

North Craven Heritage Trust

Newsletter July 2011

Dear Member,

New members

We are very pleased to welcome to the Trust the following members who have joined during this year – Ms.A.Armstrong, Mr&Mrs J. Deith, Mr D. Hartley, Mr. K. McBride, Mr&Mrs G.Kirby, Mr&Mrs D.Ott and Mr&Mrs H. Thornton. We hope that they will enjoy our range of events. During the year we have also lost a number of long-standing members due to advancing years. We welcome others to take their places and to maintain the Trust's effectiveness. Please encourage friends, neighbours and newcomers to the area to join the Trust by contacting our Membership Secretary Mary Slater (tel: 01729 823205) or any Committee Member for details or by looking at our website, www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk.

Points from the Questionnaire Survey

Our January Newsletter reported on Members' views of Trust activities, as revealed in the recent membership survey, and on your Committees responses to these views, as follows;

- **Lectures** When our lecturers repeat their lectures to several local bodies it is disappointing. The Committee view this repetition as unprofessional and will work to avoid it.
There were requests for lectures on vernacular architecture and these will be provided in 2011-12.

There were requests that lectures be made more accessible to members without cars, so more lectures will be arranged in Settle. The Committee also plans to offer 'lift brokerage' to help members reach lectures – please ring the Secretary on 01729 825078 or or e.mail him on john@joesclose.co.uk *at least a week before the event.*

- **Journal**

We are hoping to make the Journal better known by placing back numbers in waiting rooms and by publicising the help we can offer local researchers.

- **Planning**

Many Members feel that the Trust should restore its focus on planning issues. A second Committee Member is now working on planning matters on an experimental basis, other volunteers would be most welcome.

The deterioration of traditional dales barns was raised. In 2006/7 the YDNPA surveyed 4,500 field barns and found that nearly 50% of them are in "unfavourable condition". Sadly it lacks resources to remedy this situation and the Trust can give little help beyond noting changes.

- **Website**

The Committee plans to make more use of the website by including planning objections, news items, Members' letters etc. Changes are being implemented

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and when the site is fully operational it is hoped to consider including an electronic photo archive.

- **Social**

There were mixed reactions to the discontinuation of the New Year recital but more enthusiasm for social events. In 2011 there will be the Picnic in the Park, the Christmas Party and a mince pie event, all good opportunities to socialise.

- **Walks**

Some walks have been poorly attended so their number has been reduced. Yet Members noted that our architecture, local history and conservation interests cannot be addressed without the walks so we recognise that walks need to be better publicised to non-members, via TICs for example.

- **Grants**

The Committee is now more proactive in advertising grants for small heritage projects.

A small victory

Some weeks ago we were alerted to the possibility that Craven District Council were considering discontinuing their practice of placing paper copies of local planning applications in Settle town hall for public consultation. Instead the public would have been obliged to rely on viewing digital copies on a small computer screen. The Trust objected to this change and secured the support of local MP Julian Smith. CDC changed their minds and pa-

per copies continue to be available for all to see in Settle during office hours on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Settle town hall

The eventual fate of Settle town hall is not yet clear but the Trust has declared itself willing to collaborate with other appropriate bodies to maintain this important building as a public resource.

Volunteers needed

A volunteer Advertisements Officer is needed to undertake the task of recruiting businesses willing to pay for advertising in the Trust's Journal. These payments help to meet the cost of publishing the Journal, which is a key aspect of the Trust's work.

Another volunteer is needed to look after the Trust's stocks of publications and archives. This task could be shared by two Members. If you feel that you can help in one of these roles then please contact the Secretary, John Asher (tel: 01729 825075, e.mail john@joesclose.co.uk).

Wind turbines and solar/PV panels

More planning applications are being submitted for small wind turbines and for solar panels for water heating or power generation. In the interests of carbon reduction and less global warming we may have to get used to these changes to our landscape and built environment. We understand that the installation of PV (photovoltaic) panels is now permitted development requiring no planning permission.

28.06.11