

No.61 Winter 1997

Yorkshire *Dales* Review



- *Leader – Welcome Heather*
- *YDS Seminar for National Park Societies*
- *Painters of the Dales*
- *Landscapes through Time*
- *A Century of Yorkshire Dialect*


YORKSHIRE
DALES
SOCIETY

£1

Yorkshire Dales Review • No. 61 • Winter 1997

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

Welcome Heather

On January 1st Heather Hancock took up her post as the Yorkshire Dales National Park Officer.

Not only is Heather Britain's first woman National Park Officer, but she is also currently the youngest Park Officer. But what is perhaps of more significance for the Yorkshire Dales is less to do with gender or age; the fact that her background is significantly different to that of her distinguished predecessors. She is not a professional Planning Officer, and as our brief profile opposite suggests she brings a perhaps very different set of experiences and expectations to bear on the many problems facing the new Authority.

How can the right kind of balance be struck between conflicting interests and views not only as expressed by people who live and work in the National Park and those who visit the Park or care for its outstanding landscapes and natural heritage, but even among members of the National Park Committee itself, as the reaction to our last editorial revealed all too clearly? How will colleagues, some of whom have been in post almost a quarter of a century, react to a young chief officer who won't necessarily accept all the cosy assumptions and established practices of local Government? Above all, how will local people, and in particular the local farming community, for more than 40 years sceptical, and at times even hostile, to the very idea of a National Park respond to an officer who must win their not-easily won respect and support, if the Yorkshire National Park is going to develop in new directions in years ahead.

Heather is the last person to underestimate the difficulties and the frustrations which lie ahead. Finance is an issue - the Yorkshire Dales National Park has never been able to achieve its potential and been too often seen as purely negative because of lack of resources, but her experience in

both the Millennium Commission and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust suggests that when it comes to innovative thinking and new approaches, the Yorkshire Dales may soon be in the lead.

The Yorkshire Dales Society warmly welcomes our new National Park Officer, and we can pledge our full support in the years ahead, even on those occasions when, for whatever reason, decisions have to be taken which we don't approve. We are only one part of the democratic process, and the Park Officer is there to serve, guide and ultimately carry out the policies of the National Park Authority.

In welcoming Heather, we also say an equally warm thank you and goodbye to George. George Hallas, the present Park Officer, will remain in post until the end of March to allow a smooth period of transition. He has been an outstandingly fine officer of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, 22 years as Assistant Park Officer, just under two as National Park Officer. A keen ornithologist and naturalist, his deep love and commitment to the Dales has won him widespread respect, and he has handled what will be seen as a crucial transition period between the retirement of Richard Harvey and the appointment of Heather Hancock with skill and tact. This period co-incided with the setting up of the new National Park Authority, not all of whose new Members share what might be called the National Park conservation ethic. His refusal to yield on key principles and policies reflects both his professionalism and courage, and he has handed his successor an impressive legacy. We shall be forever in his debt.

Colin Speakman

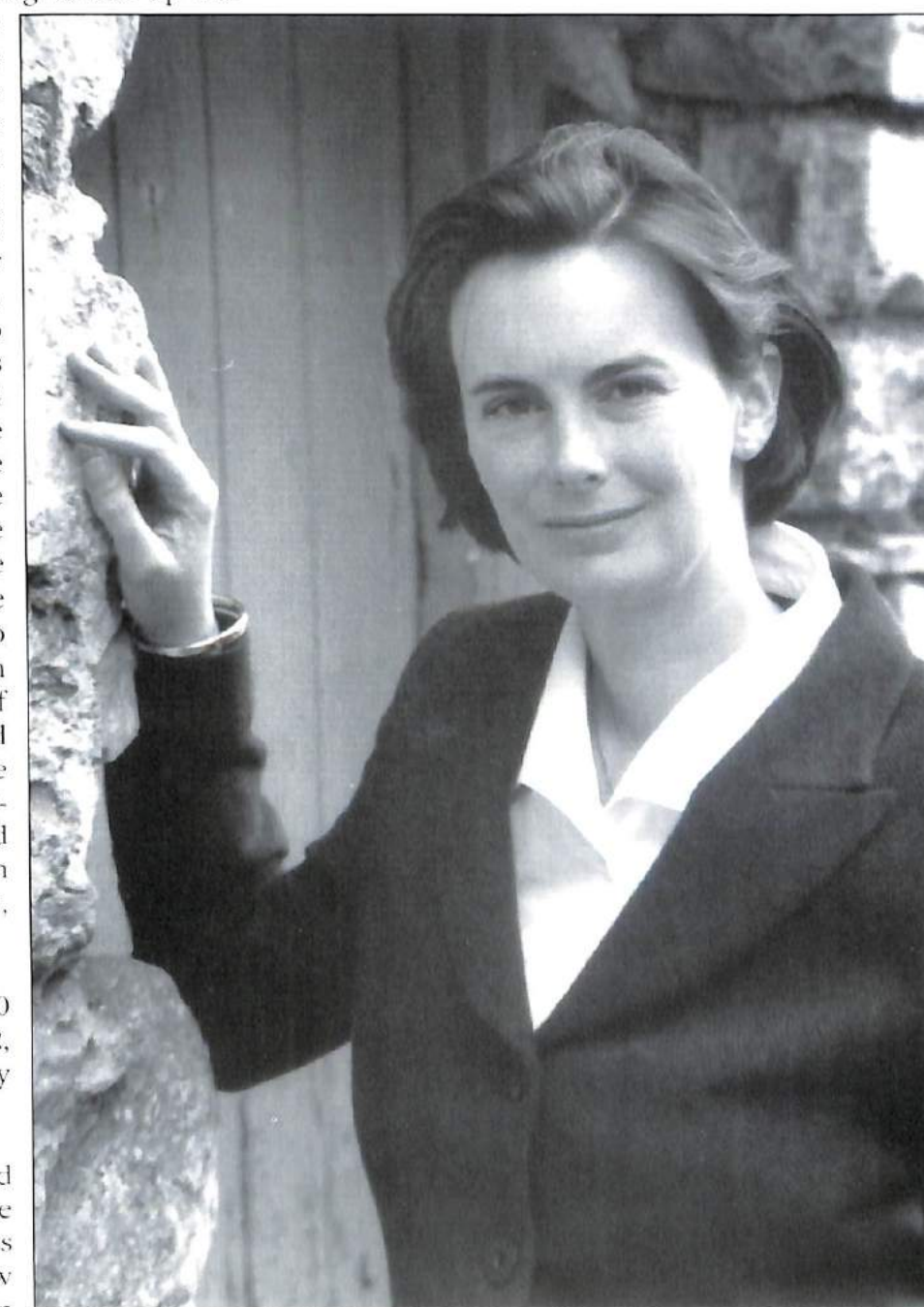
Heather Hancock – A brief Introduction

Heather Hancock grew up in the village of Kelbrook, not far from the Yorkshire Dales, now just on the Lancashire side of the border, but in historic West Riding, enough to make her a true Yorkshire lass. An impressive academic record took her to St Johns, Cambridge and a First in Land Economy. After a short spell in land agency, working with the Crown Estates in the East Midlands, she switched to a fast track career in the Home Office, becoming private secretary to no less three Home Secretaries, helping to set up the Department of Natural Heritage in the process. Then came another career change, this time to help create and develop the newly established Millennium Commission, soon heading up a major Department of over 30 employees advising on major UK-wide Millennium Projects, one of which was to develop into the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust with a £4 million award to develop the Environet programme in the Dales. She returned to Yorkshire to live in Littondale, in the Yorkshire Dales, an area she knew and loved, leaving the Millennium Commission to become an executive in an international company of financial advisers and accountants in Leeds, at the same time becoming a founder-Trustee of the newly established Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. She has a son, Harry, now just seven months old.

She was chosen out of 160 applicants and, at the age of 32, is Britain's youngest and only woman National Park Officer.

"I am delighted and privileged to be joining the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as it moves forward into a new independent era," she said on

her appointment. She has already suggested her role is going to be to "listen, educate, discuss and reconcile", and sees little future in confrontation, much more in co-operation and mutual understanding. She is as likely to be every bit as concerned about long term strategic issues and getting the support of Government for matters relevant to the Dales, as helping to resolve the many conflicting issues and demands on her own doorstep within the Dales.



National Parks Societies Seminar, Malhamdale, 1997

The Yorkshire Dales Society hosted the National Parks Societies' Seminar in Malham over the weekend November 14th-16th with the topical theme of **Local Employment in National Parks**.

Both the Yorkshire Dales Society Council and the seminar sub-committee felt that it was crucial that the delegates in the short time available should feel involved with the Dales and appreciate the particular problems of Malham as a tourist centre as well as its strengths. Essential seminar elements were seen by the Committee as:

- plenty of discussion time
- modest rather than luxurious accommodation
- no expensive sponsorship requiring sponsors' "feedback" time
- all field trips readily accessible by foot or easy road journey
- the event should pay its way if possible

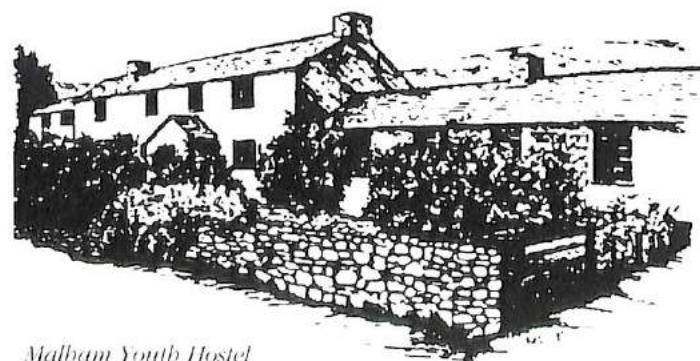
As well as delegates from all eleven National Parks, we were also delighted to welcome representatives from the Council for National Parks, our umbrella organisation which lobbies so effectively for our National Parks and the environmental cause as a whole. Our accommodation at the John Dower Memorial Hostel was particularly appropriate as John Dower's seminal 1944 National Parks report was written in nearby Kirkby Malham, and the building, one of Britain's first purpose-built Youth Hostels, was designed by John Dower himself. Here the warmth of welcome and friendliness of wardens Martin and Christine Peryer and the superb food more than made up for the occasional small problem of being rather tight for space.

A welcome to the 50 delegates by YDS President **Ken Willson** was followed by a brief **Introduction to the Dales** by Chairman **Chris Wright** and Secretary **Colin Speakman** with some judiciously chosen slides which set the tone for a delightfully informal session, prior to a social evening in the village hostelry. Delegates then met again on Saturday morning at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Centre in Malham to hear whether **National Parks are an Opportunity or a Threat to local employment**, using the Yorkshire Dales and Malhamdale in particular as a case study.

National Park Officer George Hallas who had been most supportive of the whole seminar from the earliest planning sessions, was unfortunately taken

ill shortly before the event. Undeterred, **Colin Speakman** who was also chairing the Saturday morning meeting, stepped into the breach to make the keynote speech at short notice, to put issues on employment in our National Parks in context. He stated that we have a duty to conserve our National Parks as cultural landscapes but as recognised by the 1991 **Edwards Report** and the recent CNP report **National Parks for Life**, to achieve this requires a healthy local economy, including employment opportunities. Lack of such opportunities often forces the younger people to leave the Dales while affluent newly retired people move in to what could become "the land of the old and grey". This problem is recognised in Section 62 of the **1995 Environment Act** which requires National Park Authorities to foster "economic and social well-being" in pursuance of its other objects, but this needs careful interpretation. In fact the Yorkshire Dales has many examples of development that supports local infrastructure and employment such as the Hawes Dairy and the Settle-Carlisle Railway, though there are developments that threaten that equilibrium. Rather than be reactive to unsuitable job-creating development, should Societies not be pro-active in supporting conservation and sustainable tourism related activities in our Parks? He concluded by reminding delegates that during the afternoon's field visits, they would soon be able to see at first hand many aspects of these crucial issues.

Julie Boocock, Chairman of Malham Parish Council, local businesswoman, owner of the Buck Inn and mother of teenage children who would soon be looking for employment opportunities in the next few years in their turn, talked of the problems of living in Malham as it affected local people. Housing was often too expensive for first time buyers, public transport was both costly and



Malham Youth Hostel



Gordale Scar - Frozen Stiff

intermittent, while employment patterns had changed dramatically from 20 years ago when 10 flourishing farms in Malham were now reduced to 4. Today over half of the present households were involved in tourism in some capacity and a way had to be found to meet both the demands of the visitor, as well as what local people felt was appropriate for them. The National Park often had to balance sometimes conflicting demands.

She saw visitor traffic as one of Malham's biggest problem but suggested that attempts at a cure including yellow lines could bring as many problems as they solve. She also pointed out that tourism was not a new phenomenon for an area where visitors had come to Malham in previous decades using the train to Bell Busk station (sadly defunct) or on the more frequent bus services. Relations with the National Park had not always been easy and plans were often overturned which locals might be in favour of.

Richard Witt, who had come to represent the National Park Authority at very short notice, still works part time as its Funding Officer as well as being the new Director of the new Clapham-based **Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust**, which through its Environet Project would bring £4 million to the Dales for environmental projects which would also help to safeguard and create jobs. Matching funding had to be found from many sources - individual and corporate donations,

sponsorship and European funding. The Trust has already been of benefit to locals and visitors with a number of projects and he agreed that it was essential to work with the local people to obtain a consensus on any potential projects. Richard also suggested that new Information-technology based industries using modern technology such as the Internet and laptop computer would help farmers access information and save much valuable time, helping them to develop and diversify their businesses - this could include conservation and management work. Computer illiteracy had to be addressed at every level - even within the National Park Authority itself. Craven College of Further Education, based in nearby Skipton, was very keen to help local people tap into an ever-changing modern technology and to promote distance learning centres at such dales sites as Bentham and Askrigg. An animated discussion was followed by a lunch break and four field visits, each focusing on one of four key issues where local employment could be generated in the future - farming, tourism, upland conservation and information-based technology.

On their return from their visits, the **Hillfarming Group** reported on their visit to Lee Gate under the guidance of **Florence** and **Frank Carr**, supported by YDS member **Hilary Baker**. Delegates were looking to see if there was any conflict between the economic priorities of a successful sheep and dairy farm, and conservation and recreation demands of the National Park, and how possible conflicts can be resolved. A second key issue was Mastiles Lane, one of the most historic green roads in the Dales, suffering increasing misuse by four wheeled drive vehicles. Members were impressed by the commitment and good husbandry on this farm.

Peter Sharp, owner of Miresfield Guesthouse, supported by YDS member **Derek Parkin** looked at **Tourism in Malham**, the facilities it offers and how it deals with its numerous day and staying visitors. This trade depends heavily on Malham's natural beauty, and creates much permanent and seasonal local jobs. Who ultimately benefits from this business? Do businesses in the area serve the needs of the visitors or do they attract additional visitors? Is the present level of tourism the maximum Malham can take without damaging the environment or could it develop in other ways? It was suggested that there has been a loss of basic facilities so that local people are forced to obtain essential supplies from towns some distance away. Delegates looked at a number of sites as they made their assessment.

Upland Conservation and Management was led by **Fiona Chalmers**, Project Manager of the

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust assisted by YDS Vice Chairman **Dr Jim Burton**, also a Member of the National Park Committee. After a preliminary short session using overheads demonstrating the impressive work of the Trust, the group took a short walk to the Cove to see how the Trust, the National Park and other bodies were conserving Malham's unique landscape, tasks which all created local jobs. But was the increasing use of outside funding bodies to achieve National Park purposes an opportunity or a threat? Were there now shortages of skills and even materials within the Park and most important, what happens when the funding programmes come to an end? Again the group were able to absorb much excellent information from a dedicated professional.

The final field trip looked at one aspect of the **Information Technology** revolution, led by **John Varney** proprietor of the Centre for Management Creativity, assisted by his partner at the centre, **Bernadette Schutte** and supported by YDS Treasurer **David Smith**. Questions that the group considered were if this high powered, international Management Training Centre was in fact a unique example based on the individual skills of its proprietor or is it a role model for other national parks? Does the centre use the area as an "inspirational resource" and could the new information based technologies create a two tier society in the Dales in terms of income, culture and lifestyles? The CMC was obviously a highly successful business attracting prestige customers in the UK and abroad, well thought out and with an environmental friendly image.

Each of the sites visited was obviously chosen for the high standards of service they provide in the widest sense of the word. Under the skilled chairmanship of **Chris Wright**, a lively discussion session followed as each group reported back, making some extremely perceptive and informative comments.



Left: Upland Conservation and Management Field Trip

A splendid dinner with some additional invited guests concluded with a speech by **Sir Chris Bonington**, President of CNP, making a most convincing case for the value of the Council of National Parks to all the society members present and demonstrating how both CNP and National Parks Societies could all contribute to "**A Vision for Our National Parks**." Anecdotes from his recent travels made a moving conclusion as he described how his party's concern for an individual case of suffering had fortunately had a happy ending. On both evenings further informal discussion continued either at the hostel or at nearby hostelries.

On Sunday, under the able chairmanship of **Jim Burton**, the keynote speech and an extremely lucid and thought-provoking account was given by **Ruth Chambers** from CNP on **What CNP Needs from the Societies** and an equally balanced and mature response came from **Derek Statham**, Secretary of the North York Moors Association on **What the Societies Need from CNP**. After a break followed a brief report from each Society on ways of **Raising their profile and Increasing their Membership**, their successes and problems. **Jim Burton** proved an adept chairman and time-keeper in this difficult slot.

A final discussion which enabled delegates to air particular points relevant to the forgoing was brought to a conclusion by thanks to those most concerned in the organisation of the event as well as to the rest of the team and to the hostel staff for a very successful conference, President Ken Willson paying particular tribute to the organisers Fleur and Colin Speakman and their team of helpers. The seminar broke for lunch, and those needing transport were directed again by transport supremo John Hone, while the majority clutching their smart conference packs organised by Hilary Baker, returned home, and a small party set out on foot to brave the November elements for a last taste of the Dales.

At the end of the seminar both verbally and by letter, very warm thanks were received from many delegates who had obviously thoroughly enjoyed their weekend and felt it had been a worthwhile exercise to come from as far afield as Snowdonia, Dartmoor, Brecon, Exmoor, Pembroke and the Broads as well as from some areas nearer at hand like the Lakes, Peak District, and North York Moors.

Fleur Speakman

Painters of the Dales

These Yorkshire Dales are the most beautiful, most satisfying, most rewarding country I have ever known.

JB Priestley (1966)

A highly imaginative ten day exhibition at The Folly, Settle from October 30th to November 9th proved a splendid way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Craven branch of the CPRE and attracted a record number of visitors. It also seemed to prove the truth of J B Priestley's comment.

On every floor and landing and sometimes on tables, there were examples, 200 in all, of the work of some 37 different artists, who through the medium of some exceptionally fine paintings, drawings and collages, in oil, watercolour, pastel and acrylic paint, illustrated some aspect of the Dales in its many moods: dramatic, lyrical, subtly atmospheric or occasionally an idiosyncratic aspect of Dales life.

Among the many illustrious names such as John Dean, Piers Browne, Jacquie Denby, Norman Adams, and Marie Hartley; Katherine Holmes' large watercolour in pastel, ink, collage and gravel dominated the entrance section with a wonderful brooding evocation of sky, stone walls and landscape, entitled **Approach to Gordale Scar** while her **An October Afternoon on Askrigg Common, looking towards**

Semerwater used similar techniques with actual dales grasses in the foreground, again showing the dales in threatening mood.

Busy Rooks by Daphne Chandler, oil on canvas, had a Pre-Raphaelite dramatic sense of colour and careful detail, while her **Bolton Castle in Snow** in pastel with that rather bleak pile huddled in the landscape rather than dominating it, contrasted strongly with Arnold Denby's delicate water colours as in **Northern Dales View**.

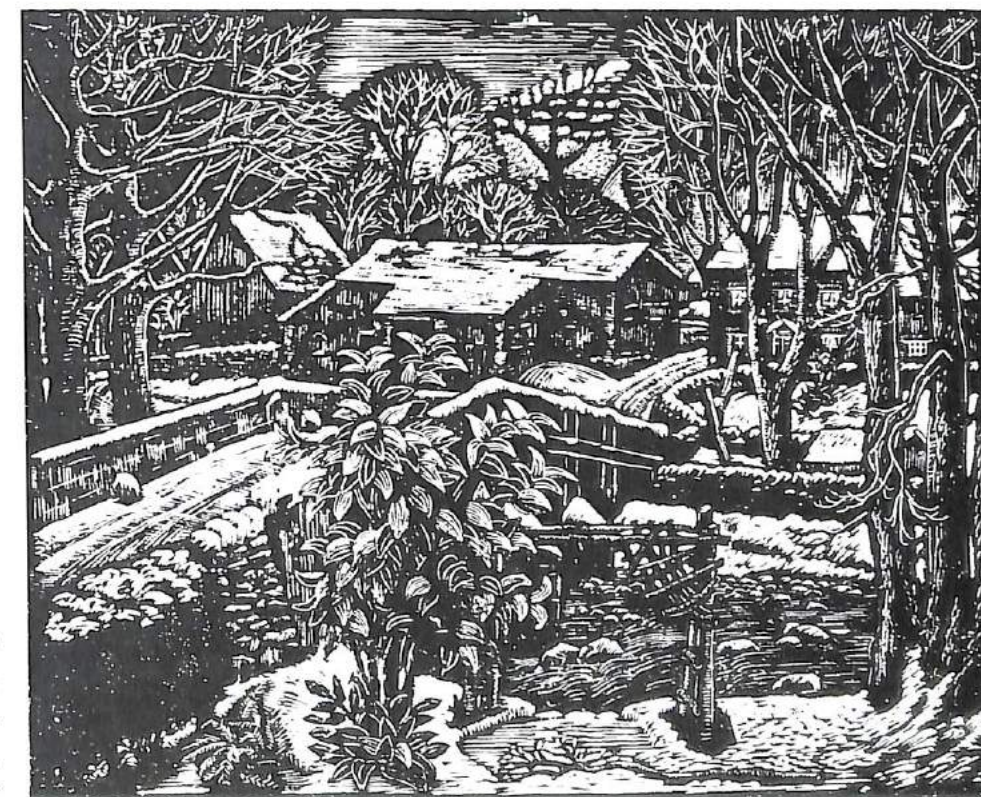
Janet Rawlins fabric collage of **Buttertubs** managed to suggest the mystery and subtle colouring of that particular rock formation while her

Buttercups and Barn, an embroidered collage, took one one from a vibrant foreground with an exquisite sprinkling of flowers across an old stone path to an ancient barn shrouded in mystery. A snapshot in time in impressionistic shades of grey was suggested by Arnold Reginald Smith's **Sheep Sale**.

David Joy deserves full congratulations for being the moving spirit behind the exhibition, which was mounted in association with the North Craven Building Preservation Trust, and also for the excellent book priced at £4 which accompanied it and which is generously illustrated in both colour and black and white, giving useful biographies of the artists complete with delightful anecdotes. But more important, in a very real sense, it also tells us about how the artists themselves feel about those changing dales. **Painters in the Dales** by David Joy published by Paradise Press Ltd., will also serve as a permanent reminder of how the Dales have been depicted by artists during the last fifty years. If you were unable to visit this very special exhibition, **Painters in the Dales** at £4 is a most worthwhile investment and permanent reminder of this celebration.

Fleur Speakman

Below: Winter at Arncliffe by Marmaduke Miller

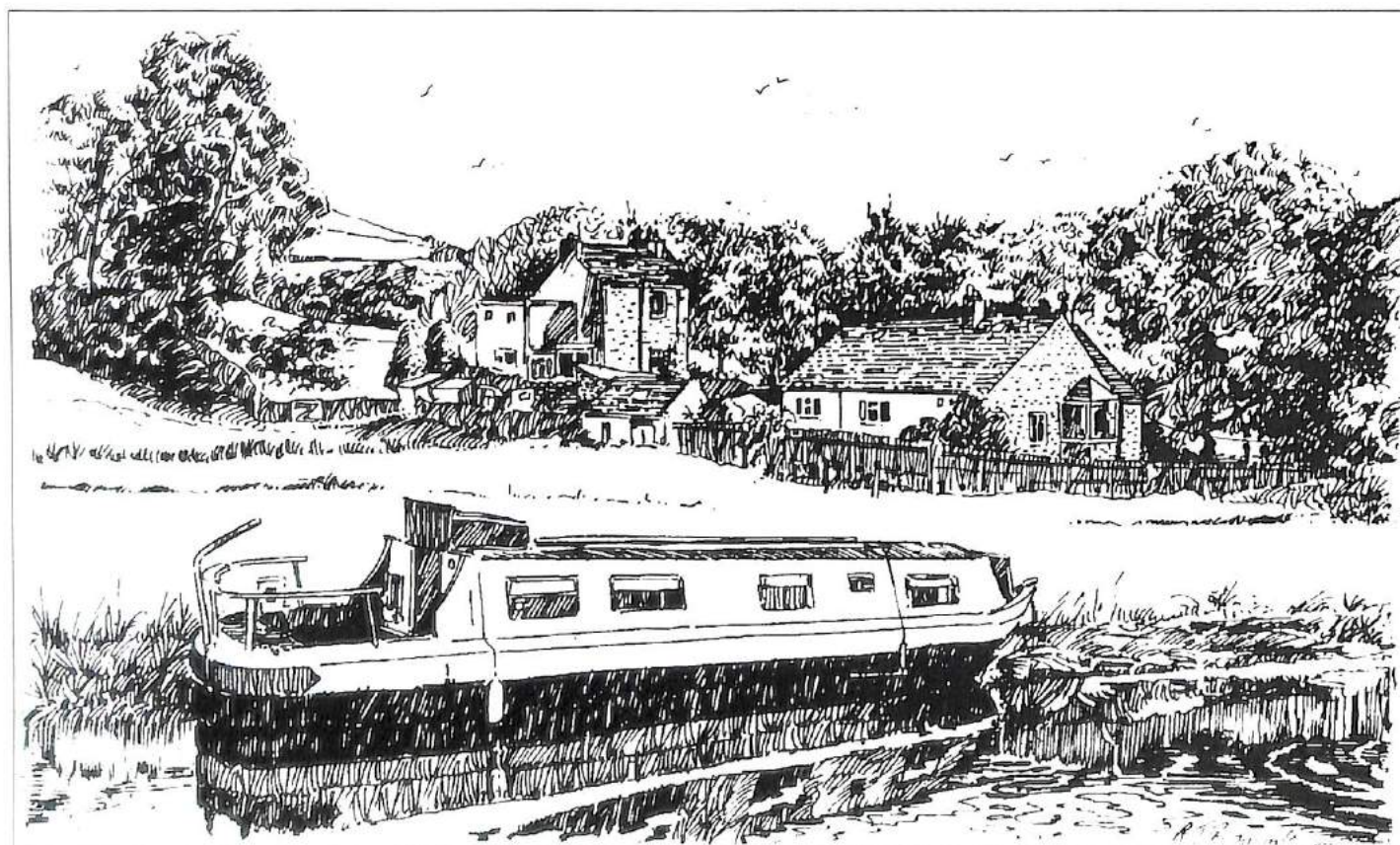


Dales Views

The drawings on these two pages and the back cover are by Richard Bancroft of Northstar Arts, a local artist living in Skipton who specializes in drawings in and about the Dales. He has been a regular contributor to "Dalesman" magazine, among others.

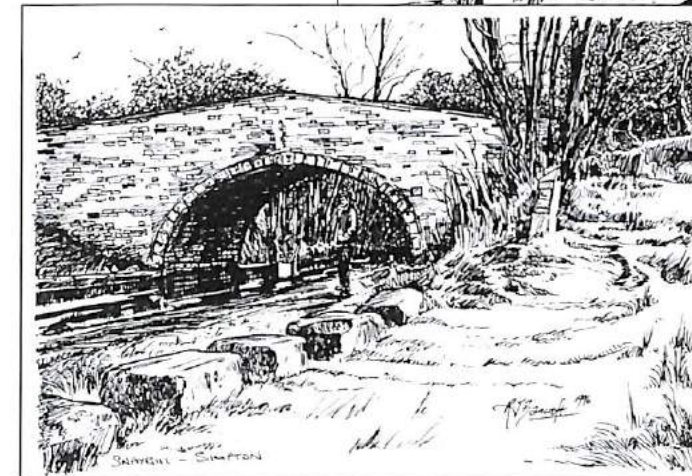
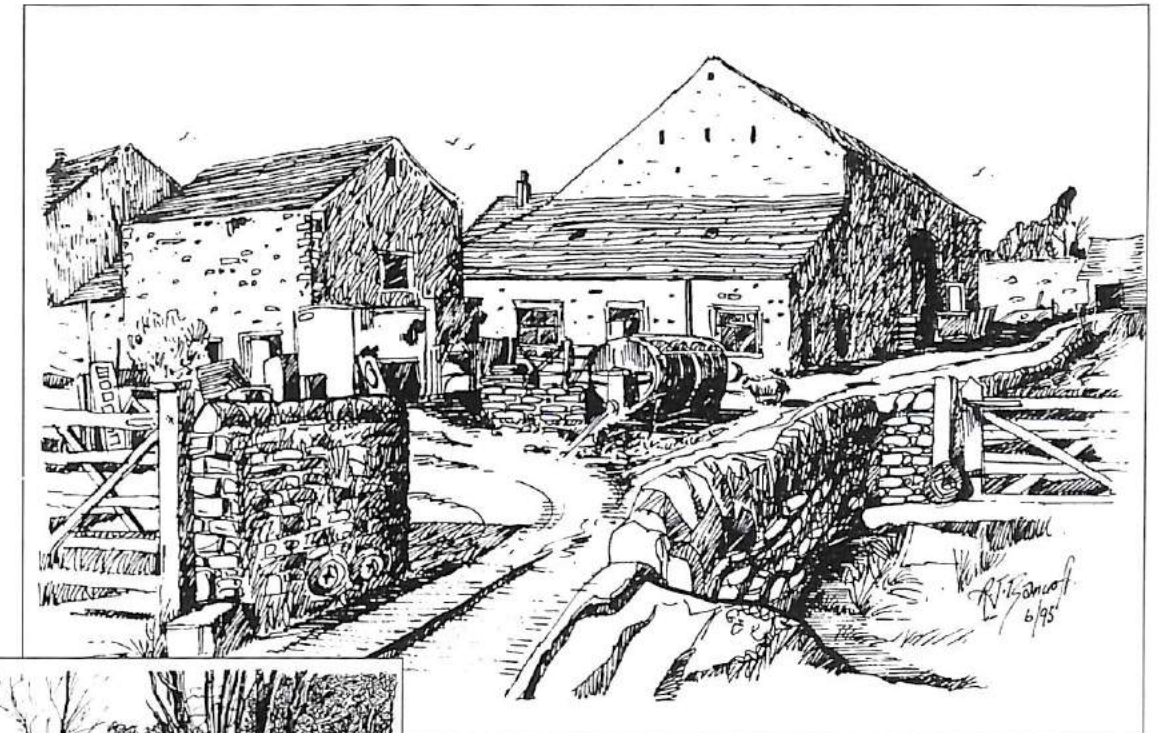
Right:
Bradley, near
Skipton.

Below: Leeds-
Liverpool
Canal.



Right: Waddington
in the Ribble Valley.

Below:
Snaygill Bridge, near
Skipton



Book Reviews

A CENTURY OF YORKSHIRE DIALECT
(Yorkshire Dialect Society - Smith Settle - £10.95)

The initials YDS could be used to refer to two mutually supportive Yorkshire organisations - The Yorkshire Dales Society or The Yorkshire Dialect Society. The Yorkshire Dales Society is, among other things, concerned with celebrating and creating awareness of the unique cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales. The Yorkshire Dialect Society, some 84 years our senior, is also about the linguistic and cultural heritage, not just of the Dales, but of the whole of Yorkshire. But we share a common interest in the distinctive language and literature of our region.

To celebrate the centenary of the Yorkshire Dales Society in 1997, two of its most distinguished members, well known to our YDS, Arnold Kellet and Ian Dewhirst, have produced an absolutely fascinating anthology, based on material from the Society's highly respected quarterly magazine or

Transactions over the century, which includes scholarly articles on many aspects of Yorkshire Dialect and the rural and urban life it reflects. There are articles on the language of mining, farming, brewing, cheese-making, steel-making, horse-rearing, the textile industries, as well as features on some the great dialect writers of past centuries, from the anonymous author of the medieval Lyke Wake Dirge - one of the great poems of the English Language - to writers still alive. This is an anthology rich in human and historic insight, but especially rich in that characteristic ironic and self-deprecating humour, so typical of our regional character.

A rich, absorbing book, ideal as a bedside book or companion for a journey, with much to fascinate everyone with an interest and love of the language of the Dales, which despite so many influences and changes, is still very much alive.

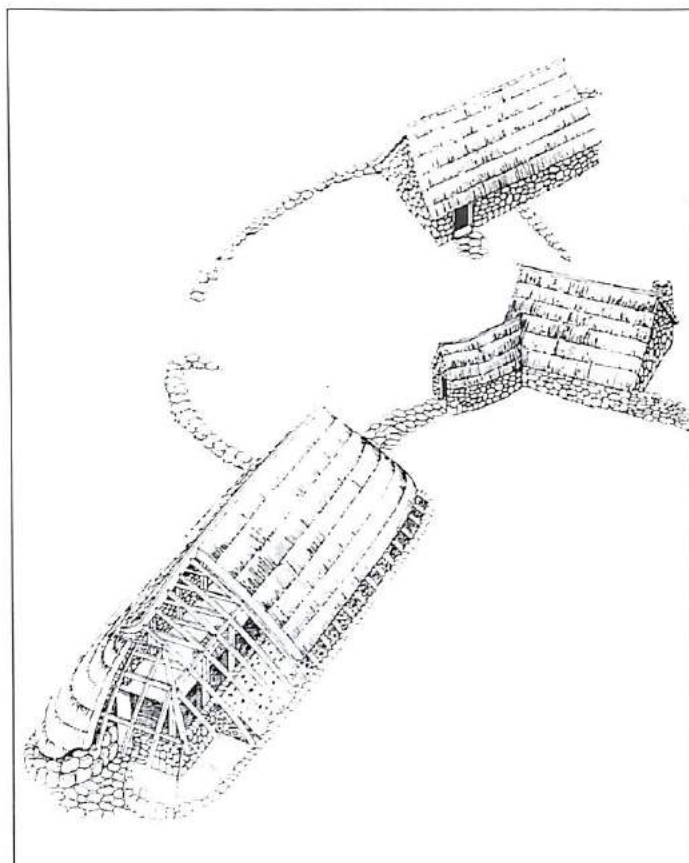
CS

Landscapes through Time

BOOK OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES - LANDSCAPES THROUGH TIME - Robert White (Batsford/English Heritage £15.99)

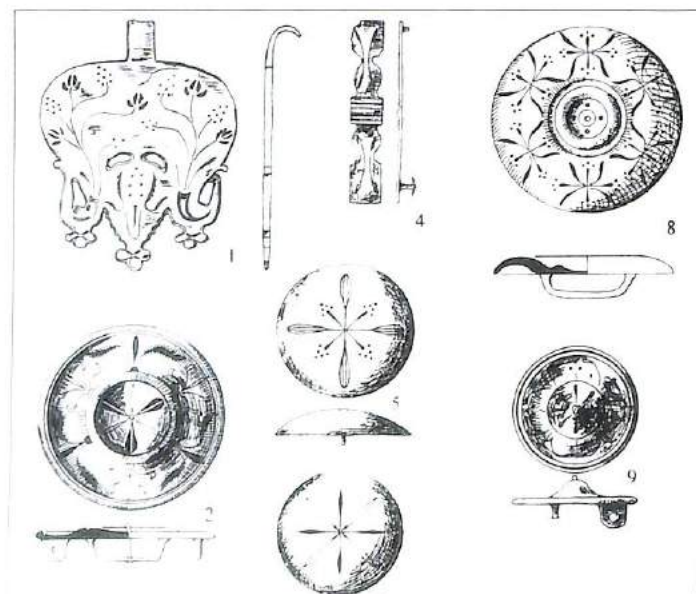
It is rare for a book about the Yorkshire Dales to offer new insights into what is a very special but much written about part of England. Robert White is the Archaeological Conservation Officer of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. He has found time, despite his heavy professional workload over the last five years, to research and write a book which is certain to become a standard work of reference for decades ahead, as well as a fascinating read as the complex history of man's activities and influence on the Dales landscape is unravelled in the narrative.

This book is tour de force, bringing together recent research and a wealth of information which, if it doesn't radically change our understanding of how the essentially human landscapes of the Dales have evolved over the last 12,000 years, deepens and enriches that understanding. How many people living in the Dales know, for example, that in post Roman times, Craven was almost certainly a distinctive Romano-British kingdom before it was conquered or absorbed into new colonial settlements by the invading Anglo-Saxons or English? Clues of place names, rivers or peaks, are reinforced by rich field-evidence, taken from many sources. Likewise the rich pattern of medieval settlement and land-use, which still has such an



Above right: A possible reconstruction of the Viking period farmstead excavated near Ribbleshead.

Below: Illustrations of Bronze decorative items from a board of Roman cavalry horse harness found at Fremington.



influence on what we see in the landscape today, is explored, and Robert White is not afraid to revisit the work and research of some of the important and influential names of the past, including Arthur Raistrick and many others, and offer new perspectives. Industrial archaeology and industrial history are also covered, though inevitably more recent times have less detailed analysis. There is a useful Glossary, Bibliography and suggestions about some important sites to visit, mainly on foot using footpaths and bridleways. The last chapter, **A Past for the Future**, looks at the role of archaeology in increasing our understanding of the present and future landscapes, and the work of the National Park Authority and English Heritage to achieve the conservation and interpretation of this heritage. But he ends by emphasising the fact that the Yorkshire Dales is:

"not a museum but a working landscape that has always been in a constant state of change. The challenge for conservation is to balance often conflicting demands and to protect the landscape for present and future generations, while not forgetting that its character is a result of exploitation and utilisation by our ancestors."

Colin Speakman

Book Reviews

LIFE AND TRADITION IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby, published by Smith, Settle at £9.95 and available at local bookshops.

Chesfords, weigh bogeys, riddleboard, leds and spelk - no not another book on Yorkshire dialect, but an account of the travels and studies of Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby during the mid 1960s, recording in words and pictures a way of life that has now disappeared. The above, the dialect words, thoroughly explained in context, relate to some of the many processes which went to make up past country life in the dales and it proves to be a

fascinating account.

Generously illustrated with photographs dating from the first decades of the century and beyond, and complete with fine drawings of various tools and equipment in regular use on Yorkshire farms, the mysteries of dairy work, oatcake making, ling thatching and many more crafts are lucidly clarified. Making a pair of creels from hazel branches, a wonderfully light structure which folds flat, but can hold up to three stones of loose hay or up to six stones when densely packed, is shown by a series of photos as the creels are constructed, with the final photo of the creels in actual use up in Keld in Swaledale.



Photo: Mr. Slinger and Mr. Woods with a coul net. Hares - from the book "Life and Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales" by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby.

Horse-drawn sledges and sweeps for haymaking of course predate modern technology, but were still a remarkably effective way of dealing with quantities of hay as the various action photographs testify while meticulously observed descriptions of such processes as peat cutting and drying are enlivened by some actual lines of dialect as a peat cutter described part of his day's work:

If yer were cutting 'em yan efter anither, yer 'ed a few peats bi yer got t'end.

Farmhouses, their fireplaces and furnishings are also not neglected, while knitting, spinning and quilting show how self-sufficient our forefathers could be. Blacksmiths, tinsmiths, stone masons, saddlers, shoemakers, cloggers and tailors helped to complete a typical rural community of the period.

Life and Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales is comprehensive enough to become a standard work of reference and a valuable historical record with an excellent glossary to help with many specialist expressions.

Fleur Speakman

Book Reviews - continued

A HOME SPUN YARN by **Doris Riley**, published by the author at £5.95 and £6.40 by post direct or in local bookshops.

From the breadth of Marie Hartley's and Joan Ingilby's guide to the Dales to a particular example of a particular manufacture in one particular village. This example of local history tells of the historic manufacture of hosiery yarns and knitting wool at Greenroyd Mills, Sutton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire owned by William Hartley and then by the Bairstow family. In 1980 the firm closed making the author herself and 174 workers redundant and ending the chapter on well over a hundred years of history. Doris Riley expertly gives us information on the different processes involved in the manufacture of fleece and yarn, and some

interesting material on the hostel for young girl employees which was a model in its time, attractively situated and under the guidance of a benevolent matron with much emphasis on welfare and education.

Much can be learned from facsimile copies of plant evaluation when the mill was sold in 1911, and again when machinery was listed at a stocktaking in 1931 or from a factory commission questionnaire of 1833 or the time book, listing full time and part time employees; while numerous photos and brief accounts of named workers make the book a useful resource for those interested in tracing their family history.

Fleur Speakman

Yorelink - A Success Story

As will be evident from the report of the National Park Societies' seminar in Malhamdale in November, the Yorkshire Dales Society is deeply committed to helping to achieve economic and social well being and employment among local communities in the Dales. Only with prosperous and successful local businesses in the Dales, including farming and tourism, and decent employment prospects, especially for young people, will the wealth and energy be generated to maintain the fabric of a unique landscape.

It was for this reason, in 1993, that the Yorkshire Dales Society offered local businesses in the Dales a unique opportunity to compete for a prize of £5,000, which had been provided by our sponsor, British Telecom, who had responded positively to our ideas about such a competition and our requests for support. The terms of the competition, as devised by the YDS, were for a new business idea based around information technology, which would support an existing or help start a new business, and which would reflect the principles of sustainable development within the Dales.

There were several excellent entries, and after much debate the Society's Council of Management made the award to Upper Wensleydale Business Association for "Yorelink". Yorelink is linked to

Dales accommodation providers, many small bed and breakfast and farmhouse accommodation, providing a much needed "Tonight's Vacancies" service. Between May and October a list of vacancies is sent by fax to 14 villages shops and tourist information centres in Wensleydale. The results so far indicate around 400 bookings generated by the system per annum, equivalent to around £8,000 of direct business plus the "multiplier" effect on local trade resulting from visitors staying in the Dales overnight. One part time job each year has been sustained, usually a school leaver keen to acquire telephone and computer skills. The equipment purchased with the prize money has also been used in the preparation of the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter and for the Upper Wensleydale Quality Study of sustainable tourism in the Dales, and will soon be installed in the Upper Wensleydale Community Office to help a variety of local projects.

The Upper Wensleydale Business Association must be warmly congratulated on this success. This success would not have been possible without the efforts and commitment of the Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management, supported by British Telecom, who have helped to turn a good idea into reality, to benefit local communities in the Dales.

Daleswatch Report

Current issues and topics of interest within the National Park from Jim Burton.

1. The Middleton Hospital site

A contentious feature of the Planning Policy Guidance by which Government policy on development is translated into action, is a blanket provision in PPG2 (the Policy dealing with Green Belts) that redundant hospital sites in Green Belts may be subject to complete or partial re-development. And unfortunately, the guidance makes no provision for the special case of isolation-type hospitals which, by their nature, were selectively built in countryside areas away from population centres. The very places, in fact, that other policies tell us where development should not take place. The situation is rendered worse by a requirement for Hospital Authorities to maximise financial returns on their property.

Middleton was a former tuberculosis hospital. It was built on the sunny south facing slopes of Wharfedale to provide a type of treatment no longer considered necessary. When this became outdated, the hospital found a follow-on use caring for elderly patients, but this was discontinued in turn when it was replaced by care in the community. Much of the patient accommodation, consisting of Nissen-type huts, was demolished and the area has returned to a somewhat unkempt state of nature, being seen as a green area from across the valley. The more substantial ancillary buildings were disposed of into the private sector, with the imposing nurses' home finding new life as a private preparatory school.

Two separate and distinct threats hang over the site: (1) a current planning application by Clays of Addingham for a development of over a 100 houses; (2) proposals for the emerging new Harrogate District Local Plan to include a policy for permitting substantial housing development on the site. In effect, if (1) is turned down then adoption of (2) would guarantee something similar happening in the future.

The site is seen directly across the Wharfe Valley from the Cow and Calf Rocks - an immensely popular viewpoint from which thousands of people gain their first glimpse of the splendours of the Yorkshire Dales, with the National Park itself visible at the top of the opposite hills. Clearly such a development would be a substantial scar in the

centre of the view - and would be almost impossible to screen due to the site being some 400 feet lower than the viewpoint, whilst access to the site would be by way of the single lane Denton Bridge, already close to capacity and itself opening directly on to the busy A65 trunk road - with the potential for accidents being raised accordingly.

The potential for permanent damage being done to one of Yorkshire's most sensitive localities is obvious. It is to be hoped that wise counsels prevail.

2. Ladies First

One sphere of activity where the sexual revolution has yet to make significant progress is the world of British National Parks. True Frances Rowe made a successful breach in Northumberland in being elected the first female National Park Authority Chairman, but at any meetings of National Park Authorities and Committees in England and Wales, women do not yet seem to be playing a sufficiently major role. That is certainly going to change in the Yorkshire Dales (see page 3). Heather Hancock, the new National Park Officer, at 32 is also the youngest in the country. She comes with the highest credentials, is also a Yorkshire lass and lives in the National Park. We are looking forward to the achievements of the coming years and wish her every success.

3. Integrated Transport

The evolution of transport policy over the last decade left many people with a feeling that they did not know what was going on. A few years ago the "great car economy" was lauded from the housetops - and the accepted view was that it had to be satisfied, come what may. When someone pointed out the inconvenient fact that Cecil Parkinson's 1989 White Paper was making allowance for enough vehicles to fill a motorway from London to Edinburgh 257 lanes wide, nobody stopped and thought about the implications. In fact they set about building roads to accommodate the cars! The potential effects of official Government Policy on the sustainability of our environment were becoming almost spectacular in their proportions.

The fight to point out the downside of the motor vehicle upon the way we live was long and hard. Perhaps it was the near simultaneous publication of

the 1994 Report of the Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment (SACTRA), and the 18th Report by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that turned the tide.

Perhaps it was because the Government ran out of money. But suddenly - and almost without warning - they started to heed the mounting chorus of criticism. And, quite suddenly, the whole thing went into reverse. Or at least, the right words were being said, opinions were being asked. Some were even being heeded.

Then there was a change of government which caused some concern. What were its priorities? But for transport at least, the transition was more or less seamless. The previous Government had instigated a comprehensive review and consultation; the new one kept broadly to the same programme. Consultations have been held on the role of trunk roads and buses; whilst stress has been laid upon the need for integrated transport systems to be developed throughout the country and upon the means of getting around without using a private car.

It is good to see these moves taking place, and it is hoped that the Yorkshire Dales will become a beneficiary of the new thinking. The Authority's

Access, Transport and Visitor Management Strategy aims to encourage motorists to use alternative means of travel and undertakes to seek opportunities to develop high frequency integrated public transport services into and around the Park. Speedy implementation, especially of this latter aspect, is probably the most important step that the National Park Authority could take.

Jim Burton

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

LIST OF DALESWATCH LOCAL CONVENORS

Dentdale	Judith Newsham (015396 25486)
Nidderdale	Jean Johnson (01943 880234)
Ribblesdale	Hilary Baker (01729 840609)
Airedale/Malhamdale	John Bell (01535 655418)
Swaledale	Charles Hepworth (01748 886397)
Wensleydale (Upper)	Alan Watkinson (01969 667785)
Wharfedale (Lower)	Peter Young (01943 466858)
Wharfedale (Upper)	Ken Lord (01756 753202)

Private Access over Public Land

What can be more delightful in a village than to see the grass sward of the green or a wide verge lapping up to the house frontages? And how sad is the sight when the sward is chopped into bits by obtrusive access! Maybe that jars even on some of the owners themselves who feel privileged to share in the village's beauty.

Access need not be so intrusive. A couple of wheel tracks would very often suffice. A hard dry access is compatible with a grass surface through the use of proprietary meshes of wire or concrete. Where

a hardened surface already exists, grass can often be induced to spread over part of it.

The occasional example of good practice warms one's heart towards the caring owner. Where a new access needs consent from the parish council, the lord of the manor, the planning authority or (in the case of common land) the Ministry, good practice can be insisted upon. The Open Spaces Society is alert to the problem and uses its influence where it can.

Richard Harland

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Yorkshire Dales Society AGM will take place on Saturday May 16th 1998 in Dent Memorial Hall in Dentdale.

We hope that members will reserve the date in their diaries for a mini-weekend in the Dales. We expect to offer a late morning walk before the AGM linked to trains from Dent Station. The new National Park Officer, Heather Hancock, (see leader and page 3) will be our main speaker at the AGM and in the evening Colin and Fleur Speakman will provide an entertainment, "A View of Dentdale". There will also be a short Sunday morning walk.

Winter Events

Enjoy a walk through the crisp winter air followed by a stimulating lecture on a special aspect of Dales life or landscape

SATURDAY JANUARY 10TH - WALK IN THE BARDSEY AREA, moderate 3-4 miles. Packed lunch. Leader Alan Pease 01937 5773669. Meet at Bardsey Village Hall 10.30am. Bus service 98 (Wetherby bus) d. Leeds Infirmary Street 0935 alight Bardsey Lane End, East Rigton.
LECTURE - COACHING MEMORIES by Eric Houlder at Bardsey Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7TH - SLIDE LECTURE : THE YEAR OF THE DEER WARDEN by Stuart Burnham, Deer Park Warden, at 11am Studley Roger Village Hall. Packed lunch needed prior to walk. Bus (Harrogate & District tel 01423 566061) service 145 from Ripon Bus Station at 1000 - alight Studley Roger Lane End. Connecting bus (36) leaves Leeds Bus Station 0805, Harrogate 0900.

WALK: Please meet at Studley Royal car park at 2pm for a short walk. Walk Leader Stuart Burnham see lecture above.

SATURDAY MARCH 7TH - WALK IN THE POOL AREA of 4-5 miles through woods and fields. Packed lunch. Walk Leader Chris Hartley 01943 873197. Meet Pool in Wharfedale Village Hall 10.30am. Buses: Leeds CityLink 780 d. Leeds 0943, Headingley Arndale 1001; X50 d. Skipton 0915, Ilkley 0935, Harrogate 1000.

LECTURE: THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE (Thomas Fairfax of Civil War fame) by John Cockshott at 2.15 in Pool in Wharfedale Village Hall.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11TH - PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE DALES - TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED FUTURE joint seminar arranged by the Yorkshire Dales Society and The Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group at the Black Horse, Skipton at 10am-4pm. Speakers to include Colin Speakman and Jim Burton YDS. Seminar fee of £10 includes lunch and refreshments. Details or send your £10 fee direct, (cheque made out to YDPTUG) to Duncan Ward, 6 Kingswear Glen, Leeds LS15 8LT.

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST - FIRST DAY OF SPRING RAMBLE - a 10 mile linear Bus Walk from Rylstone to Grassington via Thorpe and Burnsall, using the



Pride of the Dales service. Leader Colin Speakman, 01943 607868. 72 bus leaving Skipton Rail Station 1000 (0904 train from Leeds), 1005 from Skipton Bus Station, alight Rylstone Pond.

SATURDAY APRIL 18TH - INTERPRETIVE WALK - HISTORY OF HEBDEN'S LANDSCAPE by Dr Heather Beaumont. Meet 2pm outside Hebden Post Office for a walk around the village lasting approximately one and half hours. Bus 72 d. Skipton Rail Station 1200 (Airedale Line train d. Leeds 1104), Skipton Bus Station 1205 to Hebden - lunch available at the Clarendon. **Maximum numbers on walk 20, pre-booking essential.** Cost of walk £1 per person. Light refreshments available afterwards in Hebden Village Hall. Please send your cheques payable to the Yorkshire Dales Society, to the Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1HD, **no later than April 16th.** Phone either 01943 461938 (office/answerphone) or Sheila Marks 01943 608968 in case of queries.

Covenants

We were delighted to receive a cheque for the YDS from the Inland Revenue of over £1,000 recently. Covenanting costs you nothing; just fill in a form for us and the Society gets the tax benefit. Our address is on the back cover of the magazine. (Please note covenanting is NOT a payment for your subscription.)

The Dales Digest - NEWS ITEMS WANTED

Please send interesting newspaper or magazine cuttings relating to any aspect of the Dales for the next DALES DIGEST not later than January 31st to Dawn Burton, 139 Curly Hill, Middleton, Ilkley, West Yorks, LS29 0DS.



*Front Cover picture: Aysgarth Falls Winter Time
by John Fawcett*

Back Cover picture: Swan by Richard Bancroft

Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.

*Views expressed in the YDS Review are not necessarily those of
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.

The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Membership Subscription Rates

Single Adult £11, Family/Couple £15

Single Retired £9, Retired Couple £12.

Student/Unwaged £6.

*Change to Direct Debit if you haven't already done so; write or
call the YDS office. You may still keep your Banker's Order
subscription if you wish. Ordinary renewals now have a tear-off
slip to be returned to the YDS office.*