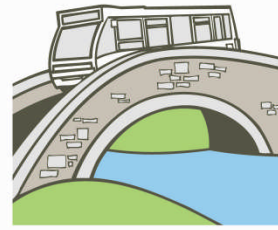


The Bowland Transit Club

Newsletter No 13

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BOWLAND TRANSIT CLUB

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Dales and Bowland CIC

The news from those involved in this is largely very positive. The scheme to offer buses from Bradford and Keighley to the Dales each Wednesday in the school holidays proved very popular and extra buses had to be provided on at least two weeks. The CIC set out the year with the aim of increasing passenger numbers by about a third. At a recent conference it was clear that numbers were already well in excess of last year's but we need to wait until the end of the year before exact comparisons can be made. Those responsible are currently examining options for next year on both sides of the Pennines. However with so much depending on the financial contributions from other bodies, a number of whom have yet to decide on the details of next year's budget, few firm decisions have been possible. BT Club Chairman Brian Holden is keeping an eye on the possibilities for next summer's walks programme.

Tender for B1 Service

This was issued in October. A key difference is the loss of the last bus from Settle to Slaidburn. The writer is unclear how many people are likely to be affected by this - it does form a useful connection with transport from elsewhere.

Walk Start Times

Please make sure that you check these before setting out. The writer had been contemplating joining one from the Pendle Witch Hopper when she discovered that it started an hour earlier than she had thought. Close inspection of the list found others with a similar start time, so it wasn't a mistake. The positive aspect of this is that it should be easier for those wanting to get the 14.30 bus from Barrowford back.

Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness

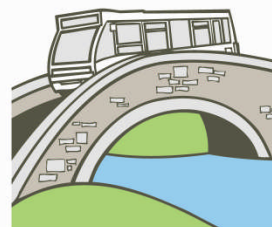
Whilst this year has been generous over fruitfulness, with many plants, bushes and trees bowed down by fruiting bodies, the peacefulness conjured up by this oft quoted phrase has frequently been lacking.

Shortly after the writer's first trip up to Nogarath ridge she took part in three of the events in the Pendle Walking Festival. Whilst one ventured out on to the Access Land on the side of Boulsworth, the others were closer to home for most readers and included

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more exploration of Nogarth ridge. The weather on the whole was good, and while it was a bit soggy underfoot the experiences were enjoyable.

The next expedition to Bowland was for a weekend working party at YHA Slaidburn at the end of October. It was good that we were inside most of the time as the rain overnight was torrential. At one point there was a visit to the shop over the road to see if a pair of wellingtons could be borrowed. Fortunately a pair that fitted one of those present was found. The real shock was coming home in the middle of Sunday. There were far more fords on the road system than appear on OS maps. At one point a detour was taken after seeing a chap in waders trying to unblock a drain. As readers will now know, this was the start of an awful month. November has beaten all sorts of rainfall records and the winds have been strong too.

Now to the brighter news. Early in December, 9 travellers on the B1 and 2 on the 580 to Settle passed the vast Ribblesdale lake which forms every winter, offering a wonderful habitat to many birds. However BH's trips to the edge of the Yorkshire Dales take walkers onto the limestone, which drains very well. There was a little confusion about the start point for the walk, but eventually eleven folk got off a crowded B1 at Stainforth. Setting off up the hill, the first stop of note was at the turning to Catrigg Force. From the track nearby it was possible to see Pen-y-Ghent which was still clad in snow but lacked the crispness of a day or so earlier. Those who ventured down to the waterfall were greeted by a raging torrent. The noise was reminiscent of that from the much larger High Force in Teesdale.

After lunch the party wound its way across the fells, initially towards the famous caves above Settle, but eventually missing these in order to make a speedy descent towards buses / pots of tea in Settle. Despite some ominous looking clouds to the south the whole outing took place in the dry. It was a successful day in what was for some new territory.

Seasonal Greetings and thank you

Chairman and Walks Coordinator, Brian Holden sends seasonal greetings to all readers. He 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