

# The Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 41 Winter 1992

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THE YORKSHIRE  
DALES SOCIETY

95p





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Cover photograph: 'Ribblesdale' by Colin Speakman

## YOUR VIEWS ARE REQUESTED

This issue of the *Yorkshire Dales Review* is the fourth to be produced through the agreement between the Yorkshire Dales Society and North Yorkshire Marketing.

It's been an exciting experiment, not without its problems for both partners as we've tried to get it right. Gremlins in the system have conspired to leave us feeling that much as we've been delighted with the quality and feel of the magazine, we've yet to get it exactly right in terms of content and format, though as time goes on, (and hopefully with this issue) it's beginning to develop in the way that we hoped it might.

The Society's Council of Management agreed that after four issues we should carefully review the situation to see if the new format is one that reflects the work and interests of the Society and its members.

Most people have said how delighted they are with the new-look *Review*, and commented on how much more professional it seems. However, there are a few dissenting voices from members who feel that the old format for all its simplicity and occasional typographical problems had a strong and recognisable identity which in a very real sense reflected the special qualities of the Society. Have we in fact lost that identity, and with it something of the Society's very distinctive voice, or is it that we have yet to adjust to the opportunity the new magazine presents? Have we got the balance of articles right? What should be the relationship, if any, with the new *Yorkshire Journal*, a pilot issue of which finally reached members who had requested a copy?

North Yorkshire Marketing, too, need to look carefully at the production and financial aspects of the *Review* to decide if arrangements are financially viable and suit their business.

But most important of all is what Yorkshire Dales Society thinks. It is your magazine. Let us know in writing or at any YDS event. Officers or Council members would like to hear your views. Decisions will have to be taken quickly not to cause delays in the production schedule for the Spring *Review*, due out in April.

In a very real sense The Yorkshire Dales Review is the voice of the Society. Help us to ensure that we get it 100% right !

Colin Speakman

## THE NATIONAL PARK DEBATE

*Dr Peter Annison, with Ruth Annison, owns and manages the Hawes Ropemakers, one of the few small manufacturing businesses in the Upper Dales. Responding to a recent FOCUS article in the YDS Review, he widens the debate about the future role of National Parks and the Yorkshire Dales National Parks with a thought-provoking article in our FOCUS series.*

It is almost impossible to believe that the two articles, 'Focus - Finding the Balance' and 'Hawes Creamery - a failure of imagination' (Review No 39) were written by the same person. How can it be argued that 'to look at a typical Dales village' is 'to know you're in a very prosperous part of England' and then a few pages later say about the Hawes Creamery closure 'Individual families will suffer in an area where there is little alternative full-time employment, and one of the last real working communities of the Dales will watch its identity slip away as homes put on the market are bought up by outsiders for weekend retreats and tourism dominates even more'.

One view suggests a picture of rural prosperity and contentment whilst the other depicts a distinct lack of job opportunities and social deprivation combined with the very real threat to the continued existence of a traditional Dales community.

In truth both situations prevail within the Dales. Changes in traditional employment have left the indigenous population ill-equipped to benefit from modern-day employment opportunities and the jobs created by the growth in tourism tend to be part-year, low skilled and predominantly for women.

As the micro economy of the Dales has become absorbed into the wider national economy with its higher wage levels and inflated house prices, the local population is being squeezed out of its homeland. What we see, during this period of transition, is the West Riding commuters, the incomer entrepreneurs and the inflation-proofed retirees providing the appearance of Dales' affluence whilst gradually displacing the diminishing band of native people.

Economic and social change may be inevitable, but there is no fundamental reason why the Dales should not retain its working communities. Indeed it can be forcefully argued that without such communities, and the support, social as well as economic, that they provide to upland farmers, the broader conservation objectives of the National Park cannot be achieved.

The crucial question is whether National Park policies and actions are helping local communities to survive and flourish or whether they are contributing to their decline. The National Parks were established with two main objectives: conservation of the countryside, and to enable public access. Quite separately, and at a later date, they were required 'to have regard for the social and economic well-being of local



Gunnerside. (John & Eliza Forder)

communities'. If conservation is too narrowly interpreted as applying only to the natural and built environment, then there will be an inevitable conflict when trying to reconcile this objective with the social and economic needs of indigenous communities.

The increasingly vigorous local antipathy towards the National Park is a warning that this balance is not being achieved. Of course there is much that is being done in the way of footpath maintenance, upland management agreements, tree planting, visitor interpretation schemes and so on that is admirable. There are other areas of involvement which are less satisfactory and which concern local residents.

### Planning

The National Park is supposedly a *national* heritage and yet we continue with the principle that it is the local inhabitant (or business) who has to bear the increasingly onerous cost of maintaining the vernacular building tradition. This includes more rigorous planning requirements frequently involving re-submitted drawings, delays and administrative hassle, all of which adds to the financial and emotional costs.

The designation (actual or proposed) of virtually all the settlements in the National Park as Conservation Areas is a further burden of planning constraints and extra costs.

It all adds up, in local minds, to an attempt to turn the Dales into a sterile museum.

### Local Representation

'Fourteen out of 24 members of the National Park Committee live in the Dales'; this is only true if we include Richmond, Ripon, Harrogate, Ilkley and Skipton. In reality only nine members live within the Park boundaries. There are therefore fifteen

members making policy decisions which will not affect their own lives; only those of others.

This underlines the claim that there should be greater local representation.

*'It is often difficult to ensure that the voices of those who need to make a living in the rural community are heard above the voices of the environmentalists. For many people in rural areas life is extremely grim, yet their scope for action and self-help is being impeded by measures designed to please the sensibilities of people who are not themselves affected by the problems of deprivation'. ('The Problems in Rural Areas' - an inquiry chaired by the Duke of Westminster - September 1992)*

### **Expertise**

Increasingly the National Park Authority and its committee are having to adjudicate on matters which affect the social and economic well-being of the communities within the Dales. Such matters are more properly the responsibility of the District and County Councils.

It is debatable whether a planning/conservation body has the expertise and experience to deal adequately with such issues. Indeed it is doubtful whether sufficient information is available about the complex social and economic interactions in rural communities to allow definitive decisions to be made with any confidence. This underlines the need for greater local involvement and representation since this at least offers the opportunity of introducing local knowledge into the decision-making process.

### **Conclusion**

It should be clear that there is a justified and growing disquiet amongst the local population about the role of the National Park in determining local affairs. And yet the conservation objectives of the National Park are intimately bound up with maintaining thriving local communities. These are not diverging or conflicting interests but the obverse of the same coin. The substantial and growing criticism of some of the present Park policies is a measure of the extent to which the essential symbiotic relationship between community and conservation has neither been fully understood nor properly fostered and exploited.

There is an urgent need for open and informed debate of these complex issues - a role well suited to the Yorkshire Dales Society.

## ***COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP IN THE DALES : CONSERVATION AND ACCESS PARTNERSHIPS***

The problems of hillfarmers in areas like the Yorkshire Dales continue to increase, as the GATT agreement on world trade, though welcome in many ways, indicates even more stringent financial regimes for farmers within the EEC, which many people predict could make life ever more difficult for small family farmers struggling to make ends meet in the Yorkshire Dales.

One possible means of albeit modest help for farmers in the Yorkshire Dales, and not just within the National Park, is the Countryside Commission's excellent new *Countryside Stewardship Scheme*.

*Countryside Stewardship* is an initiative resulting from the Government's recent White Paper on the Environment, *This Common Inheritance*.

The Government has made £13 million available to the Countryside Commission over a three-year period to develop the scheme which has an aim to 'conserve, manage and re-create' some of the finest landscapes. Countryside Stewardship has also been developed in close co-operation with English Nature and English Heritage, and with the support of the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **New principles**

A number of important new principles are incorporated into the Stewardship concept. These include objectives which combine landscape and wildlife management or re-creation with historical and access objectives. Areas in need are prioritised and not limited to designated areas. Anyone managing land, including landowners and tenant farmers, are able to enter into what are ten-year agreements with the Countryside Commission. Public benefits must however occur, in terms of the enjoyment of the landscape, and access by well-managed existing rights of way, new permissive paths or small access areas. There is also a great deal of flexibility possible in any individual scheme to reflect local character, practices and traditions where these are seen to be beneficial.

Access, it should be stressed, is quiet, informal access by people generally just on foot, in ways which are compatible with farming and wildlife conservation objectives. Not all schemes have an access component, if landscape conservation or wildlife habitat are the prime aims.

Five types of landscape have been targeted - these include lowland heath, coastal areas, waterside landscapes, chalk and limestone grassland and uplands. The latter three, particularly uplands, are of especial relevance to the Yorkshire Dales.



Cray Gill, north of Buckden, Wharfedale, part of a Countryside Stewardship scheme.  
(Photo Simon Warner)

### How the scheme works

Anyone managing suitable areas of land can choose to approach the Commission to see what opportunities might exist for a Stewardship agreement. Proposals must demonstrate public benefit in terms of landscape improvement and access opportunities.

Agreements, once devised, run for ten years with incentive payments for work undertaken made retrospectively each year. Annual payments are made on a fixed scale covering hectareage of land managed as part of the agreement, plus capital payments for works undertaken, including a variety of management measures such as stone walling, gate and stile construction, hedging and tree management, scrub management, bracken control, fencing, removal of eyesores, footpath signing and waymarking. Rates will be revised every three years.

Applications for schemes to be considered on suitable areas of land have to be made to the Countryside Commission's Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Office via Richard Walker (West & South Yorkshire, Craven and the Yorkshire Dales National Park) or Rita Spiteri (outside the National Park), 2nd floor, Victoria Wharf, Embankment IV, Sovereign Street, Leeds, LS1 4BA; in Cumbria (outside the YDNP) contact is through the Commission's Northern Regional Office, Warwick House, Grantham Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 1QF.

So far, Countryside Stewardship is still an experiment. The Countryside Commission will be reviewing its success in meeting its conservation and public enjoyment objectives and will be reporting back to the Department of the Environment to discuss possible continuation of the present scheme or its possible modification or development beyond 1995.

So far, 31 Stewardship schemes are already in operation in the Dales area, both within and outside the National Park, at an estimated cost of around £180,000 per annum - money which finds its way directly into Dales communities through help for farmers and landowners. Naturally, demands on limited resources are heavy, but new applications will be considered from May 1993.

### SCHEMES GIVING INCREASED ACCESS IN THE DALES:

Yorkshire Dales Society members are likely to be especially interested in projects in the Yorkshire Dales which will result in additional public access being granted through Stewardship. Eleven schemes fall within this category within the Dales area. Members might like to make a point of noting progress in each of these schemes and letting us know their reactions - information we'll gladly pass onto the Commission.

#### Airedale

Grid ref: SE 626235

Two riverside haymeadows south-west of the village of Carlton, containing a wide variety of wildflowers and grasses uncommon in this district. Access is via the floodbanks of the River Aire or along the track from the minor road between Carlton and Hirst Courtney.

#### Upper Wharfedale

Grid ref: SD 943787

A series of limestone pastures near the village of Cray in Wharfedale. The site includes an area of limestone pavement and borders the B6160 just south of the village. Part of a series of Stewardship agreements giving open access from Cray to the top of Buckden Pike.

Grid ref: SD 950795

A large area of open access above the village of Cray in Wharfedale. The fields include a series of dramatic waterfalls and limestone pavements. Access can be gained from the bridleway gate on the B6160 half a mile above Cray. This Stewardship site gives open access to the summit of Buckden Pike.

Part of a series of Stewardship agreement areas above Cray to the top of the Pike.

*Grid ref: SD 950785*

A large area of open access giving an alternative (direct) route from Cray in Wharfedale to the summit of Buckden Pike. The fields include a variety of habitats including limestone grassland and rough pasture. Access can be gained from the ford near the public house in Cray and via a bridleway rising from Buckden.

Part of a series of Stewardship agreement areas above Cray.

### Upper Ribblesdale

*Grid ref: SD 838645*

An open area giving access to a series of limestone pasture fields north-east of Settle. The Stewardship area includes a series of limestone scars, scree and caves and rises to an Ordnance Survey point at 440 metres on Warrendale Knotts. Access can be gained from footpaths along the southern edge of the side and from the north.

Adjacent to another Countryside Stewardship area and to a block owned by Yorkshire Dales National Park.

*Grid ref: SD 840655*

An open area giving access to some limestone pasture fields above Langcliffe and north-east of Settle. The Stewardship area includes an area of limestone pavement and some caves. Access can be gained from footpaths to the east and south and from the road that rises out of Langcliffe to the west of the Countryside Stewardship site.

Adjacent to another Countryside Stewardship area and to a block owned by the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

### Malhamdale

*Grid ref: SD 899657*

An open area giving access to a block of land south of Malham Tarn. With a combination of limestone and acid grassland the fields support a variety of plants. The landform of the area is of interest in the numerous shake holes. Of particular interest is the water sink where water flowing out of Malham Tarn goes underground. Access can be gained on various footpaths and highways around the site. The Pennine Way crosses the site.

### Wensleydale

*Grid ref: SD 895862*

An access strip giving a foot route along the south side of Marsett Beck above Marsett village in Raydale. The Stewardship area follows the edge of the Beck through Marsett Rigg and Marsett Bardle for about 1½ miles. The route gives very attractive views of the upland stream and then crosses the Beck to join up with the public footpath running along the north side. An ideal opportunity for a round walk of about 3½ miles from Marsett.

The Stewardship access route is waymarked.

*Grid ref: SD 984873*



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## YORKSHIRE DALES WORKSHOPS IN FOLK ARTS

The Yorkshire Dales provide an attractive environment not only for outdoor pursuits but also for creative and artistic endeavours. The Yorkshire Dales Workshops in Folk Arts is a new venture which was set up in 1992 by Ilkley residents Liz and Geoff Bowen. Their activities include residential and non-residential courses with associated public performances and dances in the Dales.

YDW are using a number of bunk barns and field study centres as attractive centres for their residential courses in folk arts. These week and weekend workshops are attracting people of all age groups from this country and Europe to extend their skills and knowledge of folk music, dance, storytelling, puppetry and other folk arts. Concerts and ceilidhs featuring the professional artists who are contributing to the workshops provide welcome opportunities not only for the course members but also for local residents and holidaymakers.

The non residential activities include evening workshops for local people who can attend on a weekly basis and workshops for young people during school holidays. All of the residential workshops are designed for a manageable, friendly and sociable size of group ranging from 20 to 30 course members, with staff who are not only experienced performers but also skilled tutors.

A feature of the workshops has been the use of manuscript sources and recordings of musicians representative of many different regional traditions, including those of the Dales. It is source material of this kind that made possible the folk revival which has produced some first class professional performing groups and a welcome increase in DIY music making and dancing. Modern interpretation and reworking of traditional material provides a fascinating and rewarding artistic activity for those who enjoy active participation in artistic and community events.

The first residential week was held at Buckden House in June with an associated concert at Bolton Abbey featuring singer/guitarist Martin Carthy, one of the outstanding contributors to the folk revival in this country, and singer/fiddler Tom McConville from the north-east. A ceilidh with the Wharfedale *Witches' Bane* Ceilidh Band was held in Burnsall, there were outdoor performances in Grassington square, and music sessions and morris dancing at the Buck Inn. In August a second Buckden week saw a packed house at Burnsall village hall for a concert with the internationally famous 'Fairport' fiddle player Dave Swarbrick, whose early childhood was spent at Linton and whose first violin teacher was Fred Boothman, father of Wharfedale musician Tim Boothman.

The first weekend event was a Fiddlers Meet at Giggleswick in November with a focus on American, Scottish Border and Shetland music. In Ilkley, an ambitious and unique day of workshops and performances explored *The Scandinavian Connection* drawing on the historic links of Yorkshire with Scandinavia with contributions from Harrogate Theatre in Education and The Polska Band from York. Ilkley has also hosted a 10 week course in fiddle playing.

Future plans include, in February 1993, a two day workshop at Ilkley in puppetry for young people and a weekend at Halton Gill on *Playing for Dancing* with box player John Kirkpatrick contributing to the tutoring. Next May will see another Scandinavian music and dance weekend at Kilnsey including a concert and dance in the Institute on Saturday 15th May. A third Summer School is planned for 16th to 21st August in Buckden House.

Financial support is always essential for artistic and educational endeavours of this kind and YDW were successful in obtaining a setting up grant from The Foundation for Sport and the Arts and from Yorkshire and Humberside Arts. Additional sponsorship is also needed and Geoff and Liz would welcome enquiries from any organisations who would like to consider offering help. They would also welcome information about suitable venues or approaches from communities or organisations who would like to be involved in future programming.

YDW is also publishing books which are aiming to provide practical help for musicians, dancers and organisers. These include, so far, one on *How to Play Folk Fiddle* and a *Directory of Folk and Related Arts in Yorkshire* which provides information on traditional and contemporary folk performers, festivals, clubs and venues as well as listing other sources of information and relevant organisations.

For more information you can contact Liz and Geoff Bowen on 0943-609393 or write to 14 Oakburn Road, Ilkley, LS29 9NN.



## WENSLEYDALE CHARACTERS



The summer issue of the *Review* contained a feature on the Hawes Creamery and coupled with it the famed Wensleydale character the late Kit Calvert. The accompanying photo of Kit reminded me of a meeting with him in 1955 when I had the pleasure of spending some time with him and the late George Jackson in George's tiny cottage in Castle Bolton.

George Jackson was also a well-known Dales character and gifted artist who lived at Ripon although he spent much time in his Castle Bolton cottage. He was known as a writer, artist, teacher and dedicated dalesman and many of his drawings have found their way into the pages of Yorkshire magazines. He was at one time editor of the *Ripon Wakeman* and wrote and produced his own plays. George was a close friend of Fred Lawson, another famous Wensleydale artist who also lived at Castle Bolton.

My photograph was taken on a visit to George's cottage when Kit was also present and it shows Kit smoking his lengthy clay 'churchwardens' pipe and chatting to George in the tiny but cosy sitting room in the Castle Bolton retreat.

John Edenbrow

## WINTER READING

*Drystone Waller*

*In memoriam Tom Morphet - Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Settle, Yorks.*

Curling horned fingers in an ancient craft  
First learnt when tribes fleshed forts on Simon Fell,  
Old Tom finds chink and cheek of stone and lays  
And beds them jowl and root, not pausing till  
Lined up to his frame, stone after stone grows, packs  
And fits with through and capstone, the fell, bare  
Bones of these wind-scoured dales. Here fields are made  
From nowt and nourished, and a gap can loose  
A flock or lease a bull sprung lurching on  
A neighbour's cow. Old Tom, the waller, works  
His craft, keeps Time and warrior winds at bay  
While up the fell the walls cross bogs, skirt pots,  
And lie along the tops to patch the land.  
'A gap is down' means hours of hard, rough, hand-  
Work, tearing skin on stone, bare footings, chip  
Fillings, slabbed stile and cripple hole. He shakes  
His head at bedsteads in a gap and rough-  
Piled walls, a scrimshank farmer's art. But when  
They want a real wall, then they send for Tom  
Who'll stand in weather-how and work all day  
And make a wall to stand a hundred years  
To piece again the pattern of the dale.

MIKE HARDING

This poem is one of a powerful collection of verse *Daddy Edgar's Pools* written by Mike Harding and published by Peterloo Poets. The poems deal with themes familiar to many readers of Mike's other work - the Dales landscape, Ireland, the character of Dales people, but often more personal reflections. There is a great deal of wry humour, and even pathos in these poems; at other times a darker, tragic sense of the past dominates, a sense of quiet outrage at the futility of human experience and endeavour faced with the bland

cruelty of nature and of mankind himself. Like the late Cumbrian poet Norman Nicholson, Mike has the gift of finding a metaphor hidden within ordinary country working-class speech, turning everyday experience into a different kind of reality.

In order to ensure that these poems were read for what they were, Mike submitted them to Peterloo poets, a prestigious publishing house, under a 'nom-de-Watermans' - Christopher O'Neil. Only when the poems were accepted for publication, did Mike come clean.

If anyone still imagines Mike Harding is just an entertainer, or someone lacking the seriousness expected from an Honorary Member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, read these beautifully crafted poems.

**Daddy Edgar's Pools** costs £6.95 and in case of difficulty can be obtained directly from the publishers; Peterloo Poets, 2, Kelly Gardens, Calstock, Cornwall, PL18 9SA.



From *Country Walks Around Addingham*.

#### COUNTRY WALKS AROUND ADDINGHAM

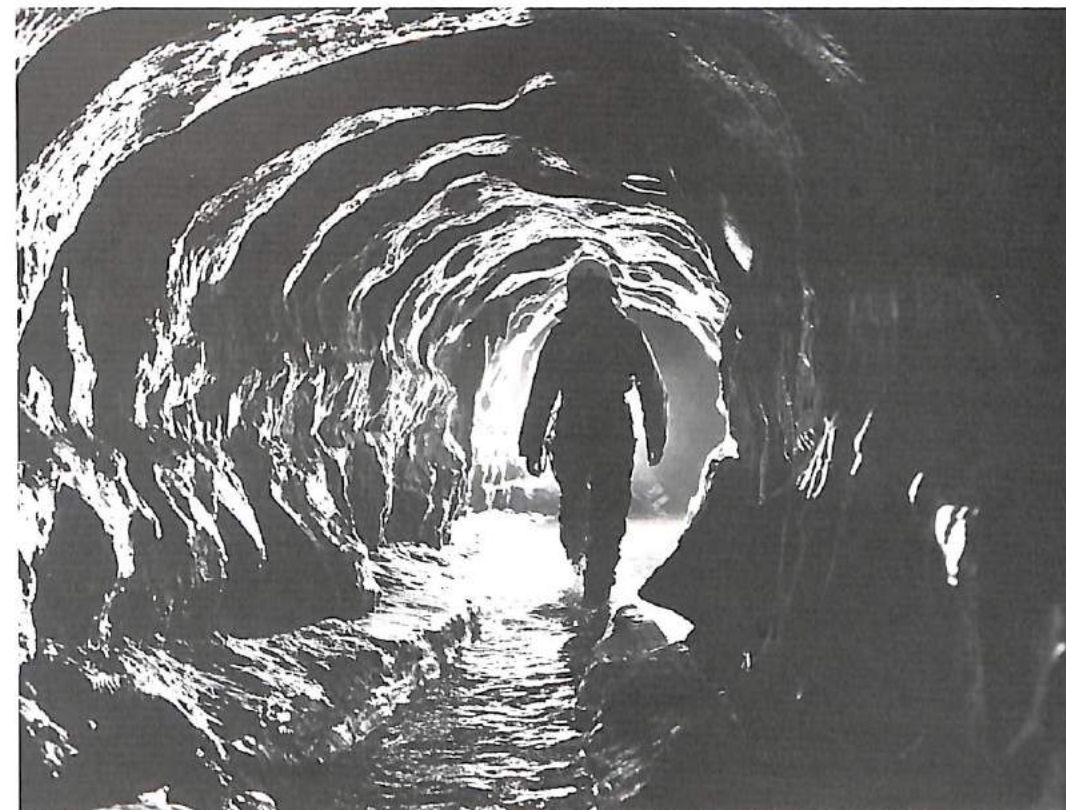
Addingham, a former mill village on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, keeps its Dales character despite by-passes and inevitable infilling with commuter homes, and is rich in history. There are some remarkable listed buildings in the village centre, and a network of footpaths leads into the surrounding countryside, including the National Park, through areas rich in natural beauty and local history.

This little book of six self-guided walks explores much of this Dales heritage. The walks are within the capacity of any reasonably fit person on even a short winter's afternoon, being between 4 and 5½ miles in length and all starting from Addingham Memorial Hall (well served by buses from Leeds, Skipton and Keighley). They provide an excellent introduction to Addingham and its countryside.

The book, published by Addingham Civic Society, has been meticulously researched and written by Alison Armstrong, who is the geological curator of Cliffe Castle Museum,

Keighley, a member of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a resident of Addingham for some years. There are good sketch maps by Pat Pearson, illustrations by Iain Dick, and an accompanying laminated large scale map to make pathfinding even easier - for those occasions, all too frequent this autumn, when it rains when you're out on a walk.

Copies of the book, whose publication has been supported by the Countryside Commission, are available in local shops price £2.75. In case of difficulty, they can be obtained by post from Addingham Civic Society, The Old School Room, Main Street, Addingham, West Yorkshire, LS29 0PD - please add 60p for postage and packing.



Eliza in the roof tunnel, Kingsdale Master Cave. (John & Eliza Forder)

#### SECRETS OF THE MOORS AND DALES

An evocative pinky-grey moorland sunrise fills the cover of John and Eliza Forder's *Secrets of the Moors and Dales* (Frank Peters £17.50).

One is always a little worried about books with 'Secret' in their title, in cases like Wainwright's walks, they rapidly cease to be secret. But this doesn't really apply to John and Eliza's latest series of North Country photographic essays, which once again concentrates on themes rather than places. It's nice to be reminded of North Yorkshire's other great National Park, the North Yorkshire Moors, with shots of those big, wide-

horizoned moorlands and rich areas of forest. Both forestry and grouse shooting feature strongly, the book emphasising, in visual as much as verbal terms, how that characteristic purple heather moorland dominates much of the North Yorks Moors National Park and the eastern part of our own Yorkshire Dales, which owes everything to careful heather and moorland management, which can only be justified and financed by sporting activity.

More than half the heather moorland in the world is to be found in the British Isles, and the North Yorkshire Moors contain England's most extensive areas. As well as being a rich reservoir of other birdlife as well as grouse, it is a glorious area for the walker. As one gamekeeper comments: 'Serious walkers, as such, do no harm - the only problem comes when they lose their way because footpaths are badly marked, but they are happy to be set right.' There are also some magnificent woodland shots.

The Dales are represented by an even more 'secret' world underground, that mysterious world of water-smoothed caves, labyrinthine passages and fast flowing streams, the exclusive domain of the pot-holer and caver. There are some fine shots inside both familiar caves - Gaping Gill, Alum Pot, Long Churn, and some less well known ones such as Ibbeth Peril and Notts Pot. There is also a sombre reminder of the physical danger always present, in the form of pictures of the Cave Rescue Organisation on call-out during time of flood.

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## DALESWATCH: A ROUND-UP OF NEWS FROM AROUND THE YORKSHIRE DALES

### Wensleydale

A small but lively meeting of the Wensleydale Countryside Forum at West Burton in November found itself discussing two of the most significant issues in the Dales at the present time, employment and transport - the Hawes Creamery and Wensleydale Railway.

The latest news on the Creamery is excellent, with a small Dales-based consortium of five people, mostly former managers, taking over the Wensleydale Dairy Products Ltd distributing company from Dairy Crest (thereby keeping eight jobs in the upper Dale), and using this company to re-establish cheese-making in premises now acquired from Dairy Crest.

It is hoped that cheese production will commence in January, with a new 'product launch' (watch the local press) concentrating on the famous and genuine Wensleydale Cheese, but also on other varieties of cheeses. It is also hoped it will prove possible to open the dairy to visitors by summer at which time as many as 25 people will be employed again in Hawes.

Already, many members of the Yorkshire Dales Society have offered financial and other help to the new Company. Whether these offers can be taken up is not clear. The best possible help all members can give will be to buy, eat and recommend the new cheeses when they come on the local market, helping to give new life and hope to an upper Dales community.

Sadly, the Northallerton-Redmire line faces a less certain future. Coincidentally with attempts to reprieve the freight railway including a County Council deal to acquire the line from BR (see autumn *Review*), came the devastating news that British Steel were going to seek other sources of supply for limestone - from a rail served limestone quarry at Shap, Cumbria. As a result Redmire quarry itself would lose many jobs and might even have to close.

There was more than a risk that local people might blame environmental pressure groups for driving their jobs away, but it seems that British Steel were already reviewing their future use of the quarry, without rail transport, in the light of the recession and the closure of Ravenscraig in Scotland. In which case the proposal to switch to road transport and create so much anger was, in the event, pointless, and only served to divert attention from the more serious long-term issues.

The last freight train along the line ran in mid December, and apart from a few enthusiast's specials, including the 'Wensleydale Lament' on January 3rd, the line is

closed, though tracks will not be lifted immediately to give would-be rescuers, such as Wensleydale Railway Association, a chance to put a package of measures together. The Wensleydale Railway Association has launched a major feasibility study to see what future the line could have as a passenger and freight railway (donations to the Wensleydale Railway Appeal Fund, 19 Springwell Lane, Northallerton, DL7 8QJ). There is even a proposal from another source for a narrow gauge steam line along the trackbed, which will be less well received by those who live in the dale who want a 'real' railway linked to the national rail network.

### **Nidderdale**

Nidderdale is one of our liveliest local groups and has scored a useful success in supporting local people opposing the transference of a large saw mill from Bradford to Birstwith in Nidderdale. Following prompting from the local groups, the YDS joined forces with local protesters writing to Harrogate Council to have the application, which would have caused considerable disturbance through traffic and noise, turned down.

### **Dentdale**

As in Nidderdale, Dentdale members found themselves taking up a local issue, this time to support the application to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee for a badly needed local worker's dwelling house at Dillicar, Dentdale, which most local people suggest would have little or no visual impact, whilst fulfilling an important need.

### **Lower Wharfedale**

Ilkley's controversial proposed riverside flood barriers scheme now looks as if it may find its way to the back burner following meetings between the Rivers Authority and local residents who have been dismayed at the visual impact of huge concrete flood barriers in this popular riverside area to meet a once-in-a-lifetime risk of serious flooding by the River Wharfe. Concerns about the Unitary Plan for the town of Ilkley prepared by Bradford Council and its impact on green spaces in the town have alarmed many YDS members, and the Society may follow the lead established by the Civic Trust in opposing parts of the Plan. A meeting of the Lower Wharfedale Group was held in Otley to discuss this and other matters on December 7th.

### **Upper Wharfedale**

YDS members report that Messrs Tilcon are carrying out extensive consultations with local organisations over the proposed major extensions to Swinden Quarry. This is widely thought to be an attempt to pre-empt national opposition from the Council for National Parks and other amenity organisations.

Members living in the Dales area are urged to contact their Daleswatch group, both to keep in touch with other members and to help reflect some of the key current issues in each of the Dales which the Society should be aware of. Pressure of work has delayed plans to launch the Swaledale and Airedale groups, but members will be notified as meetings are planned.



Photo Simon Holston

Contact either your local convenor or the relevant Council Member to keep in touch with what is going on.

**Dentdale:** Convenor - Louise Hunt (05875 400); Council Contact member - Anne Halloran (0532 438398)

**Upper Wharfedale:** Convenor - vacant; Council member - Sheila Marks (0943 608968)

**Ribblesdale:** Convenor - Hilary Baker (0729 840649); Council member - Barbara McCloughlin (0729 822197)

**Wensleydale:** Convenor - Jeff Taylor (0756 689701); Council member - Celeste Bonfanti (0539 740825)

**Mid and Lower Wharfedale:** Convenor - Peter Young (0943 466858); Council member - Chris Wright (0937 573427)

**Nidderdale:** Convenor - Jean Johnson (0943 880234); Council member - Chris Hartley (0943 872511)

For up-to-the-minute detailed news of issues affecting the Dales, don't forget the DALESWATCH DIGEST bulletin of current information culled from local and national press by Dawn Burton. It's available to YDS members from the YDS office at the cost of £5 per annum (to cover postage and photocopying) for four issues. Any cuttings from whatever source - local and national newspapers, specialist and professional magazines - are extremely welcome. Send them direct to Dawn Burton, 139 Curly Hill, Middleton, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

National Park Committee member and Daleswatch Group Chairman Dr. Jim Burton always welcomes comment about National Park issues from any Yorkshire Dales Society member, especially those living within the National Park. Jim can also be contacted at the above address or on 0943 602918.

## MONEY MATTERS

### Standing Orders

Many of our members take advantage of Bank Standing Orders to pay their annual subscription to the Yorkshire Dales Society. This greatly eases the task of those members who spend time in the office and do so much to keep the Society ticking over. Unfortunately problems do still arise, a case in point being when we get an individual annual subscription paid in to us every month, and it is surprising how often this does happen.

We are now facing the task of correcting Standing Orders from several hundred members who have not got round to amending them for the new subscription rates introduced at the beginning of the year. This takes up much time, and wastes money that could be put to better uses. (350 letters at 18p each cost us £63.00)

Please do check that if you have a Standing Order to pay your subscription, that it is for the correct amount and payment date.

### Direct Debits

A possible way to minimise the effort and cost of collecting subscriptions would be to introduce a Direct Debit scheme. You will be conversant with these in paying recurring bills, such as rates, etc.

Over the past year we have been working with our bankers to assess whether it would be practicable for us to introduce such a plan. Resulting from this, the Treasurer was able to report to Council that it would be perfectly possible and significantly advantageous for us to go ahead. He had to make the proviso, however, that this could only be done if several hundred members were prepared to support it. At this time we are not at all certain that this is the case and the matter is in abeyance. Do please contact us if you have any comments.

### Covenants

The handling of Covenants has been a concern of Council for quite some while now. We have found it to be extremely difficult to satisfy the Inland Revenue regarding these and now further changes in regulations mean that we have to start all over again.

Even if you have completed all the Covenant documentation in the past, we shall have to send further forms out now to comply with current legislation. Please bear with us in this as we should be able to secure a useful refund from the Inland Revenue if we persevere.

David Smith (Treasurer)

## OUT & ABOUT

### Dales Transport Seminar

At the time of going to press, there are still places on the YDS Traffic and Transport Seminar *Coping with Congestion in the Yorkshire Dales* on January 22nd in Settle. Speakers will include the North Yorkshire County Council County Surveyor, Michael Moore, National Park Officer, Richard Harvey, Geoff Bounds, Settle-Carlisle Railway Project Manager, Nick Bullock, publisher of *Dales Connections*, and Giles Fearnley, Managing Director of Keighley & District and Harrogate & District Travel.

Space is extremely limited. Ring Colin Speakman on 0943 607868 to find out if there are any places left.

### CNP National Park Societies Seminar

The Yorkshire Dales Society was well represented in September at the first ever seminar for National Park Societies and the Council for National Parks over such issues as new National Park legislation (promised following the Edwards Committee Report), Ministerial appointments, and intelligence concerning such issues as quarrying, military use of land and road and transport issues. It was also felt that there were considerable benefits in the Societies establishing links between each other for mutual sharing of ideas and support over such issues as publicity, membership, covenants etc.

CNP's new President Chris Bonington plans to visit the Yorkshire Dales National Park in January, and to meet members of the Yorkshire Dales Society during his visit.



### Dales Way Association

The Dales Way Association has recently been formed to look after the Dales Way - the popular long distance recreational footpath through the heart of the Yorkshire Dales between Ilkley and Windermere. Surveys of the route are taking place to report on its condition, and the need for better waymarking. A new logo has been agreed which it is hoped, can be used for waymarking and official badges. It is also hoped

that book authors and video makers will, in future, work closely with the Association to agree the exact route and help get across the conservation message, as well as contributing to the maintenance of the path.

Membership is just £3 per annum, and for this members receive a free copy of the Dales Way Handbook and Accommodation Guide, a regular newsletter. Membership applications and details are available from David Smith, Dalegarth, Moorfield Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 8BL.

### **Mugs Galore**

In response to requests, we are extending our merchandising range and offering an elegant black earthenware mug with gold logo and slogan. This makes an excellent small present or useful item or could even form a part of a collection. The mugs are available at YDS indoor events at £2.50 per mug or by post for £3.40 to include postage and packing. Please note that each mug is despatched in its own individual packaging so that the cost is £3.40 per mug despatched. We have sent out a price list for the convenience of members, to include our ever-popular sweat shirts and a limited range of one or two additional items.

### **New Year's Resolution - Renewals**

Since we are keen to continue to enjoy the support of our members who will hopefully continue to renew their subscriptions, we are now sending out a more personalised series of reminders for a trial period when your subscription is due. Please help the Society by renewing your subscriptions as soon as possible if you have not already done so, so that we can cut down on the number of reminders we have to send out. Please do check that you have sent us the correct amount as a considerable amount of office time is spent, plus postage or phone calls, chasing incorrect renewals. If you pay by banker's order, do check that the correct amount is going through the system (see our Treasurer's Article 'Money Matters'). In a surprising amount of cases, the bank has repeatedly ignored customer's instructions in this respect. If the Society is at fault or post has gone astray, do please let us know.

The current subscription rates are as follows:

Single Member £8 Family £12 Single Retired £6 Retired Couple £9

### **Welcome Pack**

From the new year we shall be sending out a welcoming letter to each new member with a brief summary of previous events and attractions and further information about the Society as part of our new 'Welcome Pack'. We hope that this will enable new members to feel that the organisation cares for the individual Society member and help to foster a sense of identifying with the organisation. We care for you the members as well as for the Yorkshire Dales as a whole.

### **Overwhelming Success - 'Through Stitch and Thread' Exhibitions**

Our 'Through Stitch and Thread' exhibitions have brought us a number of new members and friends and given enormous pleasure to the many hundreds of people who saw the Yorkshire Dales interpreted through the medium of embroidery, fabric collage, tapestry and other varied techniques. Comments included the very high standard of the exhibits, the originality of some of the designs and the striking effects of light which inspired one artist to make repeated visits. We were delighted with the enthusiastic response the whole scheme awakened and hope to use one of the designs for our new Yorkshire Dales Society Membership leaflet.

Fleur Speakman

## **YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY WINTER EVENTS**

Winter can provide some excellent days in the Yorkshire Dales - soft light and unusual views in valleys free of leaf cover. And our current calendar takes us into spring to help you plan your diary. Join us on one of our walk-and-talk events or purely outdoor events. Friends of members are always welcome to any of our events.

### **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6TH - WALK IN ILKLEY AREA**

Meet at Ilkley railway station at 10.30am (train from Leeds 09.40, Bradford Forster Sq. 09.30) for an easy 4 mile mid-Wharfedale walk which finishes at 12.30. Walk Leader Colin Speakman (0943 607868). A packed lunch can be brought or there are plenty of refreshment facilities in Ilkley and Addingham. Please allow sufficient time to reach Addingham Village Hall where the afternoon lecture is taking place. Bus 783 to Addingham d. Leeds 1210; 765 from Ilkley d. 1340.

### **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6TH - THE REALITIES OF DALES FARMING**

Peter Knight is a retired Dales ADAS farming advisor with a lifetime's experience of working with farmers in the Yorkshire Dales. Too often conservation and recreation interests fail to appreciate the economic realities facing working farmers in areas like the Yorkshire Dales; Peter will offer a thought-provoking insight into the current situation facing Dales hill farmers - the true guardians of our countryside. Meet Addingham Memorial Hall 2pm. (Parking at Hall).

### **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20TH - THE ROBINSON INSTITUTE, TIMBLE**

The villagers of Timble, Washburndale, have fought a recent battle to save their historic village hall and Institute. Members are invited to join YDS Council members to see inside the Hall and meet villagers - and to see if there are ways we can help with efforts to restore this focal point of Dales life. We shall combine our visit with an easy 2½ mile walk through the woods to Timble, meeting at the Yorkshire Water car park south of Fewston Bridge (SE 187538). The walk starts at 11am and will finish about 2pm. Please bring either a packed lunch or buy a pub lunch at the Timble Inn. Leader Colin Speakman 0943 607868. (Lifts can be arranged from Otley for anyone without their own transport).

### **SATURDAY MARCH 13TH - LEEDS LIVERPOOL CANAL WALK**

An easy 4 mile walk which will finish about 12.30 pm. Meet at Gargrave Village Hall at 10.30 am and bring a packed lunch. Leader Chris Wright 0937 573427. Train for Gargrave leaves Leeds 0903, Skipton 0950.

#### SATURDAY MARCH 13TH - THE LEEDS LIVERPOOL CANAL

David Blackburn is both a member of the Yorkshire Dales Society and Area Manager (East) of the Leeds-Liverpool canal. He will outline the story of this remarkable late 18th century Trans-Pennine waterway which has had no small influence on Dales history, and indicate its continuing role as a major leisure facility and resource for conservation in the late 20th century. The lecture takes place at Gargrave Village Hall at 2pm. (The hall is in village centre.)

#### SATURDAY MARCH 27TH - A WALK IN CALDERDALE

Is Calderdale a Yorkshire Dale or part of the South Pennines? To find out meet at Hebden Bridge Information Centre at 10.30 am (linking train leaves Leeds 0918, Bradford Interchange 0942 - Metro Day Rover tickets valid) for a fairly strenuous walk through this characteristic gritstone, oakwood and milltown landscape which lies between the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District National Park, Distance about eight miles. Bring a packed lunch. Leader Rod Clough (0274 752092).

#### SATURDAY APRIL 3RD - VISIT TO EARBY MINE MUSEUM AND CONONLEY MUSEUM

A unique opportunity to learn a little more about the Dales lead mining heritage. We start with a visit to the *Museum of Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining* at Earby. Entrance £1 per person. The Museum is in the old Grammar School, School Lane off the main A56 (SD 908480). Buses 28 from Burnley, 218 from Skipton - for times ring 0772 263333. Please meet outside the museum at 1.30 pm. The museum visit will take about an hour. We shall then visit the site of the lead mine and smelt mill at Cononley, Airedale (sharing cars) in the company of museum curator Peter Dawson - the visit taking about two hours. Contact Sheila Marks 0943 608986.

#### SATURDAY APRIL 26TH - EXPLORING THE WASHBURN VALLEY

This circular walk starts from the Yorkshire Water Car Park south of Fewston Bridge (SE 187538) at 10.30 am and will be a moderate 11 miles ramble. Please bring a packed lunch. The walk is based on Geoff Hall's new book 'Exploring Emmerdale Country'. Leader Chris Hartley 0943 872511. The walk will finish around 4pm.

#### SATURDAY MAY 8TH - FARM VISIT TO HURRIES FARM, OTTERBURN

The visit will start at the Hurries Farm at 2pm and will finish 4pm-4.30pm. Booking is essential at £1 per head; further details in the April *Review* or contact Sheila Marks 0943 608968.

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