NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 21st JULY 2019 - KESWICK via M6

Today we head for Keswick, one of our more frequent destinations. Situated between the bulk of Skiddaw and the gentle beauty of Derwentwater, Keswick is the main centre of tourism in the northern lakes. Offering a wide range of attractions for visitors, this pretty market town has something for everyone and provides an excellent central point for the members of the Burnley Mountaineering and Fellwalking Club in this part of the National Park.

There will be only one coach today although a feeder coach will be in use to ferry some of our members to the pickup point at Gisburn.

The coach will be parked on the coach park adjacent to Booth's Supermarket and we will depart at 5.30p.m. Please do what you can to ensure that the coach leaves on time.

There will be a pub stop on the way home and on this occasion, and for the future, we will make use of the Maypole at Long Preston.

I recently heard on the radio that on 1st July 2019 the new stairway to the top of the Bowder Stone had been opened and as a result I have put together an article concerning the Bowder Stone in the belief that whilst you're at Keswick today, you may wish to pay a visit.

Marie Phelan, Social Secretary reminds us of the social event which will take place at Boyce's Barrell, Padiham on Saturday 21st September 2019. A 'live' band has been engaged to perform that evening and the provision of a light supper should ensure a fun night for all. If this is up your street, please contact Marie who is one the trip today.

I have repeated the schedule of Sunday coach meets, Wednesday evening walks and Saturday Winter walks and this has now been fully brought up to date for the current year.

Today's weather is given as dry with bright intervals and light cloud. Temperatures are said to be in the region of 19°C and as it stands at the moment, there is no indication of rain.

I hope that each and every one of you will have a good day.

And finally, it is with great sadness, that I have to report the death of Keith Sutton, the Club Librarian, who passed away in Blackburn Hospital on Wednesday night, having suffered a great deal, both in and out of hospital, during his several months of treatment for cancer. We learned on Thursday morning of his death which has come as a great shock to us all and for this month, in these circumstances, I would simply make you aware of his passing, in the sure and certain knowledge that others will have much more to say and which will be recorded in the next newsletter.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hi Mountaineers,

A trip to Keswick today for you all. At the time of me writing this article the weather is looking fair but unfortunately Beverley and myself will not be on this trip. We are away at a friend's wedding this weekend and setting off Monday on a trekking holiday through the Dolomites. So will have to leave you too it.

At present (Monday the 15th) we have only 13 persons booked on the trip so although I hope numbers will increase by Saturday the travel arrangements and coaches may be different to what you expected. This is to try and prevent the club from losing more money than necessary and towards that end you may be on a coach without a toilet.

You may need to arrange with a committee member toilet stops on the way up and on the return journey and towards this end I haven't organised a pub stop on this trip. I'll leave it up to you all to decide.

I've been able to secure 'The Maypole' at Long Preston for future trips if and when we have a pub stop. It's got a good selection of ales and food is available and it has a pleasant ambience, certainly an improvement on the Hellifield Social club. Also it has the advantage of not closing down every few years like the pub opposite the club.

Just a word on club numbers before I close.
Needs might necessitate in future that we will have to run just one coach but if that is the case we will inform everybody in good time before changing any pick up points or times. This will be done either though the newsletter, the Web site or social media and you will have plenty you of notice. Watch this space!

Anyway have a great day out, a great walk and hopefully great weather.
See you soon.

Frank Pollard

Pendle Walking Festival 2019

The Pendle walking Festival is the U.K's largest free walking festival and this year takes place between Sunday 10th August 2019 and Sunday 18th August 2019.

There are 57 guided walks to choose from and this year two B.M.C. members, Ian Lowcock and myself, together with one ex member in Chris Marshall are amongst the team of experienced leaders.

The Festival walks are an excellent way on enlisting new members to our club by our existing members spreading the word when participating in the walks.

Walk programmes can be obtained from those mentioned above and we hope that you feel able to take part and look forward to your company.

Ron Whalley

The Bowder Stone.

This month's trip to Keswick provides an ideal opportunity to visit the Bowder Stone. A large 'andesite' lava boulder, which fell 200 metres (660 ft) from the Bowder Crag on Kings How between 13,500 and 10,000 years ago.

The stone is situated in Borrowdale at grid reference NY25401639. It is estimated to weigh around 2000 tons and is about 30 feet (9.1 m) high, 50 feet (15 m) across and 90 feet (27 m) in circumference.

This is a really big rock. Six times the height of a person and the reason it captivates travellers to the Lakes is the fact that it is balanced improbably on one edge.

Access can be obtained by an easy 15 minute walk along wide undulating paths from the National Trust Car Park at Bowder Stone (SatNav CA12 5XA). There's also a bus stop by the start of the path if you're travelling by public transport.

The stone sits right in the 'Jaws of Borrowdale' - the narrowest point in the valley - so although you can make the Bowder Stone part of a longer walk up to King's How, the ascent is pretty steep. It is situated about one mile from the cafés (and toilets) at Grange and another mile from those at Rosthwaite.

The Bowder Stone was established as a tourist attraction by a wealthy eccentric called Joseph Pocklington in 1798. He set up a ladder to enable tourists to stand on the summit. A mock hermitage was built nearby together with a 'druidicial' standing stone. In addition a cottage was built and he installed an old woman whose duty was to 'lend the place a quaint atmosphere'. This tradition continued throughout the nineteenth century.

A staircase allowing visitors to climb to the top has been installed since at least 1890.

The National Trust bought the Bowder Stone in 1910 as part of the purchase of 310 acres of Grange Fell and Borrowdale Birches, the money having been raised through public subscription.

More recently the latest wooden staircase, installed during the 1980's had come to the end of its lifespan and was removed due to concerns for public safety and the National Trust applied for permission to install a metal replacement.

Permission having been granted, the National Trust duly arranged the construction of a new ladder which was later installed and opened on 1st July 2019.

The National Trust curator has worked on the design for the new ladder, the construction of which has also involved the World Heritage Site partnership and metalwork designer Chris Brammall, who has also worked on Claife Viewing Station.

The design brief was to re-create the 'airy' and 'exciting' feel of the original ladders which were leant up against the stone for the first tourists 200 years ago, while conforming to modern safety standards. Chris Brammall has echoed the crystalline structure of fractures and splits in the rock into the handrails, a very appropriate tribute to the site which is designated a geological site of special scientific interest.

The design has also incorporated feedback from the climbers who love bouldering at the Bowder Stone, by giving each step a curved profile on its back edge, enabling them to warm up their muscles by climbing the ladder hand-over-hand.

My grateful thanks are extended to the National Trust who gave permission for the use of their photographs of the Bowder Stone to complete this article.

I think you will agree that the Bowder Stone is well worth a visit.

Keith Harrison

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BURNLEY MOUNTAINEERING and FELLWALKING CLUB

www.burnleymountaineering.co.uk

Schedule of Sunday Coach Meets, Wednesday evening walks, Saturday Winter Walks

20th January 2019	Keswick	via Dunmail Raise	
17th February 2019	Glenridding	via M6.	
17th March 2019	Pateley Bridge	via Grassington	
3rd April 2019	Crooked Billet	Worsthorne	Tom Ainsworth
10th April 2019	Hare and Hounds	Padiham	Adrian Clark
14th April 2019	Borrowdale	via Dunmail Raise	
17th April 2019	Victoria Inn	Great Harwood	Tom Ainsworth
24th April 2019	Trawden Arms	Trawden	Keith Sutton
1st May 2019	Glen View	Portsmouth	Tom Ainsworth
8th May 2019	Hapton Inn	Hapton	Tom Ainsworth
15th May 2019	Red Lion	Earby	Ian Lowcock
19th May 2019	Langdale	via Ambleside	
22nd May 2019	Pack Horse	Widdop	Keith Sutton
29th May 2019	Kettledrum	Mereclough	Tom Ainsworth
5th June 2019	Stork Hotel	Read	Adrian Clark
12th June 2019	Moorcock	Blacko	Peter Walker
16th June 2019	Buttermere	via M6 and Whinlatter	
19th June 2019	Tempest Arms	Elslack	Steven Biggs
26th June 1029	Colne Rugby Club	Colne	Ian Lowcock
3rd July 2019	Assheton Arms	Downham	Peter Walker
10th July 2019	Queens Hotel	Cliviger	Tom Ainsworth
17th July 2019	Griffin Arms	Rawtenstall	Tom Ainsworth
21st July 2019	Keswick	via M6	
24th July 2019	Greyhound Arms	Barnoldswick	Ian Lowcock
31st July 2019	Bay Horse	Roughlee	Peter Walker
7th August 2019	Commercial	Water	Tom Ainsworth
14th August 2019	Shooters	Nelson	Keith Sutton
18th August 2019	Glenridding	via Kirkstone Pass	
21st August 2019	Rolls Royce Club	Barnoldswick	Ian Lowcock
28th August 2019	Peel Park	Accrington	Tom Ainsworth
4th September 2019	Four Alls	Higham	Keith Sutton
15th September 2019	Matlock	via Bakewell	
5th October 2019	New Waggoners	Burnley	Joe McNamee
20th October 2019	Coniston	via Torver	
2nd November 2019	Spread Eagle	Sawley	Dave Ferguson
17th November 2019	Sedburgh	via Kirby Lonsdale	
7th December 2019	Hare and Hounds	Foulridge	Frank Pollard
8th December 2019	Ambleside	via Grasmere	
4th January 2020	Crooked Billet	Worsthorne	Dave Ferguson
1st February 2020	Anchor Inn	Salterforth	Kevin Cronshaw
7th March 2020	Black Dog	Rawtenstall	Joe McNamee

For Sunday Coach meets please book on by ringing Beverley Pollard on 07785-316662

For Wednesday Evening Walks please be ready to set off from the venue at 7.15p.m.

For Saturday Winter Walks please be ready to set off from the venue at 10.00a.m.