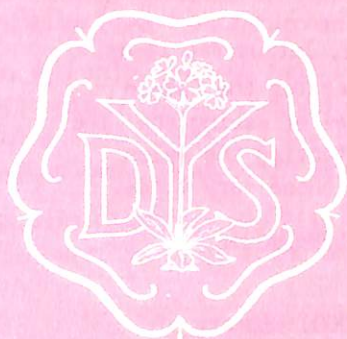


# **Y** The **Yorkshire Dales** **Review**

**No.27**  
**Summer 1989**



**Settle — Carlisle Victory**

**The Y.D.N.P. — Public Service or  
Public Charity?**

**Coverdale**

**Book and Map Reviews**

**50p.**



THE YORKSHIRE DALES REVIEW is the quarterly journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society and is published by the Society which is an independant charitable body. Views expressed in The Review are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

### Settle-Carlisle — A Victory for the Yorkshire Dales

The news that the Government has finally refused British Rail permission to close or to privatise the Settle-Carlisle railway line was as delightful as it was unexpected. Even a few days prior to the announcement, information leaked to the Press indicated that high level discussions between potential purchasers were still taking place.

What caused such a sudden and remarkable change of heart ? At what point did the Government set aside the clear wish of many of its senior members and determine that the railway would remain part of the national rail network ?

It is difficult to know at what point that the logic of the protesters' case finally won through. What was it that tipped the balance ? The mountains of evidence from local authorities, national bodies, regional bodies - including the Yorkshire Dales Societies - local politicians, business people, ramblers, journalists, above all ordinary people, including many YDS members, prepared to make their views known in ways available to a democratic society - to their elected members of Parliament and local Councils, to the Press, and to Government Ministers, including the Prime Minister herself.

All these people played a part. And it would be wrong of us not to say a very big thank you to our own members in particular whose support was so overwhelming - and perhaps crucial, in helping those who took that final decision to be so bold as to "change their mind".

When the story of Britain's longest and fiercest battle to save a railway comes to be written, certain organisations and individuals will stand out as playing a key part - the Yorkshire Dales National Park who first developed the recreational use of the line with the "Dales Rail" project, Ron Cotton, the professional railwayman given the thankless task of closing the line who quadrupled the traffic through brilliant marketing, the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line who fought a superb, dogged campaign, Cumbria County Council who backed the local services to help their rural communities, and the group of local business people who skillfully proved how the Government would score a dreadful "own goal" by destroying business and tourism opportunities in the Yorkshire Dales.

No issue in recent years has united people in the North of England more fervently than the battle to save this railway. Politicians of very different political colours buried their hatchets and worked together in common cause. Local community leaders, tourist organisations, farmers, ramblers, naturalists, people from overseas and others who have lived long generations in the same valley worked together to save a railway which became a symbol of the fight to keep life and prosperity in the hills.

The key question now is to prove the jeremiahs wrong who said that the dramatic increase in business on the railway was people taking last trips before it closed. Part of the Government's conditions for reopening the line is for there to be new initiatives and partnerships between the private and public sector in marketing the line. Old and grubby trains, no catering on many services, lack of basic facilities are no advertisement for a ride on "England's greatest scenic railway". There is tremendous scope too, at a time when the roads of the Dales are becoming ever more congested with tourist traffic, to take new imaginative initiatives with linking bus services, weekend packages and longer breaks, overseas marketing. The idea of the S&C as a "spine" through the Dales needs reviving. And why has the potential of the Wensleydale line been totally ignored by the National Park Committee ?

In welcoming Mr Channon's reprieve for this magnificent part of our Dales heritage, let us see it as only the beginning not only for the railway but for the spirit of working together for the common cause in the Yorkshire Dales. Only a few months ago, cynics would dismiss chances of saving the line because the powers that be "had made up their mind". There are many other issues affecting the Dales where a well informed, well organised campaign, pursued with passion, can change those very minds.

COLIN SPEAKMAN

Cover: The Hayfield - Turning the Hay at Aysgarth

John Edenbrow is a well known Yorkshire photographer with an extensive (over 8,000) library of material of the region - tel 0532 659577.

### Dales Futures: People and Place

Make a date with the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Yorkshire Rural Community Council on Saturday July 8th at Bolton Abbey Village Hall for one of the most important events in the Society's calendar for 1989.

Dales Futures: People and Place will take a close look at the changes now taking place in the Yorkshire Dales. Are the needs of local communities being overlooked ? Are there ways in which people can do more to shape the future of their own communities and environment ? What are the constraints and resources ?

The aim of the day is to bring together representatives of local communities in the Yorkshire Dales, statutory authorities and a wide range of voluntary organisations to exchange ideas and information and to consider together the future of the Dales to form a basis for collaborative action.

All Yorkshire Dales Society members are warmly invited to attend.

The Principal guest speaker will be Professor Tim O'Riordan of the University of East Anglia, a noted authority on the social and economic problems of National Parks, who will speak on "People and Place". Group discussions will look at rural services, rural facilities and infrastructure, and rural landscape and nature. After lunch there will be a swapshop with various organisations represented, and key discussions will look at ways of shaping the future within the Dales. Dr. Nigel Roome, of Bradford University, Chairman of the Yorkshire Rural Community Council, will chair the morning's session and provide the winding up speech, whilst the afternoon session will be chaired by David Morgan Rees, Vice Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Conference fee is £8.50 and booking forms should be returned by June 20th to the YRCC, William House, Shipton Road, Skelton, York, YO3 6XW tel (0904) 645271. Booking forms and further information can also be obtained from the YDS. Late bookings may be accepted - phone for details.



What future for Dales communities ?

Bainbridge, Wensleydale.

(Photo: Bob Chaney.)

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#### DALESWATCH - WATCHERS NEEDED

After an excellent start, the Yorkshire Dales Society's Daleswatch is in the doldrums. The group urgently needs a convenor and more recruits, particularly from the northern Dales.

What we are looking for, in essence, is a group of local correspondents who will keep the Society in touch with what's going on in and around the Dales and to whom we can turn for information on major issues. The difficulty is the problem which always affects the Dales - one of distance. People are reluctant to travel long distances, particularly in the winter months, and members lose touch.

We already have the excellent quarterly Dales Digest from local press sources which Daleswatch members receive free. In return we need people to keep us in touch with local issues and opinion.

Do you think you can help ? We can increasingly use letter and phone, where necessary linking with other like-minded voluntary bodies for mutual support. We are looking for volunteers in each of the Dales, but especially the remoter daleheads. Have you organising skills, access to a phone and a typewriter. Ring Colin or Fleur Speakman on 0943 607868.

We also urgently need help with the Events programme. An appeal from Chris Hartley our Events Convenor, is to be found on Page 11. Help the Society to do the work that needs to be done.



## The Yorkshire Dales National Park — Public Service or Public Charity?

Colin Speakman, himself a former Appointed Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee and former officer of the Authority, questions the wisdom of the National Park Committee seeking "external sources of funding" for its work.

Those of us who love and care for the Yorkshire Dales, and see the work of its National Park Authority as forming an essential part of the "protection and enhancement" of the natural beauty of this unique environment, must view with some slight sense of unease the decision by the National Park Committee to "identify at least three specialist consultants experienced in national fund raising" to advise the Committee on ways of raising income.

Whilst the Committee is at this stage doing no more than looking at options, it is clear that serious consideration is being given to appointing a "fund-raising" agency to find ways of increasing the National Park's income over and above the rate and tax borne income from local and central Government.

In theory this sound fine. As was suggested in the Yorkshire Dales Review Spring issue, all National Parks are facing serious shortages of funds to deal with the many demands on often severely restricted budgets. As problems of congestion and erosion begin to rise higher on the political agenda, so action will be needed to deal with problems on the ground. The Three Peaks Project, for example, already faces severe shortages of funding to deal with a problem whose magnitude is only just being grasped. The National Park Officer, Mr Harvey, has warned his Members that this, and other vital tasks, will simply not be done if funds are not available.

National Parks are caught in a difficult dilemma. Like most local authorities, funding is strictly controlled to prevent budgets from rising, yet demands on the system from a newly affluent, leisured society grow all the time. More cars, more traffic, more feet - yet an iron hand on the purse.

Significantly enough, an entrepreneurial approach to visitor services with a network of professionally run Visitor centres, an excellent range of interpretive publications has produced buoyant income to cover much of the cost of running this service.

Yet even here there is a danger. Calendars, diaries, posters have been produced carrying the National Park message and all are superb, helping to create a shared philosophy of what National Parks are all about. But at what point does an interpretive item become a souvenir? Are T-shirts, sweaters, badges, pens really getting across the National Park message or are they adding to the pressures by encouraging people to come to Kettlewell on a Sunday morning rather than taking a local walk in less sensitive areas? But if you are in the business of making money, there's more profit on a T-shirt than on an interpretive leaflet. In making a success of turning Information Centres into profit-centres, the National Park Committee might be adding to their own problems.

So where does the money go?

In local Government terms, National Parks aren't such a unique kind of animal. They evolved from County Planning Committees and something like two thirds of their work is precisely that which would carry on at District and County level if the National Park did not exist. Development control which takes up a very considerable amount of staff and Committee time is, in essence, the same process which occurs outside the National Park boundary. Even visitor management and information services - the Warden Service and Information Centres - are now usual in countryside areas throughout the UK. Few would deny the very real need for higher standards and perhaps for greater resources than other areas in the UK in these areas.

But in some areas - for example in dealing with the very large numbers of historic buildings and areas of Special Scientific Interest - the National Park's unique qualities do require additional staff and financial resources.

The problem is knowing what the balance is and if it is, indeed, being struck. Because the National Park Committee do not produce an Annual Report with a balance sheet, it is impossible for anyone outside a very select "inner circle" to know how much of the Park's resources are being consumed for example, in dealing with an ever increasing number of development control applications from a newly affluent and mobile society. Nor do National Park Plans help - these are more a statement of intent than achievement.

This is an important and vital point because the first essential requirement is to understand what the problem is and why. To a cynical outsider - and there are enough of those in the Yorkshire Dales - the National Park could be seen as a large well-paid bureaucracy largely concerned with protecting its own interests.

An Annual Report would in effect set out the stall to shareholders - ourselves. How much does it cost to run the service, and why? What are the main causes of expense? What are the jobs which are not

being done and why?

These are the questions which ought to be answered before fund-raisers are brought in.

But let us assume that it emerges that there are a number of major projects such as The Three Peaks or Building Conservation which cannot be tackled because funds do not exist.

Fund raisers have two basic choices. Either to attempt some kind of public subscription - "The Three Peaks Appeal" or to go for large private sector donations.

Both have serious drawbacks. Public subscription is slow and messy, requiring a fair cost in administration, like a church appeal. And in a world torn by poverty and disaster, the public have many other claims on their generosity.

Private funding raises the ugly spectre of large development corporations or extractive industries using the gift as a lever for planning permissions or gain in some form. Sponsorship is not usually about a free lunch.

The Park could set up its own charity, rather like the YDS, to receive funds from charitable agencies, though as the YDS has

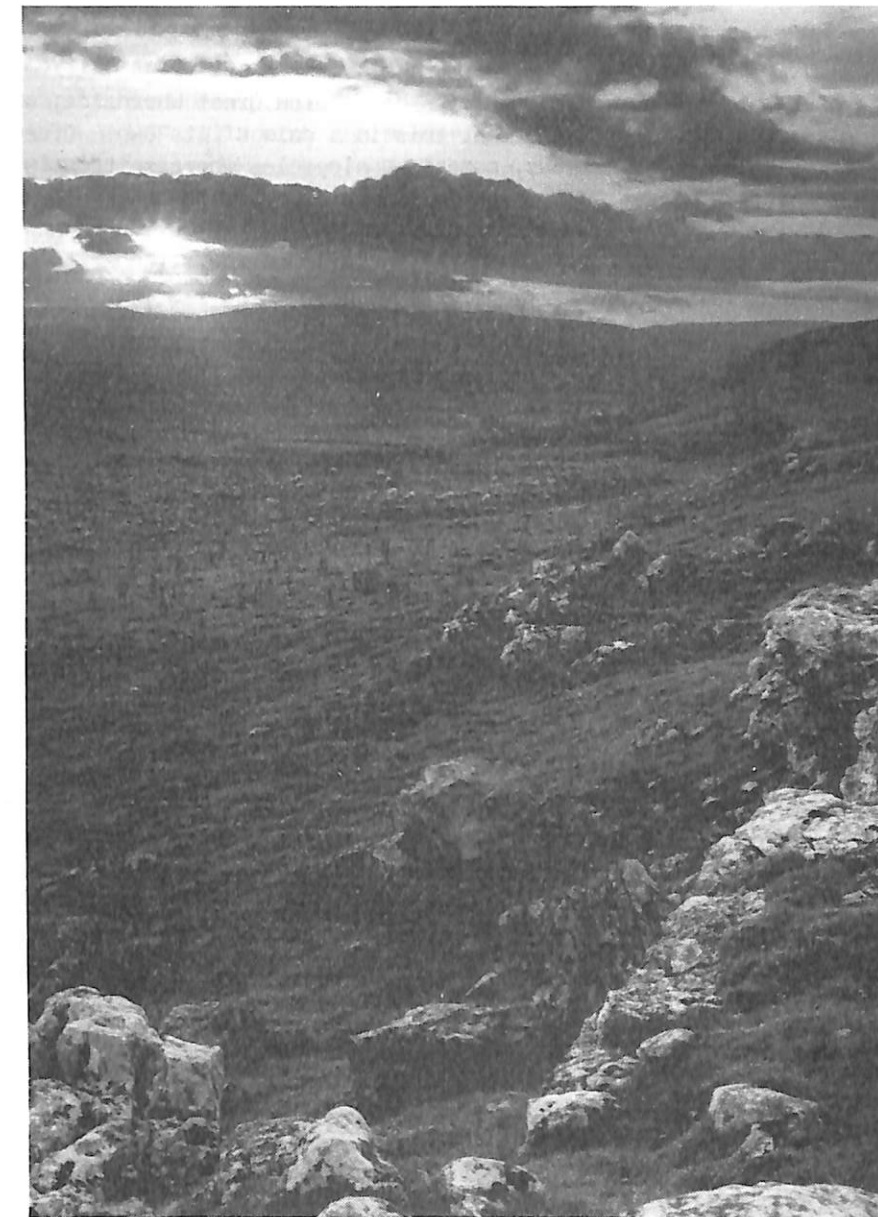
discovered, funds for environmental (as opposed to social) need are few and far between. Moreover there is a school of thought that looks at the unspoiled environments of National Parks occupied by people who enjoy generally higher than average standards of living whose environment, compared with those who live in despoiled inner city areas, is very pleasant indeed.

It comes down to an essential, old-fashioned notion of public service. National Parks were established in 1949 as a Nationally-funded means of protecting our finest countryside and enabling it to be enjoyed by the public - policies which need not always be in conflict if the right approach is adopted, for example to limit the use of cars in sensitive rural environments. No amount of fashionable talk about privatisation has changed that basic fact, or changed the need for clear Government commitment.

A few days before this article was written, the Government announced an additional £12 billion expenditure on new roads and motorways over the next ten years - £1,200,000,000 - to "ease congestion". The total annual expenditure on all ten National Parks is about one thousandth of this figure. Does that discrepancy truly reflect the wishes and concerns of the British people?

But it is wrong to entirely blame the Government who respond to where they feel the need - and the votes - lie. Rather than wasting time with the irrelevancies of "fund raising", the real duty of the National Park Committee is to establish clearly and concisely exactly what the environmental consequences of underfunding will be, which are the projects that will be shelved and why.

There is good reason to suggest that Government will respond with speed and determination once the problems are fully understood. The sums involved, after all, are trivial for a rich and powerful nation. Better by far than begging letters to Greed and Grab Development Corporation Ltd or a collecting box at the top of Pen y Ghent. And who would argue that the Three Peaks are not worth the price of a mile of motorway?



Sunset from Conistone, Wharfedale Photo: John Potter

## Characters of Old Coverdale

Many people pass through Coverdale, from its head below Great Whernside, above Kettlewell, to just outside Middleham, without realising that this is a dale of its own. Often Coverdale is seen only as a part of the larger, more famous, parent Wensleydale, whereas it certainly has an identity of its own with, wild, spectacular scenery high in the Dale, but with a sense of quiet and solitude in the lower Dale. It sees almost glad of its apparent anonymity, having no Hawes or Aysgarth to tempt the traveller to stop and explore and can even challenge the stranger to pronounce its name properly - it rhymes with "hover".

The Dales is now probably as quiet as it has ever been, stripped of the forest through which many have hunted, plundered of its coal and lead, but for a dale of its size - 12 miles in length - it has seen many interesting people, just a few of whom are covered (pardon the pun !) in this article.

Of the famous names to have visited the Dales, perhaps Charles Kingsley was the most poetic, writing of the river from which the Dale takes its name:

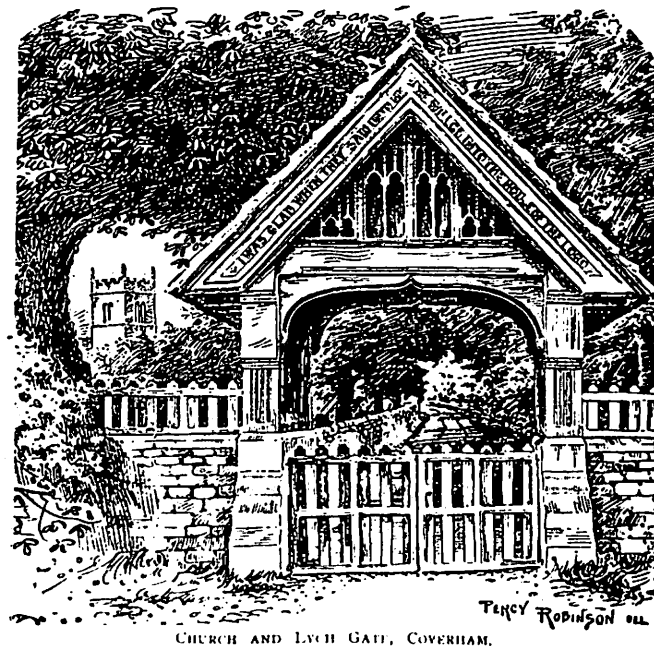
"Little Cover in his deep, wooded glen, with his yellow rock and bright white stones, and brown water clearer than crystal . . ."

During his reign, Charles I visited Coverdale, and stayed at Hunter's Hall (now Coverhead Farm) where his purpose was "to hunt and hawk over the Forest of Coverhead". The Dale has earlier associations with Royalty as the last Plantagenet Kings (then Princes), Edward IV and Richard III hunted in the Forest with Richard Neville - Warwick the Kingmaker - and owner of the land as Lord of Middleham. Richard III, of course, grew up in the area and had a particular love of it, preferring it to London - a view many people will still share.

Of those who were born in the Dale, the most famous was the man who bore its name: Miles Coverdale, Bishop of Exeter, who translated the Bible into English from the German and Latin versions, in 1535. He was apparently born in Calbergh and although there has been some dispute as to whether it was he or his family who came from the Dale, as he was a monk, his surname is likely to have been personal, not hereditary, indicating that he was Miles of Coverdale. His remains are in St. Magnus the Martyr Church in central London, where he was Rector for a short time, and where his Memorial is, appropriately in English.

Another cleric from the Dale was Adam Lofthouse, who was born in about 1533 in the tiny hamlet of Swineside. The son of a bailiff of Coverham Abbey, he rose to become the Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Chancellor of Ireland - posts he held from Elizabeth I - and a founder of Trinity College, Dublin. His nephew, another Adam also born in Coverdale, followed his footsteps, becoming Lord Justice and Lord Chancellor of Ireland and subsequently being given the title of Marquis of Ely.

Another man of humble origin from Coverdale who travelled far from the Dale was James Metcalfe. He was born at Coverhead in 1785 and was a carpenter who travelled the world, including China in 1814, before settling in St. Helena where he was working when Napoleon Bonaparte died. James therefore had the unusual distinction of making Napoleon's coffin, which carried the Emperor's remains to Paris.



CHURCH AND LYCH GATE, COVERHAM.

A contemporary of James', but one who remained in the Dale, was Henry Constantine, known as "the Coverdale Bard". He was born in Carlton in 1791 and, having no more than a village education, wrote a number of pieces, which all appear to have been published when he was over 65. He was noted for his dialect verse and his titles included "Rural Poetry and Prose" and "The Farmer's Vicissitudes or the Adventures of Tom Random and his family." He died in Carlton in 1870 and over the door of his house can still be seen the stone table recording his epitaph which, not surprisingly, he wrote himself !

Then there are the more modest folk of the Dale, many nameless, like those who went off to Flodden Field in 1513, no doubt having some enthusiasm for battle with the Scots who in earlier times had ransacked the Dales and Coverham in particular. There is also the Coverdale man who is said to have built the cairn on Flamstone Pin above Caldbergh. It was said to be possible to see the seas on either side of England from the summit and the man erected the cairn so that when his ship was on the North Sea, he could see it and imagine his mother's cottage in the hamlet of Bird Ridding.

Modest and reluctant can only be the Constables of Carlton. This must have been one of the most onerous posts in the Dale for in October 1611 Richard Geldart, Constable, was brought before the Court at Richmond for "not apprehending rogues, etc." No doubt we can sympathise with him - it cannot have been easy to apprehend anyone in such an area ! He obviously had had enough as by October 1612 there was a new Constable, Christopher Lobley, but he did not fare much better: he was brought before the Court and fined five shillings for letting John Horner, a suspected felon, escape. After this, it is not surprising that no-one wanted the job as by July 1626 "the inhabitants" of Carlton were brought before the Court and ordered to find a Constable by August 1st ! Someone must have been persuaded to take the job as there are no more court entries on the point.

One rogue who was apprehended was Tom Hunter. he was a highwayman who apparently lived in a cave above West Scafton. The cave was known locally as Tom Hunter's Parlour and had in its centre two large pieces of rock roughly shaped as a table. Tom had a liking for pork and was not averse to rustling a pig or two from his neighbours who, on becoming increasingly annoyed at their losses, decided to hunt him down. They followed his wife gathering wood and she unwittingly led them to the cave where Tom was enjoying what was probably his last meal of pork off his stone table. It seems he was arrested, taken to York where he was tried, convicted and hanged.

For many centuries, Coverdale has been famous for its horses, the monks of Coverham Abbey being breeders of good horses and near the Abbey ruins were a group of racing stables. John Mangles built Brecongill at the end of the 18th century and there trained seven winners of the St. Leger. Later in the 19th century, Brecongill became the home of John Osborne - "Honest John" - who competed in 38 successive Derbys and was still attending the races when he was 90. Tuggill nearby was the home of Thomas Dawson who trained in the last half of the 19th century and he also had winners of the St. Leger. John Fobert went one better: he named his home, Spigot Lodge, after the horse he trained won the 1821 St. Leger.

Coverdale also has its share of legendary folk. The ruins of St. Siomn's Chapel below East Scafton is reputed to be the resting place of the Apostle of that name and the Reverend James Law, curate of Coverham in the early 19th century, put the local legend into verse:

"The ruins of St. Siomn's are forgot  
that deep, sequester'd wood o'ershadow's spot  
(Suppose it truth what record old declare  
The holy Canaanite was buried there ? ).... "

The ruined area is certainly atmospheric, approached as it is down steep steps in the hillside. The "Woman in Black" is a ghost said to walk from Coverham Church to Middleham Moor, terrifying locals out after dark. Legend says the woman was a victim of a lovers' triangle: she had two lovers and decided to elope with one of them; the spurned man discovered the plot and murdered her, but her body was never found. Some years later when workmen were gathering peat on Scafton Moor they discovered a skeleton identified as a woman and unearthed with her a piece of black cloth and a boot - were they the remains of the murdered woman ?

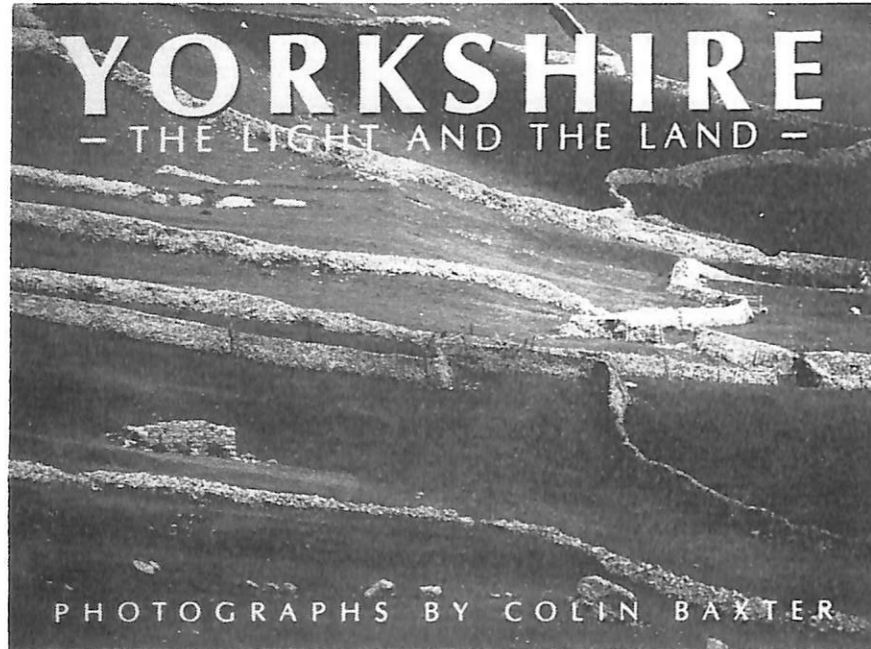
So famous, infamous, nameless and legendary, Coverdale has given birth to, and seen, a wide variety of folk. Long may it continue to do so.

JEAN POLLARD



## Summer Reading

### Yorkshire's Splendour Displayed



Yorkshire - the light and the land - Colin Baxter (David & Charles £12.95)

This magnificent picturebook about Yorkshire must surely be the ultimate in presents for all those people who love this special part of the world. It will also make many others, condemned to suffer the overheated, overcrowded South, more than a little envious of the space, peace and solitude we enjoy up here.

For one thing it is all pictures - 90 beautiful, full page colour pictures - and no words. No comment or explanation are necessary. The book is a distillation of all that we love and are proud of in Yorkshire. But at the same time it is a reminder of our responsibilities for preserving the quality of our rural life.

We are all familiar with Colin Baxter's superb postcards both of Scotland and Yorkshire. After studying photography in Edinburgh he set up a business publishing postcards of his photographs as well as calendars, diaries, posters and prints. Following his book on Scotland, he has now presented a splendidly atmospheric evocation of the Yorkshire countryside in all its variety and different moods and seasons with a glimpse or two of York, Pennine mill towns and fishing ports. But the majority of the book is devoted to the diversity of our countryside with a particularly generous proportion of Yorkshire Dales views. Like Derry Brabbs, whose work has added to our pleasure of James Herriot and A. Wainwright, Colin Baxter has patiently travelled, observed and then caught a particular moment when the landscape is stunningly alive and unique. There is nothing obvious or cliched in his interpretation.

Curiously, no human being intervenes - only a sheep or two. The land is left to speak for itself. Colin Baxter has managed to express both the structure and the texture of the landscape - the sculpture of stone walls, the etching of ancient glacier movement upon fellsides, the warmth of Autumn bracken and the soft shadows of trees against dramatic skies. Familiar views of loved corners of the Dales are given a new quality and meaning so that we can go back and enjoy them afresh. There is a feeling of immense distance and breadth as well as the intimacy of, say, a small sunlit corner of a village. But perhaps the most remarkable quality of Colin Baxter's work is the luminosity of each picture - the light really does shine onto and out of the land . . . . .

There is only one criticism. Colin Baxter's book would have been improved by either a map indicating where the particular views were shot - and many of them are not obvious - or a fuller title on the page and in the index. Those who know Yorkshire well will know the exact locations but for many there will be frustration until they have tracked them down with a detailed map.

David Morgan Rees

### Y.D.T.A. Maps and Guides

The well established Yorkshire Dales Tourist Association is enjoying something of a revival with the publication this Spring of three very useful guides to the Dales.

The new official YDTA Guide to the Yorkshire Dales, with an integral accommodation guide, is to be welcomed as an attractive and well thought out and handy pocket guidebook to the area. It is a pity, however, that the map of the Dales at the end of the book is a little difficult to read - it would have benefitted from a colour format and slightly larger typeface. There is an attractive mixture of drawings and photos, some in colour, but there has been some loss of clarity of the black and white and odd blue tones for the colour. It is good to see some lesser known areas such as Colsterdale and Cotterdale are not only mentioned but thoughtfully described, as are the more obvious tourist routes. Priced at £2,75 it is available at local shops or from the Yorkshire Dales Tourist Association Ltd., Grassington via Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5HR.

The Yorkshire Dales Official Tourist Map has been jointly published with Geographia limited, priced £2.25 and fulfils a definite gap in the market. The visitor can see at a glance the location of such attractions as historic houses, castles, caves, Tourist Information Centres, and recreational facilities from horse riding to golf courses. Roads are easy to follow for the motorist, and the scale is a handy 1: 160,000 or 2½ miles to one inch.

Walk the Dales is a joint YDTA/Bartholomew publication by Brian Spencer, containing 40 selected easy walks, from three miles upwards - in an easy-to-use ring binder format. Maps are very clear in three colours with route instruction and fairly detailed interpretive text of features to be seen on the page. Priced at £3.95. Both maps are available in local shops in the Dales or from YDTA address above.  
FLEUR SPEAKMAN

### The Dales — with Drama and Vitality

Gill Shreeve, a young landscape artist with a Bradford Art College training who lives and works in Grassington, Wharfedale, is an arresting painter whose flat, almost print-like technique is a balance of colour, pattern, light and form. Her work is particularly based on landscape patterns and the open spaces of the Yorkshire Dales and is rich in contrasts of light and colour. Particularly effective are her "tree pictures" with their strong, sturdy trunks reaching upwards at time to unseen height, their rugged force contrasting with delicate, stippled foliage, and dramatic sun-dappled shadows on the ground. The effect can be reminiscent of some of the French Impressionists, but her landscapes with their sense of space and yet definite emphasis of man's shaping hand, are very much her own. An open gate, its shadows striping the ground, with the solid looking blocks of farmhouses and barns and drystone walls beyond a curve of road edged by drystone walls, formal field patterns and lynchets, etch themselves firmly on the mind.

Her portraits reflect her interest in conservation as her figures lift, bend, hammer and ease blocks of stone for drystone walls into place. There is a timeless quality and yet a vitality about her figures whilst her landscapes at their best have a resonance and a drama that only comes from someone who is instinctively at one with her subject and far removed from the "chocolate Box" confections of many who also respond to the beauty of the Dales.

Gill Shreeve also works to commissions at Hardy Barn, Scar Street, Grassington, North Yorkshire, BD23 5AS - tel 0756 753293.

FLEUR SPEAKMAN

### Drystone Walling

Gill Shreeve.



# Dales Transport News

## Settle-Carlisle is Saved and More Buses and Trains to the Dales!

Members will have been delighted with the Secretary of State for Transport's decision to refuse consent to British Rail's proposal to close the Settle & Carlisle line, with the requirement for it to be retained as part of the national network rather than be sold off and reduced to a "leisure line" with possible isolation from the rest of BR. Much of the credit for survival, however, must go to the pressure groups - Transport 2000, the Settle & Carlisle Joint Action Committee, the Friends of the Settle and Carlisle Line and the Yorkshire Dales Society, who strove to see the line kept.

Although the service this year will be similar to 1988, BR's Provincial Director, Sydney Newey, in an interview with Murray Brown, Editor of "Rail" magazine, expressed his pleasure that the uncertainty is over and he can now plan ahead, outlining possible exciting developments in the future.

Other improvements this year include a more frequent train service between Leeds and Ilkley on Saturdays and Sundays, and between Leeds and Skipton - for the Dales - on Sundays. The Bradford to Ilkley and Keighley services also start earlier and run later in the day on Sundays. It is expected that Steeton and Silsden Station, closed in 1965, will re-open during the summer.

On the buses, West Yorkshire Road Car/Harrogate & District summer DalesBus services are in business again. All the traditional weekend services are running, including the 800 to Upper Wharfedale and Wensleydale, the 803 to Swaledale - now in its fifth year and doing well, having already conveyed 30 passengers on the wettest of Sundays in April - the 806 to Fountains Abbey, Pateley Bridge and Fewston and the X99 to Richmond. For the second year, West Yorkshire have been successful in winning a contract with Lancashire County Council for Leisurelink 749 from Preston and the East Lancashire towns to Skipton, Grassington, Bolton Abbey and Ilkley.

For the mid week visitor, 800 will run on Tuesdays in the summer school holidays to Bolton Abbey and Grassington, and the increasingly popular 809 from Keighley and Skipton to Hawes, Ingleton, Ingleton and Settle on Tuesdays and Leyburn and Richmond on Fridays from June to late September.

A new venture this year is West Yorkshire's X98 from Leeds to Grasmere on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Although advertised as the "Lakes Express" it stops at Horton, Ribbleshead, Ingleton and Kirby Lonsdale and affords much improved access for a day visit to the western Dales and beyond.

Explorer Tickets, Adult £3.30, Senior Citizen £2.20, under 14 £1.65, Family 6.60 may be purchased in advance or on the bus, and are valid for an unlimited day's travel on West Yorkshire and Harrogate & District buses, but not beyond Horton on the X98. For 3 - 13 days' consecutive days travel, KeyCard tickets may be purchased in advance at the Company's offices - at bargain prices.

The Yorkshire Dales Society is again working with the Yorkshire Dales National Park to ensure the availability of up-to-date public transport information at the National Park and other Visitor Centres and Information points. So there are plenty of opportunities to avoid creating more congestion in the Yorkshire Dales - let the train take the strain, go by bus no parking fuss!

ALAN J. SUTCLIFFE

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## Wanted — Old Furniture

The Yorkshire Dales Society needs some extra office furniture - can anyone help with an old desk or table for the computer plus an upright chair or two for office staff? If you can help, ring 0943 607868 - we can probably arrange collection in the Yorkshire area.

The response to the Vice Chairman's appeal for new members has been excellent - April and May were particularly good months for recruitment. Please help keep up the pressure - every member helps. We can let you have a supply of membership forms or posters if you can make use of them on a club or office noticeboard.

Copies of the 1989 Annual Report and accounts will be circulated at the AGM. If you didn't get your copy but would like one, please drop us a note, preferably with a stamped addressed envelope - office size. Back numbers of The Review are available price 30p plus 20p postage, as are the widely admired YDS embossed leather badge at £1 per badge. Cheques/POs to the Yorkshire Dales Society.

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YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE LONG DISTANCE WALKS - This comprehensive guide to official and unofficial long distance routes in the region is available from the National Park Office, Hebden Road, Grassington, North Yorkshire BD23 5Lb price £1 including P6P.

# Events — Your Help Wanted!

Chris Hartley, convenor of the Society's Social and Events group makes a plea to members for support . . . . .

Over the period of the last twelve months or so, it has been my privilege to serve our Society and its members by taking on the task of arranging, with the Social and Events Group, various events and outings which add so much to our enjoyment and a sharing of our love and understanding of the Dales heritage.

Needless to say, none of this would have been possible without the superb support and assistance given by the small Committee, namely Gwen and Gordon Wolliscroft, John and Joan Pipes, Sheila Marks and several other people who have provided not only some delightful ideas for events, but have been only too happy to assist in staging them.

Unfortunately we are about to lose three of our key members. John and Joan Pipes have had to give up their involvement for a variety of reasons, whilst Gordon has taken over as the Society's Treasurer, making it difficult to serve as a member of this group. Their departure leaves a substantial void in the Committee's team, and it is one that urgently needs to be filled.

Fortunately we have been able to produce a full programme of events up to the end of the present year. However, if we are going to go forward into 1990 with a similar level, we need your help.

The Social and Events Committee needs new people willing to be co-opted and serve on it, bringing new blood and fresh ideas. If you want the events to continue and increase in appeal and value, we must have more people to help. Without the fuel of ideas and some stalwarts to turn those ideas into reality, to pull the levers as it were, the machinery of events will just grind to a halt.

So it's a friendly, informal meeting, a few of us putting our heads together to come up with some new ideas for autumn and winter events, for social events, for unusual talks or happenings. So if anyone reading the Review who lives in the West Yorkshire/Harrogate area or even further afield who would like to help out, please get in touch with me at "Oakdene", 5 Tranbeck Road, Thrope Lane, Guiseley, Nr Leeds LS20 8LH or give me a quick ring on Guiseley 72511.

Thanking you in eager anticipation!

Finally, may I thank my retiring members for all the hard work they have done for our enjoyment - and offer them every good wish for the future.

CHRIS HARTLEY

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## Plus Ça Change . . .

Large scale developments constitute one of the biggest threats to the structure, life and economy of the Dales. Although the threat as it currently exists is, at the same, time, both massive and insidious, it is not entirely new. It was even suggested in Victorian times that Kilnsey might rival Ilkley as a spa. The author of this extraordinary idea wrote:

"Everything ..in..Kilnsey augurs for it a prosperous future.. this enchanting spot is sure to be increased in its fame. Indeed I begin to see in imagination the village enlarged almost beyond recognition. I see new streets of houses, splendid hotels for visitors and gentlemen's mansions... all kind of conveyances from the common cart to the nobleman's carriage, full of pleasure seekers hurrying in different direction....

"'But,' you tell me, 'if Kilnsey were to become what you predict it would lose a great portion of its beauty, its rural charm would be gone.' I reply what it would lose in one sense it would gain in another and, bear in mind, this giant scar would remain unaltered, the rivers would sing their music as now, those hills and mountains would still lift their weather beaten heads, the trees of the wood still wave their branches to the breeze and twittering swallows still skim the flowery plain."

Give or take a few purple patches, the message of the second paragraph is still what the developers are telling us. I wonder why they are so coy about the message of the first. Are they, the 20th century entrepreneurs, ashamed of what they are planning to create?

Can anyone identify this passage? Author and book overleaf!

JOHN WARD

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# Events for Summer

Whether you live in the Dales or not far from them, or are coming up to the area on holiday, we'd be delighted to welcome you to one or more of the Society's summer events.

24th June      The Mills and Bridges of Ripon. Another opportunity to look at the architecture of this most fascinating small city on the edge of the eastern Dales. Meet on "The Green" opposite Ripon Cathedral at 2pm.

16th June-1st July      Grassington Festival 1989 Not strictly a YDS event but something many YDS members will very much wish to support - two weeks of music and drama, lectures and happenings. Details (SAE please) from Mrs M. Boyce, 40 Piecefields, Threshfield, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD 23 6BJ.

9th July      Twenty one Years of the Dales Way Colin Speakman and Tom Wilock, who led the first public ramble along the first 12 miles of the Dales Way in July, 1968, invite members of the Yorkshire Dales Society to join the Ramblers' Association in a repeat of that inaugural walk along what is now one of Britain's most popular long distance footpaths. Meet Ilkley Railway Station at 10.30am - shuttle bus service back from Burnsall.

22nd July      Topmere and Moor End A walk along old tracks and ways in Upper Wharfedale via Topmere Road, Starbotton and Moor End. Bring packed lunch, strong shoes/boots and suitable clothing. Leader Chris Hartley. Please park correctly and safely or to reduce congestion catch the Dalesbus service 800 from Leeds O955, Bradford Int. 1020, Ilkley 1055, Grassington 1200. Meet Kettlewell Car Park at 1230pm

5th August      A History and Flower Walk with Joan Duncan One of Wharfedale's leading naturalists, Joan Duncan will take members on a walk through the Grass Wood Reserve. Walk leaves from the YDNP Centre in Grassington at 1.30pm. Please wear suitable clothing and strong shoes. Park in National Park Car Park - or catch DalesBus 800 times as above.

3rd September      A visit to a Dales Farm Mr Clark Stones, of Pepper Hall Farm, in Arkengarthdale invites members to see the life and work of a traditional Dales farm. Meet at Langthwaite High Green at 2pm

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Mystery author (see page 11) was Rev. Bailey J. Harker of Grassington in Rambles in Upper Wharfedale published in 1869.

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