

Bowland Scrapbook



Celebrating 50 years
of the Forest of Bowland AONB
1964 – 2014

Looking back at our 50 year history

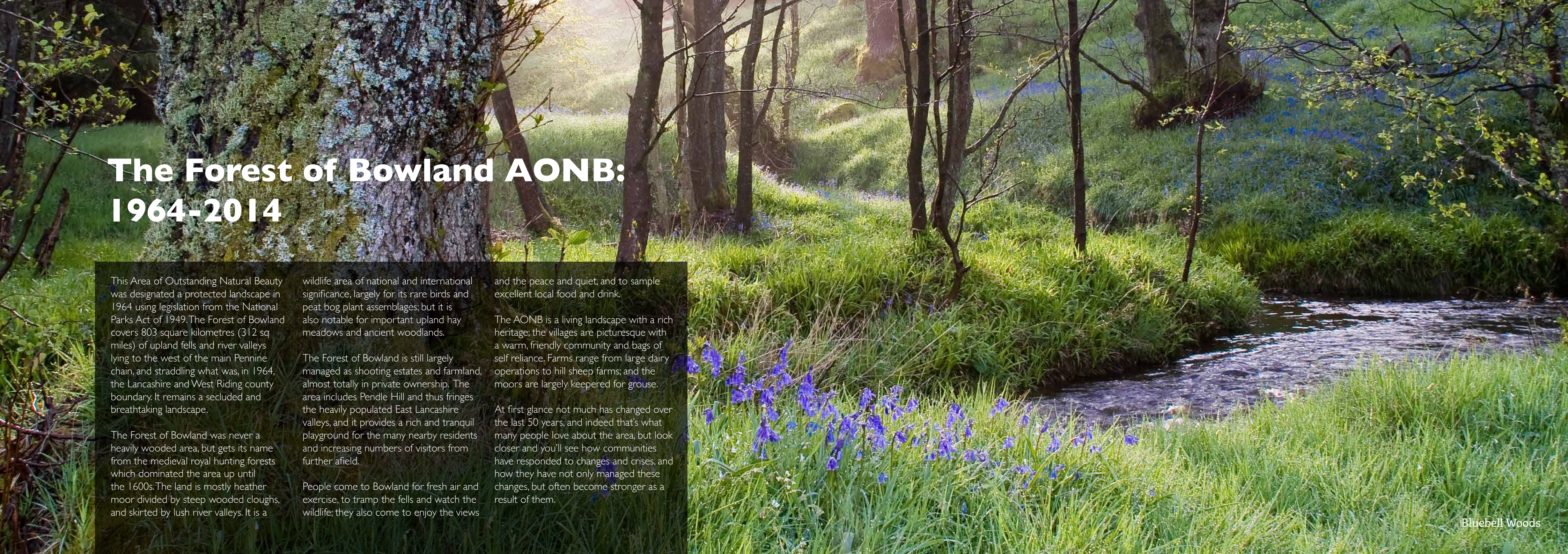
The Bowland Scrapbook has been produced to celebrate fifty years of rural life in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We aimed to document changes and experiences in everyday life in the years since the designation of this special area in 1964, in order to create a lasting record of an outstanding landscape and its vibrant communities.

The Scrapbook was produced by Champion Bowland on behalf of the AONB Partnership and with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project ran from May to October 2014 and was co-ordinated by Sue Holden, a

freelance researcher, with assistance from the AONB Unit, volunteers, and literally hundreds of local people who contributed stories, photographs, and personal records.

In order to make the Scrapbook, we chose four themes to reflect life in the AONB – villages, farming, major events and visitors – and carried out research at libraries, archives and through the local newspapers. We met with a wide range of groups and individuals and attended many summer agricultural shows to share our findings and to inspire further reminiscences. The conversations will continue, and we are archiving records on line: keep up to date through our Facebook page '[bowlandscrapbook](#)'.

The background image is a lush, green landscape. In the foreground, there's a stream flowing through a field of tall green grass and numerous bluebell flowers. The middle ground shows a dense forest with many trees, some with moss on their trunks. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the ground. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

The Forest of Bowland AONB: 1964-2014

This Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated a protected landscape in 1964 using legislation from the National Parks Act of 1949. The Forest of Bowland covers 803 square kilometres (312 sq miles) of upland fells and river valleys lying to the west of the main Pennine chain, and straddling what was, in 1964, the Lancashire and West Riding county boundary. It remains a secluded and breathtaking landscape.

The Forest of Bowland was never a heavily wooded area, but gets its name from the medieval royal hunting forests which dominated the area up until the 1600s. The land is mostly heather moor divided by steep wooded cloughs, and skirted by lush river valleys. It is a

wildlife area of national and international significance, largely for its rare birds and peat bog plant assemblages; but it is also notable for important upland hay meadows and ancient woodlands.

The Forest of Bowland is still largely managed as shooting estates and farmland, almost totally in private ownership. The area includes Pendle Hill and thus fringes the heavily populated East Lancashire valleys, and it provides a rich and tranquil playground for the many nearby residents and increasing numbers of visitors from further afield.

People come to Bowland for fresh air and exercise, to tramp the fells and watch the wildlife; they also come to enjoy the views

and the peace and quiet, and to sample excellent local food and drink.

The AONB is a living landscape with a rich heritage; the villages are picturesque with a warm, friendly community and bags of self reliance. Farms range from large dairy operations to hill sheep farms; and the moors are largely kept for grouse.

At first glance not much has changed over the last 50 years, and indeed that's what many people love about the area, but look closer and you'll see how communities have responded to changes and crises, and how they have not only managed these changes, but often become stronger as a result of them.

Farming Life

“We don’t own the land, we are just the custodians” was something which was said by more than one of the farmers we spoke to when we were researching this scrapbook. The landscape of the Forest of Bowland is composed of farms of different sizes and types from upland hill sheep farms to lowland dairy and beef farms.

All these farms are looked after either by individuals or whole families, often with two or three generations working together. All of them work long hours, in all weathers and for unpredictable rewards to maintain this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for this and future generations, both for residents and for visitors.

Farming practices have changed in the last 50 years and there is an increasing awareness of conservation and how it can fit in with modern farming methods. So many challenges have been weathered and overcome and the following pages show some of the changes over the past 50 years.



Sheep on the fells

Inspecting sheep on Waddington Fell

In the 1960s it was accepted that sons would follow their fathers into farming, "these days they can't see the point as it's hard work for little reward."



Father and son tending sheep together

Dipping sheep

Always a messy business, here farmers are using chemicals that are now banned. "The new chemicals are safer only if the correct protective clothing is worn" Disposal methods of unused dip have improved too with increased awareness of the damage done to the environment. "We used to tip it into the brook"



August 1968

These reports from the Farmers Guardian in 1964 show that prices were good then.

Dalesbred ram averages soar

AVERAGES soared above last year's level at the annual show and sale of aged rams and ram lambs for the Dalesbred Sheep Breeders' Association at Bentham, on Monday. Keen bidding for the 86 older tups forward resulted in an average of £28 7s. 6d. compared with £23 17s. at the same fixture last year. Seventy lambs were forward and these averaged 16s. 3d. against last year's 22s 13s. There were fewer forward than last year, but the show and sale rings were full of top quality stock which brought a ready demand. The day's highest price was £260 paid by H. H. Tansley, Quornhouse for a four-shear tup from R. Bindloss and Sons, Crayke. This tup, which Messrs Bindloss had used for three seasons after buying him at Hellfield, was the sire of a gimmer shearing which won four trials at Abingdon this season and a shearing ram which was only

FAST TRADE FOR EWES

GOOD TRADE FOR LONKS



Dalesbred ram averages soar

Electric shears make the job easier but now it is often a job done by travelling contractors out in the field.



Shearing at Hareden



Shearing is a popular attraction at the agricultural shows



June 1968



Feeding the sheep in winter

BEEF CATTLE AND DAIRYING

In the 1960s it was mainly traditional local cows, Herefords and shorthorns in the fields, now it is more common to see continental breeds such as Belgian Blues, Charolais or Limousin which produce leaner meat. Dairy cows were mainly British Friesians but now Holsteins are widespread.



Feeding bullocks on Waddington Fell

"Before 1996 a cow would fetch about £780. After the BSE or "mad cow disease" epidemic it would fetch half that, so BSE had a big impact on beef farmers."



Herefords

Some of the traditional breeds are returning to the area now. Herefords have been introduced onto Chipping Moss as they are good for grazing. They won't graze where their cowpats have landed so tussocks form making a good habitat for wading birds.

Richard Turner & Son
AUCTIONEERS, VALUERS and ESTATE AGENTS
Established 1803

GISBURN AUCTION MART

TUESDAY, APRIL 28th
1st SPRING SHOW AND SALE OF IN-CALF DAIRY CATTLE.
promising a good entry of Heifers and Young Cows from local farmers inc. 10 in Calf Cows due down to 11-30 a.m. from R. Murray, Blacko. Sale commencing at 11-30 a.m. (Judging at 11 a.m.) with Collective Spring Sale of Farm Machinery and Equipment to follow. Early entries to the Auctioneers appreciated.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28th
with numbers sold previous week

WEEKLY SALE OF DAIRY CATTLE, STORES AND CALVES
34 Newly Calved Dairy Cows and Heifers to follow
164/4 Rearing Calves of all breeds to follow
21 Weaned Sticks to follow

WEEKLY SALE OF FATSTOCK
258 Young Bulls to follow
103 Prime Steers and Heifers to follow
418 Fat Hogs and Pigs to follow
347 Cast Ewes and Rams to follow

PRODUCE AND SPECIAL SALES
Sale of Hay and Straw as forward, at approx. 1 p.m.
Sale of Pigs, Thursday, May 5th

THURSDAY, APRIL 28th
DAIRY CATTLE
30 Shewings and 2 Shear Mule Ewes with Twin Lambs for A. T. Maude, Bradley, 6 Mule Hogs and Lambs for Mrs D. Carter, Gidburn. 15 Mule Cows with 21 Lambs for R. Murray, Blacko.

TUESDAY, MAY 19th
2nd SPRING SHOW AND SALE OF IN-CALF DAIRY CATTLE
inc. August 21st September. Culling Heifers by nominated Bulls for Messrs R. & A. Wainbank & Son, Slaughton. Early entries to the Auctioneers appreciated.
Tel: Sale Days GISBURN 378; Other Days BENTHAM 61444



Traditional milking parlour: Some farmers have stayed with the traditional methods and still put their cows in the fields in summer and bring them in for milking twice a day.



Bentham Auction

"All farmers wore clogs, and always wore ties and waistcoats especially for a trip to the auction. They would always go to the pub after the auction, but these days there isn't time." This is a later picture of Bentham auction where the dress code may have altered but the social aspect hasn't.



Highland cattle

Clipping sheep

Fifty years ago many farmers were clipping sheep by hand. Fleeces were valuable, but then prices dropped so that it was hardly worth clipping. One farmer told us "Wool used to be worth more than meat, in the 1970s we could get a cheque for £3000, now the same amount of wool brings £200."

A farmer who farmed on Tarnbrook Fell told us of "gully backed uns" – these were sheep that were on the fell that had wool only round their skirts as the gulls in the gully that nested up there used to peck the sheep on their backs to stop them damaging their nests.

Another farmer said: "In the 1960s I was employed as a shepherd for 770 ewes, now a farmer wouldn't employ someone for so few sheep."

"Daler tups"

These Dalesbred sheep were once the main breed in the Forest of Bowland, they are now a rare breed.

"In 1970 a Dalesbred tup was bought for £160, used 4 times and sold for £400."

THE HEREFORD HERD BOOK SOCIETY
HEREFORD HOUSE, 3 OFFA STREET, HEREFORD

Pen-Y-Park 1 Frank
R21X/M1/10

B.C. 1 Majestic
1BCK/H11/8

Quincey 1 Fashion 7th
1RUX/28/6

Pendleside 1 Chancellor
128X/P17/11

Pendleside 1 Rachel
128X/124/8

WARRANTY

W. & H. Blackwell & Son,
Higher Clough,
Dalehead, Slaughton,
Clitheroe.



Pigs

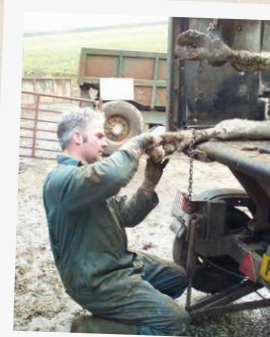
Many farms kept a pig for their own use, but as all their feed has to be bought in now due to regulations, they aren't often kept commercially in this area any more.



Even the youngest members of the family have jobs to do.



Maintaining boundaries using traditional skills are the best method of stockproofing fields. Farmers, contractors and volunteers all help to keep hedges and dry stone walls maintained.



Cow Foot Doctor: Cows need their feet trimming to maintain hoof health.

HILL SHEEP FARMING

Over the last 50 years rearing animals has always been the priority for Bowland farmers. Numbers of some traditional breeds have reduced and more modern breeds have been introduced.

Fifty years ago we were told it was mainly Dalesbreds crossed with Teeswaters to produce Mashams for hill flocks. Now it is mainly Swaledales crossed with Blue Faced Leicesters to produce mules, and Dalesbreds

are almost a rare breed.

Texels and mules are the most common breeds in the area and sheep are more productive now as lambing percentages have increased.

CHANGING TIMES

Farmers have needed to adjust to different circumstances and changing technology over the years and many practices have changed.

Possibly the biggest change has been an increase in machinery and the introduction of quad bikes.

On some farms quad bikes have rendered the traditional role of shepherds and farm labourers almost redundant. The size and cost of the machinery has meant that many farms now use contractors to carry out some jobs rather than have expensive machines lying idle for much of the year.

Many farmers' wives now go out to work but still help out at busy times like lambing. There is also an increasing number of women running farms.

These pictures show some of the changes.



Milk kits

These milk kits in Newton in Bowland are now a forgotten sight. The demise of the Milk Marketing Board in the 1990s meant that it was no longer economic to milk small herds as the new dairies collected in bulk tanks rather than from churns.

Poor road access to some farms meant the tanker couldn't get through.



Sights like this are unknown now

The traditional stone barns have become too small to house the large machinery that is now being used and the wrapping of bales in plastic means that they are no longer needed for storing hay.



Traditional Field Barn

In some places, they have gradually been replaced with large sheds used to store hay and for indoor lambing.



Wrapping bales in plastic means they can be kept outside all winter



Indoor lambing

One of the biggest changes has been from haystacks to big bales. It started in 1985/86, "because of wet grass, summer work turned to winter. Wild flowers suffered as grass was collected before it seeded."



Bringing in the first ever big bales at Halsteads



Silaging can be done in 1 or 2 days now instead of making hay taking a week. Grass is cut, wrapped and put straight into a silage clamp now rather than being left out to dry before being baled. "There almost used to be a competition to see who was first to start mowing, then once you'd finished you would go up to the top of Jeffrey Hill to see who was still mowing!"



Sights like this are being replaced by this...



...Now a familiar sight: "a quad bike makes an old man young and a young man old!" and the same could be said for the dog!

'Footcocks' - Grass was heaped up after raking to help to dry it.

Advances in farm management and techniques in the past 10 years have been rapid. "Farmers used to farm, now they need to be businessmen."



These cows are lying on sand, their preferred bed as it moulds to their bodies

Modern milking shed

Cows are now kept indoors and milked 3 times a day. Farmers have found that the cows are happier, they don't like being wet or too hot. They have access to fresh air all day and mattresses to lie on. It means that we see far fewer cows grazing in fields now.

Robot Milker

This system is becoming increasingly popular and allows a cow to be milked at a time they choose, and to have constant access to food.



Farm machinery has grown in size along with the size of the farms



This advert for a tractor from the Farmers Guardian of 1974 seems ancient now.

"Milk quotas became a commodity and could be sold or leased. It caused some issues as some purchasers were not farmers and made a lot of money from them."

Milk tankers used to bring milk back from France as it was cheaper. "Supermarkets drive the price of milk now."

Cattle nutritionists can now select the best feed for a cow. The farm silage is analysed, the results are fed into a computer then the extra nutrients needed to balance the feed are calculated and added.

Compare it with a service record from 1985, only 30 years ago, to see how fast things are moving.

Service Records					
NO. OF SERVICE	NAME OF FEMALE	NAME OF BULL	DATE OF SERVICE	DATE BORN	
1	✓ Maisey	Frank			
2	✓ Red W. Biddle	Frank			
3	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
4	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
5	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
6	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
7	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
8	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
9	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
10	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
11	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
12	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
13	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
14	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
15	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
16	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
17	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
18	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
19	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
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22	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
23	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
24	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
25	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
26	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			
27	✓ H. H. Biddle	Frank			



Genomics - Tomorrows Genetics Today

"Farmers are now looking more at genetics for good performance from cows. A dairy will want a high protein milk for cheese making so the farmer buys semen which will give a calf that quality. It used to be that they looked at the daughters of a bull to assess quality, now they can have that predicted". Recently, sexed semen has become available, and it can be bought and stored in liquid nitrogen until needed.

holstein for profitability

Fact Sheet - Powered by CDE

TARNBROOK DREAM 222
01000012053490 GPH1
Date of birth: 26/3/2011
EarTag: UK184732400469 (F)

Sire: SCHILLVIEW OMAN GERARD ET BLF BVF CVF DIF HMT HMT 65000052805723
Dam: TARNBROOK DREAM 222 01000000985362 EKR2(21) Award: LP60, SP

This bull, Schillview Oman Gerard has sired a cow in Tarnbrook, yet has never stepped outside his native Minnesota!

Jake

Massey X Ramos

Long Living Healthy Daughters

Direct Price £24.9

PTA August 2014

Milk +116 kgs
Fat +10.5 kgs (+0.07%)
Protein +8.9 kgs (+0.06%)

Calving Ease: Easy 8%
Temperament: Calm
Milk Speed: Normal
Drop Number: 70 / 30 (G)
Reliability: 79%
Maintenance: +2
Daughter Fertility: +1.2
SCC: <25% Excellent
Udder: +0.3

PLI 363

Linear Trait Profile August 2014 - Holstein UK

	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3
Type							
Legs & Feet							
Mammary							
Stature							
Chest Width							
Body Depth							
Angularity							
Rump Angle							
Rump Width							
Rear Leg Set							
Foot Angle							
Fore Udder At							
Udder Support							
Udder Depth							
Front Teat Pl							
Teat Length							
Rear Teat Pl							

It's now common practice to select the best type of semen for a particular purpose from a catalogue. It shows a photo of the bull in question, what his qualities are and what kind of calf he will sire.

DIVERSIFICATION

Life in the Forest of Bowland can never stand still, it is very much a working area, not a museum.

The area is now home to a diverse range of businesses many of which have been created over the past 50 years.

Since the 1990s farmers have been encouraged to look for other sources of income to ensure their survival in this rural area.

The increasing number of visitors has encouraged farm diversification into accommodation provision, from holiday cottages such as those at Lower Gill, near Tosside to posh camp sites such as the one at Bleasdale.

Redundant buildings have been converted for a wide variety of uses both residential and commercial.

Opening up the farm to a wider audience such as at Cobble Hey near Garstang - with their successful tearoom, resources for educational visits and provision of wildlife habitats for species such as lapwings is another example.

These new businesses also provide work for local people. Farmers are always looking to the future and these are just a few of the examples of changes that will shape the future of farming in the Forest of Bowland, whilst ensuring that the landscape retains its traditional appearance.

Farmers are being encouraged to use fewer chemicals and to support wildlife on their land. For example, creating scrapes for lapwing nests and other wading birds, or planting up old hedgerows under the environmental stewardship scheme.

"In 1949 we had 12 bulls and 20 cows on 100 acres and it was possible to make a living." The milk quota was sold as it was uneconomic to collect due to the remoteness of the farm. One of the farm cottages was renovated and rented out. It proved so successful that more followed.



Leagrams Dairy



Sheep Milk UK at Laund Farm

Laund Farm at Bowland with Leagram diversified into sheeps milk and now supplies dairies all over the UK. They also have visiting groups of tourists from all over the world who are on holiday with a specialist tour company.



The Bowland Hay Time project has helped to establish traditional wildflower meadows on some farms

The AONB has many highly rated restaurants within its boundaries and there is a growing demand from the public for high quality food including cheese which can be sourced locally.



School farm visit

Backsbottom in Roeburndale is an organic hill farm run by Dr Rod Everett and has a centre for permaculture on the site. He receives visitors from all over the world to learn from his methods, and travels widely to lecture on them.

Higher Gills farm in Rimington keeps a small flock of Teeswater sheep and produces fine quality knitting wool from them.



'Milk quotas were introduced in 1984 by the EC to stop the over production of milk. It meant some dairy farmers had to diversify. Some began to milk sheep as that wasn't restricted by quotas. The price of the milk quota dropped, at one time it was 7p per litre, now it's 0.1p.'



Teeswater wools

Educational visits aim to teach children about where their food comes from. These children were at New Laund farm.



'Sheep at Cobble Hey' by Geoff Whitley

It's not just farmers who diversify. Geoff Whitley was a volunteer ranger and is now an environmental artist. His background is as a woodsman on an estate but he found he could see things in wood that other people couldn't and began to make animals and birds with a chainsaw. He wanted to refine the results so started to work with chisels and produces amazing wood carvings for commissions. His biggest to date was a cormorant drying his wings at 8 feet tall with a 12 foot wingspan. Several examples can be seen all over the forest, and he is currently based at the Wild Boar Park.

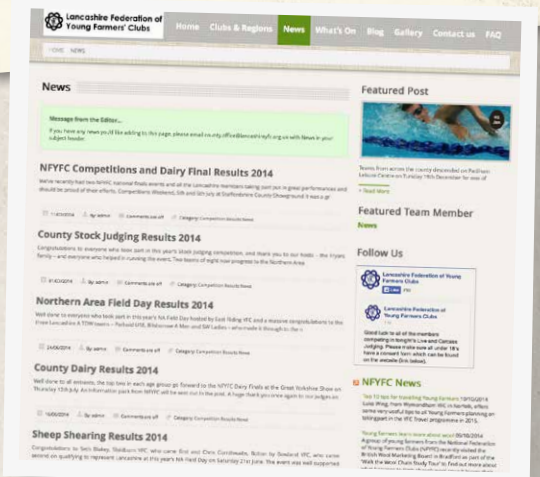


It was a tradition that after the Hodder Valley Show finished there would be a dance held for anyone who was involved but sadly that doesn't happen any longer.

Bill Bailey was a pig farmer but in the mid 1980s his animals were infected with Aujeszky's disease and had to be slaughtered. He went into semi retirement and got some wild boar as a hobby. He showed them off to the public in a barn, "then it just grew from there". It is a family concern and now employs twelve people.

YOUNG FARMERS

Young Farmers Clubs have been a tradition in the AONB for many years. These memories are from John Harrison who was a member of the Hodder Valley YFC from 1967 to 1984.



At the hedging and walling held in March the intermediate and senior boys obviously did hedging and walling, but the juniors did some type of handicraft skill. Each club took turns in hosting this event. One of my earliest memories of competing in this event was at Bolton by Bowland when we had to make a bow and arrows and when completed shoot at a target. I remember having two lengths of wood, each long enough to make a bow, and so I gave one to another Slaidburn member, who just happened to receive the most points for having the best shaped bow. I can't remember the target being hit too many times by any competitor though. Another highlight was the sports held on the cricket field at Settle. During the late 1960s we were short of girl members, I believe at one time we were down to only one, so we didn't score many points as half the events were for girls, and a lot of the lads weren't too athletic either. However we always ended on a winning note with the pillow fight and the tug of war.



Bolton By Bowland YFC 1968

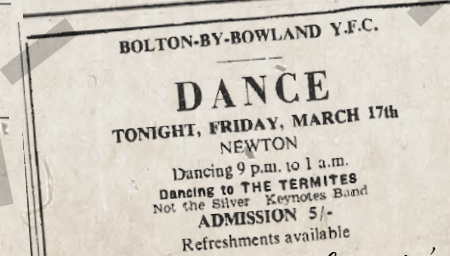
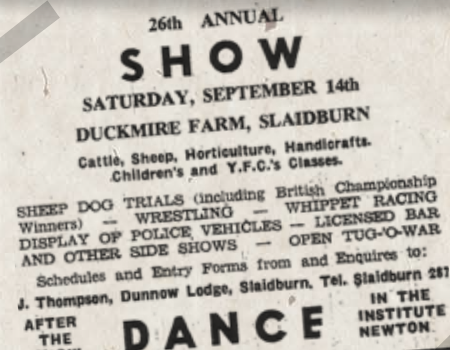
Slaidburn Young Farmers is the oldest YF club in the county but its members are keen to stress that it is modern in outlook and the opportunities it provides.

The Bowland AONB team caught up with the club at the Hodder Valley Show 2014. Apart from providing passers by with the opportunity to try their hand at milking a mock cow it was also a chance to spread the message about what a vital club this is for young people from both town and country.

You don't have to be from a farming background to join but if you do sign up then you'll get to learn a lot more about agriculture through long established practices such as stock judging. Charitable events have always featured in the club's calendar in a major way and the Young Farmers are proud to have raised so much to help others.

So, Young Farmers is educational, charitable but above all sociable... which is especially important when you live in a rural area where communication hasn't always kept up with the times - members repeatedly pointed out that in an area with poor phone reception the club meetings are a great opportunity to catch up on news and views and forge friendships. Several members stressed that their parents had met through Young Farmers - membership of a local group has always gained you entry to a network of national friends and events.

With a Facebook page and group ice skating trips, the Slaidburn Young Farmers is a decidedly 21st century organisation but is proud to maintain traditions that have stood the test of time as well.



'They were certainly not short of social events.'

Major Events

The heather covered hills and lush pastures of the Forest of Bowland seem to be the essence of peace and tranquility. However, the last 50 years have seen some major disruptions to the lives of the residents, making life at times inconvenient and at other times traumatic.

Extreme weather conditions have played a major part in some events, but national emergencies have also seriously affected the lives of those who live and work here such as the explosion at Abbeystead and the Foot and Mouth epidemic of 2001.



Fell runners at Chipping Show



THE FLOODS OF 1967

The floods of 1967 devastated two of the communities in the area. The village of Wray was flooded, the force of the water smashing through the village and destroying property, land and livestock.



Roeburndale Valley before the flood



Backsbottom Farm after the flood: Half the farmhouse was swept away whilst the owners were still inside.



Dunsop Bridge was also affected as record rainfall fell, in August 1967 washing massive boulders into the village and affecting the land and the rivers for years to come.



Roeburn Scar after the flood: 120mm of rain fell in 90 mins

One Wray resident said: "the noise was a great roaring, big trees fully grown were being swept past, downstairs windows were being smashed, the house seemed to shake every second as it was struck by trees."

These pictures are taken from a cine film of the flood as it happened.



A lady who lived on a farm at the time recalls that there was no warning of the severity of the flood, although it had been thundering and lightning all day. The cloudburst happened on top of the fell like an explosion, the impact of the water washing the bridge away. The force of the water was such that some of it went down

the River Roeburn through Wray and some down the River Dunsop. Five inches of rain fell in forty five minutes. She remembers "telephone poles danced on top of the water, they had been uprooted but were still held by the wires. There was so much debris washed down that it was 13 weeks before we could get into the village by car."

Volunteers repaired Dunsop Village Green



Dunsop Valley after the flood showing the rocks washed downstream



The Foot and Mouth epidemic had a major impact on the area and the after-effects are still being felt.

The tragedy of Abbeystead



Aftermath of the explosion which blew up the Abbeystead pumping station: 16 died.

Another Royal visitor was Prince Charles, seen here in 2003, aboard the recently launched Bowland Transit bus service on his way to Chipping.



In 1992 British Telecom sited their 100,000th telephone box in Dunsop Bridge after it was found by the Ordnance Survey to be the village nearest to the centre of Great Britain.

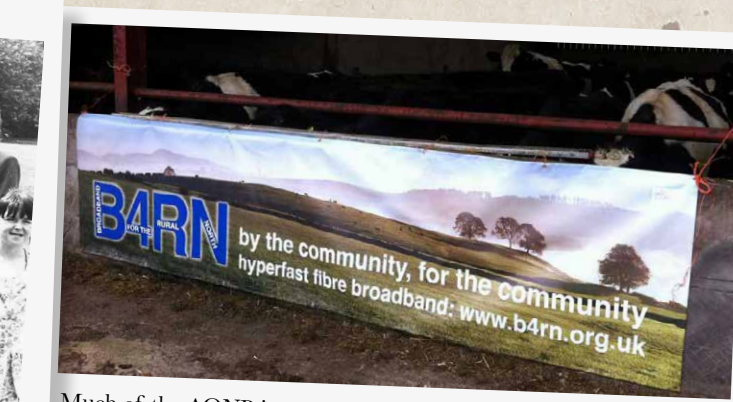


Digging out a road near Slaidburn

The Forest of Bowland often experiences extreme weather conditions and heavy snowfalls are a common occurrence

As part of her Silver Jubilee celebrations the Queen and Prince Philip paid a visit to one of their favourite places, the Forest of Bowland.

Here she is at Root Farm, now home to the AONB office, in Dunsop Bridge.



Much of the AONB is unable to receive a fast broadband connection as the large telecommunications companies do not include very rural areas. The B4RN project is a community broadband service which is being rolled out across the AONB and connecting many people with services they have been unable to take advantage of up to now. It will be especially useful for farmers who have to fill in many of their forms online.

DUNREIGNING

The Queen's secret valley of dreams where she and Prince Philip long to retire



The Queen has been quoted as saying she would like to retire to the Forest of Bowland and over the years she and other family members have made several visits to the area. She enjoys her quiet visits to her own little piece of the North of England.



Village Life

The Forest of Bowland is made up of many villages of different sizes but each with their own identity.

Over the past 50 years they have had to adapt to many changes – shops and schools have closed, church congregations have dwindled, new housing has been built, public transport links have all but disappeared and in some cases even the pub has closed!

However, one thing that has stayed the same is the support that the residents offer to each other and the love for their own village and the area in general.

Residents are working hard to ensure that the villages remain lively places to live and work and continue to attract visitors to help boost the local economy.



Cottage garden at the Traddock Hotel



VILLAGE HALLS AND SCHOOLS

Village halls are an important meeting place for all members of the community, young and old.



Hornby Institute

Tosside Community Hall
Thursday 5th March
7.30pm START
 Welcome to the King Villa Lounge, Hollywood for "Swingers in Suspenders."
 A kaleidoscopic review of the 1930's, 1940's and 50's.
 Admission £6 including light supper.
 Tickets can be reserved 01729 840272
 The evening will include song, dance, puppetry and glamorous costumes!



Chipping Village Hall



Thornley School

Thornley school was closed in 1978 and the building was deteriorating, but a group of local people got together and started to fund raise to turn the school into a hub where local people can meet.

Redundant school buildings can be put to use to benefit the community.

Village halls are the place for all kinds of groups to meet - the WI are regular users. Dunsop Bridge village hall is opened every Sunday throughout the summer for visitors to enjoy home made cakes and is a popular stop for walkers, cyclists and families.

There are also village institutes such as those at Caton, Hornby and Wray. Many of these owe their existence to the Victorian desire to provide education for the working classes and were often gifted to the village by wealthy landowners. Caton Institute has an IT resource centre and regular classes such as line dancing and Pilates.

Village halls and institutes are increasingly being used as wedding venues. Hornby institute even provides a place for the flu clinic to be held.



Village schools are a popular reason for new people to move into the AONB as they tend to have smaller classes but in some cases these smaller classes have led to the closure of schools and many children now have to travel long distances by bus and taxi.

This comment by a former head at Tosside School which closed in 2000 is typical: "I always really enjoyed teaching in a village school," said Mrs Newhouse, "Over the years I was teaching local children and their children in turn. Most of them came from the farms for miles around, but these days so many of them have moved away from the area."



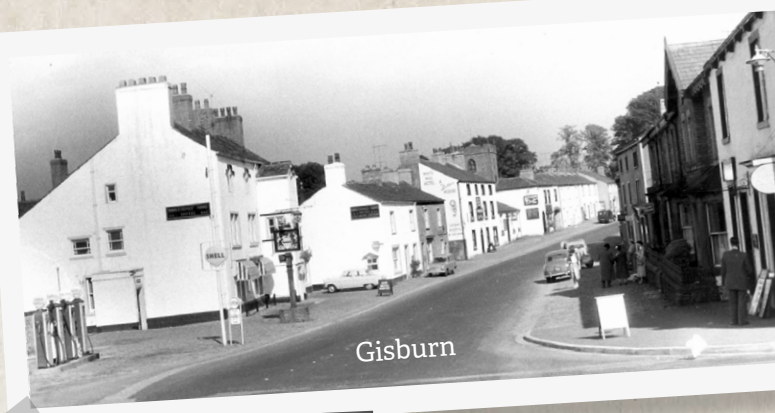
Sewing class, Slaidburn

"Evening classes like keep fit and sewing used to be held at the school so it was also a social occasion."

There is a wide range of activities at the village halls, from short carpet bowls in West Bradford to toddler groups in Over Wyresdale.

An over sixties party was started in Newton in 1976 and is still being held each year.

"When the school closed the village hall was the only place we could meet each other."



Gisburn



Once village meeting places began to disappear people started to lose contact with what was going on in their own area and feeling isolated was a common complaint.
To help overcome this several communities have started their own newsletters, reporting on local people and events.
Tosside News, Hornby Contact and The Villager are just three examples.

Catering Accommodation Parties Catered for
TALBOT HOTEL
 CHIPPING, Nr. PRESTON
 Fully Licensed — Residential — Car Parks
 Telephone 260 Mr. and Mrs. Wareing



The Talbot Hotel closed recently and a buyer has yet to be found



Chipping



THE HOTEL, WHITEWELL

(RESIDENTIAL)
 (AND FULLY LICENSED)

Private Parties by appointment — Open to Non-Residents for All Meals — Private Salmon and Sea Trout Fishing from the Hotel for Residents only in 6 miles of the River Hodder

H. & C.—Electric Fires with Slot Meters in all Bedrooms
 A.A. ** Star—Lancaster 17 miles—Clitheroe 9 miles
 Preston 18 miles
 Oil Fired Central Heating

On the MAIN ROAD through the Trough of Bowland

WALKING - CLIMBING - FISHING
 Magnificent Views of the Hodder Valley

Close to Brousholme Hall, the home of Colonel Robert Parker, D.S.O., F.S.A., J.P., which is of great interest to visitors

Proprietors:
 MAJOR AND MRS TREVOR WHITMORE

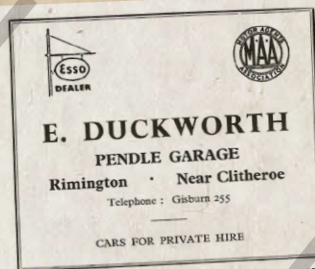
Telephone: Dunsop Bridge 22



Bleasdale Post Office

VILLAGE SHOPS

Slaidburn had a man who used to come out from Bentham to measure up for suits, another would come out and measure up for work clothes so the farmer didn't need to leave his farm very often. Many of them also delivered to outlying farms and houses. In Slaidburn "we would put in an order when we went to the pub and it would be delivered the day after." Today, supermarket home delivery services are affecting the small village shops.



When in Chipping Dine at
Rich's Fish and Chip Cafe
TEA — COFFEE — MINERALS
GOOD SEATING ACCOMMODATION
(Open for Tea on Sundays)
WINDY STREET, CHIPPING, Nr. PRESTON

Products which are Traditionally . . .
TWEEDY'S (of CHIPPING near Preston)
POTATO PEELERS AND OTHER FOOD PREPARATION MACHINERY AS Supplied to this and 23 other countries

Another way of getting provisions was the travelling shop, and these were just two which called into the outlying farms.



Hornby has a thriving butchers shop



Howard's grocer, Newton

Newton had Howard's butchers, a grocers, a post office and a garage for petrol and car repairs. There was a mobile baby clinic for babies to be weighed and mums to meet and compare notes.



Howard's butcher



More recently Robinson's provides a similar service for farmers and other local businesses

GISBURN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.
Main Street, Gisburn, Nr. Clitheroe

FOR
Groceries, Provisions, Hardware
Furnishing, Boots and Shoes, Drapery
Men's Wear, Crockery, etc.

Branches at
BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND and SLAIDBURN



Slaidburn shop and Post Office



Bounty Bus outside Slaidburn School

Public transport to the villages is now very much reduced, the people of Scorton have organised their own solution and now have a minibus taxi to take residents to Garstang for the bigger shops and supermarkets.



The mobile library

The mobile library is still a regular visitor to most of the villages in the AONB and is a valued service for everyone in the community.

Another essential aspect of village life is public transport. The Bounty Bus service was owned by Tom Leedham of Dunsop Bridge and went to Clitheroe three times every day, and four times on Tuesday which was market day. It didn't have any designated stops; locals just waited until it appeared, then stuck their hand out.

The owner of the decorator's shop in Clitheroe got a phone call from someone in the village asking him to put a tin of paint on the bus, he taped the fare to the tin lid with the address on and it was delivered that day. It would also deliver groceries and post. A flexible timetable meant that no one was left behind and unscheduled stops were often made.

One lady got on the bus in Slaidburn and she remembered she'd left her oven on so the bus waited with all its passengers so she could go home and check. In the days of the village dances it would be waiting at 2am to take the revellers home.



Bill Worswick was the bus driver

Agents for Northern & Road Transport & General Insurance
CHIPPING GARAGE
(R. Ellison - M. Higgins)
MOTOR & AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS
BATTERY CHARGING — WELDING — REBORING,
ENGINE OVERHAULS — TYRES, BATTERIES AND
ACCESSORIES — Agency for D.E.R.V. Petrol and Oils
CHIPPING, Nr. PRESTON Telephone: 203



HODDER MOTOR SERVICE
Luxury Coaches at your Service for all occasions
TOWN END GARAGE, SLAIDBURN, Nr. Clitheroe
Meals and entertainment arranged.
SLAIDBURN 221



Sometimes social events have been held in the most unusual places. Leedham's Garage in Dunsop Bridge was cleared one night in the sixties for this garage fling to be held as a fundraising event for the new village hall!



The village community has traditionally relied on its shops for every day essentials. Slaidburn still has its shop and post office, well used by local people.

LOCAL SHOWS

The spring and summer months are the time for the local agricultural shows to take place.

They remain a celebration of rural life and a chance for farmers and villagers to socialise as well as a popular day out for families from a wide radius.

There are many classes for animals and produce, and everyone can get involved.



Hodder Valley show 1980



Hodder Valley show 1986



Hodder Valley



Bentham Show 2014



Maypole, Slaidburn



Wray has a Spring festival. This giant was constructed by the late Stella Kenyon and repaired by her for every Wray Fair. She was a familiar sight as she wove her willow baskets.

The AONB is subject to strict planning regulations so that the natural landscape and beauty of the area is maintained. Many of the villages still look the same now as they did fifty years ago and the main landowners are keen to retain their traditional appearance.



Slaidburn Silver Band on the march



Slaidburn Silver Band

Slaidburn Silver band is a familiar sight and sound at many local events. They have been in existence since 1898. The past 50 years has seen them perform in events such as Torchlight Processions, carol concerts and even overseas! Two visiting children who heard the concert "Brass at the Bounty" were very proud of hearing the tune "Slaidburn" played by Slaidburn Band in Slaidburn!

The Hodder Valley Agricultural & Horticultural Society
26th ANNUAL
SHOW
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th
DUCKMIRE FARM, SLAIDBURN
Cattle, Sheep, Horticulture, Handicrafts,
Children's and Y.F.C.'s Classes.
SHEEP DOG TRIALS (including British Championship
Winners) — WRESTLING — WHIPPET RACING
DISPLAY OF POLICE VEHICLES — LICENSED BAR
AND OTHER SIDE SHOWS — OPEN TUG-O-WAR
Schedules and Entry Forms from and Enquiries to:
J. Thompson, Dunnow Lodge, Slaidburn, Tel. Slaidburn 287
AFTER THE SHOW **DANCE** IN THE INSTITUTE NEWTON



Cheese tent, Chipping



Chipping Show 2014



This event is now an annual one and attracts thousands of visitors

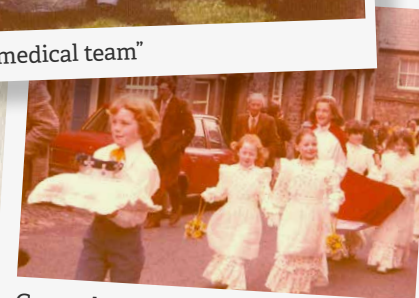
Chipping Show has a whole tent for cheeses as many of the dairies and producers are in the area.



Fancy dress



Fancy dress "Slaidburn medical team"



Crown bearer Slaidburn May Queen



New houses, Dunsop Bridge



West Bradford Mill, 1991

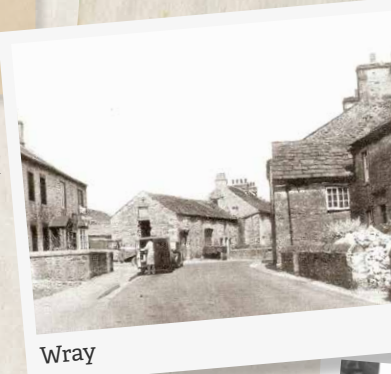
Several village mills have closed over the past 50 years, and some of them have been converted into housing rather than demolished, such as Riverside Mill in West Bradford.



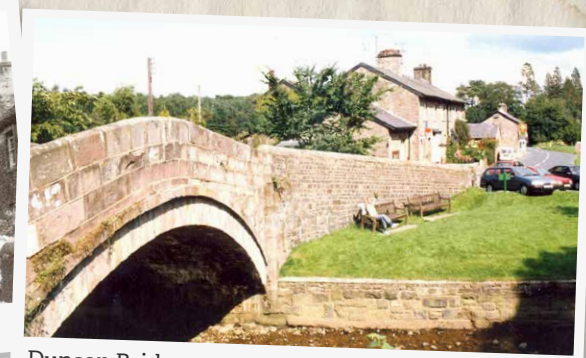
Bashall Barn

Some villages have benefitted from the conversion of redundant farm buildings into thriving businesses, encouraging more people into the area.

However, the need to maintain communities and retain young people and families who want to live near their families and who work locally has been realised, and there have been several small scale housing developments over the years.



Wray



Dunsop Bridge



Maiden Bridge gallery



Chipping

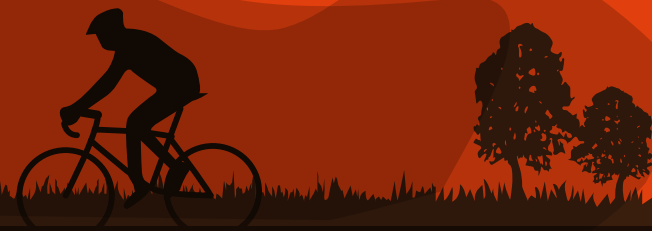
...and this one at Maiden Bridge which is a successful gallery.

Visiting Bowland

The Forest of Bowland has been a destination for Lancashire day trippers for many years. During the last ten years or so it has become increasingly recognised as a sustainable tourism destination.

When researching this scrapbook we talked to many people who were visiting and taking advantage of local amenities such as pubs, cafés, footpaths and places to stay. Many of them have been coming since they were children and are now bringing their own children and grandchildren.

They tell us that the main attractions (apart from the cakes!) are the scenery, the wildlife and the peace and quiet.



Walkers on Clougha

ENJOYING THE COUNTRYSIDE

Several people we spoke to mentioned the increased amount of traffic in the villages and the difficulty of parking but this has been a long standing issue.



Things in Slaidburn have improved since the new car park was made!



Trampers enable access for all

Sept 1974

Slaidburn car park will be so welcome

COUNCIL approval for a vehicle car park at Slaidburn is welcome news for the village, which faces a growing parking problem. The Ribbles Valley Council, Planning and Transportation Committee, is up to the car park on a field near to the public conveniences. The committee, anxious to develop and control the area, has agreed to build the car park and hopes a start could be made next year. The scheme is based on a plan by the council, which has been made to the local government planning department. The plan has been made to the times.

NARROW

The scheme includes landscaping with the intention of screening the car park, making it less visible and integrating it into the landscape, particularly when viewed from the village.

HOW things can look in Slaidburn on a busy day, is a car park, so that there will be room for day-trippers and residents alike - and everyone will be happy. Before Bowland Rural Council handed off most of the green last year, cars parked along the village length. All the parking space would have been a relatively small area beside the church.

DUST

Complaints really set in when vehicles like bus sides of the road and others try to squeeze in between. "It can sometimes be quite dusty when they come down the road," says Mrs. Clements. "We are glad to see people come back 'they can't get their own cars in'."

Mrs. Clements: "We are glad to see people come back 'they can't get their own cars in'."

"Fewer people come to Slaidburn now, the village green used to be packed on Sundays with children in the river and people picnicking"



One of the Clitheroe Ramblers, the late John Whitehead was very active in campaigning for access rights.

The AONB has been successful in opening up areas of the countryside for disabled people by the purchase of these Trampers, specially designed four-wheel drive all-terrain electric buggies, which can be used off road and even on rough ground, mud and grass.

It enables people who have difficulty walking, who are less able or who may be disabled to experience the countryside; and to accompany friends and family when out walking.



We spoke to several groups of cyclists in the café all of whom said the same: "the cycling in this area is safe, challenging and picturesque"



Road cycling is increasingly popular, partly due to Olympic and Tour de France champion Sir Bradley Wiggins saying that Bowland was his favoured training ground.

Over the years there has been a campaign to open up larger areas of the countryside to allow more people to have access to it.

The Ramblers Association has been instrumental in campaigning for the retention of footpaths and establishing new routes.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act in 2000 allowed anyone to walk freely on "areas of moor, common, mountain and heath land that are mapped", without needing to restrict themselves to footpaths.

This has had an impact on some areas of the AONB and walkers are now a familiar sight in many remote areas.



CROW launch, 2004: the first walk in open country in the Hodder Valley after the passing of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

Welcomes all walkers to a major

RALLY

Calling for PUBLIC ACCESS to the

FOREST OF BOWLAND

FORBIDDEN MOORLANDS

With Janet Street-Porter R.A. President and Louise Eilman (Leader of Lancashire County Council)

Michael Hindley MEP (Member of European Parliament, Lancashire South)

Robyn Pyle, Managing Director, North West Water Properties

US Ramblers' Chairman Alan Howard and Director Alan Mattingly

at GARSTANG HIGH SCHOOL

at Bowgreave on B6430 three-quarters of mile south of Garstang

Noon, Sunday, September 25th, 1994

Parking restricted at/near the school. Parking available in Garstang, with walks arranged to the school every 20 minutes from 10 to 11 a.m. and short, medium or long return walks to Garstang.

Some of the area has been subject to TV fame, notably Downham as the fictional village of Ormston for the ITV series "Born and Bred". The 1960s film "Whistle Down the Wind" starring Hayley Mills and several local children was also shot on location in Downham.



Wuthering Heights

The Youth Hostel in Slaidburn has been open since 1933. We spoke to a lady in her late 60s from Bolton who is a volunteer warden there and used to come to the hostel when she was a teenager. She would walk all the way from Clitheroe! Cyclists on the route from Lands End to John o' Groats often stay at the YHA and say it is the nicest area they go through on their way to Scotland.



Knowlmere Manor

Knowlmere Manor in Newton was the setting for the 1990s TV series "The Riff Raff Element".

In 1978 Chipping was chosen for some of the exterior shots in the BBC mini-series of Wuthering Heights, as Haworth had too many yellow lines! They also used Knowlmere Manor and Browsholme Hall for some interior shots.



Downham



Merlin © Chris Gomersall, RSPB

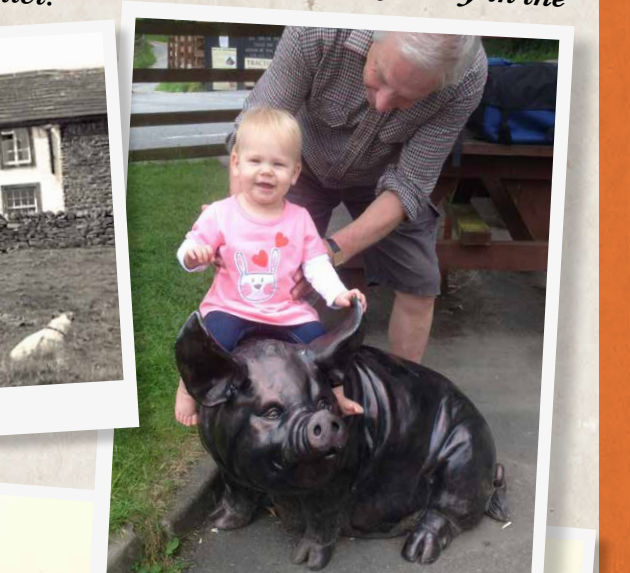
The AONB is well known for its wildlife and is a draw for photographers and birdwatchers. We spoke to a photographer who visits three or four times each week, usually early in the morning when it's quiet.



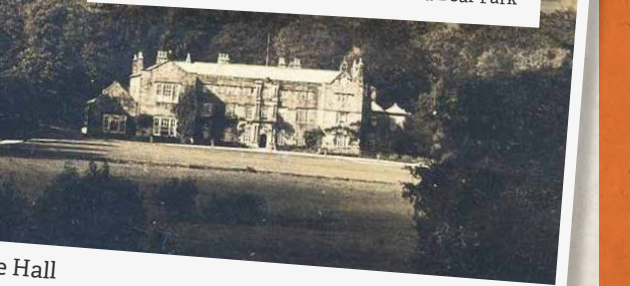
Enjoying a picnic near Cow Ark



This visitor from Australia liked the Wild Boar Park



This visitor from Australia liked the Wild Boar Park



Browsholme Hall



Neil Jones, gamekeeper for the Whitewell shoot, has been a gamekeeper for 30 years.

The large areas of moorland and woodland in the Forest of Bowland are popular with sportsmen who appreciate the care and effort that the local gamekeepers put into rearing and caring for the pheasants, grouse and partridge who thrive in these conditions.

Always a contentious topic, shooting provides a big boost to the local economy. The shooting parties will stay at local B&Bs and hotels, there are people who provide the poults for

the gamekeepers; local restaurants who regularly feature game on their menus; and the pubs who provide the meeting places for the post-shoot drinks.

Gamekeepers are also responsible for maintaining areas of the countryside which may otherwise go untended. Predators are trapped using legal traps. The first Larson trap in the Hodder Valley was made by a local gamekeeper from a picture on the front cover of the Shooting Times!



The workload of the gamekeepers has increased as there are more shooting days each year. "There are strict guidelines – some will start with a whistle and end with a horn, it's not just shooting willy nilly."

RURAL PURSUITS

Traditional rural sports and pursuits are a constant feature of the AONB. The area has three major rivers – the Wyre, Ribble and Lune – with their associated tributaries, within its boundary. All attract large numbers of fishermen and the Ribble Rivers Trust have volunteers who regularly check water samples for invertebrates which indicate how healthy the rivers and streams are so that the source of any pollution is quickly located and dealt with.



Bill Woods is an experienced waller and restored the grouse butts on Waddington Fell recently.



A lovely view of Paythorne Bridge.
**SALMON SUNDAY STILL
DRAWS CROWDS FROM
ALL OVER LANCASHIRE
AND YORKSHIRE**

"Salmon Sunday" in Paythorne in November used to be a regular event for people watching the salmon going up river to spawn.



Learning to fish in the Hodder, 1972

Sadly, the floods of 1967 which devastated Wray and Dunsop Bridge also seriously affected the rivers and it has taken 20 years for the river and fishing stock to get back to normal.



Gisburn Races party in the 1960s

Lord Ribblesdale first organised a "Point to Point" to be held in Gisburn in 1906. One of its claims to fame is that the winner of the 1980 Grand National, Ben Nevis, ran there several times.

Mr. J. N. D. Birtwistle (left) riding Billy Bland to a two-length win in the Pendle Forest and Craven Harriers' Hunt Challenge Cup race

**20,000 have
a day at
the races**

THE LAST RACE of the Pendle Forest and Craven Harriers' Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechases at Sawley on Saturday provided an exciting climax to the afternoon, with a surprise win by a 20 to 1 "outsider" Two Sorines.



Air Ambulance

The Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue was set up after two boys from Preston died on the fells in March 1962. Their HQ is at Smelt Mill Cottages in the heart of Bowland. They work closely with the Air Ambulance.

Not all animals are welcome. Moles are a constant problem for farmers and gardeners and there are several molecatchers in the area.



Mountain Rescue training on Beacon Fell

**HODDER VALLEY FOXHOUNDS
Club Whippet Racing
Open Terrier and
Ferret Racing
SUNDAY, MAY 20th, 2-30 p.m.
Racing takes place in the field
behind the Joiners Shop, Bolton-by-
Bowland
ADMISSION 50p
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE FIELD**

Looking to the Future

We are looking forward to the future, and although there will inevitably be more change we are confident that our combined efforts and passion for the Forest of Bowland will ensure that it remains an outstandingly beautiful landscape.

Scanning the horizon we see the beginnings of Ash Dieback affecting our beautiful trees and woodlands; and there are certainly more changes to come with food prices, agricultural payments and the provision of services in our villages.

However, people are working hard to protect the area, volunteers still step forward, and young people continue to take on work in farming and estate

management: so here's to the next fifty years!

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who shared stories, lent us photos, gave us the names of people to speak to, or just had time for a chat. We are also really grateful to the volunteers who gave up their time to assist with research, interviews and photography; and to the businesses and organisations who have supported the project.

This Scrapbook was compiled during the summer of 2014 and we met and spoke to as many people as possible during that time, but inevitably there will be people and stories we have missed. So, if you have more stories to tell, or photos to share,

which tell us about rural life in Bowland since 1964, please get in touch with us at www.facebook.com/bowlandscrapbook. We will continue to collect stories and to upload images and recordings to an online archive at History Pin.

Every effort has been made to report conversations accurately, and all the photographs and documents published in the Scrapbook are used with the kind permission of the contributors. Other image credits: Jon Brook (front cover); Graham Cooper (Dinckling Green, Bluebell Woods, Sheep on the fells, Walkers on Clougha); Richard Saunders, Natural England (Hen Harrier), The Traddock Hotel (Cottage Garden), Jill Skelton (Fell runners at Chipping Show).



Hen Harrier



50

SCHOOLS &
COLLEGES
SUPPORTED

15

Traditional

Have been

Way Signs

Restored

54

hectares of
hay meadow restored

16,382^{ha}
(20% of AONB)

of Sites of Special
Scientific Interest

167

organisations
involved in AONB
Partnership

88%

TOURISM OPERATORS
FEEL THAT THE AONB
IS IMPORTANT TO
BUSINESS

2400 HECTARES
OF PEATLAND

UNDERGOING ACTIVE RESTORATION

77,500

Annual number of visitors to
www.forestofbowland.com

25km

TRADITIONAL
BOUNDARIES
RESTORED

1400 km

Rights of Way



1094

£501,854

GRANTED TO
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS...



84%

AREA COVERED BY
AGRI-ENVIRONMENT
GRANTS
(529 AGREEMENTS)



★ FESTIVAL EVENTS ★

★ ORGANISED SINCE 2005

...and match funds
raised by projects

£1,030,667

NUMBER OF NEW TOURISM
BUSINESSES SINCE 2006





Champion Bowland

Champion Bowland is a charity which aims to promote, enhance, improve, protect and conserve the physical and natural environment and its natural beauty for the public benefit within the Forest of Bowland, 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' (AONB) and its environs.

Champion Bowland also advances the education of the public in the physical and natural environment and in particular the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

For further information, visit:
www.championbowland.org.uk

**CHAMPION
BOWLAND**

The Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership

The AONB is managed by a Partnership led by Lancashire County Council and made up of the six district and two county councils which cover the area; together with statutory bodies, landowners, community and interest groups.

The AONB primarily exists to 'conserve and enhance' the outstanding landscape and also to support social and economic developments where this does not conflict with the primary aim. A small staff unit is employed and funds are provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the constituent local



authorities and United Utilities – one of our major landowners. The AONB has a five year management plan which sets out its priorities and activities and this and much more information can be viewed on the website: www.forestofbowland.com.

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. HLF supported the Bowland Scrapbook through the 'Sharing Heritage' grant scheme.

