



July
2018

Welcome!

We are very pleased to welcome on board the following new members: Professor Anthony and Mrs Christine Horsewill, Joe Dillon, Michael Smith and Geraldine Reardon, Derek and Pamela Jordan, Roy Anderson, Michael Pearson, Catherine Nicholls, Maurice Bolton, Pauline Elliot, Mark Etheridge and Marian McNichol. We look forward to meeting you at our 2018/19 events.

Chairman's Report

What a summer! According to my weather app our normal rainfall in June should be 45mm, and 50mm in July: at the time of writing, barely a drop has fallen. Of course, this is a wonderful bonus for many, but the Costa del Craven can be tough for some, especially our farmers. With the brown grass, farmers and their animals can be stressed.

One event that benefitted – as usual – from the good weather was David Johnson's 16th Summer Outing. Venturing across the border into Lancashire we visited the fascinating Tudor manor house of Martholme, the C16 Marian St Leonard's Church in Old Langho and Salmesbury Hall. All were close to the Ribble or its tributaries and no doubt were 'off the beaten track' and protected from too much redevelopment – even by the guns of the civil war! Salmesbury Hall narrowly missed the wrecking ball in C20 but (shades of NCHT?) a trust was formed to save and restore it. David's research and preparation once again rewarded us greatly.

Moving much further up the Ribble, another small but significant success has been to have width-restricting wooden posts installed on each side of the Packhorse Bridge at Stainforth Foss. These will prevent oversized vehicles whose drivers ignore the existing signs from damaging the bridge. This was achieved in conjunction with the National Trust, North Yorkshire Highways, Friends of the Dales and the landowners,

Knight Stainforth Caravan Park. Within the first week there was an impressive skid mark where an oversized vehicle had to come to a halt before the posts!

John Asher

Celebration time!

2018 marks a real milestone for the North Craven Heritage Trust, the North Craven Building Preservation Trust and the Museum of North Craven Life. In 1968 the precursor of all three bodies, the Settle and District Civic Society, was formed so this is our 50th anniversary year.

The 21st anniversary in 1989 was marked by a celebratory booklet and we are producing a new version for this year. Alan Bennett, our President from 1968 – 1993, who wrote the foreword to that 1989 version, has written the foreword to our 2018 version. It was his distress at the demolition of several of the old features and buildings of Settle which provided the catalyst for the Settle and District Civic Society. Since then our three linked organisations have played a major part in preserving many of the historic buildings, artefacts and history of North Craven. Without our work North Craven's distinctive "sense of place" would be all the poorer, for residents and visitors alike.

The booklet has two main purposes: firstly, for you, the members, to enjoy and give you a sense of pride in what our organisations have achieved; secondly, for publicity, to raise public awareness of the three bodies and to act as an aid to recruiting more members and trustees – of which, more below.

The booklet will be launched in October, but we are planning a special pre-publication celebration for members after the AGM on Wednesday 10 October when there will be copies of the booklet to take away. We hope that this will encourage a really good turnout!

John Asher

Bluebell Walk

In May, another event that was enjoyed in the glorious weather was the Bluebell Walk, courtesy of Giles Bowring, around the grounds and through the woods of Lawkland Hall. Giles also explained the methods and management of the estate to a group of some 24 members as we strolled and appreciated the amazing vista of bluebells; so many it was difficult not to walk on them. Our grateful thanks to Giles for showing us around the grounds of Lawkland Hall.

Anne Webster

Data Protection Policy 2018

In May this year changes were made by the European Data Protection Board. This is to protect data kept by organisations, such as NCHT, who have day-to-day responsibility for the data protection of their members.

We have to comply with its requirements and as such have produced our North Craven Heritage Trust Data Protection Policy 2018. The complete document can be found by going onto our Website: Home Page: Membership: Privacy Policy; or paste the following link:

http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk/NC/HT/GDPR_2018.pdf

Anne Webster

Constitution

At last year's AGM, our Chairman, John Asher, briefly mentioned to members that he felt it was time to update our Constitution to encompass more modern and forward-thinking provisions. The committee agreed and John and myself sought professional advice from a highly recommended (by Anne Read, President of NCHT and Curator of the North Craven Building Preservation Trust) Social Economy Consultant.

These proposals are coming together, and the draft Constitution will be put to Committee on 14 August for approval prior to being presented to members for adoption (if agreed) at the AGM on Wednesday, 10 October 2018. Anne Webster

News from the Folly

2018 is shaping up to be a great year for The Folly. In the spring we received the welcome news that our Heritage Lottery Fund bid had been successful. This has enabled the appointment of a part-time professional Heritage Development Officer for two years to develop a series of new heritage-based activities and encourage the participation of a wider range of supporters. Mel Cookson-Carter, previously General Manager of Blackwell in the South Lakes, has recently taken up the post and brings a wealth of experience to the role. We are delighted to have her on board.

Grant applications are a constant in our lives and we have recently submitted a bid to the Garfield Weston Foundation for the conversion of the north garage into a new main entrance to The Folly. This would immediately improve disabled access to the ground floor and provide a much more visible entrance and 'shop window' from the town centre, potentially increasing footfall to the whole building. We are also applying for a grant to improve access for wheelchair users to the museum at the rear of The Folly. Thanks to grant aid from the Stories in Stone project managed by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, we are planning to open the initial stage of a Heritage Discovery Centre in The Folly to act as a gateway for visitors wishing to learn more about our immediate area.

As I write, we have just installed the 'Life and Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales: a Celebration' exhibition, on loan from the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. It is a superb record of Dales life and we have added our own local contributions, including the late 18th century Burton-in-Lonsdale forenoon bottle uncovered as part of the Stories in Stone sponsored dig at Thorns last summer, led by David Johnson. We are fulfilling our ambition, highlighted in the January newsletter, of opening the museum every day of the week all the year

round. This is proving quite challenging in terms of recruiting enough volunteers to make it happen, so please help us spread the word and join in if you possibly can. I will happily provide further information.

Anne Read

Trustees

Volunteers have long made an invaluable contribution to the life of communities like ours. Recent cuts to public services, however, have raised the need for volunteering to new levels.

Here in North Craven, our libraries now depend on volunteers; our swimming pools need to raise their own funds; voluntary organisations provide an essential back-up to under-resourced and overstretched social services and health care.

North Craven boasts more than double the density of active voluntary organisations compared with England as a whole. Surveys showed that 33% of the population provided unpaid help in the last year (England 23%). We do put our hands up for new challenges. But this is a plea. In responding to new crises, don't neglect well-established organisations like ours. We are more than just a part of the fabric. We play a key part in keeping North Craven so special. We need your support as members. But we also need your support to keep the wheels turning, as committee members and trustees. Two of our Trustees are retiring at the October AGM after long and active service to NCHT. We really urgently need replacements to join our friendly committee – particularly a Treasurer and a trustee to support our communications. Involvement is very rewarding. I would be delighted to talk with any members about marrying what they feel they can offer with what we need. Please get in touch!

John Asher

john@joesclose.co.uk

01729 825075

Autumn Programme

With all the recent attention on a cave in Thailand our first talk of the autumn season looks at what has been recovered from the nationally – and internationally – significantly caves we have right here in North Craven. Tom Lord will tell us about “new evidence for sudden climate change in the Dales since the Last Glaciation” based in part on our local caves. We will meet at 7.30 pm in Austwick Village Hall on Tuesday, 11 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!

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.

Many thanks!