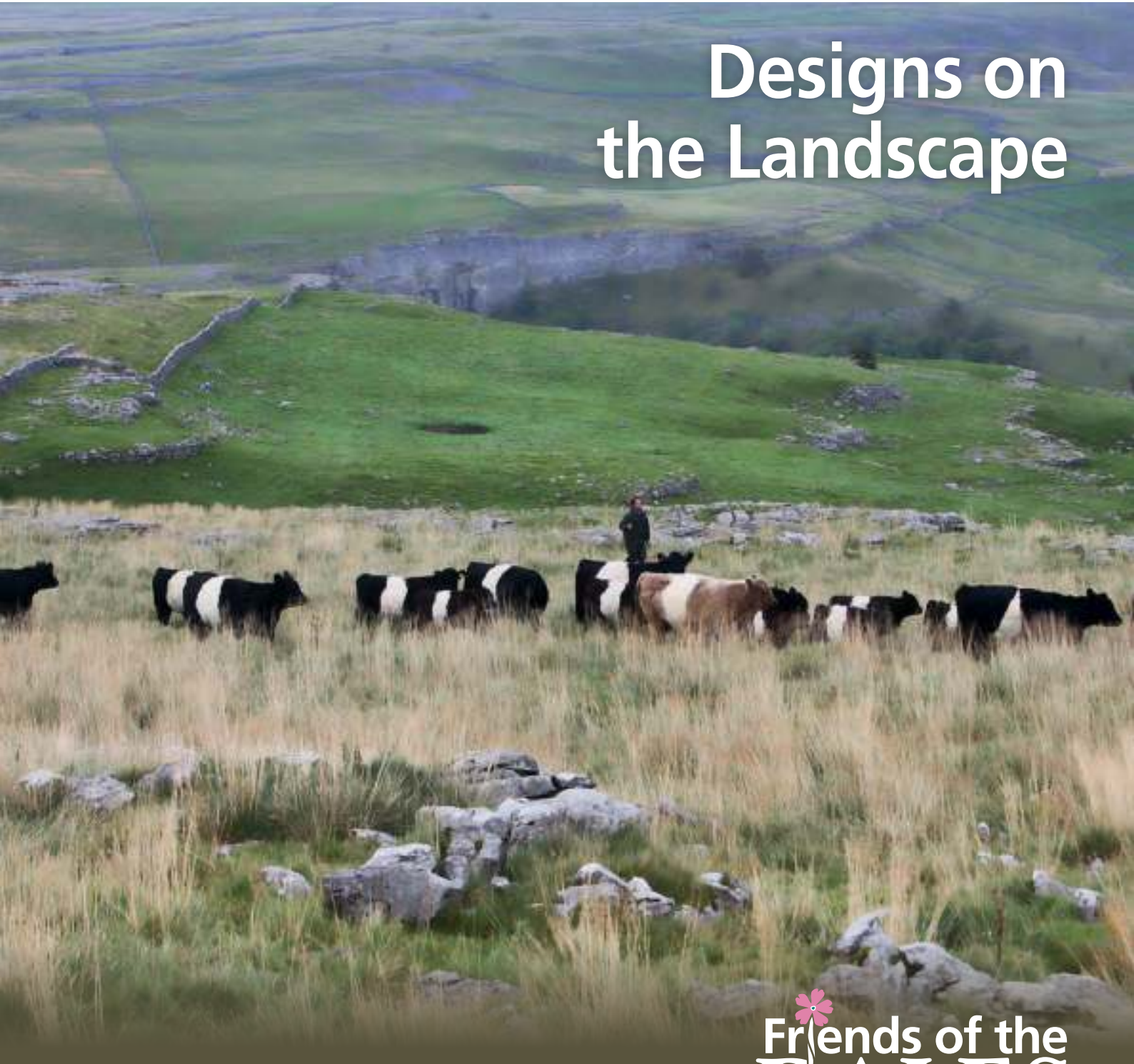


# Yorkshire **DALES** review

Autumn 2021 : Issue 156

## Designs on the Landscape



.....  
**CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY**  
.....

  
**Friends of the  
DALES**  
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY  
1981 Forty Years 2021

**Front cover photo:**  
Malham farmer, Neil Heseltine,  
with Belted Galloway cattle.  
Photo courtesy of Steve Garnett

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

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Community Interest Company:  
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12-13

Westmorland Dales

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Following in Morrison's Footsteps



## Autumn Contributor Bios



**Pages 6-7 - Paul Chatterton** is Professor of Urban Futures at the University of Leeds. He works four days a week, and most Fridays he can be found cycling around the Yorkshire Dales on his bike.



**Pages 8-9 - Richard Boothman** is an environmental associate lecturer with The Open University and also runs ideostone Limited, a small business that develops and delivers online environmental learning. After growing up in the Dales, he left for education and work before returning in 2014.



**Pages 12-13 - Hannah Kingsbury** is the cultural heritage officer for the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme, and was previously the historic environment apprentice at the YDNPA. Through work, and her own personal research, she has developed a particular interest in farm buildings, especially those in the Yorkshire Dales.



**Page 18 - Heather Lane** is the honorary curator of the Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly in Settle, and Chair of the North Craven Building Preservation Trust. She runs a nationwide cultural heritage consultancy practice based in Littondale.



**Page 19 - Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong** is chair of Dent with Cowgill Parish Council. Since moving to Dent in 2000 she has been actively involved in community life including taking board roles in health, the police, housing and community engagement. She served as a Secretary of State member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for eight years, chairing several committees and acting as Deputy Chair.

# Thoughts on a Fundamentally Flawed Housing Policy

**In 2010 I resigned from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority feeling uncomfortable with its housing policy – as flawed then as it is now. At the time, I warned that ‘no amount of new housing, affordable or otherwise, will keep our Dales communities alive’ unless we concentrate on finding ways of bringing together businesses, councils and other partners to see how we can use our beautiful landscape to bring to this area jobs in tune with the Dales.**

Since then, the Dales’ demographic profile has not improved and the exodus of young people continues, leading to further loss of services and reducing the quality of community life. Yet it now looks as though the new Local Plan’s housing policy is likely to follow the same flawed pattern.

I’m not against new housing in the Dales but experience in over 100 national parks across Europe shows that just increasing the housing stock does nothing to help local communities thrive. The key assumption in the next Local Plan – ‘dwelling-led growth’ – is fundamentally flawed. It’s not going to happen. Just increasing the housing stock simply results in more people travelling out of the area for employment, contributing little to the vibrancy of local communities. It can also exacerbate the problem of second homes, over-tourism and underoccupancy, not to mention land banking. Current planning conditions are of little use to prevent this.

The present debate over how many houses to build each year – 40, 60, 80 or whatever – is sterile and overlooks the large number of outstanding permissions: over 600. It ignores the need for better job and career opportunities, especially for young people. Much greater effort must be made to change the park’s failed economic model of low wages/high carbon and to focus on opportunities for businesses and jobs. The necessary housing can then follow.

The authority has the power, but perhaps not yet the will, to work with partners on improving the socio-economic conditions in the Dales. It could ‘co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park’ (1995 Environment Act) and should do so much more.

Friends of the Dales members have voiced some excellent, forward-thinking ideas, some of which you can read on page 9. I particularly love the suggestion of creating a University of the Dales, to specialise in environmental management and cultural landscapes; and another one of providing more shared spaces for home working or other suitable work, which would be good for both the Dales’ economy and for reducing the number of residents travelling out for employment.

There is so much untapped creative energy in the Dales. Therefore, abandon the flawed housing policy and address the more fundamental questions of why people leave the Dales, why services are diminishing and why schools are closing. As ever, Friends of the Dales are ready to contribute enthusiastically to a more sustainable future for the Dales.

*Wilf Fenten, Vice-Chair*

For the Craven Herald’s coverage of the reasons for Wilf’s resignation from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority visit [www.cravenherald.co.uk/news/8235151.yorkshire-dales-park-member-quits-with-a-broadside/](http://www.cravenherald.co.uk/news/8235151.yorkshire-dales-park-member-quits-with-a-broadside/)

**1 in 5**

houses in national park under-occupied (second homes, holiday lets or vacant)

**600**  
permissions outstanding



The Dales as a recognised centre for excellence in environmental management would help create opportunities for young people. Photo courtesy of Hilary Fenten



## Back Out on the Fells

July and August saw us – finally – back out on the fells hosting our popular guided walks. In July, trustee Scarlett Armstrong led a group on a six-mile walk from Gargrave over a stretch of the Pennine Way. In August our trustee and Yorkshire Dales farmer Anthony Bradley, with support from Heather Whalley of the Ribble Rivers Trust, took participants on a four-mile walk, which facilitated a fascinating examination of how and why carbon is stored within the soil. Heather also touched on the complexities of balancing the needs of the rivers and the land. For information about future guided walks see our events page or sign up to the e-news at [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk).



August's farm walk. Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

## Spreading the Word about Friends of the Dales

It's good to talk and so we have been working hard at reaching many more people over the last few months and spreading the word about our campaigns. We hope you might have caught sight of some of our recent features, which have made the pages of various regional and local publications including *Yorkshire Life* and *Living North*.



Victoria Benn reading *Yorkshire Life* outside the office at Gargrave

## Plastic-Free Dales Campaign

We are delighted that the Woodland Trust has announced that it will no longer use new, single-use plastic tree guards on its land from the end of 2021. We welcome the trust's commitment to this important environmental issue as we have been actively campaigning against single-use plastics in the Dales for the last two years. We also hope that this public commitment, along with its ongoing research into finding viable alternatives, hastens the end of the widespread and often negligent use of plastic in tree planting.

The Woodland Trust is also part of the Forestry Plastics Working Group, which aims to reduce plastics across the whole of the forestry and conservation sector. Members include the Forestry Commission, National Trust, Scottish Forestry, Confederation of Forest Industries UK and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.



Joe Middleton, Site Manager (South West) for the Woodland Trust, with some of the alternatives to plastic tubes being trialled by the trust. Courtesy of the Woodland Trust

## New Business Member

ideostone

ideostone is a small Skipton-based business providing on-line and face-to-face courses, training and mentoring in environmental literacy - giving people, and organisations, better knowledge and understanding of the benefits we gain from our environment and, conversely, the harm we are causing it. It strongly believes that knowing more about the world we live in will lead to us enhancing rather than degrading the environment in which we live and work.



## Briggs Bros Colour Printers

This edition of the *Yorkshire Dales Review* will be the final one produced in partnership with Briggs Bros (Silsden) Ltd. Very sadly the business will be closing for economic reasons in autumn 2021. Briggs has worked with us for 10 years, refreshing the look and feel of our magazine to become even more of a 'flagship' publication. All of the team have been unfailingly helpful and supportive, particularly during the additional challenges of restrictions in 2020/2021. Special thanks go to Tony Lee and Phill Newsome (Directors) and graphic designer Michael Spencer.



## Freeing Dales of Plastic

Congratulations to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust which, as part of its Plastic-Free Woodland project, sent off 20,000 redundant tubes for recycling. (Some of these were collected by Friends of the Dales members – see the summer 2021 issue of the *Review*). Another 20,000 are due to be collected and recycled by the end of the year.

### Did You Know?

The poorest 45% of humanity produces 7% of CO2 emissions; the richest 7% produces 50%. It's estimated that 1/6 of the world's population contributes close to zero greenhouse gas emissions!

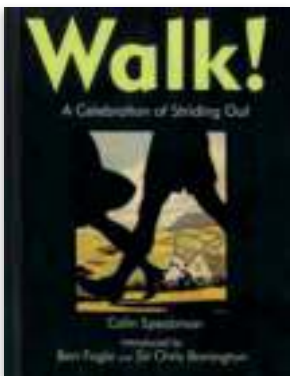
## Protecting Our Peatlands

Our fragile uplands are at the forefront of the fight against climate change and we are committed to ensuring that their conservation is not overlooked in favour of more media-friendly measures such as tree planting.

We will soon be adopting a peatlands policy to help us campaign for the protection and restoration of these vital carbon sinks. This will be posted on our website alongside statements on other important Dales issues such as energy, farming, forestry and woodland, housing, sustainable development and wildlife and biodiversity. All these policies will be subject to review in the light of the climate emergency.

We have also contributed to an important Campaign for National Parks report that looks at the measures currently being taken in England and Wales and calls for further action. Recommendations include reviewing and potentially removing permitted development rights in protected landscapes. The *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* full and summary reports can be downloaded at [www.cnp.org.uk/ClimateReport2021](http://www.cnp.org.uk/ClimateReport2021)

## Last Chance to Buy



*Walk! A Celebration of Striding Out* (2011) by Colin Speakman traces the connection between the writings of the great 19th-century Romantic poets and thinkers and Britain's national parks and long-distance walking. Colin has 40 signed copies of this long-out-of-print book, which you can purchase for £10 (inclusive of p&p and a £1 donation to the Campaign for National Parks). *John Phillips, Yorkshire's Traveller Through Time*

(2020), also by Colin Speakman, is also now available at the special price of £10 (inc p&p). To order visit [www.gritstonecoop.co.uk](http://www.gritstonecoop.co.uk) or email [colinspeakman@btinternet.com](mailto:colinspeakman@btinternet.com). Either or both would make a great Christmas gift.

## Meet and Greet Campaign

Several of our trustees and volunteers have been out and about over the summer months, spreading awareness of Friends of the Dales and who we are and what we do, as well as highlighting our key 2021 environmental campaigns. Pictured here is Membership and Events officer Victoria Benn with long-standing volunteer Bernard Peel, just prior to his successful Meet and Greet at Malham Tarn in August.



## Bus Back Better

A new National Bus Strategy entitled Bus Back Better was published earlier this year. It aims to get more people travelling by bus, but this will not be achieved unless buses are made a practical and attractive alternative to the car for more people.

Each local authority is tasked with submitting a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to the Department for Transport by the end of October. Friends of the Dales, together with our subsidiary Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company (D&BCIC), have supported CPRE North Yorkshire and Action for Yorkshire Transport in drafting a series of recommendations for inclusion in North Yorkshire County Council's plan. These proposals can be found in the "Better Buses for North Yorkshire" paper on our website at [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org), and include improved connectivity, increased capacity, the development of tourist services, improved infrastructure, simpler, more affordable fares and improved information and publicity.

We are particularly keen that the plan includes the restoration of funding from the county council for the DalesBus services managed by D&BCIC, which have become overly dependent on short-term fundraising in recent years. This is important to ensure that these services can be maintained and developed in the future, for the benefit of Dales residents, local businesses and visitors to the area, as well as helping to tackle the climate emergency.

Members can help by urgently voicing their support for these recommendations to their local county councillors.

Paul Chattwood, Dales & Bowland CIC



Sunday DalesBus services connecting at Grassington

# Homes Fit for the Future?



Views of Lilac Grove cohousing project. Photo courtesy of the LILAC project

**Changing the homes we live in is one of the key challenges in tackling the climate emergency. The UK's 30 million homes account for about 15% of all carbon emissions through their use of oil and gas for heating and hot water. If we are to take the dire and blunt warnings of the international scientific community seriously then we have 10 years to really turn things around. This is across every sector in our society, including new-build and existing housing. The task laid out by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is to reach net zero emissions by the 2050s and reduce them by at least half over the next decade. This really is an unprecedented task.**

But here's the good news: this can all be done – but we have to act fast. And, it has to happen everywhere – cities, towns and countryside. So what does this mean, in particular what does it mean for a special and protected place like the Yorkshire Dales?

It means big changes for new-build and existing homes and it also means big changes in terms of how we live in them, what our communities are like, where we get our shopping and how we travel around.

## Starting From Scratch

First, let's consider new builds. We are all familiar with new-build housing estates cropping up across our country. Many people are, understandably, opposed to these. They are often delivered at high cost and to poor environmental standards, take up pristine green belt land, look rather anonymous, attract car-based commuters and push up local house prices. They are often delivered by firms more interested in shareholder profits than local community issues. Yet it doesn't have to be like this.

A community-led housing sector ([www.communityledhomes.org.uk](http://www.communityledhomes.org.uk)) has emerged to put local people in control of the supply of new housing. Using community land trusts ([www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk)), new housing is built according to local need, remains affordable in perpetuity and houses people from the local area. Communities are also using the Danish-inspired Cohousing ([cohousing.org.uk](http://cohousing.org.uk)) model, which builds in neighbourliness

and creates beautiful, safe areas that are less car-based. The task is to make sure all new builds are as close to zero carbon as possible, are energy- and water-efficient, reduce dependency on the car, build in walking and cycling infrastructure along with options for local food growing and home working. Such considerations help to build in local wellbeing and jobs and tackle climate change. It's a win-win.

## Working With What We've Got

In terms of existing houses, the task is to urgently retrofit our housing stock through better insulation and zero carbon forms of heat such as air source heat pumps. This is a huge task and is made more difficult not least because of the lack of skills and finance, but also the variety of local housing. Nevertheless, models for mass retrofit are emerging such as Energiesprong ([energiesprong.org](http://energiesprong.org)) from the Netherlands and the retrofitWorks project ([retrofitworks.co.uk](http://retrofitworks.co.uk)) in the north of England. One solution would be to set up a retrofit college in the Yorkshire Dales to train local people to take on this massive retrofit housing project. Cooperative and community-led businesses could undertake the work, recycling money back into local communities. Additionally, solar clubs could help pool resources to install solar PV and thermal units to provide free electricity and hot water for many months of the year.

We have incorporated many of these features into the LILAC (Low Impact Living Affordable Community) housing project ([www.lilac.coop](http://www.lilac.coop)) in Leeds, where I currently live, and which I helped to set up. The use of natural, high-insulating materials such as straw and lime, as well as reduced car use, home composting, vegetarian diets, water-saving and bulk food purchasing has achieved energy reductions of one third compared to a typical UK house. This really helps reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. LILAC uses a cooperative model of ownership where the value of the homes is linked to average wages rather than market value, making homes permanently affordable for future residents. A Cohousing design approach which increases shared spaces means that neighbours regularly meet, increasing a sense of community, sharing and wellbeing.

LILAC opening ceremony 2013. Photo courtesy of the LILAC project



**Less than 4%**  
zero-energy housing in the UK

Views of Lilac Grove cohousing project. Photo courtesy of the LILAC project

## Rethinking Naturally

The housing challenge for the Yorkshire Dales in the next 10 years is huge. We need to preserve what works and change what doesn't. Most of the existing stock needs better insulation as a priority and gas boilers to be replaced with heat pumps or electric heating. A coherent and ample government grant programme will be key to this, but

that is a long way off. If new housing is community-led there's likely to be less local opposition. The new homes we build need to be high-density, near local services, making them less car-dependent, and with ample green space for leisure and food growing. This may seem like a new approach to housing compared to the existing housing stock in the Dales; it might also mean different, modern and Scandinavian designs incorporating more natural materials - especially those that offer job creation, strength, lower cost and higher insulating properties like straw and lime. But surely this feels fitting for such a natural place that will be moving more towards landscape restoration and rewilding in the years to come?

So let's hold on to the vision of zero-carbon, nature-based, community-led and affordable housing for the Yorkshire Dales by the 2030s. That would be fitting for God's Own Country.

Prof Paul Chatterton, University of Leeds

# Climate Breakdown in Picturing the

**This article was prompted by a recent talk to our policy and planning committee by Richard Boothman of local environmental learning organisation *ideostone*, which is one of our new business members. Richard's talk was intended to help with discussions about climate change policy and he has written this article to extend the debate to the wider membership.**

Most people are now aware of 'climate change' but few people fully understand what this means for us, individually and as members of society. Part of this is to do with terminology. 'Climate change' implies something gradual, manageable and potentially beneficial. It will be none of these things.

Changes in our climate, experienced as severe and extreme weather events, are arriving more often and with greater severity. As changes happen, we run the risk that we will reach a series of tipping points. Tipping points are thresholds that, if crossed, cause a system to change from one state to another. Our climate system, which has been in equilibrium for several hundred years, is now rapidly entering a different state. This new state is much less benign and heat, rainfall and wind are manifesting as drought, floods, intense storms and wildfires, which are becoming unmanageable. The climate system as we have known it is breaking down, so I prefer to use the term 'climate breakdown'. I make this point because words matter and what we call this massive shift in our climate system will determine how we act.



Slei Gill near Langthwaite. Photo courtesy of YDNPA



# the Dales Future

## Nine Years From Now

The world is experiencing climate breakdown and the Dales will not be immune to these changes. While we cannot manage the changes, we do need to manage our response to them. This depends on being able to identify what we want the Dales to be like in future and to develop policies to achieve this outcome.

With this in mind, I invited the committee to take some time to try to visualise the Dales in 2030 in terms of landscape, people, industry and business, housing and biodiversity. Since the talk some committee members have shared their ideas. Some were surprising and thought-provoking, especially in relation to social issues as the contributions on this page show. To develop this idea further I would like to invite you, in your own time, to undertake a similar exercise.

Find somewhere quiet, set a timer for three minutes and close your eyes. Try to visualise what you would like the Dales to be like in 2030 with the proviso that 'just as they are now' is not an option. If you would like to share your ideas with me and members of the policy committee, please do so by contacting Friends of the Dales in the usual way. Your ideas and input will help as we develop a policy on climate breakdown.

*The first ten members to respond will be offered free access to an ideostone online training course in climate breakdown or environmental literacy.*

Richard Boothman



Two of our trustees share their vision for the Dales in 2030

## A Wilder Future

- The moorlands a lot 'wilder', with more diverse vegetation including leggy heather and scrub and more trees on side slopes (largely from natural regeneration)
- Fewer areas managed for grouse shooting; more areas managed for wildlife, thus attracting wildlife holidays as well as casual visitors
- The Dales with an international reputation for its abundant wildlife, as well as its historic landscapes and geological features
- Swathes of species-rich meadows and pastures in the valleys (not the isolated fields that we have now), with well-managed, flower-rich verges
- Less traffic...more access by a system of shuttle buses, as well as rail; continued emphasis on walkers, with limits on 'honeypots'
- Communities with a shared sense of valuing their landscapes and wildlife and helping others to understand and enjoy them
- Eco-friendly businesses/ live-work spaces/more working from home, so less commuting

Nancy Stedman

## Pioneering New Ways of Working

- Demonstrable leadership in nature recovery including increased tree cover, sensitively planted and actively managed, attracting sustainable tourism based on closeness to nature, tranquillity and all of our special qualities
- A thriving centre for digital business... a designated and promoted 'Digital Dale' (our Silicon Valley) served by world-class broadband, carbon-neutral buildings etc
- A University of the Dales with a stunning campus, perhaps established at Sedbergh, recognised for excellence in environmental management, cultural landscapes etc
- The Dales acknowledged as a centre of excellence for land management in the uplands, showcasing innovative farming practices and active cooperation between landowners/farmers
- A regional centre for wellbeing established in partnership with the NHS, perhaps on the site of Dales Dairies in Grassington
- Increased train services and a network of electric buses

Mark Corner

# Standing Out a Mile?

Large, new agricultural sheds can be highly prominent developments in the national park landscape. To what extent are the current planning rules and design guidelines still fit for purpose, given increased concerns around sustainability, alternative energy production, farm viability and the climate emergency? As a campaigning charity we'll be seeking to develop our own understanding of this complex area, so we are better informed on how to lobby and support.

Some new agricultural buildings are considered under the permitted development rule. The majority go through a more detailed process of prior approval or full planning permission, which offers the opportunity for us (and others) to comment on design and siting. Factors such as roof materials and colour, the amount of planting for screening and external light pollution are considered within the existing design guidelines but are these guidelines still fit for purpose? Some agricultural buildings seem to fit well into the landscape (see photo) but others appear more prominent and problematic.

For example, given the national park's recent designation as an International Dark Sky Reserve, do the rules on external lighting go far enough? Could more emphasis be put on roof-mounted solar panels? Are there newer, more sustainable building materials that should be encouraged? To what extent will large sheds be part of a viable upland farmed landscape in the future?

These are the sorts of questions our policy and planning committee intends to look at in detail with the help of informed experts. If you have a view or would like to make a contribution, please get in touch (contact details on page 2).

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director



New agricultural building, Birk Rigg. Photo courtesy of Kyle Blue

# Designs for Life

It's great to see cutting-edge, sustainable, eco-building designs being proposed for the Yorkshire Dales. Here, Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer, takes a look at two award-winning proposed projects:



Linton Camp as it stands today.  
Photo courtesy of *Craven Herald*



Linton eco-hotel artist's impression.  
Graphic courtesy of *Craven Herald*

## Linton Hotel and Leisure Park

The proposal for the site just outside the village of Linton had previously been subject to several failed planning processes. We raised several concerns about the scheme, especially with regard to its 'scale in a location with minor roads' and its 'proposed planting, which will introduce non-native species more appropriate to urban locations'. After further and ongoing dialogue between planners and the local community the basic design was approved, created by Perth-based Trail Architects, which won the Architecture - Future Building or Project award in the Scottish Design Awards for the project.

## Flexible Housing Concept - Horton-in-Ribblesdale

Great Place: Lakes & Dales (GPLD) is one of 16 pilot projects funded by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It ran a design competition in 2019 in collaboration with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to attract architects from around the world to bring their innovative thinking to designing flexible housing for the site in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, which would particularly appeal to young people and draw them to the Yorkshire Dales and South Lakes. The photos show the winning design by McMullan Studio. The planning proposal for a mixture of open-market and affordable dwellings for the site received comments from us in relation to the road safety of the site and the lack of connective pavements. This planning application is still in process.

Linton eco-hotel artist's impression.  
Graphic courtesy of *Craven Herald*



The Flexstead Interior.  
Graphic by McMullan Studio

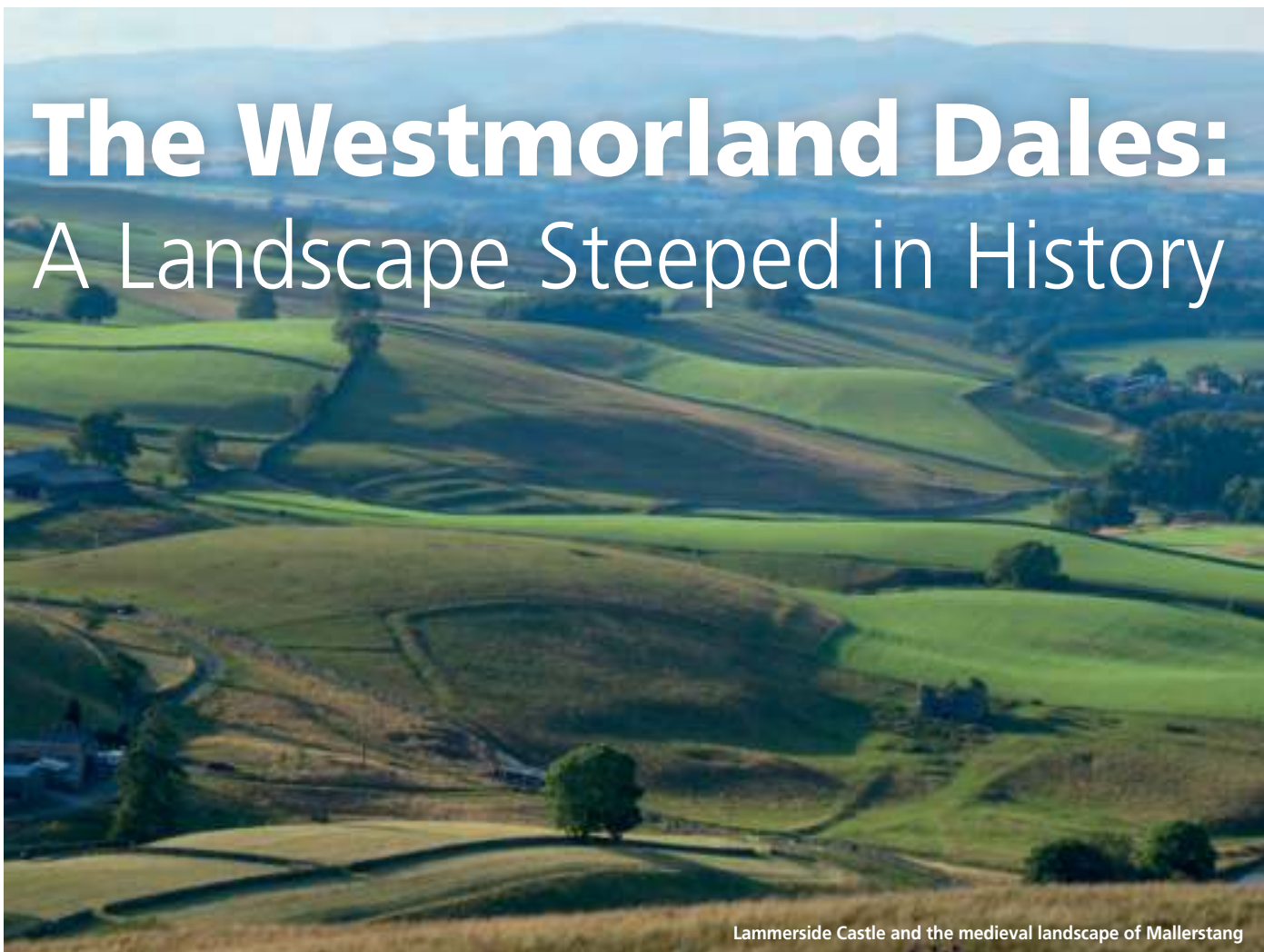


The Flexstead Exterior.  
Graphic by McMullan Studio



The Flexstead.  
Graphic by McMullan Studio

# The Westmorland Dales: A Landscape Steeped in History



Lammerside Castle and the medieval landscape of Mallerstang

**The extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 2016 increased its area by 24% but the number of scheduled monuments by 47%, the great majority of these in the Westmorland Dales area.**

The ancient county of Westmorland took its name from 'the people west of the moors' in the kingdom of Northumbria, some 1,400 years ago. Created in 1133, the original county was confined to the Eden Valley but soon afterwards the Barony of Kendal was added. This enlarged boundary remained until the creation of Cumbria in 1974.

However, the history of the area precedes the county's creation in 1133. Many people believe the Westmorland Dales to be the richest prehistoric archaeological area north of Salisbury Plain. The area has a unique assemblage of cultural heritage including a remarkably intact pattern of historic settlements (like Castle Folds, the Romano-British settlement) and associated earthworks, as well as prehistoric stone circles (as at Gamelands near Orton), cairns and burials mounds.

The Westmorland Dales in numbers:

- **Seven conservation areas**
- **150 listed buildings**  
six grade I, 17 grade II\*, 127 grade 2
- **80 scheduled monuments**

## Witnesses to the Past

Many villages in the Westmorland Dales bear the clear imprint of their medieval origins in their layouts, field patterns and ploughing rigs. In addition, Mallerstang has a particularly interesting medieval landscape, which includes Wharton Hall, Lammerside Castle and Pendragon Castle. All of these were sites of manorial status. The fortunes of the different estates were constantly changing during this period and local rivalries surfaced at many points.

Significant areas of the Westmorland Dales were granges for monasteries such as Byland Abbey and Shap Abbey. In addition, Ravenstonedale has a scheduled monument near the current parish church: this monument was a cell of the Gilbertine canons of Whatton. It was founded in 1366 and in use until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. (The Gilbertine order is thought to be the only order to originate in England.)

It is not possible to talk about the Yorkshire Dales or Cumbria without also dwelling on their farming and industrial heritage, and this is no different in the Westmorland Dales. As a whole, the architecture of the Westmorland Dales is vernacular, and the villages are dominated by farms. In the last couple of hundred years, it has predominantly been a pastoral landscape, with bank barns dotting the fields, enclosed by dry stone walls, and much of the upland is unenclosed common. The landscape is also marked with small quarries and lime kilns that have played an important part in the fertility of the pastures and the area's built history.



Smardalegill Viaduct

All photos courtesy of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme



Gamelands Stone Circle

## Remote But Not Isolated

The Westmorland Dales have been passed through or passed by from prehistoric times to the present day. The connectedness of this area has shaped the landscape and is still very visible today. The Romans built a road through the Lune Gorge, a line now followed by the M6. It runs north over Crosby Ravensworth Fell, until it meets the other major Roman road that came from Stainmore and Brough (what is now the A66). The basis of much of the road network we see today in the Westmorland Dales is the turnpike roads built between 1759 and 1767.

These roads tend to be straight and of a standard width with grass verges on either side, reflecting the regular pattern of the adjacent fields. Prior to this most goods would have been moved round by packhorse, with a complex number of tracks linking one settlement with another. This pattern persists in today's extensive (124km) network of bridleways across the area.

The Westmorland Dales also have an important railway heritage. The main West Coast Line to Scotland runs along the western edge of the area. It follows the line of the first railway to open in the area, the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, in 1846. The South Durham and Lancashire Union Railway, now called 'the Stainmore Line', followed in 1861. This line ran through the heart of the Westmorland Dales, including over the viaduct at Smardale. The two lines met at Tebay, which grew up as a railway settlement, and has a distinctive railway church. The third line to pass through the east of the area is the Settle-

Carlisle Railway, which did not open until 1875 but is still operational. Friends of the Dales were among the organisations successfully campaigning against British Rail's plans to close the line in 1983.

Despite this known archaeological resource, much of the area is yet to be uncovered. The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme, which is primarily funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, consists of 21 projects, ten of which are focused on revealing the area's cultural heritage. You can find out more about the scheme at [www.thewestmorlanddales.org.uk](http://www.thewestmorlanddales.org.uk). One project recently completed was a level 1 archaeological survey of Great Asby Scar. Previously, there were 59 known sites, and now there are over 1,200.

*This article was written by Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Cultural Heritage Officer Hannah Kingsbury based on information researched by a number of people connected with the organisation.*



# Green Lanes

## Have We Got It Right in the Dales?

**Fifteen years after the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act included legal powers for national park authorities to tackle problems resulting from the use of unsurfaced tracks by motor bikes and 4x4 vehicles, some national parks are currently subject to increasing disputes about such usage. Below Dr Malcolm Petyt explores the topic further, drawing on his experience as first Chairman (2006-2012) of the Green Lanes Advisory Group.**

Before 2006 the Yorkshire Dales had suffered more than most areas from conflict and complaints about damage to track surfaces, archaeology and nature conservation, disturbance to tranquillity, and danger to users of all types. In the following years the national park authority took immediate action and made itself the 'test bed' for the new legislation. It set up the Green Lanes Advisory Group (GLAG), which included representatives from vehicle user and other recreational groups, landowners and highway authorities (the two county councils).

The GLAG looked at all the 55 routes it found were used by recreational motor traffic, and considered very detailed reports on all aspects of 31 of these that were judged to be highly sensitive. It carried out several stages of consultation with local communities, user groups and other interested bodies. It then gave advice to the authority on what it thought should be done for each route: this ranged from 'no action' through 'repair/maintain' to full closure to recreational motorised usage. In the majority of cases, although its members ranged from those who would prefer no restrictions to those who would like to see all recreational motorised use excluded from national parks, the group reached consensus.

### Protecting Sensitive Routes

The GLAG was only an advisory group. The national park authority, through its access committee, considered this advice and made the decision on what course to take. It decided to place full Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) on a small number of sensitive routes, which had important wildlife and/or archaeological interest, and/or where use significantly undermined tranquillity. It left others to be repaired and/or monitored at regular intervals, with further action being possible if judged necessary in the light of experience.

This was where the national park authority became the 'guinea pig' for the use of the new powers. Its first group of TROs were challenged in the High Court. The judge ruled against the authority, essentially on a legal technicality of procedure in decision-making. He quashed some of the orders and awarded costs against the authority. The cost of the High Court action to YDNPA was some

£50,000, but it is to its credit that it pressed forward and remade one order where use by recreational motor traffic had been reinstated (others had since been proven to have no such rights). It thus showed the way for all other national parks, and we can be proud that it has taken this pioneering role.

Where are we now? In general the orders have been observed, with 97% compliance and the reports and complaints recorded by the national park authority about our 'green lanes' have largely dried up. Although some bodies continue to advocate a ban on all motorised use of unsurfaced routes in national parks as a matter of principle, and at the other extreme some user groups would like to see restrictions removed, we have reached a state of equilibrium: motor bikes and 4x4s still have a network of routes they can use, while walkers and cyclists find much less to deplore.

Malcolm Petyt, Vice President and former chairman of our Policy & Planning Committee



Photo courtesy of Amy-Jane Beer

# Are Conversions the Best Way to Conserve?

**The national park authority is currently reviewing its Local Plan and is holding consultations on particularly contentious sections. We recently responded to the fourth consultation, which covers local occupancy issues and barn conversions. We have particular concerns about the number and location of barn conversions that have been approved under the current policy.**

We very much support the fact that, by adopting a conservation policy, the authority is trying to find a way of conserving the many unused barns that form such a feature of the Dales landscape. However, we believe that the large number of approvals, many of them for conversion of barns in isolated and remote locations, is having an undesirable impact on the quality of that landscape, as well as raising questions about sustainability.

We do not think that the conversion of isolated and remote field barns is appropriate. Conversion is not just about the barn: it is also about the subsequent effects. These include general suburbanisation of the rural landscape, provision of overhead services and clutter within the curtilages. Then there is the generation of yet more traffic and increased demand for support services such as refuse collection and medical care. All these impacts are in conflict with both the purpose of national park designation to protect and enhance the landscape, and the sustainability policies already contained within the Local Plan.

## Witnesses to the Past

Then there is the historical significance of the barn itself to consider, as well as its location within the local landscape. Its structure and features, as well as its location, reveal much about the past land uses and activities. We think that only conversion proposals that genuinely retain the historical integrity of the barn, its surrounds and its contribution to the landscape should be permitted. Small, simple field barns can have as much value in their place in the landscape as some of the more complex and historically significant ones.

Converting a barn is not cheap. Extra works are often required, for instance to underpin foundations, provide services and protect historic features. This means that they go onto the market at a high asking price, a price that is only slightly reduced by the local occupancy condition. So as a policy it is not necessarily effective in providing for the needs of local people in an area where incomes are low but external demand is pushing house prices up.

We welcome the conditions that are applied to permitted conversions, covering issues such as light pollution and removing permitted development rights. These go some way towards reducing the visual impacts but it is essential that the agreed plans and conditions are then enforced.

Nancy Stedman, member of Policy & Planning Committee

# Capturing the Past of our Built Heritage

It's hard to comprehend that the human race began to create the built landscape nearly 6,000 years ago. The megalithic temples of Malta are considered to be the oldest free-standing structures on earth, dating back to between 3,600 and 700 BC, and the oldest house in the UK at Knap of Howar on the island of Papa Westray in Orkney, Scotland, is a Neolithic farmstead that even retains its original stone furniture. Here in the Yorkshire Dales there is also much to appreciate, learn about and protect, which is why we set up Capturing the Past, a scheme originally funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Stories in Stone project and which is still managed and supported by us.

The Dales Community Archive's Capturing the Past website is an online portal to more than 25 historical archives chronicling various aspects of the social, working and community life of the Yorkshire Dales over the last 10,000 years through documents, photographs, deeds, maps, drawings and diaries. The earliest records are courtesy of the Ingleborough Archaeology Group, which has been involved in a broad range of excavations, ranging from a nineteenth-century industrial building within the Ribblesdale construction camps to a Romano-British settlement near Ingletton and a Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) site at Kingsdale Head.

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century collections include comprehensive details of Austwick Hall including the history of the hall, Austwick township and the refurbishment of Clapham church.

There is also a set of drawings made by former *The Dalesman* editor and author Bill Mitchell, comprising many aspects of the local landscape, from buildings to farming features. The drawings are valuable as a record of many items such as cisterns, troughs, pantry shelves, roofing, flooring, barn boskins, beeboles, clapper bridges, and walling – with useful dimensions added.

Finally, one of the external archives linked to the website is that of Linton Camp School, originally built by the National Camps Corporation as a countryside

school for city children, because they otherwise might not have had the opportunity to experience countryside and nature. With the onset of the Second World War in 1939 the school, along with other national camps, was utilised for evacuees. Following the war, it reverted to its original purpose before finally closing its gates in 1986. As the site now stands on the brink of transformation into a 5\* eco-hotel (see page 11), it is reassuring to know that many of the camp's stories and photographs have been saved digitally.

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

Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer



# Following in Morrison's Footsteps



Walter Morrison. Photo courtesy of Kirkby Malham Parish Hall

**Walter Morrison is one of Yorkshire's unsung heroes – but The Folly at Settle is running a festival of events and exhibitions including a trail and cycling routes to celebrate the life and landscapes of this great philanthropist and campaigner until 23 December 2021. Heritage Development Officer at the Museum of North Craven Life Caitlin Greenwood set out to explore the paths and landmarks that he knew so well.**

There are few I know of from our history who better deserve the name 'Friend of the Dales' than Walter Morrison. Like many of us, Morrison was not from Yorkshire. He was born in London and came here as an adult. *Unlike* many of us, his father bought him an estate (Malham Tarn House and 12,000 acres), which was to become Morrison's 'mountain home' for the rest of his life.

Morrison worked hard to improve Dales life. He built new farmhouses, a new inn (The Buck Inn, Malham) and two new schools for local children. His desire to improve lives was not limited to the Dales, either. He became MP for Skipton, campaigned for education for all children in Britain and invested in London companies that provided good housing to the poor.

In his obituary, it was written *'the Craven country, which mattered more to him than the inside of any house, was exactly suited to his habits of mind and body. He was a great walker all his life... Up and down these hills Morrison tramped incessantly long after he had passed the allotted span, and it was common enough of an autumn evening, ... to see him setting off afoot for home across the hills after a day that was quite enough for younger men.'*

## His Monuments All Around

On a grey Sunday, I set out to follow in the footsteps of Walter Morrison. The 'Way' begins in Coniston Cold, where the modern walker can find public transport, and proceeds to Old Station in Bell Busk, where Morrison himself arrived from London. Not quite such keen walkers as Morrison, we began our trek at Kirkby Malham. On Sundays, Morrison and his household walked the six miles here to church. On the way back they rode in the carriage while he walked.



Cowgill Barn. Photo courtesy of Clive Lane

From Kirkby Malham, we crossed fields towards Malham, before leaving via an old green lane. The crowds fell away almost instantly as we passed Cowgill Barn (a Morrison construction) and climbed up to the tarn. The fantastic views across the cove famously inspired Morrison's friend Charles Kingsley to write *The Water Babies*. Tarn House itself is run by Field Studies Council and currently closed to the public.

From Tarn House, we headed west across Malham Moor, high and desolate. We passed Victoria Cave (Morrison was so proud of the discoveries there that he gave public lectures on them as far away as Plymouth) and the defunct Attermire Rifle Range (built by Morrison for the Settle Volunteers in 1860), before cresting the hill and beginning to descend into Settle, with the dome of Giggleswick School Chapel (paid for entirely by Morrison) resplendent in the distance.

As we enjoyed a welcome pint, I thought that walking truly is the best way to remember him. His body may be buried at St Michael's in Kirkby Malham, but his heart and soul are everywhere we look.

Above Attermire. Photo courtesy of Eileen Greenwood





Morrison's simple headstone at St Michael the Archangel, Kirkby Malham. Photo courtesy of Robin Bundy



The Walter Morrison Way is a 17-mile route, which we recommend doing in two stages, from Coniston Cold to Malham, and from Malham to Giggleswick.

You can buy a copy at The Folly or download one from our website at [www.thefolly.org.uk/walter-morrison-festival/the-walter-morrison-way](http://www.thefolly.org.uk/walter-morrison-festival/the-walter-morrison-way) The routes are covered in OS Explorer OL2 Map of the Yorkshire Dales – Southern and Western Area Wherside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent.

For more information on the festival visit [www.thefolly.org.uk/walter-morrison-festival](http://www.thefolly.org.uk/walter-morrison-festival)

For details of bus services to Coniston Cold visit [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org)

Caitlin Greenwood

Unknown shooting party, Attermire. Photo courtesy of Museum of North Craven Life



Caitlin and her fellow walkers. Photo courtesy of Eileen Greenwood



## Rain: Bryan and Mary M Talbot | £16.99

I haven't read many graphic novels before, but *Rain* was an engaging read. It is set around Hebden Bridge and Halifax, and takes us on a three-year journey from 2012 up until the Boxing Day floods of 2015. We follow the story of Cathy through her growing relationship with Mitch and her gradual realisation that we must do more if we are going to be able to save our planet. I enjoyed this novel because it conveys an important message and the illustrations helped bring to life the emotions and change in the characters over time.

The novel focuses on one particular small campaign that Mitch is part of to 'Bring Back our Bog', where they want to stop the heather burning on the grouse moor, and return it to peatland. Different points of view are shown on how the peatland should be managed, from Mitch's environmental side to the gamekeeper's shooting side but also Cathy and her dad's middle-ground stance, which is that the grouse shooting has been a sport for so long that the land being managed in that way is just seen as traditional.

From the book we learn how much the managed grouse moors affect the plant and animal biodiversity that could instead be in the peat bogs. The flood risk downstream is increased too by the mismanaged land, as the blanket bog dries out due to constant burning and drainage ditches. This foreshadows the horrendous floods on Boxing Day 2015, and emphasises how much we need nature.

However, all the environmentalists in the book recognise that the problem reaches further than Yorkshire and that everyone is affected, especially with climate change and the carbon emissions that mismanaged land can produce. There are larger campaigns that the environmentalists attend, which are shown to make a real difference when everyone is in it together.

I would recommend *Rain* as it begins by showing a balanced view of climate change and biodiversity loss, but then the characters change and begin to make a difference to their lives for the better. Though the characters are fictional, the storyline is true, and it contains little things that we could all do to live more sustainably. Their little successes against the bigger issues give hope amidst the problems, and show that it is not too late to act.

Tabitha Brown

# Meeting a Community Need at Zion

Friends of the Dales recognise that changes in population, mobility and religious observance lead to some places of worship becoming unviable. These buildings have served a community for many years and are an important part of the cultural heritage of an area. We support their sympathetic and imaginative conversion to new uses, provided that changes do not obscure important traces of their former use. Zion Chapel, donated to the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust (NCBPT) in 2018, is a good example of a former religious building with exciting potential for a range of future uses. Here, Heather Lane, Chair of the North Craven Building Preservation Trust, offers an insight into its plans.

Zion Chapel, built in 1816 and Grade II listed, stands in a prominent position in upper Settle. In its heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the chapel was at the heart of community life, providing a variety of educational and social activities in addition to its religious function. Detailed records, including registers, bills, photographs and magazines, spanning over 200 years, were gifted to NCBPT by the Zion trustees and others. These valuable archives are housed nearby at The Folly (also owned and managed by NCBPT) and can be viewed by appointment.

Recently, NCBPT carried out a community consultation on potential uses for the chapel and adjacent hall. This was part of a project viability study submitted to the Architectural Heritage Fund in September 2021. Whatever the future use, funds will be needed for urgent renovations to the fabric of the buildings and improvements such as installing a renewable heating source. Constructing a new link building with a lift would offer access to all levels of the hall and chapel.

One popular suggestion is the conversion of the chapel into a performance and meeting space, available for hire. The adjoining hall could be developed as a state-of-the-art archival storage facility, with a fully equipped study centre providing access to the archives for any



Zion Chapel 2018. Costing £300 to construct in 1816, Zion Chapel was one of the earliest places of worship to be built in Settle. There was no parish church in the town until 1838 as Settle was a part of the ancient parish of Giggleswick.

All photos courtesy of NCBPT

members of the public wanting to research their family history. Storage space could also be made available to other local history archives and collections.

To provide your feedback or offer support to the Zion project, please contact [enquiries@ncbpt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ncbpt.org.uk) or visit [www.thefolly.org.uk](http://www.thefolly.org.uk) for further details.

For further information on the history of the Zion Chapel, please see the article by Anne Read in the NCHT Journal: [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk/NCHTJ2019/2019/Zion/index.html](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk/NCHTJ2019/2019/Zion/index.html)

Heather Lane, Honorary Curator, Museum of North Craven Life



Sunday School outing. Sunday schools provided a broad education; children were encouraged to write and perform plays and to explore the local area, conduct scientific experiments and write up their discoveries. Two of Zion's most famous sons were the Revd Benjamin Waugh, who founded the NSPCC, and Dr James Riley, whose ground-breaking work on mast cells led to the development of antihistamines.



Gallery with organ. The interior of the chapel was completely refitted in the early 1870s, when a schoolroom was added, which also served as a hall with a stage for entertainments. Numerous social activities contributed to the funds raised for all aspects of Zion's work, including missionary work.

# Build It and They Will Stay

**The loss of children and working-age families threatens the future of communities across the Dales but in the north of the national park one community is fighting back. Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong explains how councillors in Dentdale are taking action to meet the need for affordable local housing.**

Dent with Cowgill parish, although in Cumbria, is a traditional Dales community, dependent on farming and tourism: we appreciate the income that tourism businesses bring to the dale but we are extremely concerned about the sustainability of our community.

Dentdale has 795 residents in 350 households,, with a lower proportion of children and a higher proportion of people of pensionable age than the rest of Cumbria. Without more working-age people and families with children living in the dale, our school is at risk of closure and vital services such as our village shop and pubs could become unviable.

Anecdotally, and instinctively, the parish council knew that developing suitable housing would be a vital part of keeping this community alive.

In the main street of the village, only a handful of houses are occupied full time; by my estimate around 70% are second homes or holiday lets. Twenty per cent of houses in the dale lack central heating and ten households are officially overcrowded.

Several houses have come onto the market in the last couple of years but not been sold to local residents for occupation. The sellers report that local buyers say that they are out of their price range or are not suitable for modern residential needs. The traditional Dales houses in the village are small, with small rooms, rarely have outside space and are challenging to heat and maintain. The larger houses in the dale are too expensive.

## Community Action

The parish council decided to find out what the true level of housing need was in the dale. We designed a survey and distributed it to every household. We included questions to identify if residents had unsuitable housing, but also to find out if they knew of others outside the dale who would like to live here but were unable to find appropriate housing. Of the responses received, twenty households expressed housing need, varying from smaller flats through to accessible housing and larger family houses with outside space.

In the Local Plan for the national park, two fields on the edge of Dent village have been identified for several years as allocated sites for development, and one has even been for sale for a while, but no interest has been shown by developers. It seemed clear that to get any affordable and local occupancy housing built, the community needed to take action. The parish council decided to fund the initial stages of establishing a community interest company to get the ball rolling. We have joined the Community Land Trust Network, opened a bank account and are preparing our constitution. We have sought support and advice from South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria Action for Communities.

We have approached the landowner of one of the allocated sites and it is considering a transfer of the land. As a result of this activity a housing association has contacted us with a view to developing this site. Another landowner has also indicated that it might consider development on an alternative site.

We are holding public meetings in Dent Memorial Hall, to share our plans and hopes with the community and we hope this will enable us to recruit further members to the board. We welcome anyone with experience, expertise or enthusiasm for this project. We are aware that this is likely to be a slow and challenging process but we believe that it is vital to the future viability of this Dales community.

Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong, Chair, Dent with Cowgill Parish Council

**1/3**

Average house price in the Dales is about 1/3 higher than the County average





# Glover Review What Now?

Avid readers of the *Review* may recall that in the summer 2021 issue I outlined some of the key legislative changes being pursued by the government that could affect the national park, particularly concerning proposed changes to the planning system, environmental protection and agricultural support. I also bemoaned the fact that the government had, at the time of writing, still not responded to the important Glover Review of the country's valued and protected landscapes, a review that had originally been commissioned by the government and that had made important and far-reaching recommendations concerning the protection and improvement of our national parks and other protected land.

After the *Review* had gone to press, however, the government did, in fact, issue an initial and brief response to the Glover report, two years after it had been published.

So what has the government said? Well, to be frank, not a lot, although it has promised a full response later this year. The government has said it agrees more funding should be directed towards 'making space for nature and supporting nature's recovery in our protected landscapes' (but does not mention the scale of that extra funding), and refers to its 'future Local Nature Recovery scheme [which] will also support the objective of nature recovery in our protected landscapes'.

It also says it agrees it should 'do more to support public access to protected landscapes' and refers to its commitment to designate additional such landscapes (two new Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and extensions to two existing AONBs). The government has also said it will be 'exploring opportunities to increase private investment' in the protected landscapes but does not say how, when, why or what.

## More Questions Than Answers?

So far, so good, perhaps. But what about the Glover recommendations about a commitment to consistent multi-year funding to national parks to tackle the emerging climate emergency; the need for them to be more accessible to those who currently rarely visit them; the need for further open access rights in the parks and the many other important Glover recommendations on transport, affordable housing and local jobs?

And, perhaps crucially, where is the ambition and vision for lasting improvements to our national parks; a revised and more proactive purpose of our protected landscapes and a coordinated approach to environmental protection, agricultural support, nature recovery and planning policies, all pushing in the same direction? We are still waiting.

As and when the promised full response to the Glover Review is published by the government I will report again.

Rick Cowley, Policy and Planning Committee volunteer

## *Could You Include Friends of the Dales in Your Will?*

This autumn there are two national campaigns to encourage people to make or update their wills, which are funded by groups of larger charities. Solicitors participating in the campaigns offer discounted, or even free, will-writing services. Appointments are limited so it is best to enquire early. See [www.freewillsmoth.org.uk](http://www.freewillsmoth.org.uk) and [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) for more information or ask your own solicitor.

We are not intending to give legal advice and you should always get your own professional advice from a solicitor. But if you would like to support Friends of the Dales, your solicitor will need to know our charity's registration details and the type of gift you prefer. This could be a specific sum or perhaps a fixed percentage of your estate. You might find it helpful to take this note along:

*'I wish to make the following gift in my will.  
I give and bequeath ...% share of my estate  
OR the sum of £... to Friends of the Dales  
(a registered working name of the Yorkshire  
Dales Society) of Canal Wharf, Eshton  
Road, Gargrave, North Yorkshire BD23 3PN  
(registered charity number 515384) for its  
general charitable purposes absolutely.'*

New threats and opportunities are always before us in the Dales and legacy income helps us respond to these quickly and plan for the future with confidence. Please do consider remembering our charity in your will if you possibly can. Your legacy gift could make a real difference to keeping the Dales vibrant and special for years to come. We are very grateful to several members who have let us know they have pledged a gift to us in their wills.

Last year we received two significant legacy gifts (as reported by our Treasurer on page 21), which will really help our charity have a bigger and better impact in the future.

Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer



# Treasurer's Report 2020/21

The graphs and charts on this page provide a summary of our financial position for the year 2020/21. In them I have highlighted the key elements of our finances, which can be seen more fully in the formal annual report and accounts available on our website. I have also provided a more detailed breakdown of the income and expenditure than is presented in the statutory accounts, which I hope members will find useful.

For members less familiar with charity finances, it is important to highlight the difference between *unrestricted funds* (money which is available to trustees in the pursuit of the charity's overall objectives) and *restricted funds* (money which is to be used for a specified purpose within those objectives).

## Income 2020/21

We received a total of £101,816 (2020 £229,917) of income during the financial year. Of this £93,551 (2020 £184,000) was unrestricted income and £8,265 (2020 £45,917) restricted. The reduction in income compared to the previous year was attributable primarily to the fact that the charity was the beneficiary of significant unrestricted and restricted legacy income in 2019/20.

A breakdown of our unrestricted income by source is shown in Chart 1. It was very pleasing to see that despite the challenges of the pandemic, at £29,574 our individual membership subscriptions showed a modest increase from the previous year of £1,863, although our business membership subscriptions at £653 were £2,485 down on the previous year following our decision to offer deferred subscriptions to hard-pressed businesses during the pandemic. At £1,925 (2019/20 £6,097) our unrestricted donations were also significantly impacted by the pandemic. Two very welcome legacies totalling £32,396 were received during the year, reinforcing the importance of this source of income to the charity. Additional unrestricted income included £7,336 of Gift Aid and a Business Support Grant of £20,000.

The charity received restricted donations totalling £5,912 for the benefit of our sister rural transport organisation, Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company (D&BCIC) and project income of £2,354 for the Capturing the Past (CTP) project.

## Expenditure 2020/21

Our total expenditure during the year was £79,659 (2019/20 £93,551). We transferred £7,230 of restricted funds to D&BCIC and spent £536 on CTP activities. The balance of £71,894 (2019/20 £64,980) was drawn from unrestricted funds and was used in support of our core objectives (Chart 2). The cost of our two part-time staff was £33,591, an increase of 2.8% from the previous year. Office costs at £13,959 increased by 30%, reflecting the additional office space secured in Q1 2020 as reported last year, and the additional costs of home working for our staff during the pandemic. During the year the decision was taken to increase the size of our successful *Yorkshire Dales Review* publication which, together with increased distribution costs as a result of the pandemic, resulted in a cost increase of £6,125 to £16,339. The balance of the expenditure was on governance costs, marketing and donations/subscriptions to third parties.

## Overall Position

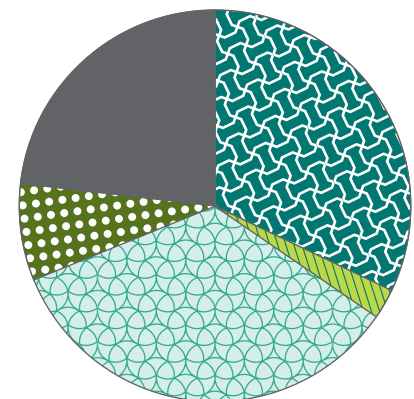
I am pleased to report that, despite the challenges of the previous 12 months, the charity remains in a robust financial position. During the year we had a net operating surplus of unrestricted funds of £21,657 (2019/20 £117,633) bringing total unrestricted reserves to £312,450. As reported last year, a review of our strategic priorities identified how we may make best use of these funds. Inevitably the pandemic put many of the plans on hold but as restrictions now ease, we are able to progress some of these actions including, in April 2021, the recruitment of a new member of staff to focus on developing our profile, expanding our membership and promoting our events programme. We have also agreed to provide additional support to D&BCIC once bus routes are re-established post-pandemic and to provide financial support to the CTP project to recruit a part-time freelance project manager.

Our year-end restricted funds balance was £30,000 for D&BCIC which, at its request, will be released in tranches of £6,000 over the next five years, and £4,903 for the CTP project.

Ian Harrison, Treasurer

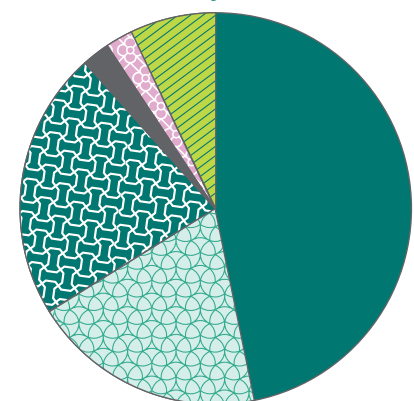
## 2020/2021

### Unrestricted Income (Chart 1)



	32%	£30,227	Membership
	2%	£1,925	Donations
	35%	£32,396	Legacies
	8%	£7,336	Gift Aid
	23%	£21,667	Interest & Other
<b>Total</b>		<b>£93,551</b>	(2019/20 £184,000)

### Unrestricted Expenditure (Chart 2)



	47%	£33,591	Staff
	19%	£13,959	Office
	23%	£16,339	Review
	2%	£1,103	Marketing
	2%	£1,642	Subscriptions & Donations
	7%	£3,892	Governance & Other
<b>Total</b>		<b>£71,894</b>	



# Welcoming New Trustees

Here we introduce three new trustees/directors elected at our 2021 AGM.

## Kevin Armstrong



I am a Yorkshireman who relished my time growing up in the Dales and have grabbed opportunities ever since to return for brilliant bike rides, walks and fell races.

I am currently part of the leadership group of UnLtd – the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs – where I influence policies on behalf of an array of social ventures, including community interest companies like DalesBus. Prior to my current role, I worked for a government minister based in Bradford before moving into the charity sector, where I led influential policy and campaigning teams at Education Support Partnership and Pancreatic Cancer UK.

In my spare time I have, amongst many other things, enjoyed serving as a governor at Saltaire Primary School and as a volunteer at Great Ormond Street Hospital, where I supported the growth of its trust membership. I've also reached the summits of the highest mountains on five different continents so far.

I am excited about this new step as a trustee of Friends of the Dales and look forward to sharing my experience with a charity that helps the public enjoy and protect an area that continues to bring me such pleasure.

## Scarlett Armstrong



I have worked in the education sector for nearly 10 years spanning marketing, communications and student recruitment. In my current role I manage international student recruitment at the University of Leeds.

Alongside my career I have volunteered with various third-sector organisations including a stint in Thailand teaching English: I am keen to continue doing so but in a trustee capacity. My aim was for this to be with an organisation local to me and with one that holds meaning to me. I wish to utilise my skills as a marketer, communicator and strategist to make a meaningful contribution to the charity going forward.

I have a varied and advantageous skill set and can offer new perspectives and ideas. I am interested in learning more about the challenges for Friends of the Dales and what role I can play in helping the charity to address these innovatively and successfully. Outside of work commitments I am a registered yoga teacher, keen hiker and coffee enthusiast.

## Ian McPherson



I was born in Barnard Castle and spent my early years in County Durham and the North Riding of Yorkshire before moving to Lincoln with my family, where I completed my schooling, qualifying as a solicitor in 1971.

I first practised in Lincoln and became a partner in one of the city's firms before being appointed a stipendiary magistrate by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the West Indies. This was followed by a short service commission in the British Army and a period of service in the Directorate of Army Legal Services. Following my retirement from full-time legal work I fulfilled my long-standing ambition to return to the north

of England and settled in Sedbergh in 2000, quickly becoming involved in community matters including being a founder member of "Flicks in the Fells" (a community cinema).

Since 2012 I have been a member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, first as a local authority appointee and from 2014 until the present time as a Secretary of State (parish) member. I was also Deputy Chair of the authority for two years. Since 2015-2016 I have been Member Champion for the Natural Environment and a member of the authority's planning committee. In my 'spare time' (when I have any) I enjoy fell walking, photography, birdwatching and practising and teaching tai chi.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the trustees who retired at this year's AGM having served for six years. Pictured here are Anthony Bradley, Malcolm Petyt, Mark Corner, Julie Martin (who stepped down at the end of September) and Nancy Stedman. Tony Smith and Mike Stephenson also retired at this year's AGM.





## Plastic Tree Guard Collection Event – near Long Preston

Thursday, 7 October 2021

10:00am-3:00pm

In line with our Plastic-Free Dales campaign we are keen to work with local landowners and partners to help rid the Dales of redundant tree guards. If these are left uncollected once a tree is thriving, they break down into microplastics, polluting the land and ultimately the waterways. Organised collections like this one enable the guards to be either reused or recycled. Tree guard collection days are rewarding events to take part in but please be aware they are also reasonably strenuous. All necessary equipment will be provided on the day and further details will be sent nearer the time. To book your volunteer place please email Victoria, our Membership & Events Officer, at [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Peter Hardyman.  
Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

## Climate Justice Conference

Saturday, 9 October 2021

10:30am-12:30pm

Hosted by the Craven and Keighley Quakers, this digital 'open to all' event aims to raise awareness of the issues surrounding the forthcoming COP26. In addition to a presentation by Friends of the Dales Chair Bruce McLeod on Climate Justice and Farming, Lesley Grahame, Quaker member and Green Party local councillor for Norwich, will talk about global issues. To join please email [chrisskidmore47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisskidmore47@gmail.com)

## Events Booking

### Booking for our events is easy

Either email our Membership & Events officer, Victoria Benn, at [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk) or add your booking request to our contact form located on the Events page of our website, [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk)

The best way of keeping abreast of our latest events information is via our e-news, which you can sign up for at [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk). This is a monthly newsletter delivered direct to your inbox, which brings you all our most up-to-date news and stories.

Finally, our social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are another great way of joining in the chat and finding out what's going on.

## Teatime Talk - Exploring Crummackdale

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

4:30pm

In this illustrated talk by our trustee, Ken Humphris aims to share some of the history of Crummackdale from geological time through to the recent past, and why walking in this lovely valley is so rewarding. To book email Victoria, our Membership & Events Officer, at [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Photo courtesy of Ken Humphris

## Friends of the Dales 40th Anniversary Walk

Wednesday, 10 November 2021

10:30am – 4:30pm

*(designed to fit in with DalesBus connections)*

This full day's winter walk, starting and ending in Grassington, will visit several memorable locations from the early days of the Yorkshire Dales Society, now known as Friends of the Dales. Hosted by Colin Speakman, founder member and a Vice President of our charity and creator of the Dales Way, this promises to be an enjoyable and information-rich ramble incorporating – amongst many other things – insight into the former Grassington Hospital and Linton Camp School. Places limited. To book email Victoria, our Membership & Events Officer, at [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Colin and Fleur Speakman.  
Photo courtesy of Victoria Benn

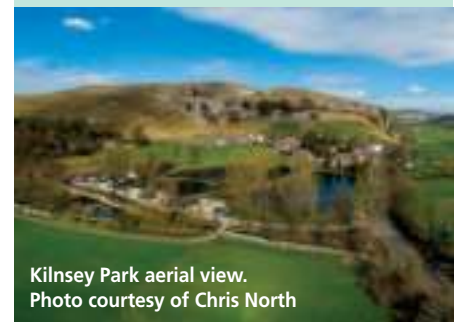
## Teatime Talk – Leave Only Hoofprints – Farming for a Sustainable Future

Wednesday, 17 November 2021

4:30pm

This early evening talk presented by Jamie Roberts, the third-generation custodian of Kilnsey Park Estate, will reveal how he and his family have diversified the farm to create an ambitious and sustainable eco-model, which aims to protect the land whilst being a viable commercial entity fit for the 21st century and beyond.

For further enquiries or to book email Victoria, our Membership & Events Officer, at [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Kilnsey Park aerial view.  
Photo courtesy of Chris North

## Teatime Talk – Christmas behind the Barbed Wire, 1919

Wednesday, 8 December 2021

4:30pm

This early evening talk presented by Anne Buckley, a lecturer in German and Translation Studies at the University of Leeds, will be a fascinating insight into the lives of the German POWs who resided in Skipton during the First World War. Most aptly it will also shed some light on how the POWs managed to celebrate Christmas within the camp.

Anne's talk draws uniquely from a diary the POWs secretly wrote during their time in Skipton, which was subsequently smuggled back to Germany and published under the title *Kriegsgefangen in Skipton*. For enquiries or to book email Victoria, our Membership & Events Officer, at [victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk](mailto:victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)



Frohe Weihnacht – a Christmas card drawn by one of the POWs

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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](http://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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