



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 in our 2018 programme: Jan David Lewandowski, Emma and Martin Sharp, Mr T Manson, Mike Short, Di Millen and Peter Elliott

The Chairman's Report

Can I add my welcome to the new members above? In common with many societies, the last few years have seen a gentle decline in our membership, but in 2017 we have recorded a welcome increase. Please think which of your friends and neighbours you might invite to join us. Keep one or two membership leaflets handy at home.

Within our membership, we sadly lose some friends each year. This year I would particularly like to pay tribute to Bronte Bedford-Payne and Harold Foxcroft, both of whom died in August. Bronte gave us a talk and a Journal article on 'Charles Kingsley and Malham' a few years' back. We will be publishing a full obituary of Harold in the 2018 Journal. We will miss them both, and are grateful for all that they did for the Trust and area.

We welcome Robin Bundy to the Committee, bringing with him extensive knowledge of Malhamdale and its history. We are also delighted to have the services of Anne Webster, who is taking up the reins as Secretary. It is great to have their support on the Committee.

We continue to perform our 'civic society' function, monitoring planning proposals and applications. We hope that the CDC local plan will be approved by central government as soon as possible, as we will then have a local plan framework in place across the whole of our area. We are working with others to see if the historically significant Stainforth Bridge, which suffers regular damage by vehicles, can be better protected through road closure to vehicles or other measures.

As you will have read, the Office of National Statistics has found that Craven

is the area with the highest level of life satisfaction and the lowest levels of anxiety – in other words, the happiest place in Britain. I think that the Settle and District Civic Society, and we who have followed on from it, have played no small part in this. We help residents, visitors and government understand our area and have succeeded in conserving the best whilst allowing the area to develop into the vibrant – and happy – place it is. Our task now is to ensure that the Trust is in strong hands that will take it forward into the next 50 years.

John Asher

Programme for 2018

For 2018 we have planned another stimulating series of talks, ranging across Craven from the last ice age right up to 2017. Details are on the membership card and accompanying sheet. We will continue with pre-booking for our summer events, as that allows us to go to places where numbers are sensitive.

We had some weather problems with the last two events of 2017. The talk on "Craven in Domesday Book and Beyond" by Fiona Edmonds (of the University of Lancaster) was scheduled on the same day that Lancaster suffered severe flooding and transport problems, so Fiona wasn't able to get to us at the last moment. She has kindly agreed to talk to us on Thursday 18 February, so we will have two talks in February 2018, both at **2.30pm**.

Our 2017 mince pie walk ("Water under Settle" – an unfortunate topic given the cancellation of the previous talk) also had to be called off because of the ice on pavements, but Mike Slater and Anne Read heroically managed to stage the whole event inside the Folly, where we had a very convivial time. For 2018 we are planning from the start to be under cover, so it will be a 'mince pie event' rather than a walk. Apologies to traditionalists!

October 2018 will be a particularly special time. The Settle and District Civic Society, out of which both we and the North Craven Building Preservation Trust sprung, was inaugurated in 1968, 50 years ago. The fact that we have been going

strong for that length of time would be cause enough for celebration. But over that time we have achieved a fantastic amount for the people and places of North Craven. I hope that we can apply the lessons of history to ourselves – reminding ourselves of what we have done, so as to be inspired to continue for the next 50 years. We will be organising a special “Golden Anniversary” event, probably on Thursday 18 October, details of which will be announced in due course.

NCHT Finances

A member has asked why we have such a large amount in our reserves (around £16,000). For the record, and particularly for those who weren't at the AGM, here is an explanation.

We have two broad types of income and expenditure. The first is our on-going expenses of running the trust, financed by subscriptions and advertising. The second is grants of various sorts, financed at the moment by bequests, one of which is restricted, but all of which were not, I believe, given by the donors so that we could enjoy an easy ride.

Dealing first with our grant-making funds, the Historical and Archaeological Research fund is restricted to financing research, and the Historic Buildings Fund to supporting the restoration of historic buildings. Both of these are currently funded by bequests, although the HBF has in the past been topped up from our general funds and we can do the same with the HARF. We also support MA (or PhD) students in research projects on the historic heritage of North Craven, primarily through the Department of History and the Regional History Centre at Lancaster University.

The amounts in our funds from bequests are just under £11,000, which are being depleted as new grants are made every year. This leaves around £5,000 as our operating reserve. In 2016/17 our operating income was more or less the same as our operating expenses. For 2017/18 we will have extra costs of sub-contracted services including membership secretary, sub-editing for the Journal and Trust secretary. We are using our operating reserves this year to establish

what these services will actually cost. By not putting up our subscriptions for 2018 we will be running down our 'operating' reserves whilst we re-calibrate our new levels of regular operating expenses. We expect to set new subscription levels in due course.

Healthy reserves mean that we particularly welcome applications for local research, both independent and academic; and to fund essential restoration of historic churches and other historic buildings in North Craven not in private ownership. For the longer term we will continue to welcome bequests and will undertake to apply them for the benefit of North Craven.

News from the Folly

At the time of writing, we are looking back on a year of great progress, with the successful opening of the Coffee House, some memorable exhibitions and greatly increased visitor numbers. We're also looking forward to 2018 and to taking part in the celebration of two great 50th anniversaries: firstly NCHT's own foundation and everything that has meant for North Craven and secondly, the publication of that landmark volume *Life and Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales* by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby and everything it achieved in recording Dales life as it was a generation or two ago. The Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society are republishing the book with a new cover and introduction and, in conjunction with the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes, are putting together an exhibition and a programme of events in which we are sharing. We are contributing material from our collections to the exhibition, which will travel to The Folly next summer after its initial display in Hawes. The theme of Dales life, with a special emphasis on farming and associated occupations in today's world is the inspiration behind two more of our exhibitions for next season and last, but by no means least, we shall be producing another in our series of WWI exhibitions, looking at the events of 1918 through the eyes of the people of Craven.

Meanwhile, much hard work is going on to strengthen partnerships with other local groups and organisations through a range

of collaborative projects and to raise awareness of The Folly as a venue which is now open all the year round, with meeting/workshop space for hire. Our ambition is to open the Museum for longer hours as well, but, as ever, we need more volunteers to achieve this. Please support us all you can in 2018 and spread the word to everyone you know! I will gladly provide further information on any of the above.

Anne Read

Update on Capturing the Past

This website, provided by the Yorkshire Dales Society (now known as Friends of the Dales) and managed by volunteers, records the history and heritage of the North Craven area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It is a portal to catalogues, collections and archives of local historical material. The website has been developed through the Capturing the Past project, which is part of Stories in Stone, a scheme of conservation and community projects concentrated on the Ingleborough area. The scheme was developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, led by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

After a busy year working with several local groups and individuals the site now contains 1012 items at the last count, with more items continually being added. Each item can comprise many images or pages of a document. The number of visitors to the site spending more than ten minutes exploring the content exceeds 3000, a good sign of success. Material for Stainforth and Long Preston will be added over coming months. Recently we have been scanning the large and important collection of local material held in the Brayshaw Library at Giggleswick School comprising four very large albums created by Thomas Brayshaw in the early 1900s. Several more such projects await us!

You can comment on any item if you have some information or picture to add to the website by using the Add a Comment button. If you need help, just contact us.

The site address is:

www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk or use Google with the search term Dales Community Archives Home.

Mike Slater

Your Contact Details

If you change, or have changed, your contact details, particularly your email address – or have acquired an email address – please let Penny Lowe, our administrator at the Yorkshire Dales Society, know. Her contact details are:

Email: office@yds.org.uk

Tel: 01756 749400. Thanks!

Trustees

It has been great to see members' engagement with our activities but to continue to provide the programme and represent the interests of North Craven's heritage we do need a strong committee with a wide range of interests and skills. If you value what the Trust does, please consider joining the committee. For an informal, no-obligation chat, please contact me, John Asher, on 01729 825075.