

Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

NO.1
WINTER 1982



SETTLE'S VICTORIA CAVE
ARKENGARHTHDALE MINING — THREAT OR PROMISE?
DENT PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD
DALES EVENTS

20p

A Society for the Yorkshire Dales

May we introduce ourselves ?

In October, 1981, a group of people, mainly from the Dales, decided to establish a YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY.

The group represented a wide range of interests - farming, tourism, small businesses, the professions. They met because they had a common interest - the Yorkshire Dales; a love of its landscape, its people, its traditions. But they had a feeling, too, that the institutions of national and local government - county councils, district councils, National Park, and other agencies, were somehow irrelevant for the real needs of the area. Above all they felt that landscape conservation was irrelevant to an area like the Dales without a deep concern and involvement with underlying social and economic issues.

A landscape is a people, and you cannot conserve a landscape without you have a prosperous community, in particular a healthy farming industry.

So often in the Dales change is lost under controversy. Extremist opinions and political opportunism capture newspaper headlines. In fact our common interests - a deep concern for the area and its future - far outweigh differences, whether we are farmer or rambler, business person or conservationist, planner or painter. Nobody wants to see the Dales destroyed, or to lose its special identity.

The Yorkshire Dales Society exists to bridge the gap between people, between people within the Dales and those outside the area, who share a common love of the area. It is a forum to share ideas and to understand other viewpoints apart from our own. Uniquely in any heritage or National Park area the Society balances the needs of the local community and economy with a need to protect a priceless national heritage.

We have been fortunate in receiving generous grant aid from the Countryside Commission in support of our objectives, and in recognition that there is an important job to be done by a Society like ours in helping to influence opinion and increase the understanding in an area like the Dales. But the assistance is for a limited period only, a "pump priming" exercise designed to give the Society opportunity to prove its value, and to see if it will attract the support it needs to survive.

We have accepted that challenge.

This Review will be a regular periodical, designed to act as a means of communication between members. We welcome letters, articles, suggestions of all kinds; the success of any publication depends on both readers and contributors. In particular we welcome news and information of interest to the Dales, especially details of forthcoming events in the Dales - shows, lectures, exhibitions, likely to be of interest to a wider Dales audience. You can help by passing this copy on to an interested friend, perhaps encouraging them to subscribe as a member.

And we look forward to hearing from you.

Colin Speakman
Secretary
Yorkshire Dales Society

Dentdale Couple Win Major Photographic Award

John and Eliza Forder, who have a studio in Dent, have recently won a major award from Northern Arts to photograph the life and landscape of Dentdale, with a view to hold an exhibition of their work in 1983.

Our cover picture of Ivy Beñtham by Eliza Forder is a fine example of their work, as is John's evocative picture of Alum Pot opposite.

John and Liza, together with top Dales photographers Geoffrey Wright, Derek Widdicombe and Simon Warner took part in the Yorkshire Dales Society's exhibition Photographing the Yorkshire Dales in Grassington which formed a much appreciated part of the 1982 Grassington Festival.

Yorkshire Dales Society members are warmly invited to call in John and Liza's studio at Sedgwick Cottage (behind the Fountain) when in Dentdale.



A Primrose for the Dales

The Yorkshire Dales logo, designed specially for the Society by artist and designer Jane MacAuley (daughter of YDS member Laurie Fallows) blends the traditional white rose of Yorkshire with the delicate beauty of a bird's eye primrose.

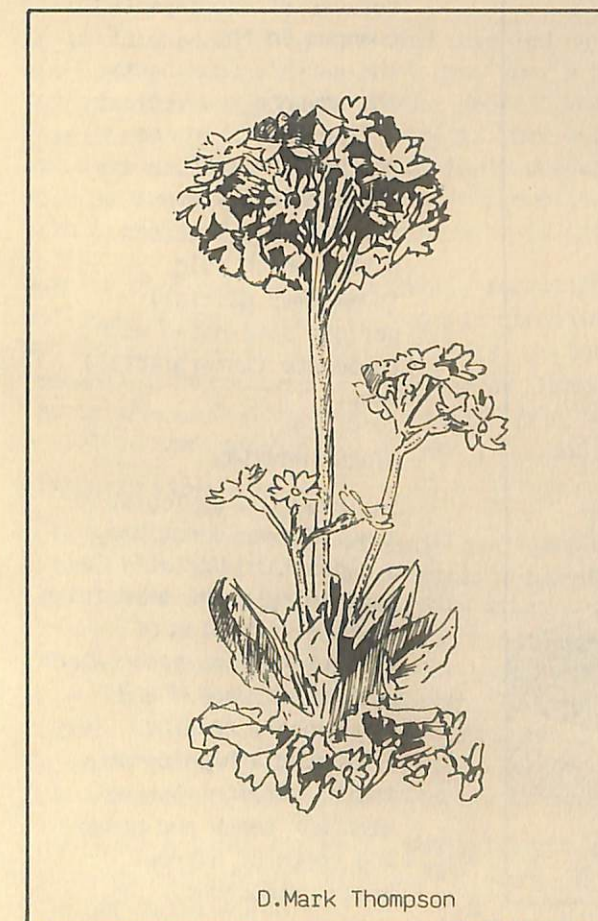
Why a Bird's Eye Primrose ?

This little pink flower with its bright yellow "eye" is common on the high limestone pastures of the Yorkshire Dales in early summer.

The great Dales botanist and alpinist, Reginald Farrer, from Ingleborough Hall, Clapham, travelled throughout the world looking for rare and exotic plants, but never forgot "my best friend among English wild flowers".

Farrer noted how this vigorous little Dales flower was a true alpine, growing in the high places where "it hurries eagerly into bloom."

So it seemed appropriate to choose this most characteristic and beautiful of Dales wild flowers to represent a love of the region and concern for its heritage and unique character.



D. Mark Thompson

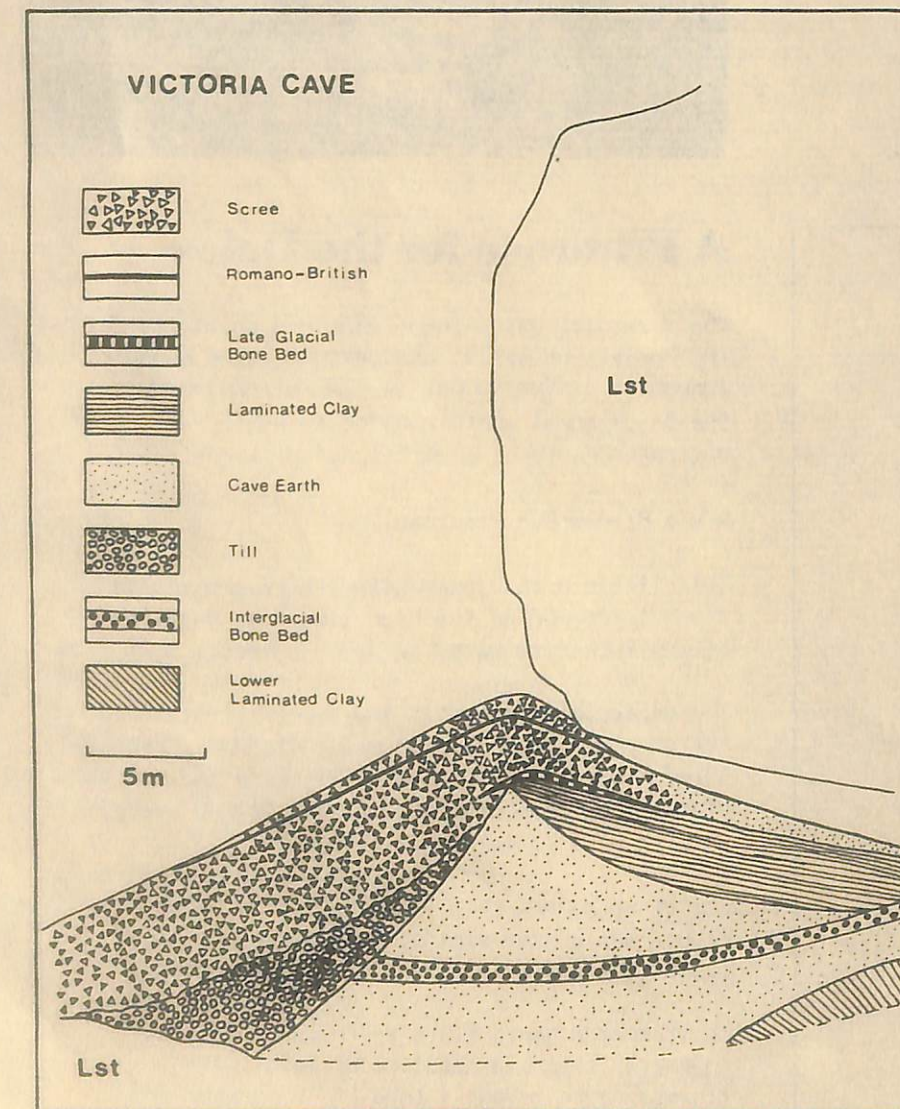
The Archaeology of Victoria Cave

TOM LORD, curator of the Pig Yard Museum, Settle, and a noted cave archaeologist, is the grandson of the celebrated "Tot" Lord who founded the Pig Yard collection. In this article Tom introduces one of the major archaeological sites of the Yorkshire Dales, closely associated with his grandfather's collection.

The entrance to Victoria Cave is situated at an altitude of 1,450 feet in a limestone escarpment about one and a half miles north-east of Settle. It was originally part of an underground water course, but it is now streamless. Since the cave's discovery in 1838 by a young mechanic called Michael Horner, excavations have recorded a sequence of deposits containing important archaeological and faunal remains which have made this one of the foremost scientific caves in the country. Furthermore, the nineteenth century excavations at the site have considerable historical interest, and there is a lot of information about the early excavators, their techniques and their interpretations of cave deposits. Nearly all the finds from the cave and the records of the excavations are housed in the Pig Yard Museum, Settle, where a thorough re-examination of material from the cave is in progress.

EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

The Victoria Cave Exploration Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science conducted major excavations at the site from 1870 to 1878. This committee which included such eminent scientists as Sir Charles Lyell and Sir John Lubbock published the first information about



the dramatic climatic fluctuations in the Dales during the latter part of the Ice Age. The last two million years in the earth's history have come to be called the Ice Age because of the repeated changes in the size of the earth's ice sheets. The advance and retreat of ice sheets in the northern hemisphere was accompanied by great climatic fluctuations during which cold (sometimes glacial) periods alternated with temperate (interglacial) ones.

HYAENA REMAINS

In 1876, the geologist R.H. Tiddeman described a deposit in Victoria Cave containing great quantities of fossil remains of spotted hyaenas associated with other gnawed and fragmentary remains including a hippopotamus tooth, straight-tusked elephant teeth and bones and teeth of narrow-nosed rhinoceros.

Tiddeman concluded that the animals had lived in the neighbourhood of the cave; and that the cave had been occupied as a den by hyaenas. He observed that this deposit was truncated by glacial fill at the cave mouth and overlain by laminated clay inside the cave. The relationship of these deposits is shown in the diagram below left.

Tiddeman considered that the laminated clay was formed by the regular discharge of glacial meltwater into the cave from a glacier which had blocked the cave mouth; and that the glacial fill containing scratched boulders was deposited when the glacier finally melted. He reasoned that these deposits were laid down during the last glacial period when a lobe of ice which straddled the Pennines completely submerged the Yorkshire Dales; and that the underlying fossiliferous deposit containing the remains of animals such as hippopotamus belonged to the preceding temperate or interglacial period.

TOT LORD'S DISCOVERIES

In 1937 excavations by Tot Lord revealed narrow-nosed rhinoceros jaws and teeth, elephant and rhinoceros limb bones, a giant deer jaw, a hippopotamus ankle bone and red deer antler lying on a surface within the fossiliferous deposit which Tiddeman had ascribed to the last interglacial period. Characteristic bone damage suggests they were taken into the cave by a layer of calcite flowstone about 10 centimetres thick, but their unweathered condition indicates that the flowstone began to form over them soon after their introduction to the cave. The flowstone formed as water saturated with dissolved limestone precipitated calcite onto the cave floor.

Samples of flowstone were recently submitted to Mel Gascoyne at McMaster University, Canada, for dating by a new method called uranium thorium. Calcite deposits in caves - stalactites, stalagmites and flowstones - up to 350,000 years old can be reliably dated by the uranium thorium method. Meanwhile, in conjunction with Andrew Currant at the British Museum (Natural History), work got under way to re-examine the faunal remains from the inter-glacial deposit and to check their identification. A list of the mammals so far identified is given overleaf.

HIPPOS IN RIBBLESDALE

This species assemblage is a classic example of the large mammal fauna of England and Wales in the last interglacial period. The presence of hippopotamus suggests a slightly warmer climate than today with milder winters. Hippos only graze short grass and they probably followed areas of open grazing close to the braided river channels which would have occupied the flat bottomed Dales valleys. The Dales uplands would probably have been heavily wooded to altitude of about 1,500 feet, offering a variety of habitats for browsing species such as narrow-nosed rhinoceros and straight-tusked elephant. Spotted hyaenas hunt in packs and modern studies indicate that they are extremely predators. Hyaenas based at Victoria Cave would have hunted across an area from Ribblesdale to the Upper Aire Valley, occasionally bringing back the remains of both prey and carrion to the cave.

The uranium thorium ages of the calcite flowstone now dated by Mel Gascoyne indicate that the species of large mammals indicated were present in the vicinity of Victoria Cave at or shortly before about 120,000 years ago.



Tom Lord expounds cave formation theory to YDS members at Jubilee Cave, Ribblesdale. photo: Keith Lockyer

This compares very favourably with a date of around 125,000 years ago for the last interglacial obtained by oxygen isotope analysis of deep sea sediments, and this is the first time that such a correlation has been achieved.

Isotopic analysis of deep sea sediments suggests that over the last two million years no interglacial period has lasted longer than 10,000 to 12,000 years. Statistically speaking then, our present interglacial is almost at an end. The last interglacial appears to have ended with a relatively sudden cooling.

If this re-occurs, will hippos be back in the Dales in the next interglacial ?

Last Interglacial Fauna in Victoria Cave

<u>Species identified</u>	<u>Common name</u>
Ursus arctos	Brown bear
Crocota	Spotted hyaena
Panthera leo	Lion
Palaeoxodon antiquus	Straight tusked elephant
Hippopotamus amphibius	Hippopotamus
Megaloceros giganteus	Giant deer
Cervus elaphus	Red deer
Bos or Bison sp	A bovine

TOM LORD

Letter from Arkengarthdale

RUTH ANNISON contributes what we hope will be the first of a series of articles from different parts of the Yorkshire Dales.



LANGTHWAITE in ARKENGARTHDALE

Note the lead-mining spoil-heaps on the hillside

Photo: Geoffrey N. Wright

On January 16th, 1982, the Darlington and Stockton Times first revealed proposals by Minex PLC to extract minerals from derelict spoil heaps in West Arkengarthdale. This was reported in an interview with Mrs Jill Davis of the Richmond based partnership F.J. and J. Davis, planning consultants to Minex PLC.

At that stage the company was investigating the feasibility of re-processing, having obtained an option in West Arkengarthdale in 1978. Their technical consultants, the Welsh-based company Robertson Research International Ltd., evaluated the viability of a scheme using modern technology to extract minerals (including lead, zinc, barytes, and fluorite) from spoil heaps dating from the days of lead-mining in the dale. Many minerals, discarded long ago as worthless, are of use today.

On March 8th, Minex applied to Richmondshire District Council to re-process heaps scattered over 1300 acres of moorland. "Minerals and jobs to be gained from reclamation plan" headlined the paper the following Saturday. The manager of Richmond Jobcentre called it "a step in the right direction. It's akin to quarrying in the skills required and would be putting work back into the Dales."

Next week the paper reported on a quite separate venture, a working fluorspar mine situated just a stone's throw from a Weardale beauty spot. This project provides a livelihood for six families and is a model of how this type of industrial activity can create much needed jobs in a style in keeping with a rural community.

Meanwhile, consultations were already having an effect on the proposed scheme for Arkengarthdale. Concern was expressed about lorry traffic, especially on roads near the school in Langthwaite. As a result the scheme was amended to keep lorries off the roads when children were walking to and from school. The timescale of the project was also changed, from two to five years.

Minex representatives met parish councillors, farmers and others who would be affected by the scheme. The parish council wrote to the planning authority pointing out that although most villagers were in favour of the scheme they did have reservations, especially about noise, tidying up and road safety.

A public meeting organised by Mr Ian Wood was held in Langthwaite Institute on March 23. Seventeen people attended. Fears were expressed that "reclamation could spoil a way of life." Lead pollution and the effects on tourism were discussed and points raised were subsequently discussed with Minex. Representatives of Minex answered questions at a well-attended meeting arranged in the school by parish council on April 15.

Richmondshire Development Services Committee backed the Minex application but recommended several planning decisions to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, the decision-making body for such applications. The preservation of relics of industrial archaeology and the possibility of new mining were added to concerns identified by other groups.

A meeting of the National Park Committee was reported on April 24. Lord Peel of Gunnerside gave the first indication in public that Minex would be approaching other landowners to enable the company to carry out similar work in other parts of the Yorkshire Dales, if permission were given in Arkengarthdale. Mr. George Hallas, YDNP Officer, announced a site meeting so that committee members "could appreciate what was intended" Ministerially appointed member Mr Ken Willson referring to pollution elsewhere, asked for reassurance about safeguards to the water supply.

Throughout May, further consultations took place and then on June 12 a public notice appeared concerning an application by Minex to abstract water at Bleaberry Gill, West Arkengarthdale (7,920,000 gallons per annum) for 10 years for mineral washing. On the same date, a photograph showed Jill Davis examining transplanted heather plants - some of them in Smartie tubes - which were laid five weeks earlier. Re-vegetation of the land for agriculture and grouse moor are planned. Although there are few sites where large-scale practical restoration of grass and heather moorland has been achieved so far, Dr Bob Bell of Liverpool University's Botany Department - which conducted the field trials - expressed confidence that it can be done in Arkengarthdale.

"Slag-heap mining in 'magical dale' is allowed - on Park's terms" announced the D & S Times on June 19. So permission was granted but approximately 40 planning conditions were imposed on the scheme. Referring to the possibilities of air pollution, Mr Laurie Fallows, a Ministerially-appointed member of the Committee, said the applicant seemed happy to provide any necessary safeguards.

The following week, Minex announced the appointment of its site manager, Mr Gordon Parkin, and the story retreated from the headlines. For how long ?

RUTH ANNISON

Bolton Priory Appeal

£50,000 is still required as a matter of urgency to safeguard the future of one of the noblest buildings in Yorkshire - Bolton Priory, painted by Turner and Landseer, eulogised by Wordsworth and Ruskin. Donations for the appeal fund should be sent to Michael Robert, The Appeal Office, Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire BD23 6EX - see also the guided tour of the Priory with Canon Slaughter on December 18th - details below.

Rural Transport Seminar

The Settle-Carlisle railway is as much a part of our national heritage as York Minster - so argued James Towler, Chairman of the Yorkshire Area of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee at the Yorkshire Dales Society Seminar on Rural Transport held at the Devonshire Arms, Bolton Abbey in September. Mr Towler's remarks were strongly supported by John Watson MP, Skipton's Member of Parliament, who chaired the session.

The Seminar looked at the problem of the disappearing Dales bus, and suggested ways of getting greater community involvement to help support local bus networks in the Dales. It was agreed that in the most isolated areas, where elderly people, younger people and womenfolk did not have access to a car, hardship was being suffered, and new initiatives should be taken to alleviate the problems of rural deprivation, included shared taxi schemes. Recreational and tourist use of bus services could go a long way to help the services local people need.

Copies of the Report of the Seminar are available from the Secretary price £1 post free.

Your Dales Diary

Saturday December 18th - Bolton Priory

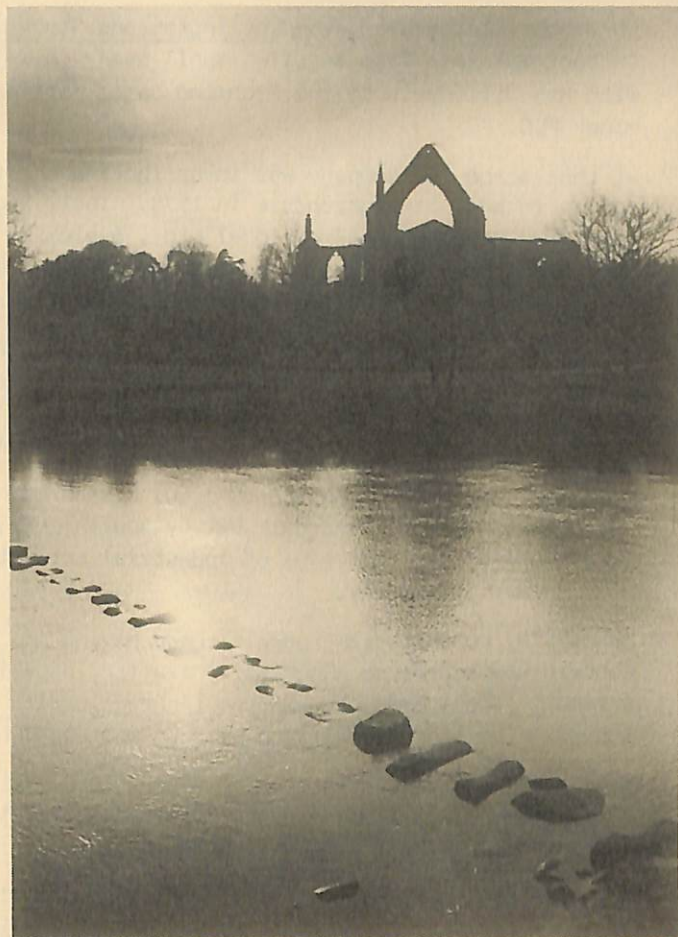
A guided Tour of Bolton Priory with Canon Maurice Slaughter - its history and its architecture.

Meet Bolton Priory Church entrance 1.30pm
No charge - donation for Appeal Funds

Sunday January 16th - Malham Tarn

Malham Tarn Field Centre and its Warden, Dr Henry Disney, invite YDS members and friends to look around this nationally famous Centre and learn a little of its courses, teaching and scientific research.

Meet: Malham Tarn Field Centre 1.30pm
No charge



Bolton Priory - photo: Simon Warner

Friday February 18th - Stone Mines of Burtersett

David Hall, the well known Wensleydale historian, presents a lecture on this fascinating but largely forgotten Dales industry.

Meet: The Temperance Hall, Askrigg 7.30pm
Charge 90p (YDS members 60p)

The next issue of The Yorkshire Dales Review is planned for early February 1983. If you have or know of any events of Dales interest you would like us to include, forward to Secretary by mid January.

Further information and details of membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society write to (SAE appreciated)

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