

BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

Welcome to the October 2017 members' newsletter. Firstly, some information about the two upcoming events.

Saturday 4th November

The Barnard Castle Ramblers 51st AGM will be held at 2.00 pm at **Romaldkirk Reading Room** (situated on the village green opposite the church).

We shall start with a short talk by Mike Ogden, Durham County Council Rights of Way Officer, entitled "A career path – 28 years of Public Rights of Way in County Durham". It's Mike and his team who protect the paths and bridleways we walk on, so this will be a great opportunity to find out what this involves.

This will be followed by the AGM, where all committee members are elected or re-elected for the next year; this year we shall need to elect a new chairman. All members of Barnard Castle Ramblers are eligible to serve as chairman and we would welcome new people to the committee. If you would be interested in taking the role, or know of someone who would, please get in touch with our secretary/acting chairman Pauline Fawcett at pvfawcett@tiscali.co.uk

After the short business meeting there will be the chance to chat over tea, coffee and light refreshments.

As usual there will be a morning walk before the AGM. Meet on the green at Romaldkirk at 10.00 am for a walk of 5 leisurely miles finishing in time for people to eat their sandwiches in the hall, which will be open from 1.00pm. More details in the new November – February Walks Programme.

Saturday 2nd December

This year's Barnard Castle Ramblers pre-Christmas Lunch will be at **The Three Tuns** in **Eggleston**, at 1.00 pm, after the usual morning walk. There is plenty of parking behind the hotel.

The cost for main course, dessert and tea/coffee will be £14.95. Bookings with menu choices must be made by Saturday 25th November to frances.walker@btinternet.com or telephone Frances on 01833 631361, or tell me when we are out on a walk!

MENU

Main Course

Roasted Topside of Beef (pink or well-done)

Roasted Pork Loin served with crackling

Roasted Chicken Supreme served with stuffing

Vegetarian Nut Roast

All served with Yorkshire Pudding,
roast potato, mashed potato,
and seasonal vegetables.

Desserts

Kitchen Garden Crumble with fresh custard

Lemon, Lime and Coconut Cheesecake

Selection of Beckleberry's fresh cream ice cream

(choice from 8 flavours, eg Blueberry, Pistachio, Tutti Frutti)

Tea or coffee.

For the morning walk, meet outside The Three Tuns at 10.00 am for a walk of five leisurely miles. More details in the November to February Walks Programme.

Social Evenings

These are the venues for the next four social evenings:

Tuesday 7th November 2017 – 7.30 at The Countryman at Bolam

Tuesday 5th December 2017 - 7.30 at the Three Horseshoes, Barnard Castle

Tuesday 2nd January 2018 – 7.30 at the Red Well Inn, Barnard Castle

Tuesday 6th February 2018 – 7.30 at The George at Piercebridge.

The three winter venues are all on main roads and easier to reach on cold dark evenings than the more far-flung Teesdale villages which we go to in the summer, so come along for a drink and a chat, and bring a friend.

Some Footpath News

Closure for up to six months of a 125 metre section of the path to the east of the Balder bridge at Cotherstone to refurbish a pipe; alternative route up to the main street, along the village and back down to the river by Hagg House.

Temporary closure of footpath off Green Lane at Barnard Castle, to facilitate new housing development, to be continued until the end of March 2019.

From Joan Martin - Sales of Barnard Castle Ramblers Walks Books

The walks books have continued to sell well over the summer months. Understandably there will now be fewer sales until next Easter. However we have sold 700 books and outlets are still keen to have them in stock. Ian and I have met people using the walks books, who say the routes are easy to follow.

Walks Leaders - Barnard Castle Ramblers needs you!

Barnard Castle Ramblers have had the good fortune to find wonderful walks leaders for over 50 years! And we are very grateful to all of them, past and present. But some of our current leaders have been leading walks for over four decades, and if we want to go on walking for the next 50 years we need to be continually recruiting new leaders to take over.

Our programme of monthly Wednesday 5-7 mile leisurely walks continues to be popular and attracts enough leaders to be able to put on more frequent walks.

But the Saturday programme of longer walks is now proving difficult to fill, so we need some of our younger members to start getting involved in leading.

You don't have to come up with brand new routes; we all have favourite walks that we like to walk quite regularly. There are lots of sources of suggested walks:

-Joan, Ian and Richard's "Book of Walks to Celebrate 50 Years of BC Ramblers" is full of great walks in Teesdale with directions and maps.

-There are lots of leaflets and books available with routes and maps about the Eden Valley, Howgills, North York Moors and North Pennines.

-See our website under **Route Maps** for the routes of walks we have done over the years.

The **Volunteer Zone** of **The Ramblers** website has lots of guidance in the **Walk Leader Toolkit**.

Have a chat with one of our past or present leaders who can do a recce with you; map reading skills help but you can learn these as you go along. So please don't be shy – to discuss starting leading, contact Richard who is in charge of the walks programme at bcramblers@gmail.com