

THE DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No.1

July 1992

This is the first Newsletter, as such, issued by the newly formed Dales Way Association. The aim is to send out at least two of these each year in future. The idea being to cover generally the following aspects concerning the route.

1. News and advice about any problems identified - together with any steps taken to overcome them.
2. General news concerning the route, possible alternatives and improvements etc. Accommodation, facilities and helpful advice.
3. Details of forthcoming Meets to walk and survey sections of the route - together with any other related meetings.
4. Association notices. eg. Forthcoming Committee meetings. Information on subscriptions etc.
5. Initially this Newsletter will also be used as a recruiting aid and copies will be sent to interested organisations, such as local Ramblers Association Groups. We urgently need to swell our membership. More comments on this later.

We shall welcome any news on the Dales Way from Members and anyone interested in the maintenance of it for inclusion in future Newsletters.

One matter which we hope to settle at the next Committee meeting is to agree a suitable Logo for the Association. We hope that this will duly become a recognised symbol used, for instance at the headings of future Newsletters. The aim will be to keep it simple as we cannot afford to spend money on any elaborate printing and, in any case, a simple design for an organisation such as ours is generally the best. A simplified version will also be considered for waymarking the trail - although for this we shall have to reach agreement with the various authorities who have responsibility for it.

This last point leads to one aspect where the Dales Way Association can hope to provide a single voice on matters concerning the trail and hopefully, by building up a good relationship with the above mentioned authorities, achieve a uniform policy regarding waymarking, upkeep etc for its entire length.

Forthcoming Meets.

All members of the Association and anyone else interested in its aims are invited to take part in these Meets. In this initial programme for 1992 the aim is to cover the stretch of the Dales Way between Sedbergh and Burneside. These are all planned to be an enjoyable days walk combining a section of the Way with an alternative return to the starting point. This will enable us to survey this length of the Way with a view to preparing a report on the condition of the path with any suggestions for improved signposting, waymarking etc. This would be duly submitted to the relevant authorities - hopefully for action. Results would then be monitored.

1st August. Meet at the National Park Information Centre in Sedbergh (GR 659922) at 10 am to walk the route of the Dales Way from Sedbergh to the M6 at Lambrigg Head. The return would be by the route suggested by Arthur Gemmel on pages 34 to 35 of his *Route Guide*. The round walk totals 14 miles.

5th September. Meet in Grayrigg village (GR 577972) at 10 am to walk the route from the M6 to Patton Bridge. A round will be made by using the circular routes suggested by Arthur Gemmel on pages 36 to 37 of his *Route Guide*. The round walk totals 10.2 miles.

10th October. Meet at the car park in Burneside (GR 957517) at 10 am to walk the Dales Way from Patton Bridge to Burneside. It is proposed to use the circular routes suggested by Arthur Gemmel on pages 38 to 39 of his *Route Guide*. The round walk totals 10 miles.

Please bring a packed lunch. If the weather should be entirely unsuitable, alternative walks will be suggested. As a final check, please phone Douglas Cossar on 0532-674797 between 9 and 10 pm on the evening before the walk.

Membership

The Dales Way Association urgently needs members - not just for their subscriptions(!) but to form a reasonably sized group of individuals who have the interests of the Dales Way at heart. It seems likely that such members will tend to fall into two groups.

1. People living relatively near to the route who can readily join in our activities and keep an eye open for any problems.
2. People living further away who have just done, or are planning to do the Dales Way. Unfortunately in many cases these may be 'one year only' members. Their support for the Dales Way will nevertheless be much appreciated and maybe many of them will be able to make a weekend of it and join a walk with us.