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“Book reviews”

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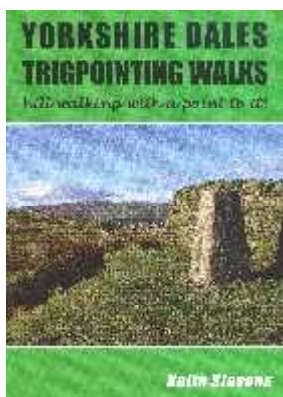
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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

Keith Stevens, *Yorkshire Dales trigpointing walks*, Sigma Leisure, £9.99



This book describes 25 walks in the south-west of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, visiting 39 extant Ordnance Survey pillars from the 62 in the Park. The walks are to one primary pillar, Whernside, built in 1936, 37 secondary pillars built in 1949 and one secondary pillar, Great Knoutberry, built in 1955. Where possible the routes combine a pair of pillars into a circular walk; the walks average 4 to 5 hours.

The book opens with a note about Ordnance Survey, Hotine and the Re-triangulation, and the National Grid. Information is also given about the levelling work that was done in this area. Thus information is given about the less well-known Fundamental Bench Marks, together with the more often encountered flush brackets and cut-marks. The Ribblesdale FBM is visited on one walk, perched in an unlikely position on the limestone pavement 100 metres above Selside, whilst the Skipton FBM, seemingly forgotten within a neat set of railings, is on the outskirts of that town.

The author must have gone round these walks with a GPS, since the description provides (two letter plus) 10-figure grid references for each trig point and 8-figure grid references for the waypoints that define the routes. There is also information and grid references for the (surprisingly large) number of benchmarks, mainly cut-marks, that the author has been able to identify on each route. Included is one rare protruding bracket benchmark on Horton church.

For each route there is a map, a profile and a list of waypoints, and for each trig point, a photograph, a table of pillar details, together with a star diagram giving bearings and distances to other pillars in view. Photographs of other features of interest are given when space permits. Overall, a useful summary of information in a pleasing package at a modest price.

Peter Haigh

Anne Armitage & Laura Beresford, *Mapping the New World: renaissance maps from the American Museum in Britain*, Scala, £19.95

Whilst possibly not relevant to the study of Ordnance Survey, this book earns a place on a map-lover's bookshelf by virtue of the copious colourful illustrations and scholarly descriptions of early maps and mariners' charts. Of particular interest to British eyes are several maps that include these islands, such as Vesconte's 1320 *World map*, showing recognisable Anglia, Scotia and Hibernia; *Map of the British Isles from Ptolemy's Geographia*, printed in Florence in 1480, with Scotland jutting out to the east from the northern end of England; and Mercator's *A description of Northern lands*, published posthumously in 1595, which features the Shetland islands in an inset roundel. Map study apart, the joy of this book comes from the many pictures of explorers and cannibals, sailing vessels and grotesque sea monsters, swirling gusts of wind and ornate compass roses which adorn early maps and are lovingly reproduced here.

John Davies