



## Chairman's Message

### NCHT and covid-19

As you might expect, the committee is keeping the covid-19 issue under review. Our prime concern must be for each other's welfare. Whilst we are monitoring the advice from the government we are aware that many members fall into the category of 'elderly with pre-existing conditions' of whom we are asked to take special care. We are therefore, with much regret, cancelling the talk scheduled for April 14. We will ask David Turner if he would be willing to re-schedule for 2021.

Our May event is a walk with David Johnson in the fresh air of Bentham, which may well allow adequate 'social distancing' so we can hope that this will go ahead. We will be reviewing the year's remaining events in the light of circumstances and advice nearer the time. We will publicise any further changes on the website and with a circular email. Members are asked not to come to meetings or events if they are showing any symptoms of a cold or cough.

As a consolation we are delighted that The Journal has been produced early and are sure that it will make up for the disappointment of the cancelled talk.

John Asher

### Bursary Update

I am a masters student at Lancaster University and I am currently undertaking a placement with the North Craven Heritage Trust. The aim of my placement is to look at potential ways the NCHT can increase engagement with current members as well as and grow its membership in the future, to ensure that it will continue to thrive as an organisation. As part of this I am liaising with other heritage organisations to learn from them as well as exploring the current

recruitment methods employed by the NCHT. One part of my research has involved distributing a questionnaire to NCHT members via email and I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have taken the time to participate in that survey.

The preliminary results of the questionnaire suggest that current members play a key role in recruiting new members to join the NCHT. Significantly, over 60% of you, in response to the question 'How did you first hear about the NCHT?' noted that it was friends who had first made you aware of the existence of NCHT. It therefore seems that you as members have had, and hopefully will continue to have, a big impact on the future of the NCHT, not only through your own participation but also through helping to recruit new members by speaking to friends and inviting them to join. So, thank you for your support of the NCHT. Ultimately, you, as members, are the greatest asset of the NCHT and it is through your collective enthusiasm and activism that the Trust is able to continue to protect and celebrate the heritage of North Craven.

On that note, as many of you may be aware, the NCHT has a page on Facebook and it would be wonderful if any members who follow the page would like to post a review of the NCHT on the page. The reason for this is to give any prospective members who look at the Facebook page an idea of what the NCHT does and what it is like to be a member in order to help them to decide whether it is a group they would like to join and support. Pam Jordan has done a brilliant job of setting up social media pages for the NCHT and Pam and I are now looking at ways to further develop these pages to raise the profile of the NCHT and to make the Facebook page a place where you as members are able to

interact and share your appreciation for the heritage of North Craven. I do however understand that social media can be a daunting prospect for many due to issues surrounding privacy. I would highlight though that if you do wish to keep in touch with the NCHT online you are able to set your privacy settings so that only your friends can see what you post and interact with on Facebook. Having said that, social media is not for everyone and please be assured that the NCHT does not intend to move away from any of its usual forms of communication. Rather, the Facebook page is intended to act as an additional way for members to celebrate and discuss the heritage of North Craven and as another means to hopefully attract new members.

I hope this small snippet has given you an insight into some of the research I am undertaking and I look forward to sharing the results of my completed research with you all. Hopefully the results of my study will be published in the NCHT Journal next year. In the meantime, let us all hope that the NCHT continues to go from strength to strength.

Jessica Kemmish

### **“A new green Dales”**

We are planning (jointly with Friends of the Dales) a major environmental event on Saturday 3 October in the Devonshire Institute, Grassington, from 10.30am to 5pm.

The thinking behind this is, firstly, that October will be the end of year 1 of the climate emergency declared by many organisations.

Secondly, the environmental challenges facing the Dales uplands are common across all areas of the National Park – whilst local government responsibilities are shared between the National Park Authority, three county councils, five

district councils and a multitude of parish councils. For the county and district councils the Dales uplands represent only a relatively small part of their population and therefore, quite possibly, share of mind.

The third reason for staging this conference is that there are several groups of activists working in and around the Dales, but they, too, are generally organised dale by dale. Here in Ribblesdale we have the excellent ACE Settle, and in Malhamdale there have long been environmental groups.

We put these issues to the National Park Authority who were very supportive of the idea. So we will be inviting representatives of local government, environmental groups, NGOs, our members and the public to book their place at the event. Booking will open in the summer, once we have a clearer idea of the public health situation.

Speakers will come from the YDNPA, local government, NGOs, activists, farming and forestry. Each speaker will be asked to stick closely to “What have we achieved? / What are the challenges? / What are the next goals?”

We hope that the event will inform and inspire all who are concerned with creating “A new green Dales”.

John Asher

### **Your contact details**

To ensure we can keep in touch with members during this difficult period, if you change, or have changed, your contact details, particularly your email address – or have acquired an email address – please let Anne Webster, NCHT Secretary, know.

Anne’s contact details are:

Email: amw.1@btinternet.com

Tel: 01729 824 844.

Between the time of writing this issue of the Newsletter and posting it the covid-19 issue had worsened materially so our Secretary had to add a postscript as follows:

Dear Members

I write to advise you that, due to the extreme situation regarding COVID-19, this year we shall be posting all Journals to members. We feel strongly that we should not put our (senior) volunteers into a potentially serious situation by delivering the Journal.

We have had to cancel our next talk 'The Tenant of Stonegap Hall' on 14 April but ..... Michael Pearson has very kindly offered "Walk at Austwick Hall Wood" on Wednesday, 08 April. Meet at 2pm at Austwick Hall for a walk through the woodland in early Spring. Sensible footwear essential. Duration about an hour. No need to book.

Anne Webster, Secretary