

Yorkshire **DALES** review

- **A Natural Health Service in the Dales**
- **Raptor Persecution**
- **Whales in the Dales**
- **Settle to Carlisle Line**
- **Dales Day Out for Carers**

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YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY



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Editor Sasha Heseltine

Yorkshire **DALES** review

POLICY COMMITTEE PLANNING UPDATE

The Committee continues to monitor planning applications received by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA), and, where we can, those received by adjacent planning authorities. Over the past quarter, we have made a number of comments and objections, and key cases are noted here.

We remain concerned about the number of applications for barn conversions that are being received for field barns in isolated locations. While we fully support the aim of providing housing for local people, we agree with the policy in the National Park Local Plan that states: "Intensive uses will not be appropriate in buildings that are isolated in the landscape. These locations will be incapable of absorbing the visual impacts associated with the development, in terms of physical alterations to the building, the provision of new infrastructure, and the higher level of disturbance associated with these uses."

One such barn is at Oughtershaw, a visually prominent, very small traditional field barn outside the village and considered 'quite special and possibly unique' by YDNPA's senior listed building officer. On balance, we felt that this conversion, in such an open location, would be inappropriate; in particular the extension and amount of glass were considered to be out of scale and out of keeping with the original barn, so we lodged an objection.

We were also dismayed by the decision by the Planning Inspector to allow permission for the conversion of Tug Gill Lathe barn in upper Wharfedale on appeal. We felt that the decision by the YDNPA to refuse permission was entirely in accordance with its policy, and with the primary purpose of National Park designation, i.e. to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area. We are concerned that this decision has set an unfortunate precedent for many other relatively isolated barns throughout the Dales.

Another role of the FOTD Policy Committee is to set out our position on issues that affect the landscape and its enjoyment, such as farming, housing, transport, railways, minerals and access. These statements can be seen on our website:

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/campaigns/

We constantly check and update these statements, and are now reviewing the one on trees and woodlands. To assist us in this we are pleased that Geoff Garrett, Trees and Woodlands Officer at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, will be attending our next meeting in July, to talk with us about the Authority's approach to woodland management and creation.

Nancy Stedman, Trustee of Friends of the Dales and member of the Policy Committee.

A little late, but here at last

Life sometimes deals us curved balls, and this month one was dealt to my family and me. Luckily nothing too serious, but enough to keep my eye off editing your magazine. However, all is well now. Apologies for the late arrival of this issue on your doormat.

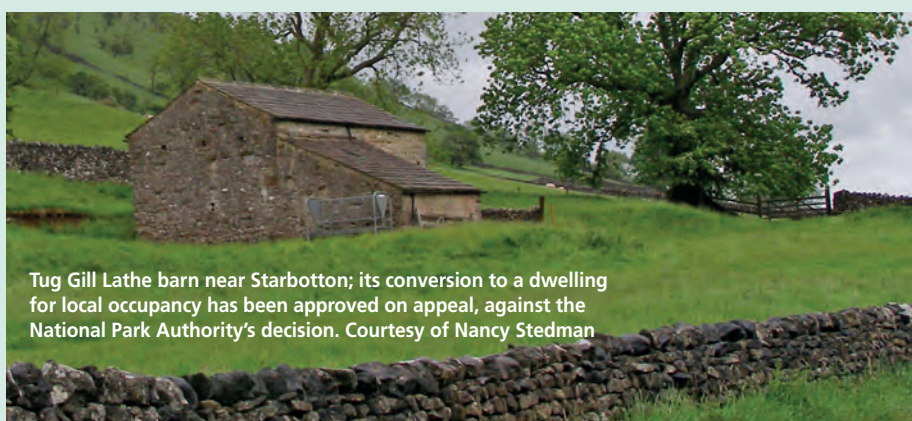
The Dales countryside has provided solace for me over the last few weeks. So I wholeheartedly agree with Friends of the Dales Chairman Mark Corner, when he says that the inspirational landscapes of the Dales offer a 'natural health service' to all. See page 4 to see how visitors to the Dales during May's Ride2stride fell in love with the area.

I'm sure the long-term carers who enjoyed a fantastic day out in the Dales on June 15 courtesy of FOTD volunteers (page 15) also feel that their beauty and majesty offer solace and comfort to all who visit. And Dales communities are as stimulating as their surroundings. Check out the precious memories created at the seventh Settle Stories Festival on page 14.

It's surprising to read, therefore, that the countryside that offers us so much joy is no longer safe haven for our increasingly beleaguered birds of prey. Read about the persecution facing raptors in the Dales and how you can help safeguard their future on page 6.

You can keep abreast of all our news and read about up-and-coming events on pages 18–19. Learn about the work of the FOTD in securing the future of the Settle to Carlisle train line on page 8, and of the Capturing the Past project on page 10. And as ever, if you feel you could help FOTD out in any capacity, please feel free to approach Ann Shadrake – her contact details are on the cover of this magazine.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, Sasha Heseltine



Tug Gill Lathe barn near Starbotton; its conversion to a dwelling for local occupancy has been approved on appeal, against the National Park Authority's decision. Courtesy of Nancy Stedman

The Dales 'Natural Health Service'

Much of the effort of our charity is focused on protecting the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Dales. The other part of what we aim to do is to encourage everyone to engage with, understand and enjoy this special area. My own focus has been very much on our conservation role but the importance and impact of this second element was really brought home to me during the Ride2stride events held in May this year and which we were fully engaged in helping to deliver.

Ride2stride is a festival of walks, talks and music along the Settle-Carlisle railway line. This year, I was privileged to be asked to 'open' the festival and to lead one of the festival launch walks. Participants in the events don't book, they simply turn up on the day. I had 30 walkers on my 'Surprising Settle' walk and was surprised at how far some folk had travelled to enjoy walking in the Dales. We had a couple from Chicago, a lady from Denmark, and people from all around the UK. It reminded me of how special the Dales are.

I suppose that those of us lucky enough to live here may sometimes get a little complacent about having this beautiful and inspirational landscape on our doorstep, but the fact that people will travel the world to be able to experience it should remind us of how special it is. But what really had an impact on me was the Canopy Housing group from Leeds who joined us on the walk.

Canopy Housing is a charity that empowers people who are homeless to transform empty houses in Leeds into homes and become part of the community. Tenants have the opportunity to participate in the renovation and decorating of their new home alongside volunteers and can choose how they would like their house to look prior to moving in. A group of 12 from Canopy consisting of staff, volunteers and tenants happened to select our walk to join. It turned out that several of the tenants had never left the city environment and it was humbling and exciting to see how positively they reacted to spending a day in the Dales. They loved the space, the fresh air, the scenery, lambs in the fields, the steam train that we were lucky enough to see, and were blown away

by a visit to the Hoffmann Kiln in Langcliffe. Their enthusiasm was infectious and I'm told that they were talking about what they'd experienced all the way home in the train to Leeds. Staff at the charity were so impressed with the impact that the visit had that they have asked us to organise a bespoke event for them which we are delighted to be doing.

There is a large body of work which confirms the positive impact on physical and mental health and of wellbeing of being in our national parks, which provide places for escape, adventure, enjoyment, inspiration and reflection. They help replenish the soul. The term 'Natural Health Service' has been used, I think appropriately. Efforts are also being made to quantify the economic impact of areas like national parks on wellbeing and more generally the value of natural capital.

I know this intellectually, but it is seeing the effect in the flesh with our friends from Canopy that really brought home to me the need for us to do all we can, in our modest way, to encourage people from all backgrounds to visit the Dales and to facilitate such experiences.

Mark Corner



Group from Canopy Housing Leeds on Langcliffe village green. Courtesy of Mark Corner



New Business Members



Black Horse Hotel, Grassington

The Black Horse Hotel was extended in 1990 and now boasts 15 modern ensuite bedrooms, each with their own individuality. In the cosy public and residents' bar, treat yourself to one of the real ales or enjoy a home-cooked light bite. The restaurant offers a relaxed dining experience and the chef is proud to use fresh local produce.

www.blackhorsehotelgrassington.co.uk



Campsites.co.uk

The landscape in the Dales has been formed by nature and the work of ancient peoples, leaving a space that is proudly unique. Everywhere you turn, there are soft limestone scenes set off by vibrant meadows and shady woodland. Find the perfect base at these campsites in the Yorkshire Dales for walking, horse riding or zipping over this dynamic park by bike.

www.campsites.co.uk



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Skipton Golf Club

Skipton Golf Club, founded in 1893 and celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, is nestled among the beautiful Yorkshire Dales on the edge of the historic town of Skipton, with dramatic views of the surrounding countryside. Visitors will always be most welcome. Read more on page 3.

www.skiptongolfclub.co.uk



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Vennell's Restaurant, Masham

In 2005 Jon with his wife Laura opened Vennell's Restaurant, situated in the beautiful town of Masham, 15 minutes north of Ripon in North Yorkshire. They had a clear philosophy: fresh, local, seasonal produce handled with care and cooked sympathetically.

vennellsrestaurant.co.uk



White Rose Candles

Visitors may observe the various processes involved in the manufacture of candles including traditional dipping techniques and casting methods. The building housing the workshop was a 19th-century water mill – the water wheel still exists and mills have been recorded on this site since 1203. We supply candles by mail order within the UK.

www.whiterosecandles.co.uk

Peregrine falcon at Malham. Courtesy of Dave Dimmock



Raptor Persecution in the Yorkshire Dales

The Yorkshire Dales is acknowledged as one of the country's black spots for raptor persecution. Ian McPherson, Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and a member of Friends of the Dales, looks at what's being done to prevent it.

Blunt speech indeed, but the Dales are one of the worst areas for hen harrier persecution in particular, and generally including peregrine falcon, merlin, red kite, buzzard, goshawk and short-eared owl. It was one of the principal matters of concern raised by members of the public during the course of the recent Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan consultation. Progress has been made this year as a result of greater co-operation between North Yorkshire Police, other environmental agencies and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA), culminating in the police launching "Operation Owl" and introducing a zero tolerance approach to raptor persecution and wildlife crime in general.



Howard Jones, RSPB Investigations Officer, gives police officers and national park staff an insight into illegal trapping methods. Courtesy of Yorkshire Dales National Park

YDNPA report

The Authority also produced an in-depth and extremely detailed, lengthy report on the subject "Birds of Prey in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Evidence Report". A precis of the Executive Summary of that report reads as follows:

1. In the last two decades, there has been a significant increase in the population and distribution of buzzard, both nationally and within the national park. Although red kite populations have shown a similar increase and despite the proximity of the Yorkshire reintroduction site and the success of that scheme, there are currently no breeding pairs within the national park. The number of persecution incidents along the south-eastern fringe of the Yorkshire Dales appears to be preventing the expansion of the breeding population into the area. In both these species, the population increases are, in the main, the re-occupancy of historic breeding ranges following historic declines or extirpation.
2. There is no systematic monitoring of goshawk, short-eared owl or merlin populations in the national park, so it is not possible to determine the true status or any definitive population trends. However, the data available would suggest that the goshawk is a very rare bird that is restricted to only one or two sites in the area, with no recent confirmed breeding records. There are a small number of breeding records of short-eared owls reported each year but there appear to be large areas of potentially suitable breeding habitat that are not occupied. The populations of both goshawk and short-eared owl are judged to be well below the natural carrying capacity of the area. There are a small number of breeding records for merlin reported annually, and additional sightings of single birds in areas of potentially suitable breeding habitat, but these are insufficient to determine any population trends. Data from a Natural England scheme to monitor merlin in the north of the national park are not in the public domain at the time of writing.
3. The long-term breeding data for peregrine indicates that in the last decade, the population has been relatively stable in the national park. There has, however, been a marked difference in site occupancy, with many traditional territories away from areas managed for grouse regularly occupied and successfully fledging young. In contrast, there has not been a successful peregrine nesting attempt on any of the monitored grouse moor sites since 1997, with birds now absent from the majority of sites that were occupied in the 1990s. There is no natural explanation for this difference.
4. Despite large areas of potentially suitable nesting habitat, there has not been a successful hen harrier nesting attempt in the national park since 2007. In addition, 11 (19%) of the 59 hen harriers that were satellite tagged by Natural England at sites across northern England and Scotland between 2002 and 2017 are classed as 'missing fate unknown' in the Yorkshire Dales. Low survival rates of both adult and juvenile hen harriers are the main factor preventing the population from increasing.
5. The collation of breeding data, the number of confirmed persecution incidents and the absence of some species from large areas of potentially suitable habitat provide compelling evidence that illegal persecution is limiting the populations of peregrine and hen harriers in the national park and is preventing the colonisation of the area by red kites. The situation with short-eared owl and goshawk is not clear, but concerns that these populations may be limited by persecution may prove to be justified with further work. The present status of these species mirrors that of adjoining upland areas of northern England.

The report then goes on to consider the status of each of the above mentioned species in more detail and I would encourage anyone interested in the future of any of these iconic and beautiful birds to read it in full. On the whole it makes depressing reading.

Hen harrier threat

In my capacity as Member Champion for the Natural Environment at the YDNPA, I have been concentrating particularly on the threat to hen harrier and I have taken every opportunity to raise awareness in both the full Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum (of which I am a member) of the plight of these birds. Under normal circumstances, one would expect to find hundreds of these harriers nesting in England, and especially in the northern uplands, which is their favoured environment. So why aren't they? Natural England has been working on their Hen Harrier Recovery Project for a number of years now, and so has the RSPB with their Skydancer campaign, but unfortunately not with any significant positive outcomes.

It is easy to point the finger. A considerable area of the northern uplands comprises grouse moors and while hen harriers have continued over the years to try to nest there, the nests have been predated. Some were by natural means (for example, foxes) and others unlawfully by gamekeepers. It would be fair to say that over recent months the situation has been gradually improving and the Moorland Association has been making encouraging noises both to its own membership, to the wider public generally and to various environmental organisations.

It is still early days to say whether or not will this change the culture of driven grouse shooting and those connected with it, including the moorland owners themselves and those employed by them. Attempts have been made by various individuals and



Peregrine falcon.
Courtesy Jean and Fred on Flickr

environmental pressure groups to persuade Government to introduce a regime of licensing to oversee and control grouse shooting and moorland management – one of the provisions of which would be the withdrawal of a licence should it be proved that the owners of the land were responsible for, and countenancing, unlawful activity such as the persecution of protected species. Indeed in Scotland the law recognises the vicarious liability of landowners for illegal acts committed on their land, whether or not they knew of it or directly authorised it. In the present political climate it seems unlikely that either of these measures will be incorporated into English law anytime soon.

It would also be fair to point out that there is a measure of disagreement between the various environmental organisations and agencies themselves as to the way forward. At Langholme in Scotland, there has for some time been a diversionary feeding scheme in operation, under which gamekeepers feed nesting hen harriers to divert them from taking grouse chicks. A system of brood management is also envisaged under the Hen

Harrier Recovery Project, whereby if nests are too close together on a grouse moor, provision would be made for removing one of the nests, hand-rearing the chicks and then re-introducing them into another part of the country. While such a scheme is supported in general, the RSPB are strongly opposed to it.

The present situation is fluid and ongoing and is far from resolved, although I would have to say that there is now significantly greater awareness of the problem of raptor persecution and of the need for action to deal with it. At the end of the day, raptor persecution is unlawful and constitutes a criminal offence, which should be investigated and then enforced with the full rigour of the law. I, for one, look forward to the day when all raptors are back in full strength throughout our country, particularly in our upland areas and especially on our moorlands, which are the natural home for these birds. With goodwill on all sides, surely there is enough land and airspace to accommodate the needs of all involved – particularly the birds themselves.

How You Can Help Raptors in the Dales

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act it is against the law to intentionally kill, injure or take wild birds. In February 2018, North Yorkshire police launched "Operation Owl" to stamp out raptor persecution in association with the RSPB, the RSPCA and the national park authorities.

You can help by keeping a lookout for dead or injured birds, poisoned bait or pole traps and reporting them to the police on 101. These cruel, spring-loaded devices are used to capture raptors that land on top of posts. The victims can struggle for many hours before the trappers return to kill them.

If you see a pole trap, you should 'spring' it if you can do so safely, note the location, take a photo and report it to the police on 101 so wildlife officers can investigate.

You can also sign up as a national-park volunteer to identify signs of raptor persecution. The Yorkshire Dales National Park website link is:

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/looking-after/how-you-can-help/volunteering



Goshawk.
Courtesy of Andy Morffew on Flickr

Saving the Settle to Carlisle Line



Dales Rail train at Garsdale, Christmas 1976.
Courtesy Colin Speakman

The Ramblers and Yorkshire Dales societies helped to ensure the future of the Settle to Carlisle train line. Colin Speakman explains how.

With various politicians and rail groups now celebrating how their decisions saved the Settle-Carlisle line from closure during the 1980s, it might be worth recording the enormous contribution played by several other key organisations, most notably what is now the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) and our own Friends of the Dales, then known as the Yorkshire Dales Society.

It was the late Keith Lockyer, chairman of the newly established Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee and his young national park officer, Richard Harvey, who had the vision and courage in 1974 to back what seemed a somewhat hair-brained scheme emanating from the West Riding Area of the Ramblers Association. That was for the Yorkshire Dales to be the UK's first national park, to charter a series of special trains for local people, walkers and visitors from the town and cities of West Yorkshire, into the national park.

This involved the National Park Committee finding £5,000 to repair station platforms at Horton in Ribblesdale, Ribbleshead, Dent and Garsdale stations to minimal standards, as agreed with the railway inspectorate, for the use of occasional trains. Cumbria County Council also contributed £500 for Kirkby Stephen West station, as it was then known. National park wardens worked closely with British Rail staff to secure public access to the stations (some station buildings had been sold off to private owners) and to erect legally required station signs, complete with the national park logo.

Having saved the station platforms, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee then agreed to hire special diesel railcars from British Rail, to operate a public rail service over three weekends in May, June and July 1975 between Leeds and Appleby, to call at the specially reopened stations.

While plans progressed well, a few weeks before the service was due to start there was a major stumbling block. Although the trains from Leeds, in British Rail's North-East Region, had been approved, senior Midland Region managers in Crewe were far from happy. They had been carefully rerouting passenger traffic away from the line, pending planned closure of the entire Settle to Carlisle route. The line was only being kept open for a few years for two reasons – for loose-coupled freight trains soon to be phased out, and as a temporary diversionary route for west coast main-line trains during planned electrification work in the later 1970s.

Questions in Parliament

So concerned were the national park's committee over the crucial hold-up that when a local MP, the late Bob Cryer, member for Keighley, contacted me (I was then an officer with the national park, based in Grassington) about three weeks before the first trains were due to run. He informed us that he had come first in a Members' Ballot to ask a question in Parliament about the railway, and we asked him to raise the issue of getting permission for the pilot charter trains.

However, when civil servants saw the question from Bob – a great supporter of the CND – was about stations, they assumed that it was referring to radar stations such as Menwith Hill. So briefing was prepared for the Defence Minister to answer the question. Panic ensued when the question turned out to be about railway stations. Desperate to cover up their blunder, the Department of Transport urged BR management for a quick positive response. This came within days, and the project, on a knife-edge with a real risk of trains having to be cancelled, was saved.

BR managers assumed that Dales Rail, as it was branded, was just a once-a-year trip for a few hikers. But the huge success of the project – which for a time even made a profit for the national park – took them by surprise. The first three weekends of operation in May and

July of 1975, between Leeds and Appleby, had to be extended until September and, as local people were also using the return Saturday service to Leeds, there was even a Christmas shopping train to Carlisle. From the very beginning, buses were central to the concept of Dales Rail. Chartered United or Ribble buses brought local people from Hawes and Sedburgh to meet trains at Garsdale station and then carried walkers into Upper Wensleydale, Swaledale, Dentdale, Sedburgh and even Barbon and Cautley.

Stations repaired and re-opened

Dales Rail was here to stay. It brought thousands of people back to a scenically beautiful railway line that they had not known existed. Services were extended to Carlisle and from Blackpool in Lancashire, leading to the reopening of Clitheroe station and the Ribble Valley Line from Blackburn to Hellifield. Lancashire Dales Rail services continue in summer to this day. In 1976, Cumbria County Council, now key partners, commissioned BR to repair Langwathby, Lazonby & Kirkoswald and Armathwaite stations in the Eden Valley, with two Saturday trains now running to and from Carlisle, with passenger traffic flowing in both directions. But by 1986, Cumbria County Council, key partners of Dales Rail, were chartering daily train services ostensibly to get college students into Carlisle, but with a wider vision to restore the regular daily local service.

The Yorkshire Dales Society (now known as Friends of the Dales) was established in 1981. Many of the volunteer Dales Rail stewards, walk leaders and regular walkers were among our very first members. Keith Lockyer, no longer chair of the national park but a key figure behind Dales Rail, became our first chairman. Many Dales Rail volunteers and walk leaders were among the founder members of the Friends of Settle Carlisle Line (FoSCL). But the YDS took the early lead in campaigning to save the line.

A seminar on "Rural Transport in the Dales" was organised in September 1982 staged by the infant Yorkshire Dales Society in Bolton Abbey, with over 50 participants. There were keynote speeches on the future of the Settle to Carlisle line by the late James Towler, TUCC Yorkshire chairman, and one of the driving forces in the retention of the line; also by John Watson, at that time MP for Skipton.

What emerged from this meeting was a report that highlighted the massive potential role the Settle to Carlisle line could play as the backbone of a Swiss-style integrated network of trains and buses through the National Park. The Ramblers and the Yorkshire Dales Society also organised a major widely reported public rally in 1984 Settle addressed by Ramblers president and Pennine Way creator Tom Stephenson, and by a later RA president (also a Yorkshire Dales Society president), Mike Harding.

When the public inquiry finally took place in 1986, James Towler had cleverly established that the Dales Rail stations were legally opened and therefore users could object to the closures. Very many Dales Rail users and members of the Yorkshire Dales Society did just that. Yorkshire Dales Society were also formal objectors, giving evidence at the TUCC Public Hearing, where we again set out our vision of an integrated transport network for the Dales. We were key, active members of the joint action committee that co-ordinated the work of various voluntary groups opposing closure

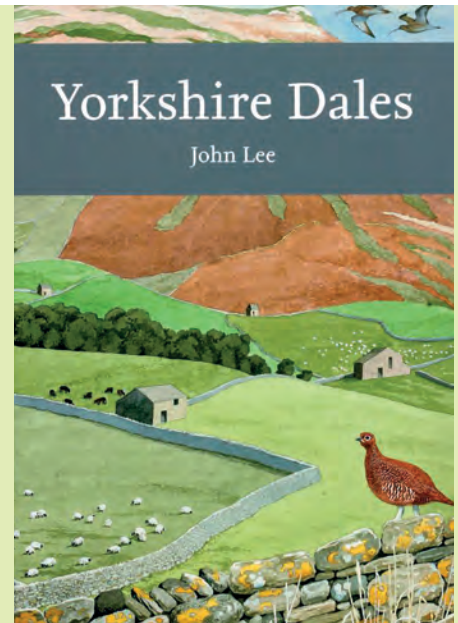
Clearly it was not one person or one organisation that saved this magnificent railway – it was a number of different individuals and organisations, not all of whom have ever been named or received awards. Walkers and ramblers provided much of the core user evidence and commitment that was to eventually win the day.

In 1986, the Yorkshire Dales Society was also the first to use the Village Bus measures in the 1985 Transport Act to launch a Saturday minibus service between Garsdale station and Hawes. Our involvement in

the bus network has continued ever since and now, through our subsidiary company, Dales & Bowland CIC, we manage most of the Sunday DalesBus network. This includes the key summer Dales Rail-style Sunday bus links from Ribbleshead station to Hawes and Swaledale, and from Settle station to Malham Tarn and Malham.

So, in many ways, the history of the Yorkshire Dales Society and the saving of the Settle to Carlisle line are intertwined. The railway, one of the most spectacular in Britain, is now a huge tourist attraction in its own right, but is also a local lifeline for communities in the Yorkshire Dales and the Eden Valley. It is perhaps the most heavily used railway by walkers to access a national park in the UK (only the Hope Valley line in the Peak District can compare). The immense value of the former Dales Rail stations to access the national park, including the new northern part west of the Eden Valley (accessible from both Kirkby Stephen and Appleby stations) is a vital reason to retain and to continue to support the railway.

It interesting to reflect that had Bob Cryer not asked that question in Parliament and the civil servant muddled a question, forcing British Rail to give a decision that they didn't want to give, there would have been no Dales Rail. Without the huge popular success of Dales Rail, the Settle to Carlisle line would have closed in the mid-1980s. It would probably now be a cycleway between Settle and a bricked-up Blea Moor Tunnel. And with so many Dales Rail users among its members, when victory to keep the line open was finally announced in 1989, it also gave a boost to the youthful Yorkshire Dales Society. It had been our first major success as a campaigning organisation.



YORKSHIRE DALES By John Lee

The New Naturalists Library

Published by William Collins 2015

Softback: ISBN 978-0-00-750370-4 £35.00

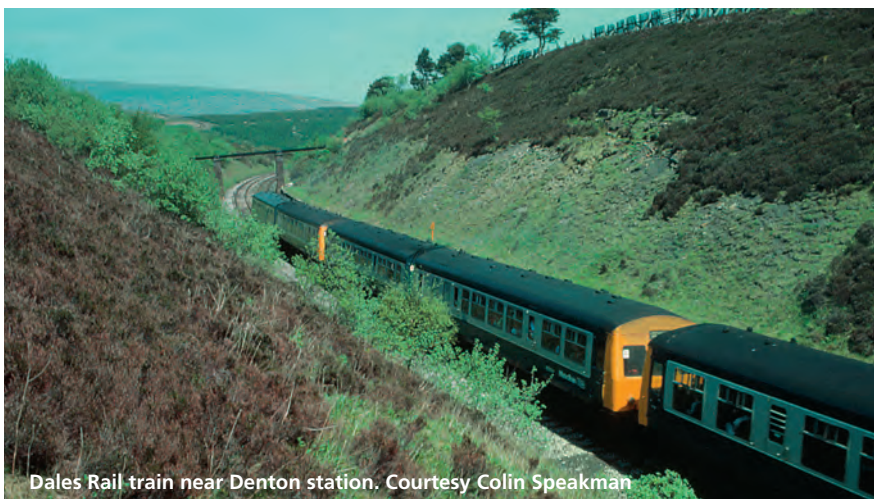
Hardback: ISBN 978-0-00-750369-8 £60.00

There are hundreds of published books on the Yorkshire Dales National Park but few that capture the natural history of the area in such a comprehensive and fascinating way as John Lee's new volume. He is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Biology at Sheffield University and has loved and explored the Dales all his adult life. He displays a wide knowledge and understanding of recent research in meteorology, geology, geomorphology and human influences on the landscape, which he distils usefully for the lay reader. He explores the habitats of the park, such as limestone pavements, moorlands and woodlands, and concludes by reviewing the Dales wildlife and the future of the park.

The book is not without its flaws. It was written by a botanist so the emphasis is on flora, and it is perhaps too descriptive and somewhat less analytical than it could be. It is amply illustrated with photographs and diagrams but their clarity suffer from the small size of the pages. A lay reader will need to "work at it" to get the most out of this book but will be rewarded by gaining a deeper knowledge of the connecting strands that have resulted in the unique Dales landscape. The concluding chapter reproduces many of the National Park Authority's aspirations for the future of the Park's biodiversity, but they are not discussed in detail as to how practical or successful they may be.

Nevertheless, this is a welcome addition to the library of books on the Yorkshire Dales and is strongly recommended as a comprehensive review of the natural history and biodiversity of one of our country's greatest national parks. Go buy!

Review by Rick Cowley, member of Friends of the Dales and member of Policy Committee



Dales Rail train near Denton station. Courtesy Colin Speakman



Capturing the Past INTO THE FUTURE

**Capturing the Past is two years old. What's been achieved?
Friends of the Dales trustee Nancy Stedman looks back over the project.**

Over two years ago, a small and enthusiastic team based in Upper Ribblesdale committed themselves to identifying vulnerable archives of historic material and making them available on a dedicated website. Thus 'Capturing the Past' was born, involving Ian Fleming, Mike Slater, Wilf Fenten, Anne Webster and Angus Winchester, with me, as a trustee of the Friends of the Dales, acting as project champion.

The project was commissioned by Stories in Stone, a scheme of conservation and community projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, which is managed by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. At the start, the team were aware of collections of material that were at risk – perhaps being stored under someone's bed, in a loft or a damp garage, or about to be cleared out. They identified just six such collections on which to focus their efforts; what has been so gratifying is the number of others who have stepped forward offering new collections to capture. The total on the website is now 21 and it is still expanding. One unexpected collection arose from the sad closure of the Horton in Ribblesdale primary school; the trustees have provided records going back to the early 16th century, when it was established as a 'free grammar' school.

Using the project funding, the team was able to purchase professional scanning, photographing and other digitising equipment, along with a dedicated laptop for use by volunteers to capture and upload material. They were supported by Linda Turnbull and Anthony Hughes, from North Yorkshire County Records Office, who provided advice on equipment and training on the evaluation and cataloguing of material. Community Sites, a company that specialises in providing bespoke archive websites, worked with the team to ensure that the website would be both professional and welcoming, with a capacious database facility linked to an effective search mechanism that was also clear and easy to use.

Once familiar with the equipment and the website, the team went out to train and support the many local historians who had expressed interest in participating. What is so impressive is the number of volunteers (35 to date) who were willing to undertake the training and then put a lot of hard work into evaluating and cataloguing their material, scanning it and uploading it on to the website, so that now there are over 10,000 pages of material available for perusal.

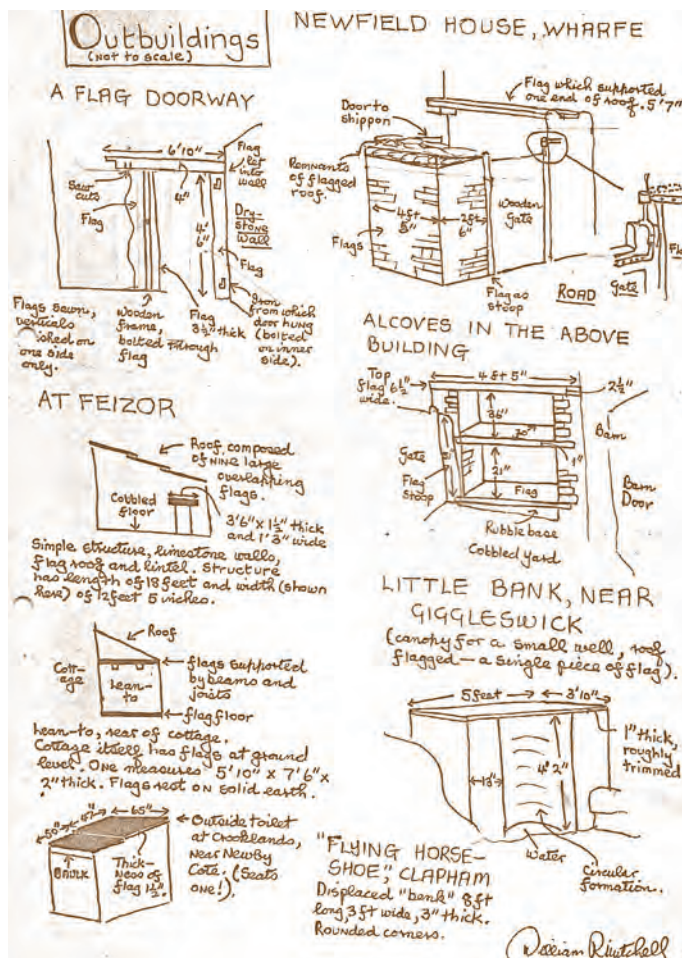
THE ON-LINE ARCHIVE

It is impossible in a short space to do justice to what is now freely available for local historians, researchers and the interested public to explore. Up until now, the focus has been on the Ingleborough area, and just as a taster, the collections include North Craven manorial records, deeds and wills; Lawkland parish meeting land tax records; histories of Austwick Hall and Malham Tarn House; local histories of Long Preston, Horton, Langcliffe and Stainforth; Giggleswick School records; and oral histories of quarrying. Even Manchester Angler's Association makes an appearance – in 1880 they established their club in Ribblesdale, setting up a clubroom at the Golden Lion in Horton, and managing trout hatcheries to stock the river Ribble.

All these are available for you to explore at www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk

One of the collections that particularly appeals to me is the set of drawings made by Bill Mitchell of many aspects of the local landscape, its buildings and farming features. The principal theme is that of the use of flagstone quarried locally. The annotated drawings are invaluable as a record of all items often overlooked such as cisterns, troughs, pantry shelves, roofing, flooring, barn boskins, beeholes and clapper bridges. I've chosen to include a page of 'Outbuildings' here as an example of his observations.

Page from 'Outbuildings' by Bill Mitchell.
Courtesy of Nancy Stedman



Ian Fleming, Project Manager, wrote about these Horton trout hatcheries in the Spring issue of the Review, no.138.



Austwick Mothers' Union Garden Party 1944.
Catalogue / Austwick Hall Collection / Social Events.



Andre Beaumont.
Winner of the English Channel Flying Race, who attained an altitude of 10,000 feet in his flight from Carlisle to Manchester, July 24th, 1911.
Andre Beaumont landing at Settle 1911.
Catalogue / Manchester Anglers' Association / Sport and Leisure.

INTO THE FUTURE

So now that the initial two-year project to establish the archive has been completed, where do we go from here? FOTD have taken over the project to ensure that it continues and develops well in to the future. The plan is to continue gradually expanding and updating the website out from the current Ingleborough area. We are already working with groups in Rathmell and Austwick, and talking with other interested groups.

However, the pace of this expansion will be constrained by our resources, and we are currently looking for volunteers to help us with this next phase. There are many ways in which you could contribute. For example, we need volunteers who can support the existing volunteers and meet with new groups and volunteers as we roll the project out to new areas. There is much to do such as preparing features for the website and articles for the press. Training will be provided, and travel and out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed. So if you are interested in local history, have some knowledge of IT and would like to participate, do please contact Ann Shadrake on ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk for more information.

And don't forget to keep looking at www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk for updates and additions!

Early Victorian Skipton

POVERTY AND PROTEST

As part of our January event, Ann Shadrake led a walk around Skipton to discover some of the buildings essential to the daily lives of the town's working population in early Victorian times. The Canal Basin was an appropriate starting point as the Leeds–Liverpool canal provided a vital artery carrying raw materials and finished goods to and from Skipton to provide employment for workers in the early decades of Queen Victoria's reign.

Although it was a bitterly cold January morning, a large group of people congregated around our starting point and, in part thanks to the press coverage in the Craven Herald, we set out on our walk with an impressive 66 people. Over 30 of these were non-members and we're delighted that some of them have joined us.

Period of rapid change

So how can we characterise Skipton around the time of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne in 1837? A historic market town situated at the junction of five major roads to serve an extensive agricultural community? But also a town undergoing rapid change, with the arrival of the canal and industrial expansion. The Census records tell us that a town of 4,095 people in 1801 grew by more than 700 in each of the next three decades to reach a population of just over 7,000 in 1841. (Note 1)

This growth meant a growth in the size of congregations. Our tour included some of the additional places for Christian worship built in early Victorian Skipton. Around Bridge Street car park we saw the first Primitive Methodist chapel, currently a varied retail and café space. Our afternoon talk venue was the church hall of St Andrew's in Newmarket Street, which now incorporates the Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Skipton on the site of the former Congregational Chapel – which had been rebuilt to house increasing numbers in 1839.

A few metres' walk up Gargrave Road brought us to St Stephen's School and school-master's house built in 1854 near St Stephen's Catholic Church, which was begun in 1836. The established Church of England also expanded with the growing number of parishioners, the foundation stone for Christchurch being laid on 21st June 1837. King William IV had died the previous day and so was succeeded by young Victoria – this important news travelled slowly but arrived just in time for the rendition of the National Anthem, sung as the foundation stone was laid and rapidly amended to "God Save the Queen".

New Poor Laws

A short walk further out of town up Gargrave Road brought us to the neo-Classical building of Gainsborough Court, which is now residential accommodation. Its present name gives little indication of its past as Raikeswood Hospital and originally as Skipton's Union Workhouse (Note 2). The burgeoning population of Skipton meant that the original workhouse, accommodating eight inmates in 1795, was woefully inadequate. Following the New Poor Law of 1834, a new workhouse was commissioned in 1838 to accommodate 200 inmates, at a cost of £4,000 to the Poor Law Commissioners.

The term "inmates" is appropriate: the regime routinely split up families. Men were kept strictly separate from women irrespective of marriage; children were separated from the parents whose perceived inadequacy had brought them to the workhouse in the first place. Work was hard: breaking stones or unpicking tarred rope to make oakum to seal the hulls of wooden ships. Food was limited, with strictly rationed bread for the inmates. Conditions in the workhouses of the era were such that Charles Dickens suggested that the poor faced an impossible choice: to starve to death slowly in the workhouse or to starve to death quickly outside it.

From the workhouse, our tour dropped down to the canal. Here we came to two redundant canal-side mills, both now converted to residential and other uses: Belle Vue Mill and Victoria Mill, the latter



The former Skipton Union Workhouse



The former Infirmary at Skipton Union Workhouse

with its impressive chimney. Belle Vue Mill started in 1828 and by the beginning of Victoria's reign was a successful cotton mill supplying Bradford's textile industry and controlling costs by employing cheap child labour. Victoria Mill was built in 1847 as a steam-driven corn mill.

Victoria Mill must have processed an impressive quantity of corn in its heyday, producing the flour vital for baking bread, a staple ingredient in the diet of the early Victorian worker. Not that bread was always affordable. The first decade of Queen Victoria's reign was known as the "Hungry Forties" with good reason.

Effects of the Corn Laws

In 1842, a slump in the cotton trade meant that wages were cut in the mills. At the same time, the price of bread kept going up, at least partly due to the effect of the 1815 Corn Laws, which kept the price of corn high to the benefit of British landowners through the imposition of tariffs on cheaper imported wheat. In the absence of either the vote or the Trades Unions, working people and their supporters tried to effect change through the Chartist movement, but the Government rejected their petitions. Consequently, the Chartists encouraged strike action by industrial workers in the summer of 1842. The strikes were called "turn outs" as the mill workers were encouraged to turn out of the mill so that production would cease until the mill owners offered higher wages.

In the middle of August 1842, the strikes were spreading through Lancashire and the starving mill workers in Colne were persuaded to march to prosperous Skipton to turn out their mills. On Tuesday, 16 August 1842, three thousand people set off on the 11-mile walk from Colne to Skipton. The strikers and their families reached Belle Vue Mill, where they pulled the plug from the boilers to release the water and stop production. Shops were boarded up in the town and a local magistrate, Matthew Wilson (whose statue is outside Skipton Library), read the Riot Act in the market place.

The 1716 Riot Act made it a felony for more than 12 people to assemble after its proclamation. But the strikers continued to loot food and to attack the mills. To defuse a difficult situation, John Settle offered the strikers food and beer and the use of his field at Anna's Hill (now the site of Tesco's car park) to rest. So the assembled crowd withdrew to Anna's Hill. The magistrates soon arrived at the field, read the Riot Act again and were again ignored. Then the militia arrived from Lancashire reinforced by cavalry troops. The army captain refused to fire at the crowd – as had happened with fatal results at Preston a

few days earlier – but charged with fixed bayonets. The crowd fled. Four men were captured as ringleaders and tried at Yorkshire Assize, where they were sentenced to between six months and one year's hard labour.

Living conditions for the poor

By the end of the 1840s, life for the poor in Skipton had not much improved. The 1852 health survey found that one-fifth of the population were classified as "poor" with nine or 10 people to a dwelling while the average life expectancy was 36 years and five or six children out of seven died before their fifth birthday. Housing conditions were not helped by the refusal of the owners of Skipton Castle to release additional land for housing – or for further industrial development – until the 1870s.

Skipton in the early 1840s would have been noisy with the machinery in the mills and the activity on the canal. But new sounds arrived in 1847, a decade after Queen Victoria's accession, with the opening of the railway station serving the newly completed railway line from Shipley. This earlier railway station was located near the Railway Inn on Carleton Street with Black Walk now linking it to the current railway station, which opened in 1876.

The arrival of the railways reminds us that the pace of change in Skipton and its surrounding countryside didn't stop after the 1840s. The second part of our January event highlighted the changes brought by the railway age, taking us from the town to its Dales hinterland as David Joy, an honorary member of Friends of the Dales, gave a really excellent talk on his recent book "Rails in the Dales" to an audience of around 50 people, all based around fascinating archive photographs of trains and stations from his own collection or others.

Marion Temple, Trustee, and Ann Shadrake

All images courtesy of John Whiteoak

Acknowledgements and Notes

Acknowledgement and sincere thanks are due to Skipton History Society, Skipton Civic Society and the staff at Skipton Library for information underlying parts of this article, and which Ann used to illustrate her walk. Skipton Reference Library has a range of books on Skipton's history, including out-of-print books, old maps and microfilm access to Craven Herald archives.

Notes:

1. Census data for Skipton Parish sourced from GB Historical GIS/ University of Portsmouth "A Vision of Britain through Time" accessed January 2018
2. Newman, Charlotte Jane (2010) The Place of the Pauper: A Historical Archaeology of West Yorkshire Workhouses 1834-1930. PhD thesis, University of York. Available at <http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/1402/>



Christ Church, Skipton

A Whale of a time in

Settle has no doubt seen many sights over the hundreds of years since the Domesday book, when the town was recorded as Setel, but it is doubtful whether a full-sized whale had ever been seen in the market square until early April this year. The Yorkshire Dales are also famous for their natural features, traditions and characters, but less well known for the telling of stories – except by local raconteurs in pubs serving micro-brewery beers.

Over the weekend of 6-8 April, 2018, this all came to pass as a 50-foot inflatable whale became one of the many venues for the telling of stories at the seventh Settle Stories Festival, organised by Sita Brand (a former Trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Society) and Charles Tyrer. Over 70 artistic adventures were performed by enthusiasts from across the country. Visitors to the festival could also learn how to tell better stories themselves, with tuition from experienced actress and educator Ursula Holden Gill. Although the telling of stories is always the backbone of the biennial festival, there were many other attractions and events on offer to entice families and visitors into this lively market town, including lantern making, doll making, and enamelling.

Settle Stories is an Arts and Heritage Charity with the mission to 'Change your world through story,' with its flagship festival supported by the Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery fund, the Town Council, and a host of local media organisations. Although storytelling is almost as old as time itself, the 2018 festival aimed to introduce modern technology in order to see how it can enhance a story, including the use of the ubiquitous smart-phone at interactive fiction sessions, in digital storytelling workshops and even a live game show hosted by comedian Steve McNeil.

While modern technology featured throughout, there were still plenty of more traditional events, with a rendition of A



Settle

Midsummer Nights Dream, and a talk about the Craven dialect poet Tom Twisleton, who died 100 years ago. And for sheer energy and entertainment the hip hop artist and storyteller Alim Kamara delighted a packed audience at the Victoria Hall.

The lively festival – and especially its inflatable whale – may not have been what many visitors to Settle were expecting, but it was clear that it was hugely enjoyed by all ages and added a truly different dimension to a visit to the Yorkshire Dales.

Article and images by Tim Hancock,
Trustee of Friends of the Dales



Yorkshire Carers enjoy grand day out in the Dales

Carers and their relatives have enjoyed a tour through some of North Yorkshire's most spectacular scenery, thanks to volunteers at Friends of the Dales.

The charity paid for a special coach trip through Wharfedale, Wensleydale and Ribblesdale on Wednesday, 13 June, to give 13 people a rare opportunity to have a break in the national park.

As Mark Corner, Chairman of Friends of the Dales says, "Through our busy programme of walks, talks and activities, we have been helping people to explore and appreciate this special part of the world for many years. But we wanted to go a step further and enable those who might find it difficult to visit the national park on their own to enjoy a great day out in the countryside.

"Unpaid carers often find it very difficult to have a break from their demanding roles, so we decided to organise a trip to the Dales to help them recharge their batteries. We were delighted that many of them were accompanied by their relatives, who were also able to enjoy exploring our villages and small towns."

The coach trip visited Ribblesdale and Settle, with stops at Grassington, West Burton and Hawes. It was organised in partnership with the Skipton office of Carers' Resource and attracted people from as far afield as Bradford.

"It was a big help to both of us," said John and Julie Wilcox. "Even if you have a car, it makes a change."

A group of people from the Canopy Housing Project in Leeds has already enjoyed exploring the countryside around Settle on a Friends of the Dales guided walk, which was also open to the general public. The volunteers and staff from Canopy Housing enjoyed the experience so much that Tony Smith and Marion Temple from Friends of the Dales will take them on a more challenging guided walk up Pen y Ghent in early July.

To find out more about our events programme, see p19 or www.friendsofthedales.org.uk

Article and images by Tim Hancock,
Trustee of Friends of the Dales



With the bus in Grassington



Rachel Waddington from Carers' Resource (left) enjoying afternoon tea



Lunch stop at West Burton



John and Julie Wilcox plus friend in the stocks at West Burton

New Business Member for Friends of the Dales

Skipton Golf Club has recently joined us as a Business Member, courtesy of Jonathan White, who is Club President this year and a long-standing joint member of ours. Jonathan has nominated Friends of the Dales as his "Charity of the Year," with funds being raised through a "Charity Bunker" at the course and a good stock of our leaflets and magazines on hand at the clubhouse. A guided walk for golf club members and local people was led by Ann Shadrake on 1 July, taking people on a 7 mile walk from the Club up to the summit of Sharp Haw and back – see more below.

"Skipton Golf Club is one of the most scenic and tranquil courses in the North of England. Founded in 1893 and celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, it nestles among the beautiful Yorkshire Dales on the edge of the historic town of Skipton. Magnificent views of hills and crags provide a superb backdrop to the course and the lovely Eller Beck meanders through several of the back nine holes. Linked now to Friends of the Dales as a Business Member, the golf club recognises the importance of safeguarding the environmental aspects of the Yorkshire Dales, while enjoying a beautiful location for recreational activity.

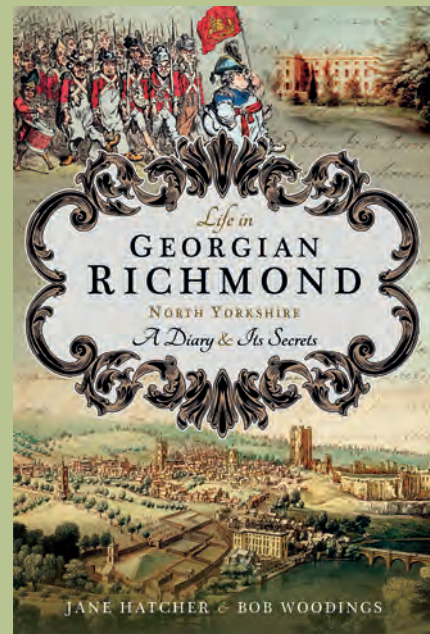
These are exciting times at Skipton Golf Club, which has a healthy and strengthening membership, as an excellent course is going to be even better with the opening of two brand-new, professionally designed Par 4 holes on 1 August. Members and visitors alike are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome from club staff and our long-standing PGA Professional, Peter Robinson. Now a multi-facility venue, with most attractive views of the surrounding countryside, the stunning clubhouse is perfect for special occasions such as weddings, anniversaries, christenings, funeral wakes and memorial events. The restaurant and bar have been fully refurbished, the club seeking to excel in creative presentation, first-class service and exceptional food quality. The new, standalone Dales Room is available for meetings, conferences and small functions, although it is only accessible by stairs. For more information, please contact our Business Manager on 01756 795657 or email enquiries@skiptongolfclub.co.uk."

Jonathan White, President Skipton Golf Club

Walk from Skipton Golf Club to summit of Sharpaw, July 2018



Paperback edition containing 176 pages and 20 illustrations. **£10.50**



www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Life-in-Georgian-Richmond-North-Yorkshire-Paperback/p/14758

In this book, Bob Woodings and Dales historian Jane Hatcher have produced a fascinating and intriguing view into the elegant Dales township of Richmond, North Yorkshire. Thanks to them, we see the world of Georgian England through the eyes of an anonymous female diarist during the mid 1760s. The book is split into two parts, the first in which the scene is set, and the second one, which consists of excerpts from the actual diary together with the author's comments.

What we can gather is that the diarist is a well-educated lady on the cusp of middle age, living in rented accommodation in Frenchgate. She is definitely not well off, in spite of being related to the land-owning Smith family of nearby Easby. We also are told she has family at Winston in Teesdale. In her diary, she maintains a large number of friends and acquaintances and spends much time gardening and picking fruit.

Her family consist of a younger sister, an aged mother, the aforementioned Smiths, the Emersons at Winston, and at least three Mr Allens. Her friends include the Yorkes, Mr and Mrs Wilson, the Newsams, the Beautyments and many more. Employing the methods of a Sherlock Holmes, our trusty authors have made a valiant effort to pin her down and find out exactly where she lived. They have achieved this, but dear reader, I do not wish to spoil things by revealing all. If you are itching to find out more, you will jolly well have to go out and get the book for yourself.

As one can expect from Jane Hatcher, with whom I was privileged to serve during my time as a Dales volunteer, here we have a splendid tome of 18th-century life in the Dales. I have only scratched the surface of the book, due to the amount of information it contains and limited space in this magazine. As much as possible of the various inhabitants and their names are revealed, and this will be of good use to the budding demographer as well as any historian.

Chris Hartley, Trustee of Friends of the Dales.

Members' Letters

Here's the latest from our postbag! We're always pleased to hear from you and in this issue we're asking you about the activities you'd like us to offer.

Contact us on 01756 749400, email ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk or write to us (see back page for address). We are also online at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk



Dear Members

Dales Carers Week Trip – June 2018

Just a short message to thank you for your kind offer to run a trip for Carers during National Carers Week.

We were thrilled to pieces with the response to the trip, the carers who were able to attend and the feedback we have had from them.

During National Carers Week we have been keen to raise the profile of Carers Resource, identify more Carers and provide existing Carers with breaks, so your generous offer allowed us to treat several of our carers.

The feedback we have had has been lovely. Many carers whose partners are no longer able to drive really appreciated the opportunity to go on a trip. Several carers who have lived in the area all their lives had never explored some of the villages either.

Many thanks to Lynn and Tim for their time and support to ensure the trip was successful too.

It was a lovely trip to be able to offer and very much appreciated by all involved. I do hope we can look into something similar next year or use your volunteers to help access other opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Sally Skipper, Community Engagement Fundraiser, Carers' Resource

Tributes

The Wanderings of a Warden

We were sorry to hear of the death of long-standing member Dennis Cairns in May 2018 and offer our condolences to his family and friends. Chris Hartley, trustee, says of Dennis:

I am very sad to hear this sad news. For many years Dennis was a trustee and a council member giving many years service to the Society. He was a big, bluff character with a great sense of humour and devoted to the Dales. He also served for many years as a Dales volunteer (for the national park authority) in the south west of the national park based at Malham. Dennis had a rich fund of stories to tell and produced some of these in a tome entitled "The Wanderings of a Warden". My favourite was the one about the schoolteacher from more southerly climes who, teaching some young boys on top of Malham Cove, identified Pendleton Hill as Ingleborough. Poor Dennis had not the heart to correct him. Dennis also produced a book about a Dales odyssey, which concerned an ancestor of his late wife, who along with some comrades went on a walking tour of the Dales, negotiating most of them. Altogether Dennis was the salt of the earth, steady and reliable. I regard myself as privileged to have known him.

With sadness,

Chris Hartley, Trustee of Friends of the Dales

Long-term supporter of the Wensleydale Flyer

We were sorry to hear the sad news of the death in early April of Dr Peter Anison. Peter and Ruth took over Outhwaite Ropemakers in Hawes way back in the 1970s and transformed it into what it is today. Peter was for some years an Appointed Member of the National Park Committee as it was then, and didn't always follow the party line on planning issues, being a strong champion of local interests and local business, which he saw as an essential and core part of National Park purposes – a view that is now more widely shared.

Ruth is a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society (a trustee for some years) and has and continues to be a tireless campaigner for public transport including both the Wensleydale Railway and DalesBus. When Peter and Ruth stepped in (2016) to offer a substantial grant from their own company to keep the Sunday 856 Wensleydale Flyer going between Hawes and Northallerton, it provided the crucial lifeline to keep the service alive.

Colin Speakman, Vice President, Friends of the Dales

Our Man in Nidderdale

Last Christmas I received a very sad Christmas card from John Hone and his wife Sheila. It indicated that because of an incurable illness, this would be the last Christmas card I would receive from him. It was a preparation for the inevitable.

John was an early member of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a very valuable member of the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management for many years; his hallmark always well-considered comments and ideas. He had a great love of the Yorkshire Dales and introduced numerous young people to outdoor pursuits at Bewerley Park Centre for Outdoor Education in the Dales, which runs residential courses for Yorkshire schools. John specialised in teaching sailing, caving and rock-climbing as well as other activities. As he lived in Pateley Bridge, he became our "Man in Nidderdale", alerting the society to any important issues, and was an enthusiastic supporter of society events. He was generous with his time when the society's Otley office was short-staffed, helping with the YDS Review mail-out or other secretarial work. We send sincere condolences to his wife Sheila and other close family members.

Fleur Speakman, Former Editor, Yorkshire Dales Review

Membership News – Ann Shadrake, Executive Director

Significant donation

I'm pleased to announce that in March this year Friends of the Dales received a generous donation of £5,000 from a long-standing member, who wishes to remain anonymous. Such "unrestricted" donations are very welcome as they can be used for the general costs of running the charity. About 15% of our members make a regular annual donation on top of their subscriptions and a massive 80% of members have signed up to Gift Aid – which generates thousands of pounds annually. We are very grateful for all extra support, large or small. If you want to make a one-off or annual donation, or review where you are with Gift Aid, just contact me direct.

Launch of news by email

By the time you read this, we will have launched our email newsletter! This occasional newsletter has topical stories about our campaigns to protect the Dales, details of guided walks and talks (including up-to-the-minute changes) and ideas for getting more involved, eg as a volunteer at events. The idea is to provide you with extra information in between the quarterly Reviews. Initially we've sent a sign-up form to members who had registered their email addresses with us – that's around 450 people – and hundreds have subscribed. But anyone can sign up (and unsubscribe at any time) by using the form on the website or emailing Penny direct at penny.lowe@friendsofthedales.org.uk

New Privacy Policy

No doubt many of you had numerous emails back in May, in the run-up to the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). We've now completed our review of GDPR compliance and our trustees have approved a new privacy policy. That document explains, hopefully in easily understood language, how and why we collect, use and protect your personal data. We do not sell or lease your personal details to anyone. The privacy policy is on our website under "About Us" or I can send you a copy in the post or by email.

Membership Rates

Our trustees have reviewed membership rates and agreed a very modest increase of £2 per year for individual and joint memberships. The new rates – of £25 and £35 respectively – will apply from October 2018. Business and affiliate (club) membership will increase by £5 to £40. These small increases will help offset the impact of inflation on our costs and low interest rates on our reserves. We are also offering more to members now – more cultural-heritage archives saved through digitising; the email newsletter keeping members up to date; more hands-on campaigns such as protecting Dales verges; more support to Dalesbus; and more events benefiting a wider range of people.

National Park Societies Conference 2018

Tickets for the 2018 National Park Societies Conference, being held on Dartmoor from Thursday, 4 – Saturday, 6 October, are now bookable online at www.dartmoorpreservation.co.uk. The Early Bird rate of £250 all-in fully residential (two nights) fee is available until 31 July.

Trustees Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2017-2018

The annual report and accounts for the last financial year (to 31 March 2018) have been prepared in record time, thanks to Graham Yule (Hon Treasurer), Ann Shadrake and Penny Lowe. We've worked closely with our new accountants at Windle & Bowker. The full document will be uploaded to the website, or you can request a copy by post or email. Plenty of time to read and digest it before the AGM on Saturday, 22 September (*see events page*).

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.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

i 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.

C 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.

V Vibrant Communities

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

f 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.



Friends of the DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Anne Readshaw showing Mountain Pansy in fields near River Swale on 16 June 2018, photo Ann Shadrake



Mountain pansy, photo Ann Shadrake

Saturday, 22 September 2018



AGM 2018, Langcliffe near Settle

Join us in the lovely Ribblesdale village of Langcliffe for a short morning walk followed by the AGM in the afternoon. Guests also welcome.

10:30am meet at Langcliffe Village Hall. Local walk of about three miles led by Mark Corner. As a local resident, Mark knows the area well. Includes visit inside the stunning Hoffmann Kiln, a very large disused lime kiln set in a nature reserve right next to the Settle-Carlisle Railway line. Easy walk on generally good paths. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome. Please bring packed lunch to eat in the village hall or outside if weather fine (NB no cafe/pub in Langcliffe).

2:15pm prompt – AGM in Langcliffe Village Hall. Mark Corner will present his review of the year, with plenty of photos of campaigns and events undertaken. Normal procedure for the formal business – full agenda on the website nearer the time, or contact Ann at the office. The AGM is a great chance to meet trustees and find out more about the charity's achievements and plans. Concludes with tea/biscuits, approx 4:00pm.

Book or offer lifts eg from/to Settle - contact Ann at the office. Small car park at Langcliffe Village Hall or park with consideration on village roads.



Water Avens, photo Ann Shadrake

Wednesday, 17 October 2018



Responding to the Challenge – Dales Families and Communities

This year's annual Focus on the Dales event is offered in partnership with Councillor Wendy Hull, Chair of Craven District Council, and our charity's President, Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire. The theme is inspired by the current debate around attracting and keeping young people and families living, working and enjoying life in the Dales. This topic generates strong opinions and sometimes controversial solutions. There are two parts to the day, and you can join us for either or both. We'll visit some key local businesses during a bespoke guided walk, followed later in the day by short presentations and opportunities for debate. The two "halves" of the day will be linked by an informal Yorkshire afternoon tea – expect local cakes and savoury treats with lashings of tea (bar also open).

The event is based at Victoria Hall, Settle. Councillor Hull's official budget is covering the modest costs of the venue and catering under her support to us as a nominated charity so this is a free event. Full programme and to book your place on the website in due course or contact Ann at the office.



Wood Cranesbill, photo Ann Shadrake



The gathering of the Ride2Stride 2018 walkers at Settle station. Courtesy of Tony Grogan

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Photo courtesy of www.threshfieldquarry.org.uk



Members and newcomers enjoying a fantastic day out in mid June on a pub walk led by volunteer Bernard Peel across Threshfield Moor and around the spectacular disused quarry. Friends of the Dales members Amanda and Gordon Aherne said "Excellent walk and leader, very informative. Good food, good company, good weather. What more could you ask for?" If you would like to suggest a route or speaker for next year's events programme, or could help on a walk by being a backmarker (or leader!) please get in touch with Ann.

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.

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Individual (Under 60)	£400
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Please Gift Aid your membership if you are eligible as we can benefit from additional income.

