

Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 20
Autumn 1987



**A Dark Green Tide
Grassington's Prehistoric Fields
A Dale under Attack?
Garsdale Station Birthday Party**

30p.

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The Dark Green Tide

The proposals to forest the shoulders of Cam Fell, in the Three Peaks heartland of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, will strike a chill to the heart of anyone who loves the landscape of the Dales.

The plans (see opposite) envisage the planting of 585 acres (237 hectares) of conifers on the site, with a mere 83 acres (33.5 hectares) of broadleaves as a sop to amenity interests.

The existing planting on Cam Fell created national outcries in the 1970s, leading to a tirade by the late J.B.Priestley in The Times. The scheme will dramatically increase the size of the plantations, covering more of the Dales Way long distance footpath which climbs to the Roman Road, and making an impact on the Pennine Way.

The objections to this kind of large scale afforestation scheme, backed by the Forestry Commission, are well known. Species of trees which are alien to the Dales - mainly sitka spruce - will be planted in identical serried rows. The area will suffer major disruption as heavy machines are brought in for fencing and planting, and, though there will some initial increase in wildlife in the young forest, as the trees reach maturity, they will create a dense, dark undergrowth in which neither flora nor flora can survive, a thick monoculture through which it will be impossible to penetrate except along dreary straight "firebreaks".

Much of the Northern Pennines, Scotland, Wales and our own North York Moors National Park has disappeared underneath the dark green tide which wipes out landscape features, including the very field patterns and living archaeology so eloquently described by Dr Richard Muir in the pages of this Review.

The economic arguments in favour of mass conifer afforestation simply don't stand up. Without handsome grants and generous tax concessions, handled by sharp-eyed companies who specialise in this form of tax-avoidance for wealthy investors, not a single Christmas tree would be planted in the Yorkshire Dales. Already the Observer newspaper has highlighted the scandal of the world-important Flow Country in Scotland being destroyed to provide a safe financial haven for a top TV personality's fabulous earnings. Golf stars, snooker players, film stars are all advised to get their spare cash into trees.

And as economic pressures increase on the small hill-farmer, including the cuts in EEC support now beginning to make big inroads in subsistence incomes, so the pressure to sell out to the forestry interests will increase. How ironic that cuts in financial support are being processed that will force Dalesmen and women off their land whilst huge state subsidies and concessions are so readily available for rich absentee landlords to destroy the environment.

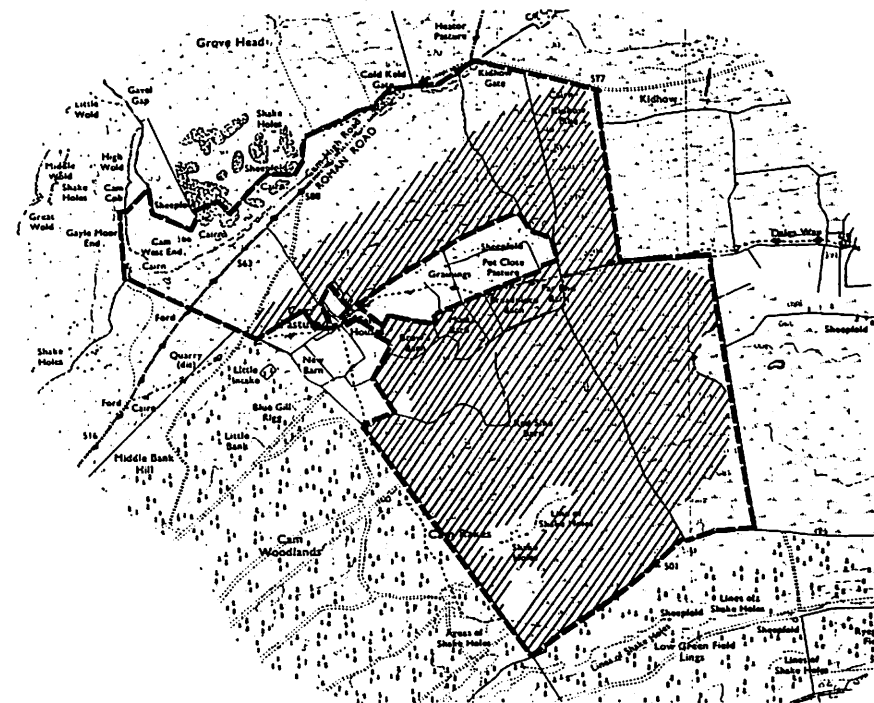
Of course the Yorkshire Dales Society is not opposed to small scale forestry and woodland planting. Indeed as Peter Downing argues in the current Countryside Commission News, Farm Forestry, German-style, could prove an excellent way of boosting farming incomes. Small scale woodlands, developed and managed, with appropriate financial help, could enhance the landscape, particularly, as in the National Park's own woodland schemes, if native trees are planted. Of course there is a demand for timber - and why should it not be oak, ash, wych elm, hazel, birch ?

During the few good days of this cool summer, I was lucky enough to be able to spend a few days in North and Central Wales, walking through the Coed y Maentwrog National Nature Reserve in the Snowdonia National Park, and in Coed Reidhol Reserve in the

Vale of Rheidol - both superb natural oakwoods where the light plays through the leaves to give a lovely soft undergrowth of rich green moss, ferns, bilberry. Why should we not be planting the nature reserves for the twenty first and even the twenty second century ? Why should we allow public money to be used to create what at the very least is aesthetically boring, and perhaps potentially ecologically disastrous ?

Let's understand the situation clearly. As the upland farming situation gets more difficult, so-called "economic" forestry is going to be forced upon us, largely by organisations with a direct financial interest in such schemes. Cam Fell is a vital test case - already opposed by the Countryside Commission, the Nature Conservancy Council, most amenity organisations - including the Yorkshire Dales Society - and, we hope and trust, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee. We must use what will undoubtedly become a heated debate to focus on the real issues. If forestry is coming to the Dales, let's ensure it is done in ways which future generations will cherish. And let's ensure, too, that it provides direct financial benefit and help to the local community, rather than absentee investors.

Colin Speakman



Map of Cam Fell
 hatched line indicates site boundary
 shaded area is area proposed for planting.

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Malham Walls to be Protected

More than a kilometre of historic drystone walls at Townhead Farm, near Malham Cove, are to receive special protection thanks to a new initiative taken by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee. The walls form part of a site of national importance because of the early cultivation and field patterns. The management agreement follows a similar scheme approved earlier this year on an adjoining farm.

Once the agreement is finalised, the farmer will receive an initial grant covering 100 per cent of the cost of repairing internal walls, and 75 per cent of the cost of making good boundary walls. The park will then make an annual maintenance payment of up to £250, and, subject to the level of Government grant next year, the agreement could be extended to enable the replacement of a fence alongside Malham Beck with traditional walling - at a cost of £5,000.

Welcoming the farmer, Mr. Hudson's, decision to enter a management agreement, the National Park's Landscape Conservation Officer Nancy Stedman said: "This is another important step in the conservation of the traditional landscape in this sensitive area."

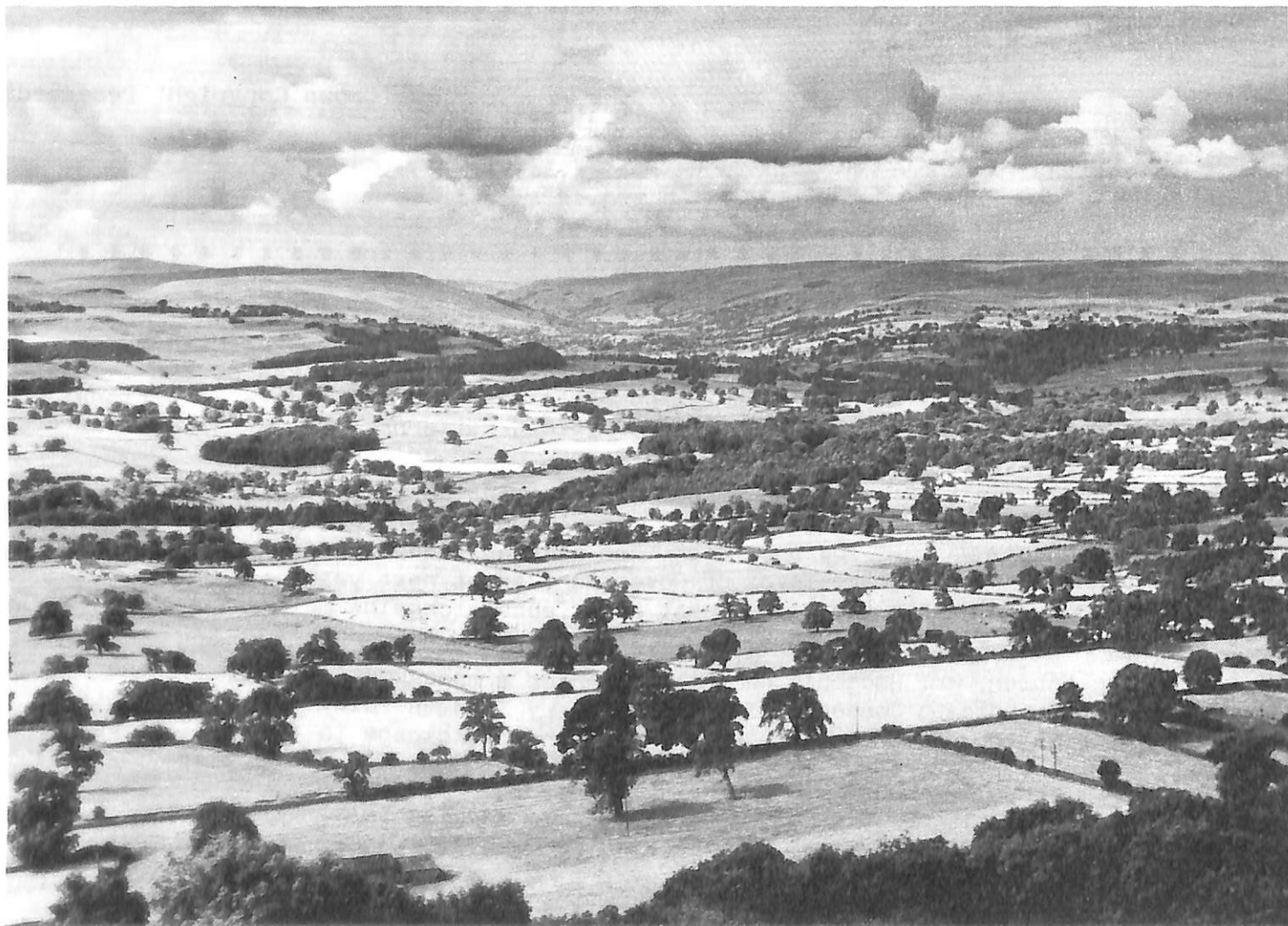
It also enshrines the principle of giving support to working Dales farmers to achieve conservation objectives which will, at the same time, help to safeguard traditional hill farming in the Dales.

A Dale under Attack

Low flying aircraft have been very much in the news in 1987, with a number of incidents and tragic deaths in Scotland, the Lake District and Wales. But the problems reported by Philip Helliwell in a recent YDS Review caused by aircraft noise have built up into a major issue in Wensleydale, culminating on 17th June in a "dog-fight" by NATO aircraft over the village of Aysgarth, the planes flying so low the exhaust flames were visible and the scream of engines producing noise that was painful and frightening. This led to villagers organising a petition to their MP, Leon Brittain, and a response from the Ministry of Defence. We print below extracts from the subsequent correspondence:

"Although I realise that the aircraft can be obtrusive, the training is vital if we are to maintain a modern effective airforce. In the event of an attack on this country or our allies our pilots must be ready to retaliate against targets deep into enemy territory. Only by flying close to the ground and as fast as possible would our aircrews have a reasonable chance of success. This calls for constant practice in the demanding techniques of low flying over land, but to minimise disturbance to the public there are strict rules governing the heights and speeds flown. For example the training is mainly restricted to the daylight hours, and the greater part is carried out between 250 and 500 feet above ground level, which is far higher than would be flown in wartime operations. Similarly, the speed is normally restricted to 450 knots. The problem has always been to find areas where the training will be of least disturbance for the public. A typical low level sortie covers some 300-500 miles and there simply no uninhabited areas large enough for this purpose, and flying over the sea is of little operational value. We aim therefore to spread the activity as widely and as evenly as possible throughout the entire country"

Roger Freeman, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for the Armed Forces Whitehall, 31.7.87



view over Wensleydale from Castle Bolton (phot: Geoffrey N. Wright)
What price peacefulness ?

A few days later the following letter appeared in the Stockton and Darlington Times*

"Sir - The peace of Wensleydale is being shattered by aircraft. Yesterday while I was standing in Main Street, west Witton, four aircraft in a chase-me-Charlie convoy overflew the village at low level - only one incident in a morning of what could be described as attacks on the dale - and as a consequence, I was deaf for about four hours after.

Formerly, the aircraft came in pairs and could be heard approaching. That gave us time to shove our fingers in our ears. But now, in fours and sixes, the new fighters are silent in approach with the sound exploding over you only after they have passed.

We are not slow to notice the increase in low flying in the dale after crashes recently in Wales and the Lakes and more especially since the Fadmoor incident. It looks as though whenever there is a crash anywhere around, the authorities avoid that area for some time. So, with the major exercise in Northumberland, we are this week particularly being used as a throughway.

My children, my staff and family, summer residents at the caravan park, and even stock are affected - we have seen our unflappable donkey buckle at the knees at the noise of these planes lately. And most of us are fit and healthy - how much more intolerable it must be for the elderly and infirm. What effect is the stress having on people's nerves and the bursts of noise on their hearing ?

Here on the hillside we are used to seeing the pilot's face below us. We well understand the need for low flying as part of the nation's defence; members of my family are in the RAF. But we do question the price we are paying in Wensleydale in health terms."

Josephine Scott The Chantry, West Witton - 8.8.87

(reproduced by kind permission of the Darlington and Stockton Times

Meanwhile, Mr John Kirby of Aysgarth, wrote back to Mr Brittain:

" - As you know many of your constituents, especially those who are indigenous, are by nature laconic. Their reaction to Mr Freeman's letter has, in the main, been 'earthy' to say the least and include such remarks as "Well, he wasn't here, was he." "Letter says nowt". "I don't care what he says, milking time was more like a stampede". Mothers reminded me their children ran home screaming and left me in no doubt that Mr Freeman's letter cut no ice with them. What it boils down to is that Mr Freeman misses the point. What we experienced was terrifying and far beyond what any community should be expected to endure even under the pretext of defending the realm.

..... One thing we need to see is that these low flying activities are actively and continuously monitored just as in the same way we are watched and jumped on if we transgress as car drivers. Some planes fly lower than they should and go where they should not and it is not enough to be told by the RAF or by people like Mr Freeman that this is not so.

Very few people would question the need to defend the realm; but we in these parts question whether the degree of disturbance we suffer is consistent with this need. This degree is quite clearly increasing with more aircraft overflying is with increasing noise and suddenness. If this is to go on for the rest of our lives, some of us may well start to question the worth of the need to defend the realm.

..... what is forbidden one day, for ought we know, becomes routine the next. We are not told about such matters. All we know for sure is that things are getting worse. Politicians in charge will do well to recognise that there is a limit to what people will put up with in their daily lives. In the Dales low flying by military aircraft has reached that limit and what happened over Aysgarth on 17th June was far beyond it - let there be no misunderstanding about that - whether it was routine or not."

John R. Kirby Drummond Cottage, Aysgarth 17.8.87

Will the people of Wensleydale have any success in persuading the RAF to change its mind ? And what price the "peacefulness" of the National Park which thousands of visitors seek ? Is it time for a national enquiry about low-flying over upland areas, both in terms of overall environmental impact - noise pollution is as severe as any other form of pollution - and the impact on local communities like those in Wensleydale?

The Grassington Fields

Landscape historian Richard Muir explores the fascinating story behind a familiar piece of Dales landscape.



(photo: Richard Muir)

We tend to take fields for granted. Certainly we are upset when hedgerows or dry-stone walls are removed or when development threatens to take another greedy bite from the fieldscape, but otherwise it is easy to forget that fields are themselves interesting and rewarding subjects for study. Each field has a history and in former times almost every field had a name. At present my wife, Nina, and I are writing a book on the history and wildlife of fields. Although it will embrace the whole of Britain, the best examples of so many aspects of fields are found on our own doorstep in the Yorkshire Dales. And there is now here in the whole of Britain which offers more interest and variety to anyone who cares to see the history of fields displayed in the landscape than the countryside around Grassington.

Fields exist in several forms. They can be "living" or still in use; dead and gone and detectable only through air photography and archaeological excavation, or else fossilised and recognisable as relics visible amongst the living fieldscape. Each field that was created was associated with a particular type of farming, so that each tended to have a particular shape and form, a fact which may sometimes allow us to recognise almost at a glance the type and antiquity of a particular case. For example, most prehistoric arable fields were ploughed with a simple ox-drawn plough which was often simply a curved and pointed branch. With such a plough or "ard", it was necessary to plough in a criss-cross manner, which favoured small, fairly square fields. After centuries of cultivation, fields on sloping ground would take the form of platforms defined by banks and steps or 'lynchets', which formed gradually as the plough bit into the upslope end of the field and plough soil drifted towards the downslope wide.

Such prehistoric fields are commonly known as 'Celtic fields'. The name is a bad one and many of these fields were worked long before Celtic speakers arrived in Britain.

In Wessex, where expanses of Celtic fields were a distinctive feature of the chalk downlands, modern ploughing has destroyed most of the ancient heritage. One of the finest remaining networks of Celtic fields covers around a square mile of upland pasture to the north of Grassington in the Kimpergill Hill and Sweet Side localities. These fields seem to date mainly from Iron Age and Roman times. For about six centuries before the dawn of the Iron Age (around 650 BC) a worsening of the climate had driven farmers out of uplands like Dartmoor and the gritstone plateaux of the Pennines. However, upland farming life was able to continue on the free-draining limestone slopes. Dotted amongst the earthworks and tumbled walls of the Grassington Celtic fields are circular depressions which represent the dwellings of the ancient farmers and it is strange to think that considerable numbers of people lived, raised livestock and tilled the ground in places which are now rough sheep grazings with expanses of naked limestone pavement.

Since the area is pocked with solution hollows, riddled with old lead workings and also contains the remains of a deserted medieval hamlet it is easy to confuse the different relics. Some Celtic fields are visible in all conditions, others are seen most clearly when a low sun casts long shadows, especially if there is a light falling of snow. From the air the complete system of ancient fields, farmsteads and droveways is plainly apparent - a remarkable fossilised farming landscape around 2000 years old.

Across the Wharfe to the south of Grassington lies one of the finest expanses of fossil fields of a different type. 'Strip lynchets' are commonly mistaken for prehistoric fields or even for Roman vineyard terraces. In fact they are the creation of medieval ploughing, which carved a series of elongated step-like cultivation terraces into the hillsides. Such arduous work with small rewards could only have been



Old gate stoops, Bastow Wood, near Grassington (photo: Colin Speakman)

contemplated in times of land hunger - so it seems likely that most strip lynchets date from the medieval population peak in the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, before the arrival of the Black Death in 1348 put an end to the problems of population pressure in the harshest way imaginable. One of the finest panoramas of medieval strip lynchets can be seen looking southwards across the Wharfe valley from the side of the B6265, about midway between Grassington and Hebden.

In medieval times a great expanse of common pasture and 'waste' lay to the north of Grassington, whilst in other directions the village was surrounded by its three great open fields, West Field and East Field being separated by Sedbur Field. On the western extremity of the township was Grass Wood, reserved for the Lord of the Manor, while a ribbon of common meadow followed the riverside. The open fields were divided into strips in the typical manner, but as the communal farming system gradually decayed, so village peasants would seek to swap or buy land so as to obtain groups of neighbouring strips and then enclose the package of strips in a hedge or wall. If one stands on the track running from Grassington village to the top of Grass Wood and looks southwards from the deserted medieval village site marked on the 1:25,000 map, then enclosed strips from the Old West Field are plainly visible in the middle distance, one group running at right angles to the other. Meanwhile, strip lynchets can be seen pleating the slopes on the distant hills.

While enclosure by agreement between the villagers largely carved up the old open field ploughlands, the upland pastures were divided by Parliamentary Enclosure, the Act for Grassington being passed in 1792, Parliamentary Enclosure created a surveyor's landscape of straight walls, which divided the old commons into geometrical

'privatised' packages. Some of the finest Celtic fields lie within High Close, a vast medieval enclosure taken from the common by the Lord of the Manor. To the north-east and west of High Close are straight stone walls which converge towards Grassington and taper into droveways, the creations of the 1792 Enclosure Award.



A Surveyor's landscape - Enclosure Award fieldboundaries, north of High Close, Grassington (photo : Colin Speakman)

Other dales have much to offer the explorers of fieldscape - spectacular gridworks of Parliamentary Enclosure fields in Nidderdale, especially between Darley and Dacre, and venerable intakes from the commons studded with field barns in Swaledale. But Wharfedale is a vast living museum of fields of many kinds and ages, with the vistas seen from above Grassington being quite exceptional.

The loss of a field to building development can have dreadful consequences for any nearby village and at time of writing numerous members of the Birstwith Rural Action Group in Nidderdale are campaigning to preserve the hillside buttercup pasture which has long been the site of the village show. All forms of support will be welcome - write to Andy Burton, Elton Villa, Birstwith, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Richard Muir

Autumn Reading

Hedgerows - their history and Wildlife - Richard and Nina Muir (Michael Joseph £14.95)

Old Yorkshire - Richard Muir (Michael Joseph £14.95)

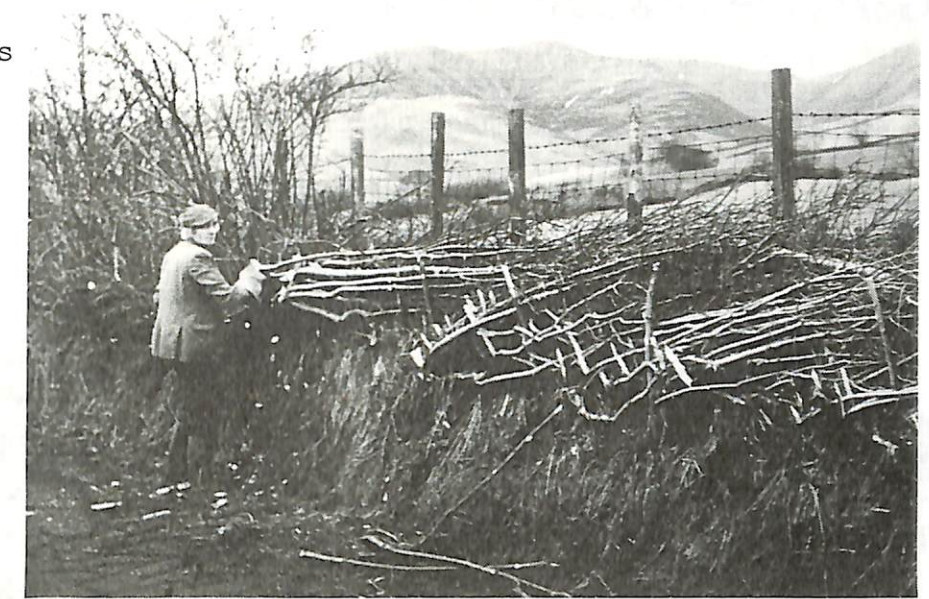
It is rare for a reviewer to have a book which combines detailed scholarship and a passionate commitment in such a way to leave the reader inspired, angry and concerned. To receive two, published within weeks of each other, by the same publishers and authors, leaves one slightly bowled over. Both books are, for anyone who loves our countryside, and the Yorkshire Dales in particular, compulsive reading.

In Hedgerows Richard and Nina Muir explore in meticulous detail, and with superb photographs, the evolution of field enclosures in our English landscape. Their sources vary from medieval manuscripts to contemporary surveys, and if there argument is a not unfamiliar one, the loss to the landscape caused by ignorant and feckless destruction of a priceless heritage, what they have succeeded in doing is giving the arguments they present factual depth - looking, for example at the rich complexity of plant and animal life to be found in a typical hedge, or at the ancient rural craft of layering a hedge. But the concern lies in what is happening to the hedge. They record a loss of over 22% of our hedgerows between 1947 and 1985, in many cases resulting not only in loss of landscape beauty, but irreversible ecological damage.

" - we would argue that the best commentary on our shabby, unprincipled modern society will not be found in the pages of an erudite journal but can be seen written large across the face of the land in the course of a typical country walk. If this society allows its heritage of scenery to be pillaged by the city clicker, the money grubbing barley baron, the bent councillor, the self-seeking politician, the idiot planner and the half-witted scientist, then it deserves to suffer all the

consequences. but it is grossly unjust that generations yet unborn should be robbed of their rural birthright by our weakness and folly. They will never forgive us for what we have allowed."

Nor should we imagine that the destruction is purely the problem of lowland landscapes. True, our traditional Dales field patterns have survived well, but as the book illustrates, much lower Dales scenery is as much at risk, whilst the higher Dales face the twin threat of large scale afforestation and neglect.



Hedge-laying near Sedbergh (photo: Geoffrey N.Wright)

Old Yorkshire is written in the same lucid, highly readable style, again superbly illustrated. Accounts of the history of Yorkshire and of the Dales are common enough; what distinguishes this book is its author's breadth of scholarship which gives this book freshness and sharpness, and a brilliant knack of being able to relate the historic fact to the landscape of today. For Dr Muir is a Dales historian in the tradition of Raistrick, concerned not only that Society is educated to preserve a landscape and a people "If the small farmers perish, so too will the mosaic of walls, meadows and pastures, and their place taken by drab conifers and developments in every shade of ugliness " - but to treat the countryside with the care and respect it deserves. This is a difficult book to put down and deserves high priority on anyone's autumn or Christmas book shopping list.

CS

The Yorkshire Dales National Park -Official Guide - Tony Waltham (Webb & Bower/ Michael Joseph £5.95)

Producing an "official" guidebook is a difficult job. To try and squeeze anything meaningful in a mere 128 pages, A5 size, plus maps and illustrations, virtually impossible. But Tony, YDS member and lecturer at Trent Polytechnic, has done an excellent job, with a series of short, sharp cameos on everything from rocks and scenery (which as a professional geologist and authority on limestone scenery he does particularly well) to recreation and leisure. The book's weakness isn't Tony's fault; to follow some kind of standard format straightjacket for all ten national parks, covering so much in so small a space forces the author into making a series of thumbnail sketches. Is this a book for the casual reader or the serious student of National Parks? Both perhaps, and in trying to meet both markets, both will be unsatisfied, for just as "selected places of interest" won't help the tourist, the equivalent of five small pages of text won't explain even to a CSE student what a National Park really is. The photographs, too, though superb, are often tiny, losing, like the text, in compression.

But as a taster, somewhere to start from (though the bibliography is a bit selective) this is a useful pocket book, an introduction to joys to follow.

CS



The sweeping pavement of Scales Moor

(photo: Dr. A.C.Waltham)

Garsdale Station Birthday Party



Photo:
Peter Shaw

200 pieces of "birthday" cake were soon eaten by passengers when the 5.24pm southbound steam special train stopped at Garsdale Station on a recent August Sunday. A special reception for the train, hauled by "Caerphilly Castle" marked the re-opening of the station to regular services a year ago.

Mrs Kath Hetherington and Mrs Ruth Annison travelled on the train from Kirkby Stephen. They presented every passenger with a letter and illustrated leaflet showing the attractions of Hawes and Sedbergh as destinations. Details of the minibus services to and from Garsdale Station were included in each pack.

A passenger was then appointed from each of the eight coaches to distribute the trays of cake, handed in when the train arrived at the station by Mr John Jeffreys, Chairman of Hawes Chamber of Trade, and a team of helpers. The cake was specially made and decorated by Mrs Jan Noble and Mrs Gill Morris of Gateaux Nouveaux of Sedbergh. Every slice was iced with the letter G.

There were about well wishers on the platform, including local residents of Garsdale Head holidaymakers staying in the station cottages and Mr Roger Stott, the new Chairman of the Wensleydale and Swaledale transport Users' Group. A group of people led by Mr and Mrs Mervyn Hillier of Bainbridge took the opportunity to tidy the station before the train arrived and collected several sacks of litter.

Mr Peter Shaw, Secretary of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle line, was also at Garsdale. He spent the day painting the gable ends of some of the station buildings. Everyone was able to admire the fresh paintwork, the first improvement work to be carried out since the station re-opened a year ago.

"The re-introduction of a local train service after the absence of 16 years was a remarkable achievement," said Mr Shaw, "especially on a line that is under threat of closure. The fact that the services are providing very popular with both local residents and visitor emphasises the need for not only these trains, but for the line as a whole; and we hope the Minister will decide to keep the line going."

Also on the platform to greet the train was Mr Graham Nuttall and his dog, Ruswarp. This is the dog that travelled so often on the line it claimed to the right to be represented as an individual objector to BR's closure proposals. A decision on the future of the Settle-Carlisle railway is still awaited.

The next train to arrive at the same platform was a homeward bound Dalesrail excursion. 60 ramblers got on at Garsdale after their day's walk, joining hundreds of others from the Preston area who had spent the day further up the line.

Ruth Annison

Also on the platform, having caught the BR service train from Carlisle, were Mrs Uta Wright and her daughter Dorkas from Stuttgart, Germany, travelling down from Scotland to spend a few days' hostelling in the Dales. Without Garsdale Station and the Hawes minibus they would not have been able to make that journey. The minibuses to Hawes and Sedbergh will continue though autumn and, in a more limited capacity, during the winter. For information ring Sedbergh 20414 or Leyburn 23280.

At time of going to press rumours are that the S&C will be "saved" but subject to a complex privatisation deal with private steam railway interests. This is being opposed by the major Settle-Carlisle closure opposition groups.

Dalesbus News

Since the Summer Review, West Yorkshire Road Car Co have advised me of some leisure services which have now been introduced with the support of North Yorkshire County Council. These include restoration of the popular Saturday only Harrogate-Skipton service, 804 (withdrawn on de-regulation last October), and for the first time serving Bolton Abbey as well as Pateley Bridge and Grassington, and restoring some of the connections with DalesBus 800 to and from Upper Wharfedale and Wensleydale, and last, but not least, a Sunday morning bus from Skipton to Malham.

The morning bus starts from Skipton rail station at 1055, affording a convenient connection with the 1002 from Leeds. Pennine Motors still run the evening bus at 1843 from Malham to Skipton, giving time for a short walk from bus to rail station for the 1941 to Bradford and Leeds. So, after a lapse of nearly five years, non-motorists again have convenient access to Malhamdale on a Sunday and motorists the opportunity of avoiding congestion and parking problems at busy weekends. The new services operate until 26/27th September, so there may still be time for members to make use of the new facility when this issue appears.

Alan J. Sutcliffe

A Day in the North York Moors

Why not join us on a YDS event this autumn? Joan and John Pipes, of Harrogate, two members of the YDS Council of Management, describe a recent trip to the Moors

In the Summer Review, there was an invitation to join our sister organisation, the North York Moors association, for a joint outing on June 28th. Meet at Pickering Car Park it said, at 11am Hole or Horcum at 11.30 for an easy walk, returning by train from Levisham station. The weather in the previous weeks had not been good, but this sounded interesting so we took a chance and booked.

We arrived at the long stay car park in Pickering nice and early but by 10.50am we were still virtually alone. We wondered about the occupants of a private coach who had been arriving in twos and threes, kitted out for walking, but they turned out to be Americans. They did offer to take us along too, but we declined, with thanks. And off they went. So what should we do? We booted up, took our rucksack and went in search of another car park. Success!

Officers of the Association were waiting; we were given a lift to the Hole of Horcum and away we went, about 20 of us in all.

It was a gentle and very pleasant walk, enriched by the specialist knowledge of many of the group. Good P.R. people, these! We learnt about the erosion of the peat and suggestions to save it; we learned something of the history of the area; we saw evidence of badgers (though we were sworn to secrecy as to where) and we identified hitherto unknown flowers including the insect-trapping butterwort. And at lunchtime who should turn up but our intrepid Americans, who apparently belonged to an American version of the Ramblers' Association, and were eager to discuss the Moors in general, and this particular area in detail. A very interesting interlude.

After a delightful train ride back to Pickering, we took two of our new friends back to the Hole of Horcum and sat looking at the view and reflecting on a most enjoyable day. And when we got home again we wrote to the Secretary of the North York Moors Association and "joined up".

Joan and John Pipes

Don't forget the YDS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION - closing date October 31st. And send us the name and address of a friend interested in joining, and we'll send them a free back number of The Review with a membership form.

Autumn Events

- September 12th-20th National Parks Festival See separate sheet for details. Main events to note - Sep 12th rally at Horton in Ribblesdale 2pm; Sep 15th rally at Bradford opposite City Hall, 1pm; Sep 16th rallies at Halifax Piece Hall 10am, walk to Huddersfield Town Hall for rally at 3.30pm; Sep 19th rally at Sheffield Town Hall at 12 noon. Grand climax "Festival Day" exhibition - with HRH Princess of Wales, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, 12 noon to 5.30pm. See us in the Yorkshire Dales marquee ! An occasion not to be missed.
- Friday October 2nd The historic landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales - a lecture by Dr Richard Muir looking at the evolution of the fieldscapes and characteristic qualities of our Yorkshire Dales landscape. Grassington Town Hall, 8pm Admission £1 (YDS members 80p)
- Sunday October 10th Daleswatch Seminar Mainly for our Daleswatch team, but anyone caring to join us, please send SAE to the office for details.
- Sunday October 24th Malhamdale A look at this most fascinating of the Yorkshire Dales, rich in archaeological and geological interest. Meet outside the National Park Centre at 11am
- Wednesday November 11th Making a Dales Videobook Barry & Jenny Pyatt, of Studio 21 Black Edge Farm, Denholme Gate, Yorkshire BD13 4ET specialise in "videobooks" - video records of the Dales landscape. Come to Grassington on November 11th to learn how a "videobook" is made and see examples of this relatively new artform, or write to them at the above address - discounts for YDS members - for information. Their presentation will be at Waymarks, Pletts Barn, Grassington at 7.45pm, admission £1.
- Saturday November 14th The glory of Fountains Chris Hartley, YDS Council member and National Trust Guide will take YDS members on a tour of this magnificent "world heritage" estate. Meet at the Studley Roger entrance (east side - closest to Ripon) at 1.30pm. Normal National Trust entrance fees (free to NT members) applies.
- Saturday December 5th December in Dent A late autumn walk down the Dales way to Dent - lunch (pub or cafe) in village before returning for early train. Catch the Settle-Carlisle train Leeds d.0842, Keighley 0905, Skipton 0919 Settle 0942 to Dent Station



South View of Fountains Abbey.

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