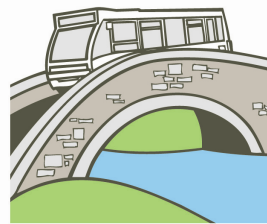


# The Bowland Transit Club

## Newsletter No 9

July 2009



**BOWLAND TRANSIT CLUB**

### **BOWLAND TRANSIT CLUB Newsletter 9 - July 2009**

#### **AGM Talk**

When the formal part of the meeting was over Colin Speakman gave an informative talk on the work being done by the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company. This body, as the name suggests, takes an interest in both the Forest of Bowland and the Yorkshire Dales.

Obviously a key feature is the support of the Bowland Transit bus services. The B10 and B11 are supported by Lancashire County Council and are reasonably successful but there is room for improvement. Many think that passenger numbers would increase if the connections at Slaidburn were made more reliable. [See below for recent timetable changes which should help.] The cross-boundary B1 route, which has been extended from Settle up to Horton-in-Ribblesdale, has had some funding from D&B CIC to put it on a more secure footing - getting support from North Yorkshire and Lancashire for a route so close to their boundaries has been problematical and if available is usually short term. This is despite the survey last year which showed a clear local need.

Colin then moved on to this summer's offerings in the Dales. The involvement of the CIC in the procurement of the Sunday and Bank Holiday services has led to better services for the Ingleborough triangle (a new venture last year), access to Wensleydale and Swaledale from Ribblesdale, an improved Nidderdale service, increased publicity for the vintage bus service between Ripon and Wensleydale (serving the railway), and a better service for Malham. Malham is accessible on Saturdays and Sundays from Settle several times each day, on a bus which starts from Ilkley and returns there at the end of the day. It is also accessible several times a day on Sundays from Ilkley and Skipton using an extension of the Cravenlink route. There is also a Saturday bus service from Skipton. Wharfedale is well served with a good choice of buses, particularly in the lower stretches, and one of the buses continues over the top to Hawes.

After Colin's interesting talk various timetables and associated publicity were made available. A couple of people left to get the Skipton bus and the lady from Bashall Eaves had departed earlier. Others were able to look round at the exhibitions and maybe make a purchase or two.

#### **Summer bus B12**

The service started again early in May. Times for this Thursday only service from Clitheroe to Garstang are similar to last year. It runs until the end of October.

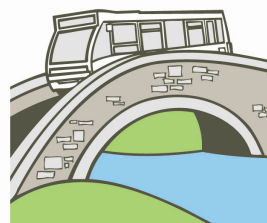
#### **New Bowland Transit Timetable**

Leaflet 104 has been reissued with an operative date From 18 May 2009. Whilst the usual changes section is absent, careful inspection and talks with frequent users has ascertained that there are some changes to the B10/B11 services.

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The first three B10 buses now leave Clitheroe Interchange at 09.25, 11.25 and 13.25 and run five minutes later throughout.

Three of the B11 services which used to depart at 20 minutes past from Clitheroe Interchange now leave five minutes later at 10.25, 12.25 and 14.25 and run five minutes later throughout. The leaflet also contains details of the B12 service mentioned above and the B1 service between Slaidburn and Horton-in-Ribblesdale via Settle.

#### **Flowers of the Dales**

This summer long series of events is being coordinated by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. As the title suggests the emphasis is on plants and exploring the wonderful limestone flora. Whilst many of the individual events are not readily accessed by public transport from the south side of Bowland, one or two look more feasible.

During the Grassington Festival (19 June - 4 July) there will be a free exhibition of curlew sculptures in the village and nearby. Further details from [www.grassington-festival.org.uk](http://www.grassington-festival.org.uk)

On Saturday 20 June there is an afternoon walk exploring the floral delights of limestone woodland near Grassington. Further information from [www.grassington-festival.org.uk](http://www.grassington-festival.org.uk)

On Wednesday 24 June YDNP are offering a walk in the Buckden area. A bus reaches the start in time but it will mean leaving early to catch it. Call 01756 751690 for more information.

On the afternoon of Thursday 25 June Wharfedale Naturalists are offering a walk from Conistone. Booking is essential on 01943 831871. More information on [www.wharfedale-nats.org.uk](http://www.wharfedale-nats.org.uk)

The events continue through July and August and a booklet giving more information is widely available. Telephone YDMT on 01524 251002 or see [www.ydmt.org](http://www.ydmt.org) for further information.

#### **Correction**

In newsletter 8 readers were given the impression that it would be possible to get from the Lancashire Dalesrail trains across to Hawes and then to Swaledale using the Dalesbus service. The writer has since obtained the new rail timetable and also used the bus service, coming from Leeds by train. Unfortunately the Hawes bus departs from Ribbleshead before the Lancashire train gets in. Whilst it may still be possible to link up with the Ingleborough Pony service (to Ingleton, Clapham and Horton) the possibilities are largely restricted to any buses organised by Lancashire Dalesrail.

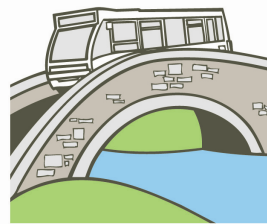
#### **Bird-watching walk - 10 June 2009**

The idea of themed walks was suggested at the AGM and Richard M-B offered to lead one for those interested in birds. Eleven walkers assembled at Dunsop Bridge and set off northwards at

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what seemed to be a cracking pace; opportunities to scan the riverside were initially shorter than some participants had expected. A break at the fish-ladder offered more scope and dippers and wagtails were seen, and a fish! The area is clearly of considerable interest to anglers and United Utilities seemed to be cooperating with their needs. A footpath which the leader had at one time hoped to use was closed to us and we continued up the vehicle track. Lunch was taken at a bend where extensive views were possible. Considerable effort was expended trying to pick out Bowland rarities but not everyone succeeded - the gulls evident in the opposite direction were much easier to see. The threatened rain materialised so waterproofs were donned and we set off back down the track. A dipper kindly stayed put for several minutes and wagtails flitted to and fro. Butterflies were much in evidence as were early summer flowers. Back at Dunsop Bridge the café was soon crowded. Not a bird-count that would impress the RSPB, but nevertheless we had an enjoyable day out.

#### **Suggestions for things to do from the bus**

Tosside fox festival - Saturday / Sunday 27/28 June.

The dressed foxes in the event, exhibiting skill and ingenuity, will this year be linked to the theme of TV programmes. A forest trail will be available.

Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail, Clitheroe - Saturday 11 July starting at 14.00

A Lancashire Wildlife Trust walk starting from the Waddington Road entrance to Brungerley Park and progressing to the Cross Hill Quarry Nature Reserve.

Hunting for Bugs, Clitheroe - Wednesday 5 August pm

A Lancashire Wildlife Trust walk in Brungerley Park and Cross Hill Quarry. Booking is essential. Phone 01772 534709 or visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside)

Whitewell - Thursday 6 August pm.

A tour round New Laund Farm on a tractor and trailer to show how modern farming is being combined with environmental stewardship. Booking is essential - phone 01772 534709 or visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside)

VB/July 2009