

# **BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION**

## **Newsletter: July 2009**

### **SLIDE SHOWS**

#### **Wednesday 1 July SLIDE SHOW Joan and Ian**

7:30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle

**'The work of Teesdale & Weardale Search and Rescue Team'** by Anthony Stubbs

Admission including coffee £2.50

**PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE RESCUE TEAM**

#### **Wednesday 5 August RAMBLERS' SLIDE SHOW**

7:30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle

**'Antarctica and the Chilean Fiords'** by Judith

Admission including coffee £2.50

#### **Wednesday 2 September SLIDE SHOW Joan and Ian**

7:30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle

**'Some of the National Parks of America'** by Joan and Ian

Admission including coffee £2.50

**PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION WINGS APPEAL**

#### **Wednesday 4 November RAMBLERS' SLIDE SHOW**

7:30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Barnard Castle

**'The Azores'** by Frances

Admission including coffee £2.50

### **PHOTOGRAPHS FOR JOAN'S CLUB SCRAPBOOK**

Would people taking photographs on walks please remember that I am still updating the group Scrapbooks. It would help me if, when you email Maggie photos 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](mailto:ijmar8@tiscali.co.uk) )

## LIZ LAMB

There may still be one or two people who do not know that Liz Lamb died suddenly on 5<sup>th</sup> April. For several years, Liz was on the committee and was, at one time, our Publicity Officer. She went on several weekends away with the group and was with us on our trip to Majorca in February 2001. (Joan)

## NEW PROJECTOR

The Group has bought a new digital projector using cash raised from previous slideshows and coach trips. This means that we can now show members' slides in both slide and digital formats, which broadens our scope considerably. It's up to members to use it.

If you would like to give a slide show on any subject, please contact Judith (01642 700062) who is compiling the programme of slideshows for 2010. If you're just a watcher, please come to the slide shows included in this programme - you'll have an enjoyable time. (Judith)

## ACCESS RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Some of the access restrictions that were imposed by Natural England in the North Pennines, as a precaution in the interests of nature conservation, have now been lifted. This follows the review last September which I attended at NE's offices in Newcastle. Notices showing the restrictions have now been removed, notably on Crossthwaite Common, south of Middleton in Teesdale and Bail Hill Allotment. The restrictions on Mickleton Moor and South Crossthwaite Common have been reduced to October to March each year. More info can be found at [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk) Enjoy! (Jo)

## MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS BILL

We're nearly there with access to all of our coast, but not quite, and every effort is needed to keep proposals going. Please see page 39 is the latest issue of *Walk*, 'Take Action!' and, please, take action! Every contribution will help. (Jo Bird, Group Access Officer)

## **BOLAM PROPOSED WIND FARM**

The proposed construction of seven enormous wind turbines just west of Bolam has featured in the local press. I submitted several comments on behalf of the Ramblers in response to the scoping report, on the likely effect on the rights of way which cross the area and impact on the countryside. Quiet lanes would need to be widened, fences removed, and new tracks made on this quiet and peaceful patch of countryside, to enable the construction of the turbines themselves. When a planning application made, we shall need to consider that. There has been mention on the national news recently of imminent closure of the factory on the Isle of Wight that makes the components of wind turbines, so this might call a halt, or at least a pause, in the proposals for windfarms.

(Jo Bird, Group Countryside Officer)

## **RAMBLERS OPEN DAY**

The first ever Ramblers Open Day is to be held in Sheffield on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Everyone should have received a flyer, or details are on the Ramblers' website, where you will need to book a free place. This is an opportunity to visit the centre of the history of access, a splendid city for urban walking, to meet other Ramblers from all over the country, and to find out more about what's going on in the world of walking, in particular the part being played by the Ramblers Association. Lots of speakers have been invited and activities planned for a very varied programme. It should be a great day out! (Jo)

## **FENCES REMOVED**

It is good to see that much of the fencing on Barningham Moor has recently been removed. This is common land and, as such, should not be fenced. There remains some old fencing towards Haythwaite and I shall shortly be making enquiries about the removal of that also. This will open up many more options for open access walking on the moor, but bearing in mind that this should not be done before the end of June in order not to disturb ground-nesting birds. (Jo)

## MOORLAND CLOSURES DUE TO FIRE RISK

The main item of interest at Durham County Council's recent Local Access Forum (which I attended as an observer) was a recommendation that research is carried out into the cause of wild-fires, particularly whether any are caused by walkers. It was generally considered that walkers do not cause fires, either accidentally or deliberately, and that it was rarely known how wild-fires started. It seemed most likely that they were caused by objects thrown from passing cars. If anyone was intent on starting a fire, it was considered that a restriction on access was unlikely to deter them and that the presence of walkers was of benefit as walkers are able to act as 'eyes and ears' in the event of fire. (Jo)

## COOPER HOUSE

Just to let you know that the footpath diversion issue at Cooper House, Cotherstone, is still ongoing – we hope to have some news soon. (Ian)

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**[www.barnardcastleramblers.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleramblers.org.uk)**

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