

Spring 2019 : Issue 146

# Yorkshire **DALES** review

- **An Important New Partnership**
- **Management of Grouse Moors**
- **Living and Working in the Dales**
- **Visiting the village of Casterton**

**CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY**

Friends of the  
**DALES**  
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

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Editor Sasha Heseltine



### Editor's Letter

By way of celebrating the 70th anniversary of the introduction of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act, we've been seeking and publishing letters of memories that illustrate just how vital the Dales countryside is, as a place of soul-repairing beauty and a safe haven in times of trouble. See two delightful letters on page 14 and Arnold Pacey's sketch and reminiscences on page 16.

But celebrating the Dales is not all about nostalgia; we're all aware of the need to keep moving forward, in fact, to campaign and protect as well as enjoy this unique landscape. For that reason we're very pleased to announce that the application for planning permission for a major leisure development at Hellifield Flashes was resoundingly turned down just as we went to press in late March. At a packed planning meeting held in Gargrave Village Hall, the application was refused unanimously. This is very positive news for Friends of the Dales, as we have long campaigned to protect Hellifield's open space and wetlands.

We need to keep the long-term health of the Dales in mind too. In response to earlier debate on how to keep young people in the Dales – and attract more in from outside – Susan Briggs, director of the Dales Tourism Network, says she's seeing a definite sea change, with families and new businesses starting to trickle into the area. See page 12.

And times change. We're fast approaching the day when Mark Corner, Chair of the Friends of the Dales, is due to step down. If you'd like to help shape the policies of our charity over the next three to four years, assisted by a dynamic team of trustees, staff and volunteers, please feel free to contact Mark directly ([chairman@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:chairman@friendsofthedales.org.uk)) or contact Ann Shadrake (details on back cover).

Finally, the results of our survey are in! Well over 300 of you responded! Many thanks to Trustee Dr Tony Smith and his wife Janet for number-crunching the results. We'll offer a full report in the Summer issue of the Review, when trustees and staff have had chance to reflect on the survey outcomes. What we do know already is that members really do appreciate our campaigns – and I'm delighted to say, the continued quality of this magazine.

*We'll catch up then, Sasha Heseltine*

# Yorkshire **DALES** review

## Friends of the Dales Ambassadors

Bernard Peel, one of our long-standing volunteers, took on the task of launching our ambassador scheme a couple of years ago, as a way for members to help raise the charity's profile. Here, he and two other ambassadors – Peter Hardyman and Ken Humphris – explain more about what's involved.



Jo Whittaker updates FOTD leaflets at Wensleydale Cremery.  
Courtesy of Tim Hancock

### Bernard Peel:

*"Friends of the Dales" was created as our brand name almost two years ago to help in raising awareness and gaining new members. We invited members to come forward to act as ambassadors in furthering these aims and 20 have done so. They are mainly from the national park or its fringes, but a few are from farther afield. They met before last year's AGM to share experiences and put forward ideas for the future. This will be repeated before this year's AGM. Ambassadors' main activity to date has been in ensuring local venues are stocked with leaflets and several articles have been published in local magazines. Ambassadors are increasingly becoming involved in running our events and there's also a chance to hand out leaflets at Malham national park car park this summer (by permission)."*

### Peter Hardyman:

*"You may have spotted some of our 'amazing, inspiring, but fragile' leaflets in a cafe, station or pub in the Dales, or farther afield? But how did they get there? One of the Friends' ambassadors may have delivered them. I have been delivering around our village of Gargrave for a couple of years: at present my round includes the railway station, the village hall and three pubs. I try to check every two or three weeks, during a walk or cycle, and sometimes when passing in the car. It's interesting to see how many have been taken, and to realise that a few will be sent to the office by new members. In a couple of places there is also space to leave some recent back numbers of the Review which the office also provides."*

### Ken Humphris:

*"It's surprising how many opportunities can be found to promote FOTD in small ways. Smaller venues, such as cafés, campsites and doctors' or dentists' surgeries, which may not have a permanent display case for promotional leaflets, are sometimes willing to take our leaflets. Local publications such as village newsletters and parish magazines are often keen to take copies, particularly if some of the content can be linked to a local FOTD event. Civic societies, local history societies, wildlife groups, Rotary groups, WIs etc. often have lectures where literature can be displayed, and you may even be asked if you would like to say a few words at the end of a meeting. Such gatherings of people with local interests that often overlap with our own can be very fruitful. For the really bold ambassador, a chance might arise to give a short talk/slide show about FOTD generally, or a specific aspect of our activities. Ann can supply example text for an article or a short PowerPoint presentation to use if you wish. Finally, your local pub may be happy to have some leaflets on the bar. The chance to get into a conversation about FOTD with some friendly locals, or visitors, over a pint sounds like the best ambassador role going!"*

*If you would like to help the Friends in any of the ways discussed above, just contact Bernard, Penny or Ann at the office for a chat (contact details on back page).*

# Partnering to Care for the Dales

**I happen to think that for a small charity, and it's worth reminding ourselves that in Ann Shadrake and Penny Lowe we have the equivalent in working hours of only one full-time employee, we punch above our weight in delivering what we do for the Dales and for our members. We campaign-protect-enjoy to good effect, I believe, as you'll see in the pages of this Yorkshire Dales Review.**

There is, however, only so much we can achieve working on our own and that is why our trustees want us to leverage our efforts by working in partnership with others.

A great example of this is the Memorandum of Understanding that we recently signed with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT), in which we commit our two charities to work closely together to benefit the Yorkshire Dales. As David Sharrod, Chief Executive of YDMT, said at the signing: "At a time when the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales face real challenges it is really important that all those who care and work for this wonderful area are able to work together." David added: "Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust prides itself on being a practical organisation that makes real things happen to benefit local

communities. This complements the great campaigning work of the Friends of the Dales to keep the issues that affect everyone in the headlines."

Representing Friends of the Dales, I made the point that we've had a long and supportive relationship with YDMT, and we know many people who love the Dales support both charities. (For our members who are not aware of the great work that YDMT does, I would encourage you to find out more and become a supporter if you are able). This new Memorandum of Understanding enables us to promote and support each other's charitable work to protect the Yorkshire Dales. We intend to develop projects to which each charity can contribute its unique strengths, for the overall benefit of this special area.

Another area of partnership we are working to develop is with parish councils within the national park, focused on significant planning applications in their areas. There are recent examples in Linton and Hetton, where we have been approached by local residents or parish representatives and asked to consider significant planning applications affecting their communities. We have looked independently at these applications – for example, the proposed five-star hotel and lodges on



Karen Cowley and Mark Corner signing MOU

the site of the former Linton Camp – and consulted with residents in these villages. This has greatly helped us formulate our own views on such applications, and submit comments incorporating local concerns when these are aligned with our own views. We would encourage anyone concerned about any significant application in or near the national park, that affects that community's wildlife, heritage or wellbeing, to contact us to see if we can offer support.

In our events programme too we are aiming to work alongside other groups to highlight issues of mutual concern. Our recent walk around the Hellifield Flashes is a case in point. This was organised by us but led by members of Save Our Craven Countryside, a local group campaigning to protect this special area from inappropriate development. Over 60 members and local guests ended the informative day more convinced than ever of the need to look after this wildlife haven. We have also organised joint events with the North Craven Heritage Trust, most recently our trustee Nancy Stedman's talk on barn conversions. We hope to focus more of our future events on campaign issues, in cooperation with others. In this way we can combine our themes of campaign, protect and enjoy.

We also had an enjoyable and fruitful partnership with Skipton Golf Club in 2018, under the auspices of its President, Jonathan White. As a long-standing member of our charity, Jonathan approached us early last year with an idea to fundraise for us – which raised a total of £280 – and a guided walk across the course to Sharp Haw and back. Again, this is a simple model we could offer to other local societies and groups.

Our charitable objects include the requirement to advance education in pursuance of our focus on conservation. In this area too we are looking to build partnerships. Our events programme contributes greatly to this of course, including the successful bespoke visits we arranged for Canopy Housing and Carers' Resource in 2018. This year we have just started working with Leeds Beckett University, supported by our colleagues at North Yorkshire Moors Association and Friends of the Peak District. The focus has been on working with Dr Peter Robinson and Dr Kyriaki Glyptou to support their tourism/event management modules. We recently arranged and hosted a field trip to Skipton, known as the "Gateway to the Dales". During the day, 35 students and staff looked at the opportunities and challenges of visitor management on the edge of a national park. We've also worked with the same department on the creation of new online survey to explore the expectations and needs of 18- to 40-year-olds when visiting northern national parks.

A final example that I'd like to mention is our Capturing the Past community digital archiving project, part of the YDMT-managed Heritage Lottery Fund Stories In Stone landscape partnership project. This project has involved helping local history groups catalogue, store digitally and make available on the internet their own archives. At a recent get-together to celebrate the success of the endeavour it was inspiring to see the enthusiasm, commitment and achievement of members of history groups such as those from Horton and Long Preston. I felt very proud that our charity has played a role in steering this project and thereby helping protect the cultural heritage of a part of the Dales. I'm really pleased that we are making good progress in developing partnerships to help us and our partners better care for the place we love. If there are other groups you feel we should be working with, please let us know. Together we are stronger!

Mark Corner, Chairman, Friends of the Dales

## Student Day in Skipton



Outside Skipton Castle.  
Courtesy Ann Shadrake

Friends of the Dales recently hosted a visit to Skipton by first-year students studying at the Centre for Tourism and Hospitality Management at Leeds Beckett University (see page 4–5). Ann Shadrake (Executive Director) led the group on a walking tour from the railway station, along the canal towpath and right up to the historic Holy Trinity Parish Church and Skipton Castle. Along the way, students were challenged to consider how to make this route more obvious and appealing to visitors. Later the students joined Ann, Mike Stephenson (Trustee), Penny Lowe (Administration Assistant) and Bernard Peel (volunteer) to explore Skipton Woods. Students were tasked to use a self-guided walk leaflet produced by the Woodland Trust and feedback on the design. The group also visited Skipton Castle with a volunteer tour guide to learn how to market this important visitor attraction. This was a very different day for Friends of the Dales staff and volunteers to organise and lead – but the students were a real pleasure to work with and the day went exceptionally well.



LBU students in Skipton Woods by Archer.  
Courtesy Ann Shadrake

# Ruminations On Climate Change

**Anthony Bradley, Friends of the Dales Trustee and long-time sheep farmer, looks at the problem of methane.**

That the Dales are a landscape shaped by man and his livestock is self-evident. Dales geography mitigates against forms of agriculture not involving grass and ruminants. Given the current concerns about climate change and the role agriculture, and specifically ruminant livestock, play in that concern, is the role of sheep and cattle along with their special landscapes an unaffordable luxury?

Let's start with some bits of science that are often overlooked or omitted in this debate. Ruminants co-evolved with grass because grass contains a compound called cellulose, which we, along with other single-stomached animals, cannot digest. The rumen plays host to a diverse population of microflora that can digest cellulose and the cow or sheep gets the leftovers, as it were. The issue is that one by-product of rumination is methane, which gets the climatologists a bit excited.

But the methane and its carbon from ruminants is produced from the carbon in grass, of course. The grass in turn has used carbon from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere during photosynthesis to grow more grass. Carbon in its various forms is actually being recycled from one form into another.

But "Ah!" I hear you cry, "Methane is more climate-warming than carbon dioxide." Ruminants, though, only convert 1% of plant carbon into methane. It is also more short-lived as it is broken down by microflora in the soil and natural chemistry in the atmosphere. It is further overlooked that without carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere the average surface temperature of the Earth would be minus 18°C as opposed to the current average temperature of *plus* 15°C. We do need some methane.

But the story gets better. Grass will on average have four times more biomass below ground in its roots than it will have above ground in its leaves. Almost the complete opposite of a tree. If grazed, grass will adjust its root mass by sloughing off roots to maintain the ratio of leaves to roots. The roots that are then no longer attached to the plant are food for the biota in the soil. The grass roots, of course, are full of



Highland cows – methane rich! Courtesy of Hilary Fenten

carbon that has been pulled from the atmosphere. In other words a pasture with ruminant livestock is a carbon pump that is capable of building soil and sequestering more carbon than a rain forest. Not the problem some would have you think but rather the reverse.

Livestock farming gets much negative publicity in the next part of the debate – the bit that says the rise of mega-farms and industrialised agriculture means ruminants don't eat grass any more or eat very little. Current figures for the UK are that 85% of a beef animal's diet is grass and for lamb it's 95%. But that can't be true because, of course, everyone knows that we import "vast quantities" of soya for livestock grown on land that was once rain forest in South America, don't they? Actually most soya is fed to mono-gastrics – pigs and chickens – and not to ruminants. Brazil, for example, exports more chicken than beef whilst the USA sends soya to China for her pigs. Even then, the soya that is used for animal feed is often the by-product of cooking oil and other human food use. If I look at the ingredients list of the animal feed we use, there are by-products from things like the production of flour, vegetable oil, sugar and even biscuits and whiskey. All stuff that's inedible to humans.

Ruminant agriculture has also been criticised for its use of artificial fertilisers, which further impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Dairy production has long had a heavy use of nitrogen fertiliser, which uses fossil fuels in its production. Beef and sheep less so. The better news is the increasing use of clover to naturally fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. The latest thinking in soil science is that grass also has a symbiotic relationship with soil biota that leads to the fixing of nitrogen. Even better is that this activity increases with reduced use of nitrogen fertiliser. There are additional opportunities to recycle important nutrients from human sewage such as phosphorous and potassium to improve sustainability. Currently this is a much under-utilised resource and we do need to replace the nutrients we remove in the meat and milk we sell off farm.

Perhaps not an unaffordable luxury, but an essential and natural part of a sustainable future and not only for the Dales?



Lambing time up the Dale. Courtesy of Mark Corner



# Update from the Policy Committee

We have recently considered two significant planning applications within the national park. Firstly, we welcomed the proposals for a small housing development in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, which we hope will make for a more viable community. The proposal includes five houses to go on the open market, the conversion of a roadside barn and four affordable homes for local people. We are pleased that the provision of affordable housing goes beyond what is required in a development of this size, but we want to be reassured that affordability will be a condition in perpetuity.

We are also concerned that the development will increase traffic along this section of the B6479, already a busy road used by tourists, quarry traffic, farm vehicles, motor cycles and residents. We have asked that either a pavement be provided, or at least the road marked to show where pedestrians take priority (a solution used between Kettlewell and its primary school).

Linton School Camp, close to the village of Linton and south of Grassington, was one of just 31 holiday camps built in rural areas in the 1930s for city children. It was designed to give them opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities in the Dales countryside, and provided an open-air swimming pool and tennis courts as well. During WWII it was used to house child evacuees, but subsequently was again used as an adventure holiday camp and a residential school for city children. It

does therefore have considerable historic interest; however, the site has now been left unused for so long that the buildings are all derelict. It is identified in the national park's Local Plan as a site suitable for 'business development', and over past decades many possible uses have been considered.

A proposal has now been put forward for the demolition of the buildings and the construction of an up-market hotel with chalets and facilities such as a swimming pool. We acknowledge that there will be development of the site of some sort, even though it is in an extremely prominent location in open countryside. We welcomed the efforts the applicant had made to reduce the impact of his proposal, by measures such as putting the car parking underground and using green roofs on some of the buildings.

However, concerns remain, especially the extent of the new build, which nearly doubles the current footprint, and its visual impact, as many of the buildings are two storeys high, even though the design guidance states that new buildings should be only one storey. Light pollution is likely with a development of this size and, should it go ahead, we would want to see much reduced lighting and the widespread use of sensors so that they come on only when needed.

A considerable increase in local traffic – visitors, staff, deliveries – using the narrow roads and passing through small villages

would be inevitable. In particular, much of this traffic would go through the delightful village of Linton, a Conservation Area with narrow roads and no pavements. It is hard to see how such a development would meet the national park's commendable sustainability principles, and suggesting that visitors would use the very sparse local bus services is unrealistic. It is our view that a smaller development more sympathetic to the site, without such high levels of traffic generation, such as self-catering lodges, would be more appropriate for this sensitive site.

Other comments submitted by the committee include expressing our reservations about the impacts of highway safety, traffic and parking arising from expansion proposals at the Angel Inn in Hetton, and the possible damage to the archaeological interest of Fremington Dyke adjacent to a small barn proposed for conversion in High Fremington, Reeth.

At our January meeting, we had a very useful discussion with Richard Graham, head of development at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. We feel that this has done much to improve our competence in engaging with the planning process. One of our next tasks is to comment on the modifications recently made to Craven District Council's draft Local Plan, especially those policies that relate to the important wetlands at Hellifield Flashes.

Nancy Stedman, Trustee, Friends of the Dales

## Stop Press:

**Angel Inn, Hetton** – We are pleased that the YDNPA Planning Committee (March 2019) voted (12:1) against part of the expansion proposals at the Angel Inn, Hetton. The reasons they cited were concerns about parking/traffic – we raised these issues in our objection.

**Hellifield Flashes** – We are also delighted that the Craven District Council Planning Committee members (25 March 2019) followed a well-argued recommendation and unanimously refused outline planning permission for a large hotel and holiday lodge village at Hellifield Flashes. We and other kindred organisations, groups and individuals have consistently campaigned against this huge and damaging proposal (see Autumn 2018 of the Review).



# For Peat's Sake

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**Purple as far as the eye can see... sweeping expanses of heather-clad uplands are among the classic images of the Yorkshire Dales. Lynn Leadbeatter looks at its management.**

The moors bring the tourists flocking in late summer and the shooting estates pump much-needed money into the rural economy. Forty-two per cent of the national park is managed as grouse moor and this covers a range of habitats, including blanket and raised bog and upland heath, which are home to nationally important populations of birds including curlew, lapwing, black grouse and ring ouzel.

According to the Moorland Association, these spectacular yet fragile landscapes are rarer than rainforest, and three-quarters of the surviving area is found in the UK. Shooting estates employ a small army of gamekeepers and land managers to prevent these vast tracts of upland from reverting to heather and forest. But their beauty is much more than skin deep.

In fact, the peat beneath the heather could play a critical role in fighting climate change and flood protection, helping to improve water quality and encouraging biodiversity. And there's a growing consensus that, when it comes to that most iconic of our upland plants, you can have too much of a good thing.

"Heather is common and widespread, but it should not be found in the quantity that it is on blanket bogs," says RSPB conservation officer for the Yorkshire and Peak District uplands, David Hunt. "It's a heathland shrub and in the Dales it's often found on the fringes of these areas."

The problem is that heather readily takes over, creating conditions where it is difficult for other plants to take root. Healthy blanket bog, where peat is more than 40cm deep, may not be as superficially attractive but it's home to a mosaic of different species and one of these is very special.

Sphagnum moss is not as easy on the eye as heather, but it holds 20 times its own weight in water and can still be wringing wet after three weeks with no rain or even after a managed burn. It's this property that allows it to act as an enormous natural sponge, slowing up run-off into river catchments and helping to prevent flooding downstream. Reducing erosion means that less silt washes down into reservoirs, discolouring the water and increasing treatment costs.

Sphagnum could also be on the front line in the fight against climate change. Healthy peatlands should store carbon, but an estimated 16 million tonnes of the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub> are released into the atmosphere from degraded habitats in the UK each year. Another of sphagnum's special properties is that, along with other mosses and



Heather moorland at Reeth. Courtesy of Mark Corner



liverworts, it helps to form a resilient ecosystem that manages itself without human intervention where climatic conditions allow.

Yet only 57% of blanket bogs in the Yorkshire Dales are in good condition. The National Park Management Plan, agreed by all key stakeholders, has set targets for all those in nationally or internationally important sites to be recovering by 2024. Other objectives include restoring all the degraded habitat, so that it is actively storing carbon and being sustainably managed by 2030. The park authority is working with landowners to conserve endangered upland birds including black grouse, curlew, skylark and yellow wagtail. As seen in the Summer 2018 Review, a battle is on to stamp out the illegal persecution of raptors.

Together with other Yorkshire Peat Partnership stakeholders, including Natural England and the National Trust, the park authority is involved in a range of restoration work. This includes blocking more than 10,000 miles of drainage channels, re-profiling land to remove steep gradients and planting vegetation on bare patches. The problem is that not everyone agrees as to the best management practices.

“We’re concerned about the intensity of grouse moor management,” says David Hunt. “We don’t support burning on blanket bogs. They need water, not fire, to become fully functioning systems.”

The RSPB is not alone in its concerns. Environment Secretary Michael Gove has told landowners that they could face a ban on regular (or rotational) burning of blanket bog. In February, The Times reported that Friends of the Earth had passed evidence that some shooting estates were repeatedly ignoring this agreement on to government conservation agency Natural England for further investigation.

But Moorland Association director Amanda Anderson says the vast majority of its members across the north of England have adopted a new approach. This means that the way fire is used to control heather varies depending on the depth of the underlying peat. “Carefully controlled restoration burning on moorland is a widely recognised, legal and valuable tool in the management of upland vegetation and improving the condition of blanket bog,” she says. “But it is only one element of a suite of measures including sustainable cutting and grazing. There are two distinct types of moorland burning and both are carried out under strict conditions consented by Natural England.

“On blanket bog, along with other measures, grouse moor managers seek to use fire to speed up restoration by removing dominant vegetation coupled with re-wetting of the peat to enhance drinking water quality and to mitigate climate change and flood risk. This can be followed up by inoculation with missing plants like sphagnum moss to protect carbon stores. Thousands of kilometres of state-funded drainage have been reversed on grouse moors to aid re-wetting and slow the growth of heather, but it may take decades to see the effects.

“By contrast, on dry heath rotational burning of small areas on a regular cycle is still the preferred conservation method to give diversity of structure and vegetation providing vital habitat for important wildlife. Both management methods use a swift ‘cool burn’ to remove the heather canopy without harming the underlying peat or moss layer.”

Gamekeepers have a number of other tools at their disposal, but these may be impractical or harmful in certain locations. For example, cutting is a relatively new technique for preventing over-dominance of heather and many estates have invested heavily in specialised equipment including remote-controlled apparatus to minimise the

environmental impact. However, its long-term effects are less well understood and it should not be used in situations where it could damage the peat, flatten the structure of sphagnum moss or harm underlying archaeological features. It may also be impractical where there are access restrictions, on fragile, wet and stony ground or if the topography is too varied.

Chartered surveyors and land agents Farmoor Services are based in Leyburn and manage rural properties across North Yorkshire, including 30,000 acres in the Dales. Founder and partner Adrian Thornton-Berry agrees that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution.

“The state of the habitat is better than when I started work 30 years ago,” he says. “You have to look at the big picture and not get hung up on the details. In the North Pennines and the Yorkshire Dales, the only places where black grouse are surviving are near the grouse moors and they are pretty much extinct elsewhere. Red squirrels are active on the fringes.

“We’ve carried out restoration work including reducing grazing and removing sheep from allotments until the lapwings have hatched. We’ve helped to protect watercourses from flooding and blocked 75% of the drainage channels on the estates we manage to reduce run-off after rain. But without burning, we would lose key species like the golden plover, which nests only on heather.

“Plants like sphagnum need high rainfall and our peatlands developed over 40,000 years, probably in very different climatic conditions. And this is not the Serengeti – we are in a man-made environment.”

“After reading Mary Colwell’s book *Curlew Moon*, the practice of rotational burning of heather is clearly a complex issue,” says Friends of the Dales chair, Mark Corner. “It appears that there is not yet enough data for definitive, science-based statements to be made about its environmental effects.

“What is clear is that if it is done badly – that is, if burning is widespread, uncontrolled and allowed to go down to the soil – it is certainly damaging. Until more evidence is available we can only hope that good practices are followed and that the various stakeholders involved in the management of our heather moorlands learn to work together to find an acceptable balance, for the sake of these important areas and the wildlife they support.”

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has already restored over 30,000 hectares of the county’s damaged peatlands but needs £100,000 a year to carry on this work. To donate visit [www.ywt.org.uk/give-peat-a-chance](http://www.ywt.org.uk/give-peat-a-chance)



Burnt heather above Askrigg. Courtesy of Mark Corner

# Our New Parishes – Casterton

The expansion of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 2016 added 26 parishes in the north and west of the region. In the first of an occasional series of articles exploring these new additions to our park, Ken Humphris looks at Casterton.

Shaped like a rhino's horn, the parish sits in the extended national park. The western end has lush pastures along the River Lune, and the eastern end leads through fields, woodland and rocky outcrops to bleak moorland. At the furthest point east stands the County Stone, where the boundaries of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Westmorland meet.



## What to See in the Parish

Casterton's population is currently around 250, split between the main village straddling the Kirkby Lonsdale-Sedbergh road, and the hamlet of High Casterton near Cowan Bridge. The village has a golf course, garage and shop, an inn opposite the village green and a village hall. It has always been a farming community, with 24 working farms as recently as 1906, but in 2019 only four remain. These mainly provide grazing for sheep, but there are cows too.

Originally serving as the chapel for Casterton School, Holy Trinity Church was built in 1833. It was probably designed by George Webster along the principles of William Carus-Wilson, a strict Evangelical who was appointed curate of Casterton in 1833. He published 'Helps to the Building of Churches and Parsonage Houses', in which he recommended extreme plainness of style. However, the church has some fine stained glass and wall paintings by Henry Holiday.

With declining numbers of worshippers, Holy Trinity was subsumed into the "Rainbow Parish" of Kirkby Lonsdale in 1976, and now holds just one service each month. Casterton School was also founded by William Carus-Wilson, at Cowan Bridge in 1823, for the education of the daughters of clergymen. The Brontë sisters were its most famous pupils. Around 1842 the school moved to Casterton. It declined gently into the 21st century, and was saved from closure by amalgamating with Sedbergh School in 2013.

Images courtesy of Ken Humphris

## What to See Near the Village

This area has been settled for a long time, evidenced by the Neolithic stone circle on the flanks of Casterton Fell. The road from Cowan Bridge is known as Wandales Lane and follows a Roman road that once linked the forts of Burrow and Low Borrowbridge. Where the tarmac of Wandales Lane deviates from the Roman road, the original route is visible in the landscape, and there is a Roman milestone near Whelprigg.

The Devil's Bridge lies in the parish, and is a famous weekend meeting point for bikers. Its age is uncertain because the relevant documents were lost during the Civil War. Probably 14th or 15th century, it is one of the finest medieval bridges in the north of England.

The grassy Fellfoot Road bridleway is notable for its stone sheepfolds, all adjacent to the bridleway and created between 1996

and 2003 by sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. He created 46 sheepfolds between Kirkby Lonsdale and Dumfriesshire, and 16 of them lie on this lane. He worked with existing folds in disrepair and all contain a boulder representing the sheep.

At Bullpot, visitors will find the headquarters of the Red Rose Cave and Potholing Club. The local limestone bedrock is home to the Three Counties Cave System (see Winter 2018 Review), which comprises nearly 90km of linked caves and passageways – the longest system in the UK.

There are panoramic views from the summit of Brownthwaite. Panning clockwise from the south-west, you can see the Forest of Bowland, most of Morecambe Bay, the Lake District, the long ridge of Barbondale culminating in Calf Top, Crag Hill, and finally Gragareth.



## Geology of Casterton

The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone. Tectonic plate movement caused faulting across the parish; the mid-Craven fault follows the line of the A683 through Kirkby Lonsdale, and the Dent fault follows Easegill to Bullpot down to Barbondale. The result is that older Silurian greywacke outcrops are found across the parish, with most of the dry-stone walls made of greywacke. On the side of the parish abutting Barbondale, Yoredale deposits are found, with layers of limestone, gritstone and shale. The uppermost levels of coal measures were largely eroded away, but open pit coalmines were worked there from the time of King Charles 1 up until the 19th century.



## Dales Rocks: geology and more!

If you've ever wanted to know more about the forces that created some of the most spectacular scenery in the national park, the new Dales Rocks website will give you a helpful overview.

Focused on the Three Peaks area, it's the culmination of 40 years' research by a Lancashire primary school head teacher. "The whole landscape means more when you know how it was formed," says Stephen Oldfield. "It becomes a story that you can walk in and that is especially evident on Ingleborough."

Photographs, illustrations and drawings combine with lively text to explain how and why the area's iconic geological features, including caves, pot holes, limestone pavements and waterfalls, were formed. An interactive map and downloadable guided walks and geocache coordinates provide further incentives to explore. A glossary or a timeline might help those who didn't study geography at school to orientate themselves but the reader can easily switch pages to put geological processes in perspective.

The website is part of Stories in Stone, a four-year programme of community, conservation and cultural projects led by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Lynn Leadbeatter

<https://dalesrocks.org.uk>

Chapel-le-Dale from above  
Thornton Force at sunset in November.  
Courtesy of Stephen Oldfield



## Streams of Wonder - Looking for the Heart of the Yorkshire Dales

A film by The Moonbeam Collective



This very different film about the Yorkshire Dales is an hour-long celebration of the astonishing beauty of the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales by a group of Dales people. They're led by singer songwriter, poet and musician Jon Avison.

What permeates this extraordinary film is a passion for the richness and beauty of the landscape, and the culture and people who have shaped that landscape. It does not follow a narrative in the conventional sense. It is a series of visual cameos bringing together the many different strands that make the Yorkshire Dales so unique and a very special part of England.

A key theme of this film is about slowing down. "Streams of Wonder" is about deepening experience by slowing it down – slow food, slow travel, slow art. The lovely photography speaks for itself. Images are not rushed, but lingered over. Words are poetry, spoken or imaged as white words on the screen. Music is subtle and unobtrusive – guitar, instrumental and piano music, reinforcing the tranquillity.

The photography is stunning and subtle. An enclosed track through snow mysteriously transforms to summer green, the white heat of a hammer-beaten poker becomes the bright rays of a sunrise over the fells, a ruined castle wins new towers.

But this is not nostalgia. The Dales are celebrated for what they are today – vibrant and successful communities where farmers, dry-stone wallers, artists, blacksmiths and print-makers all practice their craft, where harvest time bailing

machines with their headlamps in the dusk are as evocative as flower-rich meadows on a summer day. Para-gliders competing with kestrels launch themselves from crag tops and fell runners splash their way across a river. All part of the Dales experience.

What this film is really about can be best expressed by the German word "Heimat," a word difficult to translate into English, but which roughly means the place you belong to, which you feel part of. The words "I am the Land" of the poem on the screen expresses this perfectly as does the phrase at the start and close of the film – "I am who I am" – the landscape.

This touches something deep in our consciousness. At a time of bitter divisions within our society, "Streams of Wonder" offers a different vision of what it is to belong to Yorkshire, and to England. This is a celebration of a rich cultural heritage we can all share. Being English is about recognising what makes our land and our culture so special. It is about rejoicing in that rich heritage, knowing that we can celebrate and share it with others. In doing so, it will not be diluted but be made stronger and more inclusive. It is something to be proud of.

Ultimately, this is something the founding fathers of our national parks 70 years ago intuitively knew and understood. It's about far more than planning regulations and visitor management. It is about communicating and sharing that rich culture, for the people who live in our cities and for future generations. In this remarkable film, The Moonbeams have done just that.

"Streams of Wonder" can be ordered, £14.00 incl p&p, through:

[www.themoonbeamcollective.co.uk](http://www.themoonbeamcollective.co.uk)

*Film review by Colin Speakman,  
a Vice President of Friends of the Dales*

*The Moonbeam Collective are  
Group Members of Friends of the Dales*

# Attracting People into the Dales



Susan Briggs plus Springers above West Scafton. Courtesy of Elias Moubayed

**A couple of years ago I had one of those weeks where the same topic kept cropping up in different meetings: how could we keep the Dales alive?**

Most of my work is in tourism marketing, promoting the Yorkshire Dales as an attractive place to visit. Visitors like vibrant, real places. They expect to see people living here. That week I had several conversations with Dales residents bemoaning the fact that their village had been taken over by holiday cottages and second homeowners. They felt this meant the villages didn't feel as alive and made these places less attractive to visitors. Holiday cottages are often empty in winter.

Another conversation centred around the need to keep young families in the Dales. I'm a school governor at a small primary school. Our school is doing well but we are becoming painfully aware of the threats to small rural schools. It's ironic that this is happening, when schools in large towns are bemoaning overcrowding. I'd also had conversations with friends from London, who were amazed at the high quality of life we enjoy in the Dales. They wished they could move but it all felt too daunting and unknown. I realised many of their perceptions were also out of date.

In the same week, I'd met several people who had their own businesses in the Dales, often quite invisible unless you knew them. It occurred to me that many people assume

we all work in tourism or farming only. What if more people could see the benefits of running a business in the Dales?

This all led to one thought: what could we do to attract more people to come to live in the Dales? Not just people who want to retire here, but preferably working people with young children who'd love our rural schools and want to get involved in our communities.

I moved away from Yorkshire to build my career before moving back, and still remember my need to see and experience something different. I wasn't convinced the best approach was to encourage people to stay here. Maybe it was better to attract previous residents to move back and to attract new residents?



But what would they do for employment? There are some jobs available, but perhaps it was best to try to attract people who could be self-employed? In the longer term, that could also generate new jobs? There are many approaches to attracting people to live in specific areas. The 'hope for the best' method hasn't worked well so far.

The Italians and French have been trying to encourage people to live in depopulated areas by selling off whole villages for ridiculously small amounts of money. That didn't sound very feasible. There's what I call the 'Milton Keynes approach': glossy posters on the underground, which are clearly paid for by an inward investment agency and never really inspire unless someone is desperate to get out

of London. That approach always seems too official to genuinely convince. It's expensive too. And surely it would be better to attract people who could love the Dales, not just passively live there while working elsewhere?

So what could actually work, preferably with very limited money? What really convinces people nowadays? Finding information about real people's real experiences, word-of-mouth recommendations and social media.

Would it be possible to use a small budget (£5,000 from the Yorkshire Dales Sustainable Development Fund, matched in kind and cash by myself and an assortment of small businesses) to actually convince people to come and live here? The answer is 'yes'. Over the past 18 months, I've tried a very heartfelt but homespun approach that is now getting results. I have emails from people asking for advice about the best village to live in, photos and gushing emails from people who have now actually made the move. It's not going to reverse the fortunes of every Dales village but it is starting to work.

The power of the work I've been doing is that people don't need to just believe me when I say the Yorkshire Dales are fantastic places to live and work. They're seeing the stories of real people who have actually made the move. There's also a very positive side effect – an incredible sense of pride in the places current residents call home, which in turn leads to more word-of-mouth publicity and social media recommendations. The social media 'buzz' also shows our incredible sense of community, which is very attractive to potential residents and visitors.

I set out with a simple premise: to encourage people to buy, bring to or begin a business in the Yorkshire Dales. We don't have enough jobs for all the people who might dream of a rural haven but we do have space. We also have much-improved broadband. We have fresh air, which is great for health and creativity.

So. What have I actually done to get these results? Most of the activity is centred around [www.DalesDiscoveries.com](http://www.DalesDiscoveries.com), a website I've developed mainly on a voluntary basis to attract visitors and new residents.

I've started to create some blogs about the benefits of living in the Dales, and some about the realities of living here on [DalesDiscoveries.com/live](http://DalesDiscoveries.com/live). The 'milk test' I created has been very popular. It may seem second nature to those of us already living here that you can't always nip out to buy a bottle of milk when you run out, but gauging reactions to running out of milk has proved a useful way for people to decide just how rural they want to be.

Many people have contributed their own stories of coming to live in the Dales, usually with explanations of why they wanted to live here. This has been brilliant – it's so interesting to know the inside stories of real people. I think many have been surprised by how varied the businesses are. I expected to get contributions from those working in tourism, but some of the other businesses are quite niche – rope-making, 'probably the best Japanese-English chemical patent translator in the Yorkshire Dales' and dog grooming all feature in the 'moved here' blogs.

Some of the work has been designed to show lesser-known aspects of the Dales and to profile different areas, such as a set of downloadable treasure hunts and a '100 ways to explore the Dales' guide.

Since January, I've written a daily blog featuring different aspects of the Yorkshire Dales, with the aim of creating 365 different ways to discover the Dales ([DalesDiscoveries.com/365](http://DalesDiscoveries.com/365)). I've also started a collaboration with over 50 Dales artists. I think we should be making more of their skills as Dales ambassadors: people buy their work, take it home and it starts positive conversations about the beauty of the Dales.

All this work has been promoted via social media, with an incredible level of engagement and sharing. There's more activity happening behind the scenes too – PR, collaborations with estate agents, 'change your life' short breaks and many more blogs. Of course, it's all going to take time to have an impact but hopefully it is just one way we can showcase the wonders of the Yorkshire Dales and encourage more people to visit – and then live here.

Susan Briggs

**Susan helps tourism businesses improve their marketing and increase their revenue through advice, publications and training workshops. She runs the Dales Tourism Network ([www.dalestourism.com](http://www.dalestourism.com)) and [www.DalesDiscoveries.com](http://www.DalesDiscoveries.com), writing a daily blog in a voluntary capacity. Susan Briggs is a Business Member of Friends of the Dales.**

# Celebrate 70 Years of National Parks

As featured in the Winter 2019 issue of the Review, this year is the 70th anniversary of the law that established national parks in England and Wales. Trustee of the Friends of the Dales Malcolm Petyt shared a memory with us of crowds celebrating this news at the Cow and Calf Rocks in Ilkley in 1949.

In response to our request for more personal memories of the Dales, to tie in with the 70th anniversary of national park legislation, two long-standing members – Helen Lockhart and Joan Clarke – have submitted these letters. Please keep these memories coming, and if you have any historic photographs of the Dales, or documents relating to the national park, we'd love to see those too.

Contact Ann Shadrake – her details are on the back cover of the magazine.

Letter from Miss Helen Lockhart remembering an early morning drive over Buttertubs Pass.

## A Precious 70's Memory

One of my most precious memories of the Dales is of the day in the 70's when I drove over Buttertubs Pass for the first time.

It was a misty day, and as I turned my back on Thwaite, the narrow, unsurfaced road rose in front of me. On the left was the completely unguarded drop down into the valley below. I began the climb up through the mist – it was a different world – nobody in it but me. Silence – the mist gathering in watery streaks on the windscreen. No birds, no sheep – just me and the relentless mist. And still I climbed. Then, suddenly the top of the Pass. The magic ended – the mist disappeared – I was once again in the real world.

Helen

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your card. The following are my memories of evacuation.

It was the summer holidays 1939, I was 14 and due to go into the 4<sup>th</sup> form at Beale Girls Grammar School, Sunderland.

I remember listening to the wireless message by Neville Chamberlain 'we are at war'.

All girls, including 1st year starters, were told to be at Sunderland Train Station, with clothes & gas masks, ready for evacuation.

We ended up at Richmond. The Boys School went to Northallerton.

Not all girls turned up, some who were 15 or over decided to start ~~work~~ work, and some stayed at home, as some education was provided. I don't think Richmond could have coped with the whole school.

All the girls and teachers were found places, some in the surrounding villages. I remember we had assembly every morning in the Town Hall, had gas mask drill, and were told where each class would be that day.

Some shared Richmond Grammar School, others were in Church Halls etc. The Convent School provided sports facilities. I enjoyed every Friday morning, as we went to the local Cinema for educational films!

At the end of the summer term it was decided to return to Sunderland, as I think we were not receiving a full time education.

I really enjoyed my time in Richmond. We had fresh country air, plenty of walking & a quiet way of life. One year later the bombing started in Sunderland & I was sitting my School Leaving Certificate. I passed!

Some years later my husband & I travelled to Richmond. I was happy to see it had not changed.  
Yours truly  
Joan

Memories of wartime evacuation to Richmond from Sunderland from Mrs Clarke.

# Undertaking the Three Peaks Challenge

In the Winter 2019 issue of the Review, it was suggested that the Yorkshire Dales National Park was full to bursting, with high visitor numbers in Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Malham causing problems for some local residents. This is a response to that article from Kathryn Beardmore, Director of Park Services at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

My first encounter with the Three Peaks came in 1982. I was travelling from Sheffield to go backpacking in the Lake District. I looked out of the bus window and saw a beautiful, wild, mountainous landscape. It was Ingleborough. The Three Peaks challenge walk was already on my 'tick list' of things to do and I completed it with friends soon after.

Some things haven't changed in the 35 years since. The Three Peaks is still a draw, but the route has changed significantly. It's had more than £2 million of investment and has been re-routed in a number of places to create a sustainable surface to withstand the use it receives.

It is possible to start the walk from other locations apart from Horton, but this remains the most popular starting point. The number of people walking the route each weekend day during spring and summer is between 300 and 1,800. Numbers can swell to 675 on up to 20 Saturdays a year, thanks to charity events.

Car parking is an on-going issue. Walkers can get to the start of the Three Peaks route by train. For those wishing to stay overnight (approximately half), the limited accommodation, and the fact that it's scattered across the area, is a barrier to using public transport. And the use of additional parking generates significant income for community facilities.

Should the national park authority dissuade people from coming, or stop the charity events? What John Dower wrote in the 1945 government paper, "National Parks in England and Wales" remains relevant today. He said: "National parks should be in a true and full sense national if they are to be worthy of their name and

purpose. This does not mean that local interests are to be disregarded. On the contrary, the well-being of those who live and work within them must always be a first consideration. But it does mean that their holiday and recreational use should be for people – and especially young people – of every class and kind and from every part of the country..."

What proportion of people undertaking the Three Peaks challenge are on their first visit to the Dales? This year the authority will undertake a study to find out. We'll also be asking all Three Peaks walkers whether they hope to return, their average age and how much they spent.

We need to instil an understanding and love of the Dales in our next generation. It's well documented that people care most for what they know. Education is key. The new Three Peaks notification scheme and code of conduct are aimed at doing just that.

Three Peaks of Yorkshire Club Badge.  
Courtesy Kathryn Beardmore



Grazing at Ribblesdale. Courtesy of Stuart Petch

# Wild Fells and Mountain Pansies

As part of our contribution to the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the UK legislation founding national parks, we've been encouraging members to recall their favourite memories of the Dales. Here's a lovely piece with his own sketch, by Arnold Pacey.

I returned to Yorkshire after a long exile in the south in March 1984, soon after a date had been announced for the complete closure of the Settle-Carlisle Railway. So at the first opportunity, I took my bicycle on the train to Appleby and cycled back to Ilkley in easy stages, staying overnight in Garsdale and Gayle. I had been in the south for so long I was seeing the Dales with fresh eyes. Cycling up the Eden Valley, I was fascinated by the way Wild Boar Fell sometimes seemed to have a gentle, flat-topped profile but, seen from further on, its Nab end looked rugged and mountainous. I filled my sketchbook with contrasting views from different angles. I explored Dentdale and crossed over to Ribbleshead, where I paused to look at the viaduct and to watch oystercatchers nesting on gravel near the source of the Ribble. On the final day, I pushed the bicycle laboriously up the steep hill from Gayle to the point above Oughtershaw where the view toward Ingleborough opens out, with one hill after another receding into the misty distance.

In later years, my focus changed from sweeping views and high fells to the architectural detail of farmhouses and barns, and wild flowers on hills above Conistone. I organised a guided walk for an architectural society in Bishopdale and made annual pilgrimages to see the wonderfully delicate blooms of bird's-eye primrose and mountain pansy near Kettlewell, on one occasion meeting a lapwing chick on the path walking the other way. What was especially memorable on these hills was the absence of traffic noise, so I could enjoy the quiet calls of meadow pipits, as well as the wild, challenging cries of curlews and lapwings.

I rarely took a camera on these outings, because my way of soaking up the beauty of what I saw was to jot down impressions in a sketchbook.

Arnold Pacey



Wild Boar Fell from the upper Eden Valley near Outhgill



## New Business & Group Members

### Affiliate Members

#### Long Preston Heritage Trust

The Long Preston Heritage Group has been very active since its inception in 2007, exploring the history and heritage of the village. We have built on what was known and, with research and excavations, we now have a reasonable and documented knowledge of the village back to Domesday.



[www.longprestonheritage.org.uk](http://www.longprestonheritage.org.uk)

### Business Members

#### Dolphin Mobility

Dolphin Mobility is a well-established stair lift, lift and hoist specialist supplying and maintaining solutions across Cumbria, North & East Yorkshire.



[www.dmyc.co.uk](http://www.dmyc.co.uk)

#### Manifest Marketing

We think marketing is fun and we'll share that energy and enthusiasm to drive your business forward while you concentrate on running it.

There are many ways to shout about your business and developing an integrated marketing strategy with many threads of activity is key to raising your profile.



[www.manifestmarketing.co.uk](http://www.manifestmarketing.co.uk)





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](mailto:ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk) or  
write to us (see back page for address).  
We are also online at [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk)

We received a letter from longstanding member Simon Houstoun in response to the article by Nancy Stedman on barn conversions in the national park (Yorkshire Dales Review Winter 2019: Issue 145). See below for a discussion on the important topic of conserving owls, as well as barns!

Dear Nancy

I've been a member of Friends of the Dales (originally YDS) for many, many years. In this time I've criss-crossed the Dales on foot, leaving barely an inch not explored. My permanent home is in Kent and for the last six to eight years I've been overseeing the Barn Owl Monitoring programme for the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. This involves visiting boxes we have installed in east Kent with licensed British Trust for Ornithology ringers, when we record data on any barn owls in residence. I am licensed myself, as I have the task of cleaning these boxes during the winter spell.

Last October (which was my last visit to the Dales) I was fortunate to enjoy a number of walks in the national park. I often passed derelict barns in field corners etc and since by that month it is generally past the time of barn owls' second broods, I decided to check in some of these barns for evidence of barn owls. In several I found barn owl feathers on the floor plus obvious traces of their poo (!) and in fact barn owls were roosting in two barns.

Your report makes me very concerned about the prospect of developers seeing such buildings as ideal for commercial development. I've yet to see anyone raise the matter of wildlife interests being a major reason for the conservation of these lovely old structures. They may be disused by the farming fraternity but certainly not as far as wildlife is concerned.

The barn owl is on Schedule 1 of both the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and its presence makes a very valid reason why these kind of buildings should not be touched by commercial developers, even more so being in a national park.

Sincerely, **Simon Houstoun**

### Response from Trustee Nancy Stedman

Simon raises an interesting point about the value of dereliction! And he is right that wildlife interest is not raised as a major reason for conserving old field barns.

Applicants wishing to convert roadside barns to dwellings are required to provide evidence of any wildlife interest, and in particular of any species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This is more usually bats, which often use barns for rearing their young, roosting and/or hibernating.

If the proposal to convert is approved, conditions are attached to the permission requiring measures to be taken to provide for bats and nesting boxes suitable for owls or other bird species. So I share Simon's concern about the need to protect our wildlife, but would note that the policy applies to roadside barns, not isolated field barns, which remain to provide sanctuaries for owls and other wildlife.

### Second Homes

Our recent articles about second homes and the lack of affordable housing have prompted this letter (edited for space) from our longstanding member Mrs Alison Salter, with Mark Corner's response below. We always ask permission before printing members' letters.

Dear Mr Corner,

We have been dismayed to read in recent issues of the Review about the stance taken by Friends of the Dales regarding second homes.

We have owned a cottage in the Dales for 26 years and would be heartbroken if we had to sell it. We use the cottage all through the year and are up there as often as we are able. Unlike John Anderson's suggestion that, "People retire, receive a superannuation lump sum or the enormous capital sum from selling their parents' homes," we bought the cottage with our hard-earned income. There was no discouragement by the authorities in 1993 to purchase a second home... We are happy to pay 100% council tax but to pay five times would cost over £10,000 per year, which would mean we would have to sell.

In your spring 2018 issue you accept that second homeowners do much to improve their properties, which we have done. We have used many local tradespeople to make improvements and undertake repairs... and we always shop locally for all our needs. This must give employment and bring money into the Dales.

We love the Yorkshire Dales and wish to support all the local organisations, such as the Friends of the Dales, but feel unsettled by all that is being said about second homes at the present time.

Yours sincerely, **Mrs Alison Salter**

Dear Mrs Salter,

Firstly, let me thank you and your husband for being members of our charity since 1993.

Regarding second homes, to be clear, we are not advocating that current owners should be compelled to sell their properties, nor that council tax should be increased fivefold. We do believe, however, that the increase in second home ownership in the Dales is reaching such levels as to be damaging to the sustainability of communities. I mentioned in one of my articles in the Review that in my own village over one quarter of the houses on the main road are second homes or holiday accommodation. Even at these levels we are left with a less than vibrant community and things would only get worse if the proportion increases further.

We supported the national park authority in its specific proposal, in the context of reversing the decline in the number of younger people in the national park, to 'hold discussions with government on the options available to increase council tax for second homes within the national park'. Though the authority mentioned in one of its papers to members that a fivefold increase could be necessary to redress the economic impact of second homes, this was not part of the proposal that was tabled for support which, as you know, was in any case not forthcoming from the district councils.

Many issues need to be addressed in the Dales to tackle the lack of well-paid jobs and affordable housing and we remain of the view that, as one part of this, some mechanism is needed to dampen the growth in second-home ownership. But you can rest assured that our approach to advocating this will be measured and, hopefully, non-inflammatory.

Yours sincerely, **Mark Corner Chairman, Friends of the Dales**

## Capturing the Past a celebration on 22 January 2019

In the cold and gloom of January, who could resist an invitation to a celebration at The Folly in Settle, with free coffee and scones? Friends of the Dales invited all those who have contributed to the project to celebrate their achievements, and plan future work.

The website [www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk](http://www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk) is a testament to the success of the project with its wealth of material for family and local historians or just anyone with an interest in the Dales. It now features 23 collections, and all this has been achieved by a small project team supported by a larger group of volunteers. Some have contributed documents, while others have helped with the scanning or undertaken transcriptions as well as numerous other tasks.

But we are not finished and there is no sign that we are resting on our laurels! Over the next year, there are plans to complete the copying and transcription of many more wills and inventories along with the court baron records for the area. This will provide a rich source for local historians and provide a much fuller picture of life in the Dales from the 16th century onwards.

The project has led to the discovery of much new material, some of it very fragile, such as the maps from the Clapham Estate. These have been lodged with the North Yorkshire County Records office, and on the day further material discovered in Settle Town Hall was presented to Anthony Hughes for safekeeping at Northallerton.

So much more to do and more volunteers are always welcome!

Michael Pearson, Austwick Hall

## A New Chairman

Our current Chair, Mark Corner, is stepping down at the 2019 AGM in September after four very successful years. Although we have some early expressions of interest, we are still open to further expressions of interest from new people to fill this very important and rewarding role! Mark and other trustees are very happy to work with a new person over the next few months leading up to our AGM. We are keen to bring in an active person, who is passionate about the countryside, ideally the Dales, to work with our committed trustees, volunteers and staff. You don't need to be a current member of FOTD and you are welcome to contact us for an informal chat about what's involved. If you or someone you know might be interested, check out the information online at [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk) or contact Ann Shadrake direct.

Ann Shadrake

## Streams of Wonder The Moonbeam Collective at The Folly

The talented Long Preston-based Moonbeams musicians joined friends, including a professional film-maker, for their first venture into film. It was shown by the Moonbeams' leader Jon Avison to a hall packed with an appreciative audience in the Hellifield Institute at the Friends of the Dales event on January 19. The soundtrack was particularly impressive in the large space. This was one of an initial series of public screenings. The pace of the action is slow and relaxing: the poetic words on screen and the images are thought provoking.

Some locations will be familiar and recognisable to viewers but few will have experienced the dramatic lighting that film-maker Graham Kay has captured: in the sky, on the hillsides, underground and as night falls at the end of the day's harvesting. And most of us will relate to the enthusiasm for community events like Kilnsey Show, beneath its unmistakable crag. Likewise, the effort of the fell runners is palpable. We're also reminded that the Dales are a working landscape, as evidenced by the lights of the tractors working late in harvest fields.

Look out for further public screenings, which will include Grassington on May 8; buy a copy, or do both! Then accept the Moonbeams' invitation to "slow down to the pace of the seasons and immerse yourself in the timeless glory of the landscape". There's a full review of the film on page 11.

Peter Hardyman, Friends of the Dales ambassador

## 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](http://www.dalesbus.org) and [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

**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-Carlisle railway line, celebrating the wonderful landscape and culture of the western Dales and Eden Valley. The programme is available at [www.ride2stride.co.uk](http://www.ride2stride.co.uk)

**Wednesday, 1 May 2019**

**C**

Medium

### Crummackdale & Thieves Moss

Bernard Peel will lead a seven-mile circular walk from Horton-in-Ribblesdale station through the magnificent limestone scenery of little-known Crummackdale as part of the ride2stride walking festival. The walk features a natural amphitheatre, an Anglo-Saxon settlement, the unknown start of an unknown river, the Silurian slate source of the Norber erratics and a sheep wash dub. Bring packed lunch. Regret no dogs except RAD.

Meet Horton-in-Ribblesdale station 10:35am. Timed to allow arrival by train. Leeds d09:19am, Settle d10:21am, arrives Horton at 10:31am. Ends in time for return train at 4:20pm, arrives Settle 4:28pm and Leeds 5:38pm.

**Saturday, 29 June 2019**

**C**

Medium

### Summer Flowers in Upper Wharfedale

Dr Anne Readshaw, a local botanist, will lead this lovely walk of six to seven miles, and help you identify some of the flowers along the way. Leaving Buckden, we'll follow a delightful section of the Dales Way along the River Wharfe to Hubberholme. JB Priestley referred to this hamlet as the "smallest, pleasantest place in the world"; his ashes are buried in the churchyard. We'll peek inside the church to see a rare, medieval rood screen and pews handmade by the famous 'Mousie Thompson' of Kilburn. Passing through riverside hay meadows in the peak of their summer glory to reach Yockenthwaite, time permitting, to see the Bronze Age stone circle. Returning through the woods/limestone pastures to Cray with a gentle descent back to Buckden. Ascent approx 150m with some rough paths. Bring picnic lunch. Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome. 🐾

Ends approx 3:30/4:00pm in time to visit village pub/cafes.

Meet 11:00am at the P&D National Trust car park in Buckden BD23 5JA. Public toilets. Bus72B from Skipton bus/rail station (d09:38/09:43am) arrives Buckden 10:50am. Return bus d4:45pm, arrives Skipton 5:50/6:00pm. Check with [www.dalesbus.org.uk](http://www.dalesbus.org.uk) nearer the time. Please contact Ann at the office if you need or can offer a lift.

**Saturday, 27 July 2019**

**C**

Medium

### Barbon – Casterton Round

Join volunteer Ken Humphris for a circular walk of about eight miles from Barbon. The walk takes in a very old packhorse bridge, a section along the River Lune, views of the Casterton and Barbon fells, part of a green lane with many "sheepfolds" by artist Andy Goldsworthy and views of several notable grand houses in the mid-Lune valley. Walking includes quiet roads but mostly across fields/easy grassy tracks. This is sheep country so well-behaved dogs on short leads only. 🐾 Many timber step stiles without 'dog gates'. Bring a picnic lunch. Ends around 2:30 – 3:00pm. Pub/cafe in village. (The Churchmouse at Barbon cafe was featured in the Winter 2019 Review.)

Meet 10:30am at Barbon village hall car park, New Road, Barbon LA6 2LL. The Chairman of the village hall committee has kindly given us access to the hall toilets before the walk starts and permission to park. Donation box by main door. Please contact Ann at the office if you need or can offer a lift to Barbon.

**Saturday, 21 September 2019**

**Y**

### Advance Notice of the AGM 2019

This will take place on Saturday, 21 September at a Dales venue to be confirmed. If you would like to suggest a suitable venue for this year's event (e.g. village hall or similar, seating c50, with good access and ideally on a bus or train route), please contact Ann Shadrake.



View near Cray. Courtesy Ann Shadrake



Orchid. Courtesy Ann Shadrake

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**Austwick Hall Archive**

The Austwick Hall Archive includes many photos of daily life in and around the village. Here are scenes of two boys at the Clapham Cairn in 1879, and a delightful image of 'Old Nanny' dated 1891.

## 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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