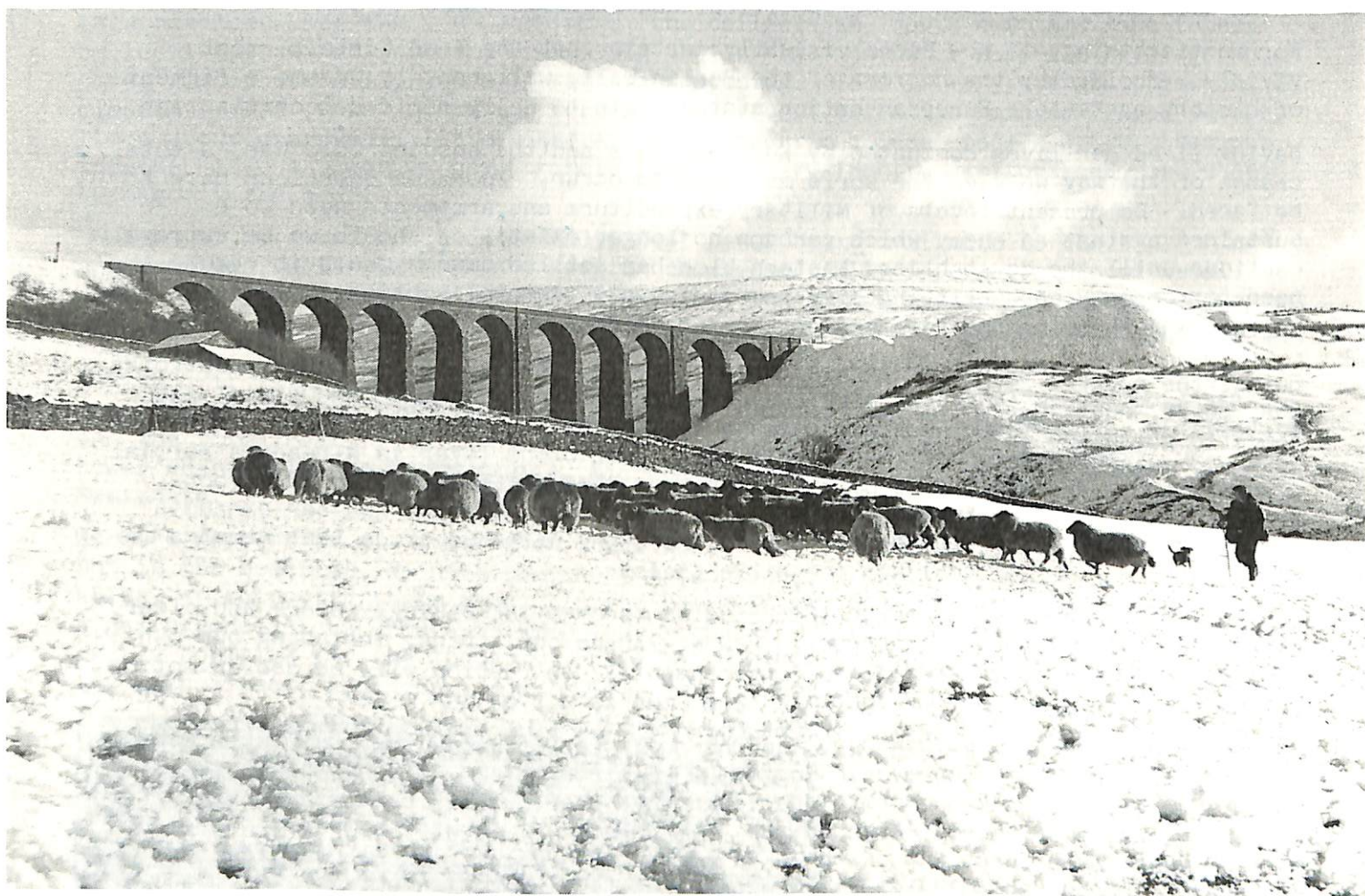


Y The **Yorkshire Dales** **Review**

No.29
Winter 1990



Ribbleshead Viaduct Restored
Networks of History
Concrete or Daffodills?
Hill Shepherds

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.

A Momentous Decade Ahead

The 1990s will represent a time of extraordinary change and challenge for the whole of Western Europe, of which the Yorkshire Dales forms a very small, if rather special, part.

For one thing, we shall soon be living in a very different community of nations which will enjoy very much closer political and economic ties.

For another thing, it now seems virtually certain that the Iron Curtain, most vividly symbolised by the horrors of the Berlin Wall, will rapidly become a figment of history as Eastern European nation states begin to enjoy rapid democratisation.

Having lived our lives dominated by European Wars and the ensuing Cold War, a total change of the way we view the world may have to occur. Enormous questions have to be faced. Do present levels of military expenditure and armaments need to be sustained against an enemy which perhaps no longer exists, or should we be extremely cautious until the de-stabilised Eastern bloc has settled down? Could it reduce the need for so many ear-splitting high speed aircraft training sorties along the valleys and skimming the felltops of the Yorkshire Dales?

But if the nuclear threat no longer seems quite so imminent in the post-Perestroika 90s, newer, subtler, but even more insidious threats now emerge. Industrial and domestic pollution if not contained could easily end life as we know it on this planet. The destruction of the earth's protective ozone layer is already a partial reality, as is the warming up of the atmosphere through the build up of carbon-dioxide, the so-called "Greenhouse effect". Our power stations and car exhausts (with or without lead-free petrol) are contributing nitreous oxide that creates the "acid rain" that toxifies lakes and kills trees.

The message from countless scientific studies becomes increasingly stark and clear. Either we make fundamental changes in how we manage our affairs, including our own life-styles, or a chain reaction of environmental destruction will be set in motion which will tail spin out of control. And time is not on our side.

The Government is at last waking up to the realities of our situation, but powerful interest lobbies and often myopic dogmatism remain a threat. Transport policies which savagely cut back on public transport investment whilst expanding road-building by many billions of pounds verge on the irresponsible, (traffic exhaust emissions already contribute about 43% of the UK's "greenhouse gases") and have a direct bearing on the Yorkshire Dales as limestone is used in huge quantities for road building from quarries in the Dales area.

What has this to do with the Yorkshire Dales Society?

Simply this. As we enjoy the exquisite but fragile beauty of the Yorkshire Dales this winter and early spring, we have to recognise the threats. Individuals can act - in the decisions we take - what we buy, what we wear, how we travel. We can help change attitudes, and politicians of all persuasions are increasingly concerned to be seen to be "Green". We can also work together collectively, through various local and amenity organisation. The Yorkshire Dales Society is just such a body which throughout the 1990s must become increasingly effective, increasingly professional in persuading local, national and even European Government to take the right kind of decisions. Ignorance, greed, self-interest will not give up without a struggle and by then it may be too late. A strong and effective Society for the Yorkshire Dales will have a crucial role to play in the 1990s.

Colin Speakman

Cover: "He watches the weather as he watches over his sheep" - from Hill Shepherd by John and Eliza Forder (see page 8)

Daleswatch - A Time For Action

"Daleswatch" is an active group of Yorkshire Dales Society members who live and work in the Dales and who have taken on the special task of keeping a watchful eye on potential detrimental change within the Dales. The group is part of the Society's early warning system; spotting unwelcome developments at the planning stage or even earlier!

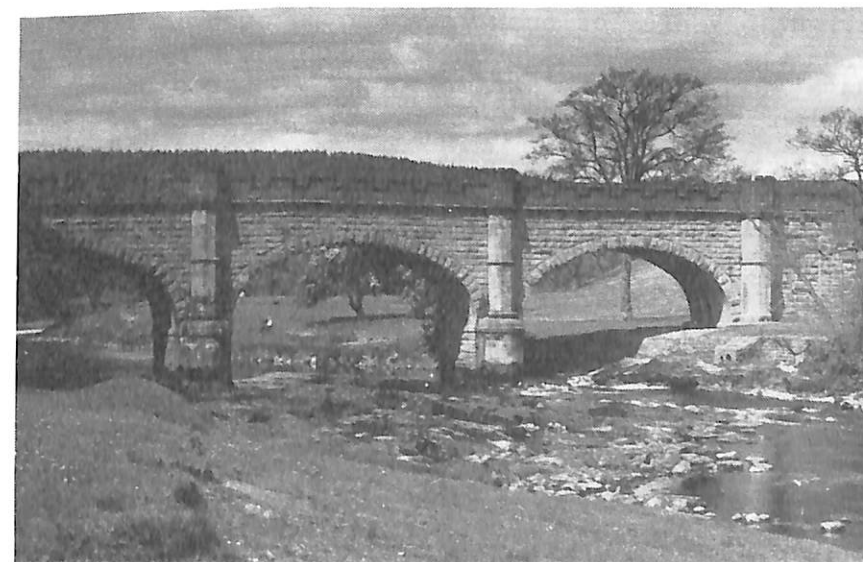
Meetings are held at regular intervals to discuss items of concern and plans for action. In this way we pool knowledge, information and expertise. Among items of particular concern at the moment are the effects of quarrying and quarry traffic in the Dales area, the attempts to develop Grimwith Reservoir between Wharfedale and Nidderdale into a massive recreational complex, and ways in which we can develop links at a local level with other amenity and conservation groups in the Dales.

The Group produces DalesDigest, a bulletin compiled from newspaper reports and other sources in both local and national press on any matters which affect Dales life. This has been undertaken by John Ward, who collects and sorts cuttings sent to him by local Daleswatch members, presenting the information under separate headings which gives a good overall picture of what is happening. This is very useful in helping to pinpoint areas of key concern. For example, recent bulletins have contained several items about quarrying, letters and articles taken from local papers which, when put together make a powerful cry for help from local residents, visitors and road users throughout the area.

Members of Daleswatch act on an individual level being available to check planning applications, write letters and keeping themselves fully informed at local level, and also being able to liaise with other individuals and bodies and seeking support from YDS on major issues that require wider support to influence decision making.

In 1990, it is planned to develop Daleswatch on a more local basis. Six potential area groups have so far been identified - UpperWharfedale and Malhamdale, Ribblesdale and the Three Peaks, the Cumbrian Dales (Dentdale, Garsdale, Mallerstang), Lower Wharfedale and Washburndale, Nidderdale and Coverdale, Wensleydale and Swaledale.

We have members in all these areas, and hope to be contacting them early in 1990. But in the meantime, we need convenors - people who might help to get groups into being, or help with their work. If you can help us, and live in or near these areas please let us know - we need your support. Here's your chance to do something really positive for the Society. Write to us at Daleswatch, Yorkshire Dales Society, 152 Main Street, Addingham, via Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 0LY.



Barbara McLoughlin

The Nidd Reservoir
Aqueduct, Barden

Photo: Simon Houston

Networks of History

As a brief preview to the YDS lecture at Bolton Abbey on February 10th, Colin Speakman looks at the significance of footpaths and bridleways in the Dales landscape.

The network of public rights of way in the countryside isn't just a precious recreational asset, it is also part of the living fabric of the landscape, a feature which has evolved over many centuries and which reflects the way of life of previous inhabitants. Nor should we ever forget that it is only in comparatively recent times - probably since the Second World War - that the private car has become the dominant mode of travel in the countryside. For the previous 5,000 years or so, foot, hoof and occasionally water were the main way of travel in the countryside. Many people would argue that the car is, in the longer term, unsustainable in terms of energy and other resources requirements and that by, say the 22nd century, lifestyles may have to evolve in which high speed, energy profligate mobility has given way to ways of communication which do not rely on us hurling ourselves around the countryside at high speed in metal boxes.

Be that as it may, in the Yorkshire Dales in particular, the rich and complex patterns of human life can be traced out by anyone with time and patience to look at a large scale (say a Pathfinder or Outdoor Leisure) Ordnance Survey Map and then to follow up such researches by getting out and walking the old paths and ways.

Paths have a logic. Unlike the motorcar, which demands easy gradients and huge and expensive earthworks, a footway will follow the natural features of the landscape - a hollow through the hills, a natural pass, a riverside or gorge. But human feet or hooves will often make for the direct way between two dales - over the top in a straight line, rather than following the circuitous route of later carriage and motor roads.

Many old trackways to be found in the Dales are as old as human history - Bronze Age or Iron Age trade routes which can still be traced along the mooredge, high above the valleys which until late Medieval times would have been impenetrable, ill-drained swamp. Some such routes have been metalled, but many, such as the ancient Highway between Wensleydale and Mallerstang, remain as green tracks.

Anglian and Viking settlement produced the complex web of lanes and paths, some of which were upgraded over the centuries to become lanes and even main roads, but many of which remain footpaths through fields and meadows, now marked by a variety of stiles. They remain public "highways" and often reflect the early patterns of settlement. Many have their origin as ways of village people getting to church, the "parishioners' ways" which can still be traced from outlying villages to the central parish church. Excellent examples of such ways can be seen in Malhamdale where a path still known as Kirk Gait leads from Otterburn to Kirkby Malham Church, or between Hebden and Linton where the parishioners' way crosses the River Wharfe at stepping stones which lead to Linton Church. The building of a church in Hebden last century saved many wet feet !



The Green Lane

(North of Twisleton
Scar End, Ingleton)

Photo: Tom Richardson



The Craven Way, Dentdale (Geoffrey N. Wright).

Roads used by travelling priests, by Norman administrators, to market and to fairs often survive in the landscape as green and grassy ways which are a delight to work or ride. But it was monastic times, with the expansion of sheep farming and the transportation of wool and other produce, that gave the Yorkshire Dales its extensive network of packhorseways, often marked by delightful narrow packhorsebridges over rivers and streams, such as Stainforth Bridge across the Ribble or Ivelet Bridge in Swaledale. Packhorse routes remained the major trade routes of the Dales well into the 19th century. The old Craven Way between Ribblesdale and Dentdale, crossing the famous Thorn Gill packhorse bridge, is just such a route, superbly green along the shoulders of Whernside. Nineteenth century writers recall talking to many older Dalespeople who remembered the trains of packponies, led by the "Bell-horse" with its large neck bell, winding their way across the Dales in days before the railways.

Expansion of trade in the 18th century brought a demand for beef, and the Scottish drovers sought to satisfy new markets in the North and Midlands by bringing huge droves of cattle from the Scottish lowlands in particular - Ayrshire and Galloway. They took to moorland tracks away from the newly constructed turnpike roads which followed the valleys and still form the basis of the modern "A" and "B" road network. Many of these moorland tracks or drove roads survive as broad, grassy ways along the fell tops. A superb example is Galloway Gate in Upper Dentdale, its name indicating its Scottish links. It originally led to Gearstones, site of an important drovers' inn and Scottish cattle fair.

Nor should it be assumed that all paths in the countryside were all utilitarian as is sometimes asserted. At time of Enclosures of the old common lands in the 18th and 19th centuries, many paths were created to preserve local rights of access to the countryside, as compensation for loss of open space.

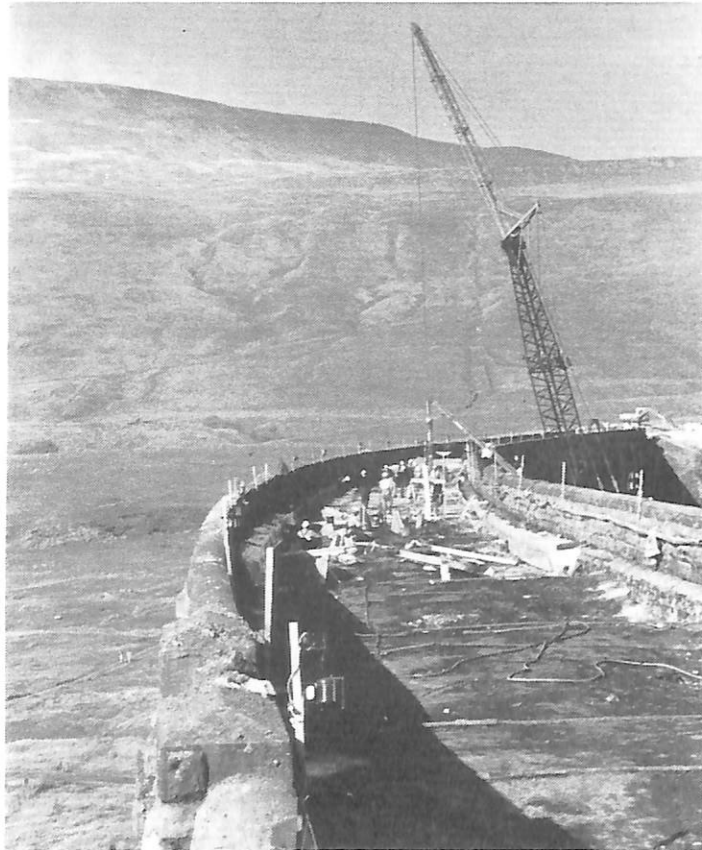
Even more bogus is the view that as the old paths and tracks were only used by village people, they shouldn't be kept open for recreation. The same argument would close most roads, pubs, churches of the Dales. Moreover, the ancestors of many people living in neighbouring towns such as Teeside, East Lancashire and West Yorkshire came from the Dales, people who now return as leisure users of the countryside to claim a common birthright. New uses for old paths reflects a deep and satisfying continuity.

The footpath and bridleway network is every bit as important part of Dales heritage as the buildings and the wildflowers and equally deserving of conservation.

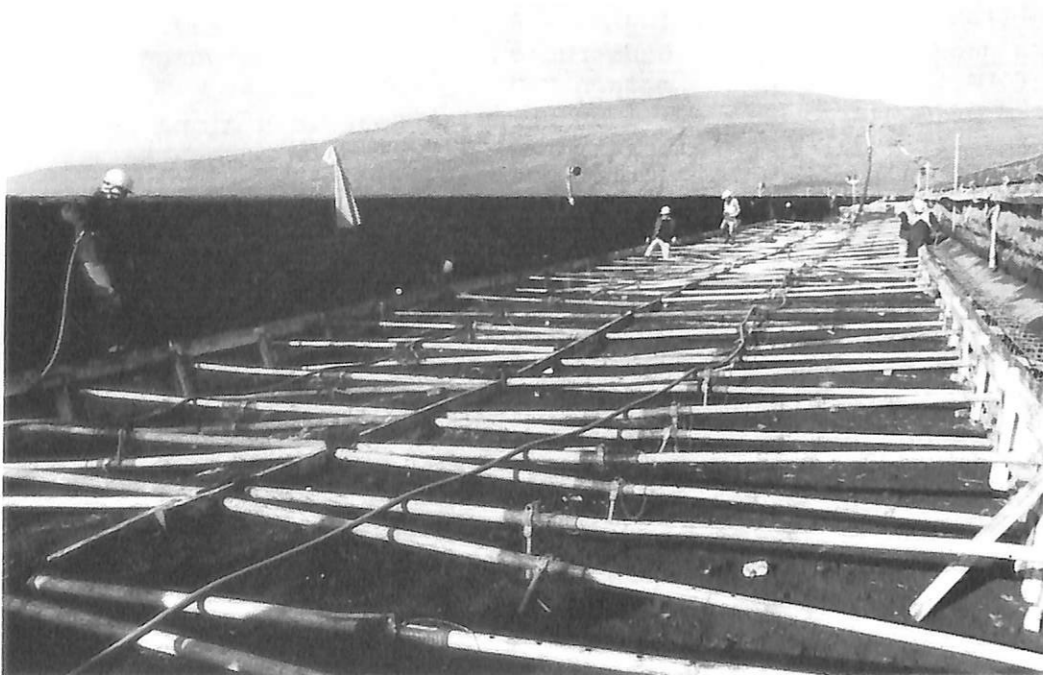
Ribbleshead Viaduct Saved

Ribbleshead Viaduct, the cost of which to repair was frequently quoted as being the reason behind proposals to close the Settle-Carlisle railway, is being restored in a £2.5million made possible by the dramatic increase in traffic over the line. YDS member and professional photographer Simon Warner, well known for his evocative study of Pennine landscapes, was there to record some of the most dramatic moments of the most spectacular part of the work, the replacement of the waterproof lining of the trackbed, which required closure of the line for two weeks in the autumn.

Part of his portfolio of shots recording the safeguarding of this famous Dales landmark is reproduced here.



Ribbleshead Viaduct with the tracks lifted ready for waterproofing.



Forest of steel jacks supporting timber framework shutters, behind which the new concrete parapet-strengthener was made.

Mr David Ventry, Assistant Civil Engineer (Works) show concrete lining with the new drainage holes



County Councillor Bill Cameron, Cumbria CC Chairman of Highways and Transport (right) and Roger Cobbe, BR Manager, Provincial North Trans-Pennine at the opening ceremony, 30th October 1989.

Class 47 locomotive hauling the 1242 Carlisle-Leeds train over the newly reopened viaduct, 30th October 1989.



Winter Books

Hill shepherd - a Photographic Essay - John & Eliza Forder (Frank Peters Publishing, Kendal £15.95).

This is a marvellous book, one that accomplishes more than any collection of photos I have seen in the last year. An unashamed celebration of upland sheep farming in the Dales and Lake District, it manages to be both popular and serious, straightforward but sophisticated, and being also an extremely beautiful book should become a classic of regional publishing.

Eliza and John Forder will be familiar to many YDS readers, for their photographs in The Review and through their previous books, Open Fell, Hidden Dale, and Faces of Lakeland. From their home in Dent they spent a year documenting the working lives of shepherds. "Our aim was to accompany shepherds as much as possible as they went about their daily work, regardless of weather or time of day."

The photos are superb, time and again capturing the essence of hill farming conditions. There are close-ups of animals, groups of men at sales and fairs, an unforgettable shot of "Batty Hartley's baking day", and bad weather photographs (particularly in snow) which are amongst the best I've come across anywhere. Throughout the book, the use of natural light is masterly and if you think strong documentary photography has to be in black and white, this book could change your views - it is in colour throughout (a departure from the Forders' previous work), designed and printed to the highest standards in Kendal.

It is particularly interesting that such a closely defined subject has received this high-quality treatment. There has clearly been no temptation to wander from the main task, and there is none of the looseness often found in countryside picture collections. The landscape dominates by its very nature, but the book is about sheep and the landscape - being only one element in the story - which emerges with a quite special force and clarity. A particularly evocative image on p52 has a riveting formal construction: a line of mist, parallel valleys crossing the picture and a dipping wall in the foreground with a line of sheep repeating its 'V' shape in the middle distance. The caption refers only to what the sheep are up to in the picture, not to the composition. The understatement is electric.

A written essay by the authors precedes the photographs. How nice not to have a well-known novelist or broadcaster doing this. The rigours of upland farming give it a very positive public image compared with other types of agriculture, and not the least achievement of this book is to have reaffirmed this image without resort to sentimentality, through personal enthusiasm and attention to detail. It is true that the text makes quite big claims for the hill-farmer's character: "A sense of non-attachment is achieved, enabling him to watch the different seasons and events, the ups and down, with equanimity. The shepherd stands apart from those who fret and fuss." (p33) But evidence all through the book validates such claims; a figure perched on a rock high above Langdale, who would not be out of place in a mountaineering book, is actually herding sheep. The relationship between man and mountain is here pure poetry, but its depiction is sober and realistic. You might find him up there any day.

Simon Warner

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Can You Help The YDS?

Volunteers are required to help the Yorkshire Dales Society in various aspects of its work. Typing help required, particularly for a typist with access to a (basic) Amstrad 8256/8512 to help reduce pressure on the Addingham office.

We need help too, to get the local Daleswatch Groups off the ground (see page 3) and in various working groups/sub-committees of the Society who all need extra person power - Events and Publications, Education, Social and Economic.

Apologies for occasional delays and muddles in membership. Bugs in the computer programming system have taken time to iron out, requiring us to go back to manual writing of envelopes etc over the last few months, but excellent progress is being made to have all systems functioning smoothly for the Spring Review.

Please contact Fleur Speakman, the Society's Administrator, at the office in Addingham or on 0943 607868 if you think you can help.

Discovering Middleham

The links between Richard III and the Dales town of Middleham are well known, but the story of how the town emerged from almost total obscurity before the Norman Conquest to a position of "greatness" in the Middle Ages, reflecting its links with the Neville family and Richard of Gloucester - better known as the much maligned Richard III - to its gentle retirement to being a quiet Dales community and centre for race-horse breeding remains a fascinating one. A new guide by Stephen V. Brown Castle, Kings and Horses succeeds in encapsulating the Middleham story in 46 well written and illustrated pages which will delight all students of Dales history as well as confirmed or yet to be confirmed Ricardians. Did you know, for example, about the Middleham Jewel, a 2½" religious gold pendant, discovered in 1985 behind the Castle and sold for £1.3 million? A replica of the jewel is kept at Middleham.

Castle, Kings and Horses is published by the Old School Arts Workshop, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4QG price £3 and is available from the above address post free with order - make cheques out to the Old School Arts Workshop.

As its name implies, the Old School Arts Workshop in Middleham uses converted School premises in the town centre as a focal point for a variety of activities and courses which examine various aspects of Dales life and the arts. Run by sculptor Peter Hibbard (a former assistant of the late Henry Moore) and his wife Judith, as well as a coffee shop and excellent bookshop, the Arts Workshop also

provides a programme of guided tours for visitors and locals looking at various aspects of Wensleydale and Swaledale history, and what they describe as "Ricardian mini-tours" looking at sites with Richard III connections. But you can also undertake courses in weaving, painting, calligraphy, drawing, sculpture, woodturning lapidary and other crafts, on a residential or non-residential basis, with transport for the tours arranged, if necessary, from York Station. The 1990 programme is now out and is available from the Old School Arts Workshop, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 4QG Tel 0969 23056. YDS members are especially welcome.

The Keep, Middleham Castle

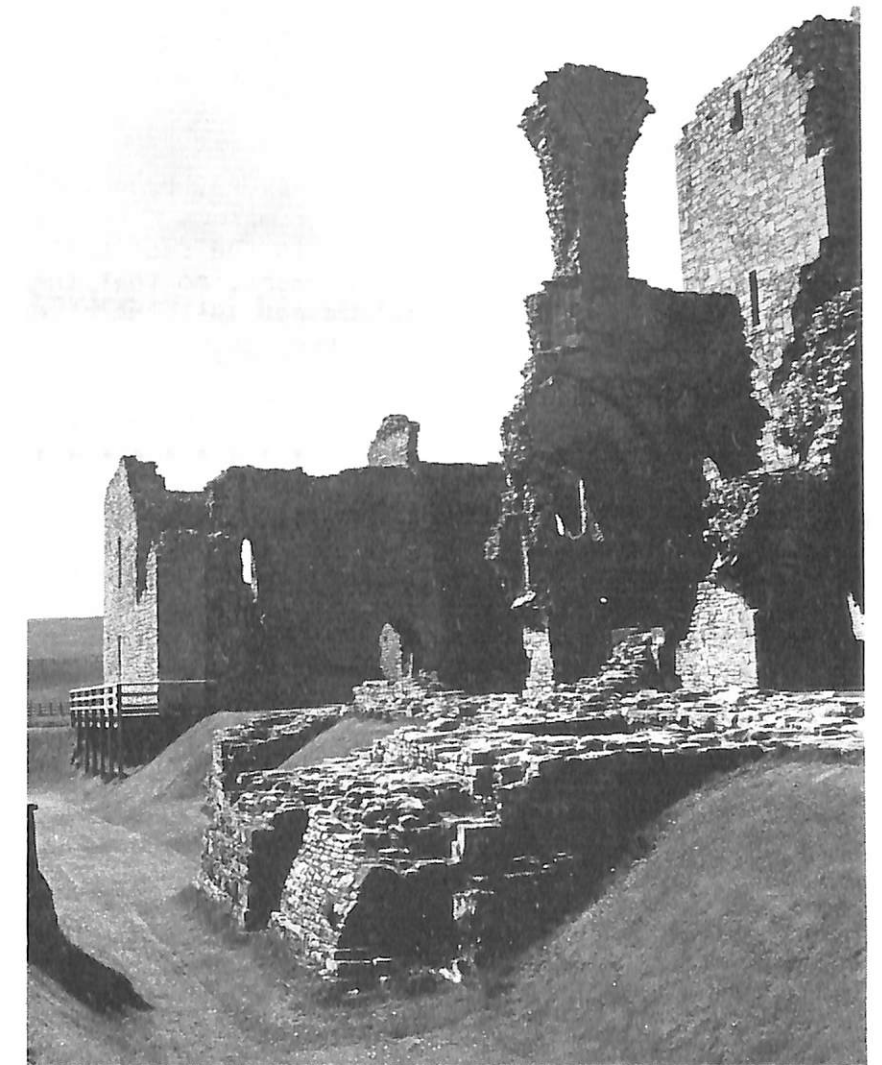


Photo: Christine Whitehead

Clouds and Daffodills Concrete and Tyres

A new programme at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Bradford, showing until March, 1990 and jointly commissioned by the Countryside Commission and the Museum itself, is the work of Yorkshire writer Peter Morgan and photographer Ian Carstairs. The "multivision" show Clouds and Daffodills.... Concrete and Tyres on the 64 foot Imax screen uses poems by William Wordsworth and Philip Larkin to explore changes to the environment caused by industry, urban sprawl, quarrying, agriculture, power generation and the motor car. The 12-projector multiscreen system is used to stunning effect - subdividing, cross-cutting, sharp focussing or using panoramic views. A rural idyll in the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales or North York Moors is juxtaposed with the "mean streets" and soulless desolation of inner city tower blocks, or with roaring juggernauts cutting swathes across the countryside. Highly dramatic is the way the reading of Wordsworth's famous poem "Daffodills" comes to a jarring, juddering halt and the beautiful Lake District images are blotted out as the roar and whine of the motorway traffic takes over.

Perhaps two small criticisms are justified. One is that the quality of the photography is so superb that even the bleak townscapes achieve their own form of poetry and we are not repelled by it all as we should be. Secondly, as we listen to some elderly people commenting on the changes to the countryside which have occurred in their lifetime, valid as this is, it almost becomes nostalgia. I think it was a pity that young people, say in their twenties, were not able to demonstrate their very real concern as well. After all, it is the younger generation, with their idealism, who are often among the most active and stalwart supporters of such environmental organisations as Greenpeace or Friends of the Earth.

Whether the film is justified in believing that there is still time to save at least parts of our landscape before its beauty is swamped and becomes "all concrete and tyres" in Philip Larkin's words is an open question. But it is a question that concerns us all.

Also in the programme is the Imax film Beavers, produced by Stephen Low and set in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. This film follows a family of beavers as they grow and develop. Particularly interesting is the fact that the beaver, like man, makes a tremendous impact on the environment, so that the huge amount of tall trees felled for a beaver dam and home affect not just the river, but the vegetation and fauna over a considerable area in the vicinity.

Fleur Speakman

Yorkshire Dales Society Sweatshirts

Here's an excellent way to help get the YDS message across. Wear one of the new British-made Yorkshire Dales Society Sweatshirts complete with the YDS logo and the discreet slogan "I love the Dales". They are available in a variety of styles and a choice of attractive colours - useful and attractive garments, ideal for all YDS events and many occasions besides ! Price varies according to size and style (cash with order); please see the enclosed Order Form (extra copies available from the YDS office on application).

Also available attractive and useful clear-view key fobs with the Society's logo, and ball point pens. Details on the Order form.

Still available whilst supplies last ! The much admired Yorkshire Dales Society official badge, hand-made in embossed leather. Still only £1 per badge plus 20p postage from the YDS office.

Most issues of back numbers of the YDS Review are still available - issues 1-28. Price 30p per copy, plus 30p postage.

Sorry We're Late

Several members have asked us why the "December" Review didn't appear with or before their Christmas post this year.

To borrow a well worn phrase, circumstances beyond our control made it difficult to meet our usual early December deadline this year and because of the inevitable hiatus which sets in from mid-December onwards, we had no alternative but to delay publication until January.

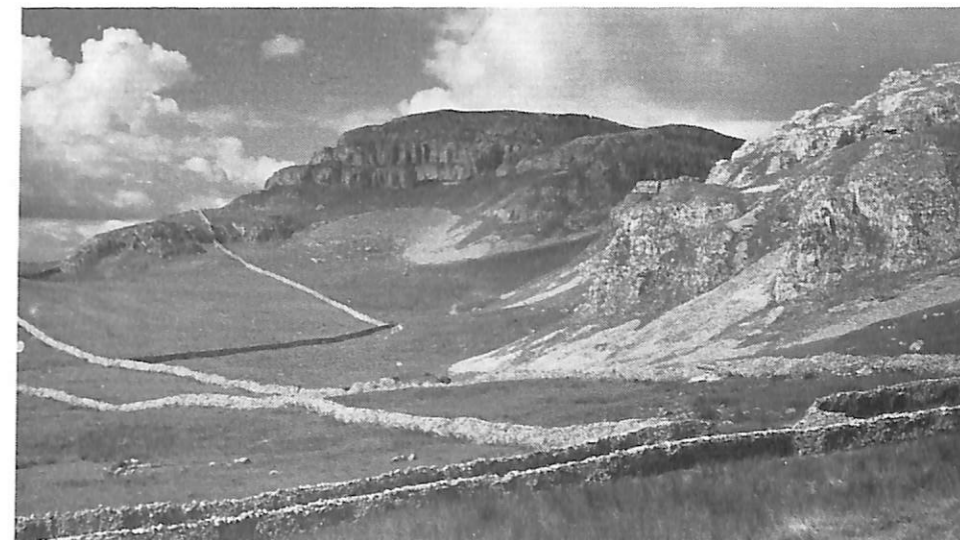
Rather than rush the Spring Review hard on its heels in March, we have decided to slip everything forward a month, so that in 1990 the Review will be published in January, April (a good interval before the AGM on June 2nd) July and October.

Deadline for material will be the end of the first week of the previous month - or sooner if possible. Articles and photographs (black and white) always welcome.

Attermire Scars,
near Settle

Photo:

R.W.Chaney



National Park Car Parks and Guided Walks

Sadly, in 1990 the special concession offered to YDS members of free car parking at Yorkshire Dales National Park Car Parks and on Guided Walks has ended. Much as members valued this facility, it had only been offered by the National Park Authority as a temporary concession during the 1986 National Park Awareness Campaign.

Administratively, it caused some problems to YDNP staff, and many members of the Yorkshire Dales Society found themselves being charged at "Pay and Display" parks in the National Park. Moreover, it was felt that there was an inconsistency in a group of people most committed to the National Park ideal enjoying services free that other people had to pay for. As the National Park faces quite serious financial cut-backs, income lost from YDS members meant less resources elsewhere for conservation work. This is not what the Society was created to achieve.

So please see the modest charges for carparking and guided walks that we shall all be paying in 1990 as a way of increasing funds for the National Park. We shall be working in a number of ways with officers and members of the National Park Authority in 1990 to achieve common objectives, and putting our money where our mouth is to support the Park's work is a useful starting point.

The YDS Guest Card will, however, be available with the Spring Review, hopefully to run for 12 months to avoid the January-March "gap"; with this plus the generous (up to 33%) discount at YDS events it's easy to recoup cost of membership of the Society in just a few months.

Don't forget the YDS needs every member it can get in 1990. Pass on a membership form to a friend or write with their address and we'll mail them one with a back number of The Review.

Events for a Dales Winter

- Saturday January 13th The fourth of our popular Dales Lectures preceded by a morning walk. Mr R.Swallow presents "The Settle-Carlisle" - a superb audio-visual presentation of this great line Ingleborough Community Centre at 2.30pm. Entrance £1.50 (YDS members £1). Morning Walk - Community centre at 1030, return in time for lunch.
- Saturday February 10th Old Tracks, Roads and Pathways of the Dales Colin Speakman, Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, gives fifth of the series of illustrated lectures. Bolton Abbey Village Hall, 2.30pm. Admission £1.50 YDS members £1. Morning walk meet at Bolton Abbey Car Park 10.30am.
- Sunday February 18th Music at Swinsty Hall. A superb opportunity to visit this magnificent Jacobean house, deep in the woods by Swinsty Reservoir, Washburndale, to hear world-famous harpsichordist Alan Cuckston with a programme of period music. Entrance by advance ticket only - £6.50 to include interval cheese and wine.
- Saturday February 24th Winter in Herriot Country A short walk in Wensleydale, to include the Askrigg waterfalls. Leader Chris Hartley Meet 11am outside St. Oswald's Church, Askrigg.
- Saturday March 10th The Monastic influence on the Dales Landscape An illustrated lecture by Dr. Maurice Turner. Grassington Town Hall, 2.30pm. Morning Walk - Grassington Square 10.30am (The sixth YDS winter lecture)
- Saturday March 24th Discovering Upper Nidderdale A walk to explore the top end of Nidderdale - about four miles. Leader Eric Jackson. Meet Studfold Farm Car Park, Lofthouse 11am
- Saturday April 21st A Visit to a Dales Farm. Meet at the car park at the north end of Semerwater at 10.30am for the short walk to High Force Farm, followed by a short walk in the Semerwater area.



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Pen y Ghent in late winter

(Photo: R.W.Chaney)