

HARROGATE RAMBLING CLUB

President's Newsletter

Coronation 2023

I appreciate the heading for this newsletter might be controversial, but I've missed Easter, so had to find an occasion to hang this on. I appreciate that for some members there is ambivalence about the occasion, but I hope you were able to rise to the challenge and had an enjoyable day in whatever activity you chose; the footpaths and bridleways may have been a little overcrowded. I wonder what proportion of the membership are experiencing the second British coronation of their lives and for what proportion is it the first? I am sure we must agree that a peaceful coronation is better than warlords fighting for the throne and that we live in a country where we are free to say what we like about the coronation.

A bit of a problem (or challenge as they seem now to be called) arose on a walk I was on recently, when 27 of us booked for a walk from a village. Not surprisingly we took up nearly every place to park on the main street as there was no car park. This caused some irritation to the village populace, one of whom addressed me in somewhat aggrieved tones. Although we had caused no obstruction and had not parked on the pavement, there was some justifiable concern. I wondered, if there is no alternative to parking on a village street, then the walk leader might try and limit the number of cars, possibly by setting a limit and then asking members asking to join the walk after the limit has been reached to try and get a lift in one of the cars already registered as attending. I appreciate that is another chore for walk leaders, but I don't think our club wishes to alienate local communities. Walk leaders might look at more convenient places to park on their route, although that is not always possible. Let me know what you think about how we might address this problem (sorry, challenge). If it is possible to negotiate car parking space with a local pub or community centre, it is certainly worth paying for a drink or a small charge. (Fearby community centre only expect £2.00 per car, but more is always welcome!)

When car sharing, I am sure you will have noticed that the club now recommends 30 pence per mile divided by the car occupants, the more in the car, the cheaper it is. As many walkers come from further afield than Harrogate, turning up at Park Road is less reliable for a lift, so please negotiate with members you know locally to car share.

There is much to look forward to in the current programme. The coach trip to Derbyshire has taken considerable organization on Stan's behalf and there are now a creditable 42 people going, sadly no C walk leader could be found although C walkers constitute the second highest proportion of club members going. They are divided between the B and D walks (be kind to them Anne and John). Stan has also arranged another pizza evening at Starlings bar on Friday 12th May to prepare members for the Coach trip and these will now occur every two months (the evenings at Starlings, not the coach trips). The new programme will include details of the summer social on 2nd August around Grassington, so get your food orders in early as I imagine numbers for meals will be limited. While you are enjoying the new programme, please put in walks for the programme beginning in August. It is always a task for the walk collectors chivvyng leaders to fill all the slots in the programme, which is why they have a club dinner to discuss strategies! Each group always needs and appreciates new walk leaders as it is great

to have new ideas and new routes. Regular leaders are always ready to mentor new leaders. Our club could not function without walk leaders.



There are 23 on this walk so if only 70% volunteered to lead, and many of them do, often in pairs, (alright that ruins the maths) that would fill a programme!

We are all familiar with broken down and dilapidated, not to say unsafe, styles and gates, and the reality that there is little money to repair them. Our general secretary, John Hopkins, has put a considerable amount of research into which organisations give the best bang for our buck if we were to give money to them to maintain footpaths. The committee consider that spending some of our funds with such an organization would be of direct benefit to the club and other walkers. John will talk about his conclusions at the AGM, so please have a think about it.



Not all bridges are in this sound condition from which we can view eighteenth century boundary stones for the Forest of Knaresborough. (Courtesy of Shirley & Dave Hare)

The club has once again been offered a stand at the Great Yorkshire Show from Tuesday 11th July to Friday 14th July. We need two volunteers to staff the stand for each half day, for which the volunteers have free entry to the show all that day. Please let John Hopkins, general secretary, know your names as he has kindly agreed to put together a rota of those who wish to take advantage of this money-saving offer!

And finally, a reminder of the importance of a diligent back marker to pick up stragglers who might lose their way.



(Courtesy of Shirley & Dave Hare)

Enjoy the mud drying out.

Greg Richardson