



Welcome to
Sykes House Bed and Breakfast
Main Street, Askrigg, North Yorkshire, DL8 3HT
Tel: 01969 650535
www.sykeshouse.co.uk

We hope your stay with us meets your expectations and you feel relaxed and comfortable
in our home.

If you have any questions or problems please speak to us

Thank you

Alison and Michael

ABOUT SYKES HOUSE AND ASKRIGG

Sykes House is thought to have been built in the 1600's, it is a Grade 2 listed building and therefore it retains many of its original features including the stone spiral staircase, exposed beams, sash windows and fireplaces. On the front of the building can be seen the Winged Wheels of the Cycling Touring Club, more information can be read at the back of this pack but we do know that around 1888 our plaque was placed and members then knew that they would be welcome to stop during their journey and have refreshments. The building was a Temperance Hotel at this time, so consequently; only tea, coffee and soft drinks would be served.

Previous owners of Sykes House opened up their living room as a shop to serve the local community and it has grown into the store it is today along with the Tea Room and B&B.

The cottage next door to the shop was not built until the late 1700's, there used to be stone steps outside that led up to a hatch that is now behind the bread shelf. People would approach outside and whilst remaining on their horses would be served refreshments (mainly ale) through the hatch.

Askrigg is a wonderful village in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, it has a rich history as a former market town, but in more recent years it has become famous for its role as the fictional Darrowby in the BBC TV series All Creatures Great and Small. Fans may recognize Cringley House as Skeldale House and The Kings Arms being the Drovers Arms in the series. Askrigg also boasts three pubs (The Kings Arms, The White Rose and The Crown that all serve excellent food and drinks, the local church of St Oswald which was erected about 1466, a deli and of course a tea room and general store.

The name Askrigg is of Old Norse origin meaning *the ridge where ash trees grew*, denoting the existence of Viking settlers and their farming. The oldest settlement probably dates back to the Iron Age.

FIRE, SAFETY OR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

In the event of fire, and hearing the alarm please leave your room immediately, go down the stairs and out of the front door following the signs. The door to your room should be closed as you leave. Please proceed to the assembly point (the village cross) where we will meet you and keep you informed of information.

If you discover a fire which you cannot extinguish immediately, vacate the room (making sure the door is closed behind you) and alert us and other guests before proceeding to the assembly point (village cross).

If you have an emergency, we can be found either in the shop, kitchen or in our flat on the top floor, or dial 999.

SERVICING OF ROOMS AND DEPARTURE

Rooms are serviced daily, the hospitality tray is refreshed, bins emptied and the bed made. The bathroom is cleaned; towels will be replaced if necessary.

We do ask that guests checkout by 10.30 so that we have time to prepare for the next guests. Please remember to return your room key on departure!

YOUR ROOM

Hairdryer: there is a hairdryer in one of the drawers.

Bedding: there is a blanket in the bottom of your wardrobe. If you require extra pillows please ask.

Iron and ironing board: available upon request.

Hospitality tray: please ask if you need more tea, coffee, sugar or biscuits.

Fresh milk is available on request as is a complimentary pot of freshly brewed tea or a cafetiere of coffee if we are around.

Please do not fill the kettle beyond the full line as it will boil over.

Smoking: The entire house is a no smoking zone. We would appreciate your co-operation with this.

TELEPHONE SIGNAL

Mobile signal is poor in the Dales. There is a phone box outside the church opposite. If you need to make an emergency call please ask to use our landline.

INTERNET ACCESS

We have free WiFi, Wireless network/SSID: BTHub5-MG5S, wireless password/key: haveanicestay!

NOISE

It is very difficult to sound proof such an old house and some noises do travel. We try to be as quiet as possible particularly in the mornings but once the shop is open this is more difficult.

HEATING

If you do feel cold, please let us know and we will adjust the heating. The heating is thermostatically controlled and you can adjust the control on the radiator in your room. The hot water is usually on, so there should be plenty for baths and showers at most times during the day.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is served between 8.00am and 9.00am in the dining room which is the first doorway on the left in the hall. If you require your breakfast at an earlier time please ask.

MENU

A selection of cereal and juice are available. Porridge and yogurt are available on request

Followed by your choice of some or all of the following:

Pork or Quorn Sausage

Bacon

Black pudding

Fried, poached or scrambled egg

Tomato

Mushrooms

Baked Beans

Omelette with mushroom or cheese

Smoked Salmon & scrambled egg

White or Brown Toast

Your breakfast is served with a choice of Yorkshire Tea or a cafetiere of fresh coffee.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please order these the night before you want them and your sandwich will be freshly prepared in the morning and ready for you to collect after breakfast, typical fillings include cheese, ham, egg or tuna with tomato, cucumber or chutney, you can choose other items from the shop. A flask will be filled on request.

THINGS TO DO [add website links](#)

Mill Gill Force is a spectacular local waterfall, about three quarters of a mile to the north-west in Askrigg. Its waters pour down around 25 feet into a steep rocky ravine hidden in woodland. The waterfall can be reached by a 15 minute walk from the Sykes's House.

A short drive west from Askrigg is Hardraw Force, England's largest single drop waterfall, a reputed 100 foot drop. It can be accessed for a fee through the Green Dragon Pub in Hardraw.

Semer Water near Bainbridge is a good base to start many good walks.

The market town of Hawes is another short drive west from Askrigg. Hawes is in the heart of Wensleydale and is a typical Yorkshire Dales town full of character and charm. It is home to the famous Wensleydale Cheese visitors centre where you can watch the production and sample some tasty treats! You can learn about the history of the dales at the Dales Countryside Museum or visit one of several craft workshops, antique and other speciality shops. Market day is on a Tuesday

Ingleborough Caves and White Scar Caves are both well worth a visit.

Bolton Castle is of great historical interest as Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned there. The Castle is open to the public with lots to do and see.

Thorpe Perrow Arboretum in Bedale covers 100 acres and boasts one of the largest collections of shrubs and trees in the North of England, including 5 National Collections. The Bird of Prey and Mammal Centre offers fascinating flying demonstrations and the chance to meet mammals such as meerkats, wallabies, pygmy goats and Shetland sheep. It is such a wonderful place to go and spend the day at any time of the year, the tearoom is excellent, but it is also a great place to take a picnic.

There are plenty of walks and hikes to be found in the surrounding areas which provide stunning views. We have local maps available to buy or borrow.

PLACES TO EAT

There are three very good pubs in the village:

The Kings Arms (01969 650113) serves fresh locally sourced food. The menu features the best of local, seasonal produce and changes frequently. The emphasis is on excellent quality food served in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. The game comes straight from the local moors and the fish is delivered fresh from Hartlepool docks, both vary according to season and availability.

There is always an interesting variety of vegetarian dishes on the menu and a wholesome, home cooked children's menu.

Lunch & Dinner times:

Lunch Monday to Sunday: 12pm till 2.30pm
Dinner Monday to Saturday: 5.30pm till 9pm
Sunday: 5.30pm till 8pm

It is advisable to book a table particularly during weekends and the busy summer season.

The White Rose (01969 650515) has a tastefully designed and equipped traditional Yorkshire bar providing a perfect setting for professionally prepared and cooked light snacks and bar meals.

Lunches and Dinners are served in the new light and airy Orangery which has lovely views over the pretty beer garden. A mouth-watering range of dishes are available on a regularly changing menu.

Dinner is also served in the candlelit intimate and traditional White Rose Restaurant. An a la carte menu is offered, all cooked to a high standard, using fresh local produce. A comprehensive and realistic priced wine list and a fine selection of real ales are also available.

The Crown (01969 650387) is a totally traditional Dales pub that serves good ales and good well prepared traditional meals. Meat comes from the local butcher and fresh seasonal vegetables are offered. The desserts are homemade.

Food is served at lunchtime from 12.00 – 14.00, and evening meals from 18.30 – 20.45

Pre bookings are not taken

A HISTORY OF THE WINGED WHEELS

The badge of the Cyclists' Touring Club adorns buildings all over the country. To the ordinary member today their presence may seem surprising: why should the symbol of a small club crop up in such a way and, indeed, be manifested in such relatively extravagant signs? The 24in-diameter cast-iron "wheels" are pretty heavy and usually they are firmly bolted to the masonry of the buildings they adorn - which is of course why they are still there after a hundred years. Other than deliberate monuments and some buildings, very few such casual artefacts of the late Victorian era remain today. The wheels were obviously expensive to manufacture, and probably even more so to distribute and affix, and are a small tribute to the vision and power of the early management of the Club. They date from the era when the bicycle was the fastest form of road transport, that brief period following its maturity as an invention and before it was swamped by the motor car.

The New Cyclists

The new 'safety bicycle' of the 1880s and 90s increased the popularity of cycling among the richer and more leisured professional classes, making it more accessible to those who had been unwilling or unable to use the earlier High Ordinaries. The expectations of this class were higher, and their influence and spending power carried weight. They demanded, and got, a system of hotel and inn grading and discounts long before the AA came into existence and instituted its 'star' ratings. The CTC was formed in Harrogate in 1878 by Stanley Cotterell. He enlisted members' help and appointed regional officials who were later to be known as Consuls. By 1881 he had 785 establishments under contract, and proprietors jumped to enter into contracts with the CTC, offering fixed tariffs, reserved rooms and exclusive lounges for cyclists to use.

Winged Wheels

It was not until 1888 that the Club devised and placed its 2ft-diameter wheel on buildings as evidence that they were 'CTC appointments', originally made of cast iron later to be replaced by enamel ones. Until that time proprietors had often made their own signs, opening up the possibility of fraud. Such was the competition for appointment that jealousy between establishments was often in evidence relating to the awarding of the coveted 'Headquarters' - meriting tariff A, or 'Quarters' - qualifying only for tariff B. The status was clearly shown by a small tab on the sign. By 1895 these tariffs were getting difficult to maintain and the structure was revised in favour of a discount system, while plain wheel signs with no inscription were issued. The old structure was phased out between 1897 and 1899. Club archives show that by 1902 discounts were enforced only by concerted effort and that by 1908 they had disappeared.

This follows the decline of fashionable cycling and the advent of the motor car pretty accurately, although it must be said that there is not much evidence to suggest that motorists negotiated their own special terms. It must have been as true then as now that you can't beat a cyclist for watching the pennies! The manufacture of official signs had been delayed a considerable time until 1888; the original shield emblem which dated from the formation of Cotterell's Bicycle Touring Club had not been superseded as the Club's badge by the daring 'Winged wheel' until in 1886 and it presumably took a couple of years for the CTC to hit on the idea of charging hoteliers a hefty deposit for them. The cast-iron wheel nevertheless remained

the property of the club - and so it remains to this day, although it might be a little difficult to enforce after all this time! Nothing is known today of the place of manufacture, but the badges were issued to be painted black with white wings and lettering. In parallel with these appointments came the appearance of the CTC Handbook, an impressive volume in which hoteliers paid for inclusion. Appointments were also made for `Repairers', and this is now a very rare badge. Great emphasis was placed on the inclusion of temperance hotels, a burning social issue of the time. A sign remains on Sykes House, Askrigg, which was at one time a temperance hotel.

Other Signs

From the beginning of the Club in 1878 it was realised that certain dangerous roads and hills needed warning signs and local groups often posted their own until in 1883 the CTC took over the matter nationally. There are still a few of these, but they have not been as durable as the hotel signs. Erected in conjunction with the old NCU - partial forerunner of today's BCF, and then latterly alone, they were finally superseded by local authority road signs. At first, local authorities sought CTC help and, to this day, the CTC retains the same rights as the AA and RAC to erect signs.

After the heyday of the cast iron sign, several other versions have been used to indicate appointments. These are much less well documented. After the Great War, embossed copper square badges were used. These were followed by black-and-yellow enamel square signs and then similar round signs available through into the 1950s. There are still many of these in existence.

A summary

Tracing this aspect of CTC history seems a small thing. The twentieth century preoccupation with the motor car still obscures a full tribute and realisation of the role that the bicycle played in the development of modern society, paving the way for technical developments in many fields, and paving the way for the emancipation and levelling of modern society. The persistence of these signs marks a grand gesture in a particular transient point of history, and in that fleeting instant we can look back and marvel at the breadth of vision of the Club that placed them.

Keith Matthews was a member of the CTC Council and secretary of Wessex CTC at the time of writing this article which appeared in the CTC Club Magazine in June 1993. In compiling the listing of the signs and the research into their history, he acknowledges the help of the CTC archives and the responses of many interested club members and non-members around the country.