

Winter 2021 : Issue 153

Yorkshire **DALES** review

Do No Harm

.....

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.....

Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Front/back cover photo:
A tree clinging to the limestone above
Malham, Steve Finch Photography
www.gallerynorth.uk

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Jill and Sue Heseltine were born and brought up on a family farm in Malham. Jill has been involved in the planning and organisation of major sporting events including the Beijing and London Olympics, and the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Now back in Malham, she works for Craven District Council. Sue started as a journalist at the *Craven Herald*, and after 25 years in print and broadcast journalism, worked as a senior lecturer in media until her retirement two years ago. She lives in the Midlands. 8-9



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Rick Battarbee is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Change at University College London and a Fellow of the Royal Society, now fully retired and living in Addingham. He is happiest walking in Wharfedale and researching water quality problems in local becks. 14-15

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There's No Harm In It, Is There?

Early summer at Ribblehead. An elderly couple, two chairs next to the car, a nice cup of tea from a thermos, next to a babbling brook, just near the viaduct, that wonder of Victorian engineering. They nod approvingly at the young people walking by, doing their bit for charity on a challenging sponsored walk. Idyllic. Surely, only a spoilsport would find any harm in it?

Ribblehead, Early summer. Photo courtesy of Hilary Fentten

They don't realise their car is parked on a scheduled ancient monument despite the doubling of parking spaces. Around them, hundreds of fellow visitors have attracted a snack van and two ice cream vans, and sponsored walkers are climbing the Three Peaks in such huge numbers that paths have been reengineered with material brought by helicopter to cover up the damage, as in a theme park.

Descending from Ingleborough they could have seen Phyllis from the village exercising two of her dogs plus two of her neighbour's. As the dogs run around, sheep scatter and about 20 lapwings take to the air. Twenty? Well, that was a decade ago. This year, there were none here.

Perhaps the Yorkshire Dales National Park Member Champion for the Natural Environment was right when he wrote in a local paper that lapwing numbers are increasing. But from what level? He may also be right that 'the primary reasons [for declining bird numbers] are certain agricultural practices, not visitors to the countryside'. Perhaps it's both. Or more.

Friends of the Dales very much support the park's statutory purpose of promoting opportunities for understanding and enjoying its special qualities. Our policy statement on sustainable development clearly says so (see our website). We also underline the important Sandford Principle: 'Where conservation and public enjoyment cannot be reconciled by skilful management, conservation should be given priority', because 'excessive or unsuitable use may destroy the very qualities which attract people to the parks' (2019 Glover Review).

The park authority makes huge efforts, with inadequate funding, to 'conserve and enhance' the Dales and promote understanding and enjoyment, but it's nowhere near enough. The wear and tear of high-volume tourism, the impact on wildlife and biodiversity of cars in their millions, poor public transport -- all this and more prevents nature from recovering.

Then there is the damaging Dales economic model that was broken, unfit for purpose, long before Covid-19, as it functions largely on a high-carbon-footprint/low-wage basis, with high levels of seasonal and under-employment.

It's no good thinking a little bit more of the same will do no harm. (Just a few more developments – the Dales mustn't become a museum – and just a few more visitors: what's the harm in that?) It will turn more of the Dales into an amusement park with a high visitor carbon footprint and low wages. It will not create appropriate job opportunities and career structures for young people to keep them in the Dales.

Bearing in mind the inadequate current plans of local and other authorities responsible for sustainable development, we need the concerted efforts of all partners in the Dales, but especially the park authority, to identify clearly all their natural, social and cultural assets and then ensure that future plans are geared to conserve and enhance them, whilst showing us all a sustainable way of enjoying them and promoting the social and economic wellbeing of communities. This will go a long way to ensuring that we Do No Harm.

Wilf Fentten, Vice Chair

Do No Harm

We all do harm, inadvertently. Unfortunately, the cumulative effects result in damage to ecosystems, loss of life, destruction of habitat, pollution and waste that is ultimately harming the earth we live on. We cannot eliminate harm but we must strive to reduce our impact.

Plastic bottle chewed by cow, at Malham Cove June 2019. Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

Danger in Numbers

Imagine: someone ventures out from the city and encounters wildness and beauty that lifts their spirits. No harm is done. Later, 10,000 venture out, seeking pleasure, entertainment and excitement. That is not without its impact. But, as the Dales is a national park, this is surely intended and anticipated?

In the 1950s, when the national parks were established, small numbers of mostly seasonal visitors came to explore, often on foot or by public transport, and were serviced (if at all) by a smattering of tea shops, inns and bed and breakfasts. Few could have foreseen the explosion of mobility and affluence that was to have such an enormous impact half a century later. Many providers came from cities themselves and some locals joined the gold rush. As consumer society took off, tourism increased exponentially until now we have the problem of 'over-tourism'.

Communities Bear the Costs

The way we live and work is increasingly shaped by market forces. Planning controls have been only partially effective in conserving natural beauty while balancing a healthy economy and a wholesome society. The national park's core principles of conservation and public enjoyment tend to be interpreted in ways that allow our precious national resource to be degraded.

By the turn of the millennium, as tourism became dominant, those not involved bore much of the cost: crowds, noise, wear and tear, congestion, pollution and gentrification of villages, among other factors. Houses in the Dales became attractive for retirement, for second homes or holiday lets, with the overall effect of pricing younger locals out of the property market.

Consuming the Dales

What has evolved is, for the most part, consumer tourism. It is difficult to explore the validity of this without sounding judgmental or elitist. But something seems to be missing – and the idea of 'Do No Harm' might help.

Perhaps the imbalance comes about because of failure to engage visitors with the place they come to? To drive up a dale for a pub lunch, for example, may be a pleasure, but is there not a danger that the national park is no more than a decorative backdrop to consumer activity? Though many visitors may be spiritually hungry, do they know how to nourish themselves? Instead of leaving them to their own devices, could more be done to mediate between visitors and the environment (and also between community and culture)?

National parks are a resource that, in a time of pandemic, we see as essential to the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health of the nation. People have a need and a right to enjoy freedom in nature – but may need help to shake off consumerist habits and urban values. Is it not the role of the park authorities to enable such a shift? If it is, have the parks perhaps been heading in the wrong direction by not working with local communities (whole communities rather than just the tourist industry) to meet and to greet, influence, inform and educate visitors? *

A New Value System

Instead of fostering consumer tourism as we have known it, we could encourage Dales communities to use their ample capability and rural nous to transform the links between people and landscape. This could be an exchange of value that, while delighting visitors, would provide higher incomes for local people and career opportunities for the young.

Modern media and communications could help to foster relationships between local industries, communities and visitors for the greater good. Leaving aside power struggles and urban politics, Doing No Harm could trigger extraordinary creativity and co-creation, contributing to a more integrated and wholesome society.

John Varney, Founder-Director & Facilitator, Centre for Management Creativity, Malham Moor





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Friends of the Dales Events 2021



Ongoing coronavirus restrictions led to all the planned events for members being cancelled in 2020. Whilst it is too soon to plan face-to-face events in 2021, a number of Zoom presentations are planned for members between January and April:

Date	Time	Title	Presenter
Wednesday, 27 January 2021	4:00pm	Barn Conversions in the Dales - What do they Achieve?	Nancy Stedman (<i>trustee</i>)
Wednesday, 24 February 2021	4:00pm	Landscapes of the Dales 2020	Julie Martin (<i>trustee</i>)
Wednesday, 17 March 2021	4:00pm	Living and Roaming in the Orton Fells	Kyle Blue (<i>trustee</i>)
Wednesday, 21 April 2021	4:00pm	Give Peat a Chance Jenny talks about peatlands in the Yorkshire Dales, why they need our help, and what the Yorkshire Peat Partnership is doing to restore them.	Jenny Sharman (<i>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust</i>)

Members wishing to take part in any of these events should send an email request to Ann Shadrake at Friends of the Dales (ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk), from whom they will receive a Zoom invitation.

The timing and extent of any lifting of restrictions in 2021 are unknown at present, but it is hoped that some of the cancelled 2020 events, including guided walks and farm visits, can be held later in the year. Keep an eye on the e-news, website and social media for more details and updates.

Creating Roadside Wildlife Refuges

Drive along any road through the Yorkshire Dales, and you can't fail to be impressed by the unspoiled beauty of the scenery. The walls, the barns, the crags, the constantly changing light, the rolling fields...

Red Campion. Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

...Yet a closer look at those fields would reveal a more worrying picture. They are green, yes, but many of them are actually too green. Over the past 50 years or so, almost all our traditional meadowland in the UK has been lost to intensive agriculture. Sadly, this has been going on in the Yorkshire Dales just as much as anywhere else and, without substantial changes to farming policy, it is likely to continue.

There is some hope, though, for the flowers, insects, birds and mammals that used to live in our fields. Roadside verges have largely escaped the pressures of modern farming and often remain as a last surviving strip of original grassland habitat.

This explains why we launched a roadside verges campaign in 2019, with the aim of improving the management of these neglected strips of land for the benefit of the native flora and fauna. We are working alongside the charity Plantlife, which recently launched its own roadside verge campaign and has produced a wealth of helpful information. We are also building on the foundations of the Yorkshire Dales Road Verge Project, run by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust from 2008 to 2011.

One of the major obstacles is that the cutting regime is often totally inappropriate. For meadow plants to thrive, the verges need to be treated in a way that mirrors traditional meadow management – when livestock would be taken off the fields over the summer, to let the hay crop grow. Ideally, this means that verges shouldn't be cut between spring and mid-August, but our observations reveal that cutting is often carried out in early summer. This is precisely the wrong time of year, when plants are at the peak of their flowering. It ought to be possible for us to have a quiet word with the people cutting the roadside grass and ask them not to do it like this, but of course nothing in life is ever that simple!

Firstly, there are hundreds of miles of roadside verge in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This poses us a big challenge, but also indicates what a major difference we could make. Secondly, the responsibilities for cutting the roadside verges are shared between a wide variety of different organisations, including North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), district or borough and parish councils. Some are cut by unknown individuals, and some (on minor roads) haven't been cut at all since austerity kicked in, ten years ago. An initial step in our campaign was to work out which authority is responsible for which length of verge. NYCC's responsibility covers large areas of the national park, so we decided to focus on these to begin with.

In June 2020, we held a (virtual) meeting with members of NYCC's highways team, along with Kate Petty from Plantlife and Tony Serjeant, senior wildlife officer at YDNPA. NYCC was understanding and supportive of our campaign, though we all acknowledged the financial and safety constraints, as well as the difficulties of convincing contractors, whose top priority might not be biodiversity.

The
amount of
Special Interest
Verges in the Dales
400km

Signatures
on 'PlantLife's'
petition to councils to
improve management
of roadside verges
118,384

We are preparing a set of simple guidelines, which we hope could be incorporated into NYCC's next grass-cutting contract, and feasibly adhered to. Our plans might even save money! NYCC agreed that we could nominate a few selected lengths of verge for a trial of a 'no summer cutting' regime. We are selecting these on the basis of the 'Special Interest Verges' (SIVs) already identified as being rich in plant diversity. Watch out for the signs that we'll be putting up to remind the cutting contractors about them!

We will try to involve more local communities with our campaign including parish councils and local individuals. We know that we are up against a complicated set of differing priorities, including some strong opinions about untidiness. A compromise approach is very much the order of the day.

Send us your comments and verge photos, and follow our campaign on **Twitter #dalesverges**

Follow Plantlife's Roadside Verge Campaign at www.plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign

Anne Readshaw, Friends of the Dales volunteer



Verge close up. Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

An ideal road verge cutting regime for the Dales:

Except for at junctions (for visibility and safety), don't cut between April and September. Then do one thorough cut of the whole verge. Remove the grass cuttings.

Why isn't it that simple?

- Contractors have time only at the wrong time (for verges).
- People grumble about untidiness.
- Removing grass cuttings is too expensive.
- Grass cuttings (from long grass) can get in the road.

A possible compromise:

- Don't compromise on safety.
- If cutting can't be avoided in summer, cut a really narrow strip (less than half a metre).
- Pay extra attention to agreed Special Interest Verges and manage these more sensitively.
- Do a thorough cut of the whole verge in September.

Joining Forces In War On Waste

Our campaign against single-use plastics advances; slowly but surely. We are pleased to be teaming up with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to work on its recently funded initiative to create a plastic-free woodland. Combined 'litter picks' are planned for late spring: stay tuned.

We have been seeking supporters for our campaign, especially targeting tree guards, and have so far gained support from A Plastic Planet, Clean Up Britain, Reelbrands Group (which is trialling fully compostable guards with Forestry England), Campaign to Protect Rural England North Yorkshire, Plastic Free Skipton, My Green Pod, Plantlife and Butterfly Conservation. Let us know if you have any contacts with local or national groups that might be worth pursuing.

Bruce McLeod, Chair



Calderdale. Photo courtesy of Frank Fenten



Enter the Dales Makers

She broached the idea at a meeting of the recently formed Malhamdale Coronavirus Response Group and within days it had set up a rota of around 20 Dales Makers of all ages including teenagers and pensioners.

Every weekend from June 6th to September 6th volunteers were on duty from 11am to 5pm in Malham and their brief was to meet and welcome visitors to their community. They stood at the entrance to the village, offered help or directions, including maps provided by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and, crucially, provided advice about how to respect the environment.

Jill says: 'People arrived expecting to be able to have picnics and barbecues and that bins would be provided everywhere. We explained that barbecues were not allowed and why it was important for people to take their litter home with them.'

'The visitors got the fact that if they left litter, someone would have to clear it away for them. For local people it relieved the stress, because they felt they were doing something and they realised that most of the problems were not caused intentionally but by lack of awareness - that 80% of the people coming would do the right thing if they understood what it was.'

Building Bridges Between Town and Country

Some of Britain's great divides have been laid bare by the coronavirus crisis.

It appears that Covid-19 does discriminate – between North and South, between old and young and between people of different races and classes.

But people in Malham have made a concerted effort to bridge another ancient English culture gap – that between town and country.

In the early days of the first lockdown in March the culture clash was plain to see in Malhamdale. The unseasonable sunshine prompted what the tabloids might describe as 'hordes' of urban people to escape to the coast or the countryside and, for many, it was unfamiliar territory.

Malham was one of the places that became overwhelmed with people appearing to ignore social distancing guidelines and there were also concerns about reckless parking and littering, including disposable barbecues dumped in beauty spots.

The villagers reacted with fear and anger – worried about the risk to their own health and the potential damage to the surrounding environment.

Jill Heseltine, who was born and grew up in Malhamdale, says: 'There was a huge influx of visitors and many people generally seemed to lack understanding of what Malham or a national park was.'

As it happened, Jill had some experience of managing large groups of people from a range of cultural backgrounds, as she has been a venue manager at a number of large sporting events including London 2012.

And she wondered whether they could learn something from the irrepressible band of Olympic volunteers, dubbed the Games Makers, with their friendly and welcoming approach to crowd control.



Think Circular

Volunteer Dales Maker, Judy Rogers, agrees: 'Not only have we been a positive influence on the visitors but it has been a really rewarding experience for me too, meeting them and realising how much they are enjoying visiting our lovely village.'

The Dales Makers scheme helped to build trust between locals and visitors and reduced the opportunities for potential antagonism.

Ensuring sustainability for this welcoming approach was bound to be a challenge but the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has now picked up the baton.

The pandemic had already had a positive impact on its objective to broaden the appeal of the Dales and attract more people from under-represented groups.

The Dales Makers have also inspired YDNPA to update the training brief for its own volunteers, bringing it more closely in line with the national park mission statement - to provide 'a friendly, open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities'.

The result could mark the beginning of a closer relationship between town and country for the benefit of both – and hopefully for the protection of the environment for future generations.

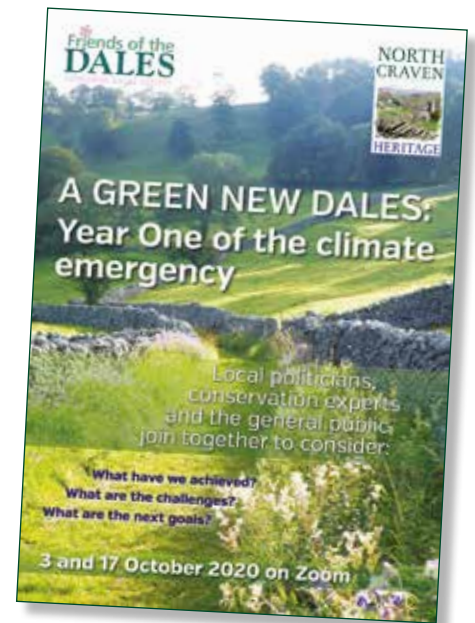
Jill Heseltine and Sue Heseltine

A friendly welcome for visitors to Malham from the volunteer Dales Makers



Catherine Weetman's talk on the circular economy at the **A Green New Dales: Year One of the Climate Emergency Conference** (October 2020) was widely seen as a highlight by delegates. Members of **Friends of the Dales** and **North Craven Heritage Trust**, along with others, found her presentation to be 'inspirational' and, crucially, useful for rethinking everyday practices.

To watch all the guest speakers or download their presentations, visit the home page of our website www.friendsofthedales.org.uk



Take, make, use, dispose



From linear to circular

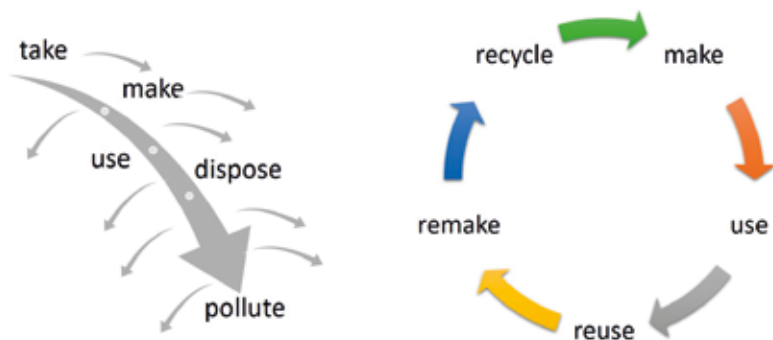


Image: Catherine Weetman (2016) www.rethinkglobal.info CC 4.0

Policy and Planning

As a campaigning charity, part of our remit is to bring a sort of 'critical lens' to bear on the planning framework that should be protecting the Dales. Much of the time that lens is focused very close to hand – on the many hundreds of planning applications submitted to the national park authority (and bordering areas) each year. We submit thoroughly considered comments (supportive or critical) on a select number – but how do we judge the impact of that work? Members of our in-house policy and planning committee (all knowledgeable volunteers) discuss that below.

However, we also keep an eye on the national level of planning, specifically those changes on the horizon that could be detrimental to the Dales – such as government-led shake-ups to the planning system. On the facing page we hear from friends in the North Craven Heritage Trust about their lead role in a collaborative response to the planning White Paper (2020).

Not Always As Planned...

Every week members of the Friends of the Dales policy and planning committee receive an email with a list of valid local planning applications submitted during a certain period. With great care some members go through it and check the different plans against the dozen or so policy statements Friends of the Dales have developed over the years. They are published on our website (www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/campaigns-policies/) and give excellent guidance as to how we see the future of this national park and its surrounding areas. Have a look – they are very worthwhile reading.

Most of the time it is good to see how YDNPA's planning officers have carefully measured the applications against the park's Local Plan and made sure that any new development fits in with the overall plan. Yet quite often Friends of the Dales members can bring to bear their own expertise and special knowledge and point out how a particular application could cause harm or how it might be improved to benefit the landscape, nature, local community and visitors to the Dales. That expertise and special knowledge can be the result of their professional experience or simply their close knowledge of a particular place in the Dales.

After consulting all the members of the policy and planning committee, the chairman sends a letter to the relevant planning officer, either

indicating our objection to the application (giving good reasons, of course), or pointing out that we support an application in principle but are concerned about some of its details.

Naturally, we are under no illusion about how much we can influence the planning process. We just hope that our expertise and knowledge shine through and contribute towards achieving the right results.

Looking carefully at the many applications we receive is labour-intensive and time-consuming for a voluntary body like Friends of the Dales. So, is it worth it? Can we pinpoint how 'successful' we are?

It depends to a certain degree on how you define success. Even if we feel that an application is really harmful and should not be approved but it still goes ahead, our careful reasoning may result in achieving improvements to what was planned in the first place. It is, of course, hard to know how much influence our input has had.

Take, for example, the recent applications for Linton Camp and Langcliffe Quarry, both sites that had been earmarked for development in the Local Plan. We objected for several reasons such as scale, particular conservation issues and landscape concerns, and by objecting we hoped to make the applicant



3D drawing from amended plans (in the public domain) for tourist accommodation at former Linton Camp School. © Trail Architects, Perth



It's Now or Never for Dales Democracy

and planning officers take stock and address these important issues.

In the case of Linton Camp, the applicants submitted a revised application and have made considerable effort to try to reduce the impacts of the proposal. With the plans for Langcliffe Quarry, the decision was passed to officers to finalise details, which gave us another opportunity to contact planners and set out in more detail our areas of concern, to assist them in their decision-making. In the case of another recent application, Gam Farm, the applicant did submit a revised scheme with some improvements, but not enough for us to withdraw our objection.

So, despite the amount of work involved, some intrepid members will continue to monitor all applications as we feel that it's not a waste of time and we hope that Friends of the Dales continues to have some effect in achieving improved schemes.

Nancy Stedman, trustee

Wilf Fenten, Vice Chair

Earlier last year, with everyone's mind on the pandemic, the government chose to publish two documents: a consultation on the present planning regulations and the White Paper 'Planning for the Future'. The North Craven Heritage Trust felt that it was important to raise awareness of their proposals, which would be extremely damaging to an area such as ours, whilst at the same time failing to address the challenges we face, such as the lack of affordable housing, employment opportunities and good infrastructure, which often lead to the depopulation of our villages. It was felt that if like-minded organisations would join us, our concerns would deliver more gravitas, so we were very pleased when Friends of the Dales, the North Craven Building Preservation Trust and Craven Community Land Trust agreed, and our joint response can be found on our website www.northcravenheritage.org.uk.

The White Paper favours developers and fails to address how to tackle the issue of land banking and slow build-out rates, whilst giving the developers carte blanche to build across swathes of the countryside. Housing targets – using an already discredited algorithm – would be decided nationally and imposed on local authorities. There is little evidence to suggest that the provision of affordable housing would be improved; in fact, in areas such as ours it could be worsened. The idea of design codes regulating what new development should look like across the country, as suggested, would be very harmful for our small Dales villages and towns.

One of the most worrying aspects of the proposals is for a deregulation of our planning rules by creating a zonal system, where, once land has been designated in the 'growth' zone at the local plan stage, planning permission would be automatic – although there is little mention of how local authorities would distinguish housing from employment land. Our organisations regularly monitor detailed planning applications and comment or object when we feel it is appropriate, but the new system would give neither us, nor any members of the public, such an opportunity. It appears that 'Protected Areas' would still have some say on detailed planning applications but there is, surprisingly, no mention of national parks being included in these, although AONBs feature.

We are not alone in our opposition to the proposals, with many organisations such as the Town and Country Planning Association, the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Royal Institute of British Architects raising very serious concerns. Whilst accepting that there needs to be some improvement to the existing system, as the TCPA so rightly expressed, the White Paper seems to consist of 'the wrong answers to the wrong questions'. There does recently seem to have been an acceptance from the government that it should re-examine some aspects, particularly the rogue algorithm, but it is vital that we keep up the pressure and raise awareness of the harm and damage that our communities are facing, in the hope that, even at this late stage, the government can be persuaded to drop these controversial plans.

Pamela Jordan, Chair
Anne Read, President
North Craven Heritage Trust

Peat Life After Lockdown

Through the quietness and inactivity of lockdown, my recent experience suggests that life on Oughtershaw, a site in the process of restoration in the watershed between Langstrothdale and Raydale, must have been loud and vigorous! As a peatland restoration officer for Pennine PeatLIFE, on my first day back on site, in July last year, I was met with the usual rain and mist. I knew that there would be changes, but I wasn't fully prepared for how much the site would have responded to the hydrological interventions we had put in between March 2019 and March 2020.



Aerial view of a section of Oughtershaw before hydrological interventions



Aerial view of the same section after the coir logs had been placed

Central to the site is just over two hectares of deeply eroded flat bare peat, intercut by small, firm islands covered by a thin layer of vegetation, desperately clinging on to the fragile soil that is constantly battered by the prevailing winds and rain. In these areas there are now approximately 1,000 coir logs, designed to slow the flow of water and collect the large amount of sediment that constantly moves with each wave of precipitation.

The impact of these interventions was almost immediate, water ponding behind the bulky forms of coconut fibre, creating pools where sediment could rest and build.



80%

percentage of blanket bog damaged in the UK

126,500
sphagnum plugs
planted last year

85,596
cotton grass plugs
planted last
year



Cotton grass with coir in background



Coir logs across Oughtershaw shortly after installation in March 2019



Coir logs in March 2020, one year after installation, slowing the flow and collecting sediment

Now, five months later, I was anxious to see how much more had developed over those few hot and dry months of spring and the torrential summer rains that followed. I wasn't disappointed! It was a wonderful surprise to see how much the cotton grasses had responded to the new stability and hydrology the coir barriers offer. The pools are clearly beginning to fill with their green and red fronds, while the build-up of sediment is increasingly impressive.

On closer inspection, it was clear that the cotton grasses were not the only beneficiaries of the coir interventions. Many were being used as perches for birds, their white guano speckling the light brown of the logs, while their various shed feathers floated in the surrounding ponds. Many seemed to be from short-eared owls, which must be coming to the water's edge to enjoy a drink or to finish off a meal (as evidenced by the few bony remains that now rest on the saturated sediment surrounding the logs).

To confirm my theory, as I was leaving site, I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye – an owl! As I stood, transfixed, staring into the mist, the unmistakable shape became clearer and clearer as it flew straight towards me. I couldn't believe it when it hovered within a few feet of me, looking down at this usurper of its summery peace. It was a perfect end to a perfect day.

It never ceases to amaze me how nature, when given the right ingredients, will respond so vigorously and vibrantly. It is immensely gratifying to see this piece of land, which was not so very long ago a sea of blackened, eroding peat, returning to a place that is bursting with delightful, peaty life!

Jenny Sharman, Yorkshire Peat Partnership

A video that Jenny made on her first day back on site after lockdown can be viewed using the following link: <https://vimeo.com/473800361>



A Ban on the Use of Peat in Compost

Celebrity gardener Monty Don has joined the campaign to ban the use of peat in compost by 2025. He calls the use 'an act of environmental vandalism'. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Plantlife, Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society and others back the ban. Perhaps members could give their local gardening centre a (friendly) nudge.

WATER IN THE DALES

Are we Keeping up with Climate Change?

As greenhouse gas emissions increase, global mean temperature rises. We are heading inexorably towards the 1.5°C warming seen as damaging by the International Panel on Climate Change. Rainfall patterns are also changing, not only in total amount and seasonality but also in the frequency and intensity of extreme events. The wettest days in the UK are now (2008-2017) 17% wetter than they were between 1961 and 1990. It is hard not to attribute the increased incidence of storms in the Dales in recent years to climate change.

Very severe storms can threaten human livelihoods but they are also damaging to wildlife, directly through habitat destruction and indirectly through increased pollution. In high rainfall events nitrates and phosphates from catchment soils and septic tanks are washed into rivers and lakes causing eutrophication, a condition characterised by excessive algal growth. Lakes are especially sensitive. Both our largest Dales lakes, Malham Tarn and Semerwater, are Sites of Special Scientific Interest recognised for their distinctive biodiversity, yet both are suffering from nutrient pollution.

Dales rivers are also threatened. There is likely to be a significant increase in phosphorus loss from soils to water over coming decades as rainfall patterns change, making it increasingly difficult to restore rivers in the agriculturally richer lower reaches of the Dales, where nutrient levels are already high, to good ecological status.

The problem is not only an agricultural one. Surface water running off impermeable surfaces in urban areas also causes nutrient pollution. Data from Marchup Beck in Addingham shows that the concentration of phosphate doubles downstream as water draining from the surfaces of new housing estates is discharged into it. In the older parts of the village surface water is not discharged into the becks but enters the combined sewer system. Although this protects the becks, it adds

to the loading on the sewage treatment works in Ilkley and, in storm events, causes spills of untreated effluent directly into the Wharfe, exacerbating nutrient pollution and creating risks to human health from faecal bacteria.

Sadly there are no easy fixes. There is little prospect of halting climate change for many decades, let alone reversing it. Local solutions are needed, which focus on managing water more sustainably. Farmers and landowners are required to protect watercourses by following the guidelines published in 2018 by Defra (www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-for-farmers-and-land-managers-to-prevent-water-pollution). Perhaps the single most important measure to take is to create riparian buffer zones (RBZs) throughout the Dales, both for the main rivers and for tributary becks, to reduce soil erosion and nutrient inwash. In the urban environment retro-fitting sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) has an equivalent role to play.

Both RBZs and SuDS have multiple benefits, protecting water quality but also creating wildlife habitat and helping to slow the flow of floodwaters. There are already some excellent examples of these measures being taken in the Dales but to be effective they need to be implemented at scale. There lies the challenge.

Rick Battarbee



Malham Tarn. Photo courtesy of Suzanne McGowan



Malham Tarn warning sign. Photo courtesy of Suzanne McGowan



Surface water outfall into Marchup Beck, Addingham. Photo courtesy of Rick Battarbee

Riparian Buffer Zones (RBZs)

Riparian buffer zones are strips of land on either side of a stream or river, which are fenced off from adjacent agricultural fields. The bankside land can be planted with trees or left to rewild naturally. Buffer zones are designed to restrict livestock access to watercourses and thereby reduce nutrient pollution and soil erosion. Added benefits include improved habitat for wildlife, carbon sequestration and shading. An excellent example in the Dales is provided by Otterburn Beck, a tributary of the Aire. This zone was created seven years ago as part of the Upper Aire Land Management project involving the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Wild Trout Trust (www.ywt.org.uk/wildlife/conservation-action/west-yorkshire/river-aire).



Otterburn Beck. Photo courtesy of Jon Grey

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Sustainable urban drainage systems are measures taken to reduce the amount of rainwater from urban surfaces entering sewers or watercourses. They are designed to hold rainwater back in urban areas, allowing it to soak into the ground rather than running off into gutters. There are many techniques ranging from roof water interception using water butts and the installation of permeable driveways, to fully integrated systems involving the creation of rain gardens and community swales. Although their primary purpose is to slow the flow of flood water, they also help to prevent water pollution, take the pressure off sewage treatment works and provide wildlife habitat. The picture shows a rain garden in Addingham, in which roof water is collected in large water butts (screened by trees) and used to feed a wildlife pond and a bog garden before entering a gravel-filled soakaway.



Rain garden, Addingham. Photo courtesy of Rick Battarbee

Storm overflow at Ashlands sewage treatment works, Ilkley. Photo courtesy of Kathleen Roberts



201

Storm overflow spills into the Wharfe from Ilkley sewage treatment works in 2019

Stop Press December 2020:

The stretch of the Wharfe between Ilkley Main Bridge and Beanlands Island will be added to the list of UK bathing waters, following a long campaign by local people. This is the first time in the UK that a river (rather than a coastal water) has been designated as bathing water and means it will be subjected to a much tougher testing regime.

SEEN WITH FRESH EYES

Young People in the Dales

For this issue of the Review, we commissioned a survey of young people who live in the Dales, asking: What does the phrase 'Do No Harm' mean to you?

Rebecca Whittaker, Head of Geography at Settle College, and a colleague conducted the survey with classes of students aged 12-17; Tabitha Brown, herself a student at the college, and regular contributor to the Review, talked with friends and peers in Yr 12, and also with her Settle Explorer Unit (the group for 14-18s in the Scout Association).

We share below a selection of responses, and although we didn't have space to print everyone's thoughts, we would like to thank all those who participated.

We are lucky to live in a picturesque part of the world, but the beauty will disappear if we don't make an effort to preserve our environment. **Anon**

Do No Harm means protecting the environment in any way possible and making sure our actions do not have a negative effect on the local landscape. **HB**

The history and the legacy left behind by our ancestors and the beauty of nature should be preserved in every way we can, and it is up to our younger generation to help out too. **Tabitha**

Educate people to respect this wonderful part of the world. **Anon**

Do No Harm involves keeping the balance between protecting the environment and protecting people's livelihoods in the whole ecosystem. **Robert**

Do No Harm.
Tread gently on our earth,
Protect the fragile beauty of nature,
Appreciate, but don't take.
Leave this planet as you found her.
Do No Harm. **Tallulah**

Respect, protect, repair,
Like you were never there.
A mere whisper of the wind,
A saviour from the ones who sinned.
Rosie (Head Girl)

I love where I live.
I love the sky and the
grassy woodlands.
I love the rivers and hills.
I love the animals and the
wildlife and the people.

Sarah

Environmental damage is lasting. It leaves a negative impact on a protected landscape. Anyone can do damage. **Harris**

Our environment is special and needs to be respected by every member of society. The environment is irreplaceable so we must care for it. Love the world. **Anon**

The Yorkshire Dales are among the country's most precious gems, so preserve them so that future generations can enjoy them. Keep the beauty alive. **Esther**

We need to preserve this natural, unique area full of jaw-dropping views. We should come together and save the beauty for future generations. **Freya**

We have been gifted a beautiful environment unlike any other that we cannot take for granted. **Luke**

We are lucky to live in such a beautiful place and it's our responsibility to let further generations enjoy it as much as we are able to. **Flo**

I love the Yorkshire Dales. It's a place of life, not death, and it should be kept that way. **Marvin**

I'm sure many people will agree that the Yorkshire Dales contain many inspiring landscapes and features, but we can't ensure they will stay this way if we don't respect and appreciate them. **Marina**

To me, Do No Harm means to protect and preserve our world and beautiful national park, as well as to allow wildlife to flourish, keeping Yorkshire safe for future generations. **Isla**

Tourist attractions are wonderful. They bring lots of money but too many people can change everything. Think about your actions. **Joshua**

The Yorkshire landscape is beautiful: hearing the animals under the glorious sunshine; walking the Three Peaks and all its beautiful paths. Don't ruin the landscape for future generations. **Ronan**

Do No Harm to this beauty: the long lush grass blowing in the wind, the animals running wild in the beautiful scenery, farmers feeding the cows with the fresh silage. **Alfie**

Great Whernside

Wonderful Walking Without the Crowds

Scarlett Armstrong has newly joined us as a trustee, and here writes about a much-loved walk up Great Whernside.

Choosing one of my favourite walks in the Yorkshire Dales is not easy. There are so many. It would be more accurate to say that this was one of my favourite most recent walks, and one I've done multiple times in all seasons. I always recommend you repeat a route at various times of the year: you might be surprised by how different it is!

At 704m, Great Whernside is the highest peak in Wharfedale. It is not to be confused with Whernside, which – defying all logic – is actually higher at 736m. Sitting on the watershed between Wharfedale and Nidderdale, Great Whernside offers uninterrupted views of Pen-y-ghent, Whernside, Ingleborough, Pendle Hill and, on a clear day, the Lake District fells.

The route begins from the picturesque village of Kettlewell – a perfect U-shaped valley carved out in the last ice age. It was a bright, mild autumnal day and on this occasion surprisingly void of people. At first the gradient is steep, leading up to Hag Dyke (a scout hostel thought to be haunted) but gradually the view opens up and the grandeur of the dales is revealed. You will have to navigate (more often than not) some boggy terrain as you climb the last few hundred metres to the trig point. The 549m ascent is worth every step, especially on those sunny and less windy days! The trig point is quite exposed, but luckily shelter is provided in the form of a rocky outcrop called 'Little Crag'. I didn't linger too long, just enough time to wolf down a sandwich and a slurp of coffee. Just beyond the shelter, a footpath veers off to the left downhill. Although cutting off a corner, it denies you the superb views across to Nidderdale and Scar House Reservoir. If you wish, you can ignore this path and continue about 1/3 mile to where there is a stile at the corner of two walls.

The grassy path then leads you across Blackfell Top towards Black Dike before intersecting at the road to Coverdale. Crossing the road, it continues along the boundary line for approximately a mile across Tor Dike. The path then forks: left takes you to Kettlewell or, if you wish to extend, you can veer right following Cam Road into the hamlet of Starbotton. If you choose the latter route, it is a simple meander along the river back to the start.

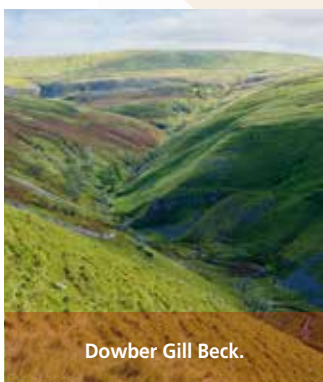


At the summit. Photo courtesy of Alex McDonald

On this occasion, I decided to return immediately to Kettlewell via Top Mere Road. (I had begun later than anticipated and the light was fading slowly.) Joining the stony track at Cam Head is just as enjoyable, and views down the valley never seem to disappoint. I lingered longer on one of the seats along this section to soak up the mid-afternoon glow.

Kettlewell is a delightful village and it's worth stopping at one of the few watering holes (pubs or cafes, depending on your preference) when you finish to enjoy a well-deserved rest and refuel. Cake is optional, but always encouraged.

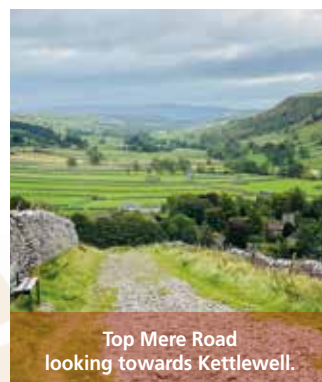
Scarlett Armstrong, trustee



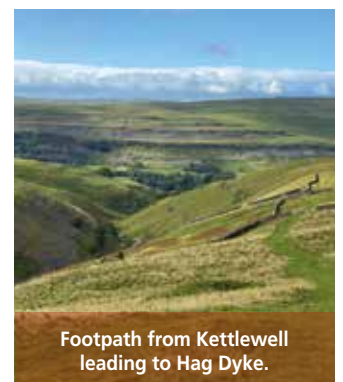
Dowber Gill Beck.



View from the summit.



Top Mere Road looking towards Kettlewell.



Footpath from Kettlewell leading to Hag Dyke.

Photos courtesy of Scarlett Armstrong

Exploring Orton

The Best of Both Worlds

Orton Parish is at a point where the Dales embrace the Lakes, being in the north-westerly extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Giving a 'nod' towards it but never having been in Yorkshire, the area is quite sensibly referred to as the Westmorland Dales. The parish ranks as one of the largest in the country with a boundary just a little short of 40 miles. The principal settlements of Orton, Raisbeck and Kelleth lie within the Dales whilst the remainder is in the Lake District National Park.

Orton is much favoured in being surrounded by open fell land. To the north and east is a raised limestone plateau known as the Orton Fells with karst features rising to over 300 metres. This is a landscape with a complex mix of limestone pavements, which will be familiar to many living in the Dales. The Asby Scar complex is a National Nature Reserve and the wild open heath area around Sunbiggin Tarn includes Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Tarn Sike reserve.

To the south are the well-known Howgill Fells with The Calf, the highest point at well over 600 metres, surprisingly forming Orton Parish's southern boundary.



Gamelands Stone Circle near Orton



Sunbiggin Tarn, an unusual marl lake similar in formation to Malham Tarn

To the west the geology changes, again having more in common with the far eastern fells of the Lake District. Here there are the remote, enchanting and rarely visited valleys of Bretherdale and Borrowdale.

The walking on the Howgills has been well documented by Wainwright with his unrivalled guides. Perhaps less well known (and also thanks to Wainwright) is the fact that the Coast to Coast Walk passes through the middle of the parish. The Coasters, as they are known, are both welcomed and thanked by one and all for the support they bring to businesses within the community.

From a walking perspective the Orton Fells are relatively undiscovered but they offer some outstanding routes, which are suited to most walking abilities and offer a genuine sense of wilderness whilst still being relatively close to habitation. There are outstanding long-distance views and much of interest to observe. There is an abundance of wildlife and the area is famous for its wildflower meadows and extensive, species-rich roadside verges. The parish includes tributaries of the Lune and Eden and is rich in geological features. Having been settled for many millennia, there are numerous burial cairns, abandoned settlements and one of Cumbria's largest stone circles, Gamelands. There has been little development and the dry-stone walls, farms and settlements are largely built of local stone and are typical of a quiet rural area. The many historic buildings include All Saints' Church and the Dame School in Raisbeck.

Photos courtesy of Kyle Blue



Orton farmers' market, held monthly



All Saint's Church and village with Howgills in background

Exploration of the area is best commenced from Orton, which Wainwright described as one of Westmorland's loveliest villages. At one time he hoped to live there. The village provides excellent local amenities with shop, hotel, cafes and a well-known chocolate factory, which actually used to supply the ill-fated Concorde and had Prince Charles as a patron. The village amenities have recently experienced difficult times so if you visit to explore the wonderful countryside, please also be sure to support the businesses. It will be appreciated.

The Westmorland Dales project is in due course hoping to publish walks in the Orton Fells, which will extend from a couple of hours to three days and these will be included in future *Reviews*.

Kyle Blue, trustee



The delicate Grass of Parnassus one of the great variety of limestone flora



Forty Years of Championing the Dales

By the time you read this, we will (just!) have entered the 40th anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales Society (now known as Friends of the Dales). As I write this in November 2020, I have in front of me the original note of the first meeting of the society held on 17 January 1981. Intended as 'a summary of the salient points that emerged', it is signed by Keith Lockyer and Colin Speakman on behalf of a roll call of other founder members – Ruth Annison, Richard Davies, Laurie Fallows, John Henderson, John Hewitt, David Joy, John Miller, Jerry Pearlman, Trevor Sharpe, Roger Stott and Ken Willson. Many of these community activists, as we might now call them, will be familiar to some of you. Of these I have known David Joy the longest – starting the evening he and his wife Judith kindly welcomed me to tea when I moved to the Dales in the late 1980s.

A full account of the birth of our society can be read in a personal history by Colin and Fleur Speakman, available by PDF and on our website. At that time, the Yorkshire Dales National Park was only around 25 years old. In the Speakmans' words it was 'under siege' - with the national park committee facing a barrage of criticism about 'excessive planning regulations, bureaucracy and officialdom'. In the face of this publicly expressed negativity, a small group of people was inspired to 'champion the national park' by setting up an independent society. This group aspired to counter unfounded criticism; highlight the good outcomes for conservation, recreation and communities arising from national park status; and not be afraid to point out where the national park committee was 'failing in its duties'.

The seeds of these negative perceptions were likely sown in the years before and after the designation of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 1954. Recently Professor Richard Hoyle, Visiting Professor of Economic History, University of Reading, has researched the political turmoil around that designation. His paper* casts an insightful but sobering

eye on the divisions in the early years of the national park, as local authorities competed for control and influence against a backdrop of fears about 'invading hordes' of visitors knocking down walls and littering. (Fears that unfortunately we saw take hold again during post-lockdown 'invasions' to the Dales last summer, as described in Sue and Jill Heseltine's article on Malham Dales Makers on page 8.)

What particularly caught my eye in this academic paper was: 'a suggestion of a society for Yorkshire Dales folk, both local and scattered, in 1936, seems to have come to nothing: it had as its aims the conservation of the Dales'. Professor Hoyle, also a member of our charity, kindly provided the primary source – an item in the *Yorkshire Post* of 6 March 1936 (see box for edited extract).

It seems that the roots of our very own Friends of the Dales/Yorkshire Dales Society were already germinating in those heady early days of campaigning for countryside protection and access. In 1936, the newspaper item concluded: 'It only needs a small group of enthusiastic Dales folk to turn such a suggestion into a vigorous reality.'

Forty-five years later such a group did indeed take action – to found the Yorkshire Dales Society. Now, a further 40 years on, our charity goes from strength to strength with members and supporters across the globe. Over the course of this anniversary year let's honour the contributions of these generations of campaigners, but also continue to look forward. We'd love to read your reminiscences of the early days of our society, but also your views on what the next 40 years may bring. Perhaps the last year has shown us more than ever that the Dales are 'amazing, inspiring, but fragile'. If you possibly can, please do consider a long-term commitment such as a regular donation or legacy gift, to help us keep the Dales special and vibrant for years to come.

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director

Why Not a Society for Dales Folk?

Yorkshire Post Friday, 6 March 1936

'From time to time proposals for a society of Dales Folk have been put forward in Yorkshire, and recently several tentative efforts have been made to form the nucleus of such a body, so far without success. Interest in the Yorkshire Dales has never been more widespread that it is today. Recent broadcasts by Dales folk, the recording of local dialects on gramophone records, and the tendency for more and more walkers and motorists from our towns to explore the beauty which is almost on their doorstep have all conspired to bring the Dales into prominence.

'A strong organisation could also assist in the preservation of a great area that many believe will eventually become a national park and which every year is threatened by the hand of the spoiler. Its members would at once become aware of any such danger, and by concerted action, and with the help of Dales lovers in the towns, could probably prevent desecration.

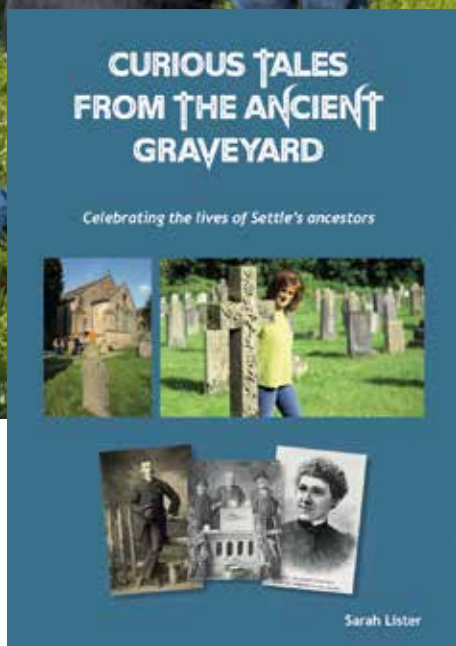
'...it is probable that in districts such as Leeds and London, where there are groups of exiled Dales folk, there would soon spring up small groups anxious to be kept in touch with all that was going on in their native places.'

* Hoyle, R. 2019. *Opposition to the creation of national parks: the case of the Yorkshire Dales*. *The Agricultural History Review*. 67, Part II, pp 283-314. Available on request – details from Ann Shadrake.

Tales From Beyond The Grave



Settle Graveyards project, Group transcribing



As we enter the sixth year of our Capturing the Past project, which trains and supports community volunteers to save precious historical records on a digital website archive, it's great to hear how some local people have been working hard and contributing their own researches to the archive during periods of Covid lockdown last year. Sarah Lister, a researcher based in Settle, writes about her project on Settle Graveyard.

In 2018 members of Settle District U3A decided to record inscriptions on gravestones before natural wear rendered some illegible. As they were doing this, volunteers couldn't help but wonder who these people were and how they contributed to life in Settle today.

And so Settle Graveyard Project began. Every gravestone rests upon a life story waiting to be told - and thus providing a new slice of history. Resources from the Capturing the Past (CTP) website (www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk) enhanced the findings from other sources and from descendants. As a result the project has provided an alternative and important social history of the town with examples from aristocracy to paupers, from entrepreneurs and suffragettes to the tradesmen who were the backbone of Settle life. We feel we have a moral responsibility to share the findings and preserve the heritage of the town for today's residents and for those tracing their ancestors.

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Stories in Stone project generously funded the publication of a book of some of the early stories called *Curious Tales from the Ancient Graveyard*, as part of the trust's Stories in Stone scheme, which was supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A series of promotional talks and interactive graveyard tours were arranged that attracted a wide variety of residents and visitors. Due to high sales the book was reprinted in May 2020.

As the books sold, it became obvious the accounts must be recorded for posterity. CTP website, managed by Friends of the Dales and also supported by Stories in Stone, provided the perfect solution, being 'an interactive site...intended to be a forum for sharing information about the history of the area...to develop over time a sense of place for those who live and work here now, those whose roots are here and

those who are simply interested in these English highlands'. After a few lessons from very patient members of the website team, work began on uploading the life stories at the end of February 2020.

Things were going well until Covid struck and lockdown began in March 2020. Some 31 talks and the whole summer programme of graveyard tours were cancelled. Many people found the compulsory changes to lifestyle upsetting and difficult to cope with. But, with the help of the website, lockdown was an opportunity for creative thinking to lift spirits.

The project Facebook account was created in January 2020. Using a link to the CTP website, the first 'Tuesday Tale from the Graveyard' was posted on 24 March 2020: the tale of several related men called Phineas Butler. It reached nearly 500 people. The same story was also emailed to the (400+) members of the Settle District U3A and another 50 people who had contacted the project by other means. The Facebook numbers escalated through lockdown, reaching nearly 3,000 during June. Feedback has been incredibly positive, not just about the research findings as a fascinating bite-sized chunk of history to read with Tuesday morning coffee and an antidote to lockdown blues, but also about the scope and quality of the other resources on the website.

The website has provided other benefits too. Fifty-two people have discovered new information about their ancestors. For example, Paul Wiltshire from London has an ancestor, George Wilkinson-Newsholme, who is buried in the graveyard. By working with us, Paul has learned much about his ancestors, has had several family myths proved (and a few debunked) and has shared photos and family diaries, including information about Sarah Annie Wilkinson-Newsholme, who was thought to be engaged to composer Edward Elgar in 1885. Jim Parker lives in Sydney, Australia. His grandparents were born in Settle and he is descended from six families buried in the graveyard. Being on the other side of the world is no barrier these days.

And so the Graveyard Project and weekly tales continue. The latest publication is about the lives of navvies who died during the building of the Settle to Carlisle Railway.

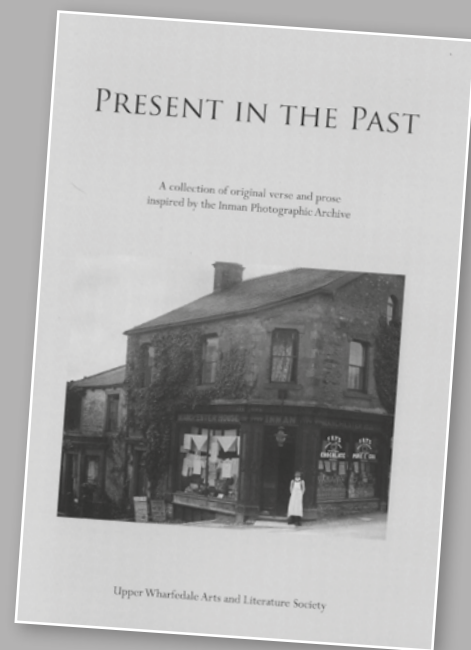
The project, and many readers, are very grateful to Friends of the Dales and the Capturing the Past project team. Thank you.

Sarah Lister, Settle Graveyard Project — settleresearch@gmail.com

Photos courtesy of Ken Lister



Settle Graveyards project, Group transcribing



Present in the Past

Upper Wharfedale Arts & Literature Society

Price £10

There's a copy of *Present in the Past* on my table, to hand when I have some time to while away (not unusual in these difficult times). Dipping into this collection of original and charming short stories, memories and poems is, I believe, the best way to appreciate them.

I think it took some courage and imagination for members of the Upper Wharfedale Arts & Literature Society to take an archive of glass-plate photos as their starting point. The photos, by Inman Roberts, provide a fascinating record of life in upper Wharfedale in the early 20th century; some are reproduced in the collection, but unfortunately not of the quality that does them justice.

With nine authors and 42 pieces, I'm not going to try to summarise the contributions in any way - they are all individual and merit attention - nor am I going to pick out any one for a special mention. I leave it with you to find your favourites. But what is revealed from the collection is the strong sense of history and continuity that exists in this part of the Dales, explored through the acute observation and imagination of the authors.

The foreword concludes: 'We very much hope you will find much in these pieces to intrigue, entertain, move, amuse and provoke.' I did, and I am sure you will too.

You can get hold of a copy by emailing uwalsociety@gmail.com or ringing 01756 770051/770350

Nancy Stedman, trustee

A PASSION FOR THE DALES

David Joy | Price £19.99

David Joy's name needs no introduction to the Friends of the Dales, both as a highly respected local author and as a lifelong campaigner for the Dales. As well as being the Secretary of Craven CPRE for almost 40 years, David served on the national park committee. He was a founder trustee of both the Yorkshire Dales Society (now Friends of the Dales) and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. His professional career began as a journalist with the *Yorkshire Post*, and then with *The Dalesman*, with a senior role in the company's book publishing side before finally becoming editor. He went on to develop his own rail magazine publishing enterprise in Cornwall and a senior managing-editorial role with Great Northern publishers.



David is a noted rail historian. For over 50 years he has published definitive books on railways including the iconic Settle-Carlisle line, but also on such themes as Dales barns, artists, lead miners and, most recently, trees of the Dales.

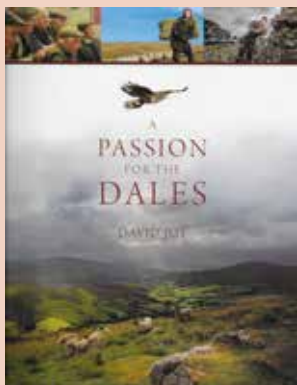
David is a true Dalesman. His ancestors include farmers, shepherds and lead miners. One of his proudest moments many years ago was to return with his family to the farmhouse in Hebden Gill, where the Joy family have lived for generations.

A Passion for the Dales (published by Great Northern) is a beautiful book in every sense. The photographs are superb – an important collection of Dales images. Some of the photographers, such as Bruce Rollinson, Stephen Garnett and our own Hilary Fenten, are familiar but less well known is the wonderful Dutch photographer Remco Rog. There are also some amazing, little-known archive images. Structured into four main sections, the book skilfully covers the natural world, cultural history, contemporary issues and a brief gazetteer of best places to visit.

This reviewer imagined that, after so many hundreds of books about the Yorkshire Dales, it would be difficult to say anything new or fresh about them, but David has proved me wrong. Whilst he claims that this is not an academic book, packed with footnotes, it is actually a scholarly work, dense with fascinating details, reflecting a lifetime's experience of someone who is part of the land and the communities

he describes. But from the pen of a born writer, it is also highly readable, at times even poetic, with much personal detail. This makes it in some ways a valedictory book, recording a life spent as both a participant in and observer of Dales life past and present, with a passion for the Dales we are so privileged to share.

Colin Speakman,
Vice President



PEAK PERFORMANCE INGLEBOROUGH'S SPORTING LEGACY

Victoria Benn | Price £8.50 (plus p & p)

This delightful little book is something of a social history full of interesting anecdotes. After a brief introduction to the history of rural sports the book goes on to describe the development of four events in the calendar associated with Ingleborough.

The development of Ingleton Sports is outlined along with its one-time rival, Clapham. The first Ingleborough Mountain Race was run in 1934. It was the foremost mountain race of its day and has been held most years since. The Three Peaks race has been held each year since 1954 and the Three Peaks Cyclo-Cross since 1961. The latter followed from schoolboy Kevin Watson covering the course by bicycle in 1959. Then along came ultrarunning. The Fellsman started in 1962. Organised by Keighley Scouts, it now sets off from Ingleton, crossing numerous fells after Ingleborough on its 61-mile route to Grassington.

The author is Victoria Benn, daughter of 'Mr Sport', Roger Ingham. For a list of stockists or for mail order email info@runthedailes.org.uk.

Bernard Peel





Hello and Farewells

Over the last six months or so we've welcomed several new trustees to our charity, and said farewell to a number stepping down after many years of active support.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read an article (page 17) by newly appointed trustee Scarlett Armstrong, who came to us via an advert on our website. Due to lockdown restrictions I've yet to meet Scarlett in person, but already we've had many constructive digital meetings and she has got 'stuck in' with ideas for improving our website and social media content.

As noted in the autumn edition, Dilip Mysorekar and Ken Humphris (see boxes below) were elected as new trustees at our 2020 AGM. Ken is a regular contributor to this magazine, writing about his home 'patch' around the Westmorland Dales and the Lune Valley in particular. He has taken up an important role as Chair of our events, communication and membership committee – which delivers 'what it says on the tin'. Dilip Mysorekar brings a wealth of experience from the commercial and charity sectors, including working for the National Trust in Yorkshire, with particular skills in membership and digital media.

On a personal note I'd like to thank some trustees with whom I have worked over many years. Ann Cryer has been an active member of our policy committee, bringing pertinent insights from her network of contacts within the urban communities of Bradford and the Aire Valley. Ann continues as a valued Vice President. Jon Beavan has also stood

down. During his term as Vice Chair a few years ago, he was particularly helpful to me when I organised a large national conference in the Dales, drawing on his considerable expertise in outdoor access/education.

I have known Chris Hartley since the early 1990s, when I worked for the National Trust at Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal – Chris was part of my team of 150 volunteers. It was brilliant to meet him again as a trustee at Friends of the Dales when I took up the role here 10 years ago. Chris has a huge enthusiasm for the Dales, in particular its history and dialects, and has been an active volunteer at our events for many years. Likewise Hilary Baker, who will also be well known to local members from her support at our walks and talks over the years. Hilary is one of those special women who just seem to know when to offer the right words of encouragement – and cake! We've shared many happy times at national park society conferences over the years, from the Norfolk Broads to Dartmoor. Both Chris and Hilary served on our events, communication and membership committee and they richly deserve their recognition as honorary members of our charity.

With a number of other trustees due to reach the end of their terms of service later in 2021, the door is definitely open to new faces! We are particularly looking for people with experience in planning policy/law, farming, rural transport and human resources – we welcome all informal enquiries, just contact me by the usual routes (see inside front cover).

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director

Ken Humphris

My professional background includes a long career in polymer research and engineering, culminating in a UK managing director role with a global auto component supplier.

Retirement in 2002 led to a move to High Casterton, near Kirkby Lonsdale, chosen for its proximity to two of our favourite places -- the Dales and Lakes. We became Dales Volunteers (for the national park authority) in 2003 and still very much enjoy the wide variety of activities that this entails.

I've been involved with Kirkby Lonsdale Civic Society and the village hall committee for many years. Arriving in south Cumbria from a big city, I had no idea what a parish council did, but in due course I stood for election and served two terms in Casterton. My exposure to planning matters through the civic society came in useful, and the range of issues that has to be addressed on a meagre budget was an eye-opener.

As well as an abiding passion for the Dales, volunteering activities have generated an interest in (especially vernacular) architecture and local history and I enjoy taking photographs wherever I travel. We're helping to spread the word too, as our young grandchildren, who live in London, already rate Norber and Barbondale as two of their favourite places, and both completed the (individual) Three Peaks before they were eight.

I discovered Friends of the Dales only a couple of years ago, but our ethos is very close to my heart, and I hope that I can be of help in securing our future as a strong and passionate supporter of this wonderful place.

Dilip Mysorekar

Following my school and college years in Skipton, I ran my own business in the town selling prints and originals and offering a picture framing service. A move to Debenhams brought a management role at a flagship store in London, before going on to work in World Duty Free at Heathrow. Coming back to Skipton for family reasons, I later took up the role of Retail and Membership Manager at the National Trust's property at East Riddlesden Hall near Keighley. Unfortunately this post was made redundant due to the financial impact of Covid-19.

Post-Covid I feel that the great outdoors will become even more important in all our lives: for physical and mental health and as a 'safer' holiday destination. As a trustee of Friends of the Dales, I hope that we can become more inclusive and reflective of general society, but especially the communities that are within the immediate travel area of the Dales. I feel passionately that everyone deserves to enjoy the beautiful countryside on our doorstep. We naturally gravitate towards places that have people like us in. If there are supporters and volunteers from diverse groups, this will help make others feel welcome.

I am British Asian and hopefully I can share some of my experiences to help welcome others. I think that knowledge and understanding of each other helps to break down racism, which is often rooted in fear of the unknown. In my spare time I have helped to create an organisation, Skipton and the Dales for Social Change, which has rapidly gained members, and I am part of Extinction Rebellion Skipton, helping to keep the climate emergency in focus.

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Support us, support the Dales

Friends of the Dales is the leading voice campaigning for a sustainable future for the Dales.

Our charity needs your support to help us protect this amazing, inspiring but fragile place - for years to come.

➔ JOIN US

- More members means more clout when we campaign. Members receive this quarterly magazine and first news of our events programme.

➔ DONATE

- Our charity's running costs are funded entirely by your voluntary subscriptions, donations and legacy gifts.

➔ VOLUNTEER

- Help with our walks and other events
- Shape our charity's future; become a trustee
- Put out our leaflets on your home patch

➔ LEGACY

- Please consider making a gift in your will to **Friends of the Dales**.

➔ BE 'DALES-FRIENDLY'

- Try out our sociable walks and events (*most are free*)
- Support Dales businesses and communities
- Look for sustainable ways to visit, like **DalesBus**

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk

Please visit our website and follow us on social media. Full contact details and membership rates are on page 2



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