

LOCAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE: THORNTON STEWARD HERITAGE TRAIL

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Village to launch heritage trail

A SMALL village in Wensleydale launches its own heritage trail and local walks booklet on Sunday, June 22.

Local artist, Jo Stockdale, has done pencil and pen and ink illustrations of Thornton Steward for the booklet, and there will be an exhibition of her art in the village institute on Thursday, June 19, from 7pm to 9pm.

Thornton Steward is a very small village overlooking the River Ure and the abbey of Jervaux. There were many beautiful scenes for Mrs Stockdale to choose from. She is well known for her superb studies of horses and other animals.

On June 22, the launch of the booklet will be coupled with an open gardens afternoon from 2pm to 5pm. This will give visitors a chance to enjoy the gardens and visit St Oswald's Church.

Teas will be served in the vil-

lage institute and home-made cakes and plants will be on sale.

The booklet has been produced thanks to a Countryside Agency heritage initiative grant. The villagers applied for this following a parish appraisal which showed that many would like to learn more about the heritage assets of the area.

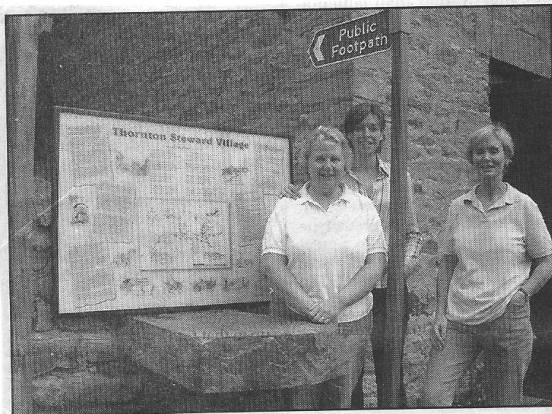
The appraisal also showed that the institute and St Oswald's were places the community saw as important. From this they were able to obtain a grants from Awards for All and a number of other local funds enabling them to undertake essential repairs to the institute.

The heritage grant has also provided for a management plan for the churchyard which will make it easier to maintain in the future. All these projects have led to the joining together of the church and institute fundraising efforts.

THORNTON STEWARD

Heritage event. – Gardens are open and there is an art exhibition in the village on Sunday, June 22, to celebrate the publication of its heritage trail and local walks booklet. The preview of the art exhibition by Jo Stockdale is from 7-9pm on Thursday in the village hall. This includes pencil and pen'n'ink scenes of the local area and her

other recent works in pastels and oils. The open day on Sunday is from 2-5pm with teas in the village institute and the sale of home-made cakes and plants.



VILLAGE TALE: Sue Hird (left) and Julia Waterman (right) with artist Jo Stockdale beside Thornton Steward's new interpretation board

Then, in 2002, they successfully applied for the Countryside Agency Heritage Initiative Grant. This also provided for a management plan for the churchyard which will assist towards easier maintenance in the future.

Any profits from their booklet will be used to restore and maintain their heritage and may help in providing a children's play area.

Four walks are described in the booklet with details of distance and how long they take, either at a brisk pace or as a family.

That classic route, which includes Jervaux Abbey and stops for sustenance at the tea rooms and Cover Bridge Inn, can take up to four hours. It is mainly over flat ground and goes through two historic parks.

There are stories of ancient superstitions and haunted water meadows as well as historical details.

LINKS WITH THE PAST: Examples of drawings by Jo Stockdale which illustrate the new heritage booklet on the village of Thornton Steward

The second walk is entitled "The Cover Bridge Pint"! On this one, a family can take an hour to reach the Cover Bridge Inn from Thornton Steward. Featuring some magnificent views of Wensleydale towards Penhill, it goes through the pasture and parkland of Danby Hall and past St Oswald's.

The third walk is to Thornton Steward Reservoir, where there is a car park by the picnic area, while the fourth extends this walk to Finghall and the Queen's Head pub. All the walks are clearly described.

