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Yorkshire Dales Review

No.50 Spring 1995



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YORKSHIRE
DALES
SOCIETY

**50th
Issue**

£1

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Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

A SURPRISING HALF CENTURY

Incredible as it seems to its editors, this is the 50th Edition of the Yorkshire Dales Review.

The first issue, just over 13 years ago, in Winter 1982, was produced on an electric typewriter, using a crude scissors and paste technique which long predated the word processor, and was far from problem-free. Nevertheless our first issue had a superb cover portrait of a Dales farmer's wife by Eliza Forder, an article on the archaeology of Victoria Cave by Tom Lord, a feature about reworking spoil tips in Arkengarthdale by Ruth Annison (illustrated by a lovely Geoffrey Wright photograph) and a leading article which suggested - "A landscape is a people, and you cannot conserve a landscape without you have a prosperous community, in particular a healthy farming community". We suggested then - and still do - that the Yorkshire Dales Society "exists to bridge the gap between people, between people within the Dales and those outside the area, who share a common love of the area". Much of the success of the Review has come from its contributors, writers, photographers, artists, who have all given their work without fee. Without their generosity, the Review could not survive.

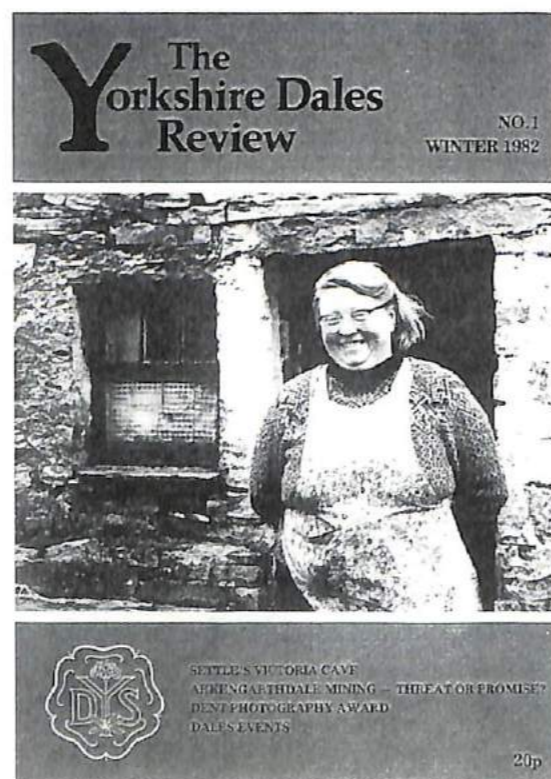
It's nice to reflect how national and local Government agencies, including bodies like the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee and the Countryside Commission (who grant aided the publication of the magazine in its early days) are now saying many of the same things that we were a decade or more ago. This is not entirely coincidental. The Review is the voice of the Yorkshire Dales Society, and it reflects the Society's role in helping to determine how the Yorkshire Dales will evolve in the years ahead. We continue to believe that conservation issues are closely linked with wider social and economic matters in the Dales. Our local Daleswatch groups are one important mechanism in which our members within the Dales help to ensure local views are heard and understood.

We hope you like the new format of the Review. Our last 12 issues, nos 38-49 were produced on

our behalf by North Yorkshire Marketing, a partnership arrangement which depended on a third of the magazine being financed by advertising revenue. Sadly that revenue did not materialise and Smith Settle, NYM's parent company, who had been generously subsidising the production, reluctantly indicated that costs to the Society would triple if we wished to continue with that format. After discussions and comparisons of costs, we have returned to our original printers, John Mason of Skipton who have developed a new design and format which is affordable and which we hope members will like.

Contributions from members are always welcome. We look forward to sharing our love of the Yorkshire Dales with at least another fifty issues of what we hope will continue to be a lively - and occasionally provocative - publication.

Colin Speakman



Issue No. 1 - Photo: Eliza Forder

Focus - Compassion, Diet and the Dales

Many of our readers will have sympathy with activists who have blocked harbours and airports in protest against the live veal calf trade. However, behind the controversy lies some harsh truths about farming and they have real implications for the future landscape of the Dales, writes Skipton environmental journalist John Sheard (who, we are sure will forgive us if we point this out, is NOT that equally well known John Sheard, Agent of the Bolton Abbey Estate).

The Psychologists call it "block-out", a sort of voluntary amnesia which many of us develop as a shield against the unpleasant facts of everyday life, facts over which we can have very little influence. This year's violent protests against the unspeakable trade in "crate veal" calves are causing many of us to examine one such particular block.

This influences millions of people each week when they go to the supermarket. To many people, particularly the young, meat is something that comes sanitised in a neat, plastic-wrapped parcel. The fact that it was recently part of a living creature is conveniently forgotten.

The veal protests have put the whole question of meat eating on the national agenda. I believe the time has come for the vast majority who eat meat, eggs and dairy products to acknowledge the fact that this choice inevitably involves the death of animals - and has a crucial impact on the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales and its future conservation.

Veal calves have to be bred so that their mothers can continue to produce milk. It is mostly the young male calves which go for veal for the harsh reason that it is uneconomic to rear them for any other purpose. They need not be exported live, however, and one of the reasons why ordinary people feel so strongly about the trade is that these animals die so young.

Sadly they are not alone. Most young male lambs die at roughly the same age - about four or five months - for the very same economic reasons. Although, so far as I am aware, the veal trade represents a very small portion of Dales agriculture, lamb is the key product of most of our upland farmers.

And although bodies like the National Park, the

Countryside Commission and English Nature make important contributions to the conservation of the Dales, it is the hill farmers who created and still maintain the landscape which we all consider so important.

Earl Peel, a good friend of the Dales although, sadly, he has just sold his Gunnerside Estate in Upper Swaledale, told me recently: "I am very concerned that many people - particularly townspeople - have so little understanding of the conservation role that hill farmers play in their everyday work.

"Without them, the Dales would be mainly scrubland, bracken and marsh. They created and drained the neat fields on the fells, built and still maintain the drystone walls and the barns. The Dales are a working environment but, sadly, the hillfarmers see very little reward for their efforts."

"Tail Ends" - John R. Faucett



This is almost an understatement. It is estimated that many hill farmers work between 80 and 100 hours a week in all weathers for an average income of £5,000 a year: a shop assistant gets almost three times as much per hour. Return on capital is ludicrously low, for despite the meagre returns, there is always a huge demand for Dales farmhouses and cottages from wealthy townfolk.

Little wonder that tens of thousands of farmers leave the land every year and - almost unbelievably - farmers now rank high in the national suicide rates, an alarming statistic which has caused the Samaritans and other bodies to launch a Rural Outreach scheme to help prevent such tragedies.

To make even a subsistence living on the fells, farmers depend on EC and MAFF subsidies, and these are so complex that many farmer sons and daughters are now taking computer courses so that they can keep track. This year, there is even the possibility of farmers suing the Government for an estimated £12.5m because of alleged "mis-management" of grants.

To lose its lamb sales on top of all this would spell economic disaster for the entire industry, leaving the Dales to look after themselves. Yet as animal rights activists - who tend to be town-based - promise even more violent action in the future, Britain is being pushed further and further down the road towards veganism.

In this arena, ordinary consumers are far from powerless. They can start by choosing "free-range" animal products at the supermarket. And in Crosshills, near Skipton, local solicitor David Pedley has just founded Ethical Eaters, which is building a nationwide computer register of farmers, retailers, restaurateurs and consumers interested in humanely-reared, free-range meat (telephone 01535 635740 for details).

All these foods will cost approximately 20% extra. But if we are really interested in the long-term health of Yorkshire Dales agriculture, surely such a small financial sacrifice is worthwhile. After all, we could then enjoy our chops with a clearer conscience.

John Sheard

Out and About

THE NIDDERDALE RAMBLER bus service - with a programme of guided walks - will operate again in 1995 on Sundays from Easter to mid September from Harrogate (connections from Leeds) to Pateley Bridge and Ramsgill, Lofthouse and How Stean. From June 6th there will be a NEW WASHBURNDALE BUS, service 802, from Bradford, Leeds and Otley via the Washburn Valley to Fewston, Blubberhouses, Thruscross and Greenhow, linking with the Nidderdale Rambler at Pateley, before continuing to Fountains Abbey and Ripon - as part of the Dalesbus network. The YDS will be co-ordinating the Guided Walks - details in the next Review or in the local press, or ring Harrogate & District Travel on 01423 566061 for further information and timetables.

FRIDAY APRIL 28TH

Hedgerow planting, managing woodland for birds, set-aside management & landscape improvement at Walton Grange, Watton, Driffild (FWAG).

WEDNESDAY MAY 3RD

River Valley habitats in the Worth Valley. Farm walk looking at wild life and landscape conservation in river corridors using grant aid from the Countryside Stewardship scheme. Westfield Farm, Haworth. (FWAG)

WEDNESDAY MAY 3RD

An introduction to drystone walling. A workshop in the Stokesley area.(FWAG)

3RD-11TH JUNE

FWAG FARM WALK WEEK

Contact FWAG for all the above events on (0169) 780780 Ext. 2288 for further details.

DRY-STONE WALLING COURSES

The Yorkshire Dales Field Centre are again running their Drystone Walling Courses. Full board & accommodation, weekend courses. Further details Peter Fish, Yorkshire Dales Field Centre, Church St., Giggleswick near Settle. Tel: 01729 824180.

The Winning Submission: it must be "Green"!

Five entries were received from five different areas of the Yorkshire Dales for our Dales Telecommunications & Small Business Competition jointly sponsored by the Yorkshire Dales Society and British Telecom plc who offered £5,000 as a prize to be spent on capital equipment directly or indirectly linked to new telecommunications equipment for a viable new or existing business which would benefit from an original business idea dependent on the use and development of telecommunications.

The applicants also had to demonstrate that their idea was financially viable and would lead to the creation of at least one permanent or part-time job in the area. In addition, the business must help to support the special cultural and environmental qualities of the area and finally, that the equipment purchased is essential for the business to be launched and that winning the competition will make a crucial difference to the viability of the enterprise.

The entries ranged from Sedbergh's Farfield Clothing who wished to expand into the mail order business using computer based technology, to Procter House Insurance Services in Settle who wanted to further computerise their existing equipment to enable all their offices to communicate with a centralised computer at the Settle office, to Raymond Coupland Environmental based in Skipton who wished to start a business manufacturing gas analysis instrumentation aimed at environmental motoring, to CMC on Malham Moor who wished to set up a comprehensive data base in order to help small businesses and service providers, and the Upper Wensleydale Business Association who in a three stage project, were keen to compile and advertise last minute tourist accommodation in Upper Wensleydale, develop the system into a direct booking service and finally promote and book interactive courses and activities so that visitors were aware of the geology, archaeology, fauna and flora, and farming in the area.

The organisations ranged from established firms employing a number of people already to an

unemployed entrant who had initially received some help from the Dales Enterprise Agency. It was felt there was merit in all of the submissions. Each entrant had to submit a business plan and indicate how many jobs might result from their proposal. No proposal must adversely affect the environment and Council would also expect full progress reports from the eventual winner.

The Yorkshire Dales Council of Management then examined the entries exhaustively in the light of competition ground rules and regulations and took advice from Don Chamberlain, Community Affairs Manager at British Telecom who had been extremely helpful with advice and support. Council initially found themselves evenly split between the merits of CMC (Malham) and the Upper Wensleydale Business Association. Therefore the two competitors were asked to prepare a short presentation and to be ready for a number of questions on Friday 17th February from 11am at Otley Civic Centre at the Society's offices.



Community programme

Both organisations offered the Council some splendid presentations and then underwent some very probing questioning. Finally the Council retired for further discussion and voting. A clear majority verdict in favour of the Upper Wensleydale Business Association emerged. They will have been presented with their award on Monday March 27th by British Telecom (after we have gone to press) and there will be a fuller report of this event in the next issue of the Review.

We warmly congratulate our prizewinner and also our runner up, in a closely fought contest and also thank our other entrants sincerely for taking the time to send in such interesting ideas.

Fleur Speakman

Quality of Countryside - Quality of Life

That's the intriguing title of the Countryside Commission's new "Prospectus in the next century" which has just been issued by the Commission to its many partners - local authorities, voluntary organisations, countryside agencies private concerns and individuals. In part this reflects the Commission's recent discussions with Government over whether or not it should be combined with English Nature. The Government has decided, in response to fairly strong public pressure, that the two organisations in England, at least, should remain separate (in Wales and Scotland the two organisations have been combined into the Countryside Council for Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage). But it also is about the Commission moving forward into a new millennium, a time when new ideas about Sustainability and the post Rio-summit Agenda 21 are beginning to change attitudes in many areas, including such issues as sustainable development, use of non renewable resources, the environmental costs of personal transportation.

Many are issues which will have a profound impact on the future of the English countryside. The Commission have decided to use this opportunity to look how, in a rapidly changing world, its work should respond to the new situation and new policies developed to deal with the new problems that lie ahead. Everyone interested enough to respond is being asked to consider five key challenges facing our countryside. How can the Commission and its partners best work together to:

1. conserve and enhance the quality and diversity of the countryside ?
2. secure balanced, multi-purpose farming and forestry ?
3. promote sustainable development in the planning and management of the countryside ?
4. improve and extend opportunities for people to enjoy the countryside ?
5. encourage understanding of the life and work of the countryside ?

To some people these objects might seem contradictory. Does enjoyment, for example, threaten conservation of the countryside ? One only has to think of the erosion of The Three Peaks or plans to build the hugely destructive Ilkley by-pass which according to the Department of Transport, is needed to give recreational traffic faster access to the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks.

Yet the Commission clearly believes that there are balanced solutions even to these problems, though there could be tough decisions ahead. If you want to make your contribution to what is an important debate, copies of the Prospectus, Quality of Countryside: Quality of Life can be picked up at any Regional Office of the Commission or by post, free of charge, from Countryside Commission Postal Sales, PO Box 124, Walgrave, Northampton, NN6 9TL telephone 01604 781848. Responses must be with the Commission by April 28th.



*Bolton Castle, Castle Bolton,
Wensleydale, North Yorkshire
by John Edenbrow*

The Dalesman and his Dwellings

(PART II)

A period starting in the 16th century and continuing until the end of the 17th and even into the early 1700s has come to be known as the Age of the Great Rebuilding. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, vast wealth passed into many more private hands than hitherto and there was a period of general prosperity, mainly based on the wool trade, affecting most of England. It was a period in which first the very rich and finally the yeoman farmers began to think of improving their standards of domestic comfort. The fashion did not really hit the Dales till the 17th century and even then there was something of a pause during the Civil War period so that here the peak of rebuilding was probably in the 1660s and 1670s. Many old timbered and thatched buildings disappeared for good and most of the others were encased in stone cladding and stone roofs. Nevertheless old habits remained. Many of the new houses were built with the traditional layout of the cruck house with several bays so that they



*Convex mullions at Gate Up - a long abandoned house
at Grimwith.*

became long thin houses combining both farm and domestic functions. **Coxons Farm** at Cracoe (1669) is a fine example. At first many such houses had a common entrance to a passage with internal doors leading one way to the animals and the other to the "house", "firehouse" or "housebody" or whatever name was locally given to the main living room. Later separate entrances were introduced; the house called **Summersgill** near Burnsall may well have seen such a change. Many of the houses were built with two storeys. A few had more. The vicarage at **Kirkby Malham** (1622) is an odd example. Built with three storeys and still having that appearance, in fact it has had a floor removed so that it is only two storied now.

Although classical architectural features were by now common in the south of England, they were either largely unknown or ignored in the Dales and

local housing retained many older Tudor features. These characteristics have long been regarded as the 17th century vernacular architecture of the Dales.

The most well known feature is perhaps the use of mullioned windows which often had three or more lights in the main rooms of the house and which were infrequently transomed (the name of the bar across mullioned windows) in the grander houses. **High Hall** at Appletreewick (1667) has a superb multi-light window with two transoms. It is also well known for its two storey hall, screens passage

and gallery, mediaeval features which were uncommon in houses of this period. Built by the Craven family, one of whom had been Lord Mayor of London, it is somewhat surprising; one might have expected it to be a little more up to date.

Another feature of most of the buildings of the period is that the windows are square headed. A minority are

round headed, particularly I think the single light fire windows which illuminate what would otherwise be a dark corner near the fireplace. Occasionally, however, there are splendid arrays of round heads as at **Oxnop Hall** near Muker where the date of 1685 on the porch may belie a rather earlier date for the building of the main house. But square or round, the windows were usually hooded with horizontal moulding designed to keep the rain off the windows themselves, the hood being turned down at each side of the window. **Church House**, Grassington (1694) is a well known example. At Blackburn House, Grinton (1635) is a rare exception where the hoods are in the shape of a shallow inverted V.

Mullions were sometimes convex, sometimes concave, often with straight sided chamfers and occasionally cymn moulded, that is made with a



17th Century house at Embsay. Note the hood mould, the coping and kneelers and the superb porch with typical three-light window in the gable.

double curve, both concave and convex as at **Langcliffe Hall**. The straight sided chamfers tended to be later in the century though not exclusively so and later still in the 18th century mullions were flat faced.

There are also a good number of stepped windows, usually of three lights with the centre light raised above the others and the hood stepped in parallel. Good examples can be seen all over the Dales, for example at **Eshton Manor Farm** and a small house in the main street at Malham. Round and oval windows are occasionally to be found but rarest of all are wheel windows. There is one at **Hartwith Manor** in Nidderdale (1680) and another - the only other so far as I know - at Threshfield in the upper floor of the manor house porch, the porch being all that remains of the original house.

Porches, which were often added after the main structure are another common feature. Good examples are at **Embsay Hall** (1652 and 1665) where there is another stepped three light window in the gable and **Malham Hill Top Farm** (1617) which, like several others has an upper room as well as a pigeon loft. Pigeon lofts, indicated by an

array of rectangular holes, can indeed be found in a variety of places in Dales buildings of the time.

Yet another characteristic is the stone flagged roof of low pitch which, on rebuilding, would normally take the place of a high pitched thatched roof. In some houses where the roof has been raised, it is possible to see the line of the earlier roof in the gable end. The gable end itself is usually topped by coping stones which slope down to heavy "kneelers" designed to take the thrust of the coping stones. The kneelers frequently have decorative moulding and the coping stones may occasionally have a concave outer edge. Sitting on top of the kneeler is another common feature, the finial. Its purpose was to add stability, but it too became a decoration and was often fashioned in the shape of a ball or spike.

Because of fire risk in the days of timber buildings, chimneys became massive structures. Sometimes they survive as external features, but more commonly only the stacks can be seen. Usually they were simple square structures built up with one or more sets of stone slabs set on edge and standing on a somewhat larger base, but in the north western dales, for example at **Dent High**

Hall (1625) huge circular stacks can be seen, one of them topping a huge external chimney. Other external features to be seen are ovens - there are two at Starbotton - though these are elsewhere quite uncommon, and variously shaped projections which house staircases. When the houses were first built, the upper floor, possibly reached by a vertical ladder (a stee) would quite frequently have little head room and a natural improvement was to raise the roof and introduce a staircase. At **Arncliffe Old Cote** (1650) it was slotted into a quadrant between porch and house wall and at Starbotton is an example of a house where the staircase was erected inside a rectangular outshot. At the **Rookeries**, Eastby, a semi-circular addition houses the staircase and the roof of the added structure clearly indicates the original roof level of the house as a whole. Staircases were also quite often put into porches. There is a good example at Halton Gill.

Of all the local characteristics, it is perhaps the doorcase which is most well known. They are to be seen everywhere in the Dales and so far as I am aware, nowhere else in Britain are the decorated doorheads to be seen in such numbers. Most commonly they incorporate a date and the initials of the original builder and his wife. In Kettlewell

and Starbotton are many simple examples, one of which is as early as 1602. Others are highly decorated, a superb example being at **Dacre Low Hall** (1635) while rarely there are other elements such as the 1668 door at Hawes "God being with us who can be against".

But it is in Ribblesdale that some really elaborate examples can be seen. Giggleswick has a superb collection, but it is Settle which takes the prize. **The Folly** (1675-1680) has a doorway which is an extravaganza in itself, a doorway which borrows from many traditions, but chiefly from its own invention to create a fantasy. Indeed the Folly as a whole is well worth its name; it has many unusual features. It is incomparable.

Seventeenth century features of dales buildings continued into the 18th and echoes continued much after that, but soon classical features began to appear. Actually they appeared much earlier, for example in the Ionic columns flanking the doorway of Fountains Hall, but now in the 18th century they were to become commonplace. High fashion had reached the Dales.

John Ward

Arncliffe Old Cote. A fine 17th Century house with its staircase in the angle between the left hand side of the porch and the main wall of the house.



Pennine Bridleway – A Response: Think Green

Ralph Atkinson's article in the winter edition of the *Yorkshire Dales Review* on the Pennine Bridleway brought a lively and interesting response from Lady Towneley who has taken a very active role in its creation. Initially she gives us one of her own memories of early married life in north east Lancashire and the role of "horse-power."

Our transport was enshrined in an ancient coach-built Austin made for my husband's stepfather in order to accommodate his top hat! It required a veritable Tarzan to crank its reluctant heart into action in winter. The solution was to attach one of our farm horses to the front bumper and tow it, coughing and complaining, down the steep and twisty lane - a happy and constructive partnership between ancient and modern.

The use of old green ways which form the major part of the Pennine Bridleway, was far heavier in times gone by than anything they are likely to endure now. The punishment they must have had to endure from daily trains of up to twenty pack ponies with loads of up to 240 pounds, cattle in droves of hundreds, often shod for the journey, sheep, pigs even geese grazing their way steadily over the hills to the distant markets; as well as the more local traffic of farmer, postboy and pedlar was remarkable, yet in spite of the wear inflicted upon them, they have survived.

Present damage is more often the result of heavy farm machinery, puddling stock or long standing neglect and disuse. Erosion caused by the feet of many walkers is already with us and will neither be increased nor diminished by the establishment of the Trail. It may well, in fact, relieve the over use of other paths.

Since engineers became obsessed by the internal combustion engine, the skills of maintenance on these green highways has been forgotten. Rather than employing expensive consultants with unproven modern technology to sell, perhaps we would do better to look back on the achievements of the old causeway builders and bog bridgers and use our modern technology and equipment to implement what they learnt over centuries of first-hand experience.

Cost is always a key issue. £3.9 million for the repair of the few miles of the Three Peaks Trail would therefore seem a high price for inviting yet more concentration of use over a small area. By comparison £2 million for 208 miles, the shortened version of the Pennine Bridleway, and £2.8 million for the full 300 miles, of which every mile is usable both locally as well as nationally, is surely a first

class example of value for money.

From the cost point of view, National Trail status must surely be attractive. The Countryside Commission takes on, as it does for all National Trails, 100% of the establishment costs and 75% of the maintenance costs thereafter. This also includes any existing public rights of way concerned, thus relieving the responsible authority of the charges normally carried by them. It can also include establishment costs of supporting ancillary routes along the National Trail corridor for local benefit.

All this was made clear from the outset by the Commission.

As for legal costs, Public Enquiries resulting from claims cost £7500 per day. Only 6 miles out of 63 on the Trail in the Yorkshire Dales are footpath status. In Lancashire 2.5 miles of the 13.05 miles presently designated footpaths on the proposed route are already in the process of being dedicated by the landlords concerned. A supporting circuit of a further 20 miles is also being dedicated - thus widening the local benefit to be achieved and spreading the possible user pressure. It will also minimise the legal costs involved; an example that, it is to be hoped, will be followed by others.

The work on this particular development has been carried out by the South Pennine Packhorse Trails Trust, a registered charity whose mission is to restore the old green trail routes for the modern traveller.

Restoration work over difficult terrain, with sensitive regard for land management and the environment as well as user requirements, has been carried out at a cost of £1.6 per yard. This brings us back full circle to the partnership between the old and the new.

The public is being urged to "think green" and reduce its use of the motor car.

The old greenways must of necessity be revived to implement this objective. The alternative is well depicted on the centre page of your winter edition of the *Yorkshire Dales Review*. One major attraction is missing if we refuse to realise the potential of our old pack and droveways and neglect to restore or replace the links destroyed by more modern developments. That will be the well fenced enclosure reserved for the human outdoor experience to which, as with everything else, access will be by coach or motor car only. How sad!

Mary Towneley

Look Out for ENCY '95!

This year is European Nature Conservation Year (ENCY 95). So what does this mean? ENCY 95 aims to encourage and excite local people to take an active interest in the flora and fauna on their own doorsteps.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is focusing its celebrations on the diversity and beauty of Dales habitats; notably limestone pavements, hay meadows, woodlands and riverbanks. There are a variety of different projects and activities in which the Dales communities and visitors can play a part. National Park events include the highly popular Explore and Discover! Children's Environmental Activity Days which are being themed around the special year.

Help is being sought for a parish-based, Dales-wide woodlands map project. Schools, youth and community groups, interest groups and individuals are encouraged to research the history of their local parish woodlands and trees. The resulting "maps" will depict past and present woodland resulting in parish-wide mosaics of woodland cover. They may be formal or informal - painted, drawn, woven, embroidered, modelled or even a banner.

Another exciting initiative is the creation of Limestone Pavement Week which runs from Monday 26 June - Sunday 2nd July. Activities include three limestone pavement art workshops for people with disabilities, one for youth groups and the third for the public; a slide show by Dr



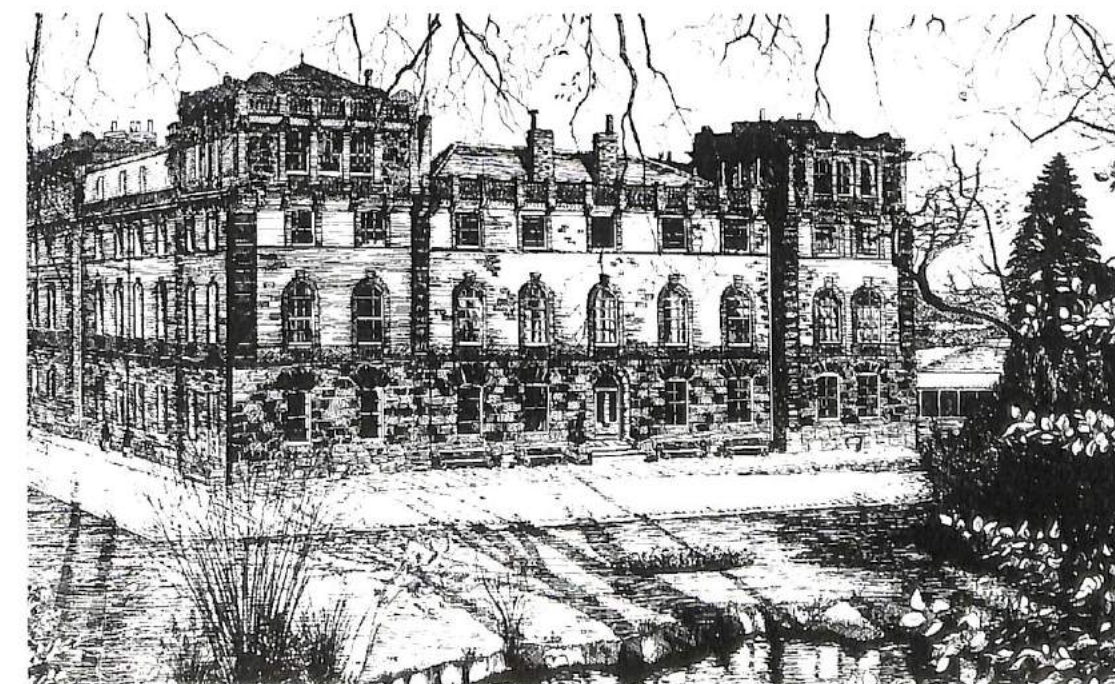
T o n y
Waltham
on limescapes at home
and abroad; guided walks on limestone flowers
and woods.

We are also working in partnership with the Ingleborough Estate and English Nature to develop a Children's Discovery Trail at Clapham. This Trail will provide a fun family based activity, building on the work done in European Conservation Year 1970 when the existing trail leaflet was developed.

The school children of Malhamdale are involved with the Malham Cove Woodland Project. There are several workshops planned from "Woodland Wonders" to natural sculpture days. The longer term project is to develop a small tree nursery at Kirkby Malham School with seed collecting in the autumn. Eventually their saplings will be planted annually in the Malham Cove Woodlands.

One of the most exciting developments with ENCY 95 is the networking and cooperation between other environmental groups and organisations in and around the National Park. At a packed meeting recently, joint working arrangements and a community ENCY 95 events leaflet were agreed; partnerships that will continue long after ENCY 95 and all the events have finished!

For further information contact Helen Ashworth, Interpretation Officer on 01756 752748.



Ilkley College
by Bill Pates

Book Reviews

LIFE ON LIMESTONE -

A Year in the Yorkshire Dales by Anna Adams with watercolours by Norman Adams, published by Smith Settle, Otley at £9.95.

Anna Adams is often a stunningly perceptive writer equally at home in the twin skills of haunting and evocative poetry and sensuous lyrical prose, often leavened by a delightful astringent wit. Her opening section summarises what her year in the Yorkshire Dales, at her home in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, encapsulates: "I can only write about what I know and care about, hoping that perception makes things remarkable, and caring makes them important."

For us there is the pleasure of finding a scene in her Snowsickness section where the hare nibbles some dry stalks in the bitter weather further enriched by the exquisite, finely observed poem "The Carpet-Slippered Hare":

Hissing and whispering, the sleet
past flattened ears, dim eyes-
flies horizontal, cakes his coat,
but ice lacks calories;
So Hare falls off his ill-assorted feet
and dies.

Laughing the undertaker crows
dismember him, and eat,
but on the piebald hill grass grows
more green as snows retreat,

There, cantering on well-heeled slipper-toes,
Hares meet.

A worm's dangerous sally across a road, an empty wasp's nest, a near-miraculous hatching of an abandoned egg and its companion poem stressing the new-born chick's ungainly yet heart-breaking ugliness as it struggles into life, a skylark's desperate battle with the forces of the wind and the anecdote about the cow who with great determination becomes a foster mother - everything becomes a magical and exciting journey of discovery for author and reader alike. Some tortoiseshell butterflies overwintering in a corner of the bedroom ceiling have folded the "magic carpets of their wings" looking:

As dingy as the withered nettled,
as drab as marbled bibles, charred by fire,
or chips of bark or stone, they could be dead
but hang by wiry legs, as fine as hair,
close-clustered near the plaster desert's edge
like a proscribed religious sect at prayer.

Apart from an occasional flash of almost nineteenth century didacticism in some of the prose, "Life on Limestone" is a virtuoso performance, in which Norman Adams' fine watercolours enhance the drama of the Dales landscape and illuminate its shapes and moods, making us look in grateful recognition at his symphonies of brown and grey with their occasional dramatic highlights.

Fleur Speakman

POEMS STRANGE PLACES RHYMES FOR CHILDREN AND OTHERS

by Joan Ingilby with decorations by Marie Hartley, published by Smith Settle at £10.95.

A delightful little book to dip into and enjoy for its period charm, written over three decades from the 1930s onwards, and enhanced by delicate line drawings. The short poem "Winter" gives something of its flavour.

Wind's thongs sting the heather now
Where streams drum in the gills,
Rain turns to sleet and storm tears flow
down the bleached hills.
Bare trees sway and chips of light
Flicker on barns and walls.
Then softly, softly through the night
The white snow falls.

1951.

NORTHUMBRIA'S GOLDEN AGE by Peter Fairless, is published by William Sessions, Ltd. York at £7.50

This book is an attempt to give a concise account of complex subject matter from Northumbria's earliest days 547 to the arrival of Bede in 735 AD. Although dealing specifically with Northumbria, there is sufficient cross reference to events in York and the Yorkshire Dales to make this of real value to those interested in the history of Northumbria's warrior kings, the spread of Christianity and the early church, the difference between Celtic and Roman practices, the Synod of Whitby, the North's great saints and the development of the monasteries.

Such a densely written book, whose avowed intention is to achieve a middle way between the populist and the straightforwardly academic, might perhaps have benefited from an occasional map

and some illustrative material such as line drawings though there are some useful chronological tables in the final section.

Northumbria's Golden Age can be obtained directly from the author (post free) who will make a contribution to YDS funds from any copies sold. Contact Peter Fairless at "Cartref" 3, Larkspur Grove, Harrogate North Yorks. HG3 2YA or tel: 01423 500855.

F.S.

A new bi-monthly non-specialist magazine called **Yorkshire History** is about to appear this Spring. Anyone interested in subscribing or writing for future issues should get in touch with Stephen Walsh, 11 Littlewood Cragg Vale, Mytholmroyd, West Yorkshire HX7 5TL or phone 01422 884157.

Those Door and Window Frames ...

Peter Watson, Principal Planning Officer (Development Control) with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, explains the Park's position over the colour of door and window frames:

I noticed with concern your correspondent Kate Rhodes' comments in your Winter 1994 edition regarding the use of stain for the treatment of door and window frames in barn conversions and house renovations.

It is our usual practice not to specify a particular colour for door and window frames, but instead to attach conditions to permissions to ensure that whatever colour the developer chooses is agreed with us first. In some barn conversions, however, because of the need to respect the particular character of a building in which the bright colouring of window frames and doors would make them much more conspicuous features that they were before conversion, it is considered appropriate to specify that the 'dark oak' stain is used, this being an accepted trade name for a stain which is very dark brown. As a matter of fact we do accept other recessive colours and the planning conditions referred to are framed to allow this. I would certainly agree with your correspondent's view that bright red or orange stain is not appropriate in this area.

Daleswatch

If you share the Yorkshire Dales Society's concern for what is happening in your area, then come along to an appropriate Daleswatch meeting in order to discuss any issues which are currently of interest.

LOCAL DALESWATCH GROUP NEWS

Upper Wharfedale The report of the last (November) meeting just made the winter edition of the Review while another meeting (after we go to press) of this active, lively group, on Thursday 9th March 7.30pm at 4, Rivendell, Long Ashes, Threshfield will doubtless discuss the contentious issue of Swinden Quarry.

Ribblesdale The last meeting was held at Settle in October. The next meeting will be Thursday 25th May 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Settle.

Upper Wensleydale Sound preparatory work by convenor Alan Watkinson led to a stimulating and well attended inaugural meeting of the Upper Wensleydale Group at Aysgarth Methodist Hall on Thursday 2nd February. Some valuable and forceful points were made by members and the Group should prove to be an invaluable aid to the Society. Some of the items discussed were: BOATs, footpath signing, road bridges, planning inconsistencies, the danger of suburbanisation and the possibility of obtaining European funding for public transport studies. The next two meetings will be in June and October respectively. Upper Wensleydale members will be contacted with details, new members to the area should telephone the convenor (see List of Convenors).

Swaledale This group has still to get off the ground, but some excellent preparatory work has been put in by convenor Charles Hepworth who lives in Muker. With this year's Society AGM due to take place in Reeth, Dales Society activity in the far northern Dales is well placed to take a significant step forward. Interested Swaledale members should continue to watch this space.

Nidderdale No further meetings have taken place since the last report. An unfortunate development has been the Inspector's decision to uphold the appeal by the Otter Trust against Harrogate Borough Council's refusal to allow the development of an otter farm at Padside. The Group had objected to the scheme on the grounds that visitors to the otter farm will bring greatly increased traffic problems to the very narrow roads in the area.

Lower Wharfedale Convenor Peter Young called a meeting of the Group on Thursday 9th February at the Otley Civic Centre. A somewhat

disappointing turnout on the night was probably due to a threat of snow that only partially materialised. Once again road concerns were looked at in some detail, relating both to the east/west corridor through lower Wharfedale and the Society's own proposals for traffic management in the Bolton Abbey area. The latter has received good support from the National Park Authority and the North Yorkshire Highways Department, and substantive talks on its eventual implementation are planned. Problems with Harewood Bridge were also noted. The Lower Wharfedale area of interest is largely outside the National Park and the Group's identification with more urban issues emerged in a discussion of problems related to the Leeds and Bradford Unitary Development Plan and especially to their green belts. In particular, the proposal by Guiseley AFC to build a £2m stadium on green belt land was hotly contested. A specific issue that was raised relating to footpaths highlighted the seemingly permanent closure of the path from near the Post House, Bramhope, to Creskeld Lane.

Dentdale and Skipton/Malhamdale These groups are still dormant due to lack of convenors. Volunteers will be very much welcomed and are invited to phone Jim Burton (01943 602918).

LIST OF DALESWATCH LOCAL CONVENORS

Dentdale	vacant
Nidderdale	Jean Johnson (01943 880234)
Ribblesdale	Hilary Baker (01729 840609)
Skipton/Malhamdale	vacant
Swaledale	Charles Hepworth (01748 886397)
Wensleydale (Upper)	Alan Watkinson (01969 667785)
Wharfedale (Lower)	Peter Young (01943 466858)
Wharfedale (Upper)	Ken Lord (01756 753202)

SOME CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK

1. Swinden Quarry A new application from Tilcon is expected to be considered by the Committee at its March meeting. There is little difference between the new application and that turned down last year, which is due to go to appeal in May. It will be seen somewhat simplistically as the protection of the National Park versus jobs. But the jobs at Swinden are not at risk in the short-term: all of them will go in the long-term. It just depends whether long-term means eight years (the end of the current consent) or twenty five years (the end of the period now proposed by Tilcon). And most of the jobs are concerned with transport and will be transferred elsewhere anyway. On the other side, we have the continuing rape of one of our most precious

landscapes, a continuing stream of heavily loaded lorries on unsuitable roads and a continuing use of high quality limestone for low quality purposes such as aggregates for roadbuilding.

2. The Environment Bill This is expected to reach the House of Commons in March and to receive the Royal Assent in July. Its effects on the National Park will be very important. Not only will the Park Authority be accorded independent status, free-standing within the framework of local government, but it also appears probable that the Park Committee will be radically altered in composition, with a higher proportion of District Council members at the expense of its County Council representation. The intention is to bring the "government" of our National Parks closer to their inhabitants, something that has been vociferously called for by many of the latter. Whether this goal is eventually attained only the future can tell. An unfortunate immediate downside is that several excellent members will inevitably be lost to the Committee.

3. The Launch of the Whole Farm Conservation Scheme in December must be welcomed by everyone with the future of the Yorkshire Dales at heart. The maze of regulations within which the agricultural community has to operate is a daunting one. The new voluntary scheme which will be delivered through the existing Farm and Countryside Service, will help to ease the burden for farmers. It is intended that the scheme will reflect park-wide priorities, with targeting directed at the National Park outside existing SSSIs and ESA eligible areas. The scheme should go ahead in 1995/6 with 5b funding expected to be available.

4. Mastiles Lane The recent decision by the appeal Inspector that Mastiles Lane is, in fact, a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) came sooner than envisaged in the last edition of the Review. The decision was the same as that of the National Park Rights of Way sub-committee. However, the inspector reached his conclusions in a rather different way, confirming the order on the basis of modern user evidence rather than the common law dedication and supporting documentary evidence on which the Committee's conclusions were based. It was necessary to get this legal hurdle out of the way before appropriate management measures can be taken. Regrettably the Inspector, Sir David Allen, died suddenly shortly after making the decision.

Jim Burton

Spring Events

SATURDAY APRIL 8TH WALK TO BLACK HILLS AND GOIT STOCK

Meet at 10.30 am for ten mile walk in Airedale from St Ives carpark behind the Turf Research Institute (1 mile SW of Bingley on B6429 [SE 093390] bus 690 0955 from Bradford Interchange, 0958 from Bingley station) for a moderate walk finishing at 4.30am approximately. Please bring a packed lunch. Leader Rod Clough (01274) 7525092.

SWALEDALE WEEKEND - MAY 13TH/14TH

Continuing our policy of encouraging members to come and spend the weekend in a very special part of the Yorkshire Dales, we are again offering a mini-weekend of events, this time in Swaledale for our AGM. Come up if you can on Friday, public transport is available, (bus 1720 from Richmond - connections from Darlington; return on 803 on Sunday afternoon to Harrogate and Leeds) to enjoy a geological walk with Dr McMahon on Saturday morning. He will be lecturing on the "The Story in the Rocks of Swaledale" in the evening with slides and specimens, enjoy our AGM plus tea & biscuits and speaker David Morris on "Swaledale Yesterday & Today", then a contrasting walk led by Chris Hartley on Sunday morning with time for a late lunch before you return home. Send for accommodation details by contacting Pam Whitaker of Richmondshire District Council Tourism Officer on 01748 850252.

SATURDAY MAY 13TH GEOLOGICAL WALK FROM LOW ROW

Leave Reeth on the B6270 road towards Kirby Stephen. (SD978977), Low Row is a rather straggly village about 4 miles from Reeth. Pass the Punch Bowl on right & Presbyterian church also on right, and on left beyond the manse is a county council layby suitable for parking. (If you reach the signpost for Crackpot, you have gone too far). The walk is moderate, 2-3 miles, uphill and should finish by 12.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Leader Dr David McMahon (01748 886514), meet Low Row 10.30am.



SATURDAY MAY 13TH YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY AGM at Fremington Sunday School at 2.15 pm.

Speaker David Morris "Swaledale Yesterday & Today". You may park in Reeth and walk half a mile or there should be sufficient parking near the Sunday school.

SATURDAY MAY 13TH SLIDE LECTURE THE STORY IN THE ROCKS OF SWALEDALE

by Dr David McMahon at Fremington Sunday School at 8pm. Admission YDS members £1.50, non-members £2.50.

SUNDAY MAY 14TH WALK TO HEALAUGH & RETURN ALONG THE SWALE

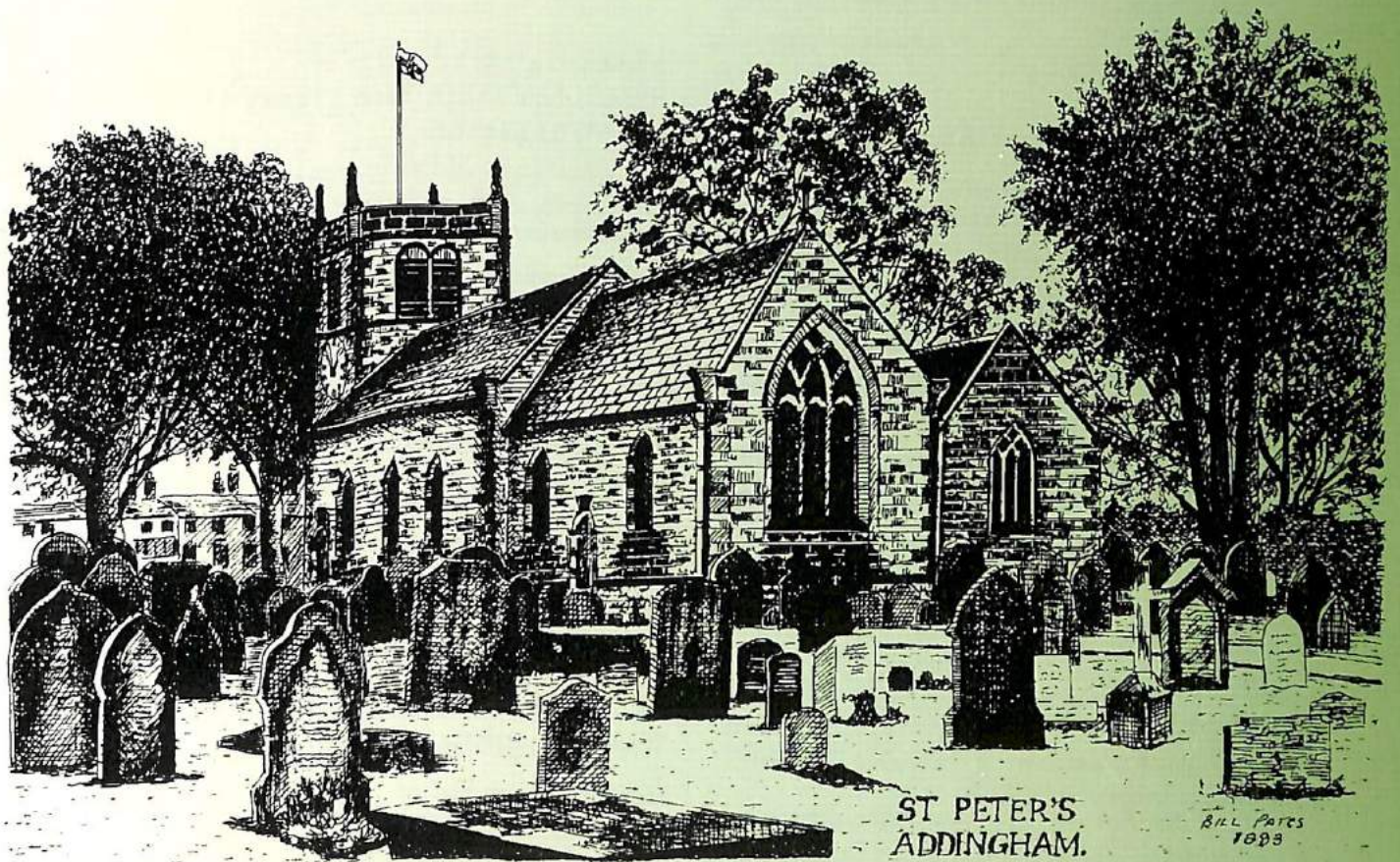
The walk starts at Reeth Green at 10.30 am and is a moderate 4-5 miles, finishing at about 1.30pm. The walk will go up Skelgate Lane, then down to Healaugh and return to Reeth along the banks of the River Swale. Walk Leader Chris Hartley tel: 0943 872511.

SATURDAY JUNE 24TH WALK IN RIBBLESDALE

Meet at 10.30 pm at Long Preston station. Train leaves Leeds at 0901, Skipton 0953 (please check times in new timetable). An easy to moderate walk of 10 miles, bring packed lunch, due to finish about 4pm. Leader Hilary Baker tel: 01729 840609.

SUNDAY JULY 9TH DALESBUS TO GUNNERSIDE

Catch the 0915 X97 Dalesbus from Leeds Bus Station, 0945 Wetherby, 1016 Harrogate Lower Station Parade to Reeth for a full day 7/8 miles moderate walk through Swaledale to Gunnerside, return on the 803 bus at 1740. Please bring a packed lunch & book an Explorer ticket. Leader Alan Sutcliffe tel: 01444 483326.



*Cover picture: 'Bluebells in the Dales'
by John and Eliza Forder*

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*The views expressed in the Yorkshire Dales Review
do not necessarily express those of the Yorkshire
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*Any contributions should be sent to the Editors The
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is a Registered Charity No. 515384.*

Above: St. Peter's Church, Addingham by Bill Pates



THE TWELFTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

will take place on
Saturday May 13th 1995
at Fremington Sunday School, near Reeths, at 2.15 p.m. prompt

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting, held on 14h May 1994
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report
5. Financial Report
6. Adoption of the Annual and Financial Report
7. Election of Officers and Council of Management 1995/6
8. Any other business

After the meeting and refreshments, at approximately 3.45 p.m.,
David Morris, Director of Swaledale Woollens and local author,
will speak on
"SWALEDALÉ, YESTERDAY AND TODAY".