

Lake District Area News

No. 223: July 2017

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION LAKE DISTRICT AREA

Views expressed in this publication are those of the contributors, and not necessarily those of the Ramblers.

LDNP is a World Heritage Site !

Our National Park has recently been declared a World Heritage Site, the culmination of many years of effort by various parties in this area.

Of course, we have always known that the Lake District is a very special place. The landscape has outstanding beauty – and for us as walkers it offers challenges at any level we choose. But its recognition is as a “cultural landscape”, shaped partly by nature but partly by man, particularly his farming activities over the centuries, and becoming an inspiration to artists, photographers and especially writers: from Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey to Walpole, Ransome, Potter and Melvin Bragg.

The status as a WHS is something we feel is well-deserved, and it has been widely welcomed. But it is a little worrying that the most frequent response has been to concentrate on what it will do for the economy of the area. No doubt it will be a stimulus to tourism, a main revenue-producer. Money coming from this could be spent on protecting and enhancing the wonderful landscape. But will another result be more and more up-market hotels and shops in places already busy with visitors? Will there be demands for more “artificial” aids to excitement than the fells and lakes already offer? Is there a danger that some people might want to turn our national park into a national playground?

Malcolm Petyt
Area Chairman

England Coast Path

Whilst progress is being made with the Cumbria section of the ECP we are disappointed that no new sections are likely to open this year. We have asked Natural England if there is any way the process can be speeded up.

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) have considered some objections from landowners and farmers on the Solway section and this is slowing down the approval of the Gretna to Allonby section of the route. We have written to PINS in most of these cases to largely support the route proposed by Natural England. The alternative routes proposed by the objectors suggest we trudge for several miles on roads which are not only away from the coast but raise significant safety issues.

Ian Brodie

Ramblers Roadshow –

Kendal 30th September

Join us in Kendal at the Castle Green Hotel for an opportunity to find out more about how to get the most out of your Ramblers membership, to meet other members and volunteers and get direct access to our walking experts and specialist partners at our free Ramblers Roadshow.

Learn more about our organisation and vision, what we do as a charity and the impact that we make, as well as having the chance to develop your skills and knowledge as a walker or as a volunteer.

Whether you're just taking your first steps as a walker or are a regular volunteer with the Ramblers you'll find a workshop for you. You can find out about the workshops available on the booking page. To find out more and to book your space scroll through the calendar click on your preferred date and click on register now at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ramblers-roadshow-kendal-tickets-33395744571?ref=ecal>.

4 X 4's in the LDNP

Concern has been expressed about the legal off road use of these vehicles in the National Park, particularly in the Tilberthwaite and Little Langdale area.

Whilst some users operated their vehicles in a responsible way others were less so and it is felt by many walkers that such use is becoming a nuisance and spoiling the peace and quiet of the area.

If you have experience of 4 X4's causing a nuisance will you please report the matter to your group secretary who will pass the details on to Area Secretary. Please give a brief outline of the problem, the area in which it occurred and time & date.

KENDAL GROUP

On the last Monday in April, 31 members of Kendal Ramblers set off for a 4 night stay in Harrogate. As Harrogate is not too far away, the majority of the group opted to join an afternoon walk at 1pm from Burnsall. We did a circular walk, first along the River Wharfe (Dales Way) and then headed for Trollers' Gill – most of us had never been there before. Fascinating.

The first full day, Tuesday, saw most of us visiting Brimham Rocks, an amazing collection of standing rocks/pillars on a ridge, with far-reaching views to the west. One group did a 9 mile circular to the Rocks starting at Pately Bridge (they got caught in the hailstorm), whereas those doing the shorter version did a circular walk from the NT car park at the Rocks – and hence were safely in the tearoom when the hail arrived!

On Wednesday the two groups headed in different directions. The longer walk started at Lofthouse, way up Nidderdale. The walk followed the Nidderdale Way south to Ramsgill – lovely coffee stop here on the green (lots of benches). Then we reversed direction and walked back up the left side of the valley we'd just come down. The lunch stop was at How Stean Gorge, which we explored fully – including trying a (very) little bit of the 'Via Ferrata', and then finding our way through a long, uneven, cave system using our torches. Hard hats were worn, and

definitely needed, we all banged our heads on the rocks above at some point. The walk was completed with a visit to Middlesmoor, then back to Lofthouse.



The other group (Wednesday) visited Fountains Abbey/Studley Royal, doing a walk in the area first – and getting slightly lost.....but with much hilarity by all accounts!

On Thursday a small select group went off and climbed 'Simon's Seat', near Bolton Abbey. A great walk enjoyed by all. Others went to Newby Hall near Ripon (where 'Victoria' was filmed for ITV); Harlow Carr Gardens on the edge of Harrogate; Fountains Abbey again; York by train; and two did a walk round the reservoirs near Blubberhouses.

The weather during our holiday was reasonably good – mostly bright and sunny, if a cool wind at times. There was very little rain.

Penrith Group

Penrith group continues with a full programme of 5 or 6 walks every Wednesday, plus one walk every Saturday and a walk each Thursday evening during the summer months. As has been the case for the last several years, there is also part of a long distance walk on every other Sunday in June and July, and this year members are completing the final leg of the 'Eden Wheel'.

In addition many social events have been organised: in April a large group descended on the HF house in Church Stretton for three full days walking in the Shropshire hills, a holiday which was enjoyed by all. In May a tour was organised of the gardens at Acorn Bank, a National Trust property in the Eden Valley. In June members attended an evening event entitled 'Safety on the Fells' and in early July a large group boarded one of the Ullswater Steamers to enjoy a fish and chip supper cruise.

On a more serious note a Navigation and Map reading course is planned for early September.



Finally - to qualify as a B+ walker one of our members had to stand on top of the Howitzer on Helm Crag.

Can you help ?

You may be aware that your Group walks programme is made available nationally, on the ramblers.org.uk website, to Ramblers members and to the public. This enables anyone to search for walks in the area where they live or are visiting. Of course, the information has to be kept up to date and this is done by having designated "editors" who can simply update walks information on-line as and when changes occur.

Unfortunately, at present, I am the only person so designated, so programme updates are entirely governed by my availability. This summer, we hit a situation where a number of Groups wanted to make changes but couldn't because I was unavailable for some time. Clearly it is unsatisfactory to have this system reliant on one person.

Updates are made simply by logging on to the national Ramblers website and following the prompts. If you think you could help by becoming an "editor" and making the occasional change, whether just for your own Group or for other Groups in the Area, please get in touch and I will be happy to demonstrate what's involved. Thank you.

David Johnson

email: secretary@lancasterramblers.org.uk

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David

Sharpe Legacy donations

The Area committee has agreed to make a donation of £2,000 from the Sharpe Legacy towards the cost of repairing the shore path around Buttermere which is a very popular and much used path.

A further donation of £2,200 has been agreed for the project at Heslington Barrows, Kendal.

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