

Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

NO.8
AUTUMN 1984



**A CHARITY IS BORN
COOLSCAR — DECISION
RUMPUS IN RIBBLESDALE
IN TURNER'S FOOTSTEPS**

30p.

THE YORKSHIRE DALES REVIEW is the quarterly journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society, and is published by the Society with the help and financial support of the Countryside Commission, who contribute support to the development and work of the Society. Views expressed in the REVIEW are those of individual contributors and not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

A Charity is Born

Registered Charity No 515384 was entered in the Central Register of Charities on July 12th 1984.

Its registered title is THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY and its principal object, as recorded by the Charity Commissioners is:

"To advance the public knowledge and appreciation of the social history and the physical and cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales and to preserve in condition, landscape and natural beauty."

The Society is also Incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee, Company Registration No 1822908, registered in Cardiff, at the Companies Registration Office on 7th June 1984.

The Society has therefore fulfilled two of its most important initial objects - to form itself into a company and into a charity.

Why a company and why a charity ?

In effect the Society's new status will offer a powerful legal safeguard, limiting its activities to those which, in the broadest educational sense defined above, can be defined as charitable, or serving a charitable cause. Company status strengthens this resolve even further, creating a new, legally definable body. Profits from its activities cannot be distributed to members, but must be devoted to the charitable cause, and the five major objects which will form the keystone of the Society's work:

i) To advance the public knowledge and appreciation of the social history and the physical and cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales and to preserve its condition, landscape and natural beauty.

ii) To bring together people and organisations with a common interest in and love of the Yorkshire Dales.

iii) To encourage the protection and enhancement of the physical and social heritage of the Yorkshire Dales, and embracing a fundamental concern for the well being of the working community within the Dales to maintain the special character of the area by promoting kindred social and economic developments.

iv) To sustain the traditional culture of the area.

v) To promote greater awareness and enjoyment among those who live in, work in, or visit the Yorkshire Dales, and to seek the highest standards for the interpretation of the area's heritage.

These are noble ideals, and their attainment will not be easy. But our success will be the result of the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of our members. Members will soon be asked to show this commitment by becoming, in effect, "subscribers" to the new Company following our Annual Meeting on October 20th, providing a £5 "guarantee" as required by our new Articles - though it will of course be possible to remain an "associate" without such a guarantee.

All will be explained to members in the membership renewal form with the Winter Review. In the meantime, keep 20th October free in your diary. We've now over 500 members (already a 20% increase on last year) and we'd like to meet as many of you as possible in Leyburn at the AGM. See the back page for details.

Colin Speakman

Cover picture: Above Carperby, Wensleydale
(Geoffrey N. Wright)

Coolscar — The Secretary of State Decides

KEN WILLSON, leading environmentalist, and himself a former member of the National Park Committee, reports on an enigmatic decision by the Secretary of State following one of the most bitterly fought public enquiries ever to be held in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Ken Willson, Vice-Chairman of YDS, looks at Coolscar Quarry and its proposed extension with Fiona Reynolds (far Right) Secretary of the Council for National Parks, and Mrs Molly Berry.

Photo: Geoffrey Berry



Eskett Quarries, Ltd., the applicants, had sought planning permission for the extension of the existing quarry at Kilnsey, Upper Wharfedale, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, for approximately 23 acres or alternatively approximately 8 acres. The National Park Committee had first refused both applications, but subsequently let it be known that it was minded to grant permission for the smaller area subject to stringent conditions. Before permission could be granted, however, the Secretary of State called in the applications and ordered the Inquiry.

The principal objectors were the Countryside Commission and the Council for National Parks, the latter representing inter alia the Ramblers' Association, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Youth Hostels Association. Since the quarry was in a National Park it was argued that to succeed the application must show that the stringent conditions of the "Silkin Test" were satisfied, namely that the extraction was an "absolute necessity in the public interest" and that there was "no possible alternative source of supply". It was argued for the applicants that the supply of high purity chemical limestone for Steetley Refractories Ltd. fulfilled the first condition and that far from there being alternative sources of supply the material was virtually unique.

Obviously, the objectors sought to disprove these statements as well as concentrating on the environmental injury to so sensitive an area, if planning permission were granted. Two other matters of importance which were argued inter alia were the effects of an alternative access road that had been proposed to relieve the pressure of traffic on Mastiles Lane and which objectors suggested might be even more damaging to the environment than the proposed extension to the quarry; and how far the proposed development accorded with the County Structure Plan which had of course been approved, and indeed modified, by the Secretary of State.

In his report, the Inspector recommended that planning permission should be granted for both schemes but that consideration might be given to the possibility of limiting, by condition, the output of the quarry to 100,000 tonnes per annum, as he considered the only justification for the extension would be to continue to supply the stringent needs of Steetley Refractories Ltd. and this amount should be considered for that purpose. The Inspector also considered that the continued use of Mastiles Lane as an access was preferable to the proposed new access road through the Howgill Valley.

The Secretary of State in general terms accepted these recommendations although he could not stomach the larger area at the present time and suggested that permission should be limited to the smaller area. He also said that he was "disposed to accept" the suggested limitation on output but, because there was "no substantive discussion of this matter at the Inquiry" he invited all the parties within 28 days to make any representations that they wished on the matter. He also accepted the Inspector's views on the road.

So there, for the moment, the matter rests, whilst the various parties and objectors retire to their corners to dress their wounds and prepare further representations.

Meanwhile, the Secretary of State's letter has posed as many questions as it has answered. Since the confidentiality of Steetley's specification for chemical limestone was maintained throughout the Inquiry, how can the Secretary of State be certain that there was no possible alternative source of supply? Was the Secretary of State supplied with this information? Since it was suggested at the Inquiry that an annual output of around 250,000 tonnes was necessary for the continued viability of the quarry, what will be the result if the suggested limitation of 100,000 tonnes is imposed? If it is imposed, can it be accurately monitored?

Ken Willson

Dalesbus '84

In the Spring REVIEW, the Secretary described the new Dales Weekender and Dales Wayfarer facilities and other schemes, in some of which the YDS has played a large part, designed to encourage the use of public transport in the Yorkshire Dales.

This summer has seen four new additions to West Yorkshire Road Car Co.'s DalesBus network. A bus has run from Bradford via Otley, Harrogate and Ripon to Richmond on Sundays and Bank Holidays, allowing nearly three hours to explore the delights of the capital of Swaledale, whilst on Fridays during the school holidays a new service has run from Bradford and Leeds to Jervaulx Abbey and Leyburn market, in addition to the well established DalesBus 809 from Skipton and Grassington. Fountains Abbey has enjoyed a service from York, Knaresborough and Harrogate on Mondays to Fridays during the school holidays and finally, thanks to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee buses have returned to Swaledale on Sundays when, promoted by the YDS, they agreed to operate a Sunday afternoon service from Harrogate. More than 20 people were observed on this bus on a Sunday in August, a most encouraging start to an imaginative experiment and example of co-operation between authorities.

By the time this issue appears, these new service will have ceased to operate in 1984, but there is still time, until the end of September, to enjoy the more established DalesBus services including 800 on Saturdays via Grassington and Upper Wharfedale to Aysgarth, Bainbridge, Hawes and Keld across the spectacular Buttertubs Pass. On Sunday two buses follow the same route offering the choice of a day in Upper Wharfedale or in Wensleydale, or just an afternoon trip to Hawes and back. The morning bus is extended to Ingleton and at time of writing the Company are examining suggestions of the author's that Dayrider tickets should be extended for use on the Skipton-Ingleton Pennine services. Also running until September 30th are Sunday services from West Yorkshire to Pateley Bridge and the Washburn Valley (DalesBus 802) and the 806 service from Leeds and Harrogate to Pataley via Fountains Abbey and Brimham Rocks.

After September 30th the services revert to their basic winter timetable, but excellent services on Saturdays and weekdays remain, most notably with good connections at Skipton railway station for Upper Wharfedale on which the new Dales Wayfarer ticket is valid at only £4 per adult, £2 per child or Senior Citizen with MetroPermit or BR Railcard, and £8 per family - and the new ticket is proving a boon for dalesfolk taking a day out to Leeds, Bradford or Harrogate for only £2 if retired. All these facilities are detailed in the Wharfedale Bus Guide and the Wensleydale and Swaledale Guide, available from the Secretary 10p each, 25p by post (35p for two). So in spite of the gloomy situation outlined by the Secretary in the Spring REVIEW all is not lost. The weekend services in the

Dales operate almost entirely without subsidy from local authorities or National Park and depend on local and visitors' patronage. So USE IT or LOSE IT!

ALAN J. SUTCLIFFE



A Letter from Upper Ribblesdale

Richard Kelly looks at an issue in Upper Ribblesdale which has split the local community, and which poses some interesting questions about the conflict between conservation and recreation in a National Park.



In May this year, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee bought a hay meadow beside the River Ribble in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Not to conserve it, but to turn it into a car park and picnic site. This unusual action has engendered a great deal of disquiet in the village and has raised a large number of objections both from residents and from local and national organisations concerned with amenity and conservation.

The field in question is in many respects a traditional flowery haymeadow, rich in plant, bird and insect life. Its scenic, wildlife and amenity value are greatly enhanced by its proximity to the river. The stretch of Ribble bordering the meadow, only a few miles from its source, is a breeding ground of salmon and trout, and abounds with freshwater crayfish and other invertebrate species of unpolluted waters which make it a rich hunting ground for dipper, yellow wagtail, kingfisher and heron. A public footpath passes through the meadow and both the field and the river are much used by local children and also by visitors for recreation.

Why are so many people, locals and from farther afield, so upset by the proposal?

Many see the proposed development as incompatible with the present character and use of the field and the river, and posing a serious threat to their scenic, wildlife and amenity value. They argue a car park and picnic site would alter the character of the village and, it is feared, attract yet more people to an area already under severe visitor pressure. The need for an additional public car park has yet to be proven, nor is there any certainty that it would, in the long term, reduce roadside parking significantly. Local farmers and conservationists are agreed that the Three Peaks Area (much of which is Site of Special Scientific Interest status) is currently overused and that ways should be sought to limit rather than to increase the recreational use of the area.

How did this proposal come about?

Horton Parish Council had at various times in the past few years asked the National Park Committee to do something about roadside parking in the village, but the decision to purchase and proposal to develop this field appears to have been taken without any reference to the Parish Council or to the Three Peaks Working Party set up by the Committee in 1983 to consider the problems of the area.

The field was purchased (anonymously) for the Park Committee at an auction on May 17th; the purchase resulted in two public meetings attended by over 100 parishioners, a lengthy letter from the Chairman of the National Park Committee defending his Committee's action, a petition signed by over 150 residents, an opinion poll organised by the Parish Council, and ill-feeling on all sides.

There has been much publicity in the press recently over habitat loss in the countryside, and the recent publication by the Nature Conservancy of Nature Conservation in Great Britain and by the Countryside Commission of The Water's Edge has drawn attention to the loss of flowery haymeadows and the fragility of riversides.

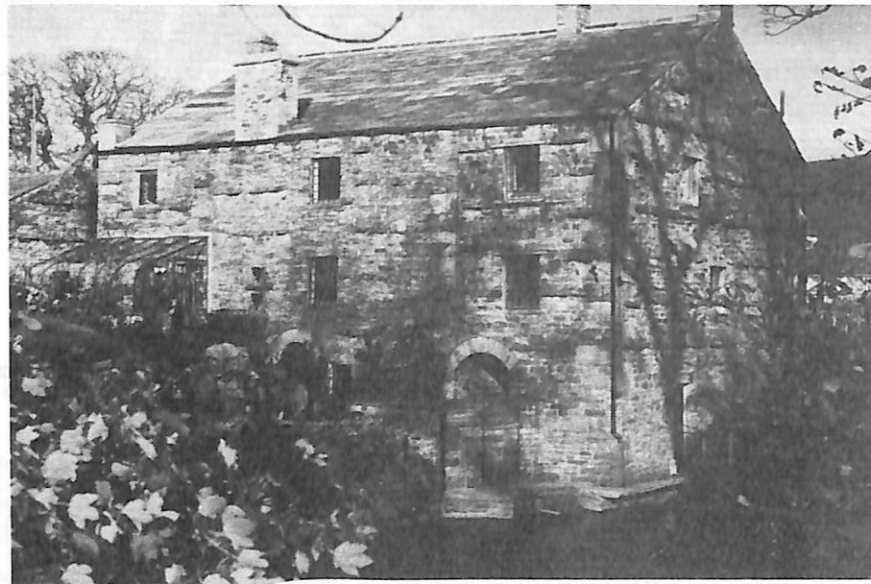
We are fortunate in the Yorkshire Dales in that this is one of the few parts of the country where flowery meadows can still be seen. The field at risk at Horton, though not of national importance, is a good example of its kind and certainly of local importance. It would be ironic indeed if a threat to it came from the actions of the National Park Committee whose prime statutory duty is "to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the countryside".

Richard Kelly

Bainbridge's Mill

In September 1978, Dr. Christopher Cole, recently retired from his medical practice at Tring, Herts., moved to Wensleydale where, four years earlier, he had bought Bainbridge Low Mill, then largely derelict, situated on the north side of the village green. A programme of restoration was soon initiated, and the building converted to provide comfortable living accommodation, together with workshop space to enable Dr. Cole to pursue his main hobby of building and furnishing dolls' houses. The Corn Mill itself was restored over the next four years. Under the expert guidance of John Dossor of York and Arthur Dower of Countersett Hall, this work was carried out almost entirely by local craftsmen, and largely completed by 1982. Earlier this year Bainbridge Low Mill opened to the public.

According to Dr. Raistrick in *Industrial Archaeology* (Methuen, 1972), though the building dates probably from around 1800, the plan, lay-out and machinery of the water-mill "is still essentially seventeenth century in character and arrangement". The existence of Bainbridge High Mill a few yards up the River Bain has almost certainly caused some confusion in the records and accounts given by early writers on the subject, but it seems fairly certain that Low Mill was used throughout much of last century for grinding corn. It had its own brick-built drying kiln on the ground floor, and this is a prominent feature of the restoration. Corn-milling continued until well into the present century, but from about 1920-29 the mill was also used as a dairy for the manufacture of Wensleydale cheese. Milling went on until 1947 - probably of oats - but severe floods of that memorable winter broke the dam on the River Bain, and the mill ceased working.



Bainbridge Low Mill, Wensleydale (Photo: Geoffrey Wright)

After clearing stones, mud and debris from the wheelhouse and tailrace, Dr. Cole rebuilt the walls of the tailrace, constructed a new dam, and installed a weir and controlling sluices. The 15'3" wheel was repaired, using elm for the buckets and larch for the spokes. Originally breast-shot and located internally, the wheel at present can be operated electrically. The creation of a special walkway around the riverside of the mill allows visitors to appreciate the enormity of the task which Dr. Cole has accomplished, while the sympathetic adaptation of the interior provides an unusual setting for an exhibition of the many beautiful dolls' houses which he has built - one of which shows a working model of Low Mill itself.

Bainbridge Mill is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 2 - 5pm until the end of September, admission adults 75p, children 25p. But why not join the Yorkshire Dales Society on November 17th to meet Dr. Cole and see the Mill. Meet at 2pm - see Events on page 11.

GEOFFREY WRIGHT

Co-operation in the Yorkshire Dales

Following a well attended and very successful meeting of amenity groups of the Yorkshire Dales at Malham Tarn, in June, convened by the Yorkshire Dales Society, the Society is preparing a compendium of "Who does What?" in the Yorkshire Dales, looking at each of the major amenity bodies and seeing their area of concern and of operation. From this a picture will emerge of which are the "watchdog" groups keeping an eye on the natural or man-made environment, and are prepared to respond to unwelcome proposals for development, hopefully supporting local authorities in their need to keep a careful, and dynamic balance between economic and environmental interests. Groups will be contacted shortly, but the Society is keen to hear from any voluntary organisation in the voluntary sector in the Dales area which takes an active interest in amenity matters.



Newby Head and Ingleborough E. Charles Simpson

* * * * *

Back to the Dales with a Computer Firm

The increasing use of computers in business has enabled a dalesman to return to live in Wensleydale with his young family, in a happy reversal of the trend of rural depopulation. Mr. Gavin Edwards grew up in Burterset, where his parents, Mr and Mrs Ted Edwards, still live. Educated in Wensleydale he then took a degree in microbiology at Liverpool University, which led to a career in production management in flour and feed milling.

Work took him and his wife Val to Liverpool, to Rossendale where their two children were born, and then to Wiltshire. In 1982, Mr Edwards went to Bradford University to take an MSc degree in Computer Science.

His research was on generating computer programmes automatically, using an "English-type" language called micro PSL, and the ADA prototype generator. Last year he became a freelance computer programmer, specialising in work with micro-computers for small businesses, and also lecturing at Keighley Technical College.

So fast did the demand for Mr Edwards' computer programmes grow that he decided to establish his own business, thus enabling the family to achieve a long-standing ambition and return to live in Wensleydale. They have settled in Askrigg where Mrs. Edwards' parents, Mr and Mrs Harry Cockerill, live. Like others before them they have discovered the convenience of the location: Wensleydale is equidistant between the A1 and the M6 and between Leeds and Newcastle, making it a good base for travelling all over the north of England.

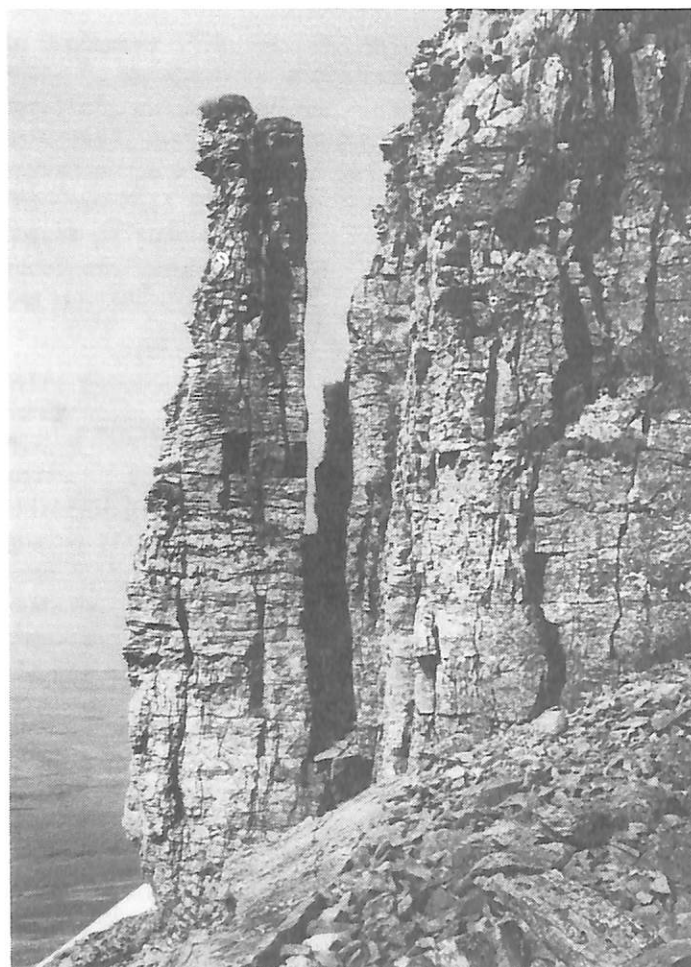
Mr Edwards has given his firm a local name, Yoredale Computer Services (tel Wensleydale 50563) and it is based in premises in the centre of the village, rented from the Askrigg Foundation. Customers already include businesses in North and West Yorkshire, a contract with a computer agency in Liverpool for their own use and a programme for a mail order project.

"My approach is to look at a business problem and what a computer can do to solve that problem, and then to find either a ready-made programme or the most appropriate computer language to write that programme in..... Each business is individual in its needs," says Mr Edwards.

RUTH ANNISON

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Autumn Books



Limestone pinnacle on Pen y Ghent - one of Derek Widdicombe's photographs for The Yorkshire Dales - landscape with figures

The Yorkshire Dales-Landscape with Figures - Peter Gunn (Century Publishing pp256 £9.95)

The stream of literature of the Yorkshire Dales which began two centuries ago is now a torrent. Too often new books however well presented, are simply a mixture of personal anecdote and a rehash of old material. It is a tribute to Peter Gunn that his book is not - to use another Dales metaphor - a reworking of old spoil heaps, but offers new material and fresh insight into our rich Dales heritage.

His major interests would appear to be early and medieval history, and excellent chapters on the Brigantes, the harrying of the North, monasticism, and the fascinating story of the Nevilles and Richard of Gloucester (better known as Richard III) are absorbing, as are his studies of Lady Anne Clifford and on Dales industry.

No doubt the publishers, with a careful eye to the need to give the book "popular" appeal insisted on adding the more generalised topographical chapters at the end, but they are just a little of an anti-climax to an otherwise scholarly yet entertaining book. Just an occasional slip to be remedied in a future edition - the Swastika Stone on Ilkley Moor is certainly not "the work of Brigantian artists" and it was not William Howitt who told the story of Adam Sedgwick being taken for a labourer - it was Sedgwick himself and the incident was in Wales, not in Dentdale. But minor quibbles apart, a stylishly written book with excellent photographs by Christine Whitehead and Derek Widdicombe among others.

The Yorkshire Dales - A Walkers' Guide to the National Park - Gladys Sellers (Cicerone Press, pp 292 £4.50)

A shrewd idea by Gladys Sellers and her publishers to get the magic words "National Park" in the title of this guidebook to give an impression of official approval, even though some of the best walks in the Yorkshire Dales (Mallerstang, Washburndale, Nidderdale ?) are outside the Park boundary. But it is a useful, pocket-sized guide, offering concise introductory chapters on the Park, its geology, human landscape, lead-mining and potholing, before a dale-by-dale fieldguide of good walks, fairly comprehensive in its selection. The style is chatty, but clear evidence of the fact that Gladys Sellers has done her research is to be found on every page ("It's got a yellow waymarker on a tree and is quite distinct but don't miss it or you will get lost in the woods...") and she'll warn you of places where it's muddy or the path fizzles out. Walks are categorized and numbered so you might find yourself on 2.8 Category B, a sort of neat card-index kind of rambling, perhaps, but lots of useful information and first hand experience here. Quite correctly she insists guidebooks can only supplement not replace decent large scale maps, but omits mention of the best walker's maps of all in the Yorkshire Dales, Arthur Gemmel's STILE maps. Nice to see she is prepared to suggest straying off the line of the Definitive Map in open country if the walk justifies it, and whilst the National Park earns praise for much of its work, they are put firmly in their place: "The YDNP help by waymarking a good many paths but they have a lot to learn about how to do it effectively." Some evocative illustrations, scattered through the text, by R.B.Evans, and helpful sketch maps.

National Park Plan First Review - Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee (pp120 + appendices £3.95 or £5.00 by post from the National Park Office, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3BP.)

Though hardly light reading for an autumn evening, this is an important and informative document with wide reaching implications for the future of the National Park. Essential reading for all local amenity groups and individuals interested in the Park. Fuller comment to follow in the Winter Review.

Autumn Events

Saturday September 15th Settle-Carlisle Rally

Mike Harding, television entertainer and Dalesman will host a galaxy of well known names in the environment field and local personalities, including Lord Melchett, Tom Stephenson, John Watson MP, Chris Hall and many others. Purpose of the meeting is to commemorate the centenary of the Bill, presented by William Bryce, MP to achieve access to the countryside, and also to join forces in the fight to save another means of access to the countryside - the Settle-Carlisle line. Special train from London and Midlands to rally at the Settle High School Playing Fields, 2.30pm. Brass band, stalls; for details of special train (seats still available) ring 01 -582-6878.



Mike Harding - meet him at Settle on September 15th

(photo: Kevin Cummins)

Sunday October 7th Dales Rail to Dentdale

Join us on the last Dales Rail train of 1984 to Dent, and a gentle walk down the valley - time to call at Whernside Manor and Liza & John Forder's photographic studio in Dent. Dales Rail train leaves Leeds at 0850, Skipton 0946, Settle 1014. Advance booking advised - SAE to Secretary for details.

Saturday October 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Thornborough Hall, Leyburn at 2pm - see overleaf for full details.

Saturday November 3rd Tree planting at Clapham

Dr. John Farrer, Lord of the Manor of Clapham, invites Yorkshire Dales Society members to plant some trees in the Yorkshire Dales with the assistance of National Park Warden Joe Shevelan. Turn up at Clapham Car Park at 10am - bring old clothes, wellies, waterproofs

Saturday November 17th Bainbridge Mill

Meet at Bainbridge Mill at 2pm for a visit to this remarkable restored Wensleydale Water Mill - see Geoffrey Wright's article on page 8. Admission 75p - children 25p

Saturdays December 1st, 8th, 17th Grassington's Dickensian Christmas

Though it might have little connection with Dickens, Grassington's shopkeepers and residents dress in Victorian (or Edwardian ?) costume - hot chesnuts, potatoes, horeshoe quoits, soup, Morris dancers and general merriment. From mid-morning until sunset in the village square.

Friday December 14th Dales neet

Traditional folk music and Dales dancing and supper with The Waggoners, and David and Rachel Hird of The White Lion, Cray; details and venue to be arranged - probably in Buckden. Keep the date in your diary.

GET YOUR BACK NUMBERS OF THE REVIEW. Copies of editions 1 - 7 still available (though early numbers not scarce) to complete your set, price 20p - add 20p postage for any number. Available from the Secretary.

GET A MEMBER. Survival of the YDS in coming years depends on membership growth. Enrol your friends as members - a perfect idea for a novel Christmas present or birthday gift. Or pass their name and address to the Secretary and we'll send them a free back number of The Review and an enrolment form. We aim to achieve a 50% growth in membership in 1985 !



YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

The Third

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

will take place on SATURDAY OCTOBER 20th 1984 at 3.30pm

in Thornborough Hall, Leyburn

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Second Annual Meeting of 20th October 1983
3. Matters Arising
4. Annual Report and Financial Statement (to be presented to the meeting by officers)
5. Adoption of Annual Report
6. Formation of the Company
7. Election of Officers and Committee of Management
8. Any other business

Prior to the Annual Meeting

Welcome to LEYBURN !

Norman Crossley of the Yoredale Natural History Society will meet members of the Society for a short introduction to Leyburn and Wensleydale, with a short walk on Leyburn Shawl, famous for its glorious views of the Dale.

Meet at the Information Caravan, top of Leyburn Market Place (by Bolton Arms) at 1.30pm . Return to Thornborough Hall for tea before meeting at 3.pm.

(To find Thornborough Hall turn northalong Richmond road for 200 metres - Thornborough Hall [Council Offices and Library] on left hand side).

We hope to see as many members as possible in Leyburn on October 20th.

Colin Speakman
 Secretary
 Yorkshire Dales Society
 3 Hardy Grange
 Grassington via Skipton
 Yorkshire BD23 5AJ t 0756 752595



Professor Adam Sedgwick of Cambridge and Dent
(1785 - 1874)

1985 is the bi-centenary of Sedgwick's birth. A Sedgwick Memorial Committee has been formed in Dent to celebrate the birthday of one of the greatest men of Science to have come from the Yorkshire Dales.

If you're interested in receiving new of events already planned for '85 contact Anthea Boulton, Hobson's, Dent, via Sedbergh, Cumbria.