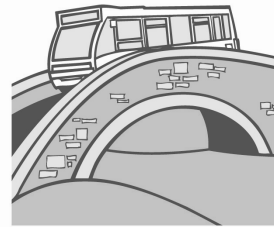


The Bowland Transit Club

Newsletter No 16

June 2010



BOWLAND TRANSIT CLUB

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The new Green Networks website is now online at www.green-networks.org.uk

B12 to Garstang

This seasonal service is now running for the Summer 2010 season. Times are included in Lancashire County Council's Bowland Transit timetable leaflet (number 104).

Additional bus in Dentdale

Saturday walkers who have attempted to use public transport to assist a walk in Dentdale will have found that the return bus up towards the station is mid-afternoon. Help is now at hand in the form of a later bus at 16.45 from Sedbergh back up the valley in time for the train south. It returns from the station at 17.35 arriving in Sedbergh at 18.05. Details of this service are available on www.dalesbus.org and copies of a flier are available in the Settle and Dentdale areas.

Red Squirrel Bus

Readers able to reach Hawes in time will, from Wednesday 02 June, be able to travel on a special bus up to Snaizeholme to join the Red Squirrel Trail. The bus runs once each way on a Wednesday and again on a Saturday. On Wednesdays it leaves Hawes at 11.00 and returns for ~13.30; on Saturdays it leaves Hawes at 13.00 and returns for ~15.30. No fare details available yet; senior bus passes not accepted; journeys must be booked in advance with NP Centre. For those without the assistance of a car Saturday may offer the better chance, travelling via Skipton, but it will mean using the last bus back from Skipton.

Dales and Bowland CIC

The last newsletter said that some applications for funding had not been successful. This newsletter contains the very positive news that the end of year figures are up. Passenger numbers were predicted to increase by 34%; in fact they have gone up by around 56%. To quote from the Annual Report - "This expanded network, which benefited from better and more effective marketing of both the Sunday and weekday network, resulted in passenger and financial targets being comfortably exceeded. During the year over 20,350 passenger journeys were made on services managed by the CIC (compared with a target of 17,515), a spectacular increase of around 56% (target 34%) above the 2008/9 figure, which itself showed a healthy increase compared with previous years."

BT Club AGM

Attendance this year was rather slim. If you missed it copies of the Chairman's report are available from Brian Holden (together with a note pointing out that subscriptions have increased and are now due). Brian was re-elected both Chairman and Walks Coordinator. If you are interested in taking on either of these posts, or indeed in leading a walk or two, he would be delighted to hear from you as he would like more time to spend exploring places away from Bowland bus routes.

Wild Flowers at their best

The writer was recently able to join a walk from Slaidburn to Dalehead chapel. This went past the interesting old building of Hammerton Hall and then dropped from the public footpath down to a permissive one closer to the shores of Stocks Reservoir. The views from here were quite extensive and it was beautifully quiet - fishermen plus far away gulls are nothing like as noisy as traffic. Crossing a piece of scrubby land which clearly had the capacity to be boggy we saw a variety of spring flowers. The roadside up to the chapel was also bordered by flowers. At the chapel most went in to view the exhibition about the building of the reservoir. Somewhat later than she should have done, the writer decided to check the times of the B1 service, and suddenly set off at high speed up the hill to the main road. Unfortunately running uphill is not her forte and she failed to make the bus. The main drawback to missing the B1 was arriving home some 2 hours later than planned because of long waits for buses. However the alternative walk back to Slaidburn was very pleasant. After the prolonged dry spell everyone arrived back dry shod even if not sunburnt.

Slaidburn, YHA and Anniversaries

Slaidburn has had a youth hostel for over 75 years. The hostel movement was started in Germany 100 years ago this year. Schoolteacher Richard Schirrmann was in the habit of taking his pupils on long walks to teach them about the countryside. On one occasion they were caught in a bad storm and a local schoolmaster gave them shelter in his school. RS conceived the idea of being able to use schools for accommodation outside term time. Straw could be used to make beds and the children could carry sleeping bags. The idea caught on and spread throughout Europe and then the world. YHA (England & Wales) was founded in 1930. In order to celebrate the 100th anniversary of hostelling and the 80th of YHA (E&W) trees are being planted at 100 hostels. On Saturday 21 March an ash tree was planted at Slaidburn. As the hostel does not have the space for a tree it is situated on estate land down near the bridge. Volunteers from Carlisle had brought the tree and some fencing with them. The hole was dug in the dry. However speeches from Simon Neal (hostel manager), Eric Knowles (a local lad turned TV personality), the lady Mayor of Ribbles Valley (Beverley Jones), and Mike Pugh (Sustainable Tourism Officer from the Forest of Bowland AONB) occurred in very wet and windy weather. Luckily those present were able to retreat to the hostel and welcome refreshments supplied by the week's volunteer wardens. Many visitors took the opportunity to look round.

Chairman and Walks Coordinator Brian Holden thanks all those who have turned out, sometimes in poor weather, to support the walks, and he extends special thanks to the walk leaders.

Veronica Boulton