

Colin Speakman & Tony Grogan

50 Years of The Dales Way



celebrating the first 50 years
of the dales way, one of our
most popular and cherished
long distance trails



Colin Speakman & Tony Grogan

50 Years of The Dales Way

2019

SKYWARE

**Published by:**

Skyware Ltd.,
48 Albert Avenue, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 4NT
www.skyware.co.uk

**In Association with:**

Gritstone Press, Gritstone Publishing Co-operative Ltd,
Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge HX7 8DG
www.gritstone.coop

**On behalf of:**

the Dales Way Association
www.dalesway.org

ISBN 978 1 911321 04 0

© Colin Speakman & Tony Grogan 2019

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means without permission in writing from the publisher.

OS map reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright 2019. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100048482.

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority
Sustainable Development Fund

Supported by:

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Sustainable Development Fund

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to our fellow committee members of the DWA: Donald Holliday, Frank Sanderson, Tony Hill, Ryk Downes, Kath Doyle, Gordon Tasker, Chris Grogan and Alex McManus (retired), without whose support this project would not have happened. Thanks to the West Riding Area of the Ramblers, to staff at the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds City Reference Library and Friends of the Dales, for help in locating historical records. A special thanks to all those people - individuals, businesses and authorities - for sharing their stories and photos which bring the pages of this booklet to life.

Cover: West Riding Ramblers' Take-a-Hike group at Dent, 2018
(photo: Nicola Roberts).

briggs
concept to print

Designed & Printed by:

Briggs Bros. (Silsden) Ltd
Cononley Business Park, Cononley, West Yorkshire.

foreword

It is no coincidence that in 2019 we celebrate both the seventieth anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the fiftieth anniversary of the Dales Way, because the two are very much connected.

The 1949 Act legislated not only for the national parks of England and Wales, but also for definitive maps of public paths. In the immediate aftermath of the Act, walkers and riders worked tirelessly to claim paths, to ensure they were recorded and thus protected for ever. The Ramblers in the West Riding of Yorkshire set a fine example—it was no mean feat to gather details of routes and their usage, in days when there was little private transport available to reach remote spots.

The Dales Way was born from this effort. Once the paths had been recorded in the 1950s and 60s, local volunteers wanted to create riverside routes, in the spirit of the Countryside Act 1968 which extended to river and canalside the definition of ‘open country’, on which access agreements could be made. Much of what became the 80-mile Dales Way already existed, but ramblers had to lobby for the creation of additional linking routes to make it continuous.

Thanks to their hard work, for 50 years we have been able to walk between Ilkley and Windermere on public paths, through the glorious Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks. The Way takes us across splendid but less-known countryside, enabling us to discover places which are not the obvious honeypots. It can be enjoyed as a whole or as a series of

shorter walks, as described in the excellent mapbook (1983) by Colin Speakman and the skilled cartographer, the late Arthur Gemmell who meticulously recorded every feature, including stiles and gates.

The Way generates welcome trade for small guest houses and B&Bs. And with links from the centres of Leeds, Bradford and Harrogate it brings the national parks to people’s doorsteps.

The Dales Way is an inspiration: let us celebrate.

Kate Ashbrook

Kate Ashbrook, Chair of Ramblers GB



the peoples' path

Anyone who knows about the history of footpaths, knows that the vast majority of our wonderful heritage of Public Rights of Way were not created by people sitting in offices, but by human feet. A path is literally a track padded out by shoes on the ground, wearing away the grass as people travelled between farms, to the well, to church, to the next village or even for a country stroll. Every footpath has a purpose, a reason for its being.

Long distance walking dates back to ancient times as people travelled and traded, as pilgrims journeyed and armies marched. Walking for pleasure however, is only a recent phenomenon, made popular by the Romantic Poets who saw walking as a way to connect with the natural world.

The first waymarked long distance leisure routes were established in Germany in

the early 1900s by a voluntary group, the Black Forest Society, and although Tom Stephenson's article "Wanted – A Long Green Trail" first appeared in 1935 it was the 1960s before they were created in Britain.

In 1968 the Countryside Act gave local authorities new powers to create public access to riversides and we in the West Riding Area of the Ramblers' Association saw it as a heaven-sent opportunity to create a new route. After some discussion with senior planning officers of the old West Riding County Council it was agreed that our priority would be to follow the River Wharfe, which linked Ilkley to the Yorkshire Dales National Park. But a walk from Ilkley to the source of the Wharfe on Cam Fell would end in the middle of nowhere. So why not continue across the watershed, down another fine valley and follow the River Dee through Dentdale and then maybe via



The West Riding Ramblers' Take-a-Hike group complete the Dales Way, 2018. (photo: Stephen Noble)

Sedbergh and the River Lune to the National Park boundary at Crook of Lune bridge? Even this didn't quite make sense when we could see, so very close, the Lakeland hills. So we decided to take it one stage further through what was then Westmorland into the Lake District, to end at Lake Windermere, England's greatest lake.

It would be a wonderful walk. Inspired by Tom Stephenson's iconic Pennine Way, we would call it the Dales Way – an 80 mile route which would provide a magnificent traverse of the Yorkshire Dales. It would be very different from the wild and rugged Pennine Way, being mostly a riverside walk through sheltered dales, with plenty of places to stay and refreshment in B&Bs, pubs and cafes in attractive Dales villages. By encouraging people to walk the Dales Way, we hoped to create awareness of the remarkable heritage

of Definitive Rights of Way, newly established and available for everyone to enjoy, as well as our recently designated National Parks.

We approached the Countryside Commission, which was responsible for new long-distance paths, and Westmorland and West Riding County Councils. All were sympathetic but felt that creating the Dales Way was not a priority so we decided to take matters into our own hands proving that people, not bureaucrats created paths. The public would decide if they wanted to walk the Dales Way, not officials. And when over the next fifty years they did so in their thousands, the Dales Way became a true Peoples' Path, a National Trail in all but official designation.

Colin Speakman



On Monday
March 10th 1969
the Yorkshire
Evening Post
carried a major news
feature outlining **"A new
Dales Way... ..from
Ilkley to Lakeland"**.

The article began: "Leeds, Harrogate and Bradford may soon be linked to the Lake District by footpath. It is all part of a projected new Dales Way mapped out by the West Riding branch of the Ramblers Association.

"If you are interested, if you have a longing for fresh air after this long dark winter of discontent, now is the time to polish your best walking boots and get out your rucksack.

"You can become involved in this wonderful scheme by presenting yourself at Ilkley Post Office on Sunday March 23, at 10.15 a.m. On that day members of the Ramblers Association are to walk along the first 10 miles of the new Dales Way from Ilkley to Burnsall, and members of the public are invited to take part."

That cold March Sunday, over 130 people gathered to take part in the first ever public walk along a section of the Dales Way. Colin Speakman led them for the 12-mile trek to Burnsall, where they caught pre-arranged buses back to Ilkley.



Colin Speakman and
Tom Wilcock, 1989.

The success of that first public walk in March 1969 was quickly followed by the first recorded walk of the entire route by a group of young Venture Scouts from Bradford Grammar School. They completed the 73 mile trail in just 3½ days, in early April, and in good spirits despite enduring appalling weather conditions.

The Bradford Telegraph & Argus reported on the walk: "It was very much worth while. The scenery was marvellous," said 17-year-old Stephen Kerry. "But it would be better done in four or five days. There are plenty of farmhouses at which you can spend the night."

"An excellent route," added Michael Crafer (18), "but the section before Kendal is not very interesting and could be improved. Three-and-a-half days was too short a time to do it in. It is not difficult walking, but it is distance rather than effort. I would advise people walking it to choose better weather and to take longer about it than we did."

Bradford Grammar School Venture Scouts, April 1969.



In May 1969 the West Riding Ramblers published a 6-page pamphlet outlining the new Dales Way route, produced by Colin Speakman and Tom Wilcock, which proved very popular.

Finally, in Spring 1970 the first edition of Colin Speakman's guidebook "The Dales Way", published by Dalesman Ltd., appeared.



Anniversary walk Addingham 1989.

the fight for our footpaths

Today anyone walking the Dales Way, armed with a modern detailed OS Explorer Map, can be sure to find their way following the green dotted line marked with diamonds that denotes a Recreational Route. They can also confidently take a detour, following one of the network of green dotted paths, bridleways or byways, free from the worry of trespass.

But for the early pioneers who surveyed the Dales Way such maps did not exist. It was the 1970s before Rights of Way Information began to feature significantly on OS maps, a process that took many years to complete.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the West Riding Area of the Ramblers Association was heavily involved in the important task of recording evidence for public footpaths in the Yorkshire Dales. This was to help finalise the Definitive Map of Footpaths which was being completed for the old West Riding of Yorkshire. It was being delivered by the West Riding County Council as part of the requirements of the great 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, whose 70th anniversary is also in 2019.

It was a daunting task. By 1954, after all the proposed footpaths surveyed by Ramblers'



Top half: The modern OS Explorer Map (1:25,000) shows Rights of Way clearly. The first map for the Sedbergh area at this scale to show these was the Pathfinder 617, published in 1984.

Bottom half: The actual 2 1/2 inch map used by Colin & Fleur Speakman to survey the route of the Dales Way in 1968 (Sheet SD 69, Sedbergh, published 1961). Though footpaths visible on the ground were shown, there was no indication of Rights of Way.

volunteers had been added to the council's Draft Map, landowners were given the opportunity to object. Most did so. The Ramblers' Footpath Secretary reported that he "had sent in claims for 500 paths. There were 1,000 objections." He had received "maps that were very distressing, with objections to every path in the area."

Where no agreement could be reached, the disputed paths were subject to a lengthy process of public inquiry.

There were some notable victories for the Ramblers, such as the establishment of 4 footpaths at Haverah Park, near Harrogate, which now forms part of the Dales Way Harrogate Link Route. It was won by the formidable Corrie Gaunt, joint Footpath Secretary of the West Riding Ramblers.

But there were many defeats as well. By May 1965, 114 paths had been lost in the West Riding, deleted forever from the Draft Map.

Finally in 1967 Tom Wilcock, Joint Area Footpath Secretary of the West Riding Ramblers, was able to announce that "15

years of hard labour" was over, with 5,000 miles of public footpaths in the county now marked permanently on the Definitive Map.

Tom Wilcock and Colin Speakman were now anxious to see how to bridge some of the glaring gaps in the new footpath maps. Tom had worked diligently to develop a dozen possible new riverside footpaths in the region. They turned to the new Countryside Act, which gave local authorities powers to create riverside access.

In early September 1968 they went to see the County Council's Deputy Chief Planning Officer in Wakefield about the possibility of riverside access paths to transform the newly recorded footpaths into walkable routes. His advice was to just focus on one riverside path in the Dales.

Following a Special Meeting of the Ramblers in September 1968, Tom wrote to the West Yorkshire County Council, requesting:- "That a long-distance footpath should be created from Ilkley to Bowness-on-Windermere. That the path should be called ***The Dales Way.***"



Celebration walk through Haverah Park in 1968, where new Rights of Way were won by Corrie Gaunt (2nd from left in front).

the dales way association



(Above) Colin Speakman signs a completion certificate for a Dales Way walker at the inauguration of the new Dales Way Seat at Bowness on 3 April 1990. On the left is Fleur Speakman. On the right is Frank Sanderson, the local Hotelier who arranged for the seat to be installed and is now the President of the Dales Way Association.

(Below) Fleur & Colin Speakman.



As the Dales Way grew in popularity, Bowness hotelier Frank Sanderson noticed the increasing number of walkers staying at his hotel, Blenheim Lodge. Seeing the enthusiasm and pride of the walkers on completing their journey, Frank produced a "Certificate of Achievement" which he presented to them as they left. His gesture became well known and walkers would call in and ask if they could have one too.

Continual requests to photograph people who had walked the Dales Way led Frank to research the walk and find a suitable viewpoint. As Secretary to South Lakes Organisation for Tourism, he involved many of his colleagues and friends. His enthusiasm finally won over the National Park Authority who agreed to the rebuilding of a section of old wall with one gatepost still standing, thus avoiding the need for planning permission. That iconic seat, "For those who walk the Dales Way", has marked the finish of the trail ever since.

Colin Speakman was invited to dedicate the new seat at a well attended ceremony which took place on 3rd April 1990, followed by a splendid reception at Blenheim Lodge. Talk there laid the seeds of an idea for a Dales Way Association.

The need to ensure the Dales Way had official recognition and to ensure consistent high standards of both route maintenance and waymarking had convinced several lovers of the Dales Way that an organisation was needed to bring together both users and providers along the entire route.

The Dales Way Association (DWA) was officially formed at a meeting at Blenheim Lodge on 3rd February 1991. Amongst those present were Colin Speakman (chairman), Frank Sanderson (secretary), Douglas Cossar (vice chairman) and David Smith (membership secretary and treasurer).

David Smith went on to become secretary of the Association, and it was his inspiration and tireless energy that proved the driving force, building the DWA's membership quickly to over 400, a fifth who represented businesses along the route. "Mr Dalesway", as he was known, became the public face of the organisation, and his death in 2008 was a severe blow.

As well as producing regular Newsletters and the famous Dales Way Handbook, the Association's main tasks were to define and determine the route of the Dales Way, deal with the signposting and waymarking, look into

National Trail status for the route, conserve the environment and market the route. This involved building close working relationships with the authorities responsible for the trail, in particular the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Those strong relationships continue today.

The Association has undergone some major changes in the last 10 years, moving communications online and registering the DWA as a "small charity" with HMRC. In the last 6 years this has allowed over £12,000 of members' subscriptions and donations to be spent supporting improvement projects along the Dales Way.

Alex McManus (DWA Footpaths Officer), Paul Wilkinson (YDNPA Ranger) and Chris Grogan (DWA Secretary) 'cutting the tape' at Crosdale Beck Bridge, 28 June 2014



Members who have served on the DWA Committee

Colin Speakman
Douglas Cossar
Frank Sanderson
Gerald Cole
David Smith
David Walsh
Pat Walsh
Paul Hannon
Alyson Coney
John Creese
Sandra Creese
Ken Staines
Margaret Staines
Pat Hickman
Joan Jamieson
Russell Jamieson
Martin Collison
Chris Musson
Pam Knowles-Fitton
Brian Robertshaw
Pauline Robertshaw
Rita Smith
Alex McManus
Bill Griffiths
Mark Wilson
Michael Buckley
Rhona Thornton
Steve Taylor
Nikki Trask
Heather Collinson
Carol Crossland
Donald Holliday
Tony Grogan
Chris Grogan
Kath Doyle
Gordon Tasker
Ryk Downes



The Dales Way

ILKLEY TO

About the Dales Way

Walkers of all ages and abilities walk the Dales Way each year. Starting at Ilkley it passes through hauntingly beautiful Bolton Abbey before enjoying the romantic landscapes of Upper Wharfedale, across wild Cam Fell to intimate Dentdale, past Crook O'Lune before meandering through the gentle foothills of the Lake District to the shores of England's greatest lake, Windermere. The whole route is, in general, fairly easy and well waymarked. Being only 128km (80 miles long), the walk can be accomplished in less than a week. It is, therefore, an ideal introduction to long distance walking, even for the less experienced walkers.



There is an excellent choice of farmhouse, small guest house and even bunk house accommodation along the route where, as a Dales Way walker you will be warmly welcomed. Public transport is available along parts of the route. Luggage carrying and personal taxi services are also available. If you cannot spare the time to walk The Dales Way as a whole, it can be completed in smaller sections. Small sections of the Dales Way have disabled access including several kilometres through Bolton Abbey Estate. See the website addresses below for more information.



The Dales Way Association was established in 1991 by a small group of individuals. Its aim is to support and promote the Dales Way route, working to implement improvements and resolve any problems that might arise. Membership is open to all who have walked or plan to walk the Dales Way or simply care about its future. The Dales Way Association is a Small Charity. Please join and help look after this wonderful walk.

www.dalesway.org
www.dalesbus.org.uk



LINK TRAILS
energetic, th
- Bradford to
and Harrogo

Dales Way

TO BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE



There are currently 9 Information Boards along the route of the Dales Way and the three Link Routes. They were first developed in 2004 by Margaret & Ken Staines, with initial financial support from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The sketch drawings were by Patricia Hickman. The boards were updated and replaced in 2013.



The photo above shows the bespoke handmade frame and stand produced by the Dent blacksmith which encompasses the Dales Way information panel.



the dales way – the ultimate riverside walk



The Dales Way was England's first major lower level long distance trail, conceived as an extended series of riverside walks.

Rivers – that create and usually give their name to the dales they flow through – have always formed natural passes through the hills, linking hamlets, villages and old market towns. By using river or valley side paths and tracks that had been in use

for centuries, the Dales Way was not therefore a new path, rather a linking up of perhaps fifty or more ancient ways through the Yorkshire and Cumbrian landscape. We walk literally in the footsteps of our ancestors, through a cultured landscape of ancient meadows, farmsteads, drystone walls and barns, hump-backed bridges, medieval churches, chapels, historic railways.

By following the river Wharfe from a central point at Ilkley's ancient bridge to beyond Buckden where the valley becomes Langstrothdale, then continuing to its source on Cam Fell and over the watershed into Dentdale, modern Dales Way walkers are simply recreating millions of human journeys of the past.

At every season rivers are inherently fascinating places to walk beside –





rich in geological features, gritstone rocky gorges and rapids on the Wharfe and Lune, limestone pavement and caverns on the Dee - abundant with dippers, oystercatchers, herons, kingfishers, curlew and myriad wildflowers.

The natural continuation of the Dales Way from Dentdale is north-westwards, from Sedbergh along on the edge of the Howgills, up Lunedale,

across the Lune Gorge, shared by West Coast railway and M6, then across the pastoral valleys of the Mint, Sprint and finally Kent into the spectacular foothills of the Lake District to Bowness on lake Windermere, all utilising paths which have been in use for centuries.

What was revolutionary when the Dales Way was created in 1969, was the concept of using these rediscovered

old ways to link urban West Yorkshire with what at that time were still only recently designated National Parks, the Yorkshire Dales (designated 1954) and the Lake District (1951), both among Britain's best loved protected landscapes, and internationally known.

As we now appreciate, there is no better nor more environmentally friendly or sensory-rich way to explore a National Park than on foot. That's why the Dales Way is so special and why in another 50 years from now, long after its founders are no more, generations yet unborn will still be leaving Ilkley's stone bridge for a week's wonderful walking, an experience which will remain in their memories for a lifetime.



looking after the dales way: the path

The Dales Way Association works with the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District national park authorities, as well as Bradford, North Yorkshire and Cumbria councils to safeguard the route, with improved sections to eliminate road walking. Problems are dealt with, waymarking updated, stiles, gates and bridges kept in first class repair.



This co-operation proved particularly crucial following the disastrous floods wrought by Storms Desmond and Eva in the winter of 2015, when several bridges and sections of path were swept away. The authorities worked quickly and diligently to get the Dales Way up and running again.

The Dales Way has seen a few changes over its first 50 years.

When first proposed it was anticipated that around 10 miles of new riverside path would be created to fill some gaps. In the meantime the West Riding Ramblers decided to push ahead using existing rights of way, albeit with diversions to avoid areas where sections of path were non-existent or contested.

Where there were no through rights of way north of Addingham a diversion was devised

over Hag Head (now a golf course) and through Lob Wood (tricky descent). Within a few years however Tom Wilcock had negotiated what is now the popular riverside path on former Bradford Council land between Fairfield and Lob Wood, designated in 1978.

The Chatsworth Estate generously dedicated the present wallside path away from the dangerous road towards Bolton Bridge which was opened with the support of North Yorkshire County Council in 1996.

The proposed riverside path between Grassington and Kettlewell never materialised because of opposition from anglers and landowners, though the diversion along limestone terraces above Coniston is now regarded as one of the most spectacular sections of the Way.

Other changes have seen less road walking in lower Dentdale with a new footbridge at Brackensgill (1999), the diversion from a dangerous rail crossing near Hardrigg in Cumbria (2000), and several other minor adjustments to the route.

The Dales Way Association still has a wish-list of further improvements it would like to see in the future, including a new path between Beckermunds and Oughtershaw to take the Way off the road.



Alan Hulme, Head of Park Management at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, gives a presentation to the Dales Way Association in 2017.



(Above left) Path improvements in Burneside, courtesy of Cumbria County Council in 2015.



(Above right) Route change with a new footbridge at Brackensgill in lower Dentdale (1999).

(Below left) New gates at Ilkley, thanks to Bradford Met. District Council. (Below centre) New waymark in Cumbria.

(Below right) Volunteers from the Lloyds Banking Group help path improvements at Haugh Wood, near Appletreewick in 2015.

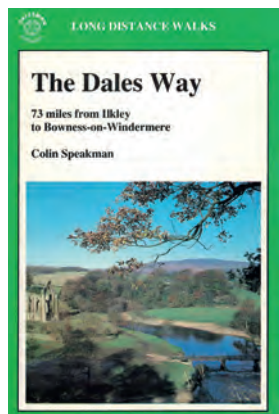
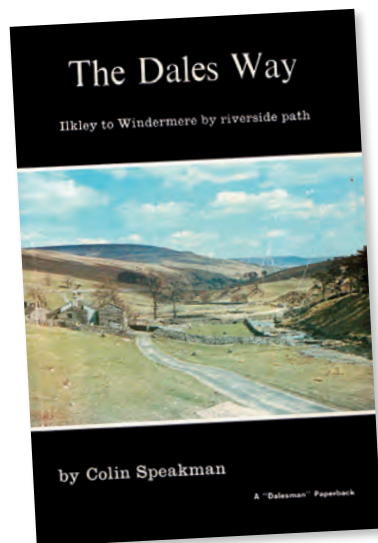
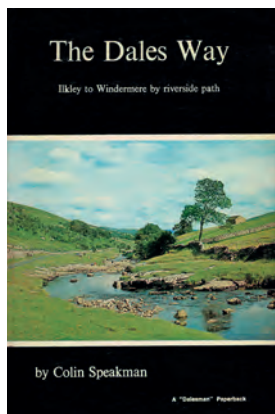


(Below left) New fingerposts courtesy of the Lakes National Park Authority in 2018

(Below right) Hebden Suspension Bridge near Burnsall was re-decked in 2014 thanks to the generous donation of DWA member Eileen King, in memory of her partner Roy.

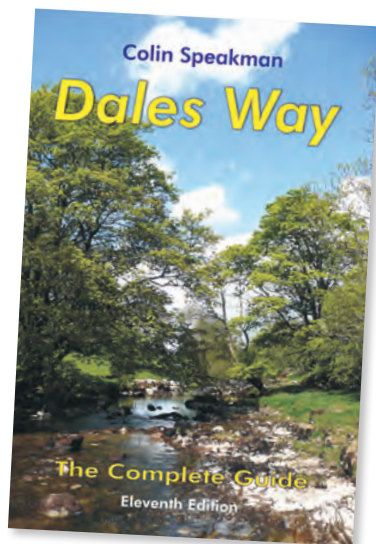
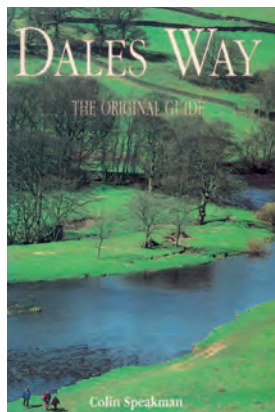
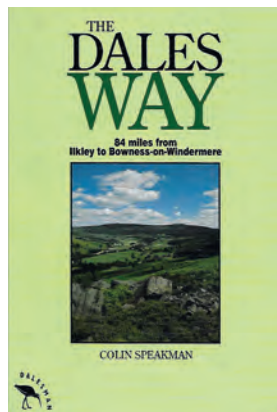


The original Guidebook

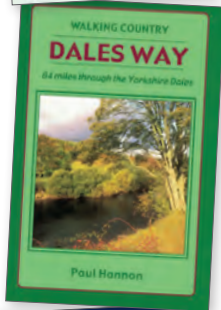
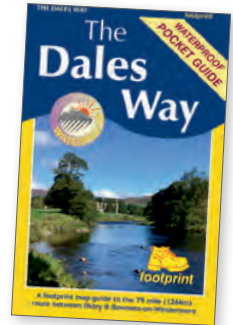
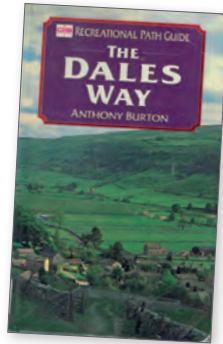
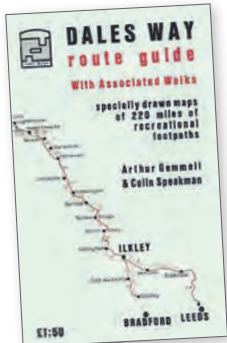


Colin Speakman produced the first guidebook to the Dales Way in 1970. It was published by The Dalesman Publishing Company, who went on to publish the first 9 editions. Skyware Press took over publication for the 10th and subsequent editions. 46 years separate the first edition from the current 11th edition (2nd reprint). Is this a record for a living author of a walking guidebook?

Covers of Colin Speakman's "Dales Way". From top right, anti-clockwise: 1st edition 1970 (& 1973); 3rd edition 1976 (& 1979); 5th edition 1983; 6th edition 1987; 7th edition 1994 (& 1995); 9th edition 2002; 10th edition 2011 (& 2013, revised & reprinted 2016).

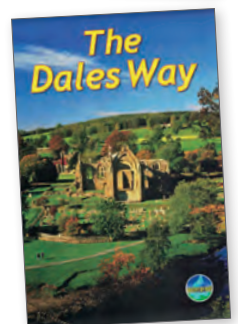
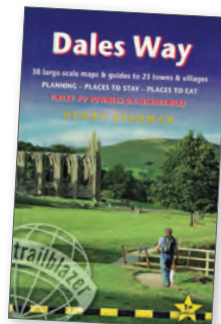
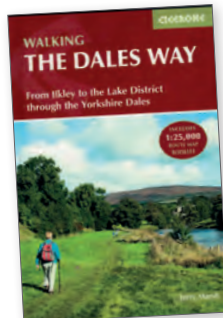
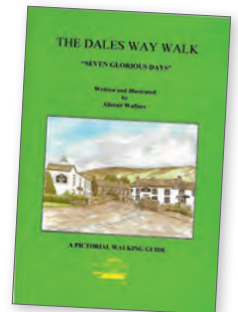
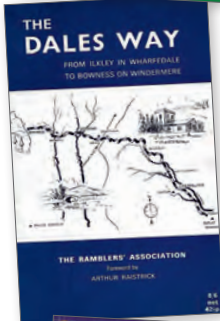
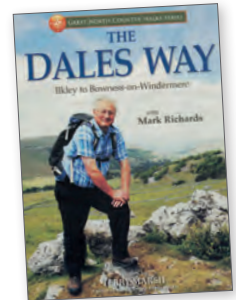


Other Guides



Since Colin Speakman's "Dales Way" appeared in early 1970 (see opposite), there has been a veritable industry in Dales Way Guides, including maps, guidebooks and videos. Here is just a selection:-

From top left, clockwise (author, publisher, year of first edition): Arthur Gemmell & Colin Speakman, Stile Maps, 1983; Anthony Burton, Aurum Press, 1995; Ron Shaw, Dunderdale, 1997; Footprint Maps, 1990; Mark Richards, DVD - ChromaVision Media, 2010; Alistair Wallace, Jema, 1997; Peter Stott, Rucksack Readers, 2011; Henry Stedman, Trailblazer, 2016; Terry Marsh, Cicerone, 1992; Harvey Maps, 2007; The Ramblers' Association, 1970; Paul Hannon, Hillside, 1988.



looking after the dales way: the walkers

Long distance walking is exactly the kind of sustainable or green tourism that National Parks were set up to encourage. A route like the Dales Way that goes through isolated villages and past remote country pubs is a welcome source of income in those communities. Walkers travel light, covering many miles a day on foot but in the evenings they need accommodation, food and maybe a drink to celebrate their achievements.

It is possible to trek on a budget, staying on campsites and in bunkbarns, however many walkers are looking for a bit of luxury and they are prepared to pay for it. On average a couple taking a week to walk the Dales Way will be spending around £1,000 and with up to 4,000 people a year completing the challenge that's a considerable sum.

Never more was the value of Dales Way walkers to local businesses recognised than during the terrible foot and mouth epidemic of 2001/2. Footpaths were closed, walkers stayed away and the tourist economy of the Yorkshire Dales suffered cataclysmic losses.

The re-opening of the route in 2002 heralded a new and closer collaboration between the Dales Way Association (DWA) and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority which continues to this day.

The DWA also enjoys a good relationship with the many businesses that support walkers along the Way, businesses like the accommodation providers and the baggage



(Above and below) West Winds, Buckden offers cake and accommodation.



(Right) A warm welcome at Lakeland Hills B&B, Burneside

carriers that transport walkers' suitcases between their overnight stops.

Walkers wishing to have their whole walk organised for them are also spoiled for choice with a number of holiday companies providing complete packages. Cafes can be found along most of the Dales Way and many a walker fuels their day with scones and cake in a Wharfedale tearoom.

Not everyone walks the Dales Way in one go and it is possible to enjoy a day's walking using public transport. Wharfedale is well served by buses and walkers heading for Dentdale can use the world famous Leeds-Settle-Carlisle railway line. Dalesbus is an excellent resource for public transport information.

The DWA website www.dalesway.org lists businesses supporting Dales Way walkers and is the first port of call to anyone planning the walk.

At the end of the walk many walkers like to collect their free certificate before dipping their boots in Lake Windermere.

(Below) Dalesbus at Bolton Abbey (www.dalesbus.org)



(Below) Brigantes deliver walkers' bags at Wharfe View B&B, Burnsall.



(Below) Certificates at Hawkshead, Bowness-on-Windermere.



the dales way: the people



What a most amazing and joyful experience this has been. The challenge, the people, the landscape—all were more than expected. And to share it with my best friend (who is obviously insane for signing up for this) will forever be one of the highlights of my life.

Lisa and Michelle, USA 2018

We moved into The George and opened for business on 1 June 2013. We loved it from the start. The location of the pub in beautiful Langstrothdale on the Dales Way, the quirky nature of the building and the tremendous history of the place were just too good to be true. Last year about a 1,000 of the guests at The George were Dales Way walkers, originating from many countries including Australia, Canada, USA, Netherlands, Israel, Germany, Norway and many more.



Ed and Jackie, The George Inn, Hubberholme.



I was one of the 30 walkers who turned up at the village hall at Bolton Abbey for the first “revival” meeting on the 20th March 2002, to announce that the Dales Way was now open, after the foot and mouth disease closed it for most of 2001. During the business, Colin announced that our strip map booklet, Dales Way Route Guide by Arthur Gemmell was due to be reprinted.

After the meeting I asked to join the committee. I surveyed pages 35 and 36, from Lincoln's Inn Bridge to the M6. Very satisfying in all respects.

Alex McManus, DWA Footpath Secretary 2003-2018

In 2014 I was invited to take part in the BBC radio 4 Ramblings with Clare Balding series. The section I walked with Clare was from the Cavendish Pavilion, Bolton Abbey to Burnsall. The weather was atrocious with strong winds and heavy showers. However this did not dampen our spirits and was a wonderful opportunity to promote the work the YDNPA does to look after this important route as it meanders through the Dales.

Phil Richards, Area Ranger Wharfedale & Liffordale, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority





We walked the route in six days through mud, wind rain, and sun and loved every minute of it. We detoured over the tops to get beautiful views of Dentdale. On the penultimate day, we got lost in woods and arrived late and tired into Burneside. The final day was sunny and warm and had great views approaching the Lake District. We celebrated by having two ice creams.

Jolyon and Vivienne West, 1998

I first walked the Dales Way in 1996 and loved it. Returning with my older brother in 2012, a regular walking companion and my 12-year-old daughter new to this kind of adventure. There was a bad moment on the way to Dent, saved by my brother running back from the petrol station with ice-cream to spur his niece on for the last leg of the day, when she felt she'd had quite enough of walking! Dipping our boots in Windermere felt like a real achievement for us all.

Jane Farrell



The Dales Way was our first long-distance walk in 2006. We were warned by fellow walkers we met over a stile near Buckden "long distance walking is addictive!"

It certainly has been; 12 long distance walks later around England and Scotland we have a wealth of memories of fun, wet weather, stunning scenery and unforgettable experiences Thank you Dales Way!

Kath Doyle and Gordon Tasker

The Dales Way was our first Long Distance Path back in May 1979. We were absolute 'greenhorns' to backpacking, all our gear was brand new and we felt rather self conscious, however a couple of days of inclement weather through Appletreewick and Kettlewell soon changed all that!

We had a fabulous week with marvellous scenery and made many new friends. The process had been a steep learning curve but we had gained so much and couldn't wait to start planning our next trek.

Sheila and Frank Gordon. Giggleswick





GRITSTONE PUBLISHING

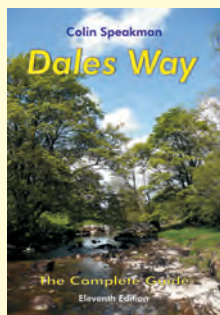
The UK's first publishing cooperative, run by authors for authors

Andrew Bibby, Chiz Dakin, Christopher Goddard, Andrew McCloy, Colin Speakman.

For details plus full list of walking and cycling guides on aspects of The Yorkshire Dales, South Pennines, Peak District, Lake District, Yorkshire Wolds as well as cycling across middle England.

www.gritstone.coop

Unique guides to long-distance trails from Skyware Press:



Dales Way

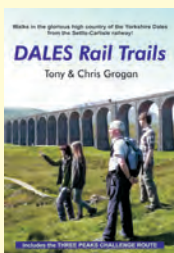
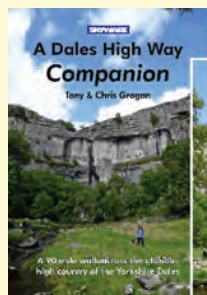
Colin Speakman

The original classic 80 mile riverside trail from Ilkley to Bowness-on-Windermere.

A Dales High Way


Tony & Chris Grogan

The original guides to a 90 mile walk across the glorious high country of the Yorkshire Dales.



SKYWARE

buy online:
www.skyware.co.uk



The Dales Way through the Yorkshire Dales to the Lake District is now one of Britain's most popular and best-loved long distance walks. This booklet traces the extraordinary story of how the enthusiasm, determination and dedication of a small group of ramblers 50 years ago turned their vision into reality.

£ 4.99

SKYWARE

ISBN 978-1-911321-04-0



9 781911 321040

www.skyware.co.uk

the daler way