

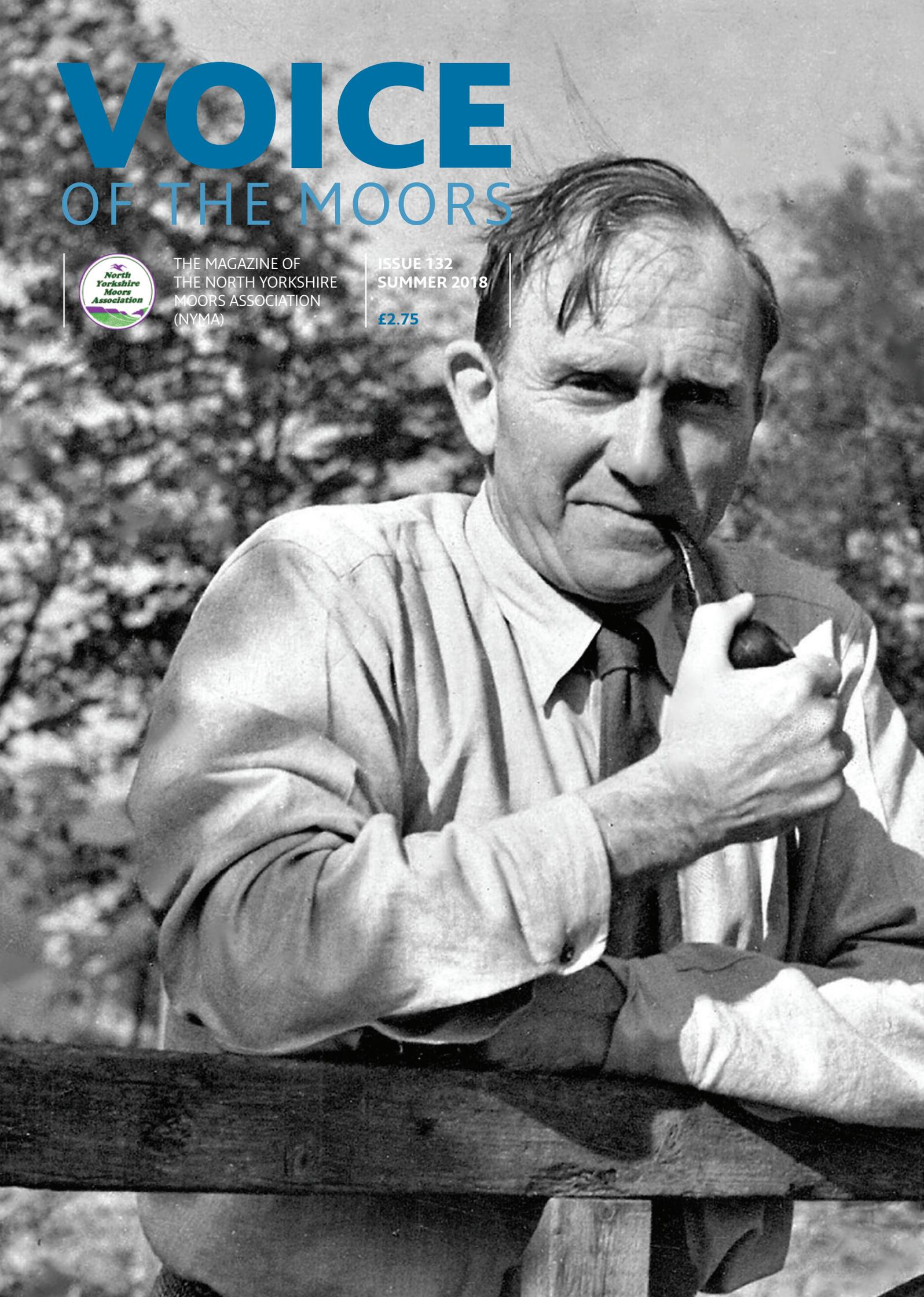
VOICE OF THE MOORS



THE MAGAZINE OF
THE NORTH YORKSHIRE
MOORS ASSOCIATION
(NYMA)

ISSUE 132
SUMMER 2018

£2.75



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Design

Basement Press - 01947 897945
www.basementpress.com

Printed on paper made from sustainable and traceable raw material sources. Articles appearing in Voice of the Moors convey the authors' personal views, beliefs and opinions and are not necessarily those of the North Yorkshire Moors Association.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

A GREEN FUTURE?

Next year marks the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Bill. Royal Assent was signified on December 16th 1949. To coincide with the anniversary of this momentous legislation, on 27th May this year, the government announced a Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Review which is to be led by Julian Glover and supported by an advisory panel, will report in 2019.

This is part of the government's 25-year plan to improve the environment under the heading of "A Green Future". This long-awaited plan was published in January this year. Both the 25 year plan and the National Parks Review which is part of it, have been given a cautious welcome by organisations such as National Parks England, the Association for AONB's and CPRE. The Campaign for National Parks said, "We welcome the review as an opportunity to consider how National Parks can be supported and enhanced to make sure the family of National Parks is strong and healthy for current and future generations."

The underlying thrust towards looking after our countryside and our designated landscapes for the next 25 years is quite different from the time of post-war reconstruction, when reports like the Dower Report and Hobhouse Report and the studies which informed the National Parks Commission in 1949 were published. They were the culmination of a very long battle to allow the public access to the countryside, something which many people now take for granted.

In 2018, "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" seems to be founded on the work of the Natural Capital Committee set up to inform the plan. George Monbiot describes the committee as, "A Luptian body the government has created to price the living world and develop a set of national natural capital accounts". Indeed, the language of the Natural Capital Committee describes something distant from the environment we see and understand. It is a valuation in market terms which degrades the intrinsic beauty of unspoiled landscapes and the wildlife they contain.

Wordsworth's expression, "An eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy" which John Dower refers to in his Report on National Parks in 1945, captures the human response to experiencing beautiful landscapes. It is a long way from the language of the Natural Capital Committee which resolves the same experience to equations.

Time will tell whether this 151-page plan with its 145 pages of supplementary evidence is just talk without action or that out of the new language of natural capital metrics, some good will emerge.

TOM CHADWICK

PROFESSOR JOHN ALLAN PATMORE CBE

ALLAN was President of NYMA from 1993 to 2001. He then became Vice-President along with Ron Foster. So for the Association, it is a double loss and a sad coincidence that both Ron and Allan died within a couple of weeks of each other in January. Allan was aged 86 years.

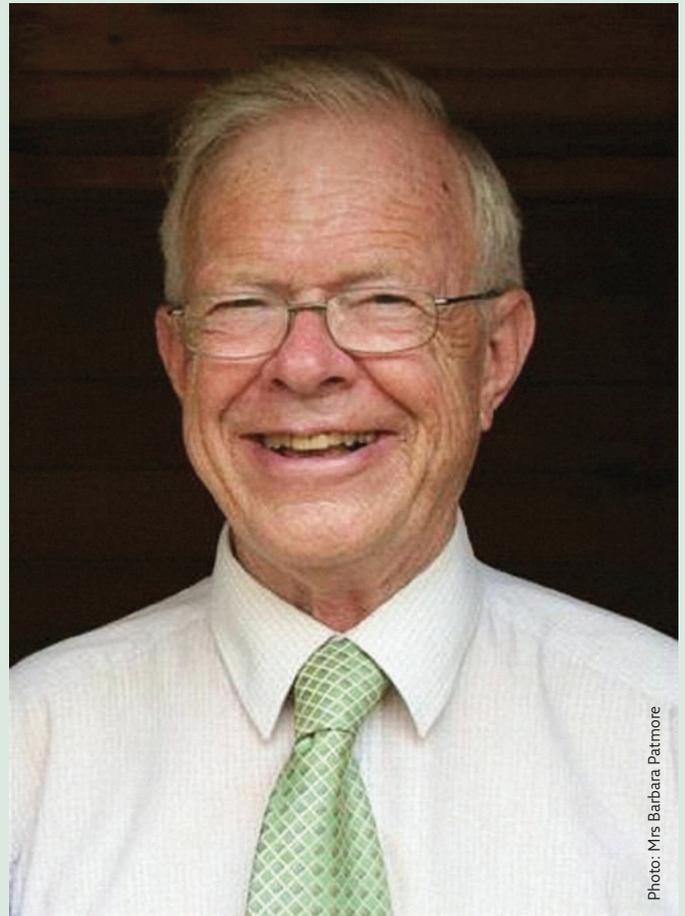
Allan’s connection with the North Yorkshire Moors goes back to his childhood when he lived with his parents in Wetherby and was a regular visitor to the moors and coast. Allan’s wife Barbara recalls that during his visits as a child, he remembered picking bilberries on the moors. Later in life when he worked at Hull University, he and Barbara lived at North Ferriby, a village which has both the “Yorkshire Wolds Way” path running through it as well as the “Trans Pennine Trail”. Living in North Ferriby meant that Barbara and Allan were able to spend many happy hours in North Yorkshire. Barbara says she is more than well aware of just how much Allan loved the North York Moors.

He was one of the early members of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway (life member number 60) and his interest in railways and extensive research into rail transport led to his involvement with the National Railway Museum in York. He was on the Museum’s Advisory Committee between 1988 and 2003, Chairman and Trustee of Friends of the National Railway Museum and until 2017, President of Friends of the Railway Museum.

After leaving Oxford with a first-class honours degree in Geography, Allan took up an appointment as a lecturer in geography at Liverpool University. It was here as senior lecturer he became the first holder of the British Academy ‘Thank-offering to Britain Research Fellowship’ from 1967 to 1969, awarded for his research into land-use and leisure activities. The culmination of these two years of research led in 1970 to the publication of his book “Land and Leisure”.

Allan moved to the University of Hull in 1973 where he was appointed Professor of Geography and remained in that post until he retired in 1991. After his retirement he retained the position of Emeritus Professor.

His early research was mainly concerned with the geography of urban development and the historical and contemporary geography of transport. After this early period of research, and with a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council in 1981, his work centred on outdoor recreation and land use. During this time he was



appointed to the Sports Council and was a member from 1978 to 1994. He held various posts with the Countryside Commission between 1986 and 1994 which included the National Parks Review Panel (the Edwards Committee). Allan also served on the North York Moors National Park Committee between 1977 and 1992 as a member appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. He was awarded a CBE in 1993 for services to sport and recreation.

This brief summary of Allan’s academic career and his involvement in the study of recreation and the countryside is a mere snapshot of his huge contribution to understanding the problems of balancing the human activities of recreation and sport and preserving the beauty of the countryside. Nowhere is this more important than in our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

TOM CHADWICK

A.J. BROWN, WALKER, WRITER & 'MOORSMAN'

On Saturday 28th April 2018 at Whitfield House, Darnholme, at the site of the former Whitfield House Hotel, a memorial blue plaque endorsed by the North Yorkshire Moors Association, was dedicated to honour and commemorate Alfred John Brown's life and his contribution to the North York Moors.

THE EARLY YEARS

Alfred John Brown (1894 - 1969), or "A.J." as he was affectionately known to his readers, was a celebrated Yorkshire author best known for his popular Yorkshire 'tramping' books in the 1930s, which encouraged whole generations to explore 'God's Own Country' on foot. As a result, he became a cult figure with iconic status in his day.

A.J. was born in Bradford on 21st August 1894 and in his youth developed a love of moorlands by rambling over the Brontë moors of West Yorkshire. He began his working life as a trainee in the wool trade prior to WW1, in which he served as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery, but was medically discharged after contracting diphtheria that left him semi-paralysed and unable to walk for several years.

After self-administered rehabilitation, he returned to the wool trade as an overseas sales manager in the early 1920s and pursued twin passions of walking in the Yorkshire Dales and writing about his excursions in the popular press and magazines. Following his marriage to Marie-Eugénie Bull in 1927, part of their honeymoon was spent in York and Whitby, which led to his interest in the moorlands of North Yorkshire. The couple settled down in Burley-in-Wharfedale, where they raised five children, and he established his topographical writing credentials with a Yorkshire 'tramping' trilogy of books, that included walks on the North Yorkshire Moors.

THE HOTEL ENTERPRISE

In 1945, following WW2 service with the RAF Intelligence Branch, Squadron Leader A.J. Brown left the wool trade, and together with his wife and family moved to Darnholme, near Goathland, where they bought the war-closed Whitfield

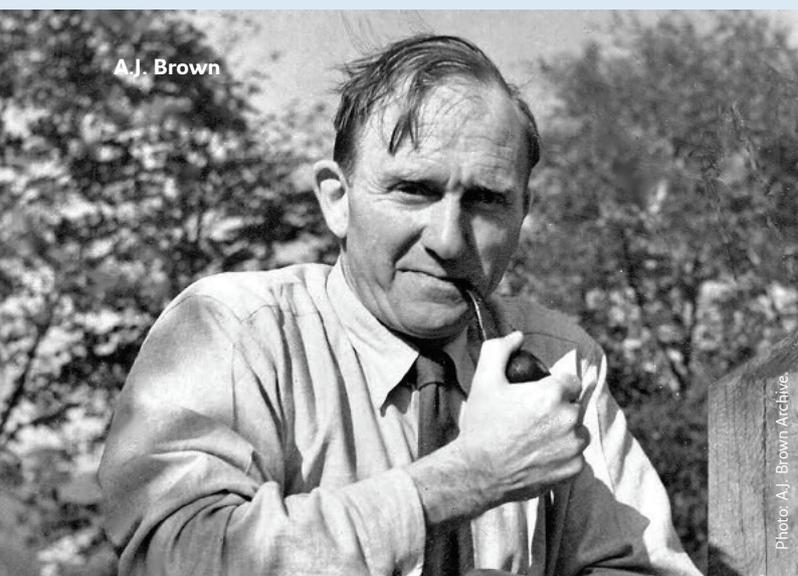
House Hotel. Their aim was to create: *'a pleasant family-friendly country house, with as little fuss and formality as possible'*, so that guests felt as if they were at home on holiday. This proved a huge challenge for the 14-bedroom former hostelry, without mains sewerage, gas, electricity (lit by acetylene and oil lamps) and no drinks or catering licences, especially during the post-war years of austerity and rationing!

However, by the time they sold the hotel in 1951, A.J. and his wife, together with help from their three daughters and locally-hired staff, this bold adventure had turned a risky endeavour into a reasonably successful business. Undoubtedly their improvements to the place and the arrival of modern services made a difference, but other earnings helped to balance the books. These included a members' 'Country Club', a local taxi service and catering for coach parties of visitors to the area.

During the hotel years A.J. also became a kind of 'literary innkeeper' with the publication of an impressive collection of books on a variety of topics. These included: a semi-autobiographical novel *'Whitaker'* (1946), a personal anthology of the county *'Broad Acres - A Yorkshire Miscellany'* (1949), a book of verse *'Poems and Songs'* (1949) and a topographical tour of the North Riding of Yorkshire *'Fair North Riding'* (1952). He also produced two entertaining chronicles about running the hotel: *'I Bought A Hotel'* (1949) and *'Fairwell - High Fell'* (1952).

THE LATER YEARS

After this publication success, A.J. attempted to become a full-time writer in London and York, but was unable to live by his pen alone, and returned to the Bradford wool trade. He established his own textile export agency in the 1960s, and often holidayed with his wife at White House cottage in Beck

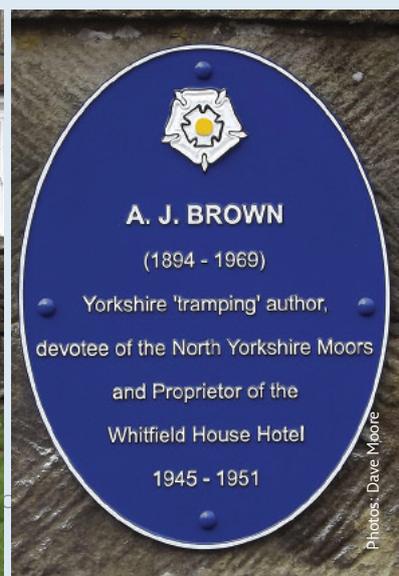


A.J. Brown

Photo: A.J. Brown Archive.



Blue Plaque Unveiling



A. J. BROWN

(1894 - 1969)

Yorkshire 'tramping' author,
devotee of the North Yorkshire Moorsand Proprietor of the
Whitfield House Hotel

1945 - 1951

Photos: Dave Moore



Whitfield House Hotel, Darnholm, c. 1950

Photo: A.J. Brown Archive

Hole. Subsequently they moved to Sleights in semi-retirement, but after a business trip to Germany A.J. was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died at home on 1st March 1969. He was buried in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sleights, with a gravestone inscribed with a line from his poem: *'Dales In Paradise'* that reflected his eternal tramping hopes: *'There must be Dales in Paradise, which you and I will find'*.

A.J. BROWN'S LEGACY TO THE N.Y. MOORS

A.J. was a devoted advocate for the North Yorkshire Moors who defended the public right of access to moorland footpaths. Following the proposed requisitioning of Fylingdales Moor for military purposes, he was an expert witness for the Ramblers' Association at the public enquiry held at Robin Hood's Bay in 1948, at which public access was maintained. He was also concerned about forestry expansion and the establishment of the North York Moors National Park, and published articles in *Country Life Magazine* about the pros and cons of forestry and the need for the long-delayed National Park.

Subsequently A.J. was commissioned by the then North Riding County Council to write the *'Official Guide to the North York Moors National Park'* (1957), an often reprinted, handy, pocket-sized edition, that popularised the attractions of the park. Subsequently he also became a member of the North Riding's Yorkshire National Park Committee in 1958, even though he had left the area by then.

CEREMONY AND MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO A.J. BROWN

Tom Chadwick, Chairman of NYMA unveiled the blue plaque and John White, A.J.'s biographer, briefly outlined the hotel's history while David Moore photographed the proceedings. The event was attended by a small crowd of mainly NYMA members, who had previously made a 3-mile guided scenic

walk around the area led by former *Voice* editor Albert Elliot. Afterwards light refreshments were enjoyed in the spring sunshine and appreciation was expressed to Peter and Ann Poxton, owners of Whitfield House, who kindly agreed to the plaque's installation.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A.J. BROWN

A 10-mile walk around the local area has been dedicated to him entitled: *'Tramping in A.J. Brown Country'* in the guide book: *'Northern Yorkshire Coast and Moors - The Classic Walks'* by Harry Whitehouse, Peaksoft Publications (2015). The book is available via Amazon, while the detailed route with maps is on the NYMA website.

Unusually the excursion starts with a short ride from Sleights to Grosmont on the picturesque Esk Valley Railway. The route then follows a series of footpaths and surfaced tracks, over the scenic areas of open moorlands around Goathland and Sleights, and along the valleys of the Mirk Esk, Eller Beck and Iburndale Beck, which embody the landscape that A.J. loved so much. Along the way special points of interest include the former Whitfield House Hotel in Darnholm, with the memorial A.J. blue plaque, his grave in the local churchyard, in Sleights and St. Joseph's Cottage, where he and his wife lived in retirement.

ENVOI

While A.J.'s memory has faded with time, this once-popular author's work is still available via internet 'print to order' services for out-of-print books. The biography of this fascinating Yorkshire character entitled: *'Alfred John Brown, Walker, Writer and Passionate Yorkshireman'* was self-published by John A. White (2016) and is available via Amazon Books UK.

JOHN WHITE

THE INSECT EATERS

*Drosera rotundifolia**Pinguicula vulgaris*

A FRIEND RECENTLY showed me a copy of a recipe she had been given from the 'The Widowe's Treasure', a book of home remedies from 1585 with a comment that the decoction could be *Rosa solis*. It starts:

"This decoction is good to eat always before and after meat for it will make digestion good and turn your meat into pure blood.....". So, what was *Rosa solis*?

Investigation interestingly showed it to be a cordial or liquor distilled from the sundew plant, *Drosera rotundifolia*, with alcohol and various herbs and spices. In medieval times it was extremely popular all over Europe and the plant exported from Scotland, sometimes as a by product of peat cutting.

Drosera rotundifolia or round leaved sundew, is locally common on our moors, growing in bogs, wet marshes, flushes and muddy pools where the soil is acidic and nutrient poor. The leaves, in a low basal rosette, are round, stalked and with long red glandular hairs on their upper surfaces. These hairs are tipped with a sticky liquid which attracts and then traps insects as the hairs bend inwards towards the centre of the leaf. Culpeper called it a "ropey sliminess". The glands then (we now know) secrete a digestive enzyme which dissolves all possible from the insect, so supplementing the nutrients needed by the plant that can be low in its acidic, aquatic habitat. Single racemes of small white flowers uncurl in the sun in June.

Drosera is from the Greek *drosos* meaning dewy and this apparent persistent dewiness of the leaves from its secretions even in the hottest sun, gave the plant magical properties in the past. It was also called youth-wort or youth grass from the great strengthening and nourishing tonic made from it, while its ability to attract and entrap gave it the reputation of being an aphrodisiac; folklore has it that it also works on cattle 'of the female kind'. At this stage it would not have been known to actually digest insects, so it is interesting that the quote from the 'Widowe's Treasure' shows its apparent use in aiding the digestion of meat.

However, when bruised, the leaves had long been used with the bitter acid, acidic juice being applied to the skin to remove warts, corns and bunions, or when mixed with milk to soothe sunburn or reduce freckles. Were the digestive enzymes able to effect these cures?

It has also a long tradition of use for the relief of whooping cough, consumption, bronchitis, dry coughs and asthma for, as well as the organic acids used externally, it contains antioxidant, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory tannin and mucilage in addition to plumbagin, an antispasmodic and very effective anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agent. But it was reputed to produce better results when combined with other herbs, hence perhaps why the *Rosa solis* cordial was so successful. Although used as a general tonic it must have been very useful in smoke filled medieval houses to soothe these respiratory and pulmonary complaints.

It was employed to curdle milk for the separation of cream, as a yellow dye in Scotland for tartans and by the old Celtic tribes to dye their hair. Although locally abundant, it is not a common plant due to its exacting and scarce habitat needs, and the difficulty of its cultivation has caused it to gradually fall out of use. It should certainly not now be collected from the wild.

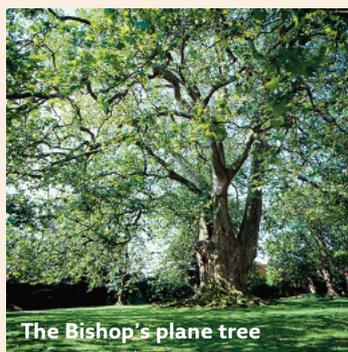
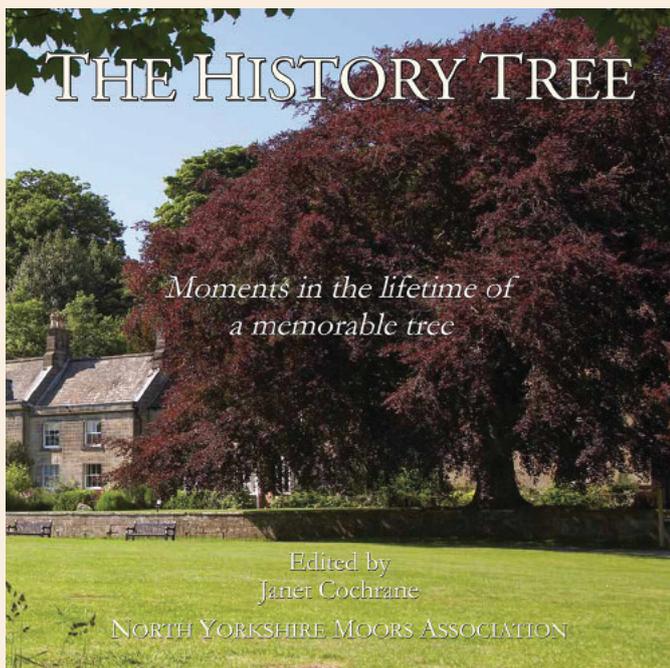
The other fairly common insectivorous plant found on our moors is Butterwort, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, or marsh or bog violet. The names *Pinguicula* and butterwort both come from its 'greasy' leaves; the light green leaves with in-rolled margins being sticky to entrap and then digest insects. The solitary purple flowers resemble violets at first glance. It is a more northern species and prefers alkaline, barren flushes, wet rocks, grassy banks and pools, again supplementing its nutrients with dead insects. Only rarely used medicinally for sore, chapped hands and bites, it was a strong magical herb giving protection from evil elves and fairies to any cow who ate it and this protection was passed on via the milk, butter and cheese to anyone who partook of it!

The insect eaters: fascinating, magical herbs with important and well known uses in the past.

ANNE PRESS

*Drosera rotundifolia*

A FAVOURITE TREE IMMORTALISED



triggered its demise, perfectly obscuring the view of approaching vehicles coming down the steep hill.

By way of contrast, the loss of the second, a copper beech so perfectly set in front of the east end of Danby Lodge - the Moors Centre - that it almost visually 'hurt' to look at it, was mourned by many.

The memory fostered for it to become immortalised, is thanks to the vision of Albert Elliot and can be found in the recently published book-of-the-plate-of-the-tree: 'The History Tree'.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the North Yorkshire Moors Association, Albert proposed a plaque be mounted where the tree stood. Fashioned in the shape of a cross-section of the roots, it was etched with the position of events over the tree's lifetime. Looking at the moments in time marked on the plate reminds us of some of the pivotal touchstones with history our area has witnessed: Captain James Cook and his voyages of discovery, Sir George Cayley and the first controlled aircraft flight; William Smith, the father of English geology; the birth of the chemical industry and the spectacular finds in Kirkdale Cave which rewrote the history of the English landscape and its contribution to the theory of evolution.

His imagination fired by the plate, Albert took it a stage further with the idea that each of the events marked on it might be described in a book and in June, 'The History Tree' was published. While Albert conceived the idea of the book, he'd be the first to say that an idea is one thing, but turning it into a reality quite another altogether and as we all know, few things in life are ever the result of one person acting

alone. Enter now Janet Cochrane as editor, Cal Moore on educational resources and more than 30 contributors who produced topic sections on their specialist subjects. It is a credit to Janet's (and Cal's) exceptional efforts and to each of the authors, that when the designer Ian Dashper sat down to assemble the book, every one of the essays sat comfortably in their allotted spaces. And thanks are due to the Viscountess Downe and her family, not only that the tree was planted 200 years ago for there to be a tree to enjoy in the first place, but also for adding to the memory of the tree through her foreword to the book.

So, Danby Lodge's copper beech tree has been immortalised. The space it once occupied now stands empty, but the memory will very definitely live on and if you should be moved to obtain a copy of The History Tree or explore the complementary resources, you will certainly see what I mean.

IAN CARSTAIRS

For details of how to buy copies of 'The History Tree', please visit the Books section of the NYMA website.

SOME TIME AGO I undertook a lovely project to create a photographic exhibition of remarkable trees for the launch the national Community Forests Programme. Setting out to find the tallest, biggest, widest took me all over the country, but I soon discovered that extreme examples were often not very attractive, so shifted the emphasis to gathering images of exceptional individuals of various species.

Working on the project caused me to look at trees more carefully and especially their contribution to the wider landscape. I was struck by the role of the sweet chestnut in wooded southern England; found a fondness for the Leyland cypress (*Leylandii*) when allowed to grow freely in an appropriate place and developed a special affinity with the robust shape of the much-maligned sycamore on northern skylines - as someone once said: it's not the sycamore that causes a problem - but its babies.

Inevitably, I developed a few favourites, not just because of their shape, but more so for their presence and setting. Two of those trees grew in the North York Moors National Park. But before I describe them a little more, I'll mention my third tree, a stunner, which completely fills the Bishop's Garden, close to Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire: it is quite simply awe-inspiring. Planted by Bishop Gunning in the 17th century and reputed to be the largest London plane tree in the country, to stand under its vast canopy completely filling the garden with dappled shade on a beautiful summer's day, triggers an emotional response of wonder at its sheer scale and majesty.

Unlike the Bishop's plane, my other favourites are gone, cut down for one reason and another. The first, a roadside sycamore near the bottom of Sutton Bank departed unsung and probably unmissed by more than a few. I can only guess that its position



WHY I LIVE ON THE NORTH YORK MOORS

Farndale

In this its tenth anniversary season, Voice of the Moors invited Jamie Walton founder and director of the North York Moors Chamber Music Festival, to reflect on how our moorland landscape inspires and influences his life and work.

T WAS OVER twenty years ago when I had my first mystical experience whilst driving over the North York Moors National Park. My visit on that occasion was for the purposes of a concert I gave in Whitby but, as ill luck would have it, another engagement was booked the very next day somewhere near Surrey of all places, (hence a rather begrudging 6am departure). My experience in Whitby and its people had left a powerful impression to the point that I simply didn't want to leave. If *ever!* Around that time, as a young professional musician, I was naturally based in London but as I drove through that early morning summer mist, hanging low over the moorland, I instinctively felt that not only would I return, this area would some day be my home. And the sooner the better. It was a profound realisation and I'm still at a loss as to why this happened. Mind you, I challenge anyone to witness barn owls, deer, curlews and pheasants darting out from a purple-hued mist *not* be speechless with awe!

Fate plays its role in all destinies and around that time I met someone who was to become one of the most significant and special friendships of my life: Anne Taylor, an eminent writer and a lady who was equally passionate about music, lived within the North York Moors. Our bond flourished and so I paid Anne a visit every single month for many years, each trip becoming increasingly elongated until I began to spend more time in North Yorkshire than I ever did in London. Thus a fork in the road had presented itself. I had to

question what it was I wanted from life, where I felt it was being fulfilled and what my emotions were telling me at either ends of the A1!

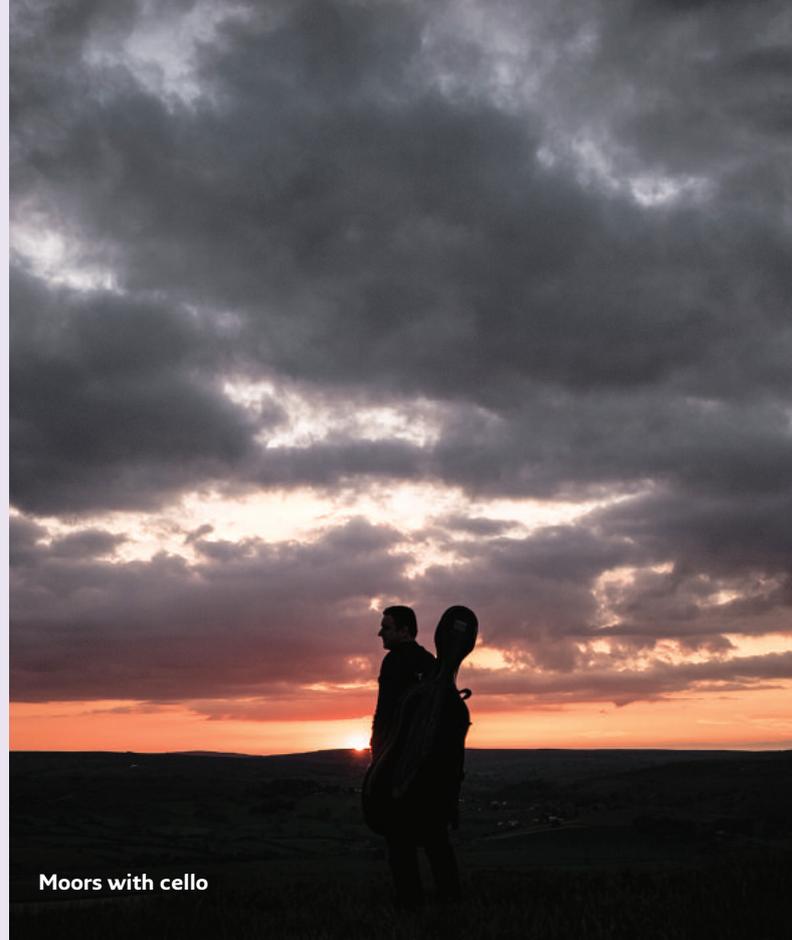
A few years ago Anne sadly passed away, leaving an irrevocable hole in my life. It was then my partner and I decided to commit to living up here full time, leaving London for good. In many ways this was also a way of dealing with grief whilst allowing me more time to focus my energies towards my North York Moors Chamber Music Festival, which Anne and I set up together exactly ten years ago. This annual festival, which runs for two weeks every August, is an expression not just of our friendship but those too I enjoy with many I have met over the years. It brings communities together, celebrating music of course but also the area's rich architectural history and unique landscape, captured for us through the lens of local photographer Paul Ingram, who has kindly provided the shots for this article.

The majesty and expanse of the North York Moors is a wonder. Unlike other National Parks, ours is not overrun with tourists and why perhaps it retains such a special, almost intimate character, evoking atmospheres unspoiled by human intervention. I never tire of any view, particularly with the ever-changing light, its variety infinite thanks to the sheer panorama. Heading over Blakey Ridge, which I do at least three times a week, one is witness to so many weather fronts on far horizons, we begin to understand how our constantly shifting daily climate plays out. And I would go as

far to say that this road has one of the most privileged views in the entire country. I still gasp as I glance upon Westerdale and Danby dale once past Ralph Cross, the sea in view (not always as we know!) and Roseberry Topping jutting out from a landscape almost lunar in feel. Or descending into Farndale down the east bank, with its ancient dry-stone walling and fertile farmlands. Try the Dalby Forest drive in the autumn - or Kettlewell late spring. A limit on word count stops me in my tracks because I could go on. . .

Walking is a great favourite pastime my partner and I enjoy whenever we can throughout the year. The beauty of exploring by foot is of course chancing upon the various nooks and crannies impossible to traverse by car, let alone see. The pile of tattered Ordnance Survey maps we have are testament to the amount we do trek, feeling safe in the knowledge that such is the size of our National Park we may never have to repeat a walk, there being so much to discover. (Not that we'd mind if we did!) Recently, we were stunned by hidden paths that wind up through Great Fryup Dale, inaccessible by road and with unparalleled views of the vales and hidden villages beyond it. A photographer's paradise and, for the first time, I recognised a view made famous by local artists.

Whether it's the local History or Archaeological Society, the village show, charity events, celebrated and guided walks, concerts, tours . . . one is never alone nor bored, which is a salient point many of my colleagues questioned upon my departure from the capital. 'What will you do?' 'Who will you see?' these sceptics chanted. But the curious reality is that you can be far lonelier in such an all-consuming environment such as London and I think this has something to do with being, or not being, *connected*. With the wonders of nature so dominant around us here, it's almost impossible not to be. I hear the owls at night and the curlews at dusk, I smell the sea fret as it blows in, see the heather bloom in August. This is something the musicians also experience when they visit for the festival (or for any other concert) - in fact many of them have commented upon how transformative this holistic approach to creativity and



Moors with cello

collaboration music-making is; somehow the music - indeed life - has more meaning.

So I have to conclude that our social lives, activities and general well-being have all been transformed since moving to the North York Moors and this is primarily down to those around us who live within it. Yorkshire folk are happy; they're honest and true whilst also being deeply passionate and proud people. I see this everywhere I go and it's evident at the concerts too - it is unusual and marvellous. Whether they are the dear Sisters at St Hilda's Priory (Sneaton Castle), or the various Churchwardens who look after our incredible churches, these friends matter. This is precisely what I strive for professionally and personally; if you don't need more than you have around you, life fulfils its true meaning. And this is why I live on the North York Moors.

JAMIE WALTON

Heather moors



HERITAGE

GUISBOROUGH TOWN HALL GATEWAY PROJECT WINS NATIONAL LOTTERY SUPPORT

GUISBOROUGH Town Hall Gateway Project has received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Made possible by National Lottery players, the project will transform the Grade II listed Guisborough Town Hall at the heart of Guisborough Market Town and gateway to the North York Moors National Park.

The project has been awarded development funding of £104,500 to enable it to appoint a dedicated project manager and design team to further develop the business plan and to work up the details for a further application for funds to complete the project.

The £1.6 million project aims to restore and protect the fabric of the Town Hall building and create a Tourist Information and Accommodation Office and a state-of-the-art Heritage Centre serving East Cleveland and the North York Moors. In addition, commercial units and office

accommodation floors are planned for the upper floors.

Built in 1821 and extended to add a second floor in 1870, the building is a focal point for the local community and has been used as a court house with holding cell, market, and for many years, a variety of solicitors' offices. It has stood empty since 2013 and after the community called for its future to be safeguarded, was purchased by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council in 2015.

The Guisborough Town Hall Gateway Project, comprising local residents, students and staff from Laurence Jackson School and Officers from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council was established in 2016 and has been working hard over the last two years to develop the project and secure this first major funding award.

Commenting on the award, Chairman of the project group, Andy Murray, said:



"This is fantastic news. The National Lottery, through the Heritage Lottery Fund, has given this area the ability to restore this iconic

building and provide a facility which will promote the considerable heritage of the town and the surrounding areas of East Cleveland and the North York Moors, whilst providing a stimulus to tourism and business in the locality. The project will place Guisborough and East Cleveland firmly on the tourist trail, and as the 'northern gateway to the North York Moors' in collaboration with the National Park, Guisborough Town Hall will be able to offer a venue for displays as well as providing information about events and attractions".

KEN HORNER

BOTANY

BEE FRIENDLY WITH HERBS ON THE ESK VALLEY 'HERB LINE'

How many herbs do you use when you cook, to help you when you feel ill or are in the toiletries you use?

THE HUNT FOR HERBS project is encouraging people along or near the route of the Esk Valley

Community Railway line to investigate the use of herbs, both wild and cultivated, in the past and the benefits of growing more herbs in the future. This began as an Esk Valley Railway initiative to encourage people to pick herbs on their way home from work or school to use at home. With funding from Northern, they had herb boxes specially made for each of their stations along the line.

Many herbs have flowers that provide nectar for insects that pollinate other plants, such as bees and hoverflies. Due to modern agricultural practices there are fewer flowers in our hedgerows and fields. When members of Whitby Naturalists asked a speaker from the

charity Bee Ed, what single thing individuals could do to help bees and other pollinators. Her answer was that they should **plant herbs!**

HUNT FOR HERBS PHOTO COMPETITION

Hunt for herbs along the Esk Valley line and send Moor Sustainable your best two photos of herbs. The herbs can be growing on a station platform, in the wild or in a garden (make sure you ask permission of the gardener though). There will be prizes of £25 each for: best photo of herbs at a station; best photo of wild herbs taken on a walk between/near stations; and best photo of cultivated herbs taken on a walk between/near stations. Photographs should be high resolution, JPG format over 1 MB.

Closing date for entries is **30th September 2018** and the winners will be announced by the 31st October 2018. Please submit your photographs by email to Moor Sustainable info@moorsustainable.org.uk. Full details and rules can be found on the Moor Sustainable website.

The **Hunt for Herbs** project is organised by Moor Sustainable CIC with help from Esk Valley Railway Development Company and funded through the Land of Iron programme with the support of the North York Moors National Park Authority, Heritage Lottery Fund and David Ross Foundation.

Visit www.moorsustainable.org.uk/hunt-for-herbs to find out more about finding, growing and using herbs.

CARYN LOFTUS



NORTH YORKSHIRE TURTLE DOVE PROJECT



Photo: Richard Bennett

THE BEAUTIFUL turtle dove is our smallest European dove. This tiny power house of a bird flies 5,500 km to reach the North York Moors National Park from Mali in Africa each spring and then returns to Africa in September – a round trip of 11,000 km! A satellite tagging project in Suffolk in 2014/15 found that despite flying so far, one amazing male bird nicknamed Titan managed to fly back to almost exactly the same wintering and breeding site each year of the study.

Unfortunately, turtle doves are in big trouble; their population has declined in both the UK and Europe by up to 95%. Only 50 years ago it was classed as a fairly common bird. Our Yorkshire population is now likely to be below 130 pairs and represents the only significant population in the north of England.

WHY ARE TURTLE DOVES IN TROUBLE?

Turtle doves are no different to many other birds; they need food, shelter and water. However, changes in land management practices mean there are fewer places they can find these essential requirements to survive. In the 1960s, fumitory seeds made up a large percentage of their diet. This beautiful native flower was once common across many parts of England, but is now much harder to find.

They like to nest in large scrubby hedges or young conifer plantations. Ponds are essential too; these provide a good supply of drinking water. Their decline has been worsened by large scale hunting in southern Europe as they migrate in spring and autumn. This has tipped the population over the edge of survival to such an extent that they are in serious threat of becoming extinct as an English breeding bird within the near future.

OUR LOCAL PROJECT

The new North Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project funded by Heritage Lottery, North York Moors National Park (NYMNP), Forestry Commission and Howardian Hills AONB in partnership with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scarborough Borough Council, and North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre aims to help these birds.

We are focusing on where turtle doves have been recorded recently, principally around the forests of the southern fringe of

the NYMNP and Howardian Hills AONB. Our project area covers a total of 100,000 hectares. In 2017 we conducted the first ever large scale survey and found up to 50. In the rest of the north of England there are probably fewer than 70 pairs which gives a good indication of how important our project area is.

WHERE CAN YOU SEE TURTLE DOVES IN THE NYMNP?

In May 2018 up to four turtle doves arrived back at Sutton Bank NP Visitor Centre. They can be best seen feeding around the bird tables at the back of the centre. Listen out for the distinctive soft purring song of the male. In 2017 we found up to three singing males in nearby forestry plantations so there may have been three pairs in this area at that time. Further east Cropton and Dalby Forest have small numbers this year. Turtle doves are early risers. The first two hours after dawn or in late evening as the sun goes down are the best times to really appreciate these beautiful birds.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you have a farm or control land and have an area which could be managed to improve feeding and/or nesting habitat we need to hear from you. The NYMNP with help from RSPB and Natural England, have designed a turtle dove specific six-year annual grant to fund flower rich sown plots of land which will provide food for turtle doves. If you think you may have a suitable patch of land within the National Park please get in touch. We would also like to hear from anyone with a suitable plot outside the NP as we may still be able to fund a special seed mix and provide advice on applying for other land management grants to ensure the plot you create can be sustained in the long term.

Turtle doves love feeding on native seed from autumn sown pollen and nectar mix, flower rich arable field margins or wild flower grasslands. Helping to increase these areas of habitat will also restore the vibrant colour to our local countryside and help a whole range of other plants and animals.

If you see a turtle dove please email us at conservation@northyorkmoors.org.uk or phone the National Park office at 01439 772700.

RICHARD BAINES
TURTLE DOVE PROJECT OFFICER

JOSEPH FORD AND THE MYSTERY OF THE GROOVES

It is interesting how there are sometimes serendipitous connections between articles. In this instance, David Chapman and Alan Staniforth both chose to write about very different uses of stone, but both contain a mystery element!

This article has two beginnings:

BEGINNING ONE

For over thirty years I have been mesmerised by a series of vertical grooves in the stonework of the cottages on Primrose Hill in Castleton. I have struggled to come up with a possible reason for these marks and no one has yet given me a believable hypothesis. To see them, stand with your back to the millennium sundial on Primrose Hill and look at the wall in front of you, you can't miss them. Now wander around looking for more. I counted in excess of fifty.

BEGINNING TWO

Completely unconnected with the grooves, I purchased a small volume of memoirs by Joseph Ford entitled *'Some Reminiscences and Folk Lore of Danby Parish'*.

Joseph Ford is a man who deserves to be remembered, indeed revered, but most certainly not forgotten. Joseph died in 1944 at the age of 74 having lived in Castleton for over 45 years in the end terrace cottage abutting Castleton Village Hall. He was the son of a farming family, born in Hamer House now a ruin, by Wheeldale Moor above Rosedale. When Joseph was eight, his family moved to the old school in Fryup which Joseph's father converted into a home. The house is called Sundial Cottage and is next to the "new" school now an outdoor centre opposite the Fryup Village Hall.



After serving as a mason in Pickering, aged twenty-five he moved to Castleton working for Joseph Duck and helping to build a hall extension to the Downe Arms Hotel. Later, working for himself as a stone mason, he was responsible for a number of monuments locally. He was a staunch Methodist and also a keen folklorist and local historian. But Joseph left us more than his memoirs and memorials. He left a substantial sum of money put in trust for the needy people of old Danby Parish and this legacy has helped many grateful recipients over the years. This remarkable, reserved builder of memorials was a true benefactor who well deserves a monument of his own.

BACK TO PRIMROSE HILL

The puzzling grooves in the cottage walls are in a band two to four feet above ground level. They are four to eight inches in length, up to two inches deep and as singles or in groups of up to six. I find it hard to believe that these marks are not man-made, but in the National Park Draft Conservation Appraisal Plan 2017 concerning these *"interesting grooves"* it reads:

*"Much of the stonework is worn with age, some herringbone pattern survives and **geological anomalies also create interesting grooves** (my emboldening) in some ashlar blocks caused by water erosion."*



Primrose Hill



Grooves in stone

So why do we find these presumably randomly chosen sandstone blocks producing “interesting grooves” only in this limited band width and height above ground level?

RETURNING TO JOSEPH

Joseph’s book consists of fifty-one short chapters either on an aspect of folklore or an historic anecdote. There is no chronology to the chapters. It is as if he is having a long after-dinner chat and the memories just keep popping into his head. His style is somewhat prosaic and repetitious but it is full of gems: ‘Snowstorms on the Moors’, ‘Jet Miners of the Dales’, ‘What happened at the Fat Ox’, ‘Playing at Millers’.....

“Sorry, what was that last one?”

“Playing at Millers.”

“What’s that about then?”

It seems that the local people used to get amusement from taking hikers to some of the stone built cottages and “...watch their expressions of wonder as they are being shown

where Roman soldiers used to sharpen their spear points before going into battle.” Joseph then saves us from this “amusing misrepresentation” by putting the record straight.

“These holes were made, not by spear points of long dead Roman soldiers but by village children who have played in the village within these last hundred years or so.”

Joseph got his information from a local woman who had presumably been one of these children with their new craze which they called “playing at Miller.” In this game, “each child had a small piece of hard stone, which they rubbed up and down, causing a fine, powdery sand to trickle down into an old broken cup or saucer” pretending it was flour from the mill.

So, in the absence of a better explanation the grooves were made by 19th century children using their imagination in role play. Looking at the mess they made, how did they get away with it?

DAVID CHAPMAN

HISTORY

A MYSTERY STONE!

FOR AS LONG as man has travelled over the moorland he has encountered problems with the surface over which he moved. Routes in regular use between towns and villages, or even farmsteads, often became difficult if not impossible to negotiate due to poor drainage or the effects of erosion. One answer to the problem was simply to move the route sideways and when that deteriorated, repeat the process. This is why we often find deep parallel gullies sweeping down off the moor in so many locations. Many of the cross-moor routes followed the long ridge lines to avoid the softer, boggy ground, and many of these routes have since evolved into our modern roads.

With the development of trade from the medieval period onwards, particularly between inland towns and Whitby, the need for stable routes over the moor became a necessity. The paved trod, pannier way, horse wynde, monks’ way, smugglers’ trod all came into existence.

In recent times new paved ways have been constructed, particularly along sections of the Cleveland Way. In days of yore the local stone slabs would have been transported by pannier ponies; in modern times helicopters deliver the stone to site, but hard labour is still required to haul them into place for a secure footing!

As you walk the route between Roseberry Topping and Charltons you may notice the two pieces of broken carved stone forming part of the path. The full inscription reads, ‘Holy Trinity School. 15th April 1961. This stone was laid by Mrs O.G. M. Hirst. Deus Noster Refugium’ (God is our refuge). Where was this school? who was Mrs Hirst? and how did the stone come to rest on the

Cleveland Way? Research has found that the stone came from Holy Trinity Secondary School in Halifax. On April 17th 1961 a report and photograph appeared in the Halifax Courier headlined ‘New Holy Trinity Secondary School foundation stone laid’. Mrs Hirst is described as ‘a vice chairman of the Appeal Fund’. By the 21st century the school had outgrown the 1960s building and in 2010 an application to demolish it and build a new one on the same site was approved. The foundation stone became part of a consignment purchased for paving parts of the Cleveland Way. The mystery is solved! The new school in Halifax is known as Trinity Academy. A pity this historic stone was not incorporated into the new building!

ALAN STANIFORTH



IT WAS AN ILL WIND...

TEMPTING AS IT IS to expect Spring to arrive on cue, there are far more difficult predictions than the seasons. Right now, as I write on this first day of May, I have not had sight of the St. George's mushroom. Late again... In fact, seasons matter very little to the annual macro-fungi. Of far greater importance is the weather...or more correctly, the weather trend. Most of us "expect" to find fungi in the autumn, but that is only because the prior summer warmth, rainfall and significantly, temperature, has had a long influence on the reproductive behaviour of the genre. Day length is not so important to fungi as they do not need to photosynthesise, but for mycophages, on the hunt for field mushrooms, the pre-dawn hunt was *de rigueur*. Though an early start was traditionally considered to be the "best" time to collect, there was probably an element of the early bird catching the worm. Well, this early bird has not yet found a single *Tricholoma gambosum* (St. George's mushroom) in spite of searching the "traditional" locations...beneath hawthorn or in grassland around gorse or scrub...and hope is now fading.



Auricularia ajudae

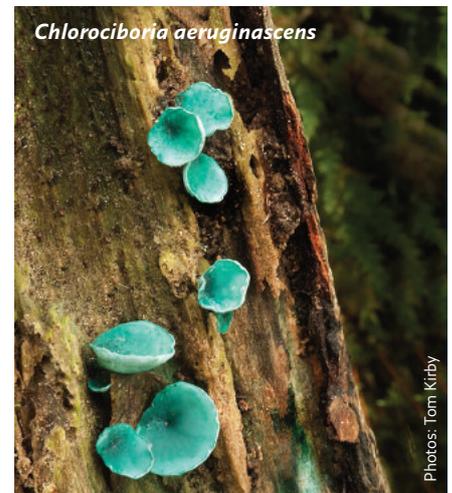
I mention the scarcity of *T. gambosum* as an offset to other variations which occur beyond hope. The early appearance of fleshy Ear Fungus (*Auricularia auricula-ajudae*) on elder has been well observed locally and this is surprising, considering the dreadful winter weather blowing in

from the East, with low temperatures and snow persisting for weeks. There is a theory which moots that fungi produce their "fruiting bodies" when conditions are good...or bad. There is some logic in this. When conditions are favourable, we are likely to see what we expect to see, where and when we expect to see it. If conditions are "bad", then certain fungi will respond out of panic and produce the spore-bearing structure as a ...er... precaution.



Hair ice

Of course, not all is what it seems in the winter landscape. There is a peculiar phenomenon called "hair ice" which I have been lucky enough to find in two locations. Quite apart from the "strangeness" of this occurrence...it looks like white hair exuding from semi-buried sticks and stems...is its rarity. With only two locations stumbled across in over 50 years, this makes the find an exciting event for me ... the more so when the picture shows a January example from the swampy lower margin of Danby park. OK...it certainly looks fungal...but it is not; at least, not in structure. No, it is ice. Research is proffering the theory though, that fungal influence is afoot. When the temperature and stillness of the air is just right, it seems that the fine filamentous fungal threads which have permeated the host material, act as a "wick", drawing up the just-below-the-surface water by capillary action. Once in the freezing air, the water turns to ice and is effectively "dry". The pressure, probably slightly osmotic, in the microscopic "tubes" pushes against the tiny ice plug and out comes hair ice. Beautiful.



Chlorociboria aeruginascens

Photos: Tom Kirby

But, not as beautiful as the green elf cup. Often overlooked in spite of the day-glo green colouration, the startling *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* is a winter specialist. Though not keen to be spotted, preferring a damp and decaying environment with steady and sheltered conditions, you may never find this beautiful species...but it IS there. Even when not producing its winter-green platelets, you should be able to find broken branch and twig stained by the same colour...and this all the through the wood, following the grain initially, but spreading out and making the characteristic jade-wood known as Tunbridge Ware. See this entry from Wiki:

This species contains a quinone pigment called xylindein, a dimeric naphthoquinone derivative, whose structure was determined by spectroscopic means in the 1960s and later confirmed by X-ray crystallography. It is this compound that is responsible for the characteristic bluish-green stain of wood infected by this species, used today in decorative woodworking such as Tunbridge ware and parquetry. The use of this wood, known as "green oak", goes back to 15th century Italy, where it was used in intarsia panels made by Fra Giovanni da Veroni.

So seek, and ye shall find...even after the Beast from the East.

TOM KIRBY



SKYLARKS

Hello younger readers

It was a year ago when your Skylarks page was launched. It is good to know that you are enjoying it and joining in with our work.



Look up

Last year we asked you to look out for this bird, it flies very high in the sky. This picture was taken high above the Moors when it was singing. What is it called?



Look down

On hot days, you can sometimes see this animal. Do you know what it is? If you see one tell a grown up and don't touch they sometimes bite!



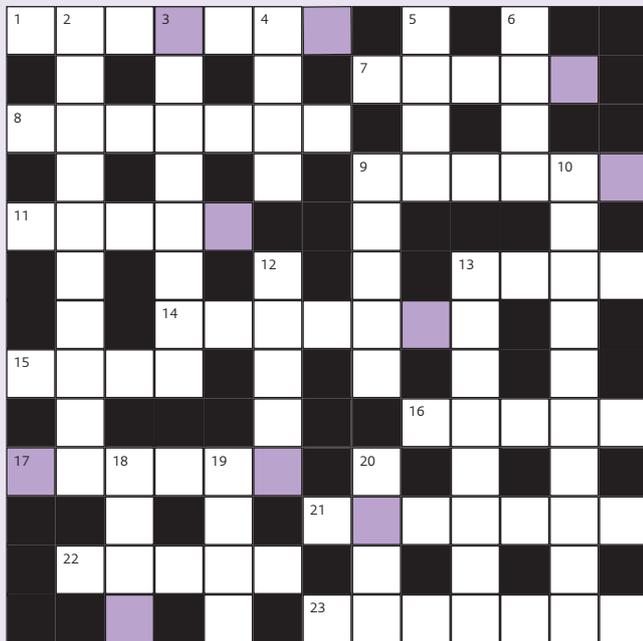
Over the summer, keep looking out for animals. Try writing down, or remembering all of the different animals you see (you can get a grown up to help). Please let us know what you find out.



And finally, thank you very much to Pippa, aged 4, for sending in her lovely summer picture. Please keep sending us your pictures and news to editor@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk

Skylark and adder photos - Richard Moore; Summer picture - Pippa Moore; Skylark logo - Cal Moore; Binoculars and Magnifier - CCo Pixabay

CROSSWORD 81 BY AMANUENSIS



Take the letters from the 10 coloured-in squares and rearrange in the boxes below to solve the clue: You could well be on track in this beautiful North York Moors glacial valley.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ACROSS

- 1 This Esk Valley village has a 7 & 8 across (7)
- 7 & 8 Teach post for pick-up point (5,7)
- 9 The bird spiral east - west (6)
- 11 Borrow another tree from the centre (5)
- 13 Gaelic comes in verses (4)
- 14 Thursday streams with great excitement (7)
- 15 Rainbow flower (7)
- 16 Repeated bits of jazz? (5)
- 17 Hope for mixed praise (6)
- 21 They are said to have a yellow streak (7)
- 22 Plan for five hundred on buoyant platform (5)
- 23 Men seed roughed up land surrounding manor (7)

DOWN

- 2 Are they only interested in themselves? (10)
- 3 Takes away from Department of Employment land areas (7)
- 4 Noel changes his name (4)
- 5 At the heart of absurd utterance spoken in Pakistan (4)
- 6 Laid out numbers on a face (4)
- 9 Country sounds cold (5)
- 10 Steinbeck novel set to the right of paradise? (4,2,4)
- 12 Of some note? (5)
- 13 Calculate times tea is given stir (8)
- 18 Drink that is left (4)
- 19 Neck apparel is coarse one hears (4)
- 20 Set of rules used for writing secret messages (4)

Answers on back cover

NYMA NEWS

It's an exciting time at NYMA, as the Association goes through a period of revitalisation. With 'The History Tree' project just completed, another on the horizon and new Business Members, there's a lot going on!

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

We're delighted to welcome the first Business Members to NYMA. First to sign up was **Maguires**, which runs holiday parks and sells sited caravans across the north-east including the North York Moors.

Next was **Hot Tubs Hideaways**, which offers lodges for relaxing breaks across Yorkshire. Then there's the website company **it'seeze** Ryedale, which produces attractive, low-cost websites for small enterprises and organisations such as NYMA. We can confirm from experience that they provide an excellent and supportive service!

ON THE HORIZON

And for our next initiative? That'll have to wait till the next edition of *Voice!*

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The award this year is shared between two deserving applicants. Congratulations are in order for **Carol Wilson** for her research leading to the publication of *The Wild Flowers of Westerdale*, also to the **Thornton le Dale History Society** for their project, *Thornton le Dale A Village Through Time*.

JANET COCHRANE

NYMA WALKS

Sunday July 15th

HOWLDALE, POCKLEY AND RICCAL DALE TO HELMSLEY

Walk leader: Wendy Smith
wpsmith7a@gmail.com or
01642 711980

A walk of approx 6 miles, designed to allow everyone to use the NYMA sponsored Moorsbus:
<http://www.moorsbus.org/timetablesfares.html>. Using M6 (Malton), M3 (Castleton), M4 (Stokesley) and 128 (also covered by Moorsbus ticket). Meet in Beadlam/Nawton at bus stop at bottom of Howldale Lane GR655846 at 11.45. Similar buses home. Most routes allow time for tea/coffee in between buses. Please contact Wendy if coming, or need help with timetables!

Saturday 11th August

SHEEPWASH CIRCULAR

Walk leader: Kath Mair
kathmair@icloud.com

Meet 10am Sheepwash car park (GR468994). It's the first car park on the left on the Swainby to Osmotherley road.

6.5 miles. Route comprises a climb up the moor to the plantation, moor tracks to Swainby Shooting Lodge then across heather (if it's out) and tracks to road. Footpaths and tracks back to the car park.

Saturday 1st September

SWAINBY, CLEVELAND WAY & FACEBY

Walk leader: Beryl Turner, email
berylturner3@gmail.com

Meet 10.30 am at Swainby public toilets for 5.5 mile walk. Back Lane to join Cleveland Way east to Heathwaite, through Faceby Plantation to Whorl Hill, return via Whorlton Castle. Refreshments at Rusty Bike cafe in Swainby.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (see page 15)

N E W T O N D A L E

Anagram:

18 port; 19 ruff; 20 code
9 Chile; 10 East of Eden; 12 breve; 13 estimate;
2 introverts; 3 detracts; 4 Leon; 5 Urdu; 6 dial;

Down:

21 covards; 22 draft; 23 demesne
13 Erse; 14 thrills; 15 iris; 16 riffs; 17 aspre;
1 Kildale; 7 & 8 train station; 9 curlew; 11 rowan;

Across:

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Tom Chadwick

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Adrian Leaman

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Association Secretary

Janet Cochrane - secretary@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk - 07570 112010

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Cal Moore - membership@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk - 01287 669648

Walks Coordinator

Heather Mather - 01287 669104

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