

Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

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The 'Holiness' of Swaledale

50p.

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Gathering Grounds For Sale

A lot of hot air is released from time to time about "Victorian Values" usually taken to mean attitudes relating to hard-work, self reliance and thrift, qualities familiar enough in the Yorkshire Dales if less prevalent in those more prosperous parts of Britain where politicians and press magnates tend to reside.

But the Victorians also had a very considerable amount of vision of a kind not too often found among their late twentieth century successors. Railways - including our precious Settle-Carlisle line - public parks, universal free education, the first garden cities, free libraries and art galleries all arose from a sense of public and civic responsibility which isn't exactly fashionable at the present time.

Perhaps the greatest single gift bequeathed to us by our forefathers was a pure water supply. The nightmares of cholera and typhoid epidemics which ravaged all our cities were eliminated by the building huge new reservoirs in areas like the Yorkshire Dales and South Pennines so that piped, pure water could reach every home, and sewage safely disposed of. So obsessed were the water engineers by cleanliness that vast tracts of land, for example in Upper Nidderdale, Colsterdale and Washburndale, have effect sterilised from all development to remove the risk of contamination by untreated sewage.

This has lead to the retention of huge areas of open moorland particularly in the eastern Dales which are used for sheep grazing and in some cases for grouse shooting, but also water catchment. For many years the old Water Boards were more effective than gamekeepers in keeping people off the moors with warning notices and angry bailiffs patrolling the moors.

But in more recent years things have changed. Improved water treatment methods and legislation to encourage access to gathering grounds has made bodies like the Water Authority adopt a much more relaxed attitude to visitors, and areas like Washburndale and Upper Nidderdale now have car parks, signed walks and trails which give enormous pleasure to many thousands of people.

The Government's proposed privatisation of Water Boards isn't a matter of great concern to many people. After all, it doesn't really matter whether it is a remote "Board" or a shareholder-controlled "PLC" that controls the water supply as long as what comes through the taps is clean and clear and that the loo works. No reason to suppose that public health standards will change whoever happens to control the business.

The worry lies in the vast areas of land which will go with the purchase of Yorkshire Water Ltd. If that land is disposed off what safeguards will there be for the very considerable nature conservation interests the gathering grounds represent? It could well be that the new companies will be advised by sharp-eyed accountants who will quickly note the fact that a grouse or deer shooting consortium can provide a bigger rent than bird watchers. How about free access to the uplands for walkers if the new companies are seeking the new cash crop of leisure interests in the countryside - motor sports, hang-gliding, clay-pigeon shooting, microlite - most of them noisy spectacular sports attracting increased traffic and parking?

Already a seemingly innocent planning proposal for Grimwith Reservoir seeks a major new leisure centre by the reservoir shores, overturning previous assurances that use of this reservoir would merely be for quiet enjoyment - a car park, toilets, quiet walks to enjoy the solitude and the birdlife. The introduction of the first powered boat - initially restricted to one or two but how long will such restrictions last - is also envisaged for "emergency" purposes. Outline planning permission has been granted.

The reasoning behind the Grimwith application is transparent. Develop the reservoir for modern leisure interests and the value of the property increases - whether or not such pursuits are appropriate in a National Park specifically created for "the quiet enjoyment of natural beauty" not for watersports. The same holds true for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty like Nidderdale and Washburndale. As YDS members have argued, provision already exists in the less scenically precious areas of the Lower Aire Valley close to the motorway network for any amount of motorised watersport provision.

As Brian Redhead, President of the Council for National Parks has said so eloquently: "Some activities neither protect nor enhance and they spoil everybody else's enjoyment." Anyone who has suffered Windermere when the waterskiers are at play or the powerboats on Semerwater understands what he means. Let us hope that it not too late to ensure that our elected representatives take notice.

COLIN SPEAKMAN

Cover: Miss Marie Hartley and Miss Joan Ingilby in the Upper Dales Museum

(for story - see opposite page.)

(Photo: David Morgan Rees)

Our First Honorary Members

On October 8th 1988 the Dales authors and historians Miss Marie Hartley and Miss Joan Ingilby were presented with Honorary Life Membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society, by the Society's Chairman, Mr. Ken Willson.

The occasion took place at the Upper Dales Folk Museum at Hawes which contains their extensive collection of domestic, craft and agricultural utensils, tools and implements.

This is the first Honorary Membership ever granted by the Society and is in recognition of their remarkable contribution to the heritage of the Yorkshire Dales through their writing, photography and personal dedication.

Our cover photograph shows Miss Hartley and Miss Ingilby in the Upper Dales Folk Museum with part of their collection.

Grassington Moor Victory



The flu system and smelt mill chimney, Grassington Moor.

The Moor is particularly rich in remains of the lead-mining industry, which remain the property of the Chatsworth Estate.

Many of the remains are unsafe and visitors are advised to keep to footpaths over the Moor.

Photo: Colin Speakman

Two founder members of the Yorkshire Dales Society have secured a major legal victory in the Yorkshire Dales that safeguards 2,000 acres of open countryside, rich in industrial archaeological remains for local people and the public at large.

County Councillor Keith Lockyer of Grassington, the Yorkshire Dales Society's founder-Chairman was the first to question the right of shooting tenants on Grassington Moor to claim that they had purchased the Moor from the owner of the Mineral rights, the Duke of Devonshire. Keith's extensive researches indicated that soon after 1604 a predecessor of the Duke had sold the land to 31 local farmers in the township of Grassington, reserving only the sporting and mineral rights.

The case was then taken up by a second founder member of the Society, Gerry Pearlman, a member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee and a Leeds solicitor who, acting on behalf of the Open Spaces Society and the local commoners opposed the claim of ownership before the Commons Commissioners. Thanks to a brilliantly researched and presented case, the claims of ownership were rejected, and because Grassington Moor is now without a registered owner it comes, by virtue of the Commons Registration Act 1965, Section 9 under the protection of the local authority - North Yorkshire County Council and its constituent Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee.

Not only does this protect local rights of common on the Moor but safeguards the ancient public access enjoyed by local people and visitors for generations. It proves once again the value of concerned individuals and amenity bodies in the protection of our national and regional heritage.

Looking at Barns - in Wharfedale

John Ward continues his examination of some of the interesting things to see in Dales Barns. In this issue he concentrates on Wharfedale.

In the last Review I tried to convey some of the fascination of looking at barns. Now I should like to take you on a "barn crawl" and introduce you to some of my favourite barns of Wharfedale. All of them can be seen from public roads.

The "Tithe barns" at Bolton Abbey must be the starting point, not only because of its situation at the foot of Upper Wharfedale but because of its grandeur. It is the Queen of Wharfedale Barns, but not in fact the original tithe barn. The Priory had many such barns, a favourite target of the Scots in the 14th century, but the present barn is a replacement of one or two large barns which used to exist at Bolton Abbey. It may well be of similar size. It is of eight bays and is fully aisled and according to Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby* it has traces of "stud and mud walls". Although reroofed and to some extent retimbered it is a magnificent example of a kingpost timber framed structure.

The Bolton Abbey and Barden area is the centre of the remaining cruck barns of the Dales. My favourite is at Drebley because I played a minor role in ensuring its preservation. It was in a sorry state but restoration is now complete apart from the roof. I hope that the present plastic roof will be temporary and will soon be replaced with ling thatch. Traces of old ling still exist underneath the modern roof. Some of the timbers have been replaced. I understand that while oak for new crucks was found locally on the Chatsworth Estate, a straight timber of over 30 feet long for a new purlin had to be found elsewhere. Apart from the cruck structure the barn has two interesting features. It has the original threshing floor and a potato store dating from the first half of the 19th century. It is a barrel vaulted structure with steps down from the upper end of the barn.

Appletreewick Low Hall has a barn built in 1690 which is one of my special favourites. Right on the roadside, its architectural delights are there for all to see. It is one of those buildings which take you back immediately to the 17th century and a peep round the back with an imaginative eye which erases all things modern will keep you there. One gable end which almost certainly led to living accommodation for the hind. The large pegged door on the road side, with its handsome recessed lintel is a modern reproduction beautifully crafted. Look, too, at the fine stepped and chamfered lintels of the small door and window.

A little further up the dale at Burnsall is a house called Summersgill. Often written about it was originally a long house. If you look carefully you can see the original entrance to the barn, immediately to the left of the present house door and partly obscured by a huge stone trough, the entrance to the house being from the barn. The large barn door is not original but is notable for its double row of stones in its arched lintel, unique in Wharfedale as far as I know.



Doorway of a Farm Building, Cray, Upper Wharfedale

(photo: John Potter)

A detour to Thorpe is well worth while, to see a fine collection of barns of different periods. There is a particularly fine corbelled porch, unfortunately on the verge of collapse, and in the gable of a barn dated 1793, a face still doing the job of keeping out evil spirits. On to Threshfield where the splendid Manor house has a barn dated 1661 which is a good example of a traditional plan with three doors in the low gable leading to the byre, the central one giving access to the foddergang. High in the gable above these doors is another common Dales feature - an owl hole. Nearby Linton Hall has another fine, and very long, barn dating from the 17th century. Note the number of well shaped loop holes, the mullioned window which again suggests accommodation for a hind and, to its right, a wide but low door, too low for carts and presumably built for sledges and coops.

Just across the footbridge over the Wharfe on the way to Grassington we pass, on the right, an elegant, small barn dated 1682 and once in the village we reach Plett's Barn, one of Wesley's preaching sites, now the home of Waymarks and often a meeting place for the Yorkshire Dales Society. Its age is uncertain (though it is said to date from 1610) but whatever its age it is a barn of considerable architectural interest. Look particularly at the porch with its pigeon cote and probable dog kennel in its cheeks.

Kilnsely Old Hall is the next stop up the dale, built in 1648. Once a fine house visited by Lady Anne Clifford, it has come down in the world to become a barn. Perhaps soon it will be a house again.

Conistone and Kettlewell have more fine barns but it is to Starbotton, on the back lane parallel to the road, that we must go to see a splendid array of primitive upper Dales barns as can be seen anywhere. They are crudely built - no fine masonry here - but remain an impressive monument to 17th century workmanship. A low wide door (now half blocked) with a very shallow arched lintel of what are little more than limestone flakes surely defied gravity when it stood unaided.

Past Buckden and two imposing barns - Stubbing Bridge and Haw Ings at the foot of Cray Gill - we enter Langstrothdale and before long reach the two remote settlements of Raisgill and Yockenthwaite - magical names - with excellent laithe houses. Near neighbours they may be, but they are as different as the weather from the directions they face - one to the North East and one to the South West. A little further on at the roadside is a small barn dated 1668 with a beautiful carved lintel which perhaps smacks of Ribblesdale more than Wharfedale. Time to turn round for a quick visit to Littondale.

Here there are many treasures, but I'll just content myself with two. First the barn on the green at Arncliffe where the datestone reads TFA 1667. This is yet another house turned barn - with fireplace still intact - and there is indeed still more at Halton Gill, but pride of place must go to the Manor house barn built as recently as 1829. Its architectural style with noble porch and classical finials helped by its location and aspect make it one of the most majestic barns of the dale.

Do go and look for your own favourites. I have mentioned only a few and, although other dales are equally rich in barns, I have confined myself to Wharfedale. Perhaps I may be allowed to trespass elsewhere for a moment, to Wath. There I can across a barn dated 166X. Can anyone explain?

* For a much more extensive and learned survey of Dales barns see Dales Memories by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby (published by the Dalesman Publishing Company) to which I am indebted for some of my information.

J.K.WARD



Halton Gill

(Photo: Colin Speakman)

The Changing Dales



George Metcalfe of Raiqill Farm, Garsdale (W.R.Mitchell)

W.R. ("Bill") Mitchell, Editor of The Dalesman for twenty out of its fifty years, has produced a book which is a marvellous social document of the Yorkshire Dales during the first half century of the famous little magazine. Those fifty years have perhaps seen the profoundest changes in the way of life of Dales communities that at any time in the past, with revolutions of mechanisation, communications, transport and incomes changing beyond recognition how people live and work in the Dales. Bill has produced a magnificent collection of over 100 superb black and white photographs, just four of which we have produced here, that chronicles just some of the changes which have taken place and at the same times celebrates the richness, variety of the landscape and culture of this unique part of England.

Entitled The changing Dales: A Half-century of "progress" (Dalesman Publishing Co £8.95) this book steers a careful middle course between a very natural regret for what has past and a recognition that for most people life in the 1930s was harsh and often close to a grinding poverty. The text is filled with anecdotes, real life accounts of how things were. Haytime, when done entirely by manual labour, was a photographers' dream with a row of haymakers on a sloping meadow. Less romantic to hear a haymaker describing haytimes of old as "blood, sweat and tears." Or how a perfectly respectable Dales family couldn't afford new shoes for their children but bought secondhand on Settle market.

Yet there is rich humour in this book, the resilient Dales character which survives bad times as well as good, peace as well as war. The section of the book describing Dales life in World War II is particularly fascinating and not without its funny side - such as the day when the Smealdale Home Guard thought they had captured an enemy pilot who turred out, when he had finished "gibbering" to be "one of ours."



When Dales Buses had clippies - crews of United's service 127 between Ripon and Hawes (W.R.Mitchell)

The author's love of wild places also emerges in the book, with pictures of curlew, raven, plover to be found "on the tops". Nor does the book remain comfortably in the past, but looks at some of the serious issues facing the present - quarries, forestry, the impact of the leisure revolution. He has praise for the way the National Park has been able to proceed with many schemes for conservation, most notably treeplanting and the protection of hay meadows through the new "Environmentally Sensitive Areas".

Are there regrets looking back over 50 years of the Dales and 20 years stewardship of its most successful little magazine? Bill would not be human if he did not feel some sense of loss which in spite of his natural optimism and sense of balance, begins to peep through. "In the Age of Leisure," he writes, "visitors find thickets of signs, car parks, litter bins, information centres, wardens, greatly eroded footpaths, steps beside Malham Cove and a general hub-hub to which low-flying jets add their distinctive waves of sound..."

But much remains, as Bill would be the first to remind us to delight the eye and refresh the soul, and enough of the independent spirit of the Yorkshire Dales, which bureaucracy and multi-national economic trends have yet to quench - to keep Bill actively occupied for some time to come.

CS



Hand-raking at Rainscar, back o' Pen y Ghent (W.R.Mitchell)



Spectators at a sheepdog trail in the Dales One dog is being restrained by a crook through its collar! (W.R.Mitchell)

The 'Holiness' of Swaledale

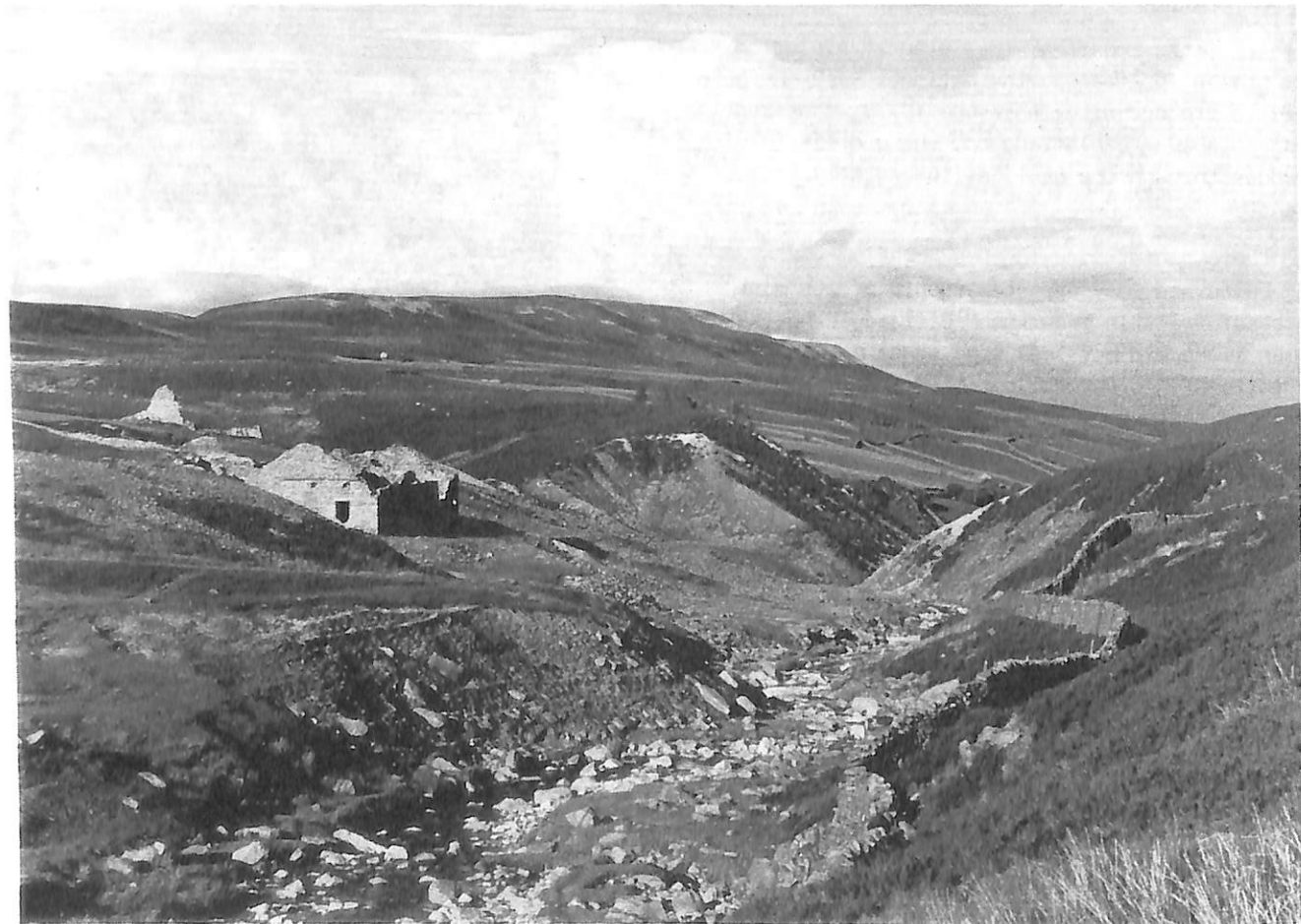
it is hard to believe that parts of Swaledale today are as full of holes as a piece of Gruyere cheese. But beneath some apparently solid flanks of Gunnerside or Arkengarthdale there is a fantastic tracery of tunnels and shafts which provide a remarkable testimony to the endurance, courage and ingenuity of the late 18th and 19th century lead miners:

"In the 18th century, Swaledale was peopled with farmers who were part-time miners. During this period, the mines attracted men from places such as Cornwall and Germany. By the 19th century, because families divided the land between their sons, Swaledale was now full of miners who were part-time farmers. The 20th century was to see the end of mining, although there was still a vivid memory of the Great Industry which was recalled with pride and affection."

This is a quotation from a handsome new book "The Hidden Side of Swaledale - the Life and Death of a Yorkshire Lead Mining" by John Hardy (Frank Peters, Kendal £14.95p). It gives a unique and fresh perspective to a subject which already has an extensive and authoritative literature led by Dr. Arthur Raistrick and Professor Bernard Jennings.

John Hardy's book is the result of a personal quest. he first came to Swaledale in 1946, returning as a young Methodist Minister in 1954. He then married in 1956 into a Dales family which boasted strong lead mining connections back to James Clark, his wife's great, great, great grandfather, who narrowly escaped death in a disaster at Old Rake Whim mine on the 12th May 1778 in the Swaledale orefield leased at that time to the London Lead Mine Company. James Clark lived at Merryfield House, located far out on the lonely moor directly adjacent to the mine. John Hardy has patiently pieced together from family records and reminiscence a fascinating and detailed portrait of this intense activity which had such a profound influence upon landscape, life and work in Swaledale. It stirred his imagination to write vividly about both people and their communities as well as the features of individual mines and the principal methods used:

"As one day I gazed on the lonely expanse that was Merryfield with only scars to suggest its former activity, I could barely imagine the piping voices of children at play, the activity at the quarry and the shafts whilst carts lumbered their way to the smelter. It was hard to believe that this now lonely and deserted place could have been so different 200 years earlier."



Surrender Mill, Swaledale, with Calva Fell in the background (photo: Christine Whitehead)

His enthusiasm for his subject as well as the privilege of his position as a Minister in a close community which saw Religion as the framework and meaning for work, allowed him a unique opportunity to penetrate behind the surfaces and details of the industry.

A map at the beginning of the book, showing the main mining concessions of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale in the 19th century, gives an extraordinary overview of the extent of the lead mining in the area. The names of individual workings - Old Gang Mines, Blind Gill Level, Swinnergill Mines Hard Level, Brandy Bottle, Hungry Hushes, Nuthole, Surrender, Moss Dam, Botcher Gill - evoke the history, the tragedy as well as the romance of "the Great Industry", this remarkable subterranean world of enterprise:

"The extent of mining in the Swaledale field was such that the operations of different companies ran into one another and it was for this reason that in the late 19th century it was possible to enter the Sir Frances Mine in Gunnerside Gill and travel through the vast underground network to emerge into daylight from the Moulds Level in Arkengarthdale, a distance of over 10,000 yards or 6 miles."

John Hardy's not inconsiderable courage as well as stamina enabled him to gain first-hand experience of his subject, exploring many of the levels and drifts with only his brother, Peter, for company. Together they have taken a remarkable series of underground photographs and assembled data for a series of detailed sectional drawings of the principal mines. All the illustrations are in colour and are matched with some fine landscape photography by Ronnie Mullin.

The book's only failing is the lack of an index and this is a pity because it is full of so much valuable new information in detail about lead mining. But the book's great strength is its mixture of social as well as industrial history. His portraits of some of the leading characters are illuminating, like the "last witness" to lead mining, Fremie Hutchinson, who worked alongside his father in the Fremington Chert Mines and was the last man to ship a load of lead out in Swaledale in 1948.

Readers of The Hidden Side of Swaledale will look at the landscape with fresh interest. Such landmarks as the sadly derelict Crackpot Hall, the only remaining testimony to a fierce dispute about mining rights in the late 18th century between the Lord of the Manor Thomas Smith and Lord Pomfret, or the elegant hexagonal 19th century Powder House in Arkengarthdale, will have a new significance - thanks to John Hardy.



DAVID MORGAN REES

John Hardy, pushing an old Mining Tub found when exploring a level near the Old Surrender Smelt Mill

Recipes - and Poetry - from Linton

A delightful book of traditional Dales recipes plus some verse by the celebrated Dales writer Halliwell Sutcliffe (who lived at White Abbey, Linton) has been produced in aid of the efforts by Linton village people to restore their village Hall - the Anderton Memorial Institute. The book is beautifully illustrated (see tailpiece on page 12) and handsomely produced - and useful - and represents excellent value for money. Copies can be obtained price £2.40 from White Abbey, Linton, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5HQ - this includes postage and packing. Make cheques out to The Anderton Memorial Institute.

FREE REVIEWS FOR POTENTIAL MEMBERS. Don't forget we need every help to achieve that magic figure of 2,000 members. If you have friends who are interested, let us have their name and address and we'll send them a free back number of The Review so they can read about the Society before they join. If you can distribute membership forms we would be most grateful - nothing is better than personal recommendation. And we sometimes receive membership "given" by a friend of relative as a Christmas present - perhaps that may solve your Christmas shopping problem for 1988 !

A Balanced Outlook?

Following the views expressed by Mr Alderson of Wensley on the changes to his village over the last few years, Mr J.L.Hepworth of Addingham writes to take up issue with Mr Alderson:

" I find myself out of sympathy with some of the views expressed by Mr Alderson in the Yorkshire Dales Review No 24.

If we are to accept an increasing population and a rising standard of living we cannot confine our people to city slums or tower blocks. They have the right to enjoy the countryside as much as the older residents.

I do not accept that housing development need be detrimental to bird life. My house is situated on the edge of Addingham in what was formerly a paddock. Since planting my garden with trees and shrubs the variety of bird life has increased. I now have a resident population in summer of wrens, tits, dunnocks, robins, sparrows, greenfinches, chaffinch, flycatchers, warblers, wagtails, martins, thrushes, blackbirds, starlings, jackdaws and rooks. Occasional visitors include goldfinch, fieldfare, bullfinch, nuthatch, skylark, fieldfare, redwing, wood pigeon, magpie, lapwing and mallard.

In addition there is a great deal of fuss made of the old railways. Much of this is misplaced nostalgia. The steam engine was a most inefficient locomotive and a serious polluter of the environment. I am sure it would be impossible to build all our old network of canals and railways under today's circumstances. There would be huge outcries from the environmentalists over the desecration of the landscape. The benefits now being claimed for the Settle-Carlisle Railway would not be accepted as a strong enough case to warrant the damage to the unspoilt moorland through which it is carved.

To sum up let us please keep a balanced outlook on these matters."

Mr Hepworth raises some interesting points. What do members feel ? It is only fair to point out that the Yorkshire Dales Society is not interested in preserving the Settle-Carlisle Railway for steam traction, but as a modern, working railway and transport system giving access to the Yorkshire Dales and providing a vitally needed transport link for local people. And whilst Mr Hepworth is right to point out the pollution caused by steam engines he should also be aware of the severe air and soil pollution caused by modern motor traffic - carbon monoxide, lead, hydrocarbons which are now recognised in many parts of Europe, if not Britain, as a major cause of environmental damage, including woodland destruction. We welcome members' views !

Membership Matters

Yorkshire Dales Society members are generally responding well to the updating of their bankers' orders to the new subscription levels: £6 single, £8 family or couple, £6 retired couple and £4 single retired. However we still have a number of members who have not altered their banker's orders. If you have not already done so, remember that the Society is losing income it desperately needs so please ask your bank to alter the amount and please PLEASE send your new Bankers' Orders to us first so we have the up-to-date details and don't send you reminder letters. We can then send them on to your bank. In addition though some members have indeed alerted their banks, the banks in questions have, in a number of cases, paid the order at the old rate. If this is the case with your subscription - or indeed you have paid the old rates by cheque - we would be most grateful for a small donation to cover the difference until the bank has caught up with your instructions. Every little helps to keep the Society functioning.

Society badges, an elegant design with the YDS logo hand painted on leather, are a most attractive way of showing you belong to the Society - a coat of clear nail varnish will make them fully waterproof. Each badge costs £1.20 including postage and packaging from the Society's offices at 152 Main Street, Addingham, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 0LY. Please make all cheques payable to the Yorkshire Dales Society.

The highly praised Dales Digest of current news items from the Dales is available to YDS members - a compilation of newspaper articles in will keep you in touch with current events in the Dales. If you would like to receive a copy please send £3 with your request to the Society's offices. John Ward is particularly anxious to receive more cuttings from the northern Dales.

Finally do try and enrol new members. Though we now have over 1,900 members - a new record - we need to work hard to achieve that 2,000 figure. An even larger Society gives us "more power to our elbow". Personal recommendation often seems to work best of all.

Please contact Membership Secretary/ Administrator Fleur Speakman if you have time and energy to help with Society with administrative work or as a member of one of the various sub-committees now tackling so many important areas of work - Daleswatch, Events and Publications, Social and Economic matters. We are particularly looking for someone in the Ilkley/Addingham area able to help with the preparation of simple posters for YDS events - as well as general publicity and promotional matters. If you think you can help give us a ring on Ilkley (0943) 607868. Fleur Speakman

Notes from a Warden's Diary

Apart from being a very active member of YDS Council, including organising many of its events (he will be taking a winter walk to Yockenthwaite for YDS members on February 18th), Chris Hartley finds time to be a very committed member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Voluntary Warden Service.

All Wardens of the YDNP wear the distinctive Chocolate brown woollen pullover with the chest high coffee cream band. This enables them to be recognised by the public so that they can be approached by visitors for any help and assistance they might need for their enjoyment of the area, and now having one of my own I now felt that I really belonged, as it were.

.....we drove over to Reeth, where we dropped off Sue, whose walk was based there, and then David took us up dale to find the tree plantation which we were to attend to, which stood on the north side of Swaledale, a mile or two past Gunnerside. We took a narrow side road, at the back of the village, to where we would find our trees. It was just as well that we did for not far along the road we noticed an elderly lady in distress by the roadside. Stopping the Landrover we jumped out to find that she had fallen off an electric tricycle, which had overturned, pinning her into a kneeling position on the ground. On inquiry we found to our relief that the only injury she suffered was to her ego - apart from being trapped by the vehicle she was perfectly all right, not even appearing shaken. She evoked the typical indomitable spirit of Dales folk by joking about the fact that it was the third time she had tipped over. Once we had freed her she then insisted on getting back on her tricycle and after thanking us properly for our help she set off right a rain back to Gunnerside.....

The site was by a farmstead and Gerald and I chatted for a short while with the friendly farmer discussing things like the local rabbit population and its effect on farm practices. The plantation is situated on a slope overlooking the main dale road plus the road coming over Oxnop Gill from Askrigg.... Later in the day we were joined by Davd and Sue who help us to finish off our task. Again there was a good survival rate of young trees, with many different types such as oak, ash, sycamore and willow, though one problem was with clumps of grass. The young trees has been planted in Tulley Tubes which are specially designed to protect them from both frost and rabbit attack. They also create a kind of greenhouse environment.....

On another occasion we attended a course run by the National Park about Environmentally Sensitive Areas. We were told how the initiative had come from the EEC Commission, but was an innovation of the British Government. The idea is to protect areas which have rich hay meadows of the traditional style, and also the characteristic drystone walls and field barns - though there is no encouragement to restore ruined ones. The main areas of ESA in the Dales are of course Swaledale, Arkengarthdale, Walden, Dentdale, Langstrothdale and Upper Wharfedale. All ten National Parks have such areas and they were designated in 1985, though the scheme is entirely voluntary. Each field in the upper Dales used to contain its own barn - this served as a storage place for fodder and sheltered five or six cattle in the winter. The muck passed by the animals was taken out and evenly spread in Spring, fertilising the land. In the ESAs, no artificial fertiliser is used and this allows the various herbs to flower; a later mowing date also allows plants to seed allowing for regeneration after haymaking. Farmers who agree to enter the scheme must subject themselves to strict procedures on the use of fertilisers, strict cutting and no blanket spraying. But already agreements had ensured the survival of many fine traditional Dales meadows.

CHRIS HARTLEY

(If you want to know more about the National Park Voluntary Warden Service - and the Park are always anxious to recruit men and women who are physically fit and have a knowledge of and commitment to the Dales Countryside. For further information write to Peter Wright, Head Warden, Yorkshire Dales National Park, "Colvend", Hebden Road, Grassington, via Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5LB.)



Muker and Swaledale from the Corpse Way, on Kison

(much of this area is now covered by the ESA scheme)

(Photo: Geoffrey N. Wright)

Winter Events

Don't let the winter weather get you down but join one of the YDS winter events to make the most of those precious short days when the Dales are often at their most beautiful

Saturday December 10th Linton Church and Thorpe in the Hollow Meet John Wright at the entrance to Linton Church, Wharfedale at 10.30am. Lunch at the Fountains Inn, Linton about 12 noon and then gather at 1pm at Linton Green for a short walk around Thorpe-in-the-Hollow. Join any part of the day you can. If you intend to join the group for an (informal) pub lunch, please phone Anne Halloran who will lead the walk on Leeds 438398 - not as published in the last Review - no later than 8pm on the previous evening so Anne can forewarn The Fountain of likely numbers.

Saturday January 21st Winter on the Settle-Carlisle. Catch the 1045 train from Leeds, 1122 at Skipton, 1148 at Settle for DENT STATION (snowploughs permitting) for a 6½ mile walk over to Garsdale led by John and Joan Pipes. Book to Garsdale. Return on 1738 train from Garsdale - which now has a waiting room !

Saturday February 18th A Celebration of Upper Wharfedale This winter walk of 8 miles between Buckden and Yockenthwaite via Cray will celebrate the gift of land by YDS member Graham Watson of his estate in Upper Wharfedale to the National Trust lead by YDS/National Trust member Chris Hartley. Meet 1030 in the National Park Car Park at Buckden - bring packed lunch and hot drink.

Sunday March 12th Quarries and landscaping in the Yorkshire Dales. Quarries are often an emotive issue in the Yorkshire Dales. Mr Carl Liz of Amey Roadstone Company Ington will explain the quarry manager's view with the help of slides. The meeting will be in Grassington Town Hall at 2pm. Tea will be available afterwards.

REMINDER The Yorkshire Dales Society Lecture Service. The YDS have a "panel" of experienced speakers prepared to give a slide lecture about Britain's ten National Park and the Yorkshire Dales in particular. Speakers are prepared to come for a minimum donation of £10 to the Society plus the speakers' out-of-pocket expenses. For further information or to book a speaker contact Gordon Woolliscroft ? Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire tel Otley 463718.



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Linton, Wharfedale

(This drawing by S. Bownes forms the cover of Recipes from Linton = see page 9