

Austwick Field and Local History Society

Spring and Summer 2025 Programme of Talks and Walks

The summer season of talks by local speakers has been well attended with typically 40-50 members and guests attending the talks.

Recent evening events in the Austwick Parish large Hall have covered:

- A talk by Alastair McKee from the RSPB on ospreys
- A talk by Gail Armstrong on bats



The Society's members have also enjoyed two guided excellent guided walks in July:

- A visit to the Hoffmann kiln with David Johnson
- A visit to Foulshaw Moss with Alastair McKee to see the ospreys



If you are not a member and would like to know more about our season of talks this autumn or to be included on our records for future meeting notices, please contact our membership secretary Tony Horsewill on tonyhorsewill@me.com.

Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026 Programme of Talks

Annual membership of the Society runs from September 2025 and costs £12 per person. All are welcome to our meetings and the cost for non-members is £3 per person (cash only please) at the door. Refreshments will also be available. Talks start at 7.30 pm in Austwick Village (large) Hall. Members wishing to renew their membership should send their fee to the Society's bank account by BACS or bring cash to one of the autumn meetings. *If possible please pay membership fees for 25/26 season by BACS to Austwick Field and Local History Society, Lloyds Bank, Lancaster Branch, Sort code 30-14-60, Account No 01521471. Please include your full name in the BACS payment details.*

The evening talks programme for autumn 2025 and spring 2026 is now finalised and a free printed programme is available at the autumn meetings from September

2025. Details of all the summer 2025/ spring 2026 evening programme talks are also displayed on the Austwick Village website and the notice board next to Cross Leigh Stores in Austwick and elsewhere in Settle and surrounding villages and towns including Settle, Feizor, Giggleswick, Eldroth, Lawkland, Bentham and Ingleton.

The talks will as usual be in Austwick village (large) hall and are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month from September 2025. (Please note the altered timing of the October 2025 which is on the third Wednesday of October and our December 2025 talk which is on the second Wednesday of December).

The topics of the forthcoming Wednesday evening talks during autumn 2025/ spring 2026 are as follows: **Craven Place Names, Edward Elgar's links to Giggleswick, Sustainable Farming in the Dales and the Clapham Wader Monitoring Project, Droving, Wild Ingleborough, RSPB Bird Investigations, Geology Giants, Common Land, The Work of the Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre, and Fossils and Fossil Hunters in the Yorkshire Dales.**

The first autumn talk by **Mike Spence** on **Craven Place Names** was held on Wednesday 17th September 2025 from and attracted more than 50 members and guests. The talk examined the history of Craven and its towns and villages, by looking at the names assigned to them long ago by the people who lived in or controlled the area. Most names still in use today will be seen to have originated around a thousand years ago, and in some cases, several centuries earlier. The talk was very interesting and informative, and proved a fitting opening talk for this autumn's events.

Possible Speakers for the 2025/2026 Season of Evening Talks

Would anyone with a suggestion for an interesting speaker-ideally someone in the North Craven area-to give a talk to the Society in the autumn 2026/spring 2027 season on a suitable field or local history topic kindly contact me at graham.cleverly1@gmail.com. Please include contact details of the speaker and where you found out about them.

Nature Recovery Update

The Society has undertaken several conservation schemes over the past few months in line with its revised constitution. See a separate article describing the sand martin nesting box. Our thanks to David Baker who built the box using a grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust.



The restoration of the Feizor hay meadow is the biggest ongoing project and to date the existing stone wall has been repaired and re-fencing of the northern perimeter is also now complete. Strimming and clearance of brambles has recently started now the bird nesting season is over and will be followed by removal of bramble roots and sowing of wild flower seeds later in the autumn. Volunteer help will be needed for this exercise-if you are fit and keen to help, please contact Alex Pilkington (alexpilk@msn.com) if you are interested.

The Society received a generous grant from the Austwick Open Gardens event recently and the money will go towards funding current and future nature recovery schemes. If you have identified a possible nature recovery scheme in your neighbourhood please let me know.

Graham Cleverly
AFLHS Chairman