



Anne Read M.B.E.

It is with much sadness that I must report that Anne Read M.B.E. died peacefully at home on 19th November.

I am pleased that I had only seen her a few weeks ago when I took her some flowers from the Trust and the card signed by NCHT members who attended the AGM, with which she was so thrilled, especially to read all your good wishes on her retirement as our President.

Anne became our President in 2015 and we will miss her wisdom and encyclopaedic knowledge of all things 'North Craven' at our committee meetings. She had been involved with the Trust since the early 1970s after she came to live in the area with her husband, Peter, when he took up the position of Director of Music at Giggleswick School. Her professional skills as a librarian were soon utilised by the Trust when she was tasked with the setting up of the Museum of North Craven Life. And what a good job she did!

Anne's excellent personal skills helped her gain the trust of the local community and as the collection grew she oversaw moving it three times, which was no mean feat. She was able to motivate volunteers and was a wonderful ambassador for the Museum and our Trust.

In 2012 she was awarded the M.B.E for her work and I was honoured to accompany her to the final meeting of Craven District Council in 2023 when she received a Legacy Award as recognition of a lifetime's devotion to our local heritage.

A full obituary will be published in the next edition of the Journal.

PJ

Our new president

We were thrilled that Andy Swinscoe agreed to let his name go forward to our AGM in October when he was appointed as our new President.

Andy is the co-owner (along with his wife Kathy) of the Courtyard Dairy which was founded in 2012 and has won many awards in the years following. The ethos of the Courtyard Dairy is to sell only the best cheese available from the British Isles and, by doing so, to champion and support the few remaining independent farmhouse cheese makers. He has done much to revive traditional and farm cheese making in our area. Those of you who have visited the premises will have seen the small museum that has been set up there telling the history of cheese. Earlier in the year Andy was named the British Library's first ever 'Food Hero' and we are very pleased to welcome him to the Trust.

Ken Pearce

We were sorry to hear that a former Trustee, Ken Pearce has died and send our condolences to his wife Brenda and family. Ken did much research on the history of Clapham and surrounding area and we are very grateful to him for the work he did for the NCHT. He contributed articles to the Journal, guided walks around Clapham and was always an erudite member at our meetings.

Abbot Hall, Kendal

After an extensive refurbishment the museum is well worth a visit. Their pop up exhibition 'Lady Anne Clifford: Building Attributes' closes on 27 December.

The Folly, Settle

Last chance to see the ‘Katharine Holmes & Three Generations of Painting & Living in Malham Cottage’ exhibition which closes on 3 January 2026.

Cliffe Castle, Bradford

‘Ukiyo-e is an exhibition of Japanese woodblock prints supplemented by other treasures from the museum’s collection. The exhibition runs until the beginning of March 2026.

Tullie House Museum, Carlisle

Their exhibition ‘Colour: a season of shades, tints and tones’ runs until 25 January 2026. It explores the cultural significance of colour as a symbol of wealth and status.

Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

The Museum is closed in January but you can still access their Voices from the Dales podcast from their website. There are now three series of talks on subjects ranging from cheese making, and farming to natural history.

David Johnson’s new books

‘Drystone walls in Conistone Township. A field and archival study’ has been published by the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group. Printed copies can be purchased from them or downloaded for free from their website.

David’s other book ‘Irish Sea Lime Trade’ is an illustrated study of the historical trade in lime with and across the Irish Sea. It is published by Amberley at £15.99

The book can be ordered from Limestone Books in Settle, which has recently been taken over by Becky and Ben Caldwell.

Gold lunula at Skipton

Found at Grassington this magnificent piece has been acquired by Craven Museum and is now on display.

Ilkley Manor House Museum

Usually open at weekends it is worth a visit. Heritage walks of the town can be downloaded for free on their website www.ilkleymanorhouse.org

Legacies

Bequests are invaluable in supporting our grants for the restoration of historic buildings and providing grants for students and others 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). Depending on your circumstances bequests to UK charities may reduce death duties.

Your contact details

If you change, or have changed, your contact details, particularly your email address – or have acquired an email address, please let John Asher know. John’s email address is treasurerncht@gmail.com

Date for the diary

‘Local History of the Yorkshire Dales’ is a day conference organised by the British Association for Local History (the Trust is a member) & is being held at Grassington on 2nd May 2026. Further details should be available shortly on www.balh.org.uk