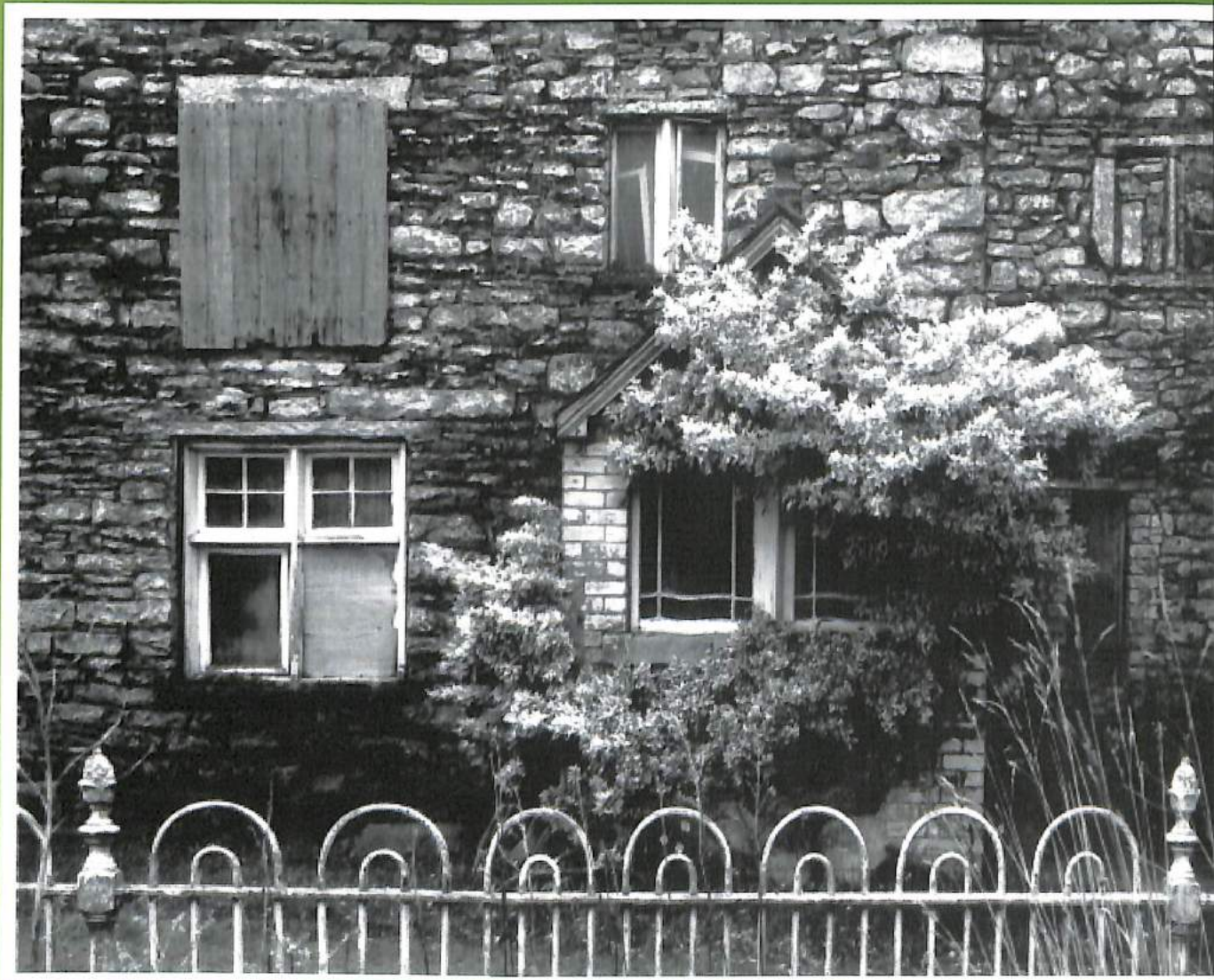


No.54 Spring 1996

# Yorkshire Dales Review



- *The Money Go Round*
- *Focus - a new YDNP Authority*
- *Wharton Bibles and their connection with Swaledale*
- *YDS Photography Competition*



£1

# Yorkshire Dales Review · No. 54 · Spring 1996

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

## THE MONEY GO ROUND

Once again, Britain's National Parks, including our own Yorkshire Dales, face a cash crisis. After several years of modest, but welcome, increase in budgets, 1996/7 will see a harsh cutback - probably around 6% in cash terms, nearer 10% in real terms.

That doesn't seem a lot, but given the National Park Authority's fixed costs, including buildings, salaries, heating, light, stationery, travel, and the fact that a great deal of the Park's work, including Development Control, is a statutory requirement which has to go on, this means that many of the most worthwhile activities, things which make the National Park special, including conservation work, visitor management, interpretation and education suffer out of all proportion.

A startling example is support for public transport, including a number of innovative minibus and park and ride schemes developed over the last few years and which are increasingly central to the Park's overall traffic and visitor management strategy. As Alan Sutcliffe reports on page 7, instead of the proposed steady increase of provision in line with widely-supported Sustainability objectives, support has been ruthlessly slashed. If you want to go to Swaledale this summer, forget the Settle-Carlisle bus link, you'll have to drive there, and that's a bit more congestion in Thwaite or nitrogen oxide to find its way onto the fells as acid rain.

Yet soon we'll have the smiling faces of politicians on television telling us (as it is almost election year) that Britain's economy has never been in better shape, that inflation is down, that good times are here again. Is it too cynical to suggest that this year's expenditure cuts are next year's tax cuts?

Tight financial control isn't a bad thing. After all, the Park now raises much more of its own money through its own retailing (though local shopkeepers in the Dales may have their own views about that). And there are endless ways in which extra money can be found, providing of course that matching funding can be made available from some source or other - Lottery Heritage Fund, Millennium Fund,

Objective 5b. On Page 10 Richard Witt outlines the Millennium Partnership proposals for the Dales which the Yorkshire Dales Society fully supports - and which look very promising. But should the Park have to join the queue of bidders to fight for funds to do some of the very things that National Parks were set up to do?

Every National Park now needs a fund raising officer as skilled as Richard in filling in forms, inspiring colleagues and writing glowing proposals to persuade the unelected quangos that control these pots of gold that wonderful things will only happen if his schemes are selected.

A lot of this money comes out of our taxes anyhow. And the weekly flutter on the Lottery is a rather clever way of collecting more taxes, making the tax collecting company and a very few people very rich in the process.

But is it a sensible use of dedicated professional staff trained in conservation, planning or visitor management to turn them into form fillers? How can the National Park Officer plan ahead or choose priorities for action when whatever major project gets funding may have to depend on another form of lottery, the whims of a new bureaucracy who may have little or no understanding of what priorities should be in a National Park? How much scarce officer time is currently being wasted by preparing abortive bids?

In exactly a year's time, the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority comes into being. Perhaps the time has come to ask a few searching questions about how we fund the conservation and protection of our most precious areas of countryside. The funding of charitable causes from scratch-cards is fair enough, but true sustainability requires long term planning and commitment that goes well beyond the uncertainties and get-rich-quick trivialisation resulting from our depressing national obsession.

Colin Speakman

## Focus – Coming Soon - A New Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Colin Speakman reflects on the impact of the 1995 Environment Act on the Yorkshire Dales National Park

On April 1st 1997 - almost exactly a year's time - the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, established as a result of the Environment Act 1995, will take over from the present Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee.

After over 40 years of prevarication and compromise, we'll have a National Park body close to what Parliament intended with the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

Why did this long delay occur? As always it is down to politics, the kind of shady double dealing which allowed an escape clause in the Act to permit, in exceptional circumstances, the setting up of local authority controlled Committees instead of independent National Park Boards.

By the time the Macmillan Government was setting up the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 1954, the two major local authorities, North Riding and West Riding County Councils were bitterly opposed to any interloping body on their territory, and though the Government kept to its promises, it was a weak compromise of not one but two separate Committees to look after the new National Park (whose boundaries, conveniently, took up exactly the same acreage of North and West Riding) with an occasional Joint Committee to offer a pretence of co-ordination.

It didn't work, and the divided National Park functioned as part of the two County Planning Officers' fiefdoms, with the employment of a warden in each half, which, over the next 20 years increased to just three in the south and two in the north, plus an Information Officer. If the West Riding did a reasonable job in the south in terms of development control and negotiating the Barden Moor and Fell Access Area at Bolton Abbey (a major achievement), the North Riding, one of the meanest authorities in Britain, spent as little money as it possibly could and many people would argue that in the Northern Dales the Park existed in name only.

Thanks to intensive campaigning by conservationists, the 1972 Local Government Act which set up the present County Council structure, (soon to be changed), whilst it still didn't do anything about the status of National Parks, at least ensured that adequate resources were available, and their own departments and Chief Officers. Over 87% of the funding was now coming from central Government, and as the Park was also the local Planning Authority for the area, it could be proved that the ratepayers of North Yorkshire were receiving extra cash for work which would have to be done even if the Park didn't exist. The Yorkshire Dales National Park, despite being partly in the County of Cumbria, became, in 1974, a Committee of North Yorkshire County Council. Whilst there was a dramatic improvement in terms of what the National Park was now able to do in terms of conservation work, visitor management and interpretation, it soon became obvious that the politicians of Scarborough, York and Harrogate who held the reins of power, resented the upstart in the West. Things came to a head in 1977 over the appointment of a Footpath Officer and purchase of a Caving Centre in Cumbria, when the powerful Policy and Resources Committee of the County Council vetoed the decision of the Park Committee.

The crisis led to a delegation to London of both appointed and elected members, led by the then Chairman, Grassington dentist Keith Lockyer (later to be founder-Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society), to see the Secretary of State.

The political fall-out and battles continued for some years afterwards - one indirect consequence was the establishment of the Yorkshire Dales Society - but over the years the relationship between the County Council and its semi-autonomous Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee has improved enormously, with North Yorkshire Councillors often being among the most aware of their Committee's national as well as local responsibilities.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, the campaign for independent National Park Authorities has been spearheaded by the Council

for National Parks leading, in 1991, to the seminal Edwards Report, and three years later, to Lord Norrie's Bill that almost reached the statute book before being blocked by a handful of backwoods MPs. But important promises were secured and finally the new Environment Act is now on the statute book.

What difference will the new Act bring to the Yorkshire Dales?

First and foremost, the National Park Committee will become the National Park Authority, "a body corporate" - that is with a separate independent, legal existence of its own.

Secondly there are new, expanded National Parks purposes (section 61):

"i] to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and

ii] to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks by the public.

and an important new duty (section 62): "to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities".

These are important developments. The new stress on the cultural heritage and concern for local economic well-being within the National Park are issues long supported and championed by the Yorkshire Dales Society, and it is heartening to see these concerns finally reaching the statute book. Sadly, our concern, with most other bodies, that the word "quiet" should precede the word "enjoyment" was defeated despite support in the Lords, by the same Cumbrian MP who led the opposition to the Norrie Bill, a protagonist for exactly the kind of noisy motorised sports which most people living in as well as visiting Parks feel are wholly inappropriate to National Parks. But we shall remain vigilant on their behalf.

Nevertheless the Act is an important step forward, and the new Authority will have very considerable powers to get on with the many challenges and opportunities facing the National Park in the new century, and to manage its own affairs without having to always plead permission from a County Council.

The Authority's membership will follow a similar pattern to the old Committee with a balance between elected (County and District) Members and those nominated by the Secretary of State, which will include, for the first time, Parish Councillors who will be selected from a list drawn

up by parishes within the Dales. The exact structure is still being discussed as we go to press, but it looks as if there could be 26 members of the new Committee, with 7 members appointed by the Secretary of State to reflect the wider conservation, recreation and agricultural interest, 5 Parish Councillors, 7 County Councillors (6 from North Yorkshire and 1 from Cumbria) and 7 District Councillors (3 Craven, 3 Richmondshire, 1 South Lakeland).

From the Yorkshire Dales Society's perspective, as strongly as we support democratically accountable local members, it is also just as vital that there is a balance between local and national interests, to reflect the concerns and needs of the many millions of visitors who, rightly, also regard the landscape and natural beauty of the Yorkshire Dales as their own birthright. Whether you were born or live on the right side of the Park boundary matters less than an understanding and respect for its special qualities and for the ways of life of people who live and work there. It is therefore vitally important that the Secretary of State appoints men and women of vision to the Authority, not just those pursuing sectional interests or their own political agendas, who will help steer the National Park through what will be perhaps the most critical period of its 43 years existence.



Descent to Kettlewell from Park Rash. Photo by Ivan R. Heath

## Wharton Bibles and their connection with Swaledale

*To this day Wharton Bibles and Psalters are distributed widely to children attending churches and Sunday schools throughout England. Those who receive the gifts may not connect them in any way with Swaledale. Yet Philip, the fourth Lord Wharton, who died on 4th February 1696, aged 83, by his will left to his Trustees 463 acres of his land from his estate of Healaugh in Swaledale, the proceeds of which have been devoted each year to the distribution of Bibles and other books to deserving children. YDS Council member Charles Hepworth describes the history behind this.*

The Wharton family came originally of yeoman farmer stock from Westmorland. The family achieved wealth and nobility through political and military service to the Wardens of the Border Marches who were appointed by the Crown. The awards received for such service were used to buy up vast estates.

The Whartons first came to Swaledale in 1544 with the purchase of the Manor of Muker. The purchase of the Manor of Aske followed in 1610. Eventually the family removed itself from Wharton Hall, near Kirkby Stephen, Westmorland and took up residence at Aske Hall outside Richmond. Around this time the family also became Protestant.

Philip, the fourth Lord Wharton, inherited the title in 1625 at the age of twelve following the death of his grandfather, also Philip, the third lord. His father, Thomas, died in 1622 and never acceded to the title. Philip, the fourth Wharton, was godson and ward of King Philip of Spain. Despite his godparentage, his upbringing was as a zealous Protestant and Puritan.

In 1635 Philip purchased the manor of Healaugh from a number of families who held various interests. The manorial income was derived from coal, lead and farming.

In the Civil War he fought as a colonel on the Parliamentary side, but was granted amnesty at the Restoration of the throne in 1660.

In his will Philip left 463 acres of land from his Healaugh estate, in Swaledale, to provide for the annual distribution of Bibles to children throughout

his various estates in Cumberland, Buckinghamshire, Yorkshire and Westmorland. Additional conditions governing the distribution, were proof of poverty and recitation by memory of the Catechism and seven specified psalms. Today the territorial and poverty requirements are no longer a consideration.

The conditions contained within the front of an 1839 Wharton Bible read as follows:

*"Lord Wharton having directed that the Name and Age of the Children to whom the bibles are given, shall be wrote in the Book. The Trustees require it to be so done; and the child, before it shall receive, or be entitled to receive, the Book, shall be taught to read and be able to say by Heart the Catechism, and some of the Prayers herewith sent, according to the Establish-ment of the Church of England, as well as the 1st, 15th, 25th, 37th, 101st, 113th and 145th Psalms."*

The above contrasts with rather diluted conditions found inside a later 1909 Bible and companion Psalter:

"The memory of the just is blessed." Prov. x. 7.

PHILIP, LORD WHARTON Died February 4, 1696, aged 83, and by his will left to his Trustees certain estates in Yorkshire, the proceeds of which are to be devoted each year to the distribution of Bibles and other books.

By the terms of the will the 1st, 15th, 25th, 37th, 101st, 113th and 145th Psalms should be learnt, if possible, by the recipient.

The book is given by direction of present Trustees to

.....  
 at the parish of .....  
 .....

1909"

*continued over*

After Philip's death the family fortunes waxed and finally waned. His son Thomas, 1648 to 1715, became the first Earl of Wharton, and subsequently in 1715 the Marquess of Wharton. His son, another Philip, 1699 to 1731, succeeded him as Marquess in 1715 and was immediately elevated to the Duke of Wharton. He was a Jacobite sympathiser and in the same year (1715) tried to persuade his Swaledale tenants to accept the Old Pretender as James III of England and the VIII of Scotland. Few took his lead, but some of the Scotch pines in the dale reputedly were planted during the "15" and the "45" to commemorate the Jacobite cause. For his

Jacobite activities the Duke was accused of treason and fled to Spain. In 1721 he sold his estates, including the Swaledale manors of Muker and Healaugh, to pay his debts. A Thomas Smith purchased both manors for £10,500. The mining rights of Healaugh remained with the Duke's heirs and trustees, and continued to fund the distribution of Bibles and psalters. In Spain Philip converted to Catholicism, took part in a Spanish attack on Gibraltar and finally died in a monastery at Tarragon on 31st May 1731. He left no issue.

*Charles Hepworth*

## Poem- The Advance of Spring in Yorkshire

April frittering its strength  
Forcing the ground to reassemble  
In intermittent sun, incubating plans  
Before the flaying claws of winter,  
Hanging on to fractured inches  
In the gardens, failing in the Dales  
Except to marshal grasses  
On the southern slopes.

The elemental battle is engaged.  
Again the temperatures rise  
But marginally, are dragged down,  
Lost in icy bogs and streams,

Snow invades again but then  
Retreats along the tracks and ditch  
To higher ground, painting only  
Pennine tops and crevasses, too weak  
To drift, too light to lie,  
Surrendering to even spurious  
Sun whose strength is spent,  
Whose blazoned glare is gone  
Before the turn of noon,  
Before the galloping clouds that ride  
Haphazardly without formation  
Against weakly coated blueness.

Gusting winds have more success  
Maintaining every day their  
Screaming threats and war cries,  
Howling with a wandering vigour  
Like a mind that cannot rest  
When some event of power and force  
Has left it disarrayed and aimless,  
Aberrating in its functions,  
A blind and purposeless barbarian  
Dashing fragile forsythia  
Like yellow substitutes for sleet,  
Burning resilient daffodils  
To send early brown dispatches  
Of casualties fallen at the front,  
Disfigured in the waste of war,  
Bent and broken where they stand,  
Where they fall, where they lie,  
Where their uniforms are strained.

Slowly the forays turn the turbulence  
And second line defences hold  
The harmony and harlequinade  
Of colour: early cherries come  
Pale into the conflict,  
Replace the failing retinues  
Of wallflowers, dying round  
The green arena of the combat.  
Plums, apples and courageous pears  
Advance towards a pink-tipped victory  
Saluting tulip reinforcements  
Creeping down the borders  
With a stern resolve of green  
And promise of a brighter thing:  
A multitude of pastel colour  
Assuring the advance of spring.



Wensleydale - Janet Rawlins

*A.K. Whitehead.*

## The Curate's Egg - Dales Transport in 1996

Having enjoyed several positive developments in 1995, we have a curate's egg situation this year.

First the bad news. Despite repeated promises in the last few years of improved funding, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, largely as a result of budget cuts imposed by Central Government, are unable to support any recreational bus services this year. After all the Society's efforts to seek improvement on what little has been achieved to date, abandonment of facilities which cost about 0.5% of the Park's total budget, will send the wrong message to visitors to the Dales, and our views have been made known to the Authority.

We could now be faced with the loss of the Grassington - Buckden Park and Ride service, no buses to Malham on Sundays (but see the penultimate paragraph), despite the Park's recognition of traffic problems in the Dale at summer weekends, and loss of the 807 linking Ribbleshead Station with Hawes and Swaledale, which will have serious repercussions on the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line Guided walks programme.

Now for the good news. The experimental once per month winter Sunday rail service between Leeds, Settle and Carlisle has proved a success with train loadings far exceeding expectations, which will hopefully lead to full Sunday operations next winter. For the summer, the early morning trains in each direction between Leeds and Carlisle which were cutback to Carlisle-Kirkby Stephen and Ribbleshead-Leeds in 1994, will again run to and from Leeds and Carlisle on Saturdays. Introduction of electric trains between Leeds and Skipton has provided an opportunity to improve the Leeds - Lancaster - Morecambe service affording better access to the western Dales and the Lake District, particularly on Sundays, when the summer service is to be increased to four trains each way, commencing at Easter rather than late May as in previous years.

On the buses the long established 800, 803 and 809 Dalesbus services will be in business again, along

with the X97 in its fourth season. This year the X97 is altered to run from Wetherby via Leeds and direct to Harrogate and beyond, affording improved journey times for the majority of passengers, whilst on Fridays in the summer school holidays, it is to be extended from Lightwater Valley to Richmond as on Sundays. Operation of a Leeds - Hawes - Ingleton journey on Sundays in October proved a success and will be repeated this year without the support of the National Park.

Introduction of Harrogate & District's X50 York - Harrogate - Ilkley - Skipton last year also proved a success, leading to continued operation on weekdays throughout the winter. When the Sunday service is re-introduced for the summer, certain journeys will be diverted to serve Bolton Bridge to give improved access to Bolton Abbey. Harrogate & District are to be congratulated on doing something I have been pressing on the National Park for three years. It is hoped that the "Fountains Flyer" and the "Nidderdale Rambler" to Upper Nidderdale will run again this year, but details have not been finalised at time of writing.

Finally, some excellent news from Keighley & District who are introducing a new Dalesbus service, on Sundays from 26th May to 29th September, from Leeds to Malham, Settle, Hawes and Sedbergh, leaving Leeds at 0955, Malham arrive 1145, Hawes arrive at 1305, depart 1340, Sedbergh arrive 1405, returning at 1550, Hawes at 1615, Malham 1735. Congratulations to Keighley & District for stepping in and retrieving the unacceptable situation of Malham having no buses on summer Sundays.

Once again details of all bus and train services in the Dales are included in the free "Dales Connections" which will be available at National Park offices in and around the Dales, or in the case of difficulty, by post from Elmtree Press and Distribution, The Elms, Exelby, Bedale, DL8 2HD, enclosing 50p for postage and packing.

*Alan J. Sutcliffe*



This project is an imaginative plan to convert the Beamsley Methodist Church premises, which are located in a commanding position on the north side of the A59 Skipton- Harrogate road just east of Beamsley village, into a short-stay residential/activity centre for individual handicapped visitors and their carers or family units, in addition to retaining a facility for regular worship.

The complex of Methodist Church premises at Beamsley has been in use since 1876 on a freehold site given by the 9th Duke of Devonshire. It was designed to serve an extensive farming community in the Beamsley/Bolton Abbey area of Wharfedale, and all the buildings remained in use until the end of 1985, when increasing maintenance costs coupled with declining membership led to the regular use of only part of the property, refurbished as a small chapel. A feasibility study was then undertaken to ascertain the best socially desirable alternative use to which the buildings could be put and this uncovered the need for a residential base in the area which could be used by disabled visitors of all ages and with different abilities and backgrounds. Easy access was essential both from the large conurbations nearby and to the Dales and surrounding region for the enjoyment, by the visitors, of the outdoor opportunities available.

The Beamsley site was considered ideally suited to these conditions and the architectural proposals for the site retain the traditional character of the original buildings and make specific provision for the disabled visitor, with particular emphasis on independence training. The complex will be available for use by all without discrimination as to type of disability, sex, age, race, colour or creed. It is envisaged that the centre will be open throughout the year, and a resident Director/Warden will be appointed to administer

the project, provide information, advice and guidance to groups and individuals, and make available as required, the facilities based at the centre. Accommodation will be available initially for 18 visitors, and ultimately 25 visitors and their carers will be housed. Whilst the initial catchment area will be inevitably from Yorkshire, it is our



intention to make the centre available nationally and possibly throughout the European Union.

The estimated cost of the whole project is approximately £800,000 and the building work will be carried out in two stages. The first stage, to provide residential accommodation, kitchen, dining and recreation rooms for 18 people, is now complete and has cost approximately £530,000. The donors for this sum have included local groups, charitable trusts and foundations, churches and schools, commercial and industrial organisations and, of course, many individuals to all of whom we are very grateful. However, we still need to provide specialised furniture and furnishings for the bedrooms and dining room before we can accept our first visitors, hopefully in 1996. Stage 2 of the building work will include the refurbishment and extension of the former caretaker's house, the provision of a vestry and front entrance, additional accommodation for 6 people and a covered approach for vehicles to the rear entrance. This will proceed as soon as funds are available.

Our logo is, we hope, very distinctive and indicates a bird taking flight and finding new freedom, as we trust future visitors to Beamsley will do through the challenge and adventure we shall be providing.

The Beamsley project is an ecumenical effort, by volunteers, and we would very much welcome help, of whatever kind, by able-bodied and handicapped individuals, both now and when the centre is open.

How about joining us? Contact The Beamsley Project, Beamsley, Nr. Bolton Abbey, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 6JA. Tel: 01756 710255. (Charity No 701574).

*Dr Wesley-Hydes (Chairman of Trustees).*

## Book Review

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONS OF INGLEBOROUGH - Thomas Dixon.**  
(Mewith £3.75) Post free from Mewith Publications, Slaidburn Road, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DL.

First published by the author, Low Bentham poet Thomas Dixon in 1761, this poem in heroic couplets describes a May-day ascent of Ingleborough:

*"From trackless wilds emerged, my wandering eyes,  
Viewed the flat top, approaching to the skies,  
Immense the prospect, keen the nipping air,  
The sun clear shining and the weather fair..."*

- hardly great poetry, but a fascinating contemporary description of not only Ingleborough

itself but the attractions in what Dixon describes as the Vale of Wenning, including the caves, rivers and villages.

This new edition of the now rare manuscript gives a facsimile edition of the poem plus a modern typeset version for ease of reading, useful notes about places mentioned in the text, including three suggested "Dixon Walks" as well as some informative literary biographical notes about Dixon, and an extract of Thomas Jeffrey's 1775 map showing the summit of what was then believed to be England's highest mountain. Three colour photographs remind readers of what Ingleborough and the Wenning still look like; there's also a print of Turner's famous painting of Hornby Castle.

C.S.



# Millennium Partnership for the Dales

May 1995 saw the appointment of Richard Witts as the Development Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Since then he has been involved in attempting to establish a fundraising strategy for the Park and in identifying the types of external funding that can be obtained with comparatively little effort and minimum expenditure. Top of the list for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Development Unit so far is the Lottery.

Whether it is Sports, Millennium or Heritage, there are an amazing number of projects which can fit into one or more of these categories, and it's a matter of preparing to compromise on a few principles (easier for a fundraiser than an ecologist perhaps!) and to be a creative thinker.

After the failure of the initial overall National Park bid to the Millennium Commission, we have resubmitted a bid from the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This bid has successfully completed the first phase and the more detailed application had to be complete by February 12th of this year.

The concept now is for an "umbrella bid" from a consortium of organisations and statutory bodies plus the "partners" of over a hundred local parish groups, schools, charities, societies and private companies - The Millennium Partnership for the Dales.

The intention is to try and obtain up to £5 million of lottery money in order to carry out environmental improvements in the Dales. But the difficulty is not so much in getting this money, but in proving that we can raise the other £5 million. This is less alarming than it sounds as volunteers giving their time is just as valuable as cash and we are also hoping to persuade a number of companies to support the bid both financially and through seconding their staff. We already have had a favourable response from many of the utilities and we are hoping to get them working together in the Dales to look for example at such positive initiatives as the "undergrounding" of as many overhead lines as possible.

Another major part of the bid is to create a vast database of information on all aspects of the Park's landscapes and communities. This information will be put onto various mapping and other programmes in conjunction with Manchester Metropolitan University and Teeside University. Linked to the internet and Teeside Virtual Reality Centre, it means you'll be able to take a walk through the Dales without leaving your keyboard. Perhaps the ultimate in sustainable tourism!

The Park are optimistic, but not unrealistic in their expectations of a successful bid, and by the end of April or beginning of May, we should have a good idea of the likelihood of getting some of our funding.

Apart from the Lottery, much time has been spent on trying to sort out the vagaries of the EU 5b Northern Uplands Programme. Despite success in getting projects approved, it hasn't been so easy to get the money from Brussels to London, up the M1 to Leeds and finally into the coffers of the Park. Nevertheless, we are at last seeing some of the "Euros" benefiting the people and places they were meant for.

With a background in charity fundraising, I have also been looking at whether traditional fundraising methods could be adapted to assist the Park in achieving some of its objectives.

The emotional appeal of the Park is much greater than I realised, particularly from people who live outside, but near it. Visitors have been very generous in supporting our "Plant a Tree" campaign and we hope to develop this more in the future.

Private companies have also been very enthusiastic and we have been able to encourage them not only to put money into Park projects, but also to encourage employees to assist in some of the necessary conservation work.

The last main area we are currently exploring is the setting up of an independent charity to raise funds to carry out environmental improvements in the Park. The success of our public consultation over suitable projects for the Millennium has highlighted the vast amount of work to be done. Whatever your views about it, the Lottery might just provide the opportunity to actually achieve this.

Richard Witt

# Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands within the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Although small in scale, our largely ash-based ancient woodlands in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, are a very precious asset, explains Trees and Woodland Officer, Geoff Garrett.

Ancient semi-natural woodlands are one of the many jewels in the National Park's conservation crown and have often evolved over thousands of years. However woodland within the Yorkshire Dales is scarce.

Whilst many of the dales give the impression of being wooded, this is often due to the number of field boundary trees and small plantations. In fact only 3.5% of the Park is covered with woodland, a total of about 6000 hectares. This figure is extremely deceiving because it contains approximately 4000 hectares of conifer plantation.

Narrowing this figure further by taking out scrub, mixed and plantation woodlands, only about 1400 hectares of semi-natural woodland is found within the Park, less than 1% of the land area. Ancient semi-natural woodlands account for just over half of the semi-natural woodland, only about 800 hectares or 0.5% of the land area.

What is an ancient semi-natural woodland?

Ancient semi-natural woodlands have had a long time to acquire species and form specific stable communities and their soil has not been disturbed for a minimum of several centuries. The best ancient semi-natural woodlands have been continuous since the Ice Age.

The identification of ancient semi-natural woodlands is made considerably easier by checking the ground flora within the wood and specifically looking for indicator plant species. There are approximately 34 of these indicators which include, in the Dales area, herb paris, bluebells, lily-of-the-valley, wood anemone, and early purple orchid; species of plants that can only be found in a stable woodland environment.

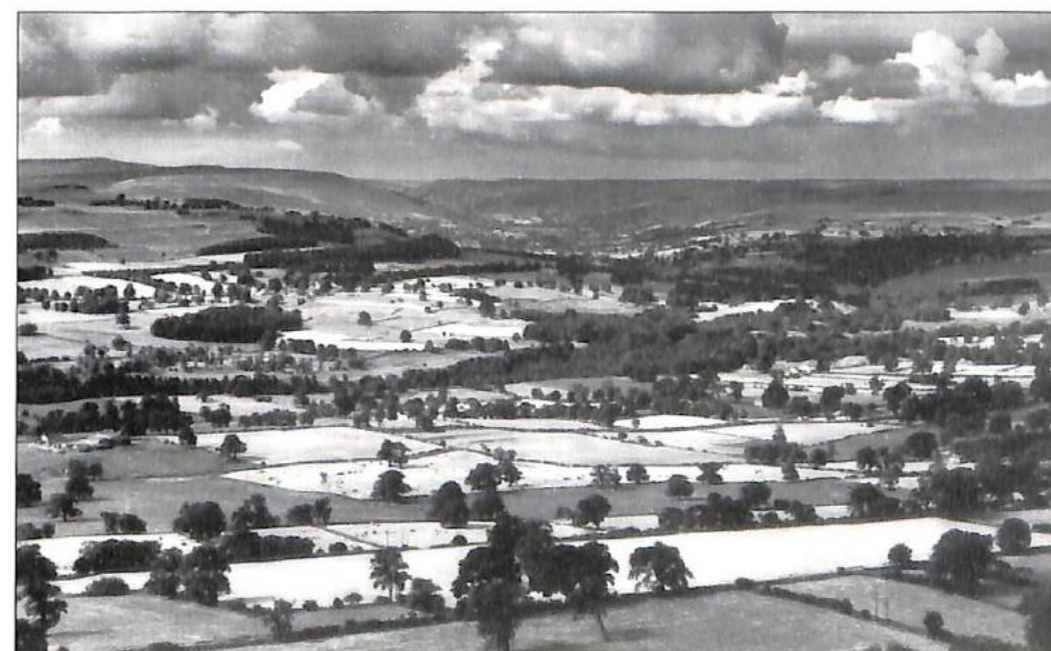
The majority of the semi-natural woodlands are ash based due to the overwhelming presence of limestone and the thin well drained soils. The ash woodlands in the higher dales are usually found with rowan and dog's mercury. Lower down the dale, the ash is found with field maple.

These two types of woodland form under two-thirds of the ancient semi-natural woodland in the park. However, because of the location of the dales on the west/east divide, the variation in altitude and the mixture of other rocks such as millstone grit, virtually all the different types of woodland within England are represented in the National Park.

Although varied, the woods are also very vulnerable and just under a half of all the woodlands within the Park are under 2 hectares in size and many do not receive any positive management. The National Park Authority continues to regard the conservation of woodlands and particularly the ancient semi-natural woodlands, as a high priority and offers advice and often grant aid to any owner of a woodland who would like help.

Geoff Garrett

View South over Wensleydale woodlands near Castle Bolton. Photo by Geoffrey Wright.



# Out and About

**RIPON MUSEUM TRUST** A new museum is opening in Ripon in April 1996, the first of its kind in the UK. Set in Ripon Union Workhouse, it will be a Museum of Yorkshire Poor Law. Visitors will see the day rooms, the vagrant cells, the vagrants' bath and delousing room, and the boiler room. There will also be galleries exhibiting photographs of Victorian hard times plus prints and posters of life in Yorkshire workhouses. There are also sections on the Otley Newall Workhouse which has a particularly comprehensive photographic record, and the workhouses at Skipton, Giggleswick, Sedbergh and Keighley.

**OTLEY COMMUNITY PLAY** Tuesday 16th-Saturday 27th April "The Heart Shaped Field". The Otley Community Play celebrates the life of the town. Performances at Prince Henry's Grammar School, Farnley Lane, Otley. **BUT** Tickets plus enquiries, group and postal bookings from Otley Community Play Office, Unit 10 Orchardgate, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 3NX. Tel 01943 468606. (No performance Sunday April 21st.)

**SWALEDALE FESTIVAL** Friday 24th May-Sunday 9th June. The 1996 Festival includes bands, choirs, a string quartet, the "blues", a multimedia show, theatre, lectures, walks, talks, book launches, workshops and exhibitions. For further information please contact Swaledale Festival Office, Thornborough Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DLK8 5AB. Tel: 01969 622217.

**GRASSINGTON FESTIVAL** Friday June 14th-Saturday June 29th. The Festival includes HMS Pinafore, bands, lectures, solo performers, a piano duet, Barry Cryer and Willie Rushton in an entertainment, choirs, folk night, a quartet, an organ concert, a shadow show, and the "Last Night of the Proms" with soloists. Festival box office, tickets from Myra Boyce, Threshfield near Skipton BD23 5HR. Tel: 01756 752096.

## THE DIGEST: GREAT VALUE

Our excellent, highly praised, Dales Digest, appears quarterly, and now has a colour cover for easier reference. To ease the administrative load, it will appear in February, May, August, and November. It is splendid value for only £6 a year, its 16 pages per issue packed with information on the Dales culled from a wealth of newspapers and periodicals, and set out in sections under such headings as: transport, housing, planning and property, tourism, leisure and the arts, footpath and access, employment and the economy, the social fabric, conservation, preservation and wildlife, and gives very comprehensive information about what is happening in the Dales. Congratulations to Dawn Burton who edits this splendid and useful publication which is sent to many opinion formers.

A cheque for £6 made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society and sent to the Yorkshire Dales Society, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1HD, will give you much additional information on the Dales scene.



Nidderdale  
from  
Inmoor  
Lane.  
Photo by  
John Hone.

# Daleswatch Report

## LOCAL DALESWATCH GROUP NEWS

Daleswatch Groups have been relatively quiescent during the past few weeks, but this has proved a wise precaution against some quite severe winter weather. At least it is good to see that the recent heavy snows and rain have gone some way towards breaking the severe drought across the area, and to see Dales rivers running at somewhere near (and sometimes above) their normal levels once more.

Only one meeting has been held since the last report - by the newly formed Dentdale Group. However, now the risk of snow and ice is receding, many groups have plans for future meetings. The most immediate are noted below (some of which may have been held before you read this article) but if you are interested in developments in your part of the Dales, then please contact the relevant convenor and come along to one of our meetings. And remember that Daleswatch does not restrict its interest to the National Park. Our remit extends throughout the rural Yorkshire Dales including Lower Wharfedale, Nidderdale and the AONB, and rural Airedale.

## RECENT NEWS OF DALESWATCH GROUPS

### Dentdale

The second meeting of this new group was held at the George and Dragon Hotel, Dent on 23rd January. The meeting was called specifically to discuss the "Millennium Partnership for the Dales" Scheme. A wide variety of possible projects were suggested. It was decided to ask the Society to support reinstatement of a bridge across the Dee at Brackensgill and improvement to the bridleway up Flintergill. It was also agreed to sign the Declaration of Support for the Scheme.

### Upper Wensleydale

No meetings since the last report. Please contact Convenor Alan Watkinson for further details. Some suggestions for environmental improvements were sent to the Yorkshire Dales National Park as part of the "Millennium Partnership for the Dales" Scheme.

### Airedale and Malhamdale

No meetings since the last report. The next meeting is planned for Wed 20th March, 7.30pm at the newly refurbished and very pleasant Friend's Meeting House, Skipton.

Please contact Norma Galvin for further details.

### Nidderdale

No meetings have been held but the issue of the potential number of visitors to a new museum and visitor centre proposed by the Dales Top Trust for Scar House Reservoir continues to cause concern. Of interest in this regard is that a letter from Yorkshire Water has been received by the Open Spaces Society supportive of views that were similar to those expressed by the Daleswatch Group.

### Swaledale

There is nothing further to report at the moment, but the possibility of forming a new Group in this far northern Dale will continue to be explored. Please contact prospective Convenor Charles Hepworth (see below) if you are interested.

### Ribblesdale

No meetings since the last report. The next meeting is planned for Wednesday March 27th at the Friends' Meeting House, Settle. Contact Convenor Hilary Baker for details.

### Upper Wharfedale

This group is currently out of action because of overnight road closures making access to the usual meeting spot somewhat impracticable for most members. Please contact Convenor Ken Lord for future details.

### Lower Wharfedale

No meetings since the last report. A social event is planned by Convenor Peter Young for the late spring/early summer period. Details will be made known in good time, but if you do want to know more about this then please contact Peter Young.

## 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. Money, money, money.

By far the largest proportion of the funding for our National Parks comes from central Government through National Park Supplementary Grant. For the 1996/7 financial year these grants for all Parks show a significant decrease (around 5%, not allowing for inflation, so that in reality the decrease is greater). This is followed by a standstill for the next two years (again not allowing for inflation and so involving a decrease in real terms). And, of course, this is at a time when the unavoidable complications inherent in becoming an independent authority will have financial implications of their own.

To counteract all this, there is good news regarding successful bids to the Millennium Commission and also 5b funding. Park officers are to be congratulated on bringing much needed relief to a rather desperate situation. But the feeling remains that this sort of money should be available on a more rational basis, thereby allowing proper planning into the future rather than the catch-as-catch-can system that seems to have the approval of central Government at the present time.

### 2. Langcliffe Quarry

Proposals to develop what could become one of the most popular visitor attractions in the Yorkshire Dales are well advanced. The site, whose significance was not fully appreciated until around a dozen years ago, contains not only the largest and best preserved Hoffmann Kiln in the country, but there is also a triple draw kiln just to its north.

It is also an area of considerable nature conservation and archeological interest. A new visitor and interpretation centre will be established providing for up to 100,000 visitors per year, and the scheme provides for visitor access being mainly by way of the Settle to Carlisle railway that runs alongside the site. So, not only will a new visitor attraction be made available at what should be an environmentally acceptable site, but the rail link will receive considerable support as a result.

### 3. High Oxnop

The decision by the Park Committee to refuse planning permission for reinstatement of a disused dwelling in this remote spot between Muker and Askrigg has received considerable comment. The principles involved are complex. Historically this part of the Dales was one of considerable mining activity, and there is a large number of disused former miners' dwellings in various states of disrepair scattered throughout it. Were a precedent to be established allowing for re-development of former dwellings, then the developers could have a field day. And restored homes and their domestic accoutrements would become prominent across what are now some of the wildest and most beautiful parts of the Dales landscape. 100 years on (and, if we mean what we say about sustainability, we should think on that sort of timescale), the effect would be much greater than, say, the recently hotly disputed extension to Swinden Quarry which by then, will have been well absorbed into the landscape. It is an issue for debate, certainly, but it is the real long term issues that should be debated.

*Jim Burton (Daleswatch Chairman).*

## Photography Competition 1996/7

The Yorkshire Dales Society is announcing a photographic competition with a difference.

We are inviting members to enter our Yorkshire Dales Society Photographic Competition for pictures taken during 1996/7. This gives members the opportunity to photograph the Dales in every season before making their selection.

The competition is open to all members of the Yorkshire Dales Society **with a maximum of two entries per person**. Any additional entries will make the entrant ineligible for the competition.

Photographs **must** be taken during 1996/7 and can be of any YDS event or an event in which the Society is involved (e.g. like last year's Muker Show).

Entries should be **prints** in colour or black and white not exceeding 10" x 12" in size.

All entries should be unmounted with the entrant's name and address, along with the date and place of the event and season taken on the reverse.

All entries remain the copyright of the entrant, but a condition of entry is that the Society reserve the

right to make use of any or all of the prints.

It is expected that the winning entries will appear in the YDS Review and other entries will be displayed at an event in 1997.

Judges will be appointed by the YDS Council and their decision is final.

The final date for submission of your entry is **30th April 1997**.

Entries should **NOT** be sent to the Society's office, but to : Grace Cairns at 18, Pen-y-Ghent Way, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs. BB8 5PY. ( Tel: 01282 812956). Entries may be sent in from January 1997.

Whilst every care will be taken of the photos, the Yorkshire Dales Society cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage in transit or otherwise.

The prize winners 1st, 2nd and 3rd will receive a voucher for photographic materials to the value of £15, £10 and £5.

Reminders about the Photographic competition will appear in the next few issues of the YDS Review.

## Events

*Join us for some of our Spring and early Summer Dales events:*

**SATURDAY APRIL 27TH. THORP PERROW ARBORETUM** PLEASE NOTE IT IS NOW ESSENTIAL TO PRE-BOOK YOUR VISIT Some details have changed from the last issue of the magazine, a matter which was outside our control, but do we apologise for any inconvenience. Please meet outside the Arboretum at 1.45 pm. The cost of the conducted tour is £3.25 per person, or £2.50 Senior Citizens. **Send your booking with cash no later than April 10th to the Yorkshire Dales Society office:** The Yorkshire Dales Society, Cross Green, Otley West Yorks. LS21 1 HD, otherwise ring Sheila Marks on 01943 608968 to add your name(s) to the list and arrange to send your money to the YDS office. Lifts can be arranged from Harrogate or Ripon for those without cars. The Thorp Perrow Arboretum is on the road from Well to Ripon just south of Bedale in North Yorkshire and some 4 miles from Leeming Bar on the A1.

### SATURDAY MAY 11th AGM WEEKEND PATELEY BRIDGE

Meet outside Pateley Bridge Museum, Nidderdale at 11am for a guided Town Trail led by Miss Swires (of Pateley Bridge Museum) which will finish about 12 noon. There are cafes and pubs in Pateley Bridge. Parking is available outside the museum. Please note that the museum will be open in the morning and afternoon for any interested visitors. Bus: 24 from Harrogate Bus Station at 0900.

**SATURDAY MAY 11TH AGM 2.30 pm** at the Social Club on Millfield Street (near bus station) in Pateley Bridge. Please park at main car park in



Sam Newborn  
Winner of the  
Yorkshire Dales Society  
Trophy for 'Best Bale of  
Hay' at Muker Show,  
September 1995.  
Photo by  
Charles Hepworth.



Pateley Bridge. Allow at least 10 minutes walk. (Please note that this is **not** the same venue as the Bishopdale & Bewerley Memorial Hall which we have sometimes used for YDS lectures).

Refreshments approximately 3.30 - 3.34pm followed by Speaker Bill Mitchell, writer, journalist, raconteur on "Dalesfolk".

**PLEASE NOTE that special arrangements have been made for changing facilities at the Social Club after the AGM for those people attending the YDS Dinner. Ladies are advised to use the Committee Room, and Men should use the Billiard Room.**

**SATURDAY MAY 11TH YDS DINNER AT CARTER'S KNOX MANOR**, Low Laithe, Summerbridge, near Pateley Bridge (fully booked with waiting list), **please arrive not later than 6.30pm** for dinner at 7pm. Changing facilities are extremely limited here, BUT please see arrangements for changing facilities after AGM at Social Club, Millfield Street as above. You may arrive at the dinner from 6pm. Do try to share transport if possible.

### SUNDAY MAY 12TH PATELEY BRIDGE WALK.

There will be a moderate four-five mile walk in the Pateley Bridge area led by Andrew Hamilton tel: 01937 581490. Please meet at the bottom of the High Street at 10.30am in Pateley Bridge. It is expected the walk will finish at 12.30pm.

### SATURDAY JUNE 8TH WALK IN THE BEAMSLEY AREA.

The walk will be led by Chris Hartley (tel: 01943 876199). Please meet at Bolton Abbey car park at 1115 for a moderate 10-11 mile walk, with a packed lunch. The walk should finish at about 1630. Bus: Dalesbus 800 d. Leeds Central Bus Station 0955, Bradford Interchange 1020, Ilkley 1055, arrive Bolton Abbey 1112.

### SUNDAY JULY 14TH DALESBUS WALK IN SWALEDALE - REETH TO GUNNERSIDE.

The walk will be led by Alan Sutcliffe, tel: 01444 483326. Catch the 0930 X97 Dalesbus from Leeds City Bus Station (1005 from Harrogate Bus Station) - CHECK TIMES - to Reeth for a 7-8 mile moderate walk through Swaledale to Gunnerside. Return by Dalesbus 803 at 1740 to Harrogate, Leeds etc... Book an Explorer ticket. Pub or cafe lunch (or packed lunch) at Reeth before start of walk at 12.30pm.





---

*Front Cover picture: Old Farm Cottage, Catholes Farm, Dentdale by John Potter LRPS.*

*Back Cover picture: Outbuildings at Oakfield House, Beamsley. Drawing by Brenda Parkin.*

***Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.***

*Printed by John Mason, Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.*

*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.*

*Views expressed in the Review are not necessarily those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.*

*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.*