

The Dales Way Association.

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Editorial

And now, the end is here, and so I face the final curtain . . . I have travelled each and every highway . . . a bit more work on the words and it could make a good song for Frank Sinatra. My friends, I'll say it clear . . . Yes, if you have kept up to date with our website you will know that this is the last hard copy Newsletter. After our AGM on 27th October 2012 we move into the digital age and all of our news etc will be conveyed to you by that medium. Some of you will no doubt not like that, but the reasons we have to take this course of action, are explained below by our Chairman and expanded in other parts of the Newsletter. I have enjoyed my last 3 years editing the Newsletter and hope you have enjoyed reading it.

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AFTER 21 YEARS OF THE DALES WAY ASSOCIATION IT'S TIME TO CHANGE

The Dales Way Association has been in existence for 21 years. We have a small committee, which meets 4 times a year, but the bulk of the work between meetings falls to the Secretary/Treasurer. When early this Spring, our excellent hardworking Treasurer and Secretary Carol Crossland explained to her colleagues on the Dales Way Committee that she intended to resign at the end of March because of pressure of work, we knew we had a crisis coming.

Carol had done a huge amount of work for the Association since taking over from Steve Taylor two years ago and it was clear that the administration of the Association had got too demanding. No one was able or willing to take on the amount of work required to keep Association functioning as it had been.

The Committee decided, therefore, to have a fundamental rethink. With Carol's help we analysed in some detail every aspect of our work, and concluded that by far the greatest consumer of time and cost was simply servicing members – dealing with membership enquiries, sending out subscription reminders, banking cheques, posting newsletters, badges and handbooks. The newsletter too, though splendidly edited by Alex, was also a lot of extra work and with rocketing postal costs becoming very expensive indeed to produce and to send out. The Handbook was another major labour of love but difficult to produce, expensive to post and distribute and constantly needing updating.

We began to recognise that printing and postage used up just about all of the membership subscription. Given we now no longer had enough volunteers to keep the Association going, closing it down looked like the only option. After all, those of us who had been around from the very beginning 21 years ago, including our President Frank, Chair Colin and Vice Chair Douglas, and even Alex our energetic Footpath Secretary who can give several of us a few years, were all getting a shade long in the tooth, so maybe we had reached the point when running a 1980s style

pressure group was no longer a valid proposition in the second decade of the 21st century, the era of Face book and Twitter.

After much discussion though we realised that there was another alternative, a radical new approach, which offered a lifeline. As almost all Dales Way Association members are now on-line, if we could run the Association as essentially a web based organisation, not only would costs be massively reduced, we could use our income for its real purpose – for the Dales Way, both for our campaigning work and for improvement work on the footpath itself. At a stroke we could reduce costs and by slashing the workload could enable the Association to survive with much smaller volunteer input.

Moreover by changing our Constitution from a standard voluntary organisation to that of a “Small Charity” we could benefit both from legal protection of our funds as a charity and the ability to draw down charitable donations. We'd still have members but communicating would be almost entirely electronically, through the website, Face book and emails.

Not everyone will be pleased to lose our informative and often entertaining printed Newsletter, though the stories from it will appear regularly on the Dales Way website. Likewise the information from the Handbook, inevitably outdated before it is printed, will now be on line, constantly updated.

But the alternative was for us to wind down the Association, hand our funds over to the Ramblers, and quietly fade into the sunset.

Chris Grogan, elected at our 2011 AGM as our Honorary Secretary, will explain what is meant by a Small Charity and how this new status will transform the Association into a new fit-for-the 21st century organisation, whilst remaining totally true to the ideals and principles upon which the Association was founded in 1991.

Join us on October 27 on our walk along the Leeds Link of the Dales Way to Ilkley for our 2012 AGM. Share with us our plans to reshape the Dales Way Association to enable it to be there as an effective body to look after one of England’s finest walking routes, not just for the next 21 years, but for many more years to come.

Colin Speakman
Chairman, Dales Way Association

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The committee wish to express their appreciation to the work done by Carol Crossland, Secretary and Treasurer, and Chris Musson, Web Master, for their contribution over the years for the Association whilst serving on the committee. Their efforts have enabled us to reach the situation we are at today, as a fully functional working group preparing for the move into the digital age.

The 20th Annual General Meeting of the Dales Way Association to be held on Saturday 27 Oct 2012 in the Riverside Hotel, Riverside Gardens, Bridge Lane, Ilkley LS29 9EU

The meeting will be preceded by a 5.5 mile walk along the Leeds Link Route from Menston to Ilkley led by the DWA Chairman, Colin Speakman.

The walk will leave Menston Railway Station at 10.05 am, arriving in Ilkley at approximately 12.30pm.

The AGM will start at 1pm.

AGENDA

Minutes of the AGM of May 21 2011
Chairman's Report
The Dales Way Association Constitution
Treasurer's Report
Membership Secretary's Report
Footpath Officer's Report
Election of Officers and Committee
Any Other Business

The Dales Way Past, Present and Future

Colin Speakman will give a short talk, looking back at the last 20 years of the Dales Way Association and forward to the future.

The Dales Way Association Autumn Walk.

This year's Autumn Walk is a 5.5 mile walk along a section of the Leeds Link Route from Menston to Ilkley. It will take place on the morning of Saturday 27 October and be followed by the AGM.

The route takes an enclosed path alongside the railway line into the centre of Menston. It leaves the village along a sunken track with open views, leading behind the old bleach mill then through fields before reaching Burley Woodhead. The most dramatic section of the Leeds Dales Way Link now follows as the path climbs steeply above Barks Crag onto the moors. This is a classic moor edge ridge walk with fine views, eventually reaching the Cow and Calf rocks before descending into Ilkley.

The walk will be led by Colin Speakman and will leave Menston railway station at 10.05am, meeting the 9.51am train from Ilkley and the 9.53am train from Shipley. Walkers should be back in Ilkley by around 12.30 where a snack of sandwiches and chips will be provided at the Riverside Hotel. Drinks and more substantial meals will be available to purchase. The AGM will follow at 1pm.

The Dales Way Website

The Dales Way Association website (www.dalesway.org.uk) is going to play an increasingly important role in the work of the Association – indeed, it is set to become the main source of information and communication for the public and DWA members alike.

www.dalesway.org.uk

Home | About | DWA | Certificates | Links

The Route | Maps/Guides | Accommodation | Handbook | Services | Facilities | Public Transport

The Official Web Site of the Dales Way Association

Welcome to the Dales Way Association

The Dales Way is a long distance footpath of about 78 miles (126 km) situated in the north of England and running from Ilkley to Bowness-on-Windermere.

By following as far as possible riverside paths, it offers a scenically attractive route from urban West Yorkshire to the Lake District, which any reasonably fit family can undertake in a week's holiday. Although not always well served by public transport the Way, by following natural and sometimes ancient lines of communication, passes through many villages, and so accommodation is not a problem, although it is advisable to book in advance.

NEWS

New steps and gate at Lambrigg Head

Countryside officers at Cumbria County Council have moved quickly on their Dales Way work program, installing a new stepway and kissing gate at Lambrigg Head.

After crossing the busy M6 motorway on a footbridge, the Dales Way turns sharp left between the motorway and farm buildings and drops to join the road heading Southwest. After about 150 metres the route then turned right to pass through a farm gate onto a muddy field. This new installation is a few metres further on and makes access much easier. The way then continues to a new kissing gate, and on towards Holme Park Farm.

Cumbria County Council have recently completed a detailed survey of the Dales Way Route through their area, and these impressive works signal the first fruits of their labours. The landowner here has been very helpful.

See our previous report [here](#).

1 Aug 2012

Bridge down near Grayrigg

On the morning of Friday 29th June we received a report from officers at Cumbria County Council that the bridge over Thursgill Beck had been washed away overnight. This is crossed on the Dales Way soon after leaving Grayrigg Farm heading for Thursgill Farm.

In Brief

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE - Diversion near Grayrigg** A bridge has been washed away at Thursgill and a temporary diversion is in place - See details here.
- **Reorganisation of the Dales Way Association** Important announcement and the effect on new member applications
- **Next Dalesway Walk** Autumn Walk for the AGM
- **Why should I make a donation to the Dalesway Association?** Help the work of the DWA
- **New Dales Way DVD** A Taste of the Dales Way
- **Whers did it all go wrong, George?** Wrong turns on the Dales Way
- **Alpacas at New Towne** Don't panic and enjoy their company
- **May Day Walk** Review of the May Day walk 2011

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Dales Way Association

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Dales Way Association shared a link.

The Dales Way walk © www.youtube.com
I did the walk of the Dales Way from Ilkley to Bowness on Windermere which is a total of 78 miles or 126 km to raise money for the British Lung Foundation. T...

Anyone visiting the website recently can't have failed to notice some of the changes – including the rolling news stories now appearing on the Home Page.

A vibrant link to our very popular Face book Page is also embedded directly into the Home Page, which gives a much needed level of interactivity for members and others.

We are also introducing a **members area** – an area on the website for DWA members only. Here you will find more information about the Association and its work, including Committee reports, Finance reports, a members forum and other such material (www.dalesway.org.uk/members/members.html).

You will need a USERNAME and PASSWORD to access this area (you will find them on the letter enclosed with this newsletter).

Eventually we intend to put all the information that is currently found in the Dales Way Handbook onto the website – where it can more easily be kept up to date and accessible to all.

Soon too, new members will be able to join directly online.

There is still much work to be done and it will take time for all these new features to roll out, but the website is well on the way to providing the main source of contact and information about the Dales Way and the DWA for members and walkers alike.

DALES WAY BLOG COMPETITION

In this Internet Age it is good to see so many people producing their own on-line “blogs” about their Dales Way experiences – text blogs, photo blogs and video blogs. We are going to include these on the Dales Way website (see www.dalesway.org.uk/blogs/blogs.html)

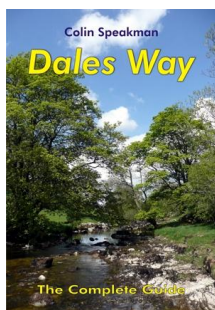
To get things rolling, we are holding a competition for your favourite blogs. We have added some blogs to the website already which have been suggested to us so far.

To enter, just nominate your favourite Dales Way Blog: email us at info@dalesway.org.uk with the subject heading "Blog competition" and include a link to your favourite blog.

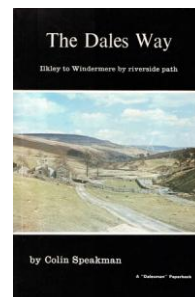
It could be your own blog, or one you have seen. It can be a text blog, photo blog or video blog. It could be one of the blogs already shown on the blog web page.

Or, you might want to create your own new blog and let us know. Useful free websites for creating blogs include: www.blogger.com , <http://wordpress.org> , and www.youtube.com

Closing date for the competition is 1 December 2012. The winning blog will be chosen by a group of the Dales Way Association Committee. Prizes will be awarded to the person who nominated the blog, and to the blog author. If more than one person nominates a blog, the winner will be drawn from a hat.



The prize is a set of signed copies of the original Dales Way guide by Colin Speakman - the latest tenth edition (2011) AND a pre-owned copy of the very first 1970 edition. The winners will also receive a copy of the DWA "Taste of the Dales Way" DVD.



(Winners will be notified by email. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the DWA committee is final.)

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Footpaths.

This has been quite a summer [?] in my department.

Cumbria County Council.

Following the flurry of complaints about the footpath in Cumbria last September; during a spell of very wet weather, we have had a Member of Parliament, the Dales Way Association and individual walkers demanding action. CCC responded by organising a complete survey of the Dales Way footpath in their area. This was completed in April this year. We were supplied by their Countryside Access Officers a DVD with every stile, gate and finger post along the route.

Also on the DVD were their specialised maps, essential in defining the official right of way. Following on from their example, I have continued this format from the CCC boundary on to the Dales Way seat at Bowness.

On the 26th June with fellow committee members Tony and Chris, we met up with our 2 compatriots from CCC and walked from Lambrigg farm to New House, just beyond Black Moss Tarn, identifying problems and possible solutions. A video of our walk is on our website. A program is being arranged with them to tackle the low cost improvements, which we will support financially.

The Bridge over Thursgill Beck.

On the 29th of June we were informed that the bridge over Thursgill Beck had collapsed due to recent rain and the subsequent volume of water. A feasible diversion was posted on the Website by the Monday with an official similar version supplied by CCC. This was made available as a download from our web page. The farmer quickly built a temporary bridge, but as this was not on the defined right of way, CCC recommended that walkers use the recommended diversion. Diversion signs were affixed at the bridge near Beck House and at Patton Bridge. However, as news was passed between walkers that a crossing was available, the diversion signs began to be removed by [misguided] persons unknown.

CCC will erect a wooden footbridge on the correct line as soon as possible when finance and maybe permission are agreed.

A video of the bridge under water, approximately one hour before it collapsed can be seen on the Face Book section of the Web site.

Cam Woodlands.

In April a walker alerted us to the fact that the footpath through the corner of the plantation had been engulfed by a tree fall of about 50 trees. The contractor had cut a way through, but it was very muddy, treacherous and maybe dangerous for certain age groups. *A video of the damage and an alternative route up the side of the woods was posted on the web site.*

The matter was complicated further as the contractors began their long delayed harvesting of the trees, starting in the North Eastern corner. *Video available on the Web site.* The YDNPA will re-establish the right of way as and when it is possible.

Like buses, as they say, none appear for ages then 3 come along together, and so it happened between Camm Farm and the woodlands. Not buses, but that would have made a great photo for the Website, but emails, all saying that they reached the woodlands and met a broken stile, pheasant pens and a bank impossible to climb. A dead sheep was also reported for special effect. [One of the emails is printed below.]

On my last visit I solved the problem. I followed the well-marked track straight ahead and ignored the faint trace of the correct way marked track on the right. [See photo below,] Everything Don Mackay writes is true. I fixed a wooden DalesWay sign to the post, which carries the faded white "footpath" sign, to make it stand out.

This should help. A map also serves this purpose.



Bear right, or else you are in with the birds.



Other signs added

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Having just returned from walking The Dales Way I feel I should inform you regarding the 'alternative' route through Cam Woods.

I approached Cam Woods from Cam Houses long a clearly defined path between two walls and across the small rough pasture to the woods themselves.

There, I was faced with a dilapidated wall, a perimeter fence and an old marker, which simply said "footpath". This sign was parallel with the woods and pointed to the top

of the woods. I went in the direction of the sign for only a few yards and was met with a step stile over the wire fence. I say step stile but the step itself was missing. Leading into the woods from this point was a clearly defined path that skirted an enclosure that was a pen for rearing game birds. Neither of these paths led to anywhere and, indeed, the right-hand path that led up between the woods and the perimeter fence was so steep it was impossible to climb.

I came back out of the woods and into the pasture to check for other paths but could locate none.

I have seen your short video re the temporary paths both before I went and on my return and nothing I encountered resembled anything in your video.

All I could do was to go back to Cam Houses and leave by the exit road to meet the Cam High Road and turn left. This exit road was RIDICULOUSLY steep and in the pouring rain, was no fun.

I understand the need to clear the wood but I feel better temporary signs should be in place from the stile at Cam Houses barn to the exit of Cam Woods.

This is by no means a complaint, but feel that better signage should be in place for the benefit of less experienced walkers.

Yours sincerely,

Don Mackay.

Always use a guidebook, with a map as back up if things go wrong.

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A personal message to our Accommodation Providers.

Providing accommodation for walkers along the Dales Way footpath is essential. We are therefore lucky that over the years we have had up to 100 providers who have joined the Association, paid their subscription and had their details incorporated into the Handbook. These have been updated annually. Since last year this information has been duplicated on our website. Along with the Newsletter, the Handbook will no longer be produced for 2013 and due to our lack of resources, we will no longer be able to request up to date information from you.

Your entry will continue to be displayed on the website, but we ask you to notify us of any changes you wish to make especially cost of rooms, meal availability etc. This can be done anytime by contacting info@dalesway.org.uk.

The Dales Way Association will not be making a charge for this continuation on the website but we hope that you would continue with your direct debits, standing orders or donations.

I think you are loyal, extremely hard working individuals, working in difficult times, appreciated by the committee and by the walkers who visit you. We have the emails to prove this.

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On the 11th of July I was at Cam Woodlands and met Mika and Sarah from Dusseldorf, Germany. They had stayed at East House Farm with Mary Wood and told me that they wanted to adopt her as their favourite auntie!



I persuaded them to try the Watershed Alternative and guided them to Cold Keld gate and waved good bye.

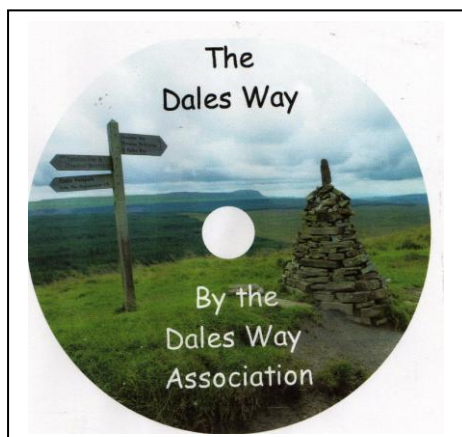
In August, whilst back up at Cam, I called in at East House Farm and told Mary about our conversation.

Mary had set up a charity in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami, this was talked about over dinner with the young Germans. Departing, they left a donation for it.

The spirit of the Dales Way.

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DVD “A Taste of the Dales Way.”



Our DVD has again been updated to include Cam woodlands and Thursgill Bridge, old and new. It now contains over 500 slides with 7 music tracks. If you have “walked the walk” the 45 minute show will bring back memories and show you some places you may have missed. . . .or forgotten about.

If you are preparing to do the walk, this will give you an idea of what to expect, and may even cause you to alter your plans.

To order your copy send, a cheque for £4.50, post free, to info@dalesway.org.uk You may

also order and pay from the link on the website for the same price at www.dalesway.org.uk

Wanted. A liaison person to communicate between the Dales Way Association and our accommodation providers.

Having read the Newsletter you will have realised that helping hands are so thin on the ground that you can barely see them. We need someone who will provide a link between the Association and the people who run the accommodation along and beside the Dales Way footpath. Several of these people proved invaluable in recent months to alert walkers of problems at Cam woodlands and the detour around Thursgill Beck. They also provided up to date information as the situation changed. However, more needs to be done to link us closer together, to share problems, if any, and create solutions. If you are interested and wish to know more, contact us at info@dalesway.org.uk

Out and About.



The Lake District National Park have agreed to replace this damaged 3 fingered post which I reported on a recent visit to survey between Burnside and Bowness. The Dales Way Association have agreed to pay the cost. £124
Location. Near Borwick Fold.
GR 4480 9655

In Buckden, the Buck Inn has reopened under new owners after 3 years of uncertainty. It will be open all year serving food and providing accommodation. It will complement fellow Dales Way Association member at the West Winds Yorkshire Tea Rooms, which is just round the corner, and the accommodations at Hubberholme. See Accommodation on the website for further details.



Jeremy and Pam Sutcliffe are not accommodation providers, but they do provide a service to tired walkers. They have offered a copse opposite Studley Garth, [Upper Dentdale] 700 metres after you pass under the Dent Head Viaduct, as a picnic stop for Dales Way walkers. It is called “Poppy Wood” after their granddaughter [who is still around and kicking]. The area has benches and tables, a pond and the river running by. The sign has left my garage and is next to a new gate supplied by YDNPA and installed by volunteers. We thank them for their generosity.
The spirit of the Dales Way.

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So, that's it folks. Enjoy your walking. Alex McManus. Footpaths and News Editor.