

# Yorkshire Dales Review



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YORKSHIRE  
DALES  
SOCIETY

# Yorkshire Dales Review • No. 53 • Winter 1995

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

## WHO SPEAKS FOR THE NATION?

It sounds thoroughly respectable, doesn't it - The Association of Rural Communities. It suggests a worthy body concerned with local shops, schools, hospitals and buses and rural matters generally.

But you'd be quite wrong. Anyone living in the Dales and reading the local press will have read of the series of vitriolic anti-National Park meetings held under the auspices of the ARC. Packed village halls have resulted in demands for fundamental changes to the National Park Authority including "elections for the committee every five years" "protecting the interests of people who live and work in the area" and "consistency of treatment of planning decisions." Development control officers have received especially unpleasant criticism about alleged "poor briefing" of members and there has even been an attempt to pass a vote of no confidence in the National Park.

For the record, the National Park Committee has a two thirds majority of members of County and District Council members who are democratically elected not every five but every four years. Many people would argue that the Park does indeed do a great deal to protect the interest of local residents by preventing many of the appalling proposals by the very people the ARC clearly wishes to represent. Consistency of planning decision depends not on officers (who cannot defend themselves from such ill-informed allegations) but on Members who, like any group of individual human beings, are sometimes inconsistent in their decision making.

Now anti-National Park feeling exists in all National Parks. Planning controls have to be strict, and it's a tough and difficult job to prevent what otherwise be a flood of appalling theme-park style development. Many residents of the National Park don't wish to understand that Town and Country Planning regulations apply equally outside the National Park - in fact no less than 82% of planning applications to the Authority are actually approved, a higher percentage than in some non Park areas. So why this sudden rush of anti-Park feeling, at a very time when the new Environment Act is creating independent National Park Authorities in which local representation, through Parish Councils, is going to be increased?

We have discovered that the ARC isn't unique to the Dales. It originates from Northumberland, where anti-Park feeling has been whipped up not

only by those who feel they have been wronged by the planning system, but by alliances of wealthy landowners who would like to restrict public access to the countryside, and politicians of a libertarian persuasion who see the entire National Park system in the UK as a threat to their aspirations, and who seek to gain influence by shaping local opinion.

We shall be asking our colleagues in other National Park Societies to watch out for the activities of the ARC in their area.

Interestingly enough, when Councillor Robert Heseltine, Chairman of the National Park Committee, himself elected by National Park residents and very much a champion of local interest, applied to join the ARC his membership was turned down, because they apparently didn't want any National Park staff or Members to join. So much for their faith in democracy.

But there is an even more fundamental point. The Yorkshire Dales National Park doesn't exist purely for the pleasure and profit of the 20,000 people fortunate enough to live in superb surroundings, with, for all but a tiny and not to be forgotten minority, higher than average standards of living and an enviable quality of life. The Yorkshire Dales is part of our common heritage, part of our birthright, belonging equally to all the 55 million people of these islands. The National Park Authority, with all its weaknesses and imperfections, is the guardian of this heritage. The overwhelming cost of the National Park is carried by the nation as a whole, the taxpayers, and most people believe that we receive excellent value for money from the National Park Authority who have done an outstanding job over the last 40 years to keep the landscape the way it is today.

No selfish minority, who themselves directly profit from the work of the Authority, should ever be allowed to dictate the agenda. The Yorkshire Dales Society (who excludes no-one from membership) has always supported a strong local voice on the National Park Committee, but equally we believe the national interest, which means the interests both of longer term conservation and of access for appropriate forms of quiet recreation, must be equally strong and effective. It is a question of balance - and one which we hope the Government fully recognises.

Colin Speakman

## Blisters and Bliss on the Dales Way

*John and Pat Burgess, fired with enthusiasm after bearing Colin Speakman's lecture to the YDS on 25 Years of the Dales Way, in January 1995, and actually unable to see the slides due to an overcrowded hall, nevertheless packed a plethora of rainware in their rucksacks a few months later and set off for the great adventure. Memories of unforgettable summer heat, superb scenery, spectacular viaducts, tranquil abbeys and churches, endless refreshing cups of tea and warm friendliness were all essential ingredients.*

We commenced our walk on a scorching morning in late July while people walking their dogs beside the Wharfe, greeted us with "The Dales Way eh!" or "Keep your wits about you! It gets tricky round the Lune. Make sure you're on the right side of the river!"

As we approached Addingham Church, the sun seemed impossibly hot and high. We were very thirsty and Burnsall seemed a long way off. At Bolton Priory we could smell barbecued meat as people relaxed and sustained themselves after their swims in the river, but we were quite glad to leave a rather overcrowded riverside behind us. It was at this stage that the blisters began to manifest themselves. My rucksack felt heavy and I began to see apparitions, perhaps it was the influence of the Augustinian building we had left behind us. The visions were not mystical, however, they were more of this world. The thought of a cool pint of beer in Burnsall began to sustain me and counter the effect of the now burning blisters. Oranges were a temporary boost to flagging morale - but they were also rather warm!

As Burnsall approached, we began to walk faster, like French Legionnaires after a route march through the Sahara. We arrived at our B & B and were offered welcoming tea and biscuits - utter bliss! After a bath and a change of clothing, we retired to the nearby hotel for a meal and discussed the day's walk and the next stretch of the Way.

The following day still a scorching 85°F, the walk led along the Wharfe to Buckden where we saw a heron and quantities of wild flowers. At Buckden I limped into our chosen accommodation and was informed somewhat crisply over breakfast by a fellow guest, a doctor from Leeds, that the extra

heat, the rucksack not to mention the walking meant that my blisters were a form of protest. "I'm afraid you'll just have to grin and bear it," was her final prognosis.

Hubberholme, Yockenthwaite and Langstrothdale - all names that betrayed their ancient Nordic origins, and as we approached Cam Houses, Ingleborough appeared with its renowned profile. Our next stop was now visible, its roof shimmering in the heat and apparently seductively near.

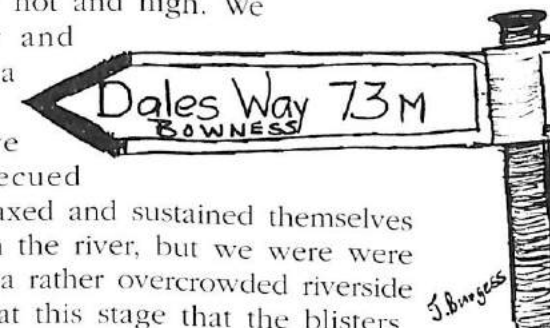
We were greeted in a friendly manner, "I saw you coming, would you like a cup of tea and a piece of cake?" Perhaps it was the welcome we received, but now my blisters seemed less intrusive. Over a shared a chicken supper and a bottle of wine with the farmer and his wife, he explained what life was like for a Dales farmer on one of the highest working farms in England. "So different in the winter," he said with typical Dales understatement. I went outside to have a last look at Ingleborough (what a place for the Brigantes to have a fort) before it melted into the dusk. Next stop Cumbria and Dent bitter!

A substantial breakfast saw us on our way. Above the farm and across the Roman Road (between Ribchester and Bainbridge), built by Julius Agricola and also part of the Pennine Way, we admired this relic of the former Roman Empire and also nearby a great Victorian feat of civil engineering built centuries later, the tremendous span of Ribbleshead Viaduct as it came into view. Both road and viaduct a tribute to Roman and Victorian enterprise.

Pressing on, we now approached Dent Viaduct, catching a glimpse of Wharfedale, with Dent township in the distance, and at Lea Yeat we struck up a conversation with two Dutch cyclists who were very surprised at the high temperatures. Finally into Dent, skirting the River Dee, we met up with two friends from Leeds who knew our route and did a short section of the Way with us.

Changes in the landscape could be observed when we reached the Dent Fault. The Carboniferous limestone and sandstone was now giving way to the Silurian slate and the long rump of Wharfedale became transformed into the rounded slopes of the Howgills, and beyond them the Lake District.

After following the Lune, we spent a peaceful night



at a renovated stationmaster's cottage at Beckfoot beside the now defunct Ingleton Tebay Railway and in the shadow of another splendid Victorian structure, Lowgill Viaduct. This area is also famous for its Quaker connections especially Fox's Pulpit where George Fox preached to a congregation of over a thousand people on 13th June 1652. This meeting eventually led to the establishment of a Quaker Meeting House at Brigflatts. It seemed to us that the Dales Way seemed to be resonant with the spiritual aspirations of many people - the monks of Bolton Priory, numerous Methodist Chapels, an Anglican Retreat at Scargill House and now the Quakers.

But tranquillity suffered a rude shock for a time when we had to negotiate the busy M6 as we headed for Burneside and its paper mill.

As we later passed through Bowston, a chap painting his door saw us consulting our OS maps and called to us, obviously trying to help. It was still unbelievably hot. "Come into the garden and have a cool drink" he invited. Without any hesitation, we accepted his offer with gratitude and spent some time chatting pleasantly.

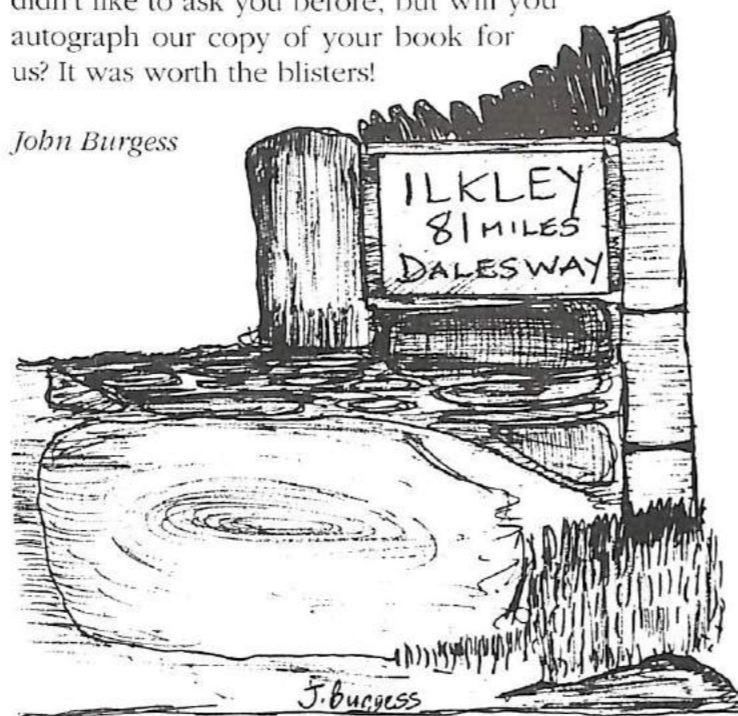
At long last we were now nearing our goal and could almost smell the Lakes. As we approached the top of the hill near the road into Bowness, we decided to consume the last of our liquid and just then were offered a lift for the last two miles into

Bowness by a chap with a twinkle in his eye. We laughed heartily and declined.

Finally as we crossed a field into Bowness and saw a plaque "Ilkley 81 miles Dalesway", we remembered the earlier sign as we began our walk in Ilkley, "Dalesway 73 miles". We shook with amusement at the discrepancy, even my blisters were laughing.

81 or 73 miles, Colin we had a great time! We didn't like to ask you before, but will you autograph our copy of your book for us? It was worth the blisters!

*John Burgess*



## Take your Partners

Partnership is in the "in" word these days, in many organisations and the Upper Wensleydale area is no exception.

The Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership has grown in a somewhat adhoc way out of meetings over the last year of representatives from parish councils in the old Aysgarth Rural District Council area from Carperby and Walden up to the wilds of Lunds and Widdale. Its purpose and activities have come into focus after much hard work by its executive committee.

Not only is it a partnership between parish councils but also between them, the District Council, the County Council, the National Park and the Upper Wensleydale Business Association, and its aim is to seek the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of the area and at a practical level (spurred on by Middleham's example), to attract European 5b funding and other grants. Funding has already been attracted to employ the services of Geoff Broom Associates to

help present a case. It seems that often organisations give up in their grant-seeking efforts when they see the complexity of the presentation needed for the application.

Geoff Broom Associates have done much work in areas like ours and have already consulted with interest groups, school and community groups and businesses. A questionnaire has gone to every household together with a newsletter - with two more initially planned. All this should enable the partnership to present a comprehensive case, despite the strains and stresses and very many differing ideas that come out of an area well blessed with locals and incomers with strong, bright, good but sometimes varied views! Partnership is hard work! But in the end it should secure the balanced future we need from the mutual interdependence of hill-farming and landscape, tourism, local amenities and diverse business and employment.

*A. S. Watkinson*

## A Good Runner – Embsay Steam Railway

A small group of members stood at the end of a dusty yard looking at a very rusty tank-like structure. Our boiler suited young guide was explaining that this heap of apparent scrap was the partly restored boiler of one of the prize engines. This had been running up and down the restored



two and a half miles of the Yorkshire Dales Railway at Embsay till the previous summer. "The inside is costing us £12000," he continued. We all shared a sense of gloom about the financial consequences of trying to run a steam railway as we shuffled into the old LMS shed. "Outside all rotten," our friend said unnecessarily. Inside all seemed cheerful with a volunteer tackling singlehanded the repainting of a

coach which seemed enormous from the railside. Back out in the sunshine we were introduced to John (who announced "I'm your TTC,") apparently expecting us to be familiar with a piece of railway language for a ticket collector.

John escorted us to the carriage where we were met with the aroma of fresh coffee as we took our seats next to the buffet. The little diesel (steam trains on Sundays) gently burred along the track. "A Drewry off the Wisbach and Upwell Tramway," said one of our more knowledgeable members. We ambled on to the exquisite Holywell Halt with its picnic tables and nature trails featuring little stone animals so children were not to be disappointed if the real ones were feeling shy. John explained all about the importance of BA. Not an international airline, but connecting a railway line to Bolton Abbey station which had been reconstructed by McAlpines as part of a Yorkshire Television programme. It seems a shame the deal didn't include any rails although volunteers have got most of the trackbed ready.

All was a most enjoyable afternoon. Please don't hesitate to find time to visit the little line which is known as "Yorkshire's Friendly Railway" - with good reason.

*Chris Wright*

*Above: Some of the volunteers whose enthusiasm keeps the railway running.*

*Right: The platform at Embsay station.*



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## *We are the Trustees!*

Nearly 70 delegates attended the recent National Park Societies Conference at Losehill Hall in the Peak National Park, hosted by Friends of the Peak District (Sheffield and South Yorkshire CPRE), over the weekend of the 10-12th November in elegant and spacious surroundings, all eager to discuss the concept of Sustainable Tourism. Somewhat ironically only 4 of those delegates (3 out of them YDS), decided to use public transport to the conference though Hope railway station proved to be conveniently near at hand; and much discussion time was later expended on those tourists (over 90%) who visit the Peak Park by car.

The theme of the evils of congestion and pollution especially from motorised traffic and in particular the avalanche of tourists pouring into National Parks with its detrimental effects -visual, environmental and health-wise, was forcefully made by Martin Doughty, Chairman of the Peak Park Planning Board who pointed out that in a number of schools, up to a third of the children in some classes were using inhalers; a staggering rise in recent years of respiratory diseases was linked particularly to the increasing level of emissions from motorised vehicles as much recent research has indicated. Christopher Harrison, National Park Officer for the Peak District National Park, emphasised that the inevitable close link between the Peak Park and the tourism industry should be seen as a challenge, the Park acting as a focal point in a network of large and medium-sized conurbations. In spite of or rather because of such factors, it gave tourism in national parks a chance to act as models of good practice. The Peak Tourism Partnership in particular was looking at a number of initiatives throughout the area including those areas on the periphery of the Park, and the promotion of the Hope Valley line was just one example of good practice, encouraging visitors to take to the train instead of their car and with a variety of guided walks available at various stations.

Later the discussion groups were much exercised in trying to decide what exactly was the relationship of the National Park Societies to the tourism industry, how to define environmental capacity and how it related to the leisure industry, and finally how indeed the various National Park Societies saw their role. The general consensus seemed to be that regional recreational strategies, park and ride, and greater use of country parks could all help to

"spread the tread" while there was much to be said for actively making towns and cities more attractive and thus again helping to deflect a greater tourist influx into the parks. The National Park Societies were seen to have a vital role as an independent, critical body who could also have close links with the local community such as the Daleswatch groups in the Yorkshire Dales. In addition National Park Societies were seen as informing and influencing good practice as regards sustainable tourism, supporting traffic and transport initiatives, lobbying to change the car culture and also making strenuous efforts to see that local distinctiveness was recognised as regards particular areas.

Delegates were very interested in the presentation by Peter M. Moore, Managing Director of Center Parcs Ltd and indeed a major sponsor of the conference. Center Parcs' avowed aim is to build up a country club atmosphere in a forest setting of 400 acres with plenty of indoor and outdoor facilities and to have minimal impact on the environment. The organisation obviously takes great trouble not to environmentally damage sensitive areas and even claims to enhance what is often a degraded landscape by their forest management. Their use of waterways in their building construction seemed a particularly interesting idea. Nevertheless though undoubtedly attractive to many, the "villas" and tropical pool are obviously identical whatever the country or area they are sited in, and the style of architecture does not particularly blend sympathetically with the forest setting, even though much is made of the fact that it is virtually invisible within the setting and indeed also from outside. It is interesting to speculate whether this sanitised and rather expensive ghetto really does fulfil sustainable criteria.

Mike Wild, lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, pointed out that there is increasingly a danger that as the urban landscape is "greened" and the countryside increasingly urbanised with small cottage industries for example, that the town and country almost begin to merge and blur. There was also a grave danger that the goals of equity or social justice, caring for the environment and promoting the economy which could with care be balanced sustainably, might increasingly be in conflict with such negative factors as pollution, poverty and prejudice, and become increasingly eroded.

Further group discussion highlighted as some of the problems facing national parks: inappropriate development whether of housing, hotels or commercial units, traffic congestion once again, and above all the need for local members on National Park Committees to have wider perspectives, and in particular the need for both the Park and the National Park Societies to act as effective watchdogs in advance of the coming changes with new government legislation for national parks. Most of the delegates believed that there could be environmental friendly tourism as long as it was small scale, in balance with its surroundings and took account of the local people and took care to promote activities which promoted the special qualities of that area.

A further key role for National Park Societies is that they can challenge local structure plans and help to educate the general public, influence the media, local MPs and a number of key organisations. Together they can form a powerful lobby and above all act as a liaison promoting key ideas from the parks to the grassroots.

A keynote speech from Neil Sinden, the CPRE Assistant Secretary Planning & Heritage from CPRE National Office, gave a very detailed report of the various conflicts that increased leisure brought to the countryside such as holiday villages, the golf course boom, the growing interest in outdoor

sports and large scale theme parks. Access, the right to roam and notions of heritage all acted as further pressure on the countryside. Planners now needed to take far more account of demand management and had to cater for both direct and indirect impact on the environment. The White Paper on Rural England recently published by the Department of the Environment also made many of the key points that had been made at the conference.

In conclusion, the ten strong YDS team all felt that there had been a number of stimulating ideas with a high level of concern and commitment from delegates. There was perhaps a slight disappointment that the knowledge gained from the field visits to Bakewell, Ladybower Reservoir, Lyme Park and Edale could not be more widely shared.

The Conference certainly reinforced the view that sustainable tourism in our national parks is the only way to husband that very precious resource, the environment and cultural heritage, and in this way we are indeed looking beyond the needs of the present generation and short-term solutions to developments which will profoundly affect future generations.

*Fleur Speakman*

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## *Clockmaking*

*- an interesting footnote to Jerry Pearlman's article on Clockmaker's in the Autumn issue (no 52) of the YDS Review are the following comments by YDS member John Hebden of Galphay.*

As a follow-on to Jerry Pearlman's article, it might be worth mentioning that the Pratts were not the last clockmakers in Wensleydale. Jeffrey Hebden, cousin to my great grandfather, was described as an agricultural labourer in 1851 and a clockmaker in 1857 on the certificates of his two marriages. Both the ladies were Dinsdales from different families; in 1947 Dalesman published a book on Yorkshire clockmakers by the Rev. Dinsdale, probably a relative in which he says that the Hebden's (for Jeffrey had been joined by his son, also Jeffrey) took a fortnight to make a clock cutting all the wheels themselves, though they bought in the clockface and the case. They would sell the clock for £5. The Rev. Dinsdale said he had some of their tools including an eye glass and that their wheelcutter was in the museum of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries. By the time I was researching, the museum had changed its function

and the wheelcutter had probably gone to the Beamish Museum who tell me that the one in their possession dates from the eighteenth century. As the Pratts ceased business in the 1850s, I suggest that Jeffrey's wheelcutter came from the Pratts.

Jeffrey Senior died in 1912 aged 89. Jeffrey junior and his sister Mary Plews Hebden then moved to Sedbusk. Jeffrey then in his fifties is reported to have moved the furniture which included a piano, on a handcart. The road from Hawes is steep enough, but then would have been untarred. Neither married and both died in the 1930s.

I have yet to see one of their clocks in its proper case.

*John Hebden*

# Swaledale Jottings

*Some early popular Guide Book Descriptions of Swaledale.*

Modern guidebooks extol the virtues of Swaledale. In consequence, the dale is hugely popular with tourists. It may surprise some of today's visitors to learn that earlier guidebooks were more critical of the dale's attractions.

The expansion of industry in 19th century England produced massive townscapes creating unhealthy, urban lifestyles. In compensation increasing social awareness provided rising wages and paid, annual holidays. The need for periodic escape to the sea or countryside for the sake of health, coupled with the ability to afford such breaks, brought home tourism within the reach of the masses. The seasonal movement of vast numbers of people from the towns to the seaside and less popularly the countryside led to the demand for affordable guidebooks. Low priced, popular guides were the obvious result.

Today's tourist "honey pots" in Swaledale were not necessarily recognised as such by the authors of those earlier guides. Have tastes changed or has the dale itself changed? Some descriptions of aspects of Swaledale culled from early guides (such as Murray's Handbook for Yorkshire and Boddeley's Thorough Guide Series, amongst others) are quite revealing.

The scenic and walking attractions of the Swaledale area were not universally praised:

"... there is above Richmond a lack of that cheerfulness which one associates with the two other dales we have mentioned (Wensleydale and Wharfedale)."

"Reeth ... a large village, once of some consideration as a mining centre, but now presenting a rather forlorn and decayed appearance."

"Swaledale is easily reached either from Askrigg or Hawes; but it must be visited in fine weather, as its best points can only be seen by walking."

"While the walk (Reeth to Barras Station) is invigorating, the scenery is a little monotonous..."

"The dale (Arkengarthdale) is picturesque, but is

hardly worth exploration for the sake of its scenery only."

"Muker ... is a romantically placed but miserable-looking village with a church to match."

"This (Muker) old stone-built country town possesses neither regularity of construction nor architectural beauty."

"Keld is an old fashioned country village with nothing of interest in it beyond, perhaps, the Chapel."

"Then (Keld to Kirkby Stephen), as far as the watershed at Hollow Mill Cross (1,698 feet), the road is very dreary."

"... or they (tourists) may proceed from Keld to Kirkby Stephen - a dreary walk ..."

"All these (the upper part of the dale above Keld) are cragless, treeless, undulated sweeps, with little to attract botanists or geologists."

"From Keld ... there is absolutely nothing of interest beyond the wild mountains."

"The inn accommodation of Swaledale higher up than Richmond is limited."

"... to explore the higher and wilder part of the dale, he (the tourist) should arrange to sleep at least one night at Reeth, where there is a tolerable inn (the Buck). Swaledale is wild and picturesque, but certainly less so than Wensleydale or Teesdale. Its lead mines are of great importance, and those who care for mining operations will find them worth a visit. Only a pedestrian, however, who is not too particular as to accommodation, will explore satisfactorily the head of the dale."

"A little more enterprise in the catering department might prove beneficial."

"Muker (Inn, the White Hart, very poor and rough) is without interest in itself; but the Old Gang lead-mines, perhaps the most ancient in the district, lie nearly opposite, North. (There is a poor but very clean public-house which the pedestrian might find useful, at Thwaite, 1 1/2 miles beyond Muker)."

Road access was considered poor:

"Unfortunately at present it (the main road to Reeth) is in very bad repair, the surface being much broken. The former (the old hill road through Marske), which is seldom used except for cattle driving, often loses sight of the valley altogether, and ... is mostly of a moorland character."

"At this point (Reeth) the good road ceases. The scenery becomes much wilder and sterner and the tourist must be content with rough tracks, and (if he sleeps at Muker or at Thwaite) very homely accommodation."

In comparison, modern guidebooks appear less

judgmental. They seldom mention current problems including decaying drystone walls, and "laithes"; the erection of multi-bay barns that dominate their surroundings; footpath erosion; increasing litter or over-crowded roads.

What will the guidebooks of the future have to say? Will their comments reflect the achievement of a viable balance between change, in terms of farming, tourist and light industrial development; degrees of which are essential for prosperity in a working countryside, and protection of the area's special environmental qualities?

*Charles Hepworth*



Crackpot Hall, near Keld, Swaledale. Photograph by John Potter, L.R.P.S.

# Mid-Wharfedale Visitor Management Scheme Research Programme 1995

Jonathan Smith, Visitor Management Officer of the YDNP summarises progress so far.

Members of the YDS will recall that a working party comprising the Society, the Chatsworth estate, the National Park and County Highways met to set up a study of car-parking, and visitor attitudes and behaviour in the Bolton Abbey area. This joint venture followed from the report produced by Colin Speakman and Dr Jim Burton which had identified the problems of inconsiderate and intrusive parking in the area.

At the working party meeting at the Estate Office on 3rd February 1995, the main areas of information required were identified:-

1. The number of cars parked in the estate's carparks on a daily basis through the season
2. A sample number of cars parked at informal parking places in the study area
3. A sample of the duration of stay of parked cars at both types of parking facility
4. Traffic flows on a daily basis at key locations in the study area
5. Accident levels for the roads in the study area
6. Attitudes of visitors to traffic and parking issues
7. Activities undertaken by visitors parked at different locations
8. The demands and attitudes of the local community in relation to traffic and parking issues

The estate recorded the numbers of tickets sold at its car parks. Two surveyors recruited from the National Park's full-time staff and students made a morning and afternoon circuit of other car parking places in the study area, recording the number of cars parked at each, on one weekday and one weekend day per month during the season studied. Traffic counters and pneumatic tube sensors were installed in four locations so as to keep a count of flows in and out of the area through the season. County Highway's records of road traffic accidents in the study area were extracted. Interview surveys/self-completion questionnaires were undertaken at each of the estate's four car parks and at three sample informal parking locations on selected days by a team of volunteers from the Society. This intensive part of the study produced a total of 941 self completion questionnaires and 151 interviews. In addition a self-completion questionnaire was sent to each household in the study area explaining the study and asking for their views on traffic and parking in the locality.

The completed forms were sent for data processing

in early November and analysis is to be complete in mid-December (unfortunately not in time for the YDS Review copy date). It is expected that the follow-up meeting will determine a course of action to try to minimise the negative impacts of traffic and parking in the Bolton Abbey area.

Suggested schemes have included the closure of informal roadside parking areas, the provision of a frequent, circular bus service linking formal carparks, places of interest and the start of popular walking routes, selective road closures, increased car park capacity and bus links with Ilkley station and the Embsay Steam Railway. Issues that will need to be addressed carefully include: car park charging, car park capacity - meeting or managing demand, frequency and fares on any bus service, which informal parking areas should be closed, traffic regulation orders - yellow lines or area-wide bans and the appearance of physical works to verges and parking areas.

Although there is felt to be some urgency about getting a scheme off the ground, it is also seen as important that good baseline information is available so that effort is not wasted in providing for demands or solving problems that do not exist. Furthermore monitoring of the success of any initiative that arises will depend on comparison with the "before" situation. Most importantly any scheme that is devised must have the understanding and sympathy of the majority of local people and visitors for it to work; there may be a need for a hearts and minds campaign to precede any legal or physical management measures.

The views, attitudes and opinions of local residents have been sought by letter and self-completion questionnaire and of businesses by letter, questionnaire and a public meeting at Storiths at which Colin Speakman from the Yorkshire Dales Society and Jonathan Smith from the Park gave a short introduction to the subject and took questions from the floor. The views of members of the Society would also be appreciated. If you would like to contribute to the debate, please summarise your thoughts in a short letter to Jonathan Smith, Visitor Management Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, Skipton, BD23 5LB.

# Book Reviews

**OTLEY & DISTRICT** by Paul Wood, published by Alan Sutton Publishing at £7.99, available at Otley Museum, in the Civic Centre, Otley and local bookshops.

This book of historic photos is in three sections which deals not only with the town of Otley itself, but also with Wharfedale and the Washburn Valley, its earliest photos ranging from the late Victorian period and its most recent apart from one or two exceptions to World War II. Fascinating as it is to note the changes in Otley's streets with a lone cyclist virtually the only figure on Kirkgate, and to observe the old style shop window displays with their serried ranks of goods, and various historic buildings some long since gone or whose use has changed, the processions and other special events; yet some of the most interesting photographs deal with particular personalities such as Neddy Emmott an inhabitant of the Workhouse for 40 years who allowed his photo to be used for charitable purposes, toys for workhouse children and whose gaze in his battered cap still conveys so much over the intervening years, while the gamekeeper of Weston Hall, Joseph England and his wife Mary

Joseph England, gamekeeper at Weston Hall, and his wife Mary, 1908.



seem to suggest a couple with a wealth of perhaps fraught personal history. There are also splendid photographic records of various trades and industries, the Home Guard in martial formation, women war workers in their uniform overalls and even two sets of vintage fire fighting equipment.

Another evocative shot, this time of the old ropeworks in Bondgate in 1936 festooned with ropes, halters and nets for the farming community contrasts with Otley en fete, the 1905 Whit Monday Nonconformist Sing-in in the Market Place with its great mass of wide-brimmed ladies' hats like a field of exotic blooms. As always, the captions are exemplary and full of useful and interesting information.

The famous Bramhope Tunnel Memorial used as a frontispiece and to be seen in Otley churchyard is a poignant reminder of hazards faced by railway construction workers in the 1840s. Other photos of Otley's railway are also in a different way a sad reminder of what a useful public service we so unfortunately have lost and what might have been.

The book is an excellent social record of not only the town of Otley and its inhabitants, but also of its nearby hinterland. The original photos are part of a superb collection housed in the Otley museum.

F.S.

**KITH & KIN: NIDDERDALE FAMILIES 1500-1750** by Summerbridge Tutorial Group, edited by Dr Maurice Turner and published by the Summerbridge Tutorial Group. The book is distributed by Ripon Historical Society to whom cheques should be made payable. Please send £7.50 + 85p postage, or overseas surface postage add £1.10, or air Europe add £1.40, America £2.80, Australasia £3.25 to Ripon Historical Society, Aldergarth, Galphay, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 3NJ.

Is your surname Bayne, Horner, Hardcastle, Hardisty, Holmes or Gill? If so you may have had a connection with the Nidderdale area, perhaps some time ago.

Have you ever wondered exactly how surnames became widespread and what the reasons for this may have been? For several years members of the WEA under Dr Maurice Turner and as part of a Leeds University extra-mural class, decided to occupy themselves with such questions for the

Nidderdale area. The book though carefully researched is not intended for the more specialised academic market, but written to be of more general interest.

Apart from aristocratic circles, after the Norman Conquest, it was mainly the upper strata of society and their concern for primogeniture and also sometimes the tenants of the manorial lords who were persuaded by their masters, that surnames would facilitate the passing on of estates and property who decided that a surname would be useful. Although this varied from region to region, from the end of the fourteenth century, surnames became increasingly common. Many of course arose from an occupation or were simply the father's first name with "son" added as in Richardson, though the word "daughter" proved too cumbersome as an affix and was soon dropped, others arose from nicknames and many others of course from place names.

Historic events such as the Black Death, the Dissolution of the Monasteries and early industrialisation, the growth of roads and communications all helped to shape the pattern of settlement and to account for some of surnames in a particular area which with the help of parish registers, make a surprisingly almost complete record of the older families, their pattern of kinship and birth and marriage rates.

Kith & Kin should prove rewarding for anyone with an interest in the Nidderdale area, and proves that excellent work and serious study can produce a highly readable and valuable record of aspects of the lives of some of our forbears.

F.S.

**FIFTY YEARS IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES** by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby, published by Smith Settle, Otley, priced at £11.95 (paperback) and at £15.95 (hardback), and available in local bookshops.

A valediction and an inspiration! This latest fruit from the writing partnership of Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby celebrates their close on fifty years of collaboration, nineteen books later, and generously illustrated with many colour photos, their latest publication conveys the unique flavour of this indomitable duo whose infinite capacity for taking pains and tremendous gift for making friends, makes us follow their path to success and honours with eager curiosity and breathless interest. Unsurprisingly such established northern writers as J.B. Priestley and Phyllis Bentley became firm and trusted friends, the latter particularly close.

But it is in the the depiction of bygone life and traditions with such classics as "The Old Hand Knitters of the Dales" in 1951, "The Yorkshire Village" and their volume entitled "Yorkshire Dales," written in the mid 1950s that assured the reputation of Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby. In addition to their joint work, there are charming volumes of Marie Hartley's wood engravings and paintings, and Joan Ingilby's delightful poems. The present Upper Dales Folk Museum at Hawes was also inspired by their vision and forethought, as was the Askrigg Art Club which thrived for about twenty years.

Incredibly although Marie celebrated her ninetieth birthday recently, (Joan is only a few years younger), they are still writing about their beloved Yorkshire Dales.

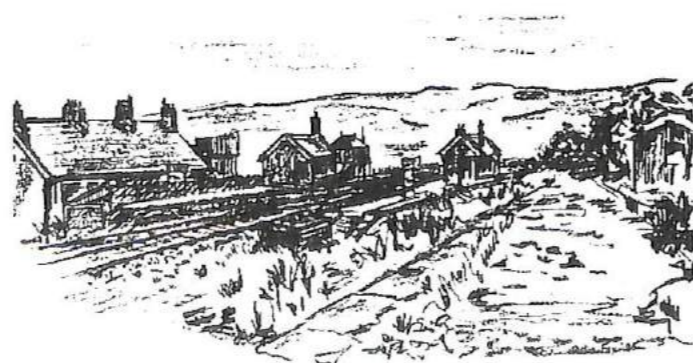
F.S.

**DENT - THE HIGHEST MAINLINE STATION IN ENGLAND** by W.R. Mitchell, (Castleberg £5.99) Available from local bookshops or by post from Castlebergh Publications, 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9AA.

It seems impossible to imagine a book about a railway station, but then Dent isn't any old railway station, but as most Yorkshire Dales Society members will be aware, the most romantic alighting point on England's most romantic railway, the Settle-Carlisle. Bill Mitchell weaves together a series of delightful anecdotes in his portrait which is as much of the people who worked at and occasionally visited this wild and desolate spot as about the place itself, filling out the sometimes heroic struggle between man and nature with telling details of humour, usually from the mouths of the people who were there.

Compulsive reading for all Settle-Carlisle addicts and anyone with an interest in the recent social history of the Dales. Some evocative drawings by Jenny Holmes - who lives in the stationmaster's house, Richard Bancroft and Peter Fox.

C.S.



Garsdale: drawing by Peter Fox

# Daleswatch Report

## LOCAL DALESWATCH GROUP NEWS

A pleasing feature of the past few weeks has been an expansion in the coverage of the Daleswatch network. It should be remembered that, although much of our interest lies within the area of the National Park, our activities range over a significantly wider area, encompassing the whole of the rural Dales and including adjacent small towns such as Skipton, Pateley Bridge, Settle and Ilkley.

New or revived Groups have recently been formed in the Dentdale and Airedale/Malham areas and our coverage is now reasonably comprehensive, the major gaps lying in the vital areas of Swaledale and Lower Wensleydale. It is an object of Daleswatch that Society members should have an opportunity to express their concerns through a medium that is stronger than that of individuals operating on their own; complementary is the chance it gives to meet others with similar interests and concerns, and to discuss issues in a friendly and informal setting. Should you wish to take part in these activities, then do please give your convenor a ring to find out what is happening. And do please come to the next meeting.

## RECENT NEWS OF DALESWATCH GROUPS:

### Dentdale

A successful meeting was held on Thursday November 16th under the guidance of new convenor Judith Newsham, aided by Pat Harding and Council member Alan Watkinson. Planning and other local issues generated a lively debate, and it is hoped that this will be the precursor for the revival of an active Group in this unique Dale.

### Upper Wensleydale

Convenor Alan Watkinson called a meeting at Aysgarth on Monday 6th November. Nine members attended and a wide range of topics was discussed, including : BOATs and Four Wheel Drive vehicles; quarrying (both "remains" of the old at Redmire, and fears of the new around Preston-under-Scar); the Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership (is it too Hawes-biased?); the Association of Rural Communities (which came in for criticism); and illegal tipping at Sedbusk.

### Airedale and Malhamdale

Revival of this important Group under new convenor Norma Galvin has been very welcome. A pleasant and well attended meeting was held at the refurbished Friends Meeting House in Skipton on

Tuesday 7th November. Discussion covered many aspects. The problem of BOATs and four wheel drives was prominent, and this subject appears to be at the front of many people's concerns throughout the Dales. Other matters included roads and traffic; Swinden Quarry (when will the worst mess be hidden?); concerns over wildlife; and a plaque of Civil War origins that may have gone missing at Park Hill. A meeting has been arranged for the same venue on Wednesday 20th March 1996 at 1930 hours.

### Nidderdale

No meetings have been held, but great concern has been expressed regarding the potential number of visitors to a new museum and visitor centre proposed by the Dales Top Trust for Scar House Reservoir. Figures have been quoted that would seem to indicate an extremely serious threat to the tranquillity of this remote and beautiful area. The Yorkshire Dales Society is watching the situation carefully.

### Swaledale

Excellent work by convenor Charles Hepworth could soon lead to positive moves to bring a much needed Group into existence in this farthest north of the major Yorkshire Dales.

No recent meetings have been held by the Upper Wharfedale and Lower Wharfedale Groups. Ribblesdale Group will now meet on Wednesday March 27th at 19.30 hours; ring Hilary Baker (01729 840609) for details.

Further information about all the Groups can be obtained from the individual convenors as listed below:

## LIST OF DALESWATCH LOCAL CONVENORS

Dentdale	Judith Newsham (015396 25486)
Nidderdale	Jean Johnson (01943 880234)
Ribblesdale	Hilary Baker (01729 840609)
Airedale/Malhamdale	Norma Galvin (01535 655169)
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. Planning applications in the National Park

The way planning applications are dealt with by the Park Authority is often a bone of contention amongst local residents, with the Authority seen as being far too demanding and far too ready to say "no". But the reality is very different from the perception. The latest three monthly analysis showed that 82% of applications were approved by the Authority; that 60% were dealt with in 8 weeks or less; and that a full analysis of all the applications that took longer than 13 weeks to determine showed many delays related to lack of despatch by the applicant rather than the Authority. It should also be remembered that proposed developments outside the National Park have to go through the same process as those within, a factor that is overlooked (or not even known) by many people.

### 2. Woodland Grant Scheme at Grimwith

Nature conservation and landscape issues are in conflict over a scheme to create a mixed woodland at Blea Gill, adjacent to Grimwith Reservoir. The proposal is for a mixture of broadleaves and conifers across some 34 hectares of the Gill, whilst also leaving areas unplanted for nature conservation and archaeological reasons. The scheme has been sensitively designed and is supported by English Nature. But the magnificent sweep of wild moorland that is seen from the opposite side of Grimwith will become punctuated by a plantation that may not sit so sweetly in the location as the designers anticipate. The issue is a finely balanced one. Approval has been given and the consequence will become clear over the succeeding years.

### 3. The right to roam

The call for a right to roam is once again resounding across the countryside. The cry is evocative, and there is a good case to be made for an Englishman's right to walk upon England. But there is also concern that such a right might be open to abuse. And the recent case at Barden Fell where, under the terms of the existing open access agreement, the YDNP were faced with a large bill for repairs to footpaths across the area, does call into question just how many people want the right anyway. It is an issue about which depth tends to surpass breadth of feeling. National discussion between the interested parties should be capable of producing a sensible solution before the whole

thing degenerates into a party political football. The main fear is that rationality will not be allowed to surface.

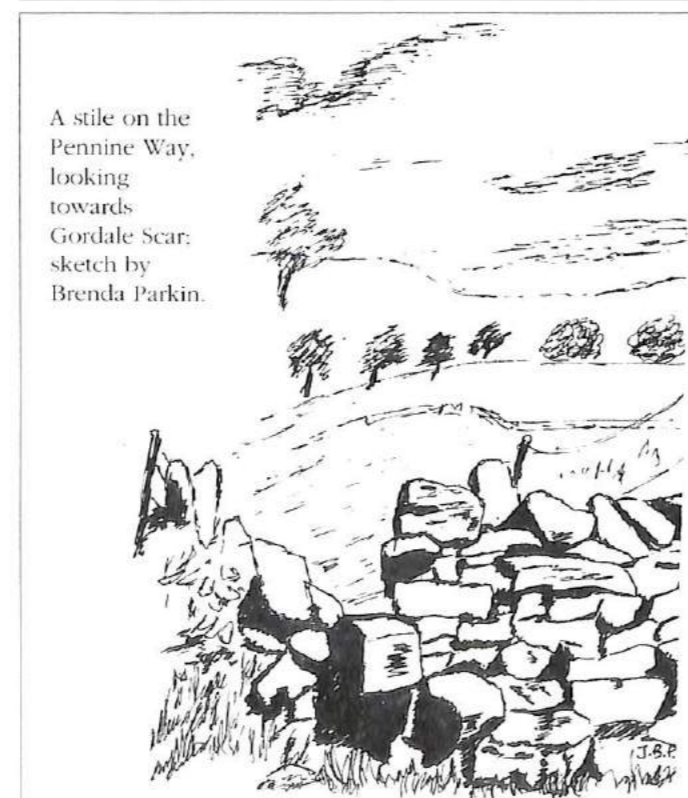
### 4. Late News

It was reported recently in the press that Minorco, based in South Africa, has purchased BTR's Tilcon Holdings aggregates ( owners of Swinden Quarry) for £330 millions. Alan Jackson, BTR's chief executive, said the deal would allow BTR to concentrate on industrial manufacturing. The deal is subject only to European Commission clearance.

The A65 Manor Park Bends improvement scheme and plans for an Ilkley bypass have been scrapped, news which has delighted campaigners who fought a campaign against schemes which they believe would ruin the Wharfe Valley. Instead the Highways Agency will consider smaller scale improvements (as suggested by the YDS) "to address the accident problem". Long term campaigners against the schemes have always considered that behind the original proposals was a planned trans-Pennine highway to ease pressure on the M62.

Jim Burton (Daleswatch Chairman)

The editors thank the many readers who wrote or phoned to confirm that the mystery photo in the last edition of the Review was indeed Sedbergh



A stile on the Pennine Way, looking towards Gordale Scar; sketch by Brenda Parkin.

## Winter Events

*An enjoyable series of walks, lectures and visits for the coming season.*

**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 Bus Station 0930 a.1000). Please plan ahead and ring the Walk Leader if you need a lift.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH - ALICE'S STORY** by Mr and Mrs M.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 (Limited car parking, use Visitor Centre carpark, allow half an hour).

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH - WALK IN PATELEY BRIDGE AREA.** Walk Leader John Hone 01423 711471. This is a moderate 4 mile walk. Meet at the bottom of the High Street, near the carpark in Pateley Bridge at 10.30am. Bus 24 from Harrogate Bus Station d. 0900. The walk finishes by 12.30pm. Packed lunch or pubs and cafes available.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH - ANCIENT WOODLANDS OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES** by G. Garrett, a slide lecture at Bishopdale and Beverley Memorial Hall, Pateley Bridge at 2.15pm.

**SATURDAY MARCH 2ND - WALK TO HARDRAW AND SIMONSTONE.** Walk Leader Chris Wright 01937 573427. An easy walk of 4-5 miles, meet at the Hawes TIC in station Yard at 10.30am. The walk finishes by 12.30 m. Packed lunch or pubs or cafes in Hawes. For bus link from Garsdale Station (a.1017) ring Ray Harrington 01969 650682.

**SATURDAY MARCH 2ND - FOUNTAINS ABBEY- THE RICHEST CISTERCIAN HOUSE.** Some thoughts on its success by Nan Purvis. An interesting insight into the gifts given to the medieval foundation and the use made of them, at the Market Hall, Hawes at 2.15pm.



**SATURDAY MARCH 30TH - WALK IN THE SALTAIRE AREA.** Leader Rod Clough 01724 752092. Park at Hirstwood car park by the canal at Clarence Road/ Hirst Lane off Saltaire roundabout at 10.45. Or take train to Saltaire station (Bradford FS d.1001, Leeds d. 1004) and walk along the canal towpath to Hirstwood for a moderate walk of 10 miles, finishing at 4.30pm. Take packed lunch.

**SATURDAY APRIL 27TH - A VISIT TO THORPE PERROW ARBORETUM** These are beautiful wooded grounds. Thorpe Perrow is on the Wells-Ripon road, south of Bedale, 4 miles from Leeming Bar on the A1. Please arrive in time for the conducted tour at 2pm, admission £2.75, senior citizens £1.50. If numbers are sufficient at full rate of £2.75, there may be a discount. Ample car parking is available. Tea rooms.

**SATURDAY MAY 11TH-12TH - MINI WEEKEND IN PATELEY BRIDGE, NIDDERDALE AT THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

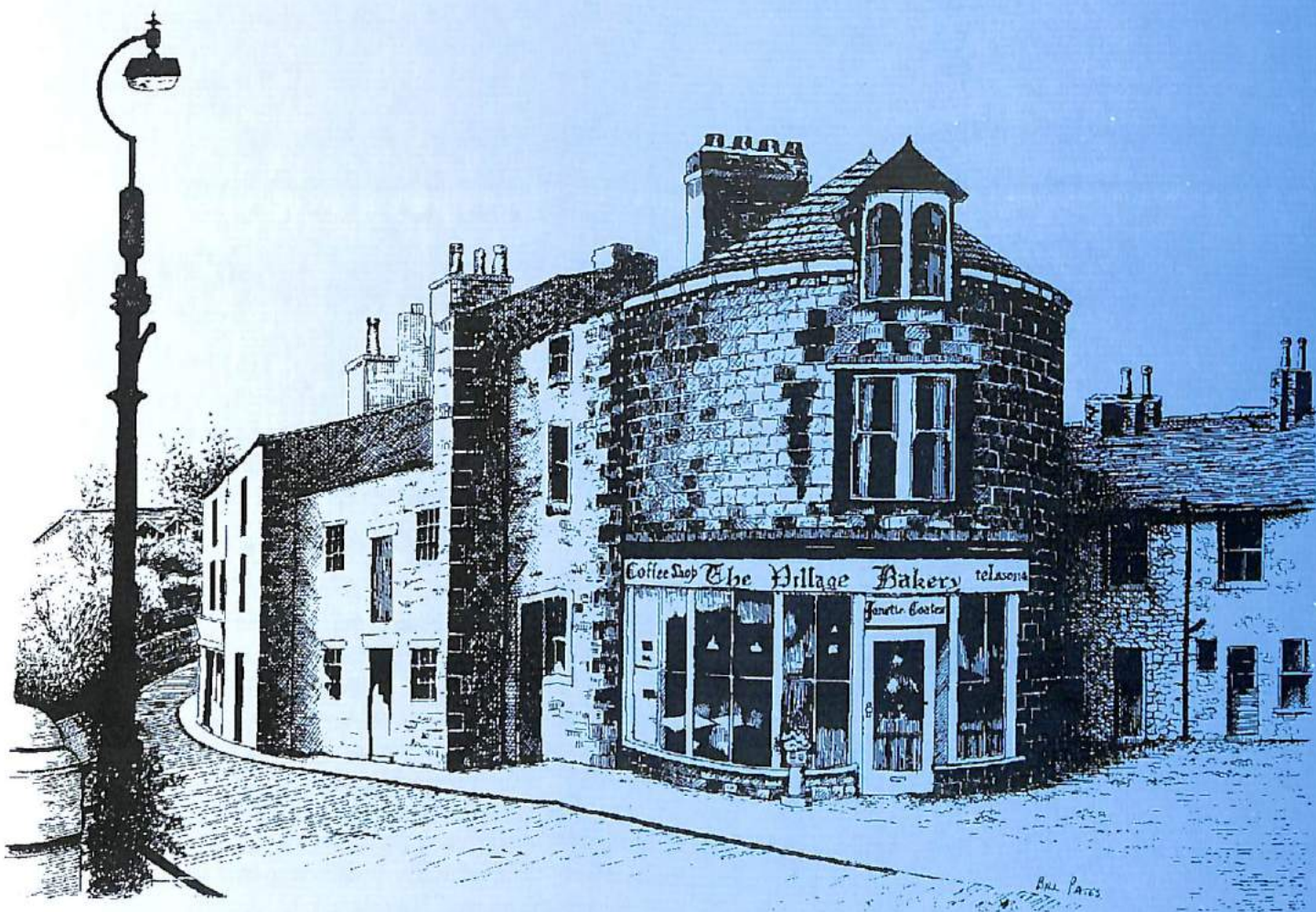
A guided Town Trail will be available on Saturday morning of May 11th, followed by the AGM in the afternoon. The speaker will be Bill Mitchell, writer, journalist and raconteur. In the evening there will be a 15th Anniversary Dinner at Carter's Knox Manor see full details on booking form and there will be a guided walk in the Pateley Bridge area on Sunday morning. Book early for the Dinner to avoid disappointment.

### CHARIVARI

Charivari, the Ilkley based travelling theatre group, are to be congratulated on commissioning a highly exciting play from Maureen Lawrence (who has also had other productions at the West Yorkshire Playhouse) entitled "The Lie of the Land" which deals with some of the stresses and strains of modern subsistence farming. In a tense evening with some very stylish acting from the four strong team, there is a tremendous sense of immediacy in taking the play into many farming communities in the Dales and the North York Moors. It is hoped that "Lie of the Land" which has had excellent reviews, will return to the area next year. Do go and see it if you can!

F.S.





*Front Cover picture: Shaft of Sunlight, Penhill in the Yorkshire Dales by the late Geoffrey Wright, photographer, writer and founder member of the YDS.*

*Back Cover picture: Addingham Village Bakery and Coffee Shop, drawing by Bill Pates.*

*Any contributions should be sent to the Editors The Yorkshire Dales Society The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley West Yorkshire LS21 1HD. Telephone/Answerphone 01943 461938.*

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