



20th Anniversary Events

As this is the 20th Anniversary since the first red kites were released in the lower Derwent Valley, the Friends of Red Kites are organising a series of celebratory events which are open to the general public:

Red Kite Family Fun Day (Sunday 7th July)

The Friends of Red Kites have strong links with the National Trust, at Gibside, and the Go North East bus company (a corporate member). Once again, we join forces to allow families to enjoy the fabulous "Red Kite Family Fun Day" which will be held from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 7th July in the National Trust Gibside's Market Place. [Normal National Trust admission rates apply].

A Go North East red kite bus will be the main attraction along with face-painting (not limited to children !!), etc provided by Go North East's entertainments team.

Our 150-tile red kite mosaic will be resurrected on the Avenue in front of Gibside Chapel. Also, the Gibside Sewing Group Volunteers, with the support from the National Trust, have produced a series of pieces of artwork depicting "A year in the life of a red kite" which will be on display in Gibside's Walled Garden.



Friends of Red Kites volunteers will be present to provide information about the red kites and their conservation. They will also run a Tombola stall.

Red Kite Trail Walk (Sunday 14th July)

This is a led, circular walk along the Red Kite Trail, with views of local landscapes and wildlife, on Sunday 14th July. Meet in the long lay-by at Lintzford, where the Trail crosses the A694, at 9.30am ready to start walking at 10am. There is ample parking at Derwenthaugh Park and the start/finish is served by the X45 bus from Newcastle or Consett.

From Lintzford, the walk will go through part of Chopwell Woods, Victoria Garesfield, Hookergate, Spen Woods, High Thornley, Thornley Woodlands Centre (TWC), Derwent Park, Derwent Walk, Rowlands Gill and back to Lintzford. This is

a distance of about 10 miles and will take between 5 and 6 hours. A reasonable degree of fitness is required because much of the first half of the walk (Lintzford to TWC) is uphill and over uneven and, often muddy, ground.



Bring a packed lunch and drink. We will aim to be at TWC, the half-way point, for lunch but will only have about 30 minutes so won't have enough time to order food from the cafe and it is likely to be busy. Some people may wish to leave the walk at TWC. These people will need to have made their arrangements to get back to Lintzford beforehand.

The second half of the walk is mainly flat walking on surfaced paths/ roads except for the final descent into Lintzford which can be muddy. We will be walking by the side of a busy main road in Rowlands Gill for a short period.

You will be given a Red Kite Trail leaflet, on the day, showing the route to be walked and this is also available on this website (www.friendsofredkites.org.uk/red-kite-trail). [The Barlow section will be left out]

There are toilet facilities at Lintzford Garden Centre, TWC and Land of Oak and Iron Heritage Centre.

Suitable footwear will be required and clothing that will give protection from sun, rain and nettles. This walk is not suitable for children under 14 and no dogs should be brought.

The walk is free but places are limited to 25 people so anyone wanting to participate will need to register via the "Contact us" page on this website from early June.

Childrens' Activities Events (Thursdays 15th & 29th August)

There are two Childrens' Activities Events planned at Thornley Woodlands Centre, Rowlands Gill, on Thursday 15th August, and the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre, Winlaton Mill, on Thursday 29th August. Both events will run from 10.00 – 12.00 noon.

After a brief welcome, undercover activities will include: face-painting, making a red kite mask, badge-making, "Guess the Red Kite names" quiz, draw and name your own red kite. Weather permitting, there will also be a 30-minute walk from Thornley Woodlands Centre around the Sculpture Trail. The Heritage Centre will be offering a Picture Trail.



Part of the Derwent Walk Railway Path (Sunday 22nd September)

This is a led, flat, linear walk along part of the Derwent Walk Railway Path.

The start point will be the Stirling Lane car park, in Rowlands Gill, turning back at the Pontburn Viaduct, Hamsterley. The walk will start at 2.30 pm on Sunday 22nd September and finish at approximately 4.00pm. There will be rest breaks en route.

The distance to be covered is c 3.5 miles. Suitable footwear will be required and clothing that will give protection from sun and/or rain.

There is a good possibility of seeing red kites at the Pontburn Viaduct where some people in Hamsterley Mill feed the birds.

The walk is free but places are limited to 30 people so anyone wanting to participate will need to register via the "Contact us" page on this website from early August.