

Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

No.14
Spring 1986



**To Kill a Railway
Homes for Locals
Date Panels Unravelled
Pateley Development Threat**

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.

A View from the Elbe

Let's begin with an apology.

The reason this issue of The Yorkshire Dales Review reaches you a couple of weeks or so late this month is because its editors has been in Germany. To be precise at a tourist fair in Hamburg promoting Yorkshire as a holiday destination. So many apologies.

What do people in Hamburg, and elsewhere in Germany, know about the Yorkshire Dales? Not as much as they might do perhaps. Yet time and time again questions were asked about "Der Doktor und die liebe Vieh", which roughly translated equates with "All Creatures Great and Small".

Yes - James Herriot is big in Germany. Also in Sweden, and in Holland. And when pictures of a typical Dales landscape are shown in response to enquiries, oohs and aahs mean the same thing in any language.

So maybe before long there'll be a few more Mercedes, BMWs and Volkswagens nosing their way through Wensleydale and Swaledale. Some might even be making their way by bus and train.

For some people that could seem like bad news. Dales pubs and shops are busy enough in summer without extra folk coming from over the North Sea as well.

But for those with a little bit more foresight, more foreign visitors means two important things.

First and foremost, it means more Deutsch marks (or Guilders, or Kronen) in the purses of Dales people - shopkeepers, hoteliers, garage owners, craft workshops. More jobs. The Yorkshire Dales doing its bit for the beleaguered British economy, helping our balance of payments along. The world doesn't owe us a living, and service industries, well represented in the Dales, are now the backbone of our economy and will, in turn help to revive that vital manufacturing base. We'll be selling a few Swaledale sweaters, Wensleydale cheeses, Hawes rope, Grassington wrought iron and Leyburn pot to our visitors before 1986 has run its course.

But secondly, and perhaps even more significantly, as the Yorkshire Dales becomes recognised as an area of international importance, an area of beauty perhaps unique for its special qualities in Europe, so the need to conserve and protect its landscape and its culture becomes of national importance. The trite attempts by vote-hungry politicians to offset jobs against beauty whenever the next new quarry scheme, new road scheme or unsightly developments of any kind are proposed, ultimately operate against the true interests of Dales communities.

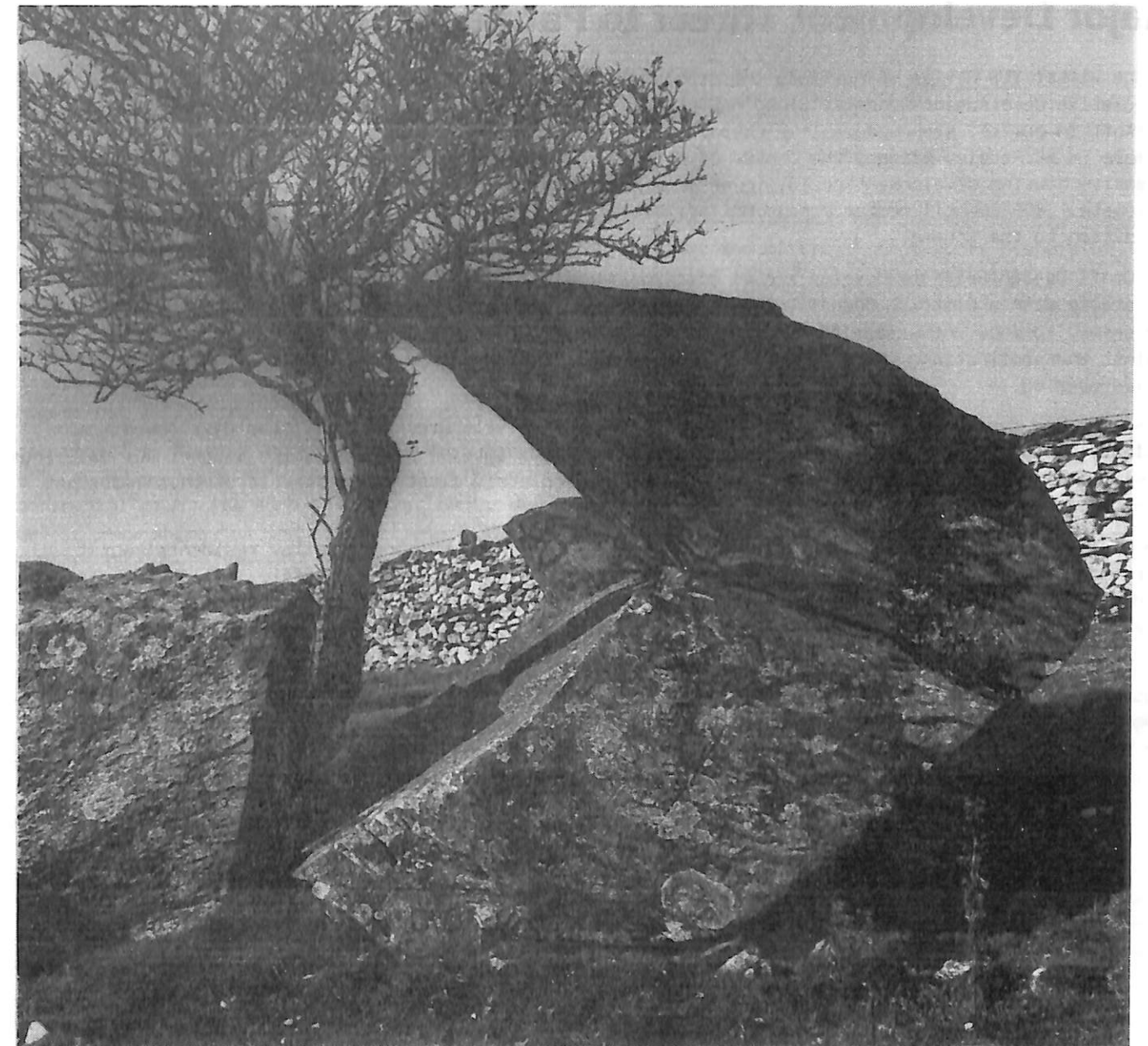
As the Swiss and the Austrians and indeed many other European nations fully understand, conservation makes economic sense. Money spent by the National Park Committee, by the County and District Councils on conservation and amenity schemes, on protecting woodland, ancient meadows or on village conservation schemes is as much an investment in the economic future of our region as any small factory or workshop scheme.

Oddly enough, if you live in Hamburg, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Rotterdam or Gothenburg, you find that easier to understand than sometimes we do in the Dales. It must be worth while listening to what some of our overseas visitors have to say to us when they come over the next few months.

Colin Speakman

Cover: Along the Pennine Way at Horton Lane, Horton in Ribblesdale

A forecast of fine days to come (Geoffrey Wright)



NORBER BOULDER This atmospheric study by Caroline Forbes is just one of many superb photographs of Dales landscape and people to be found in The Three Peaks of Yorkshire, by Harry Ree and Caroline Forbes (Wildwood House, £9.95), an exploration of this magnificent part of the Dales, its history and its many walks. A limited number of copies of this book are obtainable at Pen y Ghent Cafe, Horton in Ribblesdale for personal callers or by post - please add 80p postage.

On Sunday April 13th Harry Ree invites members of the Yorkshire Dales Society to join him at his home at Colt Park Farm, high up on the limestone pavements on the shoulder of Ingleborough, to get to know a little more about this extraordinary area. See back page for full details.

NATIONAL PARK LECTURE SERVICE As part of the Campaign for National Parks (see Winter Review) to be launched on April 22nd, the Yorkshire Dales Society is collaborating closely with the Council for National Parks and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee to set up a panel of speakers, armed with a set of high quality slides, to come along to any group or organisation in the region to talk about Britain's ten National Parks, and about the Yorkshire Dales in particular. Bookings are now being taken for later in 1986 and even early next year. Ring Ilkley 607868 to reserve your National Park lecture date - details and actual speaker to be finalised as the programme gets under way. And look out in the regional and National Press for news of the Campaign, in which it is hoped YDS members can play a prominent part!

Major Development Threat to Pateley Bridge

In the Winter YDS Review we outlined the problem in many larger Dales townships where large-scale speculative development schemes, aimed not at the local housing market <see pages 6-7> but at well-off in-comers, are changing the character of many older towns and larger villages. Such an example is at Pateley Bridge, the centre of which is a conservation area. But a 4½ acre scheme for intensive housing development could, in effect, turn Pateley into an outer dormitory suburb of Harrogate. YDS Council member Donald Heffer, himself a resident of Pateley, explains the local opposition to the scheme.

The Draft Design Brief to develop the 4½ acre Springfield Farm Estate was discussed at a recent meeting in Pateley with a District Councillor, attended by some 60 local residents, and only the applicant's son seemed to show enthusiasm for the scheme. The Parish Council also declared itself emphatically against the application. Harrogate District Council has deferred a decision pending the outcome of a public meeting.

This proposed development uses good grazing land, and effectively breaks up post war developments on a highly visible hillside overlooking the town. Should the site be developed with another 40+ dwellings, it will create a solid block of post-war housing and completely alter the character of this important Dales town.

The Highway Authority has now indicated its intentions, which do nothing to allay residents' worst fears relating to traffic hazards. An existing estate would suffer through traffic, whilst the narrow road to the hamlet of Wath would carry increased traffic - this is at present a delightful country lane often used as a local walk overlooking Nidderdale, and increased traffic would be a danger to walkers and vehicles alike.

Pressure for housing in the area is not as great as in other Dales communities, as witnessed by the length of time taken to develop Panorama Walk - some fourteen years and still not finally completed. The proposed development will not meet any demand by local first-time buyers because of development costs. It would also seem to exceed the suggested housing requirements for the local population in Harrogate District Council's own Draft Rural Study.

The Parish Council was promised a comprehensive Town Plan some time ago, but such a document has never been forthcoming. To consider such a scheme without reference to an overall plan, or without consideration of such issues as employment prospects (it is understood that a number of attempts have been made to attract employers of labour into the town but without success in recent years), seems utter folly.

The Yorkshire Dales Society will be watching the outcome of these proposals with some concern.

Donald Heffer

Adam Sedgwick's Trail

As part of the Adam Sedgwick bi-centenary celebrations in 1985, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Nature Conservancy Council, assisted by the Yorkshire Dales Society and other local groups (some of us well remember standing in the mud with pickaxes and wellies) have opened a fascinating short geological trail along part of the Dent Fault, first discovered by Sedgwick in the 1830s. The Trail follows the banks of the River Clough downstream from Danny Bridge, between Garsdale and Sedbergh, and is easily reached from a large car park and viewpoint on the A684 east of Sedbergh, at Longstow Common, where a display board tells something of the great Dentedale geologists' life story and the significance of the landscape in geological terms. An excellent leaflet and trail guide, based on material supplied by Dr Rickards of the Sedgwick Museum of the Department of Earth Sciences, Cambridge University, has been produced by the YDNP - price 40p from any National Park Visitor Centre, or by post from the Grassington office.



Professor Adam Sedgwick, aged 47 (about the time he was doing his classic work on the Yorkshire Pennines)

To Kill a Railway

Stan Abbott is a journalist and free-lance writer living in Hawes, Wensleydale. A member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, a lover of the Yorkshire Dales, and an aficionado of the Settle-Carlisle Railway and the spectacular countryside through which the line passes, Stan began to involve himself with the story of the line as rumours of plans for its closure began to percolate across the Dales in the early 80s.

This led to Stan commencing a serious piece of research into the line and the reasons for its closure, leading to an extraordinarily hard-hitting book about the line and British Rail's sorry history of mismanagement which has led to its threatened closure. Called "To Kill a Railway" this isn't simply yet another book on the Settle-Carlisle, but an attempt to present the proposed closure of a significant stretch of Britain's main-line railway in the context of national transport policy as dictated by various vested interests since the 1930s. It gives insight into some of the more bizarre aspects of the closure proposals and workings of the Transport Users Consultative Committees who are currently conducting hearings into the proposed closures.

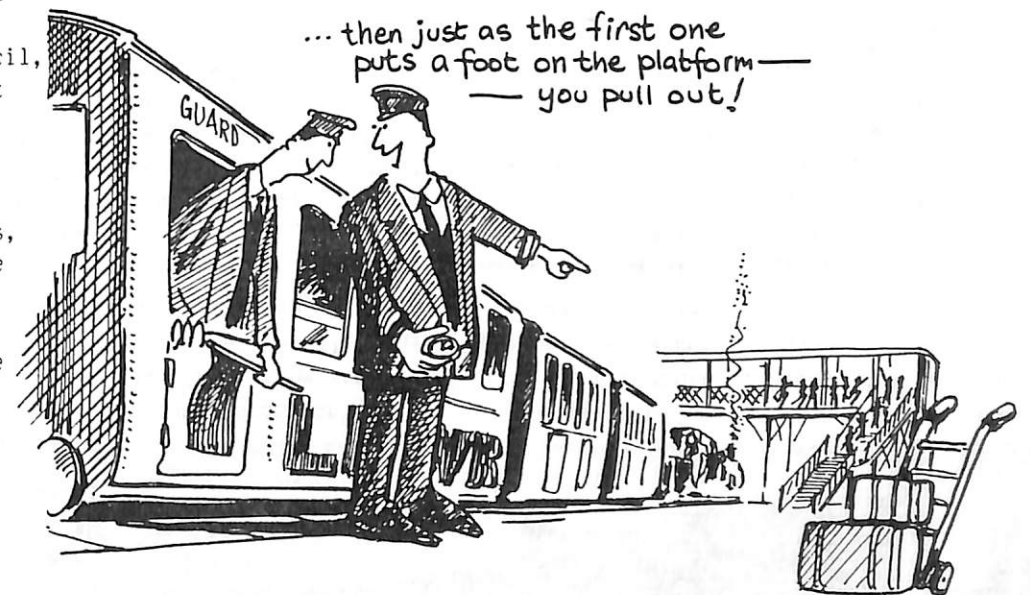
Stan Abbott is no sentimental advocate of rail for rail's sake, nor indeed for steam for steam's sake. He is an advocate of an extensive and efficient public transport system, on the patterns of many Continental countries such as Switzerland or Austria, and as well as exposing the incompetence and inefficiency which has led to the present state of affairs, he also looks such as the National Park? Countryside Commission-West Yorkshire PTE success story with Dales Rail, and the highly successful current marketing policy which record numbers of people crowding on the trains - one of the region's top tourist attractions. Dedicated to the endeavours of 22,265 people and a dog to prevent this closure, Stan also looks at the way this line could be developed to serve national and local needs, and in particular to become a lifeline for local Dales communities, if rational argument rather than dogma were to be the governing factor in determining the line's future.

The book is a joint venture between the publishers and West Yorkshire County Council, and the Council's Transport Committee Chairman, County Councillor Wayne Jenkins writes the foreword.

Price £3.95, with 168 pages, 20 maps etc it is available from local bookshops or on special post free offer to members of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

And for every order from a YDS member (please quote "YDS Member" with order) a commission will be paid to the YDS on each sale.

Cheques for £3.95 should be sent direct to Leading Edge Press and Publishing, The Watchmaker's, Town Head, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3RG



Public Hearings for Settle-Carlisle Closure

The dates for the public hearings into Settle-Carlisle closure as follows: March 24,25,26th Appleby Grammar School; April 2,3,4 Trinity School, Carlisle; April 14,15,16 Settle, (Victoria Hall) April 21,22,23 Skipton (Town Hall); April 27,29,30 Leeds (Kitson College). IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE ATTEND THE HEARINGS. The hearings are conducted by the Transport users Consultative Committees who then report to the Secretary of State for Transport. For details and advice ring S&C Joint Action Committee (0524) 388525. Ansaphone service available when office unmanned.

Homes for Locals?

In the Autumn issue of the YDS Review we carried a report of a detailed study by Ann Barfoot of how the popularity of the Dales as a tourist and a retirement area was having serious implications for the local community in matters of housing. In this article, Sally Hinton, Regional Development Officer for the National Agricultural Centre Rural Trust, explores the problem further, and suggests practical steps which can and are being taken to meet this vital local need.

Few would dispute that in an area as beautiful and as popular as the Yorkshire Dales, tourism has brought disadvantages as well as economic benefits for local people. Not only does this mean problems of seasonal employment, congested roads in summer and antique shops replacing village stores, but more seriously, it is having a long term impact on the housing stock of the Dales.

No-one would argue with those town dwellers wishing to "get away from it all" buying and improving a derelict, isolated cottage. In this instance a positive contribution is being made to the local economy and community. However, simultaneously, local people are being increasingly outbid for even the most modest properties by those with higher incomes. "Housing needs in Wensleydale - a study of ten parishes" * found in a survey of the prices of 52 properties in 1984 that only one house was under £20,000, the majority being over £30,000. Even with two people working it would be difficult to raise a mortgage of that size on average incomes in the Dales, whereas those coming in from outside the area, especially people retiring, have larger sums of money at their disposal.

At the same time, the demand for holiday cottages has had a dramatic effect on the private rented housing stock. It is now far more profitable for a landlord to let his properties as holiday lets or to sell them as second homes, rather than to let them on a long term basis to local people. This came out strongly in the "Wensleydale Study" when in the 3 years since the 1981 census all parishes had seen an increase in the number of second homes and holiday cottages with most of the villages having 15-20% of their houses in this category. In conjunction with this, numbers of privately rented homes had decreased and of course many council houses had been sold since the 1980 Housing Act, reducing the public sector rented housing by about half in the studied villages.

The joint effect of these factors means that young people especially can no longer find affordable housing in the village where they may wish to live. They have to move away to the larger settlements fringing the Dales, where property prices are cheaper, and there is more housing for rent. This in turn affects the perceived demand, and local authorities find generally that where they have more properties they have longer waiting lists, as people, rightly, feel they have a better chance of getting a house in these areas. Which means, in turn, that when local authorities do invest in housing, almost invariably they build in the larger settlements.

The elderly can also suffer severe housing problems, many preferring to struggle on in houses that are too large, inconvenient and expensive, but in the village where they have families and friends. Often the most suitable bungalows are some miles away where they have no local contacts. Providing some new bungalow accommodation in a village can free larger houses which are then suitable for families to move into.



There is also a concern shared by many Parish Councils, over growing numbers of elderly people in the village. This is often sparked off by the potential or actual closure of the village school,

New houses at Carperby, Wensleydale.

This is a recent scheme within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, undertaken by Richmond District Council, houses in this scheme could have been let several times over. (Sally Hinton)

*"Housing Need in Wensleydale" is available from YRCC, price £1 inc p. & d. (address page 8)

Terraced homes at Clapham

This new housing scheme was developed through the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust as homes available for shared-ownership. Funding has come from the Housing Corporation and the Development Commission (Sally Hinton)



which brings on the realisation that without housing suitable for young families, the village school will not have sufficient number of pupils. Not only is the village school under threat, but other services such as the village shop and post office and the village bus service which rely on families for a large part of their custom. Many villages are now facing the problem of having a large proportion of elderly people relying for help on a dwindling number of younger family and friends. The 1981 Census showed that in ten Wensleydale villages generally about 50% of the households had one or more pensioners and not all of these had access to local services.

Another problem is that it is very expensive to build new houses in a National Park. In order to ensure that new buildings do not spoil their environment, the planning officers insist on natural or sympathetic materials, and owing to "remoteness" builders often add a premium on to their costs. This is another reason why local authorities cannot build many new houses in villages within the National Park. They have to work to tight cost limits and the actual cost of development can be prohibitive.

Likewise, Housing Associations (voluntary bodies eligible to obtain government funding through the Housing Corporation to build new homes) are also constrained by cost limits. In certain circumstances they have the option of applying to another Government Agency, the Development Commission for topping-up funds for expensive rural housing schemes.

So what can concerned individuals, village groups or organisations or parish councils do to influence the future provision of housing in their village?

Firstly, the local authority should be contacted. They do have a will to meet rural housing needs, and can often find a way, as demonstrated by a recent development at Carperby by Richmondshire District Council. Although building programmes are currently severely constrained at the present, local lobbying of councillors and officers will at least give them an indication of which villages would welcome more house provision in the future.

Voluntary organisations such as the Yorkshire Rural Community Council (YRCC) are pleased to help villages in the initial step of identifying rural housing needs. The NAC Rural Trust, an organisation which exists to promote rented housing in rural areas for local people can also be contacted. These organisations, working with the support of local people and through a Housing Association, have gained funding from the Housing Corporation for two schemes. The first in West Burton in Wensleydale will provide seven homes for fair rent. The second at Tossie on the Yorkshire-Lancashire border will provide four fair-rent and four shared ownership homes.

Housing Associations generally are becoming more aware of rural housing needs and despite the problems and costs, are more prepared to take on a small scheme. The Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust have completed a shared ownership scheme at Clapham and Sancturary Housing Association (formerly WPHT) with a proven record of rural schemes are undertaking the West Burton and Tossie projects. There might even be more scope in the future for setting up a Dales Housing Association. Unlike local authorities, subject to current Housing Act legislation, family housing owned by a charitable Association is exempted from the right to buy.

Local people can influence the future of housing in their village by undertaking a survey of local housing needs, by identifying a suitable site or sites, and by lobbying the District Council for support. With the help and advice of the NAC Rural Trust they may eventually gain a small housing association scheme in their village for the benefit of local people. It may take time. The Parish Council in West Burton have been trying to get housing for rent on a site in their village (now secured by the NAC Rural Trust) for twenty years, but their persistence has paid off in the end !

Sally Hinton

Sally Hinton, and her colleague Ann Hopkins of YRCC, would welcome comments or requests for information, particularly from local people in the Dales, and from Parish Councils. Write or phone: Sally Hinton, NAC Rural Trust, William House, Shipton Road, Skelton, YORK YO3 6WZ (0904) 647141
Ann Hopkins, YRCC, William House, Shipton Road, Skelton, YORK YO3 6WZ (0904) 645271

turrets and tors of limestone

rooted in avenues of stones we survive the past
a million years of disintegration
building fortresses of Warrendale Knotts
as turrets and tors of limestone
holding blue greyed sky like a bubble of film
whose tensioned skin litters scented turf
with fallen scars crushed and sad faced
from encapsulated sea life aeons old

up and down these emerald visions of craggy grass
sheep trample delicately: lambs leap at mirages
urged to capriciousness by loud larks
we too step with care: our wicked boots
are too easily executioners of snails
silent and beautiful in their striped shells
unmoving yet scattered lovingly together
over green green bed spiked with western rains
even the windy chant of pounded hills moves them not
they heed not the odd erratic butterfly
nor the tiny yellow pansies shy violets lonely orchids
fluttering in the wind like earth bound butterflies

above us eyeless watchers in the shattered cliffs
caves hug their secrets darkly from May's triumphs
back and back in time they go: beyond exiled Romans
their bones tranquil in the dust of Neolithic man
and ice age animals: savage residuum of life
shabby with fossilised grief

far away we catch the intrusive cuckoo
competing close by a lamenting curlew
winged sadness over grizzled crags and restless air
earth-tied we envy flight over preterites
but have spring's prancing future in our hands
May: and the rocks at last warm to touch again

rov brown

Swaledale Festival 1986 — May 24th to June 14th, 1986

Upper Swaledale's Sixth and most ambitious Festival so far offers a superb programme of drama (at Walburn Hall, near Downholme) music - from the Lindsay String Quartet to the Guy Family Brass Band, plus a wide range of unusual and interesting events, many with a Dales flavour. Three weeks not to be missed, and well worth planning a short holiday in Swaledale for. Full details (SAE please) from Trevor Woolston, East Mill House, Grinton, Richmond, N. Yorkshire DL11 6HL

Date Panels

Date panels are a characteristic feature of many houses, and some barns, in the Dales, providing evidence of a surge of building activity between about 1650 and 1740. However, dates on them do need to be regarded with caution. They may indeed represent the actual date of building a particular house; they may be the date when an existing house was taken over by a newly-married couple; they may represent the date when a house was added to or altered; they may even have come from an earlier building on the same site, or have been taken from another building altogether. As proof of the date of an actual building they need to be substantiated by documentary evidence.



Date panel at Old Hall, Thoraby (Geoffrey Wright)

The simplest date-panels show merely a date. More interesting ones, of which there are a great number, incorporate the date with a set of initials often with some form of decoration - six-wheel spokes of flower-heads are common. The initials sometimes pose a problem since there is very little consistency in their presentation. A cottage opposite the church in Askrigg has a beautifully carved doorhead - a single slab of gritstone with 16 TFA 87 on it, the initials being those of Thomas and Ann Forster. The elaborate date panel over the front door of the Lister Arms in Malham has an oval frame the initials RRA 1723 which probably refer to Robert Redman and his wife. In these examples the central letter is the joint surname initial, the other two being the Christian name initials of husband and wife.

The finest 17th century house in Swaledale, Low Oxnop (or Oxnop Hall) near Muker, has a dated doorhead with IEA 1685, representing John and Elizabeth Alderson (I is usually carved for a J, being much easier to do), while at Langcliffe, the house which was formerly "The Naked Woman" Inn has four initials, ISMS with the date 1660, presumably the "S" being the joint surname initials.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, it was usual for men and women to have only single Christian names, so where date panels reveal only two letters they almost certainly refer to those of the man who built or rebuilt a particular house. Ingman Lodge, near Ribblesdale, is one of the most impressive houses in Ribblesdale, and, with the exception of The Folly in Settle, has the most impressive doorway in the Dales, full of detailed carving, although the date panel bearing the initials and date CW 1687 is restrained by comparison. Christopher Weatherhead must have been justifiably proud of his new house.

The Ribblesdale villages, together with Settle, have a rich collection of decorative and intricately-carved panels, many with geometrical patterns incorporated into the lintel, so that it makes for interesting detective work to identify "family" resemblances, especially in Settle and Giggleswick. Malham, Littondale and Wharfedale are also good hunting grounds for date stones, with Grassington

Linton and Threshfield offering good rewards. The western dales seem to show fewer examples, although Harbour Gill, near Lea Yeat in Dentdale, with WT 1700, refers to the old local family of Thistlethwaite, and High Hall on the other side of the valley, showing WTI 1626 and RTD 1665, represents two generations of the Trotter family. In Garsdale the houses Swarthgill, 1712, Low Scar, 1724 and Hind Kell East, 1729, all have their panels on the porch.



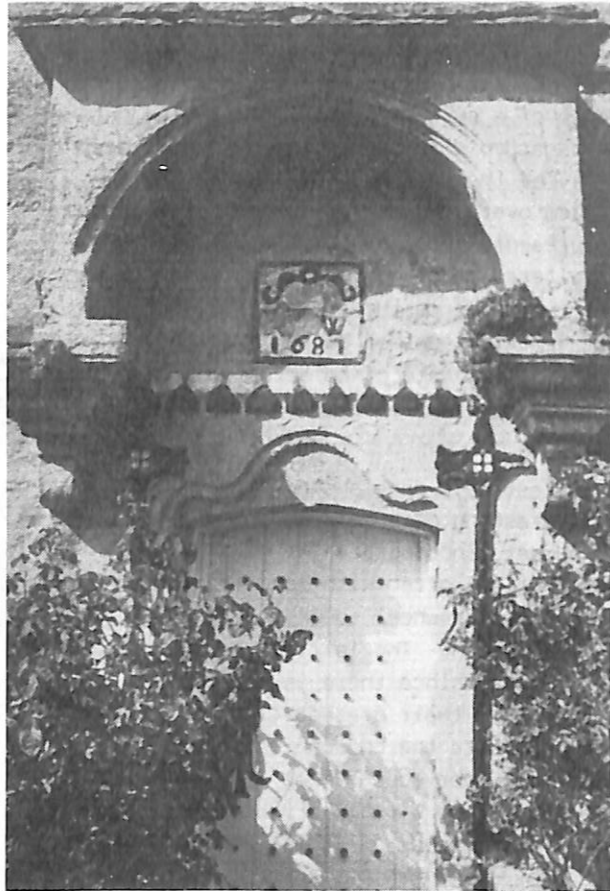
Date Panel on "Smelter" Bishoppdale

(Geoffrey Wright)

A recent survey of dated houses in Wensleydale - date panels plus documentary evidence - reveals that of 105 examples, 14 were built between 1600 and 1649, 47 between 1650 and 1699, 20 between 1700 and 1750, and 24 in the second

half of the 18th century. It would be interesting to see what similar surveys in the rest of the Yorkshire Dales would show. Seeking date panels on houses, farms and barns - Arncliffe, Halton Gill and Threshfield are good areas for dates barns - and recording their details adds to the pleasure of local exploration as well as to our knowledge of local history.

Geoffrey Wright



Ingman Lodge, Ribblesdale

(note the unusually rich doorway decoration)

(Geoffrey Wright)

The Miner's Story

Eward R. Fawcett was born in Swaledale, son of a local lead-miner, in the last century, but when cheap imports forced the closure of the mines in the 1880s he left, as thousands of others did, so that his father could find work in the Lancashire coalfield. But Edward was an able lad, studied at the local Mechanics' Institute, where his fellow student, Philip Snowden, later Chancellor or the Exchequer, became a lifelong friend. During the First War, Edward returned to Swaledale and formed a partnership in Sngill and Ivelet to mine lead to meet the national need. After the War, when the mine closed, he continued to live in Swaledale, supporting himself with a drapers' business, and became a keen local historian and student of lead-mining in Swaledale. But his own death and the outbreak of World War II in 1939 prevented the publication of the manuscript on which he was working. Fortunately it was guarded safely by his grand-daughter, YDS member Miriam Wright of Grassington, and its has now been edited and published in the form of a highly readable paperback Lead Mining in Swaledale ((Faust Publications £2.00).

What makes Edward Fawcett's account so significant is that it is not the result of hearsay or even of careful research entirely, but it arises out of first hand, personal experience of a man who grew up in a lead-miner's household, and who was later a working miner. The combination of this first hand experience and knowledge, and a trained academic mind (he was a part time teacher of geology, Physiology and Astronomy) working at the very end of this great and historic Dales industry makes this an extremely important document, as much for the social as the technical history, giving vivid insight into the life of the mining communities. How many people know, for example, that "wangby" cheese was hard, skimmed milk cheese toasted by the flame of tallow candles in the mines ?

Lead Mining in Swaledale by Edward R. Fawcett is available from local bookshops, or direct from the publishers, Faust Publishing Ltd, Thornyholme Hall, Roughlee, Burnley BB12 9lh price £2.00 plus 30p p.& p.

Green Ways in the Dales

Anyone who loves the winding green ways, the zigzagging packhorse ways, the narrow packhorse bridges of the Dales, anyone who has poured over a large-scale Ordnance Map to see the old ways, sometimes close to the modern roads, sometimes crossing a wilderness, will find Geoffrey Wright's Roads and Trackways of the Yorkshire Dales (Moorland £8.95) a magnificent source and reference book. Understanding and appreciating landscape like that of the Dales needs insight into the historical processes that created it, and of these none is more significant than transport. Geoffrey Wright tackles his subject chronologically, from prehistoric trackways to (comparatively) recent turnpike roads, using maps and excellent photographs to direct the eye of the wayfarer. Such colourful figures as Richard Duke of Gloucester, better known as Richard III and Lady Ann Clifford have their travels documented in these pages, as well as many of the anonymous, departed souls who "corpse ways" can still be traced.

A founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, Geoffrey Wright has the rare gift of turning scholarly research into highly readable prose, as well as being able to illustrate his text with superb photographs, as readers of the Yorkshire Dales Review have often be able to judge. Sadly, and mainly for family reasons, Geoffrey has recently left his home in Askrigg for Shropshire, and whilst he will no longer be able to take such an active part in YDS affairs, we wish Geoffrey and his wife Jean every happiness in their new home, and hope they will be back frequently to the Dales on business and on pleasure, and indeed to grace the pages of the Review . In the meantime, get Roads and Trackways on your bookshelf; required reading for any Dales lover !

C.S.

Members' Matters

You should have received, with this copy of The Review your 1986 copy of the YDS Guest Card, now bigger and with more bargains for members than ever before. As our membership builds up (at the end of 1985 we had 1,305 members) we can increase the range and value of offers available. For anyone with a guest house, hotel or caravan site in the Dales, we're prepared to let you issue temporary Guest Cards for anyone staying 3 or more days in the Dales as an introduction to the Society.

If you didn't receive your Guest Guide, it's probably because our records indicate that you haven't yet renewed your membership for '86, and it will reach you as soon as you renew. If your membership is due you'll receive a reminder with this Review, and for some people this may be the last reminder as a small organisation can't carry a large burden of forgetful people. But please bear in mind that we don't have a computer, and all membership records are updated manually using a code system you'll see on your envelope. From time to time mistakes occur, and if we've got it wrong, let us know immediately and we'll rectify matters straight away. With a tiny staff and volunteer help, 1,300 members generate a fair amount of work. Early renewal and - especially - Bankers' Orders - are an enormous help to us. If you aren't yet on a Bankers' Order let us know, and we'll put a form in the post to you straight away.



Guide post by Pateley Bridge to Kirkby Malzeard road at Harper Hill



New Bridge at Birstwith, Nidderdale. An 1822 rebuilding of a bridge known to exist in 1594, possibly earlier.

Spring Events

Join us on a variety of events - with an emphasis on the outdoors - during the coming months. Shared transport can always be arranged for anyone with transport difficulties.

Friday April 4th - The Fell Hotel, Burnsall, 7.30pm Dales Folk Night with Trevor Sharp and Tim Boothman. Come along and join the fun. Small charge.

Sunday April 13th - A Visit to Upper Ribblesdale. Professor Harry Ree, the distinguished educationalist and writer (see page 3) invites YDS members to join him at Colt Park Farm with a look at natural history, a Viking house, and other unique landscape features. Meet at Colt Park Farm (parking available) GR SD 773 779, off the B6479 road Between Selside and Ribblehead. Bring walking shoes/boots, outdoor gear, sandwiches for lunch. Meet 11am.

Saturday May 10th - Sedbergh and the Rawthey Valley Following Nancy Walsh's article in the Winter Review about whether Sedbergh should go back into Yorkshire, a visit to this delightful small Dales town, with a short walk to local features of interest. Meet Sedbergh National Park Centre 1pm. (This walk is timed to fit in with the first DALES RAIL service of 1986 from Preston, Blackburn, Leeds, Keighley, Skipton and Settle. Advance booking essential - phone Grassington 752748 for information).

Friday May 30th - The Fell Hotel, Burnsall, 7.30pm Dales Folk Night - as above.

Saturday June 14th The Yorkshire Dales Society's Annual General Meeting. To be held at the Clark-Foley Centre (opposite the central car park) Ilkley, at 2pm. Agenda enclosed for members with this Review. After the meeting, a slide lecture by Ken Willson and Colin Speakman: "Our National Parks"

Saturday June 21st Wild Flowers at the Tarn Our annual visit to Malham Tarn Field Centre to experience the breathtaking beauty and astonishing interest of flowers on limestone and peat bog. Meet at Malham Tarn Field Centre (allow 20 minutes from Malham village) at 2pm to join Malham Field Centre staff.

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