

A New Beginning

If 2009 was a roller coaster year for the Dales Way Association, 2010, if not quite as extreme, has still given us a bumpy ride.

Our ebullient General Secretary and Newsletter Editor Steve Taylor resigned before the AGM in May after disagreements and problems of communication with colleagues and somewhat unfortunate - and untrue - public comments in the Spring Newsletter.

This was a sad day for the Association and for Steve. Nikki Trask and Steve Taylor did a huge amount of work in 2008 and 2009 in helping to sort out our affairs in the aftermath of the tragic loss of the previous Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor David Smith, in terms of rebuilding our membership data base, sorting our finances and clearing a backlog of correspondence, getting the Newsletter out and many other key administrative tasks. Steve also made a major contribution to the highly successful Dales Way 40th Anniversary Walk, organizing the series of very well subscribed coach rambles to cover the whole of the Dales Way in eight memorable day stages throughout the summer of 2009.

It was a great pity that we had to lose Steve for reasons, which are referred to elsewhere in this Newsletter. Nevertheless, we offer him our good wishes for the future and thank him for all that he has done for the Association in the recent past. Later upsets should not blind us to the great contribution Steve made to the Association at a vital time.

But it's also time to move on. The Association must look forward not backwards. We now have a new Newsletter Editor, our hardworking Footpath Secretary Alex McManus, supported by a small Editorial Working Group, including our Vice Chairman Douglas Cossar and our energetic new Treasurer and Membership Secretary Carol Crossland.

A new Committee is in charge of the Association. Some of us are long serving but

still energetic members of that Committee but happily we have new recruits with much to contribute and whom we warmly welcome. But we still need a Minutes Secretary and other help on Committee would also be welcome.

The Dales Way is entering a difficult time with national and local government financial cutbacks threatening many aspects of our daily lives, as perhaps badly needed services are withdrawn and jobs lost. Yet when times are tough, activities such as walking become ever more important. Walking costs little to enjoy but brings huge physical and mental health benefits, as well as giving significant help to the rural economy as ramblers spend money in local shops and cafes, on local transport, and in overnight accommodation. In 2011 and through the perhaps bleak years ahead, the Dales Way will become ever more important to the Yorkshire Dales and to communities in our Region. Tough financial times may encourage many people to seek more worthwhile goals in life than mindless consumerism, as they discover much that is available close to their own doorsteps, including the Dales Way. With perhaps six million people living within a couple of hours' travel time of the start of the Dales Way, there couldn't be a better time to get our boots on and discover - or rediscover - one of Britain's most popular and beautiful long distance walks.

Colin Speakman
Chairman

The A.G.M. and new ways forward

The resignation of our General Secretary with effect from the A.G.M. in May had far-reaching implications for the organization and administration of the Association.

Carol Crossland carried out a review of all the tasks carried out by the General Secretary and the Membership Secretary & Treasurer and re-defined these roles with new responsibilities for each role, which would be more effective and would benefit our members and the

committee. As a result of her review, a re-organization of the duties of the officers of the Association was agreed on. The chief administrative officer would now be the

Treasurer & Membership Secretary, and Carol agreed to undertake this office. Her duties would be to collect the mail from the Post Office Box once a week; to deal with enquiries, filter post and send items to other officers as required; to produce certificates; to send out orders for the Handbook, the Route Guide, badges, certificates etc.; to process the applications of new members; to maintain and update the membership database and send out membership reminders; to update the monthly accounts, record sources of income and expenditure and reconcile these with the bank statements; to deposit cheques and pay invoice.

There would also be a

Committee Secretary, whose duties would be to prepare and circulate agendas for all meetings; to book venues for all meetings; to record and distribute minutes; and to maintain the scrapbook/archive.

A new committee member is needed to fill this role, Carol covering in the meantime.

The creation of these two new offices means that a **General Secretary** is no longer required.

Thought was also given to the other tasks which needed to be covered by the Committee, monitoring the condition of the path and liaising with the various highway authorities, management of the website, the editing and distribution of the Newsletter, the editing and distribution of the Handbook, liaising with accommodation providers and matters of publicity and relations with the media.

Chairman Colin Speakman agreed to cover the publicity and media etc as essentially he was already doing this.

In addition to continuing with his role as **Footpaths Officer** Alex McManus agreed to take on the role of **Newsletter Editor**, working with Douglas Cossar, provided that support was provided. An editorial sub-

committee would be responsible for finalizing the content and layout of the Newsletter. Many members had elected to receive the Newsletter electronically, and Chris Musson volunteered to carry out this task provided that he received an electronic copy.

Chris Musson agreed to continue as **Web-Master**.

Douglas Cossar would continue to edit the Handbook and would take over responsibility for its distribution.

Nikki Trask agreed to take on the job of liaising with accommodation providers.

The Committee as elected at the AGM therefore now looks like this:

President:	Frank Sanderson
Chair:	Colin Speakman
Vice-chair & Handbook Editor:	Douglas Cossar
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Carol Crossland
Footpath Officer & Newsletter Editor	Alex McManus
Web Master	Chris Musson
Cumbria Representative	Don Holliday
Committee Secretary	Vacant
Accommodation Providers' Representative	Nikki Trask

Annual Subscription

It was formally proposed at the AGM that the annual subscription to the Association be increased to £6 per individual or £8 per family.

This was unanimously agreed with immediate effect. Carol reported that the next reminder letters for June renewals would reflect this and that as 50% of members pay by standing order it would be necessary for them to complete a new one. Chris reported that it was a simple process for people who used On Line banking to increase their subscription.

The following reports were given at the AGM:

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership stood at 475, with 80 new members joining in 2010 (39 in 2009). Carol pointed out that this increase could be

attributed to the Anniversary Walks programmed. During the year lapsed memberships (after three months grace from the date of renewal) amounted to 60. Colin commented that despite this, 475 members appeared to be a record for the Association. Carol also reported that as per the Newsletter, it was intended to increase the subscription to £6.

Treasurer's Report

Carol presented the Accounts (see last page of this Newsletter) in which the Income and Expenditure Account showed a shortfall of (£873) and reported that the majority of the shortfall was as a result of the Anniversary Walks programme, which made a loss of (£570). This had been expected, as the intent was to ensure that as many seats as possible on the coach were occupied and an incentive was offered for people booking the whole walks programme. It was also pointed out that other costs had increased such as postage, printing etc.

Carol reported that donations received during the year stood at £1032, which was significantly more than the previous year. Reserves at the end of March stood at £11,267.

Footpath Officer's Report

In addition to his report (see below), Alex reported that he had received a letter regarding the path at Sprint Bridge Road, which was in a terrible state due to dog fouling. This was passed to Cumbria County Council who advised that the problem needed to be reported to Burnside Parish Council. This has come at an ideal time as there is a meeting scheduled for June with the Parish Council at which the problems can be discussed.

Colin commented that a fantastic amount of work had been done and that Alex's report demonstrated, more than ever, that the Dales Way Association must stay in existence as it is doing exactly what it was set up to do, namely improving the route.

Web Master's Report

As per his report (see below) Chris reported that hits to the website continued to be very good with a high in April.

He also reported that at the last Committee meeting feedback had been sought regarding the possibility of uploading the Dales Way slide show on social networking sites e.g. Face book etc.

As this proved difficult Chris took the decision to upload the slides to Face book and to put a link on the Dales Way Association website. The results have been encouraging with a number of people uploading their own pictures. There was also some good feedback from the 'I know Yorkshire' website.

Chris Grogan (joint author of A Dales High Way) reported that the DWA featured highly on Google and Colin also reported that as a result of the DWA becoming a Corporate Member of the Yorkshire Dales Society this also provided a link via their website.

It was suggested that the public transport sections of the Handbook (which had disappeared from the Handbook over recent editions but were now reinstated thanks to Douglas and Alan Sutcliffe), should be loaded on to the Website. Chris was happy to do this as long as he received an electronic copy. Colin noted that the web was becoming increasingly important and these actions represented another high for the DWA.

Footpath Officers Report

- 1 The Leeds-Ilkley Link to Bramhope. Bill Griffiths and myself walked this in May 2009. 15 Waymarks were added or replaced. Reported back to Roger Brookes, Principal Development Officer, Leeds City Council.
2. Cleabarrow. July 2nd 2009.

It was reported that the permissive path over the wall, alongside the B5284, had been closed. A detour was arranged with the LDNPA and duly way marked. The ongoing proceedings with the landowners could be resolved and it is hoped that the path will be re-opened, apart from the last 5 metres, by June 2010.

3. The information board at Church Bridge has been replaced.

4. Little Town Forest Plantation.

As from September 4th the footpath was diverted, as the trees were “harvested.” i.e. cut down and dragged away. The diversion is along the road east of Rivling along to Dub Hole.

5. Missing fingers on finger post at Outrun Nook replaced.

6. Correct classification waymarks have been fixed between New Houses and the A6.

7. Dales Way signage has been added to the footpath between Oakdale Cottages and the river Sprint. i.e. asking walkers to cross the wall at the correct place.

Another sign was positioned at the river Sprint to take west to East walkers up the correct side of the wall.

[Points 6 and 7 carried out with my colleague Don Holliday, from Kendal Ramblers.

8. YDNPA

a. David Manning, Head of Design and Technology, Holmfirth High School, has now had 16 of his aluminum plaques accepted by the YDNPA to be incorporated into their ongoing improvement programme as they replace stiles with gates in the Dent area.

b. They have reported two proposed improvements:

i] To introduce a permissive path alongside the river to take walkers off the narrow road into Hubberholme

ii] To construct a footbridge over Crosdale Beck (near the Lune Viaduct)

The Dales Way Association has offered an appropriate donation

9. Interesting letter from R and D. “On the permissive path after the Farfield Friends Meeting House, we missed the path onto the road.” I was confused, but after some emails I established that they had turned left, and ended up the hill to the railway etc.

I have now affixed a wood sign to the gate with “Dales Way,” and a white arrow pointing to the Bolton road.

They also suggested that a fingerpost be erected beside the railway line leading down to Greenhead. There is of course a fingerpost, but only if you follow the Dales Way footpath

and walk alongside the railway line for 400 metres or so, and do not take a diagonal line, and end up in the stream. [I have reports of similar escapades.]

I replied to both points, and have now fixed a wooden sign to the wire, after you descend the stile over the bridge, asking walkers to walk 410 metres west, alongside the railway line.

[I appreciate letters such as this, as it helps to improve the footpath. All of us do not think the same way.]

10. Harvey Maps. 15th January 2010.

Juliet Hutton of Harvey Maps asked me [the Dales Way Ass] to review the present Harvey Map, as it was about to be reprinted. This has been done, with the fortunate coincidence that the new Harrogate Dales Way Link was able to be included.

The map is due out in June.

11. An invitation to meet up with CCC Countryside Access Team next month to have a meeting with Burneside Parish Council – on site - to discuss Sprint Bridge Road.

12. Following the 40th Anniversary walks some slide shows have been made from the pictures taken, not to win academy awards, just to bring back memories.

We are working on trying to get them onto our web page.

Alex McManus
Footpath Officer

P.S. The footpath at Cleabarrow

As from Friday 30th July the Dales Way footpath, behind the wall alongside the B5284, became a fully-fledged public footpath – 581081 – which will go on the definitive map and statement. It will appear on the next edition of the OS maps.

The footpath has been resurfaced and wall gaps created at each end.

The verge has been leveled and new signposts have been installed.

So ends a long saga, which has involved hours of work and general aggravation to walkers and ramblers. It also highlights the downside of “permissive” footpaths, i.e. they can be closed at a moment’s notice.

The LDNPA are to be thanked for the present renovation of the new footpath.



Webmaster's report

Visits to website 2009

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>UK</u>	<u>TOTAL VISITS</u>
JANUARY	921	3269
FEBRUARY	2138	7221
MARCH	1249	4145
APRIL	1641	4672
MAY	1390	4700
JUNE	1040	3579
JULY	1046	3678
AUGUST	1117	3736
SEPTEMBER	889	3846
OCTOBER	646	3704
NOVEMBER	651	3731
DECEMBER	506	3482

Visits to website 2010 (to 21st May)

JANUARY	790	3715
FEBRUARY	817	3316
MARCH	961	4289
APRIL	1458	6705
MAY	636	3033

The overall picture shows that the website is still very popular and receives plenty of hits.

Regarding the slide show or photo pages. After the last meeting I explored a number of possibilities with Face book, Flicker and UTube. I have entered a link to Face book on the website and we are now getting photographs taken by walkers who have completed the walk and comments on how much they enjoyed the walk. I urge the

Committee to look at this page and tell me what they think. These were the options last time:

Option 1. Face book – I have uploaded approximately 150 photos off Alex's CD as a test, but I am informed that later in the year all Face book users may be charged.

Option 2. Flicker – Again I have set a page up on this site, but it has a limit on the number of photos it will handle per month. (No charge as yet but you can pay for unlimited uploads.)

Option 3. Photo bucket. I have not tested the upload speed on this and I'm not sure whether there is a limit. I know a fee is payable for some business members. I like this site: it seems to be the easiest to understand. They also allow short movies.

I have received some very nice comments from the I Know UK site Webmaster that all links seem to be working okay; she also stated that she really enjoyed browsing our site.

Regarding the services page, the web pages of Brigantes, Windermere Travel (i.e. Alistair's) and Scott's Chauffeur Drive seem to be faulty.

Chris Musson

A day out with the Footpaths Officer

Wednesday 23rd June.

I set out with several tasks to accomplish. To travel beyond the M6 is time-consuming and expensive, so I gather incidents together that need attention in that area, and make an early start. I call the area between the M6 and Grayrigg Foot the Bermuda Triangle of the Dales Way. It is contained on pages 35 and 36 in the Route Guide: both pages in my copy are nearly worn out now.

First stop was **Beck Foot**.

Passing Half Island House and continuing up the slope you emerge into a large field sloping upwards. 450 metres ahead, half left, you leave the field by an apology for a (stone and wire) stile, which you cannot see when you enter the field. Sounds simple? However, the problems are:

a) The footpath is difficult to way mark as there are only some isolated hawthorn trees along the field boundary, and a few scattered in the middle of the field.

I took up this problem, of the need of a finger post within the field, with Capita Symonds in late 2009. Due to budgets and poor communications, by June this year no progress had been made, so I decided to take the initiative. The lady in Half Island House gave me the name of the owner of the field, at High House Farm. I duly met him in his farmyard, showed him the wooden signs I had made and got his permission to attach them to a couple of trees (by wire, not nails). In passing he said "...lots of people get lost and wander around here." I heard that several times that day.

The signs were duly fixed, to guide walkers across the field, I hoped!

b) The faint path alongside the boundary hawthorns continues west, with no trace of a path to take you up to the left. The consequence of this is that you continue until a fence stops you. Locals used this path to continue alongside the river, as the fence used to have a stile. The fence has been robustly repaired with a strand of barbed wire along the top, but the stile has been removed.

A battered metal footpath marker points up the hill (to the Dales Way wire stile).

I had prepared a larger piece of wood with a Dales Way way mark embedded; an arrow and a "Go to top of field." etched and painted in. So, even if walkers miss the other signs, and end up at this fence, they will be reassured that the Dales Way Footpath is within reach.



In August, Capita Symonds erected a fingerpost in the field. The wire stile and the broken stile beyond Half Island House will be repaired in due course. Well done.

Next stop was page 38, **A6 to Patton Bridge.**

I parked in the lay by on the A6 and walked up to Black Moss Tarn. All the waymarks attached previously up to New House were weathered, but still in place. At Black Moss Tarn, when on our 40th Anniversary walk, walk leader Douglas pointed out that a way mark was needed "over there . . ." with a wave of his left hand, as we proceeded up the slope. The problem here is that there is a well-worn path that takes you for a walk around the Tarn, and no sign of a track, to take you up the slope. Another old bit of wood, carved with loving care, arrow and Dales Way was produced. By coincidence, there was a dead fallen tree, in the correct position, so nails could be used. Another wandering walker saved from Dales Way footpath frustration. (They would have had a nice walk around the Tarn though.)

I then proceeded on to and out of Biglands. After crossing the road you are, or have been, faced with an overgrown stretch of footpath, which includes nettles, brambles and raspberry canes, which have been a source of complaints over the years. I found out last year that the landowner liked to harvest his raspberry crop before CCC could clear the path. To my surprise, today, the path was well trodden and not a problem. I entered the drive of what is broadly known as Shaw End in the guidebook. I had been asked by CCC to supply a Dales Way way mark earlier in the year to affix somewhere here, to stop walkers invading an orchard! I asked the first individual I saw, who was up a ladder cleaning his windows, if there was an orchard nearby. He pointed down the drive, adding that it had not borne apples for many a year. On the gate of the alleged orchard, the new Dales Way way mark was duly in place on the gate, next to a second one. Two problems sorted there, now the "walk back!" to the A6 this time.

In the car and off to Hag End and Troffers. The mission here was to leave a notice on the gate out of the property, explaining to walkers that the footpath via Cleabarrow was now useable, apart from the last 5 yards, which entailed road walking. A similar notice was left at the café. I presented Helen with one of my wooden signs, which she said she could use.

So, off to the BOAT junction as it is called. This is where the footpath meets the "Bridleway open to all traffic," a metalled minor road. There used to be a 3-fingered post here, but now only a sad single post remains. I fixed a Dales Way way mark (red) and a little note to "mind the traffic," directing walkers west down to Cleabarrow.

Then the walk back.

From Hag End I walked to Outrun Nook. I had reported a loose finger from the fingerpost, propped on the wall, earlier this year. A new finger post had been erected pointing east, and the Dales Way way mark was still in place on the gate, pointing west.

Sprint Bridge Road.

It was now 3 o'clock, and I was outside the Convenience Store in Burneside with our man in the Lakes, Donald Holliday. England had just kicked off and we were waiting to start a meeting, which could [?] solve the (dangerous) road walking along Sprint Bridge Road into Hall Lane, Burneside.

Simon Boyd, Countryside Access Development Officer, CCC, and Eve Borrino, Countryside Ranger, appeared, then two members of Burneside Parish Council. I had been dealing with Simon for some time, even sending him photos of vehicles almost in the hedge with our walkers in between, on this section of Sprint Bridge Road on the anniversary walk. Simon had arranged this meeting, and to his credit, had a plan.

CCC proposed to the Parish Council, that if they could persuade the local landowner to allow a footpath on the south side of the road, in the grounds of Burneside Hall, CCC would designate it as a public right of way and

maintain it, along with the permissive path, behind the wall down Hall Lane.

I have had issues with the Parish Council over the last 3 years as to their lack of interest in the safety of walkers along this dangerous road. Whether Simon's initiative will move them on, we will have to wait and see.

(Their response to a previous complaint by a walker, about dog fouling on the path behind Hall Lane was, "we don't use it, and we always use the road.")

At 4pm Donald and I repaired to the Jolly Anglers Inn to see the second half of the match, and wished we had stayed with the Parish Councilors to discuss the dog mess on Hall Lane. Or maybe not.

So ended my day out on the Dales Way.

My first assignment when I took over as footpath officer in 2005 was a complaint about Holme Park. A group of walkers were finding blocked fences, having to climb 6-foot fences and falling into excavations. I never really got to the bottom of that complaint, but it seems that things never change in that area.

The present situation is that with pressure from Capita Symonds and the police, assisted by complaints from Dales Way walkers, the dogs are now confined and under some threat, if they misbehave again. However, if the dogs don't deter you, how about the gates? Tony Grogan emailed in a few weeks ago to ask for clarification about the path from Lambrigg Head. The footpath was diverted from the field about 5 years ago, to pass along the minor farm road. There is now a fingerpost 100 metres along the road to direct you through a 5-bar gate into the field and onward to Holme Park. However, Tony found the gate chained and padlocked.

[In 2004 a young couple with their 2 children walked the Dales Way. With commendable parenting skills, to keep their children's attention, they gave them the challenge to count the number of gates and stiles they had encountered along the way. They gave the appropriate number at the end of each day's walk. An account of their walk was given in the Spring 2006 Newsletter. In the course of the walk they went through, up, down and over

51 kissing-gates, 63 gates, 82 stiles, 54 wall stiles and 46 ladder stiles.]

So, speaking of gates. Of all the hundreds of gates along the footpath, there is maybe one you can recollect. Think. At the start of the cattle bridge across the M6. It is large, red and with a chain and padlock. At least once per year, I get a complaint that it is locked. Illegal on a public right of way. The truth is that the chain and padlock **can** be lifted over the metal gatepost.

This is now happening at the gate, as you approach Holme Park. Capita Symonds has been informed and are dealing with this individual, regarding the gate and other matters. They do state, however, that locked and unlocked gates are quite a problem. Sometimes they are locked. When they visit, they are not.

Farfield Friends' Meeting House.

David, the Convenor of the Friends of the Meeting House wrote in to say that waymarks had been removed from within the small grounds, where the Dales Way footpath proceeds to the permissive path, behind the wall, alongside the "dangerous" B6160. Resulting in "one stubborn leader taking about 20 walkers along the road, into racing traffic, ignoring my pleas to take the proper route."

The waymarks had gone, been removed, stolen? I replaced them on the large tree stump, with an additional way mark 100 yards down the road, to take errant walkers through a gate, back onto the safer path.

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION HARROGATE GROUP INAUGURAL WALK OF THE NEW 'LINK' FROM HARROGATE TO JOIN THE DALES WAY AT ILKLEY (21 August 2010)

A bright, sunny day greeted the forty-three walkers who gathered at The Sun Pavilion in The Valley Gardens, Harrogate to launch the new sixteen-mile Link. They had a gracious

send-off by the Mayor, Councillor Bill Houtt, and were fortunate to have Colin Speakman, who opened the original Harrogate DalesWay in 1974, among the walkers.

The first half of the walk follows the route of the Harrogate DalesWay to Swinsty Reservoir. Great views were enjoyed by the group especially crossing Haverah Park where a pause was made by the memorial seat to Corrie Gaunt whose hard work and tenacity had established the public footpath network through the park. Colin Speakman spoke movingly of the contribution made by Corrie, which he estimated to be of national importance.

At the western side of Swinsty Reservoir dam, our lunch point, the old and new paths go their separate ways. The old path is still open but subject to restrictions of access across Barden Fell, and whilst the new route uses some permissive Yorkshire Water tracks, these are easily by-passed, in the event of closure, without the need for road walking.

From Swinsty, the Link passes through the delightful hamlet of Timble to the woods at Timble Ings. One of the delights of the route was to emerge from the woods onto the track along Lippersley Ridge in wonderful open moorland with glorious purple heather. The walkers were rewarded with good all-round views to Greenhow and Ilkley and the opportunity to look down on the Menwith Hill base. From the ridge, the walk south through the heather was really delightful and still in perfect weather. Hollingley Farm was passed



but the short, sharp climb after the Fairy Dell caught some unawares, no doubt persuaded that there were no hills left to climb, after all we were looking down on Ilkley from the ridge! The rest of the route follows established roads and tracks via Middleton to the riverside at Ilkley. All present enjoyed a great experience and the forbearance of the public service bus drivers enabled all to get home when they wished.

FROM DALES WAY TO HIGH WAY

It seems like the Dales Way has always been part of my life. Growing up on a farm at the top of Dentedale we often didn't see anyone for days at a time. Walkers brought with them a welcome link to the outside world and as teenagers we would hang about the farm gate, hoping that someone, anyone, would stop for a chat. By the early 1970's we began to hear the phrase "Dales Way" and over the years met many Dales Way walkers as they headed down the Dale on their way from the Youth Hostel.

When I finally took up long distance walking myself, the Dales Way was the obvious choice for our first trip. Not only could we walk from our home in Saltaire to Ilkley on the Bradford Link route but also a few days later we would find ourselves passing my old home. It felt like the route had been made for us.

Walking the Dales Way was just the start of many happy years of long distance walking and as we walked we gradually formed the idea of creating our own route. At first it was just a dream. Something to chat about as we covered the miles. But gradually a plan began to emerge. It would be a high level route, which would start in Saltaire and head into the Dales. It would include Dentedale – of course – and would end in Appleby-in-Westmoreland so that walkers could return on the spectacular Settle – Carlisle railway line. A Dales High Way was born.

The route is 90 miles long and follows ancient trade routes, green lanes and packhorse trails wherever possible. It crosses Rombalds Moor

and Ingleborough, Malhamdale and the Howgill Fells. A Dales High Way briefly coincides with the Dales Way at Ilkley and at Dent, but otherwise offers a totally different perspective to the beautiful landscape that is the Yorkshire Dales. The two walks complement each other, one following the lush beauty of the riverside paths, the other climbing high into the splendid isolation of the fells. The Dales Way is a perfect introduction to long distance walking; A Dales High Way is the challenging next step.

A Dales High Way was launched in September 2008 nearly 40 years after the Dales Way. Those forty years have seen a massive growth in the popularity of long distance walking and the emergence of some fantastic routes. We hope that one day A Dales High Way will be regarded with the same affection and regard that walkers have for the Dales Way. Thank you Dales Way. We couldn't have done it without you.

Chris Grogan

A Dales High Way Route Guide (£6.99) and A Dales High Way Companion (£9.99) by Tony and Chris Grogan are published by Skyware Press. Available by post from 48 Albert Avenue, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 4NT or from www.skyware.co.uk Postage and packing £1.

For more information about the route including suggested itineraries and accommodation please see www.daleshighway.co.uk

Thanks from our Treasurer & Membership Secretary

I would like to say a big thank you to all our members who have amended their payments to reflect the new subscription level, particularly those who pay by bankers order. I am sending out new bankers order forms to members well in advance of the due date of renewal, to give enough time for the changes to be made and will continue to do this throughout the year. Should you have Internet access to On-line banking, you can also amend your payment in this way if you wish.

Additionally, many thanks for the many donations, which have been sent in; since April we have received a total of £386. Your support is very much appreciated and means that we can continue our work in maintaining and promoting the Dales Way footpath.

Carol Crossland

Changes to the 2010 Handbook

Ilkley. Riverside Hotel. S £50 D £75

Grassington. Fell View Cottage. Large double room/single room, large sitting room for guests, own front door, desk, TV. £34

Threshfield. "NEW" Ling House bed & breakfast T/D1 £65 01756 752342

Kettlewell. Kings Head. New owners Linda Farrugia, Bob Aubrey. Dog friendly. Safe area for bikes. Transport pickup on route/Skipton railway.

Dent. Stone Close tearoom and guesthouse. New owner Mrs. D Dickinson. D1 F/T1 (e/s shower) £25-£40 per person. EM £15. Packed lunches by arrangement.

Sedbergh. Holmecroft £27.50 per person

Wheelwright Cottage. S £35 D £55 D

New e-mail address

wheelwright.cottage@homecall.co.uk

Skelsmergh. Red Hills D £80 (single occupancy £50)

Crook. Hagg End Farm. En suite family room 1xK 2xS (3xsingle option) start £50 per night, en suite double start £50 per night, 1x double with private bathroom start £40 per night. Evening meal £12.50 (less for children). Do 1 night stays.

Bowness on Windermere. Bowfell Cottage. D (e/s) £32. T £26. F/D £28. e/m £14

ACCOMMODATION NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Appletreewick. Andras Farm

Sedbergh. Catholes Farm

Kendal. From the 30th Sept 2010 Kendal Youth Hostel

I would like to thank those who have been in touch so far, and could I please have changes to the tariffs for 2011 by the end of November for the New Handbook.

Nikki Trask

Another view of the Dales Way.

By the time you are reading this, it will be mid to end of September. Another six weeks or so and you may be recalling your recent trip along the Dales Way or maybe planning your trip for next year. To add an extra dimension to your planning or your memories, power up the computer and log on to **Google Earth**. This has recently been updated and is a free download. Key in Ilkley, and set the height to 300 metres and off you go. A helicopter ride along the Dales Way, in fine weather, costing you nothing. With your map beside you, plan your route or recollect your journey.

It is interesting and informative, if you actually got a bit lost on your last walk!

As you cross the M6, it gets more difficult, as the footpath is either hidden by the trees, or not worn in, into the grassy fields. Juliet, from Harvey Maps, explained to me that there is no correlation between the latitude and longitude on Google Earth and the Grid references on the Ordnance Survey maps.

Another alternative is to log on to www.skyware.co/dalesway/maps.htm

This has been supplied by Tony Grogan [of "A Dales Highway" fame.]

This is an Ordnance Survey map with the Dales Way highlighted, which you can follow, as you did with the above.

Walkers' reports

Thoughts and Plans for the Dales Way 2010

Having recently retired and been very busy doing lots of different things, I decided to get back to some long distance walking. This winter has been a long one, even in the south! So having spent many, many happy times in

‘God’s own country’ and now apparently, ‘The Garden of England’, (as a ‘Man of Kent’ I am not sure about this but...) it had to be the Dales Way as a first return to longer distances. And for me this meant a ‘pure’ end to end of the Dales Way. But it also meant a ‘doubling back’ from Bowness as far as Dent and then across to Burtersett to meet up with friends. Anyway, that was the plan...

Unlike previous walks that I had done, (a long time ago) I planned the walk incorporating B&Bs. It was March and most of the campsites, I thought, would be closed. When previously I had ‘backpacked’ long distance routes, planning wasn’t an issue; I just used to stop where I dropped! So I found myself becoming increasingly paranoid about how far I might be able to walk in a day, which obviously affected my booking of B&Bs. And when I last ‘backpacked’ long distance routes I was also at least thirty years younger, and six stones lighter!!! This was also to be my first solos walk of any distance. So what could possibly go wrong?

Of particular concern was the section from Langstrothsedale to Dent; the Handbook warns of this, but I still ended up with around twenty miles from Hubberholme to just short of Dent village.

For a Southerner life isn’t easy. Yes I hear all the jeers... But the reality is that one has to prepare from a distance. Once the commitment is made to 6, 7, 8 or more B&Bs that is it, a day of ‘slack’ isn’t possible. Also one has to travel by rail or National Express or both. And who knows what the weather is doing; down here it was miserable, so I hate to think what it was like ‘up there’. And will my feet get me there? Will this overweight, over the hill body keep to the schedule that thirty years ago was easy?

So mid March I travelled up on the train and stayed at Petra’s in Ilkley; finding it exactly as described by others. The weather, that first, and subsequent days were magic and a complete change from what had gone before. I remember a film made about a disastrous DofE expedition on Snowdon. It was called, I

think, “The Day Seemed So Good”, and that phrase has always stuck with me. So by the time I got to Strid Wood I only had two blisters and was feeling a little ‘bowfagged’. My B&B was at Thorpe but no one told me the last mile and a half was uphill! (*Should have looked at the map you stupid bugger!*) Still the B&B was great and Mrs Hall most welcoming, and would have collected me from Burnsall had I asked.

Next day back down the hill, easy, and along to Hubberholme, and by this time had there been a bus in Grassington or Kettlewell I would have taken it! This was a section I knew as I had walked it on previous visits. The B&B at Hubberholme was very comfortable but I didn’t have the energy to cross the road to visit The George; I should have realised that something was wrong!

The third day was to Dentdale, the longest day; and it was beginning to feel like the film of that name! A strong headwind up Langstrothsedale didn’t help and by Oughtershaw a decision had to be made. I hate giving up on things, especially if circumstances are not against me, but the provision of a bright red phone box helped. So after a couple of phone calls to B&Bs it was a long road walk to Hawes. That six miles took nearly five hours and by the time I reached Hawes I could barely walk. The only thing that kept me going was the thought of Fish and Chips at the chip shop; and when I got there it was shut! *****! I can’t put on paper what I thought! But I went to the Pen Y Garth opposite instead and had Yorkshire Pudding, chips and gravy with three sausages and a mug of tea, all for six pounds. Magic! But it’s no wonder that phrase “The Day Seemed So Good”, still sticks with me.

And the problem? Lack of exercise since last autumn, age, weight and weight of the pack seem to have caused the lower half of both legs to swell. The next day I couldn’t get my boots on, my feet were so swollen. My doctor didn’t have any ideas, just told me to lose weight. (*Nothing-new there then!*) Returned to Hardraw for a week in April with my wife and managed Dodd Fell and Wether Fell in

well under five hours with no ill effects other than the desire for a few pints of T T's Landlord.

My careful planning had meant that I had a cheap ticket (£35) from Garsdale back home but now I had to go back a week early. The ticket was not transferable so I had to pay full fare - £101 single, £102 return! *(What's all that about; no wonder there is so many cars on the road?)*

So in conclusion – I ought to know better at my age – but I don't so I will be back to 'complete' the route and then in 2011 do it 'end to end', perhaps with a tent. After all I will be a year older, and with age comes wisdom doesn't it! B&B isn't a cheap option, had I completed the ten days I would have spent nearly £400 out of my pension with food on top of that. But it is a fabulous walk and those who devised it and those who look after it are to be congratulated. I was very aware of the changes in the country I was travelling through; something I had never noticed on numerous visits to the Dales. The change from town through highly managed, almost parkland on the first day. The more pastoral second day travelling through Upper Wharfedale and then the transition to a wilder landscape through Langstrothsdale. This would be followed by open moor and then a descent into, well I'm not sure, and that is one reason as to why I will go back.

Graham Syms, April 2010

Stuart Smith and party walk the Dales Way

We have now completed our Dales Way trip. The party consisted of 3 couples (all +/- 60) and we started from Ilkley on Friday 25th June in glorious weather. The plan was that our wives would walk with us over the weekend as far as Buckden and then return home, leaving us to complete the walk over the following 4 days. We therefore decided to split the walk to Buckden into 3 easy stages. We booked accommodation in Grassington for the first 2 nights at Grassington Lodge - a beautiful place - and walked as far as Barden the first day. We then used Brigantes to collect us at Barden and

take us to Grassington, bringing us back to Barden the following morning, to complete the walk back to Grassington again. We arrived in Grassington on the festival weekend so there was plenty to see there. The third day we walked up to Buckden. The following morning Brigantes picked up our wives and their baggage and took them back to Ilkley railway station to catch the train home to Stockport. We could now get down to the serious business of putting some miles under our boots. One noticeable point was the extremely low water level in the Wharfe, and indeed up Oughtershaw it vanished underground in several places. This lack of river water was seen throughout the entire walk. We spent the night at the Railway Inn at Ribbleshead. Not wanting to retrace our road route back to Gearstones, we decided to head up the viaduct route and then over the engineer's track over Blea Moor tunnel to rejoin the route at Dent Head. There was a bit of low cloud early morning at Ribbleshead, but this cleared up as the day progressed. We had been using your excellent strip map for route finding and found it invaluable, supplemented by the Cicerone guide. We had not put a foot wrong so far, but after passing Tub Hole and crossing the Dee over the small wooden bridge (erected by military personnel?) we completely missed the sign for re-crossing the Dee at Tommy Bridge. (We did notice what looked like a concrete ford over the river but no Dales Way sign.) We therefore carried on up the right hand bank to cross at the next crossing point near Scotchergill, but missed out on Mill Bridge.



Your map shows a conifer forest near Little Town, but as we passed, it was being taken away on a lorry! The route through the tree stumps was adequately marked however.

After a night in Sedbergh we set off for Dent and Burneside. This was our hottest and longest day (16.5 miles) and unfortunately there were very few watering stops. A very kind farmer's wife made us a cup of tea at Hardrigg, as we had to stop for a tractor offloading hay bales. She would not take any money for it, but we gave her some for the church charity box. We found Billy's serve yourself barn at Burton House. What an oasis that was, and a cold beer from the fridge as well - very enterprising!

We completed the day in Burneside and spent the night at the Jolly Anglers. Unfortunately the landlord was taken ill to hospital overnight, but his mates kindly stepped in and cooked breakfast for us.

So far we had had 6 days of glorious sunshine, but this now changed on the last day. Leaving Burneside, the drizzle started and was with us on and off all day to Bowness, where we arrived by lunchtime. To complete the journey we had a lake boat trip down to Lakeside, before collecting our luggage for the train home. We had used Brigantes all week for luggage transport and found them to be very useful.

All told we had an excellent holiday walk. Route finding was not a problem (except when we lost it!), but the strip maps were extremely useful. We had no problems with dogs on route either. We all found the scenery throughout the Dales outstanding, and passed though some gems of places.

If you would like to see some photos of our progress, they can be found at <http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/sjsmith7/TheDalesWay2010Highlights#>

We will be sending off for our badges shortly to mark our achievement. Next year we are thinking about the Cotswold Way....



[Click onto the photos. They are very good. Editor.]

Sally Wigmore.

Sally had a “lucky” no rain, backpacking trip, from Shipley to Bowness, 20th to 27th June. Her trip was made the more enjoyable by the prompt delivery of the Route Guide and Handbook “giving her time to do some proper planning.”

In a beautiful turn of phrase, she states “... I did it much faster than anticipated, mainly because of the lack of camping places. I didn't know which field belonged to which farmer, so I had to use camp sites”. She points out that the caravan site at Addingham, Olicarna, would not let her stop, even in a quiet corner. She then had to push on to Appletreewick campsite, in my reckoning another 8 miles on top of the 8 she had already walked! [It was actually 17.4 miles that day, she told me later.] In her typical up beat manner she continues “... It was good really, as it made the other days seem easier!” Well-done Sally.

Mr. K Chilcot wrote in for a certificate after completing the walk from Leeds to Bowness from the 15th to 18th of July. He has to be congratulated, as does everyone who completes the walk. He is obviously a very fit young/old man. Well done.

However, walking the Dales Way in 4 days is not something we recommend.

On my “day out” I overtook two young men [campers!] near Cleabarrow. One was hobbling, the other was limping. When I

asked, the silly question as to how they were, they shrugged, and added, “we decided to do it in five days with dodgy boots.”

A member asks if anyone knows the origin of **Black Rake Road**, between Gearstones and the minor road into Dentdale. Email in your suggestions.

David Manning explains that on his second Dales Way walk with his family in 2007 he came across the aluminum cast signs near Dent and realized that they would provide a theme for the year 8 work that was in progress at his school. With the help of Karen Griffiths of YDNPA, 4 groups of pupils were given the challenge to design and make signs that related to the Dales Way.

The pupils had to design plaques that reflected features on the way or were relevant to walkers. They made patterns utilizing the school’s laser cutting machine, and hand equipment to manufacture the signs using the traditional metal casting process.

More in the next Newsletter.

And Finally

In the X Files, Agent Moulder would remind his partner, “There are things out there that we do not know about, Scully.” I know that feeling after my day out in June.

It started with the farmer at **High House Farm**, where he seemed to take it for granted that walkers always wandered around his field.

At **Troffers**, I was told, “Lots of walkers are getting lost at **Cleabarrow**”. Whilst I was putting my little notice on the post at the BOAT junction, a shadow fell on me, as two ladies appeared from the North. “Why were you not here 10 minutes ago? Stop us from getting lost!” No sooner had I pointed them in the correct direction, than two German ladies pounced on me. Also lost. They however were following a map from a local hotel. I told them to follow our waymarks to get back to Bowness.

Returning back through Hag End, I continued to **Outrun Nook**. The owners of the two dwellings were having tea in the garden.

“Yes,” they said to my question, “walkers do get lost, they turn left after they come through the swing gate in the wall. Then some come up the road, through the gate having gone through **Crag House**. They also think this is **Hag End**. So we pass them on”

The swing gate has a Dales Way way mark pointing through Outrun Nook.

I asked Donald to check out the waymarking at Crag House. Two, 2 finger, finger posts were intact to guide walkers past Crag House.

At **Shaw End** the man up the ladder added “They come from all over the place, even coming **out** of the orchard.”

100 yards or so east of Shaw End, the path passes through a kissing-gate in the hedge with Dales Way waymarks on both sides. Our guidebook has a note, “look for kissing-gate.” If walkers miss the gate and carry straight on, they could end up anywhere, including the orchard.

There was a report in the last Newsletter from a group of Welsh ladies falling into streams, surprising farmers by telling them that the Dales Way footpath passed through their farmyard and getting stuck under a barbed wire fence! I have seen the photo.

I have calculated that approximately 0.05% of Dales Way walkers contact the Dales Way Association, excluding new members and certificate seekers. I don’t have a problem with that. People join the Dales Way Association to walk the Dales Way, not to become park rangers or travel writers. Nearly all tell us how much they enjoyed the walk, and a few mention problems encountered, which we try and fix, or explain.

What I wonder is, what do the other 99.95% get up to, “out there?”

“Where we got lost” is probably the highlight of the post-walk get-together, but what sort of problem did it cause to the people where the countryside is their home?

Enjoy your walking.

Alex McManus

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****For the year ended 31st March 2010**

	2010	2009
INCOME		
Subscriptions	1,894	1,848
Donations	1,032	583
Bank Interest	12	157
Retail Sales	434	923
Less Cost of Goods Sold	<u>84</u>	<u>301</u>
	3,288	3,210
EXPENDITURE		
Cost of Anniversary Walks	2,862	
Less contributions from participants	<u>2,292</u>	
	570	-
Newsletter	1,050	985
Dales Way Expenditure	17	1,098
Members Handbooks	293	176
Travelling Expenses	275	356
Postage & Stationery	1,326	823
Room Hire	137	12
Subscriptions & Donations Paid	51	36
Accountancy	230	97
Web Site	<u>212</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>4,161</u>	<u>3,624</u>
(SHORTFALL)/EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£ <u>(873)</u>	£ <u>(414)</u>
BALANCE SHEET		
at 31st March 2010		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock	25	200
Bank	<u>11,242</u>	<u>11,940</u>
	£ <u>11,267</u>	£ <u>12,140</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 1 st April 2009	12,140	12,554
(Shortfall)/Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>(873)</u>	<u>(414)</u>
	£ <u>11,267</u>	£ <u>12,140</u>

REPORT

We have prepared, without audit, the accounts set out on this page from the financial records, information and explanations supplied.

3 Central Street SUTCLIFFE & RILEY HALIFAX Chartered Accountants 21 May 2010

