

The Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 42 Spring 1993

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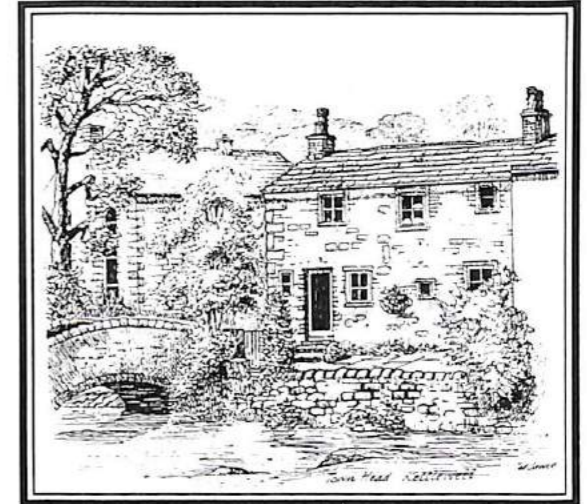
THE YORKSHIRE
DALES SOCIETY

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The
Yorkshire
Dales
Review

No 42 Spring 1993



The Quarterly Magazine of the Yorkshire
Dales Society



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Colin & Fleur Speakman

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Cover photograph: 'Lambing by Bottle' by Robert Crookall

AN INDEPENDENT YORKSHIRE DALES

Thank you, Yorkshire Dales Society members, for a magnificent response to Council for National Park President Chris Bonington's appeal to write to your MP to persuade him or her to ensure that the Government carries out its pre-election pledge to reform National Park administrations.

Some of you were kind enough to let us see copies of your letters - moving and well argued as they were. Typical was one member who described how, during a difficult period of his life, he "gained strength and new hope from the peace and tranquillity to be found in parts of the Dales".

Truly, the Yorkshire Dales belong to all of us, part of a national and international cultural and landscape heritage. That's why Parliament determined the area should be a National Park. Sadly, in the early 1950s, a cleverly exploited bureaucratic loophole in the 1949 Act allowed the original concept to be diluted so that all but two of Britain's original eleven National Parks - including the Yorkshire Dales - were reduced to being mere committees of their respective County Councils. So far successive Governments, despite overwhelming evidence of the need for independent authorities from expert bodies such as the Edwards Panel, have refused to act.

Urgency is now required as County Councils themselves go into the melting pot with radical changes in local Government structure planned over coming months. Unless National Parks have their own independent administrations before then, chaos will result. Interim arrangements will cause great uncertainty, with staff unsure of their futures and longer term commitments put at risk. The Dales landscape and people could suffer.

Up to now Ministers have claimed that a crowded legislative programme including the Maastricht Treaty and rail privatisation was preventing them from acting, but pressure from CNP and other bodies, and from their own MPs as a result of your action, has now caused a rethink, with a firm promise for a Bill in early November.

Thank you for all your help and support. If you didn't get round to writing that letter to your MP, it isn't too late to help keep up the pressure. Remember, there's nothing better than a flood of letters in an MP's postbag to ensure that they push Ministers into action.

Colin Speakman

ECOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY IN THE DALES

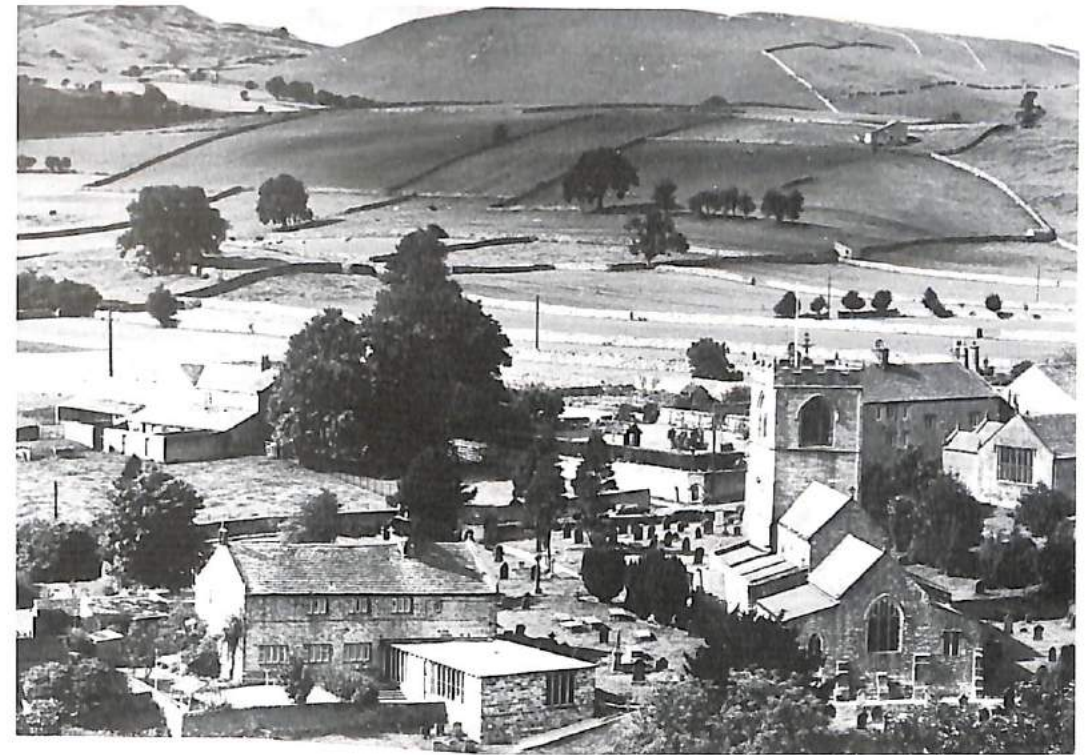
Dr Edward P. Echlin, Honorary Fellow in Theology, Trinity & All Saints, Leeds University, lives in Ripon, at the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Dales and is an active member of the Yorkshire Dales Society. In this quarter's FOCUS article, he takes up the theme explored in his recent lecture to the Society of an ecological and spiritual crisis within society.

The global ecological crisis is not just in Africa. The crisis is here in the Dales. To indulge in reality avoidance, what World Watch calls "*denial in the decisive decade*", by pretending that we are secure with "business as usual" in our Dales habitat is undoubtedly the surest way to *lose* the Dales. In December, in a blunt four page report, 1,575 eminent scholars, including 99 Nobel Prize winners and ranging from Anatole Abragam of the Vatican Academy of Sciences to Lord Zuckerman, a scientific adviser to Winston Churchill, who were chaired by the American physicist Henry Kendall, said: "*Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. No more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avoid threats we now confront will be lost.*" Kendall, a recent Nobel Prize Winner added, "*This kind of consensus is truly unprecedented. There is an exceptional degree of agreement within the international scientific community that natural systems can no longer absorb the burden of current human practices.*"

No one but an imbecile - or an economist - would deny that global catastrophes - and their attendant migrations - would devastate our Dales habitat. Chemist James Lovelock, it is true, says Gaia will survive unsustainable human impact, but he quickly adds that planetary regeneration would take "at least" millions of years - probably without our species.

The facts are available and, at least since the Rio Earth Summit, quite widely known: for example in *State of the World 1993* by World watch (Earthscan Publications); and in the "*Environment Guardian*" every Friday in *The Guardian*. Most members of this Society are aware of the crisis. What we can do about it is another matter. Mostafa Tolba of the United Nations Environment Programme says: "*Everywhere people ask what they can do*" to heal, regenerate and save this planet from catastrophe. What can *we do* in the *Dales*, our habitat, our home and biosystem in which we will succeed or fail to save the earth?

First, let us exorcise prevailing illusions. Repudiate the "infinite resource illusion", cherished by every politician, television journalist, agribusinessman and



Burnsall Church and village (Photo John Edenbrow.)

civil engineer, which pretends that there are infinite fields and plots to build on, erode and cover with buildings, roads and chemicals. In fact there are not: every blade of grass, every plot is precious, fragile, part of ourselves. Another illusion is "This little bit won't matter" - just this little bit of litter, plastic container, fossil fuel, just my car journey, just this little bit of asphalt, imported potato, package holiday, and just this little infill won't matter. In fact it matters infinitely, the world is being destroyed by little bits that "don't matter". Another virulent illusion is the pretence that somebody's "taking care of that for us." Planners, politicians, kindly officials, civil servants, industrialists "are taking care of that for us." In fact they are not. They often drive gas guzzlers and love to build roads. The sombre fact is that if we are to preserve the dales we will have to do it ourselves. I can think of no NGO better prepared to help *us* take care of the Dales and more deserving of our support than the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Our problem ultimately is spiritual. Deep within the contemporary British psyche is a hidden rage against the restraints under which this planet grants us life. We will not, indeed cannot, love and *let be* green fields because we have made ourselves into consumerist gods. Driven by male aggression, we will tear our island to pieces because as technical fixers in a man made world, we can "control" chemical agribusiness, development - and even inflation!

Ask the Christian clergy to wake up, get green and going! Ask clergy and lay leaders, in chapel or church, to jettison the dualism which they've been fed and are

feeding us and return to their foundation documents, their deep tradition and their saints, which proclaim the human person *within* and not above the rest of creation. The first article of the Christian creed is about creation. Ask that church land and buildings be sustainable for example.

I am suggesting that the Church and all the other religions in the Dales should be asked - or better, *told* by yourselves - to lead us in sustainable living so that we can at this eleventh hour preserve the Dales. Representatives of the European Community churches, including Cardinal Martini of Milan, said as much last summer. "*The churches of the EC together with appropriate organisations and institutions seek economically sustainable alternatives to our present unsustainable lifestyles.*"

When every temple, mosque and churchyard, chapel and field becomes a nature reserve, every worship fully integrated with the earth, and every parish community includes and is led by local conservationists - then we will have begun. Recently I read in a parish bulletin, about the Rio Earth Summit, "*We need the involvement of all types of non-governmental organisations including the Churches and all their associated societies.*" These words are not by a card carrying conservationist, nor a member of YDS. They are by Michel Howard, QC, MP, Secretary of State for the Environment who, despite his portfolio and the words just quoted, has hardly been "One of us"! There are also words by other Ministers, including these words of the MP for Ripon and Skipton which appeared in the *Ripon Gazette*, 4th December 1992. "*Ripon has lost a generation in waiting for the bypass. The future will begin when that symbolic first sod is cut and the bulldozers move in....The bypass is the great monument of the end of the 20th century.*" I suggest we write to our elected representatives that, surprisingly as it may seem to them, we are concerned about the global - and therefore local - ecological crisis, and that we really care and are prepared to sacrifice and want *real* investment in public transport and *no more roads*.

In conclusion, let us abandon illusions, change our lifestyles, live sustainably, buy and share locally, love and let creation be in the dales, and let us insist the religions take the lead. Christianity, the prevailing if not the only Dales religion, is an ecological promise and a piercing challenge.

Ed Echlin

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ROY BROWN

Roy Brown, of Harrogate, was a founder-member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, a former YDS Council Member and a member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee. A keen walker and lifelong lover of the hills and fells of the Yorkshire Dales, Roy died recently after a long struggle with cancer. He was also a fine poet. In tribute to his memory, we print one of his poems *Limestone Days* published in his collection "*love/hate relationship with the north*" in 1971.

limestone days

take any facet of a day
add green immense mammalian hills
to mould an average archetype
of hackneyed landscape boulder strewn
to avatar of limestone lawns

then paint in vivid white a roll
of unrepeating clouds where in
the labyrinths of mind a sound
of silent skies in turquoise light
comes billowing in the grassy wind

take sun and stone and sound and sight
a smell of northern alps and streams
that generate a solitude
of caves a lacy underground
to conduit abrasive rain

see time expand exquisitely
when nothing urgent matters time
as moving shapes of stones and clouds
reflect the razored hay bleached fields
dissolving in the tenuous air.

take clean carved rock
a soft and living marble dazed with heat
caressing rounded spiky grass
in praise to lords of loving air
for limestone's partnership with sky
Roy Brown

THE ROBINSON LIBRARY, TIMBLE - A PROFILE

Many Yorkshire Dales Society members will know the little village of Timble, Washburndale, with its popular walkers' inn, venue for many a weekend ramble. The historic Robinson Library and community centre opposite the inn has recently been saved from dereliction by the action of local people. Anne Wilson, Secretary of the Robinson Library Trustees, outlines the history of this little building with its Anglo-American links and the concern for its future.

A PROFILE

In 1890 Robinson Gill of New York, USA, made a decision to build a memorial in his native land. The building was opened in 1892.

A former resident from the Timble area, he left for America in 1851 to seek his fortune. He achieved both business and financial success from his stone yards established on the Hudson and East Rivers of New York. By 1890 a citizen of New York and president of two New York banks, he wanted both to register his achievements and provide his birthplace with a memorial. He chose to erect a building, the "Robinson Library", named after his maternal ancestors, wealthy yeomen, who resided at Swinsty Hall.

The library cost £861 8s and the builder was John Dickson, writer of the diaries which have since been published as "Timble Man. Diaries of a Dalesman", by the late Ronald Harker, published by Dalesman. The Library was built on waste bog land opposite the Timble Inn, with the permission of the Duchy of Lancaster.

A local committee of Trustees, including John Dickson, was elected to manage the Library which became a thriving institution, despite John Dickson's earlier misgivings. "The population is so small and intellectual pursuits are unpopular. I don't know how the affair will go".

The population of the Washburn Valley was at that time 200.

The Robinson Library provided the area with an active social centre, a free school, Sunday school, library and reading room. Robinson Gill also generously provided £100 worth of books purchased in Leeds and an endowment of £2000 as an investment for the future upkeep of the building.

In 1897 news reached Timble from America of Robinson's Gill's death. The news also unmasked a further shock. The family fortunes had declined and the original endowment money had been invested unwisely. The revenue for the upkeep of the Library and Hall dried up. The school finally closed in 1904.



Until the late 1950s revenue from social and parish functions maintained the Robinson Library as a village community centre. However with the changing pattern of village and town life, the use and state of the building deteriorated.

By 1990, the Library was in desperate need of repair both inside and out and had suffered from the ravages of weather and lack of funds over a period of time. Many of the library's original assets, pictures and books had been lost.

There was the fear that the Duchy of Lancaster would reclaim the land on which the Library stood. The deeds signed in 1890, gave the Duchy the right to claim the building and sell off the land as they saw fit, should the Library cease to perform its original function as a community centre for the sole use of residents.

A massive restoration programme was initiated, to restore the property to its former glory and re-establish it as the Community Centre for Timble and the surrounding area.

It was hoped to complete a large proportion of the work in time for the "Centenary Celebrations."

To this aim the current Trustees planned a series of events to raise desperately needed funds to pay for the restoration work.

Anne Wilson, Secretary for Trustees.

Fleur Speakman, Joint Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society brings the story up to date.

The "Centenary Celebrations" of the Robinson Library took place in 1992 after a very successful fund raising appeal which enabled the fabric of the building to be

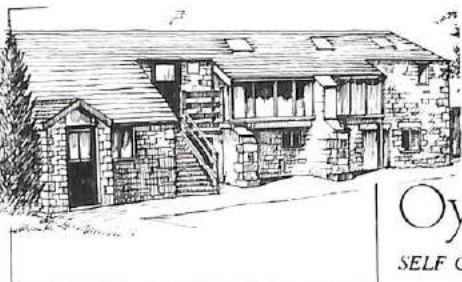
repaired and renovated. Much was achieved by voluntary labour and the generosity of business interests as well as by a tremendous amount of local effort. Much still remains to be done as the YDS Council and other Society members discovered when they visited the building and spoke to Trustees earlier this year.

This historic and attractive building comprises a small reading room, a splendid hall which could seat between 50 to 80 people, a kitchen, WC and cellar. Of archive interest are copies of the records of books borrowed from the library over a period and the school log book.

The building deperately needs re-wiring in the interests of long term safety, also some efficient heating and an additional WC. There are also other desirable projects as regards furnishing. Council and members at their visit were enormously impressed with what they saw and held lengthy discussions with some of the Trustees. The Society would be delighted to hold a YDS event at the Robinson Library at some future date so more members are in a position to judge for themselves. There is always a dearth of good Dales venues which keep their rates to a fairly modest level.

At the last YDS Council meeting, the Council of Management voted to offer some financial assistance in the shape of £100 to one of the named projects for the Robinson Library Restoration Fund, as an encouragement for other members or organisations who might like to associate themselves with such a worthwhile Dales project. For a modest £2 it is also possible to become a Friend of the Robinson Library and if desired, to become further involved in helping with their restoration programme. Help in manning possible fund raising events might also be appreciated by the Trustees in such a small-scale community.

Offers of help, financial or otherwise or requests for further information to Anne Wilson, Secretary to the Trustees of the Robinson Library, Chapel House, Timble, North Yorkshire, LS21 2NN.



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PLANNING AND THE NATIONAL PARK COMMITTEE

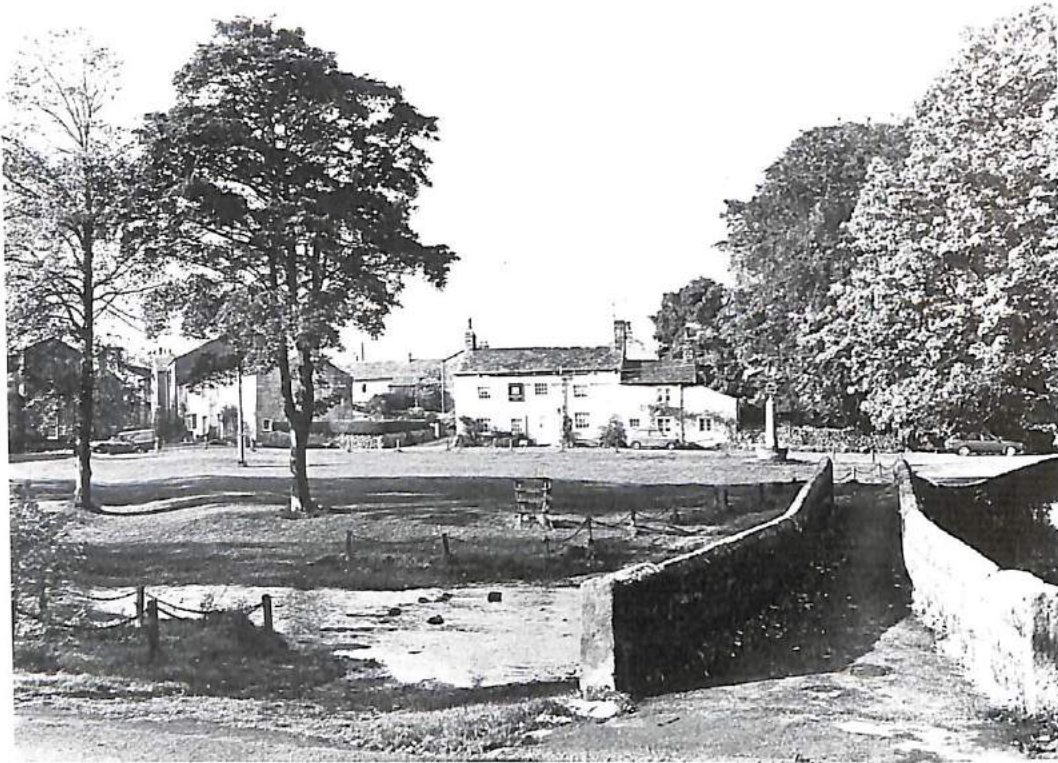
County Councillor Ralph Atkinson, Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee and of the Yorkshire Dales Society, responds to Dr. Peter Annison's "Focus" article in the Winter Yorkshire Dales Review.

The questions of both local residence and planning requirements are long-running criticisms, though Peter Annison's claim that "*Matters which affect the social and economic well-being of the communities within the Dales... are more properly the responsibility of the District and County Councils*" is more recent. However, from my experience as a County Council Member of the Park Committee for the last three and half years, I may be able to contribute a wider perspective to the debate.

Firstly, planning - as well as being a County Councillor I have been a member of Craven District Council for the last five years. For most of those five years I was only allowed to present my local cases to the Craven Planning Committee (though not to vote) as one of the local representatives for Bentham, but latterly I acted as Vice Chairman of that Committee for a year. It will surprise most residents of the Park that I have found it much easier to get positive decisions on marginal cases through the Park Committee than I ever have through Craven. So much for the 'more rigorous planning requirements' quoted by Peter. More rigorous than what? Certainly not Craven Planning Committee.

On planning also - if I may touch on an aspect of Park planning not mentioned by Peter but for which we are often criticised - that of consistency. The Park Committee is fairly evenly balanced between those I call the purists - those who insist that a converted barn should still look like a barn - no chimneys, tiny windows, etc... and to whom policies are sacrosanct - and the pragmatists - those who are prepared to make exceptions to both policy and standards in order to accommodate local conditions and personal circumstances. Between them the Committee is so evenly balanced that one absence or one changed vote on either side can swing the decision. Hence the apparent inconsistency from meeting to meeting and even within one meeting. As they must, the officers tend to the purist side and can recommend only policy, but the Committee not infrequently decides against their advice.

Then what about Committee Members' residence outside the Park? Of course local residence and the 'toad under the harrow' knowledge it brings of local



Linton-in-Craven (Special conservation area)
(Photo Christine Whitehead)

opinion is important. I for one, as the District Council's spokesman to the Edwards Committee, strongly supported the case for at least more representation from the Districts. Parish representation would be more difficult - if only because of the large number of parishes.

However, is residence within the Park an overriding qualification? We have had some really outstanding members who lived outside the Park. Gerry Pearlman and Laurie Fallows, who both left us recently (as nominated members their time was up), are fine examples. Quite apart from their personalities, they are sadly missed: Gerry for his unrivalled knowledge of the law, especially as it related to planning and footpaths and Laurie simply because he knows every stretch of footpath in the Park. Amongst our present members many of our most valuable live outside the Park. I can't detail all of them but to mention but two - Jane Hatcher, who keeps us all straight on architectural matters and Ted Asquith, whose expertise in agricultural matters is unchallenged, both live outside. Amongst recent additions, Jim Burton, who has been mentioned several times in these pages, lives outside the Park. I do myself - my qualifications being a constituency which includes two of the Three Peaks, an agricultural profession and membership of the Forest of Bowland Advisory Committee (useful for cross fertilisation of ideas, etc...). This is not to say that those members who live within the Park, like John Piper and

Caroline Thornton-Berry and the several others are not invaluable. Incidentally, I hope that the Secretary of State will consider John as a Nominated Member when he retires from the County Council in May.

I'd suggest that countrymen and women with relevant knowledge, expertise and skills, with a concern and commitment for the aims of the National Park should be, as they are, well represented on the Committee regardless of their place of residence. To me, to confine membership of the Committee to those resident within the Park would not only restrict the base of selection quite unwarrantably, but also neglect those national aspects of our trust which Peter himself acknowledges.

Also to be taken into consideration is the way the Committee itself works. Under Robert Heseltine, our present Chairman, most of the Committee's decisions, even many of development control, are taken by consensus and the views of those with relevant knowledge, whether local or of a particular discipline, are given their due weight. Nevertheless, it is true that the Secretary of State's nominees in reality have only the accountability of their own consciences and I, for one, dislike their taking part in the voting on matters of development control where local accountability is an important factor.

Lastly, should matters affecting the social and economic well-being of the communities within the Dales be the responsibility of the District and County Councils and not of the Park Committee? As far as I know they are. As Peter himself quotes, the responsibility of the Committee for the social and economic well-being of the local communities, is only a secondary one which was tacked on later, - "to have regard to" is neither a full nor a strong responsibility. In our representations to the Edwards Committee, some of us felt that the Park should be given more responsibility for this, but perhaps Peter is right - that it is not an appropriate mix with conservation. Whether the District and County Councils have sufficient expertise in this matter I don't know, though I'm also Vice Chairman of Craven's Economic Development Committee. Surely it's largely a matter of hiring the right bodies. In so far as development control and whether the Park's planning should take local economics into account, you have a strong body of opinion amongst the committee pragmatists that it should.

Ralph Atkinson

[An interesting reflection of the current economies of National Parks comes from a recent survey undertaken for the new Association of National Parks - reflecting the increasing interest of National Park Authorities in the economic and social well being of those who live and work the Parks. The survey shows that with National Parks there are a higher percentage of people employed in primary industries (eg farming, quarrying) than the national average, but lower than average in manufacturing. However unemployment is actually lower in National Parks than the national average. Tourism jobs are increasing, but many are still seasonal jobs leading to unemployment in the winter. Interestingly enough, there is an actually higher than average rate of approval in National Parks for offices and for agricultural buildings.]

FORMS AND COLOURS

Marie Hartley needs no introduction to members of the Yorkshire Dales Society as a noted historian, writer and illustrator of the Yorkshire Dales and with Joan Ingilby one of our first two Honorary Members. Originally in partnership with Ella Pontefract and later with Joan Ingilby, her many books chronicling dales life have charmed countless readers.

Forms and Colours (Smith Settle £14.95) by Marie Hartley is a wonderful illustrated evocation of the Dales landscape. The book covers a seventy year period of Marie Hartley's illustrative technique with examples of her paintings from the twenties and thirties right up to the present day and including a variety of techniques such as oil on board, water colours, pen and ink drawings, woodcut engravings and linocuts. A particular feature is a number of preliminary pencil sketches for wood engravings, making it possible to trace the original inspiration to the later finished product as in Skipton High Street and Grassington Square from 1937. In this beautifully produced hard back book, the changing face of Dales farming, buildings, landscapes and even people becomes evident, but the quality that shines through her work is that essential spirit of place which is indubitably the Yorkshire Dales.

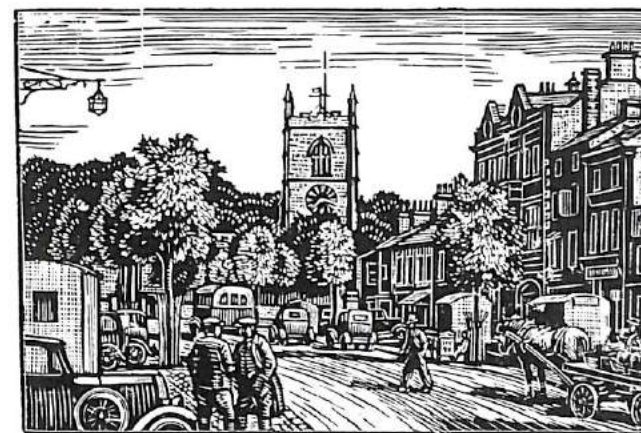
Trained at Leeds College of Art and at the Slade School in London, Marie Hartley then moved up to the Dales where she began her fruitful collaborations as writer and illustrator. In over 150 paintings (only a selection of them represented here), she manages at her best to capture a vital breathing landscape and the quiet charm of a Dales village. A watercolour drawing with pen and ink of "*Beckermonds, Langstrothdale*" painted in 1939, seems to be a particularly effective vehicle for her talents with the strong patterning of the trees finding an effective counterpoint in the drystone walls and buildings. "*Askrigg from the moor road in the severe winter of 1947*" is another watercolour which suggests a wonderful sense of movement in the slightly bent gaunt trees and an immensely tactile quality to the deep snow. Two oils, "*Reflections on Semerwater in midwinter*" evokes an immense sense of tranquillity and "*Summer in upper Wensleydale with fields of buttercups*" is a delight with its foaming foreground of wild flowers and misty view to the far horizon. Incredibly it was painted in only three hours; Marie Hartley preferring to capture the immediate rather than a more contrived and protracted study.

We have included a special order form for the special offer of "Forms and Colours" which should be sent direct to Smith Settle and cheques should be made out in their name. With every purchase of "Forms and Colours" costing £13.95, using this form, a donation of £1.00 will be paid to the Yorkshire Dales Society so that you can have the pleasure of owning a book which is a superb record of the Dales landscape and the work of a fine Dales artist, whilst helping the Yorkshire Dales Society at the same time.

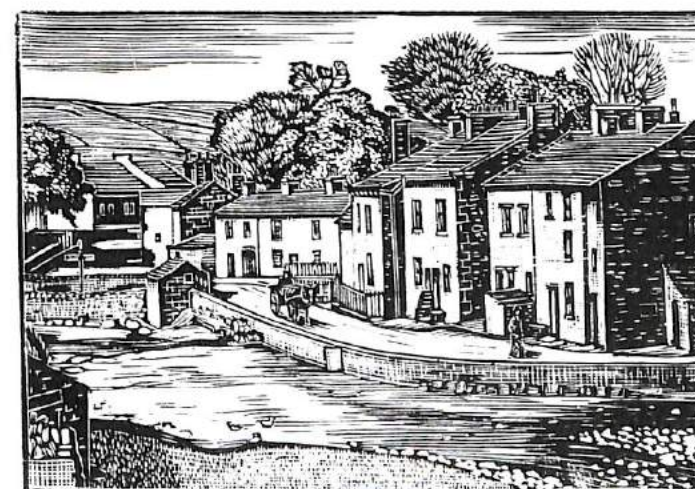
On our back cover is a full colour version of Marie Hartley's "*Summer in upper Wensleydale*".

Fleur Speakman

Wood Engravings by Marie Hartley



High Street Skipton (1937)



Gayle, near Hawes (1935)

FROM THE YORKSHIRE DALES TO ROMANIA

YDS Vice-chairman Dr Chris Wright, in professional life an anaesthetist at St. James Hospital, Leeds ("Jimmy's") together with Dr Ian Kinnish, local GP of Grassington, Upper Wharfedale and a small band of colleagues and volunteers, will set off in late April for Romania. In the following article he explains how the Romanian connection arose and what the group hope to achieve.

If you spend much time in Grassington, you will soon be aware of the initials MESH on many noticeboards about the town. The Medical, Educational and Social Help Charity was formed by local townspeople to bring help to the impoverished area of Mehedinti in the south west corner of Romania. This region of limestone valleys in the beautiful Carpathian mountains, not unlike parts of our own Yorkshire Dales, was "discovered" by a group including two local doctors who had a terrifying experience when, using an extremely decrepit ambulance on a bus trip, the vehicle skidded and overturned. It had three completely bald tyres!

On their return, they decided to set up the charity to provide simple help to the community rather than to individuals. The first project for the charity was to rebuild and stock a medical centre in Obersia which took three months. The second was to provide a school with a fresh water supply and toilets, and this project is now well advanced. This year's project is fairly simple; to train people in Ambulance Aid along with possibly supplying two Romanian made Renault vehicles and the means to look after them. Part of the project is educational in the widest sense so that those associated with the scheme are trained into a sense of responsibility and made socially aware that vehicles and equipment must at all costs be kept tidy.

It is also hoped to identify a potential local instructor so that this individual could be brought to the UK for further training and of course experience.

This scheme is not about giving the people of Mehedinti an ambulance service, but in effect about starting a pilot scheme so that they can then develop their own system that is right for them and their resources.

A convoy will leave Grassington in late April with two teams for both further school work and the ambulance project, including five personnel associated with training in West Yorkshire. The "Pride of the Dales" minibus is also making the journey so the summer Dalesbus bus schedules will have to await its safe return.

A separate vehicle will carry the many training aids required along with

equipment donated by local companies and hospitals. As well as giving up their time, volunteers pay for their own fares and accommodation. If you can help this small charity which is doing such valuable work, we would be very grateful.

At the end of a recent YDS lecture on Saturday March 13th on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, Chris Wright made a brief appeal for funds for the above trip and just over £52 towards immediate costs was collected from YDS members in a very short space of time. This was very gratefully acknowledged. If you would like the opportunity to help MESH, the charity mentioned in the article, please make out your cheque to MESH and send it via the YDS office to reach us before the end of April if possible. We thank you in advance for your support. Our address is *The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley LS21 1HD.*



COPING WITH CONGESTION

The Yorkshire Dales Society's seminar about Traffic Congestion and Public Transport - *Coping with Congestion*- took place at Watershed Mill, Settle on January 22nd.

Aimed at transport professionals rather than the general public, keynote presentations were made by Richard Harvey, Yorkshire Dales National Park Officer, Michael Moore, North Yorkshire County Council County Surveyor, Geoff Bounds, Regional Railways, Nick Bullock, publisher of Dales Connections and Giles Fearnley, Chairman of Blazefield Holdings (Keighley & District Travel, Harrogate & District Travel). Taking part in the discussion and workshops which followed were three members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, including its Chairman, County Councillor Robert Heseltine.

The three afternoon workshops focused on Traffic Management, Reducing Demand for Travel and Developing the Public Transport Alternative.

Debate was lively, and informed, and produced a number of positive suggestions which have been passed on to all who attended and to the local authorities for



Near Keld, Swaledale

consideration. General agreement was that whilst participants were by no means anti-car, and recognise that the car is and will continue to be, the prime means of transport for visitors and local community alike, future levels of traffic increase means that restraint in some form - either by environmentally damaging congestion or more sensible measures of traffic management - will be inevitable in the future. Public transport - both bus and rail - has a vital role for those people who do not have a car or do not wish to use a car, and also as a part of balanced traffic management strategies for the Dales as a whole.

Copies of the full Seminar Report can be obtained from the Yorkshire Dales Society Office price £2 to include postage.

There have been a number of extremely positive developments since the Seminar. Mr Moore and Mr Harvey, following their excellent presentations, have since taken an important joint policy document on Traffic Management in the Yorkshire Dales to their respective Committees.

The key suggestion is for policies to keep present peak traffic levels at no more than 1991 levels, but perhaps allowing for modest growth in the quieter northern Dales. Wider questions of the overall carrying capacity of certain areas of the Dales are raised, together with the need for better public transport, including park and ride minibus services and better promotion of co-ordinated networks. The document is a green light for more pro-active traffic management strategies and for an increase in resources for public transport in the National Park, increasing support from their present miniscule levels.

Two bus operators present at the Conference were sufficiently encouraged by what they heard to independently plan important new recreational services to help fill gaps in the weekend network - a new Sunday morning Leeds-Wetherby-Harrogate service to Reeth and Richmond serving the northern and eastern Dales, and an imaginative Horseless Carriage minibus service known as "The Limestone Rambler" linking Settle Station (Saturdays) and Gargrave Station (Sundays) with Malham village, Malham Tarn and Littondale. Details of these new services are to be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Yorkshire Dales Review*.

Whilst it is impossible to claim that such developments would not be taking place without the YDS Seminar on January 22nd, the event provided a valued forum for some excellent, positive ideas and is likely to prove a catalyst for action - action which we warmly welcome.

The Yorkshire Dales Society expresses its gratitude to all who took part.

NEW NORTHBOUND PLATFORM AT RIBBLEHEAD TO OPEN - AND TWO NEW DALESBUS SERVICES

Alan Sutcliffe gives us a transport update.

The long awaited northbound platform at *Ribblehead* is due to open in May, enabling trains to call in both directions, thus enhancing the role of the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line in affording access to the western Dales. New weekend bus connections, sponsored by Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, will link Ribbleshead Station with Ingleton, Hawes and Swaledale.

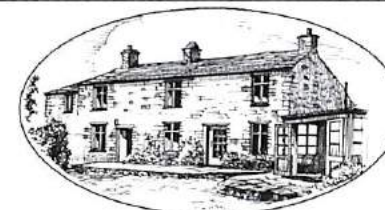
Bus News: there is excellent news that the long established, commercially operated Harrogate and District, and Keighley & District Dalesbus services 800, 803 and 809 will be joined by a new service this year, Harrogate & District X97. The X97 ran for the first time in 1992 from Leeds to Lightwater Valley on Sundays during July and August and on Wednesdays in the Summer school holidays, but this year it is to be extended on Sundays to Middleham, Leyburn, Reeth, and Richmond, and will run, like the 800 and 803 each Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from Easter to the end of September. This opens up a wealth of new opportunities, including walks in Coverdale, Wensleydale and Swaledale, day visits to Richmond and, for those interested in historic ruins, the possibility, in conjunction with the 803, of visiting Jervaulx Abbey and Middleham Castle in one day.

In addition, between Leeds and Harrogate, the Sunday and Bank Holiday X97 bus will run via Wetherby and Knaresborough, greatly improving access from these two towns to the Dales. Harrogate & District Travel are to be congratulated on their bold decision to introduce the new service, and it is hoped it will prove a valuable addition to the Dalesbus network. Day Explorer Tickets will be available on all Dalesbus services including the X97, and other Harrogate & District and Keighley & District services. Simply buy the ticket on the first bus you board. 1993 prices: Adult £4.90, Child £2.45, Family £9.80, Senior Citizens £4.10.

Every Saturday from 15th May the Horseless Carriage Limestone Rambler minibus will meet the 09.45 train at Settle Station, and every Sunday the 10.09 train from Gargrave Station, for a direct service to Malham, continuing to Malham Tarn (making a useful link with the Pennine Way), Malham Moor, Arncliffe, Kilnsey and Grassington.

One aim of the service is to reduce the need to bring cars into a congested area

of the Dales and to help walkers plan point-to-point walks using the bus. During the week, Horseless Carriage Services also operates the Pride of the Dales local minibus service in Littondale and Upper Wharfedale. Details of both services can be obtained from Horseless Carriage Services, 13 Brooklyn, Threshfield, Nr. Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5ER (SAE appreciated) tel 0756 753123. June 19th - 28th is Green Transport Week throughout Britain. So why not try out some of these new services before then to help ensure their success and help to reduce traffic congestion and pollution in the Yorkshire Dales.



PEAT GATE HEAD

LOW ROW IN SWALEDALE NR RICHMOND NORTH YORKSHIRE DL11 6PP
TELEPHONE RICHMOND (0748) 86388

Unusually named, this small, licensed guest house is three hundred years old and stands alone on an idyllic spot overlooking the village of Low Row. With its nearest neighbour four hundred yards away, the house offers peace and quiet while its elevated, south facing position provides uninterrupted and breathtaking views of both the river and the dale. Peat Gate Head is just a little bit special.

OUT & ABOUT

Chris Bonington

In January the Yorkshire Dales Society was host to Chris Bonington, internationally famous mountaineer, explorer, writer and the new President of the Council for National Parks. Chris and his wife Wendy joined CNP and Society members looking at quarries in Ribblesdale and threatened limestone pavements above Langcliffe before enjoying a walk round the classic limestone scenery of Malham. Chris and Wendy are visiting each of the twelve National Parks in turn. After meeting members of YDS Council in the evening, they spent the following day with National Park officers in Wensleydale and Swaledale.



Chris and Wendy Bonington at Malham Cove
(Photo Colin Speakman)

Wensleydale Railway Rescue Plan

Following the closure of Redmire Quarry and the final freight train to Teeside at the end of December, tracks on the Wensleydale Railway between Northallerton and Redmire are now brown with rust. But a new company - the Wensleydale Railway Company Ltd. - has sprung into life with the immediate aim of raising £600,000 to buy the disused line from British Rail to reopen as a passenger line - already dubbed the "Herriot Line". If you think you might help, or would like further details of a forthcoming share issue, or would like to help the voluntary Wensleydale Railway Association in any capacity, (membership £5 per annum) write to WRA Administration, 19 Springwell Lane, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8QJ. More details about the line and the rescue bid in a later issue of *The Review*.

Real Wensleydale Cheese is back in the shops

Some really good news is that the rescue of Hawes Dairy has taken place thanks to the initiatives of local business people and former managers and a small workforce is now in action. Authentic Wensleydale cheese is being made again and is now on sale in Hawes and elsewhere. Support real Dales cheese and jobs - look for the Hawes Dairy label.

The Three Peaks Project 1986-1992



Siltraps and boardwalk construction, Pen-y-ghent
(Photo Alan Atkinson)

A 1985 footpath survey of Yorkshire's Three Peaks - used by the famous race and a popular Challenge Walk - indicated how a quarter of a million walkers per annum making their way across the soft moorland peat had trampled paths to an average of 11.4 metres wide - twice the width of an average B class road - creating some of the most severe footpath erosion problems to be found in the British Isles.

In 1986, with the support of the Countryside Commission, English Nature and the Sports Council, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee established the Three Peaks Project, under the direction of Project Officer Simon Rose, to remedy the situation. A budget of over £700,000 was spent and a wide variety of techniques of path construction, habitat restoration and monitoring were developed to help restore these hillsides which were still under continuous intensive pressure. Tough and occasionally controversial measures were required to contain the galloping erosion as paths were continuously being broadened by thousands of boots as they avoided the worst sections.

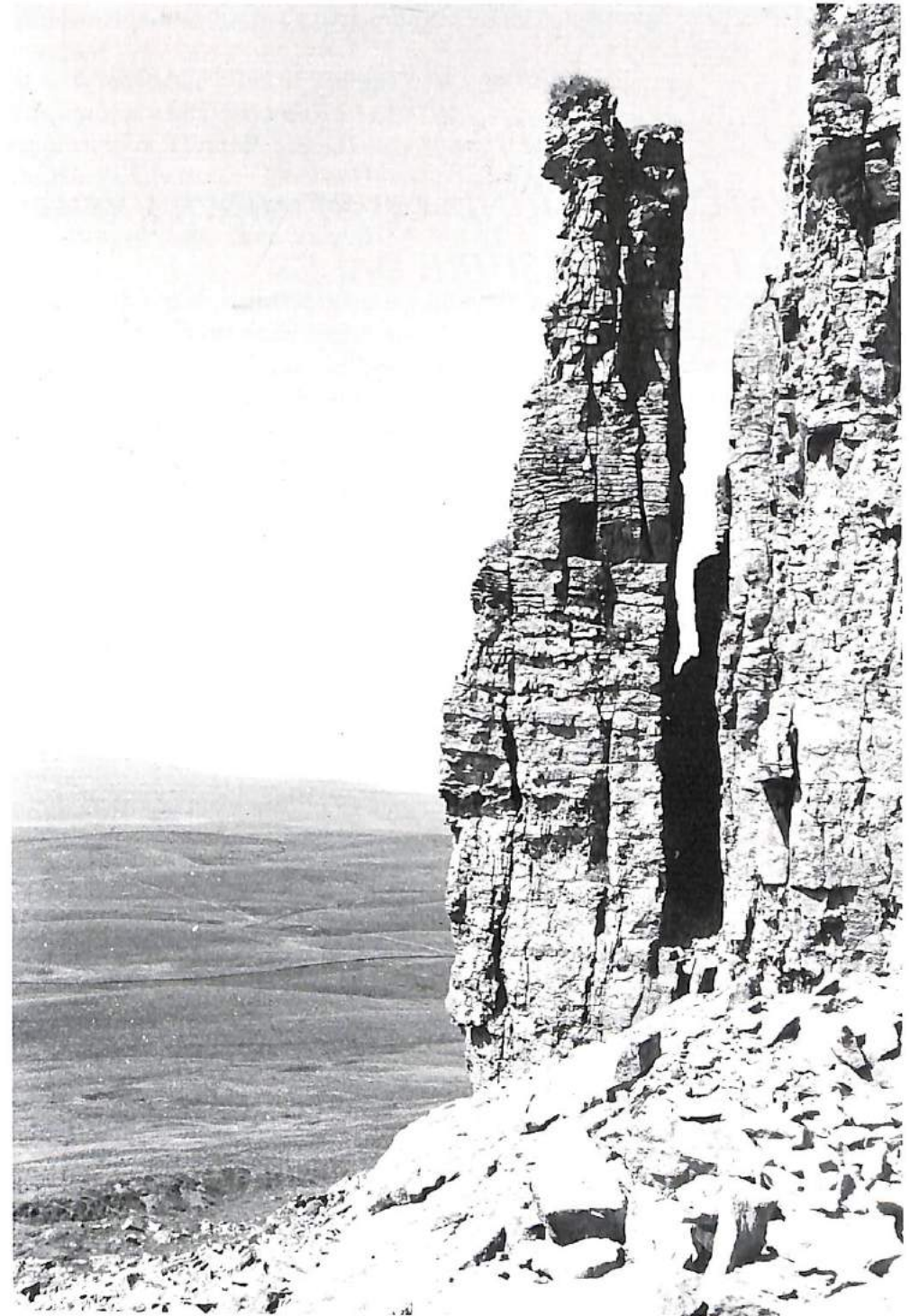
How the destruction was arrested and the area allowed to recover, are told in the detailed *Three Peaks Project Report 1986-1992* which also considers implications for the future. This is a technical document, and individuals and organisations involved in ecological and footpath restoration work anywhere in the UK will find it of particular interest. Copies can be obtained from the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Unit 1A.1B, Cragg Hill Road, Horton in Ribblesdale, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0HN price £15 plus £1 postage and packing.

SELF-CATERING COTTAGE AT

GARSDALE STATION

Simple Accommodation for up to seven people.
Ideal for Railway Enthusiasts, Walkers
and Lovers of the Yorkshire Dales.

Available all year round.
For details please telephone (0306) 731381



Pen-y-ghent (Photo Christine Whitehead)

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

Informal groups of Daleswatch members continue to be active throughout the Dales, keeping a careful eye on things affecting local people and the environment in their areas. There have been recent meetings in Upper Wharfedale and Dentdale, and other members are likely to be in touch during the Spring.

Issues concerning Upper Wharfedale members include: increasing use of mountain bikes on eroded footpaths, the size of lorries coming into Upper Wharfedale villages, the state of the neglected land around the former Grassington Hospital, and the implications of the Swinden Quarry extensions. The next meeting of the Group will be at Ken Lord's home, 4 Rivendell, Long Ashes, Threshfield (0756 753 202) on May 13th.

An interesting initiative from the Dentdale Group is a day in their dale, planned by the group, open to other YDS members (as a YDS event) designed to give members outside the Dale a chance to meet and share the pleasure of that very special valley. No doubt conversation will also highlight some of the issues which concern local people. The date is May 22nd and to encourage environmentally friendly travellers, Woof's Taxi-bus service will be available to collect members from the train at Dent Station. And there's a natural history ramble and afternoon Dent cream tea to add to the pleasure. Early booking essential to help planning - see *Events*.

It is hoped to have the first meeting of an Airedale (Craven) group soon after Easter and an event has been planned as part of the Swaledale Festival of June 12th which it is hoped might act as a focal point for a Swaledale Group. If you live in the Dales, contact your local Daleswatch convenor to be in touch with fellow members and perhaps meet to talk through local issues where the Society can maybe help.

Issues causing most concern in the Dales at the moment are alterations at Dry Rigg Quarry, Ribblesdale, and proposals to deepen and extend Swinden Quarry, Upper Wharfedale, which are likely to develop into a major debate at a national level on the need for ever-increasing quarrying in National Parks, plans by the Post Office to close local sorting offices in the western Dales, again reducing local employment opportunities, increasing concern about the nature of the so-called Ilkley by-pass and the impact of the Trans-Pennine Road Study on both the A65 and the A59 through the Dales National Park.

Keep in touch with what's happening in your Dale through your local Daleswatch Convenor:

Lower Wharfedale - Peter Young - 0943 466858

Wensleydale - Jeff Taylor 0756 689701

Ribblesdale & Three Peaks - Hilary Baker 0729 840609

Dentdale & Garsdale - Louise Hunt 05875 400

Nidderdale - Jean Johnson 0943 880234

Upper Wharfedale - Ken Lord 0756 753202

Individuals and organisations wanting to keep abreast of current issues and concerns in the Yorkshire Dales should subscribe to *Dales Digest*, the detailed round-up of press and news reports compiled on the Society's behalf by Dawn Burton. Subscription for the quarterly bulletin is £5 per annum - direct from the YDS office.

SWINDEN QUARRY

They skin the land and grind her bones to powder
then these assassins send their plunder south;
their noisy tumbrils rattle through the Dales.
- A heavy veil of mourning shrouds the trees,
the grass and all the scattered stones,
And what becomes of it is further loss,
great scars disfigure the southern plains.
Everywhere, desecration to what end ?

Joan Smith

SOCIETY MATTERS

Membership

Please note that we are circulating all members with our new membership leaflet in the hope that you will pass it on to a friend, acquaintance or someone in another like-minded organisation who would like to support the work of the Yorkshire Dales Society. Extra copies of the leaflet can be obtained from the YDS office. Please **DO NOT** USE THE LEAFLET AS A RENEWAL FORM on this occasion as this can cause confusion in our special membership drive. Our target is at least a hundred new members before next quarter if possible.

We think that this attractively presented, new full colour leaflet, sponsored by the Yorkshire Post, gives a good indication of what the Yorkshire Dales Society is about. It should help recruit many more new members badly needed if our work is to expand.

Please do your best to make this membership drive a success. Nothing succeeds better than personal recommendation - **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.**

We were delighted to use a photo of Anne Morrow's "Stumpwork Shepherd" from our "Through Stitch and Thread" competition as a very original and striking cover design for our new membership leaflet. Our apologies to Mr Boothroyd of Halifax whose photo of "Kilnsey Crag" was unacknowledged at a late stage in the printing process and likewise to our vice-Chairman Chris Wright, for his photo of a YDS group in the Sedbergh area.

What's Available ?

Our very attractive hand painted leather YDS badges are now readily available again and cost £1.25 each and £1.45 by post from the YDS office. Remember we still have our attractive black YDS mugs with their gold logo at £3.40 each to include postage and packing and our ever popular range of sweat shirts. Please send for a sweat shirt order form or ring Sheila Marks on 0943 608968 for further details.

HELP ! HELP !

The Yorkshire Dales Society Office at Otley needs one or two additional helpers on a regular basis who live a reasonable distance away and are prepared to help with administrative matters on Monday mornings. If you have the time and are keen to increase our efficiency, please ring Fleur Speakman on 0943 607868.

Spreading Ourselves Around

We are conscious that we would like to spread some of our YDS events further into the dales so that travel might be easier for some of our members and that new venues could prove to be attractive at times even for those further afield. We would very much like to have additional suggestions from members who know of a suitable hall which can hold a reasonable number of people and has black-out facilities for our lecture programme. Please contact Fleur Speakman via the office either by letter or office phone 0943 461938 with a contact telephone number for the venue if possible so that your suggestion can be followed up. Do remember that many of our lectures take place in the winter months when travel to more isolated places can be difficult and we often have to take our speaker's wishes into account as well. But we are still keen to try new areas where possible.

We don't want to lose you.....

Several members have still underpaid their YDS dues over a considerable period in spite of various tactful reminders. *Please, please* check your banker's orders and bank statements carefully to ensure that you are sending us the correct amount and are not underpaying. Do let us have the difference if that is the case, we'd be very grateful.

We remind you that the subscription rates are as follows: Adult £8, Family £12, Single Retired £6 and Retired Couple £9. Cheques should be made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society, and sent to the office: The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 1HD.

Fleur Speakman (Joint Sec.)



YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY SPRING EVENTS

Most YDS events this Spring will be out of doors - you can even enjoy a walk before our AGM at Kettlewell Village Hall on May 15th.

SATURDAY APRIL 24th - EXPLORING THE WASHBURN VALLEY

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

SUNDAY MAY 2nd - DALESBUS WALK

Along the Dalesway in Upper Wharfedale from Conistone to Buckden, a moderate 8 miles with possible extension to view Hubberholme church if time permits. Take the Dalesbus 800 from Leeds Central Bus station 9.15 am, Ilkley Brook street 9.55 to Conistone Bridge. Book an Explorer ticket. Lunch at Kettlewell (pub or cafe). Return by Dalesbus 800 from Buckden at 5.10 or 6.10 pm. Leader Alan Sutcliffe. Tel: 0444 483326.

SATURDAY MAY 8th - FARM VISIT TO HURRIES FARM, OTTERBURN

The visit will start at Hurries Farm at 2pm and will finish 4pm-4.30 pm. Pre-booking essential by **Monday April 26th**. Only bookings with cash at £1 per head accepted, see YDS office address. For further queries contact Sheila Marks 0943 608968. Lifts can be arranged from Skipton or Gargrave.

SATURDAY MAY 15th - WALK IN THE KETTLEWELL AREA

Meet at village side of riverside car park at 11.am. (If anyone requires lift from Grassington [10.00 bus 72 from Skipton Railway Station] ring 0943 607868).

SATURDAY MAY 15th YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY AGM

At **Kettlewell Village Hall at 2.15pm** - see separate sheet for agenda and full details. Refreshments approximately 3.15pm to be followed at 3.45 pm approximately by an illustrated talk by Philip Lyth, Farm Conservation Adviser from the North Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group who will speak on the role of FWAG in North Yorkshire. (Dalesbus 800 09.55 ex Leeds arrives Kettlewell at 12.15.)

SATURDAY MAY 22nd - THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DENTDALE

This event is organised by the Dentdale Daleswatch group and will be led by botanist Alan Stoddart. The walk (some ascent) is from Dent Craft centre over Coombe Scar, Gawthrop and probably by High Hall and Flood Lane back to Dent Craft Centre. Parking at Centre. The event is timed so that intending passengers can catch the Settle-Carlisle train on both outward and return journeys - outward train leaves Leeds at 08.46, Skipton 09.28, Settle 09.45; return 17.46 ex Dent. A minibus link has been arranged at a special rate of £3 per head from and to Dent railway station to meet trains. Cream teas are available at the Craft Centre at £1 per head. Please pre-book transport minibus/ taxi service and/or cream tea via the YDS office by **May 10th**. Contact Colin or Fleur Speakman on 0943 607868 for further information.



Cowgill Chapel, Dentdale (Photo John Forder)

SATURDAY JUNE 12th - A LANDSCAPE UNDER THREAT ?

A walk with Yorkshire Dales Society members as part of the Swaledale Festival from Muker to Keld to look at issues affecting the upper dale now and in the future. The walk starts at 1.30 pm in Muker (outside the Farmer's Arms), please remember to have your lunch beforehand. We shall end the walk with a discussion with local YDS members in Keld Village Institute at 3pm before catching the return bus from Keld back to Muker and Richmond.

Car parking is limited in Muker; an environmentally friendly alternative is to catch the local Swaledale bus (United No 30) which leaves Richmond Market Place at 11.40, Reeth at 12.08 arriving Muker 12.36. Pub and cafes available in Muker. To check bus times, ring Darlington (0352) 4668771. The walk will be led by Colin Speakman, Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society tel: 0943 607868

SUNDAY JUNE 27th DALES WAY BY DALESBUS

Catch Dalesbus 800 from Leeds Central Bus Station 9.15 am (9.55am at Ilkley Brook Street) for 10 miles of gentle riverside walking and back to Grassington. Please bring a packed lunch. The walk should finish approximately for the bus back to Ilkley (arrives 6.25) return bus to Leeds arriving 7.05pm. Leader Chris Wright tel: 0937 573427.

TUESDAY JULY 6th - TOUR OF OTLEY MARKETS

This is an evening Guided Tour of this historic Dales market town which starts at 7pm at the Buttercross, Otley and will end about 9pm. Christine Dean, Assistant Curator, Otley Museum will act as guide. Advanced booking through the YDS Otley Office essential at a price of £2 per person. Bookings to reach the YDS Office not later than **June 28th**.

SUNDAY JULY 25th - DALESBUS WALK TO WHARFEDALE VILLAGES

From Grassington via Linton and Thorpe to Burnsall for lunch (pub or cafe) then along the Wharfe to Bolton Abbey. 12 miles moderate. Dalesbus 800 as 2nd May to Grassington. Explorer Ticket recommended. Return by Dalesbus 800 from Bolton Abbey at 6.10 or 7.10pm. Leader Alan Sutcliffe tel: 0444 483326.

Three more major Dales events for your diary:

THE SWALEDALE FESTIVAL runs from Friday 28th May - Sunday June 13th and offers an Arts Festival with a varied programme of events such as folk dancing, concerts of classical music, brass bands and jazz, and drama and exhibitions, in a variety of historic settings. For further information please contact Elizabeth Carter Festival Director, at the Festival Office, Thornborough Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 5AB.

THE GRASSINGTON FESTIVAL follows on virtually immediately with dates from June 18th - July 3rd with a similarly varied programme of jazz, drama, classical music, brass bands, choirs, poetry readings and the ever-popular Gilbert & Sullivan finale. For further information write or phone Mrs Myra Boyce, Festival Tickets, Threshfield, near Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5DA. Tel: 0756 752096.

FLEECE TO FABRIC - THE CRAVEN GUILD'S ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND CRAFT FAIR will be held at Skipton Town Hall on July 3rd and will include other craft stalls, an exhibition of Guild Members' work and demonstrations of various fibre crafts. A handspun competition is arranged and refreshments are available. The exhibition is open 10am to 4.30 pm. Enquiries 0943 462599.

STUDIO COURSES AND DALES TOURS 1993 YDS members Peter and Judith Hibbard welcome fellow members to a variety of Wensleydale-based courses in sculpture, drawing, painting, calligraphy and picture framing and specialist historic tours including the popular Richard III "Ricardian Tour". Details from Old School Arts Workshop, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorks. DL8 4QG. Tel: 0969 23056.

Spring issue out now!

The *Yorkshire Journal* is an entirely new venture for the 1990s: a quality publication, issued quarterly, written about Yorkshire, produced in the county for Yorkshire people within the broad acres and beyond. At 120 pages, with around 70 colour and black-and-white photographs, drawings and watercolours, it is a substantial and wide-ranging publication, reflecting our aim to produce a serious but entertaining and informative journal on all topics of Yorkshire life, history, culture and folklore.

The first year's subscription, out in March, June, September and December, is priced at £2.95 per issue, or just £12 post paid for the whole year. That works out at just 2½ pence per page for what promises to be the best writing around on Yorkshire. Nowhere else will you be able to find articles on such a wide range of subjects, and covered in such depth. For example, the spring issue includes:

Malcolm Barker's 'Aquatic Illusions and Aquabatics' with Professor Twigg ● artist Derek Hyatt ● Skylark: the story of Edwardian balloonist Lily Cove ● A walk in Wensleydale with David Leather ● 'How Things Have Changed' by John Edenbrow ● Foundation Stones - the start of a regular fishing column by Derek Law ● Taproom Tales from Wilf Lowe ● 'As It Was' with John Ward ● Jim Jarratt on 'Follies of the Dales' ● The Yorkshire Countryside in Spring ● Poetry from Eddie Flintoff, Lauraine Palmeri and Anna Adams ● Jill Mead's 'Gossip Corner' in the North Yorkshire Moors ● Landscape Photography: a 'how-to' series by Trevor Croucher ● 'Langstrothdale Chase', a look back at the life of a Yorkshire dale with Jean Pollard ● Ted Gower's 'Pictures of Change' in Baildon and Shipley ● 'An Easter Egg' - a short story for spring by Anna Adams ● Lynn Pearson on the architecture of Sedbergh ● 'From Our Farming Correspondent' ● The first of Richard Musgrave's look at his 'Secret Dales' ● 'The Story Behind the Picture' ● Herbert Postlethwaite's 'Barleybridge Chronicles' ● John Thwaite, dialect poet of Hawes ● Barrie Pepper on Inns and Pubs of Yorkshire ● Bams of the Pennine Dales with John Ward ● Mary Sara's Art Exhibition Roundup

If you would like a copy of the spring issue, or a year's subscription, please contact Smith Settle, the publishers of the *Yorkshire Journal*. We accept Access and Visa. You can ring us or send your order post free to:

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Yorkshire Journal

Reflecting the rich variety in the county of broad acres



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Summer in upper Wensleydale with pignut and buttercups (1977).