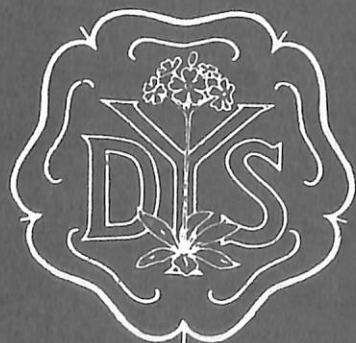
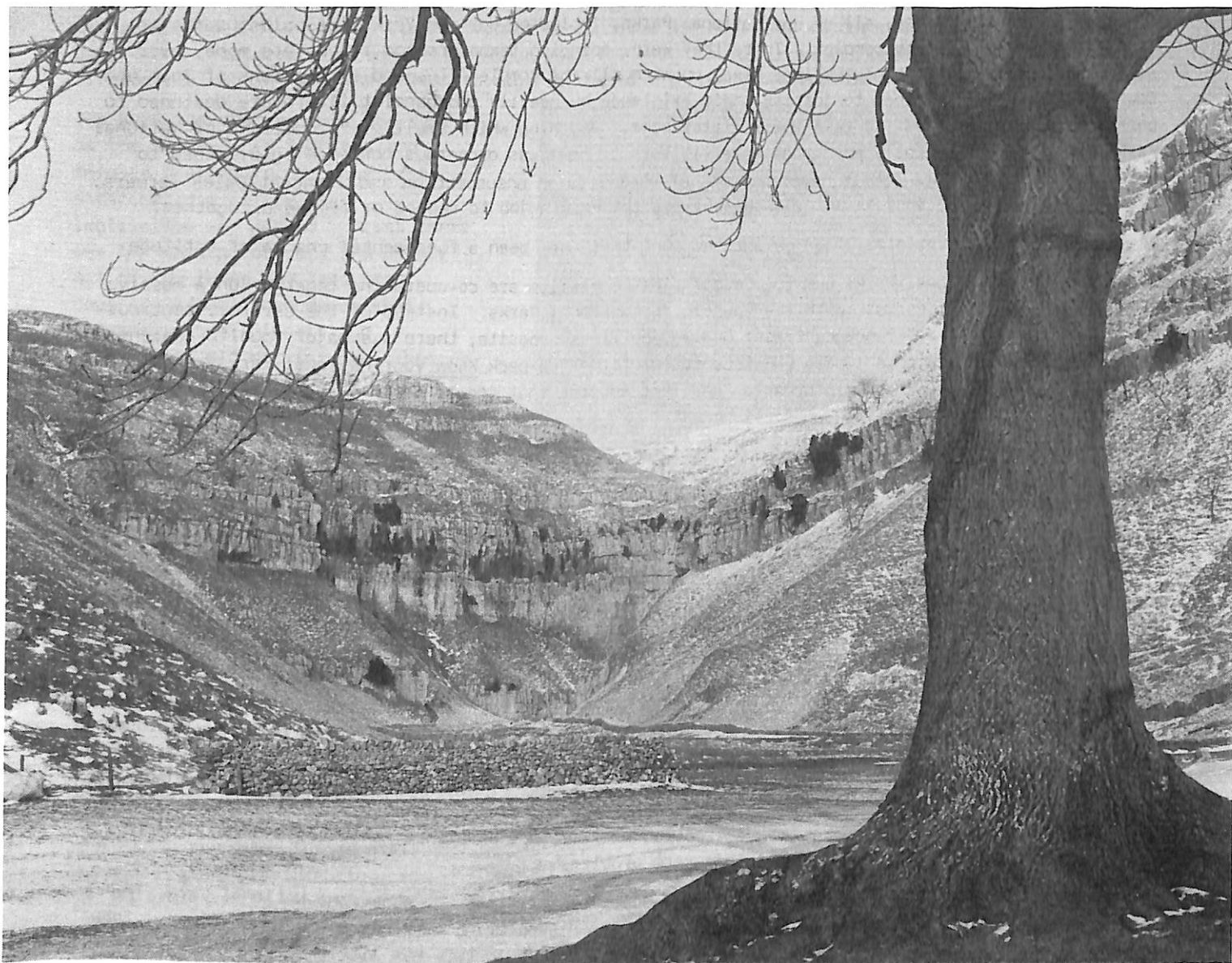


Y The **Yorkshire Dales** **Review**

No.13
Winter 1985/86



50 Years of the Council for National Parks
Coolscar Scandal Continues
The Dales Development Conundrum
The Hong Kong Connection

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 do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

Bringing National Parks out of the Closet

Until very recently indeed, all of our National Parks, including our own Yorkshire Dales, suffered from a massive inferiority complex. There they were, spending taxpayers and ratepayers money over something loosely called conservation, mixed up with all the complexities and irritations of Town and Country Planning, determined to justify their existence by heavily propagandist literature designed to persuade ignorant townies to take their litter home. Anything which smelt of "promotion" of National Parks, which would actually encourage more visitors to come, was dangerous nonsense guaranteed to bring out the hoardes to commit nameless acts of vandalism on unsuspecting and innocent Dales farmers. "Visitor pressure" was seen as an evil that it was the Park's job to reduce or remove altogether.

Of course that's an over-simplified caricature. But there has been a fundamental change of attitude.

Suddenly the ten National Parks and the Countryside Commission are co-operating together on a massive "Campaign for National Parks" with the Council for National Parks. Instead of the careful, cautious low profile approach, as Francesca Fraser Darling outlines opposite, there's a major "public awareness" campaign going ahead, with a superb CNP teachers' information pack Know your National Parks, partially sponsored by Kodak, with maps, information and fact sheets, that should be in every school in the land. (full details from CNP, address opposite).

Of course there's lots of reasons for this. On the one hand the Government recognising that Britain's major earner of foreign currency is tourism, sees a valued role in rejuvenation of rural areas with appropriate tourist development as an essential component of the economy of National Parks. Whilst accepting that large scale tourism has its dangers, the future of upland farming, for example, may depend on some diversification into tourism.

On the other hand the Countryside Commission is, to use the jargon, moving away from a "resource-based" to a "people-based" approach in its philosophy. It is not an adequate response to talk about visitor management as a cynical way to manipulate those threatening hoardes. What is needed is, in Francesca Fraser Darling's word, a broad based "National Park constituency" which reflects the needs and wishes of people living in towns and cities as well as rural areas. We must educate to achieve conservation. Conservation isn't just about taking litter home and not picking the daisies, it's a personal philosophy concerned with such matters as British power station emissions destroying German forests and the long-term effects of chemical fertilisers on soil structures. National Parks, our finest upland landscapes, are only a part of this picture, but in some ways a cogent symbol of what conservation is all about. An enormous quarry in the Dales, the destruction of limestone pavements, the destruction of herb rich meadows are vivid illustrations of long term problems.

Of course the Yorkshire Dales Society isn't just about conservation nor about the National Park. The many problems faced by upland areas - economic decline, disappearing services and communications, lack of housing opportunities are matters which the National Park authority has little direct control. But it's precisely because we have all failed to get the message across to the many different organisations and individuals active in the uplands that problems have been compounded. Blinkered vision has been the cause of much frustration and failure, and whilst there has been excellent progress, many blinkers have yet to be prized away.

But the National Parks Campaign is an excellent point to start. We in the Yorkshire Dales Society will be supporting the campaign 100% and will work closely with the National Park, the Commission and the CNP to create stronger National Parks, with more resources, giving a better deal to local communities. And we'll ensure areas outside the arbitrary boundaries don't get neglected.

If you'd like to help our campaign (we are devising a panel of speakers) or would like a YDS speaker to a local organisation, we'll be delighted to hear.

Colin Speakman

Cover: Gordale in Winter (John Avison)

(John Avison has a studio in The Mountaineer, Grassington)

The Council for National Parks (CNP) 1936 - 1986

In May, 1936, a group of organisations and individuals banded together to fight for the parliamentary establishment of National Parks. Called the Standing Committee of National Parks (SCNP), the first Council included such members as the Co-operative Holidays Association, the Council for the Protection of Rural England the National Trust. Among the many individuals who worked for SCNP in those early days were Julian Huxley, Professor Patrick Abercrombie, Clough Williams-Ellis, Tom Stephenson and, of course, John Dower who was the Drafting Secretary.

Next year is CNP's 50th Anniversary, and it continues to campaign and work on behalf of all our National Parks, especially in Parliament. Since National Park legislation was passed in 1949, there has been plenty to do to monitor and ensure National Park integrity and to promote the two National Park purposes of recreation and landscape conservation. Government's decision to bring in a Confirming Bill to overturn the Joint Parliamentary Committee's decision in favour of a northern bypass route for Okehampton (rather than the southern route through the National Park favoured by the DoT) represents a government overturning of one of the major policies that upholds those two objectives. No less important, if less well known, was the threat to upgrade the A684 in the Yorkshire Dales.

The work has changed over the years as the Parks faced problems and threats that could not have been anticipated when the 1949 legislation was passed. First there was the upsurge of cars and people out of the towns and into the country, a dual phenomenon that the early Commissioners and legislators did not foresee. Then there was a general depopulation of rural areas, which hit the uplands especially hard. Later on "improved" farming practices arose because of the changed imperatives and conditions of food production. Alongside the more noticeable threats from particular developments National Parks have suffered too from more passive but invidious changes such as those in woodland management or landscape maintenance. When a stone wall falls down, it has been disintegrating for a long time, but only at the last does it become a crisis.

In recognition of the fact that all the Parks have been inadequately funded since their inception, and of the poor public knowledge about National Parks, despite 90 million day visits to them last year, the Countryside Commission launched an "awareness" campaign in September. They hope it will first create an informed and caring National Park "constituency", and second bring government attention to the fact that greater resources and public commitment need to be given to our Parks and the Authorities who run them.

CNP supports this campaign, but wants to work with those who live and work in the Parks as well as those who travel to them for the delight these landscapes give. Especially in the approaching year ahead, CNP hopes to join local groups, both those which are already Council members and those which are not, to celebrate and affirm National Park designation. From these links we hope to sustain and build on a National Park constituency, through Friends of the National Parks membership, and through joint projects and events in the Spring and Summer of 1986. Ideas are welcomed and we look to the campaign to establish the basis for another 50 years of voluntary commitment and support for National Parks.

Francesca Fraser Darling

CNP, 45 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9HJ tel 01 240 3603



Tom Stephenson leading Parliamentarians (from l. to r. Arthur Blenkinsop, George Chetwynd, Barbara Castle, Hugh Dalton, Geoffrey de Freitas, Fred Willey) along the Pennine Way, 1948 (photo: Ramblers Ass.)

Subtopia in the Dales

If a Dalesman had returned home after an absence of 20 years, he'd notice some things which were the same as he had left them, some things which had improved, some things which had worsened. Now if you live in an area or visit it frequently, most changes are incremental. That is they may be quite large changes, but because they happen bit by bit, it's only when you look again after a long time that you begin to see what's really been happening under your very nose.

So our mythical Dalesman would certainly see some improvements. He'd see quite a lot of property now well cared for, renovated, with tidy gardens, new windows, fresh paint. Villages would be neater, tidier, more prosperous looking. He'd notice new car parks, footpath signs, new stiles. He'd notice quite a few road improvements in the sense of widening schemes to enable him to drive faster, though whether these would all be improvements in the visual sense might be a moot point. If he was a farming man, he also notices how there were less farms in business, how farms had amalgamated, with farmhouses turned over to residential development or "gentrified". He'd notice how much larger the quarries had become and how much bigger the lorries were turning out of their wide entrances. And he'd most certainly be aware that several of the larger Dales villages, or smaller townships had grown quite dramatically. In some cases, he'd be horrified to see ribbon development of smart but nondescript houses, equally at home were they in Leeds, Bradford, Burnley, Manchester or Carlisle. If he drove between Threshfield and Grassington he'd be shocked to see how the two villages now almost join, and extend away to the northwest so that if he stood on the hillside lines of new houses extending along the limestone pastures above the River Wharfe would be clearly visible.

No doubt if he went into the local pub (now selling real ale to meet new trends from the town) they'd blame the National Park. But if he spoke to the National Park officers they'd blame the Department of the Environment who have allowed appeal after appeal. They'd quote the case of Linton Mill which was the last surviving textile mill in

Upper Wharfedale and which they tried to retain for craft workshop and light industrial development, but were defeated on appeal by an Inspector from London who said there was "no demand." It was bought by a speculative builder who promptly cleared the site for a speculative housing development.



Linton Mill, Upper Wharfedale - a 19th century textile mill with a medieval watercourse, demolished in 1984 for housing development

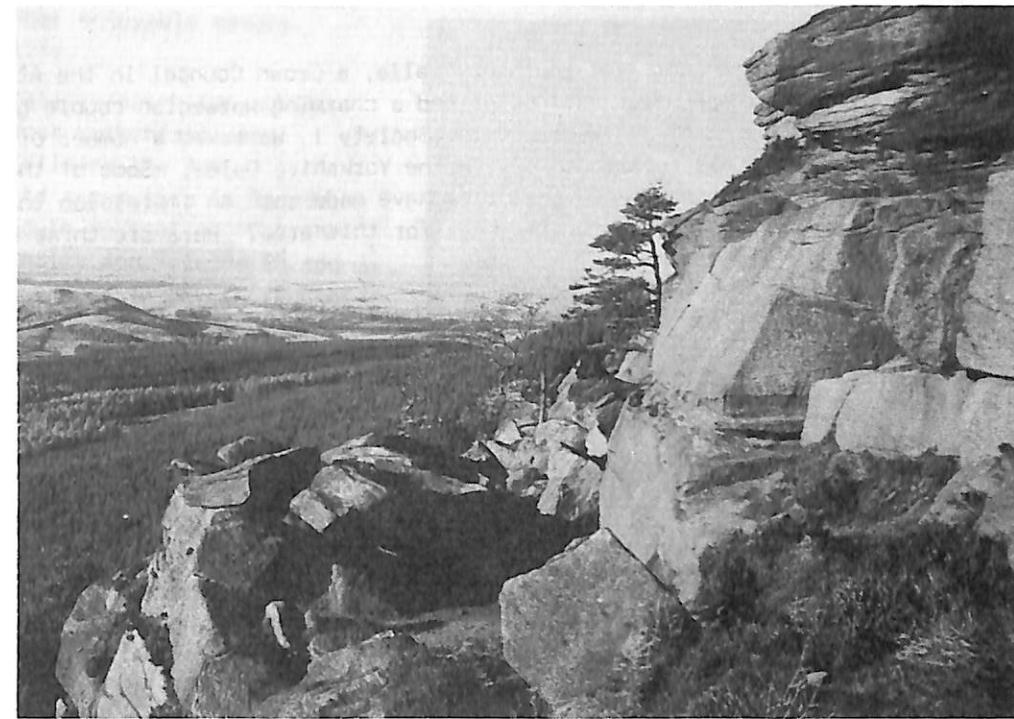
But it's not just happening in the National Park. In Pateley Bridge, in Nidderdale, concern is being expressed at a 4½ acre in-fill development promoted by the District Council itself, and likely to result in another housing development. Yet as Ann Barfoot's recent study has

shown, such development is invariably well beyond the means of genuine local people, who are priced out of the commercial housing market by wealthy, often retired, outsiders.

Is the process of creeping suburbanisation an inevitable one in the Dales? Grassington and Pateley Bridge are both less than an hour away from the big industrial and commercial centres of West Yorkshire, and improved road communications, including new by-passes and stretches of motorway, make commuting from the Dales easier as each year goes by. Growing numbers of retired people increase the demand for retirement homes in the Dales. Where will the process end? At what point will the planners be able to say "no" to the next speculative development, or will the builders and powerful commercial lobbies be able to exert strong political pressure? At what point will the glittering attractions of "Time-share" development begin to make an impact on the Yorkshire Dales?

Colin Speakman

Crookrise Crag



This gritstone outcrop is a prominent feature of the landscape seen from the B6265 Skipton-Grassington road. Not only good to look at and to look from, its firm rock has provided generations of climbers with good quality routes whose varying difficulty makes them suitable for experts and beginners. Cecil Slingsby first climbed them in 1864, and the British Mountaineering Council believes this to have been the first recorded climb on a gritstone outcrop, a fact which thus makes Crookrise Crag the birthplace of British outcrop climbing.

To safeguard access for present walkers and climbers, as well as for future generations, the National Park Committee is buying the crags, together with ten hectares (25 acres) of the Crookrise Woods below the escarpment, from the Forestry Commission. This will be the second largest area of land belonging to the National Park Committee, and a site management plan is being prepared by the Committee in association with the British Mountaineering Council, who are, incidentally, making a contribution towards the cost of purchase in memory of John Midgeley, a former president of the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club. Access to the crags and the walk along their crest will continue to be from Emsay Reservoir via Emsay Fell and the Barden Moor Access Area.

Geoffrey Wright

Dales Quarry Scandal

Coolscar Quarry, behind Kilnsey Crag in Upper Wharfedale, already the subject of a major public inquiry contested by several major amenity bodies and the Countryside Commission, is the centre of bitter controversy as environmentalists reveal that more than 100,000 tonnes of rock have been removed through unauthorised quarrying. The Observer newspaper has revealed that the Department of the Environment have confirmed that "the quarrying without planning permission seems to have no precedent."

Coolscar Quarry, as many YDS members will be aware, is owned by Eskett Quarries Ltd who in 1981 applied to have their existing quarry at Coolscar extended. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee turned down that application and the Company subsequently appealed; but just a month before the appeal inquiry was to start the National Park Committee met in secret and the extension was allowed after all. A public outcry followed, leading to the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Heseltine calling another planning inquiry. His successor Patrick Jenkin failed to make a clear decision but indicated that he was disposed to allow the quarry providing that production was cut to 100,000 tonnes a year. The firm objected again and this summer there was another inquiry, and an announcement on its findings are thought to be "imminent". But meantime, the Quarry Company have carried on regardless, having so far this year taken out 159,000 tons in the first 8 months. The quarry is in an environmentally sensitive area, without rail links, every one of those 159,000 tonnes being taken out by juggernaut along narrow Dales roads.

Lord Hunt, leader of the 1953 Everest Expedition and Chairman of the Council for National Parks, is to raise the whole question of what is going on at Coolscar in a debate in the House of Lords.

Norway, Hong Kong, South Australia to the Yorkshire Dales

What have the Director General of Transport for South Australia, a Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers, a Hong Kong Chinese police inspector and a charming Norwegian couple got in common? - they are all members of the Yorkshire Dales Society! We asked a number of our overseas members to tell us about their relationship with the Yorkshire Dales. Some of them are ex-patriate British and others are those on whom the Dales have made such an impression that they too are prepared to give us an insight into their feelings for this area. Here are three of the fascinating replies we have received so far:

Ada Frogg and her husband Per live in Sarpsborg founded by the Vikings in 1020 (affinities with the Yorkshire Dales?!), and not far from the Swedish border. The area is largely arable, wheat farming, but forestry is also a major industry. Ada has been instrumental in introducing her friend Kari Westbye who lives nearby, to the Yorkshire Dales Society, and also her cousin Willy Paulsen who lives at Kristiansund, on the edge of Norway's newest oil town. Ada writes in enviable English:

"It all started 6 years ago when my husband and I went to a friend in Nottingham for a visit. At that time both of us had to retire early on breakdown pensions. A little depressed, we decided to stay in the south of England, as the winter in Norway is rather harsh. But one day I read an advertisement in the "Nottingham Post" about a cottage for hire in Kirklington near Thirsk. Yorkshire was then unknown to us, so on an impulse we took our car and drove up to see what it was like. Yorkshire conquered us. We hired the cottage for six months and the following spring and early summer we spent in Hawes and Reeth. While we lived in Hawes my cousin Willy Paulsen spent seven weeks with us and he, too, lost his heart to the Dales.

"My husband and I try to spend at least a few weeks every year in Yorkshire, and this year we went over for 6 weeks and brought our friend Kari Westbye, who begged us to take her with us to Yorkshire next summer as well. We certainly will if we can find a not too expensive cottage or caravan to hire. This year we stayed in the Dales in May/June, next year we would like to come in August/September. And we would like to stay in Wensleydale, Swaledale or the Brontë country.

We always bring our car and we have already seen so much of your beautiful Yorkshire, but we can see it again and again, and it is always as fascinating as when we saw it the first time. First of all, you have all those historic places, but even more we love the green valleys with the grazing cows and sheep. We think the world's last bit of tranquillity is left in your beautiful Yorkshire and we feel it is an honour to be members of the Yorkshire Dales Society."



Upper Swaledale "The world's last bit of tranquillity"
(Photo: Geoffrey Wright)

Derek Scarfton, now Director General of Transport for South Australia, was born in Darlington, and his wife, "B", in Leeds. Although his younger daughter regards herself as a true-blue Aussie, his elder daughter, Keighley-born, graduated recently from Durham University.

Dere Scarfton writes:

"... our family links to the Dales go back a long way - sledging in winter on The Stang, the Scott Trails in Swaledale, day trips by train, and field classes in Upper Teesdale. Teaching in the '60s at St. Bedes in Bradford, and St. Mary's College, Leeds, we lived successively in Cullingworth and at Maple Grange Cottage between Otley and Burley, so close to the Wharfe it once flooded us out - we evacuated on night to The Malt Shovel! As a result of those happy years, much of Wharfedale, Middle Airedale, Wensleydale and the Washburn Valley

Commuting by Hebble, Ledgards, West Yorkshire RCC, Leeds and Bradford CT buses was another enjoyable memory of Yorkshire life.

Once my Doctorate research (on public transport in West Yorkshire) was complete, we followed the job opportunities to a new life in Canada, and later to South Australia. But the existence of family and friends in and near the Dales result in not infrequent visits, which serve to maintain links with the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines.

During a short visit to England in June with my younger daughter, we had a very enjoyable day travelling from Darlington to Bentham via Barnard Castle, Gunnerside, Hardraw and Ribbleshead. On a cool, blustery day, it was a refreshing reminder of the wild beauty of the Dales."

Finally, Joe Kenny also emphasises that he too is able to return to England from Hong Kong annually under the terms of his contract. He was born in York and then moved to Leeds. After obtaining his Law degree, he then moved to London to practice as a Barrister and stayed there for 3 years before settling in Hong Kong in 1982 to work as a Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers. His wife, Rocka, is a Hong Kong Chinese Police Inspector. Joe Kenny writes:

"My relationship with the Dales started in earnest during my late teens when I started fly-fishing on the River Wharfe near Linton, Wetherby. Then in 1976 I set out with a companion to walk a large part of The Pennine Way. In spite of being hampered by the nails protruding through the soles of my cheap hiking boots, I conceived during that expedition a love of the Dales which has sustained me in my life in the Big City. The contrast provided by the rolling hills and green valleys with barely a scrap of concrete could not be greater; given that Hong Kong (which I dearly love) is a city of towering blocks of concrete and glass, man-made shapes and full full of the noises of building development and traffic. It is an essential part of our trips to England to get amongst the wonderful variety of landscape, dry stone walling and shambling stone cottages and barns. I find that the more I am away from the Dales, the greater is my desire to explore them thoroughly. It is my intention to walk the entire length of the Pennine Way, and possible also the Dales Way when I return next year.

" There are a number of Country Parks, Nature Trails and just plain wilderness areas in Hong Kong, particularly on Lantau Island and in the New Territories. There are more poisonous snakes than one encounters in England, and also rabies is not fully under control in the areas bordering China. There is an abundance of bird and insect life and there are places which bear some resemblance to the wild places in the U.K. Hong Kong is a marvellous place to live and work, but the pace of life is fast and demanding, people here of all races work hard and play hard. To my mind there is no surer antidote to overwork than a spell in the countryside and the pubs of the Dales."

- presented by Fleur Speakman

If you'd like us to send a back number of the Yorkshire Dales Review together with a membership form to anywhere in the UK or around the world let us have the address on a postcard right away and we'll be delighted to do so. Though we're still an organisation of Dales people, with members in just about every village in the Yorkshire Dales, it's wonderful to have members in every part of the world.



Dob Park Bridge, Washburndale "Home from Home"
(Photo: Geoffrey Wright)

Just for You

Those who know him would readily affirm that Colin Speakman is the Compleat Optimist. Be the day ne'er so grey, Colin will discern the sun behind the clouds and his cheerful grin has averted many a crisis. But, writing in the Spring issue of The Review with 600 members only, that "to survive we must about double the membership," I doubt that even Colin thought this possible within 12 months. Yet in the Autumn Review he reported the enrolment of the 1,000th member, and at a Council meeting on November 19th, we were told that the figure had increased to 1251, so that the target was achieved in 9 months, quite a reasonable achievement by any standrads.

So we survive..... but that is not enough. With so many plans in hand, so many ideas to fulfil, we must go on increasing our membership and hence our income. A new member recently wrote that she was surprised that we had to devote so much of our energies to raising money ! So are we !! We would, I assure you, much rather be progressing these various plans.

Do you realise, that with very little effort and no further financial commitment on your part you can help us to double our membership again and more than double our income and all this with three simple steps:

1. Take the Membership Form which you will find within and enrol another member. Really, this is not difficult. Think of all those dozens of friends of yours, who love the Dales but are not members of YDS. Think of what you get for your sub. - 4 copies of The Review a year, a discount card (it's perfectly possible to save a good deal more than the membership sub with this alone), the opportunity to participate in numerous special events - it's a piece of cake.
2. If you pay tax, sign the Covenant Form. This is a familiar old cry from the Charities, but the fact remains that it costs you nothing and there is no ongoing commitment, for you will see that if you resign your payment ceases. But the effect of the covenant is to increase each pound of your subscription to £1.43. You know, it amazes me to think of the extraordinary lengths to which folk will go to avoid paying tax and yet they fail to take advantage of this perfectly legal method of "clawing back" (delicious terms) tax from the Inland Revenue. And note that to Covenant it isn't essential to pay by Bankers' Order.
3. Mention of Bankers' Orders takes us to the third point. If you have a Bank Account (and most people have these days), will you please complete the Bankers' Order Form. This saves us time and trouble in administrative expenses and makes certain that we don't lose you when the time for renewal comes round.

Having again doubled our membership and more than doubled our income, you are, by now, I hope, pretty pleased with yourselves so it's time to say to all members, old and new, how very much we welcome your membership and to urge you to join us, if you possible can, in some of the events which you will find publicised on the back page of this Review. As examples of the widely differing but equally enjoyable nature of these, may I cite a superb September visit to a Wensleydale farm when Mrs Thornton-Berry led a farm walk round Swinithwaite Hall Farm, and a lecture, in November, on Turner in the Yorkshire Dales by that acknowledged authority, David Hill. And if you live too far away to join in these, do please look us up when you do visit the Dales. At the moment the office in Main Street, Addingham, is only open on Wednesday mornings (although we might improve on that when you've doubled the membership for us) but I've lived in Addingham for nearly 30 years, within ten minutes' walk of the office and if you were to give me a prior ring (0943 830376) maybe we can have a coffee together and a chat about what really matters - the Dales.

Ken Willson
Chairman
The Yorkshire Dales
Society

* * * * *
Have you got your Yorkshire Dales Society Calendar ? A superbly produced, top quality calendar with classic black-and-white shots which give a wonderful feel for the true Dales countryside. Each of our top photographers - Eliza and John Forder, Howard Beck, Geoffrey Wright, Simon Warner and Mike Harding are all YDS members and have given their work free to help the Society. Only 180p, post free; we'll be delighted to mail a copy, in your name, this country or abroad. Cheques to Yorkshire Dales Society, 152 Main Street, Addingham, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 0HY; whether you live in Hong Kong, Halifax or Hawskwick the exclusive YDS Calendar should be on your wall in 1986 !



This superb study from the pen of E. Charles Simpson is of his own Dale - Coverdale. Charles is primarily a watercolourist, and his portrayal of the landscape is notable for its vigour and freshness. YDS members are always welcome to call in his studios at Carleton in Coverdale.

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Opinion

Should the three "Cumbrian" parishes in the Dales Park, formerly part of the old West Riding of Yorkshire, go back into Yorkshire ? Nancy Walsh of Marthwaite, Sedbergh, writes: There is to be a meeting of the Boundaries Commission in January with regard to the Cumbria County boundaries with Lancashire, Northumberland and North Yorkshire which were taken into Cumbria in the Boundary changes in 1974.

The people of Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent are keen to get back into Yorkshire - which they feel strongly is their proper county, historically and geographically and even sentimentally. The fact that the County Rate in North Yorkshire is 151p as opposed to 176p in Cumbria is one factor !

The majority of people feel that Cumbria in general and South Lakeland in particular have taken too much away from the area and given nothing in return. Our local council offices have been sold for private development, which means we have lost our Parish Council rooms, magistrates court and rates office and the Registrar's office - all marriages, births and deaths now have to be done at Kendal. and even the kitchen for the meals-on-wheels for the elderly have gone. One thing which is really annoying local people is that even the clock, which was left to the town by a resident, has disappeared into Kendal.

SLDC have put a charge on the car park without even the courtesy to consult the parish council about their plans. Another cause for concern is the Leisure Centre built in Kendal at a cost of approximately £3 million which put 2.6p on the rates, yet young people from Sedbergh can't even get to the Centre because of the abysmal bus service.

We are in the Yorkshire Dales National Park so it seems stupid that we should not be in the same COUNTY. Until the last election in 1983 our MP was in Skipton and we went back into Yorkshire for a day. There is no political reason for us to be in Cumbria - Sedbergh only went into Cumbria on the casting vote of the Parish Council Chairman ! - Even the Howgills are the western spur of the Pennines - definately Yorkshire !

We hope that this gives you some cause for thought and that the Society will decide to help us in the battle to get Yorkshire back into Yorkshire.

Nancy Walsh



Old Stone mine, Burtersett, near Hawes

Winter Reading

Burtersett Quarries - David Hall (available from the author Chapel End, Bellerby, near Leyburn, North Yorkshire price 80p plus 20p pp)

Published by the author and printed by Wensleydale Press, Hawes, this paperback book tells the story of Burtersett in Wensleydale. The character of this small community is unique in the Dales in that it developed last century as a quarry village, very largely dependant on its stone mines which were worked from 1860 - 1930. For a while this was a major industry, peaking during the last decade of last century when it was far more important than the farming which had been the mainstay of local life for a thousand years.

Even the quarrying was unusual. The alternating strata of Wensleydale's valley sides include, at about 1150 feet, a layer of flaggy sandstones, and these were found to be suitable for roofing slates, and, in thicker blocks, for building stone, although this was not such good quality as other sandstones used earlier throughout the Dale. At Burtersett and above Gayle on the south side of the valley, at Sedbusk and above Simonstone on the north, as well as near Carperby, these flaggy stones were mined, not quarried - that is, they were exploited by working inwards from the hillsides along the beds, rather like lead-ore was mined. Few records exist, but in this book David Hall presents an extremely readable account of the Burtersett Quarries, based on fieldwork,

local folk-memory, the meagre accounts available, and original reserach of archive material. He explains how the stone was obtained, dressed and transported, mainly to Hawes Station by horse and cart for export from the Dale, especially, it seems, to Lancashire. Maps, diagrams and sketches are by David's wife, June, excellently illustrate a fascinating text to create a book which is a most valuable addition to Wensleydale's local history collections.

The main workings, approached from the Countersett road east of Burtersett, are on private ground, their site identified by two large waste heaps. Nearby are the former dressing floors and level mouths, loading bays and the rectangular ruins of old dressing sheds. Level leads to extensive underground workings, some collapsed and inaccessible, others more intact but in a dangerous condition. Lines of former tramway tracks from dressing floors to tips can be identified. But perhaps the most enduring legacy of 70 years' work is in the village

itself, where sixteen quarry houses in Prospect View and Gardenwell and Middlegate Cottages were the homes of former quarrymen and their families. David Hall's book shows plans and elevations of these. Around Hawes, Hardrow, Gayle and Burtersett, a number of stone flagged fieldpaths mark the routes which local quarrymen used to go to their various places of work. Today they are pleasant tracks for local people and visitors

Geoffrey Wright



Interpreting the Heritage of the Settle-Carlisle Railway - Centre for Environmental Interpretation, Manchester Polytechnic

(Countryside Commission CCP 192, £4.75 - available post free from Commission Publication Despatch Dept, 19?23 Albert Road, Manchester, M19 2EQ)

1986 looks like being the crunch year for the Settle-Carlisle line; the Public Inquiry, in which the Y.D.S. will most certainly be playing a part, will look at the case for closing the line, and will take place in March and in April, 1986. Rumours that BR will abandon the public enquiry if some outside agency can be persuaded to part with £5 million hardly strengthens the case for closure.

Timely, therefore, is the CEI's detailed report of the line interpretation potential. Interpretation is merely a posh word for what many of us in the Yorkshire Dales Society involved with Dales Rail along the line have been doing for years - using this great line as a means of educating our fellow citizens into the meaning and purpose of this extraordinary feature of the Dales landscape. What is important about this study, and full credit to the Countryside Commission for backing the study and its publication at a time when the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee had remained somewhat lukewarm, is that it highlights a potential this line has as one of Britain's top tourist attractions. At a time when the Government is giving full recognition to the massive importance of tourism to the UK economy, and, in the recent report of Lord Young is demanding major changes of attitude by planning authorities (including National Parks) and statutory bodies in order to create jobs, the recommendations in this CEI report to interpret the major themes this line represents will soon take on an economic imperative. Whether or not the withdrawal of rail passenger services will cause "hardship" as defined by the framework of reference of an anachronistic Act of Parliament is of supreme irrelevance. The real question is finding ways to develop the major potential the Settle-Carlisle represents which are both commercially sound and do not damage an environmental heritage of international importance. It is also a questioning of making sure that Dales communities and Dales businesses gets a share of the 50,000 new jobs a year being created in the tourist industry. And what way could be better than developing the S&C as a working, leisure railway, which will also earn its keep as a transport link bringing new life to the uplands?

This report will bring a number of important themes together and will help to point the way.



Colin Speakman

"Derby Gothick" station buildings built by the Midland Railway

Membership Renewal 1986

Many members, whose membership renewal becomes due in December 1985, will be receiving a reminder and renewal notice with this issue of the Review. We have now changed our system for membership renewals, so that all membership is coded and eventually can be computerised to allow membership to be renewed in the quarterly period in which you joined. This saves the tiresome peaking of membership renewals and income, and makes it fairer on someone who joins, say, in July, and now gets a full 12 months' membership.

But the new system makes it impossible to spend time chasing up people who don't renew. And it's also an expense. So if you don't respond to the reminder, you won't get the next copy of The Review nor the expanded 1986 Guest Card (members report saving more than twice their membership subscription in discounts available in the Dales).

Your support is tremendously important to us, even if you can't come on many events. As you will see from the pages of this Review the Yorkshire Dales - its countryside, its people, its National Park, deperately needs friends, people who care and who will work to keep that character and countryside whatever the future may hold. So please don't let that renewal slip lie on the table, get it off straight away, or better still, think about a Bankers' Order which means we shan't lose you simply through forgetfulness.

Events for Winter

Saturday December 14th

A Dales Kirsmas Neet Now switched to The White Lion, Cray, near Buckden. For details ring David Hird on Kettlewell 262

Saturday January 25th

Wharfedale in Winter An easy afternoon stroll (whatever the weather !) in the Burnsall area. Meet Burnsall Car Park 1.30pm

Saturday February 8th

Housing for Locals In the Autumn Review we carried a detailed report of Ann Barfoot's study of housing need in Wensleydale. Sally Hinton, Regional Development Officer of the National Agricultural Centre Rural Trust will speak of the Trust's work in this area, and look at an important new case study in West Burton. The meeting will be at 10.30am in the Village Hall followed by a pub lunch and site visit, then short walk in the West Burton - Walden area.

Saturday March 15th

Skipton Castle and the Craven Museum One of the best preserved medieval castles in the North, Skipton Castle is rich in Dales history. Society members will take a guided tour of this remarkable building before meeting Jane Mansergh, Curator of the Craven Museum, perhaps the most important single collection of Dales and lead mining artefacts Meet Castle Entrance 2.00

Workers Wanted

Are you prepared to help the YDS with a Barn Survey ? Join a National Park Conservation team ? Give just a few hours per week to help establish or develop one of the YDS' key working groups on such matters as Heritage Conservation, Events and Publications, Publicity, Social History

If we are going to get through even a fraction of the fascinating and challenging programme of work ahead, we need workers . Can you give us only a few hours a week ? If you can, please give us a ring on 0943 607868 and we'll be delighted to help get things moving.

The Yorkshire Dales Society
152 Main Street
Addingham, Ilkley, W. Yorks.



Winter Pasture (Geoffrey Wright)