



## KNARESBOROUGH – 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

Today we have two coaches. **For walkers** the drop off point is Conyngham Hall car park. **Day visitors** can walk up to the town centre from there using the footpaths, but they are all uphill! An alternative in fine weather is going along the Waterside and using the steps up by the castle – again quite steep. The coach will be able to drop-off day visitors at Chapel Street near the Market Square before going to the designated coach car park. **Please take what you need for the day from the coaches.**

**We have TWO COACHES. Please can people get off the coaches in the order of first B walkers, second C/D walkers, third E walkers, then the self-guided walkers and finally the day visitors. This is to give those doing the walks the maximum time for their walks and so they can assemble with their leaders at the busy drop-off zone.**

### Walks Information for Knaresborough

#### **B walk Leader: Michael Counter 9 miles Moderate**

The walk starts from Knaresborough and takes us along urban paths and ginnels to reach the countryside at Sweet Bits Farm. A bridleway is then followed passing Mill Farm and Castle Farm to arrive on a quiet country lane and then on through the villages of Flaxby and Goldsborough. Care is required as the route crosses the busy A59. The River Nidd is crossed at the old mill and then after going through the holiday park the route then passes through the wooded Nidd Gorge to finally arrive at the base of the Castle. A steady climb up the steps leads to the Castle and market for those who wish to explore.

#### **C/D walk Leader: Frank Mason 7 miles Moderate/Easy**

The Nidd Gorge Walk in the Woods. Taking a minor road out of town to join the river bank to Scotton Banks and Gates Wood through deciduous woodland. Then on to Coalpits Wood and Bilton Beck Wood with boardwalks (maybe slippery), open scrub/grassland and woodland before arriving at Millers Fork to view the weir. We leave the river to take field paths to a disused railway line. There may be time for a brief stop at the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Gardeners Arms (cash only). From Bilton Dene it is a quiet road to the Beryl Burton Cycleway and back to Knaresborough. The woodland paths may be muddy with exposed tree roots, a couple of climbs (one with 72 steps) but easy walking, a downhill surfaced footpath, gravel paths and a little pavement walking. This is an easy C walk and a moderate D walk due to the distance!

#### **E walk Leader: Carol & Derrick Fielding 4.5 miles Easy**

We follow the River Nidd joining the Knaresboro' Round. Along the route we view some beautiful properties, take your pick! Several interesting paths reach from the riverside up to the town with its castle. At low Bridge we follow Spitalcroft to reach our footpath, which can be a little tricky in places, to our lunch stop with a very peaceful view. Crossing Grimbald Bridge, we follow Abbey Road and visit ST. ROBERTS CAVE. Leaving the road to join a forest glade reaching the crag top overlooking the river. A short road walk back into the town gives us time to enjoy the Christmas festivities, the Xmas tree festival, and exploration time, not forgetting the fireworks.

**On the walks --** You must not walk in front of the leader. There may be safety instructions during the walk which you need to be aware of. The Leaders pioneer and risk assess each route, but their experience may mean they need to respond to changes on the day and you must be able to hear their instructions.

**Pick-up Times for the Return Journey** All the guided walks finish in Knaresborough. The coaches will pick up at 5pm from Chapel Street, but it may be a bit of a coach queue. After the fireworks finish, please make your way as quickly as possible to the pickup point and sit in the same seat as your outward journey. The pickup point will be confirmed on the outward journey.

***If you want to do a self-guided walk, then you must tell the Courier or Coach Secretary. You will be given a coach ramble contact number. It is important for safety reasons that independent walkers leave details of your names, a brief route or map and a contact mobile number with the Coach Secretary or Coach Courier as we need this information in case of an incident.***