



# BIGGAR

## (Not) walking in Clydesdale

www.biggarramblers.co.uk

## NEWSLETTER June 2020

### Special Lockdown Edition

**Question:** What do the Biggar Ramblers Newsletter and the Pyongyang Weekly Advertiser and Entertainments Guide have in common?

**Answer:** They are the only two publications in the World which will not be mentioning the "C" word.

#### **The Chairman' Bit**

I am sorry that we have not been able to meet, and we may not be able to meet as a full team for some time yet. But from the time of writing this to your reading it, things may have changed dramatically for the better, or the worse. Recently Ramblers HQ has issued a new e-mail to members saying walks until the end of June are cancelled. The recent weeks have been strange, but we are all talking about what we will do when it is all over. Biggar Ramblers are no exception and we have a new programme for you. I do not see that it will be a straightforward case of here we go, here we go, and I anticipate there will be new terms and conditions whilst this uncertainty continues. Whatever the future holds, we hope there will be the chance for us all to enjoy walking again. Meanwhile, I hope you and the people close to you are safe and well. Stay Safe, Stay Positive.

Brian

#### **The Programme that Never Was**

Well, sadly the February-May walks programme was a bit of a disaster. Several walks in the early part were cancelled due to poor weather, and then from March - well you know the rest! However the Committee have graciously allowed Graham another chance to get us walking again, and the Ramblers have helped by cancelling all walks until the end of June. In spite of all the present problems and difficulties, Graham has produced a shortened programme of good, attractive walks so that if and when the restrictions are eased, there will be a walk just waiting for us to get out and do straight away (providing we can remember where we put our boots etc.). We are most grateful to Graham and to the volunteer leaders for their excellent work.

When going on walks in the foreseeable future, we recommend the following: be aware of latest Ramblers and Govt. advice, don't car-share, keep socially distant particularly when stopping for lunch, take plenty of water and basic first-aid kit to avoid borrowing someone else's, have a fully charged mobile phone and have the walk leader's number. (*The Ed has always been socially distant and it hasn't done him any harm!*)

#### **The Other Things that Never Were**

Unlike the SPFL who have spent months wrangling over how or how not to end the season and who to relegate or not, we have taken the bold decision to postpone the Away Weekend at Grantown-on-Spey and the famous Gathering (see previous Newsletters) until 2021. It just means that we have longer to plan for and anticipate these events which will be great fun and a fine way of hopefully celebrating getting back to normal. However we are assuming for the moment that the Christmas Carols by Candlelight Dinner and the 2020 AGM will take place as planned. But watch this space!



Are we there yet?

Underneath the arches!

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## **Roam Sweet Home**

The word from the Ramblers is **keep moving**. (*that's two words - Ed*) Whilst we can't walk in the way we would like, we can still roam for leisure, health and happiness at home, within our outdoor spaces and within our daily exercise. Staying active is more important than ever, for both our mental and physical health - and getting moving feels great (*unless you're near the end of one of Brian's SB+ strolls - Ed*) We might have hung up our walking boots for now, but the joy of walking can be felt anywhere, from a hike up the stairs, a jog on the balcony, a stroll in the garden or a wander in a nearby park.

The Ramblers have made a temporary change to the Ramblers mobile app. The home screen now shows 5 suggested independent walking routes local to the user, rather than the next 5 Group walks.

The Ramblers are putting plans in place to support walk leaders in different ways and get ready for when we can start leading walks again. Meanwhile, they recommend polishing up your walk leadership skills by checking out the walk leadership resources on Assemble and the website, brushing up your map-reading and compass skills and planning good exciting walks to put on the next programme. \_

When our proper rambles get going again, all walkers will be expected to be in tip-top condition and ready to go. No excuses will be accepted.

## **Get Walking with the Little Yellow Man**

Where would we be without Google Street View? Well, at this moment you can be walking up the southern leg of the Lairig Ghru as far as the bealach between Ben Macdui and Braeriach. Take the wee man to a mile or so west of Inverey, near Braemar, and start from there - plenty of snow as you reach the saddle so take your crampons. And when you've done that, move a few miles to the east and enjoy a good circular hike from Glen Quoich up onto the snowy Cairngorm plateau at Beinn a Bhuid. Warm clothes needed!

But if you want something a bit more exotic, fly over to Hong Kong and head for the Country Parks north of Hong Kong, as well as on Lantau Island. The little man can help you pick up numerous paths giving lovely walks through woods and hills with some great views, amid attractive and unusual flora. But, of course, we can always go all over the World and follow wild and remote back roads through great scenery. Thank-you Google Street View.

## **Stay Connected**

As promised in previous Newsletters, here is a short list of other organisations who are concerned with access to the countryside in South Lanarkshire. Apologies to anyone who was expecting

Northamptonshire (Oct 2019 Newsletter). We haven't bothered with their web addresses - it's easier just to Google them in.

Central Scotland Green Network Trust  
Clyde wind Farm  
Forestry and Land Scotland  
Get Walking Lanarkshire  
Health Walk finder  
paths

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network  
Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership  
Land Reform Act Scotland 2003  
Scottish Land and Estates  
SLC online mapping - click on 'maps' to get core

Whitelee outdoor access

**What do you do if you meet a wolf on a ramble?**

Find out in the next issue. Order yours now.



The Welcoming Committee

Climb every mountain!

## **The Good Old Days**

The *Ed* recently came across a dusty old paper from 2006. There was an item assuring us that the smartphone was just a gimmick and would never catch on, and some advice to invest heavily in Woolworths and RBS shares. The *Ed* didn't buy a smartphone and is still waiting for them not to catch on, and he is now driving a Focus instead of a Jaguar. Anyway, there was also an old yellowing walks programme dating from October 2006 and it was interesting to take a look. The top people were W. Adamson (Chair), S. Wigram (Sec.), B. Duncan (Treasury), M. Heale (Walks), F. Young (Social), J. Cox (Press) and M. Duncan and G. Duncan (Ctte Members). The excellent programme commenced with a 13 mile SB+ from Peebles to Dun Rig and Hundleshope led by Tony Wigram. Later on, Bernard took us over Rodger Law and Ballencleuch Law, there was a walk along the Clyde Walkway from Cambuslang with M. Heale, Jo Cox took us to the Scottish Parliament and Salisbury Crags, and we went up Broad Law with Sue Wigram with lunch at the Crook Inn! And there was a get-together at Chatelherault for the visiting Malta party with a walk to the Dukes Monument. It just doesn't seem like 14 years ago - many who were walking then are still walking today. Keep it up, folks.

## **Travellers' Tales**

While most of us were watching the rain come down back in February, some of our members were following in the steps of the great explorers.

Pam and John tried skiing in France: - "Holidays were being cancelled and cruise ships turned away from ports. We wondered if our ski holiday would be cancelled at the last minute. But no, off we went, flying from Edinburgh to Geneva. We thought the worst that could happen would be for us not to be allowed to come home.....instead having a jolly time skiing on the lovely pistes of Les Arcs in France. All was going well, but as we went off to the pub, the receptionist told us that restaurants and pubs would be closing at midnight. Don't worry, we laughed, we'll be in bed by then. Of course we didn't realise that he meant that they would be closing for the season! By the time we got back to our apartment, we'd had a call from our travel agent to say that we would have to be repatriated ASAP!! We were very lucky to be able to have two days walking about on the deserted ski slopes as the resort closed around us. As Geneva quickly closed its borders, we had to fly home via Lyons and Paris. Quite an adventure which we won't forget in a hurry." The photo below shows Pam sur la piste. (*that means 'on the ski slope', not having had une bouteille de Chateauneuf-du-Pape - Ed*)

Meanwhile, Brian and Kathy nipped off to the Far East: - "Last Autumn, we decided we would have a bit of Winter sun and Winter chill in the New Year. We decided on a visit to Singapore and Malaysia at the end of January. When we set off from the UK at the end of January, news had come out about the virus and on arrival in Singapore we saw people wearing face-masks, but it was not unusual to find that in oriental countries. Whilst we were there we mingled amongst the crowds celebrating the Chinese New Year. Our hotel room was on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor, overlooking Marina Bay which is where they had the New Year fireworks. Could not have asked for a better location. After Singapore, it was off to Langkawi in Malaysia for time in the pool, beach and bar (and spa for Kathy) - total chill time and binge read 6 Inspector Rebus! 12 nights away and 10 champagne breakfasts, but did we bring that bug back with us? But our health has stayed good and we just hope it wasn't us!"

Thanks folks for those interesting stories. Lockdown must seem a bit tame after that.



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

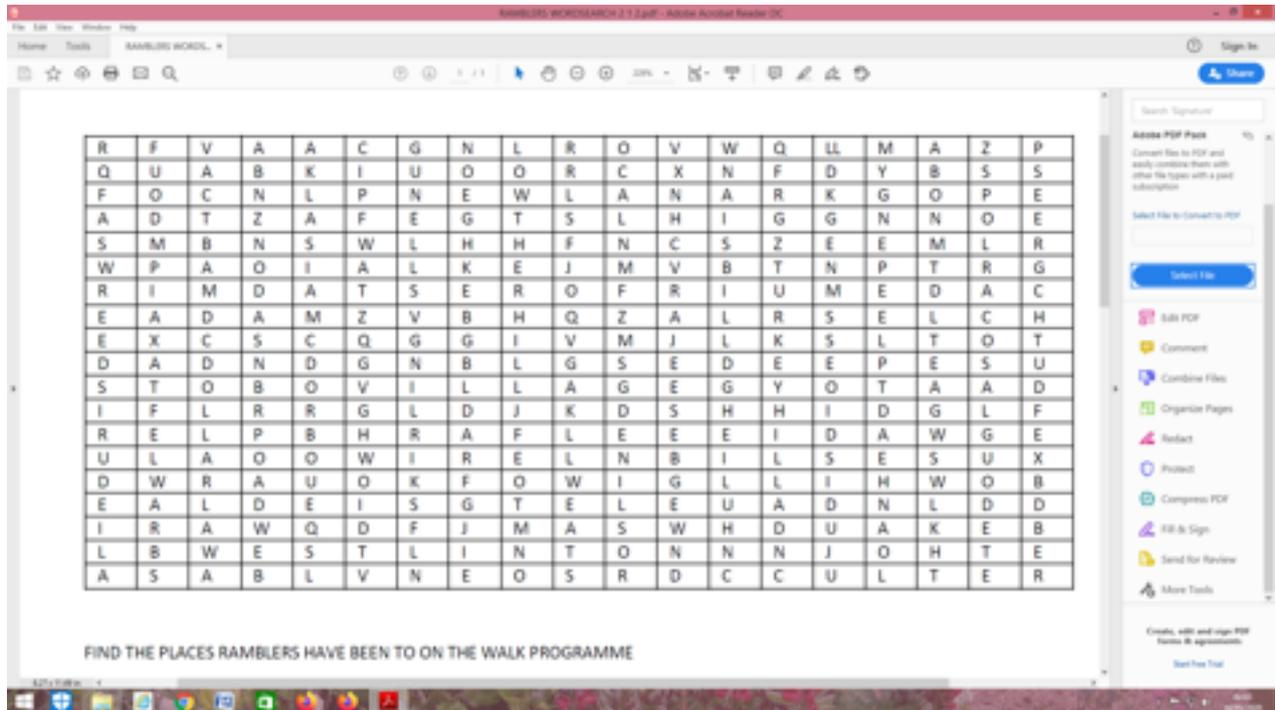
A great day in the hills

*We hope you are enjoying this special digital lockdown edition of your favourite Newsletter. We hope it has lightened the mood and cheered things up just a bit. We are grateful to those who contributed photos and other items, and some will be carried over for the next edition if required (but perhaps things may be back to normal by October).*

# The Fun Page

**Wordsearch** Kindly supplied by Margaret Watson

Find the places we have been to on our walks: Cademuir Forest, Camps, Carlops, Culter, Dollar Law, Douglas, Durisdeer, Lee Pen, Loanhead, Lowther Hill, New Lanark, Roslin, Skirling, Stobo Village, Tinto, Turkey Hill, West Linton. There is also another place not listed here, but no prizes for finding it.



**Trackwords** Find two of our popular walking areas. N T L U G N

S E A O H O  
D N P R B T

**Time for some puns** - with thanks to Brian Henry

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me. England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me. A will is a dead giveaway.

**And what about some riddles** What do you call dental X-rays? : Tooth pics.

Are mountains funny? : Yes, they're hill areas! How do NASA organise a party? : They planet.

**A Final Thought for the Day** *Look towards the Sun and the shadows will fall behind you.*

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