

BRADFORD CHA RAMBLING AND SOCIAL CLUB

News-sheet December 2022

Well here we are again and the gap between Christmas and New Year seems even less defined than usual this year, so (probably by now) I hope that you have had a good Christmas in your preferred way, and best wishes for 2023 to everyone.

As well as this news-sheet, the new syllabus is also out, covering January-March 2023. We haven't any booking forms this time as the Sunday Coach is now bookable without them. The important thing for members receiving this document by e-mail is to save it as a file and maybe, if you can, print it so that it's always handy. Any unavoidable changes should appear on WhatsApp. Members like me who still rely on pen and paper can help by noting down what they need to know. If anything's missing, please let us know.

The boring bit over, now to the actual items: first, from Malcolm:

President's Address

I want to wish all our club members, Meetup members and occasional visitors very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

I want to congratulate all the hard work our committee members have put in to make our club work so well over the last year which hasn't been an easy one. I am so pleased that our new club website is now live. It has some great innovations such as being able to book the Sunday coach and communicate with all members. Do start to use it.

I have been looking in more detail at the Autumn Statement by the government on the 17th November. My thoughts are that it was a missed opportunity to strengthen our connection with our green spaces.

Better access to the outdoors means better health and wellbeing for all. Not only that, it makes us more connected to nature, more environmentally aware and boosts local economies.

But with government departments, including the Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), being told to find savings, and with no mention of nature at all within the statement itself, the government has failed to harness the benefits that walking in our great outdoors can bring to us all.

As part of the Autumn Statement, the government announced reforms to the planning system to "ensure all infrastructure is delivered quickly." I understand the need to ensure critical infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner. But this should not come at the expense of our natural spaces and our connection to them. From reducing stress to boosting our physical health, walking brings a myriad of benefits. And these need to be considered when delivering new infrastructure.

The Statement also directly addressed the controversial idea of "investment zones." These zones would see planning laws liberalised in selected locations. It is not clear how the protection of rights of way and green spaces will be treated under such zones. And most concerning of all, they could permit building in our national parks. We need to watch out for this in the coming years.

That said, uncertainty still hangs over the future of our green spaces more widely. For instance, the Government missed an opportunity to address the urgent funding crisis facing our National Parks. I remain gravely concerned about the impact that reduced funding could have on their ability to maintain the path network in these places, and on people's ability to access our most iconic landscapes.

Our National Parks are some of our most treasured spaces, allowing us all to escape, explore and enjoy all the benefits that the outdoors bring. The Government must commit to putting funding for National Park Authorities on a sustainable footing, ensuring everyone can continue to access and enjoy walking in the great outdoors.

Investing in our ability to walk in nature and enjoy our iconic landscapes makes sense. Not only does it boost local economies through increased tourism, footfall and passing trade in towns and cities, it also helps to boost our physical and mental wellbeing. This reduces pressure on our health service and saves public money.

Have a look at this link from the Ramblers Association: : [Help us expand the freedom to roam \(mailchi.mp\)](#) The Ramblers are campaigning to allow the right to roam be expanded to cover woodland, watersides and more grassland. In the link you can see how far your postcode is from open access land and how much nearer this would be if it included woodlands. They are also asking people to contact their MP.

Finally I would like to congratulate Bradford on being the next City of Culture in 2025. I am hoping that "walking" can be part of this year long event. 6 club members went to a meeting on the 30th November to Baildon to listen to Shanaz Gulzar. She is the new Creative Director for Bradford City of Culture 2025. She is a big walker and was brought up in Keighley. Some of you may have seen her BBC programmes, which if you have missed them do google. Here is a link to one of them she did from Heptonstall to Stoodley Pike: shanaz gulzar youtube walks - Google Search

It seems as though she is keen to include walking as a theme as part of the City of Culture. This is good news for our club as at least we can hopefully get some good publicity for our walks. We may also be able to include a series of walks, a new named walk and other projects. These are early days. Here is the link to the Bradford City of Culture site: Leadership duo appointed to deliver Bradford 2025 - Bradford 2025 Do have a look

Malcolm Walters

(President, Bradford CHA Rambling & Social Club)

Next in line: Jean Galthen

General Secretary's Report for December 2022

Hello all

We have had busy year and while things are slowly getting back to normal, we are lucky to have enjoyed a varied selection of Saturday and Sunday walks, weekends away and our annual holidays both in the UK and abroad, together with a variety of social events which are always popular.

We pride ourselves in being an inclusive club and would welcome any ideas you may have which you think could improve or enhance what we offer to members. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any committee member if anything springs to mind.

Exciting times are ahead for Bradford following its winning bid to become City of Culture in 2025. The person involved in leading the bid for Bradford is a keen walker and presented a television series 'Yorkshire Walks' which you may have seen.

As some of you will know, we recently had some difficulty with the coach being able to manoeuvre the small roads in the Yorkshire Dales and to alleviate this problem the committee agreed that in future we will request the 49 seater coach from JAK rather than the 53 seater. There is quite a difference in the length of the larger capacity coach, and hopefully this should make life much easier for the coach drivers, who do a sterling job of getting us to sometimes quite difficult and challenging starting and finishing points! We really do appreciate everything they do for us.

Many thanks for your continued support

Best wishes from **Jean Galthen**, General Secretary

*Next, let's look at some important changes from **Ronnie Wade** (Treasurer, but it's not about money!*

IMPORTANT: Change to the pick-up and drop-off point on Nelson Street, Bradford
We are reverting to original Nelson Street points from 8th January 2023

Jacobs Well car park is now operating as a car park again after many months of being a Covid vaccination centre, and the section of Nelson Street by the car park is now open to traffic. JAK are now using the pick-up point by the side of the Interchange for their own coach tours so we have asked if we can revert to the pick-up and drop off point by Jacobs Well car park on Nelson Street which we used prior to that part of Nelson Street being closed.

It has been agreed that from 8th January 2023 we will revert to the original pick up points.

WALK CHANGE: Welcome Way Walk scheduled for 7th January cancelled

The RMT are on strike again on the above date and the Welcome Way Part 2 that was rescheduled to the above date due to earlier strike action again cannot be undertaken due to the ongoing dispute. I have therefore taken the decision to shelve all the walks for the Welcome Way until April when hopefully we have a reliable rail service.

New Walk for Saturday 7th January

I have put a revised walk together for the 7th January which does not involve trains; details are as below:

Saturday 7th January

Bus No 67 from Bradford Interchange at 9.30 am to Denholme Velvets (arrives 9.59am). For those who are travelling from Keighley the 67 leaves at 9.15 am.

Denholme Velvets via Upper Brockholes to Thornton

Distance 9.00 miles Ascent 1200 feet.

Ronnie Wade

There would be no club without membership, so next we have Jackie's note this special year.

Membership Secretary's Report

Hi everyone, well 2023 is looming and that brings a celebratory year for Bradford CHA Rambling and Social Club. That being the club will be celebrating 120 years of walking our glorious countryside as well as enjoying new friendships and company.

To recognise this special time I am planning having some Buffs, Beanies and Baseball Caps with our own CHA logo etc. made.

Hope to have some samples ready in January so will bring them out to show everyone then. Hope you like the idea, a perfect way to advertise our anniversary as well our Club.

Our current membership stands at a healthy 192 of which there are 19 brand new subscriptions for 2022!

Jackie Hotchen

Ray Wilkes has been managing our transition to a professionally-created website:

Website Report

The new website, as you may have seen, is now up. We had been hoping, as Gill mentioned, to be fully operational for booking the Sunday Coach by PayPal on the website by this January.

However, it looks as if there may be some delay with the updating, so please save this newsletter and walks programme to a file or print it out, or at least do not delete the email which delivered them! Meantime you can still book a coach seat on Meet-up, or by post, or email paying by BACS. Once we are updated, please book and pay on the website if you can.

Ray Wilkes

And on to the actual events we've all been enjoying:

Saturday Rambles Report from John Feather

So far the rail strike has only affected one of our walks, which had to be rearranged. Most walks can be accessed by bus as well as rail. The whole idea of these walks is that they are accessible by public transport. Obviously if the walk is circular, some people will use their cars. By the time this report reaches you, the strike may have been settled; if not, keep watching out for the updates on WhatsApp.

That apart, it has been a good season for walks and may that continue. Thanks again to all walk leaders and of course the members who attend these walks.

Finally, this year's Christmas dinner was well attended and may form a template for the future.
Regards John

The Sunday coach continues to be attractive; Gill Darnbrook sends her report

Sunday Secretary's Report

Hi Everybody, I hope you all had a good Christmas.

We'll shortly start on the new syllabus, January to April 2023 with a trip to Pateley Bridge. Please read the information elsewhere in this newsletter regarding reverting to our original (pre-Covid) pick-up point in Bradford.

Thank you to all the leaders, without your continued support we would see gaps in the syllabus but we are managing to fill all the walks. We continue to have fortnightly coaches in this syllabus.

We are encouraging members to book their places on the CHA website wherever possible – it's very easy and you don't need a PayPal account. For those who cannot access the internet there is still the option to pay by cheque, by sending your name, the date of the coach you wish to book and a cheque to our Booking Officer. Full details are in the syllabus. We can also still take BACS payments. (There are no booking slips in this syllabus – we won't be using them anymore).

If you usually lead a walk but I didn't ask for this syllabus, please don't be offended. There were only six walks to fill because it's a shorter syllabus than we had pre-Covid so I can't fit everybody in – particularly the B walks.

If you have a particular walk that you'd like to lead, let me know now so I can include it next time.

Best wishes and a Happy New Year to you all
Gill

Social Secretary's Report: Linda Richardson includes a preview of our next evenings out

Hi everyone, I hope we are all Covid free and looking forward to Christmas.

Socials we have enjoyed:

The last two Wednesday Evening Socials have been on cold wet evenings, the October one at The Flying Squirrel and the November one at The Bobbin Carrier. However it was nice and warm inside on both occasions. The company was good and it's nice to get together for a laugh and a chat. I hope everyone enjoyed the food and the venues. That was the last Wednesday Evening Social for this year. I'm looking forward to planning the socials in the New Year.

Socials to look forward to: the details are in the syllabus but here are your dates and venues:
Wednesday 1st February 2023: supper at The Angel, Baildon. Meet at 18.30- the 626 bus at 17.43 from the Interchange will arrive at Towngate, just across the road.

Wednesday 1st March 2023. Curry Night! Bus no 622 from Bradford Int. at 17.58 arrives Shipley at 18.24. 2 mins walk to The Shama.

Wednesday 5th April 2023: supper is at The Crown, Horton Bank Top at 19.30. The clocks will have altered, so before this, starting at 18.30, there will be a short walk led by Rita and Frank.

Thank you to everyone who has come along and made these socials a success, also thank you to Jean Shepherd for doing the bus times.

Best wishes from Linda.

From Rita Schofield:

Holiday Co-ordinator's Report

The second payment of £146 for the Fort William holiday is due by the 31st December please. Payments can be made by BACS to Ron or by cheque to Jackie H.

We will shortly be working on the walks programme.

The trip on the Jacobite Railway to Mallaig is now going to be free of charge so if anyone else wants to book on this please let me know as soon as possible.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Walking in 2023.

Rita

Jayne Noble, Weekend Co-ordinator, is busy organising our next weekend away- a four-day Lakes weekend from Friday 10th March to Monday 13th. She says:

Windermere

'The Windermere weekend is fully booked and I have one person on the waiting list. All I need to do is remind people that the deadline for paying the Windermere balance is January 27th.'

Finally, an unusual request, but an excellent cause; we've been asked to include this

Donate Unused Walking Gear to A Refugee Walking Group

St Augustine's Centre is Calderdale's specialist charity working with people seeking asylum and refugees as well as local people. There are 6 staff, 170 volunteers and a community of over 800 individuals and families fleeing violence, war, persecution and starvation.

One of the activities we offer is a walking group, exploring the hills and local history round Halifax. We know how a good walk cheers you up and energises you. Refugees are no exception, and a fair few get out in the local hills and woods. We throw in a picnic, a bit of local history, the occasional bit of Ted Hughes, and create opportunities for walkers to talk about any difficulties they are facing. It is a chance to practise their English or to meet others who speak their own first language.

But it can be wet and cold! This is Calderdale, in December! Most refugees come from hot countries – hotter than Halifax anyway – where there is no call for the kind of outdoor gear we spend so much time buying and talking about. So I am asking you, on their behalf, if you could donate some walking gear to equip them for local conditions. Anything and everything will be welcomed. Waterproofs, warm clothes, boots, backpacks etc. Don't worry if it seems worn out to you. Anything will be better than the pashminas, cardigans and flip flops being worn on our last walk!

Ronnie Wade, the Bradford CHA Treasurer has agreed to coordinate collections for me. He can be contacted on 07722602150 or ron.wade1@virginmedia.com

Best wishes all,

David Longworth

News-sheet compiled by Jackie Wilkes (jawilkes@blueyonder.co.uk), with thanks to contributors