

# **Y** The Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 32  
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**Quarry Lorries in Settle**  
**Death By A Thousand Cuts?**  
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**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

### Bad Neighbours

On the opposite page we print, in summary form, the results of a survey undertaken in the centre of the market town of Settle at the end of June by volunteers of Settle Community Council.

During a 12 hour period, on a typical working day, over 500 vehicle movements were recorded, roughly one every 1½ minutes.

Settle is a beautiful, small Dales town, rich in heritage interest. It is also a place where many Dales people live and work.

Few people could fail to agree with Mr R.F. Newby, Secretary of the Community Council, when he speaks of the "noise, dust, vibration, air pollution, congestion and potential danger they cause" caused by the onslaught on Settle which begin at 0500 in the morning.

Yet Settle has a new by-pass which avoids the town, but "the lorries refuse to use it because it adds a few miles to the journey and involves a steep hill. Instead they continue to come through the town centre."

Similar complaints are coming from the top end of Ribblesdale and Wensleydale with huge quarry waggons now taking a short cut via Selside, Ribblehead and Hawes to Leyburn and Teeside.

Public meetings called by Settle people to discuss the problem have become acrimonious affairs, with lorry drivers and quarry workers packing the meeting and implying to intimidated objectors that by asking for consideration, they are threatening Dales Jobs.

This is of course utter rubbish. Far from costing jobs, responsible and considerate behaviour can create jobs. What is at fault is the "piece work" system in which self-employed drivers or small contractors compete for work on a lowest cost basis, encouraged to make maximum use of their vehicle - which means taking the shortest routes and driving at fastest possible speeds. Efficient perhaps, but off-loading huge costs in terms of congestion and pollution onto the rest of Society.

Yet the public authorities stand idly by. The National Park Committee expresses concern but leaves action to the County Surveyor who can blandly claim to have "insufficient resources" to carry out the kind of survey that the Settle volunteers achieved. Lacking any credibility too is the claim that a lorry ban over Ribblesdale would be "unenforceable". Ever heard of a policeman with a notebook?

The truth of the matter is that the North Yorkshire County Surveyor with a multi-million pound road maintenance and building programme has a much too comfortable relationship with the quarry companies who are major suppliers of roadstone.

There are solutions. These include restoring the sidings to the quarries that were removed years ago. New road-rail technology can allow trailers to leave the quarry by rail and be delivered locally by road. It also includes restrictions on routing to avoid areas like Settle and Hawes, and on times of operation outside normal hours of rest. It also includes asking major question of what uses we put our highest grade limestone to - bearing in mind potential huge new demands for power station emission desulphurisation requirements.

The present situation is a scandal. Of course solutions cost money, but protection of the environment is, or should be, top priority, not the profits of multi-national corporations. Limestone is a cheap resource. If we all had to pay a fraction more for our goods and services to prevent the gross despoilation of the Dales now taking place, is there a single person, even those driving the waggons, who would say no?

Colin Speakman

Cover: Richmond Hill, Swaledale (John Edenbrow)

### Quarry Lorries In Settle

A count of quarry lorries passing through Settle centre was carried out by 11 volunteer members of Settle Area Community Council on Wednesday June 27th 1990. The main objectives of the count were to establish precisely how many quarry lorries go through the centre of the town during daylight hours, to compare their numbers hour by hour, and to discover what proportion of them comply with the requirements for their loads to be sheeted.

Only quarry lorries were counted and all other vehicles were excluded. Owing to road works caused by the renewal of a gas main, there were temporary traffic lights in Church Street and Market Square. Although this caused some delay, it was considered that the numbers of quarry lorries would not be substantially affected. The count was made continuously between 0500 and 1700 hours. The weather on that day began fine and sunny, became overcast, and in the final hour there was rain with a thunderstorm. The count took place in the vicinity of St. John's Church and the railway bridge.

The total number of quarry lorries recorded in the 12 hours from 0500 to 1700 hrs. was 232 northbound and 265 southbound. The numbers in each of the 12 hours were as follows:

Hour beginning	Northbound	Southbound	Total
0500	6	3	9
0600	21	30	51
0700	9	35	44
0800	23	14	37
0900	25	27	52
1000	30	24	54
1100	18	19	37
1200	20	17	37
1300	23	23	46
1400	31	24	55
1500	20	34	54
1600	6	15	21
Totals	232	265	497

The lowest totals occurred before 0600 and after 1600hrs; the highest totals occurred between 0900 and 1100 and between 1400 and 1600 hrs.

The highest northbound (towards the quarries) occurred between 0900 and 1100 and between 1400 and 1500 hrs. The highest southbound (away from the quarries) occurred between 0600 and 0800 and between 1500 and 1600 hrs.

Loaded lorries leaving the quarries are required to be sheeted to prevent spillage. Of the 260 seen to be loaded, 172 (66%) were not sheeted. Their separation into northbound and southbound was as follows:

	Northbound	Southbound	Total
Loaded, sheeted	3	85	88
Loaded, not sheeted	6	166	172
Not loaded, not sheeted	207	8	215
Others and not known	16	6	22

The results of the count were passed on to local authorities, environmental organisations, tourist boards and the press.

Settle Area Community Council

## Death By A Thousand Cuts?

Ken Willson, Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society, has spent a lifetime fighting for the countryside and for National Parks long before the term "Green" began to fall from everyone's lips. A leading member of CPRE, the Ramblers Association and Council for National Parks, and a former Ministerially Appointed Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, Ken has given the Review permission to publish part of his personal statement to the Edwards Committee on National Parks. It makes salutary reading.

It was, I think in 1946 or 7, that I went on holiday to Northern Ireland. On my way down to the station in Leeds, I called in at a bookshop to collect my ordered copy of the Hobhouse Report and as the train sped northwards to Stranraer, I read with satisfaction the recommendations of that report. It seemed that after so many years of working and longing, the millenium was at hand. As we know the Act that followed in 1949, followed by the designation of the Peak and the Lakes Parks with their Boards. In the case of the third and subsequent Parks, Committees replaced Boards. I am one of the many who believed this to be a retrograde step. Nevertheless, all subsequent attempts to replace Committees by Boards were defeated. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, in 1975, made a determined attempt to get itself re-constituted as a Board and I was one of the deputation of Appointed Members of the Park Committee who was received by the then Secretary of State, John Silkin. Although we argued our case, I believe both effectively and forcefully, we were politely told that we must go back and make our peace with the County Council.

Reviewing the intervening years in retrospect, I am extremely despondent as to the future of National Parks in this country, as we know them. I emphasise the latter, as we all know on the basis of the international definition, we have never had even on National Park. What we have, in fact, are hybrids where what might have been our wilderness areas have been "materially altered by human exploitation and occupation" for thousands of years, in fact compromises which, with the allegedly British genius



Ken Willson gazes across at Coolscar Quarry, Wharfedale (Photo: the late Geoffrey Berry)

for compromise, we hoped might have worked. And admittedly for a time they worked well enough but changing circumstances have increased the strains and I would go as far as to assert that unless we achieve major changes in attitudes and policies, the next forty years will see the end of our Parks. By this I mean that from purely physical characteristics, they will be indistinguishable from other areas not so designated.

My first reason for so saying, is the sheer weight of visitor pressure which in some cases is virtually destroying the surface of the land. There are particular examples of this in the Lake District and here in the Three Peaks area of the Dales. Some years ago I asked Arthur Dower, what two factors had in his opinion most mitigated against the achievement of the kind of National Parks that his brother John had visualised when writing his report. He replied unhesitatingly "firstly the proliferation of the motorcar and secondly changing in farming methods." It is agreed that it is additional mobility afforded by the motorcar that has flooded the Park with visitors. The only solution would seem to be to limit the number of cars and the number of visitors entering the Parks. Whilst I believe this to be practicable, on a rationing basis for instance, I do not believe it to be acceptable and so the problems will increase.

My second reason for despondency is the laxity of the development control system with which is associated the Appeal system and the many successful Appeals. If one climbs a hill and surveys a stretch of countryside that one has known for 30 or 40 years perhaps, it is very difficult to appreciate how very much the face of the land has changed because the eye so soon accustoms itself to change. But apart from those developments which clearly should never in any circumstances have been allowed in National Parks, there are all those which are permitted anyway by General Development Orders and the like, and such as agricultural buildings and forestry which are not subject to planning control. This collectively is not assassination but it is death by a thousand cuts. I am profoundly of the belief that the only solution is that which was first advocated I think, by Brian Redhead, namely that in National Parks there should be a presumption against all development unless it can be shown to be in accordance with National Park objectives and ideals.

My third reason for despondency is the wholly inadequate funding for National Parks since their inception. This is so very obvious and has been the subject of so much discussion that there seems to be no further need for comment.

Fourthly and lastly, and most important of all, is the attitude of Government towards the Parks. When one looks back over the years at the long, unhappy history of developments within the Parks so patently at odds with National Park ideas and purposes - Trawsfynydd, Fylingdales, the Okehampton by-pass, the numerous military installations, and compares them with the pious platitudes poured out by Government spokesmen, one is surely entitled to ask, can hypocrisy go much further? Even within the last few weeks I have been alerted by CNP to a MoD proposal to build a radar transmitter more than one mile wide in a very beautiful part of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Apart from the sheer horror of the idea is the fact that planning permission would not be needed. Does this not lend substance to the belief I have previously expressed that our Development Control in the parks is inadequate?

It is well said that one of the most depressing things about mankind is its inability to profit by its own mistakes and this characteristic applied to the Parks induces me to feelings of despair rather than despondency. I instance Fylingdales where within the last few years the opportunity to re-site the installations outside the National Park was lost; and the eyesore of the Cwm Dyli pipeline in the Snodon massif which when due for renewal was not undergrounded but replaced by a still larger surface pipe and this despite the protests of most amenity bodies and such august institutions as the RIBA and RTPI.

Finally coming down to your own doorstep, what can one say of a Government and a system that permits quarrying to continue for nearly 18 years without the benefit of planning permission at Coolscar, Kilnsey, in Wharfedale, one of the most sensitive and beautiful areas of this National Park?

Ken Willson



### Nidderdale Museum Wins Top Award

The Yorkshire Dales Society offers its warmest congratulations to Nidderdale Museum in winning a major Museum of the Year award for the Yorkshire Dales.

Eileen Burgess of the Nidderdale Museum Society writes about the award, and issues a warm invitation to all members of the Yorkshire Dales Society to call in and see the Museum for themselves.

In July this year, the Nidderdale Museum, Pateley Bridge, received the National Heritage Museum of the Year Award for "The Museum which does most with the least."

Geoffrey Townley, Chairman of the Nidderdale Museum Society, received the news from Mr David Trippier, Minister of the Environment, at the Museum of the Year Luncheon at the Painter's Hall, London. The prize is a custom-made dress model donated by Museum Casts Ltd.

The Museum, which opened at Easter, 1975, is entirely run and staffed by volunteers. Harrogate District Council supports the Museum by providing the premises, which were built originally as the Workhouse and then used as the Rural District Council Offices, free of charge. Because of this, all income from the very modest admission fees is put back into maintenance and improving the standard of display of the exhibits.

There are nine large rooms covering every aspects of Nidderdale life. Whilst there are some cases, there are also several feature rooms - a complete cobblers' shop, a Victorian sitting room, a general store, a solicitor's office, a pub, a Victorian kitchen and a schoolroom. The last three formed the new development in 1988/9 which was entered for the competition, although the Museum was judged as a whole.



The Schoolroom, Nidderdale Museum (Photo- Nidderdale Museum Society)

The standard of presentation and display is very high. The thousands of exhibits are mostly of local origin, although the brief is "relevant to life in Nidderdale", which means that if an article could have been used in the Dale it would be accepted, subject to size and, now, the space available, for the collection is rapidly outgrowing the top floor it occupies.

The Museum is open during the summer months, but from October to Easter Sunday on Sundays only from 2pm to 5pm. However, special parties can be accommodated at any time given reasonable notice by ringing the Honorary Secretary, Eileen Burgess, on 0423 711225.

Admission prices for 1990/91 are adults 70p, children and OAPs 30p.

Eileen Burgess



Mid Victorian Kitchen - Nidderdale Museum (Photo: Nidderdale Museum)

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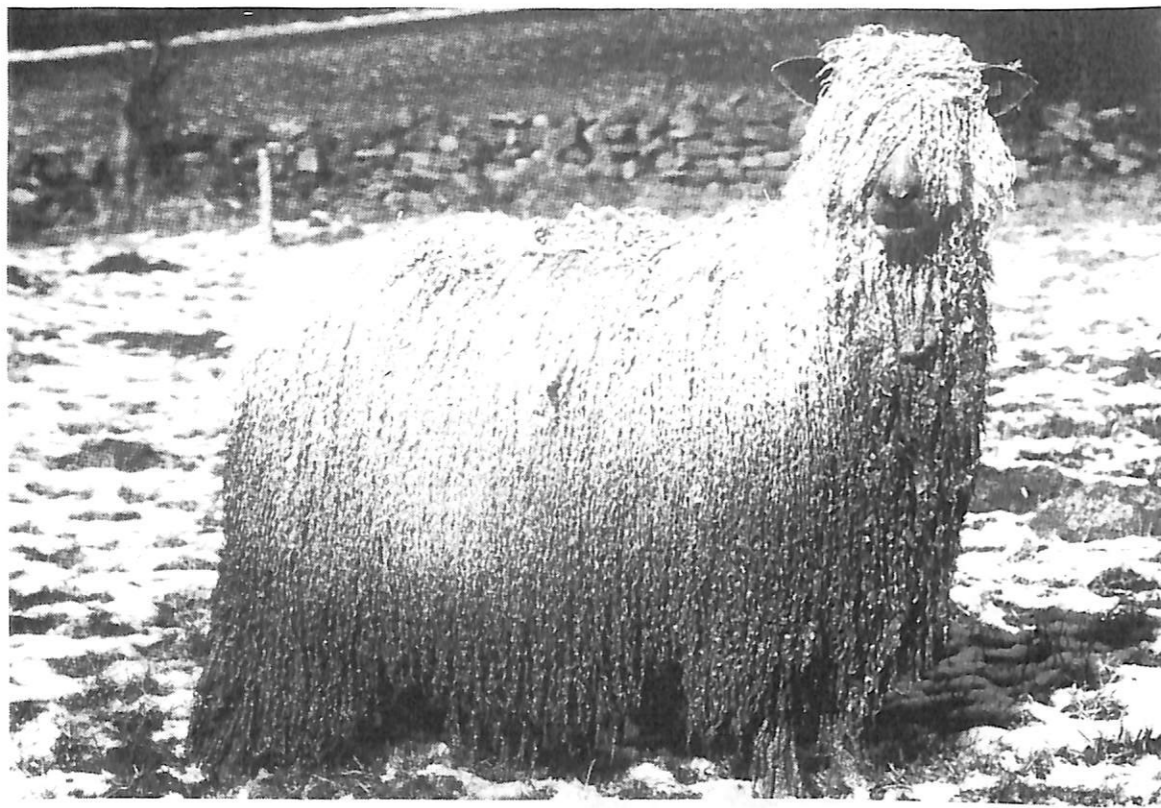
### The Yorkshire Dales Society 10th Anniversary Week 1991

Please make a note in the back of your Diary now, for what promises to be one of the most important weeks in the history of the Yorkshire Dales Society - April 24-28th 1991. We plan a full "Festival" week packed with events - lectures, walks, farm visits, discussions, seminars, culminating in a major conference which will focus on the whole future of National Parks and landscape conservation in Europe - looking forward to 1992. We shall also have an Anniversary Dinner on the same day as the Conference - 27th April, 1991. Guests of Honour will include Eva Pongratz, Secretary of the European Federation of National Parks and Theo Burrell, former National Park Officer of the Peak National Park who has recently received a major international award for his services to National Parks.

Details and booking forms will be in the next (Winter) issue of The Review. But please keep the dates clear now !

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### A Wensleydale Centenary



Wensleydale Sheep (Photo - British Wool Marketing Board)

Celebrations this summer have marked the centenary of the Flock Book of Yorkshire's most spectacular breed of sheep - the Wensleydale Longwool, a breed as fine looking as its wool is lustrous. The Flock Book is the proud register of the Association's members' flocks and Pedigrees.

Following a special centenary lunch after the AGM in May, another high point was a special display and promotion of the breed at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate in July. Other special displays of Wensleydale sheep and products made from its wool were shown at "Sheep 90" at Malvern in August and at the Masham Sheep Fair in September.

The Wensleydale Longwool is one of Britain's minor breeds, still classified as such by the British Wool Marketing Board, but with a fiercely local following amongst its breeders. Enthusiasts maintain that this large hornless pedigree sheep produces the world's finest lustre longwool, even finer than the Teeswater from which it is descended.

Approximately 1,000 breeding ewes exist in 100 registered flocks in this country today, with a major concentration on either side of the Pennines. Teeswater breeders in Wensleydale were anxious to improve the appearance of their flocks. The breed can be traced back to a remarkable ram called Blue Cap born in 1839 from a cross between a Leicester ram and a Teeswater ewe. He was an extremely wild and potent animal, weighing over 32 stones as a two-shear (two year old). He had a dark blue head and although his skin was nearly black, he was covered with fine white lustrous wool. Rated the best ram in the North of England in his day, he was responsible for producing a breed of sheep which combined the splendid qualities of hardiness, stamina and lean meat of the Teeswater with the symmetry and early maturity of the improved Leicester sheep and, of course, the deep blue tinge of head, ears and skin.

The crossing merits of the sheep were also discovered. During the 19th century, the pattern of farming was affected by the demand for more food from growing populations in city and town with increasing industrialisation. The use of the Wensleydale ram on the Black-faced hill ewe produced a cross which came to be known as the "Masham", producing particularly good fat lambs for sale.

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society recognised this new breed by offering prizes for it at the Great Yorkshire Show in 1876, but it was at the suggestion of the distinguished breeder (later to become the Hon. Secretary of the "Pure Select" Wensleydale Society), Mr T. Willis of Carperby, that the name "Wensleydale" should be given to these splendid animals. The first occasion on which the Royal Agricultural Show created a separate classification was at York in 1883.

By 1890, the Wensleydale was sufficiently well-established to merit a breeders' society, the Wensleydale Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association, to register purebred flocks in a Flock Book. But a difference of views arose amongst these enthusiasts over the registration of rams and a breakaway group was formed - the Pure Select Wensleydale Sheep Breeders' Association and Flock Book Society (later changed to the Blue-faced Wensleydale Sheep Breeders' Association). Happily the two associations merged in 1919 and the new society took the name the Wensleydale Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association.

The Wensleydale breeders devotion to quality and tradition won through time and again as the breed waxed and waned over the century until its healthy state this centenary year. Originally, the farmer's main concern was to produce fat lambs for meat, but increasingly the special qualities of the Wensleydale's fine long lustrous fleece have been recognised in the wool textile trade for blending in mohair and worsted cloths - and now by the growing number of handspinners.

David Morgan Rees

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### Walter Morrison Of Malham Tarn

Walter Morrison, 1836-1920, was an archtypical Victorian - entrepreneur, millionaire, eccentric, philanthropist, Dales landowner whose name will forever be associated with his former home, Malham Tarn House, now Malham Tarn Field Centre.



In yet another volume in the excellent Catlebergh series, W.R.Mitchell has produced a delightful illustrated short biography of this large-than-life figure.

Using a mixture of oral history, anecdote, old photographs and manuscript, Mr Mitchell recreates a vivid picture of a man who would return to Malham from London, walking from Bell Busk or Settle Stations, often when he came from Settle picking up a leg of mutton which was carried triumphantly home across the fieldpaths.

Among Morrison's guests at Tarn House were Judge Hughes, author of Tom Brown's Schooldays and Charles Kingsley who used the setting of Malham Tarn and Littondale for his polemical novel The Water Babies. Morrison became a Member of Parliament and was the Chairman of the Craven Bank, and provided the copper-domed chapel at Giggleswick School, such a notable Dales landmark. Walter Morrison: A Millionaire at Malham Tarn by W.R.Mitchell (Casletbergh Publications) is available price £3.30 from local shops or post free from Casletbergh Publications 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0AY.



### Wensleydale Goes Green

Everyone's green now. But, as Mrs. Audrey Sadler puts it: "We were that little bit ahead." Mrs. Sadler is the postmistress in Thoraby, Bishopdale. On her shelves, as in the village shop at nearby West Burton, next to the tins of petfood and jars of raspberry jam. visitors are suprised to see Ecover biodegradable household cleaners and a growing range of wholefoods. weighed and packaged in the shop.

The greening of village shops in Wensleydale is part of a surge of environmental concern that began in Bishopdale last year. "Initially, we wanted to start some sort of community group," says Ms. Maggie Bede, one of the founders of the Bishopdale Environmental Supporters formed in January 1989 and now the Wensleydale Environmental Supporters, "but the environmental aspect kept taking over. Now we realise that once you start putting the planet and future generations first, the feeling of community looks after itself."

There has been a marvellous response to local schemes for recycling paper, bottles, and tin cans and enthusiastic attendance at a programme of local events. There has been a public environmental meeting with William Hague MP and an "any questions" evening with a Green Party official.

With a concentration of local regeneration, and a commitment to "doing" rather than "having", a programme of live theatre performances and drama workshops began last summer, followed by a traditional Ceilidh of shared music and workshops for the visual arts. There has been the "Great Wensleydale Paper Chase" and plans next year include running Green events for the Swaledale Festival and a meeting with Jonathon Porritt. The group admits that it has still a long way to go, but quotes Schumacher as saying that to do nothing is to be part of the disease whilst to do something, however small, is part of the cure. Perhaps others, hearing about Wensleydale, will be inspired to do something in their own communities. For further information contact Maggie Bede, Cote Bottom, Thoraby, Leyburn North Yorkshire Telephone Wensleydale 0969 663630.



### Getting Those Members Enrolled

Though the Yorkshire Dales Society has in 1990 reached a new record membership of just over 2,200 members, we must still recruit more members to keep our finances healthy and to allow our work to continue. Please pass on the enclosed membership form to a friend interested in joining the Society. To encourage your efforts on behalf of the Society, we are offering a free Yorkshire Dales Society key reing to anyone who recruits a new member during the rest of 1990. Simply make sure your name and address is written on the back of your friend's application form and we'll ensure the key ring is sent promptly to you.

Thanks for your help !

### Geoffrey Smith Lecture - December 8th

Because of the enormous popularity of television gardener Geoffrey Smith, and limited accommodation at Bolton Abbey Village Hall (fire regulations do not permit more than 150 people) we are advising members to book tickets for this event in advance. No bookings are accepted without the entrance fee of £1 per person (£1.50 for non members) payable to the Yorkshire Dales Society, and forwarded to the Society's office at 152 Main Street, Addingham, Ilkley, LS29 0LY with a stamped, addressed envelope (remember the new rates - 1st 22p, 2nd 17p).

If you haven't booked, it may still be possible to get in on the day, on the basis of any unsold tickets which are available; but we are trying to ensure YDS members get priority by booking in advance. Tickets will be limited to four per household - so first come first served.

Other events are not likely to suffer the same problem, and no booking is needed. Indeed, we welcome non-members along, and often a YDS lecture or walk is the first experience people have of the Society leading to them joining. So please feel free to bring a friend or relative along to any YDS event.

### Daleswatch Groups

The Society is anxious to establish a number of local groups of members who are able and willing to help form active "Daleswatch" nuclei. Meetings of members are planned during the autumn. Locations have not been decided, but early priorities are Dent/Sedbergh, Ingleton, Ribblesdale/Malhamdale, Wharfedale, Wensleydale/Swaledale, Washburndale/Nidderdale.

Can you help us to get such a local Daleswatch group established ?

Please let us know - either by letter or phone call to 0943 607868.

We also need helpers with events - with guided walks, refreshments, helping on the door. This could pose real problems for our regular team of volunteers during the Anniversary Celebrations in April, so if you can help let us know.

### Donations

As a charity, the Society depends on voluntary help and gifts of various kinds to continue. Rising costs, for example the 10% increase in postal costs, and the general level of inflation, make it difficult for us to make ends meet. Many members are particularly generous when it comes to membership renewal, and often send us £10 or more with an instruction to "keep the change" as a donation. Such kindness is always welcome and helps take the pressure of limited resources.

Another way of helping is to Covenant your subscription and, more long term, to consider the Society when considering future bequests. Many members have helped the Society in just such a way, and there is no finer way of reflecting a love of the Dales.

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Photo (Opposite): Old Wisdoms rediscovered Mrs Audrey Sadler of Thoraby Post Office refills and Ecover washing-up liquid bottle for custmoer Mrs. Barbara Holt. By saving their empty containers for refilling, local people are limiting the amount of plastic in use, thereby saving valuable resources and cutting down on pollution. (Photo: Syd Carter).

## Autumn Events

For many people, the Yorkshire Dales are at their best in autumn, with mild, if shorter days, and a riot of colour during late October and early November leading to suprising new views as tree cover vanishes and you can look into the gills and across the valleys bottoms, normally hidden by leaves.

Saturday October 20th

Ellingstring. An 8-9 mile ramble in the eastern Dales in the company of Liz Sickling. Meet at Jervaulx Abbey Car Park on the A6108 at 10.30am. Bring a packed lunch.

Saturday November 10th

Voices from the Past The Third of the YDS lectures by Stanley Ellis, formerly of Leeds University's Department of English, on the dialects of the Yorkshire Dales and how they have changed. Pateley Bridge Memorial Hall at 2.30pm Admission (members) £1.

Morning pre-lecture walk around Pateley will leave from the bridge at 1030am. (Harrogate & District bus 24 from Harrogate Bus Station).

Saturday November 24th

Upper Nidderdale A splendid eight mile walk along the upper stretches of the Nidderdale Way, via How Stean, Thrope House, Limley, Bracken Ridge, Scar House and Middlesmoor. Meet Eric Jackson at Studfold Farm car park (between Lofthouse and How Stean) at 11am; bring a packed lunch.

Saturday December 8th

Random thoughts on Dales and Gardens Broadcaster, writer, gardener and dalesman Geoffrey Smith talks to members at Bolton Abbey Village Hall at 2.30pm (Walk 1030). Admission (members) £1. Advance booking advised - see page 11. (Bus 76 from Skipton Bus Station).

Saturday December 15th

Trollers' Ghyll Not perhaps to meet the legendary Barguest, but a winter walk (about 8 miles) around this curious dry valley with Chris Hartley. Meet at Burnsall Car Park at 10.30; packed lunch. Bus 76 from Skipton.

Saturday January 12th

Wildlife in the Dales An illustrated lecture by Peter Wright, Head Warden of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and a leading dales naturalist. Grassington Town Hall 2.30pm. Walk from Dales Park Centre, Grassington at 10.30am. (Bus 71/2 from Skipton).

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Newby Head & Ingleborough  
(E. Charles Simpson)