



## **DalesBus celebrates 70 years of National Parks and Access to the Countryside**

It is exactly 70 years since the passage of the great 1949 National Park and Access to the Countryside Act. DalesBus, the highly acclaimed network of weekend bus service to the Yorkshire Dales National Park is marking the anniversary by operating several new and improved Sunday and Bank Holiday bus services to and through the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB.

Highlights for summer 2019 include:

- A new Saturday DalesBus 74 bus direct from the centre of Bradford to Bolton Abbey, Burnsall and Grassington, partly financed by contributions from the Bradford Sikh community to improve access to the Dales for people from all cultures and backgrounds
- A new circular sightseeing DalesBus 857/830 through Wensleydale and Swaledale over Buttertubs Pass providing access from urban Teesside, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
- An improved DalesBus 821 service from Keighley and Otley to Upper Nidderdale giving opportunity for those without cars to reach the footpaths and public access land of the popular Reservoir Country of Upper Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley.
- A new bus DalesBus 825 service from Harrogate linking to Brimham Rocks, Kirkby Malzeard and the attractive village of Masham
- A direct new service from Malham on DalesBus 881, meeting trains at Settle to serve Slaidburn in the Forest of Bowland AONB.
- A unique double deck sightseeing bus 822 between York and Fountains Abbey, Grassington and Upper Wharfedale, crossing the Kidstone Pass to Hawes – offering magnificent panoramic sightseeing from the top deck.

Paul Harrison, Chairman of the Friends of DalesBus commented: *"DalesBus in 2019 is enabling people living in many congested towns and cities of Northern England to enjoy exactly what Parliament intended – weekend access opportunities to the wonderful countryside and open spaces of the Yorkshire Dales for walking and sightseeing"*.

Chris Nash, Chairman of the Dales & Bowland CIC (the not-for-profit subsidiary of the Charity the Friends of the Dales) that manages the DalesBus network added: *There are compelling social, environmental and economic reasons why good public access at affordable fares is needed to reach our National Parks. The network which we have been able to provide, thanks to vital support from many different individuals and organisations, gives superb access to some of the finest countryside in England.*

Full details of all the Summer DalesBus service are given in the Summer Metro DalesBus timetable, now just issued which is available at bus and rail stations, libraries and main visitor and community centres throughout the region, together with more local service guides. All can be downloaded directly from [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org). All services start on Easter Saturday and Sunday, April 20/21, except for the 830/857 services from Preston and Teesside to Swaledale and Wensleydale, which only commence on May 19<sup>th</sup>. *Note for editors: For further information contact Colin Speakman, Vice Chair, Friends of DalesBus 01943 430652/07722 162957.*