

## Tales from DalesRail

### Dentdale – a walk from Dent Station to Dent (and back by coach or foot!) John Barnes

*DalesRail may not be operating in 2020 but that doesn't stop us sharing our many interesting experiences about our journeys. We hope you will share your interesting stories, favourite walks, fascinating anecdotes, and pictures about DalesRail. Please send them to [richard.watts.crl@gmail.com](mailto:richard.watts.crl@gmail.com) or Simon Clarke at [simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com](mailto:simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com).*

Dent station is the highest mainline station in England at 1150 feet above sea level. It is also one of the most remote being four miles from Dent village and set in a niche between Rise Hill and Great Knoutberry Hill. From Dent Station there is a fine view of Dentdale with Whernside and Great Coum prominent. Dent station also has its own waterfall. In times of heavy rain, Monkey Beck thunders its way past Blackmire above, and beneath the line on its way to join the River Dee at Lea Yeat.



I often look back and remember with pleasure the places where I have spent pleasant days in summer walking the hills and dales. One such is Dentdale which is a paradise of wildflowers and colour, not to mention the views of Great Coum, Whernside, Middleton Fells and the long ridge from Rise Hill to its end on Frostow Fells.

*“Look down upon it from the railway carriage window as you speed north. Emerging from the darkness of the Blea Moor tunnel your eyes are delighted by the dreaming enchantment of the scene opening out below, meadows, pastures, scattered farms, with windbreaks of trees, wandering paths, winding lanes, and the walls of the valley cut by scores of sykes and becks, each one making its own way in*

*deep ghylls to the dale floor. The whole is like a cradle and, watching, you would not be surprised to see it begin to rock gently under the blue sky.*

*This is Dentdale in summer guise. But winter! Gales howl over Dent Head, over Newby Moor, over the wild wastelands of Wherside and rage over Rise Hill and Knoutberry Hill.*

*Up by the railway, winter is fierce. That is why several banks of railway sleepers stand above the line on the upper eastward side, upended as snow barriers to prevent drifts blocking the line.”*

What contrasts Dentdale holds!

**Here is a walk down Dentdale using the coach connection to return to Dent Station.**

Map: Ordnance Survey OL2 – Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western Areas.

From Dent Station we proceed down the road to Lea Yeat noting the many varieties of wildflower by the wayside. At Lea Yeat we join the **Dales Way** and continue through fields and farms to Wherside Manor noting the rather uncommon butterfly orchids at Ewegales



on the way and taking time to admire the view as we go. From Wherside Manor we turn up Dyke Hall Lane into Deepdale and on to the stepping-stones over Deepdale Beck below Blake Rigg and continue downstream along Deepdale Beck to Bridge End. At Bridge End we join the Dales Way again which we follow by the River Dee to Dent. Having arrived at Dent we will have walked 7 miles and, if we have strolled gently and taken time to browse, may take some refreshment and get the coach back to Dent Station. Feeling rather more strenuous; from Debt we may take the road back to Dent Station which is 4 miles or use the

more interesting footpaths through Backstonegill, Peggleswright, Broadfield House, Spice Gill etc to Cowgill and then by road to Dent Station which may add another mile to the walk.

