



## Welcome!

### Welcome to our newest members

We are delighted that the following have recently joined the Trust and we hope to see you at the various events detailed on our 2016 programme: Mr. D. Archer and Ms R. Fairweather, Ms S.M. Bennedik, Mrs. S. Carter, Mrs. R. Lund, Mr. D. Powell and Dr. L. Williams, and Ms G. Reardon. Members – keep up the good recruiting work and encourage your friends to join – the more the merrier!

### The Chairman's Report

We were saddened in 2015 to lose a past President, and a Vice President.

Bill Mitchell was our President from 2004-8. He led the annual 'field trips' – the precursor of David Johnson's Summer Outings – for over 20 years. Editor of The Dalesman for over 30 years, he took up the tape recorder as a tool quite early in his career. These tapes provide hundreds of stories of the memories, life and times of Dales folk of the 20th century. His historical research fed an output of over 200 books and countless articles. Fittingly, on the day he died the Craven Herald published one of his articles, this one on how the Romantic Movement from the early 19th century changed people's appreciation of our landscape from one of fear to one of pleasure.

Bill was also a fine naturalist with a wide interest in ornithology and botany. His passions – the people and history of North Craven, our flora and fauna, recording what he found and telling the world about it – have informed and indeed moulded the North Craven Heritage Trust into the one we now enjoy. His memorials will surely be the unique archive he has left, on our bookshelves and on-line, lit up by our memories of the good humour of his company.

Phyllis Houlton, from a local farming family, was a Vice-President from 1997, having served on the Committee from 1993-5. She was the driving force behind our "Know your area" walks, spearheaded our footpath work and did a great deal for the Trust and its members behind the scenes. Phyllis, too, has nurtured and shaped today's Trust.

We offer our condolences to their families. Obituaries will be published in the next issue of The Journal.

At our AGM in October we were also sorry to say goodbye to Ethne Bannister who has had to resign as our President. Ethne took a close, personal and informed interest in our work. She and Michael have been generous in welcoming us on visits to their home at Coniston Hall, including hosting a fund-raising event. Ethne has loved being involved with ourselves and with a wide range of local groups. We were delighted when she was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2012 for services to the community. We thank her for her support and wish her well.

At the AGM Anne Read was elected President. Having clocked up 42 years in membership of the Trust and 38 years as curator of the Museum of North Craven Life, Anne will be well-known to one and all. We value her long record of leadership in conserving and promoting the heritage of our area which was recognised in 2012 by the award of an MBE. We welcome the closer links this provides between The Museum, The Folly and ourselves.

Again at the AGM Dr David Johnson was elected as a Vice-President. David must be well-known to members judging by the throngs who pack his talks. His research has been of regional and national significance, particularly in the uses of limestone and upland settlement in the Pennines in the 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. He has

published widely, perhaps most notably “Ingleborough – Landscape and History” in 2008 with a foreword by Tony Robinson. He served on the NCHT Committee from 1999 to 2011 and has led 13 summer outings to date with a 14<sup>th</sup> planned for 2016.

### **Programme for 2016**

We hope that we have developed a range of talks and events which will continue to inform and inspire you. We have further developed our policy of holding joint meetings with organisations with similar aims. In 2016 we shall be holding joint events with The Folly, Ride2Stride, the Yorkshire Dales Society, and the Royal Geographic Society. Members of other local groups will join our 14<sup>th</sup> summer outing which David Johnson will lead to Lanercost Priory and Naworth Castle on Wednesday 8 June. Details of the outing are on the programme card but please note that pre-booking and pre-payment by the end of March are essential.

Another new departure will be ‘Making Music in Settle’, a celebration of North Craven’s outstanding musical heritage, with a selection of local musicians and ensembles from Saturday 12—Sunday 20 March. In many past years we have held musical events, largely as socials and fund-raisers. In March we will celebrate music as an integral part of our North Craven heritage. From the time of Elgar and Dr Buck there has been a strong tradition of amateur music-making – often with professional support – which gives a further vibrant dimension to North Craven. In part this musical tradition is based on encouraging young players and singers, the best way to make sure that the hills do stay alive with.....you know what! The week’s programme will include the Octameron singers, Paul Fisher on the Giggleswick Chapel organ, Settle Orchestra and a RAMjam/ DalesJam jazz

concert. The idea is being taken up with great enthusiasm by the musicians so please come and revel in the variety of musical talent in our area. A leaflet is enclosed and more will be available in Settle TIC and other local outlets.

It has been suggested that some of our talks in the darker months might be switched to afternoons. We are experimenting with our November talk which will be at **2.00pm**. Please let your committee know if you find this helpful or not.

### **Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust**

YDMT is an organisation with similar objectives to ours, albeit on a larger scale, and we enjoy numerous links. A number of us have been involved with one of their programmes, now called ‘People and the Dales’, for many years, a programme which gives disadvantaged and disabled groups of people the opportunity to visit our beautiful countryside. Groups come from Leeds, Bradford and North West Lancashire. Participants take part in activities, enjoy the magnificent landscape and learn new skills. People taking part include those with a disability, young people from inner cities, people from ethnic minority groups, individuals from deprived locations and people with mental health difficulties. A few years ago, for example, Ingleborough Archaeology Group and Settle Quakers were supported in bringing a group of young refugees on a week-long dig. Visits more commonly take place within a day and involve walks of a few miles.

If any NCHT members would like to come along to walk and talk with the visitors on any of these events please drop me an email ([john@joesclose.co.uk](mailto:john@joesclose.co.uk)) and you’ll be kept advised when a visit is planned.

## **NCHT Bursary Student 2014-15, Zara Smith**

Zara, an MA History student at the University of Lancaster, had a special interest in the 20th century and the changing roles of women, so it was entirely natural that she should be eager to work on the Riley Collection housed in Settle's Museum of North Craven Life. This collection is a substantial mixed archive of around 1,000 items, relating to Frederic Riley, his family and friends which chronicles life in and around Settle during a large part of the 20th century. Zara set to work with a will in November 2014 and quickly became totally absorbed. She felt a special affinity with Marjorie, Frederic's daughter (better known to many NCHT members as Marjorie Longstaff) and was fascinated by her feisty and independent character, her foreign travels in the 1930s and 40s and her extreme bravery after the death of her Kenyan fiancé in the Battle for Malta in 1941. Zara typically worked nine-hour days in Settle and during our short lunch breaks, wanted to see as many of the buildings and places connected with the family as she could and afterwards discuss her developing thoughts about the archive and its importance as a research resource. By the New Year of 2015, she was planning the content of a talk entitled 'Researching a Family Archive: the People Behind History' which she was to give in The Folly in September. Sadly, this was not to be. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Zara's work on the archive ended in February, but her efforts have not been in vain. Others are now working to complete the documentation of the collection so that it can be fully accessed by the researchers of the future.

## **Heritage Buildings Fund The Hilary Green Legacy**

Hilary Green (1918-2015) was a very generous benefactor over many years to local groups involved in heritage matters and in 2015 the NCHT and other local organizations were beneficiaries of legacies she had decided upon. She loved Settle. The NCHT would like to express appreciation of her kindness, which has enabled NCHT to continue to meet one of its key aims to help safeguard the distinctive beauty, character and heritage of the North Craven area, its buildings, and its surrounding countryside.

Hilary was one of the first members of the Settle Civic Society (which became the NCHT) which was active in the 1970s, and she helped with setting up the North Craven Building Preservation Trust (which now owns The Folly and other local property). Her family lived at Townhead and she was very saddened by its demolition in 1974. The Settle Civic Society and the Building Trust (NCBPT) were originally closely connected; NCHT and NCBPT were well-supported by substantial annual subscriptions and donations made by Hilary. As a result of a legacy she received she set up the J.H.F. Green Trust in 1972 for general charitable purposes at the Trustee's discretion and administered by the National Council for Voluntary Organizations. She also used her private funds in giving substantial donations to the NCBPT.

Hilary spent most of her life in Sussex but visited Settle every other year or as often as she could. In later years John Miller and Alan Bennett visited her at home to give her news of the activities of the NCBPT and NCHT. Her wonderful garden was the setting of a celebration of her life on 31 May 2015. Hilary was a private person who did not like fuss but Settle folk all have reason to be very grateful for her generosity.