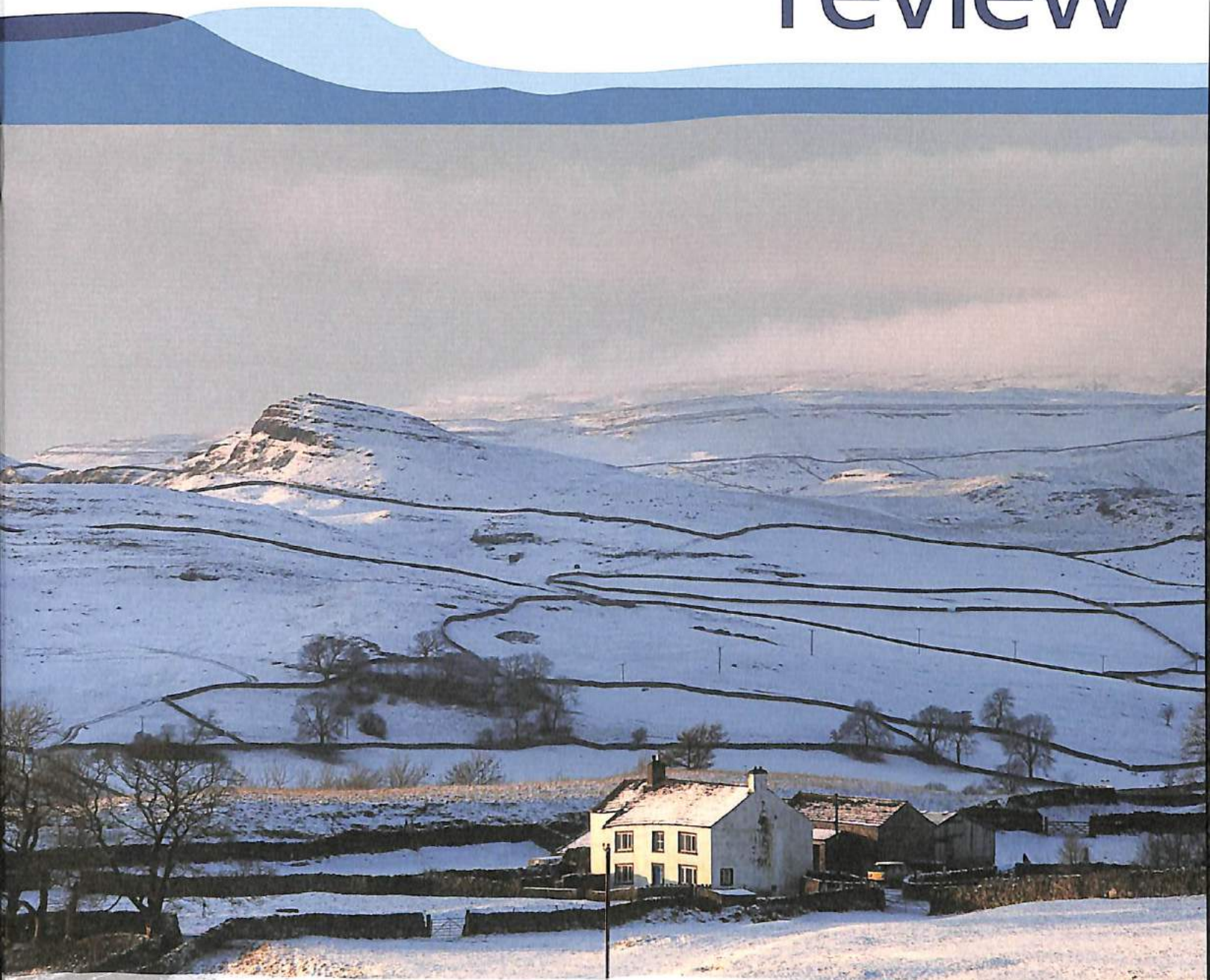


Yorkshire **DALES** review

Winter 2018 : Issue 141



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- **A RAINFOREST IN THE DALES?**
- **BARNS – THE PLANNING CHALLENGE**
- **IF THE THREE COUNTIES CAVES WERE MONT BLANC?**

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**Friends of the
DALES**
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

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Yorkshire DALES review

CONSOLIDATING 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 Leadbeater talks to one farmer who has transformed his farming methods post foot and mouth, with life-enhancing results. And as 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), Tim Allen of the British Caving Association wonders why we don't have the same right to roam underground (see page 14).

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).

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. 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 – if they can't persuade you to volunteer for FOTD, little can!

Sasha Heseltine

BLUE PLAQUE UNVEILED AT STALLING BUSK

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, Janet Street-Porter unveiled a plaque at the home of FOTD trustee Jerry Pearlman to commemorate the drafting in August 1996 of what became the Countryside and Rights of Way Act four years later in 2000. This opened access to roughly 62 per cent of the Dales, giving all of us our right to roam this special place.

In his invitation to the unveiling, Jerry Pearlman wrote the following about the original meeting that inspired October's Blue Plaque ceremony.

"For many years the Ramblers had been campaigning for a right to roam over mountain,

moor, heath and down and we knew that Paddy Tipping MP was willing to present a Bill to Parliament. I was one of those tasked with drafting the Bill. Several of us wanted to have a quiet weekend to consider the bill and what better place than Stalling Busk. We met in the Schoolroom for the whole weekend and considered every word [we decided upon many changes but then decided to stick with the original]. I always feel that it put Stalling Busk on the map and is an event that should not be forgotten. Thus the plaque. The rest is, as they say, history."



Janet Street-Porter Unveiled the Blue Plaque Commemorating CROW. Courtesy of Mark Corner

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 by running sheep on the uplands around Malham. He talks to Lynn Leadbetter.

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 and loss of vulnerable habitats and species caused by overgrazing, and encouraged farmers to switch to hardy upland breeds of cattle. Signing up also involved reducing the number 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 £12,000 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 tups, 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.

Although he originally entered environmental schemes simply because they made economic sense, he is now seeing the benefits to the surrounding countryside. An area covered by the Limestone Country Project is showing a greater diversity of flowers, including

wood anemones and bird's-eye primroses, the heather is regenerating and the wildlife includes increased numbers of hares, redshank and curlews. Species such as yellow rattle and scabious are thriving, thanks to a hay-meadow scheme. More recently Hill Top has become one of five farms taking part in a National Trust trial that takes a results-based approach to conservation.

"It allows farmers to manage in a way that's less prescriptive," says Neil. "But the greatest advantage is that they can choose for themselves the level of environmental scheme that they feel comfortable with."

A member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority since 2014, he is now working to ensure that farmers receive the support that they need to stay in business and to preserve the way of life in our rural communities.

"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."

MORE

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 could be commercial pressures driving them towards economies of scale, leading to increased industrialisation of agriculture and compromising animal welfare standards.

Instead, Neil would like to see farms assessed according to their total productivity, including food production, clean water, flood management and carbon sequestration, so that landowners can be rewarded for their overall environmental contribution.

Even before Brexit, conventional wisdom assumed that the number of farms would continue to decline as holdings amalgamated to form ever-larger units. Yet – as a member of a YDNPA group looking at agriculture from a cultural and heritage perspective – Neil believes that this trend could actually be reversed.

"We should at least try to retain the current number of farms and one or two of us think it could be increased," 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

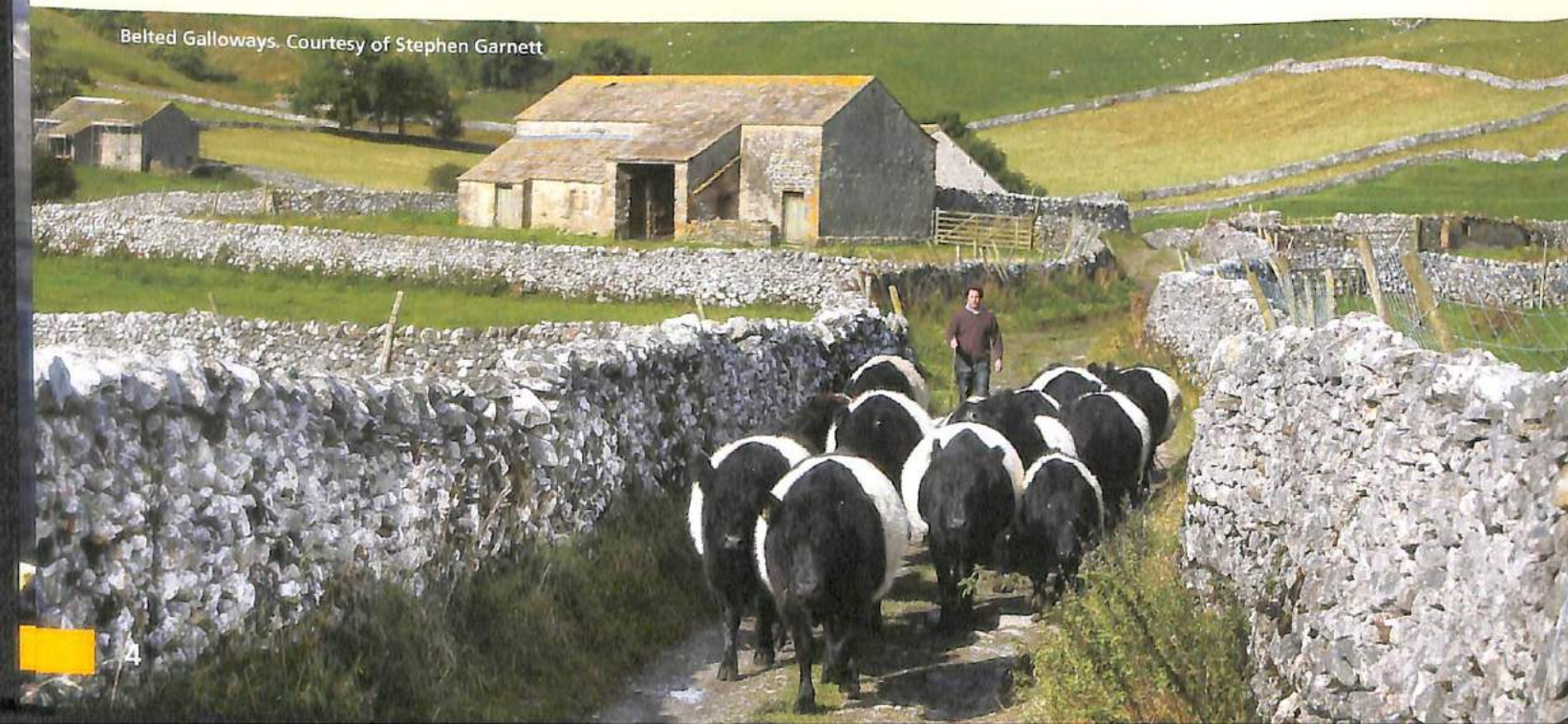
schemes. However, the group stresses that local design and delivery with an emphasis on benefits other than food production offers better value for money.

"Farming methods that contribute to the public good can help a family to remain in the Yorkshire Dales National Park," Neil says. "And our internal 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."

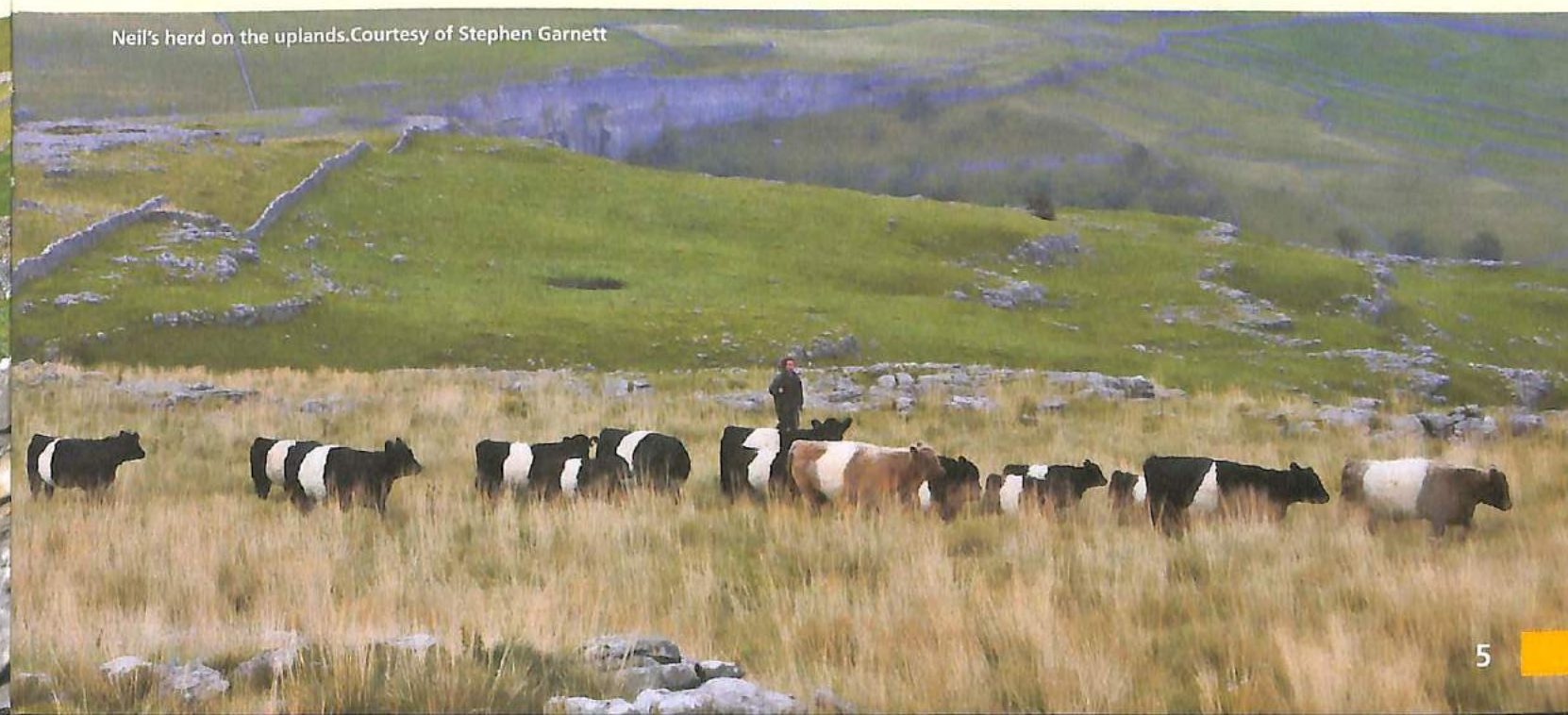


Neil Heseltine with a Belted Galloway calf. Courtesy of Stephen Garnett

Belted Galloways. Courtesy of Stephen Garnett



Neil's herd on the uplands. Courtesy of Stephen Garnett



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 bog 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

a variety of peat-free composts as we no longer treat this precious resource as 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-poor 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 more species-rich with bilberry or crowberry abundant in places. At higher altitudes, cowberry 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 driest 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."

Re-profiling helps to raise the water table in the peat grips and gullies. Photos courtesy of Matthew Roberts.



Drainage Channels Cause Flooding

Mark Brown of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (an umbrella organisation comprising the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Natural England, North York Moors National Park Authority, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency), explains the more visible impact of blanket bog drainage in an interview for the *Yorkshire Dales Review*.

"The impact on water quality can be seen in the becks and rivers that flow through the Dales. As the peat erodes, the water turns brown from the peat that has been washed away and ends up in reservoirs, resulting in water companies such as Yorkshire Water having to remove dissolved organic carbon using chemical processes that cost millions of pounds. The incision of drainage channels has also resulted in rapid water flow off the bogs down to lower-lying areas, which increases the chances of flooding of farmland and housing."

The erosion of peat is also bad news for biodiversity, not only for the many habitat-specific plant species mentioned above, but also for upland breeding birds that rely on these moors for breeding sites. The iconic curlew, for example, is now classified as "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red list and needs all the help we can give it, and breeds alongside other signature species such as golden plover, dunlin and a variety of other wading birds seen more commonly on the mudflats of nearby estuaries.

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 root establishment, and seeding with amenity grass to act as a nurse crop. This holds the peat together until natural bog species can take over. A variety of techniques including inoculation 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.

Barden in Wharfedale The Place And Its People

Barden in Wharfedale
The Place and its People



Brontë Bedford-Payne

Brontë Bedford-Payne, Hayloft Publishing Ltd,
ISBN 978-1-910237-13-7, £18

Brontë Bedford-Payne spent many of her early years in Drebley, visiting relatives or as an evacuee from the Blitz in London during World War II. She qualified as a dentist and set up a practice in Grassington, where she worked until she retired. She and her co-writers were members of the Upper Wharfedale Field Society and included the late Heather Beaumont, who co-authored other books with Brontë. Society members Ian Goldthorpe and John Sheard contributed drawings and information to this book, which is packed with colour and black-and-white photos.

In her preface, Brontë said, "I have not attempted to write a definitive history of Barden." Nevertheless, this is a comprehensive account, with much of the book devoted to structural details of local buildings, including Barden Tower. She also gives insights into the families of the parish and talks about their social life, with fascinating accounts of her early life in Barden; Billy Mason's memories as a farm lad in the 1920s; extracts from the diary of Michael Ogden, another farm lad, giving an almost daily account of the Big Snow of 1947; and the reflections of Philip Pfeffer, a 14-year-old Jewish refugee from Vienna who lived in Drebley between 1939–46.

In his foreword, local landowner the Duke of Devonshire says, "To have this book in one's hands as you study the valley will make any visit infinitely more informative." I hope readers will be inspired to use the book in this way, but the detailed study of the buildings and the accounts of life in the first half of the 20th century will have a resonance throughout the Dales and well beyond.

Brontë Bedford-Payne died on August 6, 2017, aged 88. This book and others she wrote on Wharfedale are a fitting tribute to her memory.

Bernard Peel



Maintain: working barn in Muker meadows. Courtesy of Mark Corner

Among the defining and much-loved features of the Yorkshire Dales are its field barns. FOTD 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 Enclosure 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, creating trends towards redundancy and dereliction. A recent sample survey 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.

Maintain: retain in agricultural use, e.g. as storage or seasonal animal shelter. Likely to require some physical alteration, e.g. corrugated roofing.

Conserve: accept that many buildings will never have a commercially viable agricultural use due to their location, size or condition but acknowledge that their historical, architectural or landscape importance is of sufficient public value to warrant investment in conservation irrespective of commercial realities.

Adapt/convert: the most commercially viable uses tend to require the most significant alterations to the building or its setting, with highest demand for residential conversions.

Manage Decline: use of the building abandoned, resulting in decay and, ultimately, ruination.

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 uses 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 at 'suitable roadside locations' and in other groups of buildings. Conversions of all barns for continuous occupation are restricted to local occupancy, and holiday occupation is restricted to short-stay letting only.

YDNPA sees this approach to barn conversions as a "conservation-orientated policy aimed at securing the long-term future of traditional buildings in a manner that conserves their intrinsic value". It acknowledges that some degree of harm to

character and appearance will often result, but that this harm needs to be weighed against the benefits offered by the new use.

Our own view on this is reflected in our Housing Policy, which states, "We accept that many former agricultural buildings are no longer suitable for such use, and that conversion for residential use is sometimes a viable option. However, we believe that control of the location and design of such conversions is crucial to the continuing attractiveness of the Dales. The potential adverse visual impacts and 'sub-urbanisation' of the landscape must be resisted by the planning system."

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 of other, usually traditional, buildings. 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 fine judgement calls are needed in deciding on some applications.



Conservation: barn in Swaledale undergoing conservation work. Courtesy of Robin White, YDNPA

Regarding likely numbers of applications for roadside barns, YDNPA estimates that around 450 barns lie within 25 metres of a county council maintained road, and if planning permission is sought for 25 per cent, that would result in seven or eight per year for the next 15 years. Our latest data indicates that the current rate is much higher than this, probably because of pent-up demand by owners/developers who were waiting for the policy relaxation.

Our Friends of the Dales Policy Committee, which reviews planning applications, recognises the conservation/conversion balance, and does not always have a unanimous view.

Points in favour of conversion:

- conversion supports local trade and suppliers and sale 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 characteristics 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 £20,000, 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.
- new homes are better located in towns where services such as transport, schools and shops are available.
- 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.

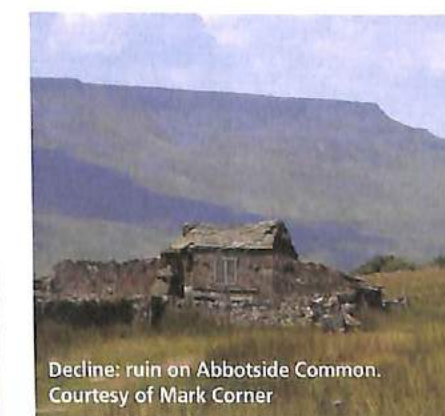
Given the higher number than expected of barn-conversion applications, our concerns about several of them, and our disagreement with the decisions reached on at least one, we would suggest that YDNPA reviews its current policy sooner rather than later in the light of the significant experience gained 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 on other aspects of this article, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Mark Corner



Conversion: roadside conversion in Thoraby. Courtesy of Mark Corner



Decline: ruin on Abbotside Common. Courtesy of 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 tour of this historic saw mill, vividly bringing to life over 200 years of innovation, reinvention and resourcefulness. The mill was built in 1784 and began its working life as a cotton mill; it was based on Arkwright's design and powered by water from Duerley Beck. It changed to spinning flax, then wool, and in 1879 was reinvented yet again as a sawmill powered by a turbine built in Kendal. The turbine drove a range of woodworking machinery that is still in use today, and Mike kindly demonstrated a lathe for us. The mill closed in 1988 and fell into disrepair before it was restored by the North of England Civic Trust and opened to the public in 2008. Now operated by the Gayle Mill Trust and run entirely by volunteers, it's really worth a visit. Mike recommended the special two-hour demonstration tour on the first Sunday of the month to see the original 1879 machinery in operation.

After doing our own thing for lunch – and I can recommend The Chippie in Hawes – we met back at the Dales Countryside Museum for our AGM.

My Chairman's review of the year started by thanking Dr Chris Wright, who was standing down as a trustee after over 30 years' service, including 10 years as Chairman between 1994 and 2004. Chris has made an enormous contribution to our charity, including the introduction of corporate membership and his leading role in our Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company subsidiary.

I also thanked Fleur Speakman, in her absence, for her 35-year editorship of the *Yorkshire Dales Review* – a remarkable achievement. Both Fleur and Colin Speakman have retired from long service on the Events, Communications and Membership Committee and we

thanked them for the very important role they played in this forum. We were grateful to Tony Smith, who chaired the committee for the past six years and has now handed over responsibility to new trustee Tim Hancock.

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 under the more relaxed planning policy (see pages 8-9, 11). We also discussed the good progress being made with our 'Capturing the Past' digital archiving project and its possible future direction (see page 20).

We had a discussion on how to build on the Friends of the Dales membership recruitment success we have had to date, with useful suggestions made regarding the role of our Ambassadors in distributing leaflets throughout the Dales to raise awareness. Our planned focus on identifying and contacting potential business or group members was described.

Building on the progress made during 2016–17, our priorities for the next 12 months are to sustain our membership recruitment effort, develop a legacy strategy, increase our campaigning activities and refresh the approach to our events.

I closed by thanking our members, volunteers, trustees, vice presidents, President Sir Gary Verity, Patron Alastair Humphreys, and the excellent work that Ann Shadrake and Penny Lowe are doing in managing all of our activities. Volunteer Bernard Peel has done sterling work, including his recruitment of Ambassadors.

Paul Chattwood, commercial director of the Dales & Bowland CIC, then gave an excellent review of the DaleBus year (see page 16), informing us that since its establishment in 2007, this not-for-profit volunteer-run organisation has made 345,000 journeys. Despite reductions in public-sector funding, DalesBus has done well in minimising service cuts, but Friends of the Dales were asked to continue lobbying for public funding and to help identify other potential commercial sponsorship.

Ann Shadrake 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, more when gift aid is included. Our expenditure for the year was £55,616, resulting in an anticipated loss of £11,902, excluding the impact of DalesBus. The operating loss reduces our reserves and makes our drive to increase membership and generate legacies imperative to secure the future of the charity.

In the formal part of the meeting, the Annual Report and Accounts were approved by members. Our new trustees – Kyle Blue, Tim Hancock and Marion Temple – were elected as directors and the 14 existing directors were then re-elected. Graham Yule was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer and I was re-elected as Chairman. Ann Cryer, Malcolm Petyt and Colin Speakman were re-elected as vice presidents, Sir Gary Verity as President and our 11 honorary members were endorsed.

At the close of the meeting, Judith and Rod Clough kindly sustained us with tea and coffee and there was still time to enjoy the delights of Hawes, including the Yorkshire Dales Cheese Festival that was being hosted at the Wensleydale Creamery that weekend.

Mark Corner, Chairman

POLICY COMMITTEE PLANNING UPDATE

Over recent months, we have been discussing our latest policy statement (on the Built Heritage of the Dales), which will be reported in the next edition of the Review. But we have as usual scrutinised the lists of planning applications to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and other authorities, and submitted comments on a number of cases.

At one end of the scale, we were very concerned about a proposed large development of holiday lodges on Hellifield Flashes, just outside the village. This was a resubmission that had sought to address various objections, but we were still concerned on several grounds: the loss of valuable amenity and recreational 'green space' to the residents of and the visitors to Hellifield; the significant adverse impacts on wildlife both during and after construction (the site hosts a number of bird species on the conservation Red List, and the series of flash ponds is also home to the protected great crested newt); the scale of the proposed complex, which is far too large for its location; and the significant adverse impact on the views from the open access areas and public rights of way on higher land to the north, within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This proposal would result in inappropriate changes to the rural landscape character of Hellifield and its surrounds.

At the other end, we objected to a proposed security barrier with CCTV at the entrance to the caravan site outside Hawkswick in Littondale. We felt this would be a visually intrusive 'urban' structure and both inappropriate and unwelcoming in this rural location. We requested the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to ask for a more appropriate design, and that it should be sited so as to be invisible from the road or footpaths.

Between these large and small proposals, we have also commented either in favour of or against a number of applications to convert barns into houses under the new policies adopted by YDNPA (see pages 8–9). Our written responses to planning applications can be found in the 'Campaigns' section of our website friendsofthedales.org.uk.

Malcolm Petyt

Conversion: Barn in Arkengarthdale approved for conversion, to which FOTD objected. Courtesy of the YDNPA



Gayle Mill. Courtesy of Ann Shadrake



Water supply to the Mill. Courtesy of Ann Shadrake



Mike Thomson at the Lathe. Courtesy of Ann Shadrake



Members' Letters

Here at Friends of the Dales 'HQ', we're always pleased to hear from members about your experiences of the Dales, why you support our charity and what other activities we could offer. Here's a recent letter telling us we're doing something right!

You can contact us on 01756 749400, email ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk or write to us at Gargrave (see back page). We are also online at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk.

Dear Ann

As a 'newby,' may I congratulate you on the excellent quarterly magazine Yorkshire Dales Review. I had been wondering how I may offer some sort of help to the Dales environment, but being so far away in Bedfordshire 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 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 walked the AW Coast to Coast, and in 2012 we crossed the same path in Swaledale while walking from Lands End to John O'Groats via the Pennine Way.

Keep up the great work,

Robert Whapples

Dear Ann

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

Best wishes, Sheila Simms



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 Millar, Director of Quarry Arts, who is running the project, the children, aged seven-10, had earlier visited Dry Rigg and Arcow quarries and had prepared questions

Condolences

We are sad to hear of the passing of Mr DBJ Barraclough, Mr John Schwarzenbach 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 mail out 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."

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 aware young people."

FOUR NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS & AFFILIATE MEMBER



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 Settle in the Yorkshire Dales, and sells wines to restaurants across the north west as well as a range of spirits and ciders. www.buonvino.co.uk

Firs Farm Bed & Breakfast, Healey - Run by Sarah and Richard Townsend, Firs Farm is a traditional early 19th-century, Grade II listed farmhouse with adjoining stone barns that date back to the 14th century. Set in a peaceful location within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and with spectacular views, their Bed & Breakfast is conveniently situated within three miles of the market town of Masham in Lower Wensleydale, and has easy access for exploring the Dales. Guests can experience lambing first hand between March and April. www.firsfarmbandb.co.uk

Park Bottom Bed & Breakfast, Litton - Phillip and Jane Sheard welcome you to Park Bottom, situated in the unspoilt hamlet of Litton among the beautiful scenery of Littondale - 'the secret Dale', in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Litton is a peaceful hamlet where the pace of life is relaxed, people are friendly and the setting could not be prettier. Here you can escape the crowds, lose track of time and enjoy the special charm of the Dales at their very best. www.parkbottom.co.uk

Wigglesworth House and Cottages - Wigglesworth House and Cottages provide two stunning 5 Star Gold luxurious 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 vista or climb the Three Peaks, cycle parts of the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire, take on the tracks at Gisburn Forest or simply explore the most beautiful parts of Northern England. wigglesworthhouseandcottages.co.uk

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council - Crosby Ravensworth is a rural parish in Cumbria, incorporating the settlements of Crosby Ravensworth, Maulds Meaburn, Oddendale and Reagill. It lies to the east of Shap and to the north of Orton. There are just over 400 households in the parish. The picture shows Maulds Meaburn footbridge, which was damaged during Storm Desmond in 2017 and has been redesigned to lessen the likelihood 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.
- 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.

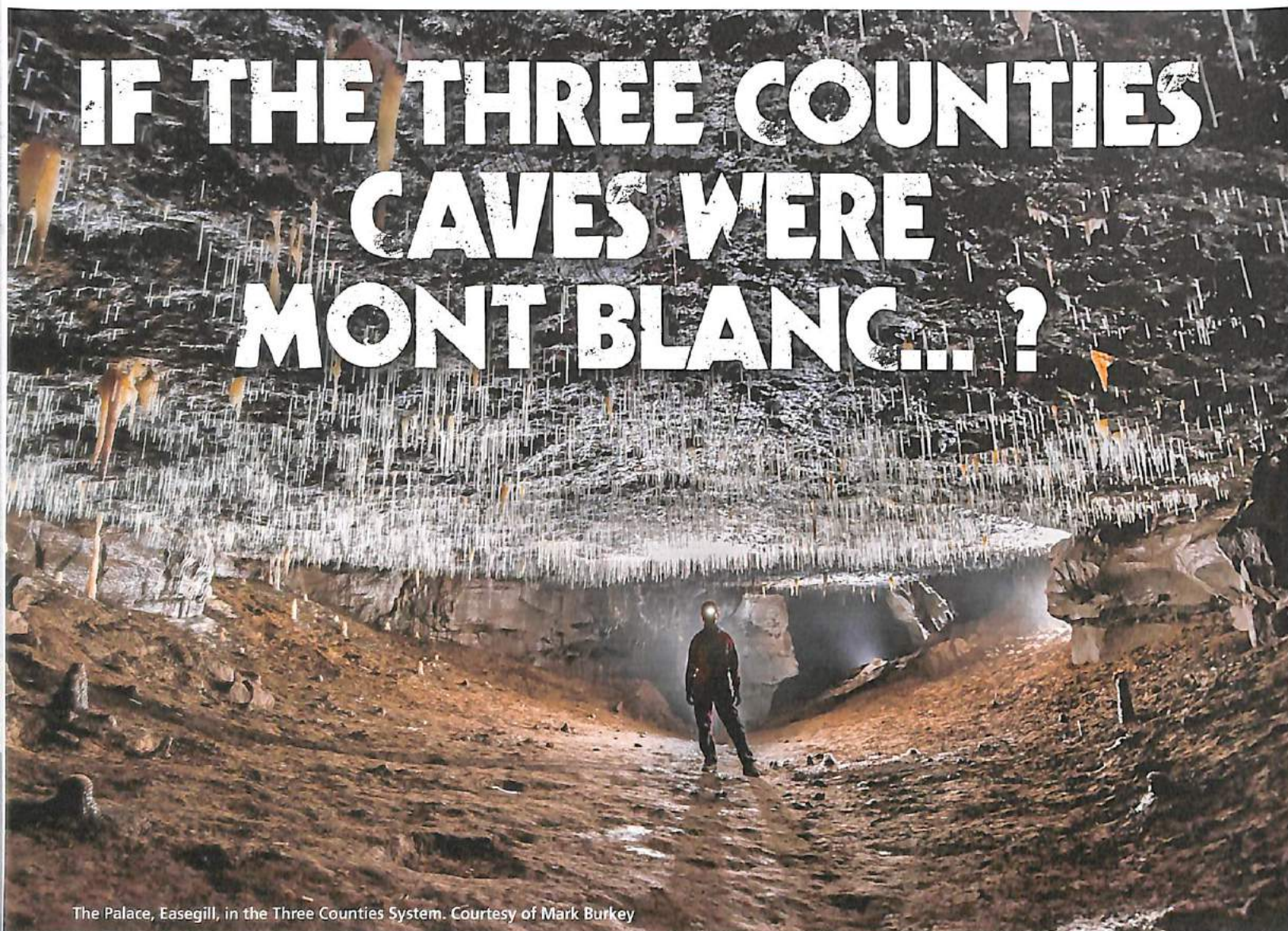
If you would like to discuss any of these volunteer trustee roles, or indeed if you believe you could help us in these areas as a volunteer, without the commitment of becoming a trustee, please get in touch with me at chairman@friendsofthedales.org.uk for an informal chat. Thank you.

Mark Corner.



FOTD Chairman Mark Corner with the children at Clapham Primary School. Courtesy of Bobbie Millar

IF THE THREE COUNTIES CAVES WERE MONT BLANC... ?



The Palace, Easegill, in the Three Counties System. Courtesy of Mark Burkey

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, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale. Gragareth is the next mountain up – the fourth peak if you like.

Imagine that Gragareth is the largest mountain in Britain, the tenth-largest mountain in Europe, ranking alongside Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn, and the 25th largest mountain in the world, listed on the same page as Annapurna and Everest. If that was the case, then surely Gragareth would be held in the highest esteem, a symbol of the National Park, looked upon with pride by locals and visitors alike. Businesses would be named after it – the Gragareth Tea Rooms and perhaps the Gragareth double-glazing company.

But I'm not really talking about Gragareth the mountain; I'm talking about the cave system underneath Gragareth – the 90-km-long Three Counties Cave System. Yes, it is the biggest cave in Great Britain, yes it is tenth biggest in Europe and yes it does rank as 25th longest 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 labyrinth when a group of walkers appeared. "Are there any caves around here then?" they inquired. "Only the largest in the British Isles," I said. All were astounded. Where were the signs, the interpretation and the education about this incredible feature and the long, intrepid history of its discovery? Where indeed?

Maybe in the dark recess of our mind we hold a deep-seated fear of the underground that blinkers our thinking on caves. After all, didn't our ancestors see caves as the route to the afterlife or the location of stories to scare the kids? If we have no further knowledge of the caves or of caving as a recreational activity, we tend to be naturally cautious in our attitude towards them.

Cavers do come from around the country, Europe and beyond to visit the Dales and for them caving is a normal recreational activity. However, they face access restrictions to some of our classic systems,

and these do not apply to other users of the land. Many cavers argue that they have rights of access to caves on land designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the right to roam). A strong legal opinion by the eminent public lawyer Dinah Rose QC supports this, as do national and regional caving organisations and many other outdoor associations. Officials at Defra and Natural England do not agree. Their view is that the act only permits cavers to visit the entrances and descend to the limit of daylight before the rights cease to apply. This position was summed up by David Davis MP before he took up his current role in Government. Following a caving trip into the Gaping Gill System, he said, "I cannot see for the life of me why Defra is taking the wholly illogical stance of denying that caves are covered by the open access freedoms granted by the CROW Act." Perhaps the answer is that Defra itself is blinkered by a primeval fear of the underworld.

Nevertheless, caves are a major feature of the National Park, with around 2,500 notable entrances and a host of superb limestone features associated with the underground drainage. Further over from Gragareth and under Ingleborough itself, we have the impressive Gaping Gill system, where twice a year local clubs set up a winch to allow visitors to admire Britain's largest underground chamber and highest waterfall.

Further to the west again lies the dark mass of Great Whernside. Somewhere beyond the sinks near Langcliffe Pot and the resurgence of Black Keld lies an undiscovered master system to rival that of the Three Counties. Imagine if there was another Ingleborough yet to be discovered in the National Park – how exciting would that be? This is the point about our 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.

Cavers are a tenacious bunch and every year sees 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 another large cave system beneath the scenic Kingsdale valley, where one of its underwater passages terminates, 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 doubters in 1968 and there are doubters now, but it is possible that one day you will be able to travel from Barbondale to Clapham underground!

FOTD is very supportive of efforts to improve access to caves and we will continue to help campaign to make this happen.

Gaping Gill main chamber. Courtesy of Mark Burkey



Easter Grotto in Easgill Caverns, part of the Three Counties System. Courtesy of Mark Burkey



TAKE DALESBUS TO ENJOY A WINTER WONDERLAND



Flagship DalesBus service 874 picks up walkers at Kettlewell. Courtesy of Friends of DalesBus

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

Cravenlink 873 connecting Skipton and Ilkley via Bolton Abbey and Embsay.

The Acorn Wensleydale Flyer 856 travels 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 Harrogate and Pateley Bridge through Nidderdale.

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).

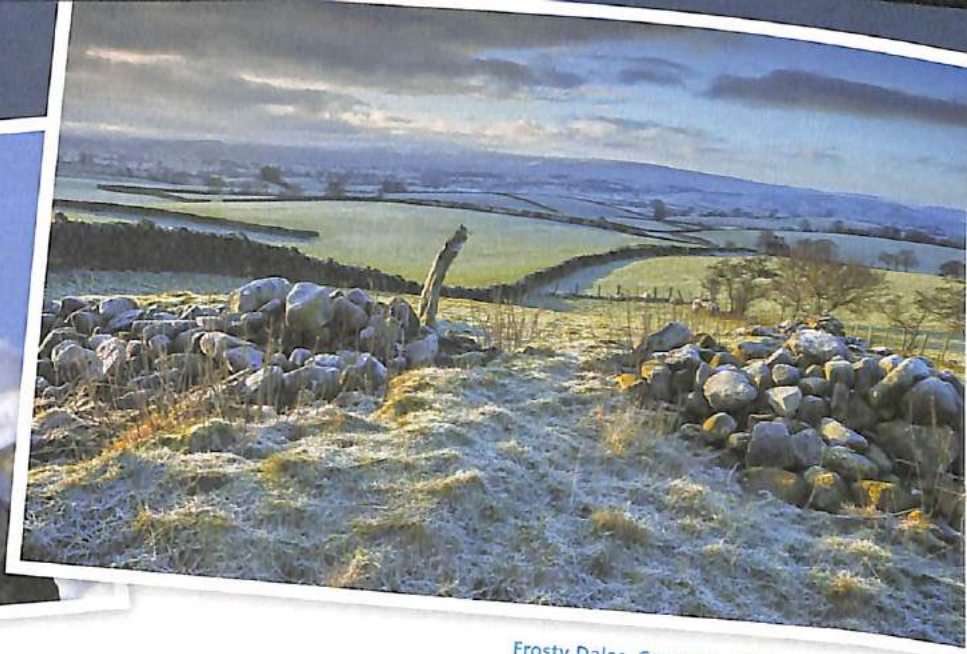
We now wish to build on that, and create a team of enthusiastic local people scattered throughout the Dales to be our ears as well as our voice. Leaflets need distributing, and local people know the best outlets. But there is much more to the role. We need articles for our popular magazine – *Yorkshire 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@friendsofthedales.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



Wheatear. Courtesy of Mark Corner



Frosty Dales. Courtesy of Tim Hancock

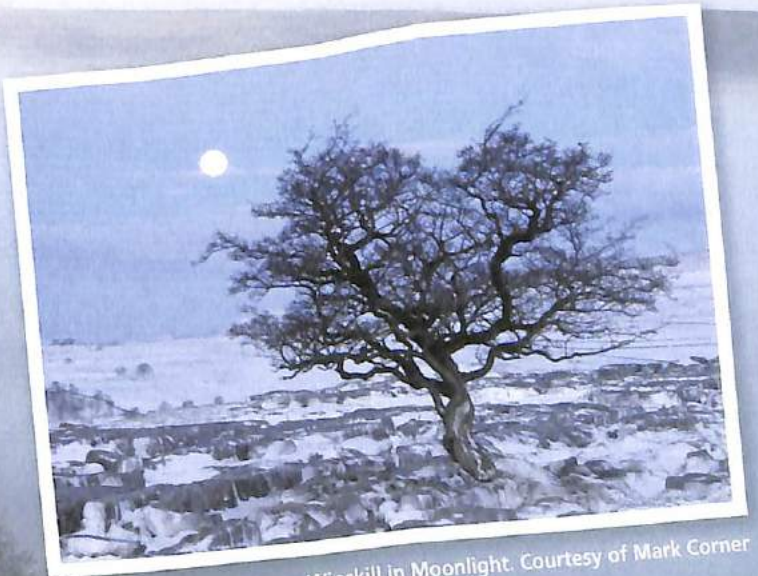


Swaledales. Courtesy of Tim Hancock

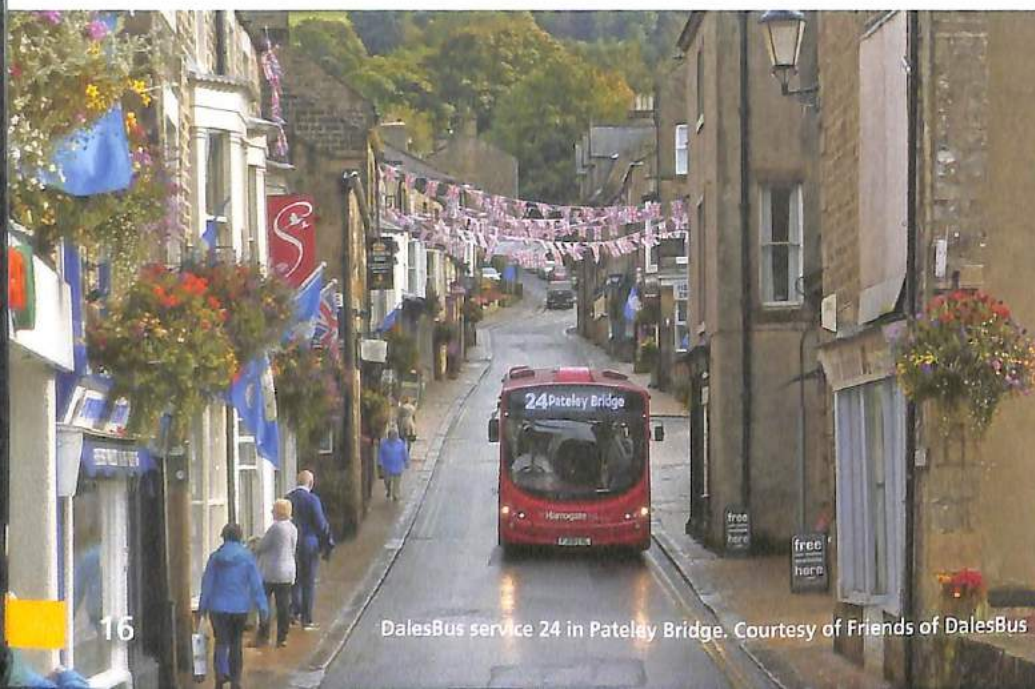


Wensleydale by Day. Courtesy of Hilary Fenton

Dales in their Winter Glory



Wensleydale in Moonlight. Courtesy of Mark Corner



DalesBus service 24 in Pateley Bridge. Courtesy of Friends of DalesBus

Misty Morning. Courtesy of Mark Corner

Membership Numbers Continue to Grow

I'm delighted to report an increase in membership numbers again – we have gained an impressive 200 new members, plus some business and affiliate members, between June and the end of October 2017! It's great that our new leaflet and website are continuing to work so well, and thank you to all our Ambassadors who are helping with distribution around the Dales and further afield. More offers of help are very welcome for your own local patch. And a big welcome to all our new members – we are very grateful for your support.

Welcome Donation

In November 2017, a long-standing member (who wishes to remain anonymous) donated the very generous sum of £2,500 to Friends of the Dales. At the donor's request, this money will be used to support the next step in our recruitment campaign. This 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 boost 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 what a difference it could make in the long term to the Dales. If you would like to discuss how your support through a donation could help fund our charitable activities, please contact me (Ann Shadrake), in confidence, using the contact details on the back cover.

Do we 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 Orange). We also have a lot of gaps where we don't have an email address for members. I know that not all our members use email, but if you do, it would really help me if you could take a moment to contact me on penny.lowe@friendsofthedaes.org.uk using your preferred email, putting "Project EMAIL" in the subject line and including your membership number or full name. That will help me check our current records and update our database. If you have joined since June 2017, there is no need to do this unless you have changed your email address since then.

Verifying correct email addresses in this way will be really valuable for a new project we hope to launch next year. We are looking at preparing an e-newsletter (electronic newsletter) for members and others interested in our work. We have no intention of bombarding you with emails, but we feel it would be helpful to be able to inform members of important information and campaigns between the Review publication dates and to send out reminders for our key events. We will, of course, never pass on or sell your personal contact details and you will be free to unsubscribe to the newsletter at any time.

Once you've received the first copy of the e-newsletter you can see how you like it, and decide whether to keep receiving it or unsubscribe. We will still find it useful to have a current email address from you, in case we have a query about your membership.

Thank you.

Penny Lowe, Administration Assistant



Lunch at Hurst Castle for the 2017 National Park Societies Conference. Report next issue

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 book 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 festival programme etc). Small charge to non-members for talks (£3).

What to bring

For outdoor events – whatever the forecast – always come well equipped with boots/outdoor clothing and refreshments. Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome on many walks – look for the paw print symbol 🐾. For walks and visits always bring packed lunch or use local pub/café where indicated.

Transport

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

Booking

Most events are offered on a 'just turn up' basis with no need to book – but it really helps if you can let me know if you hope to attend so I can 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.friendsofthedaes.org.uk and Facebook for last-minute updates or ring/email me.

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

📍 Dales Insights

Afternoon/evening talk (with a cuppa) usually teamed with an optional easy/moderate morning walk. Wide range of Dales themes with knowledgeable leaders and speakers.

📍 Classic Countryside

Half day (easy) to full day (moderate) sociable and distinctive walks with added 'something special'. Experienced leaders - steady pace with breaks/picnic stop.

📍 Vibrant Communities

Bespoke 'one-off' guided tour of Dales village/town devised by local members and community. Easy morning and afternoon walks/visits.

📍 Focus on the Dales

Full day themed visit exploring a Dales topic e.g. farming, quarrying, tourism, community action. Soak up knowledge from opinion leaders – with lively debate.

Saturday, 20 January 2018

📍 Short 📍 Victorian Skipton and Dales Rails

Ann Shadrake will lead a walk around Skipton to discover the mills, churches, pubs and transport so essential to the daily lives of the town's working people in Victorian times. Our afternoon presentation is by David Joy, honorary member of Friends of the Dales, speaking on his new book *Rails in the Dales* (reviewed in Summer 2017 issue of this magazine), with copies available to buy on the day.

Regret no dogs except RAD.

10:30am Meet at Fred Trueman Statue, Canal Basin, Coach Street P&D car park BD23 1LE (public toilets). 10 minutes' walk from bus/rail station. Walk about three miles, mainly on pavements and towpaths, but expect some puddles.

2:15pm Meet at St Andrew's Church Hall, Newmarket Street, Skipton BD23 2JE. Complimentary tea and biscuits. Guests/visitors welcome £3. Ends around 4:00pm

Thursday, 22 February 2018

📍 Medium 📍 Exploring Ribbleshead and Chapel-le-Dale

Join Mike Benson at Ribbleshead station for a varied circular walk of circa seven miles, taking in Ribbleshead Quarry, part of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, and following part of the route of a new Ingleborough walk (created by the Stories in Stone project) towards Great Douk Cave. We'll also visit the Grade II-listed St Leonard's Church, Chapel-le-Dale, with its links to the workers who built Ribbleshead Viaduct. After a short climb along a wooded track, we'll take a break in the beautifully converted Broadrake Bunkbarn, hearing from business members Mike and Rachel Benson about the activities their business offers. Walking back under Ribbleshead Viaduct, we'll return to the station late afternoon (local pub open all day). Our walk is best suited to confident walkers as there is an unfenced quarry edge near the path, we follow moorland tracks (rough in places) and cross limestone pavement (may be slippery). Some stiles.

Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome. 🐾

Meet at Ribbleshead Station 10:20am Leeds 8:49am arrives Ribbleshead 10:06am. Kirkby Stephen 9:48am arrives Ribbleshead 10:17am. Return trains to Leeds 3:29pm and Kirkby Stephen 4:01pm. Park at station or ask about car share. Bring packed lunch to eat at Broadrake Bunkbarn (toilets).

Ends around 3:00pm.

Saturday, 24 March 2018

📍 Medium 📍 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 this long-distance trail. The walk follows fields, tracks and lanes between Austwick and Wharfe, before heading for the lower slopes of Crummackdale, passing the pretty clapper bridge at Wash Dub to return to the start. The walk is moderate but may be stony or wet underfoot. In the afternoon, Chris will tell us more about how she and her husband Tony developed the 90-mile route, and how her upbringing on a Dentsdale hill farm led to a lifelong passion for walking.

Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome. 🐾

10:30am Meet at Austwick Parish Hall, Main Street, Austwick LA2 8BJ (beside village shop/post office). Toilets available. Park with consideration on village roads. Ask about car share.

2:15pm Illustrated talk in Austwick Parish Hall as above. Complimentary tea and biscuits. Guests/visitors welcome £3. Ends around 4:00pm.

📍 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, or see full festival programme at www.ride2stride.org.uk

Tuesday, 1 May 2018

📍 Medium 📍 Surprising Settle

Led by Mark Corner in partnership with North Craven Building Preservation Trust, a seven-mile stroll, starting with a river walk to the charming hamlet of Stackhouse and the fascinating Hoffmann kiln near the village of Langcliffe. Then we will explore the historic market town of Settle, discovering many interesting heritage features. A free visit to The Folly is included, where we will enjoy a short talk about this fascinating Grade 1-listed building.

Meet at Settle Station at 9:48am. The walk will finish before 3:00pm.



Ribbleshead Viaduct. Courtesy of Tim Hancock

Wednesday, 2 May 2018

📍 Medium 📍 Discovering Long Preston Deeps

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

Meet at Settle Station at 10:44am. Ends around 2:30pm.

Friday, 4 May 2018

📍 Short 📍 River & Rocks

Colin Speakman will lead an easy circular walk along the River Ribble to Langcliffe Mill, with an optional very steep climb up Castleberg Crag on the return to Settle at lunchtime.

Meet at Settle station at 10:44am. Ends around 1:00pm.

Friday, 4 May 2018

📍 Talk: Adam Sedgwick, Geologist and Dalesman

Colin Speakman will talk about the life and achievements of Dent's famous pioneer geologist.

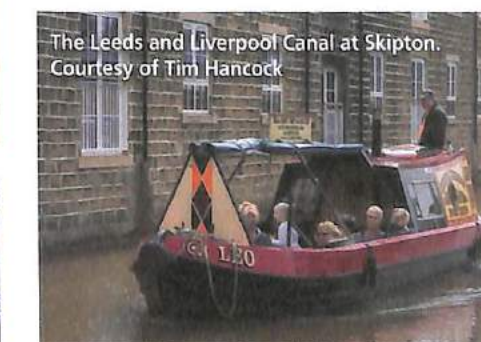
Talk 2:15pm. Quaker Meeting House, Settle. Ends around 4:00pm.

Saturday, 5 May 2018

📍 Long 📍 A Walk with a View

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

Meet at Ribbleshead station at 12:02pm on the arrival of the 10:49am train from Leeds. Return on the 5:42pm to Leeds.



The Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Skipton. Courtesy of Tim Hancock

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Arcow Quarry in Horton-in-Ribblesdale

This wintery 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.

Views expressed in the Yorkshire Dales Review are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Dales.

For any contributions or comments concerning this publication, please contact:

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www.friendsofthedales.org.uk



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[@yds35](https://twitter.com/yds35)

Dales & Bowland

Community Interest Company:

www.dalesandbowland.com

Annual Membership

Single	£23
Joint/Family	£32

Business Members	£35
Affiliate Members (Group)	£35

Life Membership

Individual (Under 60)	£400
Joint (Under 60)	£550
Individual (Over 60)	£300
Joint (Over 60)	£450

Please Gift Aid your membership if you are eligible as we can benefit from additional income.

