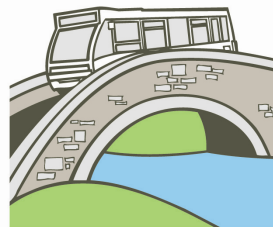


The Bowland Transit Club

Newsletter No 8

May 2009



BOWLAND TRANSIT CLUB

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Those people who were unable to make it to the AGM (and there seemed to be almost as many apologies as attendees) missed a treat. The meeting room at Clitheroe library was at one time a court room and is quite ornate. Those who like the writer failed to notice the bit on the Spring Newsletter about displays of photographs and paintings may well have left themselves too short of time to appreciate them. There was also a display of books about the area by a local author. Proceeds from items on sale (and most were) contributed to club funds.

The good news is that we do have a walks coordinator - Brian Holden agreed to take on the job. (Duncan Ward had to stand down because of family illness.) The less good news is that we failed to find someone else to take over the job of Chairman (BH having said that he didn't want to hold two key positions). Brian reluctantly agreed to also continue as Chairman for another year. It is important from the point of view of communications with outside bodies that this person resides reasonably close to the Bowland area. None of those present felt able to take the job on. Volunteers please contact BH.

On the financial side Terry Brown stood down as Treasurer and Val Fothergill agreed to take over. Richard M-B had found work pressures interfered with the job of secretary which Anne Webster has agreed to take on (with some help).

The Local Communities

The Chairman said that he had been in touch with local communities trying to persuade them to think about the bus timetable when organising events. Evidence to date suggests there is a need for frequent reminders.

He read from a letter sent by Bashall Eaves parish council. Residents had found the gaps between buses too long after last October's changes. Making the point in a very obvious way one of these local residents agreed to take the minutes but said she would have to leave part way through the meeting to get the bus or face a very long wait.

Health and Social Wellbeing

The government has been encouraging all of us to take more exercise. It has also realised that social contacts increase feelings of wellbeing. Primary Care Trusts are key funders of efforts in this sphere and the Chairman plans to pursue contacts with relevant ones.

Walks Programme

Brian Holden produced a draft programme covering most Wednesdays in the next few months. (He said he wanted one Wednesday a month off.) Following a suggestion that outings could have themes such as natural history, geology, etc, Richard M-B offered to lead a bird watching session in June.

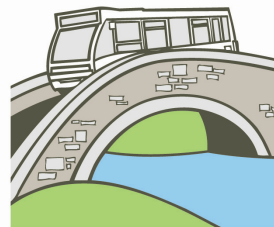
Saturday walks have not been well supported so far. It was agreed to try for one a month. The possibilities of getting as far as the Dales were mentioned. This is easier on Saturdays when it should be possible to reach Malham both from Settle and from Skipton. On Sundays it is possible to get to Bolton Abbey and the Strid but not for very long, similarly for Malham.

When the rail timetables change in May it will be possible to use Lancashire Dalesrail to get to Ribbleshead and take advantage of the Ingleborough Pony bus service which circles the Ingleborough triangle, offering numerous walk opportunities. English Nature (now Natural England) produced a series of leaflets giving suggestions. It will also be possible to get to Wensleydale and Swaledale from the train. YDPTUG and FoSCL offer various led walks which it may be possible to access. There is also a walks programme linked with Lancashire Dalesrail.

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There was also the suggestion of short walks in the Eden valley using the train. The Chairman is to investigate how feasible this is.

Another suggestion for the bird watchers and TV addicts is a trip to the Harewood estate between Leeds and Harrogate. This is possible using 280/X80 to Skipton and then X59 to Harrogate, followed by 36 to reach start point. Fare payers may benefit from HDTs Day Gold ticket while those with bus passes could choose to return to Skipton on the X84 (with its new fleet of buses). Whichever way the second part of the walk goes it should be possible to watch red kite, to see a splendid view of the big house, and to glimpse Emmerdale.

Publicity

So far much of the publicity about the bus services and about the walks programme has been in the part of Lancashire near Clitheroe. Suggestions to extend that include investigating the possibility of mention on the AONB website, checking the list of "useful contacts" to see if it can be extended, making sure that information reaches the existing section on the Dales & Bowland CIC website, checking that those who have been involved with the club are correctly recorded on the database, keeping village committees (and their noticeboards) up to date, also relevant accommodation providers.

Suggestions for things to do from the bus

Slaidburn May Queen event - Monday 25 May

Slaidburn Steam Fair - Saturday / Sunday 13/14 June

YHA Slaidburn will be open to the public on at least one of the above dates. Details are subject to confirmation.

Clitheroe's Salthill Geology Trail. This is a fairly short walk through an area where fossils abound. A trail leaflet is available from the Tic and there are display boards at intervals on the walk. The area is also a nature reserve and there are lots of interesting plants and birds. The writer saw more bat boxes than bird boxes but unfortunately a visit to see the occupants would be outside bus hours. The views from several points are quite extensive. Anyone wanting to explore the geology theme further could use the leaflet which describes a longer trail passing close to current workings.

Ribble valley wetlands at Long Preston. RSPB guided walk on the afternoon of Thursday 4 June, starting from the railway station, looking at the extensive wetland restoration being undertaken for breeding wading birds. Booking is essential - phone 01772 534709 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside

Slaidburn Heritage Trail. A splendid leaflet describing this estate village may be available again locally. Otherwise Barrowford Tic holds copies.

Walk from Downham (on P70 route) back to Clitheroe via Worsaw hill. Much of the TV series Born and Bred was filmed in Downham; the film Whistle down the Wind was set largely in the Worsaw hill area.

Enjoy Your Walking

Veronica Boulton