



*Jess on the descent from Ingleborough - route survey 2015*

## **Friends of A Dales High Way**

eNewsletter No 2 Autumn 2015

# Friends of A Dales High Way

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Hello and welcome to the second edition of the **Friends of A Dales High Way** e-newsletter.

In the year since our last newsletter there have been some exciting developments for A Dales High Way. The trail now appears as a recreational path marked on new OS maps OL2 and OL19. We're undertaking a survey of the entire route this year and we highlight some important improvements to the path thanks to the efforts of the local authority rangers and volunteers, with more to come, particularly on the climb up to Ingleborough.

And there's plenty of exciting new accommodation coming on stream along the way, most importantly at the pinch point at Chapel-le-Dale. We also list our top ten annual festivals along the route, and pick out one or two news highlights of the year.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. You'll find regular news updates on the website at **dalesway.org.uk**

## Facebook and Twitter

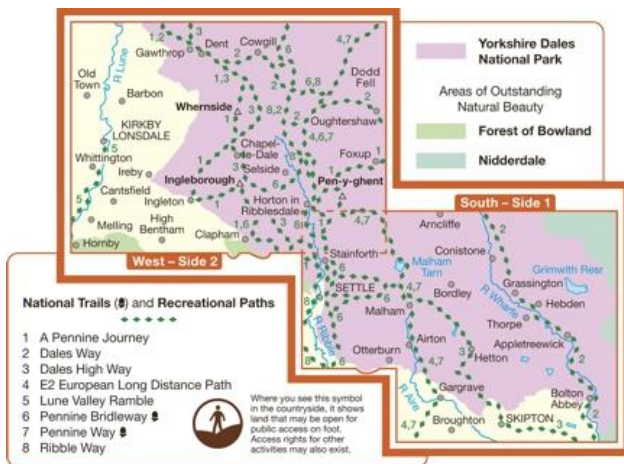
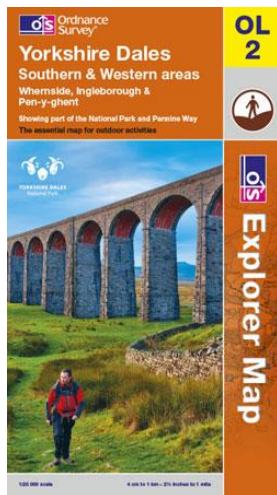
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Our Facebook page is at **facebook.com/daleshighway**  
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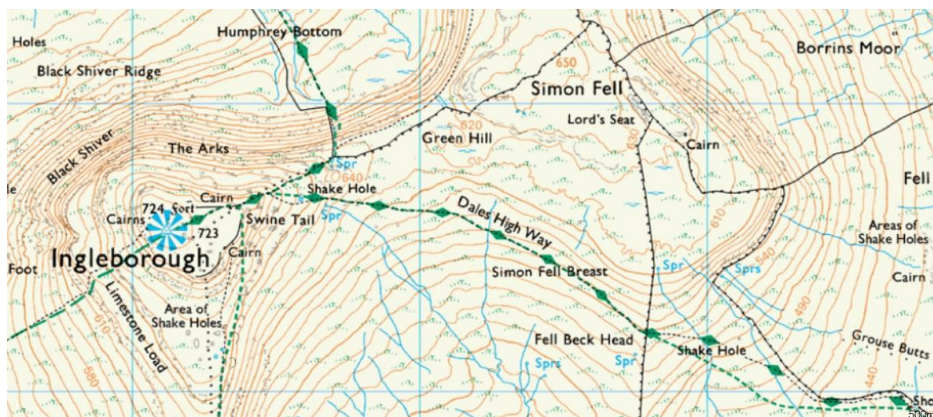
We completed the Dales Highway last week. What a stunning walk it is. Day after day the country opened up new vistas. We travelled through this beautiful Dales landscape loving the transformation from Gritstone to Limestone and finally the beautiful deep red soil of the Eden. What a sublime walk this is; walking doesn't get much better than this. Thank you, we loved every mile of it. - *Ken & Lynn Coulson, Aug 2015*

## Ordnance Survey (OS) maps

Since the last newsletter we're pleased and excited to see that the route of *A Dales High Way* has now been included in the new editions of the main two OS maps that cover the trail - OL2 Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western areas; and OL19 Howgill Fells & Upper Eden Valley.



The route will be included in the other OS maps that it covers, particularly at the start of the trail, as and when new editions are printed.



## Route Survey 2015

We're progressing well with surveying the route of A Dales High Way this year, checking for any problems and noting improvements to the trail.

Once we've finished we'll prepare a report for each of the local authorities responsible for the maintenance of the route, with any observations and suggestions for possible improvements.

One or two of the waymarks that were initially put up to mark the route have disappeared, and there are a couple of places where we think new waymarks might usefully be added.

Overall things are looking good and there have been a number of major improvements to the path this year:

**Sharp Haw:** The path up to the summit of Sharp Haw has been strengthened by Park Rangers from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. This is a popular stretch with local people and runners and the path could become quite muddy in wet weather.



The bridleway down from Sharp Haw across Flasby Fell remains a problem in bad weather, but finding a practical solution is difficult.

**Malhamdale:** The National Park Authority has also undertaken path strengthening on the route up to Weets Top from Hetton, and the route from Langscar Gate up to Nappa Gate. Both these bridleways increasingly attract cyclists, especially since the success of the Tour De France and Tour De Yorkshire.



**Ingleborough:** Major work is being undertaken on the path up to Ingleborough, above the Shooting Lodge where the Dales High Way joins the popular Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge Route. Reclaimed stone flags have been flown in by helicopter for the work.



Park Ranger and Three Peaks project Manager Steve Hasty explains:

"We will be flagging two sections of previously subsoiled path to the west of the shooting hut. The work is being funded by a significant grant from HF Holidays 'Pathways Fund'.

"The footpath through the Allotment is part of the main Three Peaks challenge route and is a popular route to Ingleborough summit from Horton in Ribblesdale. Each year approximately 50,000 people complete the Three Peaks using the Allotment path.

"The route through the Allotment was engineered in the early 1990's using the subsoil or path inversion technique. Two sections of the path on steeper ground have become very difficult to use due to a combination of heavy footfall and water damage. Walkers are now avoiding the path and trampling

the fragile vegetation to the sides, with the inevitable result that the path is widening.

"This project will see the line of the path re-built and re-profiled using a 360 excavator, with stone flags laid as steps to provide the walking surface. The sides of the path will be landscaped and turfed by hand using volunteers.

"This is a technique that has been used successfully elsewhere in the Three Peaks. Due to the cost of the reclaimed flags and the requirement usually to lift the flags to site using a helicopter, the technique has a high capital cost. However it has the long-term advantage of creating a very stable path with extremely low maintenance requirements and is considered a much more sustainable option.

"The work is in two sections of 76m and 40m totalling 116m."

*In 2009 The National Park Authority launched the **Three Peaks Project** to engage with residents, visitors, businesses and all who benefit from the rights of way network in the area, to promote sustainable use and support for our work. Income generated by the Project directly funds a dedicated ranger and supports path maintenance.*

**Shipley Glen:** Finally *A Dales High Way* got its first dedicated Finger Post courtesy of Bradford Council's Rights of Way Department and the routing skills of The Friends own chairperson Julia Pearson.

Julia led a group of dedicated volunteers from the *Bradford Environmental Education Service (BEES)* to install the fingerpost. One of the volunteers (Dennis, shown left with shovel) was subsequently inspired to walk the trail himself.

Well done guys!



## A Dales High Way Festival Calendar

Throughout the year there are plenty of things happening in the towns and villages along the route of A Dales High Way. These can prove both a benefit and a burden for walkers: on the one hand they offer a fascinating, colourful and exciting taste of life along the route; on the other hand there may be pressure on accommodation at these times.

Here's our top ten festival highlights of this year:

*April 27: **Three Peaks Fell Race.*** A thousand fell runners cover the 24-mile route, with the fastest tackling the three mountains in under 3 hours!

*April 28 - May 4: **Ride2Stride - the Settle-Carlisle Walking Festival.*** A free festival of walks, talks and music along England's most scenic railway.

*May 2 - 4: **Skipton Waterways Festival.*** The canal basin is crammed with colourful boats as this popular bank holiday festival celebrates its 14th year.

*June 4 - 10: **Appleby Horse Fair.*** Europe's biggest annual Gypsy and Traveller gathering, a spectacular and colourful event with just a hint of the wild west.

*June 26 - 28: **Dentdale Music & Beer Festival.*** This incredibly popular free folk festival is a true community event, now celebrating its 13th year.

*August 29: **Malham Show.*** A traditional village agricultural and family country show that's been running for over 100 years.

*September 3 - 6: **Settle Folk Festival.*** This new, free weekend folk festival run by Mike Harding and friends is now celebrating its second year.

*September 11 - 20: **Saltaire Festival.*** Now a major weeklong cultural festival with a wide range of events held in this historic world heritage village.

*October 2 - 4: **Skipton Puppet Festival.*** This unique biennial festival is England's largest celebration of puppet theatre for families.

*October 3 - 19: **Ilkley Literature Festival.*** This internationally renowned festival has run for over 40 years and features over 250 events.



## Accommodation Update

Once again a big thank you to all the accommodation providers along the route of A Dales High Way. At the end of a day in the hills it's the welcome that awaits in the pub, B&B, hostel, bunkbarn, hotel or campsite that makes or breaks many a long distance walker. Fortunately in the Yorkshire Dales and Eden Valley we're known for our hospitality – and big breakfasts – and walkers are quick to let us know when they've been well looked after.

There are a couple of pinch points on A Dales High Way and it's always worth booking these first. One is Stainforth where we're glad to report that the Craven Heifer is under new management and is consistently open. Knight Stainforth, the camping and caravan site directly on the route, has recently opened a cafe bar where walkers (and dogs) are very welcome and has plans to offer bed and breakfast and bunkbarn accommodation in the future.



Another stopping point which can cause difficulties is Chapel-le-Dale but there too we are seeing more options. As well as the Old Hill Inn and Croft Gate, the Station Inn at Ribbleshead and Dale House Farm are both close by. Philpin Farm offers camping and Broadrake Farm is converting a barn into 2, 4, and 6 bedded rooms.

If you can't find accommodation around Chapel-le-Dale you also have the option of staying a couple of nights in Settle and using the train from Ribbleshead on the Settle Carlisle line to access the trail.

We've also heard about new accommodation that will be available in the future at both the start and end of the walk. Bracken Hall House will make a great first night stop, less than half an hour from Saltaire and just minutes from the route on Shipley Glen. At the other end the family behind Appleby Brewery are also renovating a house in the town to offer B&B.

*If you have any news about accommodation along the way, please get in touch and let us know.*



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### Walkers Are Welcome

The Cumbrian town of Sedbergh, at the foot of the Howgill Fells was awarded *Walkers Are Welcome* status in August this year. Sedbergh joins Baildon, at the start of A Dales High Way, which received its award in October 2013.

The Walkers Are Welcome initiative was launched in 2007, with Hebden Bridge being the first town to be accredited. Since then over 100 towns and villages have joined the scheme, including Ilkley, Bingley and Baildon at the start of A Dales High Way.



Julia Bradbury, broadcaster and walking enthusiast, said "The Walkers Are Welcome Scheme is a truly innovative project. It's such a simple concept: set up an accreditation scheme for walk-friendly towns, then encourage the towns to network together for support, advice and ideas. That simplicity has led to jaw dropping success..."

### Pennine Way at 50

Britain's first National Trail, the 268 mile Pennine Way, celebrated its 50th birthday in April this year.

The Pennine Way was the brainchild of Tom Stephenson - rambler and socialist campaigner - who first proposed *A Pennine Way from the Peaks to the Cheviots* in a newspaper article in 1935. The route was finally opened as Britain's first long distance footpath 30 years later, on April 24 1965 at an event on Malham Moor attended by over 2,000 people.

The Pennine Way shares a short section with A Dales High Way - the path along the Dry Valley of Watlowes above Malham Cove

## **2014 - hottest year on record!**

The Met Office has confirmed that 2014 proved to be the warmest year since records began in 1910, pipping the previous record year of 2006.

The mean temperature of 9.9 degrees beat the 9.7 degrees of 2006 and confirms that all the UK's top eight warmest years have happened since 2002.

## **High Way Comic**

Plenty of people write blogs about their experience of walking A Dales High Way, but graphic artist Katie Green went one step further, producing a beautifully illustrated cartoon account of her walk.



Katie's September 2014 issue of *The Green Bean*, a beautifully hand crafted comic-zine issued bi-monthly as a limited edition, is given over to a two-week walking holiday in the Yorkshire Dales.

Katie said: "Last September, my partner Luke and I walked most of A Dales High Way during a two week trip to Yorkshire. A year later, I finally got it together to make

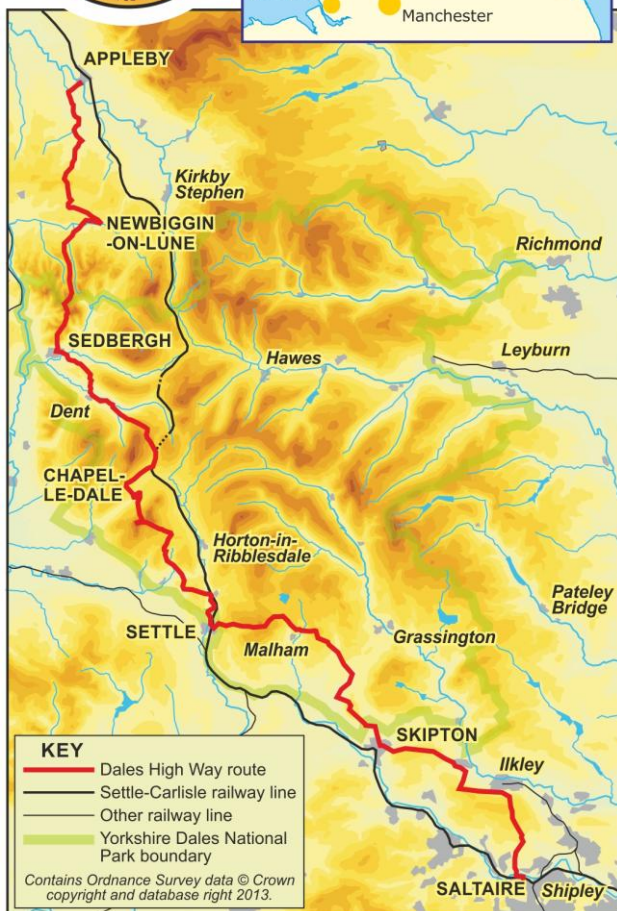
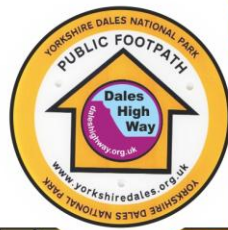
a special issue of my regular comic, *The Green Bean*, documenting the trip."

## **Saltaire Facelift**

Saltaire is undergoing a £750,000 facelift, but the work has proved controversial. The upgrade involved removing 32 mature trees – a mixture of horse chestnut, copper beech, Norway maple and rowan, which were planted in the 1950's and were not part of the original design of the model village. Unfortunately the trees had grown too big and were damaging paving and blocking light to nearby houses.

New Yorkshire stone paving is being installed and new LED streetlights have been fitted. The four lions outside Victoria Hall, which marks the start of A Dales High Way, will be illuminated.

Councillor Val Slater said "The scheme will ultimately bring Victoria Road back to how it was originally, but with a modern twist. The trees were a 1950s intrusion, and the new scheme will open up the vista."



For regular news about A Dales High Way go to our website:

**[daleshighway.co.uk](http://daleshighway.co.uk)**