

# Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

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**"Through Stitch and  
Thread" YDS Competition  
Dales Barns - Should They  
Be Saved?  
Protecting The Eastern Dales  
Windpower And The Yorkshire Dales**

50p

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## Keeping Farming Families in the Hills

During the summer, we've been having a series of meetings with our members who live within the Dales. The purpose of the meetings was to help build up links with our own members within Dales communities, a Daleswatch network which will help to keep the Society in touch not only with our own members but alert us to some of the social and environmental issues affecting Dales communities.

Though the Society can do little to solve some of the many complex problems now affecting Dales, some of which are highlighted elsewhere in this issue of The Review, certain key themes came up at every meeting - the pressure on the environment from traffic, especially quarry traffic, transport, concern over increased tourism and so-called leisure developments, the problems of housing for young people, and a subtle problem, the growing gap between the affluent haves, usually people recently moved into the Dales, and the have nots, too often people who have lived in the area all their lives. Concern was expressed too that many of the have-nots in the future, increasingly may be members of the Farming community who as prices fall and subsidies in the European Community are cut, face an increasingly difficult financial situation.

Such people don't want or need State handouts, but a chance to make a worthwhile living at the business they are good at - farming. Without a healthy hillfarming economy, the landscape will deteriorate and no amount of Government money or charitable Appeals, however worthwhile, will stop that decline. But it will not only be a loss of landscape but a loss of a culture and a way of life. As one Dales farmer expressed it so eloquently at one of our meetings: "Will our children and their children want to go on looking after this countryside in the way that we do today?"

Without the skill, care and understanding of the Dales farmer, the Dales countryside has no future. The greatest challenge of next century in the Dales is to find ways of keeping a healthy, viable farming industry in the Dales. Of course incentives can be given to retain traditional landscape features and ancient meadows, though not as Mr Daggett points out in this Review at the price of maintaining fossilised and perhaps inhumane practices.

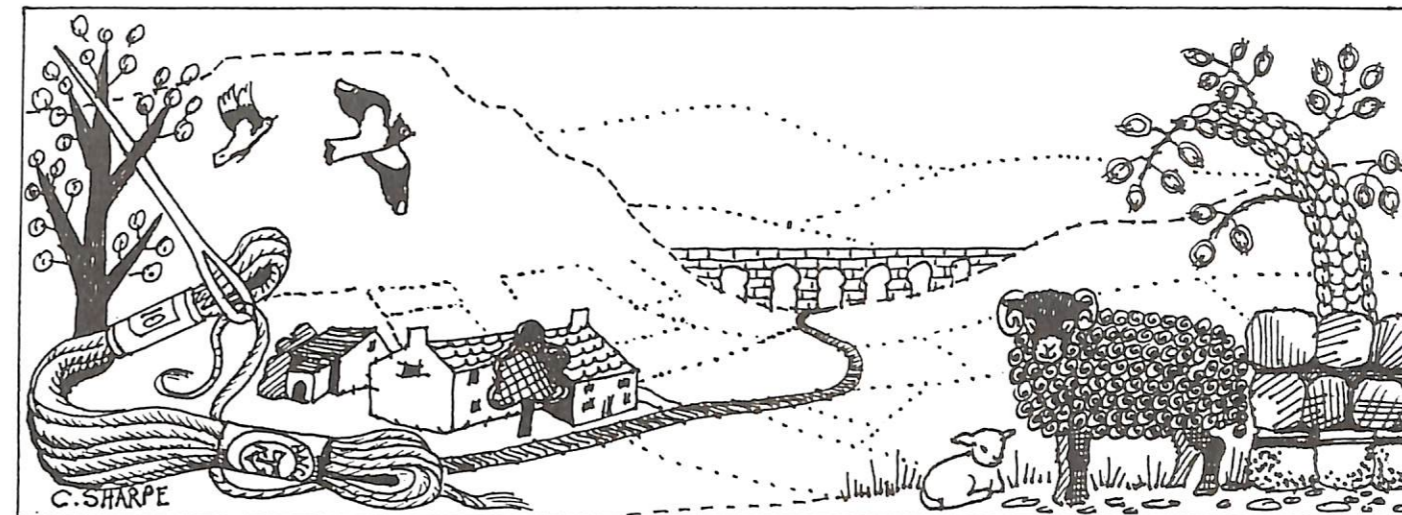
Farmers and conservationists, indeed all who care for the Dales and their communities, are on the same side. We have got to work together to find ways - as they do on mainland Europe - to make the EEC work for and not against the interests of small farmers, to develop the right kind of environmentally sensitive, small scale tourism-related initiatives which can help farming families to share in the prosperity that tourists bring without destroying the environment. Somehow the official bodies - the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Park, the Tourist Boards, the Countryside Commission, the Rural Development Commission, the County and District Councils - need to work together more effectively to make these things happen.

It would be arrogant of the Yorkshire Dales Society, as a small, independent body, to believe we had solutions. But is it possible that we could, in some small way, become a catalyst to help things to happen? The Dales must become a place where children now growing up on farms have a real and worthwhile future without having to leave the valley where they were born.

Colin Speakman

Cover: Herbert & Ennis Bentham on the way to mark the tup (Eliza & John Forder)

## "Through Stitch and Thread" - The YDS Embroidery Competition



Many people have responded to the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales in various ways by writing, painting or photographing this unique landscape and environment. But it is also possible to try to perpetuate some of these images in a slightly different way through the world of textiles, for example by embroidery, tapestry or fabric collage.

As part of the Yorkshire Dales Society's Tenth Anniversary Year, the Society is promoting a competition entitled "Through Stitch and Thread" which celebrates the Dales in this very special way.

The competition is divided into four categories to offer as much scope as possible to potential entrants. These range from interpretation of the Dales Natural Features and Landscapes such as Gordale Scar or Brimham Rocks in group One, while group Two concerns itself with specific Tasks and Activities related to the Dales such as sheep-dipping or dry-stone walling, and group Three with the dramatic shapes of such famous Dales Architecture and Man-Made Features as Fountains Abbey and the Settle-Carlisle Railway. Group Four consists of leisure time activities in the Dales which might include such sports as rambling or hang-gliding.

The enclosed competition leaflet gives full details of entry, but a particular feature of the competition is that it allows scope for a longer term project by its late closing date of April 1992. Prize winning entries will also be photographed in colour to be published in the Dalesman magazine. It is also hoped to mount exhibitions in the Dales and nearby towns with some of the entries.

The Yorkshire Dales Society lecture on Saturday November 9th at Otley Civic Centre at 2pm by Val Orr, one of the competition judges, is of particular relevance, entitled as it is "Textile Images of the Dales - a Personal Interpretation". The lecture should attract not only possible

competitors, but is also of considerable general interest with the chance to see the amazing variety of possibilities that modern techniques offer the potential worker in fabrics and threads. The lecture will also help to launch the "Through Stitch and Thread" competition with the opportunity to examine the various techniques and the chance for some individual discussion afterwards. Our three competition judges, Val Orr, Janet Rawlins and Betty Garrard are all experts who have executed many professional commissions.

The Yorkshire Dales Society would also like to express its gratitude to Barclays Bank, Ilkley, The International Wool Secretariat and the publisher's Thames and Hudson who have all assisted with sponsorship of the competition.

If you don't intend to enter the "Through Stitch and Thread" competition yourself, please pass on the competition entry form either to a friend or acquaintance who may be interested. We will be happy to supply extra entry forms if necessary. What better way to publicise the work and aims of the Yorkshire Dales Society than a competition which gives a quite different insight into some of the many facets of the Yorkshire Dales?

Fleur Speakman

## Daleswatch Roundup

### Settle-Carlisle Trust

It is good to record some really positive recent news. Now that the Yorkshire Dales National Park has designated the whole of the Settle-Carlisle corridor within the National Park a Conservation Area (District Councils outside the Park are following suit), the line and its surroundings now seems, as much part of the Dales landscape as the fieldwalls and the barns, seems to have an assured future. The Settle-Carlisle Railway Trust is currently launching a public appeal with the support of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line - the first project is a badly needed northbound platform at Ribblesdale costing £85,000. Donations to the Trust - small or large - should be sent to FoSCL Appeal for the S&C Trust, FoSCL, 19 Rockville Drive, Embsay, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1NX, cheques payable to FoSCL Trust Appeal.

### Walls at Risk

Tough economic conditions are forcing many Pennine farmers to sell stones from walls and barns as building stone, leading to pleas from Cllr. Robert Heseltine, Chairman of the National Park Committee to have the whole of the National Park included in the Ministry of Agriculture's Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme to give financial incentive for their protection. The National Park already has a Walls and Barns Officer, Graham Darlington looking after the Park's own Protection Scheme in Wensleydale and Swaledale.

### Aysgarth Upper Falls Pay Barrier

YDS member May Staniforth writes: "Whilst visiting the Dales last week we went as usual to see Aysgarth Falls, only to find our path barred by gates, a hut for the attendant and an honesty box with a notice saying 50p entrance, children 25p. That was after coming down from the car park and almost reaching the Falls; as people have walked this way for many, many years is it not a "right of way" ? If not then a notice should be displayed in the car park and at the turnstile so saving elderly people and those with young children a useless struggle. They may not be able to find the extra cash. I saw many people turn round and struggle back up the hill. I did and I'm disabled."

Other members have noted the barriers and barbed wire at this famous Dales beauty spot but we understand that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee may be considering appropriate legal action to restore traditional free public access.

### That Dentdale Golf Course

Despite a letter from a member of the National Park Staff in a national magazine implying that only Mike Harding objected to the Dentdale Golf course proposal at Elysian Fields, Dentdale, - (the Yorkshire Dales Society formally objected and the Ramblers' Association actually asked the DoE to "Call in the proposal") and assurances that there will be "no new building" only conversion of an existing barn (50 place car parks don't seem to count); the row about the first new golf course in the National Park won't go away. We happen to know that the DoE received at very least 23 other written protests from all over the UK - yet no public enquiry was called. One wonders why in a democracy that this kind of thing can be allowed to happen.

"Every hillside that goes under concrete or is transformed into leisure park, holiday resort or golf course is lost to the country, usually forever...."

"the worst threat at present comes from such crypto-landscapes as golf courses, theme parks and sports developments. Since these uses retain grass and trees, their promoters argue that they do not destroy countryside. Like farmers before them, they are merely adapting the rural landscape to new uses. But while farms did indeed cultivate land, they retained a link to open countryside capable of being restored should fields lie fallow, as an increasing number are doing today.

"A golf course or a leisure centre is suburban. Once a clubhouse, car parks, new roads and chalets have been built, once the landscape has been bulldozed and replanned and replanted, it is regimented urban park."

Who wrote that ? Mike Harding ? The YDS ? These words are from the first leader in The Times of August 27th responding to the increased threat of

suburbanisation of the English countryside. Yet even such forceful words - which ought to be the bedtime reading of all who claim to care for the Dales countryside - don't quite get the measure of what must be one of the National Park Committee's worst planning blunders. For as The Times fondly imagines - "Designation of sites of natural beauty, scientific interest, national parks or National Trust estates may protect the most outstanding countryside." May indeed !

Golf is a fine sport, and an amenity to any small town. But golf courses don't belong in the nation's highest category of protected landscape - a National Park. To claim that local people living in a National Park would suffer any real hardship by having to motor those few miles outside the Park boundary to the nearest available golf course is utter nonsense. More to the point,

golf courses being no longer agricultural land can be developed more easily as the promoters of the Dentdale scheme, if not the National Park Committee, know only too well.

### Daleswatch groups flourish

At time of writing, three lively informal Daleswatch groups are in being - Upper Wharfedale, Dentdale & Garsdale, and North Eastern Dales (Wensleydale/Wharfedale/Coverdale). Excellent initial meetings have revealed a wide variety of concerns from among our local members - see our leading article.

It is hope that by keeping in close touch, members can not only join forces with other local bodies to help make things happen in the Dales, but can bring key issues to the attention of the Society to ensure effective action.

Ribblesdale members will meet on 22nd October, Nidderdale on the 19th, and Upper Wharfedale plan to meet again on the 4th November. If you would like to attend any of these meetings or can help an existing (or potential future) group, let the YDS office know and we will put you in touch with the local group convenor.

Colin Speakman

## Lancaster-Skipton - A Dales Railway Line Under Threat

Mike Swan was involved in the fight to save the Settle-Carlisle line. He attended the inaugural meeting of the Lancaster-Skipton Rail Users Group (LASRUG) and became its first Secretary, a post since relinquished. He writes of the "closure by stealth" of this once busy Dales transport link:

An important need in the Yorkshire Dale is for good transport, especially good public transport. The Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group (LASRUG) has the twin aims of attempting to retain, develop and improve the Lancaster-Skipton rail line, and also to encourage greater use of public transport and to press for an integrated road and rail system in the North Lancashire and Craven areas.

The Railway Development Society has become concerned about recent reductions in rail services to many rural areas of England and Wales brought about by Government cuts in the Public Service Obligation grant (PSO) given each year to British Rail to support unremunerative rural services. As a result, similar groups to LASRUG have been formed elsewhere. LASRUG has watched the decline of services on the line in the last year from seven to four trains per day in each direction - a 43% service reduction.

In fact there is so little space now needed for the current timetable, that West Yorkshire PTE - Metro - can tuck it into the back of their Airedale Line booklet.

But the Lancaster-Skipton label is partially erroneous as the line forms the direct rail link between Leeds-Bradford and Morecambe and also to the Lake District and to Furness via Lancaster or Carnforth. Cuts in service means you can no longer have part of an evening in Morecambe and return to Leeds or Bradford. Just as important are the Dales communities served by the line, especially around Giggleswick, Clapham, Bentham and Wennington. Once pupils from Giggleswick school regularly used the service. Now even if they can find a train the busy A65 Settle by-pass forms a barrier. Clapham Station is the railhead for a wide area and provides access to Ingleborough Cave and Ingleborough as well as to the Forest of Bowland. Bentham adjoins the market town it serves. Despite current difficulties, at least one person commutes every day from Bentham to Leeds. There's resolve ! As at Bentham you do not have to be a rambler to go to or from Wennington station. Trains also call at Carnforth, close to Steamtown Railway Museum and from where there are rail links to Grange over Sands, Ulverston and Barrow and bus links to Kendal and Windermere.

In the the current Members Newsletter, published by LASRUG, there is the comment concerning the cuts in service: "If this is Closure by Stealth, as some are saying, how do British Rail behave when they are being open about it ?! "

Any readers of The Review who would like to try to ensure that the Lancaster-Skipton line isn't closed, can help by using the line whenever possible for business or pleasure - current services give a good day trip from Skipton and West Yorkshire to Clapham, Lancaster, Morecambe or Arnsdale and Grange-over-Sands, whilst Lancaster and Dales people can have a good day's car-free shopping or visiting in Leeds, Bradford, Keighley (for Worth Valley Steam Railway) or Skipton. Or how about joining LASRUG - membership is only £2 per individual, £5 family or £10 Corporate. Membership Secretary is Mrs M. McSherry, High Hazel Hall, Clapham, via Lancaster. Jack Warbrick is Chairman and Newsletter Editor.

Mike Swan

## Dales Barns - Should They Be Saved?

**Dr. J.W.Daggett of Hartlington, Burnsall, takes issue with people who want to preserve Dales barns for their own sake or for outmoded methods of farming:**

During recent weeks all manner of folk have been expressing concern about the need to preserve and renovate our barns in the Dales. Numbered amongst these are Denis Healey, Robert Heseltine and W.R.Mitchell.

The perceived wisdom seems to be that such renovation is A Good Thing. To this end it is proposed to hurl a lot of money at the problem. But to what end ?

It is worthwhile recalling the purpose of field barns. They were there to overwinter young cattle for six months. Remember there is no ventilation or light in these places. No bedding; just river cobbles to lie on. Tethered on a short chain. Hay from the mew-stead was fed once or twice daily. If there had been a wet haytime the previous summer, the dust from mouldy hay at fothering time was intolerable, and at times lethal. Most of these barns were built adjacent to a spring so that the cattle were let out a few minutes each day to drink.

At the end of six months, and with luck, most of the heifers had just survived. Many would be covered with ring worm and mange. Some would be deformed by rickets. Others would have contracted wooden tongue and died - choked to death. Most would be partially blind. Happily the ringworm is self healing on exposure to ultra-violet light and the blindness usually went after a week or two.

The farmer and the farm lad were in considerable danger too. All too often the mouldy hay led to "farmer's lung" - a chronic lung infection ultimately fatal. Only a few months ago The Craven Herland reported the death of a Dales farmer from this disease. Most farmers and their families had ringworm by the end of winter.

It was the custom to limewash all the shippens in those out-barns in an effort to kill off the ringworm spores. The shippens doorways were limewashed too, the cattle having left many spores on the stone when they went in and out to drink. That is why a typical Dales barn has its shippens doorways outlined in white, but not the barn doorways or the forking hole.

No farmer in his right mind is going to go back to this traditional method of rearing young cattle. It was cruel and dangerous to man and beast alike.

Nowadays young cattle are reared in large sheds. Not tethered, plenty of straw bedding, water on demand and freedom to gallop around. Conservationists are constantly rabbiting on about cruel modern factory farming methods and urging a return to traditional ways. As usual they have got things wrong way round and are talking absolute rubbish.

So what is to happen to the hundreds of unused barns up and down the Dales ? One thing is certain. They must not be restored and returned to cattle rearing.

Some possible options are as follows:

1. A few in each Dale should be restored to their original state as museum pieces for future generations to ponder over.
2. Some, in the valley bottoms, could be stripped internally and floor space partitioned to provide shelter for ewes with newborn lambs during their first 12 or 14 hours of life. A piped water supply and electricity would be essential. A hot box with fan heater can save many lambs suffering from hypothermia. Some sort of roof light is essential. I can foresee planning problems here.
3. Barns in the villages can be converted into houses. But please, not into pretend homes. One hears horrific tales of folk not being allowed a fireplace because the barn didn't have a chimney stack. No window allowed in the bathroom. No front door etc., etc.
4. Some barns should be converted into storage space. For instance all the complex haytime machinery could be stored away for the eleven months it is unused. But it would require alterations to doorways etc. and maybe a hardcore road to gain access. This sort of use would make it less necessary to extend even further the often unsightly modern buildings now characteristic of many existing farmsteads. More planning problems here I guess.
5. The more inaccessible barns must be allowed to go. There is no point in spending good money on something which will never be used again, however, "pretty" it may look to the casual visitor.

As I write this, Denis Healey is setting off from an adjacent field by helicopter to Yockenthwaite to launch an appeal for three quarters of a million pounds "to maintain the area as he used to know it." The money is to be spent on repairing

paths, rebuilding drystone walls, renovating field barns and protecting wildlife habitats.

It all sounds very laudable, but I wonder if we have got our priorities right. During my lifetime the number of farms in this parish has fallen from twelve to five. I suspect that within the next year or two, many more farms will go under, particularly at the top end of the Dale. This will be a pity. It is worthwhile remembering that it is entirely due to successive generations of farmers and their methods of stock rearing that the Dales have their present, well-loved, appearance. They are, and have been all along, the only conservationists who really matter. Might it be a good thing if the planners stopped rushing about and listened a bit to what true Dalesfolk think ?

We might have less barn conversions with cedar wood picture windows disfiguring our villages. There is a curious phenomenon, largely grown up over the last ten years, whereby any vaguely agricultural building is condemned to brown wood or paint. This concept has nothing whatever to do with the Yorkshire Dales. If this policy is not changed quickly, then the entire character of our villages will be lost in another ten years. They will become indistinguishable from any affluent city suburb. The official explanation is that brown makes them homogenous ! What tosh !

J.W.Daggett

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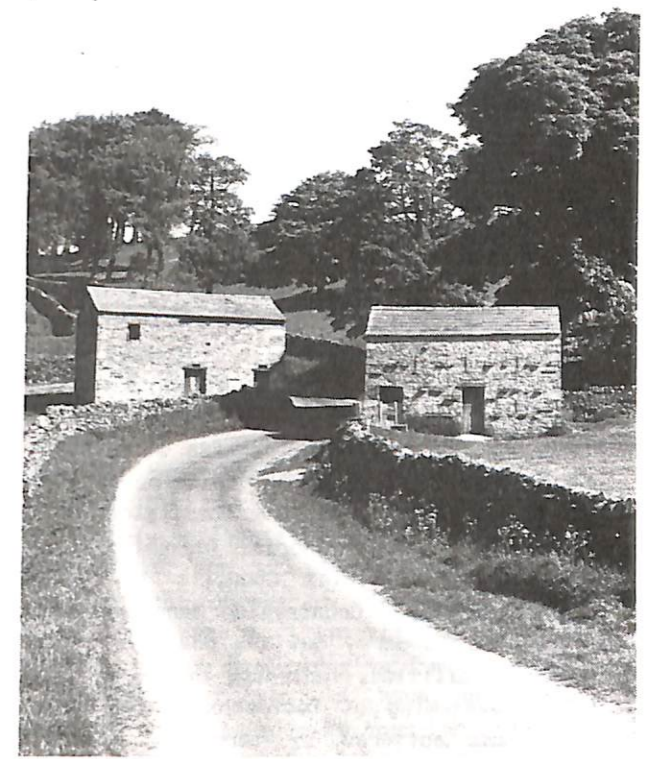
## Protecting The Eastern Dales

The long awaited announcement about the proposed designation of the Nidderdale Moors Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is something that most members of the Yorkshire Dales Society will warmly welcome.

The omission from the Yorkshire Dales National Park of areas such as Upper Nidderdale and Colsterdale from the National Park has long been a scandal. In landscape terms, such areas are superlative and it would be a rash person who could claim that they are any less fine than Ribblesdale (with or without its gigantic quarries), or, say Garsdale, or for any reason any less worthy of national protection.

Washburndale, a valley traditionally popular with ramblers and naturalists from Leeds and Harrogate, is another exceptionally lovely piece of countryside.

The real reason such areas were kept out of the National Park was nothing to do with lack of landscape quality but to do with the fact that the



Stone barns near Askrigg, Wensleydale (photo Christine Whitehead)

former Leeds and Bradford Corporation Water Authorities didn't want people on their land, allegedly polluting the cities' drinking water.

The National Park and Access to the Countryside Act was, after all, about encouraging people to come to the countryside.

Fortunately, such attitudes have long since changed, a factor linked to improved technology of water treatment that now longer requires catchment areas to be virtually sterile. Yorkshire Water have a good and positive record in visitor provision as anyone who knows Upper Nidderdale or Washburndale will confirm.

So why not simply make the Eastern Dales a part of a greater Yorkshire Dales National Park ? In many ways consistent standards of countryside and visitor management over the whole area would be logical. Sadly, petty local politics, British style, make such logic unlikely. Whenever an additional tier of controls are suggested in these islands, threatened bureaucracies defending their

"territory" make such a fuss that Government ministers are likely to pack their bags and flee. An ANOB is likely to be more acceptable because it leaves established bureaucracies firmly in the driving seat and less feathers ruffled.

Some people might also argue that given the National Park's new "commercial" image with well marketed publications and souvenirs and sophisticated visitor centres, all inevitably encouraging more visitors, mostly by car, there may be good sense in leaving the Eastern Dales quiet and underpromoted. If ANOB status helps stiffen the resolve of the planning authorities to resist unsightly residential and leisure development, including caravan sites that already blight parts of Upper Nidderdale, and new roads, and if the Countryside Commission are able to persuade the North Yorkshire County and Harrogate District Councils to accept their suggestion of a Countryside Management Project in the ANOB to carry out key countryside management responsibilities, including the decent maintenance and waymarking of footpaths (which helps reduce problems suffered by farmers), the compromise might prove an effective one.

A lengthy consultation process is now taking place, and the Yorkshire Dales Society along with other bodies will be making its views known. It is important that all organisations and individuals with an interest in the eastern Dales

The Proposed Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

(Crown Copyright reserved)

(Colsterdale, Nidderdale, Washburndale) should make representations to the Countryside Commission as soon as possible.

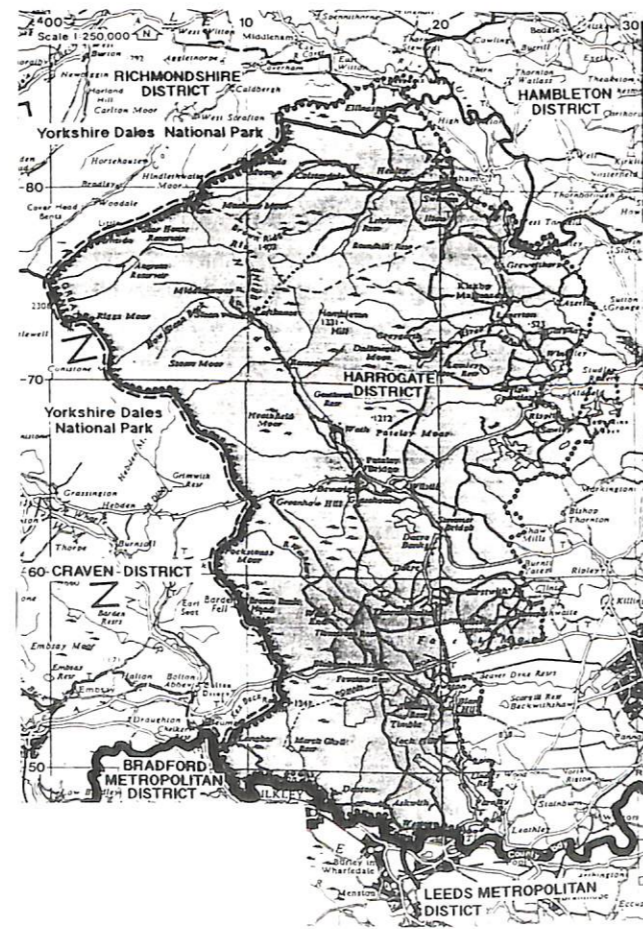
Astonishing as it may seem, there is an anti-conservation lobby even in Nidderdale, developers and others who don't like the idea of additional controls and protection of the countryside. The people of Harrogate in particular have much to gain from the existence of a protected area of countryside on their back doorstep.

It is particularly important that our members living in Nidderdale, Colsterdale, Washburndale and even in Harrogate make their views known both to the Countryside Commission and to Harrogate District Council.

After all, ANOB status is already a compromise. If the ANOB is not designated, perhaps a future conservation-minded Government might be tempted to do the logical thing and extend the National Park eastwards, a point which those reluctant to see even an ANOB in being might reflect on.

Full details of the proposed ANOB, with relevant maps, can be obtained from the Commission's Regional Office, 8a Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 2AD

Colin Speakman



## Windpower And The Yorkshire Dales

Under last year's electricity privatisation the regional suppliers became obliged to purchase a fixed amount of energy generated by non-fossil fuel, within which a certain proportion was reserved for renewable energy. The most hopeful renewable energy is wind, for the wind potential of the UK is thought to be the best in Europe, capable of supplying some 20% of our total requirements. But while out of 75 energy projects approved in 1990, nine were wind developments, little more than 20 commercial windmills exist here at present.



The first commercial wind farm is currently being installed at Delabole in Cornwall. It will consist of ten 400 kW turbines, capable of fulfilling the annual needs of 3000 homes, in an area of Great Landscape Value which is visible from National Trust Land on Bodmin Moor. It did not, of course, get approval without much dispute, time and trouble on the part of the owners and planners. The main worries and objections were about noise, electro-magnetic interference with radio and TV reception, and the effect on nearby property values. The owners have already spent over £30,000 on legal and planning fees, and their total cost will be around £3.5 million, for an estimated annual return of £1 million from sales. Most of this will be absorbed by interest and upkeep, but the owners are making the investment, as much as anything, for ecological reasons. On their side, the planners were influenced to approve the proposal by a visit to Danish wind farms and the feeling that, with many applications in the pipeline, windpower must be given a chance sooner or later.

Not so far back in history, many landscapes were dotted with windmills, which also served as dwellings and were part of a densely inhabited countryside. Present-day people might like old-fashioned windmills on biscuit tins and chocolate boxes but they are more likely to be repelled by their technically updated, modern descendants. We tend to like landscapes that are apparently empty of people and are visually pure. There are also the technical hazards which, in the absence to date of expected guidelines from the DoE, two Dyfed planners, D.A. Taylor and M. Rand, have tried to quantify and prescribe for. Thus for noise nuisance they suggest adopting the Danish standard of 45 dB at the nearest dwelling. This compares favourably with our rating for buildings near roads of 68 dB\*. They also say that electro-magnetic interference should not arise as it depends on tower shape and blade materials and can be deflected by other means.

For most people not in close proximity to windmills, their most serious objection is likely to be their impact on landscapes. Here, rather than an instant, blanket rejection, Taylor and Rand suggest the things that need to be taken into

account when trying to reach a more considered judgement. These are: the size (height and diameter) of the windmills; their number and where and how they are grouped; the number, shape and material of the blades and whether these are vertically or horizontally mounted; the tower design, whether column or lattice, guyed or freestanding; the degree of uniformity, and the colouring. Many people, I suspect, have a mind's eye picture of some American windfarms as dazzling white towers laid out in huge grids over featureless areas. There is no need for wind farms to be like this and the Cornish one, for example, sites its towers along traditional Cornish mounded hedgerows which follow the contours.

At the end of the day however, the intrusion of the modern wind farm into rural areas is likely to be hard for most people to stomach, even though some of our prized landscapes are the product of earlier industrial and commercial processes. As much as anything, our personal values and priorities influence our way at looking at windmills, as a recent public attitude survey shows. Thus for some people the turning blades are an acceptable and even pleasing price to pay for lessening acid rain, limestone extraction, radioactivity, oil spills on the oceans and heavy transport thundering through our streets. Where there is a community benefit, as in California, in collective ownership, dividends and local power supply, acceptance is also high.

We in this country cannot begin to compare with California's 16,000 windmills are Denmark's 2,000 and there is no way of pretending that windpower will not become a more contentious issue, particularly in National Parks and other areas of

high landscape value. My own feeling, for what it is worth, is that we shall come more or less willingly to accept that carefully sited wind farms are a legitimate and even sympathetic use of our countryside.

Alison Ravetz

\*D.A Taylor and M.Rand: Planning for Wind Energy in Dyfed, 1990. This article is based upon the same authors' "How to plan the nuisance out of wind energy" in Town & Country Planning, May 1991.

### Autumn Reading



The Forders have done it again! Life in the Hills (Frank Peters, Kendal £17.95) is a superb "collection of 4 photo essays" by Dent photographers (and YDS founder members) Eliza and John Forder. The 150 colour photographs cover four key themes - the work of a Dales vet, a Lakeland farm, farming women and farm children. As in their other work a superb feeling for landscape combines with sensitive portraits of Dales and Lakeland people at work and at leisure, with humour, tenderness and yet an often harsh realism. The shot of Ennis Bentham feeding her stock in a blizzard starkly contradicts cosy myths about idyllic life on upper Dales farms. Artistically superb, this is also a moving and valuable human document, in terms of its text as well as its photographs. A book not to be missed, as those who attended the Forders' YDS Anniversary Lecture will confirm.

It is a tribute to Richard Muir that his book The Dales of Yorkshire (Macmillan £20) can enter crowded shelves of so many books about our region and yet stand apart - a work of scholarly authority yet highly readable and saying much that is fresh. Richard looks at various aspects of Dales history, farming, wildlife and at individual Dales including his native Nidderdale. Even the Yorkshire Dales Society gets a positive mention. The photographs equal the text for freshness and sharpness of detail. Richard lectures to the YDS on some of the themes of his book in Grassington Town Hall on October 12th.

W.R.(Bill) Mitchell has retired as Editor of the Dalesman to become perhaps the most prolific of current Dales authors. Elgar fans will delight in Mr Elgar and Dr. Buck (Castleberg, Settle £5.60), an evocative account of the friendship between the composer and Dr. Buck of Giggleswick which made Elgar a frequent visitor to Ribblesdale - his Salut D'Amour being composed here. Settle-Carlisle affectionados will enjoy Garsdale and Aisgill

(with Peter Fox - Castleberg £3.60) which among other delights documents the celebrated incident at Garsdale Station 1900 when a locomotive caught by gusts of wind on the turntable span out of

control. (Castleberg books are available direct from 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, North Yorkshire, BD24 0AY). But perhaps this reviewer's favourite of this Mitchell batch is By Gum, Life were Sparse, (Souvenir Press £15.99), a highly entertaining account, rich in anecdote (Bill considers himself to be in his "anecdotage") of life in typical Lancashire and Yorkshire mill towns from late Victorian times until relatively recently including some fascinating personal memories that many older YDS members can no doubt replicate. As the title implies, poverty and hardship was endemic among mill communities yet life had its compensations in terms of a strong sense of community. There is an appreciative foreword by Mike Harding.

Is there room for yet more walking books about the Dales? So many collections of short walks from the car now exist that bookshop shelves groan and popular paths are grooved into the hillside. Yet such is the quality of David Leather's twin volumes The Walker's Guide to Wharfedale and The Walker's Guide to Wharfedale (Smith Settle, Otley £6.95 each) that they are worthy additions to the genre. If it is impossible to find totally new circular walks in these two Dales any more, (some here are real old favourites) what is given is exceptionally good countryside interpretation - natural and local history, geology, landscape, making these rambles which vary from 3 to 14 miles more than merely the "turn left at the barn" type of description. Maps are clear and understandable, the illustrations, especially those in colour and based on wildlife paintings, are particularly good.

CS

### Membership Matters

Members due to renew their subscription this quarter (from October 1st) or any late subscriptions for previous quarters, please renew at the old rates as indicated on the yellow renewal slips.

PLEASE REMEMBER NEW RATES AS FOLLOWS WILL APPLY TO ALL NEW AND EXISTING MEMBERS FROM JANUARY 1st 1992. PLEASE REMEMBER TO INSTRUCT YOUR BANK TO ALTER YOUR BANKER'S ORDER FORM FOR 1992:

- Adult £8,
- Families £12,
- Single Retired £6
- Retired Couple £9.

Please note your YDS Membership Number appears with your payment quarter on the address label and your membership number should also appear on your current membership card. It would be helpful in case of queries if you quote your full name, address and membership number whenever possible. This saves time and helps to avoid possible confusion.

Why not give a friend a year's membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a subscription to Review at the new rates? If we receive your request by early December, your friend will receive a magazine this quarter mailed out in time for Christmas PLUS 4 Reviews next year, making the next subscription only due in January 1993.

Why give yourself or a friend a useful present and help the Yorkshire Dales Society at the same time? Send an SAE for details of our popular

### Denis Healey Launches Moors And Dales Appeal

The Rt. Hon Denis Healey, MP, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, has launched The National Trust £750,000 Appeal for the Moors and Dales to help safeguard and improve the landscape, including repairs to walls and barns.

The Trust's holdings in the Dales include the superb Upper Wharfedale Estate and extensive areas of Malham Moor, the true heartland of the National Park.

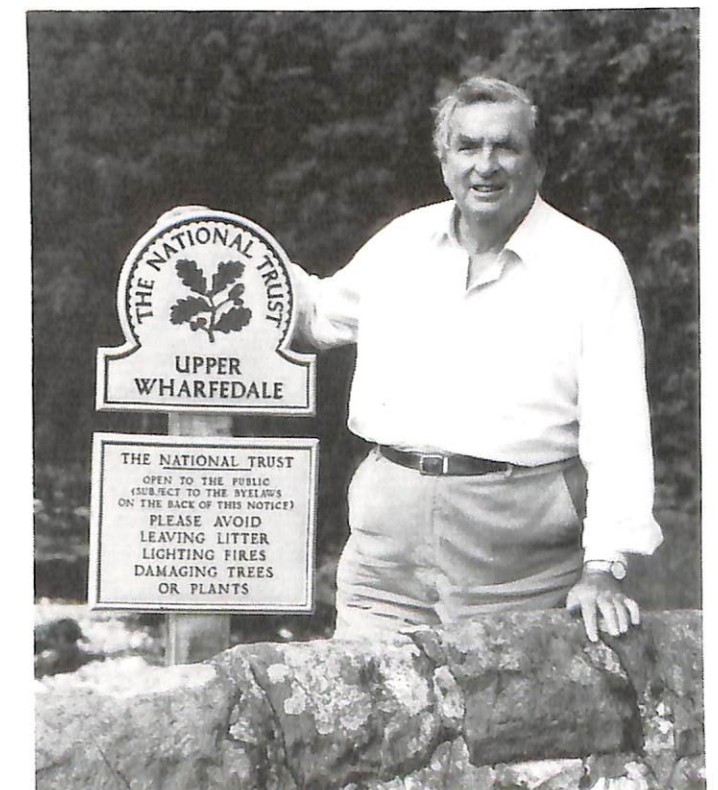
The Yorkshire Dales Society, a sister charity, gives every support to this appeal. Taxpayers who covenant can add up to a third more to their donation from the Exchequer. For details see the form enclosed with this Review or send your donation (payable to the National Trust) to Denis Healey, Yorkshire Moors and Dales Appeal, Freepost (Y0170) York, Y01 1GY.

Photo: Simon Warner

range of sweat shirts and jog suits (Adult & child ranges) in several colours with either round or V-necks. Check first with Sheila Marks (0943 608968) as we keep a small range in stock to avoid waiting.

Or how about a range of products embroidered with the YDS logo as an unusual gift? These include ties, hankies, sweaters and badges. Send an SAE to our Otley office or direct to our suppliers M&B Embroidery of 4, High Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD21 2AA; phone 0535 608152 or call in their shop if you prefer. Orders are dealt with promptly, and the YDS receives a royalty on every purchase.

In response to demand after last year's successful anniversary events, the Yorkshire Dales Society is organising a weekend of events at Kettlewell Village Hall in April 1992. Please keep the following dates free so that you can join us and perhaps have a weekend staying in the Dales if you live further afield. Friday April 24th will probably be a lecture-style event, Saturday 25th a full day walk, followed by a Dales Night social with the traditional Dales music of Tim Boothman and his group and chance to enjoy some real Dales dancing. Saturday daytime will also feature an alternative shorter walk specially for families - or the less energetic. There will also be a short walk on the Sunday morning (26th) finishing at lunchtime to allow people who live some distance away to return home in the afternoon.



## Autumn And Winter Events

- Saturday October 12th     Landscape of the Yorkshire Dales  
An illustrated lecture by Dr Richard Muir.  
Grassington Town Hall 2pm. Morning walk over  
Lea Green and Grass Wood; Leader Eric Jackson  
(Otley 466314). Bus 72 1030 from Skipton  
(Bus info - 0535 603284).
- Saturday October 19th     Ramble to Almscliffe Cragg and  
Stainburn Moor Leader Chris  
Hartley (Guiseley 872591). Meet Knaresborough  
Forest car park 1030am on minor road between  
Beckwithshaw and Fewston ref SE 235 524.
- Saturday November 9th     Textile Images of the Dales -  
an illustrated lecture by Val Orr plus launch  
of "Through Stitch and Thread" the Yorkshire  
Dales Society Embroidery Competition. Otley  
Civic Centre 2pm. Morning walk with Chris  
Hartley (Guiseley 872591). Meet Otley  
Market Cross at 10.30am for five mile walk  
on old railway and Otley Chevin. Bus 783 from  
Leeds 0942 (0532 429614)
- Saturday December 7th     Saving the Three Peaks - a lecture by  
former Project Officer Simon Rose. Victoria  
Hall Settle 2pm. Morning walk with Barbara  
McLaughlin (Settle 822197). Meet Settle  
Market Place at 10.30am for 4 mile circular  
walk with varied scenery.  
Train leaves Leeds 0855, Skipton 0936.
- Saturday December 28th     End of the year in Dentdale - a nine  
mile ramble (pub lunch) from Dent Station  
with Colin Speakman (0943 607868). Bring  
torches for end of day ! Train leaves Leeds  
0855, Skipton 0936, Settle 0951
- Saturday Jan 11th     Yorkshire Dialect Poetry - Ian  
Dewhirst on the humour and pathos of a rich  
literary heritage. Addingham Memorial Hall  
2pm. Morning 4 mile walk with Ken Willson  
0943 830376) - meet outside Memorial Hall at  
1030am. Bus 784 from Leeds 0904 (0532 429614)
- Saturday February 8th     Old Industries of Nidderdale a lecture by  
Mary Barley. Dacre Banks Village Hall 2pm.  
Morning walk with Liz Sickling (0937 582161  
Please note change of number). Meet outside  
Village Hall Dacre Banks at 10.30am. Bus 24  
leaves Harrogate 0942 (0924 566061)



The Yorkshire Dales Society  
Otley Civic Centre  
Cross Green  
OTLEY  
West Yorkshire  
LS21 1HD

0943 607868