• WHEN LESS IS MORE – UPLAND FARMING
• A RAINFOREST IN THE DALES?
• BARNs – THE PLANNING CHALLENGE
• IF THE THREE COUNTIES CAVES WERE MONT BLANC?
CONSORTIUM THE FUTURE OF THE DALES

Anyone familiar with the Dales knows that abandoned barns scattered on grazing land are a manmade part of its spectacular beauty. With a recent relaxation of planning laws in regard to repurposing those barns, Chairman of the Friends of the Dales Mark Corner looks at the problems inherent in redeveloping in our rural landscapes (see page 8) while Malcolm Petyt highlights one case in which the FOTD have objected to the granting of planning permission (see page 11).

However spectacular the Dales' landscape is, there's no doubting that life can be tough on upland farms. On page 4, Lynn Leadbeatter talks to one farmer who has transformed his farming methods post foot and mouth, with life-enhancing results. And in our new patron Janet Street-Porter unveiled a Blue Plaque at Stalling Busk to celebrate the establishment of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (see below).

Between July and November 2017, Friends of the Dales have recruited nearly 200 new members, business members and group members. The charity has been active in planning issues affecting the conservation of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and our subsidiary DalesBus keeps services running despite funding challenges (see page 16). And if you have a love of local history, on page 20 we're looking for someone with IT knowledge to join our highly successful 'Capturing the Past' project.

My last words for this issue? Turn to page 17 for magical photos capturing the sparkling, eye-catching splendour of the Dales in winter. But none of this would happen without our volunteers. In the last issue of the Yorkshire Dales Review, we touched on the importance of having a dedicated team of volunteers working behind the scenes to keep the Friends of the Dales moving forward and to implement change. Time is precious for all of us, but then so is the timeless beauty of the Dales. In order to preserve and protect that beauty for others to enjoy, in this issue we are actively asking for you to donate your time to help ensure the future of the Dales.

We've recently recruited three new trustees, Marion Temple, Kyle Blue and Tim Hancock, who were introduced in the autumn issue of the Review. Now we'd like to find some more volunteer trustees willing to devote some time to the FOTD – see page 13 for details. Perhaps you could act as an Ambassador for the FOTD, handing out leaflets on our behalf or giving us ideas for this Review? Find out more on page 16.

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WHEN LESS IS MORE

Sometimes the numbers don't stack up in agriculture. In 2001, farmer Neil Heseltine was working all hours to scratch a precarious living around Malham. He talks to Lynn Leadbeater.

Following the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001, there were no cattle to be seen grazing in the fields of the Dales, but things began to change for Neil in 2003, when he invested in 19 Belted Galloway heifers and a bull as part of the Limestone Country Project. This initiative was designed to reverse the decline in numbers of sheep at Neil's Hill Top Farm by about 100.

But the lessons learned stood him in good stead when all the land was transferred to a Higher Level Stewardship scheme in 2007, which also involved increasing the area grazed by cattle. Sheep numbers were reduced to 800 but they continued to gobble up most of the farm's resources, both in terms of time and food, worming, medications and mineral drenches.

"Then in 2012 we looked at things more closely from a financial perspective," says Neil. "I was working on the sheep 60-70 hours a week but the total profit was only £478 a year, compared to £13,000 for the cattle enterprise. This was also taking less time, benefiting the environment and the cows were able to exhibit their natural behaviour and were extremely healthy."

Reducing Sheep Numbers

The Heseltines asked themselves if they could reap similar rewards by applying the same principles to rearing sheep. They reduced the total number to 200 and increased the percentage of ewes put to Swaledale tup, producing offspring that were able to cope with the surroundings and weather conditions. They also started lambing later in the year, so no food concentrates were needed. The result? By 2016 the profit on the sheep enterprise was only just short of that generated by the cattle, and Neil's working hours had halved to 40 per week.

"To make a living, we're still heavily reliant on subsidies," he says. "Over 90 per cent of the farmers in the national park also depend on environmental payments. We assume that the Brexit vote will impact on the amount of money coming in. At a conservative estimate, 20 per cent of farms will go out of business nationally if subsidies are cut - and more here in the uplands."

Consequences in the Dales

The knock-on effects could have devastating consequences for the Yorkshire Dales, forcing families out of the national park and threatening the viability of the schools, pubs and shops that hold communities together. Neil hopes that Brexit might offer new business opportunities for entrepreneurial young people. The downside is getting that first opportunity, he says. "There's an appetite for people to go into farming, but the main barrier is getting that first opportunity. I'd like to see holding sizes decrease and the national park become synonymous with starter farms - and I'd even welcome more part-time enterprises in the Dales."

Neil also chairs a group of farmers and NGOs that meet three times a year to feed their thoughts and ideas into the YDNPA management plan. Together with head of land management, Adrian Shepherd, he is among a group of seven farming representatives associated with national parks that recently presented a paper to Defra. It called for the total spend received for agriculture in these areas to remain at the same level as under single farm payments and environmental schemes. However, the group stresses that local design and delivery with an emphasis on benefits other than food production offer better value for money.

"Farming methods that contribute to the public good can help a family to remain in the Yorkshire Dales National Park," Neil says. "And we believe that our group has talked a lot about raising awareness of the importance of business analysis. What has worked for me is reducing stocking rates - and that's improved the profitability, the environment and our quality of life."

A RAINFOREST IN THE DALES?

Have you ever visited a rainforest in the Dales? As FOTD trustee Tim Hancock explains, it's not such an odd question, as 'rainforest' is the term applied to thousands of hectares of blanket bog in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Not so much a rainforest in terms of appearance when compared to the Amazon basin perhaps, but in other ways there are several similarities between the two environments. The chief of these is the role they both play in providing a huge carbon sink, so buffering the effect of climate change as they sequester thousands of tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.

These often bleak areas of our Dales landscape definitely have a beauty of their own, but the peat bogs are also a vulnerable habitat needing our protection, and in many cases restoration. Blanket bog has been under attack from many sources, including misguided central government drainage schemes for as long as 50 years.

The digging of drainage channels known as 'grips' across the bogs supposedly to support agriculture and forestry has led to a raft of new problems, all associated with the erosion of the precious peat. Our understanding of the importance of peat has changed attitudes dramatically for the better since those days. Garden centres now stock peat-free composts as we no longer treat this precious resource as it was a commodity for our plundering as we fancy.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Nature in the Dales webpage (www.natureinthedales.org.uk/habitats/blanket-bog) describes the most abundant blanket bog found in the Dales as being 'dominated by hare's-tail cottongrass, which is recognised by its white cotton-like seed heads. This is the most species-rich blanket bog type and is often a transition stage to acidic grassland. This type of blanket bog covers vast areas of moorland in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Blanket bog that is a mixture of heather and cottongrass is a more species-rich with bilberry or cranberry abundant in places. At higher altitudes, crowberry and cloudberry are also present. The best areas occur around Swaledale.'

"The most species-rich and rarest blanket bogs are the bog-moss rich ones. This habitat is important for specialised bog plants such as cranberry, bog asphodel and round-leaved sundew. Most examples of this habitat have been degraded due to inappropriate burning, moorland drainage and atmospheric pollution that has reduced the moss cover. Some of the richest examples are found in Chapel-le-Dale and Ribblesdale. The diverse type of blanket bog habitat is that associated with peat hags, where drying of the peat has led to the growth of dwarf shrubs and lichens. The most extensive areas are found on Bolton and Carperby moors between Wensleydale and Swaledale."

Stemming Peat Erosion

All the problems caused by peat erosion from areas of blanket bog need to be treated at source, by adopting varied strategies to reduce and slow down water flow, and then to embark upon extensive peat restoration. Key to managing the water run-off issue is the blocking and re-profiling of the grips using heavy machinery, which can often be spotted by walkers in what appears to be the most unusual of places. Dams in the grips and gullies raise the water table, which in turn leads to deposition of the peat, which can then be re-colonised by the plants and mosses that hold the soil together.

The sides of the gullies are currently also steep, accelerating water flow and making it impossible for plants to grow. By making the slopes more gradual (re-profiling), mosses and plants can now get a foothold and begin to re-establish themselves.

Areas of bare peat where erosion has been severe are called 'hags' and can also be given a helping hand with the application of lime to reduce acidity, fertiliser to support new establishment, and seeding with amenity grasses to act as a nurse crop. This helps the peat together until natural bog species can take over. A variety of techniques including mulching are also being trialled to reintroduce Sphagnum mosses to blanket bogs.

It is hard to think of an environmental project that has more ramifications and benefits than the protection and restoration of our precious upland blanket bogs. Better and cheaper drinking water, reduced flooding, greater carbon storage and absorption from the atmosphere, biodiversity of species protection, improved walking terrain, not to mention just the feel-good factor of knowing we are doing the right thing for the generations to come. This project needs and deserves our unreserved support.
BARNS
THE PLANNING CHALLENGE

Among the defining and much-loved features of the Yorkshire Dales are its field barns. YDNPA Chairman Mark Corner looks at what the future holds for them.

The pattern of barns and walls in Upper Swaledale is recognised as being one of the most distinctive agricultural landscapes in Western Europe. The traditional stone-built barns, of which there are around 4,500, are a major contributor to landscape quality and form an important part of the architectural and historic fabric of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, revealing much about its social, cultural and economic history.

Origin of the Barns

Many of these barns were constructed in the 19th century on land that was subject to an Endowment Act, although some date back to the 16th century. Farming practices revolved around the annual hay meadow field barn cycle, as a response to the difficulties of keeping cattle over winter in the harsh upland environment. As farm sizes increased during the latter half of the 20th century and farming became more mechanised, the field barns became less suitable for housing livestock and hay during the winter; and resources for their maintenance declined, causing trends towards redundancy and dereification. A recent survey sample revealed 45 per cent of field barns are in poor or very bad condition. So, what are the options available to ensure that the valuable resource these barns represent, not least their visual and cultural importance, has a sustainable future?

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) describes the four options as Maintain, Conserve, Adapt, and Manage Decline (see box).

Investment to maintain little-used traditional farm buildings is seldom viable for farmers and landowners. At the same time, public subsidy has declined to the point where it is no longer available to conserve any but the most significant buildings.

To manage decline is not seen as a desirable outcome, and so most focus falls on the adapt – normally convert – option. Planning policy regarding conversions has evolved, with important relaxations made recently.

Planning Policy

Until recently, residential conversion of barns had been confined to those within settlements. In 2013, the government introduced new flexibilities for the conversion of agricultural buildings to residential use through the introduction of a 'permitted development right', without the need for full planning permission. National parks were excluded from this, following strong lobbying; however, the government made clear its expectation that National Park Authorities should take a positive and proactive approach to residential conversions in future.

YDNPA's response was reflected in the 2015-2030 Local Plan, which allows barn conversions for residential use, with a further 30 changes of use, other than for residential conversion. YDNPA recognises that time judgement calls are needed in deciding on some applications.

Where are we now?

Since October 2015, when weight was first given to the new policy, planning permission has been given for 28 barn conversions to residential use, with a further 30 changes of use, other than for residential conversion. Of the approvals for barn conversions, 93 per cent are in locations that would not have been permitted under the previous policy.

Given that the new policy, particularly for roadside cases, does not prescribe exactly what is and what isn't a suitable location for residential conversion, YDNPA recognises that line judgement calls are needed in deciding on some applications.

Points in favour of conversion:

- conversion supports local trade and suppliers and so generates income for owners.
- it can create visitor accommodation.
- new homes relieve pressure for release of greenfield sites and may provide a route into the housing market for local people.
- the evolution of the use of these buildings reflecting today's needs is a good thing and part of the story of the development of the Dales, which should not simply be a museum to attract visitors.

Points against conversion:

- it can damage the special qualities and character of the National Park and result in loss of architectural, social, cultural and economic history. Such damage may impact the important visitor economy.
- it is unlikely to address the lack of affordable housing in the Dales. Typical conversion costs are £150k-£225k, in addition to the cost of the land and existing building. The total cost is often in excess of £300k and, with average incomes in the Dales under £20k, not affordable.
- there is a concern that what may start as local-occupancy homes have their planning condition restrictions watered down over time and end up as second homes.
- there is concern that creeping 'suburbanisation' occurs, with ribbon developments reaching into open countryside.
- conversion often doesn't really conserve a building; it changes its character and setting.

What would we like to see happen?

YDNPA's policy with regard to the conversion of traditional buildings will continue to be monitored over the coming year, particularly where it relates to sensitive roadside conversions.

Given the higher number than expected of barn-conversion applications, our concerns about several of them, and our disagreements with the decisions reached on at least one we would suggest that YDNPA reviews its current policy sooner rather than later in the light of the significant experience gained already. This review should include the consideration of being more prescriptive regarding the definition of acceptable roadside locations, where we believe that minor roads into open country should be judged unacceptable.

Generally, new ways of maintaining and conserving the barns and walls heritage (with funding) should be explored, including assessing the possible use of barns other than for residential conversion. If you have thoughts on this or any other aspects of this article, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Mark Corner
AGM IN HOSPITABLE HAWES

The lovely Wensleydale market town of Hawes proved to be the perfect venue for the FOTD's 34th Annual General Meeting on September 23rd, preceded by a fascinating guided tour of Gayle Mill. Chairman Mark Corner reports.

After meeting at the Dales Countryside Museum, housed in the former Victorian railway station - what a treat - we made the short walk to Gayle Mill, where trustee Mike Thomson gave us a wonderful introduction of the mill - a hidden gem - and the most beautiful surroundings. Hawes is a small town, but it has a lot to offer, from its history to its beautiful countryside.

I ran through a photographic account of our varied and successful events over the last 12 months. We reviewed our policy, planning, and campaign activities - including our concerns regarding the number of barn conversion planning applications that are now coming forward. We also discussed the good progress being made with our "Caring for the Past" digital archiving project and its possible future direction.

At the close of the meeting, Judith and Rod Clough kindly presented the treasurer's report in Graham Yule's absence. Excluding donations for DalesBus (over £17,000 was processed by our office) more than half of our 2016-17 income of £43,714 was generated from membership subscriptions. Over £15,000 from our events, leaving only £1,902, excluding the impact of DalesBus. The operating loss reduces our reserves and makes our membership recruitment effort more vital.

At one end of the scale, we were very concerned about a proposed large development of holiday lodges on Helmsley Flashes, just outside the village. This was a resurrection report that had surfaced at last year's meeting. We were concerned that it would impact on the wildlife and the environment, and we requested that the board take this into consideration.

After discussing the good progress being made with our "Caring for the Past" digital archiving project and its possible future direction, I closed by thanking our members, volunteers, trustees, vice presidents, Sir Gary Verity as President and our 11 honorary members were endorsed.

Mark Corner, Chairman
Robert Whapples

countless trips to Yorkshire in all sorts and in 2012 we crossed the same path in and I walked the AW Coast to Coast, out in my memory; during 2005 my wife of 'grand' weather and for a variety of reasons. Two visits in particular stand out in my memory; during 2005 my wife and I visited the AW Coast to Coast, and in 2012 we crossed the same path in Swaledale while walking from Lunds End to John O'Groat via the Pennine Way. Keep up the great work, Robert Whapples

Dear Ann

As a 'newby,' I may congratulate you on the excellent quarterly magazine Yorkshire Dales Review. I was wondering how I may offer some sort of help to the Dales environment, but being so far away in Scotland there appeared little that I could offer. That was until I read the article about the Friends of the Dales in Dalesman magazine and joined up straight away in the hope of the Dales in Dalesman magazine and contributing to this achievement, which appeared little that I could offer. That was until I read the article about the Friends of the Dales in Dalesman magazine and joined up straight away in the hope that some of my money would go to a worthwhile cause.

I was delighted when reading your article about the salmon returning to the Dales and congratulate all those who have contributed to this achievement, which presumably must also go to land owners and industrialists who have been involved in cleaning up our waterways. Local water authorities and no doubt groups of volunteers will have all played their part. What an achievement.

Over the past 65 years I have made countless trips to Yorkshire in all sorts of 'grand' weather and for a variety of reasons. Two visits in particular stand out in my memory; during 2005 my wife and I visited the AW Coast to Coast, and in 2012 we crossed the same path in Swaledale while walking from Lunds End to John O'Groat via the Pennine Way. Keep up the great work, Robert Whapples

Dear Ann

Just a quick update. Since Betty Everett's article about the AA box on the A684 in the last issue of the Review, a local dry stone wall has kindly rebuilt the section of wall that was always falling down, without charge. It looks good. I now know who made the two ledges by the AA box, and who built the flowerbeds and why. Amazing how information comes in, in response to publicity.

Best wishes, Sheila Simms

CONDOLENCES

We are sad to hear of the passing of Mr DHJ Barmclough, Mr John Schwarzewienbach and Mr Robert Starling, all long-standing FOTD members. Our condolences go to their family and friends. Below Fleur Speakman recalls her memories of Clive Bell, who has also sadly passed away.

"Saying goodbye to old friends, when an organisation like ours has existed for several decades, is almost inevitable. Clive Bell was a very early member of our society, characterised by his great love of walking in the Dales and prominence in the Craven Ramblers group. He and his wife Elsie were active and valued members, as regular attendees at many society events and as part of the team of volunteers who regularly helped to nautical the Yorkshire Dales Review. Clive will be particularly remembered for his warmth and generosity of spirit. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Elsie and other family members."

QUARRY ARTS PROJECT IN CLAPHAM

Friends of the Dales Chairman Mark Corner visited Clapham Primary School recently to talk with the children about quarrying in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This was part of an oral history project for the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, a project led by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Under the guidance of Bobbie Miller, Director of Quarry Arts, who is running the project, the children, aged seven-10, had earlier visited Dyke Rigg and Arrow quarries and had prepared questions for Mark. He said, "It was a privilege to chat with the children, who were really engaged and saw the challenges of producing valuable quarried stone within the setting of a National Park. They had a particular interest in wildlife and were pleased that any impact in this regard was being managed sensitively." Mark added, "As Chairman of a conservation and education charity, it is always good to have the opportunity to discuss issues, and it was particularly refreshing to do so with such enthusiastic and alert young people."

OBITUARIES

The Friends of the Dales is seeking to strengthen its board of trustees and/or directors and if you would like to become involved in helping us care for this special place, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for trustees who could focus on the following areas:

- Charity/company secretary, to ensure that we comply with the requirements of company and charity law and to support the board. A legal or financial background would be helpful.
- Planning, to help us monitor and respond to planning applications. Professional planning experience is sought.
- Marketing and communications, to help us raise awareness and aid our campaigning. Brand, traditional and social media expertise would be welcome.

If you would like to discuss any of these roles further, or indeed if you believe you could help us in any of these areas as a volunteer, without the commitment of becoming a trustee, please get in touch with me at chairman@friendsofthedales.org.uk for an informal chat. Thank you.

Mark Corner.

BUNO VINIO

Buon Vino, near Settle - Voted ‘Decanter Specialist Wine Retailer of the Year 2017’, the company Buon Vino is an importer, retailer, wholesaler and passionate lover of high-quality, organic, vegan and biodynamic wines from across the world. The company has a shop in The Courtyard, just outside the Yorkshire Dales, and sells wines to restaurants across the north west as well as a range of spirits and cider.

www.buonvino.co.uk

WIGGLEWORTH HOUSE AND COTTAGES

Wiggleworth House and Cottages - Wiggleworth House and Cottages provide two stunning 5 star luxury holiday cottages, with superb accommodation for up to 10 people. They are perfect for guests looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Relax, unwind and admire the spectacular views or climb the Three Peaks cycle routes of the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire, take on the treacherous Whernside Forest or simply explore the many beautiful parts of Northern England. wiggleworthhouseandcottages.co.uk

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council - Crosby Ravensworth is a rural parish in Cumbria, incorporating the settlements of Crosby Ravensworth, Maude, Middlethorpe Thorpe and Stagel. It lies to the east of Crossgill to the north of Orton. There are just over 400 households in the parish. The piecemeal Middlethorpe settlements, which was damaged during Storm Desmond in 2017 and has been redesigned to lessen the flood risk of flooding to adjacent properties. crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

COULD YOU BECOME A TRUSTEE?

The Friends of the Dales is seeking to strengthen its board of trustees and/or directors and if you would like to become involved in helping us care for this special place, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for trustees who could focus on the following areas:

- Charity/company secretary, to ensure that we comply with the requirements of company and charity law and to support the board. A legal or financial background would be helpful.
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If you would like to discuss any of these roles further, or indeed if you believe you could help us in any of these areas as a volunteer, without the commitment of becoming a trustee, please get in touch with me at chairman@friendsofthedales.org.uk for an informal chat. Thank you.

Mark Corner.
One of Europe's largest cave systems lies underneath the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Tim Allen of the British Caving Association lives in the National Park with his wife Jane and has been caving for 40 years. He volunteers for regional and national caving bodies and, together with Jane, tries to promote and improve the image of caves and caving. Here he reveals all.

There is a mountain just up the road from where I live called Gragareth. It spans the borders of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria and is now within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It's not the best-known mountain, but many will have walked the Three Peaks of Ingleborough, Pendlehill and Whernside. Gragareth is the next mountain up - the fourth peak if you like.

Imagine that Gragareth is the largest mountain in Britain, in the tenth-largest mountain in Europe, ranking alongside Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn, and the 25th largest mountain in the world. But where is the recognition of this awesome geological feature other than among seasoned cavers?

Recently I was getting changed to go caving on the fell above this great mountain, when a group of walkers appeared. "Are there any caves around here?" they inquired. "Only the largest in the British Isles," I said. All were astounded. Where were the signs, the interpretation of the underground that blinkers our thinking on caves. After all, didn't we have the great missing systems of Black Keld and the Three Counties Cave System? Maybe in the dark recess of our mind we hold a deep-seated fear of stories to scare the kids? If we have no further knowledge of the caves, if geographical features are a 'resource' in the National Park, then caves are not finite. On what other feature or activity could we claim to boldly go where no one has gone before, to shine the first light ever into an amazing sculpted grotto or take the first steps into the true unknown? Only in caves and caving can we do this.

Caves are a veritable bunch and every year see some significant discovery or connection between systems. Only last year a new cave was discovered under Gragareth that one day may link into the Three Counties System. There is a large cave system beneath the scenic Kingsdale valley, where one of its underwater passages terminated, at present, just 300 metres short of a connection with the Three Counties. This connection is sure to happen one day, which will increase the length of the network to 120 km. We should remind ourselves that 50 years ago there were only a few known caves across the slopes of Gragareth. In 1968 a young speleologist from the University of Leeds predicted that, "With increasing understanding of the systems under Gragareth and Casterton Fell, it becomes obvious that their stages of development are closely linked and form a single cave complex on an enormous scale, which straddles the borders of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Westmorland."

On November 6, 2011, that final connection was made and the dream of the Three Counties Cave became a truth. Now cavers are talking of a new dream, of a Trans Craven System that could connect caves across Kingsdale and Chapel-le-Dale to Ingleborough and beyond. There were doubts in 1968 and there are doubts now, but it is possible that one day you will be able to travel from Barbondale to Clapham underground.

FOTA is very supportive of efforts to improve access to caves and we will continue to help campaign to make this happen.
The Yorkshire Dales have a very special beauty in winter. Low sunlight reveals the shape of the landscape, valleys are no longer obscured by leaves, and sometimes snow brings its own magical light.

Avoid difficult driving conditions by taking advantage of our own unique DalesBus winter network, which operates every Sunday and Bank Holiday until summer services start in May 2018. DalesBus is managed by the Yorkshire Dales Society's very own Dales & Bowland Community interest Company, which has an independent team of voluntary directors, most of whom are also YDS and/or FOTD members.

Our flagship service is the popular 874 from Wakefield, Leeds, Otley and Ilkley to Bolton Abbey, Burnsall, Grassington, Kettlewell and Buckden, connecting at Grassington with Witchway X43 from Skipton and Burnley, with the scenic Acorn Wensleydale Flyer 856 travelling along beautiful Wensleydale between Northallerton, Leyburn, Aysgarth and Hawes, linked by minibus 855 to settle Carlisle trains at Garsdale station. Thanks to generous sponsorship from Harrogate Spring Water and the North Yorkshire County Council Locality Fund, Sunday service 24 continues between Kettleswick and Pateley Bridge.

These services enable people without cars to access the Yorkshire Dales National Park every Sunday of the year, and are also a boon for drivers, enabling them to park, ride and walk linear routes such as the Dales or Nidderdale Way. Senior passes are valid on all winter services and bargain fares also reduce costs. Details are in the Metro DalesBus timetable or at www.dalesbus.org.

Colin Speakman

COULD YOU BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR FOTD?

If so we would like to hear from you.

The Friends of the Dales is totally reliant on having a healthy membership, not only to generate the funds that enable the charity to pursue its goals of caring for this special landscape, but also to add legitimacy and clout to our campaigning voice. The good news is that our membership is on the up following our recruitment drive, which started in the summer of 2017 (see page 18).

We now wish to build on that, and create a team of enthusiastic local people scattered throughout the Dales to be our ears as well as our voice. Leaflets need distributing, and local people know the best outlets. But there is much more to the role. We need articles for our popular magazine - Yorkshire Dales Review - so what is going on in your area? Can you give us some leads and ideas? Are there local organisations we could make a presentation to, helping to spread our message and hopefully find some more supporters? Are there some local events you can think of which would fit well into our busy events calendar?

If you think you could help answer these questions in your area, and would like to get involved we would be delighted to hear from you. Please just email Ann Shadrake on ann.shadrake@friendsofdales.org.uk and we will be in touch to explain more of what is involved in becoming an Ambassador. Like any volunteer role, you can do as much or as little as you have time for – it will all be greatly appreciated, and we think you will find it very rewarding knowing you have “done your bit” to help the Dales.

Many thanks, Tim Hancock

Dales in their Winter Glory

© Tim Hancock

© Tim Hancock
Welcome Donation

In November 2017, a long-standing member (who wishes to remain anonymous) donated the very generous sum of £2,600 to Friends of the Dales. At the donor’s request, this money will be used to support the next step in our recruitment campaign, which will include covering the costs of printing a further large batch of our membership leaflet and paying for further distribution through a magazine insertion or other ways of reaching prospective members. Such a generous donation is a real bonus and the trustees are very grateful for this support.

We welcome all donations, large or small, whether to our established areas, such as printing the Review magazine, or to a new project. For example, next year we will be launching a new leaflet to encourage people to remember Friends of the Dales with a gift in their will. This leaflet will explain how to go about making a charitable legacy and will include a list of the costs (some offer discounts).

Customers who have received the leaflet will be encouraged to return it to us so that we can then start work on the project. For this reason, we will be including the costs of printing a further large batch of our membership leaflet and paying for further distribution through a magazine insertion or other ways of reaching prospective members. Such a generous donation is a real bonus and the trustees are very grateful for this support.

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Do you have your current email address?

Recently I have been looking over our current list of members’ email addresses, and I have spotted that many are no longer valid (often because they refer to obsolete providers such as 18). That will help me check our current records and update our database. If you have joined since 2017, and we do not have an email address for you, we would love a copy of your email address. I will then forward this to Penny Lowe, Administration Assistant, in confidence, using the contact details on the back cover.

FRIENDS OF THE DALES EVENTS CATEGORIES

An enjoyable mix of events designed with something for everyone. All welcome – members and non-members, families, friends and visitors. You could spend an overnight stay in the area or visit a local business member (some offer discounts).

Charges

Events are free to members (unless part of a chargeable event, such as guided programmes etc). Small charge to non-members for calls (£3).

What to bring

For outdoor events – whatever the forecast – always carry a waterproof (or waterproof coat) and a pair of waterproof boots or wellies. It’s always worth bringing along some food for an emergency snack. For walks and visits always bring packed lunch or use local pub/restaurant where indicated.

Transport

We provide details of public transport known at the time of going to press. Always check www.friendsofthedales.org.uk and www.nationalrail.co.uk. We endeavour to car-share – to offer or seek a lift, contact me in the lead up to that event.

Booking

Most events are offered as a ‘just turn up basis with no need to book’ – but it really helps if you can let us know if you hope to attend and gauge numbers. Events will go ahead unless very bad weather etc. We have only cancelled two events in the last five years (snow and floods). See www.friendsofthedales.org.uk and Facebook for last-minute updates or ring/email me.

Register an interest in attending/queries: ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk or 01756 749400

Saturday, 20 January 2018

Victorian Skipton and Dales Rails

Ann Shadrake will lead a walk around Skipton to discover the mills, churches, pubs and standout buildings. Free (essential to the daily lives of the town’s working people) in Victorian times. Our afternoon programme is led by historians Hamish and Selina, founder of the Friends of Skipton, talking on his new book "The Dales in Victorian Summer 1872" (issue of this magazine), with copies available to buy on the day.

Negotio de regis except 8.45

10:55am Meet at Fred Freeman Statue, Canal Street, Coach Street, Skipton car park 2013 (public toilets) – 10 minutes’ walk from bus/ railway station. Walk about three miles, mainly on pavements and rough grass, but expect some puddles.

2.5pm Meet at St Andrew’s Church Hall, Newmarket Street, Skipton BD23 1JE. Complimentary tea and biscuits. Guests/ visitors welcome £3. Ends around 4.00pm.

Saturday, 24 March 2018

A Dales High Way

Join Chris Grogan, creator of A Dales High Way for a morning circular walk (circa four-five miles) from Austwick village, taking in a short section of the long-distance trail. The walk follows fields, roads and paths to Hartsop and Moughton Scar, before heading for the lower slopes of Cerveades, passing the pretty stepper bridge at 19th Dales in return to the start. The walk is moderate but may be steep or wet underfoot. In the afternoon, Chris will tell us more about how the iconic husband/ wife team (both of whom have retired) discovered the path of the Dales High Way and how to use a compass.

Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome.

Ride2Stride Walking Festival

We are delighted to support this excellent walking festival in its seventh year! Advance notice of our five events in the festival are below, and full details will be in the Spring review, our next leaflet programme at www.ride2stride.org.uk

Tuesday, 1 May 2018

Surprising Settle

Led by Mark Carter in partnership with North Ribble Building Preservation Trust, a six-mile walk, starting with a short walk to the charming hamlet of Stackhouse and the fascinating Hoflhiann kiln near the village of Langcliffe. Then we will explore the historic market town of Settle, discovering many interesting heritage features. A new way to The Fully Packed Lunch, where we will enjoy a short talk on this fascinating Grade 2 listed building.

Meet at Settle Station at 9.45am. The walk will finish before 1.00pm.

Wednesday, 2 May 2018

Discovering Long Preston Deeps

An easy-to-moderate circular walk of about six miles along the Ribble Way, led by Or Tony Smith, exploring the wetland landscapes between Settle and Long Preston, returning to Settle mid afternoon.

Meet at Settle Station at 10:45am. Ends around 2.30pm.

Friday, 4 May 2018

River & Rocks

Cole Standen will lead an easy circular walk along the River Ribble to Long Preston Mill with an optional very steep climb up Gratton CP on the return to Settle at dusk.

Meet at Settle Station at 10:45am. Ends around 1.00pm.

Friday, 4 May 2018

Talk: Adam Sedgwick, Geologist and Dalesman

Cole Standen will talk about the life and achievements of Dent’s famous pioneer geologist.

Talk 2.15pm. Quaker Meeting House, Settle. Ends around 4.00pm.

Saturday, 5 May 2018

A Walk with a View

Join Chris Grogan for a moderately strenuous eight-mile circular walk around Ribblehead with stunning views of Ingleborough. Whernside and Ribblehead Viaduct.

Meet at Ribblehead station at 12.00pm on the arrival of the 10.49am train from Leeds. Return to Settle at 4.50pm.}

Link to external website
Arcow Quarry in Horton-in-Ribblesdale

This wintry picture was taken during the heavy snows of 1947. The kiln in the right of the image was built in the 1940s and was an experimental kiln that was constantly being modified. It was designed by Professor Knibbs, of Priest Knibbs of Middlesbrough. After a few years it was pulled down again. Do any of our readers know what the kiln was for, why it was 'experimental' and why it didn't work? We'd love to know!

Help Us to Capture the Past

Interested in local history? A keen volunteer is needed for the next phase of our very successful ‘Capturing the Past’ project. We’re looking for a coordinator to continue our community digital archiving project in the Dales, supporting the existing teams of hands-on volunteers and rolling the project out to new areas. We estimate the role requires about half a day per week. Travel and out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed. If you are interested in local history, would like to work with volunteers and have some knowledge of IT, please contact Ann Shadrake on ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk for more information. Other volunteer roles are also available on this fantastic project!

Become a Friend of the Dales

Join online • By phone • By post

CAMPAIGN for positive improvement, and against negative development

PROTECT and help to safeguard the Dales

ENJOY the beauty and facilities of the Yorkshire Dales

Members receive a quarterly full-colour 20-page magazine and the opportunity to be present at a rolling programme of events. Contact and other details available on this page.