

# People in the Park



## The Dark Side of the Moor



**IT'S the eighteenth century. You're standing on the cliffs at Ravenscar looking out over a stormy North Sea.**

The alum works are in full flow, filling the air with pungent fumes. Smugglers take advantage of the rugged coastline and the rabbit warren alleyways of nearby Baytown to conduct their illicit trade. It's also a time of magical spells and mysterious creatures.

This is the world that Graham Taylor, the vicar of Cloughton, will transport you to in his debut novel, *Shadowmancer*.

*Shadowmancer* was originally self-published and copies sold very well locally. News of the book soon spread and Graham was signed to Faber and Faber. *Shadowmancer* was released nationwide in June this year attracting both critical acclaim and commercial success. So much success in fact that

**JIM JOHNSON, National Park Communicator, interviews the man behind the *Shadowmancer* phenomenon**

original copies of the book have become highly collectable, "All my parishioners appear to have bought a first edition," comments Graham, "which are now selling for over £1,000 each."

The North York Moors had a major influence on *Shadowmancer*. "Living in Yorkshire you always have an ear for a good tale", Graham explains, "and my inspiration was literally drawn from the area in which I live." The moorland itself fuels Graham's imagination. "If you have ever spent a night alone on the Moors you will know that they are able to conjure with the mind. The wind seems to speak to you and you

soon believe the trees are whispering to each other as the heather rustles and chatters all around."

*Shadowmancer* is the story of three children who battle against an evil sorcerer. It's packed with local folklore, something that fascinates Graham. "I have always been interested in the legends of the North Riding and spent many hours looking for the ghost of Sarkless Kitty and many other spectres that allegedly walk the moorland paths," he says. "We have thousands of years of history that have to be preserved, my hope with *Shadowmancer* is that it excites children to find out about our wonderful history for themselves and to visit

the locations in the book."

Apart from four years in London, Graham has always lived in the area of the National Park. Raincliffe Woods were his playground as a child and the Cleveland Way was another favourite haunt, now he enjoys exploring the National Park with his family. "The best day I could think of would be to ride from my home in Scarborough to Raven Hall on the old railway." This cycle route offers spectacular views, and passes right through the heart of *Shadowmancer* territory.

So what's next for Graham? *Shadowmancer* is to be released in the States in April 2004 while his next book, *Wormwood*, is coming out in June 2004. Graham's fourth book will again be set in Yorkshire. "It's called *Boggle* and is about the life of a character from *Shadowmancer* called Beadle who goes to live near Boggle Mill, near Robin Hood's Bay and gets involved in all sorts of gruesome deeds."

## MIKE WELBOURN



**IT IS with great regret that we report the death of Mike Welbourn, Head of Policy at the National Park Authority.**

Mike died suddenly at his home on August 25th at the too-early age of 48. Mike had worked for the National Park since 1988 and was hugely dedicated to the work of the Authority. Mike's funeral was held on September 1st in St Peter and St Paul's Church in Pickering.

Mike was a valued and much respected colleague. With his sharp intellect and analytical mind he made an outstanding contribution to rural policy issues in the region and National Parks generally. He was a key mover in helping develop many of the partnerships that now exist to create a vibrant and sustainable rural economy and his part in helping move the rural agenda forward will be a lasting tribute to him.

He leaves his wife Sue and children Megan and Joe, to whom we offer our heartfelt sympathies. At Sue's suggestion, a collection is being made for Greenpeace. If you would like to contribute, please send cheques to Tom Gill at the National Park Authority.

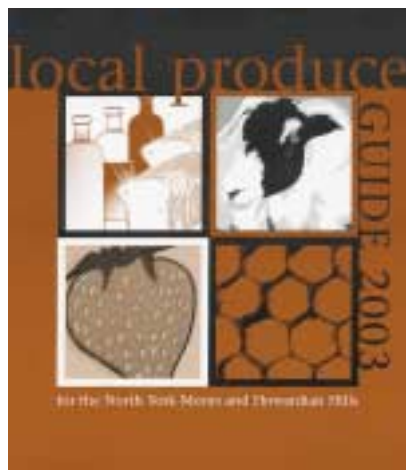
The Authority would like to celebrate Mike's life and work with a suitable memorial and is now considering ideas.

# Local products for local people

GOAT'S cheese, organic beers, honey, smoked fish and venison are just a few examples of the culinary delicacies that are produced right here, in and around the North York Moors and the Howardian Hills. The area is also home to many talented artists and craftsmen who are creating paintings, textiles, jewellery and more.

To help residents and visitors locate these excellent products, a new guide to locally produced food, drink and craft in the North York Moors and Howardian Hills has been produced. The guide has been published by the DAPA Project (Developing the Assets of Protected Areas), which is jointly funded by Yorkshire Forward and the National Park Authority.

The guide contains details of products from 150 local producers who supply a diverse range of goods. The aim of the guide is to celebrate the region's distinctive local products and to ensure everyone knows where to find



them. Buying locally helps enhance the local environment and keeps alive local traditions and culture. For example, buying locally produced charcoal for your barbecue directly aids traditional woodland management. Buying locally helps to support the local rural economy and also cuts down on 'food miles' – the unseen environmental cost of transporting food over long distances.

This free guide is available from the National Park Authority, many local businesses and tourist information points. It can also be viewed on the National Park website [www.moors.uk.net](http://www.moors.uk.net). To obtain your copy, or to enquire about adding your local business to the online edition of the guide, please contact Lucy Sagers or Lyn Mansfield on 01439 770657 or complete the on-line form.

## Worthy Endeavour

GOOD Neighbours Community Transport, based in Whitby, has been researching the possibility of setting up a car share club in the area. The club, to be known as the Endeavour Car Club, will offer inexpensive car hire to residents in several villages around Whitby. Endeavour will provide access to a car for local residents who don't own their own and should reduce the number of vehicles on the road – leading to less pollution, less congestion and easier parking.

● For more information please call John Page or John Gregory on 01947 606440/602982.

# Healthy Heather

THE moors have large breeding populations of waders, such as curlew, lapwing and golden plover, and important populations of other birds such as red grouse and merlin. Moorland habitat is not only globally rare, it is also an integral part of the National Park's special character. Protecting the heather moorland is, therefore, important in terms of

nature conservation, landscape value and cultural heritage.

English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES) is designed to help local farmers manage their sheep in a way that achieves the kind of grazing levels that will sustain the heather. It also encourages estate managers to tailor their burning and other management in a way that will benefit nature conservation. It is hoped that through this scheme management across the Moors will continue to help maintain a diversity of wildlife and vegetation to preserve this unique landscape. In 2003, the Scheme will provide up to £250,000

for this purpose.

Rachel Pickering, Moorland Project Officer, is working with English Nature staff to deliver the WES throughout the National Park. It is hoped that by the end of 2003, 40 farmers will have joined the five-year grazer scheme. Discussions have also started with estate managers and it is hoped that four will sign up for the ten-year estate manager scheme by the end of 2003.

● To find out more about the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, contact Rachel Pickering on 01439 770657.



John Knight