



## **Dales Way Association**

eNewsletter No 62 Autumn 2024



Frosty Autumn Dales Way sunrise looking back towards Ilkley.

*Courtesy of Gordon Tasker*

### **The Dales Way Association**

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## A CHALLENGING AUTUMN



It's that time of year – shorter days, longer nights, and what seems endlessly depressing news – wars, the rants of politicians, tax rises and government cuts, rising prices, the climate out of kilter.

All reasons to seek solace in the countryside, with autumn days providing some of the most memorable walking through our amazing Yorkshire landscapes, including along the Dales Way. Often the weather is more settled, with the fleeting colours of early and late autumn, and after leaf fall, clearer views across to frosty and even snow flecked hills.

So why not plan a day's walking on the Dales Way? Even in the heart of winter it is possible to plan a walk in day stages, ending in a warm café

or village inn, using the excellent weekend 874 DalesBus service between Leeds, Ilkley, Grassington and Buckden, also the Settle-Carlisle railway line to Ribbleshead and Dent and local bus services from Sedbergh and beyond providing access to and from much of the route. See [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org). for up-to-date timetable information.

But as you will see from this Newsletter there is much other good news to report including, after years of campaigning by the Dales Way Association, the opening of an important new permissive path near Bolton Bridge which takes walkers off the dangerous and unpleasant B6160 into beautiful adjacent riverside woodland. We are hugely grateful to the Chatsworth Estate at Bolton Abbey for granting this section of path for the safety of walkers, and also to the inspiring volunteers from Burley Walkers are Welcome and Lower Wharfedale Ramblers, who actually built the path on our behalf.



Just as exciting is a section of almost a quarter of a mile of new path at Hubberholme, which again will eliminate some unpleasant road walking, sharing a narrow lane with 4x4s and motor cycles. Again warm thanks to the National Trust who own the land and the National Park for making this happen and for creating a wonderful new section of Dales Way, which once arrangements for the watering of cattle away from the riverside have been completed, will be formally opened – probably early in the New Year. Watch for announcements on our website and in the local press.

It's also good to report how the Dales Way in what used to be Cumbria, now Westmorland & Furness, has received a great boost with our new Footpath Volunteer Cath Williams of Kendal. Cath has already established excellent working relationships with officers of both W&F Council and the Lake District National Park Authority to help sort out the many issues of stile repairs and waymarking in what has always been the most difficult sections of the Dales Way in terms of route finding.

And to add to the good news, my own ***Dalesway - The Complete Guide*** thanks to Skyware Press and their cartographer also our own energetic Footpath Secretary Tony Grogan has just been republished – the updated 12th edition of the original guide which has been in print now for 54 years – perhaps the longest of any guidebook to a long distance trail in the UK, not excepting Wainwright. See the DWA website for details.

So much to be grateful for. So whatever worry and stress the troubles of the world may bring, and news channels may constantly amplify, the reality of Dales Way is there – and with it the power of nature to help restore, recover and inspire.

- Colin Speakman



## SAVE THE DATE – The 2025 AGM

Our next AGM will be held on **Saturday April 26th 2025**

After the success of our 2024 AGM we have decided to return to **Grassington**.

The meeting will be held in the Octagon Room in the Devonshire Institute, Grassington at 2pm. We are planning a speaker followed by a short business meeting, finishing at 4pm.

There will be a morning walk. Please meet at Grassington National Park Centre at 11.15 where we will set off on the arrival of the bus from Ilkley. We will be back in Grassington by 1pm at the latest in time for walkers to enjoy lunch in the village before heading to the Devonshire Institute.

Details of the speaker and the walk will be on our website [www.dalesway.org](http://www.dalesway.org) in the New Year.



We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it.

## New edition of Dales Way Guide

The brand new edition of Colin Speakman's guidebook: "*Dales Way - the Complete Guide*" - was published this summer.

First published in 1970 - over 50 years on and his original book is now in its 12th incarnation.

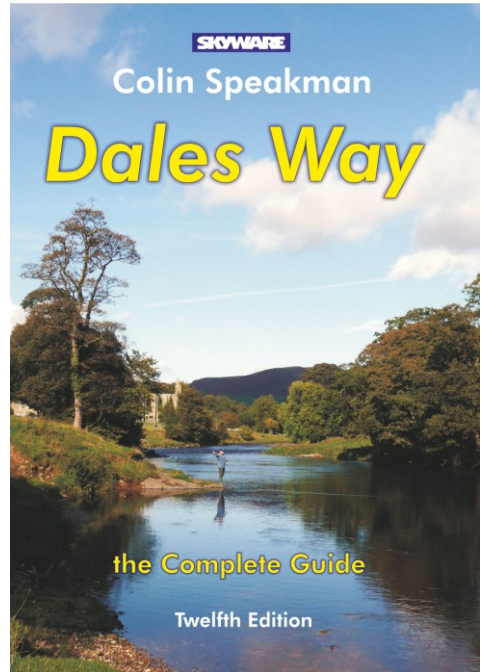
This is the third edition from Skyware Press. Illustrated with 79 stunning full colour photos to match Colin's compelling narrative, the book also features 24 detailed full colour strip maps of the entire route at a scale of 1:25,000., together with maps of the 3 link routes at a scale of 1:50,000.

As well as being a beautifully produced guide book, it's also a unique piece of history. It is almost certainly the only guide book to a long distance trail that has been in continuous production for over 50 years, with a living author!

Colin's deep affection for the Dales Way and his lifetime love of the Yorkshire Dales shines through this book. That's what makes this guide so unique - no one else could have written it.

Fully revised and updated, this 12th edition of Colin Speakman's *Dales Way* is the only guide you will ever need to plan, walk and enjoy one of Britain's most popular and beautiful long-distance trails.

***The original, the best!***



- available from [www.skyware.co.uk](http://www.skyware.co.uk)

## **New Permissive Footpath maintaining Off Road Walking at Bolton Bridge Staithe.**

I stated at our April AGM in Grassington that during late Spring and early Summer of 2020 Chatsworth Estate had added piles of earth onto their Chipping Staithe near Bolton Bridge and after allowing it to settle during 2021 developed a path beyond the earth taking walkers away from the busy B6160 road.

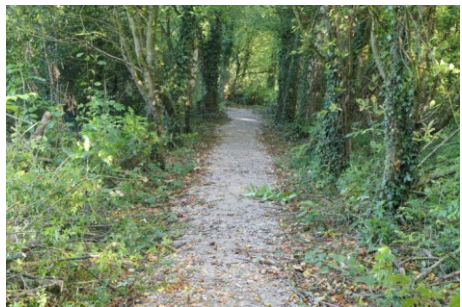
DWA had been working with the Chatsworth Estate over a number of years to continue the off-road walking through a plantation and agree to a small section of Permissive path of perhaps 150 metres in length. I was pleased to tell the AGM Chatsworth Estate had approved this stretch of Permissive path in January 2024 and Colin Speakman had agreed with Burley Walkers are Welcome to take the work forward when the weather improved.

A site visit between Burley Walkers and Chatsworth Estate took place on Friday 19th April at which time strimming the initial route and removing dead branches took place. In addition, the required stone for the path, pedestrian gates, timescales and logistics for the work were also discussed.

DWA are pleased to tell you this new stretch of Permissive footpath taking the Dales Way off the busy B6160 at the Chipping Staithe, Bolton Bridge was completed July/August and is open for business. A fantastic result and a culmination of a good number of years engagement with Chatsworth Estate to reach this point.

However, no sooner had the path been completed the high winds from Storm Lilian in late August brought a tree crashing down across the path. This was quickly chopped up and removed ... phew!! Gated at both ends it looks very good and shows the hard work put in by all at Burley Walkers are Welcome Group.

I walked the Ilkley to Bolton Bridge (and return) section of the Dales Way on Friday 13th September. The new gated section looks brilliant. A peaceful respite from the busy B6160. I added one Dales Way waymarker to the gatepost showing entry onto the new stretch of path.



- Gordon Tasker



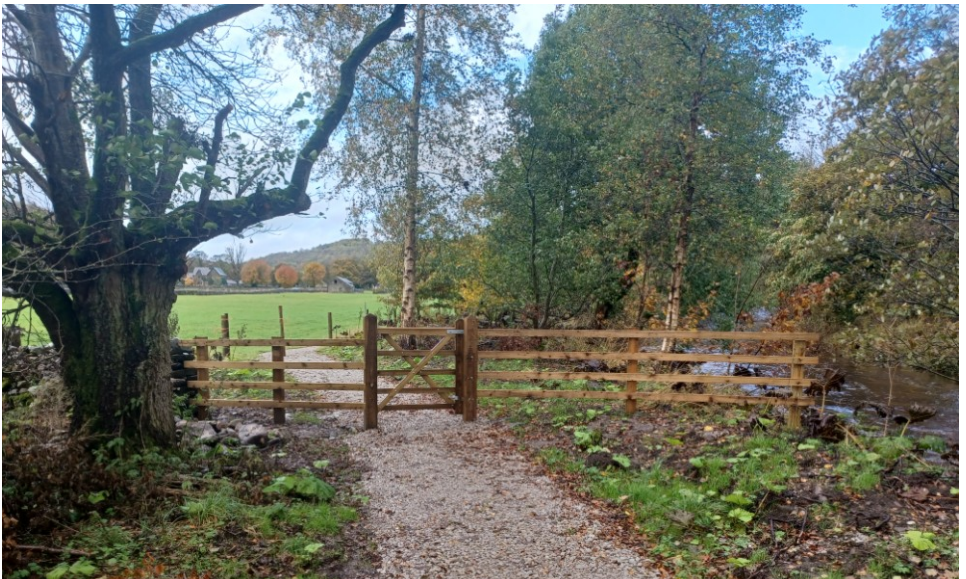
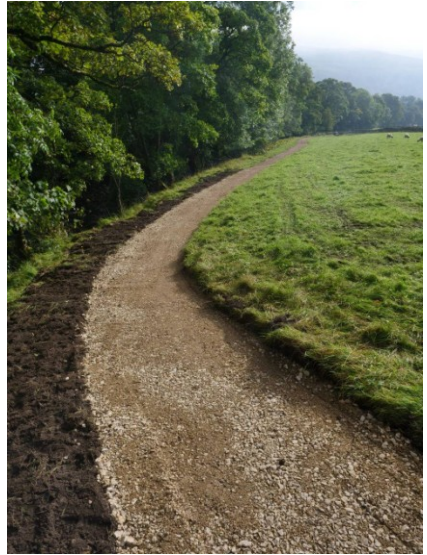
## **New Hubberholme path nears completion**

The new riverside path on the approach to Hubberholme should be open and ready for walkers early next year.

The new path is being installed by The National Trust and will remove a quarter of a mile's road walking.

Peter Katic, Area Ranger of the Trust, said that main path had been laid and they were awaiting the installation of a water pipe before the final fencing could be installed.

The new section of path is likely to be opened early next year, in time for next season's Dales Way Walkers.



## News from Cumbria by Cath Williams

When I joined the Dales Way Committee in November 2023 I didn't really know the Dales Way or have a lot of experience with work on footpaths, although I have always been a keen walker. Since joining I have really come to appreciate how much work goes into maintaining footpaths in many different ways including liaising with local councils and National Park Authorities, signposting, reporting broken stiles and footbridges, cutting back foliage and constantly revisiting sections of path to check that everything is as it should be.

Footpath Improvements: At least 120 waymarkers have been added to the path between Lowgill Viaduct and Bowness to make it easier for walkers to find their way in both directions.



Helen Brown, Countryside Access Officer for Westmorland and Furness, has made a successful bid for funding from Holiday Fellowship. The money raised will be used to repair an identified list of stiles, gateposts, flagstones and drainage. The work is expected to be done by the end of October 2024.

Helen has already been successful in repairing a dangerous slippery bridge at Holme Park farm near the M6 (photos below) using some nail-down anti-slip strips.



Helen has also submitted an application to The Environment Agency regarding a boardwalk across flooded sections at Cowan Head.

The Lake District National Park Authority has developed some new signs, which they will use where needed to highlight the Dales Way to walkers.





It has given me great pleasure talking to people that I have met walking The Dales Way. It is fantastic to know that so many people from different countries have come especially to take the challenge as well as people from all over the UK.

## **New Look for Lake District National Park Waymarkers!**

The LDNP have launched a new design for the Dales Way waymarkers.

These will match the design of the other long distance paths crossing the Lake District (eg. The Cumbria Way, Ullswater Way).

The new stream-lined look should make the signs stand out more and help walkers find their way.



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## **Proposed new routing of the Leeds Dales Way Link around Bramhope.**

The Dales Way Association met in August 2024 to walk a new proposed 'diversion' from Black Hill to the Chevin.

The old route follows the road from the end of Breary Lane into Bramhope crossing the A660, Breary Lane to The Cross in the centre of Bramhope and then along Old Lane before heading across fields to the Chevin. The first part of the route now has a new housing estate to the South and is mainly on the road.





*The Dales Way Leeds Link comes in from the right (east) and crosses to the left (west). The current route is shown by green "diamond" markers; the new proposed route is shown in orange.*

The committee have walked a revised section that is now substantially off road and passes Arthington Quarry across the fields to Creskeld Lane, where it follows the road for a short section before heading across a field and down to cross a stream before heading up through the ginnels of Bramhope to Old Bramhope Well and Pump Complex exposed in 1994 where there is also a bench to stop and rest.



The route goes out briefly to the A660 and passes Bramhope Puritan Chapel, a superb Grade 1 listed building dating back to 1649, before descending Staircase Lane, an old pack horse trail towards Pool-in-Wharfedale, crossing the A658 and going up Avenue Des Hirondelles to the former Pool Bank Quarries which provided stone for the re-building of the Houses of Parliament after a fire in 1834.



The route then crosses two fields and the A660 going up an unmade road to Old Pool Bank road, then along Quarry Farm Road to enter the Chevin via a wooden board walk to rejoin the original route through Danefield.

***We feel this new version is much more interesting but would like to hear any feedback before we make this a permanent part of the Leeds Dales Way Link.***

*- Ryk Downes*

## Community plans to save the Sun Inn at Dent



The residents of Dentedale aim to buy their favourite pub, the ancient Sun Inn on Dent Main Street.

The Sun is a popular local pub at heart of the community, welcoming visitors since the 16th Century, and a favoured stop-over for Dales Way walkers.

On the market for £525,000, the pub has been up for sale for more than two years and was facing an uncertain future, so a group of local people met in April and decided it was time to act.

They have set up a Community Interest Company to apply for a grant from the Government and also plan to sell shares in the company to raise money.

The first step was to launch a Pledge of Shares, costing £5 each. So far pledges promised have passed the £200,000 mark, including pledges of support from the local Parish Council; the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line (Foscl); Western Dales Bus and the *Dales Way Association*!

**Find out more at: <https://www.dentcommunitypub.co.uk/>**