



www.biggarramblers.co.uk **NEWSLETTER February 2023**

Esther's Bit

Happy New Year to all!

Thanks to Josanne and Phil we had an excellent meal and great photo competition at our pre-Christmas celebration at the Elphinstone hotel. Now, after a slow start to our walking in January, the new February to May walk programme will allow us to really get back into the swing! There has been further planning going on for spring and summer get togethers such as morning coffee or afternoon tea, and we hope to have news of our weekend away booking for 2023 to share with you all shortly. Our membership numbers are still going up – the current total is 79. Spread the word!

When out walking

I often wonder about gates – not just the multitude of ways that farmers think up to secure their gates, but the gates on rights of way that start to go awry. Last Autumn I reported some non-functioning gates at the Walston end of the right of way from Elsrickle to the South Lanarkshire Access Officer. He requested photos, which I went to take later on and found the gates fixed. I called in to Ananda Animal Sanctuary beside the path and spoke to the landowners who confirmed that they had fixed them. We agreed, however, that they are likely to fail again as the lower pin of the hinge in both cases is too short. So I took photos of that detail and sent off. The Access Officer replied in a positive vein suggesting a solution.

I had also requested clarification on the responsibilities of owners and path users for the general maintenance of the path. The reply is interesting - 'With regard to maintenance of rights of way, we would welcome community input where appropriate. Maintenance is a grey area and legally, the access authority does not have a statutory obligation to maintain rights of way or core paths. It does have to powers to carry out maintenance works though.'

Here is what ScotWays say:

Do local authorities have a duty to maintain and signpost rights of way?

There is no duty on anyone to maintain or signpost rights of way, though local authorities maintain and signpost some routes, and ScotWays have erected almost 3000 signposts. LA's have an obligation to keep rights of way clear and use unhindered. It is a shared responsibility of the access taker (who can themselves remove obstructions, cut back vegetation etc), the landowner (who should not intentionally block or make a route unusable), and the local authority (who in the case of a landowner blocking a right of way, can take whatever steps are required to have them return it to its normal condition).

We would certainly be happy for you to do any appropriate maintenance in agreement with relevant landowners.' Food for thought.

And finally money

If you're a Walk Leader, don't forget to claim recce expenses @35p/mile. That money is from Ramblers central funds – part of the HQ grant to us. The link to the forms is on our website <https://biggarramblers.org.uk/forms/index.html> A Walk leader can always donate the money back to the Social Account if they wish to.

If you're sharing a lift, here's a 'Ready Reckoner' for the passenger contribution @12p/mile

Miles	4	5	10	11	12	13	14	15
One way	£0.48	£0.60	£1.20	£1.32	£1.44	£1.56	£1.68	£1.80
Return	£0.96	£1.20	£2.40	£2.64	£2.88	£3.12	£3.36	£3.60

Miles	16	17	18	19	20	21	30	31
One way	£1.92	£2.04	£2.16	£2.28	£2.40	£2.52	£3.60	£3.72
Return	£3.84	£4.08	£4.32	£4.56	£4.80	£5.04	£7.20	£7.44

Happy walking!

Esther Daborn, Chair

Whitby Week-end Away

Biggar Ramblers have a weekend away every year, this year they chose the beautiful Yorkshire town of Whitby and the surrounding area. Whitby is also known as the "dinosaur coast" due to the many fossils found there. The town is beautifully situated and has several interesting museums.

On Thursday 29th Sept. they started with a guided walking tour of Whitby which began at the top of the 199 steps, the guide Rose Ryland thoroughly entertained them with stories about the history and folklore. The invasion of the vikings, the building of St.Hilda 's monastery, the Abbey , jet, and the inspiration for Bram Stoker's book Dracula were just some of them.

On Friday 30th Sept. Staithes to Port Mulgrave 4 miles - the plans were altered due to the forecast of heavy rain and strong winds in the afternoon. They headed to the delightful fishing village of Staithes. It is situated in a deep coastal creek by the Roxby Beck. The circular walk started at the car park and headed down the hill into the old village. At the bottom they turned left and then right up the hill and followed the Cleveland Way signs along the cliff edge as far as Port

Mulgrave before returning to Staithes by fields and woods. It was well timed as the rain began just as they finished the walk, the forecast was accurate as there was heavy rain and strong winds for the rest of the day.

Saturday 1st October they woke to a beautiful sunny day. They split into three groups

Group 1- Ravenscar to Robin Hood's Bay circular 11 miles was challenging with steep ascents at Boggle Hole and Stoupe Beck. The walk had beautiful moorland scenery and followed an exhilarating cliff top stretch of the Cleveland Way. A welcome refreshment break was taken in Robin Hood's bay

Group 2- Robin Hood's Bay and Maw Wyke 6 miles. This walk followed the coast from Robin Hood's Bay and was a little more challenging than expected due to mud and erosion of the track. It was also very busy but the sea views were spectacular. They had an enjoyable refreshment break in the sun at the Coast Cafe situated in the caravan park and returned along a flat cinder track.

Group 3- Boggle Hole to Robin Hood's Bay 2.6 miles. This was a short but scenic walk returning along the old railway line.

Sunday 2nd October the Ramblers sadly said goodbye to Whitby and returned home. The abiding memory will be beautiful scenery, steep hills and many many steps!

By Lesley Glidden

Ramblers' Treacle Flapjack

Preparation time: 30 minutes. Cooking time: 25 minutes. This is an easy to make 'feel good' treat to take on any ramble or up any hill.

Ingredients - 125g Butter. 70g Brown Sugar. 1 Tablespoon Golden Syrup. 2 Tablespoons Treacle. 160g Porridge Oats. 75g Plain Flour. 50g Pumpkin and/or Sunflower seeds. 25g currants.

Method - 1. Preheat the oven to 170 Degrees C/Gas Mark 5. 2. Line a baking tin with greaseproof baking paper. 3. Melt the butter, sugar, golden syrup and treacle in the microwave. 4. Mix the oats, flour, seeds and currants together. 5. Mix the butter mixture and the oats mixture together slowly and gradually. 6. Spoon into the baking tin and scatter a few extra seeds on the top. 7. Bake in the oven for 25 minutes. 8. Lightly score the warm surface into approx 3cm x 3cm squares with a knife. 9. Leave to cool and cut through to cut into the 3cm x 3cm squares. 10. Once cool eat one square as a quality control test.

By Bob

The Outdoors for All

On 18 th January, Ramblers Scotland held a drop in event entitled 'The Outdoors for All' in the Scottish Parliament to celebrate 20 years of Scottish access rights, and I was there! Sponsored by Ariane Burgess (MSP Inverness) the aim was to showcase Ramblers to MSP's, highlighting the range and benefits of all its activities, especially in light of the 2003 Land Reform Act.

My specific role was to talk about our own experiences in support of the theme 'Keeping healthy and active in later life' (I suppose our average age profile meant I was reasonably well qualified!). As both our local MSP and Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform, I was able to enthuse Mairi McAllan and gain her commitment to join us on one of our rambles (probably not a Munro!)

There were many other aspects of Ramblers being showcased, but the one that stood out for me was the 'Out There Award' which supports a diverse range of young adults to gain skills and confidence to get outdoors. Two young girls who have been through the scheme gave a very professional account of the benefits they had gained, especially not coming from rural areas.

In conclusion, a well organised and successful evening which generated much interest.

Al

And Finally,

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition.

Keep your Newsletter alive, WE NEED YOUR INPUT.

Anything, small or large, can be considered for inclusion, so come on!

Let me have that article on your favourite walk, or that one thing that interests you whilst walking – flora, fauna, animal droppings! If it floats your boat, it may be of interest to others too.

If you want to be a part of this publication, please contact me at emilyrorke24@gmail.com

Your ed
Emily

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