

VOICE OF THE MOORS

NYMA - PROTECTING THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS
FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS



THE MAGAZINE OF
THE NORTH YORKSHIRE
MOORS ASSOCIATION
(NYMA)

ISSUE 134
WINTER 2018

£2.75

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Cover Photo: Sunset over Commondale Moor in winter © Mike Kipling

NYMA MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership:

- Individual £18
- Joint £25 (living at same address)

10 Year membership:

- Individual £120
- Joint £150 (living at same address)

Life membership:

- Individual £300
- Joint £400 (living at same address)

Business membership:

- Small businesses (up to 10 employees): £30
- Large businesses (more than 10 employees): £100

For membership queries or if you wish to join our e-newsletter list, please contact Membership Secretary: Carolyn Moore on 01287 669648 or e-mail: membership@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk

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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.

NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS ASSOCIATION CONSERVATION AWARD 2019

THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS ASSOCIATION (NYMA) invites applications from individuals, community groups or organisations for its biennial Conservation Award. Projects should further the objectives for which the National Park was designated, namely to conserve and enhance the natural and/or built environment of the North York Moors National Park.

The Conservation Award is made on a biennial basis alternating with NYMA's President's Award. It is jointly funded by the North York Moors National Park Authority and the North Yorkshire Moors Association. The award was first made in 1996 and has been awarded for a wide range of individual and community projects:

- 1996 Wildlife Management, Rosedale Intake, Danby
- 1998 Dale Head Farm, Tree Planting, Westerdale
- 1999 Farm Conservation, West Farm, Sleightholmedale
- 2000 Faceby Village Hall Project
- 2001 Community Woodland Project, Littlebeck
- 2003 Ice House Restoration, Wyekham
- 2007 Oak Tree Planting, Oakridge, Staithes
- 2009 Mortuary Chapel Restoration Project, Egton
- 2011 Wildflower Meadow, Robin Hoods Bay
- 2013 Woodside River Corridor, River Esk, Castleton
- 2015 Kirby Trod Restoration Project
- 2017 Grazing Exmoor Ponies for improved biodiversity in protected landscapes

Applicants should give details of the objectives of the work, the person(s) involved and the progress to date - the project need not necessarily have been completed provided that tangible progress has been made.

An award of up to £500 will be made to the winning entry and presented on Saturday June 10th 2019 at the Annual General Meeting of NYMA. Where it is judged that two entries are of equal merit, the award may be split between them.

For an application form and more details please contact the NYMA Secretary, Dr. Janet Cochrane secretary@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk or 07570 112010.

Entries should be submitted using an application form by 31 March 2019 and will be judged by representatives from NYMA and the National Park.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

KIRBY BANK

The saga of Kirby Bank may not be over but an important decision was reached on September 28th by the County Council Corporate Director, Business and Environmental Services (BES) and the BES executive members. This was to impose a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) prohibiting the use of motor vehicles on Kirby Bank which includes the ancient Kirby Bank Trod. This decision was reached despite the threat of a legal challenge by the Trail Riders Federation, an off-road group.

To have reached this stage has required a persistent effort by the Kirby, Great Broughton, and Ingleby Greenhow Local History Group as well as other supporters including NYMA. The restoration work carried out by the local history group on the trod, earned them the NYMA/NP Conservation Award in 2015 to help produce a Heritage Trail leaflet.

The 800 year old stone trod is a scheduled ancient monument and has been placed on Historic England's at risk list because of the damage done by off-roaders. Grant Frew of the local history group said, "It is clear that if motorised vehicles are permitted to continue to damage the Scheduled Monument, a significant heritage feature will be allowed to be degraded to a point where it will be lost to future generations".

FRACKING

In July, the government launched a public consultation on the fast-tracking of permission for fracking. This would allow the fracking industry to drill exploratory boreholes for shale gas without the need to apply for planning permission. The intention is to make it a permitted development which excludes local planning authorities and consequently local communities from being involved in the decision making process. In our response we made it clear that this sop to the fracking industry is unacceptable.

This is of particular concern to us because exploration licences have been issued for areas in and around the North York Moors National Park. While it is not allowed to build fracking platforms (surface structures) within the Park, fracking activity can take place under the National Park. Clearly this would allow fracking sites to be established close to the boundary and create inappropriate industrial development in the setting of the Park. It would also create the risk of seismic disturbance within the Park. The latest results from test fracking in Lancashire are not helping to build confidence because they have experienced a number of minor earthquakes, causing a halt to the tests.

FAIRY CROSS PLAIN WOODLAND PLANTING

We fully support the planting of more trees, but question whether large planting schemes on farmland and cherished landscapes are the answer. The woodland planting at Fairy Cross Plain between Little Fryupdale and Great Fryupdale has raised a number of questions. Firstly, whether the process of public consultation by the Forestry Commission is adequate



and how much information is readily available before such an extensive planting is undertaken and secondly, whether this is a suitable landscape to plant a large area of trees. It would be helpful if public displays, which clearly show the impact on the landscape of such planting, could be exhibited at local centres and the information made more widely available.

The planting has been carried out under the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Scheme operated by the Forestry Commission, whose public consultation (stakeholder engagement) consists of placing these planting proposals on its public register. What is the likelihood of people from local communities looking at this register, or even being aware of its existence?

The area of landscape which has been planted has previously been used as grazing land and forms an area of sloping grassland which reaches the open moorland. It is characterised by rounded hills and undulating fields divided by a pattern of walls which express the contours of the fields. All these features will be lost. The name Fairy Cross Plain describes the landscape which lies between the two dales and this historical connection will also be lost.

To obtain a Woodland Creation Grant requires a minimum area of planting of 3 hectares (7.5 acres).

Given the small acreage of many farms on the North York Moors, this is a substantial plot of land. The Forestry Commission guidelines on forests and landscape suggest a scheme for the design of New Woodland which includes the following design principles; scale, shape, land form, enclosure, diversity, unity, spirit of the place. If these principles are applied to the land at Fairy Cross Plain, it is arguable that the scale is too large, the landform is adversely affected and the spirit of the place is lost.

TOM CHADWICK



THE DEVIL'S-BIT SCABIOUS AND ITS KIN



Knautia arvensis



WHILE on a short walking holiday in late September, I noticed the frequency that the showy dark blue/purple flowers of the devil's-bit scabious studded the track edges in the woods, by streams and in rough damp pastures; a real spirit lifter, not only for me but also the visiting insects and birds, extending the flowering season well into the autumn.

We have three species of scabious on our moorland, belonging to the *Dipsacaceae* family which also includes the teasel, *Dipsacus fullonum*. The devil's-bit *Succisa pratensis* (*succisa* meaning cut off and *pratensis*, meadow), is the most widespread though scattered on all but the most acid areas where the land is unimproved and damp, tolerating partial shade. The other two species will not tolerate acid or wet soils so are mostly confined to the southern part of the moors on well drained calcareous ones and are sun loving. The field scabious or gypsy rose *Knautia arvensis* (*Knautia* from the botanist Knaut and *arvensis* meaning field) is common on thin soils on roadside verges, banks and grassland, often forming sizeable colonies where the timing and extent of cultivation or verge cutting is appropriate. The lesser or small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* (*Scabiosa* meaning rough and *columbaria* dove coloured) is a much rarer plant of quarries or short dry sandy grasslands.

All three are downy or hairy perennials with pincushion flowerheads, the small, individual flowers being clustered in domed heads on branched stems, the field scabious being the tallest and the lesser the shortest. The flowers of the devil's-bit heads are all of one size, dark blue/purple in colour with pink anthers, while those of the field and lesser have longer edge florets, the former being mauve/pink and the latter a paler mauve/blue with distinctive dark bristles to the underlying calyx. The leaves of the devil's-bit are entire, lance shaped and shallowly toothed, while although the basal leaves of the other two species are entire, their upper ones are pinnately divided and toothed, with larger terminal lobes. They flower from early July to October.

The blue flowered, sheep's-bit (*Jasione montana*) is very similar in appearance to the devil's-bit scabious and while

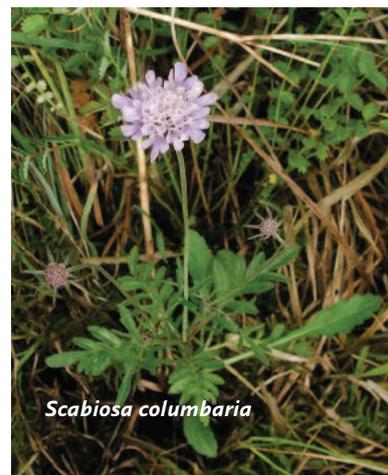
sometimes also called a scabious, is not, but a member of the *Campanulaceae* or harebell family, each floret being a tiny bell.

The devil's-bit has an unusual root system, beginning as a normal taproot, it soon turns woody and dies away except for the upper most part from which grow lateral roots, giving it a truncated, stubby appearance. This has led to the legend that the devil was so jealous of the plant's healing qualities that he bit off the end of its root in spite to lessen its powers or that the devil was using the powers of the plant to his advantage causing the Virgin Mary to intercede and cut the root short to thwart him!

On the other hand, the medieval name of *Morsus diaboli* or devil's bite could be due to its widespread past use to counteract any skin problems, from venomous bites, scabies, sores, bruises, itchy skin, pimples, ring worm, plague pustules, carbuncles to scurf, freckles and dandruff; all presumed to be the devils' evil work! However, it was also recommended to be taken internally for all tonsil and throat diseases, mucus coughs and chest troubles, for uterine and gynaecological problems, rheumatism and arthritis. Truly 'all manner of ailments' and, despite the attempts to curb its powers, it continued to be used as a powerful medicine, with all parts of the plant, leaves, stem and root being used. A similar, though not so extensive list of cures was attributed to the field scabious, both having similar properties.

They may just be folk tales or perhaps they could have some antiseptic and anti-inflammatory actions. Research at Kew into the chemical properties of our native flora (a huge undertaking) is proving fascinating, productive and beneficial. But we cannot be complacent about these possible uses of our native plants. For example, while the devil's-bit grows on land that is rough, damp and shady and so is naturally protected from overuse, the field scabious together with other late summer flowering hedgerow and field plants such as fleabane and betony, often are unable to set seed if cultivation, hedge and verge cutting take place too early in the autumn and are thus unable to spread and so become rarer.

ANNE PRESS



Scabiosa columbaria



Succisa pratensis

JOHN PHILLIPS - SCIENTIFIC GENIUS AND ADOPTED YORKSHIREMAN

2019 will mark the bicentenary of the arrival in Yorkshire of one of the Britain's greatest scientific figures, an individual who would make a lasting contribution to the understanding of the landscapes of our two great Yorkshire National Parks – the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Dales.

His name - John Phillips - is relatively unknown outside specialist historians of science and geology, yet he was far more than a pioneering geologist. He was to deliver a remarkable contribution to the life, work and even identity of his adopted county of Yorkshire – even if he was born in Wiltshire.

His arrival in Yorkshire was hardly auspicious – an 18-year-old youth on the night stagecoach from London to Northallerton with his penniless uncle, William “Strata” Smith, recognised as the Father of English Geology, who in 1815 had produced the first accurate geological map of any country in the world.

Smith and his nephew, who acted as his apprentice, came to find work as itinerant surveyors and engineers, travelling around the county, finding jobs wherever they could, mostly walking huge distances to where work led them – on new canals, mines, quarries or country estates.

They found their way their way to York where in 1824 Smith, by now well-known, was asked to give a series of lectures on local rocks and fossils to the newly formed Yorkshire Philosophical Society. It soon transpired his highly intelligent, articulate nephew was in fact a better lecturer than his uncle – albeit using his uncle's ideas. John was given work sorting out the newly acquired fossil collections of the Society and helping to establish its first small Museum.

Over the next few years, John had a key role working with his close friend the Reverend William Vernon Harcourt, to create the Yorkshire Museum in its magnificent new building by St Mary's Abbey ruins, establishing one of most important collections in the North of England, as well as lecturing all over the North. He became increasingly fascinated by the dramatic Yorkshire coastline, most especially that of the cliffs that extend from the crumbling clays of Holderness through to the mighty heights above Staithes.

In 1829, John Phillips produced his first major book *Illustrations of the Geology of Yorkshire or a Description of the Strata and Organic Remains of the Yorkshire Coast*. The book

made his national reputation. It is the first detailed account of the special landscape of the North York Moors, including its typical Jurassic rock structure and rich fossil heritage along what we now call the Dinosaur Coast. Phillips had learned, from his uncle, how exposed coastal strata could explain what lay inland, and the forces at work to shape the landscape of the high Moors and deep valleys. He produced a remarkable diorama based on his coastal maps and sections which are now brilliantly restored and displayed in the William Smith Museum of Geology at the Rotunda, one of the world's first specialist museums, partly designed by William Smith himself. This beautiful little Museum – with its William Smith Trails around Scarborough – is a richly rewarding visit, including Phillips' brilliant analysis of the strata and dislocations around Scarborough's Castle Hill.



John Phillips went on to achieve many other remarkable things. He helped establish and became the first Secretary of the hugely influential British Association for the Advancement of Science (now the British Science Society) in York in 1831. He was the first to accurately describe the Mountain Limestones of the Yorkshire Dales and named the Yoredale series of higher limestones. A polymath with wide-ranging interests in zoology, astronomy, archaeology and local history, he was also a superb illustrator, and writer. He wrote one of the first ever guide books for railway

excursionists in Yorkshire – describing an early trip on the Pickering-Whitby Railway. His 1853 classic book *Rivers, Mountains and Sea Coasts of Yorkshire* is one of the best books ever written about Yorkshire. His later work helped create a deeper understanding of geological time and the origins of life. His terminology to describe the great eras of life on earth – Cenezoic, Mesozoic and Palaeozoic are used by geologists and palaeontologists worldwide to this day.

In 1856 he became Professor of Geology at Oxford and left his beloved Yorkshire, which remained his spiritual home. After he died in a fall in 1874, he was brought back to York as he wished, laid overnight in the Museum he created, and was buried alongside his sister Anne, a passionate if adopted Yorkshireman to the end.

COLIN SPEAKMAN

PARTIAL MIGRANTS



Blackbird



Fieldfare



Siskin

Photos © Sharon Artley

BIRD MIGRATION is a fascinating subject. It seems quite incredible the lengths to which some birds go so they can reproduce successfully. Flying 5,000 miles each way every year between Africa and Europe, including crossing both the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert, is pretty extreme, but millions of birds do this. The urge to migrate is so strong that juvenile swifts, for example, will set off within days of fledging.

Not all birds feel the need to make such epic journeys. There are many happy to stay nearer home and only move away when their food becomes scarce or the weather gets too cold. In this category, amongst others, I include blackbirds, redwings, fieldfares, redpolls, siskins, chaffinches. Many of these species are here already, still others, having moved some way southwards from their breeding grounds may not need to come this far. Much will depend on the seed crop with beech mast probably the most important, especially for most finches – and the weather.

You will already have noticed that there are more blackbirds around; partly because our residents have been hiding away moulting and many have come here from Fenno-Scandia and northern Germany. You may also have seen some siskins and possibly blackcaps as well as increased numbers of finches. Whilst we have resident populations of these birds, at this time of year, others will be arriving and looking for food. In the main, most of these short-range or partial migrants will be found out and about wherever their food is. Should there be a shortage, they will rapidly come looking for more in our gardens and that is when we can sit and enjoy ourselves.

Blackcaps are an interesting case. Traditionally those breeding in and around Germany and Austria used to head south towards the Mediterranean for the winter, but now following the warmer winters due to climate change, they come to the UK. Their survival here is mainly due to our generous habit of putting out supplementary food, as they are generally only found in gardens in which they are fed. We have in effect helped change the migratory habits of a population of birds by feeding them! Not an intended or desirable outcome.

Flocks of redwing and fieldfare, often mixed and in quite large

numbers, can now be seen in the fields feeding on the ground. You can pick out the redwings both by the flash of red as they take off, and by the obvious horizontal pale stripe on the side of their heads, when on the ground. You might even spot the odd song thrush mixed in with them. Chaffinches too form large winter flocks, often with other finches.

For many years, as with so many bird species, sadly our winter visitor numbers have been falling. There are many causes, largely centred around changes in farming practices. Birds that used to be present were there because of the environment man had created; as the environment changes, so inevitably will the wildlife using it. For example, according to Ian Newton in “Farming and Birds”, two-thirds of arable land is now autumn sown. The resultant lack of stubble and suchlike means that there are far fewer seeds (from weeds as well as those left after harvest) and invertebrates for wintering birds to feed on. Farms have been forced to become more specialist with few in the lowlands having both arable and pastoral fields. This monoculture reduces the availability of food, and not just in winter.

Starlings have been much affected. For many years they used to roost in towns and cities in their hundreds of thousands. During the day they disappeared to feed on farmland, but a decrease in the availability of food meant that all this changed during the 1970s and 80s. They are beginning to make a bit of a comeback. Let’s hope it continues.

The pressure towards ever higher yields and increased efficiency has led to larger fields and fewer hedges for feeding and roosting. Even when used sparingly, increased pesticide use means fewer invertebrates for feeding birds. Traditionally, most farms contained a mix of arable and pastoral land with a succession of crops and fallow years. All this meant that as the season progressed, birds could move from one food source to another locally. Increased crop specialisation has stopped this over much of the UK.

Fertiliser and pesticide use have been reduced significantly recently, but the reduction in diversity that has resulted from modern farming methods is with us for the foreseeable future.

MIKE GRAY

“GERMAN ZEPPELINS VISIT DANBY PARISH” - JOSEPH FORD

IN HIS BOOK “Some Reminiscences of Folk Lore of Danby Parish and District”, Joseph Ford tells us that the very first aeroplane he saw fly over the parish was in 1917. In the view of the locals these “monster birds” flew “*much too high to be safe*” and as to their usefulness “*...its worth to mankind will be judged mainly by what kind of cargo it carries*”. Ford suggests that this scepticism was due, in part, to the occasional sightings, at that time of war, of German Zeppelins “*bent on their mischief*” carrying their lethal cargo intent on destroying strategic targets and civilian morale. Whilst the people of the dale were suffering the loss of loved ones and constant fear for those involved in the war in France, these sightings were as close as they came to the actuality of war. However, that changed in early May of 1916 when the target of three of these “invaders” was Danby Rigg. Ford speculates that the first zeppelin was simply mistaken or offloading unused ordnance before returning home. The following zeppelins believed the now burning moor to be a legitimate target and dropped their full load of bombs onto the high moor.

I found this tale compelling and took to walking Danby High Moor believing that, even after one hundred years, there must be evidence of this raid. After a couple of crossings of the moor, I found a number of areas of unevenness, of small rush filled hollows in convincing lines, even larger circular disturbances around five metres diameter. Having convinced myself, I showed the evidence to my trusty walking companion who appeared unimpressed. This part of the moor is known to have been an area of settlement from the bronze-age, so my bomb holes could have other equally solid explanations. I needed back-up.

In their book “Battle of Britain 1917” – Sutherland and Canwell record many raids by German Army and Navy zeppelins, the first being L6 a Navy zeppelin which attacked Great Yarmouth. The frequency of raids increased but were largely ineffective. On the evening of the 2nd May 1916, Kapitanleutenant Otto von Schubert’s Navy airship L23 was spotted over Robin Hood’s Bay. This was one of eight ‘ships targeting the north east that evening. He first dropped an incendiary bomb over the moors probably to check altitude, land speed and drift, before flying on to bomb Skinninggrove Iron Works followed by dropping further bombs over Easington injuring a child and damaging a house, before heading for home.

Seeing the fire created by L23, at 10:30pm airship L16 piloted by Oberleutenant-zur-See Werner Peterson was seen over Rosedale Abbey. Mistaking this for Stockton-on-Tees, he also dropped bombs on Danby High Moor. On his home run, Peterson dropped five further bombs on Lealholm and five incendiaries over Moorsholm. The moorland conflagration now attracted K1. Herbert Ehrlich in L17 returning from bombing Carlin How. Believing the moorland fire was a targeted “*coastal*



Zeppelin Raid over Skinninggrove Ironworks



Possible bomb/incendiary crater on Danby High Moor

city *apparently Saltburn*”, he added further bombs to what by now must have been a huge fire and quite a sight for the locals. When things had cooled down, local police found “*39 large craters made by explosive bombs and 7 smaller ones from incendiaries*”. One imagines that a fair few didn’t explode and are sunk in the peat. A cautionary consideration for off-piste wanderings on Danby High Moor!

Airships were soon replaced by aircraft but for a period of an hour or so, Danby and district had a small taste of what was to follow for towns and cities throughout Britain.

The mischievous Joseph Ford speculated that “*future wanderers on this moor might associate these big holes in the ground with some bygone activities of ancient people*”. So, when the much-respected local historian Frank Elgee published his book “Early Man in North East Yorkshire” only fourteen years after the raid, his considerations of Danby Rigg Settlement, which he locates at the exact area of the bombing, make no mention of the possibility that the disturbances on the moor could be anything but ancient barrows.

Methinks the spirit of Joseph Ford has a broad, knowing smile and my trusty walking companion is just a little closer to believing. Maybe both could be right.

DAVE CHAPMAN

Sources:

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Battle of Britain 1917 - The First Heavy Bomber Raids on England Jonathan Sutherland & Diane Canwell. Published by Leo Cooper Ltd

Some Reminiscences and Folk Lore of Danby Parish and District by Joseph Ford. Published by MTD Rigg Publications

Early Man in North East Yorkshire by Frank Elgee. Published by John Bellows

ABOVE THE SNOW-LINE

I **VE ALWAYS BEEN** fascinated by photographs of the land from above, whether taken from space or aerial images from aircraft.

Now satellites can produce extraordinary detail and the advent of drones and sophisticated computer technology means high quality results are within easy reach of everyone.

But there is absolutely no substitute for seeing with your own eyes.

One still mid-winter's day, I drove over Blakey Ridge full of anticipation as I slithered towards Teesside airport to meet my friend Pete. With a pilot's licence and access to an aircraft, he aimed to fly us over the snowy blanket lying across the Moors.

Climbing off the runway, the stark escarpment of the Cleveland Hills fringed our southern skyline. With high pressure over the whole of north-east England and virtually no wind, stable conditions meant a very smooth ascent as the brilliant white moorland landscape opened up under the nose of the aircraft.

Below, details not readily appreciated from the ground, lay etched graphically across the national park: the herringbone pattern of valleys, the steep edge to the Vale of York at Hambleton Hill and the pencil black shadows of field boundaries in the farming valleys.

From Great Ayton, the line of the Cleveland Dyke, that streak of volcanic rocks barely 15 metres wide, bore witness to the only evidence of this ancient and violent activity in the Moors as it threaded towards Fylingdales.

We aimed to pick up the northern end of Newtondale, following the route of the floodwater taken by the ice at the end of the Ice Age, before heading down to site of Lake Humber and on towards Spurn and the North Sea. However, a gathering blanket of fog forced a change of plan and instead we headed back across the moors to the west.

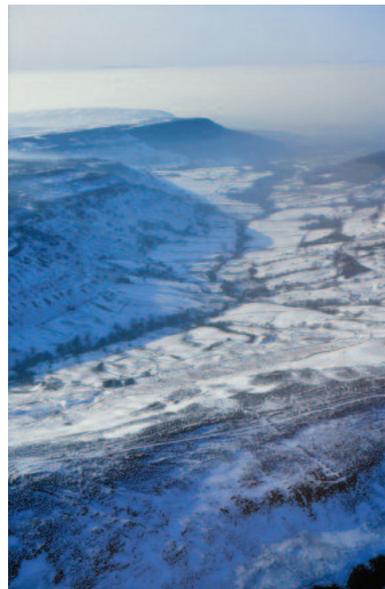
Passing over Blakey Ridge, a pattern of doughnut shapes marked the sites of small bell-pits where locals mined moorland coal in the past.

What labours these little workings would have seen. For it must have been an utterly thankless task, as it is jokingly reputed that it took four bags of good coal from South Yorkshire, to set one bag of stony poor-quality moorland coal alight.

Above Bilsdale, the transmitter mast - a thin column with seemingly no visible means holding it vertically, pointed up at us from 1000 feet below. Once home to the tallest lift in Europe, it has long been on my 'would like to do list' to ride up inside the towering structure, though I am now increasingly pessimistic about my chances.

Next, along Scugdale, dark dots revealed small spoil heaps marking the seam from which jet was once found and extracted.

With the extent of the fog now filling the Vale of York, like ice had done in the past, a feeling of being locked in a time



machine swept over me. Was this what it looked like when the great ice-sheet spread down the broad valley, I wondered?

My mind drifted into memories of a rather poor black-and-white film I had once seen, in which an airliner descends through the clouds only for the passengers to find a world of primeval forest populated by dinosaurs, not as they expected a modern-day scene and an airport.

With a commanding view over the valleys of the moors, the semblance of the great ice sheet to the west and no obvious sign of any other human activity, beyond the world of the aircraft, I felt my slightly unnerving imagination drifting into ...what if when we descend? the fog bank is actually ice and the snowy world, the deep freeze of 100,000 years ago with plants and animals driven away to the south by the advancing cold.

As if to confirm a passage along a time-warp, I spot Rievaulx Abbey, tucked into its tight valley. And for a fleeting moment I imagine it not as ruins of the monastic house of 800 years ago, but as a building under construction, not yet with its roof on; interesting thing our imagination.

Since we could not carry on to Spurn and turned for Teesside, I felt a slight sense of relief that the Whitby road, lined with cars came into view, that Guisborough was still there and finally as the wheels thumped on the runway the quip of an ex-RAF Vulcan pilot echoed in my ears: *It's always good to be back on terra firma and the more 'firmer' the less 'terror'.*

Season's greetings. Enjoy it if it snows.

IAN CARSTAIRS

GERALD ANTHONY KING 1940-2018

In 2017 Gerald stepped down as our membership secretary after fourteen years of recording membership enrolment and renewal which was an outstanding contribution to the Association. Sadly, we have to report to our members that Gerald died earlier this year on September 6th.

Gerald was born in Tottenham in April 1940 and later, after the war, moved to Ealing which is where he met Gill. Gill described her first meeting with Gerald at the local church youth club. She said that she met Gerald and his friend who were playing billiards in the church hall and that she arranged a date with Gerald's friend who subsequently failed to turn up for the date. Gerald stepped in to save the situation and there began a friendship that became a life-long partnership.

Gerald went to Ealing Boys Grammar School and then to University College London where he graduated with a degree in Geology. While he was at UCL, Gill was doing nursing training at Charing Cross Hospital and this gave them an opportunity to meet up regularly at a nearby Lyons Corner House. Later, Gerald and Gill were married in September 1961 in a small village in Somerset where Gill's parents lived.

In 1961 Gerald took a job as an industrial Chemist with ICI and this necessitated a move up to the north of England and for a short time they lived in Saltburn before moving to Stockton. During this time they had four children, Geoffrey, Philip, Nicola and Jennifer. In 1988 they moved to Cleveland View in Faceby fulfilling a wish to live in the countryside.

Because of changes at ICI and its subsidiary company, which employed Gerald, he was able to take early retirement at the

beginning of the 1990's. This gave Gerald and Gill an opportunity to travel and they embarked, said Philip, on an ambitious travel programme which over the next few years took them to Australia, New Zealand, South America and the USA.

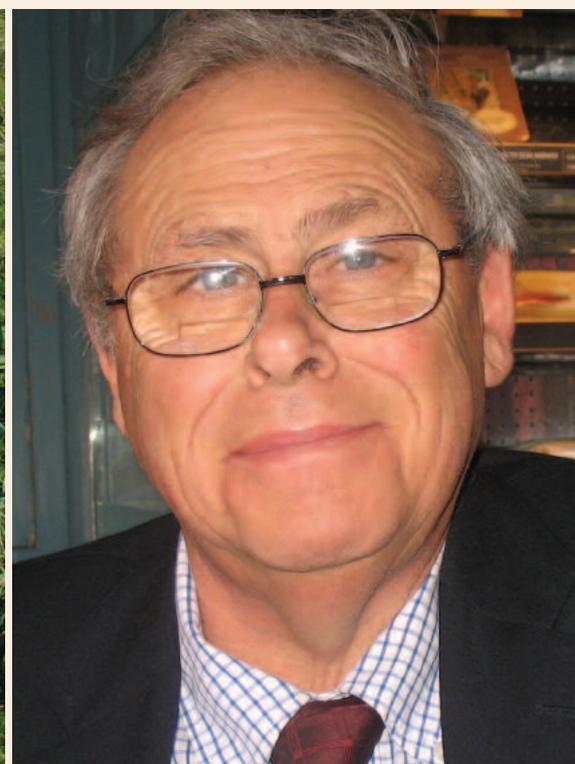
Apart from travelling and often walking with his dogs, Gerald had many interests which included cricket, railways, music and art. His interest in art led him to take a graduate course in art history at the Open University completing the course in 2000 when he was awarded a BA degree. Gerald was actively involved with many events and groups in the village life of Faceby taking on work with Faceby Village Hall, and the Parish Church Council. He was described by the churchwarden as an "invaluable secretary and so well organised".

This description could equally well apply to Gerald's time as NYMA Membership Secretary and it is in this capacity that I have known Gerald for the last ten years during my chairmanship. At the Annual General Meeting in June 2017 I made the following announcement:

"Gerald, has been our membership secretary for the last 14 years. He has decided to retire and to take a well-earned rest from this essential job which, as I have said before goes largely unnoticed, a behind the scenes job. The hallmark of Gerald's tenure as membership secretary has been thoroughness and over this extensive period there is no doubt it amounts to a huge contribution to the Association. I will personally miss our telephone conversations on a diverse range of membership issues which crop up from time to time".

For fourteen years Gerald just got on with the job and did it well.

TOM CHADWICK



MEMORIES IN THE LIFETIME OF A MEMORABLE TREE

A **S THIS IS** our Winter issue, on the next page, we thought you might be interested to read the entry from *The History Tree* book about the very harsh winter of 1947 and how resilience, self-sufficiency and self-support were required to overcome hardships and privations.

Until 2007, an iconic and cherished copper beech tree stood in the grounds of the Moors Centre, formerly Danby Lodge. When it had to be taken down, and also to mark the 25th anniversary of NYMA, a steel plate etched into the shape of the bole and main branches of a truncated tree was placed in the ground where the tree had grown. Forty local and national events which happened during the life of the tree were recorded on this plate.

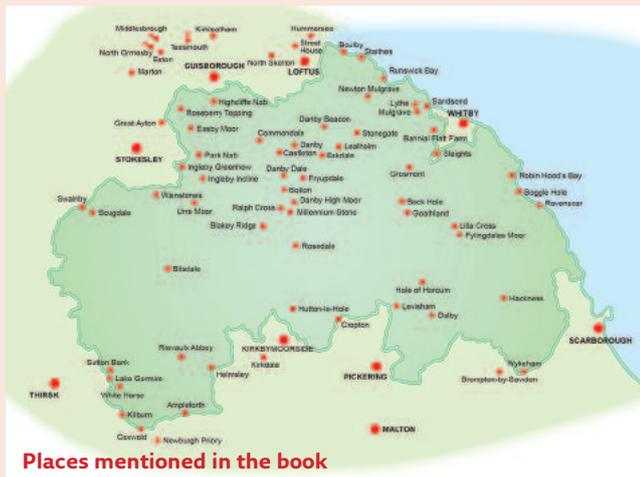
Inspired by the plate and launched at the NYMA AGM in June this year, *The History Tree* book contains carefully researched and beautifully illustrated information on these events. All of the same length, each chapter

would be a perfect accompaniment to a morning coffee, an afternoon cup of tea, or snuggled up and relaxing on a dark evening in front of the fire.

Themes include literature, the sea, exploration and endeavour, tragedy and bravery, craftsmanship and creativity, nobility and royalty, cultural and industrial heritage, the railway, science, geology, forestry and much more.

The History Tree would make an ideal Christmas present or gift for a relative or friend who loves the moors with over 60 places across the North York Moors being mentioned.

It is available for just £7.50 at many outlets across north-east Yorkshire, from Coxwold to Whitby. A full list can be found on the NYMA website: <https://www.north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk/books/>. Alternatively, you can also buy copies by post (P&P £2.50 extra): please complete the form on the website.



Places mentioned in the book

Photo © Ian Dasher

HERITAGE

A FISHY TAIL!

F **OR OVER** a hundred and thirty years a four foot tall, seventeen stone 'cod' has stood on its tail in The Dock at Robin Hood's Bay feeding on coins of the realm placed into its mouth by passers-by. The oldest collecting box for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution still in service, it is now recorded as a Grade II Listed Building by Historic England, surely the smallest listed 'building' in the country! It is one of only two RNLI listed collecting boxes in England, the other being at Porthgwarra Beach in Cornwall installed early in the 20th century.

The cast iron painted sculpture was made at Batts Iron Foundry (Hutton Works) in Whitby and was erected at Bay in 1887. It was presented to the village by a local ship owner, Captain Isaac Mills and his wife Alice Russell at a time when Bay men still manned the local lifeboat.

Sited at the top of the slipway outside what was once the Coastguard Station, the fish has survived decades of battering (pardon the pun!) by heavy seas which regularly sweep up into The Dock or crash down from above. In the mid 1960s the

cod was temporarily removed for safe keeping, when the old Coastguard Station was totally demolished to make way for a new Leeds University Marine Laboratory. It was again removed some thirty years later when the National Trust, in its turn, totally demolished the marine lab to make way for a new visitor centre (in the style of the old Coastguard Station!), which was opened in 2000. In October 2005 the fish was stolen, no easy feat given its weight and size. It was later retrieved from a cottage in the village and two youths were apprehended. Although repainted for the opening of the National Trust centre, the fish was in need of another make-over and in 2016, was welcomed back on June 18th in a sparkling new coat. A famous photograph probably taken about 1900, shows William Storm, a long serving coxswain of Bay lifeboat, with a local girl, Gladys Dixon, 'feeding' the fish.

This unique and much loved icon could tell many a tale, and talking of tails, it is said that if you put a penny or more in its mouth, it will wag its tail for you!

ALAN STANIFORTH



Photo © Bay Museum

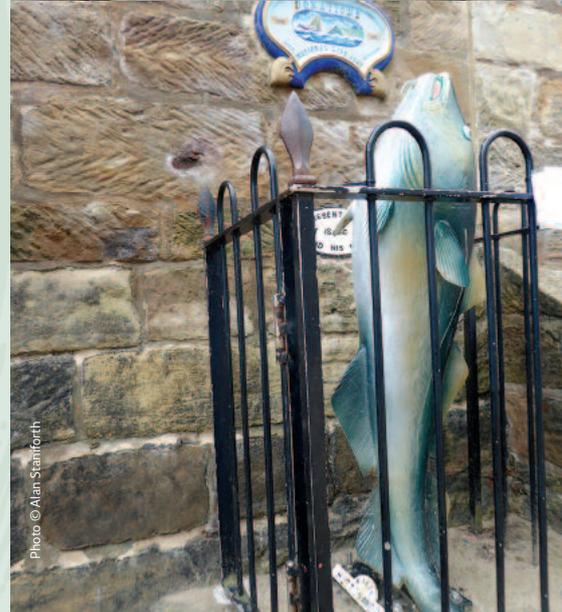


Photo © Alan Staniforth



1947

THE 'LONG WINTER'

Photo © Vicky Whitfield

THE WINTER of 1947 is remembered by all who lived through it. There had been some cold weather in December 1946 but this was followed by an unseasonably mild spell. However, on 22nd January 1947 the temperature dropped like a stone and the snow began in earnest. The severe weather was not to relent until mid-March: from 22nd January until 17th March snow fell every day somewhere in the UK.

Although more snow was to fall during the winter of 1962/3, that of 1947 was much colder, with biting winds that drove the snow. Drifts were up to 7 metres deep while, at its lowest, the temperature plummeted to -21°C. There was also very little sunshine, with only 17 hours recorded at Kew for the whole of February.

The drifting snow caused widespread transport difficulties: 300 main roads became unusable, and over 100,000 British and Polish troops, as well as German prisoners-of-war, were drafted in to clear the railways as the disruption was seriously affecting the coal supply to power stations. Domestic power supplies were reduced to just 19 hours per day, which continued until the end of April. Industrial supplies were cut completely and all external lighting was switched off. Radio broadcasting was limited and the television network suspended altogether.

Flocks of sheep and herds of cattle were buried and froze or starved to death. Nationwide, as much as a quarter of the sheep stock was lost and it took farmers six years to recover from such losses. Vegetables became frozen in the ground. War-time rationing was still in place and the winter of '47 saw even more stringent measures to eke out what was available.

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, the UK was facing serious economic difficulties. Britain was still involved in post-war defences which drew considerably on the public purse. Added to this, the Labour government had undertaken a substantial programme of nationalisation, including the railways and the coal-mining industry. Alongside all of this was the need to fund the new National Health Service. There was not a lot to spare. It was this that caused as much hardship as - if not more than - the snowfall.

On the North Yorkshire Moors, where the wind-chill factor can be appreciable in any winter, the snow filled the roads and lanes, cut off villages and caused considerable difficulties for farmers. The loss of the electricity supply, however, made no difference as electricity supplied by the

Photo © Emma Beeforth

National Grid only reached here in the early 1950s. Instead, folks simply soldiered on with their paraffin lamps and stoves and used peat on the fire or in the range for cooking. For those who needed coal for heating, when paraffin refills were necessary or when food supplies began to run low, people acted as in Westerdale, where they hitched their horses to sledges and, with the lanes completely blocked by snow, made their way across the fields to Castleton. Coal could be obtained from the railway station here and limited food supplies were available in local shops - but it took a long time to get there and even longer to get home.

Newspaper headlines declared that Scotland was 'cut off' and England was 'cut in half'. Villages became completely separated from one another and remote farms entirely isolated. Moorland folks, however, were used to hard work and harsh conditions and simply ploughed on with life. Largely self-sufficient - and certainly self-supporting - the communities of the North Yorkshire Moors managed as best they could. Used to helping each other, everyone rallied together and made the best of it.

Sadly, even once the snow abated, worse was to follow as the mid-March thaw and additional rain caused widespread flooding. It was the wettest March for 300 years. 31 counties across Britain and at least 100,000 properties were affected by the floodwater, and the army was once again called in to help. Red Cross parcels arrived from Australia and Canada and it took ten days for the flood waters to subside.

Throughout the difficulties, over two million people were forced to claim unemployment benefit because of the loss of income, but there was little unrest and no major public disorder. However, following such hardship some decided to strike out for a different life and many people emigrated, in particular to Canada and Australia. In Britain, taxes were raised once more - but the country then basked in a glorious warm summer.

With grateful thanks to the late Emma Beeforth for help in preparing this article.

CAROL WILSON

Find out more:

Blog posting from the Met Office - <https://blog.metoffice.gov.uk/2017/01/26/winter-1947-brought-a-freeze-to-post-war-britain/>

Rare film footage of a family's experience of the 1947 winter in West Yorkshire - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUcAfHD1BAY>

WHAT TO SAY...?

Paul Kirby

*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*

Photo © David Smith

EARLIER this year there was some justifiable concern regarding the weather...it was very good. Hot. Sunshine. Dry. Not what Field Mycologists relish. Warm? Yes. Damp? Most certainly..., so all was not going well. There was a danger that there would be very little to make 2018 an interesting fungal year and consequently there would not be much to say about it. It hasn't worked out that way and I have already had to re-write this feeble contribution as what I had written was becoming over-lengthy with anecdotal finds from excited individuals in the immediate *terroire*, and some pretty nice things I found on my own. I will begin with an anecdotal find.

What to say when I get news of Chanterelles on the top of Glaisdale Moor just past Trough House? If you

*Cantharellus cibarius*

walk on the moors at all this year, you were sure to find a very common but startling species. It is day-glo orange and not averse to showing itself. Unsurprisingly, the “similarity” to the Chanterelle is what causes my phone to ring. So far and to date I have had eight reports of Chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*) on moorland paths. But no, it was not to be. What we have is *Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*, justifiably called “The False Chanterelle.”

The excellent picture of *H.aurantiaca* is by the late David Smith from Stokesley. Though artistic in his photography, David was particular about detail... and in this simple composition, he shows much more about the species than a cursory glance would imply... you will see that it has “gills”... real, distinctive, separate gills beneath the cap. It is also a yellow colour but colour is deceptive... always. The Chanterelle, *Cantharellus cibarius* ...the favourite French edible, has no gills. What? You can SEE them? Well, no, they are not “true”gills. They are “folds”, wrinkles if you like, in the underside of the cap. The functionality of the gills is the same... this is where the “spores” are formed...but that's it.

What to say when the phone rings and a minimally excited Yorkshire voice asks if what he has in his hat is “ ‘oss mushrooms” or neigh ...sorry, nay? Now this is a very common query because from where I am now sitting I can see a whole colony of...er... mushrooms. Except they are not....at least, not what we all, me included, have come to accept as the excellent edible fungus found in fields, and by cousin connections, woodland. To be fair, an early outcropping at the same location needed some close scrutiny, after which identification was certain... though “scrutiny” is the wrong word because other senses come in to play quite quickly. *Agaricus urinascens*

*Agaricus urinascens**Agaricus xanthodermus*

should tell you all you need to know... and that is what was in t'at. Although edible, it has an off-putting aroma and shares some characteristics with a poisonous neighbour, *Agaricus xanthodermus* the Yellow Staining Mushroom, both of which are growing together and illustrated here.

What to say when a *cri-de-coeur* email arrives from a concerned neighbour with brown mushrooms everywhere and grandchildren coming to stay? Some may say the brown mushrooms are the least of your problems but that would be to minimise the plea...the fungi were described and quickly confirmed to be Honey Fungus.... *Armillaria mellea* oh, dear, the gardener's most feared enemy. They were legion... but let's get some perspective here. Yes, Honey Fungus is a nightmare but generally you will be able to trace the instigator host back to a dead or weakened tree... and it can be years before fit and healthy trees succumb. By then, it should be your grandchildren's problem!

*Armillaria mellea*

Oh, one more thing. I have eaten Honey Fungus. I was fine but the general advice is DON'T. This is a “suspect” fungus and at best is hard to digest. What more can I say?

TOM KIRBY

Photos © Tom Kirby

VISIT TO DARTMOOR: THE NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES CONFERENCE 2018



Conference speaker and delegates

Photo © Dartmoor Preservation Association

NYMA is one of a family of similar societies which support Britain's national parks. Some of the societies even pre-date the national park which they support, and played a large part in their establishment: the Dartmoor Preservation Association (DPA) is the oldest, having come into existence in 1883. The national park societies (NPS) are independent of the parks with which they are associated and from each other, but are grouped under the umbrella of the Campaign for National Parks (CNP). NYMA and its sister societies pay an annual fee to CNP based on the number of members each organisation has – so as a member of NYMA, part of your subscription goes to support this wider cause as well as projects closer to home.

Each year the NPS come together with CNP at a conference to meet and discuss matters of common concern. This year, the DPA hosted the conference over three days in October. Held at the Two Bridges Hotel, a former coaching inn in the heart of the Dartmoor National Park, the conference attracted almost 100 delegates and an impressive line-up of speakers. The conference themes were: valuing natural and cultural capital in our national parks; sustainable tourism; and conservation and farming.

Key topics of discussion were the current government review of the financing and purposes of National Parks and AONBs, known as the Glover Review; the 2018 Agriculture Bill, which outlines the post-Brexit future of farming in England and Wales and has links with the government's 25-year Environment Plan 'A Green Future'; and Defra's current thinking on a new environmental land management policy, which takes a fresh look at how farming intersects with the landscape, biodiversity, and public use of rural areas.

Amongst the speakers were Merrick Denton-Thompson, Trustee and Fellow of the Landscape Institute and member of the board of Natural England; Janet Dwyer, Professor of Rural Policy at the University of Gloucester; Ian Bateman, Professor of Environmental Economics at the University of Exeter; Douglas

Chalmers, CEO of Friends of the Lake District; and Chris Gregory, Duchy of Cornwall land steward.

Speakers made the points that the landscapes we enjoy today are a by-product of centuries of farming, but that successive agri-environmental initiatives have led to an inconsistent approach towards the integration of farming and biodiversity management and in some cases to the loss of biodiversity, while too many schemes have been centralised, top-down ideas which lack sensitivity to local conditions. There was discussion of Natural Capital Accounting, which attempts to assign a monetary value to the economic and health benefits of national parks and other green spaces. Criticism that this utilitarian approach could devalue the 'special qualities' for which national parks were established was countered by arguments that it helps to justify government funding for national parks.

Speakers shared contrasting experiences on tourism in national parks: the Lake District's attractiveness to visitors results in 'car chaos', with local tradesmen turning down work because it takes too long to drive around, while in Dartmoor visitor numbers have been declining. Some felt the balance between tourism and conservation had tipped too far towards tourism. A possible way of ensuring that visitors pay more towards the true cost of their visit could be through using number-plate recognition technology to charge them, perhaps based on visits to 'honey-pots' or using seasonal pricing, with exemptions for residents.

There was particular concern about possible threats to national parks after Brexit because of changes to agricultural subsidies, with the potential for 'seismic' changes for British farming, including land abandonment in the uplands if payments to hill-farmers cease.

The 'Last Word' came from Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society, Britain's oldest conservation body, chair of The Ramblers GB, vice-chair of CNP – and a life member of NYMA. Kate gave a rallying call to everyone to safeguard the future of National Parks and all green spaces as we move towards next year's 70th anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

There was ample opportunity during the conference for members of different NPS to exchange experiences, and evening entertainment too: ecologist, wildlife artist and TV naturalist John Walters gave a fascinating talk on the wildlife of Dartmoor, and a local ensemble gave a lively exposition of folk-songs and other music and a demonstration of Devon step-dancing. On the final day there were visits to places ranging from archaeological sites to farming and tourism enterprises. The Drizzlecombe standing stones were aptly named, since the weather turned distinctly autumnal during the conference!

JANET COCHRANE AND TOM CHADWICK



SKYLARKS

Hello younger readers, brrrr, is it cold outside? How do you keep warm?



How many ways can you think of that animals keep warm in the winter?



Some birds fly south for the winter



Birds fluff up their feathers



Some animals hibernate



What else do animals and you do to keep warm and have energy?

You might be eating one of these on Christmas Day.
Find out more about hibernation and eating for energy.

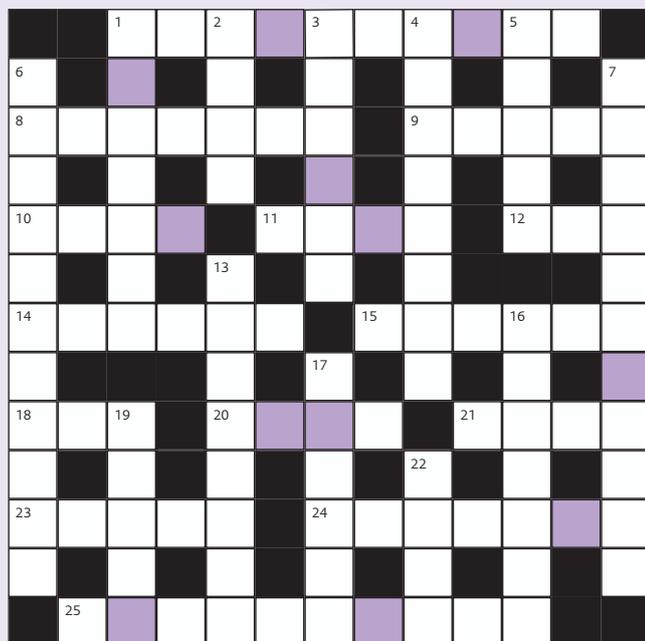


Have a lovely Christmas and we'll see you again in the spring (when it is warmer)

We enjoy including your pictures, stories and news, please keep sending them to editor@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk

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CROSSWORD 83 BY AMANUENSIS



Take the letters from the coloured squares in the grid and rearrange in the boxes below to solve the anagram:
Clue: Love him or loathe him, he's there for all to see!

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

ACROSS

- North Yorkshire coastal village has boiler on promontory (10)
- You never look forward to this (7)
- The first short day an alien meets artist (5)
- Drink that is left (4)
- Service for great body of people (4)
- Grain coming from Mandalay (3)
- Join and listen agitatedly (6)
- Leaders of the pack (6)
- A failure which ever way you look at it (3)
- Dairy product made in reverse (4)
- Image of forged coin (4)
- Unstoppable asteroid contains smallest amount (5)
- Resting places for main craft? (7)
- It's a knock-out in America! (10)

DOWN

- For a knave, perhaps? (7)
- Implement found in returned sack (4)
- Certainly not a specialist (6)
- Matching title? (8)
- The most famous one was held at Whitby (5)
- Master woodworker pined chapel out (11)
- List shyness as a very fashionable attribute (11)
- A cry for help surrounding finest hazardous material (8)
- Conical shaped but of few words (7)
- Pleasant feeling about four weeks after hostilities (6)
- Haggard looking and lined perhaps? (5)
- Time to decay at brisk pace (4)

Answers on back cover

NYMA NEWS

Photo © Janet Cochrane



The end of summer saw a flurry of activity from NYMA's 'History Tree' team to prepare educational materials based on the book.

We're lucky enough to benefit from an experienced school-

teacher on our Council, Carolyn Moore, who led on designing the materials, while others grappled with the book chapters to cut them by half and re-write them in language suitable for Upper Key Stage 2 pupils (9-11-year-olds). A Q&A sheet was prepared for each of the 16 chapters chosen for their appeal to the children – the story of Whitby and Dracula was an obvious choice! Then 93 books were posted out to primary schools across the area.

The pack is available through our website, under the 'Educational Materials' tab when you hover over 'History Tree'. Feel free to help yourself, if you're in a relevant job. Meanwhile, the History Tree book itself is selling fast from outlets around the Moors and via our website (see page 10)

We're also delighted to report an increase in membership for the last quarter, including in the new '10-year' category. We gained several members through a feature on NYMA and The History Tree in the Yorkshire Post during August. This injection of funds makes a huge difference to our work, as it shows public support for what we do and allows us to leverage grants from organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

JANET COCHRANE

NYMA WALKS



Saturday 5th January **KIRKDALE CAVE and** **ST GREGORY'S MINSTER**

Walk Leaders: Cal & Dave Moore
flightbrand@gmail.com
01287 669648

Meeting place: Grid Reference - SE 67685 84905, lay-by on the A170 (1.25 miles west of Kirbymoorside).

Meet time: 10:30am – no dogs please

Circular walk of approximately 4 miles – total climb is 55 metres.

Mixture of open fields, some woodland and some on public road.

Incorporates visit to Kirkdale Cave as described in the History Tree book and St Gregory's Minster.

Possible extension of 2 miles or amendment to walk route depending on weather conditions.

Please contact walk leaders to confirm attendance.

Saturday 16th February **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF** **CANON ATKINSON**

Walk leaders: Heather and Colin Mather
heathercolin67@gmail.com
01287 669104

Meeting place: Moors Centre GR 715 085

Meet time: 10.00am

Walk length: 6 miles

A walk near Danby remembering Canon JC Atkinson

Saturday 6th March **SWAINBY CIRCULAR**

Walk leader: Kath Mair
kathmair@icloud.com
07974 288056

Meeting place: Holy Cross Church, Swainby (GR478020),

Meet time: 10:00am

Walk length: 6.5-7 miles

Plenty of roadside parking in the village. The route takes field paths and farm tracks then follows the Cleveland Way onto moorland and into forestry before returning to Swainby. There are a couple of short ascents before reaching the moor.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (see page 15)

Westerdale)
Brown Hill, Castleton Riggs, overlooking
Sean Henry currently sited on open moorland on
(the ten foot high painted bronze sculpture by
THE SEATED MAN

Anagram:

16 laconic; 17 warmth; 19 drawn; 22 trot
6 Chippendale; 7 stylishness; 13 asbestos;
1 kestrel; 2 tool; 3 layman; 4 namesake; 5 synod;

Down:

(American spelling)
21 icon; 23 least; 24 marinas; 25 anesthetic
12 dal; 14 enlist; 15 Akelas; 18 dud; 20 Edam;
1 Kettleiness; 8 history; 9 Monet; 10 port; 11 mass;

Across:

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