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 147
SPRING 2022

£2.75

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Cover: Roseberry Topping in spring (© Mel Ullswater)

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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

Adrian Leaman

WHAT does it mean to be a member of NYMA? To me, it's simply loving the National Park, and wanting to stay in love with it. To others, it is wanting to 'do something' in the face of the increasing challenges of the modern world, and what the future holds. NYMA is a friend of the North York Moors National Park, but it also is the Park's most trusted critic. It's up to us as users to point out where we think things may be going wrong, and how they may be improved. NYMA doesn't have an agenda as such, but represents a range of interests and enthusiasms that have a common goal - the survival of the National Park as both an entity and a concept for the public good.

This is beginning to sound serious. Survival? Public good? Lingering problems are coming into sharper focus. In the autumn of 2021, NYMA was active on three fronts: as host of the National Parks Societies' annual conference; preparing a critical response to the North York Moors National Park Authority's Draft Management Plan; and helping the Council for National Parks comment on the Government's response to the 2019 Landscapes Review (the 'Glover Review'). All three have highlighted matters that need serious attention: new and refurbished housing, public transport, and the future of tenanted small farms - and by extension the vitality and survival of village communities as thriving entities. And we haven't even started on climate change, biodiversity, the landscape itself, maintenance of infrastructure, and how the funds are to be found to deal with any or all of these.

CHALLENGES FOR THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

These are obvious problems for both the future of the communities and landscapes within the National Park's designated area - places like Castleton, Westerdale and Farndale - but also for the National Park Authority as an entity in its own right. The Authority's annual funding - remarkably - is only about the same as ONE large secondary school. Increasingly, anything over and above this has to be raised from private funding, partnerships, car-parking fees and other non-government sources. To put it bluntly, the public good is being increasingly sacrificed to private interests. Elsewhere in this issue of 'Voice', former CEO of the North York Moors, Andy Wilson, explores the topic of funding of national parks in more depth.

The National Park Authority cannot be expected to solve such problems. It can act as a steady hand using its planning and conservation rudders, but this is limited to steerage not reconstruction. The Authority is faced with contradictions such

as these. How can new affordable housing be built without compromising existing design and landscape qualities? Who is going to fund affordable housing at all? How can carbon dioxide emissions and poisonous particulates be effectively reduced when some of the greatest polluters are the very cars that provide most access for park visitors? Where can the resources and skills be found to improve maintenance of decaying infrastructure like green lanes and byways, drains and culverts, hedgerows and walls, peat hags - and many more in a long list. How can we cope with looming wildfire and flooding threats?

COUNTING THE UNCOUNTABLE?

There are practical ways of dealing with all of these, but the world seems so much less practical than it used to be. For example, in the Government's response to the Glover Review, they insist that in future measures must be taken to monitor changes to the landscape. They say that these measures must be compatible with existing national methods of statistical accounting. But when you dig down to find out what these methods are, you find that they are based on a technique which measures 'surplus value' gained from 'natural capital assets'. To do this involves mind-bogglingly complex formulae and a host of assumptions, most of which seem to be from cloud-cuckoo land. It really does boil down to whether you can put a numeric value (cash or otherwise) to your experience of hearing the first cuckoo in spring. The cuckoo is 'natural capital' and the 'surplus value' is your joy in hearing it or remorse in not hearing it. You can see where this is going: a world defined by economists and accountants telling us about biodiversity (the cuckoo) or our response to being there (our wellbeing)!

The less we know, the simpler it seems, and the easier it is to convince people that interventions are for the public good. With schemes for wildlife biodiversity, how do we know that these will not be inappropriate or reckless? Take promises of tree-planting on a megascale: the early 2022 press releases from the Woodsmith Mine speak of 10 million trees to be planted to offset just 10% of emissions from this megaproject. But “God”, as they say, “is in the detail”. What trees? Where? What emissions? Are they just for the mine itself, the shipping of ore, the effect of polyhalite as a fertiliser globally, or what?

INTERPRETATION OF FAMILIAR SIGHTS

On a lighter note, I've been re-visiting the work of Alec Clifton-Taylor, the historian who looked at traditional buildings through

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St Hilda's Terrace

the eyes of the landscape. In his book 'Another Six English Towns', there is a superb chapter about Whitby and the many anachronisms of its historic dwellings, especially the windows and doorways. Whitby Abbey was built with Jurassic sandstone from three quarries on the north bank of the River Esk at Aislaby, only four miles away. Stone for the Abbey also came from Sneaton, even closer, and from ironstone taken from the hilltop two hundred yards from the site. Seeing Whitby through the eyes of Clifton-Taylor was a treat, and makes me wonder whether some of NYMA's popular guided walks could have a 'through the eyes of ...' theme. Robin Hood's Bay through the eyes of Alfred Wainwright, perhaps, or Goathland through the eyes of the admired botanist Nan Sykes, looking at the botanical riches of Nan's favourite place.

NYMA now has a YouTube channel, where you may find all the presentations given at the National Parks Societies Autumn 2021 conference. We have a Twitter account to add to the existing Facebook page, plus our website, which is our primary provider of information on events and activities.

We welcome as new Trustees Andy Wilson and Tom Ratcliffe, with their specialist expertise. Cal Moore, our membership secretary, is standing down, and we thank her wholeheartedly for her dedicated and dependable work over the last five years. As announced in the last issue of 'Voice of the Moors', Tom Chadwick has stood down as Chair after sixteen years. We all take a cue from what Tom has achieved and what he stands for. Like all our membership, a champion of the Moors.

ADRIAN LEAMAN

NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS ASSOCIATION AGM

SATURDAY 18 JUNE, 10.30
THE MOORS CENTRE, DANBY

Your Council Members are looking forward to meeting as many members as possible at this year's AGM, the first 'normal' one since 2019 and a welcome return to normality.

A morning walk will be followed by a buffet lunch (free to members) before getting down to the business of the day. The afternoon will end with a talk on an aspect of national park management and conservation.

Please book your place by phoning Janet Cochrane on 07570 112010 or emailing secretary@nyma.org.uk

GOODNESS ONLY KNOWS

Bridestones, Dalby Forest

Photo © Ian Carstairs

I **WANTED** to be upbeat ... but sorry, I can't, not now. Maybe next time. Meanwhile, staring into a crystal ball, I realise I have no real sense as to what might lie ahead for our countryside and national parks: how farmers will cope with changes to agricultural support which could have such a profound impact on our landscape; the fallout from Brexit; the reordering of society by Covid, and worst of all the consequential effects of the invasion of Ukraine. Then there is climate change. And I see no convincing sign that anyone else has much of an idea either. How could they?

Writing on the first day of Spring, I, like many others, feel overwhelmed by the enormity of events. Spring? More like the deepest darkest winter you could imagine. For now, I can only pray that by the time you read this the situation will have eased.

The established order has been torn up. The old 'certainties' of everyday life have gone. There appears to be no 'normal' to get back to. But I am an optimist and I have to hope, heartened by the spontaneous outpouring of solidarity and kindness bringing people together to face adversity in this country and across Europe.

Living in South Norfolk, I feel a desperate need to get to the Moors: to stand on the tops in the wind, with curlews calling over the wide open space; a fundamental need to be at one with my favourite places. The power of the countryside and wildlife to soothe our souls and calm troubled minds has never been so important in my lifetime.

But these treasured landscapes are not insulated from the realities of economic life. And as I contemplate my yearning to get to the Moors, the sheer horror of events in eastern Europe, the financial pressure that so many people are under, and the effort and support that is needed to maintain our countryside, I cannot erase a number of thoughts from my mind.

I am haunted by the fundamental principle that 'food comes first, morals, conservation and everything else, sometime later', and what that means when a population has its back to the wall. I am troubled by the suggestion that 20 percent of farmers could go out of business as a result of the loss of farm support payments. And I am dismayed by the crazy thrust for globalism with its dependence on easily disrupted long supply chains of imports to help feed and support the population.

It is a perfect maelstrom.

As for conservation, and the challenges facing conservation managers, there is the worrying fact that it can only be achieved effectively if individuals and society can afford to do it.

Increasingly among farmers on whom we largely depend to maintain the landscape and to carry out positive works to build back nature, I have begun to hear negative comments about the Government's proposals as to the ways in which new funds will replace the Farm Basic Payment Scheme. Ministers have not explained what is to come to enable businesses to plan, but if past schemes are anything to go by it seems bound to be complicated, with no apparent provision for those farmers and conservationists who are already doing the right thing. Some farmers are saying "we won't bother with this public money for public goods, and we'll just farm harder." Well, we need the food, but the price of 'farming harder' for the countryside will be missed opportunities to improve the environment and to tackle the severe losses of wildlife.

In my head ring the words of a song ... "If I ruled the world, every day would be the first day of Spring" – well, hopefully not this first day of Spring, but the spring of the uplifting lyrics (look them up).

And if I had even a modest amount of control, the second thing I would do right now in my 'reign', after waving a magic wand for the illusive dream of a lasting end to violence, would be to ensure that the payments to those working and managing the land would be made as easy as possible for them to deliver the environmental benefits, and sufficient to ensure their financial security. This would hold the line to underpin farm enterprises, remove wide uncertainties to help maintain food production, and offer a sound base on which to turn the tide for nature. We depend on it.

.... Ah well, if I ruled the world.

IAN CARSTAIRS

FUNDING NATIONAL PARKS

IN BRITAIN, we each spend on average £7 on home air-fresheners every year. As taxpayers, however, we only spend approximately £1 per person on national parks. In the USA the spend is about six times that amount.

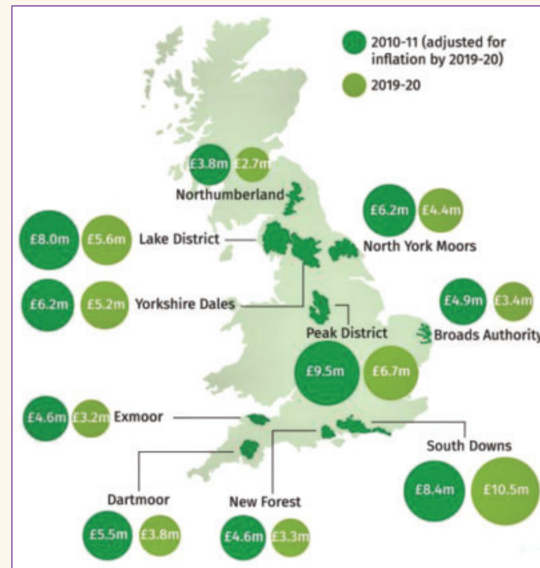
Almost all the English national parks, including the North York Moors, have seen reductions in their central government grant of around 40% in real terms since 2010 (see map).

Not that the national parks' spending fell by quite that much. Most proved adept at raising income from other sources. These include sales in visitor centres, charges from guided walks, carparks and toilets, rentals, photocopying charges, planning fees, online sales .... the list is surprisingly long. There's the rub. Fundraising is a huge effort which distracts from providing services to the public. And different national parks have vastly different opportunities to raise such funds: Northumberland has fewer than 2 million visitor days a year, while the Lake District has 24 million. Some own no land, while the Peak District owns a significant amount.

Why can't national parks have a bigger grant, properly funded from the centre? It isn't that we can't afford it; the amounts needed are so small in national terms. To give some context, the taxpayer is having to find a predicted £4.9 billion to cover fraud in just one Covid grant scheme. National Park Authorities in England together receive less than an eightieth of that, around £50 million a year.

The 2019 Landscapes Review recommended increasing funding by bringing in corporate private sector sources. This has been tried before. The biggest example up to now in the North York Moors quite possibly represented a shift in resources from the public to the private sector – the reverse of what was intended - because of the staff time involved in operating a small and complex scheme.

There is now a much bigger scheme called Revere starting up. This aims to use £100s of millions of corporate money to offset carbon and restore nature, starting in the Cairngorms with a peatland restoration project. The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales also have schemes planned. Now this does seem to be on a useful scale, if it progresses as planned. It would allow companies to officially offset their carbon emissions, the national parks to be seen as net zero, and help the UK to do likewise. Whether all of them can use the same offsets at the same time, I'm not sure. A brief North York Moors perspective on this process is that – as referred to by Adrian in his Chair's foreword - the planning application for the Woodsmith Mine accepted a 10% offset for carbon emissions via native woodland planting that will cover nearly 5% of the whole national park. 100% offsetting would



Government funding for National Parks in England

Source: Freedom of Information requests, National Parks. Used by kind permission of the Grounds Management Association

therefore be close to 50%, and the national park is already more than 20% woodland. That's for just one development, albeit a very large one. But we do want some moorland and farmland .... so it seems as though there isn't enough land left at least in our own national park.

But before I go off at a tangent and argue for less consumption in the first place, let's turn back to funding. It does look as if this new approach might be really good for nature recovery.

The Landscapes Review argued that the national parks could and should deliver much more for the nation. Very astute. The list of extra jobs to be done was immense. Hooray. But on funding all it managed to conclude was that at the very least, the National Park Grant should not be cut (any further). But no target increase, however vague, was proposed.

We need to be much more ambitious and confident in the value of what national parks give to the nation. We need to challenge our politicians on the gross underfunding of these national assets. There is much more to deliver than nature recovery, vital as that is.

If our national parks are to deliver in terms of education, outreach, diversity, rangers, health, visitor care, tourism, community support and transport they will need central funding on a much bigger scale. We should not dodge this fundamental issue and be embarrassed about asking for more.

One final twist: we each spend an average of £1 every year on peanut butter. And whether you like them smooth and runny like the Broads or crunchy like the Lakes, our nation's national parks are worth more than the peanuts we give them now.

ANDY WILSON
Environmental Policy Campaigner and former CEO of NYMNPA

Sheep and pastoral landscape near Grosmont and Hunter's Sty Bridge, Westerdale – examples of the cultural and natural heritage we expect from National Parks

Photos © Pete Nelson

THE CURLEW

THE WHISTLING 'cur-lee' of the Curlew must be one of the most evocative and haunting calls there is, and as we move into Spring it's one we should soon hear again across the Moors. Given a bit of luck, you'll have a chance to see some aerial displays too, when they rise above their territory and fall back again on uplifted wings, all the time calling out.

They are the UK's largest wading bird and are recognisable by their mottled brown and grey plumage, with long, bluish legs and a long, down-curved bill. Females are larger than males but have the same colouring so it can be hard to tell them apart. In flight they have a white wedge on their rump. Their Latin genus name 'Numenius' refers to the Curlew's beak, meaning 'new moon' in reference to the sickle-shaped bill. A trawl through the internet suggests that a group of Curlew is called a curfew, a herd, a salon, or a skein – I've never heard any of them being used though!

Curlew winter along coasts, marshes and estuaries using their long beaks to poke down into soft mud to catch worms, molluscs, and crabs (which they often swallow whole after removing the legs).

In spring they return to the moors to breed, mostly eating invertebrates of various types, though they can be seen foraging for earthworms on rough grassland adjacent to the moor. They build a large nest in a hollow on the ground and line it with grass, preferring open moorland, rough and damp pastures, unimproved hay meadows and boggy ground. Arable crops and silage fields are generally too dense to be ideal, but will be used if needs be. Both the male and the female will defend their territory. They avoid nesting and feeding in areas close to tall tree and shrub cover, too. The female lays around 4 eggs between March and May, and when hatched the chicks are cared for by both parents until they can fly after 5 or 6 weeks.

Like all ground-nesting birds on the moors, curlew chicks are easily disturbed by people and dogs. So please keep your dog on a lead and avoid getting too close to possible nest sites if there are Curlew around.

The delicately mottled plumage of the Curlew provides camouflage on the moor

Photo © Amy Lewis

The UK's breeding population of Eurasian Curlew is estimated to represent more than 30 percent of the West European total, but we've lost two thirds of them since 1970 and they are now one of Britain's highest conservation priority bird species, being classified Red on the Birds of Conservation Concern list.

This massive reduction in numbers was caused in part by a lack of suitable habitats following a combination of drainage of farmland and moorland, improvement of grasslands, plus increased predation, particularly by mammals.

Land managers will know all about the measures necessary to help Curlew on the moors, but as a flavour of what is needed the RSPB has published a range of suggestions which include retaining and restoring rough, damp pasture and traditional hay meadows, and providing damp areas, wet flushes or small, shallow pools as feeding areas for chicks. Suitable grazing can also help, with light stocking levels from April to mid-June to maintain nesting cover and minimise the loss of nests through trampling, followed by heavier grazing from late summer onwards to provide a suitable sward for the following spring. A mosaic of taller, tussocky vegetation and shorter grassy areas is ideal. Small-scale rotational burning of heather can provide preferred nesting areas.

The moorland management regimes currently employed have both positive and negative effects on Curlew, with measures aimed at reducing predator numbers being helpful, as are small-scale burns. How these balance with the introduction of vast numbers of released gamebirds is still unknown; the effects of competition for food and the general disturbance to the environment are hard to measure, as is the increase in corvid numbers cashing in on all the food provided.

Curlew used to be eaten quite widely, as recently as the 1930s in Norfolk, and were only removed from the quarry list in 1981. An old saw went "A curlew lean, or a curlew fat/Carries twelve pence on her back". They seem to have retained their wariness though, and in mixed flocks are often the first to take to the wing and raise the alarm.

Many poets have used the Curlew as a subject for their poems over the years, including Robbie Burns who "never heard the loud solitary whistle of curlew on a summer noon ... without feeling an elevation of the soul", and Ted Hughes "Curlew in April/Hang their harps over the misty valleys ... A wet-footed god of the horizons".

MIKE GRAY

Please visit the BTO website - https://www.bto.org - for more details of the birds in your garden and surrounding areas.

THE GREEN HAIRSTREAK

Photo © Dave O'Brien

Green Hairstreak

MY PASSION for butterflies began on a single day in early June 1986. I was walking on moorland near Teesside when I saw what I thought was a small, drab brown moth flying nearby. I saw it land on a patch of Bilberry, close its wings, and reveal itself to be a tiny butterfly, little bigger than my thumbnail and with underwings of a brilliant green. As I watched, it crawled about on the bilberry leaves, pausing occasionally to lay an egg. When I got home I looked through my natural history books and discovered that this fabulous little creature was a Green Hairstreak butterfly. I was hooked, and determined to learn as much as I could about this butterfly and its relatives!

The Green Hairstreak is one of five hairstreak butterflies found in the UK, and all are so-named for the white line (the 'hairstreak') running across the underside of the wings. In the Green Hairstreak this line is actually formed by a row of dots, rather than a continuous line. These dots vary widely in number; in some individuals they form a row across the fore-and hind-wings; in others they may be reduced to a single dot or absent altogether. Like two of its relatives, the Green Hairstreak keeps its wings firmly closed when at rest. This is the only UK butterfly with true green colouration, which is produced not by pigment, but by a microscopic lattice pattern on each of the wing-scales which diffracts the light falling on them and reflects only the green wavelengths.

The scientific name Callophrys rubi is derived from 'callophrys', meaning 'beautiful eyebrows', possibly referring to the green-tinged hairs surrounding the eyes, and 'rubi' from Rubus, or bramble, which was thought by early butterfly collectors to be the sole caterpillar foodplant. In fact, it is now known to have the widest range of larval foodplants of any UK butterfly.

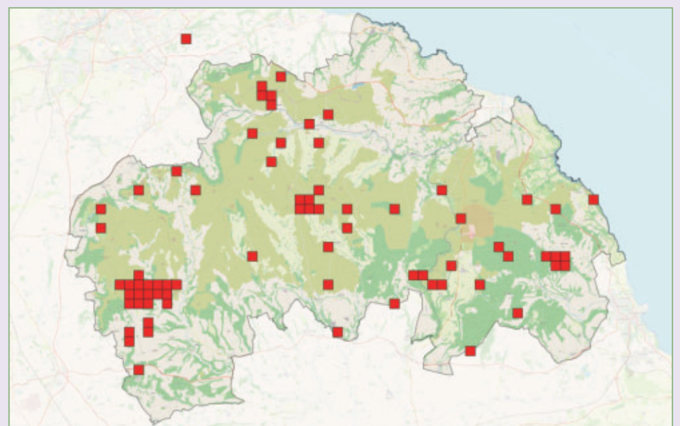
Being able to use a wide variety of foodplants means that this butterfly can be found in a wide range of habitats, from woodland edges and rides where it may lay its eggs on gorse or bramble, to limestone grassland where the caterpillars feed on Common Rock-rose. In our area, however, it is most commonly seen on the high moors, where it is associated with stands of Bilberry. It appears to be widespread throughout the North York Moors (see map), but it doesn't seem to occur in large numbers. It should be looked for wherever Bilberry is found, and it's likely that this butterfly is frequently overlooked; in flight the dull brown upper wings give it the appearance of a moth, while at rest the green of the underwings provides excellent camouflage when perching on Bilberry or the new leaves of birch.

The Green Hairstreak may generally be seen from late April through to early June, being most numerous in May, although in some years it can be on the wing as early as March or as late as July. The males of this species are highly territorial, and will select a perch on a tree or shrub, usually 1-2m from the ground. From here they will fly out to investigate any passing insect; if it's a rival male, a rapid aerial battle ensues, with both males spiralling around each other until one is defeated and flies off, with the winner claiming the perch. Any passing females are pursued vigorously. The males possess a patch of 'scent-scales' on each upper fore-wing which secrete a pheromone to induce the females to mate.

After a successful mating, the females will seek out suitable egg-laying sites, typically the growing tips of the chosen foodplant. The eggs hatch after 7-10 days, and the larvae, which resemble a fleshy yellow-and-green woodlouse, feed throughout the summer until they are fully grown by around the end of August, when they then pupate. The pupae are tended by ants; remarkably, they are able to produce audible squeaks which attract the ants, which then feed on a liquid secreted by the pupa. It is thought that they are carried to the ants' nests where they overwinter before emerging as an adult butterfly in spring.

DAVE O'BRIEN

Distribution of the Green Hairstreak in the Moors



To find out more about Yorkshire's butterflies, you could join Butterfly Conservation, the UK's main conservation charity for butterflies and moths. The Yorkshire branch offers volunteering opportunities such as habitat management, recording schemes, or helping out with events. See https://www.yorkshirebutterflies.org.uk/home for information on each Yorkshire species, sites to visit, and an interactive Butterfly Atlas at https://yorkshirebutterflyatlas.org.uk/ .

THE PINK FAMILY – THE CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Photos © Nan Sykes

Ragged Robin

RED CAMPIONS and the Greater stitchwort are the two flowers I always look out for as reminders of the hedge banks of my youth, heralding the change during April to May from the true spring flowers to the summer ones. With the last of the spring bluebells, they often together make up a 'patriotic' show of red, white and blue - even more appropriate in this Jubilee year!

CAMPION AND STITCHWORT

Both campion and stitchwort are members of the same family - the Caryophyllaceae, the pink/ carnation family. Their flowers are usually pink or white with 4 or 5 notched petals, 4 or 5 often joined sepals and simple paired leaves from swollen joints on their branched stems. It's a large family so I will only detail those most commonly encountered.

Red Campion (Silene dioica) and Ragged Robin (Lychnis flos-cuculis) both have red/pink petals, those of the latter being deeply divided, giving a ragged appearance. Both are perennial, Red Campion being widespread on roadsides, forest verges, hedge banks and woodland clearings, flowering from spring to late autumn frosts. It can occasionally have white petals but will also hybridise with the related White Campion (S. latifolia). Ragged Robin prefers damper ground, ditches and marshes, either peaty or more mineral-rich, with a more limited summer flowering.

Of the three common stichworts, the Greater (Stellaria holostea) and the Lesser (S. graminea) are white-flowered perennials of hedgerows, verges and wood edges with the lesser preferring older, less disturbed soils. But they do not compete, with the Lesser appearing and flowering later, just after the Greater is ending its flowering season. The Bog Stitchwort (S. alsine), also perennial, and as its name suggests is confined to wet, marshy grounds, often acidic and at higher altitudes, and often being hidden by sedges and rushes. It has wider leaves, more like a chickweed.

CHICKWEED AND PEARLWORT

Two of the most widespread chickweeds are very different, the perennial Common Mouse-ear (Cerastium fontanum) is hairy and sprawls on rough, old low grassland, while the annual Common Chickweed (Stellaria media) is a weak, sprawling plant of rich, disturbed ground, gardens, fields and verge edges. Both have long flowering periods, often almost year-round.

A further small, widespread but usually overlooked family member is the Procumbent Pearlwort (Sagina procumbens), a moss-like, low-growing perennial found on open rocky ground or the cracks in paths and paving. This has a special place in folklore, being blessed as the first plant Christ stepped on after His resurrection, and so reputed to be soothing and protective. On the other hand, the campions and stitchworts were feared in the past as evil, fairy or devil-controlled plants, and picking them provoked thunder and lightning or adders to bite. But Ragged Robin and Red Campion were also referred to as 'cuckoo flowers' and the Greater Stitchwort as 'Easter Bells', relating to their flowering season.

FRAGILITY FOR SURVIVAL

All these plants have rather delicate, easily broken stems which snap off at the leaf nodes; another name for stitchwort was 'snap jack', and it was thought the stem sections with swollen ends resembled bones - adding to their being shunned as evil plants. But what may seem a weakness is actually vital for the plants' survival.

They are mostly well-rooted, perennial plants of pasture-land, and if the stems are damaged by rough treatment, such as through eating or pulling, they will break off instead of the plant being torn from the ground. Stems can easily be regrown, while uprooting kills. So the plants can be sprawling, but more usually grow in close, self-supporting colonies or amongst other stronger vegetation, often grasses, needing this extra support and protection for their vulnerable stems to be able to expose the flowers for pollination. But the support needs to be of the right height at the right time: hence the shorter Greater Stitchwort flowers before the taller Lesser one, while the 'colony' growth of the Red Campion enables it to flower much of the year round. In the same way, Bog Stitchwort and Ragged Robin rely on the strong summer rushes to support them while the Common Mouse-ear uses surrounding grass: either tall, or low and sprawling if the grass is closely cropped.

The annual Common Chickweed that prefers bare ground with no close vegetation has a different strategy. It flowers more or less all year round, producing copious seeds, as it can tuck itself up to sleep at night or in bad weather - an instance of 'the sleep of plants'. Its leaves are so formed and arranged that they can

Red Campion

fold round and protect the vulnerable and delicate growing tips of the plant completely.

HERBAL HEALERS

The stitchworts were sometimes employed to ease the sharp pain in the side people sometimes get after exertion, known as a stitch. The name of the plant has been associated with this pain instance of 'the sleep of plants'. Its leaves are so formed and arranged that they can fold round and protect the vulnerable and delicate growing tips of the plant completely. since at least the 13th century. However, it is the humble chickweed that was, and still is, used as a food and medicine. It is rich in minerals and vitamins when young, making a healthy tasty salad, or if older can be gently cooked in butter like spinach, or made into a pesto or pâté with chickpeas, or into soups or porridges. Very useful for invalids and a good spring tonic!

The saponins contained in stitchworts (Soapwort, Saponaria officinalis is also a family member) make it very soothing and cooling as a poultice for itchy skins, shingles, bites, stings, inflammations, burns, bruises, sunburn, eczema, psoriasis, sore

Greater Stitchwort

eyes, rheumatic joints, varicose veins, and for drawing splinters! The saponins aid cell absorption and permeability, making a good herbal cleanser while protecting and nourishing, internally and externally - and all for free.

Or did you just pull it all out from your garden as a nuisance weed?

ANNE PRESS

OUR GOLDEN SPIKE

Photos © Alan Staniforth

A metal disk marks the site of the Ediacarian Period in the Flinders Range, Australia. The holes are where rock samples have been extracted - an act of vandalism!

WHEN I photographed a 'Golden Spike' in the Flinders Ranges of South Australia in 2006, I had no idea that I could see another 'Golden Spike' from my bedroom window in Robin Hood's Bay! "What is a Golden Spike?" I hear you ask. Technically called a 'Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point' (GSSP for short), it is an internationally agreed reference point within geological strata which defines the lower boundary of an important stage on the geological timescale. Over one hundred sites have been determined worldwide, nine of which are in the UK. Of these nine, one - at Wine Haven near Ravenscar - is the only 'golden spike' within the National Park. Our own golden spike!

Ever since humans began studying the sedimentary rocks around the world, we have attempted to divide the vast thicknesses of strata into manageable units. William Smith (1769-1839), the 'Father of English Geology', became a pioneer in this field when he realised that certain fossil species in the rocks were restricted to clearly defined units of strata, while locally, Louis Hunton (1814-!838) used ammonites to correlate the Lias sequences throughout Yorkshire.

Nowhere did the need for accurate definition of strata boundaries become more necessary than in the classic controversy between Professor Adam Sedgwick and Sir Roderick Murchison in the 1860s. Both men were eminent geologists of their day and also good friends. In the early 1860s Sedgwick was studying the fine-grained rocks of the Cambrian system in North Wales while Murchison was working in the Silurian rocks to the south. Inevitably their studies resulted in an overlap with no obvious division between the two groups. Each claimed a boundary which overlapped with the other. This disagreement became quite acrimonious and it wasn't until many years later, and after Sedgwick had died, that Charles Lapworth, on the evidence of obscure graptolite fossils, suggested taking Sedgwick's Upper Cambrian and Murchison's Lower Silurian and creating a new system which he named Ordovician.

Our golden spike at Wine Haven marks the base of the Pliensbachian stage of the Jurassic System and has been dated at 190.8 million years ago. The boundary is not a distinct, clearly visible line as it is determined as a result of fossil evidence, paleomagnetic data and a study of carbon and oxygen isotopes. But although some GSSPs are marked in some way, the eroding cliffs at Ravenscar do not lend themselves to such a marker - so don't expect to find a golden spike embedded in the cliff!

Why 'Golden Spike'? This term was adopted from the ceremonial golden spike driven in as the final spike to connect convergent lines during the building of the transcontinental railway network in America in the 19th century.

ALAN STANIFORTH

The GSSP at Wine Haven lies just above the band of nodules in the cliff face. Dipping to the left, the site can sometimes be examined at the base of the cliff, if not obscured by cliff fall.

THERE'S MOOR IN A NAME THAN MEETS THE EYE

Bilsdale, with "bleak backdrop rising up behind the fertile dales"

Photo © Janet Cochrane

WITH a 21st century 'need' for tourism branding, a search on the internet reveals 2.25 million references to the phrase 'North York Moors' and 0.9 million for 'North Yorkshire Moors.'

North York Moors or North Yorkshire Moors? They've been used interchangeably for almost a century to label the 600 square mile upland area between the Tees and the Vale of Pickering, much of it designated a national park in 1952.

One title gained ascendancy in the early 20th century when countryside campaigners, politicians and civil servants were seeking collective names for areas to become national parks. It's unclear whether it was shorthand (there are references to 'N. E. Yorks. Moors'), but 'North York Moors' became the standard name for this area from the 1930s.

There were alternative views. In 1930, local archaeologist Frank Elgee preferred to call the area 'North East Yorkshire, rather than the cumbersome Eastern Moorlands or North Yorkshire Moors'. At the same time, in suggesting suitable areas for national parks, eminent planner Raymond Unwin proposed the 'North Yorkshire Moors'. Meanwhile, other celebrated planners, such as Sir Patrick Abercrombie, recommended the 'North York Moors' (although interestingly, Patrick Abercrombie's list of proposed national parks included both the 'North York Moors' and the 'Cleveland Hills' as separate entities).

By the end of the 1940s, most had agreed on the 'North York Moors' label, used not only by the majority of organisations campaigning for national parks, but also by civil servants and politicians alike as they worked up the detailed proposals for the area.

The 'imposition' of a national park on the local population seventy years ago was not universally popular. Yet the name 'North York Moors' apparently aroused no concern amongst the protagonists, implying that it was an acceptable name, even if the 'National Park' concept was not. After the area was formally designated the 'North York Moors National Park', politicians and civil servants still got it wrong and used 'North Yorkshire Moors National Park', even in parliamentary written answers.

Whilst most local writers and historians, such as Raymond Hayes and John Rutter, used the title 'North York Moors' in their publications, the geologist Professor John Hemingway described the area in 1982 as 'best referred to collectively as the North Yorkshire Moors ... recently illogically abbreviated to the North York Moors.'

So had there ever been a collective name for the area before the National Park required a label? In previous centuries many saw the area not as a conjoined mass, but rather as a series of bleak and barren backdrops rising up behind the fertile dales – whether viewed from the north, south, east or west.

Early maps simply reflected a 'barren waste land' to be avoided or feared. Ogilby's road atlas of 1675 describes the land as 'moorish ground on both sides [of the road]' and warns intrepid travellers to 'enter the moore' and then 'leave the moore,' probably giving thanks to God for a safe crossing.

The northern part of the moors – generally north of Ralph Cross – was usually known as 'Cleveland', but sometimes this encompassed a much larger area, including separate elements such as the Tabular Hills, Hambleton Hills or Cleveland Hills. The other collective name was Blackamore: a description of the dark moorland when the heather is not in bloom. Written sources for Blackamore go back a long way. For example, in the 12th century Rievaulx Abbey was described as being 'in Blackoumore', the 1360 Gough Map shows 'Blakemore' between Pickering and Whitby, and 300 years later the Blaeu Atlas Major shows 'Blakay More' alongside 'The Brigantes' and 'Cleue Land' (i.e. 'Cleve Land').

As 18th and 19th century scholars wrote about the topography and history of the area, they invariably referred to Cleveland, the North Riding or its individual localities: no longer Blackamore, although the name remains in Blakey Ridge.

Today the restored steam railway between Pickering and Grosmont is the 'North Yorkshire Moors Railway', and the very association established to protect and enhance the area in 1984 as a 'friend' of the National Park is, of course, the 'North Yorkshire Moors Association.'

So, although inconsistency continues, 'North York Moors' prevails: through national weather forecasts, Ordnance Survey maps, as well as government departments. Well, mostly.

Perhaps the last word can rest with Wikipedia which states: "The North York Moors (also known, incorrectly, as the North Yorkshire Moors) is a national park in North Yorkshire, England."

BILL BREAKELL

"Blackamore" – the Tabular Hills on a moody day

Photo © Ian Carstairs

THE WALKING STICK

Walking stick with trout handle, by Gordon Flintoft

Photo © Audrey Flintoft

SINCE time immemorial people have used walking sticks to assist them when out hiking and exploring the countryside. For some, such as shepherds, farmers and gamekeepers, they are an essential piece of working equipment. Even those who just go for leisurely strolls or to walk the dog often employ them, while for those who are unsteady on their feet, a walking stick is invaluable to aid their progress and prevent falls.

There are numerous names for these walking aids such as alpenstock, cane, club, crook, crosier, crutch, kebbie, mace, pole, pike, thumb-stick, ski-stick, staff, shillelagh, sword-stick, tipstaff, tippler, wand, and so on. There are probably as many different kinds of stick as there are people who use them: from the simplest homemade type fashioned from hazel saplings, to the highly engineered telescopic hiking poles bought from outdoor equipment shops.

WEAPONS AND WHISKY

In bygone days sticks or staves were an essential part of personal defence, especially for lone travellers traversing rough terrain or hostile territory. The Irish walking stick, the 'shillelagh' (the equivalent in Scotland is a 'kebbie') doubles as an effective club to deter attackers or fend off troublesome dogs. Some innocent-looking sticks are sword-sticks or sheaths concealing lethal blades, which can be wielded as deadly weapons in an instant. 'Tipplers' on the other hand are more convivial, containing vials of whisky or brandy that can be imbibed whenever the stick-carrier fancies a stimulating 'snifter'.

POWER, MAGIC AND CEREMONY

Sticks and staves were also used to denote power and officialdom, and are sometimes still used for that purpose today. The Pharaohs of Egypt carried gold-embellished staves as part of their ceremonial rituals. Moses and Aaron carried rods and their staves became renowned for their miraculous properties. With his staff (and a little help from God!) Moses is said to have parted the Red Sea and thereby saved the Israelites from destruction. In more recent times, at her 1953 coronation, the then Princess Elizabeth carried a ceremonial rod. This magnificent object, the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross, was made in 1661. At three feet long and made of gold, encrusted with over four hundred diamonds and other precious jewels, it is probably the most valuable 'walking stick' in the world.

A quintessential example of a surviving ancient ritual involving a stick is when Black Rod, a senior official in the House of Lords, uses a ceremonial ebony staff surmounted with a golden lion to knock vigorously on the door of the House of Commons to summon MPs for the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament.

NYMA Walkers near Pockley with modern hiking poles

Photo © Janet Cochrane

WORKADAY TO WORK OF ART

In Victorian times gold-topped canes were carried as fashion accessories by well-to-do ladies or gentlemen. Nowadays, walking sticks of all kinds are collected by ambulists or rabologists, particularly if they are antique or of fine craftsmanship or unusual design.

Although most walking sticks are of humbler origin and use, the skill that goes into hand-made shepherds' crooks has been raised to an art form, examples of which can be seen in our local agricultural shows. Prince Charles is amongst the avid collectors of these beautiful sticks and is often photographed with one made by the late Gordon Flintoft of Glaisdale, a master stickmaker and one of the most skilled craftsmen to produce carved and decorated shepherds' crooks. The British Stickmakers Guild groups enthusiasts for the craft, and the variety and ingenuity of their work is truly impressive (www.thebsg.org.uk).

Lines on returning a Walking Stick of slenderish size,

Borrowed of Mr. W. Horner, of Ripon, under strict charge to take particular care of it, and to return it as soon as done with.

Dear Billy, with thanks, I return thee thy switch,
Which has many times kept me out of the ditch.
I have found oft when stumbling o'er hillock or stone,
A slender supporter is better than none.

When the stars were beclouded and darkness prevail'd,
And the rain was descending, its aid never fail'd;
For it grop'd out my way, and assisted my sight,
When my foot would have slipp'd, it kept me upright

It never forsook me, or broke my command,
Unless it was when it slipt out of my hand;
Then myself it might blame, for not taking more care,
For when duty demanded it always was there.

It is rare upon earth to find such a friend,
On which one can always so safely depend;—
When help was most needed it paid most regard,
And never reprov'd me for using it hard!

POETRY

John Castillo (1793-1885), sometimes referred to as the Bard of the Dales, was a poet and stonemason who lived in the moorland village of Lealholm in the Esk Valley. He left us a ditty on a borrowed walking stick; surely one of few poems inspired by this humble item.

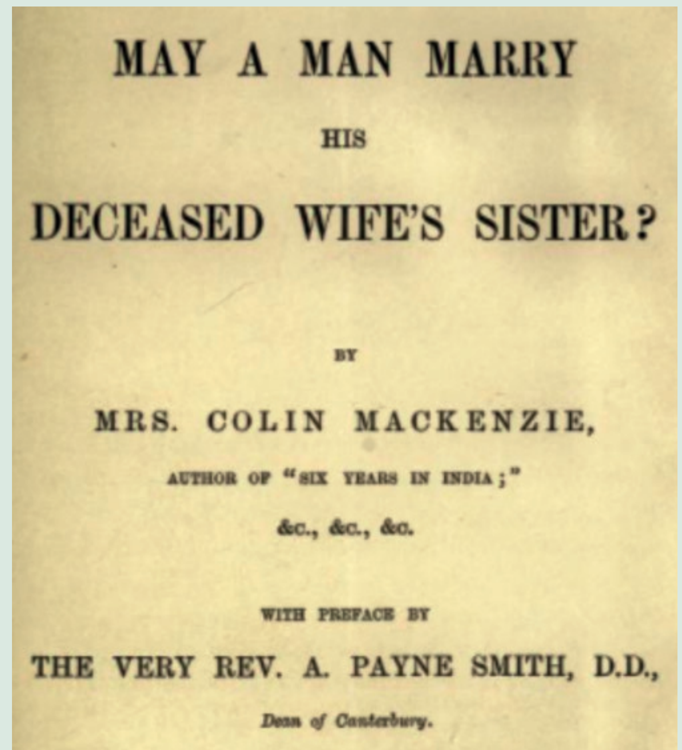
AINSLEY

MARRIAGE WITH DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER

In Gilbert and Sullivan's opera 'Iolanthe' (1882), the fairies fall out with members of the House of Lords, and give magical power to a young shepherd to control legislation:

Every bill and every measure
That may gratify his pleasure,
Though your fury it arouses,
Shall be passed by both your Houses!
You shall sit, if he sees reason,
Through the grouse and salmon season:
He shall end the cherished rights
You enjoy on Friday nights:
He shall prick that annual blister
Marriage with deceased wife's sister.

Iolanthe, Act 1


MAY A MAN MARRY
HIS
DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER?
BY
MRS. COLIN MACKENZIE,
AUTHOR OF "SIX YEARS IN INDIA;"
&c., &c., &c.
WITH PREFACE BY
THE VERY REV. A. PAYNE SMITH, D.D.,
Dean of Canterbury.

Frontispiece from a book written by a prominent female author, arguing against the practice of marriage with deceased wife's sister (and supported by a clergyman).

THE PROBLEM

'Marriage with deceased wife's sister'? Was that really an issue? Now long forgotten, it was at one time so much an issue that one commentator observed: "Was there a single eminent Victorian who did not at some time or other announce his views on the 'deceased wife's sister'? She was the teething ring of all Victorian controversialists ...".[1]

Responsibility rests with the Church of England. Since the Marriage Act of 1753, the only legally recognised marriages in England had been those performed by the Church of England, Jews and Quakers. This gave the church a virtual monopoly not only of the ceremony, but of the conditions under which marriage was permitted. Marriage was, as it still is, prohibited within certain degrees of kinship, but the church also held that marriage created kinship, thus widening the prohibited relationships to include 'in-laws'. Under ecclesiastical law, a marriage within the prohibited degrees was not absolutely prohibited and could be approved, case by case. The Marriage Act 1835, however, hardened the law into an absolute prohibition, although any such marriages which had already taken place remained valid.

THE SOLUTION

An attempt to change the law in 1842 was defeated by strong opposition. There was renewed agitation from the 1860s onwards, but it was to be nearly 50 years before the campaign for a change in the law was successful. Finally, the Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act 1907 removed the prohibition.

THE REASON

No-one seemed much concerned about the prohibition on other relationships. The Deceased Brother's Widow's Marriage Act, for example, was not much fought over, nor passed until some years later. The widespread agitation was concerned solely with sisters (in law). In an age when life was precarious, and childbirth particularly dangerous, many wives died young; who better to care for the children than a younger sister? Money remained in the family, the husband and father did not have to look far for a new wife, the children would already know the new wife as she had been their aunt, and the possibility of strife between the children of the two wives was reduced. For the second wife, often much younger, it was not an altogether bad arrangement: she achieved the desirable status of wife with a man she knew and possibly liked, and she avoided the fate of many a youngest daughter of looking after elderly parents until she herself was beyond marriageable age. But what was it actually like in practice?

A LOCAL CASE

John Petch, born in Danby in 1757, lived in Kirkbymoorside, where he practised as 'an attorney' (a mixture of solicitor, estate agent and money lender). In 1781 he married the daughter of another Danby family, Ann Cook, with whom he had four children. Ann died of dropsy aged 40 in 1797, leaving two young daughters and a son (a fourth child having died in infancy). What was John to do for the care of his young family?

Four years later, John, then aged 44, married Hannah, "his deceased wife's sister". She was the last of the Cook children, 16 years younger than her predecessor, 29 years younger than John, and just 11 years older than her eldest step-child, Susannah, born in 1784. Complicated arrangements were required for this marriage. Although it pre-dates the legal prohibition, a dispensation was sought from the Archbishop of York for a marriage within the prohibited degrees of kinship. John put no less than two thousand pounds (some £65,000 in today's

terms) in trust with John Cook (probably Hannah's brother) and George Brodrick (her brother-in-law) with arrangements to enjoy the interest himself during his lifetime, after which it would pass to Hannah for her lifetime with the capital sum ultimately to be disposed of under the provisions of John's will. This arrangement was because of the likelihood that Hannah would outlive her husband by some considerable time, given the difference in their ages (as indeed she did), and was, perhaps, designed to ensure that Hannah was well provided for without upsetting the expectations of the children of the first wife. Whether these hurdles were jumped for a love match, or simply to keep the family - and its money - together remains a mystery.

John went on to have a further six children with Hannah. What Ann's children really thought we will never know, but her daughter Susannah, writing from Whitby in 1804 (three years after the marriage) sounds quite comfortable with the arrangement: "I should wish if it be agreeable to you, to spend about a week at Glaisdale - but I should like my Mother (sic) to come to Glaisdale and Whitby and then we could return together. Be so good as let me know if I am to get any time to have at Glaisdale ... as my Mother was talking about it before I came. Also if I be to get her a Chambery muslin gown, they are very genteel".

John died in 1818. His will makes provision for the five surviving children of his marriage to Hannah, then all still minors, and leaves Hannah all his furniture and belongings and an annuity of £40, but the rest of the estate goes to his eldest son by Ann, Robert. He refers only once to Hannah as 'my dear wife', and the annuity may be considered rather small, given the size of the estate.

Hannah outlived John by some 18 years, dying in 1836, just a year after marriages like hers became illegal. Did she feel bitter about her fate and her long widowhood? Did she resent the slight to her good name of a marriage that was deemed improper? She died in York, by which time only two of her children were still alive: George Duck, who seems to have remained a bachelor, and Jane, who had married in 1833 and moved to York. John had made no provision for Hannah's housing, although the prenuptial agreement probably left her comfortably provided for. Baines's Directory for 1823 lists 'Petch Hannah gentlewoman' living in 'How End', as was 'Petch Robert, attorney'. However, she may not have been happy living with her step-son, as her burial record refers to her as 'Hannah Petch of York, late of Kirbymoorside'. Perhaps she went to live with her daughter Jane, and helped with her young family: Jane's first child was born in 1834 and her second, just months before Hannah died.

The connection with Kirkbymoorside remained strong however, as the grave shared by John and Ann also records "In Memory of Hannah the second wife of JOHN PETCH who died the 14th Day of May 1836 aged 62 years".

[1] Ferriday, Peter (1957) Lord Grimthorpe, 1816–1905, London: John Murray, p. 9

JEAN RICHARDS

APPLE PRESSING WITH MOOR SUSTAINABLE

The stages of processing apples into cider.

Photos © Clare Churley

BACK IN THE SUMMER of 2021, Moor Sustainable applied for a grant of £350 from NYMA to run a cider-making workshop and to manage the loaning out of its apple-pressing equipment.

The workshop took place in mid-October at Danby Village Hall, led by Julian Gaskin of Tees Cider. The participants enjoyed a hands-on training day, pressing their own apples and learning about the techniques and processes of producing cider.

In addition, the apple-pressing equipment (an apple mill, two apple presses and a pasteurizer) was loaned out seven times during the autumn to places across and near the Moors for both public and private sessions. Places it was used included Yatton House, in Stokesley, where adults with learning disabilities enjoyed learning the techniques, and at the Off the Rails Bakery in Glaisdale. Further sessions were held at East Barnby, Fryup, Mickleby, Levisham, and Hutton Rudby.

CLARE CHURLEY

NYMA Conservation Awards are offered year-round for amounts up to £2,000. For information on the awards and how to apply, please see https://www.nyma.org.uk/awards/

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LADY ELIZABETH LUMLEY (1577-1658)

JOHN T. SMITH, PUBLISHED BY BLACKTHORN PRESS

The name 'Lady Lumley' is familiar to anyone living in Ryedale as the title of one the main secondary schools in the area: Lady Lumley's School in Pickering. But who was Lady Lumley, and when and where did she live? These questions are answered by John Smith in his well-researched book about this little-known heiress and benefactor.

Appropriately, John Smith was a history teacher at Lady Lumley's for 24 years. His interest was deepened by the mystery surrounding the school's founder: although born into a wealthy family and over 80 when she died, little information about her was readily available.

Unmarried girl of the 1590s

Photo © York Castle Museum

A 16TH CENTURY LADY

Born in 1577 into the Cornwallis family in Suffolk, the baby was named Elizabeth, known as Eliza. Her mother's family – the Latimers – owned large estates in North Yorkshire, some of which were eventually inherited by the child who would become Lady Lumley. Yet this inheritance was not a foregone conclusion: Eliza was the fourth child in her family, while her mother, Lucie, was the third of four daughters of John, the last Lord Latimer.

The Cornwallises were closely associated with Henry VIII's eldest daughter, Queen Mary (who reigned 1553-58). Eliza's paternal grandparents were Lady Anne and Sir Thomas Cornwallis. Lady Anne was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Mary, while Sir Thomas was Controller of the Queen's Household. During the Protestant ascendancy under Elizabeth I, Catholic families such as theirs experienced considerable prejudice and financial hardship unless they professed adherence to the new faith.

Eliza's Latimer grandparents died when she was a small child and, as there was no male heir, the North Yorkshire estates were divided up between the four daughters, including Eliza's mother. Partly thanks to this inheritance, the Cornwallises were able to establish themselves in London and embed themselves in the political and cultural life of the city, carefully navigating the prevailing religious sensitivities. Eliza therefore grew up surrounded by the country's most influential people.

Eliza married her first husband, William Sandys of Somborne, in Hampshire, in 1596. In 1608 her mother died, and her property was divided between Eliza and her three sisters (their two brothers had not survived). The Yorkshire property was huge, comprising land, houses and watermills from Newton-on-Rawcliffe and Wintringham to York. Lady Eliza's marriage was childless, and at the age of 51 she was left a widow; her husband died intestate and left her with only a small settlement and significant debts. Fortunately, a family member stepped in to help: her cousin Henry, Earl of Danby, who probably arranged her second marriage in 1630 to Lord Richard Lumley – perhaps a surprising match since Lord Richard was 10 years younger than his new wife, although he already had two children (including the all-important male heir) by his first wife.

The marriage was not a happy one, partly because of the debts that Eliza brought with her; those left by her first husband, plus a loan of £3,500 – then a huge sum - from Cousin Henry to serve as a dowry. It is not clear why she seems to have received so little financial benefit from her land and property. By 1643 she is thought to have been living at Sinnington Hall, while Lord Lumley resided at Lumley Castle. By then the Civil War was under way, with the regicide of Charles I in 1649.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE

When Lady Lumley died in 1658 at the age of 80, she owned property in Sinnington, Thornton, Marton, Edstone and Farmanby as well as in Hampshire and London. Her will provided for new almshouses, for scholarships for local boys to study at Oxford and Cambridge, and for a school - although for boys only, girls at the time not being thought to require much education.

Thornton was chosen as the location for the school, which opened in 1670, and for 12 almshouses. Last modernised in 2014, they are still in use today for their intended purpose. The school closed in 1904 although the original building still stands and is used for community purposes. Meanwhile, a second Lady Lumley's school was founded in Sinnington in 1741, and eventually the two schools merged with the Pickering one in 1905. Throughout various expansions and changes of focus, one thing has remained constant: the name of Lady Lumley's School.

Lady Lumley's Almshouses in Thornton

Photo ©Barry Potter

The book is a fascinating account of Lady Lumley's life, set against the background of the religious and political turmoil of the period and its social and cultural mores – as well as giving a satisfying answer to the question "Who was Lady Lumley?"

JANET COCHRANE

The book is available via online bookshops.

SKYLARKS

If I were a springtime daffodil
I would nestle underground
To stay until it's moist and warm
Is the best way I have found

I'd push out roots beneath me
And form stems inside me too
I'd wear my soily overcoat
'Til the sun comes shining through

My leaf tips would be first
To test the temperature
A warm and frost-free sunny day
Is something I'd prefer

Early springtime warmth would tell me
I could start to stretch and grow
My leaves would hide my precious bloom
Whilst upwards I would go

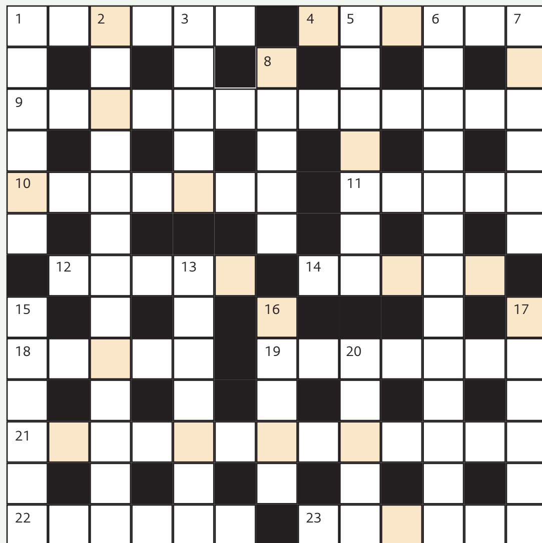
My golden petals one by one
Would spread and widen thus
To reveal my pretty centrepiece
Of cheerful gloriousness

When I was at my tallest
On a sunny April day
I'd shout out through my trumpet
'See my wonderful display'

Cal Moore

Pictures by Pippa Moore (aged 8) and James Moore (aged 5)

CROSSWORD 96 by AMANUENSIS



ACROSS
1 A whine coming from the moors? (6)
4 Wavy fringe on hand (6)
9 He caters for his clientele (13)
10 Cut short sailor on crest (7)
11 Spanish savoury dishes made from mixed pasta (5)
12 Found lying on bed (5)
14 Enhance the twisty north road (5)
18 They are bound to make reservation (5)
19 The main man? (7)
21 We are all members of this (6,7)
22 Religious festival is awful teaser (6)
23 Break dances rise up (6))

DOWN
1 Foreigner found in manger (6)
2 From where you can watch the stars (13)
3 Drags back area of grass (5)
5 Excited by match perhaps? (7)
6 Dull section of mountain range is where you'll find game-bird (4, 9)
7 Least likely to be encountered (6)
8 They make a stand together (5)
13 Satisfy with chopped up sausage (7)
15 Seaman takes it easy although on fire (6)
16 Some Americans are jerks (5)
17 Ambled around and held accountable (6)
20 Needed by 9 across (5)

Take the letters from the coloured squares and rearrange in the boxes to solve the anagram:
CLUE: He spent a long time in the valley (5, 8, 2, 5)

Answers on back cover

NYMA NEWS

Our first joint event with the Friends of the Dales proved very popular, with over 60 people attending the January webinar on the responsible retrofitting of traditional buildings, led by sustainable buildings expert Nigel Griffiths. With energy costs rising fast and increasing awareness of the urgent need to insulate our homes this was a well-timed intervention, and we are very grateful for sponsorship from Native Architects of York.

Work behind the scenes includes consultations on government policy concerning national parks, and contributions to the new management plan of the North York Moors. We're also streamlining NYMA's own management systems, stimulated by the resignation of our Membership Secretary, Cal Moore. Cal has done a fantastic job of welcoming new members, reminding people to pay their subscription, and organising (and occasionally pruning) our database. She'll be a hard act to follow, but we need a new Membership Secretary, so please get in touch if you'd like to know more. We are introducing tried-and-tested software which should make the role less time-consuming. And if you live in the Esk Valley you won't lose touch with Cal entirely as she's taken up a new role with the Heather Hopper (community minibus).

Council member Ray Clarke has been out giving another of his entertaining presentations on NYMA, this time to the Middlesbrough RSPB group. He says "I had anticipated a grilling and wasn't disappointed – everything from peat erosion, grouse and pheasant shooting to land access and ecotourism. At the end the outcome was very much a positive one, with book and magazine sales and a speaker's fee donation to NYMA". If you're part of a group which would like to hear stories of the Moors and about our work, please get in touch! Ray is currently preparing a new presentation entitled "Jewels on the Doorstep" to add to his repertoire.

Of our two new Council members, Andy Wilson needs little introduction as he will be well known to most of our readers as the former CEO of the National Park. The other, Tom Ratcliffe, was recently awarded his PhD from Northumbria University. His thesis investigated how people identify with landscapes of the North York Moors and the role of communities in influencing change in the national park – in fact we first met him when he interviewed Tom Chadwick for insights into the topic. Appropriately, since both are fell-runners, the interview took place while striding across the moors. Now an Associate Lecturer at York St John University, 'Young Tom' has previously worked as a Heritage and Tourism consultant.

NYMA WALKS & EVENTS

Saturday 23 April
FALLING FOSS CIRCULAR

Meet 10.30 at May Beck carpark (grid ref NZ 892024, 0.75 miles south of postcode YO22 5JE, w3w: horn.replenish.stem)
This 5-mile walk includes moderate climbs and descents, with a stop for refreshments at the Falling Foss tea-rooms as well as our usual lunch-time picnic.
Please book your place with Dave Moore on walks@nyma.org.uk or 01287 669648.

Saturday 21 May
WILDFLOWERS OF THE MOORS

Meet 10.30 at The Moors Inn, Appleton-le-Moors (YO62 6TF, w3w: legroom.factoring.went)
From Appleton this 6-mile walk follows paths via Cropton to Sinnington, where we stop for a picnic lunch before heading back to Appleton. Varied terrain of farmland, woods and moorland.
Please let Heather & Colin Mather know you're coming on heathercolin67@gmail.com or 01287 669104.

Saturday 16th July
SWAINBY CIRCULAR

Meet 10.30 at Holy Cross Church, Swainby (Grid ref NZ 477020, postcode DL6 3DG, w3w: backpacks.thrusters.human)
Mainly easy/moderate terrain, 6.5-mile walk, with one short, steep climb up onto Live Moor. Around half the route is on the Cleveland Way.
Please let Kath Mair know you're coming on kathmair@icloud.com.

All the above walks are Grade 3, with reasonable fitness required (see www.nyma.org.uk/walks-events/ for information on the grading system).

Please come dressed and equipped for the weather. It's worth wearing gaiters or at least tucking your trousers into your socks to deter ticks - and mud!

Spring sunshine at Low Mill, Farndale

Photo © Pete Nelson

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (see page 15)

Across
1 grouse, 4 finger, 9 restaurateur, 10 abridge, 11 tapas, 12 lagan, 14 adorn, 18 books, 19 Admiral, 21 animal kingdom, 22 Easter, 23 ascend

Down
1 German, 2 observatories, 3 sward, 5 ignited, 6 Grey partridge, 7 rarest, 8 trees, 13 assuage, 15 ablaze, 16 Yanks, 17 blamed, 20 menus

Anagram
CANON ATKINSON OF DANBY

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
President: Ian Carstairs OBE
Chair: Adrian Leaman
Vice-Chair: George Winn-Darley
Executive Secretary: Janet Cochrane – secretary@nyma.org.uk, 07570 112010
Hon. Treasurer: Brian Pearce
Membership Secretary: Vacant
Other Council Members: Tom Chadwick, Ray Clarke, Albert Elliot, Helen Gundry, Dave Moore, Tom Ratcliffe, Colin Speakman, Andy Wilson, Elaine Wisdom
Walks Coordinator: Dave Moore, walks@nyma.org.uk'
NYMA: Glen Cottage, Carr Lane, Scalby, Scarborough YO13 0SB

The North Yorkshire Moors Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registration no. 1169240

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