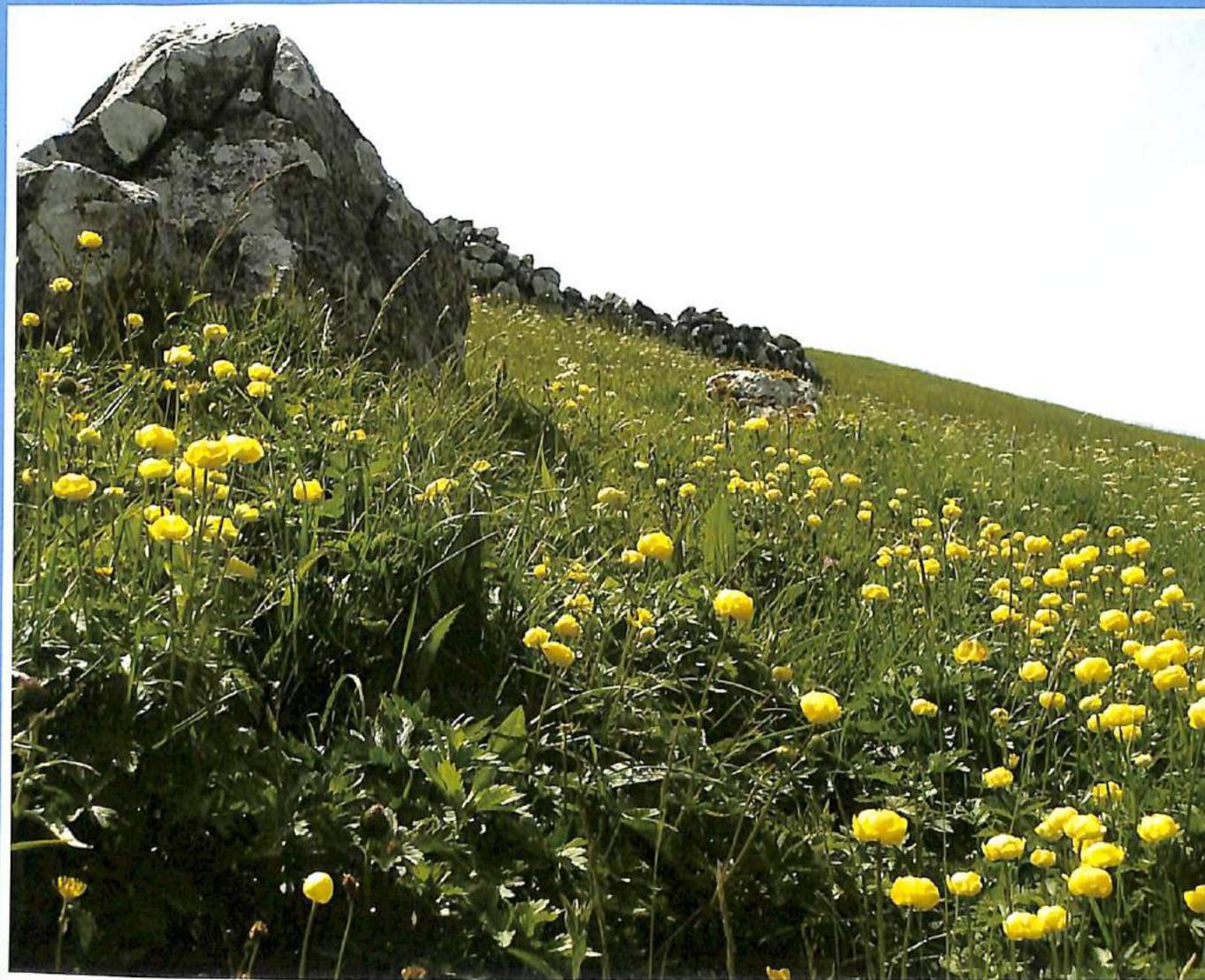


No. 106 Spring 2009

Yorkshire *Dales* Review



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Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 106 • Spring 2009

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editorial Team: Fleur Speakman with the help of Bill Mitchell, Colin Speakman, Alan Watkinson, Anne Webster and Chris Wright



A Public Embarrassment

Apologies for raising a current issue in the Dales most people would prefer not to think too much about – except when we need one: public toilets.

News that Craven Council are to close most of their public toilets – including those at Bentham, Gargrave, Ingleton, Burnsall, Settle (Ashfield) and Skipton Coach Street – is shocking in more ways than one.

It is alleged that these closures have been forced on Craven Council by the need to make savings of £2.5 million over two years by cutting all “discretionary” services which amazingly include public conveniences. Closing the toilets will save a relatively modest £70,000.

But removing the facility doesn't solve an immediate and personal problem which rapidly becomes a public problem. As one of our local members has pointed out, recent closure by Craven of the public loos at Hebden, a popular place for walkers to park their cars at the start or end of a walk, has meant some serious fouling of the environment as male visitors in particular simply “find a wall” close by.

Removal of public toilets is also cruelly discriminatory against older people and the infirm, many of whom may have medical problems, as well as non drivers, families and women. It is not always possible, nor desirable to find a café or pub, especially before pubs open or after cafes close, and buying a drink may simply exacerbate the problem later in the day.

If ever there was a genuine “Health and Safety” issue for local government officers to get concerned about, this should be one of them.

Anyone with any professional training or experience in tourism (one of Craven's core industries) knows that a sure indicator of the quality of any tourism enterprise in terms of customer care is the state of its toilets, which must be clean, hygienic and welcoming for both genders, including the disabled.

Let's be clear about this. Dirty, evil smelling and worst of all closed toilets are a direct threat to the quality of visitor experience in the Dales and both visitors and local community charge payers should feel deeply concerned.

Clean, welcoming loos are an essential part of the visitor experience.

Visitors faced with discomfort and distress when they arrive to find locked toilets will increasingly choose to go elsewhere, taking with them their urgently needed spending power. Full marks to those other tourism providers in the Dales such as the Bolton Abbey Estate – whose public loos are exemplary – and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Both organisations provide and maintain their toilets to a high standard and do so from car park charges – so those who evade paying by not parking in official car parks yet use the loos are failing to make a badly needed contribution to maintaining the facility. Surely part of the car park charges imposed by Craven on visitors and local people should be ring fenced for such a purpose.

Asking local businesses to make their toilets available for more general public use as Craven Council officers have suggested is hardly satisfactory, as finding available facilities when you need them can be embarrassing for users and businesses alike, raising issues of security, availability and the needs of their other customers. A better way forward is as in Malham where the local community have managed to retain the village centre toilets with an honesty box which raised £600 in the first eight months of the scheme's operation. Other Dales Parish or Town Councils could deal with the problem in an equally imaginative way – most people are prepared to pay a reasonable charge for use of facilities.

But at the end of the day, in local Government terms the savings are pathetic – a tiny fraction of Craven's total budget but one which results in visitors receiving a totally negative message. It is not for the Yorkshire Dales Society to reflect on how Craven Council got itself into such a financial situation that it is taking action that will damage the Dales' core business of looking after its visitors. Let's hope for some new leadership and vision, in partnership with local community representatives, to remedy a situation which is an embarrassment in every sense.

Colin Speakman

Ed. Do let us know if you feel strongly on this issue and have some additional points to make.

Wildflowers in the Dales get a Helping Hand

The Yorkshire Dales are host to a fantastic variety of wildflower habitats including colourful hay meadows, evocative heather moorlands, shady woodlands and dramatic, otherworldly limestone pavement. These habitats, which often harbour rare wildflowers, are not only important for wildlife but often have cultural significance and contribute to the area being a special place to visit. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) is delighted to have recently raised funding for two projects to celebrate and conserve these beautiful but fragile habitats and all that they bring to the stunning Dales landscape.

The Flowers of the Dales project, supported by the National Lottery



through the Heritage Lottery Fund, aims to increase public awareness, enjoyment and understanding of wildflower habitats and help with their conservation. One of the main elements of the project is the Flowers of the Dales Festival. This exciting new Festival will comprise at least eighty fantastic events



Wildflowers in the Dales - Wild Orchids and Bluebells. Photo: YDMT

and activities suitable for people of all backgrounds, abilities and ages. A wide range of organisations and individuals are running the events. There are plenty

of guided walks ranging from easy strolls through beautiful meadows to challenging hikes over stunning heather moorland. There are arts or crafts activities for those wanting to capture the beauty of wildflowers or the landscape, and courses for those wanting to learn how to identify flowers. Some events provide an opportunity to find out about how the Dales landscape is managed or is being restored, largely through the efforts of farmers. Most events are also suitable for children. The Festival runs throughout the Dales from May to August this year and the programme will be available in April – for a free copy send a stamped addressed envelope (36p stamp) to Flowers of the

Dales Festival, YDMT, Old Post Office, Main Street, Clapham, LA2 8DP. The programme will also be available from tourist information centres and other outlets or can be downloaded from YDMT's website www.ydmt.org

The project also includes the publication of a new book *Hay Time in the Yorkshire Dales*. This will be a beautifully illustrated and informative book that will include sections on the historical development and ecology of hay meadows, hay storage, hay making equipment and machinery, and the fascinating folklore, customs and traditions associated with meadows and haytiding. The book will be published in 2010.

YDMT has also received further funding from Natural England's Countdown 2010

fund for the Hay Time project. This project conserves and restores traditional hay meadows through practical work and land management

advice. Since 2006 Pippa Rayner, the Hay Time Project Officer, has been working closely with farmers to deliver the ambitious targets of the project –

Hay Time

Working with farmers to restore meadows across the Dales

you may recall that she was awarded the Ken Willson Award in 2007 for her work. Pippa co-ordinates contractors trained to operate specialist machinery to harvest seed from good meadows to spread on nearby meadows that have lost some of their floral diversity. As well as increasing the biodiversity and landscape value of restored meadows, farmers benefit from increased payments under agri-environment schemes if their meadows are restored. Farmers who have a species-rich hay meadow that can provide a seed source also benefit financially as they are paid for the seed. These donor meadows are some of the few remaining that have been traditionally managed for many

Flowers and grasses of hay meadows in the Yorkshire Dales



YORKSHIRE DALES Hay Time

years and support a fantastic range of wildflowers and grasses, as well as mammals, birds and insects.

Over the last three summers, Pippa has co-ordinated restoration schemes that have introduced seed to 92 ha of meadow. The effects of this work are now starting to be seen and the results are very encouraging, with the



Wildflowers in the Dales - Flower Meadow. Photo: YDMT

funding and funding from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Tubney Charitable Trust, there is still a shortfall. If you would like to support the Hay Time project, or the work of YDMT in general, you can make a donation on-line at www.ydmt.org or phone 015242 51004.

Don Gamble
Hay Time Project
Manager, YDMT
015242 51002
don.gamble@ydmt.org

introduction of several species including yellow rattle, eyebright and sweet vernal grass. Meadow restoration is not an overnight process, but these early signs are good and other species are expected to establish in the meadows in the coming years.

If you are interested in learning more about the flowers and grasses found in Yorkshire Dales hay meadows then watch out for Hay Time's fold-out colour identification guide available in National Park Centres or order one from www.ydmt.org

YDMT and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority launched Hay Time in 2006 and the project was initially due to end this autumn. The aim now is to continue the work well into 2011 – and this is where YDS supporters can help. Despite the Countdown 2010



Wildflowers in the Dales - Wild Garlic. Photo: YDMT

Thumbs Down to Chelker's Giant Turbines

An overwhelming majority of Craven Councillors have voted against Yorkshire Water's proposal to replace the existing four 42 metre turbines at Chelker Reservoir, on the edge of the National Park, with two giant turbines measuring 125 metres. At a packed meeting of Craven District Council Planning Committee on February 16th in Skipton Town Hall, Richard Sears, Yorkshire Water's Community Relations Officer, claimed that the two new turbines would create five megawatts power which would go part-way towards their target of creating 18 megawatts energy from renewable sources. The current turbines created only 15 per cent of the site's needs. Members of Craven District Planning committee were "forcefully affected" by the size of the planned turbines which were

described by Councillor Carl Lis among others as "totally inappropriate" and "a blot on a beautiful landscape." After the vote against the proposals, committee members instructed the Planning Department to prepare conditions, should the application go to appeal and be upheld.

Reasons for the Committee's refusal included impact on the historic landscape and to a local visual amenity, plus the detrimental impact on nearby residential amenities; a final point being the considerable detractor from the quality of experience of visitors to the nearby Yorkshire Dales National Park, with the turbines dominating the historic view down river from Bolton Priory in Wharfedale.

Roger Quilter in the Dales

He sprang from a Suffolk family and spent most of his life in London, becoming a celebrated composer. Roger Quilter, tall and cultured, was a composer of note. Among his compositions were musical settings for ninety-seven songs, many of them based on the works of Shakespeare. His choral compositions included the majestic *Non Nobis Domine*. He charmed everyone with his jaunty *Children's Overture*, based on familiar nursery rhymes, intended for a children's play that was never completed. It was re-developed as a stand-alone overture.

What possible connection could this urbane Southerner, whose home was a luxurious flat in St John's Wood, London, have with the Yorkshire Dales? The link was provided by Harry Heaton, his valet and Ada, Harry's wife, who did the cooking. Harry was a native of Giggleswick, the son of a platelayer employed on the Settle-Carlisle railway. Ada was a Nuttall from Settle, her family home being Rose Cottage, the old lodge for the Ashfield Hotel (now a social club). In the 1870s, the cottage had become separated from the hotel by a railway embankment.

When the Heaton family planned a holiday in their native North Ribblesdale, in 1948, they were obliged to take Quilter with them. He must not be left on his own. The composer needed no second bidding for his house had been peppered by shrapnel from anti-aircraft guns and, in London, in the drab post-war years, food was severely rationed. It was quiet in the Dales and, as Harry pointed out to him, the dalesfolk had a relaxed approach to food rationing.

Harry and his wife stayed with her relatives. Quilter was provided with accommodation at *Hazel Dene*, the home of Fred Pilkington, who owned a local shoe shop at which the Heaton family had been employed. The front windows of *Hazel Dene* framed a view of Settle, dominated by the big limestone crag called Castleberg.

Quilter looked in vain for a piano. He

not only enjoyed composition. When a theme had been set down, he would sit at a piano and make minor adjustments to a musical score. Fred Pilkington introduced him to the Brassingtons, Jack and Doris, who lived on The Mains at Giggleswick. Jack was musical, his fine tenor voice being often heard as he played the lead in



Roger Quilter, his valet and cook. Photo: W. R. Mitchell Collection

local productions of Gilbert and Sullivan. Doris was to recall asking Roger Quilter, on the first meeting, if he would like a cup of coffee. He said he preferred squashed banana and brown sugar.

Jack took Quilter to the domed chapel of Giggleswick School, perched on a gritstone knoll, and doubtless recalled that the Brassington family were responsible for the fine woodwork in a building donated by Walter Morrison of Malham Tarn. The only person at the chapel was a cleaner, Thomas Thistlethwaite, nicknamed Tommy Apple. The two men – Roger and Thomas – spent so much time gossiping that when a communion service began it was plainly revealed that Tommy had left on the altar a long-handled brush with which he had been sweeping the floor.

Quilter was back in Settle a year or two later. He enjoyed walking about the town, meeting local folk. He even considered buying a house in Settle and retiring to the town. Taken into Haygarth's cycle shop in Duke Street, he was introduced to Jimmy Easter, who somewhat brashly asked him "which is t'best musical instrument?"

Quilter, politeness itself, replied: "I don't know, Mr Easter...On reflection, I would say it was the violin." Jimmy triumphantly retorted: "Tha's wrong, tha knaws – it's trombone."

Jack Brassington described Quilter to me as "tall and quite hefty, but with a gentle voice...you might call him a Gentle Giant." Annice Haygarth (nee Sidwell) mentioned the visits he paid to her home with some new composition, which he would set down on the piano in the hope that Annice would bring it to life by singing. He provided the piano accompaniment. When Quilter died, in 1953, Harry Heaton was left £5,000 in the will, also most (if not all) of the contents of Quilter's flat in London.

Visiting Harry, I saw an oval painting of nudes hanging above the fireplace. It had previously occupied an identical but more illustrious position in Quilter's flat in London. Harry's small living room, and a blazing coal fire, did not suit it. When Sothebys were asked to value it, they declared the painting had become cracked, distorted - and was worthless.

Quilter benefited from his brief visits to the Dales. He was prone to fret and worry about aspects of his personal life. This cultured man, who could easily be moved to tears by an experience of good art, especially poetry and painting, and who created glorious music, liked genuine people – and there were plenty of them at Settle.

Bill Mitchell

The Flagcrackers of Craven show the Morris Men a thing or two

The Flagcrackers of Craven are a Morris side with male and female members. They are a lively group who condemn the scaremongering of the Morris Ring



Flagcrackers of Craven - The Stick Dance

which recently announced nationally that the genuine Morris tradition was in danger of dying out. Squire (Chairman), Kevin Andrews, of the Craven Flagcrackers explained, "The side is going from strength to strength... We travel all over the country and Europe to dance at festivals and other events in the company of many Morris sides who like us have youngsters taking an active part in the band." The Flagcrackers are a "mixed" side involving women as well as men with a substantial proportion of children and teenagers and younger adults in the group. Bookings Organiser or (Bag), Anna Foster, believes that this mixture of the sexes enables the activity to become a family hobby and makes them receptive to the introduction of new dances alongside those that have been performed traditionally for years. The Morris Ring, by contrast, is limited

to teams whose members believe that it should be the province of men only.

Anna's two young daughters Aisha and India dance with her while her husband plays in the band, and toddler Izzy May in full mini kit watches from her pushchair. "To be able to involve the whole family in the same hobby – and one which involves low impact exercise is fantastic," she explains. "We all have our own hobbies as well, but this at least brings us together once a week for practice and then for whole weekend dance-outs in the summer." One of the four teenagers in their team still manages to squeeze in his dancing alongside football, cricket fixtures and badminton!

The Flagcrackers' black faces and energetic stick brandishing flamboyance bear little relation to the handkerchief waving tradition of the Cotswold sides which form just one aspect of Morris. Opportunities to travel and experience other cultures are part of being a member of the Flagcrackers of Craven, and 2009 promises to be a busy



Flagcrackers of Craven - India, Saddleworth

year for the team with invitations to dance as far afield as Lithuania and Prague.

Membership of the group ranges from 4 to 70 plus, and the Flagcrackers welcome new dancers and musicians to join their side which meets at Farnhill old post office, situated between Skipton and Keighley, on Wednesday evenings from 8pm.

For further information on joining the side or booking the Flagcrackers of Craven to entertain at an event, contact 01282 775026.

Jane Ellison-Bates



Flagcrackers of Craven - Anna and toddlers

Frank Gordon - Dales Artist

Much of artist and YDS member Frank Gordon's current subject matter relates to scenes near at hand, especially the Three Peaks area of Ribblesdale.

'Painting landscapes means being part of it, in it. I'm in an enviable position here at



Frank Gordon - Pennine Way, winter afternoon

Giggleswick where my home is just inside the Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary. I can walk out of the front door and be in the open fellside in five minutes – after a short climb I can take in views that encompass the three Peaks, Pendle Hill and (on a good day) the distant Lakeland mountains.'

Frank never goes out without a camera and sketchbook, the former recording indiscriminately, is a great source of visual information, while the drawings encapsulate the essence of a view, the rhythm and thrust of a landscape. His enthusiasm for serious walking, shared with his wife Sheila, can sometimes be tested on a winter's day on the summit of Ingleborough as the sketch book starts to disintegrate, and Sheila walks in ever decreasing circles to keep warm; but this is balanced by her own strong interest in historical research and detailed examinations of underpasses and milestones.

Living for some years in the flatlands south of York was compensated for by their joint passion for hill-walking which enabled them to cover most of the long distance paths in Britain as

well as many major routes in the Alps.

In the next few issues of the YDS Review Frank Gordon will be providing a wonderful introduction to a number of the Yorkshire Dales through his stylish ink drawings which will feature a

variety of panoramas, and lovingly observed details of landscapes, towns and villages.

Frank, a member of Leeds Fine Art Club has featured in publications such as 'International Artist' and 'The Artist' magazines. Born in Lancashire, he studied at Bolton College of Art where he gained his National Diploma in Design before taking up a teaching career. He continued to paint and exhibit widely during that period, gaining in addition an Honours Degree from the Open University, an Advanced Diploma in Art Education from Bretton Hall and a Masters Degree in Art from

Leeds Metropolitan University. In 1995 he took the opportunity to leave teaching and concentrate on his painting in Giggleswick.

'I try to capture the feeling of being amongst the hills: experiencing their flickering light, flying cloud shadows, buffeting wind, rainwater on the face...while never forgetting that behind these fleeting sensory assaults lies the enduring rock, solid and unyielding under my feet. This collision between the ephemeral and the eternal is a good subject matter for a painter.'

The ink drawings Frank is currently working on for the Yorkshire Dales Review are giving him, he says, an opportunity to go to parts of the Dales that he is less familiar with. The small scale of the drawings can be quite a challenge, particularly the lack of colour when attempting to compress a panoramic landscape. But a glance at the two centre pages overleaf in the current issue of the YDS Review show that he has met that challenge supremely well.

Fleur Speakman

Frank Gordon is currently exhibiting in Harrogate, York and Scarborough, contact details www.frankgordon.co.uk

Ed. Sheila Gordon's article on Lady Anne's Walk is on pages 11-12.



Frank Gordon - Stainforth, summer

Introducing Wharfedale – Ink Drawings by Frank Gordon

(See profile on previous page.)

The Strid, Bolton Abbey



Embsay, by the Millponds



Barden Tower



Buckden



Conistone



The Yorkshire Dales Heritage Directory - New Version is Launched

Since it was first established in 1981, the Yorkshire Dales Society has regarded the sharing and the celebration of the rich cultural heritage of the Dales as one of its prime objectives, a key purpose of the Society as an educational charity. We are also tasked with working with and bringing together other like minded bodies in our celebration of this heritage.

"Heritage" is an over-used word but in its most meaningful sense it refers to the best of the culture of both the past and present, its understanding and its interpretation, to be shared by the present generation and be passed on to future generations. It is what in other countries is sometimes called their "patrimony", literally that which is handed down from our forefathers, which we also have a responsibility to safeguard for our own descendants.

Many of the activities of the Yorkshire Dales Society – guided walks, lectures, special visits, publications such as the YDS Review are about this process of sharing and passing down knowledge. In an area such as the Yorkshire Dales, which is essentially a cultural landscape, understanding the many natural and human processes that have created the Dales are vital for a full appreciation of what makes the Yorkshire Dales so special, and enjoying that landscape in the fullest sense.

But the Society by no means has anything remotely like a monopoly of such activity. There are many excellent kindred bodies who share precisely these same values. Some are statutory

such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Nidderdale AONB JAC. Others are voluntary bodies, many with a breathtaking range of special knowledge and skills for example, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and other naturalists' groups, archaeological and local history groups and cave research bodies. But there are also many private and commercial organisations – for example the three famous Dales show caves – who in different ways are equally concerned with different aspects of Dales Heritage.

In our early years the Society kept some of this information on some of the main bodies on a simple printed contact list. Keeping the list up to date was a nightmare but the electronic age allowed us to develop initially an electronic version on a computer data system. Access. But more recently thanks to the input of one of our Corporate Members, web specialists OnDev, this has blossomed into a fully developed, interactive website. A new, more user friendly, easier to access version has just been launched which will carry regular news of heritage events and happenings in and around the Dales.

What is important and original about the Yorkshire Dales Heritage web site is the way it is structured. Dales Heritage information and key contacts are offered through three major core themes - **The Natural Environment** – Biodiversity, flora, wildlife, geology, speleology, **The Historic Environment** – archaeology, industrial history,

landscape history (including farming), railways and vernacular architecture and finally **Social History** which includes dialect, language, folklore, literature, folk music and social history. This makes it easy for anyone researching any aspect of the Dales to go straight to the websites of the key specialist organisations and either find web based data they need there or further sources and links in a matter of minutes. It is therefore a powerful research tool for serious students as well as for the general browser with a general interest in and love of the Dales.

But we also list, in a category called **All Areas**, organisations like the National Park, Nidderdale AONB, the Yorkshire Dales Society and Daelnet which deal with all these topics in a more general way. For example, for some areas of interest and research, it may be quicker to go through the National Park's own excellent web site – for example to the amazing YDNPA **Out of Oblivion** web site, than the more specialised categories.

Have a look at our site on www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org to see how it all works. We are also developing a regularly updated news page for local Dales Heritage events. The web site is still developing and suggestions for new links, information or contacts, as well as details of your news items and events, are always welcome – see the web site and click on Contact Us to be in direct touch with the Heritage Site Webmaster, or contact the YDS office.

In the Footsteps of Lady Anne

Sheila Gordon introduces *Lady Anne's Way*, a walking guide to one of the most beautiful areas in England, that follows in spirit some of the redoubtable Lady Anne's seventeenth century journeys. The route can be traced over a nine day period with an average 12 miles, or the super-fit could rise to the challenge in six days.

It was whilst attending a lecture on the River Ure and its source, that I first heard mention of 'Lady Anne's Highway'. The very phrase immediately fired my imagination. When I further discovered that Lady Anne Clifford once owned vast tracts of land in Yorkshire and Westmorland, complete with ancient castles, I quickly realised that

making great journeys between them in the process. These were the routes I was proposing to follow.

Start at Skipton Castle where Lady Anne was born. The Conduit Court still contains the famous yew tree which Lady Anne planted to commemorate the restoration of the castle in 1658. Then make your way out of Skipton and over Halton Edge, before dropping down into Wharfedale and Barden Tower. Here are the remains of the Cliffords' hunting lodge and the home of the 'Shepherd Lord' Lord Clifford. On the south wall can still be seen the plaque installed by Lady Anne to commemorate her restoration work. Follow the majestic River Wharfe to Burnsall and then take to the hills to reach Grassington, and the end of the first stage.



Skipton Castle

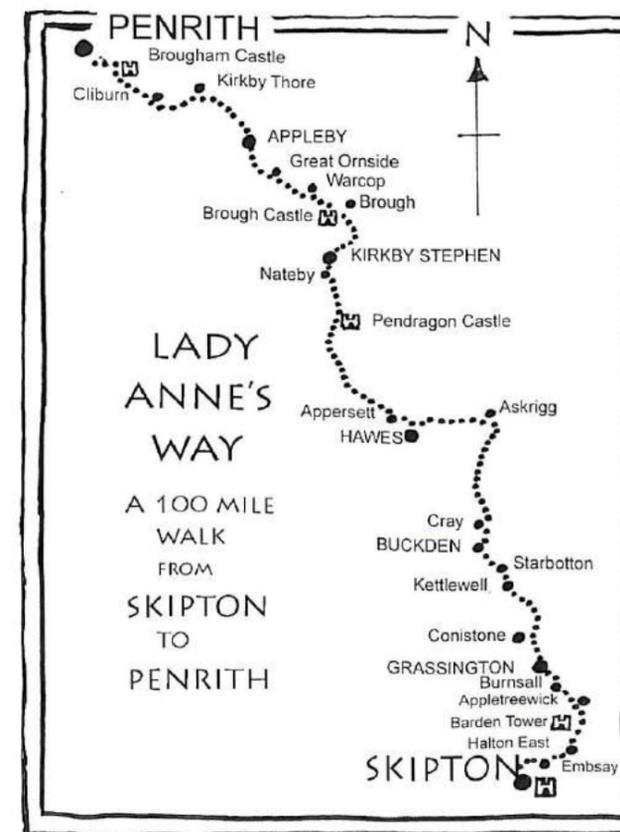
into Wensleydale to reach Nappa Hall, a medieval fortified manor house, once the home of Thomas Metcalfe, a cousin of Lady Anne. Here she would often rest overnight and on one occasion presented him with one of her great door locks as a thank you. These were made especially for her by George Dent of Appleby for £1.

Hawes makes a good overnight stop before climbing Cotter End and walking along Lady Anne's Highway to reach the ruins of Pendragon Castle, which she restored in 1660 and where she spent Christmas in 1663. On to Kirkby Stephen for overnight accommodation before reaching Brough Castle, a magnificent ruin perched on a knoll and clearly visible from the A66. Our journey now takes us gently along the Eden valley to attractive Appleby.

The majestic keep of Appleby Castle dominates the high street, whilst sloping



down hill are the almshouses, built by the indefatigable Lady Anne. Constructed from local red sandstone, these immaculate houses are well worth a visit; the chapel walls are still adorned with biblical writings and a stringent set of rules laid down for the observance of the occupants.



this would be a marvellous inspiration for a long distance walking route. And so 'Lady Anne's Way' was born.

Having checked the maps and found that a route linking all the castles was viable, I then started researching into the Clifford family and Lady Anne in particular. I discovered that this indomitable lady spent the last twenty six years of her life restoring her ruined buildings to their former glory and

limestone country before descending to Kettlewell and along a delightful riverside path to Buckden. Lady Anne and her entourage would have kept to the valley bottom, carrying all of life's essentials which included bedding, curtains and in her case even a state bed! It must have been an incredible sight to glimpse this caravan making its way through valleys and over passes.

Next take the route over the Stake Pass

Investing in Our Future

With rising costs, sadly membership income alone does not sustain the work of the Yorkshire Dales Society. Only because of two recent generous bequests are we able to continue our campaigning and educational work, but collapsing interest rates have slashed our investment income. The generosity of our members through donations and legacies is increasingly essential for our survival. Please think of the Society when planning for the years ahead – as a charity our future depends on your support.

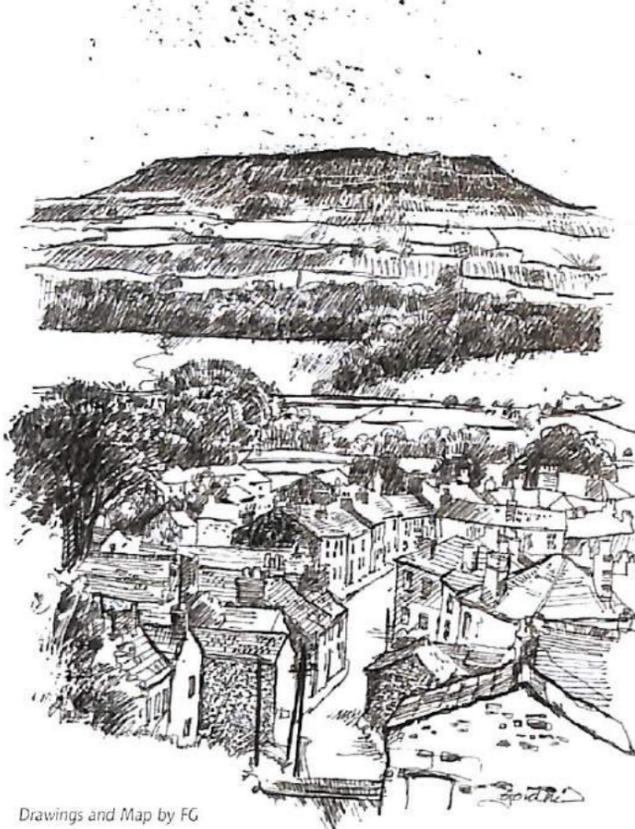


Our final ruined castle is Brougham, beside the gently flowing Eden. This impressive building was one of Lady Anne's favourites and the place where she died aged 86. She was a woman of great tenacity; when in her later years the family tried to get her to take things easy, her reply was that she may as well die travelling in her horse litter as in her bed! The last few miles lead us into Penrith and the end of a memorable Walk.

(It is hoped to arrange a walk with Sheila along a section of Lady Anne's Way later in the year)

Sheila Gordon -

www.ladyannesway.co.uk



Drawings and Map by FG

Dalesbus Blossoms

In 2009, the Yorkshire Dales Society's Community Interest Company will take over the management and promotion of most of the key Sunday and Bank Holiday leisure bus services into the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB.

With a budget of over £75,000 for summer services, key will be the restored traditional scenic 800 bus service between Leeds and Hawes via Upper Wharfedale, to be known as the **Yorkshire Dalesman**, plus the **Eastern Dalesman** between Leeds and Richmond via Nidderdale AONB. But most exciting of all, and part sponsored by the Yorkshire Dales Society itself, is the new **Northern Dalesman**, which will link Settle, Ribbleshead, Hawes and Swaledale, linking with trains on the Settle-Carlisle line, and providing the first Sunday bus service into Swaledale for some years. Services to Malham, Bolton Abbey and Middlesmoor will also continue as will the special walkers' bus around Ingleborough – the **Ingleborough Pony**.

The Dales & Bowland CIC is unique in the UK if not Europe as a not-for-profit company owned by a charity providing leisure bus services into a National Park. A major breakthrough in 2009 is a tie-up with Metro, the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, in allowing West Yorkshire Metro Card commuter tickets on weekend buses into the National Park. There will also be special tickets for students and the unemployed, and accompanied children

will be able to travel free of charge: the YDS plans to work with the Mosaic Partnership and National Park Authority to bring ethnic minority groups to the Dales in the school summer holidays. These are all measures designed to build new markets for public transport and to ensure the Yorkshire Dales National Park is truly for everyone.

Full details of all services will be on www.dalesbus.org or look out for local publicity, including the Metro Dalesbus timetable.



Pateley Bridge farmer Charlie Swires receives the Dalesbus Driver of the year award from Howard Handley, Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group, whilst Amanda Burton, proprietor of A&S Coaches of Fellbeck, enjoys the occasion.

Settle Hydro Project Goes Ahead

An early April start date is announced for work on Settle Hydro Project, which will generate electricity using the River Ribble and should provide enough power for 50 homes. Craven District Council planners voted in favour of the scheme's second planning application in February. Ann Harding, Settle Hydro Director, eloquently reassured critics who feared that the 50kw hydro station at Bridge End could jeopardise trout and salmon fishing in the river. According to experts from the Environment Agency, access for fish would actually be improved once the Hydro plant was opened. Any occasional fall in water level would result in an automatic shut down of the plant. Craven District Council's head of planning, Sian Watson, was satisfied that the needs of the migrating fish would not be put at risk.

Technology would be provided by a £75,000 Archimedean screw driving the hydro plant. An application would also be made to the Environment Agency for an abstraction licence in readiness for the launch of the project in September. The Screw, of German manufacture, since no UK supplier could be found, should become a great source of local pride and attraction in itself. Local contractors would be a prominent feature of the operation. The originators of the scheme, Water Power Enterprises (h2oPE), a social enterprise organisation based in Grassington, were delighted at the positive outcome. Their Managing Director Steve Walsh declared, "There's loads of untapped energy sources in North Yorkshire, and it's great that Settle is blazing a trail for green electricity."

This pioneering project has been financed by a share offer to the community which raised £100,000, with £75,000 pledged by Yorkshire Forward and £50,000 from Future Energy Yorkshire. The Co-operative Group is also providing additional financial support for the project, and will take any surplus energy generated by the scheme for their food business. Backing has also been received for Settle Hydro by Conservative leader David Cameron. Skipton MP David Curry, local government minister Hazel Blears and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Book Reviews

YORKSHIRE DALES LAD – David Craven Ellis Calderstone Books, Cumbria. 116 pp. Available from the author – please send cheque payable to D C Ellis for £4 (p and p included) to: Calderstones, 5 Fellside, Allithwaite, Grange over Sands, Cumbria LA11 7RN, or from the Hellifield Peel.

This book is dedicated to Francis and Karen Shaw who, by rebuilding Hellifield Peel, have restored the childhood dreams of those who as children grew up on the estate and have never forgotten its magic.

For 60 years the Peel had stood an abject ruin, but prior to that it was occupied by Sir William and Lady Anne Nicholson who kept ten servants.

David Craven Ellis grew up in one of the cottages on the estate. His father was the chauffeur who married the head housemaid and his uncle was head gardener. The children of the servants had the run of this wonderful adventure playground.

This is a tale of the Dales, told with wry Yorkshire humour, covering the war years, with much about the gentry, the villagers and those whose lot it was to spend their lives 'in service.'

An extremely good and interesting read, bringing to life the Peel in days of old.

AW

THE GRASSINGTON TO WEST COAST WALK – John White Fractal Press, Grassington 96 pp £9.95 (ISBN: 978-1-870735-35-3)

This walk, starting from the village of Grassington, to the West Coast is described over seven days and includes some of the most famous and attractive features in the whole of the Yorkshire Dales National Park – Malham Cove, Gordale Scar, Warrendale Knotts, Ingleborough, and some small caves. As well as the gem of limestone around Hutton Roof and Farleton Fell, and the beautiful paths through the woods around Silverdale and Arnside, there is the coast itself.

The book clearly describes the route for each day in detail, along with colour photographs on each page and OS maps – 1:25000 showing every track, field boundaries and waypoint numbers. Also included is a list of accommodation along the route.

John White has produced this book to complement his "The Grassington to East Coast Walk" Fractal Press, Grassington 96pp £9.95 (ISBN: 1-870735-30-7) published a few years ago. This, from Grassington to Robin Hood's Bay, is also described over seven days and includes a comprehensive list of accommodation along the route.

Both books are available to order or from local bookshops. Excellent guides for the dedicated walker as well as the 'armchair' reader!

AW

YDS Corporate Event at Strid Gallery, Bolton Abbey

YDS Vice Chairman Colin Speakman introduced the Corporate Evening at the Strid Exhibition Centre, Bolton Abbey on the evening of Monday February 9th. by stressing what an extremely valuable contribution the Yorkshire Dales Society's Corporate Members make to the Dales economy. Their advice on key local economic matters also gives useful insight to the YDS Council of Management; several members were also present. Corporate Member Nigel Overton gave a brief introduction to his paintings and drawings exhibited at the Centre, while Moira Smith of the Bolton Abbey Estate explained the history of the Strid Exhibition Centre building. Guests took time to admire Nigel's paintings and drawings while opportunities to network were taken full advantage of. Tasty refreshments available during the

evening were provided by Corporate Members Chris and Jane Hall of Town Head Farm Shop and Café, Airton.

Below: YDS President Bill Mitchell, Council, Corporate and Honorary Members at the Strid Gallery



Above: Rough Hawksbit Photo by Pippa Rayner, YDMT
Right: Grinton Moor Photo by Robert Goodison.
See article on pages 3 and 4 – "Wildflowers in the Dales get a Helping Hand[]".

Questionnaire 2009

'Thank You' to all who completed our questionnaire. The replies are very interesting and helpful and we will let you have the results later this year. The three winners of our Marks and Spencer £25 gift cards are:

Mr G T Merrall, Gargrave
Mr E M Arnold, Otley
Mrs P Shaftoe, Harrogate



Spring/Summer Events 2009

Join fellow Yorkshire Dales Society Members on what is guaranteed to be an enjoyable and informative full or half day out in the Yorkshire Dales this Spring and Summer.

Saturday, 25 April: Dales Way Celebration – 40th Anniversary. From Ilkley to Bolton Abbey along the River Wharfe with the Dales Way Association

Leaders: Colin and Fleur Speakman. 7 miles, easy. Meet at the Old Bridge, Ilkley at 9.30am. Special transport available for return journey. Buffet lunch in village hall – must be pre-booked. Details from Steve Taylor, Dales Way Association, by e-mail to: themillwallfan@aol.com or from YDS office.

Saturday, 09 May: Dent

10.45am: Meet outside The Memorial Hall, Dent for guided walk around Dent. Apollo bus from Dent Station d.1020 (Connection from Leeds and Skipton); return lifts to station will be arranged. Pub/café/packed lunch
Walk Leader – Dr Malcolm Petyt, Chairman, YDS

YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, 09 MAY 2009

**2.00 prompt
at**

THE MEMORIAL HALL, DENT

Guest Speaker:

Andrew R. Forsyth

**Executive Director, Friends of the
Lake District**

**"60 years On – and Unfinished
Business"**

See separate flyer for full details.

Sunday, 10 May: Post AGM Wild Flower Walk, Oxenber Woods, Austwick 5 / 6 miles. Easy.

Walk Leader: Dr Chris Wright

Wild Flower and Plant Expert: Dr Judith Allinson

10.30am: Park at Dalesbridge Outdoor Centre (on A65), Austwick, Settle. Lifts can be arranged from Settle Station (train from Leeds arrives 1005 – contact YDS office) A delightful walk over Oxenber Woods to Feizor



(refreshments at Home Barn, if required) and back to Dalesbridge Centre.

A fabulous riot of wild flowers – orchids, bluebells, primroses, cowslips, bugle, birdsfoot trefoil, etc. A truly superb walk.

Sunday, 07 June: Hay Meadows Walk from Keld to Muker in Swaledale 6 miles. Easy.

Walk Leader: Duncan Ward

Catch the "Northern Dalesman" bus from Settle (d.0925) or Ribbleshead (d.1035 – train connection from Leeds) to Keld in Swaledale and walk to Muker and through the wonderful Hay Meadows. Return bus at 1655 for Ribbleshead or Settle. Packed lunch.

Saturday, 20 June: A Visit to the restored Richmond Station

A visit to Richmond with choice of walks or wander round the town in the morning, lunch at The Seasons Restaurant (at the Station) and lecture at 2.15pm in the conference room.

Setting off by coach from:

Settle Market Place at	8.00am
Skipton Bus Station at	8.30am
Ilkley Bus Station at	9.00am

The newly restored historic Richmond Station is now an arts and cultural centre which won the 2008 Dalesman Rural Restoration Award, amongst others. It has a fine restaurant where members may have tea, coffee; a snack or full lunch. The lecture will be given by Chairman, Jim Jack, on "Restoration of the Richmond Station." Tickets are limited to 30.

Cost: £15, including return coach travel and afternoon lecture. Please send cheque and sae to the YDS Office.

Website: www.richmondstation.com

Wednesday, 08 July: Evening Walk, Otley Town

A guided evening walk around Otley town to view the wonderful architectural features of this historic market town.

Walk Leader: Ian Andrew, Otley Conservation Task Force

Meet: The Jubilee Clock, Market Square. Bus X84.

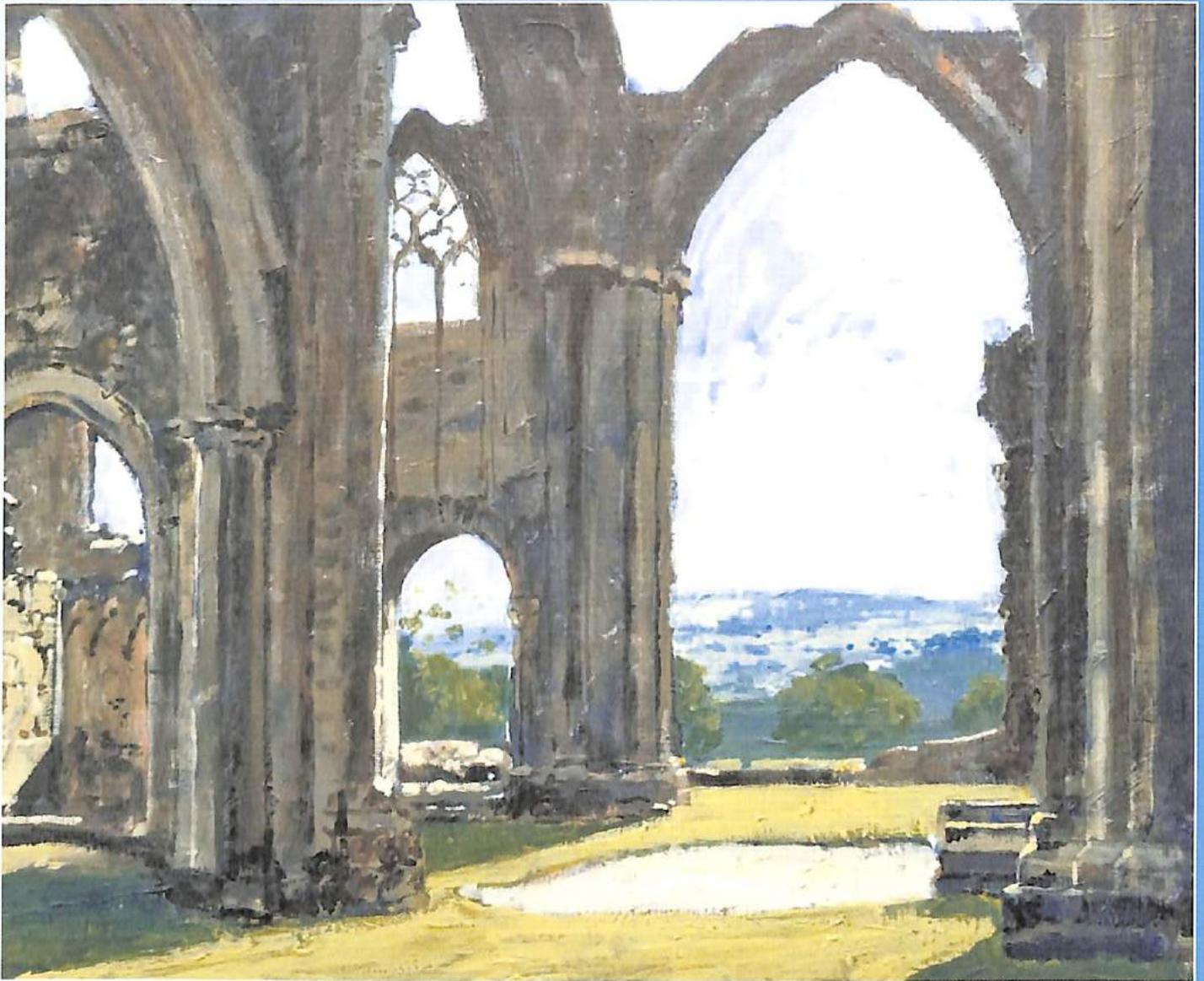
Time: 7.00pm

Cost: £2 per person

Sunday, 26 July: The Ribbleshead Viaduct Walk

A further and perhaps last chance to walk over this famous viaduct. Cost – not yet known. To register please see: www.settle-carlisle.co.uk or phone Anne at the YDS officer for further details.

Yorkshire Dales Flower Festival May-August 2009 with many superb events - see article pages 3 and 4



Front Cover photograph: Globeflowers courtesy of YDMT.

Back Cover painting: Bolton Abbey by Frank Gordon.

Yorkshire Dales Society:

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www.yds.org.uk

See also –

www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk

www.dalesandbowland.com

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