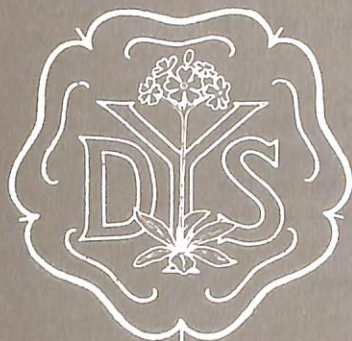


Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 37
Winter 1992



Farm Incomes
Wolves of Swaledale
The Dales Night Sky
Skipton Castle in
the Civil War

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.

The Green Modes

In a conversation some months before he died, the late Arthur Dower who lived in Wensleydale and was the brother of John Dower, author of the seminal Dower Report on UK National Parks, was asked what had happened in UK National Parks which wasn't predicted when his brother's report was being written. He identified two major developments - the changing in farming patterns and the dramatic increase in private motoring.

Both remain central issues in the 1990s. On page 4 of this Review we reprint an excellent article on the current situation in hillfarming from Trains and Trade, the recent report from the Settle-Carlisle Business Liaison Group.

The use of the private car is a trickier one. Traffic pressures on the Yorkshire Dales increase inexorably. Even in winter car parks and roadside verges can be filled with cars at weekends and holiday times. On New Year's Day we counted over 20 cars parked along the back road from Burnsall Bridge - the car park was already full.

Parked cars in villages and along verges are themselves visual pollution. Traffic noise drowns out natural sound. Nor can we pretend that such problems are only temporary and disappear at teatime - or nightfall. Recent research shows that car exhaust pollution is a major atmospheric problem and nitrogen oxide deposits are destroying the fungi in ancient woodlands which are required for the woods' long term survival.

Most of us are equally guilty. The car is so enormously convenient taking us, our families and friends, luggage and equipment where we want and when we want. But with 20 million cars on Britain's roads likely to increase by 50% soon after the end of the decade and up to 140% within the lifetime of many of us, a tidal wave of traffic will soon turn every weekday in the Dales into a Summer Sunday or Bank Holiday, and every Summer Sunday into a gridlocked, fume filled nightmare.

Sooner or later some form of rationing will have to come. It may take the form of increasing car parking charges, limiting "free" parking by roadsides. It may take the form of barriers and "Dales Full" signs. It may, if politicians refuse to grasp the nettle to restrict the freedom of the car, be rationing by congestion with all the unpleasant environmental consequences and inconvenience - especially to local people - that entails.

Time perhaps to think of alternative ways of getting around the Dales - both visitors and local people. As a recent Craven CPRE meeting agreed, railways, on their own congestion free reservations are already a more civilised way to travel to or from the Dales. The scandalously neglected local bus networks need to be revived and better promoted. Walking, riding and cycling need to be positively encouraged, especially where they can be linked into bus and rail services. These are what environmentalists now describe as "The Green Modes", reducing congestion, reducing pressure on the environment whilst allowing people to enjoy areas like the Dales.

Not everyone is fit and strong enough to walk, cycle or even use public transport. Nor is it always at all convenient. But if only a few of us are prepared to do so such networks will be strengthened. And as our Christmas Settle-Carlisle trip to Dent proved, using the bus or train can be shared fun in its own right. Perhaps the YDS can take a lead in its own events - see Page 11 for some ideas for a new Dalesbus group!

Colin Speakman

Cover: Grinton, Swaledale as spring approaches (Christine Whitehead)

The New Yorkshire Dales Review

The Yorkshire Dales Review is almost ten years old. The current Issue No 37 reflects a long and busy decade for a journal which in a very real sense has been the voice of the Society over that critical first decade.

When it began it was using what at that time was "new" daisywheel electronic typewriter technology and modern printing techniques, which provided the most cost effective way of getting the magazine in print. Most especially, we had some superb black and white photographs donated to us by members of the Society or friends of the Society which together with the efforts of our printer John Mason and our designer David Lightfoot produced results that (editor's typing errors apart) won wide praise.

But as long ago as 1981 we hoped the Review would expand, and for a time copies did appear in a few shops in the Dales. But problems of distribution and accountancy together with the "home-spun" feel of the magazine prevented it from really taking off, and it remained a small, but hopefully lively, members' newsletter.

A few months ago the Society was approached by North Yorkshire Marketing, a recently formed publishing organisation of which a long established firm of Dales printers and publishers, Smith Settle of Otley, are partners.

NYM see the establishment of The Review as a serious quarterly of Dales life and culture which whilst continuing to be the magazine of the Society - with the Society's own exclusive pages - could expand into becoming a major new voice in the Dales. That voice could also be the voice of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

To make this happens requires resources which are far beyond those of the Society. There needs to be a proper sales and distribution organisation, and scope for advertising revenue (never possible within a small typewritten magazine). We also need to move away from the relatively unsophisticated (and time consuming) methods of typewritten production.

North Yorkshire Marketing, after some careful negotiations with members of the Society's Council of Management, have now made an offer to the Society to publish the Review for a trial period of 12 months as a full printed, 32 page magazine.

It was an offer we could not refuse. For the Society it means a bigger and better magazine, a far better standard of production and far more content. Above all, it could be a superb means not only of communicating with existing members but of recruiting new members of the Society, because the Review will continue to be free to paid-up members of the Society and therefore offer even better value for money for membership. But this is being achieved at no additional cost to the Society in a deal which offers a number of important guarantees about quality of content and editorial freedom.

The Council of Management have recognised that the Society cannot stand still. Given the impact of the recession and increased membership fee which could depress membership numbers at exactly the time when we need to get up to a thousand new members to achieve financial stability, the offer from NYM was one the Council could not ignore. It represents an opportunity to improve the Society's image and to get the message of our active concern for the Dales across to a wider audience even more effectively.

The first "new look" Review will appear in March, and then quarterly as at present. You, the members, will judge the success of the experiment. If it works, and gives a better magazine, then the Council of Management will agree to its continuation. If it doesn't, then it'll be back to the drawing board for '93.

But somehow we don't anticipate that will be the case!

Back numbers of old Reviews can be obtained from the Society office - all but about three issues are available. State the issue(s) you require and send 40p per copy - post free.



The first YDS Review
Cover

Autumn 1981

"It's Not What You Earn"

Trains & Trade is the intriguing title of a remarkable document about the role of the Settle Carlisle line in helping to revitalise small business in the railway's 72 mile long corridor - a prime reason for the line's reprieve in April 1989.

The Settle-Carlisle Railway Business Liaison Group was established as a voluntary body, a consortium of small business working in a variety of fields along the line - manufacturers, farmers, accommodation providers, service industries.

In 1991 the Group surveyed small business along the area. The total of 687 respondents provide no less than 5,243 jobs in the rural community. Many respondents identified the continuation of the railway as a help for their business.

Copies of the full report with its detailed analysis of the survey results and examination of the role of the railway in the area's economy can be obtained from **Elmtree Publications, The Elms, Exelby, Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 2HD** price £10 including p & p. Cheques should be made payable to Elmtree Publications.

We thought YDS members would be particularly interested in the farming survey, which indicates once again the severity of the depression in hillfarming. Yet it ends on an optimistic note quoting Prince Charles: "The potential for creative alliances between farmers, environmentalists and consumers has never been greater". We can only add our own wholehearted endorsement.

With kind permission of the Business Liaison Group we reproduce part of the report here:

Most upland farmers are neither set in the aspic of James Herriot's Yorkshire of the 1930s nor are they the hard-headed masters of the free play of market forces. In the past, farmers and their families ran most things in the village - including the parish council, the parochial church council, and the Women's Institute - and provided the majority of the next generation of children. They were the backbone of community life, and their work and planning took account of long-term family objectives, beyond the period of the accountants's year end and even beyond their own working life.

Now farmers hold the key to the future of the dales and uplands. Having tamed the countryside over many generations, will they continue to sustain it? Will they be helped to do so by

integrated, long-term planning? And how will they co-exist with the new country dwellers, some of whom don't like noisy milking machines early in the morning or cows walking through the village eating flowers from the window boxes?

The viability of farming - at least on the scale of much of our survey area - is in question. Last year in the UK 100 farmers a week went out of farming or went part-time. The most vulnerable farmers, those least able to diversify, are the 64,000 hill farmers throughout Britain, for whom sheep prices - their main income - have come down by 40 per cent since 1985. The dales and uplands are characterised by sheep which for hundreds of years have nibbled away at an often inhospitable landscape and kept dereliction and wilderness at bay in North Yorkshire and Cumbria. But the sheep farmer, who has withstood the caprice of the British weather over those years, now finds it difficult to withstand the caprice of the Common Agricultural Policy.

"The bureaucrats sit in Brussels and at a stroke of a pen they can change your life," said a Cumbrian farmer. "Look at the Herdwick sheep, little hardy sheep. They breed a year later than other sheep but Brussels will not give a subsidy for the extra year. They don't know what they are doing. Two farms just ten miles apart can be different. Doesn't it ever dawn on them to come and look around and see what we do?"

Another farmer says: "We've cut back and lambed 110 ewes this year instead of 150, and I've got a part-time job as a builder." And a farmer's wife says: "We were shocked when we did the books. Our income from sheep was half last year's." Another farmer's wife has now turned to fostering children, making a greater income than she previously did from raising heifers.

The state of farming has reduced one older farmer's prospects of an easy retirement: "It's a young man's job on the hill. We have horrendous winters. Upland farms used to be a stepping stone for young men. Now older people are trapped there. We expected to sell this farm, buy a bungalow and use the rest for a pension, but now we can't sell."

Up and downstream of farming, business is suffering - the feed supplier, the vet, and a machinery supplier who hasn't sold a tractor in 12 months. There are five auction marts in the survey area. One auction mart reports business to be down by a million pounds last year with farmers making cut-backs even in what they spend on a meal at the mart: "Yvonne does the sweets, and she's not making as many."



Winter Pasture near Askrigg - Photo Geoffrey Wright.

With every springtime the future of farming looks more and more uncertain for farmers and for the landscape they maintain. Farmers and National Parks are developing their fragile relationship, with grant-aid for environmentally agreeable schemes as the lubricants that may lead farmers into acceptance of the role of 'park keeper' with stock acting as 'lawnmowers'. Meanwhile the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, introduced nationally in May 1991, offers some support for conservation management.

Whatever happens to the land, stock and people of the dales and uplands in the remaining few years of the century, farmers have to be adaptable in a world where even the weather seems to be becoming even more unpredictable. "These men up here can dig their toes in and live on nowt whereas down dale farmers can't," says a farmer quoting his bank manager. "In these hills it's not what you earn. It's what you don't spend."

Perhaps Homo Sapiens, sub-species Dalesman, will be all right after all, and, as HRH Prince Charles told the Royal Agricultural Society in March, 1991: "The potential for creative alliances between farmers, environmentalists and consumers has never been greater".

(Copyright Settle-Carlisle Business Liaison Group)

For details of the Settle-Carlisle Business Liaison Group write to the Membership Secretary SCRLBG, Appleby Business Centre, Bridge Street, Appleby Cumbria CA16 6QH

The Dales Night Sky - A Precious Asset

Fiona Hughes lives in Keld, Swaledale and writes of a special aspect of winter in the Dales not always noticed nor valued.

Is there something in particular about the Dales which you love and value? Or are you, like me, attracted by its many different faces?

My first interests grew from walking but have since expanded to encompass the birds and wildflowers, the patterns of walls and barns, and their histories. Even the mineshafts and spoil heaps now hold a fascination.

It is the very diversity and richness of the area which makes it worth protecting as a whole. Over the years those who enjoy the Dales have studied and helped conserve its rich wildlife habitats, its geology and unique social and archaeological history. But the National Park area holds another treasure which you may not yet have appreciated - its night sky.

Perhaps you have paused on your way back from the pub on a clear moonless night and looked up at the stars. If so, you cannot have failed to notice their brilliance and abundance. At midnight in summer, earlier in other seasons, the Milky Way stretches in ghostly streamers between the dark shadows of the hills and thousands of stars are visible to the naked eye.

This is no illusion - the sky in the Dales is darker and more transparent than elsewhere in England. Most of our country now suffers from "light pollution" caused mainly by poorly designed lighting which directs about one third of the

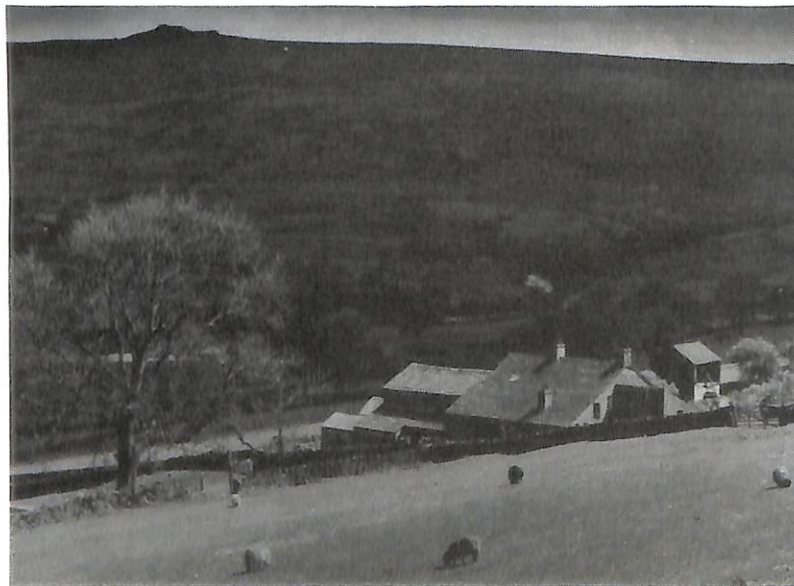
light upwards instead of where it is needed. All-night floodlighting is now common in our towns and cities, despite proving no deterrent against crime (over 80% of burglaries take place during the day!).

Needless to say, the energy wastage alone should concern us all, but we are also depriving almost all of the younger generations of a view of the heavens. The more senior members of our Society probably remember seeing the Milky Way from towns, but soon the higher Dales will be one of the few places left in Britain to have a really dark sky.

Next time you go out for a late evening stroll, check to see if it's clear. Take your binoculars and out of sight of house or village street lights. It takes at least fifteen minutes to get fully adjusted to the dark, but the extraordinary sight awaiting you is well worth it. Lean on a wall and sweep through the star fields of the Milky Way and you will appreciate how Galileo must have felt when he first turned a telescope to the sky. You might be lucky enough to see a bright planet and the Aurora Borealis is likely this year as the sun reaches maximum activity.

So don't curse and wish for more street lights when you drop your keys trip on an uneven path. The lack of street lighting is conserving another of the Dales' precious assets - the breathtaking beauty of the night sky.

Fiona Hughes



Wharfedale
Farm near
Burnsall
looking
towards
Simon
Seat.

(Photo:

John
Edenbrow)

The Wolves of Swaledale

There are moves, in some of the larger European National Parks, to encourage the reintroduction of larger mammals, long extinct. The European lynx is to be brought back to the high Alps between Austria and the Berchtesgaden National Park in Bavaria, whilst bears are reportedly finding their way, with official encouragement - and before the Civil War - across the Yugoslav Border into Austria.

What kind of creatures used to wander the Yorkshire Dales in historic times? How would we react to their reintroduction?

Red deer were in fact common well until the eighteenth century; indeed the Dales were a favourite hunting region for this reason with medieval monarchs, barons and Bishop princes as the frequent name "Forest" or "Chase" implies.

The last wild boar was reputedly killed on Wild Boar Fell in the 15th century, and a boar's tusk found in the tomb of Sir Richard Musgrave in Kirkby Stephen church gives credence to his theory.

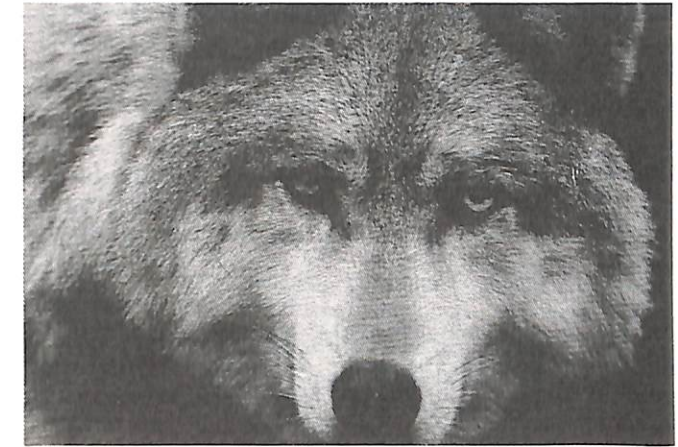
Perhaps we might be able to cope with both red deer and even wild boar, both fairly shy creatures.

But what about that creature of myth and legend the European wolf?

Contrary to all those Dracula style fantasies, wolves, highly developed and socialised creatures, rarely attack man. They are, of course a rival and competitor to man, shrewd and intelligent hunters. Worst, when most wild game was eliminated and animals such as cattle, sheep and goats were domesticated, then wolves, in order to survive, attacked the herds, and like foxes, soon became outlawed and were hunted themselves. This led in Britain to their early extinction, probably by the later Middle Ages, though they survive in isolated areas of Spain, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

But interesting evidence of wolves in the Dales comes not only from the occasional place name - such as Wolfrey Moss near Hebden - but from an area known as New Forest, near Marske which in Anglo-Saxon times reputedly "swarmed with wolves".

In 1171 the monks of Jervaulx Abbey who had lands at Feldom were granted rights of pasturage in the New Forest by Earl Conan of Richmond. However the Earl stipulated in the agreement that no hounds or mastiffs were to be kept there, and that the wolves should not be driven away from the pastures.



No doubt the reason was to protect them for his future hunting, but it nevertheless is perhaps the earliest recorded instance in the Yorkshire Dales of the active conservation of wildlife.

It also indicates that conservation of natural habitats is a time honoured activity in the Dales. Nobody is going to seriously suggest that the wolf or even the wild boar is likely to be reintroduced in the Dales, but there are other species such as the pine marten or the otter or even the red squirrel which are native to the area and which were known to be in the Dales until fairly recently. Much attention has quite properly been given to the preservation of native trees and wild flowers in the Dales, and birdlife is also quite rightly valued and protected. But what about some of the smaller and perhaps not so small mammals driven to extinction by man's activities? In remoter and bleaker valleys of the higher Dales where farming, in some cases for many years, is no longer viable, is there case for the creation of wildlife sanctuaries where, under the right conditions, certain native species might be reintroduced?

Such areas would need carefully management, a source of skilled local employment. Visitors on the other hand would be prepared to pay for the privilege of wildlife observation and interpretation.

Such areas would certainly be a more appropriate use of the National Park than golf courses and leisure centres.

Winter Reading

SKIPTON CASTLE IN THE GREAT CIVIL WAR (1642-1645)
- Robert T. Spence (Skipton Castle, 1991 £4.95)
[Available at Skipton Castle or by post £5.95 from Skipton Castle, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1AQ.

Even those of us whose memory of school history is faint, recall the importance of Yorkshire during the Civil War, and in particular the Battle of Marston Moor in 1644.

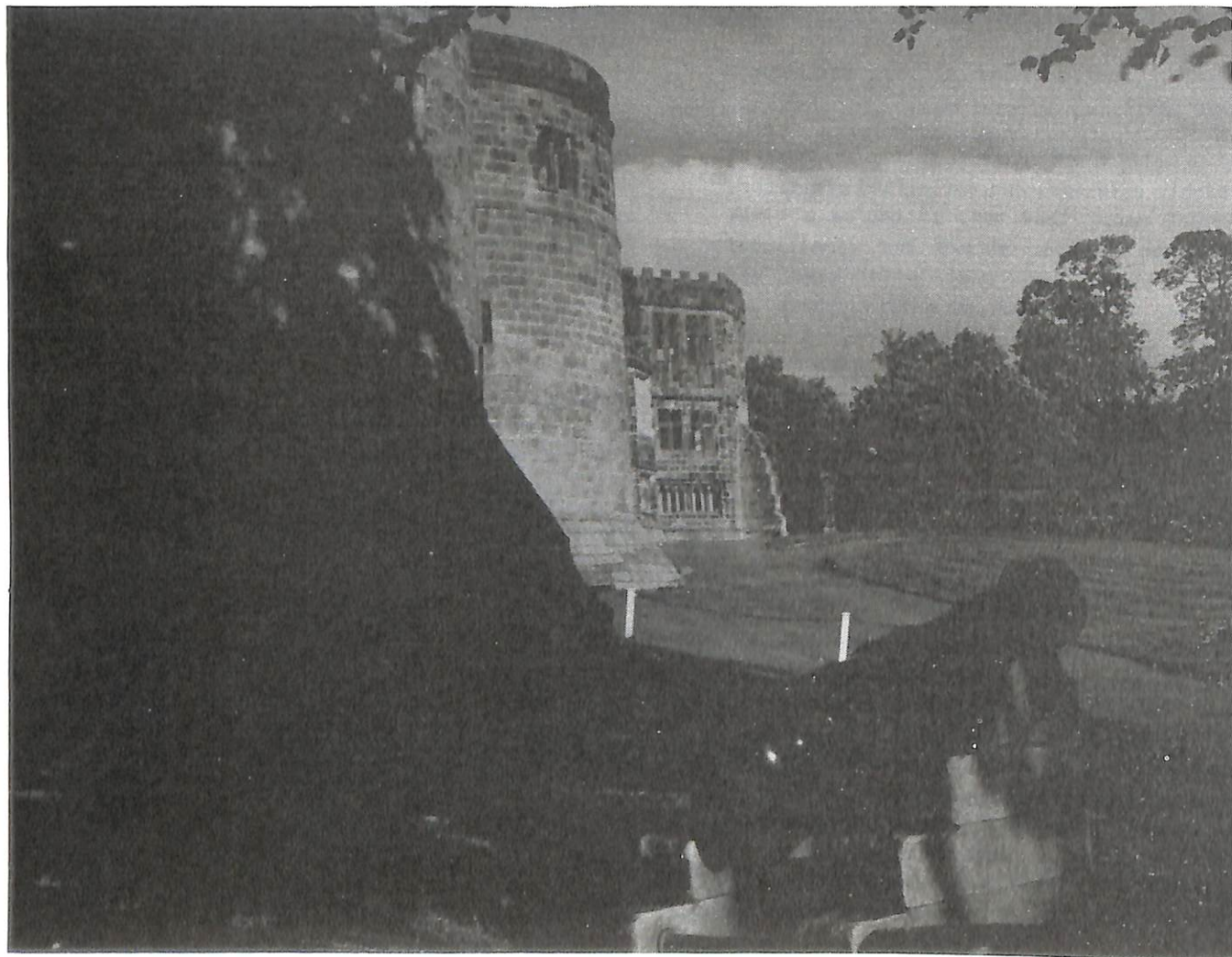
But there was far more to this immense political struggle than one or two major set-piece battles. Constant skirmishes and sieges took place all over our region. Amazing as it seems to us now, during this time much of the ordinary life of the countryside continued as before. After all, crops had to be harvested, cows had to be milked, horses fed, and even trade carried on with opposing forces - until you or your property were actually plundered or damaged by fighting soldiers on your land as powerful Royalist neighbour battled it out with powerful Parliamentary neighbour. Not surprisingly, long after the war was over, bitter scores remained to be settled.

Skipton Castle, which guarded important Trans-Pennine routes across the North of England,

remained a Royalist stronghold under the control of Colonel John Mallory right until December 1645, when even then its surrender was under honourable terms.

This is a handsomely produced book, extremely well illustrated with contemporary portraits and maps, and is published by Skipton Castle themselves. It is a valuable and intriguing addition to our knowledge of not only the Castle's remarkable history, but of the whole of Skipton and Craven.

Robert Spence's meticulously researched book explores the political and social background to the long siege of Skipton Castle, and in doing so paints an absorbing portrait of 17th century Dales life - there are details of arms and weapons, supplies, travel. Above all perhaps, the reader is given insight into the kind of remarkable personalities who led the battle on both sides - Henry Clifford, 5th Earl of Cumberland, not by temperament a soldier, Sir John Mallory the defender of Skipton, a brilliant strategist, his opponent the "valiant gentleman" Parliamentary Colonel (later General) John Lambert of Calton, and Fernando Baron Fairfax, Cromwell's Commander of Yorkshire between 1642 and 1645.



The Cannon, Skipton Castle Photo: Howard Beck

Arthur Raistrick's Yorkshire Dales - Compiled by David Joy (Dalesman £10.95)

There could be no finer tribute to the late Dr Arthur Raistrick than this collection of Dalesman articles which date back half a century, from the early wartime years to the present.

The range of his interest and his knowledge about all matters relating to the Dales was encyclopaedic, and many of the essays in this book reflect this - from the history of Dales packhorse ways to besom makers, medieval forests to stone quarries and limekilns, from Dales dialect to vernacular architecture and mining.

Perhaps we needed to be reminded, too, of what a fine writer Dr Raistrick was - the clarity of the prose, the gentle humour, the sense of delight in the exploration of so many varied aspects of the Dales and Dales life.

David Joy has made a fine selection of articles otherwise buried in Dalesman archives. There is a perceptive introduction by W.R. Mitchell, former editor of the Dalesman, and, something that many people will value, a remarkable transcript of an interview with Ken Howarth of the North West Sound Archive in which the normally reticent scholar gives insight into some of the formative influences of his early years - Quakerism, Socialism, imprisonment for his Pacifist beliefs, his teaching, writing and his travels, on foot and by bus and train, throughout the Dales. He never owned a car and rarely left the Dales he loved.

The book is a beautifully produced hardback, using a particularly attractive typeface. It is illustrated with some delightful woodcuts and engravings, many of them vintage Dalesman, including some of Dr Raistrick's own architectural sketches. A book to treasure - and certain to become a collectors' item.

CS

Ingleborough Cave

Suited and crinolined
the Victorians came through
in horizontal fashion,
poking sticks and parasols,
trailing top hats.

On hands and knees
they followed the bed
of the stream, pliable
liquid rush, filling
vacancy with excited
bodies panting and sweating
through layers of shift,
bodice, combinations
and laced-up boot.

They lay flat,
face down to wriggle
over wet slabs
which threatened
to meet overhead rock.
They scraped elbows,
tore sleeves and the
hems of garments,
lost buttons and manoeuvred
bustles.

When rock pinched
and water began to flood
they stretched
manicured fingers into clefts
reaching as far
as they possibly
could.

Lauraine Palmeri



Dales Digest and Dales Buses

There has been increasingly warm praise for the excellent and informative YDS "Dales Digest" of Dales Press coverage covering a variety of topics which is produced by YDS Council member John Ward.

Copies are available to individual members price £4 per annum (to cover photocopying and postage) from the YDS office.

The winter Dales public transport guide Dales Connections (valid till May 1992) can be obtained from Elmtree Press, The Elms, Exelby, Bedale, DL8 2HD price 50p to cover postage. There is also a Moors Connection covering the North York Moors National Park available from the same address.

The YDS is currently preparing a paper suggesting improvements in bus services in the Dales to benefit both local people and visitors without cars or who can be persuaded to leave their cars at home - see the Editorial The Green Modes. This will be circulated to the National Park Authority and the County Councils.

There are also plans to organise regular walks using less well used bus (and train) services in the Dales. The first such event will be Saturday on March 21st. If you are interested in seeing such a group in being please come along - or contact the YDS Secretary.

TIES AND BADGES

The YDS tie in a range of colours with its beautifully embroidered bird's eye primrose motif is being seen at elegant occasions throughout the Dales, and, it is rumoured, elsewhere in the UK. It is available via the YDS Office together with a range of superbly embroidered rucksack or anorak badges, handkerchiefs, and the ever popular and practical sweatshirts and jogging suits. There are even a few of the delightful embossed leather badges still available at £1.20p including postage.

For full details send SAE to the YDS Office. Stocks will also be available at the main YDS lectures - see page 12.

Daleswatch Roundup

One of the most important tasks facing the Yorkshire Dales Society this autumn has been a response to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Draft Local Plan, in effect a Development Plan for the Yorkshire Dales. This wide ranging document could be the blueprint for how the Dales develops into the early years of next century, and whilst the Society could support much of what is said on the Draft Plan, there were observations to make on such issues to make as local housing and employment, transport, conservation of the natural environment and visitor management.

One point the Society has made is that it is all very well for the National Park Authority stating policy objectives if, after the first piece of lobbying when it comes to a controversial planning application, these policies are ignored.

There has, however, been a great deal of comment, not all of it favourable, from many organisations in the Dales. Perhaps the issue emerges once again that there needs to be more effective communication between the National Park and local communities. There is also a need for positive, pro-active planning rather than responding to outside pressures.

Grimwith Centre

At time of writing, it is not known if the proposal by Yorkshire Water Enterprises (!) for a major water sports leisure in the old quarry at Grimwith Reservoir has been accepted or turned down by the National Park Committee, but all credit to the Committee for arranging a site visit at Grimwith at the end of December with the developers, members and officers of the National Park Authority and representatives of various amenity and naturalists organisations including the Yorkshire Dales Society. There was a free and frank exchange of views, and it was good to feel that here was democracy in action.

Naturally we await the outcome with interest, and very much hope that the National Park Committee agree with the Society that the nature, size and scale of the proposals at Grimwith are inappropriate in this wild and secluded area of the National Park.

The Bolton Bridge Interchange

The lovely old 18th century bridge carrying the A59 over the River Wharfe at Bolton Bridge, Wharfedale is falling down, thanks to the incessant pounding by 38 tonne juggernauts travelling between Lancashire and Teeside. So bad is the situation that traffic lights and one way traffic is the order of the day.

But as transport policy in Britain in recent years has tacitly encouraged the astronomic growth of long distance heavy road freight whilst allowing the further switch of even the remaining heavy freight from road to rail (British Rail's single waggon-load Speedlink was abolished last July because it was no longer "economic"), damage to the infrastructure of roads, bridges and even buildings is becoming increasingly common, requiring huge public expenditure to make good the damage - costs conveniently left out of road transport balance sheets.

And there's also a horrifying environmental price to pay. In this case a massive new concrete bridge and huge road improvement which will transform one of the most popular gateways into the southern end of the National Park by Bolton Bridge.

Worse, the highway engineers now plan a massive 32 metre roundabout immediately to the west, no doubt complete with regulation DoT sodium lights and concrete kerbing. This will of course encourage yet more heavy waggons to take the short cut through Addingham village.

Enjoy the famous view of Bolton Abbey from the Dales Way link on Haw Pike above Lob Wood whilst you can. It will soon have a motorway style road and huge roundabout in the foreground. The Dales Way itself will no doubt have to run in a concrete tunnel under the new trunk road.

The YDS and the CPRE have joined forces in condemning the proposals and have requested a much more modest development. But at a time when the British Government can ignore EEC legislation over the environmental damage done by major highway proposals, what chance does mere landscape beauty in the Dales have against the depredations of the road lobby?

Daleswatch Local Groups

Over the winter months, several local groups of the Society have been formed. The aim of these groups is that members should keep in touch with each other and when necessary have informal meetings to discuss key issues.

Each Group has a Convenor and a list of YDS members in his or her area; if you live in or near the Dales and are interested in making contact with other YDS members in your area or raising matters of Dales amenity or local interest with them, contact the local the person concerned. Individual YDS Council members are also keeping in close contact with Groups to ensure that when and where necessary key issues are raised at Council

meetings and the views of local members are sought.

The following groups are already in being;

Ribblesdale and Three Peaks Area: contact Hilary Baker, Ivy End, Chapel Walk, Long Preston, Settle, tel 0729 840 649

Upper Wharfedale: (acting contact only) Richard Harland, Four Winds, Grassington, via Skipton tel 0756 752532

Dentdale and Garsdale: contact Louise Hunt, The Craft Centre, Helmside, Dent, via Sedbergh, Cumbria tel 05875 400

Nidderdale: contact Jean Johnson, Bents Farm, Thornthwaite, Harrogate, HG3 2QY tel 0943 880234

Wensleydale: contact Jeff Taylor, Black Horse House, Healey, Masham Tel. (0765) 689701

It is anticipated that there will be additional groups for Lower Wharfedale, Upper Airedale and Swaledale established during March/April. Members in these areas will be notified.

Membership - A Critical Question

We've had to increase the Membership Subscription to the Society for the first time for six years. Rising costs have made this inevitable with expenditure now overtaking income. For example we must now pay a modest rent for our Otley Office, and at last we have an essential phone. But these things all cost money.

There is always resistance to increased costs.

We ask every member for their continued support during what could be a critical period for the amenity and environmental movement as Britain becomes more fully integrated in Europe.

Membership subscriptions for 1992 are as follows: Adult £8, Family (2 adults plus any children in household) £12, Retired Single person £6, Retired couple £9.

We believe this is superb value for money. You get the Review four times a year (soon to be expanded in quality and size), an excellent programme of Dales events, chance to meet lots of like minded people with a love of Dales life and countryside and above all you are helping to support an organisation that fights for the conservation of the Dales countryside and the well being of Dales communities. More than ever before, we need your help and support.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership please do so right away. All we need is your cheque, name and address and (preferably) your membership number printed on the label of the envelope of your Review. If you pay by Standing Order please ensure that your Bank is told about the new rates - otherwise the Society will lose vital income. If your Bank has already paid at the beginning of the year, and the adjustment will not be made until 1993, please let us have the difference as soon as possible in the form of a cheque. This will help the Society enormously. Donations, however modest, are also always extremely welcome if you can afford to be just a little more generous when renewing.

The Yorkshire Dales Society now has 2,100 members which makes us one of the largest National Park Societies in the UK. However, to reach a healthy financial situation and to be able to combat the many increasing threats to the unique landscape heritage of the Yorkshire Dales we need at least 3,000 members by the start of 1993.

Please help us to achieve this target. With this copy of The Review you will find a membership form. Please pass it on to a friend, neighbour or relative who loves the Yorkshire Dales, and persuade them to join. We know from experience that there is no better way of recruiting than by personal contact. The Dales needs Friends!

If every single member or household in the YDS recruits just one new member in 1992 we shall easily meet that target. Please put the Membership form into the right hands just as soon as you can.

Embroidery Competition

There has already been a tremendous response to the YDS Embroidery Competition Through Stitch and Thread, from all over the UK but especially in the Yorkshire Dales where lots of farmers' wives have been asking for entry forms. You don't have to be a YDS member to enter, but entries from YDS members are especially welcome. The inspiring lecture in November by Val Orr, one of the Judges, was a sell-out.

Closing date for entries is April 30th, and entries must reach the YDS Otley office by then. There are still entry forms available with full details - please send a sufficiently large SAE for additional copies.

Events for a Dales Winter

The winter months are often super time to enjoy the Dales - less people about, more to see without tree cover. Join one of the walks before a lecture. And why not bring a friend to an event - there is no obligation to join, but there's no better way of recruiting new members !

Saturday February 8th OLD INDUSTRIES OF NIDDERDALE a lecture by Nidderdale historian 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)

Saturday March 7th NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES IN YORKSHIRE a lecture by Yvonne Coupe. Yvonne gives a variety of lectures for the National Trust. Bewerley & Bishopdale Memorial Hall, Pateley Bridge 2pm

Morning walk with Chris Hartley (0937 582161 Meet Bewerley Village near Monastic Chapel at Bus 24 leaves Harrogate 0942 (0924 566061) For lift from bus stop ring Chris.

Thursday March 19th 1992 CHAOS OR CO-ORDINATION ? CPRE Yorkshire Regional Transport Seminar at the Royal Baths Harrogate. Speakers to include Roger Freeman, (Minister for Public Transport), Stephen Joseph, Transport, 2000, Roger Higman, Friends of the Earth, Colin Speakman, Yorkshire Dales Society.

Saturday March 21st DALESBUS AFTERNOON A 5 mile walk from Appletreewick to Linton via Burnsall and Thorpe, using underused Dalesbus services in mid Wharfedale. Catch the 1315 76 bus from Skipton Railway Station - linking train from Leeds at 12.03 or 1320 from the bus station. Leader: Colin Speakman (0943 607868).

Saturday April 11th PREHISTORIC SITES IN WHARFEDALES with David Leather, author of The Walkers' Guide to Wharfedale. Meet Burnsall Car Park Village Green at 1130 (Dalesbus 800 from Leeds 0955, Bradford 1020 - to check times ring 0535 603264)

April 24th-26th YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY SPRING WEEKEND at Kettlewell, Upper Wharfedale. Lectures, walks, Old Dales Night and Dance, food, drink. Cost around £8 plus choice of accommodation from youth hostel to ** hotel. Advance booking essential. For details send SAE to YDS office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ADMISSION CHARGE TO YORKSHIRE DALES LECTURES IS £1 FOR MEMBERS, £2 FOR NON MEMBERS. No charge for walks. Where a telephone number is given, the leader can usually supply further details of the walk.



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