

Yorkshire **DALES** review

- Attracting people into the Dales
- B4RN brings hyperfast broadband to our communities
- Limiting visitor damage in the national park
- The Dales as natural healer
- Barn conversions and planning issues



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Friends of the
DALES
 YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

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Editor Sasha Heseltine



Editor's Letter

I'm writing this just before Christmas, traditionally a time of a coming together of families and friends, with our festive community spirit leaping to the fore. It's appropriate, therefore, that so much of this issue concerns our Dales communities: how they interact, what their needs are, and how fragile they are. Following the FOTD's highly successful conference 'How to attract and keep young people and families living, working and enjoying the Dales' – held in Settle on 17 October – Chair of FOTD Mark Corner looks at the challenges facing remote Dales communities slowly dying, and how to address their problems (see page 4). Trustee Malcolm Petyt shares his experience with a community-centric solution to the problems of sluggish Dales WiFi on page 6, and on page 13 we hear of a successful visit to the Dales by sections of Bradford's Sikh community.

And in 2019, the year in which we celebrate 70 years since the introduction of the law that established protected landscapes including the Yorkshire Dales National Park (see page 3), journalist Lynn Leadbeatter looks to the future of the park, examining ways in which visitor numbers can be successfully policed without damaging the environment (page 8). Trustee Nancy Stedman continues the FOTD's campaign to challenge inappropriate barn conversions in the Dales on page 10, while Ken Humphris tells of a successful business that is thriving on local initiatives in Barbon. Hilary Fenten's charming peek into the world of Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling can be found on page 16.

A final word from me – Mark is now on the hunt for his replacement as Chair of our charity. If you feel inspired to follow in his mighty footsteps and lead Friends of the Dales into 2020 and beyond, you'll find a 'job' description on page 15.

Best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2019, Sasha Heseltine

Yorkshire **DALES** review



Was I There at the Start?

Rally at Cow and Calf Rocks, Ilkley Moor, c1949, photograph by Tom Stephenson. Tom was a hugely important figure in the pre and post war campaigns for countryside access, long distance trails and national parks.

In 2019 we – along with kindred organisations in the national parks movement – are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the law that established these protected landscapes in England and Wales. Pivotal in the long-running campaign for national parks was John Gordon Dower, a rural planner and architect born in Ilkley in 1900. His work culminated in a White Paper setting out the principles for establishing national parks in 1945. Two years later, the Government's National Parks Committee, chaired by Sir Arthur Hobhouse, published its recommendations. Together these critical reports paved the way for the passing of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act on 16 December 1949. Sadly, John Dower didn't live to see the passing of the legislation. However, we've uploaded a copy of his White Paper and the Hobhouse report to the Friends of the Dales website – they make fascinating reading.

Here, Malcolm Petyt shares his memories of a local event celebrating the setting up of national parks. We'd love to hear other reminiscences or reflections on those early days of national parks – just email or write to Ann Shadrake at the office.

I remember when I first hiked over Ilkley Moor. My father and I had walked through the streets from our home in Bradford to Manningham Lane, and caught the trolleybus to Saltaire. We passed over the familiar ground of Shipley Glen and then followed paths to Dick Hudson's, from where we tramped across the famous moor to reach the Cow and Calf Rocks around the middle of the afternoon. There we joined a growing crowd of people, including some I recognised as walking friends of my parents in the Bradford group of the Holiday Fellowship.

As the crowd sat or sprawled on the ground, a succession of men stood with their backs to the Calf and spoke passionately to the gathering. I cannot remember anything of what they said: I was too young for it to have meant much to me anyway. The only thing that struck me was the repeated calls of "Hear! Hear!" from around the crowd. I only recall thinking: "Well, if they can't hear or aren't listening, what's all this about?"

But I do remember definitely that I was eight years old at the time, which means it must have been 1949. So although I was not conscious of it, I now feel satisfaction that in some way I was there to celebrate the most significant event in the movement for countryside access: the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act.

Malcolm Petyt, Trustee, Friends of the Dales

Attracting Young People and Working Families to the Dales

Images courtesy of Tim Hancock



Sir Gary Verity, FOTD President, addresses the conference

When Councillor Wendy Hull, Chair of Craven District Council, kindly selected Friends of the Dales as her nominated charity of the year, we discussed how to make the most of this opportunity. What was the most appropriate and impactful event that we could stage? We agreed to tackle arguably the biggest challenge facing the Dales, which became the theme of a half-day conference held in Victoria Hall, Settle, on 17 October – ‘How to attract and keep young people and families living, working and enjoying the Dales’.

Given that Friends of the Dales is essentially a conservation and education campaign charity, some may ask why this socio-economic issue is relevant to us. Well, much of the beauty of the Dales is man-made: it's a cultural landscape that needs people to look after it. Without vibrant communities, the very essence of what makes this a wonderful place, one which people wish to live in or visit, will deteriorate. We also have an interest in trying to ensure that actions to support this socio-economic well-being are not taken at the expense of the beauty of the landscape.

The need to try to halt the exodus of younger people and attract working families is not a new challenge. There is agreement among many in authority that the appropriate response is to address the need for well-paid work, affordable homes and good local services and infrastructure. The intention of our conference was to see from businesses, four of which kindly hosted visits to their premises, to hear

from speakers at the frontline of this challenge, and to share ideas on ways of addressing the issue.

Sir Gary Verity, our President, kindly gave the keynote speech and described the success of attracting more visitors to Yorkshire, including the Dales, and the opportunity to convert more to become residents. Communities, he argued, could improve their vibrancy by being inspirational in their offerings to residents and visitors, for example by promoting the ‘pub is the hub’ concept or developing and supporting interesting and relevant independent retailers.

David Smurthwaite, Strategic Manager at Craven District Council, described the work that ‘Great Place – Lakes and Dales’ is doing in attracting younger people to stay or come to this area. He confirmed that the population of the Dales is decreasing and getting older. The 16-to 34-year-old population is 17.5% in the area, against 26% nationally. By 2038, there will be 63 people aged over 65 for every 100 working-aged people, more than twice the average in urban areas. David highlighted the outcome of recently completed research aimed at determining ‘the hopes, needs and aspirations of the under-35s’ in this area to understand why so few young people are being attracted or retained. Factors include the revival of the inner cities, growth of university education, lack of affordable housing and a range of well-paid jobs, and perceived and actual remoteness from jobs, services and cultural life. The ‘Great Place’ project is aimed mainly at exploring how the artistic, cultural and heritage sectors can contribute to attracting and retaining younger people.

Robert Bellfield, retiring Principal of Craven College, shared the startling statistic that the population of 16-year-olds in Craven will fall by 27% in the next nine years. He looked at the opportunity that apprenticeships (both at craft and degree levels) can offer as an alternative to university education, helping to retain young people in the area. Such apprenticeship schemes create an opportunity for young people locally but also for local industry and firms to build a loyal, strong and highly skilled workforce to develop the local economy. Robert pointed out that a critical issue and potential barrier for apprentices and school leavers is access to transport to get to and from work. Some business representatives also pointed out the difficulty they have in recruiting apprentices. A follow-up action was agreed: to look at how local businesses could raise awareness of work opportunities at Craven College and other educational establishments.

Bryan Gray, Chairman of the Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust, reminded us that the Settle-to-Carlisle line is not simply a heritage asset but also has the potential to be an important part of an economic corridor within the Dales. He also discussed the need for a more integrated rail and bus network and the benefit that a reopened Skipton-to-Colne line could deliver.

Kris Brewster, Head of Products, Proposition & Corporate Communications, Skipton Building Society, discussed the challenges of home ownership for young people and described the Skipton's role in creating the Lifetime ISA, which offers a unique 25% bonus on savings of up to £4,000 a year towards a house purchase deposit.

Carl Lis, Chair of the national park authority and a member of Craven District Council, confirmed the criticality of the conference's theme for the future of the national park and shared his view that powerful market forces are working against the long-term sustainable future of Dales communities, particularly in terms of housing provision, where he believes there is a market failure. The Government's 'Right to Buy' policy has resulted in fewer 'first rung on the housing ladder' houses being available to younger people. That situation is made worse by the fact that an increasing number of homes are now unoccupied for large parts of the year. In the national park alone, there are 12,000 homes for a population of only 24,000, but almost a quarter of these homes are occupied for only a small part of the year. The issue is not the number of houses in the Dales; it is the need for more affordable housing and more housing for rent – in perpetuity. Carl raised some interesting options to help tackle the issue:

- A reduction in the three-year period that a developer has before planning consent expires, to tackle 'land banking'. There are currently 240 housing applications that have been approved in the Yorkshire Dales without work having started. See p10–11.
- Consideration of compulsory purchase where landowners refuse to release land for affordable housing. A number of years ago, 10 sites had been identified for housing development but not one has progressed.
- Relaxing the planning restriction on the building of bungalows, currently seen as bad building practice and inefficient land use, so that people who wish to downsize can do so, releasing larger properties to the market.
- The possibility of revisiting at some point the possibility of increasing council tax on second homes.

Carl also touched on market failure in regard to public transport. More positive is the roll-out of high quality broadband, through the B4RN initiative (see p6), another significant aspect of making the Dales an attractive location to live and work in. Some useful interaction took place at the conference between a director of B4RN and a Settle-based business leading, it is hoped, to an improved broadband service in Settle.

Carl concluded by sharing his view that in the context of more older people, the flight of the young and increasingly fractured communities, we need to challenge central government to address some of these issues, which are beyond the powers of local community leaders, and at the same time 'get off our backsides and do whatever we can to ensure the long-term future sustainability of our local communities' or move aside and let another generation get on with it.

Throughout the day there was a lively interaction with attendees and many useful suggestions were offered to address the challenge. In considering how to progress the various strands of the conference, I made the suggestion that the soon-to-be issued 2019-2024 Management Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park would provide the best vehicle for doing this. This plan is 'owned' by delivery bodies including the local authorities as well as the national park authority. It includes - as well as objectives on affordable housing, economic development projects, transport and improved broadband and mobile phone coverage – the objective to 'undertake a five-year programme of measures to promote the national park as a place to live for younger, working-age households (18-44 years) to help halt the decline in their numbers'. There was general support for this proposed approach.

As Wendy Hull said in closing the conference, there is no 'they' who must do something about this challenge: rather it must be 'we', working together, who rise to the challenge and find solutions. We, as Friends of the Dales, will continue to play our part, not least in contributing where we can in helping deliver on the National Park Management Plan and holding to account those delivery bodies tasked with its delivery.

Mark Corner, Chairman, Friends of the Dales



Councillor Wendy Hull, Chair of Craven District Council

B4RN

A Community Scheme Bringing Hyperfast Broadband to Dales Communities

My broadband experience has been transformed. For years I had paid for a painfully slow and unreliable service. It was frustrating to get it fixed and I was often without the Internet for a week or more without receiving compensation. Now my connection is almost instantaneous, and for this and a telephone service with the same network, I pay a lower monthly amount. How has this happened?

In 2011, a volunteer group in north Lancashire worked with industry expert Barry Forde to form a community benefit society called Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN – pronounced “barn”). It is registered with the Financial Services Authority, and its profits can only be distributed to the community. Its purpose is to bring a fibre-based Internet service directly to people who join the scheme. This FTTP (fibre to the premises) service gives faster speeds and greater bandwidth than the alternative from the national provider: the latter is a FTTC (fibre to the cabinet) service, which relies on slower copper telephone wires to bring the signal from the nearest cabinet into your home or business.

The B4RN service is based on community involvement at every level. A parish must galvanise interest in the scheme, invite B4RN in, and show that it can raise the funding necessary for a network to be developed. Locals plan the route of the fibre to each property in the scheme. The parish negotiates wayleaves with landowners and provides volunteer labour to lay the ducting. Across open country this can be done by farmers or contractors using a mole plough, with hand digging needed in places. Chambers for connections or blowing the fibres also need

to be hand dug. When all this is done, the connections are laid from the main duct into each property. At that stage, professional staff blow the actual fibres. B4RN depends on volunteers for much of its development work, but now employs around 20 staff, including skilled technicians.

How are funds raised? Individuals invest in B4RN shares (minimum £100, maximum £100,000), which cannot be sold for three years. After that, they attract 5% interest or are sold back to B4RN. Contributions in kind can be made by volunteers, and by farmers who plough in the duct at a rate of £1.50 per metre. Parishes seek grants and loans: the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has contributed £125,000 through its Sustainable Development Fund to parishes within the park.

B4RN benefits are obvious. A hyperfast broadband of up to 1000Mbps is attractive to individuals and families. And significantly, working from home or having locally based employment becomes more feasible – vital for the future of rural communities. B4RN also provides free connections to community buildings. Also important is the community cohesion that develops as residents come together in working parties.

To end as I began, with personal experience. A few weeks after I was connected, things went wrong. I telephoned the B4RN helpline and was connected to someone who knew the area. She made checks and got technicians onto the problem. Within hours it was fixed.

Malcolm Petyt, Trustee, Friends of the Dales



Digging through woodland to lay the cable



Mole ploughing

Friends of the Dales sees access to high-quality broadband as a key enabler in making the Dales a better place to live and work. Community ‘champions’ play a critical role in coordinating the demand for and delivery of this important service. If you could be a champion in your community and help accelerate the spread of superfast broadband through the national park, please let us know and we will see if we can get things started.

The ability to self-publish opens up so many possibilities these days, and here we have two very different publications, both prepared by authors with a keen enthusiasm for their subject matter.

So self-publication – an opportunity for self-promotion, or an excess of hubris?

Absolutely not. This is simply about enthusiastic, articulate and committed individuals finding a way to share their passions with others. The ability to self-publish opens up so many possibilities these days, and here we have two very different publications, both prepared by authors with a keen enthusiasm for their subject matter.

HISTORY OF SKIPTON WATER SUPPLY

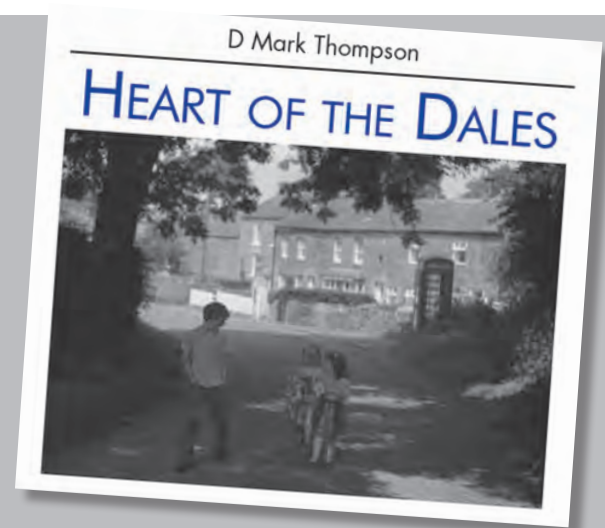
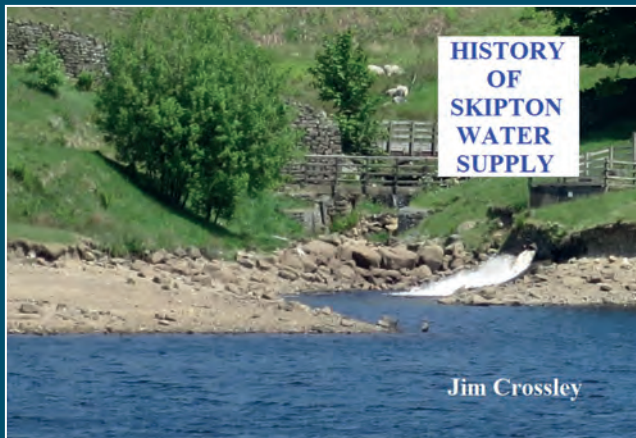
Jim Crossley

Most of us, when we turn the tap on, rarely think about where the water comes from and how it reaches our home. Jim Crossley traces the quest for potable water for Skipton's growing needs, from individual wells and water butts, to standpipes to the current sophisticated system of connected reservoirs. He has combined his long experience as an engineer in the water industry with meticulous research to take the reader through the many debates and decisions involved in securing an adequate water supply, starting in 1726 and taking us up to the present day.

With its many maps and photos, supported by plenty of technical details, this booklet will appeal to anyone with an interest in local history. I particularly liked the historical maps, which show how the local geography influenced the developments. Personally I would have liked more about the construction of the aqueducts in the 1970s and '80s that went across miles of countryside linking Grimwith Reservoir to Bradford and beyond - it must have been a major endeavour.

If you would like to buy a copy of the book, please contact Ann at ann.shadrake@friendsofthedailes.org.uk and she will pass your request on to Jim Crossley to arrange with you. Jim is contributing one third of cover price (£9) to Water Aid, for each first edition sold.

Nancy Stedman, Trustee, Friends of the Dales



HEART OF THE DALES

D Mark Thompson
Hardraw Force Publishing
ISBN: 978-1-9999287-0-4
Price £24.99

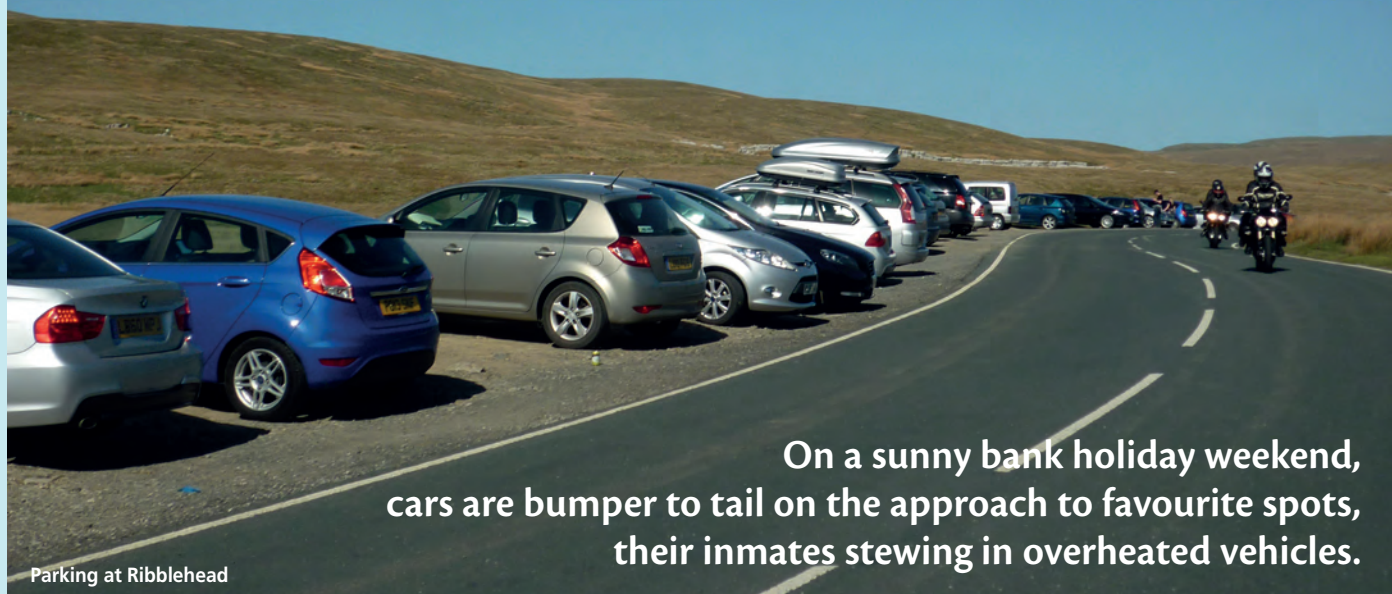
Mark Thompson moved to Wharfedale in 1960, and as a young lad was a keen photographer. Coming across his extensive archive from the 1970s and '80s recently, he realised that with the passage of time the photos had their own stories to tell. And indeed they do – this is a wonderful collection of perceptive and penetrating photos of local people going about their daily lives, in landscapes stretching from Tan Hill to Ingleton to Bolton Abbey.

Mark has given people their own voices, using transcripts of conversations taken over 30 years ago and revealing much about how they lived then, and what was important to them, all laced with humour and compassion. The most memorable images are those of local characters at ease in their living rooms, with family and friends, or at workplaces or shows with their colleagues. With an introduction by Mike Harding, this collection provides enough material for many hours of happy perusal – but act quickly! Only 1,000 copies have been printed.

Available from The Grove Bookshop, Ilkley; the Dales Book Centre, Grassington; Hewitson's, Leyburn; Mason's, Hawes; Castle Hill Bookshop, Richmond; Hawes Creamery and (awaiting confirmation) some national park centres.

Nancy Stedman, Trustee, Friends of the Dales

Full to Bursting? And still they come...



Parking at Ribblesdale

On a sunny bank holiday weekend, cars are bumper to tail on the approach to favourite spots, their inmates stewing in overheated vehicles.

It's the same at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, where charity challenge walks can draw thousands of visitors to a village that is home to a few hundred souls. Sometimes it seems that the peace and tranquillity that the national park was set up to preserve are conspicuous by their absence.

In many of Europe's designated landscapes, a cap on visitor numbers prevents tourists from damaging the fragile environments that they have come to enjoy. This is not possible in England's national parks, because their boundaries are crossed by a complex network of public rights of way. Their proximity to major conurbations also means that they are readily accessible by motorists. They have been set the target of increasing visitor numbers by 10%, which could increase the number of cars squeezing on to the narrow lanes of the Yorkshire Dales by 100,000–150,000 a year.

But how can the national park authority fulfil its purpose of conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the area if this conflicts with its duty to support the economic and social well-being of its communities?

Friends of the Dales wants to see YDNPA play a more active role in visitor management, relieving some of the burden from the communities most affected and providing more stewards to police tourist hot spots. Our countryside access policy recognises the demand for charities to organise challenging walks to raise funds, but encourages them to minimise the impact of traffic and parking as well as help participants to appreciate the fragility of the landscapes they are walking through.

Opinion as to the best way forward is divided, even among our members. Vice president Colin Speakman produced an independent report for Horton-in-Ribblesdale parish council in 2013. It stated that the village has been unable to absorb the explosion in visitor numbers since it became the venue of choice for fundraisers organising sponsorship challenge events. The pressure is exacerbated by the concentration of walks on Saturdays between May and September, with a slight lull during the school summer holidays.

Almost all participants arrive by private car or small minibus. Villagers reported vehicles left blocking access to their homes for days on end, walkers changing clothes and relieving themselves in full view of private properties, and the noise of the first arrivals waking people at dawn. They said attempts to remonstrate with visitors had merely provoked verbal abuse.

The report's recommendations include promoting the Settle-Carlisle railway as a green alternative for travelling to Horton; establishing a local residents' parking scheme; providing free bays for use by full-sized coaches and improved signage. The emphasis is on directing drivers towards additional and overspill facilities, with the long-term aim of also spreading the visitor pressure throughout the year and away from the Three Peaks route.

"I think it is important to keep this all in perspective," says YDNPA chairman Carl Lis. "We know that there are about 20 Saturdays a year when there are large organised charity events, but there have been fewer this year than last. Three Peaks visitors bring income into the local economy with people staying overnight before and after their walks. The community also benefits directly from the revenue

generated by opening up fields for parking. We want people to enjoy the national park, but to do so responsibly.”

The authority has drafted a new, simple code of conduct aimed at individuals, which can be given out by event organisers and car-park owners in Horton. A £60,000 project recently saw footpaths and parking areas repaired and extended at Ribblehead, preventing damage to the historic settlement of Batty Wife Hole and providing new interpretation facilities.

FOTD business member Skyware Press publishes walking guides and associated products. Its website advises using Ribblehead as an alternative starting point for the Three Peaks Challenge but warns: “It is much better to spend a few days in the area ... perhaps having explored the mountains at a more leisurely pace, the need to put yourself through the gruelling trial will seem less important.”

Where2walk organises guided walks and navigation courses in the national park. Founder and business member Jonathan Smith says the few overcrowded honeypots like Malham and Horton do not provide a “true Dales experience” and believes visitor pressure could easily be absorbed if it were dispersed over the lesser-known fells and valleys. Where2walk offers a ‘Three Peaks in Three Days’ midweek guided break, with variations to the route taken including beginning the ascent of Ingleborough at Clapham.

Meanwhile, Ingleton Area Business Group is promoting an alternative start and finish in the village, adding an extra six miles to the walk but enabling visitors to take advantage of parking, accommodation and a range of cafés, pubs, shops and restaurants.

In Malham, too, nearly everyone arrives by car, van or motorbike, but it is the cove’s iconic status that brings them flocking in their thousands, with numbers peaking after it has been featured on television. FOTD has contributed to a visitor management plan, which is being drawn up by consultants Atkins. Solutions discussed include a residents’ parking scheme and reviewing charges to make it more expensive to leave vehicles on the street. There is clear support for an additional overflow facility to be provided at the entrance to the village.

Our subsidiary company, Dales & Bowland CIC, runs the Sunday and bank holiday DalesBus services into the Yorkshire Dales and the Nidderdale and Forest of Bowland AONBs. It has been suggested that it runs a trial weekend park-and-ride scheme from Skipton Auction Mart. Other ideas have included redesigning some areas of the village to create more shared space between pedestrians and cars and introducing slow vehicle speeds.

FOTD treasurer Graham Yule wants to see Malham Showfield made available for overflow parking with environmentally friendly ground reinforcement. He also suggests signage for passing spaces throughout Malhamdale and a one-way system up Cove Road and down the other side of the valley.

Trustee Wilf Fenten has worked as a consultant to national parks across Europe. He says a range of stakeholders should collaborate on drawing up an integrated management system for the Yorkshire Dales – and that we should be prepared to discourage access if it damages the environment. The voluntary code of conduct for large events could be made more specific and organisers encouraged to consider less-frequented locations including the Forest of Bowland and the south Pennines. The resulting loss of tourism income could be offset by investing in facilities that attract more affluent visitors, thereby helping to create more well-paid jobs.

Wilf also recommends removing all free parking, relieving the temptation to drive into honeypots like Horton and Malham, which are already overflowing, and then abandon vehicles on verges and village streets in frustration. Solar-powered signs along approach routes like those found in multi-storey car parks could give motorists an early warning that few spaces are available, resulting in an improved visitor experience.

As this edition of the Review went to press, the national park authority was meeting to discuss Three Peaks visitor management issues. We will update you on the results in the spring issue. We would like to hear your views and opinions – please send your comments to ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Lynn Leadbeatter



Horton traffic jam



Buses blocking pavements at Horton

Barn Conversions in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

A few years ago, a rare opportunity arose to monitor a potentially significant change in the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, arising from an increase in barn conversions to dwellings. Now incorporated into the new Local Plan, the new policy addresses the government's insistence that NP authorities relax planning constraints on barn conversions.

The authority faces several difficulties, many of them common to rural areas across the country, such as the closure of schools, shops and other services. These planning issues were discussed in more detail in the Winter 2018 issue of the Review, but key factors are a low wage economy, combined with relatively high house prices driven up by external demand. This makes it difficult for local people to get into the housing market. While there is clearly a need for affordable housing, housing associations and developers are not taking the allocated sites, which are often small and in remote places offering marginal viability. Barn conversions could be part of the solution, but they tend to be complex, slow and unpredictable in their timescales, and expensive.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park has unique and internationally important landscapes of stone walls and field barns, created by livestock farmers and miners with smallholdings over several centuries. These are key to the special qualities of the

national park. More specifically, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale were designated as a Conservation Area, the first time this level of protection has been extended to historic assets on a landscape scale.

Finding ways of maintaining the estimated 4,500 barns, which are largely unsuited to modern farming methods, has always been problematic. They vary from small field barns, simple in form and with few openings, to more substantial structures. Many contain valuable historic features revealing how they were built and used. Their value as historic assets is considerable, and goes far beyond the very few that are designated as Listed Buildings.

Agri-environment schemes have provided some resources, notably the Pennine Dales Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme, which ran from 1998 till 2004, and brought over £3.5m to barn restoration. But now there is only uncertainty about future agri-environment schemes once the UK leaves the European Union.

The review of the Local Plan gave rise to much debate, and eventually three linked policies were included. Policy L1 covers the conversion of traditional buildings that are designated Listed Buildings or are considered to be heritage assets. L2 is a strategic spatial planning policy, allowing conversions to residential and employment uses in certain

locations – within existing settlements, building groups or suitable roadside locations (within 50m). Dwellings are limited to 'local occupancy' or holiday lets. Policy L3 ensures that proposals will not be allowed where they undermine the architectural and historic character of the building and its landscape setting.

The new policy is aimed at securing the long-term future of traditional buildings while conserving their intrinsic historic interest and value; it is a conservation policy. It is not a housing policy, although it will undoubtedly contribute to the Authority's target of 55 new dwellings per annum.

Over 100 applications have now been received, and over 60 of these have been approved, but even after three years only three have been completed. Many of the applications are for barns that are within hamlets or farmsteads. Some, however, are out in open countryside and have given rise to considerable debate and disagreement.

Tug Gill Lathe, lying between Kettlewell and Starboston, was originally refused by the Planning Committee, but allowed on appeal. FOTD lodged a formal complaint with the Inspectorate, as it was considered that the Inspector's assessment failed to acknowledge the special qualities of the national park.

Barn outside Oughtershaw: Friends of the Dales objected to plans to convert this barn, YDNPA approved the application

Planning Refusals

In late December 2018, YDNPA Planning Committee refused permission to convert three barns near Appersett, Hawes and Grinton because of the harm they would do to the landscape.

Before the meeting, officers warned members that they could be acting unlawfully if they went ahead and gave approval, because the work did not fall within their Local Plan policies. The proposals were considered to have a “significant harmful impact”, thus failing to conserve the landscape and historic interest of the park. The officers said that granting permissions would leave the planning committee “in a position where it has difficulty in refusing other applications”.

“I need to stress that we are permitting lots of barn conversions – 99 of them since 2015, against eight refusals,” said YDNPA chairman Carl Lis. “But they do need to be in the right locations.

“Approvals for the three applications today would have led to landscape harm, in part because such developments would bring with them new tracks, car parking, lighting, overhead lines and the other facilities necessary for residential use.

“Some members argued that we should have approved the applications in order to help the applicants find an affordable home. I think it is not a case of deciding between looking after the landscape and looking after local people. The two must be taken together as it is the fantastic landscape of the park that provides the engine for the local economy.”

“This is an excellent decision,” said FOTD chair Mark Corner. “It demonstrates that the committee members are following their own Local Plan and are taking the conservation of the national park seriously.

“The conversion of barns is not a solution to providing ‘affordable housing’ for those who need it. While we appreciate that authority members are trying to sustain communities, we risk damaging the area’s special qualities. We are acutely concerned at the significant harmful impact on the landscape and scenic beauty of the Dales posed by the inappropriate conversion of traditional farm buildings since the planning rules were relaxed. Most have not provided affordable housing or boosted the local economy as holiday accommodation.”



Low Oxnop Barn near Gunnerside: YDNPA approved an application for conversion

A particularly contentious proposal was the proposal to convert a small field barn outside the village of Oughtershaw, to which FOTD objected, largely on the basis that the proposed extension was excessively large and did not maintain the integrity of the barn. This was also the view of the planning officers, but the members of the Planning Committee decided to approve the application. FOTD considered seeking a judicial review of the decision, as it did not meet the requirements of all three of the linked policies. Legal advice supported this view, but with very limited resources and a possible risk of losing, it was reluctantly decided not to pursue this.

Barn conversions raise many questions:

- Do they conserve the buildings, or is there an adverse impact on their historic character?
- With the large number of applications, will there be an unacceptable impact on landscape character, a ‘suburbanisation’ of a rural area?
- Will they rejuvenate small communities, or simply provide more holiday lets?
- Will they lead to more local trade, a boost to local economies, or create more traffic, more demand on already stretched services?
- There are genuine barriers to providing affordable housing – is this the solution?
- How will occupation be monitored, and breaches enforced?

With only three conversions so far, what is of concern is that decisions are being taken when it is not yet possible to see the effects of the change in policy, or its efficacy in bringing benefits to local people and communities.

FOTD has called for an early review of the new planning policy, as it appears that inappropriate and irrevocable decisions are being made.

News from the meeting of the Planning Committee on 11 December has just come through – three of the more contentious barn applications have now been refused planning permission. This is an excellent decision. It demonstrates that the members of the committee are following their own Local Plan, and are taking the conservation of the national park seriously. The conversion of barns is not a solution to providing ‘affordable housing’ for those who need it and those on low incomes in an area with high house prices.

I wish to record my thanks to FOTD and PLACE (People, Landscapes and Cultural Environments) for supporting this research, and to the planners at YDNPA for their help in providing information.

Nancy Stedman, Trustee, Friends of the Dales



Tug Gill Lathe near Starbottan: Friends of the Dales objected, YDNPA refused plans to convert but this was allowed on Appeal

The Dales Can Heal

Walking is good for you. It's official, it's very well documented and in physical terms unarguably right. Skipton-based artist Mandy Dye explains why.

When I've been walking I feel lighter, brighter and more supple. Yet more importantly for me, I also experience a burst, or sometimes a slow burn, of creative energy that is unique to the activity.

Landscape is a continuous narrative. Its eternal exposure to the elements of weather gives it a new and different voice, to be heard by anyone who chooses to listen. It speaks every language, even the ones we make up for ourselves. Landscape changes when it rains, and again when the sun shines. It can be dark and hostile, or bright and welcoming. In the snow it is crisper, and in a storm it charges itself with an energy from the skies. It is never boring. The land rewards us in visual terms, and in practical ways, and it gives us space. Lots of it.

For me, the physical action of walking through and into and over big spaces informs my creative process in interesting ways. I paint, abstract landscapes mostly, so colours and spaces are integral to how I view

my world, and experiencing the language of the landscape around me is rather like an intravenous infusion of creative energy. Viewing my surroundings as I walk is an oddly levelling experience: being a part of them has the effect of extending my thought processes, and plays with concepts of colour, shape, scale and light, all in motion ...

So walking is very good for me. It lifts my mood, it extends my artistic horizons, it grounds me and lifts me up at the same time. And I've no doubt that I'm not alone.

'When you look at the big picture' is a horribly well-worn phrase that's become a cliché, and is so wildly overused that its meaning has become lost, but walking in a big landscape can create the feeling of being a part of something indeterminably spacious, and belonging to a big picture. In the best possible way...

Sometimes our internal, private narrative can merge into the experience and the activity of walking, and being in a situation where those experiences and feelings can be shared with others, both verbally and otherwise, is uplifting. It allows us to shift things around, and see the world through other eyes.

Painting is an activity that makes me happy, even when it's not going entirely according to plan. And even when I've not really made a plan in the first place. For me, it's a way of expressing myself that doesn't require explanation or discussion, and can begin in one way and end in another seamlessly. It allows me to move around physically without needing to keep to a prescribed space, and I can think about whatever I like while I'm doing it. All of which sounds much the same as going walking. And despite the differences in the actions, the end results have far more in common than otherwise.

Walking is about the freedom to express, experience and encounter the land around us on our terms and at our own pace. Which is profoundly beneficial to us in both an emotional and psychological sense. After all, it's hard to feel depressed when you're on the top of Threshfield Moor on a hot July afternoon, looking across to Skirethorns through a rippling haze of heat over the grass.

The paintings shown here are small acrylic ink studies, all painted more or less straight after the walk, trying to capture the light and the heat, and also the size and shape of the land.



Mandy by herself: Arrived back in Yorkshire having spent 20+ years in southern parts. One adult daughter and a middle-aged dog. An eclectic background encompassing prep school matron, events organiser, psychiatric nurse, officers' mess housekeeper, and art & craft workshop organiser. Now working part time out of necessity, and painting to be happy.

Contact Mandy on dyeamanda550@gmail.com for more details of her work.



From my perspective, the aspect of the Yorkshire Dales that makes this breadth of experience a reality is the shape and the scale of the landscape, the historical marks of the field barns, the kilns and the earthwork ridges, and the unmistakable evidence of continuous human impact that can be seen in every direction. The knowledge that for thousands of years man has been walking and working across the same earth and stone that we're walking on has the marvellous knack of making the spot on which we stand a very personal one. If only for a few minutes it contributes in a very powerful and positive way to the effect of walking through, across, up, down, over and along.

Walkers, it seems to me, are on the whole a group of people happy to embrace that meditative aspect of walking within the landscape. We give it our own value by doing so, and in many respects become a part of its narrative history.

Archimedes once said: 'Give me one firm spot on which to stand, and I will move the earth.'

Well, there are hundreds of firm and beautiful spots right here, in the Yorkshire Dales.



Members of the Bradford Sikh Community enjoy the Yorkshire Dales

A party of walkers from the Ramgarhia Gurdwara Sikh community of Bradford, enjoyed a visit to Upper Wharfedale with members of Friends of DalesBus on Saturday October 27th.

The group, pictured here on Linton Falls footbridge near Grassington, were using a specially chartered DalesBus to test out the feasibility of running a Saturday DalesBus service direct from Bradford to Bolton Abbey, Burnsall and Grassington on Saturdays in spring and summer 2019.

Members of the Ramgarhia Gurdwara are working in partnership with Friends of the Dales, Friends of DalesBus and the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company to look for new ways of funding this popular DalesBus service. It is hoped to provide a new direct Saturday bus from Bradford and Shipley to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

If funding and sponsorship packages to support the new service can be identified and put into place, the service will start from April 2019. Local businesses and organisations are also being asked to offer their support – anyone interested in helping support the service is asked to contact friendsofdalesbuschair@gmail.com.

Colin Speakman, Vice President, Friends of the Dales

Walkers from a Sikh community in Bradford enjoy a visit to Linton Fall.
Photo courtesy www.dalesbus.org



Fine Food and Community Spirit in a

Leading the Way in Barbon. Report by Ken Humphris.



The Churchmouse at Barbon

Friends of the Dales member and ambassador Ken Humphris has visited a business in Barbon, in the 'new' area of the national park designated in 2016. John and Jules Natlacen had run a successful speciality food shop in Kirkby Lonsdale for years before moving to Barbon. Ken reports on how the owners are helping to attract and provide for increasing numbers of visitors to this relatively undiscovered village.

The general store in the village of Barbon was in slow decline and John and Jules saw this as an opportunity, so in August 2013 they said goodbye to Kirkby Lonsdale and moved to Barbon, renaming the shop The Churchmouse at Barbon.

Their vision was to create a third 'hub' (the other two being the pub and the church) to provide a focus for local people coming together informally in different ways. The shop was reorganised and expanded to include the excellent 'foodie' offerings that had made their mark in Kirkby Lonsdale alongside local bread, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables and a delivery service.

Their café offers excellent tea, coffee, cakes and snacks and a covered outdoor terrace was created to provide more space for passing walkers and cyclists.

In short order, they introduced Friday evening bistro nights with adventurous menus, another great leap of faith in a small village. But they needn't have worried – their reputation meant that these bistro nights soon became popular sellouts. Their passion for cheese had not been put on the back burner, however, as later that same year they began to offer their own unique cheese. This was named 'Bright Blessed Crest', after the name came to John in a dream, and was made to their recipe, from ewes' milk, by Appleby Creamery.

The expansion of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to include Barbon and the upper Lune valley happened in August 2016, and John and Jules welcomed it with open arms. Typically they marked the event by organising a celebratory evening for the whole village. National park status clearly attracts more visitors to the area and The

Churchmouse is becoming a destination – as this adventurous couple had anticipated.

The Channel 4 television programme *The Yorkshire Dales and the Lakes* has featured John and Jules's exploits in both series so far – both in terms of the shop and their involvement in other village initiatives, such as fundraising for the church bells, and this exposure undoubtedly increased footfall in the village.

Barbon is a popular area for walkers of all abilities, and guided walks organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority are proving popular. Starts and finishes in the village hall car park make The Churchmouse well placed to attract participants afterwards.

Despite all that has happened, John's passion for cheese remains undiminished, and in 2018 he had the idea of making a second unique cheese. James Hadwin's family have been farming at Mansergh Hall in Barbon for three generations, and John took milk from their milking ewes and, using the services of Iona Hill from Ribblesdale Cheese Company, an independent producer in the Dales, formulated a cheese that is to be known as Baa-bon (yes, I know!).



Baa-bon Cheese

This was formally launched at the Yorkshire Dales Cheese Festival in Hawes in September 2018, but the short notice meant that only small quantities of this very new cheese had matured sufficiently. Nevertheless, the cellar in Barbon is now packed to the roof with cheese undergoing this natural maturation process. John describes the flavour as 'light, smooth and fresh'.

Dales Village

All images courtesy of John and Jules Natlacen



Left to Right: James Hadwin, Iona from Ribblesdale Cheese, and John Natlacen

So what next for this enterprising couple? Although there is much walking to be done hereabouts, there is also scope for plenty of cycling in the vicinity of Barbon – but it's hilly, as anyone who has ventured over the top to Dent will know. So how can more people and families be encouraged to come and enjoy the area by bike? After all, it is absolutely spot on with the national park authority's aim of encouraging more cycling and developing more family-friendly facilities.

Electric bikes could be one solution and I wouldn't be surprised if these aren't added to what The Churchmouse has to offer. Why not hire an e-bike for the day or, if you have your own bike, drop in and give the battery a boost while you have a cup of coffee? If you're not up to that, as a driver of a green (electric) car, you could drop in extend the range of your e-car by charging it over a snack and a chat.

Whatever happens, you can bet that things will develop at The Churchmouse to attract more people, and hence visitors to Barbon, and to the Lune valley and to the wider western Dales – and that the original vision of a 'third hub' will continue to grow.

We'd love to have more contributions from Friends of the Dales members about innovative businesses in the Dales that you know yourself and would like to write about. Please contact Ann at the office.

Are you our next Chair, or do you know someone who could be?

We are looking for a Chair to replace me during 2019, after what will have been four rewarding, developmental and enjoyable years leading our charity. If you think you may be interested yourself or know of someone who could be, please read on.

When I took the role on in mid-2015, I agreed with trustees that three years would be a good period of tenure to aim for so that we could make the most of a cycle of fresh eyes, energy and ideas. It's a great role, offering the opportunity to lead the organisation so that it furthers the charitable goals it was set up to achieve. You can play a leading role in shaping and supporting a dynamic, productive team of board members, staff and volunteers, and in developing mutually beneficial relationships with interesting and influential stakeholders. All in all, an exciting opportunity to have an impact in helping to look after this special place that we all cherish.

Friends of the Dales is in pretty good shape. We have a strong reputation and an excellent track record over nearly 40 years of protecting the Yorkshire Dales National Park and encouraging people to value and enjoy it. Over the last few years, we have refreshed our strategy, rebranded ourselves, halted the decline in membership, and become a more active, effective and visible campaigning organisation. Challenges remain to get the organisation on a sustainable financial footing; we have healthy reserves but currently run with operational losses, and the outcome of the current government review of national parks may present opportunities and challenges that we will need to respond to.

Trustees are looking for someone who is passionate about the Dales and can be an inspiring leader. If you would like to discuss the role informally with me, Ann or other trustees, please do get in touch. The time commitment is around one day per week and the likely tenure in the region of four years. Ideally, we would like to have a new Chair in place by our September 2019 AGM after a well-structured handover.

Mark Corner, Chair - chairman@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Response to the Glover Review Consultation

Members may recall that we ran an article in our autumn Review about the government-initiated independent review of England's national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty, led by Julian Glover. The period for the call for evidence closed on 18 December, and now the review panel will consider the input and report back to Government with recommendations during 2019. Perhaps members made their own responses. Friends of the Dales' detailed response can be found in the news section of our website at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk.

In summary, we are positive about how national parks have delivered on their purposes over nearly 70 years, but now a bolder vision is needed in matching society's changing needs and expectations to what national parks can offer. Processes and resources need to be put in place to enable this to happen. The aspects for improvement we focused on included:

- the need for better protection from inappropriate development;
- improved biodiversity, through the planned 'payment for public goods' in farming reform, which should also address protecting cultural heritage;
- governance issues;
- and support for sustainable communities – where issues of farming profitability, employment opportunities, affordable housing and adequate public transport need addressing.

WRESTLING

* CUMBERLAND AND * WESTMORLAND STYLE

Friends of the Dales member Hilary Fenten introduces us to the traditional sport of Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling.

For the third year running, Connie Hodgson is the Women's World Champion of wrestling, Cumberland and Westmorland style. This is for the All Weights. She is also the champion of the Under 10 stone Women's World Wrestling. This beautiful and gentle young woman is a very good wrestler, who has grown up on a remote farm in the dale of Dent with an idyllic landscape and a way of life so different from most young people today.

She is not the only wrestler in the family. Ted is 14 years old and doing well in the sport. And then there is Rosie, who started competing when she was five years old. This year she won enough points to win first prize for the Under 12 years old. And what of the older generation? Their father, Trevor, was twice World Champion for the Under 14 stone, in 1987 and 1989. This is truly a family dedicated to the sport, and I have not even mentioned the cousins and uncles, who all enjoy wrestling as well.

Most people think of Cumbrian and Westmorland Wrestling as a sport exclusive to the Lake District but this is not so. Austria sent a team this year, as did Iceland, the Netherlands, Brittany and Scotland. All types of wrestling had their origins way back in ancient Greece and into prehistoric times, but it is thought that this style came into northern England and Scotland with the Vikings. Some historians associate it with the Cornish and Brittany's Gouren styles, indicating that it may have developed out of a longer-standing Celtic tradition, and the Fédération Internationale des Luttes Celtique classes Cumberland wrestling as Celtic in heritage. However, the Norse shared culture with other Germanic peoples and Cumbrian wrestling has much in common with Icelandic Glíma folk wrestling.

Wrestlers stand chest to chest, each grasping the opponent with locked hands around the body, each chin resting on the right shoulder of the other. When the hold is firm, the wrestling begins, each person trying to make the other touch the ground with any part of the body apart from the feet. If their hands part, the competitor loses. There are three rounds.



Connie Hodgson
Under 10 Stone World Champion

Photo courtesy of Linda Scott

Did you notice the traditional way of dressing? This is not always adhered to but looks very colourful when worn. The lower body has white long johns and black or coloured pants over the top – a bit like Superman. Some of these are embroidered, which is very fetching.

Should you wish to see this sport, Grasmere, Kendal, Penrith and most of the shows in the Lake District, Northumberland and western parts of Yorkshire will have teams competing. There are academies at Kendal, Carlisle and Milnthorpe.

Connie is now coaching and hopes to encourage young people to join in when she is a games teacher in a local school. She finds lads and lasses like the sport but tend to avoid public competitions. Why? Perhaps they are shy, but there is a need for this special sport to be continued as part of the northern tradition.



Here's the latest from our postbag!
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.

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

Letter from a Member on Second Homes in the Dales

Dear Mark

I was at the splendid "Responding to the Challenge" event on Wednesday, 17 October at Settle.

Our organisation is named Friends of the Dales. "Friends" are essentially people-related. The inhabitants of the Dales are absolutely essential to its existence; at present we seem to be friendlier to the landscape than to its inhabitants. I was very sad to hear of your own virtually deserted village. The Dales are not truly alive if churches, schools and pubs die: this means that there are no real communities, only fragmented dwelling places occasionally occupied. Young people will never live in such an environment. Workplaces will not be established where there are no workers.

So I urge that Friends of the Dales mounts a persistent campaign to reduce and eventually remove second homes. There needs to be constant lobbying of the county and district councils. You said you saw the issue of increasing council tax on second homes coming up again: please, with your authority, could you ensure that it does constantly come up on council agendas? You could mount a campaign on social media such as Facebook, outlining the disastrous effects of second homes in the Dales. You could lobby the Leeds and Bradford Metropolitan district councils where people retire, receive a superannuation lump sum or the enormous capital sum from selling their parents' homes and use it to purchase second homes. A campaign to encourage such people to move permanently to the Dales could be fruitful.

I am really concerned that so long as I can remember we have wrung our hands over this issue. Yet house by house, the ghost towns grow. A few years ago I did try to make this a big issue in the Yorkshire Dales Review, but my submission was relegated to the website, perhaps because there are significant numbers of Friends who are second homeowners. Our Chair needs to take a farsighted leadership role on this for the furtherance of an integrated future of inhabited Dales.

I look forward to your response on this essential issue. All good wishes and thanks for all you do.

John D. Anderson

Response from Mark Corner, Chair, Friends of the Dales

Dear John

I'm pleased you found the day of value. I did too. I share your concern regarding the second homes issue and we will continue to advocate addressing the matter as strongly as we can. We have one of our regular liaison meetings with YDNPA in a week or so and we will raise the issue again there. I know that Carl Lis hasn't given up on this, and I believe that the authority is key to enabling anything to happen.

I mentioned in the event the importance of the YDNP Management Plan. We lobbied to have this plan include the second homes issue, which unfortunately the authority and councils have shied away from.

Rest assured that we will continue to campaign on this, though it must be said that the opponents to it are vociferous and, at times, unpleasant at a personal level.

Tribute to Dr John Disney

We were sorry to learn of the sudden and untimely passing of Dr John Disney in late October 2018. John was a director of the Dales & Bowland CIC (our subsidiary social enterprise). His friend and fellow director John Carey has written a fuller obituary for the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line magazine, of which this is a short extract:

"John was a larger-than-life effervescent character, whose enthusiasm touched so many people within the Settle-Carlisle and DalesBus communities in different ways.... In 2006 John joined the board of the fledgling Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company, a 'not-for-profit' company formed under the auspices of the Yorkshire Dales Society (now Friends of the Dales), with the primary objective of improving accessibility to the Dales and in some small way arresting the ongoing decline in rural transport. The group, now usually known as DalesBus, continues to provide a unique network of bus services with annual passenger numbers having reached 56,000 at one point. John provided valuable input with his academic insight into transport and policy matters."

Feedback from Our Article About the Swale Trail (Autumn 2018)

We had a good response to our "opinion-based" article about the new Swale Trail mountain biking route.

Dr Malcolm Petyt, trustee:

"Having used the Trail myself with a three-generation group from my family, it is something for which the national park should be congratulated. Obviously one could pick on some features that are challenging or difficult for some users, but overall it is a great experience."

Simon and Lisa Villarubbia, of Gargrave Auto Repairs, business members of Friends of the Dales:

"As keen mountain bikers, we can't wait to try it out!"

Penny Lowe, FOTD administration assistant and business member:

"By the time I had finished the article I was inspired to cycle the Swale Trail with my partner – we both love cycling, including off-roading, in the Dales."

New Business Members

Hardraw Force

Home of England's largest single drop waterfall, a reputed 100-foot drop set within the grounds of the historic Green Dragon Inn. You cannot own Hardraw Force, we look after it for your future generations – and sincerely hope you will enjoy your visit to the waterfall and woodlands.

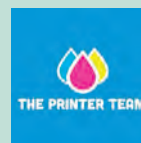
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In Memoriam Donations

We were sorry to hear in the autumn of the passing of two gentlemen with strong connections to the Dales, each of whose families and friends chose our charity for donations in memory of their loved one.

Mrs Margaret Hanson wrote to us enclosing donations to our charity in memory of her late husband, Jack. She explained that "Jack and his friends and family loved the Dales. He was proud of the fact that since he retired, he and his friends have logged a total of well over 7,000 miles walking around the Yorkshire and Derbyshire Dales. That is in addition to all the walking he did with me and my two boys."

With further separate donations, we received a total of £545, and we are very grateful that our charity was nominated for support.

We were also contacted by Ms Hayley Edwards, who explained that we would be receiving donations in memory of her late father Raymond Edwards, "as he loved the Dales so much and we thought this would be a great honour to his memory".

Mrs Wendy Edwards also wrote to us about her late husband, saying, "We both loved taking holidays in the Dales so your charity is very appropriate, Ray would have approved!" In total we received £525 in memory of Mr Edwards to support our charity's work to protect the Dales.

Membership Survey 2019

It is almost a decade since we last undertook a membership survey and much has changed in the intervening period. Ten years ago was the start of the financial crisis and the period of austerity that has affected everyone throughout the country – and especially those living in the Dales. With your help, we would now like to get an update on your views as members.

As a membership organisation, we need to take the views of our members seriously and we are keen to know what you think about what we do, how we do it and what you expect from us. The results of this survey will help us plan for the future success and sustainability of the charity.

You will find a questionnaire enclosed with this issue of the Review. It has just 12 questions and can be completed in about five minutes. We have also included a Freepost SAE. If you wish to save us money, please use an ordinary envelope and stamp (unfortunately we cannot benefit from a reduced fee if you put a stamp on the Freepost envelope) or scan and email it to Ann at ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk. We have also developed a similar but shorter survey with only 10 questions, which may be filled in via the website.

If you have joint membership and both members would like to complete the questionnaire, please copy the questionnaire and place both copies in the envelope provided. If you wish to expand on any of your answers or raise any further points, please continue on a separate piece of paper and include it in the envelope.

We would like you to return the completed survey(s) ideally by 16 February, 2019, as we hope to process and analyse the results in time for the spring Review. If you cannot complete it within this timeframe, we would still like to hear from you and your views will be taken into account for our long-term planning.

We would wish to thank you in advance for your help in completing the membership questionnaire.

Tony Smith, Trustee, Friends of the Dales

PS. If you happen to be renewing your subscription by cheque this quarter, you can, of course, use the same envelope as the survey.

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.



A wet day in Malham for Music in the Cove on 1 December. Courtesy of Mark Corner.

Saturday, 19 January 2019

i Short

Inspirational Water

Walk: A morning walk (c2 miles) led by Marion Temple exploring Hellifield village and the Flashes – natural and ephemeral shallow ponds offering a haven for birds. This open space is at risk from a proposed complex of holiday chalets to which many, including Friends of the Dales, are opposed. Local campaigners have been invited to join us. Bring binoculars/camera. Wellingtons or boots/gaiters advisable. Regret no dogs except RAD.

Film Short: After a break for lunch (pub/café) immerse yourself in *Streams of Wonder* – a beautiful slow-paced film by The Moonbeam Collective. This explores, through the eyes of a young walker, the landscape and culture of the Dales.

"The essence of the Dales captured in a host of images, words and music. The blending of all three is truly inspired." Mike Harding.

Meet 10:30am at Hellifield Institute – open for coffee morning (& toilets) prior to walk.

Meet 2:15pm at Hellifield Institute – for film presentation followed by tea & biscuits.

Large free public car park behind the institute (access from Gisburn Road). Short walk from railway station with suitable connections from south and north (check with Northern Rail). Please contact Ann at the office if you need or can offer a lift.



Saturday, 9 February 2019

i Short

Community Action in Addingham

Walk: A morning walk (c2 miles) led by Don Barrett around and through Addingham looking at some of the village history and environmental initiatives being undertaken by Addingham Environment Group, of which Don is an active member, and other village organisations. Don Barrett is the author of *Walks around Addingham*, reviewed in the Autumn 2018 *Yorkshire Dales Review*. Walking boots advised. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome.

Talk: The afternoon talk is by Prof Rick Battarbee on "The big environmental issues: thinking globally, acting locally". He will stress the urgency of reducing our environmental footprint and describe initiatives being taken by local communities to face up to the challenge in the Dales. Rick is an Emeritus Professor of Environmental Change at University College London, now living in Addingham, where he co-ordinates the work of Addingham Civic Society's Environment Group <http://addinghamenvironmentgroup.org.uk>

Meet 10.30am at St Peter's Church Hall, Church Street, Addingham, Ilkley LS29 0QS (toilets)

Time for lunch locally (pubs/café)

Meet 2.15pm at St Peter's Church Hall for talk followed by tea and biscuits.

Parking at St Peter's Church Hall. Buses 62 from Keighley and Ilkley/Otley or X84 from Leeds, Ilkley and Skipton (alight by the cricket ground). Please contact Ann at the office if you need or can offer a lift.

Saturday, 23 March 2019

C Medium

Askrigg Circular Walk

Trustee Julie Martin will lead a varied early spring walk of c.5 miles around the village of Askrigg in Wensleydale. The walk will take in the woods and waterfalls of Whitfield Gill (some steep slopes here), Low Straights Lane with its fantastic views over Wensleydale, glimpses of Grade I-listed Nappa Hall and a short section of the River Ure. Finishing around 3:00pm at a tea room back in the village. Bring packed lunch. Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome.

Meet 11.00am at the small public car park (donation box) at the eastern end of the village. NB no public toilets in Askrigg, but pubs and cafés. Check with www.dalesbus.org.uk nearer the time for Little White Bus 156 service. Please contact Ann at the office if you need or can offer a lift.



Chairman Mark Corner delivering his speech at the half-day "Responding to the Challenge" event in Victoria Hall, Settle, on 17 October. Courtesy of Tim Hancock.

Tuesday, 30 April to Monday, 6 May 2019

r

Ride2Stride Walking Festival

This is the eighth year of the Settle-Carlisle Walking & Music Festival, a week-long festival of walks, talks and music along the fabulous Settle-to-Carlisle railway line, celebrating the wonderful landscape and culture of the western Dales and Eden Valley. The programme is being finalised as we went press. See www.ride2stride.co.uk for more information.

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Ford Anglia between snowdrifts in 1962.

In 2017 Friends of the Dales were generously offered a large collection of photographic slides from the estate of Dr J O Myers, covering landscape images taken by Jack Myers overall several decades. Trustee Nancy Stedman volunteered to undertake the mammoth task of sorting the 12,500 slides before storage in high quality archive boxes (paid for by a small HLF grant from YDMT's Stories in Stone project). More details on this fascinating archive in a future issue of the Review.

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

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