



## Newsletter, Summer 2019

### Spring Members' Night – Sylvia Jones

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 34 Friends of Red Kites members met at the Red Kite pub for a pre-ordered meal. I welcomed everyone then Paul and his team served the meal very efficiently. There was plenty of food especially custard for the crumble.

Ken then gave a red kite update about this year's breeding season. We had two quizzes: they were Famous Bridges and Celebrity Statues. They were quite challenging and we had the usual rivalry.

Hilary was successful in selling 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary pens (see next page) at £1 each. These are still available for sale at Thornley Woodlands Centre. Fiona and Jon raised £40 with a raffle.

These events are a good occasion for old and new members to meet and chat. They are always a team effort to organise so thank you to everyone who helped and the pub staff who made us feel welcome.



### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pens – Harold Dobson**

We have a limited stock of specially produced 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pens available for sale at £1.00 each (see photo). These are available to purchase from Thornley Woodlands Centre, Monday Health Walks, the AGM and the Gibside Red Kite Family Fun Day. I'm sure they'll appear on the Antiques Roadshow in the future !!



### **Annual General Meeting – Harold Dobson**

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at Swalwell Cricket Club. The meeting itself should last no more than 30-40 minutes.

After the meeting, John Barrett (formerly of Natural England, English Nature and The Nature Conservancy Council) will give a short talk on his experiences with kites and aspects of his career that led to, and informed the reintroduction of, the red kites to the Lower Derwent Valley.

The talk will then be followed by a buffet supper (£6.60 per head).

You will have recently received the formal invitation to, and the paperwork for, the AGM. If you're coming to our Red Kite Family Fun day (see below) then please feel free to bring any Tombola prizes along to the AGM.

### **Gibside Red Kite Family Fun Day – Harold Dobson**

As mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, our annual Red Kite Family Fun Day will be held in the market square at the National Trust (Gibside) on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July: 10.00 – 16.00. We'll provide our usual information & tombola stalls and Go North East will be supplying a liveried red kite bus along with an entertainments team who will offer face-painting and a bubbleologist. Additionally, our 150 tile Red Kite mosaic, produced at the end of the Northern Kites Project in 2009 and used on our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, will be available to lay out in front of the Chapel. Feel free to bring along a picnic.

In recognition of our 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the National Trust has kindly agreed **free** entry to FoRK members upon production of your FoRK membership card. [Don't worry if you've mislaid your card as we'll provide Visitor Reception with a full list of members].



## Long Health Walk – Jackey Lockwood



In addition to the regular Monday Health Walks, which were featured in our last Newsletter, there is an opportunity twice a year to do a longer walk in a different location. This April 34 Health Walkers went by coach from Swalwell to High Newton on the Northumberland coast. It was a short walk from there to The Ship at Low Newton and a welcome refreshment stop.

We then walked behind the cottages to check out the new bird hide then made our way along the dunes and down on to the beach. It was a rather grey day but the scenery was still as stunning as ever. As we approached Dunstanburgh Castle it was possible to make out the birds, such as the kittiwake, establishing nest sites on the rock ledges.

The rocky beach on the south side of the castle made a good lunch stop before people made their way to Craster for a cuppa or something stronger! There was time and opportunity to look around the village and make any purchases before most set off on an extension to the walk to Cullernose Point where fulmars were also back on the cliffs to nest.

Everyone was back in Craster in good time for the homeward journey having enjoyed their 5 or 6 mile hike. I would like to take this opportunity to express particular thanks to Glenn Dawson, who does the organisation for these longer walks, and to all the Health Walkers themselves for their enthusiasm and support.





## **.... at Thornley Woodlands Centre**

Do you like engaging with people?

Are you interested in wildlife and the countryside?

Do you have 3-4 hours to spare each week?

If so, then why not become one of our Volunteer Countryside Rangers based at Thornley Woodlands Centre for which you will receive full training and support? If you'd like to know more then why not pop to the Centre for a leaflet or further information is available on our website: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2878/Countryside-Volunteers>

[www.friendsofredkites.org.uk](http://www.friendsofredkites.org.uk)