

## **SHORTER WALKS GROUP**

### **January 2025 Report**

#### **A Tour of Barnard Castle Sporting Venues**

After all the weather January had thrown at us, the afternoon of our walk turned out to be bright with little wind. Our theme for the walk was sporting venues of Barnard Castle with a sub heading playgrounds of Barnard Castle. Starting outside Addisons Estate Agents we headed up Galgate taking the alleyway to cross over to Victoria Road. Our route took us down Richardsons Fields taking the path passed the playground behind Dawson Road. Fortunately, no one volunteered to play on the zip line as I hadn't risk assessed it.

Heading into the Bowes Museum gardens we avoided the tree surgeons who were clearing up debris from two trees which had come down in Storm Eowyn. The path took us past the Bowling Green my favourite but then I'm 'biased' and the Tennis courts which were 'love-ly' and we 'try-ed' to make out the posts on the rugby pitches. We also spotted a plucky daffodil already in flower.

Retracing our route to leave the gardens our next sporting destination was the Football Club pitch which has recently been upgraded as the club have been promoted a division. As they say 'Life's a pitch'

Heading up to Green Lane and returning to Victoria Road we crossed over to Bede Road and took the path towards Teesdale School and the The Leisure Centre. Walking around the back of the Leisure Centre we found the Skate Park, Sue did contemplate 'an Ollie' but discretion proved to be the better part of valour.

Taking the path down to Harmire Road we crossed over to Railway Terrace and noted the old station house as we headed to Bouch Way following the footpath to Woodside. From here we took the footpath down towards the Cricket Club enjoying the views out over Barney. Returning to Galgate where a few of us headed into The Three Horseshoes for a hot drink. In all the walk was nearly 4 miles and we were pleased not to have been 'stumped' by the wintry weather of January.

**Liz Colley**