



Consett Hiking Group Newsletter - February 2020

From Beamish to Blanchland, we had a great start to 2020. It has been a dry January in more ways than one with zero walks lost to the weather. Attendance has been good and new faces have joined us on some lovely wintry mornings.

Our lakes trip to Gowbarrow and Aira Force was blessed with sunshine and a rainbow so we must be doing something right.

February's walks see us return to Walldridge Fell and Blanchland, this time for a river walk. Our lakes trip on the 15th sees us tackle the fells of Ullock Pike, Long Side, Carl Side and Dodd.

It is a very busy time as we prepare for the Steel Town 20 and Consett Walking Festival. Thank you to the people who have signed up early. We're almost at the halfway mark after a week and a half.

And the ST20 is where we start our notices this month.

Steel Town 20 and Consett Walking Festival

Entries to the ST20 Saturday May 30th

As most of you will know, entry into this year's ST20 is ONLINE via SI Entries. The link below (and on the website) is currently the ONLY way to apply and you must register with SIEntries. It is not particularly onerous and once registered you can enter more than one person so your family or friends don't all have to apply.

The event remains hidden from public for the time being but the link takes you through to the entry page. At some point, I will open the event up for the general public. The closing date for entries is the 15th of May but I would expect the remaining places to go well before then. Best way to be sure of your entry is to sign up now!

https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=6696

The Consett Walking Festival - weekday walks

In the furore surrounding the ST20, THE Walking Festival has gone under the radar. From Monday to Friday of the week beginning the 25th of May, we will have walks in the morning and evening, led by CHG members as a means of getting more people out walking.

I will contact the walk leaders in the near future to ensure they are still able to lead their chosen walks and afterwards I will release the schedule of walks for the week with times, places and (honest) distances.

The Consett Walking Festival - Films and Podcasts

We are also looking to screen two films during the Consett Walking Festival.

The Way - a story about a man (Martin Sheen) who walks the Camino Way in memory of his son who died in an accident whilst attempting the epic pilgrimage. It's about his journey and his search for forgiveness.

Wild - an extraordinary film starring Reece Witherspoon as Cheryl Strayed and her phenomenal trek up through the Pacific Crest Trail following her mother's death from cancer. It is a moving and powerful film with a standout performance from the lead. It is also a true story and the book is available online and in all good bookshops £

We are also in discussions to produce two podcasts around walking related matters.

I will produce a listings document with everything on once it has been finalised.

Walks Timetable

Sunday 2nd February 9.30am Telescopes to Lanchester (and back for those who wish!)

Meet at the Telescopes opposite Morrison's roundabout in Consett. A 5 mile walk to Lanchester ending in Kafe Amadeus. People feeling energised by the coffee can walk back to Consett with me rounding it up to 10 miles.

Sunday 9th February - Blanchland River Walk - Meet 9.30am Car park Blanchland

A four mile figure of eight around Blanchland village with a short steep climb above the village. Around 4 miles. Likely to be muddy in places.

Saturday 15th Lakes Walk - Ullock Pike/Long Side/Carl Side/Dodd - Meet at Tesco Consett 8.30am or if going straight there The Old Sawmill Tearoom CA12 4QE

A four fell circular walk of moderate difficulty. We follow the path at the bottom of Dodd in a circular with a ridge walk along three wainwright peaks before dropping back down onto Dodd. Around 5.5 miles.

Sunday 16th February 9.30am Waldrige Fell -meet at the main car park

A return to beautiful Waldrige Fell. A number of people asked me to put this one back in as they couldn't attend last time. A rich environment and a lovely walk of around 4 miles.

Sunday 23rd February - Waskerley to Parkhead Station - meet at 9.30am Waskerley Car Park Follow the Waskerley Way to Parkhead Station and back for a walk over the moors. Around 5 miles.