



## Welcome!

We are very pleased to welcome on board the following new members: Mrs M Gladwin, Mr N Hoff and Mrs R Turner, Mrs J Carr, Mr J Annan and Dr J Hargreaves, Mrs M C W McGuire, Mr J T Bradley, Mr and Mrs J Sunter, Dr R J Vesey and Mrs S M Cariss, Mrs S Lister and Ms S Moorhouse.

We look forward to meeting you at our 2019/20 events.

## Membership

We are delighted to report that despite the first increase in membership subscriptions for many years this had very little impact upon 2019 renewals and thank all members for supporting the NCHT.

Anne Webster

## Chairman's Report

### New Trustees

I am delighted to welcome two new Trustees to our Committee. Pam Jordan is well-known to many members, perhaps particularly in her role as a volunteer at the Museum of North Craven Life. Born and brought up in the area, Pam did sterling work on our anniversary booklet and has agreed to join the Committee to strengthen our communications with members and, especially, non-members. Pam has edited this Newsletter. Broadening our membership and keeping NCHT in the public eye are vital for our survival and success. If you use Facebook do look for the NCHT page.

By way of a contrast, Nigel Hoff has only recently moved into the area from London. A Chartered Certified Accountant, Nigel has spent some 15 years working in a Trust Company of an investment management firm, administering private family trusts and charities. Nigel has joined us as Treasurer. We thank both our new trustees, who have been co-opted onto the committee and look forward to their election at the AGM in October.

As noted at our last AGM, we are enormously grateful to Giles Bowring for some 14 years' service, first as Secretary, latterly as our Treasurer. Giles wanted to retire at that AGM but agreed to a temporary stay as Treasurer whilst Anne Webster kept the books, banked, prepared cheques etc. I know that both are delighted to be able to hand over to Nigel, and we thank them both most warmly for their service and being our 'flexible friends'.

## Publications

Our publications continue to sell steadily and we have had to order re-prints of Sylvia Harrop's book 'Austwick – A historical walk round the village' and the Settle Town Trail leaflet. This year we are looking forward to a very exciting publication from the busy pen of David Johnson 'Lost Inns of the Yorkshire Dales'. Many of us have enjoyed walks and talks about erstwhile inns in Settle and beyond. David is now drawing together the fruits of many years research and putting them into print. We hope to launch the book at our AGM in October, in time to provide a splendid Christmas present for local historians and pub habitués alike. We have secured a grant from Stories in Stone for this publication, which is allowing us to underwrite a good print run with high production values to match the quality of David's material.

## Grants

We have recently made a number of grants.

In 2016 we made a grant towards the cost of re-opening "The Priests' Door", in Kirkby Malham Church. When the doorway was re-opened the original door was re-discovered and looked worthy of the attention of a conservator who reported "The precisely ordered geometric lines of wooden pegs securing the bookmatched boards forming the door are distinctive – I mentioned this to a retired museum director

who reckoned this was likely to be a rare survival – he could not straightway think of another comparable example, and the door is likely to have been made from relatively wild grained local timber, probably by a local workshop, so an effort to keep it for display, especially in its original area, seems well justified.” The Trust offered a further grant this year to pay for the materials involved and the old door has now been installed for display on the north wall of the church. One of the existing hinges is useable and a matching second hinge has been made by our local blacksmith David Clements together with pintels, a hasp and handmade bolts for fixing.

We have also made a grant from the Historical and Archaeological Research Fund towards the post-excavation costs of this year’s dig at the site of St Helen’s Chapel in Malham. The purpose of the dig was to investigate features identified by geophysics inside and outside the Chapel footprint, in particular to seek evidence for a graveyard.

Grants such as these are important for preserving features of historic interest and bringing them to the notice of residents and visitors, deepening our understanding of our area. But they cost money! Our increase in subscriptions will help, but we are particularly grateful for gifts and bequests, both of which can be made with tax benefits. Please consider a gift or a bequest to the North Craven Heritage Trust in your will.

John Asher, Chair

## Colt Park Walk



In May, another event that was enjoyed in evening sunshine was the Wild Flower Walk at Colt Park, Ribbleshead, led by Dr Judith Allinson. Over 18 members and friends attended and were captivated by the large number of wild flowers, including early Purple Orchids like rows of purple policemen, pink Bird’s-eye Primroses and the single narrow brown heads of Dioecious Sedge, Dog’s Mercury, various ferns, Bluebells, Herb Paris and Wood Sanicle, grasses, lichen and the wonderful Globeflowers. Such a magical evening – many thanks to Judith.

Anne Webster

## News from the Folly

The museum collections team have been working very hard for the last nine months on preparing to move the entire collection across the road from 6-8, Chapel Street into two purpose-designed storage areas in The Folly. It is hoped that the move will be completed by the end of September unless anything untoward happens! One of the benefits of moving the collections - now numbering around 16,000 items - after 36 years in the same place, is that we are going through every single object, photograph and document in our possession and carefully checking them against our records. Not surprisingly after this length of time, we're coming across a few items with no certain identity or provenance. Such objects are known in the trade as 'orphans' and we thought it would be interesting to share some of them with NCHT readers and maybe gather some more information along the way.

Some people may have read in the Craven Herald about the key to Ypres Cathedral, attached to a label in faded handwriting saying that it was brought home by a soldier of the Great War. It was found in a box of curiosities donated by the late Cliff

and Muriel Humphries of Burton which had been part of a 'handling' collection from Ingleton School where they had both taught for many years. Next, and equally exotic in a different way, is a coconut scraper, fashioned from a single piece of wood with a serrated blade at one end, designed to separate the flesh from the shell of the coconut. Such items typically hail from Africa and Asia so how has it appeared in our collection? A documentary curiosity is a printed petition, dated 1844, railing against the dissolute and wicked ways of the inhabitants of Stainforth and seeking funds to establish a school in the hope that this would improve matters. Maybe today's residents have some light to shed? Do get in touch if you have any thoughts!

Anne Read

## **Autumn Programme**

There has been much in the local press recently about the 'Stories from the Graveyard Project' so we are looking forward to Sarah Lister opening our autumn season with a talk on the research she has done on the history of the inhabitants of The Folly entitled 'A house through time – The Folly'. We will meet at 7.30 pm in Long Preston Village Hall on Tuesday, 17th September.

## **Historic Buildings Fund**

We would like to encourage applications for grants from our Historic Buildings Fund. Please see the NCHT website section on Grants where the criteria are shown. Members- please keep your ears to the ground to identify suitable applications!

## **Social Media**

As our Chairman mentioned in his report, the NCHT has now got a presence on Facebook and also on Twitter. Hopefully this will raise the profile of the work of the Trust and reach a new audience. If you are already on these sites do follow us and please suggest to friends and relatives that they look us up too. Our Facebook page can be found by searching for North Craven Heritage Trust and on Twitter we are @CravenTrust. We look forward to seeing you!

Pam Jordan

## **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

Many thanks!