



April  
2022

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Brenda Staines and Mrs Lynn Northrop to the membership of NCHT.

## Chair's Message

Now that things appear to be getting back to some normality I am pleased that we have managed to organise a number of events for members which have been sadly missing over the last couple of years. I do hope you will be able to join us on the Bluebell Walk at Lawkland Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> May and that there are enough members signed up to David Johnson's Westmorland Ho! summer outing on the 8<sup>th</sup> June (pre-booking by the end of March is essential) for it to go ahead. David is also leading a walk around Austwick in August. Robin Bundy has been organising a trip to Weston Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> July for us all and details of this visit will follow soon.

We are still looking for volunteers to help serve the refreshments at meetings. If you feel able to help please contact our secretary Anne Webster. We also continually have feelers out for new trustees, particularly with IT knowledge, and would welcome hearing from anyone who may be interested in joining us. As the old saying goes 'the more you put into something the more you get out of it'!

## Bluebell Walk at Lawkland Hall

With Giles Bowring

Sunday, 15 May 2022 at 2.15 for 2.30 pm start

Limited to 30 members maximum (first come first booked)

Note - Donations to Giles' charity

## A Walk around Austwick

With David Johnson

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 10 to 1pm

Easy 2mile walk on tarmac showing how Austwick has developed. Sorry, no dogs. Normal outdoor shoes.

## Call for IT expertise – can you help?

The North Craven Building Preservation Trust and North Craven Heritage Trust are looking for a volunteer willing to become a trustee of both Boards. This is a shared role with a focus on information technology. You will have a good understanding of networked systems and be able to communicate clearly with staff and volunteers, some of whom may not be technically proficient. You will play an important role in helping both organisations to improve their IT infrastructure and will also act as a bridge, bringing the two trusts into closer cooperation. NCBPT trustees meet bi-monthly and NCHT quarterly, but we do not expect you to commit to attending every meeting.

**Interested? If you would like an informal chat about the role, please contact Heather Lane [chair@ncbpt.org.uk](mailto:chair@ncbpt.org.uk) or send a brief CV and covering letter to the same address by 30 April 2022.**

## Capturing the Past

'Capturing the Past' is a long-term project led by Friends of the Dales, a registered charity. The project collects and displays historical material relating to the communities and people of the Dales, with the original/current focus on the wider Ingleborough Dales. Community volunteers are supported to catalogue, digitise and upload their own local archive material onto a specially designed website. Here, it can be browsed and searched to show everyone the treasure trove of photos, documents, wills, parish records, deeds, indentures and even spoken

memories that have been collected far.

The 'Capturing the Past' website is:  
[dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/)

We already offer access to over 2,700 items of historical material, most of it not previously available to search on-line. Additional collections will be added as they are processed. At present, there are 29 larger, local archives (plus several smaller ones), on the site.

We also provide links to other, local history websites. These signposts include the **North Craven Heritage Trust** and the **Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group**.

'Capturing the Past' gives those who have a collection of local history material the opportunity to display the objects to a wider audience. Instead of being a collection of photos in cardboard boxes in the attic, it becomes a resource available to the whole world. A family asset can become an asset to be studied by everyone.

If anyone is considering putting their collection onto the 'Capturing the Past' website, there are three stages to the process:

1. Cataloguing – volunteers are trained/supported to sort and organise their material
2. Digitising – training and equipment is offered so that the material can be digitised
3. Uploading – further training/support to upload the collection on the Dales Community Archive website for full public access

This may seem a daunting process, but there is help available from the Project Leader: John Cuthbert. He will assist you through all three stages and make sure you have the knowledge, skills and access to specialist digitising equipment you need to complete the task.

John Cuthbert can be contacted on:  
[dalescommunityarchives@gmail.com](mailto:dalescommunityarchives@gmail.com)

Capturing the Past was originally developed through Stories in Stone, a scheme of conservation and community projects concentrated on the Ingleborough area. The scheme was developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, led by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

### **Dated Doorheads**

In July 2020, an enjoyable project was started to investigate dated doorheads in the Ancient parish of Giggleswick, comprising Giggleswick, Langcliffe, Rathmell, Settle and Stainforth. A group of four – Jean Asher, Eileen Bamford, Pam Jordan and Mike Slater – has worked together to determine the family names associated with these datestones. The available evidence has been documented. We looked at 91 examples having dates and initials, with ten of these having no initials but worth noting. Surprisingly, the success rate in finding almost certain or near certain names is near 90%.

We needed to consult the Giggleswick parish register (1558-1837), wills (up to 1750), deeds (1704 to 1750) and the Hearth tax list of 1672 – all being of considerable importance. Fortunately, some of this information can now be found online at [www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk](http://www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk) and [www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk](http://www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk). Books on local history have been consulted. The benefits of much effort spent on accumulating such information over the past 20 years or so are shown in this project. We are also grateful to those individuals who have allowed access to private premises to obtain photographs of datestones not previously available.

As a result of this project we consider that datestones were incorporated into buildings most probably when a family could afford to build a new house in stone, or improve or alter an existing property. This often took place some years after marriage. Rarely does a datestone coincide with a marriage date, and most improbably the date of birth of a child. Most of the datestones are in the time period of the great rebuilding of houses in stone, about 1660 to the early 1700s. Then a large time gap appears before another wave of building in the 1800s.

The list will be put on the NCHT website in due course, and when members are notified, a call can be made for help in identifying certain cases, confirming our results, or noting errors of mistaken identity. An article in the Journal can then be considered to present our findings.

Dr Mike Slater

### **BALH brings benefits**

We joined BALH, the British Association for Local History, several years ago just because the insurance rates they offered for a society like ours were cheaper than we had been paying. Over the years the benefits to members of societies like ours have been growing. Here are some of the main ones:

*Local History News* and *The Local Historian* are published quarterly and copies are available for our

members to borrow from the book stall at our meetings.

The website <https://www.balh.org.uk/> is a valuable resource for local historians.

BALH stage or advertise a wide range of local history events, listed at <https://www.balh.org.uk/events>. As a member of NCHT you can attend many of the on line events at a reduced fee if you apply our discount code F-28414G. This code is strictly for NCHT members' use.

Is anyone interested in acquiring a run of *The Local Historian*? Professor Angus Winchester has kindly donated a run of them from 1984 to the present. If you want them just give Michael Pearson a call on 015242 51794 & he will arrange delivery.

### **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