



Welcome!

A warm welcome to the following people who have joined us as members in the past few months. We hope you will be able to participate in our 2014 events.

Miss E Balmford, Mrs A Ogley, and corporate members Settle Men's Forum and North Craven Building Preservation Trust (The Folly).

The Chairman's Report to the AGM

First of all I would like to express my thanks to all the members of your committee who, as always, have given of their time to running the Trust and delivering a successful programme of lectures, outings and events during the past 12 months.

We are also very grateful to those members who help with the mundane, but time consuming, tasks of delivering programme cards, distributing the Journal, putting up posters and looking after refreshments after the lectures.

Especially our thanks go to David Holdsworth and Frank Woodhams who maintain and keep up to date our website.

As you will know I am standing down as Chairman at this meeting so I reflect on a few things that have happened during the past 4 years whilst I have fulfilled that role.

First of all our membership has remained fairly constant at around 350 people. Inevitably we lose members each year, mostly as a reflection of our age profile, but we have continued to attract new members to fill the gaps. I take this to signify that the Trust is both valued for what it stands for and delivers a programme each year which attracts the interests of its members.

Clearly our annual Journal ranks very highly in the pecking order – for which we

are very grateful to the professionalism of Mike Slater and Maureen Ellis who have delivered this *pièce de résistance* over many, many years. I have noted that our lectures have been very well attended, suggesting that the choice of subjects each year has been of appeal. The events programme has a core following, but in smaller numbers which perhaps is inevitable. The summer outing passed through a nadir a few years back but has bounced back to the point where it became so popular this year that we were on the point of having to 'close the books' on attendance. This event takes a lot of knowledge and 'homework', and we are immensely grateful to David Johnson for his continuing inspirational choice of locations and efficient organisation.

The second issue to which I draw your attention is that we have progressively taken steps to reach out to other 'like-minded' organisations in our area. We have for a number of years been associate members of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance who have done, and continue to do a great job in protecting the lanes and by-ways for the pleasure of peaceful pursuits. More recently we have had representation on the committee of the Friends of Upper Ribblesdale (FOUR) which campaigns for a reduced impact of heavy goods vehicles in the valley and for the vitality of Settle as an iconic market town.

We have become associate members of the Yorkshire Dales Society and also have a link, through Jules Marley, with the Council for the Protection of Rural England. So in all of these ways I like to think that the influence that we have is strengthened by keeping close touch with other groups who have similar interests, in their different ways, of appropriately protecting our local heritage from the ravages of unfettered progress.

As an aside to all this, some of you may be aware that there is currently a consultation process taking place both at national level and more locally through the Yorkshire Dales National Park on planning issues.

You may rest assured that we will be having our voice heard on these matters. The sort of issues that are being debated are 'what should be done with the redundant field barns which are such a feature of our landscape' and 'where should new housing be allowed or not allowed' ? I am sure that you will appreciate that these sort of matters can have a major future impact on our local environment, and we are determined that we should have our say.

Thirdly I would like to say something about membership of your committee. People come and go, so it is inevitable that we need to find new members for the committee. This is actually extremely healthy because it is good to refresh any organisation from time to time with new blood and new ideas. Shortly you will be voting on membership of the committee for the next 12 months and I am delighted that there are 3 new candidates offering their names as full committee members.

Finally we need to remind ourselves that we are a charity. As such it is incumbent upon us not to sit on our funds, but to give them away judiciously. You will see from our accounts that we have funds of about £9,000 and we are open to grant requests through our Historic Churches Fund.

Michael Southworth

Report & Accounts for 2012-13

At the AGM the Treasurer, Giles Bowring, reported on the accounts for the year to 31 August 2013. Total funds were £9,275 (£10,118 in 2011-12). The General Fund showed a surplus of £1,076 before grants. Subscriptions decreased slightly by £76. Interest on the Trust's reserves in the Skipton Building Society bonds was lower. Expenditure was £190 lower reflecting lower costs for The Journal, publicity and the AGM but higher costs for administration and events.

A grant of £2,000 was made from the Historic Churches Fund to Long Preston Parish Church

AGM 2013

17th October saw the election of NCHT officers: Chairman: John Asher, Treasurer: Giles Bowring, Secretary: Gwen Cleverly. Members attending the AGM enjoyed a fascinating and informative presentation by Mike Slater of his research into door heads in the NCHT area. Images of the door heads are posted on our website-well worth a look.

End of Year Party 2013

Some 45 members and guests enjoyed delicious food and good company on Friday 29th November at Taitlands, Stainforth. The evening began with a private tour of the house when we appreciated the elegance of its rooms and were fascinated by the scope of its cellars. We are grateful to Emma Milligan for welcoming us so warmly and sharing her home with us. The Christmas anagram quiz, which was kindly organised by Mike and Mary Slater, proved most entertaining and stimulated both thought and laughter. Thanks to John and Jean Asher for their efficient organisation of a very happy and successful event.

Stan Lawrence

The NCHT wishes to remember the late Stan Lawrence, who died in 2013. He played an active and much valued part for many years in support of the Trust. A full article describing Stan's work will be published in the Journal.

Summer outing 2014

Our summer outing on 12th June 2014, entitled 'Either Side of Ripon', will visit Dacre in Nidderdale and Wath in the Ure Valley. Thanks are again due to David Johnson who will lead us on this fascinating, well-researched and informative whole-day outing.

The cost will be £17. You may wish to consider car sharing as some venues have limited parking available to us.

Please send your cheque for £17 per person (payable to North Craven Heritage Trust) to:

Dr. David Johnson

27 Ingfield Lane

Settle

BD24 9BA

Tel:01729 - 822915

Email:d.johnson.50@btinternet.com

Full information and booking details will be posted on the website and prompt booking is advised as this visit will be very popular.

Articles for the Journal

The Journal relies on members of NCHT and other people offering articles concerning local history and aspects of local heritage for its continued publication. The editors encourage submissions from acquaintances and speakers at meetings but ideas for articles are also needed which can be followed up by us. The editors are quite happy to create articles from information supplied so potential authors should not concern themselves unduly about any lack of experience of writing a story. The main aim is to preserve information about the past in Craven which might otherwise be lost or remain difficult to access.

There will inevitably come a time when the editors have to step down from their job and it is with this thought in mind that we earnestly seek someone with interests similar to ours to join us and help produce the Journal with a view to taking over responsibility in due course. Familiarity with word processing, electronic handling of pictures and email, together with an interest in heritage matters are the principal requirements. The printer - Lamberts of Settle - and Frank Woodhams and David Holdsworth who maintain the website version of the Journal are also vital contributors of the process of Journal production and presentation to the world. We do not wish to see the Journal have difficulty in continuing since it is said to

be much appreciated by members – and so we would like to prepare for a smooth and gradual changeover of responsibility. If you would like to help in this worthwhile, enjoyable task please contact either editor or the Committee Chairman, John Asher.

Maureen Ellis and Michael Slater

Electronic History Archives

It has long been felt by many local historians in our region that access to original historical documents is very limited and much historical research requires travel to Record Offices and Archives and Libraries for example in Bradford, Leeds, London, Northallerton, Preston, Skipton and Wakefield – all at considerable cost. The time may have come to set up a website as a first port of call for local historical information, holding electronic copies of documents, transcripts and extracts and providing electronic links to other websites already holding material. It is not realistic or sensible for original documents to be held locally because storage conditions must be carefully climatically controlled.

The NCHT has some documents already archived. Further important sets of scanned documents are in existence but subject currently to conditions of use for private research only. The Folly is in process of cataloguing a wealth of material – photographs and other artefacts and a link to this catalogue in due course would be desirable. The North Craven Historical Research Group also has a website containing a very large amount of material. Links to archives such as relevant Record Offices, The National Archives, a2a and Yorkshire Archaeological Association would be included.

The issue of copyright remains to be considered so much work needs to be done to obtain any necessary permissions and to devise a website which prevents the potential abuse of copying of images for commercial purposes. We have decided to establish an NCHT archive as a worthwhile project.

Michael Slater