

Time to ensure the voice of bus users is heard in the National Park

There are just a couple of weeks to go for DalesBus users to respond to the consultation on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's new 2018-23 Management Plan. This is the major document which will determine policies and priorities for looking after our National Park over the next five years.

The key Policy Statement F7 in the 2013-18 YDNPA Management Plan is in fact something we, with just minor tweaking, would all agree with:

Maintain public and community transport services to meet the needs of local communities and visitors to the National Park, so that the:

- a) main visitor destinations in the National Park are accessible from their main catchments at Christmas and between Easter and October on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, and*
- b) key transport corridors linking to Harrogate, Ilkley, Ingleton, Kendal, Leyburn, Richmond, Settle and Skipton have Monday to Sunday access all year.*

The only problem is cash. Great to have good policies, but by refusing to provide any funds for visitor transport such outcomes are totally unachievable. Yet just 1% of the National Park Authority's own £5 million annual budget could enable us to fund the full DalesBus network from Easter until October.

So, help us to help you by writing to the National Park, endorsing the existing Policy F7 but making the point that this policy can only be delivered if it is given the financial support it deserves when it comes to the crucial matter of having a high priority in the National Park's own budget allocation.

Friends of DalesBus have complained for years that as around 25% of the UK population, including many young and many older people, do not have access to their own car public transport to and within the National Park for local people and visitors alike is essential to deliver Park core purpose on accessibility. So why is public transport considered a low priority for National Park funding? National Parks are for everyone, not just those who have access to their own transport.

Make your views known right away either via the online questionnaire at your.yorkshiredales.org.uk; email your.dales@yorkshiredales.org.uk; by postcard response (from National Park Centres, TICs and other outlets) or on social media using #yourdales.

The deadline for feedback is Monday July 3rd.

Escape this summer to some special Dales places

We still have a wonderful DalesBus network for everyone to enjoy. But the puzzle so far this summer season is that whilst buses to Upper Wharfedale have sometimes been packed, the DalesBus network in other parts of the Dales is not always getting as many passengers as we would like.

So here are a few ideas for great DalesBus days out in the long summer days ahead with some amazing different services to try out.

Forest of Bowland



The new **Bowland Explorer 833** opens up the heart of this wonderful Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for bus users for the first time, from both Lancashire and West Yorkshire. You can connect with the stunningly lovely Bowland Explorer bus route over Bowland Knotts to Slaidburn by catching the first Morecambe train out of Leeds (0840) to Bentham Station or catch the bus direct from Lancaster Rail or Bus Station at 0915. This also gives you a very good early arrival in Ingleton and Clapham for longer Dales walks in the Ingleborough area. But if that is too early for you, there is the 1140 bus from Clitheroe Interchange (which has an excellent connection off the X80 Preston service that leaves Skipton at 1035). This takes you on a scenic bus trip of a lifetime – to Slaidburn then over sensational Cross of Greet Pass - reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands – to Bentham and Ingleton, then over Bowland Knotts to Gisburn Forest for forest walks and cycle rides, with good return bus and rail connections. You can also connect with the services to and from the Malham Tarn Shuttle from Skipton and Malham.

Fountains Abbey & Upper Nidderdale

Fountains Flyer 822 from York now offers full and half day options to this World Heritage Site, and connections at Fountains Abbey onto **Nidderdale Rambler 825** to Brimham Rocks and Pateley Bridge, which can also be reached off service 24 from Harrogate. On alternate Sundays, you can get as far as Scar House and Middlesmoor or Greenhow, Stump Cross and Grassington again with many great walking opportunities.

Swaledale

Once again, the wonderful **Northern Dalesman 830** services from Preston, Lancaster, Ribbleshead (meeting the Settle-Carlisle train from Leeds) and Hawes or from Middlesbrough, Stockton, Darlington and Richmond take you every Sunday and Bank Holiday through glorious Swaledale and over the awesome Buttertubs Pass. The Middlesbrough service now provides a direct link to the iconic village of Keld, a great place to start a huge choice of walks, and passengers from the west can change at Muker for the waiting Arriva bus to Keld.



Wensleydale

The popular **Yorkshire Dalesman 875** is running this summer from Wakefield. Leeds and Ilkley (change at Cracoe if you are coming from Manchester, Burnley or Skipton) direct over the Kidstones Pass to Bishopdale for West Burton, Aysgarth and Hawes. But if you want to get there earlier, the trick is to catch the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle train to Ribbleshead or Garsdale, pick up **Northern Dalesman 830** or **Little White Bus 855** to Hawes, and then connect onto **Acorn Wensleydale Flyer 856** for Bainbridge, Aysgarth, Leyburn and Northallerton.

York passengers can link with the early 856 westwards from Northallerton Station by catching an early train from York.

Dentdale

Not only is there a superb direct Western Dales bus service (S1, S2) every Saturday and Sunday direct from Dent Station to Dent village and Sedbergh – perfect for people wanting to walk this especially lovely section of The Dales Way - but on Sundays the **Cautley Flyer S2** is extended to fascinating Fairfield Mill (exhibitions, shops, café, and an easy riverside stroll back to Sedbergh) then on to Cautley, from where, after a welcoming coffee at the Cross Keys, the National Trust owned Temperance Inn, you can walk up to the dramatic Cautley Spout waterfall, then take a leisurely 4½ mile stroll back to Sedbergh for the 1733 S2 for Dent Station.

For the really energetic, take the steep path near the Spout up into Bowderdale, to ascend The Calf, highest point (676 metres) in the Howgill Fells then follow a beautiful ridge top path across the awesome Howgills back into Sedbergh. This is a great classic walk, with views, on a clear day, to the Lake District and the Coast, something to remember for a lifetime.

For most people, this walk is only possible with the Cautley Flyer bus. A special £6 return ticket for any holder of a train ticket to Dent also cuts cost, whilst senior passes are valid for free travel.



So, take advantage of these marvellous opportunities on the wonderful summer DalesBus network. These may not be there in future years given the difficulty we face in funding. Remember DalesBus Rover tickets - see the Metro DalesBus timetable booklet for detailed times and fares - can not only cut costs, but you can take up to two children with every ticket. Even where senior passes are not valid, the £7 Privilege Rover ticket for seniors, students, and railcard holders slashes the cost. £7 won't even buy two pints of beer in many pubs!

Enjoy this wonderful Summer DalesBus network whilst you can! The more people we carry, the stronger our case in 2018 to secure funds to keep them running.

The summer network ends on September 24th. Don't just come yourself, but bring friends and families, whenever they can between now and then. If buses are not well used, they simply won't be there in 2018. It's up to everyone to spread the word. No use grumbling when they are gone; talking of which....

Autumn weekend bus cuts in Nidderdale and Wharfedale

It now looks fairly certain that two popular all year bus routes to the Dales will cease Sunday or Saturday operation because of funding cuts and declining passenger numbers this autumn. The winter Sunday bus 24 between Harrogate and Pateley Bridge will cease in September (exact date to be confirmed at the time of writing), and Saturday service 74 between Ilkley, Bolton Abbey and Grassington finishes on 28th October.

This is bleak news but gives an indication of what might happen to the whole of DalesBus network if we fail to attract enough passengers and funding to the network. So, it is up to everyone to do all we can to fill our Summer buses in 2017 to enable services to be there for us in 2018.

Dales Rambler Day Ranger Tickets

Please note that following a recent change by Northern, Dales Rambler Day Ranger Tickets cannot currently be used for train travel before 0930 on Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays).

Ingleborough Walks

A series of 10 leaflets describing walks around Ingleborough has been produced by the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company, a subsidiary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, in partnership with Friends of DalesBus and Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line, to encourage environmentally sustainable access to Ingleborough.

Ingleborough Walks forms part of the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership's Stories in Stone project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. For further details of the project and work of the Trust visit www.storiesinstone.org.uk and www.ydmt.org.

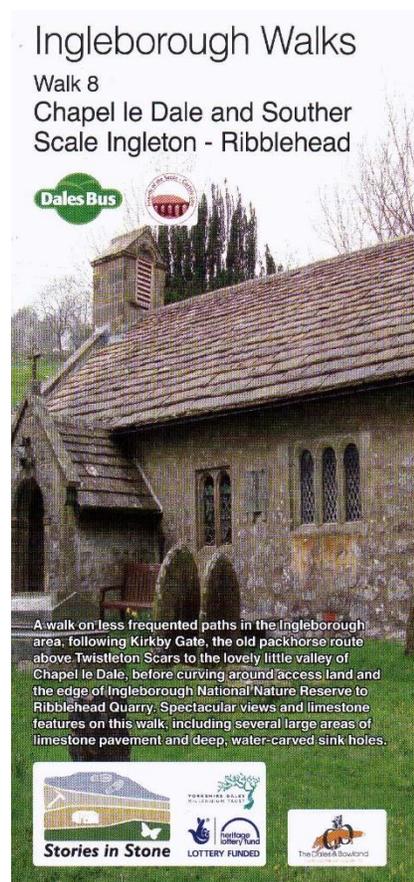
Copies of the leaflets are available at local outlets including the railway stations and tourist information offices in Skipton, Settle, Ingleton and Ribbleshead. They can also be downloaded as PDF files from www.dalesbus.org

More DalesBus Volunteers needed

We need more people to help us distribute literature in your local area, particularly in city centres and suburbs of towns like Leeds, Bradford, with an immediate need for help in Middlesbrough, Darlington and Stockton areas.

We also need volunteers to help on bus services themselves, including managing a DalesBus passenger survey this summer if there are enough helpers. The purpose of such a survey would be to prove the important value and benefit DalesBus has for so many people, to justify keeping the services. We also hope to have the results of a Leeds University student's work undertaken in Spring, to help demonstrate what DalesBus means especially to those on low incomes or with special needs, essential facts as an "evidence base" to support our case.

Jan Stallworthy, the director of the D&BCIC who has a special responsibility for literature distribution and co-ordinating DalesBus volunteers, would like to hear from anyone willing to help us in any way - please email her at janstallworthy@john-lewis.com, or give your contact details to any DalesBus Committee member.



The image shows the cover of a leaflet titled 'Ingleborough Walks'. The main heading is 'Walk 8 Chapel le Dale and Souther Scale Ingleton - Ribbleshead'. Below the title are logos for 'DalesBus' and 'SETTLE'. The central image is a photograph of a stone building with a gabled roof and a chimney. Below the photo is a short paragraph of text: 'A walk on less frequented paths in the Ingleborough area, following Kirkby Gate, the old packhorse route above Twistleton Scars to the lovely little valley of Chapel le Dale, before curving around access land and the edge of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve to Ribbleshead Quarry. Spectacular views and limestone features on this walk, including several large areas of limestone pavement and deep, water-carved sink holes.' At the bottom of the leaflet are three logos: 'Stories in Stone', 'Heritage Lottery Fund LOTTERY FUNDED', and 'The Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company'.