



## Welcome!

A hearty welcome to the following new members – with the hope that you will enjoy our various activities: Mr. J.M. Almond, Miss P. Ford, Mrs. K. Kinder, Mr. and Mrs. E. Longton, Mr. Marley, and Mrs. D. Robertshaw.

And on a personal note – many thanks to helpers and contributors of eatables at the 'mince pie walk' before Christmas. Mike and I enjoyed it and hope you did too!

*Mary Slater*

## The Chairman's AGM Report

The Trust's programme of talks and outings has been varied and well-attended. Topics ranged from butterflies on Winskill to stately homes on the far side of Ripon with David Johnson.

We have awarded a research bursary to a Lancaster University MA student (please see below). We continue to monitor planning applications in the North Craven Area submitted to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) and to Craven District Council (CDC) and we submit comments where appropriate.

Often our views align with those of the Planning Officers and Committees but occasionally they do not, for example when permission was granted for modifications to Linton Court in Settle to create four holiday apartments.

Both YDNPA and CDC are developing "Local Plans" which provide the framework within which planning decisions will be taken in future. We are contributing to the consultation processes for both of these important plans, and would encourage you to do so as well.

We also responded to consultation on the proposed 'permitted development right' for agricultural buildings to be changed to residential use, notably in our area for traditional barn conversions. We were pleased that in March 2014 the government decided that National Parks are to be exempt from their barn conversion proposals and that the Park Authority will retain local planning control over such changes of use.

To improve coordination with other heritage-related organisations on such

matters as planning we now have representation on the Yorkshire Dales Society's Policy Committee and the National Park's Historic Environment Group.

The committee has been anxious that many subscriptions barely cover the costs of the Journal, newsletters and the like and leave little over for grants. We are not proposing any increase this year but we will place a bowl by the door at all our talks inviting donations. If you feel you get exceptional value for money from NCHT, please contribute!

The Trust's success is founded on the diligence and imagination of its members and Committee. Particular thanks are due to Pippa Foulds, who returned to the committee to do another really helpful stint; and Michael Southworth, who has served energetically since 2006 with periods as Treasurer and Chairman. And thanks all of you who work on behalf of the Trust – delivering magazines, collecting subscriptions, raising advertising, posting notices, maintaining the website, making teas, moving furniture and all the countless jobs that help us to function. Thanks to you all.

Finally, we face a changed political environment. Planning rules are being relaxed – this will demand extra vigilance of your Trust. I do worry about North Craven dropping off the radar of NYCC – as our bus service fiasco has illustrated – and Craven District Council. We really remain the one organisation safeguarding the old Settle Rural District, and we need to make sure that the special character of North Craven is respected in planning and policy decisions of all types.

Then, as we all know, there has been a marked drop in government support for culture, the arts and heritage. We may consider this philistinism, or we may consider it the lesser of two evils compared with cutting benefits for the vulnerable yet further – but, whatever your views, the result is that the Trust will increasingly be called on to support our heritage at risk. I do sense that the coming years will be 'interesting times'.

## Historic Buildings Fund

At the AGM in October it was agreed that we would widen the remit of the 'Historic Churches Fund' to become the 'Heritage Buildings Fund', offering grants to both historic churches and other heritage buildings **not in private ownership**. The terms under which grants are offered are unchanged. This move more faithfully reflects the breadth of our charitable purpose to care for the whole heritage of North Craven. Please draw the scheme to the attention of trustees of any buildings which might benefit from our support.

## NCHT Bursary

In collaboration with the University of Lancaster we have granted a Bursary to Miss Zara Smith studying for her MA degree. The subject is '**The Riley Collection: Journeys** through a Family Archive'. The Museum of North Craven Life has been given, part outright, part by way of loan, a large collection of books, letters, photographs, ephemera and artefacts relating to Fred Riley, his family and friends which chronicle Settle and district during the first half of the 20th century. The project is being supervised by Mrs Anne Read, Curator of the Museum in Settle. Zara has been working on the collection held in Chapel St. for the past few months with dedication and enthusiasm which augurs well for the project. She will give a talk on the subject in the Folly in September to be followed by an article in the Journal. Frederic Riley is the author of the well-known books 'The Settle District and North-West Yorkshire Dales, a practical guide book for the visitor and tourist' (1923) and 'The Ribble from its Source to the Sea' (1914).

Why not check the article about Fred Riley at [www.cravenherald.co.uk/nostalgia/nostalgia\\_history/8187157.print/](http://www.cravenherald.co.uk/nostalgia/nostalgia_history/8187157.print/) ? (Use Google 'Frederic Riley Settle' to find the article).

## A Plea from the Treasurer

The flip side of giving grants is, of course funding them. Whilst at the moment we have adequate reserves for the Trust as a whole, the Historic Churches (or Buildings) Fund is rather limping along, currently being topped up by £2,000 a year from the reserves if it drops too low. I know I may sound like a mediaeval abbot, but could I please ask you all to consider a bequest to the Trust in your will? We can't promise masses for your soul, but we can promise that your bequest will be diligently applied for the benefit of North Craven's historic buildings. If your estate is worth over the Inheritance Tax Threshold, currently £325,000, when you die Inheritance Tax may be due. Since 6 April 2012, if you leave 10% of your estate to charity the tax due may be paid at a reduced rate of 36% instead of 40% making the cost of giving considerably lower than before. Something to consider? Any amount you may choose to leave or give will benefit the work of the Trust. We would be very grateful.

## Long Preston's Big Dig

Long Preston Heritage Group's planned archaeological dig is to take place in May 2015. Involvement of local people, in addition to that of acknowledged experts, will provide a unique opportunity to enhance the appreciation of our heritage. For further information, please contact Ian Evans: [gjgreencot@gmail.com](mailto:gjgreencot@gmail.com)

## Summer Outing 2015

This is the date you've been waiting for! **Thursday 11 June 2015**, when Dr David Johnson will lead his 13th Summer Outing to view 'Lancashire Gems: Great Mitton Hall, All Hallows Church and Gawthorpe Hall'. Meet in Great Mitton village, SD715 390, at 10am. Cost will be around £10-12, and pre-booking is essential. Full details of costs and the day's itinerary will be posted on the website or, for those without access to a computer, can be obtained directly from David (01729 822915 (evenings only)). Put the date in your diary now!