

# THE BOOK OF THE WASHBURN VALLEY

Diana Parsons

The vast literature on the Yorkshire Dales contains virtually nothing about the Washburn Valley which, in all but name, is one of them. Yet in addition to its natural beauty, this area has a most interesting history. It is still possible to follow the line of the Roman road which crosses it, and to see the stones which marked the boundaries of a medieval hunting ground, the Royal Forest of Knaresborough. It was once the home of Cromwell's General, Sir Ferdinand Fairfax, and was often visited by the artist Turner who stayed at Farnley Hall with the Horton-Fawkes family of which Guy Fawkes was a member. During the Industrial Revolution the upper part of the valley housed a series of textile mills powered by the river, and in more recent years it has become the home of four large reservoirs which supply the city of Leeds. With the assistance of a large archive of pictures and maps, this book traces and records the buildings, lives and activities of the people of Yorkshire's forgotten dale.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

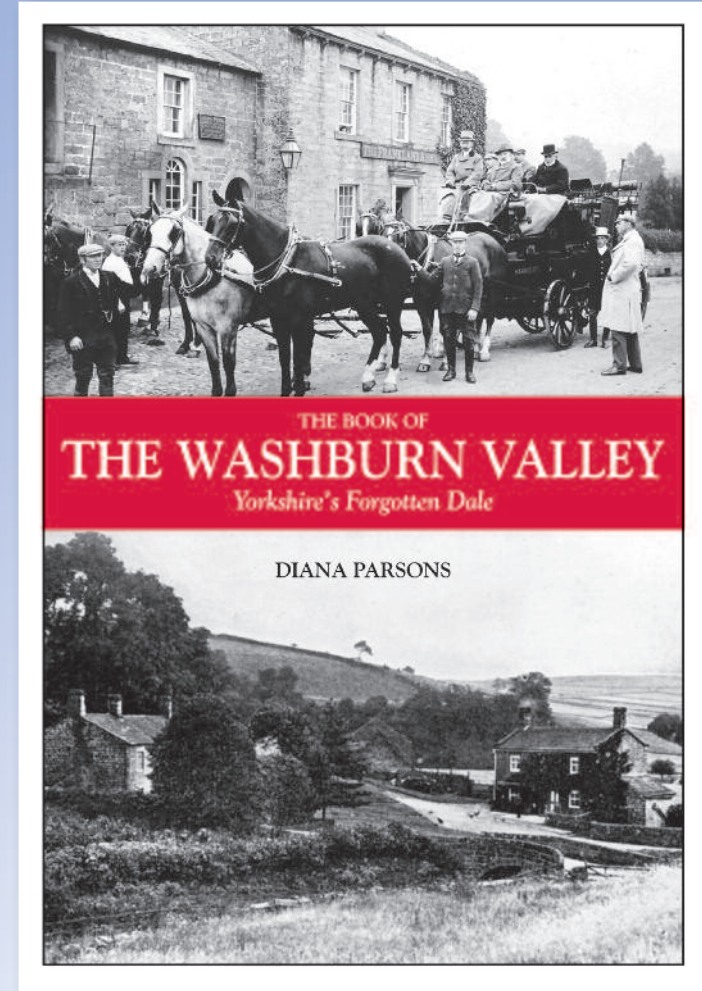
A freelance historian and writer, **Diana Parsons** has been studying the history of the Washburn Valley for more than twenty years. She is the ex-Chairman of the Friends of Fewston Church and is now the historian to the Washburn Heritage Centre at Fewston Church. She has an M.Phil. degree in history from the University of Leeds and in 2003 published a book, *In Search of Freedom*, a study of a Yorkshire farming family which emigrated to Illinois in 1831. For some years

Diana has worked as a freelance journalist, writing in particular for *Country Life*, *This England*, *Countryman*, *Heritage*, *Dalesman* and *Brontë Studies*, the journal of the Brontë Society based at Haworth in Yorkshire.

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Jesse Peel serving a customer.



Above: Rocking School pupils c.1900 with Mrs Evelyn Hiley.



Left: Demolition of Holy Trinity.



Left: Land Girls Annie and Ellen Stone at Bray House Farm.

Below: Bridge Cottages, Blubberhouses.



Example of a double-page spread.



Building a corn stack at Haddockstones Farm, Farnley.

