone. It is a members only event and will start at 5pm. Cost is £10 per person. Please contact Richard (01833 660780 or [bcramblers@gmail.com](mailto:bcramblers@gmail.com)) by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June to book. As is customary there will be a walk starting at 1.30pm from St Cuthbert's Church in the village. Please see the Walks Programme for full details.

#### **Coach Trips**

There has been very little response to the suggested trip to walk the Kendal Limestone Way between Malham and Skipton. As a result we have decided that the trip will not run. Based on this response, for the present, there are no further coach trips planned this year. They will be considered next year by your committee.

Instead we are planning a couple of day trips using members' cars. These will be further afield and prior booking is essential. Contributions towards cost will be appreciated. The first of these walks will be on July 5<sup>th</sup> and start from Keswick with an amble of 10 miles around Derwentwater. For full details of the car sharing arrangements, the timing, as well as the walk and possible variations, please consult the Walks Programme.

### **Social Evenings**

These have been successful for some years and provided a social outlet without walking. Lately numbers have decreased. Clearly most of our socialising is done in teashops after walks! We have decided to discontinue the formal regular monthly evening get-togethers. We remain open to ideas for alternative social activities on an occasional basis.

### **Slide Shows**

The next slide show will be on Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall. Jenny and Gordon will be talking and showing pictures of their visit to the Canadian Rockies last year.

As audiences have been declining over the years and no new volunteers have offered to show their pictures it has been decided that this will be the last one.

### **Holiday**

A small group of members will going on holiday together to Scotland in October.

Finally, we are currently a group of just over 80 members and this number remains fairly constant. We have about 30 members who are active walkers and this can vary between about 8 and 20+ on Saturdays. Wednesday walks which are designed to be shorter and more easy paced are well supported and popular. We welcome new members, of whom we have a number. As always our cry is for more walks leaders. Richard does an excellent job as Walks Co-ordinator, under difficult circumstances, in organising a full programme for the group. If this is to continue we need more walks leaders to support those already leading. My personal thanks go to those members who faithfully lead walks week in and week out. And yes you know who you are without me embarrassing you all!

There has been a change of our Footpath Officer. Ian Martin has kindly agreed to become the new one. Ian has had many years' experience of this role previously and is well versed in the vagaries of footpaths, diversions and blockages.

As always we are open to new ideas from members. So don't keep them to yourselves!

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Now some other items of news:

**The North Pennines Walking Festival** runs from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> July. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July is the launch day, with walk, for Walkers are Welcome- Middleton-in-Teesdale. For details of the programme see the North Pennines Walking Festival website and for queries email: [northpennineswalkingfestival@gmail.com](mailto:northpennineswalkingfestival@gmail.com)

### **Les Chalmers**

We were very sorry to learn in May of the death of Les, who walked with us and led walks for us , as well as with Richmond Ramblers, for many years. Les, and his wife Mary, went on many Barney Ramblers weekends away, and more recently on our trips abroad. We shall remember Les particularly for his kindness in helping us over fords, stiles and stepping stones.

### **Footpath News**

On the Teesdale Way North West of Eggleston the path has been destroyed by severe erosion. Durham CC Rights of Way team is aware of the problem but accessibility and finance issues mean that repairs may not happen for some time. In the meantime use the railway path on the other bank, crossing the Tees by the Mickleton footbridge.

The Balder Bridge at Cotherstone will probably remain closed until late August 2018

### **Walks Books**

As well as the "Book of Walks to Celebrate 50 Years of Barnard Castle Ramblers" where you will find 17 walks in Teesdale, Joan and Ian have produced two books of their favourite walks.

"Follow in our Footsteps - a book of our Favourite Walks" has 12 walks of 6-8 miles in Teesdale, Weardale, Arkengarthdale, Swaledale,, Wensleydale, and Newbiggin-on-Lune, and there are 13 more walks in the same areas in "Follow in our Footsteps – Book Two".

All three books are available at a very reasonable cost at the Teesdale Mercury shop and 54 Degrees North in Barnard Castle, at the Teespot café (formerly the Conduit) in Middleton, and at Bowlees Visitor Centre.

With maps, photos and illustrations, they are full of brilliant ideas, not just for your own walks, but for walks leaders, old and new!

### **Take care of your compass!**

Anyone who carries a compass is advised not to store it close to anything with a magnetic closure device. There is a risk that the magnetic part of such closures can reverse the magnetic field of a compass needle and it doesn't revert when out of range! Apparently Silva compasses can be sent back to the manufacturer to have the magnetic field returned to normal if it gets reversed, but who wants to have to do that. Worse, who wants to be heading off in the wrong direction in a thick mist in a remote place? ( Perhaps we should all test our compasses, somewhere where we **know** where North is).

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018** - Barnard Castle Ramblers AGM will be held at Romalldkirk Reading Room at 2.00 pm, followed by refreshments. There will be a morning walk and the hall will be open from 1.00pm. Further details will be in the walks programme.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018** - Annual pre-Christmas Lunch. Details in the next newsletter and walks programme nearer the time.

Keep up to date with the Walks Programme as July and August are nearly complete and new walks will continue to be added. Hoping we will have a fine summer and we will see lots of you out walking.