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VIVA DALES ALIVE!

Dales Alive, the two-day festival of Dales performing arts, crafts and food held in Hawes in August to mark the 40th anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park was a triumph.

From the opening by television personality John Craven, to the last strains of Magnetic North’s expertly played folk fiddle that closed the final Ceilidh, the entire event was a remarkable success.

It was a success because it brought local people and visitors together to share a delight in Dales life and culture - cheesemakers and sheepshearers, clockmakers and clog dancers, poets and potters, street bands and puppeteers. It also brought people together to celebrate much of what the Dales is really about - diversity, variety, creativity and activity.

Too often the National Park is seen, especially by local people, in negative ways - prohibiting and preventing, or producing abstract planning documents that seem remote from peoples’ lives. It was a welcome reminder that National Parks are about people, that they are wonderful places to live in and visit.

The Yorkshire Dales Society together with the Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum were proud to have been able to work with the Yorkshire Dales National Park to help make Dales Alive happen. It reflects our own deep concern with the life, work and culture of Dales communities which are every bit as important and vital as the landscape these same communities help to maintain.

The event did much to remove some of the prejudice and ignorance which sometimes colours reaction to the National Park from people - journalists included - who should know better. It also helps the National Park Authority to understand who its audience really is.

Much thanks for the success lies in the enthusiasm and energy of Helen Ashworth and her colleagues in the National Park office who organised the event so brilliantly. As everyone agrees, the only question that remains is - when is the next Dales Alive !?

Colin Speakman
WHITE WELLS, ILKLEY

A Celtic head and offerings in the pool.

Outside, the moor
is empty now that knew
willow and hazel grove
and birch and pine,
and Bronze-Age men whose thoughts
were spiral signs that spoke,
sculpted in glacial rock from uncharted time.

This oblong pool,
shrinal, fern-fringed,
retains its votary
spirit: hair-
crimped and oval-eyed,
half-hidden by greenery.
Stone pupils glint as I
toss - silver to silver - my tributary share.

Our years are joined
by one dimension only.
One thread that cannot swing
to circumstance
holds us in place. Yet down
that indivisible line
some very secret thing
reaches, part-recognised, taunting our ignorance....

FOCUS . . . FOCUS . . . FOCUS . . . FOCUS . . . FOCUS . . . FOCUS . . .

SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE NATIONAL PARK

As well as being the Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, Colin Speakman is a both a Member of the Chartered Institute of Transport and a Fellow of the Tourism Society. In this Focus article he argues for a Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The news that the Yorkshire Dales National Park is working with a consultant to develop its own policies about Sustainability in the National Park is welcome and raises some interesting questions. “Sustainable” like the word “Heritage” is one of those fashionable, over-used words which are used in so many different ways by so many different people, they soon come to mean nothing.

But since the influential Brundtland Commission Report in 1987, and a series of major inter-Governmental conferences, including the Rio Conference in 1992, an awareness is slowly emerging that unrestricted economic growth and development on a world scale will, perhaps sooner than we care to imagine, produce global catastrophe, whether caused by global warming, by air and water pollution, by environmental degradation or a combination of these factors.

Awareness is slow growing that this isn’t just a Third World problem - indeed, as the Cairo Population Conference points out, comfortably off middle class people in Europe and North America use far more of the earth’s nonrenewable resources per head and cause more pollution than impoverished villagers in Africa or Asia.

Sustainability therefore begins at home. It is the responsibility of each and everyone of us, as well as national and local government - including National Park Authorities - to change our behaviour to achieve more sustainable lifestyles. But Sustainability is not a static thing; it can and should include economic change and development. Sustainable forms of development are defined by Brundtland as “development that meets the need of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Wise words. The UK Government has taken many of these principles on board in the Environment White Paper of 1990 defining Sustainable Development as “living on the earth’s income rather than eroding its capital. It means consumption of renewable natural resources within the limits of their replenishment. It means handing down to successive generations not only man made wealth (such as buildings, roads, and railways) but also natural wealth, such as clean and adequate water supplies, good arable land, a wealth of wildlife and ample forests.”

Now clearly National Parks are about exactly this, encouraging us to live on the earth’s income not exploiting its perhaps declining natural and cultural capital.

If Sustainability is going to mean anything in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, it cannot be seen as a soft option, but will involve such tough choices. Everybody is
happy to see nature conserved, but is rather less keen to have their own choices restricted in order for the natural environment to be protected - whether it’s the rambler kept out of a sensitive peat bog, the cyclists off vulnerable footpaths, Three Peaks Race runners restricted to certain routes, the four wheel vehicle driver kept off a vulnerable green lane, the motorists encouraged to park and ride rather than parking on a village green or demanding new car parks, the quarry company demanding permission to extract more high grade limestone for roadbuilding, or wealthy developer wanting to maximise his investment in holiday or retirement homes in an unspoiled Dales village.

National Parks in Britain reflect a real paradox. On the one hand lies real achievement in development control, landscape and wildlife habitat conservation; on the other hand our National Parks are increasingly enjoyed by, among others, the most affluent, most highly mobile members of our society whose lifestyles in terms of consumption of raw materials and energy are inherently unsustainable.

But in a free-market democracy, what can a National Park Authority, with its limited financial and human resources do to resolve this situation?

What is needed is the implementation of clear, coherent strategies for every National Park which reflect long term goals of true Sustainability.

One of the most valuable contributions to emerge in this debate in recent years is the report by the European Federation of Nature and National Parks entitled Loving them to Death? It’s a powerful and hard-hitting document (in three languages) which could illuminate almost every aspect of the work of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, especially over the vexed questions of visitor management and tourism.

One immensely important concept that we need to take very seriously indeed is the notion of an area’s “Carrying Capacity”. FNNPE suggests that there are three kinds of carrying capacities - Environmental, Cultural and Psychological - all complex, difficult to define, but a key to any understanding of what a National Park is all about. Most European National Parks use a technique of “zoning” for visitor management purposes to help achieve appropriate balances between demand and capacities. In our more mixed-use National Parks such zoning is harder to achieve.

Tourists (and we all hate the term to be used about ourselves) are both visitors who stay overnight and day visitors to an area - and include walkers and naturalists every bit as much as less energetic motorised visitors. Tourism is at one and the same time a major generator of economic wealth in the Dales, wealth needed to conserve the area’s natural beauty, and a major cause of environmental degradation and congestion.

Sadly, the Yorkshire Dales National Park does not have a tourism specialist as such. All the more reason to look at the tough yet essentially positive concept of Sustainable Tourism developed in Loving them to Death?

FNNPE’s fifteen point Sustainable Tourism Action Plan for protected areas which the Federation suggest should form part of a Protected Area’s Management Plan (ie the National Park Plan) is of particular relevance to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

1. State clear conservation aims.
2. Compile an inventory of natural and cultural features and of tourism use and potential then analyse the information.
3. Work in partnership with local people, the tourism sector and other local and regional organisations.
4. Identify the values and image on which to base sustainable tourism aims with other key partners.
5. Assess carrying capacity of different parts of the area and set environmental standards that must be maintained.
6. Survey and analyse tourist markets and visitors’s needs and expectations in two stages - before and after developing ideas for new forms of tourism.
7. Give guidance on tourism activities which are compatible with the protected areas and those which are not.
8. Propose new “tourism” products to be developed, including those from educational tourism.
9. Assess the environmental impacts of the proposals.
10. Specify management required, such as zoning and channelling, linked to interpretation and education.
11. Propose traffic management and development of sustainable transport systems.
12. Set out a communications and promotional strategy to promote the image of the protected area, new “products” and management techniques.
13. Establish a programme for monitoring the protected areas and its use by visitors and for revision of the plan to ensure that tourism use maintains environmental standards.
14. Assess resource needs and sources including provision for training.
15. Implement the plan.

Copies of Loving them of Death are available price 50DM including postage from the European Federation of Nature and National Parks, Kr"ollstrasse 5, D-8352 Grafenau, GERMANY.

Colin Speakman

The old pack horse bridge at Linton (John Edenbrow)

DALES CHURCHES
MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

How would you like to be remembered? It is a favourite question put by journalists to people in the public eye. For hundreds of years, from medieval times onwards, the honest answer from anybody who thought himself somebody would have been the hope that some kind of monument, preferably an effigy, would be erected in the parish church. That so many were erected is a matter for which we should be thankful. Despite post-Reformation and puritanical destruction and despite neglect and natural wear, many remain to delight and sometimes, surprise.

Dales churches may have fewer monuments than in many other areas, but there is still much of interest. Pride of place must perhaps go to the magnificent Clifford tombs at Skipton Holy Trinity, but these are near royal in status and I am much more interested in those of rather lower status and particularly those with effigies. The earliest are usually of figures lying flat on their backs with hands in a position of prayer. Typical of this period is the effigy of Sir Peter Middleton (1336) in Ilkley All Saints and that of Sir Thomas Ingilby (1369) in Ripley All Saints. In West Tanfield St Nicholas are further examples from that period in what was the fashionable cross-legged style. Whether these effigies were good likenesses we shall never know, but probably they were not. Later, effigies became somewhat more realistic and detailed. From these we have much knowledge of contemporary dress. A very fine example is again at West Tanfield. It is an alabaster effigy, probably of Sir John Marmion (1387) and his wife. A notable feature of this tomb is its "hearse", one of the very few remaining in the whole country. It is a wrought iron frame and canopy on which candles could be fixed. Perhaps the best collection of alabaster effigy tombs in Britain is just outside the Dales at Harewood All Saints.

Later monuments showed the subject in all kinds of postures. Some kneel. More curiously, indeed amusingly, some lie on their sides, head propped on hand, looking as if they had no cares in the world and certainly not at all pious. At Masham, Sir Marmaduke Wyvill (1613) and his wife recline, the one above and behind the other. At Richmond, a monument to Sir Thomas Hutton (1629) has kneeling figures. Both Sir Marmaduke and Sir Thomas are accompanied by their children, a common fashion of the time.

Occasionally the subject stands and there is no better place to see examples than Knaresborough St John where there are effigies of two members of the Slingsby family who died in 1634. One stands in his shroud and the other in fashionable clothes, careless of the fact that he stands in a sacred place. Generally, however, Dales churches continued in their restrained old-fashioned way and at Otley All Saints, there is a good example dating from about 1640. The monument has recumbent effigies of Lord and Lady Fairfax of Denton at prayer.

It seems odd to talk of favourites in monuments to the dead, but there is one at Hampthwaite which I find impressive in an extraordinary way. It is a monument to...
Mrs Amy Woodforde-Finton composer of the Indian Love Lyrics, an effigy in white marble. As a twentieth century monument, it can justly be regarded as somewhat extravagant and ostentatious, but it has a pristine serenity which is quite remarkable.

Brasses have always been restrained and they grace several Dales churches, but for me they are never so fascinating as effigies in stone and alabaster. Even so, one has to be mentioned - that of Sir Simon de Wenslaw, priest in Wensley Holy Trinity, a Flemish brass of the 14th century which is regarded as being of very high quality. But inscriptions on wall plaques and on headstones outside in the churchyard can be very fascinating. Perhaps most famous of all, not least in this his centenary year is that in Hubberholme St Michael commemorating JB Priestley. Priestley, not a particularly religious man, thought Hubberholme one of the most pleasant places on earth and wanted his ashes to rest there. Another pleasant, peaceful spot is Linton where there is one of the curiosities of Dales churches, a wall plaque commemorating the death of Thomas Hammond "who dyed the 24 day of March Ano Domini 1685 and was buried the 27 Of the said March Anno Domini 1686". A puzzle until one realises that in those days the year ended on 25 March. Fewston St Lawrence provides another puzzle with headstones recording burials on the 29th and 30th of February in a year which was not a leap year; a puzzle which so far has found no answer.

Fewston churchyard has a couple of other curiosities. One is a box tomb dated 1613, a very early date for such a memorial and the other is a headstone much wider than it is high, believed by some to be a stone imitation of the kind of wooden headboard once used by the poor. Here too are examples of sad inscriptions, of a kind occurring in several Dales churchyards, recording the deaths of a number of children from one family. More cheerful is an inscription at Linton relating to the brothers Davis, John and Henry, whose talents as singers are much praised. If they had lived at this date when musical talent is so much appreciated they would have ranked as first among the musical celebrities of the present time." More amusing is that at Askrigg which commemorates, for the first time ever, "An Honest Lawyer".

Monuments and memorials of large scale tragedies are always poignant. The memorial at Chapel-le-dale to the men who lost their lives in building the railway from Settle to Dent brings home the hardships which they faced. Another reminder of desperate conditions comes in the spectacular memorial at Otley to the men who were killed while building the Bramhope Tunnel. But for me the most poignant of all is in the lonely churchyard of Conistone St Mary where there is a memorial to six young men killed while pursuing their sport in the Mossdale caverns.

John Ward

ARE YOU FREE ON MONDAY MORNINGS ON A REGULAR BASIS?
Do you live within a few miles of Otley?
Would you like to help the Yorkshire Dales Society with administrative chores?
If the answer is YES in each case, then call Fleur Speakman on 0943 607868 for further details.
WHEN IS A NATIONAL PARK
NOT A NATIONAL PARK

The Broads Society explains

The Broads consist of shallow lakes, low-lying undrained fenland and drained marshland which are both of national and international importance for conservation. In 1956 the Broads Society was formed, originally more as a society for social events, but today has developed into an influential campaigning pressure group of over 2,000 members which has strong links with the Broads Authority.

In 1988 the existing Broads Authority was formed under an Act of Parliament and the Broads in effect joined the National Parks “family” though with its own independent authority. As the only lowland, wetland park, it often has very different problems from the other parks. The Broads are frequently referred to as a National Park - the Broads Authority itself regularly used the phrase “Britains’s Newest National Park”. Yet there are those who feel strongly that the Broads should not be referred to in this way because they are different - principally because their own Act of Parliament sets out very clearly the statutory duties of the Broads Authority, namely those of conservation, recreation and navigation, with equal status afforded to each and with no application of the “Sandford Principle”, (which stated in effect that in any conflict between conservation and enjoyment, the former should always take priority).

However, the Broads Society definitely feels itself a member of the National Parks family and wishes to remain closely involved with other National Park Societies and continue its strong support of CNP.

The following are just one or two examples of recent Broads Society concerns. With the increasing frequency of flooding incidents, flood protection continues to dominate much of the Society’s time and there is regular contact with both the National Rivers Authority and the Broads Authority about this highly complex subject. Basically, the Society supports the proposal to construct a flood barrier on the River Yare at Great Yarmouth to protect all broadland. This has been put aside on cost benefit grounds in favour of an extensive bank strengthening and raising scheme which could threaten the Broads landscape. It could also lead to more serious flooding in the low-lying villages and so-called “unprotected areas”. The campaign continues!

Furthermore the Broads Society supports the use of electric boats and together with Eastern Electricity and the Broads Authority, have recently organised an event on September 11th called “Silent Sensations”, held on the banks of beautiful South Walsham broad. It provided an opportunity to rediscover the peace and tranquility of silent cruising on the Broads either by sail, paddle or electric power with a wide variety of electric boats, yachts, dinghies and canoes available for trips round the broad. All in all, an excellent advertisement for all those interested in “quiet enjoyment”.

Robert Paul (Chairman)

COVENANTING FOR BEGINNERS

All You Need to know!

A fair number of members have now taken out Covenants for the Society which will allow us to recover useful sums of money from the Inland Revenue in the future. These are still in a minority, however, at present and we hope that many more members will help us by this simple action. This costs nothing and can help our finances significantly. The only proviso is that you have to be a tax payer. Please contact the office for a replacement if you have mislaid the form sent out with the last Review.

There is perhaps some confusion regarding the taking out of a Covenant.

On the Society’s form, which needs a witness, the sum of money entered should be the actual sum that you propose to pay annually. Normally this will be the current annual subscription, but may be greater with the extra being a donation. After taking out a Covenant, it is important to make sure that the amount paid each year is AT LEAST the amount Covenanted.

We have to send you an Inland Revenue Form to complete when you make your FIRST, and only the first, payment after taking out a Covenant. We urge that you do complete this as the Covenant is not valid unless you do. We fill in the form for you as far as possible and the only details you have to add are your Tax District and Reference Number together with your National Insurance Number. Your signature and the date then completes the form for posting back to the Society’s Office.

Once again we urge all members to take out a Covenant for the Society. If only 50% of members did this, it would transform our current financial position and postpone any thoughts of subscription increases for many years to come.

David Smith Treasurer
THEN AND NOW

Change is inevitable in landscapes. A famous French geographer, Vidal de la Blanche writes that man organised the site prepared by nature so as to satisfy his needs and desires. Man's occupancy of a landscape goes through three stages - exploration, exploitation and finally conservation. The way in which man has organised the site prepared by nature has been influenced by increasing technological capacity to do things. As this capacity increased so did both population movement and numbers. Basic needs remain unchanged, but the ways by which they are applied have changed. Many desires have become necessities. Landscapes became exploited. Conservation, the use of resources, has become necessary if landscapes are not to suffer change beyond recall.

The National Parks movement in North America concerns the preservation of wildscapes, land entirely untouched by man. Such landscapes no longer exist in Britain. Our National Parks seek to conserve landscapes long influenced by the hand of man. The Yorkshire Dales were known to me in my childhood before the National Parks Act was passed in 1949. It is a region that I have infrequently visited in recent decades and what follows are really random observations gleaned from those sporadic visits and grouped into the theme of "then and now". The observations are, in some cases, linked with early memories, which are not influenced by nostalgic opinions; the work of the National Park organisation and the Yorkshire Dales Society is recognised and the examples given are facts, not judgements.

The Washburn Valley contains reservoirs that supply Leeds. It is a small river. It is no Colorado supplying a multi-millionaire Los Angeles. I recall West End Church, the white post office at Blubberhouses and the Gate Inn on the slope above the church. The church is now drowned, the post office gone. Does the Gate Inn sign still swing? "This gate hangs well and hinders none; refresh and pay and carry on", were the words upon the sign. There was something strangely apt about that sign in the light of subsequent events in that dale, with its drowned church. It was no cathedral, but it may inspire a Debussy to compose a companion piece.

Buckhaw Brow in cycling days was always a stiff test. Once a lorry driver was refreshing himself in the cafe at the top and was overheard to say that it was the worst hill he had met on the way from London. He was bound for Carlisle and beyond. There were few lorries then by comparison with today, but does the M6 now spare the Dales from such traffic? How we cyclists used to curse the lorries from the limestone quarries at Giggleswick and Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Presumably the lorry drivers now curse the motor car. Cycling was done over many of the green tracks and passes - Park Rash (not then a metalled road), Stake Moss, Mastile's Lane and the road routes over Oughtershaw, Buttertubs, Oxnop and Tan Hill. Ordinary bikes in extraordinary landscapes, but what of the effect of mountain bikes? The limestone turf has too fragile an ecology for the repetitive pounding from deep treadsed, broad tyres. Every curve

and camber of these routes and many others were well known to us. Freewheeling from Oughtershaw to Gayle or to Beckermonds, descending from Stake Moss to Semerwater and Burtersett or plodding up to Tan Hill from Keld were experiences unfettered by the internal combustion engine.

Fell walking over Pen-y-Ghent or Whernside on occasional tracks a few inches wide in pre-Pennine Way days, leaning against the wind on the track from Dent to Garsdale (now a metalled road), watching the plumes of steam from the tunnel vent on Blea Moor, these were events, not casual incidents. Steam may not so often issue from the vents, but the fact that the line is still open is a remarkable testimony to the power of public concern over the so-called economics of bureaucracies. How right Carlyle was to call economics a "dismal science". The Ilkley-Skipton line was a delightful journey. Alas no more. Other lines have gone too, but will the Hawes-Garsdale line be rescued? The integration of bus and rail transport services is far from being a national policy to the detriment of both rural and urban society.

Buildings change in function. The forge at Bolton Bridge is now a cafe. Urban personalities now peer out of rural front doors. Invested wealth has doubtless preserved vernacular architecture in villages with conservation controls, but village populations are increasingly urban and ambivalent in their desires. Is Elijah still a grocer in Hawes? Old Testament names were in vogue a century ago. However, it was not prophesied that Dales barns faced the risk of conversion, at a price.

During one of my visits I watched a cricket match for a while farther up the dale. A notice said "Wickets pitched 2.30". Only in Yorkshire has that expression been seen, where umpires carry out the stumps at the start of a game - that is at least one unchanging feature of the human landscape of the Dales.

Is change but an improved means to an unimproved end? John Harrison

* We can reassure John Harrison that Elijah Allen's grocery shop is still flourishing in Hawes.
40TH YDNP ANNIVERSARY - DALES ALIVE 19TH & 20TH AUGUST 1994

Sheep shearing (Photo CS)

John Pashley's Phoenix New Orleans Band (Photo Dorian Speakman)

Peace Artisces Street Band (Photo FS)

Pennine Poets: A Taste of Yorkshire (Photo FS)
SPORTSMAN

Someone must have fetched down a patch of sky,
Stitched it to the moor with pink and white heather,
Thrown in a border of marsh marigold
Flecked with thyme and a touch of bog-myrtle.

He then put up a notice: “Land for Sale -
No Planning Permission needed - Ideal
Development Opportunities -
Des. Nes. Secluded Area - Pool View.”

A pair of newly-mated mallard came.
A coot and then two moorhen soon followed.
A flock of Canadas came clanging in -
They used it mostly as a one-night stand.
But in the end it was the waterhens
Who seemed to be the permanent lessees,
Though no formal contract was ever signed -
As is normal in such circumstances.

Before long it became a well-known spot
For Meetings - Reunion, Conference -
That sort of thing; and there were lots of parties
When guests arrived and were “Not stopping”.
There were soirées for oyster catchers,
Eleven for herons, with Open Days
That even the stand-offish curlews
Would attend.

I never got an invite
But of course I went - gatecrashed as it were.
There was no reception committee.
In fact they were all just about to leave.
Only a scrappy few still gathering their things,
It seems there had been some catastrophe
Or other, something pretty serious.
An outbreak of some foul pest I suppose.
They reckoned they wouldn’t be returning.
Later I heard they’d all of them gone back
Stupidly to that overcrowded lake
They had come from. Bird-brained the lot of them!

I was quite a bit annoyed about that
After all, shooting boxes don’t come cheap.
And moving them is a bit of a bind.

Terence M Cluderay

This poem forms part of the collection “Under Yorber Scar” available from the author at Kit Calvert’s Bookshop, Hawes, North Yorkshire, at £3.50 or £3.75 by post.

CNP SEMINAR FOR VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES
AT SCARGILL, KETTLEWELL

Over a two day period, July 19th and 20th, sixty delegates discussed and debated environmental issues in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. Wednesday was particularly devoted to field visits organised with the help of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and topics covered ranged from recreation, conservation, a sustainable minerals policy to unsustainable uses of Malham, with key Yorkshire Dales Society Council members helping to host the occasion.

Further discussion on a sustainable minerals policy (where it was felt that the problem of tackling old permissions should receive urgent attention) and on energy saving projects concluded the opening sessions, with day two after a pre-breakfast walk led by CNP President Chris Bonnington, concentrating on the campaign for new National Parks legislation which had suffered such a devastating setback recently and which it was hoped, would now feature in the Queen’s Speech in the autumn.

The Workshops discussed such issues as ways of building support and how to win the campaign for National Parks legislation, suggesting that there was an urgent need to target not only the 48 MPs living within the various National Parks, but also MPs in other constituencies who may know little about proposed National Park legislation and why it is so important that the Parks become fully independent. Apart from targeting the media including free newspapers, it was suggested that letters to MPs could be written and MPs also visited by appointment in their surgeries with relevant literature taken to such a meeting. In addition CNP would be organising a special reception at Westminster for all MPs and the Lords on November 22nd at 4pm for pre-dinner drinks in order to lobby further for National Park legislation. Finally, all delegates felt that if legislation was NOT forthcoming in the Queen’s Speech, the time had come for a high profile high impact campaign.

YDS Joint Secretary, Fleur Speakman, offered to use the occasion of the Yorkshire Dales National Park 40th Anniversary at the “Dales Alive” festival in Hawes on August 19th and 20th to give out a leaflet from the Yorkshire Dales Society stall if CNP were able to provide one in time, to encourage letter writing to MPs. (Many people, visitors and locals, were indeed spoken to at Hawes in August on this subject and a large quantity of CNP leaflets were given out, urging people to write, with the Yorkshire Dales National Park later taking the remaining leaflets for further use).

Some additional points concerned National Park Committee Appointees and National Park finances. It was felt that Appointees should have better recognition in the media when they took up their position and that National Parks might like to consider compiling a skills register of expertise among such appointees so that particular skills’ gaps could be identified. Finally, as regards financial matters, it was felt that it would make splendid sense to highlight more clearly the very positive things the National Parks do with their money as the press is only too happy at times to report the more negative aspects.

Fleur Speakman
A REVIVAL OF AN ANCIENT BUSINESS

It was Queen Elizabeth I who set the fashion for wearing knitted stockings instead of the hose previously favoured. True, hers were made of silk and came from Spain but, in England, stockings hand knitted in local wool were soon in demand and a hand knitting industry began to develop. In the Swaledale area, where it employed many local people, it became essential to the economy of the Dale and continued well into the 19th century.

For over 200 years, Swaledale had become a centre for the mining of lead and, during that period, the population increased considerably. Yet the miners’ earnings were variable and often meagre. To supplement their income, nearly every family became involved in knitting stockings which were sold not only to British buyers, but also to European countries like Holland. It was a local industry which drew to a close only with the development of machine knitting and new clothing fashions.

It was in 1974 that the industry came to be revived. At that time there was much concern for the future of Upper Swaledale. Schools and a post office were closing and village shops were threatened. A village meeting was called in Muker to find ways of improving the local economy. There seemed few possibilities but David and Grizel Morris proposed the revival of the early knitting industry making use of Swaledale wool.

With encouragement from the local people, they began the task of setting up a small local business. It took time, for research was needed into the properties of the local Swaledale wool and the best uses to which it could be put. A small group of hand knitters was formed and some knitwear made for testing by an art expedition. With help from the Wool Marketing Board an order was received for 125 pairs of knitted gloves for the Transglobe Expedition and the name of Swaledale Woollens gained some national publicity. A small building was made available in Muker and some trade from visiting tourists and from mail orders helped the business to survive those early days.

Twenty years have now past since that village meeting and the founding of Swaledale Woollens. Gradually, the business has been developed and is now housed in larger premises in the centre of Muker though much of the knitting is still done in the homes of Dales people. Some forty local people are involved in the knitting, running the shop or dealing with the increasing mail order trade. Swaledale knitwear has become known not only in Britain but in many parts of America, as well as Europe, Australia and Japan. It remains very much a local business and has certainly played its part in keeping alive the economy of Upper Swaledale.

David Morris

Coverdale (Christine Whitehead)
SCAPES PHOTOGRAPHY

Scapes Photography is the name of the company formed in 1985 by ex-geography teacher David Green. It was at Malham on one of many field trips to the Yorkshire Dales that he hit on the idea of producing a new series of postcards capturing the changing mood of the Dales as an alternative to the usual viewcards.

Initially launched with a set of 12 “Dalescapes” the series has now expanded to 50, complemented by other tourist areas of Yorkshire in the “Moorscapes” and “Yorkscapes” collections. In each case cards can be sold individually or in packaged sets of 12. Dalescapes covers not only the Yorkshire Dales National Park, but also Harrogate, Knaresborough and Fountains Abbey, while Moorscapes, based on the North York Moors National Park, includes both moors and coast as well as areas from Rievaulx to Ravenscar, and from Westerdale to Whitby. Yorkscapes is a photographic series of the city of York and there are limited edition photographs of many other areas of the UK.

David’s photographs have all been taken using his trusted 35mm Praktica camera which accompanies him at all times. Surprisingly all the pictures are shot with the standard Carl Zeiss Tesser 50mm Lens and no tripod. The clarity of the postcards can be attributed to using Kodachrome 25 slide film and a steady hand.

The photographs have been used in a variety of formats to produce a range of high quality, hand-made and printed greetings cards, notelets, bookmarks and limited edition photographs which capture the inimitable character of the Yorkshire Dales. David’s cards are on sale widely throughout Yorkshire, although the best display is at the Dalesmade Centre, Watershed Mill Visitor Centre, Settle.

Scapes is a good example of a local business which caters for tourist and local alike, and with minimal impact on the environment. For further details contact David Green at Dalescape, Hebden, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5DJ. Tel: (0756) 752151.

BOOK REVIEWS

For nearly 30 years the Yorkshire Post has been running a regular weekly farming column giving us the story of Five Yorkshire Farms, based on diaries kept by the farmers themselves and this series has now been adapted by Edward Hart in a book called “The Year Round”, bringing together the farmers’ diary entries and describing each farm, its families, farming successes and mishaps in turn.

Each of these Yorkshire farms specialises in a different type of farming and their highly contrasting geographical positions all help to highlight the different problems the various sites can bring whether it be the mainly arable High Wolds not far from Malton, Friars Hagg, a hill sheep farm with moorland grazing near Barnard Castle, Carter Heights a dairy farm near Yeadon, Chestnut Farm on the fertile plain of York or White Smocks which concentrates on intensive livestock farming.

The book gives some excellent insights into all the different variables a farmer must juggle whether it be losing out on a lucrative market for his lambs when some unbelievably bad weather makes going to market a virtual impossibility, to removing the tups from the ewes too late in July with later consequences for the lambing season, or deciding to feed the dairy cattle treacle which they lick from rollers, thus successfully combating slow fever.

Much of course has changed dramatically in the farming world, in the 1920s with a man’s wage of 32s (£1.60) a week, “the rate for a day’s threshing was 7s (70p), and you carried on till the stack was finished. The attraction was a good dinner and two good ‘lowances, as the mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks were termed. There was a lot of unemployment in the villages, and men were glad to take a day’s threshing.” Harvesting techniques and yields again often changed out of all recognition over the years and what was reckoned to be a bumper harvest at High Wolds of 163 tons in 1949 contrasted with the 170 tons harvested in one day in 1992 on the same farm!

The height and fairly inhospitable climate of Friar’s Hagg makes looking after the flocks of sheep a fairly constant struggle with great dependence on good neighbours returning the inevitable straying sheep from the moors and there is the sad tale of the sheep dog pup who always lay next to his great friend the bull for warmth until the day the pup was found dead after the bull had accidentally lain on him.

At White Smocks which specialises in intensive livestock farming, over Christmas one year, twentyone sows farrowed in four days with eight giving birth on Christmas Day itself, not much holiday for the ever busy farmer. Even nowadays much farm work can still be labour intensive such as egg collecting, first by hand from the incubators into plastic covered wire mesh buckets and then graded before being packed onto the trolleys holding 4,320 eggs each!

Even at Low Fields which took over the column from Chestnut Farm, the rich yield still can encounter other problems such as the farm road to the potato field which is...
Eggs come in from the automatic nest box system ready for grading. Despite modern facilities this remains a time-consuming daily job.

so bad that the drivers take a load of stone on each return journey “to fill the worst holes”. And it is on this farm that we hear about the practice of warping - making use of the deposit of rich silt from river estuaries through natural flooding and this land reclamation provides highly fertile soil.

At its best “The Year Round” does make us appreciate all the different facets of farming life, though we are perhaps less aware of the different seasons when there is so much to absorb, and a small sketch map at the head of the chapter on each farm might have been useful in addition to the larger map which details the site of each farm.

Also there is perhaps less immediacy in book form with this culling of more memorable snippets than perhaps in the slightly “rawer” newspaper “diaries” which obviously spoke directly to so many people.

“The Year Round, The Yorkshire Post Story of Five Farms” by Edward Hart is published by Alan Sutton Publishing Limited at £7.99 and should be available in most bookshops.

Fleur Speakman

A Wharfedale Village
This is a detailed study of the History of Burnsall and Thorpe-sub-Montem by YDS member, Eric Lodge who was editor of the Yorkshire Dales Official Guide for more than 25 years and who has also compiled a number of local guide books. His Burnsall history represents research spread over half a century and is a tremendous tribute to a very beautiful village set in the heart of Wharfedale.

Eric Lodge is able in his opening sections to outline with great clarity the historical background from earliest times with the coming of the Angles in the seventh century and some archaeological evidence of Neolithic man from Elbolton Cave as well as one or two other areas nearby. Though there is still dispute as to the origin of the name of Burnsall. Lodge’s theory of “A corner of land cleared by fire” is quite a persuasive one.

In medieval times though there was a great revolt by the peasants against the imposition of the Poll tax of 1379, intended as a means of raising money for the treasury depleted by wars in France, there are some fascinating tables of the Burnsall people who did pay the tax. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Reformation, England felt threatened both by enemies within and on the Continent and it was considered necessary to make an assessment of the Muster Rolls in 1539, and we can still today read the number of Burnsall men recorded as being available for military service at that period.

Daniel Defoe, the great writer, came to Burnsall on his famous “Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain”. His account published in 1724 tells feelingly of “the terrible aspect” of the high mountains to the north-west of Settle “more frightful than any in Monmouthshire or Derbyshire, especially Peniagent Hill,” which he was positive, he had no inclination to encounter.

There is a detailed scholarly section on St Wilfred’s church with some well-researched information on Anglo-Danish sculpture, Viking gravestones and various other architectural features. Records of maintenance work on the church and the curious post of “dog whipper” who kept order among the hounds brought to church who made an unseemly commotion outside, all add to the interest. Stories like the local preacher who prayed for rain after a long drought and was rewarded by a heavy continuous thunderstorm and then offered thanks for the rain, but reminded the Almighty “Thou knowest, O Lord, that there is such a thing as reasonableness,” make delightful reading.

The minutes of Vestry and Parish meetings often give much additional information such as the records of the use of lime for land improvement, and since an average farm would require 200-300 tons of lime, some townships including Burnsall established their own lime kilns, the lime being additionally much used for mortar and plaster in building work.

Travel between Grassington and Burnsall in 1835 was sometimes notorious for footpads and robbers as the Rev. James Leslie Armstrong found when he insisted, in spite of warnings, of travelling without a guide and found himself surrounded by...
gypsies highly dissatisfied with the few half pence thrown to them and ready to go to
greater lengths.

Much of the fascination of the book lies in the tremendous range it covers on all
matters relating to Bursall and its companion village of Thorpe whether dealing with
celebrated local personalities, educational matters, commons and enclosure, village
activities, and the coming of more modern day inventions such as the penny post,
television and the railways (proposed for Bursall at one point but never
implemented); the railway in fact running from Skipton to Grassington via Rylstone
and leaving Bursall unspoilt.

Eric Lodge has produced a masterly and entertaining study which shows that local
history can be both highly readable and highly informative.

A Wharfedale Village, a detailed study of the History of Bursall and Thorpe sub-
montem by Eric Lodge FRGS published by the author, is available price £30 in local
bookshops or at £33.15 to include postage & packing, from the author at High Croft,
Bursall, Skipton, North Yorks, BD23 6BP.

Fleur Speakman

The Dales Pack - 20 Classic Walks in the Yorkshire Dales by Peter J. Beresford
& Michael Law (Orchard Publishing £9.95)

Some people are beginning to feel that it's time for a moratorium on Dales walking
books, given a crowded market place and too many books describing the same walks
(question - does footpath erosion reflect the number of guidebooks describing that
identical circular walk from a carpark ?)

The Dales Pack doesn't escape this problem, and several of the walks are well tried
and perhaps well worn, though there are some unusual ones too. What is different
about this guide is the way it is presented - 20 laminated A5 cards using extracts from
actual Ordnance Survey maps with the recommended routes marked in red, notes and
directions on the back. It comes in a handy pack and, a nice bonus, with a free carrying
case to keep your hands free. I suppose the main disadvantage is that this also
identifies you to other Pack users - but you can always keep the OS map in your hand
in order to understand the walk first. Sad to note all the walks are circular from
the car, including the use of one or two already crowded informal parking points
where walkers' parked cars are often a nuisance (eg Halton Gill, Appletreewisk) whilst
public transport even to somewhere like Embsay or Clapham doesn't even get a
mention.

But it's a neat concept, pre-selected walks for anyone who doesn't yet know the
Dales, though it was difficult to discover why Tetley's brewery is sponsoring the
publication. Shouldn't brewers, especially as well as writers and publishers, be
environmentally aware enough to encourage us to use the train or bus ?

CS

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

Daleswatch Chairman Jim Burton introduces what it is hoped will be regular column
of Daleswatch News.

The level of activity amongst Daleswatch Groups has varied considerably since they
were inaugurated but, with the Society's Council now holding many of its meetings
in the northern Dales, it is in keeping to note that interest in their work is becoming
more widespread. There are several major issues now coming into the pipeline, and
it is through Daleswatch that members can bring their concerns to the attention of
Council for possible future action. With a membership close to 2,000 the Society can
be a powerful influence in the way the Dales develop. Members who would like to
add their voices to this work are invited to contact their nearest convenor.

Amongst concerns that will come to prominence in the next few months, perhaps
the most crucial is the National Park Plan. The Inspector has reported on the objections
that were received, and the YDNP Committees will be considering his report in
October. With the much greater emphasis placed upon the planning system nationwide,
the importance of this document, once it is finally approved, can hardly be
overemphasised. Meanwhile, anyone who thought the problem of Swinden Quarry
had gone away will find that Tilcon have now put revised proposals forward. This is
an issue that seems set to run and run. Whilst traffic management should also become
a lively issue, if only because the proposals made by the Dales Society for a trial
scheme in the Bolton Abbey area. These ideas are expected to receive serious
consideration from both the NYCC and the YDNP Authority in the near future.

In the wider context there are renewed hopes of a National Parks Bill appearing in
the next Queen's Speech - although writing these words does induce a feeling of
having been around before. Nevertheless I do admit to being somewhat more hopeful
than I was on earlier occasions, and will go on record as saying that something useful
really does seem likely to emerge this time.

LOCAL DALESWATCH GROUP NEWS

Upper Wharfedale

The group continues to thrive under the genial guidance of Ken Lord. Another
contemplative but enjoyable meeting on 4th August considered a variety of topics
including parking in Grassington, the 40th anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales
National Park, the plaque outside Linton Youth Hostel, paths to Pen-y-Ghent and the
proposed landscaping on common land near Kettlewell Bridge. Next meeting:
Thursday 13th October at 7.30pm at 4, Rivendell, Long Ashes, Threshfield.
Ribblesdale
After a disappointing turn-out last time, it is good to be able to congratulate convenor Hilary Baker on a stimulating meeting in Settle on 30th June. Not surprisingly the problem of quarries and quarry lorries was ventilated yet again, as was the future of the rail link to Carlisle. Amongst other matters were the plans for Hellifield station, low flying aircraft, and the very real problem of large dogs on ladder stiles. Slightly out of geographical context were the problems of Linton School and Grassington Hospital, but this only emphasises the universality of interest in important issues. Next meeting Friday 28th October 7.30pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Settle. Note that this is a week later than the date suggested at the last meeting.

Wensleydale
All sorts of activities should be buzzing around Hawes after the success of the “Dales Alive” festival in which the Society played a full and active part. It is good indeed that in Alan Watkinson we now have a convenor and Council member in the area. It is hoped that a meeting can be arranged in Hawes during the autumn.

Swaledale
New council member and convenor Charles Hepworth has been making Herculean efforts to get a new group going, although so far the response has been disappointing. Nevertheless there are good reasons for wanting to test the potential level of support and tentative plans are in hand for an inaugural meeting to be held, possibly in November.

Nidderdale
There have been no recent meetings of the group, however the latest news regarding Dallowgill Moor is that the Countryside Commission are stepping forcefully into the dispute over common land rights.

Skipton/Malhamdale, Lower Wharfedale
No recent meetings.

Dentdale
Currently the group is dormant due to lack of a convenor. Volunteers will be welcome and are invited to phone me (Jim Burton) 0943 602918.

LIST OF CONVENORS (and telephone numbers)
Dentdale vacant
Nidderdale Jean Johnson (0943 880234)
Ribblesdale Hilary Baker (0729 840609)
Skipton/Malhamdale Joan and David Smith (0756 792163)
Swaledale Charles Hepworth (0748 886397)
Wensleydale Alan Watkinson (0969 667785)
Wharfedale (Lower) Peter Young (0943 466858)
Wharfeldale (Upper) Ken Lord (0756 753202)

Jim Burton (Daleswatch Chairman)

NATIONAL PARKS NEWS
Some key issues raised at the August 16th meeting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee included such fundamental matters as:

1. The Proposed Pennine Bridleway Considerable concern was felt by a number of people about the cavalier way this seems to be proceeding. The lack of precision over funding is also very worrying and the suggestion of sponsorship and its implications does not commend itself for this long distance trail. More locally the difficulties created round the Settle/Selside area for example seem to be glossed ove with more difficult problems awaiting solution retrospectively.

2. Limestone Pavement Orders We now have orders protecting large areas of pavement on land around Langcliffe and Settle and covering Scales Moor and Twistleton Scar. Ironically it also covers the locality around Winskill Stones but does not, of course, include it since the permission granted in 1952 cannot be affected. The YDNP is also trying to buy out the owner, but this will probably take a considerable amount of money.

3. Caravan Rallies Formal approval for this annual influx was given though some reductions were made. The caravans are both a nuisance on the road and an intrusion on site. These rallies are not subject to development control and the National Park has very limited powers as to what it can do about them.

4. Radio Reception Alterations in BBC transmissions mean that many parts of the Dales have become more restricted in their choice of programmes. It should be
axiomatic that people are not penalised unfairly just because of their place of residence. Negotiations with the BBC are going on, but some of the more glaring and longer standing anomalies such as the inability of many Yorkshire people to get news of their county via YTV and/or BBC Look North remain.

Jim Burton

THE DALES COUNTRYSIDE MUSEUM

New galleries at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes chronicle the development of society and the environment, from the Viking invasions to the momentous social changes under the Tudor and Stuart monarchs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A reconstructed Dales farmhouse kitchen with working range, from around 1900 is the centre-piece of exhibitions on stone built houses which is complemented by an oatcake making display featuring some of the unique items brought together by local historians and museum founders, Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby.

Archive Photos Wanted - also Lead Mining Artefacts

Dales Countryside Museum Director, Martin Gresswell, would like to hear from anyone who might have objects or pictures relating to Industry in the Dales. The museum is particularly interested in items relating to the lead and coal mining, quarrying and the textile industries. There will be new galleries concerning industry in the Dales which will include a reconstructed lead mine level, due to open next spring. Anyone who has photographs dating from before the turn of the century concerning either industry or aspects of Dales life should contact Martin Gresswell, Dales Countryside Museum, Station Yard, Hawes, North Yorkshire DL8 3NT. tel: 0969 667494.

STOP PRESS - EXTRA - EXTRA

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28th Upper Wharfedale Field Society - postponed Inaugural Raistwick Lecture. Dr L. Butler of the Department of Archaeology of the University of York and President of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society on Medieval Churches in the Dales - Grassington Town Hall, 7.30pm, Admission £1.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 29th - YDS CHRISTMAS WALK

Enjoy some fresh air and good company between the festivities on a ramble with a seasonal flavour in the Eden Valley - Pendragon, Lammerside, and the Loki Stone, with time for appropriate refreshment in the old town of Kirkby Stephen. About 8 miles. Catch the Settle-Carlisle train 0845 from Leeds, 0900 from Shipley, 0908 from Keighley, 0927 from Skipton, 0945 from Settle to Kirkby Stephen. Return either 1514 or 1724 from Kirby Stephen. Leader: Colin Speakman - tel 0943 607868

CHRISTMAS OFFER

Why not take out Yorkshire Dales Society Membership as a Christmas gift for a friend or relative this year and spread your concern for the environment further afield? We will send a very attractive greetings card on your behalf in time for Christmas with a copy of the latest issue, BUT membership will also be valid from 1st January 1995/6 so your friend in fact receives FIVE issues of the Yorkshire Dales Review instead of 4. In addition we will send one of our special YDS leather badges to You FREE when you place such an order.

Please send a Christmas Magazine Offer to the following name & address

NAME .................................................
ADDRESS .............................................

RATE ( £8 single, £12 couple, £6 Single retired, £9 retired couple) £ _

My Name & Address ..................................

PRICE LIST

Sweatshirts with the YDS logo in a range of colours. Order early so if your size and colour is not in stock, we can put in a further order to our supplier.

First Colour Choice Second colour choice

Sweatshirts £10 plus £1 postage and packing £ _

NAME .............................................
ADDRESS ...........................................

Please contact Sheila Marks on 0943 608968 for further details.

Leather badges, hand coloured £1 plus 20p postage £ _

“Beyond the Horizon” by Horace Pawson and Dennis Cairns - Six young First World War veterans take a Dales walking holiday in 1920. The routes are brought up to date in a modern sequel with period photographs. Makes a delightful present & costs £5.95, or £7.00 including postage & packing £ _

Beautiful sets of cards, with envelopes, real photographs, suitable for any occasion. Please specify whether views or flower series or mixed pack preferred at £3.50 for a pack of four, or £3.90 including postage £ _

or 2 packs £7.40 including postage £ _

Dales Digest (quarterly) includes postage £6. £ _

Backnumbers of the YDS Review (please specify which) 3 issues plus postage & packing £1.50 £ _

Donation £ _

Please make out cheques to The Yorkshire Dales Society. Send your order as soon as possible to The Yorkshire Dales Society The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1HD.

Please photo-copy this order form if you do not wish to spoil your magazine.
SOCIETY EVENTS AUTUMN/WINTER 1994/5

Enjoy a pleasant morning’s walk and then an interesting lecture at the Yorkshire Dales Society’s Annual Walk and Lecture Series this autumn and winter. Remember admission is £1.50 for members and £2.50 for non-members who get £1 back if they join at the event. The NEW starting time is 2.15pm.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ERROR IN THE DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER WALK AND LECTURE ON THE BLUE SYLLABUS CARD. THIS SHOULD BE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12th NOT THE 8TH.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH - WALK IN THE LONG PRESTON AREA. Meet at Long Preston railway station at 10.30am for an easy 4-5 mile moorland walk, finishing at 12.30pm with a pub lunch or bring a packed lunch. Walk Leader Hilary Baker tel: 0729 840609.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH - LECTURE - THE CRAFT OF BEEKEEPING by Donald G. Pickles, a bee-keeper for about 40 years, at Long Preston Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD - WALK IN THE BOLTON ABBEY AREA. An easy 5 mile walk with a 240 metre climb. Meet the west side of Bolton Priory Bridge at 10.30am, the walk should finish by 12.30am. Bring a packed lunch or pub or cafe lunch available. PLEASE NOTE THAT NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THIS WALK AT THE REQUEST OF THE OWNERS. Walk Leader Jim Burton tel: 0943 602918.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD - LECTURE - IN TURNER’S FOOTSTEPS BY David Hill, author of book on this subject, (now in paperback edition) at Bolton Abbey Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY JANUARY 14TH - WALK IN THE ADDINGHAM AREA. Meet at Addingham Memorial car park at 10.30am for an easy walk of about 4 miles along the riverbank via Lobb Wood and Tagg Head. Walk to finish at about 12 noon and bring packed lunch or pub or cafe lunches available. Walk Leader Robin Costello tel: 0943 464431.

SATURDAY JANUARY 14TH - LECTURE - 25 YEARS OF THE DALES WAY by Colin Speakman, author and originator of this popular long distance walking route, at Addingham Memorial Hall at 2.15pm.