



Welcome!

Welcome to our newest members:

Mr J K Bradshaw, Mr G A Cross, Ms M Heathcote, Mr and Mrs R J Killick, Mr and Mrs P Cochrane and Mr D Ansbro

Chair's report

The AGM in October was distinctly a play in three acts – a hefty bout of administrative issues followed (after a few alarms from the projection system) by a drift over the Wenning as seen from a hot air balloon and, as the finale, a cheery celebration of our first 50 years. It drew a record number of members.

If you missed the AGM the main events were the retirement of Maureen Ellis and the coming retirement of Giles Bowring as Trustees, both of whom have given sterling service and both of whom received presentations as thanks; the increase in subscription rates (see below); and the adoption of our new professionally-drafted constitution.

It was also a time for thanking members – those who make teas, maintain the web site, produce The Journal and its advertising, our teams of distributors and notice posters as well as Trustees and Officers.

Members who were there were able to take away a copy of our 50th anniversary booklet – if you have not yet received yours via a distributor or post, please contact Anne Webster. It seems to have been popular with members and the public, and many thanks to Pam Jordan for her editorial support.

Since then we have been busy distributing copies to sponsors, authors, local media, our political representatives (MP, NYCC and CDC councillors, YDNP members and senior staff, parish clerks and parish meeting chairs); to all Craven libraries, advertisers in the Journal, schools and local historical societies. They are available at our talks and for sale to the public in The Folly; Settle, Malham, Ingleton and Grassington TICs; Bentham Post Office and other outlets. Almost 700 are out in the public arena already. Some members have already used them successfully to recruit new members – great idea!

Barn Conversions in the Dales

We had a record turnout for our November talk - held jointly with Friends of the Dales - on this subject by Nancy Stedman on the topic of her research and monitoring of barn conversions in the national park. It was an excellent and authoritative talk which stimulated a great deal of discussion and interest. We have put a PDF version of Nancy's PowerPoint presentation on the website, which you can access from 'News' on the front page.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions have not increased since 2009 and over the last decade not only have prices increased but we have had a shortage of volunteers for critical jobs, which, in common with many other organisations, we have had to fill on a commercial basis. This impacts primarily on the cost of servicing each membership, so single and joint membership rates have had to rise by similar amounts.

We also want to encourage younger members, and it seems a bit perverse then to ask under-65s to subsidise over-65s and say nothing about welcoming younger people, which are the future of any society. We are therefore moving to a single set of adult rates (over 25) and re-introducing a subsidised student membership rate, which was a feature for many years. The AGM agreed that, from 1 January 2019, rates will be:

- Single Membership £15
- Joint Membership £20
- Student (25 years and under) £5
- Corporate Membership £35

We believe that this still provides excellent value while enabling us to provide:

- The Journal, annually, free of charge
- A wide range of convivial talks and events for members and the public
- Grants for historic buildings and research
- Scrutiny of planning

We hope that you will feel proud of what we have achieved together and will continue your support. If you have not already done so, you can also help our economics by setting up a standing order for your new subscription rate and completing a gift aid form. Details and forms are in the enclosed letter from our Secretary, Anne Webster. If you are setting up a standing order or paying on-line, use our bank details on the standing order form and please use your surname and initials as a reference.

Programme

The enclosed Programme card for 2019 covers a wide range of subjects, from myths, through our history to today's local flora and fauna. All three of our summer events will need pre-booking – a late spring flower walk at Colt Park with Judith Allinson, David Johnson's 17th Summer Outing and a new event for this year, 'The Bill Mitchell Walk'. This has been conceived as a tribute to our late President, a member and inspiration for many years. Details of all of these are on the accompanying summer Programme booking form.

Grants

We are currently funding a variety of historical refurbishment and local research projects. These include repairing The Folly front steps; preserving some features at St Michael's, Kirkby Malham; supporting a book about Clapham in WW1; and helping with the post-excavation expenses of excavating St Helen's Chapel in Malham. This last project has hit the national headlines in *Current Archaeology*!

Bequests

Legacies are invaluable in supporting our grants for restoration of historic buildings and providing grants for students to research the past. If you believe that it is important to protect the unique heritage of North Craven for the future, please help to keep this place special by leaving a gift in your will for the Trust to use in 'cherishing the past, shaping the future' (North Craven Heritage Trust, Registered Charity No 504029).

New books

Our Vice President David Johnson has just published not one but two new books:

- *Lime Kilns: History and Heritage* distils David's unique experience and years of scholarly and field research into a beautifully illustrated volume
- *Quarrying in Cumbria* explores the rich legacy of quarrying across Cumbria from Neolithic, through Roman and mediaeval to modern times

Both are published by Amberley at £14.99. Is Santa listening?

And on the subject of Santa, why not give friends or family their own NCHT membership as a Christmas present? It will help North Craven, not just for Christmas, but we hope for the next 50 years!

The Trustees wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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:

penny.lowe@friendsofthedales.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.

John Asher

john@joesclose.co.uk

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