

**N. E Lancashire Ramblers – Coach Ramble to Knaresborough Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

After a rendezvous at Skipton for a comfort stop we continue on towards Knaresborough. It is important for safety reasons that independent walkers leave details of your names and routes, and a mobile telephone number if possible, with the courier on your coach. The Christmas attractions in Knaresborough include the Christmas Market, the Christmas Tree Festival in St John's Church and the Firework Display starting at 4.30pm.

**A Walk**      **Leader Anthony Fleetwood**      **12 miles**      **Easy/Moderate**

We alight the coach on the A59 close to the Golf Balls, we then set off through fields to the village of Hampsthwaite, joining the Nidderdale Way this takes us to Ripley Castle where we will have lunch. A dismantled railway line offers an easy stroll to the Nidd viaduct and the beautiful Nidd Gorge. From here it's just a short walk to Knaresborough Castle and our coach home. Only 502 feet of ascent.

**B Walk**      **Leader Michael Counter**      **9 miles**

We alight the coach at the Conyngnam Car Park in Knaresborough and wind our way through the town to emerge onto field paths heading north towards Sweet Bits Farm. A bridleway takes us onto Hopewell House, Mill Farm and passing Castle Farm we finally reach Shortsill Lane. A bit of road walking now follows, going through the villages of Flaxby and Goldsborough before we reach the River Nidd. We approach Knaresborough from the southern end of the Nidd valley through delightful woodland. The route contains several stiles, but no challenging hills and explores the open countryside and villages around Knaresborough.

**C Walk**      **Leader Barbara Sharples**      **8 miles**      **Easy/Moderate**

The Nidd Gorge Walk in the Woods. Minor road out of the town to join river bank to Scotton Banks and Gates Wood. A deciduous woodland of coppiced hazel and large birch and oak trees. Then to Coalpits Wood and Bilton Beck Wood with boardwalks, open scrub/grassland and woodland before arriving at Millers Fork and the viewing stage at the weir. Then leave the river to take field paths to disused railway line. We arrive at the Gardeners Arms 18<sup>th</sup> Century pub (possible time for quick stop), Going through Bilton Dene we take quiet road and Beryl Burton Cycleway back to Conyngnam Hall car park. The terrain includes woodland paths which may be muddy, a couple of steep sections (one has 72 steps but easy walking and a gentle downhill surfaced footpath), gravel paths, and a little pavement walking.

**D Walk**      **Leader Paul Brown**      **Fairly easy**      **6 ½ miles**

This walk starts at Conyngnam Hall coach park, from where we cross the bridge over the River Nidd then walk westwards to Old Bilton. We then walk along the route of the former Harrogate to Ripon railway for about ¾ mile, then walk through some pleasant suburbs to reach the A59 main road at Forest Lane Head. After crossing the A59 we shortly reach Harrogate Golf Course which we walk alongside, then we cross the railway and follow field paths emerging on a road just above the Mother Shipton pub. After crossing another bridge over the Nidd we follow Waterside, an interesting road alongside the river, passing below the castellated railway viaduct on the way back to the coaches. Walking surfaces generally good, a bit muddy in places, care needed because there are plenty of leaves underfoot.

**Please note: Forest Lane Head is reached after about 4 miles and from here, if you want to, you can leave the walk and take a short bus ride getting off near the coach park or a bit further on at the bus station in Knaresborough centre.**

**Pick up time for return journey.** Returning Home: 5.30pm from the coach park or as soon as the fireworks have finished. Please be back at the coach ASAP. Book today for our next two coach rambles Morecambe on 6<sup>th</sup> January and Otley on 3<sup>rd</sup> February After today telephone Kathleen Parker on 01254 396894 (6.00pm to 9.00pm) for the Blackburn coach, or Margaret Boothman on 01282 692901 (6.00pm to 9.00pm) for the Burnley coach.

**Leaders for 2019** Offers please for leaders for A, and D walks at Morecambe and A, B and D at Otley and A and B at Frodsham in March. Plus many more throughout the year.

**Christmas Party** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December at St Cuthberts Church Hall, Burnley, at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 from Margaret Clark or ring her later on 01282 616838