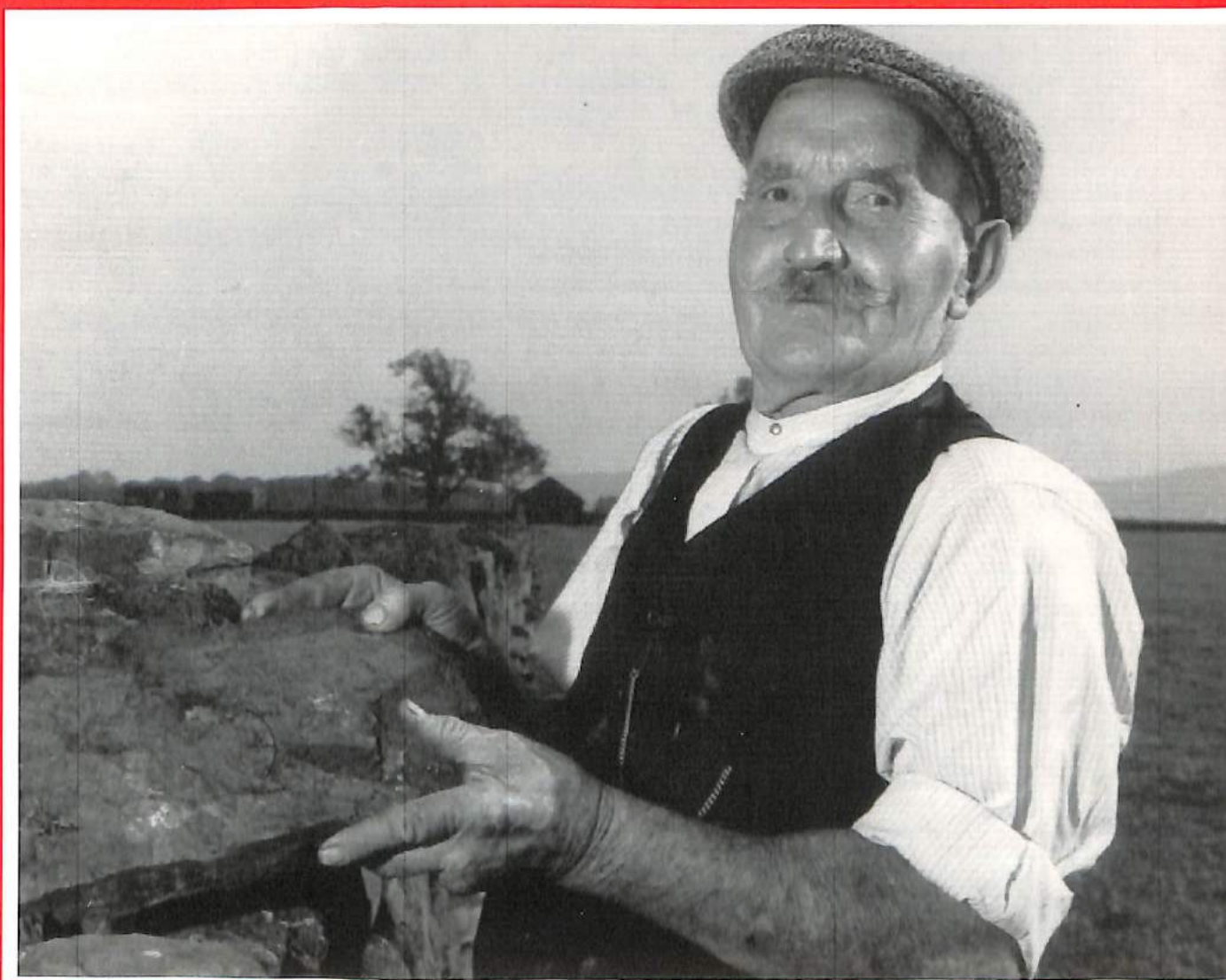


No.52 Autumn 1995

Yorkshire Dales Review



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Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

WE GOT THERE FIRST!

The Yorkshire Dales Society leads the way, together with the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Chatsworth Estate at Bolton Abbey and the Highway Authority in initiating a pilot scheme for Traffic Management in Mid-Wharfedale ahead of the recently issued House of Commons Report on The Environmental Impact of Leisure Activities which is encouraging just such park and ride schemes:

We believe that the Countryside Commission, working in partnership with the Department of Transport, the Rural Development Commission and local groups, should develop its demonstration traffic schemes to comprehensively assess how they tie in with rural transport and the needs of local businesses in a range of tourist locations.

28 Yorkshire Dales Society members gave up a considerable amount of time on three occasions on Sunday May 21st, Sunday July 23rd and Wednesday August 16th to help out with a visitor survey regarding Traffic Management in the Bolton Abbey area and whether a frequent minibus with fares at a reasonable level would help to avoid the extra congestion caused by parking on road side verges and away from actual car parks. The Society is enormously grateful for their help and to Vice Chairman Jim Burton for co-ordinating the scheme. But there is also another very important factor in the equation. Fleur and Colin Speakman and National Park Representatives met the Bolton Abbey Tourist Association in June at their invitation to explain the scheme and ensure that any doubts or problems could be aired at an early stage. It is crucial that the local community is taken into the any such scheme and can also play their part in its implementation. Early reports from the survey show that visitors had a very positive attitude to the Traffic Management scheme and a mass of data has already been collected. We await the final report with great interest.

We are delighted to report that the Upper Wensleydale Business Association, the prizewinner of our British Telecom Small Business competition

has already established an excellent accommodation helpline as part of the first stage of their project. In addition, we understand that as a result of greater cooperation which has ensued, a new association, The Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership has been created to care for local issues and also to attract wider funding for new initiatives.

Within this issue of the Review the theme of Community is taken further in a number of different ways.

On September 6th YDS Chairman Chris Wright presented the handsome new YDS trophy to Muker Show, in Swaledale, for the Best Bale of Hay; an award aimed particularly at young people. While the article by Michael Scarborough on oral history using the video camera looks particularly at the rich store of memories that can be unlocked by interviewing elderly people who can provide fascinating information about the way particular working techniques or social attitudes have changed over the years. This material, properly stored can be a valuable resource as archive material. With some initial training, it may even be possible for various groups to do their own recording.

Finally the preparations for Otley Community Play, also featured in the Review, is an exciting major project involving hundreds of people in many different capacities and due to be performed in late April 1996. It is hoped that many new cultural initiatives for Otley will result from this exercise in working together.

For the Yorkshire Dales Society, the cultural heritage of the Dales and related areas is also a way of respecting and caring for our very precious environment.

Fleur Speakman

Focus – Quiet enjoyment of natural beauty?

When National Parks were first created in Britain in the 1950s, the legislators had a clear vision of their purpose "to preserve and enhance the natural beauty" of the area and to "promote their enjoyment by the public".

Over the years a consensus has emerged that what was meant by natural beauty also involved the cultural, man-made features of a landscape like the Yorkshire Dales, and that enjoyment was essentially about "quiet enjoyment" which can take many forms, including walking, cycling, climbing, photography, fishing, sailing, canoeing and even touring by car.

What the founding fathers couldn't have predicted was the rapid changes in technology and in leisure habits which enabled many more people to own and use new forms of motorised activity - often but not always related to transport - dune buggies, go-karts, 4-wheel drive vehicles, hydrofoils, water skis, microlites, helicopters.

Later expert committees, including the Sandford Committee in the 1970s and the Edwards Committee in the 1990s, largely endorsed but refined original National Park objectives. After

much delay and prevarication, the recommendation of Edwards for, amongst other things, new independent National Park Authorities, have been accepted in the Environment Bill, now about to become law.

This is extremely good news to the Council of National Parks and to the Yorkshire Dales Society who have long campaigned for action. But a great disappointment came in the House of Commons Report Stage when an amendment supported by CNP to insert the words recommended by Edwards to make the "quiet enjoyment" a fundamental purpose of National Parks, was defeated by 266 votes to 221.

The quality of the debate was pretty dismal, with Members seemingly more concerned with motor rallies and grouse shooting - activities not threatened in any way - than protecting our finest countryside from increasingly intrusive noise pollution. "I do not see why legislation should exclude from national parks activities that may be noisy", announced Michael Jopling, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale and a notorious

Cam Fell— Colin Speakman



opponent of National Parks - and clearly unable to distinguish an authority's aims from any alleged regulatory powers.

It's tempting to see such weasel words as a result of some effective lobbying by motor sport interests and leisure developers who, no doubt with the support of people like Jopling, see the National Parks as prime targets for mass tourism leisure development in the next century.

Given the decision - in the same debate - to give more power to Parish Councils in National Parks, (thus increasingly the likelihood of planning decisions to create "jobs" at whatever cost rather than protecting the environment), those of us who have a slightly different vision of what National Parks are about are going to have to work that much harder as a result of misguided politicians. Nobody takes seriously the suggestion by the anti-Park lobby in the House of Commons or elsewhere that "zealots" (?) will try and suppress traditional rural activities, ban all motor sports or activities which have long continued at reasonable levels in National Parks if the words "quiet enjoyment" were in the Act. In fact the overwhelming majority of people in Britain - as evidenced by frequent surveys - firmly support the notion of quiet enjoyment of the countryside.

Interestingly enough, in a report less coloured by posturing of Parliamentary backwoodsmen, the recent House of Commons Select Committee report on The Environmental Impact of Leisure Activities (HMSO £20) has given powerful support to the argument that ancient green lanes or Roads Used as Public Paths in the countryside which evolved as medieval horse and wagon routes should be classified not as Byways Open to all Traffic (and modern off-road vehicles) but as footpath or bridleways. This would protect some clearly unsuitable Dales green lanes from the massive damage now being caused by four wheeled drivers. Routes like Mastiles Lane or the Cam Fell High Road (a Roman road now destroyed in many places by off-road vehicles) could then be protected without the more complex procedures of Traffic Orders.

Noise pollution is one of the worst blights of the late 20th century. It is vitally important that there are some at least some areas of National Parks like the Yorkshire Dales where people can enjoy an important but increasingly threatened kind of freedom - peacefulness. To be out of the sight and sound of motor vehicles. To listen to the sounds of nature - the wind, birdsong, insects, a stream, without the background roar of traffic, the snarl of a four wheel drive vehicle crossing a fellside or buzz of a helicopter or microlite overhead, not to mention military training jets. These are freedoms

that are really under threat. The right to the quiet enjoyment of natural or man-made beauty is every bit as important right as the right of access by public footpath, bridleway or byway. Both touch the heart of what National Parks are all about.

Maybe it's question of time as well as space. Would it be practical or possible to designate certain areas in the upper Dales, where, on certain days of the week, all non-essential noisy activities could be excluded, apart from local residents and farmers going about their business? Decisions about if, where and when this should happen should not come from the National Park Authorities but from landowners and farmers themselves, many of whom are equally disturbed by what they see as the misuse of the countryside by a minority of visitors.

Is a Quiet Area an appropriate idea for the Yorkshire Dales?

Colin Speakman

A "Great" Walk

4 miles: perfect for an evening walk

How many "great" hills can you name in the Dales? Great Shunner and of course Great Whernside come easily to mind. Any more?

Just recently another "great" has become more officially accessible providing a pleasant round walk of a few miles.

Walk from Dent Station or leave your car along the old Coal Road from Garsdale Head to Dent where the green lane follows the contours GR 779881. After about 600 metres there is a well-signed Country Stewardship route up Great Knoutberry Hill (designated in April 1995). The pleasant climb past typical cairns on Pikes Moss follows the fence and after a few "false" tops, you reach the summit.

This is fine border country; North Yorkshire in a corner! Cumbria all around and a magnificent view over the whole of the expansive Richmondshire District to the east. West, south and north you'll see an aerial view of the limestone pavement at Wold Fell. To the north east, even in this driest of dry summers Widdale Great Tarn shines bright and cool. Permissive stiles allow access to a stone seat with a high back as shelter from the westerly gale and you can sit and survey Richmondshire from its westerly corner.

The walk down to the old Widdale-Arten Gill track brings you to the other end of the contouring green lane - still really green in places with wide views down Dentdale and Garsdale, though part of the wall has been used rather roughly to fill holes in the track!

Alan Watkinson

The Dalesman and his Dwellings

PART III

The 17th and 18th centuries brought a revolution in English architecture: for the first time there appeared architects much as know them today. Inigo Jones was the first of them; he brought back from his European travels the idea of reintroducing classical principles into the English scene. He was a great admirer of Palladio, and the Palladian style not only became influential, but was carefully copied. Indeed the extensive use of the pattern books by later architects made copying easier.

Sir Christopher Wren, another great architect of the 17th and early 18th century, had great influence on such men as Nicholas Hawksmoor and Sir John Vanbrugh. The latter was an amateur who, according to Swift, suddenly became an expert in architecture "without thought or lecture" but who certainly left his mark on Yorkshire, not to mention Britain as a whole, with his design for **Castle Howard**. The Baroque style, noted for its heavy decoration, its mix of earlier styles, its dramatic use of masses and its generally grandiose aspect has few echoes in the Dales but one remarkable building, **Fountains Hospital** (1721) owes much to Vanbrugh and may well have been designed by

him. Its prominent quoins (corner stones), window and door surrounds, heavy pilasters and elaborate superstructure are all typical of the Baroque. Incongruous in its setting and quite out of scale in the village of Linton, its function as an almshouse well justifies it being regarded as one of the extraordinary dwellings of the Dales.

In the same village, **Linton Hall**, also echoes the style in its much altered wing dating from the middle of the 18th century but another grand house clearly within the Baroque sphere of influence is **Fairfield Hall**, Addingham (1728) with its massive fluted pilasters and elaborate entablature.

But by this time the general trend was clearly towards less extravagance and to designs which returned to Palladian principles, albeit modified to suit the English climate. The results, in what we have come to know as the Queen Anne and Georgian styles, were houses whose elegant symmetry, pleasing proportions and, frequently, simplicity, delight the eye in towns and villages all

Linton Hall, a late 17th century house with porch and wing made more fashionable in the 18th century - John Ward



over the country. Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington, well known locally for his connection with Bolton Abbey and nationally as an architect, was a leading exponent of the Palladian style. A fine example, built for him at Skipton, was a mansion which is now the **Devonshire Hotel**. Another house which according to Pevsner, was in the new Burlingtonian fashion, is the splendid square house, formerly the stable block, in Studley Royal (approx 1720). Pevsner adds, however, that the detail is not Burlingtonian but Vanbrughian.

The second half of the century saw a spate of building of grand mansions. About 1760 James Paine built Stockeld House for the Middleton family of Ilkley, a house which, again according to Pevsner, is more Vanbrughian than Palladian, - another comment which comforts me when I have difficulty in attaching labels to architecture from this period. Be that as it may, **Constable Burton** is a house regarded as more Palladian than Vanbrughian which was designed by John Carr, perhaps the most famous architect of the period, who had built **Harewood House**. It has a principal floor sandwiched between a half basement and a half story above and a symmetrical external staircase leading to the main entrance on the principal floor through a grand recessed portico with enormous Ionic columns. The small windows of the basement have surrounds something like quoins with massive alternating blocks (a "Gibbs" surrounds) while the tall windows of the main floor are pedimented and the small windows of the upper floor have simple surrounds. All are typical Palladian features.

John Carr also built **Denton Hall** (1770), extended **Farnley Hall** (approx 1700) and was also responsible for alterations and extensions to **Newby Hall** which had been built in the 1690s and was described by Celia Fiennes who visited it in 1697 as "the finest house I saw in Yorkshire". Fine as it was then, it is even finer now, a superb house whose handsome appearance is a tribute to the work of Carr and of Robert Adam who was responsible for further alterations as well as the design of the interior.

Broughton Hall near Skipton also dates from the middle of the 18th century, but (successive alterations in the 19th century have produced its present appearance. By then the emphasis had altered substantially. Symmetry was no longer important but pictorial aspects were. Principal rooms were on the ground floor opening directly into the garden or conservatory and a variety of styles from classical onwards were incorporated. There was a tendency to banish service rooms and servants from basements and the upper floor into

separate wings. **Netherside Hall** and **Eshton Hall** (which has Elizabethan features) are typical of this period as are some of the extensions and alterations to **Bolton Hall** in Swaledale.

The Victorian age saw the building of many large houses by the wealthy of Leeds and Bradford on the fringes of the Dales at such places as Ilkley and Harrogate which the spas had made attractive and the railways made accessible. Styles became ever more extravagant and ostentatious, often with "Gothick" features which sometimes gave to the houses an ecclesiastical air. A few, of which **Blubberhouses Hall** is an example, were somewhat more restrained. Built in the middle of the century in an Elizabethan style, it is quite pleasing.

In the 20th century few large houses were built but one at Ilkley, a house called **Heathcote** (1906) has to be mentioned. Designed by Lutyens who also designed all internal fixtures and fittings from doorhandles to taps and who spared no expense in its construction, bringing rare marbles from distant parts of the earth, the house was to gain not only national but international fame. Its style borrows from both the Palladian and the Baroque, but I prefer to call it "imperial", reminding me as it does of Lutyens great works in New Delhi.

Lesser houses of the minor gentry or wealthier farmers and merchants from the 18th and 19th centuries are legion within the Dales. Houses such as **St Helens** farmhouse at Eshton, **Thorpe Manor House**, the principal farmhouse at Yockenthwaite and **Arncliffe Vicarage** are all excellent examples of their time. Symmetry, well proportioned sash windows, moulded surrounds to windows and doors and pediments are common features.

To see large numbers of Georgian houses probably the best place is **Richmond** and, within Richmond, head for **Newbiggin** and **Frenchgate** where there are some particularly fine doorways. At Middleham too there are some excellent houses of the period e.g. **The Priory**, **Sundial House**, **Kent House** and **Jasmine House**. At Reeth there are more good houses and quite a collection of hotels. **The Burgoyne** has pride of place there, but there are also features of the period in the **Black Bull** and the **Kings Arms** where there is a splendid 18th century shopfront.

Some of the larger houses and many more smaller houses of the 18th and 19th centuries retained features from earlier periods, albeit modified. Mullions became flat. So did transoms and together they began to appear in taller windows known as cross windows. Chamfered coping stones disappeared and were given straight edges while



St. Helens farmhouse at Eshton, one of the finest in the Dales -
John Ward

kneelers became firstly more decorative and then in the 19th century much simpler before they largely disappeared. During the same period heated rooms became more common and with increased comfort came some increase in size. Many quite modest farm houses were of double pile construction and had four rooms downstairs and four up, yet at the same time, many small houses were being built for labourers. Two rooms on the ground floor and two rooms above with one fireplace and a house door opening directly into the heated room was common. Infilling and adaptation to meet the requirements of a site led to a variety of styles and shapes which now give the characteristic disorganised look to many Dales villages. On the other hand, some villages such as Hebden or Pateley show uniformity of design in houses built for miners. Ground floor windows in those houses are of the Georgian sash variety, but much smaller than those in grander houses while windows in the upper floor are often very small indeed. The "Yorkshire" or sideways sliding window can sometimes be seen. Later, houses for railway workers were built in some parts of the Dales and these were somewhat more spacious and had more of what were then regarded as mod cons. In Skipton the first modern style owner occupiers began to appear when people banded together in terminating building societies to build **King Street** and **Queen Street** and others such as Club Houses which have since been demolished. Although rarely providing much of outstanding

architectural interest, the smaller houses do much to make the Dales what they are. The local stone, the lack of pretentiousness and, in villages, the sense of unity in diversity which the buildings provide all contribute to the local character. It seems that it is only in the 20th century that jarring features appear and these are not only the modern house which sticks out like a sore thumb, but also the older houses which are suburbanised and prettified with incongruous ornamentation. In the areas for which the National Park has authority, restraint is compulsory but that cannot in practice extend to the minutiae of decoration. Even the successful converted barn can be made to look quite out of place. Planners cannot control everything.

What of the future? The thought of major changes in style or material in building houses in the Dales appals me. But so does the thought of a vast never-changing Dales museum. I can only hope that buildings, like the natural world, will evolve in such a way that those which are most fitted for the landscape will survive.

I hope, but I am not optimistic.

John Ward

Yorkshire Television video history project

Michael Scarborough introduces this community style project.

Many elderly people have good tales to tell and they tell them well. It's not just that significant experiences are remembered vividly but, in retelling these to children, grandchildren, friends and even strangers, they will have honed their choice of words and sense of timing to a fine art. But there is, of course, more to it than that for they are not just telling stories but preserving history and a history which, too frequently, has been inadequately recorded by archives, books, documents and traditional research. Sadly, much of it has not been recorded at all.

That's where the Yorkshire Television Video Project has come in. Seven years ago, three of us at YTV saw excitement and value in recording the memories of ordinary Yorkshire people not in order to make programmes, but so we could build up an archive that in twenty, thirty or fifty years time would give historians a fuller picture of the twentieth century. "Do you remember the war, grandma?" is an important question, but so is "What was a doffer?" or "What was childbirth like in the 1930s?" or "How did you plough a furrow with horses?"

There is no end to such questions and over six years of recording, some of them have been answered, but many more have been suggested. Philip of Knaresborough told us what it was like to deliver ammunition to First World War trenches from a biplane. Brian of Mount Tabor talked of the hardships and excitements of a small boy's first days in a West Riding wool mill. Ivy remembered being in service and recalled the tyranny of the Head Butler. When we set up our cameras at the Great Yorkshire Show, we got moving accounts of East Riding and dales farming from the men who ploughed the land and the women who ran the farmhouses. The history is all there, it's just a matter of going out and getting it.

Just a matter of getting it makes it sound easy, but when the Video History Project started, there were important questions to ask about how it should be done. It might seem too obvious now, but we had to ask what seeing a person's face added to the understanding a historian might get from listening to a taped voiceto well-established oral history. Six hundred and fifty hours of recording

later we've got our answer....watch Herbert Pickle's face when he talks about being left-handed in a 1920s school and you grasp vividly what he went through. Watch the eyes of the women talking about early health experiences or working in the mills and you gather more than the voice alone can tell. Watch sadness and stoicism in the expressions of those who battled the years of the Depression and you'll learn more than the statistics and Parliamentary reports can ever tell.

We didn't want to make this project a massive production exercise, making programmes would not have been the right approach, but we did want it to be something of a community venture. We have equipped the project with three camera units (each unit had a SVSH camera, a light, a tripod and a microphone) and these were available to community groups who identify local people with experiences which should not be lost to time. With a little training in handling a camera and in

Old Archway, near Castle Hill, Richmond –
John Fawcett, Harrogate



We believe this is a Dales scene. Can anyone tell us where this is?

interview techniques, most groups could record good material. One group recorded valuable accounts of Grimsby Fishermen; another brought together new information about farming in Lincolnshire and about wartime bomber stations. In Sheffield a group focused on the city's well established Somali population and in Bradford, Asian children recorded their parents' first impressions of the black and sooty streets of Bradford half a century ago. Amongst all these there are unexpected gems....you can't get better Yorkshire dialect than when veteran cyclists, Bill and Donald, talked about trips to Ma Braithwaites "who's cakes were rightly famous."

Little of what we have recorded is about great events and famous people, but then neither is history only about that. Future historians, if they want to get anything like a true picture, will need to know about the thoughts, experiences, hopes and disappointments of those who might, on the face of it, seem nobodies, but in fact are far from that.

Of course, the project can't record everybody; there isn't time. We can't always find community groups to do the recording and must, the two of us now involved, meet individuals in their homes. But in the six years we have archived copies of 650 hours

of recording in the West Yorkshire Archives on Canal Road in Bradford. We've also set up a viewing room there and a computer programme which gives an easy search for anything on tape.... if you want to know about schooldays, you'll find something; if you are interested in prefabs or building reservoirs in Nidderdale, there's information and even something as recent as reactions to the building of Sheffield's Supertram will become the history of the future.

The project needs to know about people whose experiences should be caught before they are lost. We can't always know where these people are; we can't assess the significance of memories for that is properly the business of historians, but there is always someone in a community who has a hunch that someone is worth recording. Someone who knows that "Mrs Harker can tell a good few tales about the corner shop she ran," or "Bill Feather will keep you going for hours." If you know someone like that, the project needs to know.

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Clockmaking returns to Askrigg

The wheels of clockmaking have turned full circle to bring clockmaker Duncan Jones, back to his Yorkshire roots and by one of those curious strokes of fate, to Askrigg, once the heart of Dales clockmaking in North Yorkshire. His small workshop on Elm Hill is magic to anyone fascinated by how clocks work and the machinery and tools employed in this old craft. Sadly, the clockmakers' workshops have been too long absent from this charming old village where the craft once thrived.

In 1680, John Ogden, a Quaker and a clockmaker, moved to Askrigg from Soyland near Halifax, to begin the thriving trade of clockmaking and the eventual training of seventeen other clockmakers. Clocks by Ogden and his apprentices such as Christopher and Matthew Caygill, James and Mark Metcalfe, and James, John and William Pratt can still be found in many local homes, and are much sought after time pieces.

Duncan's interest in clocks started when he was about eleven, when he began repairing clocks belonging to the family. Thus was born a fascination with clocks that never left him and at sixteen, he had already been accepted as a full time student in the horology Department at Hackney Technical College in North London where he took a Diploma in Technical Horology and from where he graduated as a Fellow of the British Horological Institute. After College, and working for a year for a London Watchmaking firm, he was offered a scholarship on a prestigious six month course at Neuchatel in Switzerland, the home of clockmaking where he studied advanced watch repairing and from where he obtained the much sought after WOSTEP Diploma. Only twelve students are taken on the course at any one time and competition is very keen. It is said that more is packed into this short and intensive course than might normally be learned in ten years.

On Duncan's return to England, the economic climate made it more practical for him to become self employed and to repair for the trade and members of the public on a part time basis whilst building up his own collection of clocks. During this time he did various other jobs, including hotel management and work for the Department of Employment. Later, with a partner, he opened a business in North London, selling and repairing

watches, clocks and jewellery, but it was always his wish to be more involved with the antique clock section of the trade, rather than the work of a high street clock and watch shop.

Earlier this year, whilst visiting his parents' home, high above Lake Semerwater, in the upper dales, he noticed a "To Let" sign in a window of a small shop in the village of Askrigg. It did not take Duncan very long to arrive at the decision that it would be an exciting challenge to bring clockmaking back to the village of Askrigg. So some twenty years after his first involvement with clocks, Duncan opened up Askrigg Clockmakers at Elm Hill, to repair watches and clocks and eventually to make clocks. He returns to his London workshop, in Tufnell Park which he has had for six years, usually about once a fortnight, to collect materials and carry out some repairs. His shop in Askrigg is usually open Wednesday to Saturday tel: 01969 650723. He has already repaired a number of Askrigg long case clocks and been able to assess the work of such clockmakers as the Caygills. Duncan has been quick to appreciate that the standards set by John Ogden, Christopher and Matthew Caygill and the other apprentices was considerably higher than might have been expected of provincial clockmakers. The fact that many of these clocks manufactured in Askrigg over 150 years ago, are still ticking in the Yorkshire Dales and doubtless elsewhere, is testimony to the combination of good design and accurate workmanship which are the hallmarks of the Askrigg Clockmakers. These clocks are not just museum pieces, but still fulfilling the original functions their makers intended, purpose built, quality machines. Perhaps their modern day equivalent might be the household computer. One is moved to wonder if they will be functioning as remarkably in 150 years time as the longcase clocks. In their day, the longcase clock was a functional status symbol; it is a fortunate young couple today who might inherit a family heirloom in the shape of an Askrigg clock.

The clockmakers' workshop has not changed much over the years except for some refinements of power tools. It was a craft born out of the blacksmiths and locksmiths who originally shared the same guild and though touring Americans might consider a workshop such as the one at Elm Hill almost Dickensian, it would be easily

recognisable to John Ogden and the Caygill Brothers. Duncan's particular horror is to see modern quartz movements put into the old clocks, feeling it to be a sacrilege not to repair and restore them. Customers from a wide area have already brought many beautiful clocks as well as longcase and he is currently working on a turret clock to be mounted in a clock tower.

It is fitting and proper and has brought much satisfaction to the inhabitants of Askrigg that

clockmaking should once again return to this romantic and beautiful village that became famous for its timepieces. More than one local has expressed an interest in acquiring a clock made by what would be the 19th Askrigg Clockmaker, should Duncan's intentions for the business reach complete fulfillment and perhaps especially pleasing to the dalesmen would be that the 19th Clockmaker was born and bred not far away from the home of John Ogden in West Yorkshire.

Jerry Pearlman

Book Review

PRIVATEERING EARL - George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, 1588-1605

by Richard Spence,
published by Alan Sutton Publishing and available from bookshops at £18.99 (hardback).

Richard Spence has produced a fascinating and meticulously researched study of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, a charismatic figure whose vast family estates in Westmorland and Yorkshire were later partly inherited by his daughter Lady Anne (see YDS Review no 51 for Lady Anne's Way).

George Clifford's life was closely linked with that of Queen Elizabeth I; he was born the year she ascended the throne, through his half-sister there was a strong link with the royal blood. He was to become a prominent courtier, and later the Queen's Champion in jousts and tournaments, while among his numerous exploits at sea, he brought Elizabeth the news of the English victory against the Spanish Armada. At the same time he was consistently short of ready money and an incorrigible spendthrift yet had the vision to persuade Edward Wright, a noted Cambridge mathematician, to accompany him on one of his voyages to assist with navigation. Wright's researches with charts and instruments improved on current Elizabethan navigation to such an extent that sailors to this very day still owe him a profound debt. Clifford was also instrumental in helping to found the East India Company to assist overseas trade and, under James I, he played a key role in the pacification of the Borders, ensuring safe travel and trade between England and Scotland.

Nevertheless the word "privateer" gives the key to other aspects of his personality. In order to attempt to clear his debts, he threw himself into a series of anti-Spanish enterprises at sea. These were legally authorised and permitted by Elizabeth's government in which richly laden Spanish ships

were attacked for their booty or Spanish ports in the New World invaded with the same end in view. His most notable exploit being the capture of the fabulously richly laden Madre de Dios in 1592.

Nicholas Hilliard's miniatures and full length portrait convey something of Clifford's energy and glamour, beautifully reproduced in full colour. Tables listing the contents of ships seized as booty and lists of the valuation and rent of the Earl's extensive properties, all help to bring a period of four centuries ago vividly to life.

Fleur Speakman



A miniature of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, by Nicholas Hilliard, 1591.

Otley Community Play

Otley Community Play is an exciting community event scheduled to take place in Otley at the end of April 1996. The play will be on a large scale and will bring together people from all sections of the community, ages and backgrounds, disabled and non-disabled, to work on a joint music theatre project. It will be part of the community play movement - over ten years towns all over Britain have created their own community plays. It will last two to two and half hours and will be performed over eleven nights in the Main Hall of Prince Henry's Grammar School.

The organisation of the play is being carried out by the Otley Community Play Association, formed in June 1994 by a group of local people. The Association is a registered charity with an active and committed steering group, meeting every four weeks to take overall policy and management decisions and to see the project through. So far more than two hundred people have expressed interest in helping with the play. Some of these have helped to form groups to do research on the theme of the play, to raise funds, to produce a newsletter and to explore creative writing.

Support from arts organisations has come from Opera North Education Department, Yorkshire and Humberside Arts and the Arts Council of England, Leeds City Council, Otley Town Council, Airedale and Wharfedale College, the Youth Service, the Leeds Learning Disabilities Forum (through the King's Fund) have all also pledged support financially or in kind. Local firms are helping and it is hoped that they will become involved with the workshop programme and with the play itself.

In December 1994 an experienced professional writer, Phil Smith, was appointed to write the play. Since then he has met and talked to many Otley people as well as doing endless research in the famous Otley museum and at the offices of the Wharfedale Observer. He has also been carrying out a programme of creative writing workshops with an enthusiastic group of local writers.

In May 1995 the composer, Sam Paechter, was appointed to write the music for the play. He has started a series of workshops with schoolchildren in three Otley primary schools which will culminate in a "Sharing Day" at All Saints Junior School at the

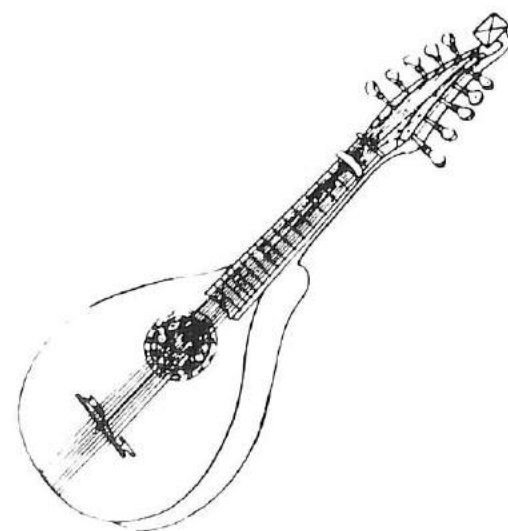
end of the Summer Term. A professional director, Rachel Feldberg, was appointed in May also and, together with a professional designer, their task is to encourage local people to get involved, uncover and increase their skills, share what they know and learn more through workshops and education projects, so that together they can create a unique piece of music and theatre.

During the Autumn of 1995 there will be a workshop programme involving people in music, writing, dance, design, sound and recording, drama and mask making. There will be taster days and a series of sessions as well, so plenty of chances to try out new skills. These will be open to all, but there will also be workshops tailored to the needs of special groups - for example disabled people.

There will be a public reading of the play during the Autumn of 1995 and auditions will take place in December. Rehearsals will take place during January, February, March and early April. Up to 150 people who have never done anything like this before will be involved as performers and musicians in the final production with hundreds working backstage - building the set, designing and making costumes, working on the lighting.

One of the key purposes of the project is to help people identify and develop future initiatives which will feed into local projects and into the town's new Arts Centre, for example, the community choir.

If you would like to help with the Play in any way, please contact Hazel Costello on 01943 464431.



Yorkshire Dales Society Trophy

This year the Secretary's tent at the Annual Muker Show gleamed with a new silver cup. The new Yorkshire Dales Society Trophy was given to the Show Committee for presentation to the winner of the "Best Bale of Hay" competition.

After the Muker Silver Band had led the committee and officials through the village to the showground, judging began in earnest, with great interest in the 10 bales of hay - a much larger entry than usual. This was surprising bearing in mind both the weather and the lateness of the season for hay-making.

Whilst judging is a very skilled process, the main factor is the aroma, so a good nose is vital. The clear winner was seven year old Sam Newborn. His bale was looking somewhat dishevelled after all passing had partaken of the heady aroma of herbs and grasses which distinguished the winning bale. Alas poor Sam was devastated at not being able to receive the trophy due to a high temperature and tonsillitis (not, I hope, hayfever!), so the Chairman paid him a visit on the family smallholding at Satron.

The Yorkshire Dales Society had a stall which had to withstand some rather damp Dales weather, though this didn't deter many locals and visitors alike from coming for a chat and to hear about the Society. We also had plenty of advice!



The day ended with evening sunshine for hymns in front of the Farmers Arms, led by the Silver Band of course, making a perfect end to a traditional Dales show.

All Council members and friends would like to thank local Council member Charles Hepworth for his help, and the Swaledale Open Agricultural and Horticultural Society for putting on such a magnificent show and making us offcumdens so very welcome. Put it in your diary for next year and maybe we can get a picture of young Sam Newborn winning the trophy for a second time! However, there will no doubt be fierce competition again!

Chris Wright

Photos - Top:
Dry-stone walling
at Muker Show.

Right: The Silver
Band at Muker
Show.

*Editor's note:
We hope to have a
picture of young
Sam Newborn
complete with
trophy for the next
issue of the Review.*



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

The summer season is a quiet one with many members away on holiday, but as the autumn approaches the pattern will change.

Upper Wensleydale

Meeting at Aysgarth June 22nd. Topics discussed ranged from quarry working near the top of Scarth Nick, the problem of 4 wheel drive vehicles, motor & mountain bikes operating illegally on moorland tracks and paths to tourism and transport.

Nidderdale

The combined efforts of the Nidderdale Daleswatch Group, CPRE & the open Spaces Society have averted the threat to de-register Dallowgill Moor from the Register of Common Land.

Airedale/Malhamdale

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A CHANGE OF DATE: The meeting is now at 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Skipton on Tuesday November 7th. Convenor is Norma Galvin tel: 015396 25552. Traffic Management in the Yorkshire Dales National Park has pride of place in the Leader and will have a fuller report at a later date. As Co-ordinator of the surveys, I would like to express my admiration for the way members were prepared to put their love of the Dales ahead of personal convenience and all did their allotted tasks with great efficiency and good humour.

Jim Burton (Daleswatch Chairman)

CONGRATULATIONS ...

to Yorkshire Dales National Park Warden Joe Shevelan on his retirement after 29 years service. Joe will be much missed for his warmth and good humour.

Autumn & Winter Events

As the days get a little shorter, and Autumn colours transform the Dales, followed by a more dramatic starker landscape later in the year, enjoy the chance of a short guided walk in the Dales followed by an interesting lecture at a different Dales venue each month. REMEMBER each lecture starts at 2.15pm unless otherwise stated, admission is £1.50 for members and £2.50 for non members. Please check walk times carefully.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th - WALK ROUND DACRE BANKS: Walk Leader Chris Hartley 01943 872511. Packed lunch. Meet at the car park at the Royal Oak at Dacre Banks at 10.30am. (Bus 24 from Harrogate 08.20) for an easy walk of 3-4 miles, ending at 12.00 noon.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th - A YORKSHIRE MIXTURE: J. Beevers will present a slide show at Dacre Banks Village Hall at 2.15pm on a variety of attractive areas in Yorkshire throughout the year, to include Newby Hall, the coast, Harrogate and Wharfedale & Nidderdale. (Bus 24 from Harrogate 13.15).

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4th - WALK IN THE GARGRAVE AREA: Walk Leader Rod Clough 01274 725092. Meet outside Gargrave Village hall at 10.30am for a moderate 4 mile walk to finish at 12.45pm Bring packed lunch. Train to Gargrave 0901 from Leeds - please check new times).

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4th 1995 - THE WORK OF THE CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION & SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT THEY USE by a member of the Clapham Cave Rescue Organisation at Gargrave Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25th 1995 - WALK & VISIT TO THWAITE MILLS, LEEDS. N.B. TAKE YOUR CHOICE -WALK OR VISIT OR DO BOTH! You may wish to join us for the walk first or you may prefer just to visit this interesting mill complex by the River Aire & Calder Canal. Situated on a island, apart from a fascinating tour, the Georgian mill manager's house has also been restored with displays on the the history of the mill.

WALKERS - Please meet outside Leeds City station at 11.00am for an easy 4 mile walk along the towpath to Thwaite Mills, returning after the visit by train from Woodlesford. Please bring packed lunch. OR you may prefer to meet us at Thwaite Mills just for the special guided tour starting 1.00pm

(Meals available at the Punch Clock a few minutes away if desired, but do leave enough time!) Coffee/tea served to all our party after the tour & included in price. Please book in advance by Monday November 6th and send £1.50 per person to the Yorkshire Dales Society Office, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1HD. Cheques should be payable to the Yorkshire Dales Society. An audio/visual presentation can be seen after the tour. Walkers will return along the canal to Woodlesford for about 4.30-5pm.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2nd 1995 - WALK IN THE BOLTON ABBEY AREA: Walk Leader Jim Burton 01943 602918. Meet **10am** at the western side of Bolton Priory for a walk in the vicinity, finishing at 12.30pm. Bring a packed lunch. (For transport to Bolton Abbey catch 0905 train Leeds-Ilkley and ring before 1900 previous day for lift).

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2nd 1995 - YORKSHIRE HUMOUR AND DIALECT by Arnold Kellett, writer and lecturer at Bolton Abbey Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17th - YDS EDEN VALLEY CHRISTMAS WALK using the Settle/Carlisle train. Leader: Colin Speakman 01943 607868. Catch the Special "Santa Special" train at Leeds 0900 or 0940 at Skipton for a 7 mile moderate mile walk around Kirkby Stephen. Return on 17.24 train from Kirkby. Packed lunch - though afternoon seasonal refreshment might be available. Bring torch!

SATURDAY JANUARY 13th 1996 - WALK IN THE STUDLEY ROYAL AREA. Walk Leader Eric Jackson 01943 466314. An easy 4 mile walk starting at Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre at 10.30am. The walk finishes at 12.30pm. Packed lunch or refreshments at Visitor Centre. The walk goes through the Deer park and returns via the Valley of the Seven Bridges. No entrance fees are required. Lifts from Ripon (Bus 36 Leeds Bus Station 0845, Harrogate Station Par. 0930 a.1000). Ring leader as above.

SATURDAY JANUARY 13th - ALICE'S STORY by Mr and Mrs Taylor. The story of Alice Collier, brought up in Ripon Industrial Home for Girls in the early years of the 20th century, showing life at that period at Studley Roger Village Hall at 2.15pm.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Sunday Rail Service on the Settle-Carlisle Line. As an experiment there will be a special Sunday train service on the Settle-Carlisle on the following four Sundays: 26th November, 17th December (YDS walk), 28th January, 25th February. Times will be virtually the same as in summer 1995 - Leeds d. 0900, 1332 and 1732 Carlisle d. 0948, 1348 and 1649 - but please check. The Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line have asked YDS members to make use of these services if at all possible as future winter Sunday services on the line will depend on their success.

The 15th YDS AGM will take place on Saturday May 11th 1996 in Pateley Bridge, allowing members to have a mini-weekend in beautiful Nidderdale with a special 15th Anniversary Dinner in the evening. Further details in the next Review.

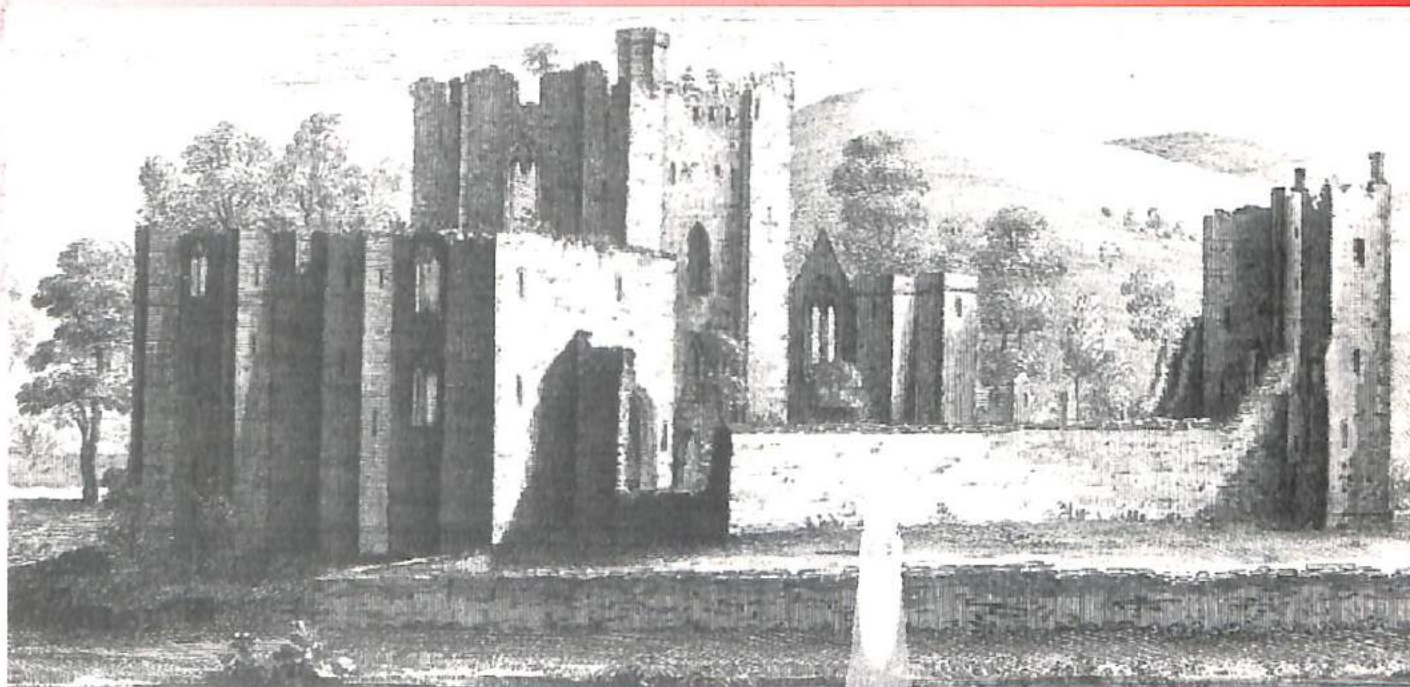
Christmas Offers

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Don't forget, you could give a lot of pleasure to your friends and relatives by giving them a year's subscription to the Yorkshire Dales Society. We will send a very attractive greetings card on your behalf and 5 issues of the magazine so that a package is received in time for Christmas of the current issue etc. and also a full year's membership starting 1st January 1996.

Rates are £8 per single adult, £12 family/couple, £6 single retired/student/unwaged and £9 retired couple. Please make it clear who the recipient of your gift is and also who the sender is. Cheques addressed to the Yorkshire Dales Society should be sent to the Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green Otley, West Yorkshire LS121 1HD.

A beautiful full colour calendar for 1996 of the Settle/Carlisle Railway, both diesel and steam, by photographer Pete Shaw, would make a most attractive present. Cost is £5.99 plus 50p postage. Please send cheque for £6.55 to Pete Shaw Photography, 33 Temple Rhydding Drive, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorks BD17 5PX.



*Front Cover picture: The late William Brown of Spennithorne near Leyburn. He was an expert in the art of Dry Stone Walling and was over 80 years of age and still working when this picture was taken some years ago.
Photo by John Fawcett, Harrogate.*

Back Cover picture: Brougham Castle, Westmorland from the north-west, birthplace of George Clifford, third Earl of Cumberland, from a drawing by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, 1739. (See book review - 'The Privateering Earl' by Richard Spence.) Illustration courtesy of Allan Sutton Publishing Ltd.

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*Any contributions should be sent to the Editors The Yorkshire Dales Society The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley West Yorkshire LS21 1HD.
Telephone/Answerphone 01934 461938.*

The Society is a Registered Charity No. 515384.

*Membership subscription:
Single Adult £8; Family Couple £12;
Single Retired £6; Retired Couple £9;
Student/Unwaged £6.*