

# The Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 49      Winter 1994

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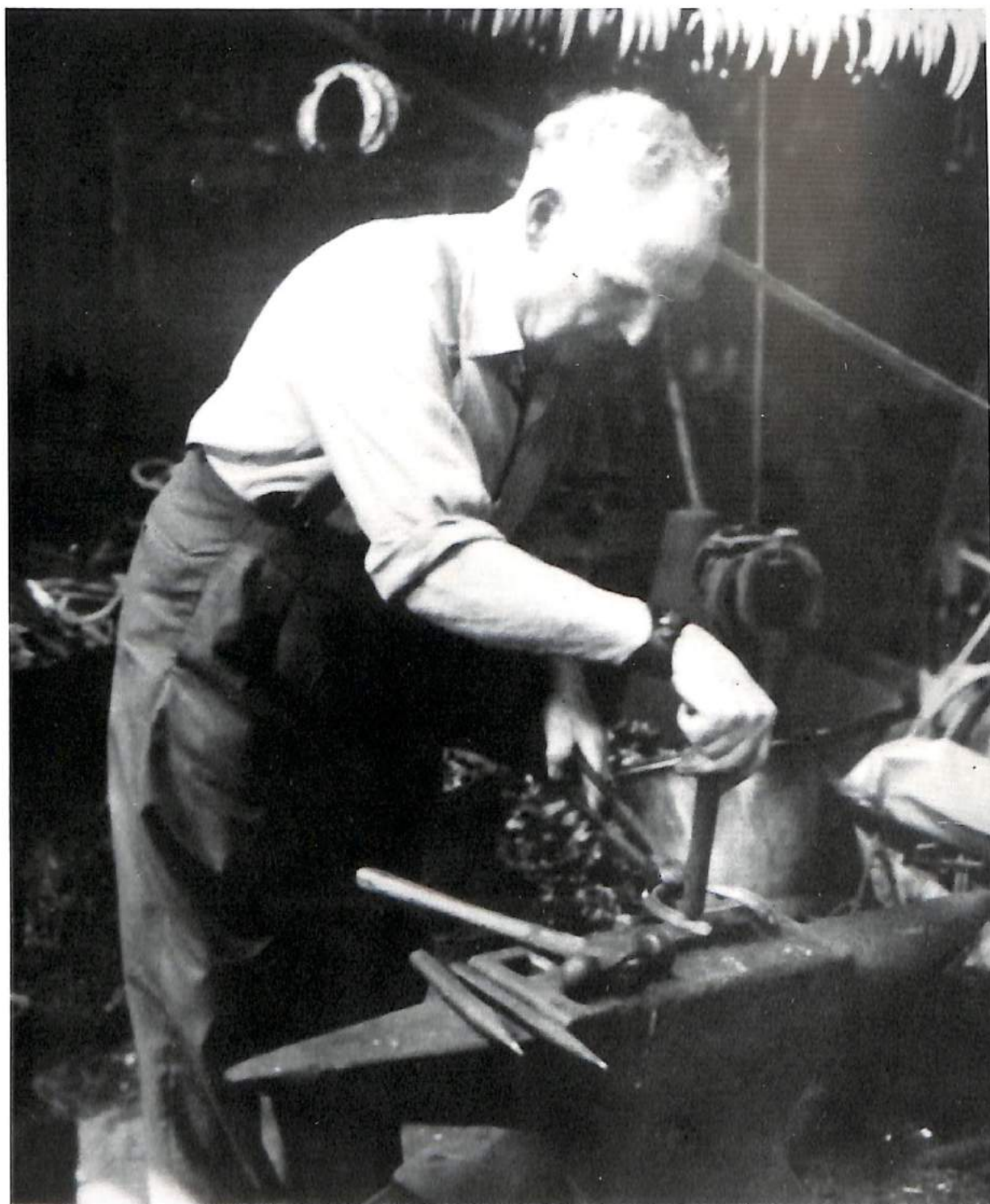


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DALES SOCIETY

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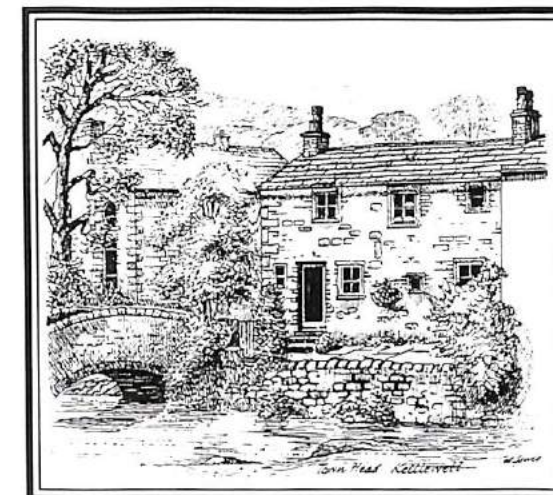




Jack Ward at work. See "Dales Blacksmith Jack Ward of Skipton" in Book Review section (Photo J K Ellwood).

# The Yorkshire Dales Review

No 49 Winter 1994



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## THE DARK SIDE OF THE PROSPEROUS DALES

Few people would argue that the Yorkshire Dales isn't one of the most prosperous parts of the North of England. Standards of living - and quality of life - is high. You can't but be impressed by the beautifully kept cottages and houses in every village, with often not one but two recently registered cars standing in the drive. For perhaps a majority of Dales residents life is agreeable. Many of these same people who now enjoy a well earned retirement or run small tourist businesses have made a good living in other less attractive parts of Britain and have come to share the glorious natural beauty of the Dales environment. Often these same people take a full part in local social life, serving on parish councils, local societies and becoming full and active members of local communities.

But as a disturbing report from the Dales Partnership Project shows, that isn't quite the whole story. As Project Officer David Harvey writes elsewhere in this issue of The Review, for a sizeable minority of people living in the northern Dales, especially older people, including many people born in the Dales and who have lived and worked in the area all their lives, life can be grim. A combination of five key issues - loneliness and isolation, declining services and facilities, poverty, lack of transport and lack of access to information can turn the Dales dream sour. If over 80% of people living in these Dales have a car, it also means that nearly 20% do not - no joke when there's only four buses a day, non in the evenings or at weekends, when the local shop has closed and the supermarket is 15 miles away (bus fare £4.50p return) and "poverty" has a real stigma.

What can be done? The Partnership has already shown the way with some admirable initiatives, for example the Luncheon Club at Langthwaite and a community transport scheme to begin in January. These are excellent developments which the Yorkshire Dales Society warmly supports. But perhaps it is time, too, to look at how all rural services can be improved, both to reduce the need to travel to distant facilities (with consequent pollution and environmental damage) and to help create more village-centred facilities which everyone, irrespective of income, can use.

Colin Speakman

*Front Cover:* Phone box near Stone House Inn,  
Thruscross Reservoir (John Fawcett).

*Back Cover:* Two Dales frost pictures (John Fawcett).



## THE PENNINE BRIDLE WAY

Personal View by Ralph Atkinson

After nearly 40 years in the Third World as an agriculturalist organising support services for small farmers, Ralph Atkinson returned to his old stamping grounds in the Dales 10 years ago. He was elected to North Yorkshire County Council and to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee in 1989 and is now Vice Chairman of the Park Committee. As a founder member of the Bentham Footpath Group, on the Council of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and a member of various farmers' groups, he keeps a foot in agricultural, conservation and leisure camps.

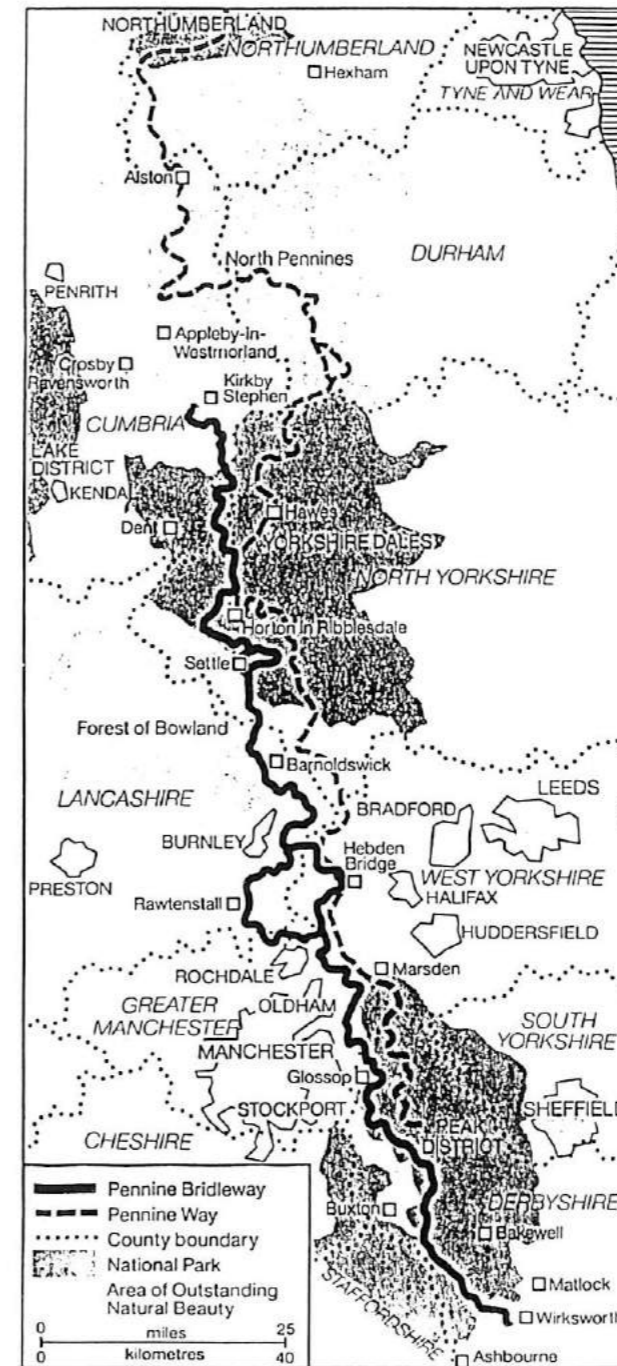
The term "Pennine Bridle Way" conjures up in the imagination an idyllic scene of a group of equestrians mounting a rise in the Dales in spring sunshine, the next dale spread before them, under a sky of clear blue and scudding clouds, a firm green road underfoot and all around the larks singing and the curlews calling. There is no reason why this should not come about, but there is still a long way to go before it becomes reality. So, what is the Pennine Bridle Way and what must be done to bring it about?

The idea for a bridle way along the length of the Pennines was first suggested by Mrs (now Lady) Towneley, an experienced long-distance rider, in 1986. The idea was formally mounted by the Countryside Commission in 1987 and a consultation document produced in October 1990. After consultation with statutory consultees, such as highway authorities, district councils and National Parks, including the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, a modified proposal was submitted to the Secretary of State in September 1991. The Park's response at that time (December 1990) was to agree to the idea in principle, but to express concern about the availability of resources needed to establish and then maintain the bridle way in perpetuity. At the Secretary's of State's request, parish councils and parish meetings along the route were consulted in 1992; these were published in a supplementary report in July 1993 and in mid-1994 the Secretary of State announced that he was minded to approve the modified proposal.

By this time, however, a number of both general and specific reservations about the project as it affected the Yorkshire Dales had emerged and in August 1994, the National Park Committee requested a postponement of the Secretary of State's decision until these issues had been resolved. As well as finance, both for capital and recurrent purposes, these issues included the questions of sustainability, environmental impact and responsibility for the complex business of establishing the legal status of the route throughout its length in the Park.

Because of my support for this approach (the decision of the Park Committee was unanimous) I have been accused of being "anti-horse". Nothing could be further from the truth. I have been around horses all my life and love their strength and beauty. My earliest memories include those of Shires on a Warwickshire farm in the 30s - drought-cracked clay ringing to pounding hooves, feathered legs plunging through wet

## THE PENNINE BRIDLEWAY



Proposed route of Pennine Bridle Way

gateways and the agricultural recession being what it then was, stinking black pools of urine in neglected stables. Then in farm service in West Cumberland in the 40s, where we used to break in a couple of Clydesdale stags each winter, training them to saddle and shafts, learning to plough; my introduction to the single rein in the East Riding, snagging turnips into a one-horse tumbril; in the 60s learning to ride properly from an accomplished horsewoman in Bechuanaland, wild gallops through the bush on her big, black gelding, Blitz and the annual gymkhana and horse races with Quett Masire, then one of the leading farmers and now President of Botswana, as Clerk of the Course; on to Lesotho in the 1970s when the only means of access to remote villages in the Drakensberg was on horseback or by plane; and later, thrilling matches of polo and buskasi in the mountain villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Hardly the background of a hippophobe! (horsehater).

But horses are not the only legitimate users of bridle ways. Pedestrians have the right under common law to use such ways and in 1968, Parliament granted cyclists the right to use them. This right, of course, also applies to the modern mountain bike and as the mountain bike grows in popularity, it is expected to become easily the principle user of the Pennine Bridle Way. Each of these users produces its own type of erosion which is where the question of sustainability (YD Review no 48) comes in.





Inaugural ride - two riders on the Pennine Bridle Way

Although the route has been carefully chosen to avoid deep peat and other surfaces which are subject to erosion, significant areas of such surfaces remain. Horses hooves and mountain bikes in particular chop up the surface of wet ground and leave it difficult to traverse on foot. This is one of the reasons why the Park Committee has requested an environmental assessment.

Another reason is, of course, the measures needed to provide a suitable surface for horses, the need to combat erosion and the impact such measures would have on the landscape. It took the Three Peaks Project five years to determine measures to protect and maintain footpaths, some of which, for example the path up Penyghent, were subject to a great deal of criticism on the grounds of appearance. It is doubtful whether many of the techniques discovered would apply to horses so more research is necessary.

Another class of rights are those of the farmers and landowners over whose land bridle ways and footpaths run. Even though some leisure users may resent the fact that landowners and occupiers have over-riding rights over land, including common land, these are firmly esconced in law. Also, it is well to remember that it is the farming practices of the past which have formed the dales landscapes that we know and love and we should be grateful that farmers still remain as guardians of the landscapes of the future. Unfortunately on the first consultation with individual landowners, misunderstandings arose and some of them are now upset and antagonistic. New routes and the greater use and development of old routes will undoubtedly infringe on both rights and farming operations. Compensation may be needed, but as yet I have seen no provision for this in the arrangements for the establishment of the Way. The cooperation of farmers and landowners is critical to the success of the project and we will need to make every effort to ensure that it is secured.

The original proposal was for a route of nearly 300 miles, right up to Hexham and it is still proposed to include this extension if a suitable route and terminus can be found. Currently the proposal is for a 208 mile route extending from Carsington reservoir in the south to Kirkby Stephen in the north. Of this some 53 miles pass through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Although much of this is on existing bridle way (and some on tarmac county roads), over 6 miles is on footpaths with no rights for horses and over 3 miles have no status at all on the designated map. To establish these routes as bridle way, more than a dozen or so Rights of Way Modification and/or Creation Orders will be necessary. If there are no objections these are small matters, but if objections are made and maintained, the process of appeal can drag out for months and become very expensive, for example some of the Park's orders have now been five years or more in the process. Quite apart from the cost, this is yet another reason why the full cooperation of landowners and other users should be secured before the route is finally established.

Since the Park Committee's decision in August, the question of paying for capital and maintenance costs of the Bridle Way has somewhat receded in importance before these other issues. The Countryside Commission have agreed to pay in total for construction work; the legal work needed to establish the route (including Modification and Creation Orders) and the cost of a Project Coordinator for a five year period and have agreed to allocate £2 million pounds for this purpose for the shorter route. However, the question of compensation still remains open and proposals for construction including provisions for keeping motor cycles and 4 Wheel Drive vehicles off the Way (already a problem in some areas) are not entirely satisfactory.

In so far as the cost of maintenance is concerned, the Countryside Commission have agreed to pay 75%. But 75% of what? If it is 75% of the total costs of maintenance - including those Rights of Way which are already the responsibility of the National Park to maintain - that would indeed be generous. If it is 75% only of newly created routes, it is doubtful whether this will be acceptable. The fact is that the Park cannot sustain any further demands, no matter how small, on its Rights of Way budget. Simon Rose's report on the Three Peaks Project estimated that unless immediate works costing £469,000 on the paths in that area were initiated and maintenance was kept to a high standard, costs would escalate and some £3.9 million (at 1992 prices) would eventually be needed. A bid for £1 million to meet these costs put to the European LIFE Fund in 1993 failed. Now a similar bid for Objective 5B funds is being prepared. In the meantime the Authority is only able to afford some £50,000 a year from a budget severely constrained by Government.

So this is the present position. A great idea which is welcomed in principle, but which still has a lot of important issues to be resolved - issues most of which ought to be sorted out before the project is established in law. Negotiations with the Countryside Commission are proceeding and hopefully these will soon have a positive outcome.

Ralph Atkinson



## THE DALES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The Dales Partnership Project, a two year project funded by the Rural Development Commission and Help the Aged, managed by Yorkshire Rural Community Council aims to look at the needs of older people living in the more isolated parts of Arkengarthdale, Swaledale and Wensleydale and to help develop new services and facilities to meet these needs.

The Project began in May 1993 with the first nine months devoted to a period of research and information gathering and culminating in the production of the Project Report in January 1994. The main aim of the research was to examine what was currently available for older people living within the three dales and more importantly, to identify what was lacking. During this phase of the Project, an office was established in Reeth to allow the research to be carried out at a local level and also to raise awareness of the project. This greatly helped to develop a number of contacts with local people and provided real insight into Swaledale, especially during the tourist-free winter months with many of the shops and cafes closed until Easter.

The Report identified five main issues that were of particular importance to older people living in Arkengarthdale, Swaledale and Wensleydale. These were: 1) Loneliness and Isolation 2) Declining Services and Facilities 3) Poverty 4) Transport 5) Access to Information

The Issues 1) Loneliness and Isolation - In 1991, there was a total of 668 senior citizens living alone in Arkengarthdale, Swaledale and Wensleydale; more than 50% of them lived outside the three largest settlements of Leyburn, Reeth and Hawes. In addition, a large number of the elderly were living alone in villages and hamlets with limited services and some or non-existent public transport.

The feelings of loneliness and isolation experienced by a number of older people can be caused by both geographical and social factors. For many people being "away from it all" is one of the main benefits of living in the Dales. However, by the same token, living more than 15 miles from the nearest market town and up to 40 miles from the nearest hospital, can be problematic, especially for those without access to private transport. Although family networks are still strong throughout the Dales, this is not universal and many people, especially relative newcomers, can feel isolated and excluded from community life.

2) Declining Services and Facilities - Those who have lived in the Dales for a number of years can remember the vastly better service provision before centralisation began. Facilities are still being withdrawn, Reeth for example, only a couple of years ago lost its Spar provision shop. More recently post offices in Langthwaite and Grinton were lost although the latter is due to reopen soon, almost a year after closure. Post offices are of course vitally important to rural communities, especially for older people needing to collect their pensions and can often be the only source of obtaining

cash as the nearest banks are in the market towns of Leyburn, Hawes and Reeth. Also post offices are communal meeting places and the loss of such a service can often lead to an actual loss of community life.

3) Poverty - Many people living within the Dales are managing on very low incomes. However, the word "poverty" is very contentious and many people simply believe that it does not exist in rural areas. This is due in part to its hidden nature compared to towns and cities. Rural living is expensive and this has to be acknowledged by urban based decision makers. Also many people are very independent and do not want to ask for help of any kind, including financial help. This is one reason why benefit take-up levels are low and further reinforces the view of the Dales being an affluent rural area.

4) Transport - Public transport in most villages and hamlets is either very infrequent or non-existent. Even where it is available, the vagaries of the timetable and cost of travelling can often be real barriers. Consequently there are high levels of car ownership throughout Arkengarthdale, Swaledale and Wensleydale with over 80% of households having a car, compared to 72.5% for North Yorkshire as a whole. However, there will always be a very sizeable minority who do not have access to a car as they are unable to afford it or do not drive. This group includes, amongst numerous others, many older people, especially women. This lack of access to private transport, combined with a very limited public transport service, can significantly affect quality of life. Essential journeys to nearby villages and towns either have to be made at inconvenient times or family and friends have to be relied upon, while journeys for leisure and cultural activities are often simply not made. Over a period, this can lead to a lowering of expectations.

5) Access to Information - Many organisations are very aware of the difficulties encountered by people living within the Dales in getting access to a range of information that is readily available to urban dwellers. However, on closer examination, it is apparent that there are a number of both formal and informal information networks in most villages. These include parish notice-boards which can provide a



Langthwaite Luncheon Club



wealth of detail about what is going on in each village. In Reeth the notice-board is combined with the bus shelter and is a regular meeting place. Also notice-boards in shops and post-offices and outside churches and chapels are a useful way to disseminate information, along with the numerous newsletters distributed throughout each dale. The mobile library service is also very effective in delivering information in that it visits almost every village and hamlet on a regular basis.

In June the Project held a workshop at Muker to look at each of the issues highlighted in the Report. The aim was to bring together local people and representatives from a number of both voluntary and statutory organisations to examine these issues and to suggest possible solutions to difficulties facing older people living in the Dales. The workshop proved to be an excellent opportunity for the sharing of information and making new contacts and a great success as several practical solutions were drawn



Mobile Library in Langthwaite

up; some are in process of being implemented. During the spring the Project team decided, together with other professionals working in the area, that to help combat loneliness and isolation, more village based services were needed. As a result, a Luncheon Club at Langthwaite was established in June. The group meets once a month in the chapel hall and the meals are supplied by a number of hotels, pubs and cafes in Langthwaite and

Reeth. This has been hugely successful and the group now has 25 members. It is proposed that another Luncheon Club could be set up in Swaledale, possibly at Muker during January or February of 1995. As transport was highlighted as one of the most important issues facing older people living in the three dales, the Project is currently working to set up a community transport scheme based around Reeth. This will include having a dedicated telephone number and a co-ordinator to match transport needs to volunteer providers. This scheme will begin in January 1995.

Since its publication, the Report has been widely distributed and there is a reference copy available at Richmond Library. If you would like further information about the Dales Partnership Project or a copy of the report, please contact the Project Officer on 0748 822943 for details.

David Harvey (Project Officer)

## NATURALISTS IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

"I know you like flowers and birds," I said to my neighbour one morning, as we were standing on our doorsteps on the road above the River Ribble and looking at the sparkling green trees opposite and the lovely countryside around. "Why don't you join the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust?"

The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is our local Trust, made up of people who care about nature. We're actually in the Dales Region of the Trust. If you join, you can feel you are helping to look after the reserves. We have six Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserves within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, two limestone pavement reserves on Ingleborough near Ribbleshead, two woodland reserves, a species rich haymeadow in Swaledale and the Semerwater reserve which is a mixture of habitats. It takes a lot of money to look after the reserves, to pay for the walls to be mended, and in the case of Grass Wood, to pay for woodland management to remove some of the conifers and restore it to ash woodland with glades for flowers.

The Trust does other work too. It can put the nature conservation point of view at planning meetings, it is helping with an otter project and it has run some excellent churchyard conservation days.

Of course the YWT is not the only Conservation organisation you could join. The Woodland Trust also has six reserves; three near Long Preston and Otterburn plus Lower Grass Wood and two parts of Ingleton Glens. The Woodland Trust is growing rapidly. A few years ago it had only two reserves in the the North of England, and now it has 37 in north and east Yorkshire and Cleveland. With the help of grants and appeals, it is acquiring one reserve a week throughout the UK - but it takes money to look after them. Nick Alliot, the Woodland Trust Officer for North Yorkshire is very happy to be contacted and welcomes comments on the properties and offers of local involvement. He would also like to hear of woodland that is up for sale, or woodland that is threatened.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) does not have any bird reserves within the YDNP, but then birds don't just stay on reserves. They are funding a merlin survey for the National Census of Breeding Merlins. Merlins like heather moorland. They support the Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Group. They part fund the YDNP Species Protection Officer, Frances Winder, whose job it is to improve the status of key species such as yellow wagtail, hen harrier, merlin, curlew and black grouse.

The National Trust has started to become much more interested in Nature Conservation in the past few years and is working to look after the wildlife on its land as well as its historic buildings. It has some wonderful land on the Malham Tarn Estate and excellent haymeadows and limestone grassland in Upper Wharfedale.

Judith Allinson



## COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL PARKS THIRD ANNUAL SEMINAR FOR NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES, BLENCATHRA FIELD CENTRE KESKICK 1994

*In a lively article with a serious message, YDS Chairman Chris Wright describes this Autumn's CNP National Park Societies' Seminar in the Lake District. There was record YDS attendance of seven members of YDS Council including our President Ken Willson who also has very close links with Friends of the Lake District.*

Last year's CNP Seminar for National Park Societies took place among the heaths and old woodlands of the New Forest. By contrast this year's seminar was set amidst some grandeur on the slopes of Blencathra giving us perhaps one of the finest views in England. Sadly, our weekend like last year's proved to be one of the wettest of the year - but this was rather appropriate as the sponsor was North West Water!

The twin themes of the weekend were farming and forestry. Though the Lake District landscape is less affected than that of the Yorkshire Dales, much of the landscape we value and seek to enjoy has been strongly influenced by man's activities over the years.

The first morning was devoted to defining our landscapes along with the many agencies and organisations available (often with funding) who influence them and the integration into both Local and Structure Plans. Nationally 97% of grant aid goes to increase food production, much of which is already in surplus and has to be stored or even destroyed. These figures speak for themselves. The Peak Park showed, however, that conservation based policies can create over 30 jobs which is at least a step in the right direction..

Undoubtedly our greatest potential is Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) status which has to apply to whole farms and has been taken up by 800 of the 1800 farms in the Lake District, many of the remainder being very small or outside the Park. This will help to conserve features such as traditional farming of hay meadows and reduce excessive stocking and overgrazing by sheep, half of which are exported to the continent, mainly to France.

The important role played by water companies as regards access to their land was demonstrated by the fact that North West Water as the second largest land owner in the Lake District after the National Trust allows the public at present free access as well as such amenities as parking and toilet facilities.

Delegates had the opportunity to sample such access during field visits to the company's land around Thirlmere. Continuing mist and drizzle unfortunately limited our views of far horizons afforested or otherwise. Also, three very damp and dejected Herdwick sheep were unimpressed with our views on overgrazing.

After a convivial evening with our hosts at the Field Centre, we were introduced to the importance of forestry in the landscape by Rachel Thomas, the Countryside Commission's forestry advisor. The old rows of dreary conifers are of limited value for timber or pulp, but have found some use in "high tec" building products. Modern



CNP Annual Seminar for National Park Societies "Farming and Forestry" Thirlmere  
(Photo Chris Wright)

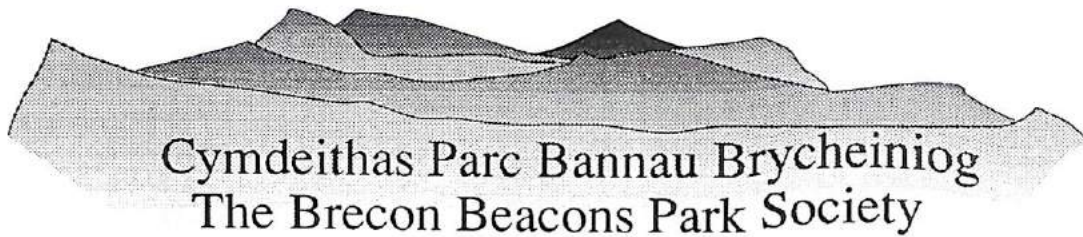
mixed patterns of tree planting not only create employment opportunities in their management, but can sustain both new and traditional craft industries, with everything from hazel fencing to charcoal burning.

Keith Jones, from the Forest Authority of Cumbria and Lancashire, introduced us to the "new" Forestry Commission and its branches, the Forest Authority and Forest Enterprise. There appears to be widespread ignorance among landowners about potential for new native woodlands, and with considerable financial assistance available, it should be possible to bring back trees to our northern uplands.

So what was the message we all took home? Much of our landscape particularly in the Dales derives its beauty from man's activities. Not only must we stop the despoilation from outside industry and developers, but there is much that can be done in a positive way to enhance the landscape. The good news seems to be that this approach can create sustainable employment. There is much help and encouragement available from agencies such as those participating in this seminar and it is also reflected in the cooperation of a large number of individuals within the farming community. CNP and seminars such as this provide the ideal forum for all the different interests involved to discuss the issues concerned in protecting and promoting National Parks.

Chris Wright





## Cymdeithas Parc Bannau Brycheiniog The Brecon Beacons Park Society

*Dros Y Parc Ei Bobbli a'i Ymwelwyr  
For the Park, its people and its Visitors*

The Brecon Beacons Park Society's logo immediately reveals its very special nature and culture by the twin languages of Welsh and English. Launched at an inaugural meeting held in Brecon on the 13th of September 1992, with the help of a steering committee, many of whom had a common interest in working as volunteers for the National Park Authority, the Society, like its sister organisations in the UK, is completely independent from the statutory Park Authority.

The Brecon Beacons was the tenth National Park to be designated in 1957, with an area of 5.9 square miles and a population of over 32,000, it covers sections of Dyfed, Gwent, Mid Glamorgan and Powys. There are few areas offering such a wide range of scenery from the Camarthen Fans in the west, remote and wild, to the Waterfalls Country with four rivers cascading through deep and narrow gorges contrasting in turn with the Beacon summits of Old Red Sandstone or the Black Mountains which consist of parallel ridges and narrow valleys. Castles such as Carreg Cennen and Castell Dinas, Garn Cock, the largest hill fort in Wales, Torpanton, the highest railway tunnel in Britain, the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal, caving systems at Dan yr Ogof and Ogof Ffnon Ddu are only a part of Brecon's special attractions.

Problems which the Society has had to tackle include the proliferation of wind farms, quarrying and a number of planning matters. The Secretary of Wales' announcement of the de-trunking of the A40 which runs through the Park, with (previous) constant threats of bypasses and road-widening, is welcomed by the Society. However, this has meant the upgrading of the Heads of the Valleys Road which in the main passes to the south of the Park except at the western end where it runs through the Clydach Gorge area and is currently a cause for concern.

The Waterfalls Country is a distinctive corner of the National Park in the limestone area to the south-west, crossed by rivers flowing broadly from north to south. Caves, potholes and waterfalls abound in an area of great beauty which is designated as a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The Waterfalls Country acts as a "honeypot" attracting many visitors and over the years severe erosion has been caused. At present the National Park Authority is repairing some of the damage and assisting vegetation in recolonising eroded ground by means of their Waterfalls Project.

On their first anniversary, the Brecon Beacons Park Society assisted this Project with a substantial cheque, which matched by an equal amount from the European Development Fund, meant that £7,000 was handed over to the Waterfalls Project. With such successful initiatives and now as a fully fledged member of CNP, Brecon Beacons Park Society is starting to win its spurs.

Robert King

## THEY DO IT WITH HUMOUR

*"I wonder what the Dales will look like in fifty years from now....."*

The Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management took the above sentence as the jumping off point in their design, commissioned from Mack, the well-known Dalesman cartoonist, for their new membership leaflet and decided it should (see overleaf) incorporate some of their main concerns. An attractive Dales view with a couple wondering what the future holds, folds out to show in somewhat humorous form the sort of things that might well happen in the Dales unless organisations like the Yorkshire Dales Society demonstrate their concern for the environment.

The Yorkshire Dales are a well-known and beloved tourist venue and indeed much of the economy of the Dales is bound up with the tourist industry in some form, yet it is all too easy to stifle that beauty. Nose to tail traffic with attendant fumes and emissions are an obvious hazard though sheep are not yet wearing gasmasks! A complex of souvenir shops, theme parks and funfairs may initially be relatively small scale, but are all too easily out of keeping with their surroundings while standard blocks of town-style housing, ruined farms on contaminated land, quarries, pylons and windfarms unsuitably sited, are all obvious eyesores.

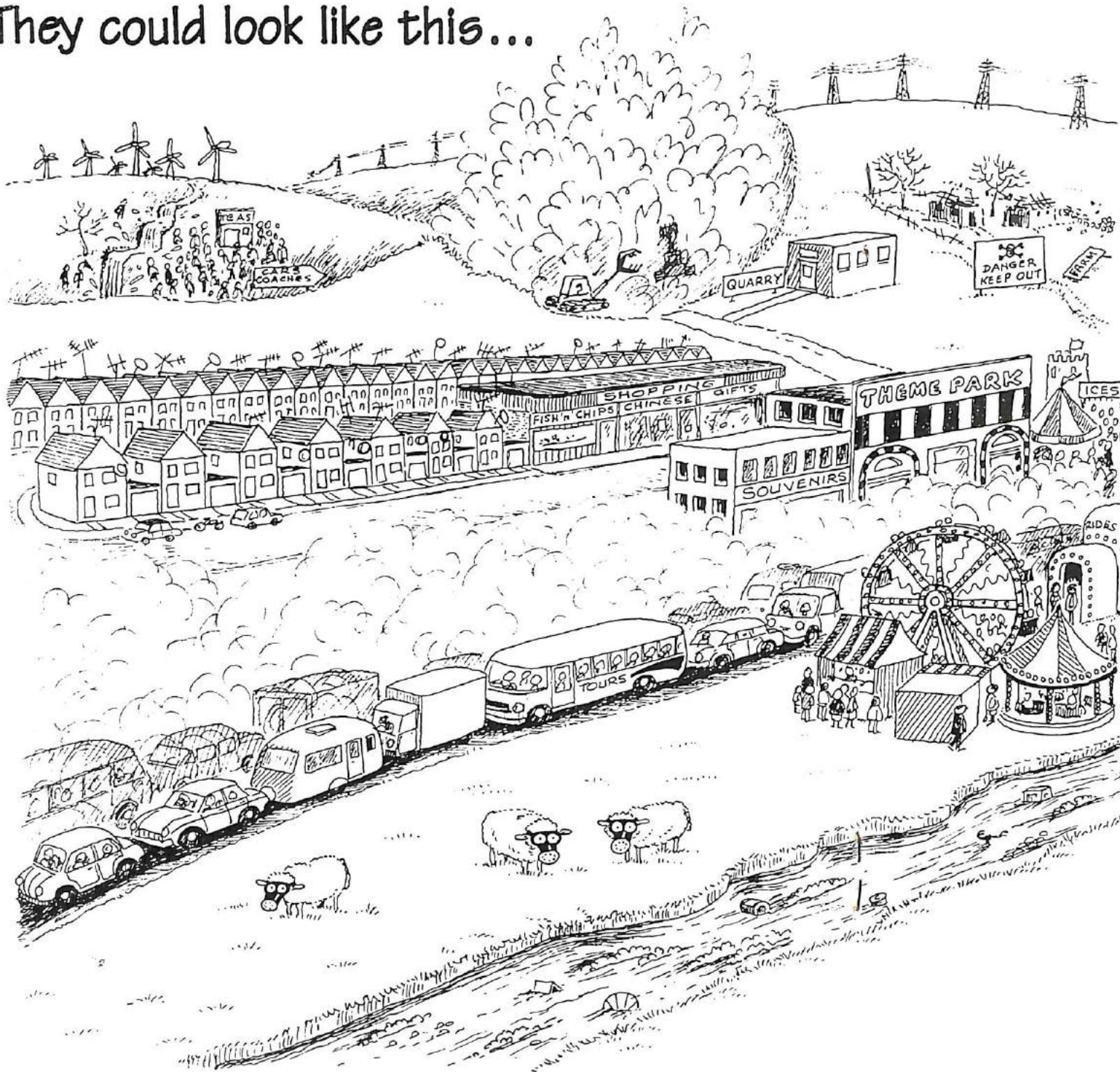
But the Yorkshire Dales Society campaigns not only to protect this special landscape, but also to ensure that any developments are in keeping with the area and to strike a balance between the needs of the Dalesfolk to find a viable way of life and to maintain this unique heritage. The Society does encourage appropriate economic development, environmentally sensitive transport and traditional hill farming. We also campaign to ensure that services of all kinds are retained or improved for local communities and that the special heritage and culture of the Dales is sustained.

**Help in our current Membership Campaign** would be greatly appreciated. Please recommend the Society to friends who may be interested, and promote the Society at any suitable organisation you are involved in. Please send for a supply of our new membership forms and if you can, provide a suitable large SAE (e.g. 7" X 9"), this would be very helpful. The following quantities are given as a postage guide. 5 Forms = 19p. 10 forms = 29p. 20 Forms = 36p. If you would like larger quantities or would like to make some useful suggestions, please contact Fleur Speakman at the YDS office on (0943) 461938 (with answer phone facility) or on (0943) 607868 or preferably by writing to the YDS office at our Otley address: The Yorkshire Dales Society The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley West Yorkshire LS21 1HD.

Fleur Speakman



They could look like this...



Yorkshire Dales Society

I wonder what the Dales will look like in fifty years from now ...





## THE DALESMAN AND HIS DWELLINGS

“This high level of building activity (more than 1100 new dwellings in the National Park in the 1980s) is incompatible with the primary purpose of National Park designation, that of conserving the natural beauty of the area.” It is ironic that part of this beauty lies in the area’s buildings and it is intriguing to think how such a statement from a recent publication of the Dales National Park might have been received by those who built its traditional houses.

Lovers of the Dales love them for many reasons, but if we had to list the reasons in order of importance, the domestic buildings of the area would appear near the top of everybody’s list. Every town and village has its delights. I shall try to draw the threads of their story together.

Where to start? Possibly the earliest desirable residences of the Dales were such places as Victoria Cave and Attermire Cave near Settle or Elbolton Cave near Thorpe but they were not built, merely lived in because they were there and it was not for some time that purpose built dwellings appeared on the scene. Most of them can now be recognised only by the trained archaeologist and even after excavation, it takes quite a feat of imagination to recognise some of these Stone Age or Bronze Age remains as places in which our ancestors lived. A good example of an excavated Bronze Age dwelling, not too difficult of access, is on Ilkley Moor above the Cow and Calf Rocks and an artist’s impression of what it might have looked like can be found in the local museum.

The Iron Age has left many remains and even the untutored eye can often see the foundations of what were once enclosures and dwellings. Perhaps the most famous site is Lee Green near Grassington, but there are many more. The pastures surrounding Malham village, the slopes of the hills above Starbotton and Yockenthwaite and alongside the Monk’s Path from Arncliffe are all places where settlements can be seen.

The Romans came and went from the Dales without leaving much in the way of domestic buildings though a villa just to the south east of Gargrave at a place called Kirk Sink has been excavated and, incidentally, shown to be the site of earlier dwellings. Another has been found just to the east of Middleham Castle, but it seems clear that the Romans did not relish setting up house in the Dales. No doubt one of the reasons was the attitude of the natives, the Brigantes who were certainly making their mark in the countryside. One of their great forts, on the summit plateau of Ingleborough includes circular structures which were probably used as domestic dwellings. Their foundations can still be seen.

Between the departure of the Romans and the coming of the Normans we had Angles, Danes, and Noresemen who in some ways left a remarkable legacy. From this period we have most of our place names and many of our parish boundaries, but despite the presence of hog back tombstones and Anglo-Saxon crosses, there is little



The Holme, Darley. This old timber-framed and thatched house was clad in stone in 1667 when the massive external chimney was added.



(Left) The facade of Middleton Lodge with its Elizabethan oriel window above a much later doorway.



(Right) Nappa Hall showing the lower, 2 storey, tower. The two-light transomed window to the left is a window of the original hall between the 2 towers.

(Photos John Ward)



that remains of their domestic structures. Dwellings, like most of the churches, would be of wood. Even so, there are one or two remarkable remains. One is the so-called Priest's House above Malham, a house with massive external walls and internal partitions which may well have been the home of a hermit. It dates from the 7th century. Another is a farm at Ribblehead which has been shown by excavation to date from the late 9th century.

The Normans too left little behind them apart from their castles and churches. They were the ruling class and small houses or even domestic dwellings of some standing were not for them. Indeed their "harrying of the North" depopulated the area and destroyed much of the domestic heritage. But life gradually returned, people settled, houses were built and our villages as we know them came into being. However, once again little remains of the homes of the period. Most of them were of wood and continued to be of wood until the 17th century and most of them have been replaced. A survey of Cracoe houses in 1586 shows that 6 of them were of cruck construction. Crucks were pairs of timbers, usually curved, which were fastened together in an inverted V shape. The apex of the crucks carried the main ridge purlin and hence the other timbers of the roof and its covering which were almost certainly ling thatch. The interval between each pair of crucks is known as a bay and the Cracoe houses were of two or three bays. Unless the crucks were of very lengthy timbers, it was not possible to insert a second story though a small loft might be possible. At all events it is believed that the Cracoe houses were single storied.

Later in 1638, a survey of Ripley shows that of 40 houses, 5 were of cruck construction and 35 were of conventional timber frame construction, many quite large and many with two stories. Sadly, all these houses have disappeared just as they have from most of the Dales area. Nevertheless, a few still lived in remain, admittedly on the fringes of the Dales for the most part, often with stone cladding so that the timber construction is hidden from external view.

The best examples are in places like Knaresborough and Ripon where there is the famous Wakemans House but within the Dales, upper Nidderdale is the place to go. One of the earliest is West Syke Green farm, said to date from the 14th century, but the timber structure is totally concealed. So it is at The Holme, Darley which still keeps its thatched roof. Yet another is Scow Hall in the Washburn valley.

Even crucks remain at several houses near Pateley Bridge and there is one surprising example, a 6 bay cruck on the outskirts of Ilkley. Apart from its crucks, it is also of interest because it is a fine example of what was a long house, that is a house which combined both housing for livestock at the "low end" and domestic accommodation.

In the very heart of the Dales, timber frames and crucks were rare no doubt because of the shortage of suitable timber, but architectural historians were recently delighted to find a house at Folly Farm Kettlewell which was originally a medieval single storey open hall, fully timber framed with infill of wattle and daub; many of the timbers are original. So far as is known, it is unique in the Dales though it is similar to other houses further south in Yorkshire. Stone built houses dating from the medieval period are very rare indeed; you would have to be quite wealthy to build such a house in those days. However there are quite a few and perhaps the oldest is Grassington Hall. Though clearly much altered, there are parts which may well survive from the late 13th century, the most interesting features being the transomed windows which are

very like some in Bolton Priory.

Markenfield Hall is another medieval survival, a magnificent house of national importance whose owner obtained from the Crown a licence to crenellate (fortify) in 1310. It is moated, has a Tudor gatehouse, a first floor hall and chapel and many other features of interest. Not easy to find and with very restricted hours of public opening, it is nevertheless a must for anyone excited by old houses. However I have to admit once again that it is just outside what I regard as the Dales proper.

But we can claim two houses of the pele (peel) type, a type of fortified house with tower which is increasingly numerous as one goes north towards the border country, to be clearly within the Dales. One at Hellifield, dating from about 1400 is ruinous but the other, Nappa Hall, dating from about 1460 and built by Thomas Metcalfe who fought at Agincourt, is not only far from ruinous, but is lived in by the same family. It consists of two towers, one of two stories, and the other of four, with a hall between them. The smaller tower contained the service rooms and the larger the main living accommodation. Though other stone built houses may have their origins in mediaeval times, subsequent alterations often obscure the clues, at least to the external view and internal viewing is rarely easy to arrange. But at Ilkley, at the Manor House, now a museum, you can see as you step through the main door into the screens passage, the internal doors with shouldered lintels which lead out of it; they are a clear indication of a 15th century origin. By the end of the 16th century a number of other important houses were being built or were on the point of being built. One of them, Middleton Lodge, is also at Ilkley. Originally a hunting lodge owned by the de Percy family, it was acquired by the Middletons and much altered about 1600. It too retains earlier features and has a fine oriel window above the doorway of a symmetrical facade. The doorcase itself is from a later period, but the building remains essentially Elizabethan and is interesting as being an early example of a double pile house, that is a house which is two rooms deep.

Yet another rather earlier building dating from 1570 which is very much an Elizabethan mansion is Swinsty Hall. Among its many fine features is a magnificent array of windows, one of which has a raised centre light and was to set a pattern copied all over the Dales. The builders of the house are said to have acquired their wealth in ways which are none too savoury. So too did the Proctors of Winterburn though they can be forgiven much for having left behind such a finely proportioned elegant house as Friars Head Hall. Its facade is for me the finest in the Dales, quite beautiful in its setting. Its almost symmetrical bays with stunning mullioned and transomed windows surmounted by unusual three light ogee shaped windows in the gables and above them again a delicate array of finials is the sight which should not be missed. The owner was later to buy estates at Fountains Abbey, and build another magnificent house known as Fountains Hall which seems to show its Friars Head parentage. Quite likely this was the first house in the Dales area for which an architect was employed. Middleton, Swinsty, Friars Head and Fountains Hall were all built by very wealthy men. It was the beginning of a period, later to be known as the Great Rebuilding in which hundreds of families built for the very first time in stone. They set the pace; others with their new found, though more modest prosperity, soon followed.

John Ward

\* It is hoped to feature a continuation to this series in further editions of the YDS Review.



## *THE DALES.....AN INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE HALF A CENTURY OF MINING RESEARCH*

The occasional or casual visitor to the Yorkshire Dales could well be forgiven for believing that the pastoral landscape of moorland, fells, crags and valleys that he or she sees has provided the pattern for a purely agricultural economy throughout past centuries. For those who know the Dales more intimately however, there is the knowledge that this was not so and that large areas of the landscape were once scarred in a manner more reminiscent of William Blake's "dark satanic mills". I refer of course to the mining industry, particularly to lead, which flourished in many of the dales from the Roman era onwards, reaching a peak between the late 18th and mid 19th centuries, but finally collapsing with the importation of cheaper and more easily accessible supplies from abroad. But left behind was the legacy of this industry: adits, shafts, crushing plants, chimneys, flues, pumping machinery, hand tools and large expanses of spoil from the workings on which, even today, very little grows. Over the decades since they were last used, these sites were neglected and fell into a state of dereliction often presenting a danger to those who walked through them.

In 1945 a group of young men, some barely out of school, members of the Earby Pothole Club formed what is now the Earby Mines Research Group. Today, fifty years later, the fruits of the Group's efforts are to be found in the Museum of Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining which is situated in the small town of Earby, located on the A56 between Skipton and Colne. One of the founder members, Peter Dawson, is still a driving force behind what continues to be a very flourishing group, his wife being the hard-working secretary. In conversation with him recently, Peter recounted memories of the early days when, as cavers, they visited Elbolton near Burnsall and realised that in the past small scale mining had once taken place on that pre-historic site. From this discovery the young men resolved to concentrate more on the exploration and recording of the mining history in the Dales rather than simply caving and potholing. Thus the Mines Research Group was born. First, for most of these enthusiasts came National Service during which period very few serious plans could be formulated, but by the late 1940s a more systematic plan began to develop. Peter went on to describe how, in those early years when the term "Industrial Archaeology" was virtually unknown, this dedicated group was often derided and looked upon as cranks for wanting to delve into the old workings and "meddle with rusting machinery", for this was truly the very first Research Group of its kind in the country. "Today," went on Peter, "such groups are two a penny!"

The Buckden mine was the first to be explored seriously. On entering it they found themselves chest deep in water, but they managed to drain it over three weekends. Having done that, they were then able to penetrate deeper into the mine where they made their first significant discovery. On a ledge above what had been the water level was a small pile of miners' clogs! Then at a higher level where the floor was thick

in boulder clay, were the imprints of countless small clogs, those of children, with sledge tracks leading to an opening above the main level and down which the crude ore hauled by the children had been tipped. The date 1804 carved into one of the stones within the mine was sufficient evidence to indicate that children were as much exploited in the mines of the Dales as they were in the factories and mines of the expanding urban areas.

To learn more of those early mining techniques, the Group visited Cornwall on a number of occasions for Peter believes that the old Cornish miners were the finest in the country, many of them in the past making their way to the Yorkshire Dales. So, from such small beginnings, the work of the Group rapidly expanded and by the end of the 1960s, restoration work had been undertaken on various sites, the smelt mill chimneys on Malham and Grassington Moors being two very visible signs of their efforts. No doubt many readers will be familiar with the miners' trail by Yarnbury above Grassington. The Earby group played a large part in the devising of this project, working in conjunction with the National Park and officials of the Devonshire Estate who hold the mineral rights there. What is not usually seen is the wealth of recording, measuring and photographing that has been accomplished, everything systematically and neatly catalogued and indexed.

In 1970 the use of the Old Grammar School in Earby was obtained to house many artefacts collected over the previous twenty years. The school itself is a museum piece, being a listed building of late 16th century origin. Now it holds over 700 items, relics from the lead mining sites in the Dales and from other areas. Outside the building is the Crusher from the Providence Mine at Kettlewell, dismantled in 1971 and gradually re-assembled at the museum. Inside, in addition to the many artefacts, are a number of working models constructed by Group members, to demonstrate how the mines were operated. Today, working in conjunction with the Crosshills Naturalist Society, the major on-going project is the research and further restoration of the Cononley Lead Mine. A very descriptive brochure has recently been produced under the umbrella of "The Friends of Cononley Mine". In concluding our conversation Peter paid particular tribute to a fellow member, Peter Hart, who as well as being treasurer, has done much to organise and arrange the museum's displays.

The Museum at Earby has now closed for the winter, but opens on the last Sunday in March until the last Sunday in October. There is a small charge for admission and the times of opening are from 2pm to 6pm on Sundays, and from 6pm to 9pm on Thursdays. Not very long opening times, but it should be remembered that those concerned are first and foremost researchers and not museum curators. All the work undertaken by the Research Group is done on a purely voluntary basis and the museum is run without any financial support from outside agencies. Truly a remarkable fifty years record of achievement, one that looks set to continue for many years to come and one that is deserving of support from all who have an interest in the history of the Yorkshire Dales.

Dennis Cairns



*A useful source and reference book for Ripon and District is now available:*

**A GUIDE IN HISTORICAL SOURCES FOR RIPON AND DISTRICT** edited by J.R. Hebden is published this month on behalf of the Ripon Records Project. This project, funded by the City Council, has the aim of bringing back to Ripon on microfilm copies of the widely dispersed records of the city and immediate area. The book necessarily covers a wider area and includes the ancient parishes of Ripon, Masham and Kirkby Malzeard, thus covering Fountains Abbey and Upper Nidderdale. There are some 60 plus pages summarising the calendars of the many Record Offices holding original records for the area and a further 20 plus pages listing published books and articles, together with a map showing the townships and churches. A5. ISBN 1 872618 25 1. Price £3.00 plus 40 p UK postage, 60p overseas surface mail, £1.50 airmail. Orders should be sent to J.R. Hebden, Aldergarth, Galphay, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 3NJ with remittances payable to Ripon Historical Society.  
J.R.H.

### MAGNETIC NORTH

Magnetic North who specialise in music and dance from Yorkshire and the Pennine Dales and gave great pleasure with their special programme for the Yorkshire Dales Society at Tumble last spring and also at the climactic event, the Ceilidh at the Yorkshire Dales National Park "Dales Alive" 40th anniversary celebrations in Hawes in August, have now produced a cassette with some of this music entitled "Beastings Puddings wi' legs on", a fiddle tune with a fascinating name. The cassette makes a splendid and unusual gift for anyone interested in Dales culture and also a useful gift to send or take abroad. The cassette costs £6.00 plus £1 for postage and packing and can be obtained from Liz Bowen, 14 Oakburn Road, Ilkley West Yorkshire LS29 9NN.

### OPINION

*Kate Rhodes from Appletreewick is unhappy with one aspect of National Park Policy which she feels is destroying the harmonious beauty of our Dales villages.*

Farmhouses which are still farmhouses usually have window-frames painted white to reflect light into darkish rooms: barn doors which are still barn doors are mostly weathered naturally to an exquisite silver-grey, absolutely right for the Dales landscape.

But, if like me, you are a Parish Clerk, you soon notice that every permission to convert a barn or renovate a house bears the dreaded words: "Doors and window frames to be permanently stained in dark oak." This "dark oak" can, in effect, be anything from a harsh cedar red (which in sunlight can reflect crimson) to a sandy-orange hue - neither according in any way with Dales stonework or landscape.

Those of you who love the Dales, look around you, look at Muker and Starbotton, at Skyreholme and now at Appletreewick and see how widespread this blight is. Can we not do *something* to halt this disfigurement?

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Fleur Speakman introduces three books on the Dales, each with their own special character.*

**Dales Blacksmith, Jack Ward of Skipton** by John Ward is both a tribute to an individual and a celebration of a former key craft by his son John Ward. But more particularly it puts the art of the blacksmith into a strong historical Dales context which helps to make the account especially fascinating.

It is perhaps difficult to realise now that the blacksmith was not just in demand as a farrier for shoeing horses and sometimes cattle, but also as a nailmaker, chainmaker, toolmaker and in more recent times even as a cycle repairer and dealer in agricultural machinery. In some cases he might also be a clock maker or put irons on clogs.

It was the blacksmith who made the early edge tools such as the scythes and reaping tools used for example at the end of the thirteenth century at Bolton Priory or the early special branding iron for Fountains Abbey as well as the axes and sheep shearing shears from our earlier history. And it also was the blacksmith who sharpened and repaired tools or in another context, could be asked to provide the fetters for prisoners such as those in Skipton Castle in medieval times.

What makes this book so particularly interesting is that John Ward describes much of his father's work from his own vivid memories. Jack Ward started as an apprentice in 1912 and continued the trade for about 64 years, with most of these years spent in the same smithy at Raikes Road in Skipton. Here as a boy John was to observe and even at times lend a hand when required.

John's favourite activity was watching the dramatic art of welding a tyre to the wheel of a cart. Here is a description from the introductory chapter. "*The blast from the bellows is roaring into the fire and the fire itself is white hot. The smith is watching carefully to ensure that the iron does not melt. The temperature is crucial. At the critical moment, just before melting is reached the tyre is swung out of the fire onto the anvil, showering points of light like a giant sparkler. ....The smith with his hand hammer and his mate with the powerful sledgehammer fuse the two ends into a continuous tyre, their hammers striking a peal from the anvil which accompanies the dazzling, searing light in a display which is truly awesome*".

There is much of interest in the book from the quotations from Jack Ward's Day Book as regards the nature of individual jobs and their costs to a number of period photos of the blacksmith's work and a useful glossary of technical terms. But what is particularly conveyed is the exactness of the craft as well as mastery of technique.

Perhaps the only sad note is the fact that Jack Ward died a few years before this book was written. I am sure he would have enjoyed it enormously. (F.S.)

Dales Blacksmith Jack Ward of Skipton by John Ward is published by M.T.D. Rigg of Guiseley at £6.95 and is available from local bookshops.



**Letters from the Dales** by W.R. Mitchell is a highly entertaining book based on a series of letters which appear regularly on Saturdays in the Telegraph and Argus, Bradford and deals with wit and warmth with a broad range of topics which have an essential flavour of the Dales.

Bill Mitchell's subjects range from dry-stone walls, the knitters of Dent, memories of J.B. Priestley, curlews and pee-whits to cattle droving, the Settle-Carlisle railway and examples of often macabre Dales humour. He quotes that fine poet Norman Nicholson on the power of drystone walls which seemed to him to move as they shift and settle, in an achingly timeless image "grey millipede on slow stone hooves" and adds a delightful anecdote about a Malham man who set off for a day's walling and found it took him two days to walk back, such was his industry and skill.

Bill Mitchell also describes an awe-inspiring visit from J.B. Priestley with his formidable pipe, mercifully unlit otherwise "it would have poured out smoke like a West Riding mill with a rush order for cloth." He gives an exact description of the craft of knitting in the old Dent style with knitting sticks or sheaths from nineteenth century and twenty century sources and a lovely anecdote about Border television's attempt to make a film about old-style cattle droving with a vet advising that modern cattle would not have the staying power of the older breeds when the full potential journey was outlined.

Another incident which perhaps indicates that sometimes a community spirit existed previously which is rarer nowadays, is the story of the schoolgirl who saw two or three sad people standing outside their small farm and heard from her parents that they were grieving over the loss of their only horse. She is then sent off to buy a notebook for her father and many years later, on going through her father's possessions, finds the notebook again complete with a list of all the farmers contacted by her father asking what amount they would give towards a new horse for their poorer neighbours.

Whether he tells of the July Barbers, the itinerant mainly Irish scythers who came annually to cut the hay or of his own father, the parson, who regularly brought his sermon to a close when he smelled the delicious aroma of Yorkshire Pudding or such early forms of re-cycling as the Welly Gate, Bill's personality shines through the telling.

I can't resist a final quotation, a marvellous example of Dales humour. It used to be customary years ago for neighbours and friends to view the corpse when it was laid out and a visitor on this sad occasion, hoped to cheer up the widow by remarking that at least the deceased had a smile on his face. She was more than a little bemused to hear, that that was because, "He doesn't know he's deead yet!" (F.S.)

Letters from the Dales by W.R. Mitchell are published by Castleberg, Settle and is available in local bookshops at £5.99 per copy.

**A History of the Holy River of St Paulinus** by David Morris is a historical survey of the various peoples who settled along the River Swale from the ancient Romans, to waves of Anglo-Saxons and Norsemen and also gives indications of much earlier ancestors from Iron Age, Bronze Age and even Stone Age times.

The River Swale, remarkable to many people today for its beauty, was rightly named by the Anglo-Saxons, "Sualinae" meaning rapid and inclined to flood so that centuries later, it was said at the height of the lead mining industry, that many more

people drowned attempting to ford the river than were killed in mining accidents as the Swale would rise quickly with great power, often destroying bridges with its force.

David Morris traces not only the different peoples who settled along the banks of the Swale, by carefully researched place names (Anglian "Helagh" for example meaning a stronghold in a forest clearing is modern Healaugh), but he also follows the various sections of the river from its source fed by different becks high in Upper Swaledale to journey's end as it joins the River Ure, detailing historical sites, towns and villages, important buildings, evidence of early and later industries, great families and the coming of Christianity, in particular Paulinus. The latter actually using "the rocky pools of the ancient cataract" or the waters of the Swale in order to baptise the multitudes he converted.

He makes a persuasive case for an alternative name for Richmond (riche monte), initially likely to have been the Danish "Hindrelag" from the Danish "Hindre" meaning an obstacle and "lag" being Danish for a sedimentary rock; the settlement Hindrelag appearing in Domesday rather than Richmond and perfectly describing the rocky site over the Swale where Richmond castle was later built.

He traces the importance of Cataractorium in the Catterick camp area, an ancient Roman camp site where archaeological work has uncovered a good deal of information and most recently a gravelled causeway leading to the river which was probably used as a wharfe along its north bank. The Swale was indeed used to transport wool and lead in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and it seems feasible as David Morris suggests, that some 1200 years earlier, the Swale may have been navigable as far as Catterick using shallow boats.

Later border raids from Scotland and the ravages of the the Black Death when 1,000 people died in Richmond alone from the plague helped to test the mettle of these stoic people of Swaledale whose dialect to this day bears strong traces of those early Scandinavian influences and indeed the Scandinavian language was actually used in Britain until at least the eleventh century.

Perhaps it is really ultimately the Scandinavians who have left their indelible mark on the people of Swaledale and the lead mining industry which has left its particular marks on the landscape. The subtitle of "A History of the Holy River of Paulinus" would seem to give rather more influence and importance to the christianising of the Swale than is perhaps warranted even if that emphasis was not intended, but there is much to admire in this very well produced and readable text. (F.S.)

The Swale A History of the Holy River of Paulinus by David Morris is published by William Sessions of York at £7.95 and is available in local bookshops.

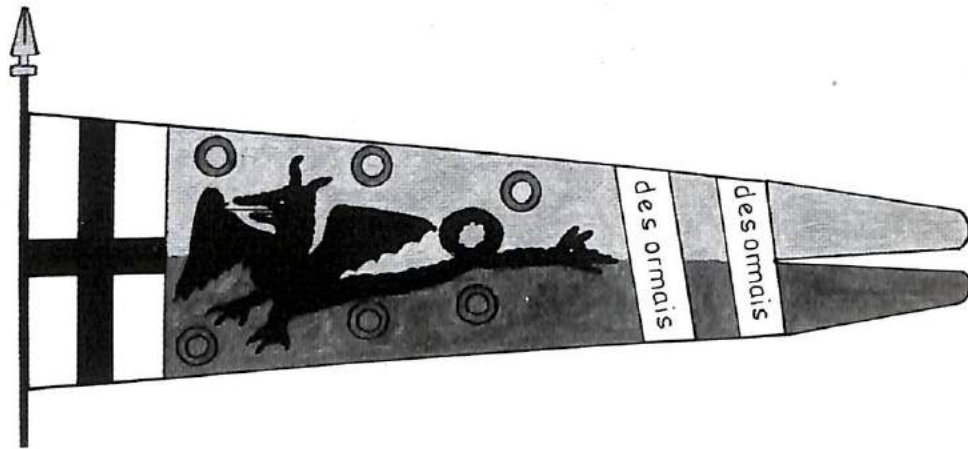


The Culloden Tower, Richmond



### **The Shepherd Lord of Skipton Castle - Richard T. Spence (Skipton Castle 1994)**

One of the most beautiful legends of the Yorkshire Dales is that of Henry Clifford, 1454-1523, 10th Lord Clifford, The Shepherd Lord of Skipton Castle and Barden Tower, brought up in hiding as a shepherd by his mother afraid of her husband's Yorkist enemies.



The Shepherd Lord's Standard

Romantic tales are, not surprisingly, obvious targets for the historian's rigorous inquiry. Richard Spence, whose doctoral thesis was focused on the Cliffords, is no exception, with a remarkable book which looks in detail at the reality behind the myth. It's nice to report that though Wordsworth and company might have a lot to answer for, the core of the legend is true, that young Henry did, for a time, live with a shepherd's family, though in the Yorkshire Wolds not in Cumberland as the legend suggests. But whereas the legend oversimplifies reality, with the skill of a detective novelist, and using impeccable documentary evidence, Richard Spence unpicks and unravels what actually happened in those difficult times. Intriguingly, what doesn't quite stand up to scrutiny is the saintly figure of the Shepherd Lord, with evidence that for all his scholarly virtues and military skills, he had a hot temper, suffered marital strife (including accusations of "low amours" and "base children") and indulged in riotous battles with the neighbouring Tempests of Broughton, resulting in Clifford being summoned to court for an official reprimand from the King.

As always, truth is, if not stranger, then perhaps even more interesting than fiction. Richard Spence has considerably added to our knowledge and understanding of this remarkable Dales personality of a man who is still remembered in Wharfedale at Skipton and Barden. (C.S.)

Copies of the book can be obtained direct from Skipton Castle Bookshop price £5.95 or £6.95 by post from Skipton Castle, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1AQ - cheques/POs payable to "Skipton Castle".

## **DALESWATCH NEWS**

Existing and prospective Daleswatch Groups now cover most of the Dales areas. Society members can use them to learn about and discuss current issues affecting their particular locality and also to bring their concerns to the attention of Council. The voice of the Society is an influential one and Council is always ready to take up significant matters with the relevant authorities.

As far as the Yorkshire Dales National Park is concerned, perhaps the most important piece of government legislation for some years was included in the recent Queen's Speech. After several false dawns, we are last going to have a Bill that will give independence to our National Parks. Details are not to hand as I write, but this much needed measure will provide a welcome boost to the Authorities that have the difficult and responsible task of managing these magnificent national assets.

Another hopeful pointer to the way things are going is the news that the proposed merger of the Countryside Commission and English Nature will not now go ahead. This is a relief to all who feared that the identity of the Commission would be lost in any amalgamation with the larger body, a particular concern being the fate of the Commission's remit over rights of way. Happily wiser counsels have prevailed although, if you read on, you will find that things do not always run smoothly with the Commission either!

### **LOCAL DALESWATCH GROUP NEWS**

#### **Upper Wharfedale**

The October meeting had to be put back to Thursday 17th November, but this did not prevent another lively discussion taking place under the easy Chairmanship of convenor Ken Lord. Items of particular interest were the Local Plan, Swinden Quarry, parking in Grassington, Rylstone Cross, Grassington Hospital, ladder stiles, developments at Bolton Abbey and the possible effects of the National Park Bill. Next meeting Thursday 9th March 7.30pm at 4, Rivendell, Long Ashes, Threshfield.

#### **Ribblesdale**

A meeting was held at the Friends Meeting House, Settle, on Friday 28th October. An unfortunate slip in the notification of some members meant that numbers were down on last time, but an interesting discussion took place amongst those present. Two topics dominated, the first being the implications of the new National Park Local Plan, the second the proposed Pennine Bridleway that is planned to pass through Selside, close by Settle and then leave the National Park at Long Preston (going south). The next meeting will be in May, details in the next Review.

#### **Upper Wensleydale**

Covenor Alan Watkinson is planning a meeting early in the New Year and will be contacting Upper Wensleydale members in the near future.



## Swaledale

Although no meetings have been held as yet, covenor Charles Hepworth has positive proposals for the future of Society activities within the northern dales. Swaledale members are asked to watch this space for news of developments.

## Nidderdale

A special meeting was called by convenor Jean Johnson on Monday 10th October to discuss the implications of a proposed caravan and chalet development near Dacre within the AONB and adjacent to the Nidderdale Way. The meeting was attended by Society Chairman, Chris Wright. Members were advised to write to Harrogate Council with their objections which are supported by the Society. The appeal by the Otter Trust against the refusal of Harrogate Borough Council to grant approval for an Otter Breeding centre at Padside will be heard on Tuesday 13th December at the council Offices Harrogate. Members of the Group were amongst objectors to this proposal.

## Lower Wharfedale

A meeting has been called by convenor Peter Young for Thursday 9th February, 7.30 pm at Otley Civic Centre, Room 5. Doubtless concerns over development plans will be ventilated whilst the trans-Pennine road saga may form part of the discussion. But it is hoped that members will bring their own concerns with them and that these will form a major part of the meeting.

## Dentdale and Skipton/Malhamdale

These groups are dormant due to lack of convenors. Volunteers will be welcome and are invited to phone Jim Burton (0943 602918).

## CURRENT ISSUES

An unhappy item is to record that National Park Committee vice-chairman, North Yorkshire County Councillor and Yorkshire Dales Society member, Ralph Atkinson, was injured in a car accident on Thursday October 20th and has had to receive treatment in Lancaster Royal Infirmary. By the time this appears, it is hoped that Ralph will have made a full recovery.

Some key issues and decisions that have been dealt with by the National Park Committee recently have been:

1. The National Park Local Plan. This is still grinding its way through the process to final confirmation and adoption. There have been two opportunities for the public to comment and it has since gone through a Public Inquiry by the Inspector, Mr Roberts. In an exhaustive (and exhausting) meeting, held in public at Thorlby on Wednesday 26th October, the Committee next considered the Inspector's detailed report.

Broadly, this endorsed the plan as submitted, following the consultations, but the Inspector did recommend a number of amendments. Most of these were accepted by the Committee and the greater part of the Plan has now effectively completed its passage through the system. In general the changes provide a tightening of the original draft. However, there are a number of issues that have not been agreed and some of these may have to go for decision by the Secretary of State whilst others could require

a second Public Inquiry.

The most significant policy that caused difficulty was the principal residence requirement for new housing. This was included within the Deposit Copy of the Plan, being intended as a protection against proliferation of "second homes" within the National Park. The presence of such a restriction was not accepted by the Inspector and he recommended its removal. However, the Committee stood firm on this issue and the eventual decision may have to be made by the Secretary of State.

2. The Committee's decision to declare Mastiles Lane a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) is some way from confirmation or rejection. An appeal against the decision caused a Public Inquiry to be held. The verdict had been expected soon, but new evidence presented by the Trail Riders' Fellowship has caused the Inquiry to be reopened.

3. A local issue, but with implications of wider significance, was raised by the unanimous decision of the Committee to reject the idea of a housing development on the prominent Grassington Hospital site. The presence of the remains of this tuberculosis hospital is due to an outdated requirement for a type of medical care that is no longer used. With the need for the hospital having passed, its existence is now no more than a historical accident. Money is available for clearing the site and a logical and environmentally friendly solution would seem to be a return to the agricultural use it would still have, had the redundant hospital not been built in the first place. An interesting postscript is provided by the news that site owners Lincoln National have now sold the site to a "mystery" purchaser.

4. Still hanging over is the issue of the proposed Pennine Bridleway. The Committee does not dispute the advantages of such a route, but it is not prepared to endorse the proposals until several problems have been resolved. These include such fundamental matters as the precise route, funding, maintenance, impact on the environment and sustainability. Considerable pressure has been brought by the Countryside Commission for a speedy decision, but the Committee is insisting upon the full consultation that has so far been lacking, before giving its approval.

Jim Burton

**The Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management** would like to extend a warm welcome to Dennis and Grace Cairns from Barnoldswick who were co-opted onto the Council recently and have strong Dales links. The Council is still very keen to have more Council members from the Upper Dales. We meet on Saturday mornings about every two months, alternately in Gayle near Hawes and Linton near Grassington, to make travelling less of a problem. Please volunteer or suggest someone who would be keen to help make our Society even more truly representative of the Dales as a whole.



## SOCIETY EVENTS WINTER 1994/95

Our Winter programme gives you the opportunity for some not too strenuous activity and also the chance to hear some interesting lectures with a Dales theme.

**Please remember that all lectures start at 2.15pm unless otherwise stated and the cost of admission to members is £1.50 and £2.50 to non-members.**

SATURDAY JANUARY 14TH - WALK ALONG THE RIVERBANK VIA LOBB WOOD AND TAGG HEAD. Meet at Addingham Memorial Hall car park at 10.30 am for an easy 4 mile walk, timed to finish at about 12 noon. Pub, cafe or packed lunch. Walk Leader Robin Costello 0943 464431.

SATURDAY JANUARY 14TH - TWENTYFIVE YEARS OF THE DALES WAY. An illustrated slide lecture at Addingham Memorial Hall by well known local author and originator of the Dales Way, Colin Speakman at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4TH - WALK IN THE WASHBURN VALLEY. Meet at Leathley Almshouses, opposite Leathley church (SE 233469) at 10.30 am for an easy 5 mile walk with pub, cafe or packed lunch in Otley at about 12.30pm. Walk Leader Alan Pease 0937 537669.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4TH - THE WASHBURN VALLEY. An illustrated lecture by David Alred at Otley Civic Centre at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY MARCH 11TH - WALK IN THE CASTLE BOLTON AREA. Meet at Castle Bolton car park at 10.30 am for a moderate walk of 4 to 5 miles with packed lunch for 12.30pm. Walk Leader Stephen Moorhouse ( see also afternoon lecture) 0924 475618.

SATURDAY MARCH 11TH - THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE OF CASTLE BOLTON. An illustrated lecture by Stephen Moorhouse at Carperby Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY APRIL 8TH - WALK TO BLACK HILLS AND GOIT STOCK. Meet at St Ives car park behind the Turf Research Institute (1 mile SW of Bingley on B6429 ( SE 093390) at 10.30 am for a moderate 10 mile walk, finishing about 4pm. Please bring packed lunches. Walk Leader Rod Clough 0274 725092.

## NEW TITLES FROM SMITH SETTLE

*Building the Ridings* is an innovative series by Lynn Pearson which takes a new look at the rich diversity of architecture and history in the ancient three Ridings of Yorkshire. From villages of the Moors and Dales to Victorian seaside resorts, and from great country houses to towering castles, *Building the North Riding* guides the reader round the Riding, pointing out the best of our buildings, explaining the intricacies of architectural style and suggesting routes for the explorer to follow.

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'She shares with Ted Hughes a sense of nature as force, an awareness of the seasons, the ability to project herself into the lives of the creatures . . . She shares with Norman Nicholson an attachment to place, a particularity of description . . . these are the two writers who spring to mind in making an evaluation.' John Killick, *Acumen*

*Life on Limestone* by Anna Adams describes, in verse and prose, a typical year in the limestone country of the Yorkshire Dales. Accounts of life in the countryside are brought vividly to life, and Anna Adams successfully expresses the deep complexity and importance of even the most apparently simple observations — the stillness of a midsummer's night, the appearance of a thistle, the birth of a calf, an overgrown garden.

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Joan Ingilby is well-known as an author of books on all aspects of Yorkshire history, together with Marie Hartley. However, from 1933 and in the following three decades, she also wrote poetry, now brought together in *Poems by Joan Ingilby*.

This collection falls into three parts. The first and much the longest consists of nature poems, others influenced by the times, and many expressing thoughts about them. The second short section contains poems on foreign places, whilst the third offers light-hearted glimpses often in the realms of fantasy.

Although she never sought much publicity, some poems were published, but when Joan moved to the Dales to collaborate in writing books on Yorkshire with Marie Hartley, there was little time for poetry, and the bright flow ceased.

180 pages, illustrated with line drawings by Marie Hartley

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