

Yorkshire Dales Review

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YORKSHIRE
DALES
SOCIETY

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Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

The Yorkshire Dales Society - Value for Money?

It's always a difficult time for a voluntary organisation which relies entirely on subscriptions and donations from its own members when it puts up its subscriptions. As our Treasurer David Smith explained in the autumn YDS Review, rising costs - postage, printing, paper, secretarial costs - have over the last five years pushed the Society's finances into a precarious position. After all, even so called "low" inflation of around 3% equals over 20% over five years (when Society rates were last increased) and the 1997 increases only just keep us ahead of these costs.

As David explains, members Covenanted and helping us by Direct Debiting help secure the Society a sound financial future - at no extra cost to you. So please think about it.

But it is inevitable, with the higher subscriptions, that some members will be thinking very hard about whether they should renew their subscription for another year at all. After all, with so many other worthwhile organisations to belong to and support, isn't the Yorkshire Dales Society just yet another subscription which could easily be saved?

There is something special about the YDS. It's not just the "benefits" members receive - a magazine that is widely respected and admired for its content, some outstanding events giving insight and knowledge about landscape, history and culture of the Dales, and opportunity to meet like-minded people who share a love of this very special part of England. And let's not forget, as an educational charity, that is our prime purpose.

But it's not what you, as a member "get out" of the Society, it is what the Society represents in deeper terms. Our members represent a strong, continuing commitment to the protection and safeguarding of the Yorkshire Dales as a uniquely beautiful area of Europe, with its own distinctive culture. This is a landscape and wildlife habitat to be shared but not destroyed.

Yet the threats are there. Not only the obvious ones of quarries, traffic, mass recreation, unsightly tourist development, but, as was discussed at a recent Council of Management, land ownership changes in the Northern Dales that could end traditional family farming and remove that vital custodian of

the Dales, the small, independent hill farmer. Within a couple of decades, given the speed of modern technology and power of international finance, the Dales as we know them, could be irretrievably ruined.

Much of the work of the Yorkshire Dales Society goes unpublicized. As a matter of policy, we often avoid deliberately making headlines in the Press with confrontational and extremist statements which would alienate many Dales people, and make rational arguments and compromise solutions more difficult to reach. We often achieve more by a balanced approach, which recognises the economic aspirations of the local community, whilst at the same time accepts that the landscape should be inviolate. Well argued letters, telephone discussions and meetings with Officers and Members can give stronger support to the National Park and other local Authorities and Countryside Agencies involved with the management of the Dales than simplistic headlines in the local press which reduce complex issues to mere slogans. Yet this support acts as a powerful counterweight to the greedy, selfish minority who would quickly destroy and deface the landscape we cherish. On their recent visit to the Yorkshire Dales, officers from the Low Tatra National Park in Slovakia saw the presence of a body like the Yorkshire Dales Society as a vital mechanism of how they, in a newly established democracy, could help build the consensus needed for strong conservation policies.

So it is in the Yorkshire Dales with the Yorkshire Dales Society. Our strength, our lifeblood is you, our members. Each and every member, each subscription, gives us that moral as well as financial strength to keep up our work.

So if you are still thinking about renewing your subscription, please make up your mind to do so today, and get that cheque or direct debit in the post whilst you think about it. And even better, bearing in mind that 1997 is going to be a tough year to keep our members, please persuade a friend or relative to join us. If you send us their name and address, we'll send them a free magazine and a membership form. The Yorkshire Dales are worth every bit of that effort.

Colin Speakman

Walk from Brimham Rocks to Fountains Abbey

Recently YDS Council member, Chris Hartley, using the Fountains Flyer bus, led a Yorkshire Dales Society walk from Brimham Rocks to Fountains Abbey: two spectacular venues with a historical connection, since Brimham once formed part of the vast estates owned by Fountains Abbey in medieval times.

Pathfinder map for Fountains Abbey and Boroughbridge Sheet 26/36 1:2500. Walk 12 miles.

Brimham Rocks on the eastern edge of Lower Nidderdale overlooking Summerbridge and Dacre Banks, have been owned and protected by the National Trust since 1970 when they were a bequest by the Akernleys, a Bradford family. A superb area consisting of acidic moorland, coupled with fantastically shaped and sculpted gritstone tors and crags, the rocks are composed of coarse sandstones of millstone grit and date from the Middle Carboniferous Period over 320 million years ago when the whole of the Yorkshire Dales lay under massive river deltas. As massive amounts of sediment, amongst them coarse sandstone were washed down, over succeeding geological times, later series of rocks and shales were laid on top of them, compacting and cementing them together. During the Pleistocene era, the rocks now above sea level, were exposed during the Great Ice Age; the younger rocks being eroded away to expose the gritstone to the action of wind, ice and rain, and were eventually cracked and carved into amazing shapes and were given names such as Dancing Bear, Eagle Rock, The Sphinx.

Mentioned in Domesday, during the 12th century, Roger de Mowbray, a Norman landowner, gave Brimham to the abbot of Fountains, the property being surrendered at the Dissolution to Henry VIII's Commissioners when it entered private ownership. It is thought that the monks cleared many of the trees at Brimham to make summer pastures for their flocks of sheep, and during the winter they



Photographs of Brimham Rocks & Laton Cross by Colin Speakman

would be taken down to the valley bottom via Summerbridge.

During the eighteenth century Brimham was owned by the Grantley family of Grantley Hall who used the moor for grouse shooting and in 1792 Lord Grantley built a shooting lodge and home for a keeper reputedly from the ruins of an old Cistercian Chantry which today serves as a base for a National Trust shop and information centre.

From the main car park at Brimham Rocks, walk down the road for a short time, watch out for traffic and look for a Nidderdale Way sign on the left side of the road, to continue along a well-marked moorland track. In late summer the heather or ling "calluna vulgaris" carpets the moor with purple flowers, but was used formerly as thatching on many local buildings. Bell heather, cotton grass, bog asphodel and the round-leaved carnivorous sundew can be spotted while meadow pipits perform sudden airborne acrobatics.

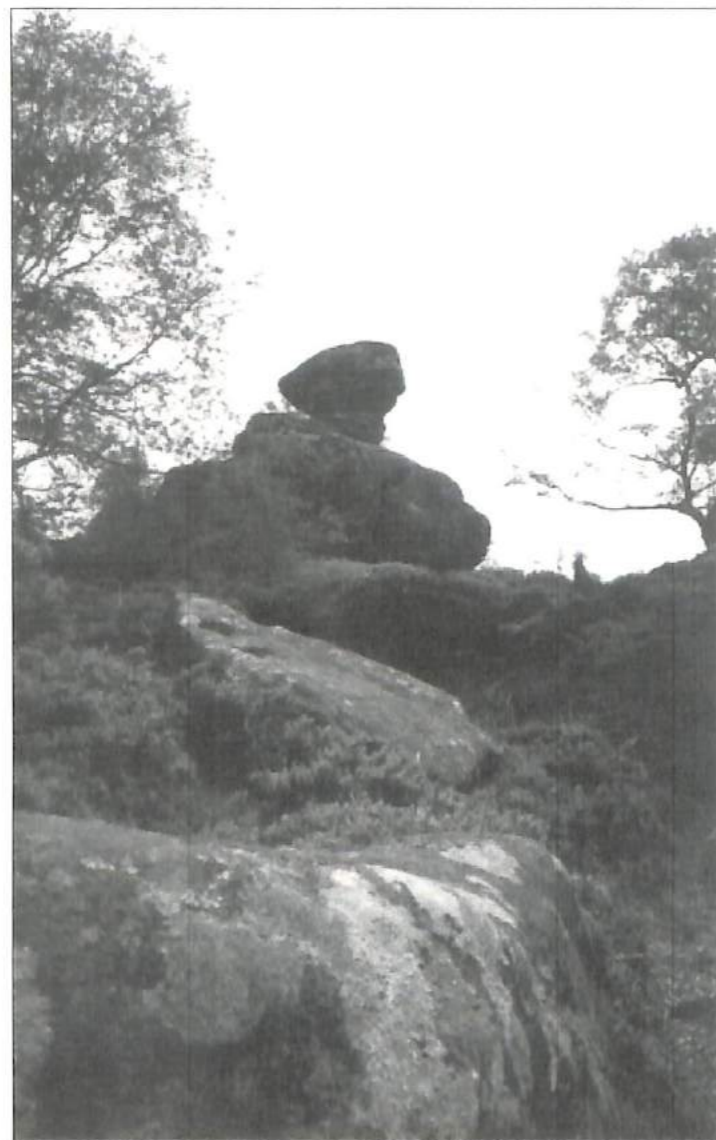
At the National Trust boundary wall, go over the stile. On your left is a drystone wall fronting some meadowland and on your right a ridge covered with yellow gorse bushes. Eventually the track joins a concrete farm track, but carry straight on, passing the farm and a field to the left, then go left down a walled track and down a steep slope towards some trees in a hollow. The drystone wall is the Monks Wall, part of a medieval wall enclosure system which went from this part of the dale towards Birstwith and Burnt Yates. Continue by descending into the wooded area and cross the little beck over a kind of cattle grid and then up the hill to a metalled road. Carry on along the tarmac road, bearing left up the hill between hedgerows. In late spring and early summer these are a botanist's delight with sweet cicely especially abundant and colourful with orange tip and peacock butterflies. Willow warblers perform a striking cadenza of liquid sound.

After several farms, we arrive at a junction, and immediately in front of us is a wooded hillock

named the Warren, with Warren House nearby. At this junction turn right and still following the tarmac road, round a corner to discover a charming house with its own Brimham Rock behind it. Follow the bend and then prepare to turn right to leave the road by Warren House where there is a caravan complex. Go through the fields on a right of way and through a gate with a notice to keep dogs on a lead. Keep the fence walls on your left. Then take the path which runs alongside a stone wall which skirts the wooded hill, pass through two gates before going through a third which takes you once more onto a tarmac road. Here bear right and walk along the road a short distance and you will quickly note a green metal finger post indicating a field path on the left hand side just before Rabbit Hill Farm.

Cross the stone step stile at the finger post and walk down the field, keeping a wire fence and relict hedging immediately on your right to reach a small kissing gate. Stop and look round and some distance to the right, you will see a large knoll, How Hill, with substantial St Michael's Chapel, originally built as a chapel of ease by the monks of Fountains Abbey, but services were conducted by the canons of Ripon Minster. Later in the eighteenth century, John Aislable of Studley Royal, rebuilt it as a church, though he was to use part of it as a gambling den!

Go through the kissing gate and walk across the field with a dry stone wall on your left. Remember to take care as ground nesting lapwings and curlews try to protect their young. You are now at Worsill Hill farm which stands near to a lodge, an outpost to a grange established by Fountains Abbey and staffed by Lay Brethern in order to control its vast estates. Turn right at the farm and go through a large metal field gate that has an unusual rubber



tyre fastening. Once on the other side, examine the wall on your right carefully in order to cross over a stile which is not immediately obvious. In the field beyond walk diagonally across to the far left hand corner, then go through the gate and down the next field, keeping the drystone wall close on your right hand. Pass through another gate, and walk through the middle of the field heading for a small gate leading into a wood.

Go through the gate and follow the path signs down a sloping path into the wood. You have entered a charming little wooded ravine called Picking Gill with Booth Wood on your right. This is a classic hollow way, a typical example of an ancient packhorse route and we are now on line with an old monastic road from the Brimham area of Nidderdale to Fountains Abbey itself. At the bottom of the gill, the track appears to go along an embankment, but in fact it is Butterton Bridge tucked away beneath it. Go down some turf steps on the right hand side to see a beautifully constructed arch spanning the small beck, suggesting an important crossing in monastic times. Leave Butterton Bridge and turn left along a broad gravel track going towards a small lake, but just before you

reach it, turn right up a similar track then proceed on the upward sloping track where you will come to a gate. From here walk diagonally across the sloping field to the top right corner and cross over a high wooden step stile in the fence to gain access to a green lane. Walk along this track a few yards and then find a similar wooden step stile on your left. Cross over it and enter a substantial plantation of trees to the left marked "manor allotment" on your map.

Again cross over the field diagonally, heading to the bottom right hand corner. You are looking at

the stump of a charming old medieval monastic way marking cross, placed there by Fountains Abbey convent to mark a road between the Abbey and its holdings in Lower Nidderdale, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Although the Lacon cross (named after the original landowner) is off the present right of way, it is worth seeing. Cut from a block of millstone grit, in the top of the shaft is a small hollow in which passers by have left a few coins, by ancient tradition, for needy travellers. Make now for the stile in the corner of the field, with the edge of the manor allotment on your left. Cross over into the next field and before you proceed, you can just make out the Fountains Visitor Centre and the spire of St Mary's church, built in the French gothic style. An ideal lunch stop.

Proceed towards the group of buildings, Lacon Hall, and walk down the field with the wall on your right, but observe also evidence of a paved causeway, further proof of an ancient road. Approach Lacon Hall, cross a small stream and go over a stile with way markers, then pass through a holiday apartment complex, and bear left along a track into a field.

In this field deviate from the track and walk diagonally towards the top right hand corner. At a gap in the hedge, traverse a wooden step stile and continue diagonally across the next field to the hedge and join up with another path. Then bear right with the hedge on your left and go through the field gate into the field. Look for the finger post ahead and go out onto the Sawley village road at the junction with Sawley Manor lane.

At this point walk along the road as if to the main part of the village. Turn right by the first houses you come to on the right hand side of the road; don't be misled by the finger post on the opposite side of the road.

Take care to take the path into a field as it runs alongside a driveway which serves a row of cottages. Walk down the field keeping the fence on your right and go over a rough stile and walk diagonally across the next field, bearing left to go through a waymarked gate. Continue into the next field with the hedge on your left. At the next stile you come to a crossing of footpaths. Follow on veering slightly to the right, but keep the fence on your right hand and continue similarly into the next field where you cross over a stile by a stream and go through the middle of the following field. Cross a wooden step stile and carry on through two more fields with a fence to your right. The path runs along Green Bank Wood which is a thin strip of woodland adjacent to Sawley road. Follow on until you finally cross the last stile and emerge into narrow Low Gate lane which doglegs back into the centre of Sawley. Turn right and walk into the road which runs down the other side of Green Bank wood.

Go down the road and you will soon see Monks Wall again on the right. Here it encloses Fountains Park, once a hunting area of the abbots of Fountains, complete with monastery carp ponds. Huby's Tower dating from around 1497 alongside the north transept of the Abbey church is just visible, named after the celebrated abbot Marmaduke Huby who considerably renewed the abbey fortunes. Built of magnesium limestone, the tower has several niches for statuary, but only one, thought to contain the dynamic 12th century founder, Bernard of Clairvaux, was completed. There are also views of Jacobean Fountains Hall, built by Sir Stephen Proctor

and further on is the junction with Fountains lane, the road which runs up past How Hill and up to the Ripley/Harrogate road.

This World Heritage site with the matchless Fountains Abbey and stately eighteenth century water gardens is well worth a visit at any time of year.

Chris Hartley

Ecoscope Comes to the Dales

It was some sixteen years ago that I had the good fortune to visit Swaledale for the first time. I had recently taken up employment as an ecologist with the Game Conservancy, based in the New Forest, and had to call on our grouse specialist who then lived in Askrigg. I remember walking up onto the moor from Gunnerside to his study area in the late afternoon on the most glorious day in August, then descending down Swinner Gill into the dale. Its breathtaking beauty and tranquillity etched in my mind a vision I was to revisit some years later.

Research in the New Forest was going well, but we needed a field assistant. However, I was unaware that the person we had chosen was actually a dales girl and, during a walk whilst on a visit to her home in 1985, I suddenly realised that I was in exactly the same spot as I had been some four years previously - the picture came back to me very clearly. Again four years on, we were married at St. Mary's church in Muker! Having subsequently worked as an ecologist for two other non-governmental organisations, one of which was well known, the RSPB, I decided to set up in the consultancy business, opening an office in Cambridge before moving to Swaledale with our second office. We have now been here for the past year.

The company name is Ecoscope Applied Ecologists, a multi-disciplinary ecological consultancy, set up to meet the demand for accurate, specialist ecological advice. We provide scientific services to the public and private sectors for the benefit of conservation, the environment and business. Our specialisms are habitat creation and restoration; species; habitat and landscape conservation and management; biodiversity surveying; environmental assessment and evaluation; and ecological research and modelling. We have seven staff and nine Associates, most being specialists in their own field, and we undertake work in the UK, Europe and Asia.

From our base in Swaledale we are currently working on about sixteen projects, from researching the best way in which to design and manage farm woodlands for conservation benefits; assessing the effects of recent European Union agricultural policy reforms on wildlife; reviewing the results of UK-wide monitoring of Countryside Stewardship; developing expert systems for advising on enhancing biodiversity in managed forests, to the design of numerous wetland sites as mitigation or compensation for developments. We

are also reviewing the ecological importance of managed wetlands in Hong Kong, for the Hong Kong government; wetlands which are under tremendous economic pressure to be developed as, amongst other things, golf-courses and luxury apartments for wealthy Asians with increased leisure time. Our client base includes MAFF, the Countryside Commission, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the county agencies including English Nature, the European Commission, Forestry Authority, Environment Agency, Thames Water and many private developers. We are looking towards undertaking work for various Yorkshire based authorities and companies now that we are established here, and have recently recruited someone in Scotland to do the same north of the border.

The huge increase in environmental awareness has also stimulated growth in the application of ecology and environmental management to a range of problems. For example, the Employment Agency is charged with many statutory duties including flood defence, river pollution monitoring and habitat assessment for management. MAFF has responsibility for a suite of land-based initiatives as we strive to find more environmentally acceptable methods of producing food and the conservation agencies have to set priorities for government action to maintain and improve biodiversity in the wider countryside. In addition it must seek to promote the protection and management of sites and species of recognised conservation importance on both national and international scales. Our services are therefore sought to provide specialist input to a wide range of ecological and countryside issues.

The Yorkshire Dales has its own spectacular and largely unique flora. Its traditionally farmed landscape has, since the forests were cleared, promoted species-rich hay meadows and moorland, both of which are internationally important. Characteristic birds of the Dales which exploit the mosaic of fast streams, craggy outcrops, livestock-grazed fields, and calluna heaths, include dipper, grey and yellow wagtail, common sandpiper, oystercatcher, curlew, goosander, ring ousel and red grouse; the latter being only one of the only two birds endemic to Britain, in other words, found no where else in the world.

Unlike the Dales many landscapes in Britain have become degraded and dramatically impoverished in wildlife. Strict planning policy undoubtedly plays a

part in securing our wildlife heritage, sometimes to the annoyance of the person who wishes to put up new buildings or change existing ones. Less readily perceived as causing an impact in the countryside are the many policies which change farming patterns and income, for example the increased headage payments which have led to greater grazing pressure and reduced wildlife interest in parts of the Dales. Striking the balance between economic prosperity and nature conservation (rather than preservation) does require ecological understanding. It is a sobering thought that within a

few years 65% of the world's population will live in cities. Many people will not be exposed to the countryside. Unless ecology can be made to work, and to make economic sense, there will be little pressure from the masses to conserve anything. I wish I could have seen and experienced the wildlife that lived when my father was a boy, or better still when his father was a boy. I hope and pray that my own two year old son will be able to experience the quality that nature bring to one's life when he grows up and that is why I believe ecology is so important.

David Hill

Charcoal Production within the Yorkshire Dales

Geoff Garrett, Trees and Woodlands Officer, YDNP, explains that returning to an industry from the past can be both sustainable and profitable.

One of the outstanding contributions to the landscape within the Yorkshire Dales are its woodlands. Many have existed for hundreds, possibly thousands of years and contain a treasure trove of rare plants and animals. Today only a fraction of the original forest remains and this is in the form of small fragmented areas.

The key to protecting these important remnants is often the part they play within the existing farming system. Many of the woods are vital for shelter and lambing, and consequently remain unfenced. Grazing prevents regeneration which prevents replacement of dead trees, leading ultimately to the disappearance of the wood. The type of timber that is presently found in dales woodlands often has very little use other than for firewood. One alternative use of

timber that the National Park Authority is developing is the production of charcoal.

Charcoal has been produced within the Dales for many hundreds of years and was connected with the lead and iron ore smelting industry. As modern techniques were developed so charcoal production declined until no charcoal producers remained within the Dales and only about 30 charcoal producers were left in England.

The modern charcoal burner uses a portable steel kiln which can be placed within the wood. The kiln is initially filled with half burnt charcoal from a previous burn to facilitate lighting, then filled with lengths of hardwood. Once the kiln is lit, the lid is placed on the top and the air is regulated using air holes and chimneys.

Over a period of about eight hours, the wood converts to charcoal. The conversion is complete when the smoke coming out of the chimneys changes from white to clear. At this point the wood is fully converted and the charcoal itself is now being burnt. The air to the kiln is completely restricted and the kiln is left to cool down. When the kiln is opened, the charcoal will occupy about a quarter of the original timber volume.

There are many benefits from this system.

The timber within the wood has an increased value of about £600 per ton.



Ian Harland demonstrating Charcoal Burning for the YDNP

Consequently the wood itself develops an increased value for the farm system which leads to more positive management. The wood is therefore managed in such a way so that regeneration occurs and planting of new woods can be encouraged. The wood also remains an important and valuable part of the farming system for shelter. An additional benefit is that the ground flora improves together with the landscape value, and ultimately the amount of imported charcoal, often made from unsustainable sources such as tropical rainforests, is reduced.

The National Park Authority is presently encouraging charcoal producers to make use of the woodlands within the Dales and recently arranged a successful training course at Scargill House near Kettlewell. The course was run by Ian Harland, of Green Hedgehog Charcoal who makes and sells charcoal made from local timber. If you would like to contribute to the sustainable management of woodlands, please consider buying locally made charcoal. Contact Ian Harland on 0143 830171 or 01756 752532 or Geoff Garrett on 01756 752748 for further information. ■

What's Happening up in those Hills?

Alan Watkinson looks at Upper Wensleydale where changes have accelerated and wonders what the future will bring.

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills," said the good old psalmist, and we do indeed need to look to the hills in the Dales, in order to keep a cautious eye on them. Visitors often say, "It's so nice, it never changes." But it does change and the credit must go to the local builders and planners so that down in the villages, it is often hard to see what buildings are new because they blends in so well (with just a few notable exceptions when wrong-coloured stone is used), and locals have a real pride in keeping it that way.

And when property changes hands, there is immense, albeit apparently discreet interest in who is coming, where they are from and will there be any changes. Some years ago when we moved to Hawes, I was very impressed when a well-known self-appointed local historian-cum-recorder was seen carefully photographing my extension at intervals during the work!

But back to the hills. Here change is taking place fast and some may view it with some apprehension. The buying up of smaller farms and the taking over of large uplands areas is happening at an increasing rate (it's already been going on for over forty years and Widdale is a classic example). A few weeks ago someone predicted that within twenty years most of the area would be ranch-farmed and a lot of the rest would be for "leisure use" such as shooting, falconry and the like.

Other insidious changes are the newly widened and inappropriately surfaced access road, long new fencing maybe without access stiles, the gradual disappearance of a significant isolated building. But it's not all negative - do watch out for new planting, broadleaved woodland for example, is actually a great asset. Yet both those who live and those who visit the Dales love most of all the traditional smaller scale upland farming (it's hard and often lonely work) with its pattern of walls, barns and laithes, and its seasonal rhythm of tugging time, lambing, clipping, and haytining - as an integral part of a very special landscape.

Alan Watkinson

January

Who knows what January has become?
Once certain, its unpredictability
Is all that is foreseeable.

It weeps warm rain for comfort
Stands still

In the white morning dust
And howls through the evenings like a hoarse ghost

Lost in a timeless void,
Aimless in the strength of fervour,
Sun bright but heatless

Days lengthening but shortened
By the black pillows of sleepless skies,
Buds breaking their protective wrappings

Burned and crinkled in the white heat
Of sudden winter scorching in
Like skiers down empty slopes

With inevitable velocity
And at the end

The same uncertainty
Of pace and outcome.

A.K. Whitehead

Save our Hedges

John Cumberland, Member of the National Park Committee and former Head Forester to the Chatsworth Estate at Bolton Abbey, points out that many of our hedgerows form part of a unique landscape heritage and are also a shelter to various species of birds and animals.

In the period 1945 to 1985 some 96,000 miles of hedgerows in England disappeared, by 1990 a further 53,000 miles had been removed. Legislation to stop this environmental rape of the countryside is at least being formulated as a Draft Statutory Instrument under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995.

The draft regulations provide for the protection of *important* hedgerows - those hedgerows which meet a strict and complex criteria e.g. by being part of a pre-1600 estate or manor recorded in existing Sites and Monuments Records or within an archaeological site. Alternatively if it

is referred to in a record held by a Biological Record Centre or contains 7 woody species or 6 woody species and 3 features of sub para (d), or 5 woody species and 4 of sub para (d). Or where records exist showing species present in the British Red Data Books etc... All of course to be recorded **prior** to the "relevant date", that is the date on which the regulations are made.

If Planning Authorities do not issue a retention notice based on the above acceptable criteria within 28 days (or such longer period as agreed with the applicant), the application to remove the hedgerow is deemed to have been approved.

The CPRE have estimated that only some 20% of the most vital hedgerows will be protected under this legislation. Others have suggested that it might be as little as 15 to 17%.

The draft SI will protect only the very best hedgerows and does not go anything like far enough to protect the biological diversity and visual amenity that even a simple hedgerow can give.

If you value our remaining hedgerows, **write to your MP as soon as possible.** It is suggested that you make the following points:

a) There should be a presumption against any further destruction of hedgerows, except in very exceptional cases.

b) The criteria as listed could be the highest. (Grade I category?) with Planning Authorities able to list a second tier of hedgerow category, to cover hedgerows without the presently listed criteria which meet their local conditions, conservation, environmental and landscape criteria.

c) Current records of hedgerow quality are unlikely to be widely available or detailed enough by the "relevant date". There should be the opportunity for inspection and assessment of a hedgerow's local quality status and its listing once an application is received and adequate time allowed for a proper evaluation.

John Cumberland



*Thornton Force, Ingleton.
Photo taken by Christine Whitehead*

Book Reviews

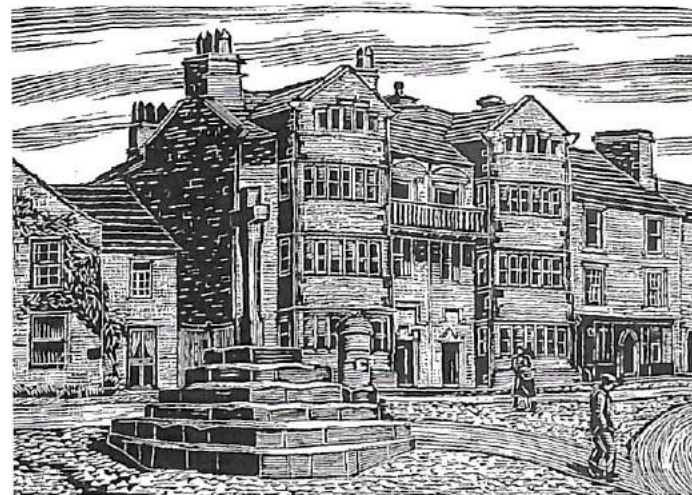
DISCOVERING THE YORKSHIRE DALES With John Ward (published by Smith, Settle Ltd. ISBN 1 85825 051 X at £7.95.) Available in local bookshops.

What have an early photographic pioneer, a so-called leper's squint and the oldest chemist's shop in England in common? They are all to be found in John Ward's "Discovering the Yorkshire Dales". Fortunately not another walking book, but a volume which sets out to share with the reader the hidden places, curiosities and strange events which can be found in the Yorkshire Dales. Divided into 11 main sections according to area, introduced by a sketch map, and generously illustrated, John Ward explains his personal odyssey as a return to his roots after 40 years in exile. He has deliberately avoided the great castles and abbeys and some of the better known monuments in order to search out some fascinating lesser known features of interest.

The book is written in a lively style with some arresting captions which will intrigue the reader

and make this a very attractive source for some pleasant pottering in the dales or for more active exploration, but is also equally useful for those who prefer or are only able to explore from the comfort of an armchair.

FS



Askrigg Hall. Wood engraving by Marie Hartley. See page 11

THE CHIPS EXPRESS By Christopher Awdry published by the Swaledale Festival, May 1996 is available by post from the Festival Office, cheques should be made payable to the Swaledale Festival for £4.99 and please add £1 for postage and packing. Any copies ordered by YDS members using the special form printed in the YDS Review will mean that the YDS receives 50p for each copy ordered. Address: The Festival Office, Thonborough Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5AB.

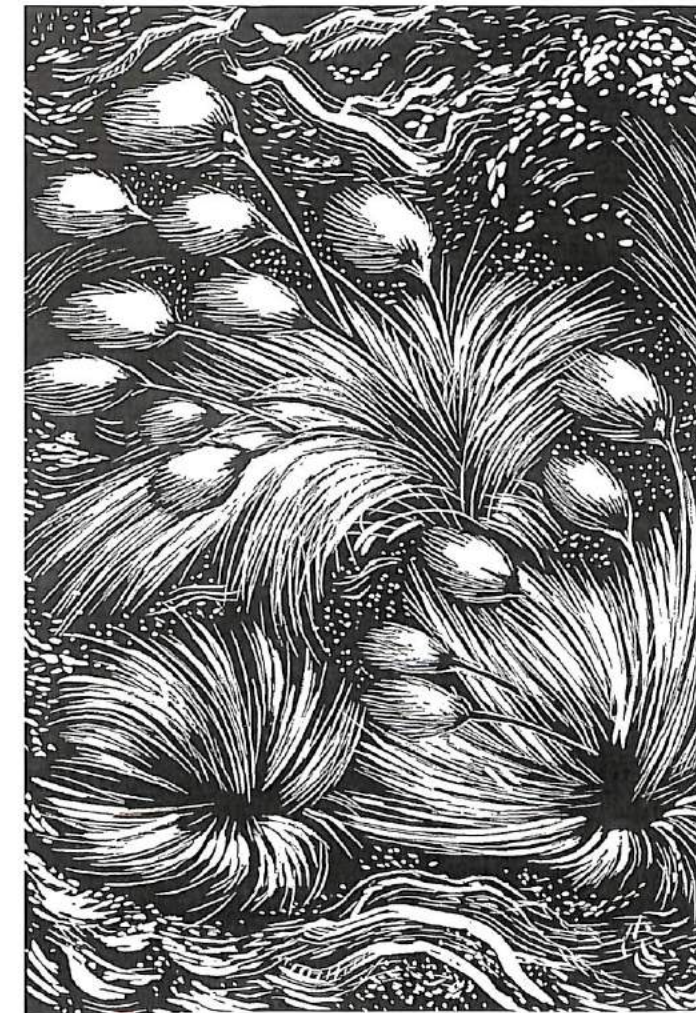
A children's book with a difference, set in the Yorkshire Dales, told with great charm and with some superb illustrations. In 1993, during the Swaledale Festival, Christopher Awdry (of Thomas the Tank Engine fame) was invited to visit a number of schools in Wensleydale including Bainbridge Primary School. There the children devised a 16 page story based on the local Wensleydale Railway Line. The result was displayed complete with drawings at the Festival. But since then Christopher Awdry, using the children's original ideas, has completely rewritten the story with Colin Smithson supplying the colourful illustrations. Can be enjoyed by all age groups.

FS.

(please photo-copy the form if you do not wish to cut up your YDS Review)

WOOD ENGRAVINGS by Marie Hartley published by Smith Settle at £7.95 and available from local bookshops.

Re-issued from the original wood blocks from the 1930s as a complete collection of Marie Hartley's wood engravings, these illustrations comprise illustrations to writings on Swaledale, Wensleydale and Wharfedale plus a few not seen previously. We reproduce a few examples which capture the flavour of the period so well.



Colton Grass Wood engraving by Marie Hartley.

THE WALKERS GUIDE TO MID-WHARFEDALE & Washburn Valley - David Leather (Smith Settle £6.95)

There's a double welcome for this excellent book of 20 walks in Mid-Wharfedale (between Otley and Beamsley) and the Washburn Valley. Firstly it is a book produced to the usual Leather/Smith-Settle high standard, beautifully researched, written and illustrated, rich in natural history and geology. Secondly, these aren't the all-too-familiar circular

walks from car parks in the higher Dales which, as the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Transport and Visitor Management Strategy suggests, are over-promoted, over-walked and increasingly eroded. But away from the main reservoir car parks, Washburndale has miles of little used paths, around Timble, up to Thrushcross, around Leathley. And most - in Mid-Wharfedale at least - are accessible by public transport. So avoid the queues at the stiles and discover parts of the Dales you hadn't realised existed.

CS

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

For years, getting up-to-date information about accommodation to plan a walking, cycling or just a sightseeing holiday in the Yorkshire Dales has been a problem, with each District Council and even the National Park producing its own separate accommodation guide - a real problem if you haven't made up your mind which area to visit or, like most visitors, don't have the faintest idea which part of the Dales lies in which administrative area.

Thanks to a new Partnership between the five main District Councils - Craven, Eden Harrogate, Richmondshire, South Lakeland - and the Yorkshire Dales National Park, a Yorkshire Dales Joint Promotion Initiative has been established, supported by the European Union. The outcome is an excellent 96 page **Holiday Guide to the Dales** and its local accommodation, with an emphasis on small guest houses, bed and breakfast and farmhouse accommodation, but also self catering accommodation. Areas outside the National Parks are included, which helps spread the visitor pressures but also the economic benefits, and it is nice to see such beautiful areas as Nidderdale, the



Thorpe Wood engraving by Marie Hartley



The Chips Express

By Christopher Awdry
illustrated by Colin Smithson

This full colour book follows the exploits of engines Jack and Lucy as they adventure along the Wensleydale Railway Line. 50p from each book will be donated to the Yorkshire Dales Society only with this order form.

£4.99 plus £1.00 p&p per copy

Please complete and detach the form below and return (with a cheque made payable to Swaledale Festival) to:
Swaledale Festival Office, Thornborough Hall,
Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5AB

NAME _____
BLOCK CAPITALS
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

Please send me copies of The Chips Express

I enclose a cheque made payable to

Swaledale Festival for £ inc. p&p.

Howgills, Mallerstang and Lower Teesdale included. There is a mass of information and phone numbers and contacts for further details of attractions and things to do. But there is also a strong conservation message, with visitors encouraged to respect the environment and local culture; a sensible Yorkshire Dales "Visitors Code" is provided. One omission is that whilst people are encouraged to come by bus or train (and rail lines are shown on the main visitor map), there is no mention of how to find information about local bus services within the Dales or where to send away for the excellent **Dales Connections** transport guide - essential information any truly green travellers needs before planning their trip, rather than having to wait to collect it from



a TIC - which may be a long way away by public transport - after they arrive. We are going to have to try a lot harder than this if we really want people to get out of their cars and put their faith in public transport.

The Yorkshire Dales Holiday Guide 1997 is available free of charge from the Tourism Officer, Richmondshire District Council, Friar's Wynd, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL8 4RT tel. 01748 850222. **Dales Connections**, for the record, can be obtained from Elmtree Press, The Elms, Exelby, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL8 2HD - please enclose two 26p stamps to cover postage and packing.

Drawing from The Walker's Guide to Mid-Wharfedale and Wasbourn Valley. See page 11.

Help us to Keep the Dales Special

A membership form for potential new members when you pass on a copy of the YDS Review. Please do not use this form for renewal.

Adult £11 Family £15
Retired Single £9 Retired Couple . . . £12
Student/Unwaged . . . £6 (unchanged)

A Society for everyone who cares for the Yorkshire Dales, working to:

- * protect the unique beauty and character of the Yorkshire Dales
 - * maintain a balanced local economy, and thriving culture
- Members enjoy:
- * Dales lectures, walks, events, special visits
 - * a lively and influential quarterly magazine, the YDS Review

Join the **YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY** today

Donation	TOTAL
Name	
Address	
	Postcode
Telephone	

Please return with a cheque payable to the Yorkshire Dales Society to: the Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, Yorkshire, LS21 1HD. If you do not want to damage this issue of The Yorkshire Dales Review, photocopy, complete amount, name and address, and send copy and cheque to the above address. Registered Charity No 515384.

Photography Competition

It is time now to remind members that they can start sending in their photo competition entries from January onwards if they wish, **though the closing date of the competition is actually 30th April**. But please do not wait till the last minute as judging follows swiftly after the closing date.

- * The competition is open to all members of the Yorkshire Dales Society with a maximum of two entries per person allowed. 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 in which the Society is involved whether it is for example, a tree planting, a visit to an old mill or simply a lecture.
- * **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. The judges have been appointed by the YDS Council and their decision is final.

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.

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.

Good Luck!

Cutting Department

Please note that all members who kindly provide newspaper cuttings for the **Dales Digest** are reminded that **cuttings need to reach Dawn Burton by Friday January 31st** at the latest in order to be included for the next issue. Dawn's address is: 139, Curly Hill, Middleton, Ilkley LS29 ODS.

Financial Department

There has already been quite a good response to our new system of paying by direct debit, and we hope that even more members will take advantage of this system of payment in the future. Please note that you have been contacted directly if you pay your subscription in quarter one (January, February or March) and at the same time the system is fully explained to you. We shall contact quarters 2, 3 and 4 in turn during the year. Remember there is a special introductory offer of £1 off the new membership rates for this year. Do think about it!

Our Codes Explained

The code for direct debit on the address label is DD. Q2, is the quarter this couple pay their subscription and 98 indicates the year. 0183 is their membership number which also appears on the small blue and purple membership cards. V indicates they have taken out a covenant, and C and A refer to Company and Associate membership of the Society, in this case one is an associate, one is a full company member. (BO would indicate a banker's order payment.)

Mr & Mrs Bridgewater
1 Mile End Road
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX9 4PQ
0183 Q2 - 98 A1 C1 DD V.

(Please note to comply with data protection, this is an imaginary example).

Daleswatch Report

Daleswatch very much regrets Norma Galvin's resignation as Convenor of the Airedale and Malhamdale Group, due to ill health. We thank Norma for her work for the Dales Society in the past, and wish her a speedy recovery to full fitness.

Current Issues and Topics of Interest within the Yorkshire Dales National Park

1. The New National Park Committee

The preparations that are underway to bring the new freestanding National Park Authority into active being were mentioned in the last Daleswatch Report. The "new" Committee consists of 26 members, 13 being new members, whilst 13 are members of the present Committee. All 26 are currently involved in a programme of seminars geared to informing them about the breadth and nature of the new responsibilities that they face. Meanwhile, a smaller group is also participating in a separate series of meetings at which they are working out the ground rules under which the "new" Committee will operate.

A useful additional event will be a seminar for the "new" Committees of the four northern National Parks (Northumbria; Lake District; North York Moors; and Yorkshire Dales.) This will enable each to compare notes with the others, and also to learn something of the philosophy of concerned organisations such as CPRE and CNP. This work will form a framework for the management of our National Parks that should last for many years to come. It is vital that that framework is the right one.

Two important decisions have already been taken. The first was the unanimous election of Robert Heseltine, the "old" Committee Chairman, to Chairmanship of the "new", thus ensuring an element of continuity in the management of the Park. Second was the election of South Lakeland District Councillor, Colin Gardner, from Dentdale, as vice chairman, who will bring a new and younger voice to higher deliberations on Park affairs. As a local man, Colin should help to ensure that Park policies keep properly in touch with those who live within its borders.

2. Planning Policy Guidance

One of the methods by which central Government controls the manner of development throughout England is by the issue of Planning Policy Guidance Notes. There are well over twenty of these covering everything from Green Belts (PPG2) through Nature Conservation (PPG9) to Transport (PPG13), Tourism (PPG21) and Noise (PPG24). There are also some ten or so Regional Planning Guidance Notes (RPGs) covering broad policy guidelines region by region; and to these can be added a growing number of Mineral Planning Guidance Notes (MPGs).

These documents are extremely important because Local, Structure and Unitary Plans have to conform to their guidance and effectively, the future of our countryside is dependent upon the type of development they permit. Recently the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan completed its seemingly endless round of drafting, consideration, public consultation and Public Inquiry, and is now an adopted Plan giving a high level of protection against unsuitable development within the National Park. But it is in danger of being undermined almost immediately.

Over recent years government guidance has been tending towards the vision of a generally greener future, a tendency that the YDS, amongst other conservation minded bodies has applauded. However, we are now threatened with proposed updates of PPG1 (General Policy and Principles) and PPG7 (Countryside and Rural Economy) which, if adopted, will go a long way to reversing this desirable tendency. The philosophy of the proposed new PPG1 appears to seek a change to the function of the planning system from one of managing land in the public interest to one of using it to promote economic competitiveness. Whilst the draft new PPG7 (which is good in parts) contains the remarkable thesis that, although development of isolated dwellings in the open countryside is still to be frowned on, an exception might be made if the house (or mansion?) is ".....a truly original and high quality building...."

In other words, the provision in suitable places of small affordable housing developments for local people - a provision that the National Park Committee almost went to the wall for in an unsuccessful attempt to include within its Local Plan - is frowned upon; large and opulent houses for the super-rich are all right. It is a remarkable concept, and one upon which it is hoped that government will have second thoughts when it hears the howl of disapproval emanating from countryside authorities such as the YDNP.

3. Hedgerows

Yet another major cause for concern comes from recent government proposals that would leave some 82% of hedgerows in England without protection (the figure is calculated by CPRE). The proposals are linked to a complex and highly technical scheme defining those hedges that should be protected. Farmers in the Dales are probably much less likely to remove hedgerows than farmers in many other parts of the country, but the principle is a dangerous one to play with. Our hedgerows are a precious and vital part of the English countryside, and it would seem better to institute a presumption against all hedge removal, with the onus being firmly on the applicant to state why they should be granted permission for removal, rather than the other way round. (See John Cumberland's article on page 9)

Jim Burton.

Events

While away the winter and early spring by joining us on our walks and lectures. Do put some of the dates for special visits and the AGM, later in the year in your diary. Please note that all walks start at 10.30am and lectures at 2.15pm unless otherwise stated. You are reminded that all dogs should be kept under control on a lead. Lecture admission is £1.50 for members and £2.50 for non-members. Refreshments (tea and biscuits) are now included in the admission price, but donations are always welcome.

SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH 1997 WALK ROUND FEWSTON RESERVOIR. Leader Eric Jackson 01943 466314. Meet at 10.30am at Fewston car park GR SE 187537 for a moderate 4 mile walk. Packed lunch or pubs and cafes in Otley.

SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH LECTURE WILD BIRDS WENT WITH THE GAMEKEEPERS by a local gamekeeper at Otley Civic Centre at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1ST 1997 WOODLAND WALK ROUND THE BARDSEY AREA. Leader Chris Wright tel.: 01756 792297. Meet at 10.30am outside village hall Gr 365 433. 98 bus from Leeds Infirmary Street at 9.35am to Church lane, Bardsey. Then quarter mile walk to meeting point or park in the village hall car park, 100 yards up from the church for a moderate 3-4 mile walk in woodlands, including a wildlife reserve at Hetchell Woods. Packed lunch or at the Bingley Arms.

List of Daleswatch Convenors

The Yorkshire Dales Council of Management invites any Daleswatch member in the areas indicated below or any other YDS member who wishes to bring up an issue relating to a particular area, to feel free to call the appropriate Daleswatch Convenor Helpline listed below, to explain the problem. *Our grateful thanks to John S. Bell who is taking over the Airedale/Malhamdale group for us for the time being.*

Airedale/Malhamdale	John Bell (01535 655418)
Dentdale	Judith Newsham (015396 25466)
Nidderdale	Jean Johnson (01943 880234)
Ribblesdale	Hilary Baker (01729 840609)
Swaledale	Charles Hepworth (01748 886397)
Wensleydale (Upper)	Alan Watkinson (01969 667785)
Wharfedale (Lower)	Peter Young (01943 466858)
Wharfedale (Upper)	Ken Lord (01756 753202.)



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1ST 1997 LECTURE FROM COVERHAM TO KILGRAM BRIDGE (Coverdale) by Mrs Moverly at Bardsey Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY MARCH 1ST 1997 WALK IN THE GARGRAVE AREA Walk Leaders: Grace Cairns tel: 01282 812956 and Hilary Baker tel: 01729 840609. Meet outside Gargrave Village Hall at 10.30am either train from Leeds 0817 or 0855 from Skipton (check times) or car park near village hall. An easy 4-5 mile walk. Packed lunch or cafes and pubs in Gargrave.

SATURDAY MARCH 1ST 1997 LECTURE SETTLEMENT AND EARLY FARMING IN THE DALES by Alan King at Gargrave Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SUNDAY APRIL 20TH 1997 JOINT EVENT WITH NORTH YORK MOORS ASSOCIATION FOR FARM VISIT AND FARNDALE DAFFODIL WALK Meet at Sutton Bank at a time to be confirmed in the next YDS Review when price of MoorsBus from Sutton Bank will also be confirmed. Packed lunch needed.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AGM MINI-WEEKEND IN WHARFEDAILE SAT MAY 10TH-SUNDAY 11TH. Morning walk in the Kettlewell area. AGM at Kettlewell Village Hall with Richard Muir as speaker. Evening Social function, listening and dancing to some genuine Dales tunes (live music) from Magnetic North plus buffet supper at same venue. Booking essential for social function. Sunday morning walk.

SATURDAY JUNE 21ST VISIT TO MASHAM BREWERY (BLACK SHEEP) with guided tour and optional short walk in Masham area. Booking essential when full details available.

SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH VISIT TO VIOLIN MAKER'S AT LEYBURN. Afternoon visit with tour. Booking essential when full details available.

DO REMEMBER TO KEEP ALL DOGS UNDER CONTROL ON A LEAD.

IF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE, AND YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A CAR, WE MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE A PICK-UP FROM A CONVENIENT BUS STOP OF RAIL STATION, BUT WE DO NEED PLENTY OF NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK ALL TRAVEL TIMES BEFORE TRAVELLING.



Front Cover picture: Helm, Askrigg, photo by Geoffrey Wright

Back Cover picture : Farmer Driving Sheep, wood engraving by Marie Hartley (see page 11)

*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.*

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MONEY, £1 OFF NEW RATE NOW! Ordinary
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