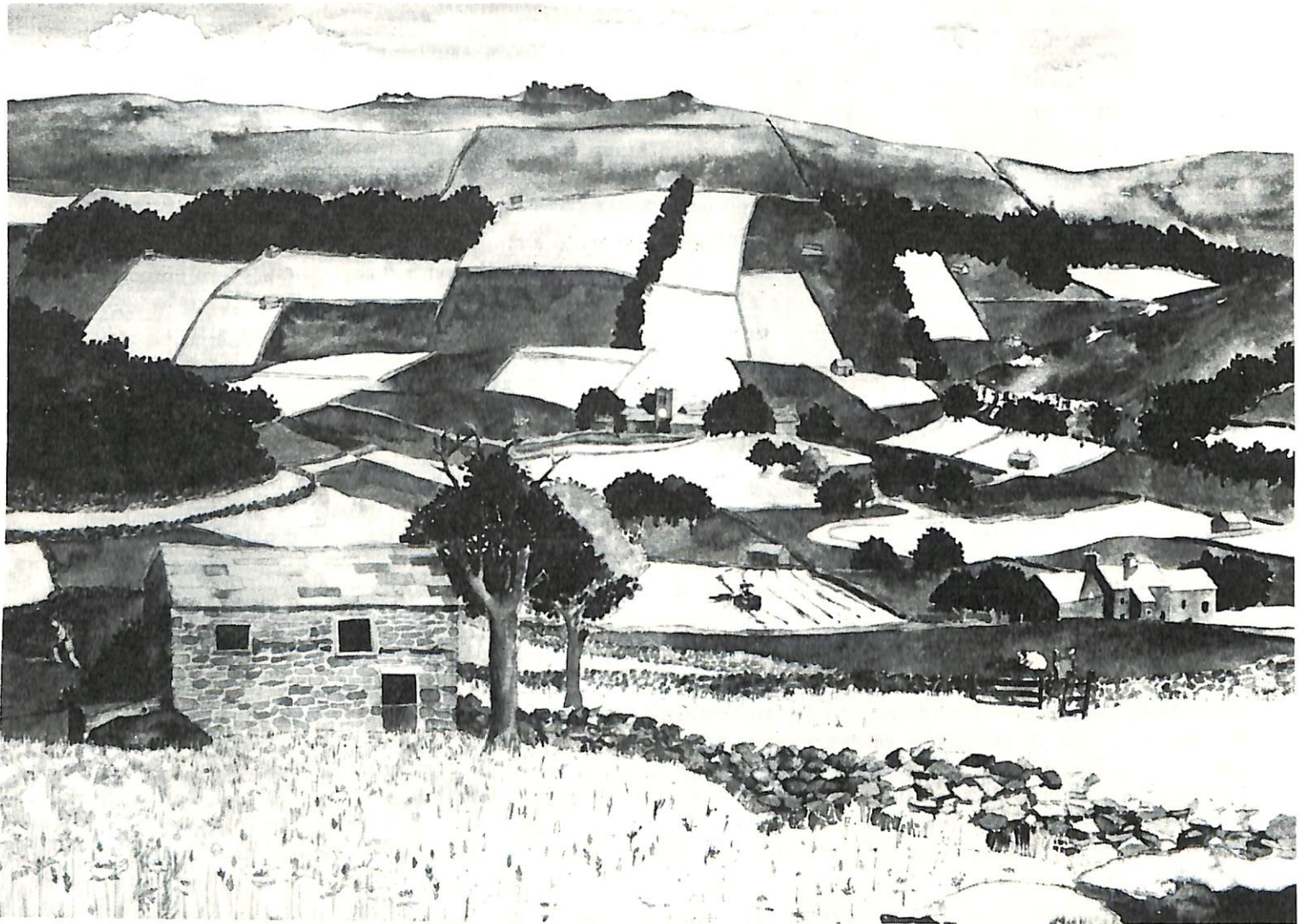


# Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

No.28  
Autumn 1989



**Rural House - Seeking Solutions  
Landscapes for Tomorrow**

**Making Conservation Happen in  
the Yorkshire Dales**

**Take the Country Workshop Trail**

**50p.**

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

## Facing The Implication of Change

The Society's joint Dales Futures Conference with the Yorkshire Rural Community Council at Bolton Abbey at the beginning of July, will surely go down as one of the most significant events in the Society's brief history.

Not only was the event a success with an attendance in the mid 70s to reflect a very wide range of involvement and interest, but it provided a focal point for what must surely be continuing debate about the kind of countryside which is going to emerge in the Yorkshire Dales in the very near future.

This focal point came from the opening address by Professor Tim O'Riordan of the University of East Anglia who asked Conference to look clearly and sharply at the kind of change which is already overtaking the Yorkshire Dales, both within and outside the National Park.

Key issues were the changes in agriculture brought about by new financial directives from Brussels and elsewhere, the rapid rise of a new "super rich" class in South East England and parts of Western Europe, the extraordinary changes in communications and transport technology. He reminded us that there was little to be gained by regretting the past which was itself a period of rapid change, often with very severe social and environmental side effects, such as the rise of the leadmining industry with its massive pollution problems and its subsequent collapse with consequent suffering and hardship. Only sentimentalists can view the harsh, restricted existence of Dales communities last century as acceptable compared with the greater opportunities their descendants enjoy today.

In one sense the picture he presented was a bleak one. We can expect rich incomers in increasing numbers, a widening gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" with service industries growing to provide the facilities the incomers will need to replace the basic industries that decline. But what will become of the traditional Dales countryside: the culture of the communities? Is a playground of the rich a satisfactory future for the area we all love and care for?

But another side to the picture emerged and was developed through the conference. Mankind is not a blind victim of economic forces. Change can not be prevented, but it can be influenced. That influence might have to be at a price, including that unfashionable notion of a great deal of taxpayers' money being poured into the upland economy to sustain traditional agricultural and supporting services. But would the new landscapes be so disastrous? Would it make more economic sense to allow certain parts of the Dales' retreat to wilderness rather than subsidising farming (or even forestry) which has a destructive effect, for example in destroying habitats? Are not grouse moors, for example a land use for a privileged group which none-the-less has real environmental benefits? But how does that special historic landscape of barns and drystone walls, scattered woods, small farms and herb rich meadows survive?

One set of answers - or might like possibilities - is provided by Ann Shadrack, Research Associate of the Landscapes for Tomorrow Project, being jointly developed by the University of East Anglia under Professor O'Riordan and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, who on pages 6-8 of this Review outlines what the Project is all about. Some of the possible solutions will be controversial, many will be unpopular, others politically or financially impossible. But in some cases if enough people care enough and understand what the issues are really about, then events can be influenced. Understanding the problem - understanding what is actually happening to the Yorkshire Dales - is the first step to finding a solution. It might be possible too, to learn how other countries tackle these problems, both within and outside the EEC. Both Bavaria and the Austrian Alps could have important lessons for the Yorkshire Dales.

Make sure you try and see the Landscapes for Tomorrow Exhibition and come along to the seminar on November 4th. The Yorkshire Dales Society and every member could have an important role to play in shaping the future of the countryside and its people we care for so deeply.

COLIN SPEAKMAN

Cover: The Conserved Landscape [Watercolour by Hannah Chesterman, photographed in black and white by Ray Manley. For full caption see page 8]

## Making Conservation Happen in the Yorkshire Dales

John Preston, of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, write of work the work of BCTV and the Yorkshire Dales Conservation Volunteers in the Yorkshire Dales.

Many YDS members will have seen groups of mainly young people in the Dales, rebuilding drystone walls, surfacing footpaths, planting trees and putting up fences. Most of these groups are organised by BCTV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), a registered charity involved in practical conservation work throughout the country.

BCTV organises over 50,000 volunteers each year, a large number of whom are involved with independent affiliated groups supported by the Trust. One of these 500 groups is the Yorkshire Dales Conservation Volunteers, based in the Craven area who run a project every other weekend throughout the year. They undertake such work as fencing for the Embsay Steam Railway at Embsay, to clearing bracken from limestone grasslands of national importance.

BCTV's office in North Yorkshire is based at Kiplin Hall, nr Scorton. Each year a series of week-long working holidays is run for the YDNP, specialising in jobs that are too small, too remote or too labour intensive to be economic for contractors. Examples are the boardwalk on the summit of Pen y Ghent, large sections of riverbank along the Dales Way, and fencing and treeplanting in derelict woodland areas.

The attractiveness of the Yorkshire Dales means that a project can be run by BCTV or the YDCV almost every weekend of the year, and hundreds of people are involved in work in the National Park. Weekend projects are also run throughout the rest of Yorkshire and achieve as many as 800 days of practical conservation every year.

This year BCTV launched a new initiative in Leeds. The Cookson Conservation Campaign offers a structured training programme to unemployed volunteers who are seeking employment as countryside wardens and estate workers. The trainees recently spent a day testing their botanical skills in the meadows of Swaledale, and are to spend a week working on the Three Peaks Project.

Also based at the Leeds office is a large tree and wildflower nursery where trees and wildflowers are grown from native seed stock and sold to school, country parks and members of the public.

BCTV involves volunteers of all ages, from 7 to 70, in all aspects of its work from typing to tree felling. If you feel you would like to get involved with any aspect of BCTV or YDCV, make a donation or if you would like a nursery catalogue, get in touch with one of the addresses below:

### Yorkshire Dales Conservation Volunteers

Isabel Swann, 6 Hall Garth, Airton,  
Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2TW

### BCTV West Yorkshire

BCTV Hollybush Farm, Broad Lane,  
Kirkstall, Leeds, LS5 3BP

### BCTV North Yorkshire

BCTV Hone Farm, Kiplin Hall, Scorton,  
Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 6AT



Revetting the Dalesway Footpath, Wharfedale  
(Photo: Alan Atkinson)



Silttraps and Boardwalk construction, Pen y Ghent (Photo: Alan Atkinson)

JOHN PRESTON

# Rural Housing Problems - Seeking Solutions

In the second of her two articles, Alison Ravetz considers what might be done to relieve what could prove to be one of the most difficult issues facing rural communities in the Yorkshire Dales.

It has taken a long time for the housing problems of rural areas to be recognised. Their scale is smaller than cities, but the problems can be acute, rising as they do from sharp differences in the rural and urban economies.

Prices of owner occupied housing are distorted by the big money that outsiders are able to bid. In addition, the market for second homes and tourist accommodation pushes prices up and takes dwellings out of normal domestic use altogether. At the same time, villages suffer from the general decline in rented housing. Once tied and tenanted stock has been sold off to home and much of the stock of council property, never large, has been sold off under the Right to Buy. A 1985 study of ten parishes in Wensleydale showed, in all but one, a decline in rented housing by about two thirds in the years 1981-4.

The shortage of affordable housing particularly affects local young people earning low wages and trying to set up home for the first time. Another affected group is elderly local people, who may still be living in their family houses but who would like to move into something smaller. The problem is not helped by its hidden nature. The elderly may stay put in their oversized homes and the youngsters move away to the town. They often do not even bother to put their names on council waiting lists, which would be futile. Other young people remain with their parents in overcrowded conditions. This "concealed homelessness" has enabled the real extent of housing need to be ignored, sometimes even among parish councils.

The high price of rural housing is also partly a problem of land, which must of course be available if anything new is to be built. Nationally, the sparks are flying over the pros and cons of building in Green Belts or on greenfield sites in more remote areas. Landspaces can easily be lost for ever under bricks and mortar; but unless more and cheaper houses are built, the countryside can become the exclusive playground of the wealthy - as some Cotswold villages, for instance, seem to have done.

The battle lines, fortunately, are not so sharply drawn in the Yorkshire Dales as in the Home Counties, but their very beauty puts them at risk. An unprecedented boom in house prices has taken place, and costs of any new housing are higher because of National Park and Conservation Area conditions. The trickle of new council will shortly dry up, even though councils are rich in Right to Buy receipts that they are not allowed to spend. It is ironical that the Government is now allowing councils in National Parks and other special areas to buy back "Right to Buy" property when it comes onto the market again, and also put "Locals Only" restrictions on such sales in future.

This reflects a growing awareness at official levels of the rural housing problem. Help is no longer restricted to designated rural stress areas but can now be applied to areas that appear to be booming, but where the problem of affordable housing may nevertheless be acute. The Housing Corporation is committed to more than trebling its grants to rural Housing Associations, although in real terms this is only going to mean 600 new units, nationwide, in the year 1990-91.

Concern is also spreading at local levels, as on Craven Council, which has affirmed its active support for Housing Associations, and in Remire village Meeting which earlier this year criticised plans for 24 new houses on the Bolton Estate because they would be too expensive for local people. The National Agricultural Council Rural Trust with the slogan "village homes for village people" acts as an umbrella for eight new Housing Associations which are building housing for rent and shared ownership - although it is doubtful how much longer they will be able to do the former under the new Housing Act.

Shared ownership is becoming the favourite tenure for affordable housing. In this, the purchaser buys a proportion of the dwelling, perhaps a quarter or a half, and pays rent for the remainder. Together, rent and mortgage payments cost less than outright purchase. If and when their incomes increase, purchasers may elect to "staircase" - that is to buy more fractions, until at last the whole house is bought.

The great drawback of shared ownership up to now was that it carried the Right to Buy in full. A desirable village house, therefore, was likely to be fully bought up and sold at a profit within a very short time, so passing out of reach of local wage earners for ever. The English Village and other Housing Associations are now working with a variant where no more than 80% of the equity may ever be sold. On resale, the occupant realises the enhanced market value of his or her share but the Association keeps its own share (also enhanced) and, more importantly, the right to nominate the next purchaser, who then gets a house at below full market value.



Village Home or Weekend Retreat ? A traditional terraced cottage, Bainbridge, Wensleydale  
(Photo: Geoffrey N. Wright)

Another important factor in keeping prices down is the use of Section 52 of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act. Under this, planners can make a deal with developers for low cost housing on sites that would not otherwise be given planning permission. The landowners must, of course, be willing to sell, but they may be pleased to do so because of the local benefit and because they are then able to get a price for land which otherwise has no development value.

The amounts of land in question are very small and so constitute little threat to the landscape. The average size of a housing association village scheme is some half a dozen dwellings - and they are not land-greedy "executive" homes, but small, one or two bedroom units intended for starter or retirement homes. Often they will enable fuller and better use to be made of the existing stock of village houses.

Whether such measures will be enough to meet rural housing needs or compensate for the catastrophic loss of rented housing in many villages we do not know, but they are least signs of change. The NAC Rural Trust stresses that the first step is to research local needs and then to identify sites and agencies for new housing. They are encouraging parish councils to survey their own villages and can provide sample survey forms and guidance notes, as well as speakers willing to meet with Parish Meetings.

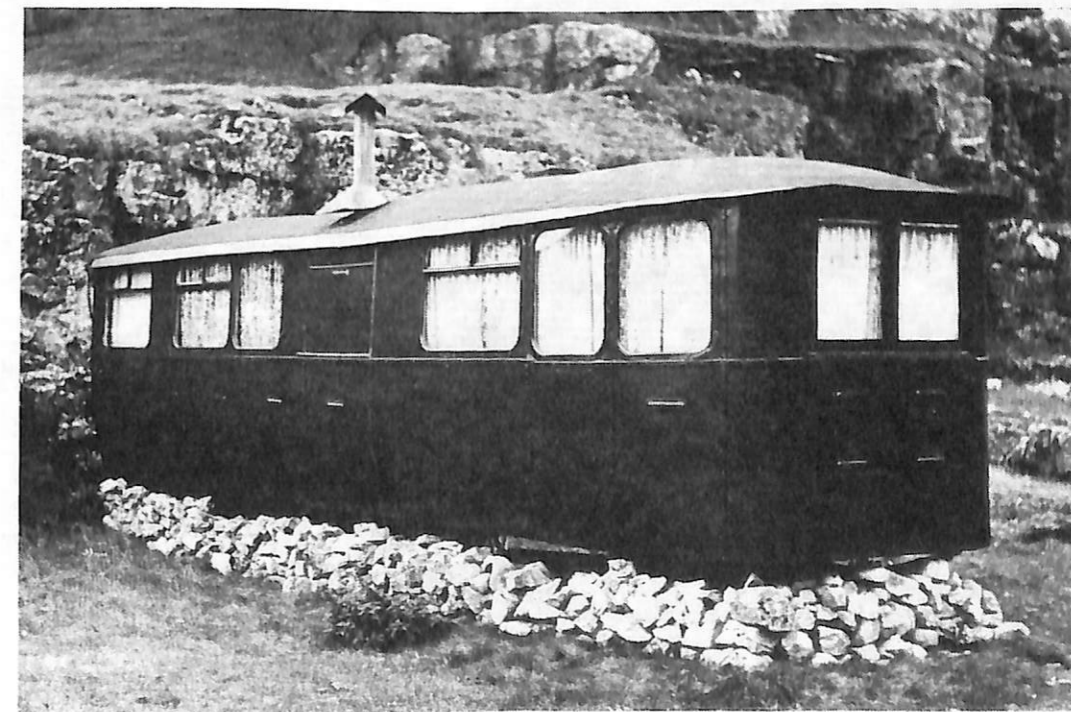
At a wider level, they have promoted an Awareness Campaign in the Rural Development Area of North Yorkshire, and a new Wensleydale Housing Forum is about to carry out a systematic survey of every house in its boundaries, while a similar survey is being mooted for the Craven area.

It is unlikely that the blanket policies created for urban situations will ever be ideal for rural areas, but such as they are have to be used and adapted to local needs. The true nature of these is best know to each separate parish, for whom every solution must be tailor-made and unique.

ALISON RAVETZ

(Dr. Ravetz and the Yorkshire Dales Society are willing to offer help and advice - including NAC Rural Trust, RCC and other contacts - to any Parish Council or Community Group in the Dales. Individual Society members might also wish to help with survey and related work. Please contact us via the YDS office.)

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An answer to the demand for second homes in the days before the National Park - old railway coach  
Conistone Dib, Upper Wharfedale (photo Geoffrey Wright)

## Landscapes for Tomorrow

The Yorkshire Dales National Park, like the ten other members of the National Park family of England and Wales, represent some of the finest natural and historic scenery in the country. It's easy for the public to believe that its stunning landscapes are a permanent part of our heritage, safely preserved for future generations. But as YDS members will be aware, the Dales landscapes and the communities they support are changing. What does the future hold for them?

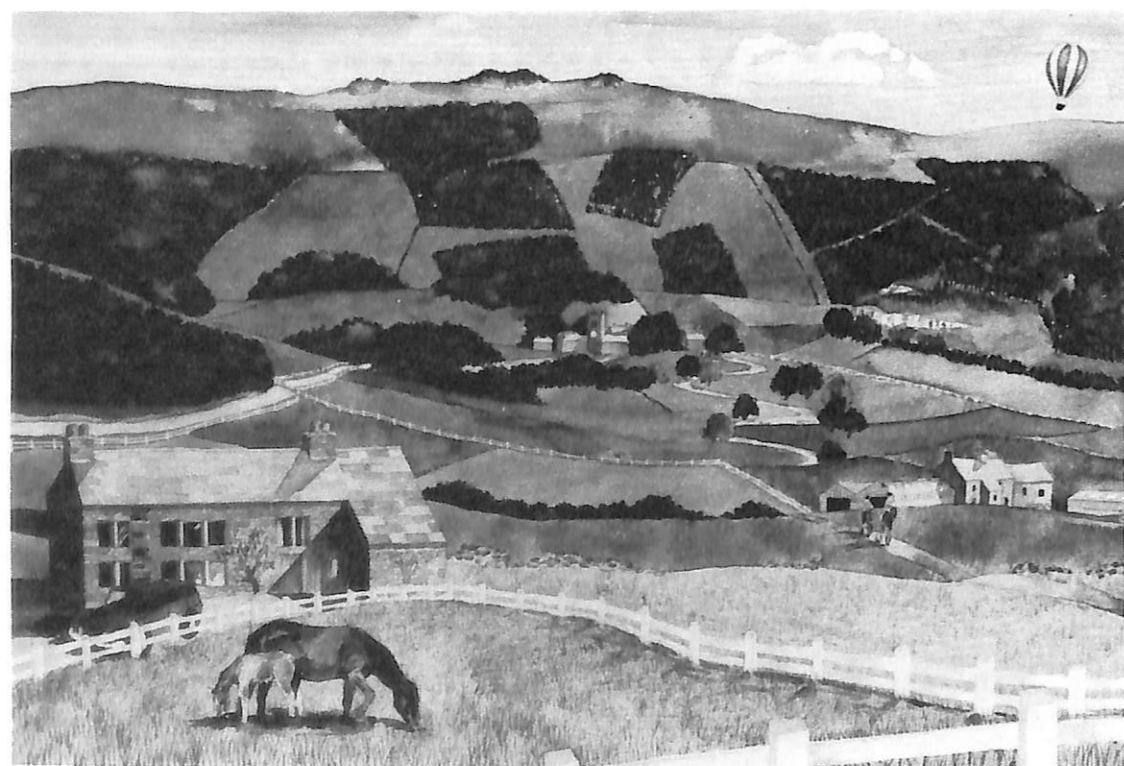
Some changes are obvious, like modern quarrying and the pressure of tourism. But it is the changes to the rural community and in particular the way in which the land is farmed which are likely to shape many of our National Parks, and the Yorkshire Dales in particular, in the 21st century.

This autumn, visitor and local residents in the Yorkshire Dales will be able to "look into the future" by visiting a travelling exhibition or one of a series of community meetings. These special events are being run by an imaginative research project currently under way in the National Park. By participating in the events, the public - including it is hoped many YDS members - will be able to consider how they would like the Yorkshire Dales to look in, say, another 50 years.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a set of eight watercolours depicting an imagine Dales countryside future. Painted by a local illustrator, Hannah Chesterman, each shows different ways of using the land, ranging, for example, from intensive farming to wilderness. Some of the scenes might seem far-fetched, but in fact the pictures are based on detailed interviews with people who know the Dales well. These include local farmers, and staff from the National Park, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Nature Conservancy Council.

The pictures are intended to show the outcome of some developments beginning to affect the Dales today. People can choose their own future for the Dales by playing The Landscape Game, a giant-sized board game devised by the Project. By playing the game and making choices about the countryside, you will end up at one of the painted landscape futures - but perhaps not the one you expected!

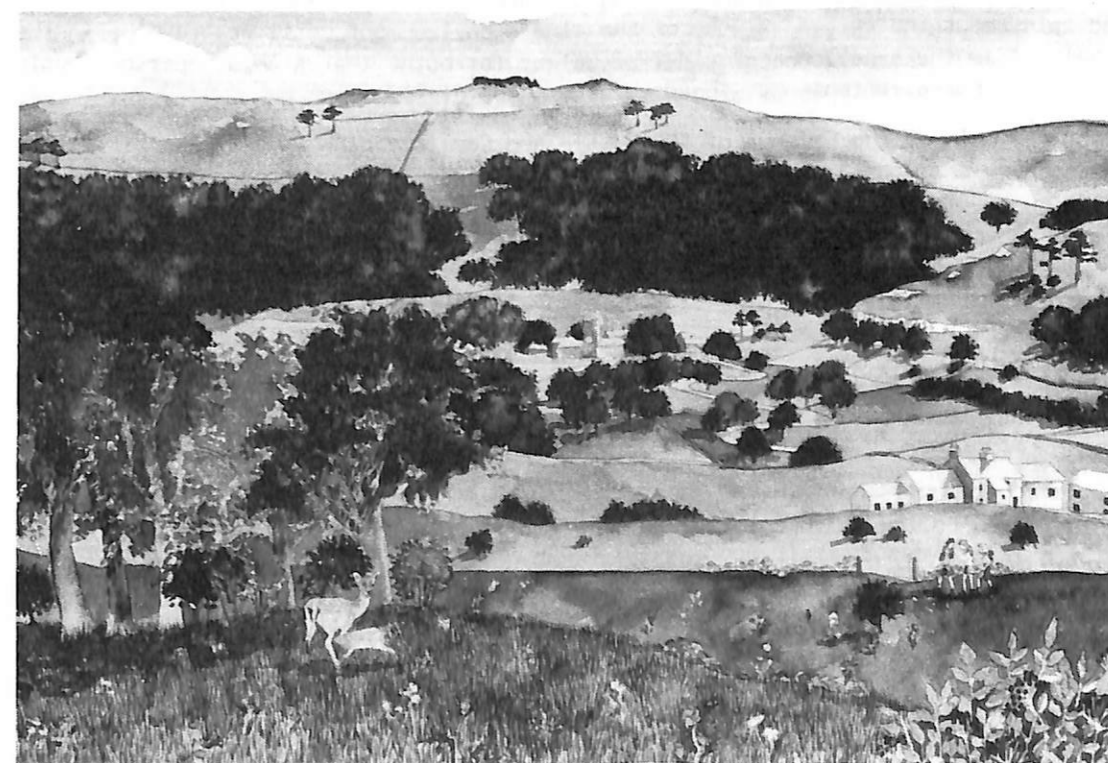
The Landscapes for Tomorrow exhibition is being run as a partnership between the University of East Anglia, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Together these bodies have funded a two and a half year research project seeking to increase public understanding of how the Dales countryside is changing, and to encourage the public and residents to enter into the debate about what sort of Yorkshire Dales they would like to see in the next century. The research team is led by Professor Tim O'Riordan of the University, and Dr. Chris Wood, Information Services Officer for the National Park.



The Sporting Landscape Could this be the Yorkshire Dales of the 21st century? In this imaginary scene, activities like grouse shooting, riding and hinting have largely replaced sheep farming as the mainstay of the Dales economy and communities.



The Abandoned Landscape Here, livestock farming has become increasingly difficult, owing to the removal of subsidies and competition from lowland farms. The few remaining farms concentrate their flocks on the better land, and much of the rest reverts to scrub and rough grassland. Little spare cash means that walls, barns and woods become derelict.



The Wild landscape In this scene, the deliberate "setting aside" of land for wildlife conservation creates a "wilderness" landscape. Extensive broad-leaved woodlands and flowery glades would replace the meadow and moorland. Public access would be wider than today, except in restricted wildlife reserves. But few people would be employed here, and little would remain of the classic "walls and barns" scenery.

The travelling exhibition (admission free) will be visiting village halls at Hawes, Grassington, Muker and Dent from late August to early November. An informal public discussion is to be held jointly with the Yorkshire Dales Society 2.30-4.30pm on Saturday 4th November to co-incide with the exhibition being on view at the Devonshire Institute (Town Hall) Grassington.

Details of other dates and opening times, and further information, can be obtained from Chris Wood or Ann Shadrack (Research Associate) who will also welcome comments and feedback from YDS members. They can be contacted at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Office, Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, North Yorkshire, BD23 5LB - tel 0756 752748 during office hours.

Cover Caption : The Conserved Landscape Spot the difference ! This view of the future could come about if farmers could receive some sort of "environmental subsidy" for farming the land in a way which maintains both the landscape and their way of life. But it wouldn't be cheap - and the taxpayer would have to foot a large part of the bill.

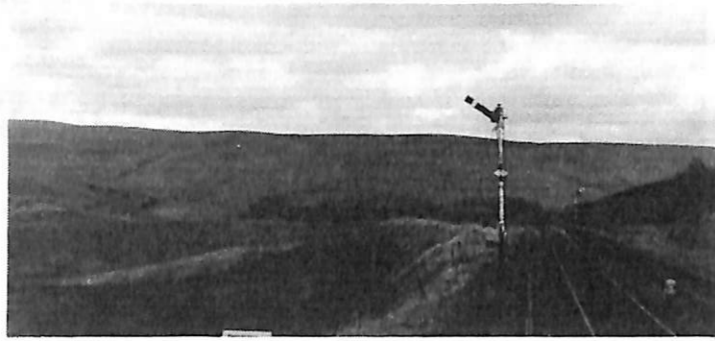
ANN SHADRACK

[Original landscape paintings on pages 6,7 and the cover are by Hannah Chesterman, with black and white reproductions by Ray Manley]

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## Studying the Settle-Carlisle

"The Settle-Carlisle". You might think that by now almost everyone who has heard of the reprieved railway has also travelled its 72 mile length at least out of sheer curiosity, and ended a journey well satisfied with memories for many a day afterward. Not a bit of it !



All clear at Garsdale (Photo: Colin Speakman)

Whilst there has been a significant increase in passenger figures, which helped the latter day case to save the line, the proportion of local travellers within the north of England is still only small compared with the mass of population centres on the old West Riding of Yorkshire, East Lancashire and the North Midlands. We can write and talk about the varying beauty of the line's environment until we are blue in the face and fingers; ultimately it is the experience of rider or walker (or both) that stamps a personal value not only of singular satisfaction but also implants a need to return again.

At the celebration day held by the Friends of the Settle and Carlisle Line Association, it was stressed by more than one speaker that the long term retention of the line rested on its continued, and even increased, level of use. The children of today are the business and leisure passengers of tomorrow. More than that, however, they can be the students of today because the line offers an experience in learning about the environment, Geography, and history which is marked contrast to the suburban or industrial areas in which most children grow up to have little personal knowledge of anything different from their own immediate surroundings.

Studyline is an organisation formed jointly by British Rail and a group of experienced, specialist teachers just over four years ago to provide study workpacks for a unique concept of learning through travel by train

The packs embrace many subjects and skills within the new national curriculum and leading to GCSE, and are varyingly targeted at pupils between the ages of nine and sixteen plus. One such pack is for the Settle-Carlisle railway. Following the usual Studyline format there is considerable work on the outward journey dealing with landforms, agriculture, industry and settlement on both sides of the line; there follows a second section with a study of the city centre at Carlisle -accommodation is available at the Youth Hostel. The return journey is more relaxed with word puzzles and spotter map, which reinforced the key concepts and terms of the study; finally there are detailed suggestions for projects and coursework for up to five weeks back at school.

The booklets are free, yes issued free by BR to every pupil booked on a journey over the line. If the party ticket is paid for in advance, then there is ample time to prepare for the visit at school. Several schools have taken this up during the last year, and the feedback reports of its success are very encouraging. If you are a teacher looking for a project with some potential, or should you know primary or secondary teachers likely to be interested, write for sample sheets enclosing a 9x5" SAE to Studyline, 54b Swinney Lane, BELPER, Derby DE5 1EF.

ROYCE WARNER

## A Rich Taste of Yorkshire

By happy arrangement in the year that The Dalesman magazine celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, one of its most distinguished editors, from 1968 to 1988, Bill Mitchell, publishes a book of reminiscences A Dalesman's Diary (Souvenir Press, £12.95). An affectionate commentary on his life and career rather than a diary, the book has a curiously old-fashioned style as the author mulls over details of his life and work among dalesfolk. Not only does it capture a great deal of the chapter, fads and fancies of Yorkshire folk, it is also a fascinating commentary on provincial journalism and the development of "The Dalesman", one of the UK's most successful small magazines. It nostalgically evokes a part of the Dales scene which had yet to feel the impact of TV soaps and the uneasy pressures of growing tourism.



W.R. "Bill" Mitchell (Photo: David Morgan Rees)

Bill Mitchell started his career in journalism in 1943 when he joined the Craven Herald as a cub reporter where he met Harry J. Scott, the Herald's sub-editor and founder of The Dalesman. In 1948 Harry Scott asked Bill Mitchell to join him at Clapham where the magazine is still published. He spent the next 40 years of his life happily hard at work interpreting the Dales' special magic, recording the rich and colourful detail of people and places.

Perhaps it is because of being so impressed as a small boy with the character of his Granny, living alone at 94 with her whole existence centred on the Primitive Methodist Chapel, that he developed a keen and humane interest in the doings of other Yorkshire folk. Mr Mitchell certainly makes it clear throughout his book that "there's nowt as queer as Dales folk." Vividly he sketches in a portrait - a spinster, for example, "so small and thin I entertained the fantastic thought that when she had a cup of tea she would look like a thermometer" or a farmer, a rather narrow-minded chapel-goer who refused to say "Hello" because "it's 'O Hell' the wrong way round". He relishes their foibles - like the old tough farmer smitten by toothache while milking, who went into the house and removed the tooth with some pliers. "He returned to his milking, winced again and said... 'Heck ! I've got t'wrong ttooth'. He promptly went back into the house and yanked out the offending tooth." Or the haymaker who got his own back on a mean farmer's wife's stingy lettuce sandwiches. " ' When she wasn't looking, I stuck a tuft o'grass in each sandwich. After that we got egg as well ! " The stories and the character sketches are a colourful mosaic laid out across the book with a true craftsman's eye.

But the sense of place and natural life in the Dales is as vivid as the people Bill Mitchell has met on his myriad journeyings for The Dalesman: "The image in my mind when I wrote about the Dales was the windswept upland, with outcropping rock, walls, a few thorn trees, sheep and the indomitable Dales farmer - not forgetting his dog. He responds acutely to the sight of "the very rare lady's slipper orchid, with its maroon flowers and distinctive yellow lip" or a cock barn owl standing on a ledge "like an apparition in white, staring at teh forest with eyes like black grapes set in a heart-shaped facial disc" or the seasons and rural activity.



A Dalesman's Diary is a delightful book which captures the immensely valuable "small change" of Dales life as well as its grandeur. But having read the book, I still feel I know curiously little about Bill Mitchell as a person. He delights in hiding behind the scene, people and incidents he so lovingly remembers.

DAVID MORGAN REES

Haymakers near Clapham sweeping up for pike-making (photo: W.R.Mitchell)

## Take the Country Workshop Trail

If you enjoy watching other people work, then you will relish an imaginative new Tourist Trail, particularly if you visit the Yorkshire Dales during the off-peak season when the roads are quieter and accommodation is easier to find. Ten individual businesses have joined forces to establish the Dales Country Workshop Trail from Thirsk in the east to Hawes in the west. Opening this October, the Trail offers a carefully planned series of specially-linked attractions for the growing numbers of both new and established visitors who now choose to take weekend breaks or longer second holidays during Autumn, Winter or early Spring months.

The Trail provides a rich diversity of art and craft workshop activity from pottery, woodwork, glass-blowing and stained glass work, the design and making of hand-loom, sculpture and carving, ceramics and candle-making to model farming, real-ale brewing and rope-making. It was officially launched in late summer by former Dalesman editor Bill Mitchell, and is the result of hard work and some dedicated individuals. The group's catalyst was Harry Silcock, one of the Rural Development Commission's Business Advisers in North Yorkshire. He together with the Commission's Tourism Consultant, Freddie Gawthorp, saw the potential of a group marketing approach similar to another recent joint venture under the RDC's wing, the Yorkshire Dales Discovery hotels scheme, where individual businesses complement each other rather than compete and benefit from an integrated publicity drive. With the help of Tim Simon who runs Uredale Glass at Masham with his wife Maureen, over 30 business in a carefully defined catchment area were originally indentified as possible members of the Group. Because he is used to handling over 40,000 visitors to Uredale Glass each year, Tim Simon was able to draw up firm, practical guide-lines for participation. In the final event, ten businesses gave the project their full backing.

In addition to expert advice from Harry Silcock and Freddie Gawthorp, and grants from the Rural Development Commission, North Yorkshire County Council's Industrial Development Unit, the Yorkshire & Humberside Tourist Board, Richmondshire District Council and Harrogate Borough Council, considerable credibility was given to the scheme by participation of its largest members, Treske Furniture at Thirsk and Theakston's Brewery at Masham.

Those take part in the Trail beside Treske, Theakston's and Uredale Glass, are Grewelthorpe Handweavers, Masham Pottery, The Old School Arts Workshop at Middleham, Aiskew Watermill near Bedale, Swineside Ceramics at Leyburn, White Rose Candles at Wensley and W.R.Outhwaite and Son at Hawes. With considerable energy and determined motoring the whole Trail could be covered in one long, hectic day, but far, far better to sample its delights in a more leisurely way, a section at a time, which can be done in any direction or permutation.

DAVID MORGAN REES



Above: Peter Hibberd at the Old School Arts Workshop, Middleham

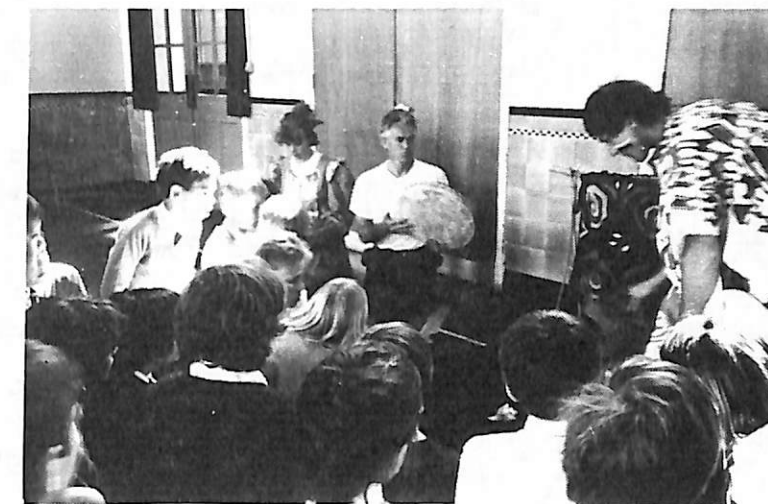
Left: Ted Simon of Uredale Glass, Masham

Photos: David Morgan Rees



## Dales Theatre School Project

No more sitting on the old school bench for children taking part in Dales Theatre's current project for North Yorkshire primary schools, A Question of Belonging.



During the performance they become ocean voyagers, shipwrecked during a tempest and washed ashore on a strange island. There they meet some of the characters from Shakespeare's "Tempest". Prospero has schemes for a dam and transform "his" domain. Caliban, who sees himself as the rightful caretaker of the island, is worried about the destruction this will cause. An angry argument ensues and the children are drawn in as peacemakers to suggest a solution to the dispute. This requires some complex thinking on their part about the rights of ownership and responsibility for their environment. Generally, concern for conservation prevails over the desire for the spin-offs of technology (even "Neighbours" !)

So far the production has toured primary schools in the Bentham, Ingleton/Settle area and is set to tour further afield in September. Future plans include a project with young people this autumn, with workshop sessions to devise a script for performance in December.

Enquiries about Dales Theatre are welcome. Ask for David or Leonie Pearce on 046 85 654.

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## The Truth About Covenants

One important advantage of the Yorkshire Dales Society's status as an educational Charity, is that members can make their subscriptions to it in the form of a Deed of Covenant and then claim back 25% additional revenue from the Inland Revenue, providing the Covenanter is a taxpayer.

This means, for anyone who signs a deed of Covenant, who is a taxpayer, the Society can claim an additional £1.50 for a £6 subscription, £2 for an £8. Multiply this by several hundred, and this becomes a very real way of helping the Society. At a time of worrying inflation (postage goes up another penny in October) and membership revenue hard to get, every help members can give us is badly needed bit of extra income - and absolutely no cost to the subscriber.

As the Society no longer receives any direct financial support from the Countryside Commission, we would be foolish not to take advantage over the Government's generosity, through the tax system towards the work the Society does. Remember, a Deed of Covenant is not legally binding in the sense that if for any reason you could no longer pay the Society a subscription, it is not enforceable. It simply states, your clear intention, which we can submit to the Revenue after you have paid.

If you don't already Covenant, a Covenant Form will be enclosed with this Review. All you need do is get a friend witness it, return it to us, and then your subscription over the next four years will be worth 25% more to us !

Several generous offers of office furniture from members have allowed us to improve our office facilities enormously - thanks to everyone for their kindness which is very greatly appreciated.

Despite lots of hard work over the summer, membership recruiting remains sluggish. Evidence suggests that personal recommendation is by far the best way of signing people up. A supply of newly reprinted membership forms will be sent to any member who can help recruit friends, family, office colleagues. Just let us know how many you can use. Autumn is a very good time to get new members, often after a lovely holiday or visit to the Dales. We are also looking to increase members in the towns and villages of the Dales themselves. We've members in every Dale, but could recruit many more !

The handsome embossed leather YDS badge is always a good talking point, which can lead to recruitment. Supplies are available from the YDS Office price £1. Add 20p post and packing.

AUTUMN EVENTS

Sunday September 3rd

Pepper Hall Farm, Arkengarthdale Thanks to the generosity of Mr & Mrs cC Clark Stones, of Pepper Hall Farm, the Society has been invited to visit their upper Dales farm. Meet at Langthwaite High Green, Arkengarthdale (4m northwest of Reeth) at 2pm. Heavy shoes or boots recommended.

Sunday September 17th

Access Day in Nidderdale An invitation by West Riding Ramblers to join them over an area which might be threatened by the privatisation of water. A choice of 8 or 12 mile moorland walks, bring packed lunch and tea. Meet the group (arriving by coach) at Scar House Car Park 1030. There will be places on a special coach from Leeds and Bradford - for details phone John Lieberg on 0484 662866

Saturday October 7th

A walk through limestone country A day to prove a point about public transport and glorious limestone scenery - an 11 mile walk from Clapham Railway station via Clapdale, Crummackdale, Moughton Scars to Horton in Ribblesdale. Boots and packed lunches essential, tea at the Pen y Ghent Cafe, return train from Horton. Leader Colin Speakman. Catch train at 0933 from Leeds (0934 Bradford FS), Shipley 0947, Keighley 1002, Skipton 1020 back Clapham Day Return (NB check times as new timetable begin 2.10.89)

Saturday November 4th

Landscapes for tomorrow an exhibition, discussion and chance to play the "Landscape Change Game" organised and led by Ann Shadrake (see page 8) Exhibition will be on for most of the day, but the discussion will take place in The Games Room, Grassington Town Hall at 2.30pm-4.30pm.

Thursday November 16th

Focus on Bats An illustrated lecture on these most curious of Dales creatures by Ron Deighton in the Civic Centre, Otley at 7.30pm. Admission £1 Refreshments available.

Thursday 7th December

An A to Z of the Yorkshire Dales An unusual and entertaining lecture by the Misses Oakley of Ilkley in the Clark Foley Centre, Ilkley 7.30pm

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