



BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

Thoughts from the Chair

Have you ever thought why you walk? Is it for shopping or visiting friends or for pleasure? If it's for pleasure why do we do it? Is it to get away from the cares of everyday life – temporarily perhaps? Escape to freedom! Is it to enjoy living in the unknown on a new route? How do you feel when you walk – at the end perhaps? I have a sense of freedom, of being able to enjoy the land I walk over and the views of where I could go – now or another time. You can enjoy the same walk on different days because of the weather or the time of day – the light. It's one of the pleasures we get from walking in Scotland – the isolation, the unknown, that you are self-sufficient even if only for a few days. And at the end of any walk I think there should be a sense of well-being and all is well in the world. Anyway enough of my ramblings!

Thank you to everybody who contacted Ramblers HQ about their preferred means of communication. Most members seem to have opted for e-mail communications and it is making it so much easier to communicate within the group or to individuals as needs be. Thank you all.

For those who were able to come, we had an excellent Christmas lunch at the Langdon Beck Hotel with plenty of time to chat over the meal and afterwards over coffee. We were grateful to welcome some of our members who are not able to walk regularly. Thanks to Lynda for arranging the event. We also had an excellent AGM with an interesting speaker, Dr Steve Gater, Chair of Durham Wildlife Trust. Thank you to those of you who came to the AGM and to Joan and Ian for arranging the speaker and not least to Tom for arranging the venue at Romalldkirk Village Hall.

In October a small party of us went to the HF hotel at the foot of Glen Coe. The weather was rather mixed – as to be expected at that time of year in Scotland. But on the whole we enjoyed ourselves and a number of us distinguished ourselves by climbing Ben Nevis on the best day of the week for the weather. Thank you to Christine for arranging this holiday.

As most of you are probably aware by now the proposal to close Footpath 10 running by the side of Teesdale School was dismissed at a meeting of the Highways Committee in Barnard Castle. Your committee had lodged an objection to the proposal and we are pleased that it was rejected. Thanks are due to Ian as Footpath Secretary for all the work he put in in researching the proposal and submitting our objection along with other bodies and people.

At the AGM it was agreed that we should pursue enquiries about a charitable donation to one of the local environmental groups, possibly for the renewal or replacement of a gate on a trail. We have tried to do this in previous years without success. Lynda has found that The Pennine Way Partnership wishes to repair a gate on the Pennine Way at Holwick Head bridge and accordingly we are making a small donation towards this.

Your committee continues to look forward and we have arranged some events for this year already. We have managed to arrange a course on walk leadership for March. This is primarily for those of us who are walk leaders or for anybody who is thinking of leading walks in the future (please come forward!). Thank you to Lynda for arranging this and she should be contacted if you intend coming. There is a note about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

In this connection, we are putting on another Navigation course led by Steve Owers at the end of July. Places are limited to 5 only – on a first come first served basis, so that Steve can give individual attention. The course will be an extension of last year's and will be at medium to advanced level. There is a note elsewhere in this newsletter with more details.

We hope to put on some extra special day walks in the summertime, details of which should appear in the programme in due course.

And finally please don't forget to let Lynda know by Sunday March 3 if you intend coming to the March 6 Shrove Wednesday (!) Pancake lunch at the Forresters Arms in Middleton. Final finally, please submit walks you may have planned to Richard. He is always only too willing to receive offers!

Walks Leadership Course March 2019

It is now over three years since we had our last Walks Leaders training and much has happened in the meantime, in particular we have had the odd incident and accident, which means it would be a very good idea to have a group training session to ensure we are up to date with the latest thinking.

We have arranged for Adam Hearn, who has run the Kingsway Outdoor Centre for the last 25 years and has spent many a cold day/night out on Mountain Rescue, to give us a session on Walks Leadership and what to do in an emergency. It was agreed at our last committee meeting that ALL walks leaders, young, old and potential, would benefit by attending this session, so we would ask you all to try to be available and join us at the Kingsway Centre at Middleton in Teesdale on Sunday 10th March at 14.00-17.00 for a refresher course with new ideas.

Please ensure you confirm to Lynda by 20th February if you will be able to attend or not.
Email: lyndabares@gmail.com or phone: 01833 640258

Navigation Course July 2019

In June 2018 we held a navigation course run by Steve Owers which the Committee felt was successful and worth extending this year. This year the intention is to revise what we learnt in 2018 and then learn more advanced techniques. The course is aimed at those of us who are interested in improving our skills of navigation. It is limited to 5 people only so that Steve is able to give more individual attention this year. It will be based outdoors and last approximately 5 hours. Date for the course is Saturday July 27 starting at 10am and running until 3pm. It will probably be held in Weardale starting at a cafe for a quick outline of the day's activities. If you are interested please let Gordon Selley know as soon as possible. Places will be reserved on a first come basis. We will run a short reserves list in case anybody has to drop out. Further details of the day will be given nearer the time for those attending.

Email : hngsbrowser@gmail.com phone : 01833 908089

Dates for your diary;

-- some soon, some later, some fixed, some to be confirmed – please check the Walks Programme on the web site regularly for the latest information!

Wednesday 6th March Pancake lunch and walk.

Details of the 5 mile walk , starting at 10.30, are on the website, as well as the menu of delicious savoury and sweet pancakes to set you drooling. Lunch will be at 13.30 at the Forresters in Middleton in Teesdale. Please let Lynda know by Sunday 3rd March if you are coming to the lunch, but choose your pancakes on the day.

Contact Lynda at lyndabares@gmail.com or phone her on 01833 640258.

Sunday 10th March Walk Leadership Course 14.00 – 17.00 at Kingsway Centre

See item above from Gordon for details.

Sunday 24th March Durham County Big Spring Clean

Like last year, we will litter pick between 10.00 a.m. and noon, along Town Pasture Lane (near the Jersey Farm). Equipment provided including high vis jackets, just wear some old gloves.

Parking : just inside the entrance to the Jersey Farm from Town Pasture Lane (Gypsy Lane).

Contact: Pauline : pvfawcett@tiscali.co.uk or phone : 01833 638020

Saturday 15th June Strawberry Tea Walk

Details to follow nearer the time.

Saturday 27th July Navigation Course

See item above from Gordon for details.

Saturday 9th November Barnard Castle Group AGM

Saturday 7th December Christmas Lunch

The walks programme for the next few months is taking shape. We are continuing the pattern of at least one shorter **Wednesday walk** each month; the dates in March, April and May are already on the website.

Come the longer lighter evenings in June, July and August there will be a couple of mid- week evening pub walks, and planning is underway for some special Saturday walks too.

But we would be very interested to hear your suggestions too.

So check the web site regularly for updates and changes; hopefully as spring approaches there will be no more weather related cancellations, but remember last year's Beast from the East!

Stop Press: We are pleased to announce two new faces to the Committee - **Caroline and June**. They are both Regular Walkers and Leaders and their valuable contribution to the running of the group will be most welcome.