



May  
2023

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome Jean and David Hall and Chris Taylor to the membership of NCHT.

## Chair's Message

Congratulations to our President, Anne Read M.B.E., who received a Legacy Award at the last meeting of Craven District Council. As you all know Anne has worked tirelessly to protect the heritage of North Craven and was the Hon. Curator of the Museum of North Craven Life for many years. This award was very well deserved, and we are thrilled that Anne has been recognised in this way.

I hope all those members who have attended our talks this year agree that we have had some excellent speakers. As we move into warmer months, we have some outdoor visits coming up and I thank our programme secretary, Sue Cariss, for arranging such a varied programme for us all. I would also like to congratulate Sue and her partner Dr Richard Vesey on their recent marriage and offer the Trust's best wishes for their future.

As I mentioned at the last talk, we are sometimes short of helpers to serve refreshments so if you feel you could help, please do get in touch with our secretary, Anne Webster.

Pam Jordan

## North Craven Woodland Research Group

The Museum of North Craven Life, based in the Folly, Settle is keen to reflect all aspects of the local landscape and its uses. We have set up the North Craven Woodland Research Group to study the past and future of North Craven's woodlands and would like to invite people who have an interest in trees, woodlands, and their uses past and present to join us.

Woodlands in the landscape have been in decline for the last 6000+ years, partly due to changing climate, but mostly due to competing demands from agriculture. This is despite our being dependent on them for all aspects of life - fuel, shelter, food, tools, everyday objects of living - for most of the historical period.

There has been some recovery from the 1901 low point of 5% tree cover across the UK to about 13% and is now at 4.6% in Craven as a whole. We need more trees to reduce the climate, biodiversity and soil crises, and the best place to plant woodland

is on an old woodland site. Detailed maps only go back to 1830's/40's so what else in the historical record is there to indicate where they might have been? Who owned them; how were they used and by whom; and how did they cease to be?

We are proposing to organise an event involving the Museum and partner organisations on this theme in May 2025, and are thinking of linking in traditional woodland crafts, people working the woods, and stories and histories of ancient and veteran trees. However, it is hoped the Research Group will continue beyond then, evolving into important local resource on many aspects of woodlands and things tree-ish in North Craven.

If you might be interested, please contact Ken Timms, who is co-ordinating the Group, at [ken.zeon@gmail.com](mailto:ken.zeon@gmail.com), or by phoning the Collections Office at the Folly on 01729 825185 on Tuesdays, 10:00-3:00.

Ken Timms

## Capturing the Past

Friends of the Dales are pleased to welcome Leigh Weston as the freelance project assistant on the Capturing the Past archiving project. She will be providing support to the project officer, John Cuthbert, in developing the range of the project and the content of the website. In particular she will be tackling the cataloguing and digitising of some major archives that will make a significant and substantial addition to the freely available on-line collections.

Nancy Stedman

## The Journal Index

Many thanks to John Cuthbert for compiling an index to all the past editions of the Trust Journal. All the past Journals are available on our website ([www.northcravenheritage.org](http://www.northcravenheritage.org)) and can now, for the first time, be searched using the new index.

## Your Contact Details

To ensure we can keep in touch with members during this difficult period, if you change, or have changed, your contact details, particularly your email address – or have acquired an email address, please let Anne Webster, NCHT Secretary, know.

Anne's contact details are:

Email: [amw.1@btinternet.com](mailto:amw.1@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01729 824 844



