



BIGGAR RAMBLERS

Walking in Clydesdale

www.biggarramblers.co.uk

NEWSLETTER June 2013

From the Chairman

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter and the Walks Programme for June to September. It hardly seems 4 months since I prepared the programme now ending and handed the reins back to John who has given us another varied programme. Out of 20 walks, 12 are in the mid-range of B, C+ and C with a few Donalds and a Munro thrown in, and Rosemary's Walks and Talks. Thanks to all our leaders for planning, recce-ing and leading our excellent walks. Some of you went on the weekend to Malhamdale and the comments I heard were that it was very enjoyable with very good food. (fuller report below.) Your Committee have been discussing Oban as a location for next year. There are starting points for 6 Munros (personal interest!) within 30 minutes drive and numerous C,C+ and B walks to be enjoyed. So watch this space.

Brian

More Walkers and Talkers required – can you help?

'Walk and Talk' interest walks appear on the programme once a month (except November to February). At present there are two or three walk leaders involved but we are looking for more. Have you a particular interest/knowledge of your or any other local area – town or country, local history, geography, architecture, nature etc. which you would be willing to share with others on one of these short walks? They take place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am and are usually 2-3 miles long. If you would like to help us out, please contact Rosemary Turpie on 01899 308769 rturpie@aol.com or any Committee member with your suggestions. Thanks.

Are you on Facebook?

Did you know that Biggar Ramblers have a closed group set up so that we can share photos etc. of our walks? Only members of Biggar Ramblers who have requested to join the group can add or see the pictures so they can't be viewed by all and sundry! To join the group, you need to be on Facebook and then request any existing group member to add you to the group, or send an e-mail to Weirlynn@aol.com. Thanks to Lynn for setting this up - Biggar Ramblers are, as always, at the cutting edge of modern technology!

Biggar Ramblers in the Dales

The HF Centre at Malham played host to a party of 14 Biggar Ramblers, including our old friend Vic Broadbent, over the weekend of 13th/14th April. There were about 40 ramblers altogether at the house so it was very interesting to meet fellow walkers from all parts of the UK both socially and on the walks. The atmosphere was very friendly and the food was excellent, especially the packed lunch selection! We had the benefit of three capable and experienced leaders who looked after the parties well on the walks and helped provide amusing and interesting social activities in the evenings, (including how to draw a cow by committee!) and a "do-it-yourself" evening when several members of the Biggar group entertained with some "traditional Scottish airs" (after a quick visit to the bar!) On the Saturday, all walkers started from the village of Malham and the various groups then visited Goredale Scar (hard vertical scramble for the 'A' party), Malham Tarn, Watlowes Valley and the limestone pavement at Malham Cove. As the rain came down, we all met up in various cosy tea-rooms in Malham before returning by coach to the house. On the Sunday, the various groups visited Weets Top, Hanlith Bridge, Gargrave and the Leeds-Liverpool canal in what turned out to be dull wet day. However all felt better after visits to more cosy tea-rooms. (Some actually stated 'muddy boots welcome.') The boot drying room was pretty busy on Sunday night - standing room only! All too soon, it was time to leave. Some members stayed on to do some exploring in the Dales while several people stopped off in Ingleton on the way home to follow the Waterfall Walk at a leisurely pace. All agreed that the weekend was a great success (as they always are) but some felt

that the HF walks were perhaps a trifle unambitious, and a few hills would have been appreciated. Our very grateful thanks to Isobel for all her hard work in organising the weekend. A good job!

Bored with Biggar Walks?

No, of course we're not!! But here's some other stuff going on in our area. First of all, the popular **Borders Walking Festival**, based this year on Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Clovenfords. This takes place from the 1st to 7th of September and covers a very wide selection of walks of different lengths and gradings, in a really fantastic area. As previously, Biggar Ramblers will be supplying leaders for some of the walks so, for information and booking, go to www.borderswalking.com.

On Sunday, 9th June, Moffat Mountain Rescue team are holding their 14th **Annual Charity Challenge**. There will be 4 sponsored walks in the Wanlockhead area with the aim of raising funds for the team. For information and bookings, go to www.moffatmrt.org.uk or contact Gary Tait, Moffat Mountain Rescue Team, Holm Road, Moffat, DG10 9JU.

This year's excellent **Moffat Ramblers Walking Festival** will take place from 4th to 6th October. Details will appear soon on www.visitmoffat.co.uk. And the **Hawick Walking Weekend** offers a fine selection of borders walks from 17th to 19th August. See www.hawickwalkingweekend.co.uk. There's no doubt that we are very well served for walks in this part of the world.

Give us your Money

In spite of drastic economies (e.g. luxury triple velvet paper replaced by old copies of 'Walk' magazine in the staff loo), Ramblers have had to increase some membership charges as from 1st May. Individual annual membership up by a £1 to £32 (although new members get a £10 discount in the first year) and joint annual membership up by £2 to £43. Concessionary rates remain unchanged at £19.50 (ind.) and £23.50 (joint). Still excellent value for all that the Ramblers do to support healthy walking and access to the countryside throughout the U.K.

News from the Area

Wearing his other hat, your Editor attended the Clydesdale to Solway Area AGM in January and the Area Council in March. The main things to report are office bearers - Gary Tait (chairman), Ann Rankin (secretary), Ian Cooper (treasurer) and John Snary (membership). The Area comprises 5 groups and 3 affiliated groups with a total membership of 402. It has been decided to order sufficient 'emergency key rings to give one free to all members (see last Newsletter). To use up some funds, local groups will be consulted on possible training courses (first aid, navigation etc). Jaqueline Ferguson, from Ramblers Scotland, spoke at the AGM on 'Medal Routes' (short walks based on local hubs), safety on railway lines, 'Take30' NHS healthy walks scheme, hill tracks to be brought under planning laws, funding opportunities. Ramblers Scotland are now on 'facebook'.

John and Pam's Excellent Adventure in Oz

I did a teaching exchange to Wangaratta, Victoria, in 1989/90, (writes John), and the whole family spent a fabulous year there. It had always been our intention to return and catch up with good friends and visit favourite haunts again. Therefore last October found us travelling via San Francisco and arriving in Australia at the beginning of their Summer. We scuba-dived on the Great Barrier Reef, visited Aboriginal sites in Kakadu, campervanned up the coast of western Australia and spent a week in Tasmania. We spent Christmas with our Wangaratta friends - with temperatures in the 40's! While in Wangaratta we were able to join the Warby Range Bushwalkers (the local Ramblers equivalent) for a 10k. walk in the local hills with lunch at a winery. Wallabies peered round the eucalyptus, a wombat was spied in the distance and a dangerous red bellied black snake lurked in the undergrowth. Other than that, it was just like a Biggar Ramblers walk! (*especially after lunch at a winery - Ed.*) We came back via Thailand with a week at a beautiful beach resort. The heavy snowfall that greeted our return in January was a shock - but our Border hills looked beautiful, a match for anything abroad! After 3 months away it was great to get out rambling again with our good friends here.

We hope you found this Newsletter interesting. Contributions welcomed for the next edition.