

Christian Aid Walk

In 2015 John and Nancy Ecklersley completed their own 'Coast to Coast Walk' from Liverpool to Flamborough and for the second half of the walk (from Leeds to the coast) their route ran roughly parallel to the route taken by the Coastliner bus and they used that bus each day to get back to their parked car. The thought crossed their minds that the route they had taken from Leeds to the coast could, with just a little tweaking, be made into a Long Distance Walk. That's what they have done and they are calling the walk 'The Coastliner Way'.

The Coastliner bus company think it is a positive idea and are giving support.

As far as the route itself is concerned, the first walk is from Leeds to Malton. From there, three separate prongs, corresponding to the 840, 843 and 845 Coastliner buses, lead to Whitby, Scarborough and Filey/Bridlington giving walkers a choice of routes to the coast.

Most of the walks are about 5 to 7 miles long, although in these cases two consecutive walks can usually be joined into a longer one if desired. A few of the walk legs are about 10 miles long but only two of these cannot be split into shorter sections. Total mileages (including the three separate prongs) add up to around 167 miles.

The attraction of the walks is that they all start and finish at a Coastliner bus stop. This means that, apart from getting to the start of a walk, there is no need to use private transport.

A walking guide book will be on to their website from 1 May www.johneckersley.wordpress.com/coastliner-way. Walkers will then be able to print out details of the different walks and to make a donation to Christian Aid. They are hoping that the inauguration of the walks (the 'Launch Day') will take place at the end of Christian Aid Week on Saturday 20 May 2017. The plan is that walking groups, or Christian Aid supporters will opt to complete one or more of the legs so that the whole 167 miles will be covered on the same day. Hopefully, those taking part will be able to get a reasonable sum in sponsorship donations. An important aspect is that you will be able to allocate your sponsor money to your own particular Church's (or local area's) Christian Aid Week effort. In that way, you might raise more money.

The Big Question: Would you be interested in walking one of the 23 legs on Launch Day? Clearly, if it is possible for you to gather together a group of friends to do the walk with you, that would be great.

Peter and Janice Clark are planning to do one of the "legs" in the Malton area, and are happy for others to join them. Please let them know if you are interested. clark.janice@gmail.com