

# Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

No 12  
Autumn 1985



**One Thousand Members  
A Dales Housing Crisis?  
Barnstorming  
Reflections of a Dales Postmaster**

**30p.**



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 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 do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society.  
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## One Thousand Members

Some time early in August, the thousandth member of the Yorkshire Dales Society was enrolled.

It's difficult to know who precisely was member number 1,000 because when the mail comes in avalanches, as it did throughout August, there's maybe a dozen new members a day to process.

So, in selecting one from those that arrived in the critical batch, you can't be exactly sure who filled in their membership form first.

But the member we think must be closest to that magic figure also took the trouble to write to us and explain why he was joining the Society. He is Mr T.C.Skeffington-Lodge, now living in Brighton, but who was born in Wensleydale. He writes: " - I was born on January 15th, 1905, at Wood Hall (now demolished) outside Aysgarth, and was Christened at St. Oswald's Church, Askriqq, and later lived at the Old Hall, Bainbridge, before later in my life moving with my parents to Settle. For most of my life since then I have maintained contact with Wensleydale through relatives and friends and I think the work you are doing is worthy of widespread strong support"

Following naval service during the War, Mr. Skeffington Lodge became Labour MP for Bedford in the Attlee Government - which established National Parks in England and Wales. He continues to be active in countryside work, and keeps in close touch with relatives in the Yorkshire Dales.

Mr Skeffington-Lodge is one of very many people who have joined the Society because they want to keep in touch with the area they know and love, and to contribute in some way to the work of keeping the area as lovely as ever. Not only are we getting members from throughout the United Kingdom, but from overseas, in some cases ex-patriot Yorkshire people anxious to maintain links, but also (and this is a particularly welcome development) families from Holland and Norway who have come as visitors to England and have joined the Society having fallen in love with the beauty of the Dales landscape, and want to be identified with it. To them we offer a particularly warm welcome.

But we're continuing to attract very many members from the towns and villages of the Yorkshire Dales themselves. After all, we began life in 1981 from a group of Dales people of wide interest and background, based in the Dales, and determined to represent the interests of Dales communities as well as wider landscape and conservation interests.

An energetic membership campaign has been pursued in 1985 to build up the strength and influence of the Society as part of a wider "Campaign for the Dales" to ensure that the region receives its fair share of resources, to ensure that its needs are fully understood, to break through some of the artificial and often damagingly bureaucratic barriers which seem to often to prevent things happening rather than help things happen. From the very beginning the Society has firmly rejected any view that the Yorkshire Dales should be treated as a museum, simply attempting to preserve past glories. We have seen the need for change, for development. At the same time wildlife and landscape conservation are imperatives not to be achieved at the cost of a healthy local economy and reasonably prosperous and successful hill farming, but in harmony with it.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read of activities the Society is pursuing, including a major Conference at Malham Tarn Field Centre in November, to achieve these objectives.

In every way, passing the 1,000 target (at time of writing the current total is over 1,100) is not only a major milestone in its own right. It gives us the strength and authority to pursue these campaigns with vigour.

So - to all those many new members who have joined us in 1985: A heartfelt welcome and anticipation of your active and committed support !

Colin Speakman

Cover photo: Howard Beck

## A684 - Wiser Counsels Prevail

On August 1st, meeting at Northallerton, North Yorkshire County Council supported the motion proposed by the Chairman of the Highways and Transportation Committee to "refer back" to the Highways Committee the controversial proposals to upgrade the main A684 road through Wensleydale to become a "principal route" from the M6 to Teeside. It was stated that "new evidence" required the proposal to be carefully re-examined.

That new evidence included the potential threat to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the disruption, damage and danger to local communities caused by juggernauts that would be encouraged to use the winding road, and the fact that such a proposal would be in flat contradiction of the Government's own policies on roads and National Parks. The Yorkshire Dales Society has been able to play a leading part in the campaign to save Wensleydale from the juggernauts, and in so doing has been able to develop this from a local to a national issue. We have been joined in this by the CPRE, the Council for National Parks and the Ramblers' Association, and by many local organisations including parish councils. Crucial in this battle has been the support of Mr Leon Brittan, M.P. for Wensleydale, who has written personally to YDS expressing gratitude for the Society's support, and also the efforts of local councillors such as Mr John Piper of West Burton and Mr Nigel Watson of Finghall. Though the battle is by no means over yet - a group of leading amenity societies in the North including the Friends of the Lake District, CPRE West Riding, RA and YDS have joined forces in condemning the recent Okehampton bye-pass decision as posing a threat to Northern National Parks - there is every hope that in the Yorkshire Dales at least wiser counsels may have prevailed.

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This evocative study by E. Charles Simpson of cottages in Cotterdale forms the subject of a special limited edition YDS Christmas card, available from the YDS office price £1.50 for 10 (including envelopes); add 30p for post and packing. We can also announce a special YDS Dales Calendar, featuring 6 top Dales photographers. This will be available in local shops price £1.80, but at a special price of £1.50p for YDS members, plus 30p post and packing.

Dales Park Transport Timetable Following the success of the YDS Wharfedale and Wensleydale Bus Guides in 1984, the Society has collaborated with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee to produce a similar pocket-sized guide for the whole of the Dales National park, bus and rail. Invaluable for planning visits to the area (inter-City rail connections are shown) or planning walks, with or without a car, in the area, the Timetable retails at the bargain price of 20p. It is available from National Park Centre, or by post from the YDS Addingham Office at 40p to include post and packing.

A heartfelt thank you from the YDS Council of Management to all those many members who have given so generously, sums ranging from 50p to £100 towards our Appeal. Help is still needed, both in terms of new members and donations, and don't forget to return those Bankers' Orders and Covenant forms !



## Wensleydale - A Housing Crisis

Do local communities in the Yorkshire Dales suffer because the area is famous for its beauty, and for the opportunities it represents for recreation and tourism?

Disturbing evidence that they do in a number of important respects comes from an important new study Housing Need in Wensleydale - a Study of Ten Parishes by Anne Barfoot, and published by the Yorkshire Rural Community Council, William House, Shipton Road, Skelton, York.

In some ways, Wensleydale should have everything going for it. The landscape is superb, there are fine villages, much of the area in question is protected by National Park status. It's the kind of area many people, including members of the YDS, would give anything to go and live there - which is part of the problem.

So why is Wensleydale, with all its many natural advantages, actually a problem area, so designated by the Development Commission who have defined the dale as part of a "Rural Development Area" as recently as June 1984?

The reasons for designation include the following difficulties in a rural area:

- above average unemployment
- an inadequate or unsatisfactory range of employment opportunities
- population decline or sparsity of population
- a migration of population of working age
- age structure biased towards the elderly
- poor access to services and facilities.



Such problems are by no means unique to Wensleydale within the Yorkshire Dales. Ann Barfoot's study suggests, however, that housing provision may be the critical factor in a complex chain of inter-related reactions in the countryside. Because younger people in particular are unable to find a home they can afford, they are unable to live in the area, unable to work in the area, unable to use the services of the area, including schools, transport, shops.

None of these problems are new; but the evidence is that they may, for various reasons, be intensifying. Parish Councillors in the area have suggested that there is now an "acute housing problem" in Wensleydale to exacerbate other difficulties.

17th century cottage, Bainbridge - basic accommodation or attractive investment? (Geoffrey Wright)

But it was in order to see if these assertions have a basis of fact that between June and December 1984 Anne Barfoot carried out her survey, working with parishes councils, interviewing, looking at property, finding out actual need. Of the ten parishes chosen, seven were within the National Park boundary, three outside.

What emerges with disturbing clarity is an acute shortage of smaller, cheaper accommodation in the Wensleydale parishes, available to rent or to buy. There was virtually no property priced under £20,000, and very little in the £20-25,000 range. Prices are significantly higher in Wensleydale than in Richmond as a whole, and to purchase even a modest modernised cottage a young couple would require a joint income of above £8,500, a figure well above the local average. But the bulk of property available on the market is well above such levels, being above the £30,000 mark, with even a bias towards the £40,000 and £50,000 plus price. In this category come the "executive houses" and luxury bungalows favoured by developers on such sites as are available in National Park villages to maximise profits. Outsiders, especially those of retirement age who have acquired capital can afford such prices and regard such a purchase as a worthwhile investment.

The situation over rented accommodation is just as bleak. Although superficially there seems to be plenty of rented accommodation in the Dale, much of it is tied or estate accommodation. When rented accommodation is vacated, it is often sold, again with local youngsters on modest incomes outbid by outsiders who may simply want the accommodation for a second home or retirement investment.

Comparing the 1981 Census returns with her own surveys in 1984, Anne Barfoot found an increasing trend towards second homes and holiday lettings. Most parishes averaged about 15-17% of property in use as second homes or holiday lets, though in one small parish, Newbiggin, it was as high as 68%. In almost every case there has been a noticeable increase in this use since 1981.

The problems associated with both second homes and holiday lettings are well known. The owners of second homes may only use their houses for a few weeks each year, and often rely little on local services, ie the village shop, when they do, though on the other hand they may have kept a property in good repair which would otherwise have become derelict and been lost to the housing stock. Holiday lettings again bring in a migrant population making little use of services or contribution to the community, though once again there is benefit to the economy, and the cottages may be available to local as cheap winter lettings.

Council houses represent a specially difficult problem. The Government's policy on sales of Council homes to sitting tenants, commendable as it may be in many ways, will only work if there is an equal commitment to new council house building, which there is not. In Wensleydale, therefore, the sale of Council homes has resulted in a reduction of the overall available rented housing stock, but when a former Council house comes on the market there is nothing to prevent it, especially if it is in an attractive village location, becoming subject to the same price-spiral as affects other property to be snatched up by wealthy, middle aged outsiders.

What is the solution?

Anne Barfoot correctly avoids any simplistic solution or apportionment of blame. You cannot blame people for selling their property at the market price, nor for people who have lived all their lives in drab urban environments wanting to spend the last part of their lives in surroundings of peace and beauty if they can afford to do so.

But equally, local authorities and central government have too easily swept the problem under the carpet. Although the problems suffered by young and less affluent people in Wensleydale may be tiny compared with the massive problems of Britain's inner cities, they are nonetheless acute and real, and Anne Barfoot provides hard evidence of deprivation in each of her parishes. More serious, lack of cheap housing could turn Dales communities into a gigantic "costa geriatrica", an ageing population lacking the young families, the children, the social mix which is a part of Dales life. Schools will close, transport vanish, services shrink. It's already happening - trends which if continued into the next century, could make many a Dales community little more than a gathering of the elderly and privileged.

Anne Barfoot offers seven key solutions to achieve the central target - more low cost housing for local people. These solutions are 1. Housing Association schemes, perhaps assisted by Development Commission funds 2. More flexible planning policies to meet local needs 3. Higher rates for holiday homes 4. Grants to local people to enable them to buy houses, with restrictions on resale, 5. Help for conversions and renovations for local people 6. Better advice and information for locals and 7. Increased involvement of parish councils on housing matters.

None of these schemes is controversial. But all require a degree of commitment and political will from local politicians and agencies so far not in evidence. Perhaps a major part of the problem is that, apart from parish councils, local people don't have a "voice"; those most in need may not be the most articulate, able to reach for their pen or pick up the telephone to get their point of view across with vigour and force. It doesn't mean their needs can therefore be ignored.



"Happy Faces" - children in a Dales village.

Will they be there in another

(Photo: John Fawcett)

decade?

Colin Speakman



## Barnstorming

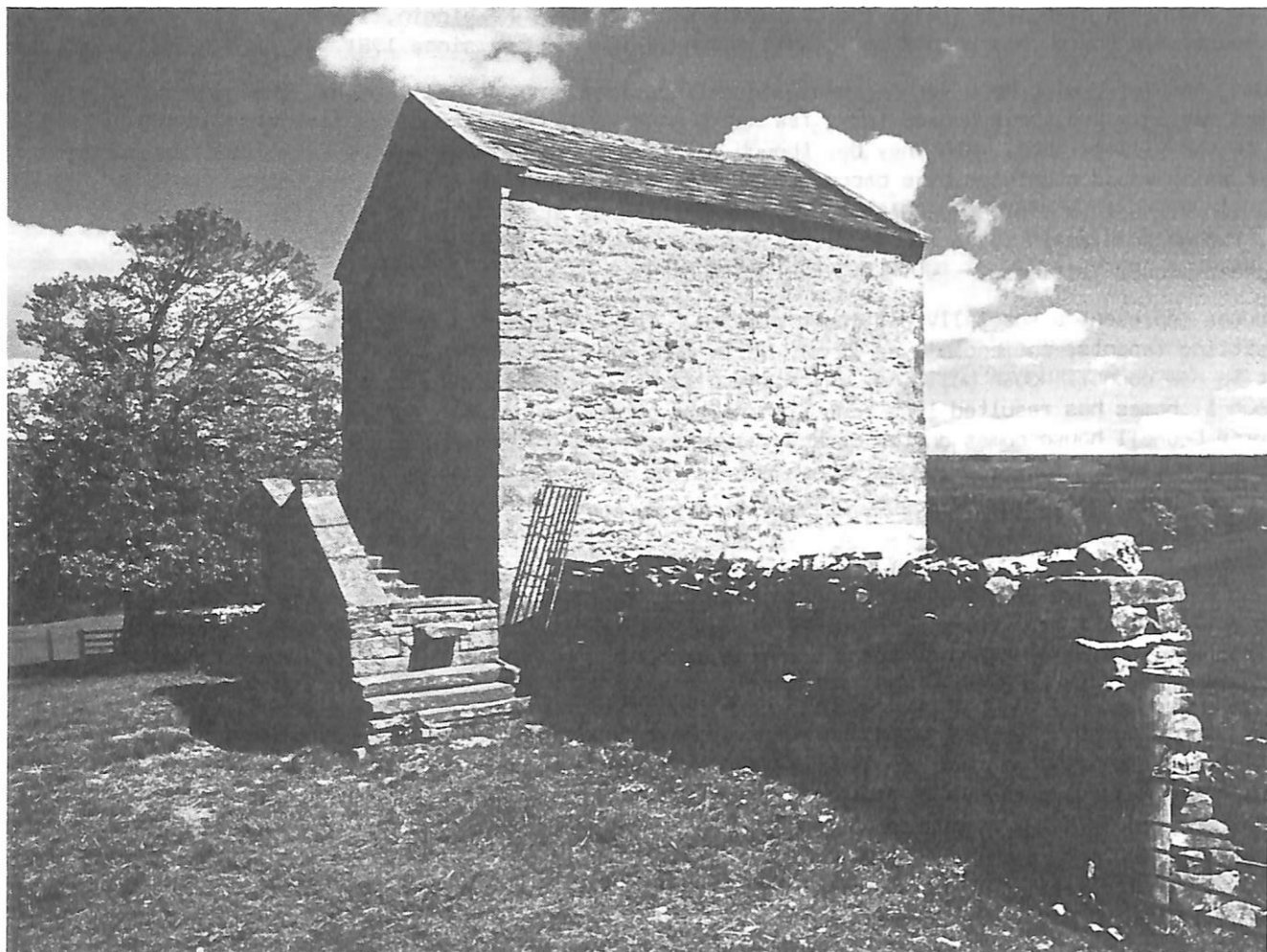


Photo: Dave Thomas

The scattered field-barns of the Yorkshire Dales are, with the drystone walls, one of its greatest landscape features, something that visitors immediately notice. It's something that makes the Dales unique.

As long ago as 1751 the topographer Richard Pococke was amazed to see what he thought were "houses built in most of the fields" in the Dales - something "unusual" and "uncommon".

The barns weren't built to delight sophisticated tourists, but for a strictly practical purpose, the storage of hay and the housing of cattle. Using locally quarried stone, in traditional styles they seem to have grown out of the very landscape, reflecting local geology and landscape colour to a remarkable degree.

But in the late 20th century, farming is far less labour intensive, and modern buildings, close to the farmstead, electrically heated, easy to clean, provide easier working conditions. This has meant that many traditional barns have fallen out of use, and are simply used for storage. As they fall out of repair, farmers lack both means and incentive to keep them in good order, and gradually they become derelict, roofs tumble in, rafters gape, walls collapse leaving piles of unsightly rubble.

In order to focus attention on what is a nationwide problem, one of Britain's oldest conservation groups, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) has launched a major "Domesday" survey of barns in England and Wales. The purpose of the parish-by-parish survey is to have as complete a record as possible of the barns that exist and are at risk so that government and grant-aiding bodies will be in a position to ensure their protection. In the Yorkshire Dales this might include the development of the "Stone Tent" concept of simply bunkhouse accommodation to provide basic facilities for walkers, climbers or cavers whilst providing extra income for farm enterprise, or by improving facilities for their continued agricultural use rather than building afresh. No where in Britain is the heritage of barns more important than the Yorkshire Dales, examples of vernacular architecture without equal for variety and interest.

For this reason, the Yorkshire Dales Society has offered every possible help to the SPAB with its major survey. What is initially required, therefore, from YDS members is for people to volunteer to take a Dales parish and to record, within that Parish, as much information as is possible about the barns that are there. Farmers' organisations, including the NFU, are co-operating with the scheme, and the SPAB provide detailed survey forms and notes to enable the parish survey to take place.

What is required is a complete picture as possible of barns in a particular parish, with co-operation from local farmers and landowners, to describe their architectural features, materials, state of repair. Already the survey has resulted in major discoveries of hitherto unknown cruck-barns, of medieval origin, in other parts of Britain, and there may be barns of similar importance in the Dales area.

Already a number of organisations in the Dales and Pennine areas are offering assistance, but we need individuals with time and energy to undertake this important work. For many people, it'll be an interesting and useful way to give a purpose for autumn walking. Obviously people living within the Dales, whether within or outside the National Park, have a tremendous advantage in terms of local knowledge, and as the Yorkshire Dales Society has members living in almost every village of the Dales, if some of these members were able to volunteer to do their own patch, this would be a tremendous help. One advantage of local members is that they'll know local farmers, and be able to explain what it's all about before seeking access to barns. On the other hand, enthusiastic visitors may be able to tackle some of the remoter parishes and provide tremendous help with this important and exciting task.

Can you help? If you think you can find the time, please write or phone the Yorkshire co-ordinator, Ian Todd, Barns Survey, 4 Corn Exchange, Leeds, LS1 7BP tel Leeds (0532) 449973. Ian Todd has a record of which parishes are being surveyed and can therefore ensure that duplication is avoided.

However, it would help if you were to indicate which parishes or area you were interested in, so that you can be allocated either an area you know well or are happy to explore as part of the Survey. On the other hand, if you have no strong preference, the SPAB might be able to allocate a priority area for you to tackle where volunteers are thin on the ground.

Once the pattern of voluntary effort becomes clear (and groups will be as welcome as individuals for this task) the YDS will join forces with SPAB to see if we can organise joint effort to ensure the whole Dales area is covered.

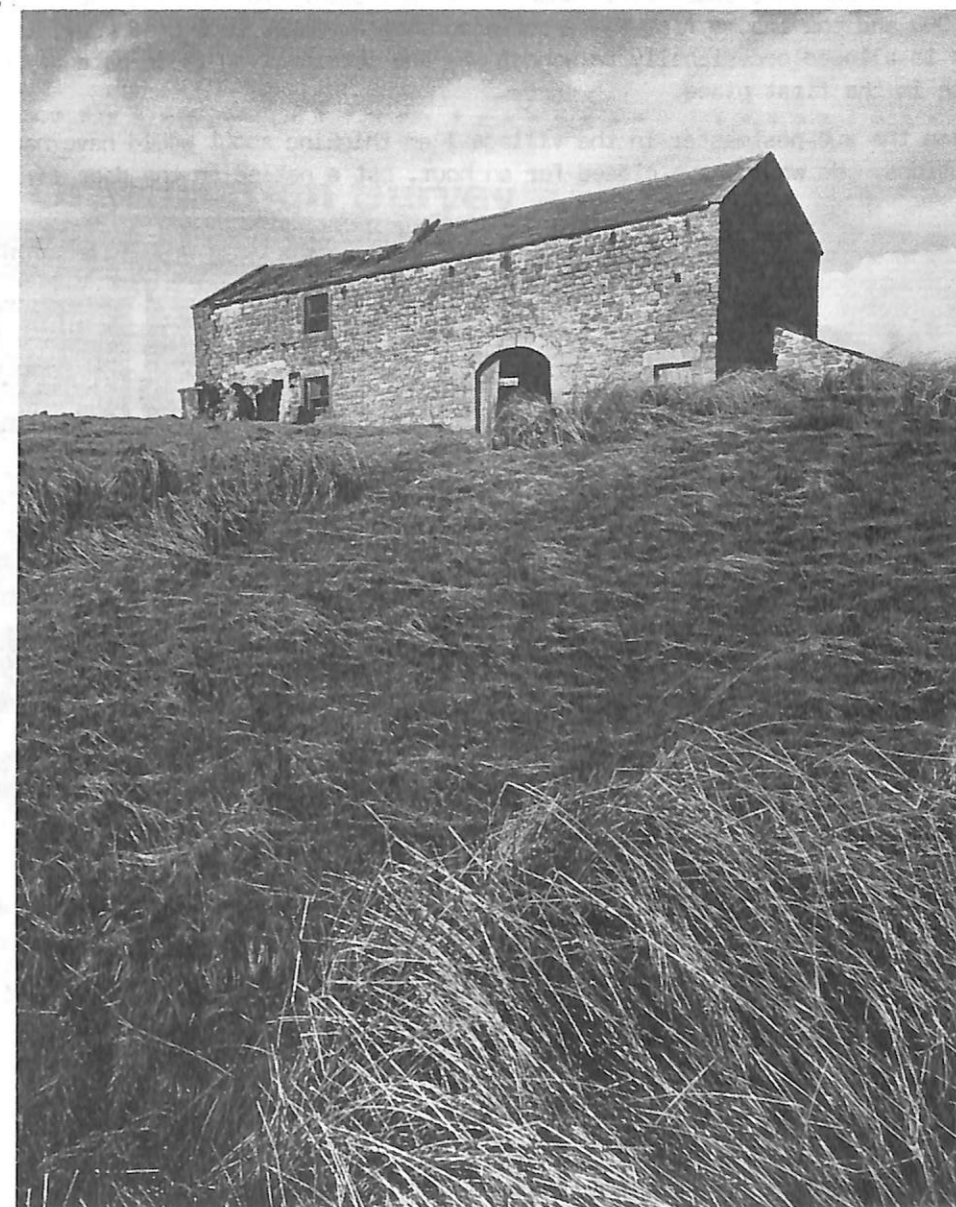


Photo: Dave Thomas



## Why are we here? Reflections of a Dales Sub Postmaster

Rumour has it that the Post Office, prior to privatisation, plans to close a number of small sub-post offices, which are a focal point for many Dales communities. Here a Dales village sub-postmaster, who also happens to be a member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, reflects on what it actually means, in business terms, to provide that service.

Anyone running a village post office in the Dales is without protection. By that I do not mean that the postal authorities will not provide physical security in the form of a bandit screen or an alarm system to scare away intruders. They will gladly do that. What they cannot do is to protect you from the people who monopolise so much time.

I have in mind a lady who, in the past five years, has not spent £5 in our combined post office and village store but who is still entitled to take half an hour or more over the purchase of a second-class stamp in order to describe the many illnesses to which she has unfortunately been subject and the homeopathic cures which she can thoroughly recommend.

If your house is also the post office you are virtually defenceless against this form of attack. It is your home but it is also in some sense a public building, like a town hall. People are entitled to enter during opening hours, browse through the National Savings literature, contemplate the posters advertising the National Girobank, inquire about the cost of sending a parcel to Australia, ask for a form for the redirection of mail, inspect the register of electors, discuss the reduction in the price of a dog licence from 37½p to 37p, consider the formalities for obtaining a senior citizen's railcard or the deposit of money in the Leicester Building Society, and then depart without making a transaction.

These processes can take some time. When the annual salary for running the post office comes to about £2,000 and the income from the associated shop amounts, in a good year, to less than £10 per week, one is allowed occasionally to wonder why one got involved in so patently uneconomic an enterprise in the first place.

At one time the sub-postmaster in the village I am thinking about would have had some defence against the intrusions. He would have closed for an hour, put a notice on the door saying "Delivering a telegram"



Denys Stark, the proprietor - Gunnerside Post Office and Stores, Swaledale (NOT the shop featured in this article). From Open Fell Hidden Dale by Eliza & John Forder, Arthur Raistrick (Frank Peters)

and settled down to read a book or eat his breakfast. The abolition of the telegram (which, incidentally, used to bring in an extra pound or two a week for delivery) has meant that this defence is no longer available. Moreover, people in the village know that although our lunch hour is from 12.30 to 1.30, the postman does not call to collect the mail until 1 o'clock. It is therefore legitimate for them to bring in their parcels for weighing at 12.29 in the knowledge that the transaction will take about ten minutes and that the post office will then have to interrupt its lunch in order to hand the package over to the postman when he calls.

All this is perfectly acceptable as part of the job, and would be even more so if the very few customers on the retail side of the business did not feel it necessary to apologise for making a purchase. No one ever comes in for sanitary wear (which, together with balloons, cricket bats, wrapping paper, sticking plaster, Mother's Day Cards, camomile lotion, funny noses and many other things besides we keep for local emergencies) without apologising for not having bought it from the supermarket twenty miles away where they do their weekly shopping. We do not actually mind selling things which we have driven eighty miles there and back to buy from the cash-and-carry because in so far as the enterprise has a purpose that is it.

However, I exaggerate slightly. A large proportion of the people who call are not here either for a postal transaction or a purchase in the shop. They are not even the visiting children who want advice about how to spend their 10p. They are simply people asking the way, inquiring whether the river will be running or dry, and wondering whether we happen to have heard the weather forecast for the area.

Now all these are totally reasonable inquiries. The only thing is that unless you have another source of income you cannot rely on them for a livelihood. With 100 households, say, in the catchment and coach-loads of visitors every weekend in summer, it could indeed be an economic proposition to run a post office on these lines. With 25 households and virtually no tourist trade (the absence of which must of course be weighed on the positive side of the balance) one begins to look around for a supplementary means of subsistence.

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## Dales Amenity Organisation Survey

One of the problems faced by the Yorkshire Dales in recent years has been the diverse nature of many of the organisations active in the area, and concerned with conservation of the environment.

There is widespread recognition of the importance of voluntary organisations in conservation work of any kind. Often it is local people, with local knowledge who are first to appreciate the nature or scale of an environmental threat. Alternatively, it is the keen amateur in a specialist wildlife or industrial history society who can bring expert knowledge and understanding to a problem.

Local authorities have no monopoly of expertise or knowledge. On the contrary, handicapped by expenditure cuts, often there simply isn't the manpower to give problems the attention they need. Arbitrary and often nonsensical boundaries, for example around the National Park, between Districts, between Counties, can create absurdly contradictory situations.

But whilst some areas of the Dales have excellent "watchdog" groups who keep a close eye on everything, in other areas no-one is really doing anything very much, and even the major regional bodies appear to be woefully over-extended.

So the Yorkshire Dales Society, whose major purpose is to work with and support other organisations, is undertaking a survey of all environmental and amenity bodies in the "greater" Dales area. A detailed questionnaire has been sent out to a very large number of bodies, and many of these have been returned. From their replies we are building up a detailed picture, which will be turned into a report of "who does what and where" in the Dales.

The document, when complete, will be a valuable source of information, both for voluntary groups and for local authorities who are increasingly turning to voluntary groups for informed response and practical help on many environmental issues. The Society sees its main role as a co-ordinating group, but will take the lead on matters of major regional importance, such as the A684, as these occur.

Organisations already surveyed will be kept informed of progress, but we'd very much like to hear from any group or organisation concerned with amenity or environmental matters in the Yorkshire Dales who have yet to receive our green questionnaire. We'd hate to miss anyone out.

Please let us know as soon as possible with the name of the organisation and name and address of the Secretary or appropriate contact person.



## Wanted - A Secretary



In Hebden Gill

L.M. Speakman

The situation was considered at a special meeting of the Council of Management and the following action taken. Treasurer Ian Hartley would take over the role of Company Secretary to fulfil the Society's legal requirements. As a professional accountant and Company Secretary Ian is particularly experienced and skilled to fulfil such a role. The Society's administrative and membership work, including the running of the Addingham office would be taken over by Fleur Speakman, who has worked for the Society for a number of years on a purely voluntary basis. An honorarium would be paid to her to reflect the increased workload and responsibility in the new situation. She would be continued to be assisted in this work by her team of volunteers at the Addingham office, without whose support and help each week the Society could not function. Colin Speakman would continue to serve the Council, in an executive role, dealing with such items as minutes, agendas, editing the Review, and providing policy and creative guidance.

However, Council of Management stress that they see this as a purely temporary measure until a paid-part time Secretary can be appointed. With more than a thousand members, and an ambitious programme of events, publications and campaigning for the Dales to undertake, the Society needs its own officer, initially part-time, eventually full-time. In effect the Secretary is its Director, planning strategy, determining priorities, developing contacts, organising meetings, events, ensuring the day-to-day administrative and routine administrative tasks are performed. There are press releases and reports to write, letters for local authorities, government agencies, other voluntary bodies. There are talks and lectures to give, interviews for press, radio, television. A high degree of professionalism has to be aimed for and achieved if the Society's objects are to be fulfilled.

Such skills are expensive; despite help from the Countryside Commission and buoyant membership income, the Society still does not have the means to pay even the most modest professional salary, and none of the many commercial concerns the Society has so far approached have been able to provide sponsorship or grant aid to make this possible.

Nonetheless, the Council are totally committed to the principle of a paid part-time Secretary, and are looking initially for a member of the Society who may have the necessary time and skills to offer. Salary will be negotiable, but is likely to be initially based on one or two days work a week. If you feel you may have the necessary experience (at this stage the Society is less concerned about office skills which are being tackled by the team of voluntary workers) please write to Ian Hartley, Company Secretary, YDS, 152 Main Street, Addingham, via Ilkley. All enquiries will be treated as confidential. Alternatively, you may feel that although you don't want to accept all the above commitment, you could tackle certain tasks suggested above. We are particularly keen to find a convenor for our Social History group, and to help with Heritage Conservation. Council of Management has lost membership over the last few months through removals, new commitments etc., and we are seeking people with time and energy to give. If you feel you can help, in a voluntary capacity, perhaps as a member of Council, this will reduce the burden on the Secretariat, and enable so much more to be achieved.

We look forward to hearing from you !

In July, Colin Speakman, founder-Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, and paid part-time Secretary of the Society since March 1st, accepted the post of Tourism Officer for West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council.

Although Colin's contract with YDS still had a few weeks to run, as a full time officer of the County Council, he was unable to accept part time paid employment with YDS and was therefore compelled to offer the Society his resignation, nevertheless offering to serve the Society in a purely voluntary capacity.

## Review

AA/OS Leisure Guide to the Yorkshire Dales

This is a delightfully produced and informative publication, as might have been expected from a combination of "AA research expertise and Ordnance Survey Mapping". It should appeal particularly to members of this Society, for not only does it deal exclusively with the Yorkshire Dales but additionally three of the four editorial contributors - Laurie Fallows, Colin Speakman and Geoffrey Wright are all founder-members. Within its 120 pages are to be found a Gazetteer and Directory, articles on Dales scenery and life, and a useful collection from Ordnance Survey Maps on scales ranging from 1/250,000 to 1/25,000, which illustrate descriptions of 2 motor tours and 16 walks. A pity the latter section is not detachable, for the book is too large to fit into any garment pocket except, perhaps, a poacher's (and how large is a poacher's pocket?), and at the same time, loving books, one would hesitate to cram it into a rucksack.

Ironic that behind the picture of Kilnsey Crag "an unspoilt limestone cliff" a quarry is busily burrowing into the hillside and that the Whernside National Caving Training Centre is even now being partly dismantled as such, as surprising to be told that the Yorkshire Dales National Park was designated in 1864! Nevertheless, a splendid book and worth every penny of its £5.95 (soft covers).

Ken Willson

Preview - Bird's Eye Primrose (Primula farinosa)

What a great idea - with YDS members in mind John Chambers, of Kettering, wildflower seed specialists, have produced, specially for WR Outhwaite, Ropemakers of Hawes, packs of the YDS symbol flower seed. So why not try and cultivate the beautiful bird's eye primrose, if you've a moist shady place in your garden? Packs available price £1 including post and packing from WR Outhwaite & Son, Hawes North Yorkshire DL8 3NT, or 75p to personal callers.

## Join us on a Dales Event

Many enthusiastic members of the Yorkshire Dales Society seem shy about coming along to one or our outdoor or indoor events. To give you an impression of how much even a damp afternoon can be (and there have been enough of those in 1985) Geoffrey Wright gives an impression of the Society's recent visit to Swaledale:

Although the event was erroneously billed in the YDS Summer Review as "Discovering Old Muker" most of the 26 members who turned up on a wet July afternoon were quite happy, and indeed prepared, to accompany the leader, Geoffrey Wright on a six mile walk in Swaledale - not just "a" walk but probably the best walks in this most delectable of the major dales.

After a brief look at Muker's 18th and 19th century houses, most of



YDS Members near Swinnergill, Swaledale

Photo Geoffrey Wright

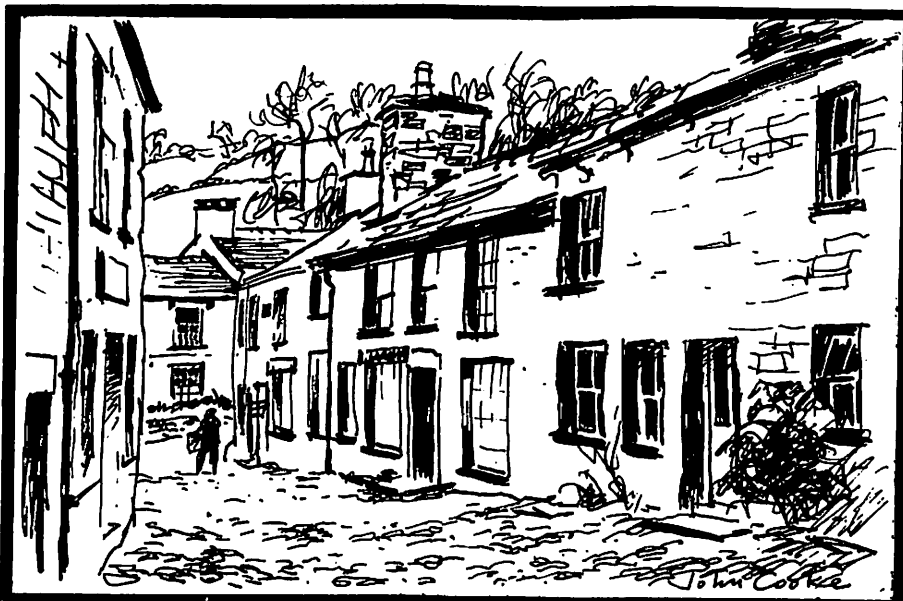
the legacy of lead-mining days, the group walked through the hay-meadows - recently-cut - north of the village, to the footbridge across the Swale, and then followed the eastern side of the valley to the foot of Swinnergill, where the muddled ruins of the 18th century Beldi Hill Smelt-mill were examined. Westwards then, high above the Swale's impressive gorge, towards Keld, where the river was crossed by the Pennine Way footbridge. Summer rains ensured that the nearby waterfalls were impressively lively, and the threat of more showers encouraged the group not to delay its return to Muker along the Pennine Way along Kisdon's eastern shoulder, high above the river. The track follows a limestone outcrop, initially over very stony ground, later over a smooth turf carpet, rewarding walkers with the quintessence of Dales scenery. Squeezer stiles of wet stones were negotiated with care; light rain from dark clouds restricted visibility, and the steep descent by the so-called Corpse Way into Muker returned moistened YDS members to their cars just as the heavens opened.

GNW

YDS member Geoffrey Ransome, a Woodturner, seeks a cottage and workshop in the Northern Dales. If any member can help his search, please let Mr Ransome know - telephone 050.270.426.

## Events in Autumn

- Sunday September 22nd      DALES RAIL 10th Anniversary celebrations - Appleby. Details (SAE please) Sheila Yeadon, Producer, BBC Radio Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2
- Saturday September 28th      A Wensleydale Farm      Join Mr & Mrs Thornton-Berry of Swinithwaite Hall Farm for a look at a mid-dale farm, managed on organic farming principles. Meet at Swinithwaite Hall (midway between Aysgarth and West Witton on A684 at 2pm.
- Saturday October 5th      Hawes and the Rope Works      Meet Peter and Ruth Annison who run one of the most successful small business enterprises in the Upper Dale - to be followed with a walk along the Hawes Town Trail with local Councillor Roger Stott. Meet at Rope works at 2pm (near Information Centre). Event coincides with Dales Rail bus and train service from Lancashire, West Yorkshire and Carlisle. Advance booking advised - or catch train at 1107 from Settle and pay on train.
- Thursday October 10th-  
November 19th (inc)      Open Fall, Hidden Dales - an event for our members in London and the South East. An exhibition of Eliza and John Forder's highly praised photographs from their book at the ILFORD GALLERY, 14-22 Tottenham Street London. Superb images of Dales landscape and people.
- Friday November 8th      Turner in the Yorkshire Dales      A repeat of David Hill's acclaimed lecture on the work of J.M.W. Turner in the Yorkshire Dales. At the Clark-Foley Centre, Ilkley (near central car park) at 8pm. Admission £1 - YDS members 80p.
- Saturday November 10th      Britain Beautiful      A stunning slide-tape sequence by the late Stanley Jeeves to the music of Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Delius and Sibelius presented by his daughter, Susan Jeeves, and Susan Keady on behalf of Craven Branch of CPRE. Skipton Town Hall, 7.30pm Admission £1.50.
- Saturday November 23rd,  
-Sunday November 24th      Farming, conservation and the uplands      A major weekend conference and seminar at Malham Tarn Field Centre, with national speakers, to examine this most critical area of concern for the Yorkshire Dales at a time of dramatic economic and social change. Residential. Full details from the Secretary or from Malham Tarn Field Centre.
- Saturday December 14th      A Dales Kirsmas Neet      A traditional Dales night of songs, dialect and dance, pie n' peas supper, bar. Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast can be arranged to save late night drive home - from around £8-9 per night. In the Buckden Institute - mine hosts David and Rachel Hird of The White Lion, Cray; Admission £4 : advance booking essential (cheques payable to D. Hird) direct to The White Lion, Cray, nr Buckden, via Skipton North Yorkshire. Details of Bed and Breakfast sent on request - SAE appreciated.



A Dent scene

John Cooke

The Secretary  
Yorkshire Dales Society

152 Main Street  
Addingham  
Via Ilkley  
LS29 0HY

tel (evenings) 0943  
607868