

# Yorkshire Dales Review

No.62 Spring 1998



- *Leader – Rights and Roaming*
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YORKSHIRE  
DALES  
SOCIETY

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# Yorkshire Dales Review • No. 62 • Spring 1998

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

## Rights and Roaming

The Yorkshire Dales Society is a pro-countryside organisation, but we were not represented at the Countryside March in Hyde Park on March 1st. One reason for not being there was that, at the end of the day, marches and demonstrations are almost invariably divisive. The demands by one group of people for or against such issues as fox-hunting or countryside access can be perceived as a threat to a way of life, beliefs or important personal freedoms by another group.

The real strength of the Yorkshire Dales Society is that it is not a pressure group in any narrow sense, nor does it represent one interest group. Many of our members - as Dales lovers - are active users of the countryside - regular ramblers, cyclists and horseriders - but many are not. Among many of our long-standing members are farmers, landowners, foresters, and people running small businesses in the Dales. What unites us is a genuine love and concern for this unique landscape and its culture. Our support for the main landscape protection agencies such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Management Committee is not, therefore, based on the "demands" however legitimate of a user group, but on a wider recognition of the need to conserve and protect this special region and to increase understanding and awareness.

For this reason, the Yorkshire Dales Society probably won't be making any representations on the Government's **Access to Open Countryside in England and Wales** Consultation Paper. For an organisation whose strength lies in bridge building and mutual understanding, Access is a potentially divisive issue.

Yet Access to Open Country is a much misunderstood concept. Emotional statements about farmers and landowners being besieged by hordes of big booted ramblers trampling crops and scaring wildlife are wide of the mark, as are the equally exaggerated claims that ramblers are being kept off the hills by barbed wire and shot guns. Access land is by definition uncultivated land,

grouse moors, rough grazing and forest, not enclosed farmland. Thanks to our excellent network of public rights of way, there are few areas of the Dales which are "barred" to walkers, and informal access by well behaved and considerate walkers has been tolerated by farmers for generations on most Dales fellsides. The one area of serious contention in the Dales, Barden Moor and Fell, has, for over 30 years, been a model of good management thanks to excellent Access Agreements and good mutual understanding between the National Park Authority and the Chatsworth Estate. Contrary to some wilder statements, in reality only a minute minority of walkers ever stray off well defined paths to stride across the ankle-twisting heather over the Access Areas. Far from destroying wildlife, these accessible moors now provide an even better sanctuary for many wild birds than they did a generation ago.

So why all the fuss? What the debate is really about is that little word - power. The power of one group of people to impose their will on another. Ironically, if the right to roam existed - as it actually does over former urban commons throughout the Pennines - the numbers of people exercising that right would be extremely small indeed. But as in every walk of life, belligerent demands or prohibitions from one side produce equally belligerent responses from the other.

That is why the Government's Consultation Paper is almost certainly right to seek voluntary agreements, if at all possible, rather than using new legislation and compulsion. Maybe there should be more talk about responsibility and less about rights. In a harsh economic climate, farmers and landowners in the uplands must increasingly seek financial support from the wider community - the state - in the form of grants and tax concessions, to farm and manage land in traditional ways, whether we are talking about grants for barns and wall maintenance, Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes, Inheritance Tax Exemptions or even CAP payments and hill farming subsidies. They therefore

have a responsibility not only to help maintain the landscape but to allow reasonable access to their land where it does not actually, physically interfere with the agricultural or sporting activity on that land. Equally walkers and others have a responsibility to behave in ways which cause minimal disturbance and nuisance, including controlling their dogs, not leaving litter nor interfering with water supplies, not disturbing wildlife, and respecting the life and work of the countryside.

Can legislation help achieve this? Because the Yorkshire Dales Society is an organisation dedicated to increasing understanding and building bridges between people in the Yorkshire Dales, we have not yet expressed a view on Right to Roam. But if we do, then surely achieving a compromise which expresses the real needs and fears of both sides should be the prime objective of any new guidelines or legislation.

Colin Speakman

## Controlling Holiday Homes – Anger in the Dales

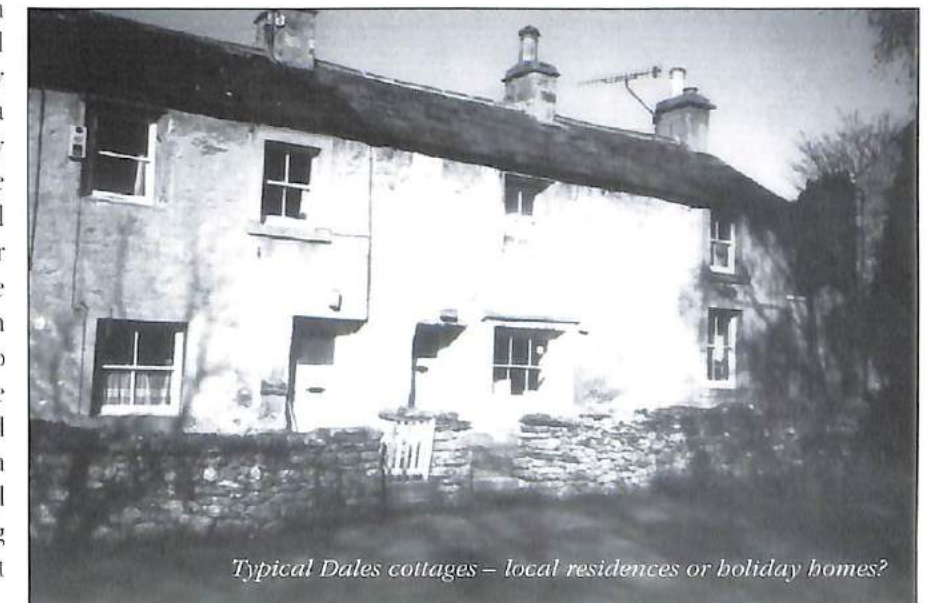
Revelations that 18% of all houses in the Dales are second homes or holiday cottages have shocked local people in the Yorkshire Dales. In a village such as Kettlewell, for example, no less than 40% of homes are second homes or holiday lets. Because weekend cottage owners only pay half the amount of Council Tax on their weekend retreat, whilst owners of country cottages to rent pay Business Rates direct to the Government, this is leading to accusations by local councillors in the Dales that full time residents - local people - are in effect subsidising visitors and weekenders in terms of paying for local facilities and services in their villages. Yet cottage owners and their agents can make big profits. One Craven Councillor has estimated that "some of these holiday home owners will earn more in less than 20 weeks of renting out their property than a hill farmer will make in a year."

But there is another disturbing aspect to this. Owning and managing a holiday cottage for rent is now such a profitable business that prices of property are escalating to a level which is beyond that of the means of local people who must depend on relatively modest local wages and salaries for a mortgage. The situation is particularly dire in the Northern Dales where recent studies have suggested that rural poverty and deprivation are a major issue. A speculator from outside the area can quickly get a handsome return for his or her investment, but by so doing force local people to leave the area of their birth. As was suggested by the Chairman of Malham Parish Council at the recent YDS National Park Societies seminar, cost of housing and lack of affordable public transport are now forcing young people,

especially those with families, to leave the Dales, replaced by the affluent retired and weekenders. In the words of the late Mike Donald, must the future of the Dales be to become "the land of the old and the grey"?

One solution favoured by the Chairman of the National Park Authority Robert Heseltine is a "200% surcharge" of Council Tax on such properties to ensure that holiday lets pay their way and to "slow down the haemorrhage of houses in the Dales available for full time family occupation". Craven Council has asked the Government to include the question of holiday homes in their review of local Government finance. Another suggestion is that permanent homes should need planning permission before becoming holiday lets. This would be one means of controlling an all too lucrative trade, which too often in the Dales is resulting in the loss of a basic human need: the stock of affordable housing available for young local people.

CS



Typical Dales cottages – local residences or holiday homes?

## In Memoriam

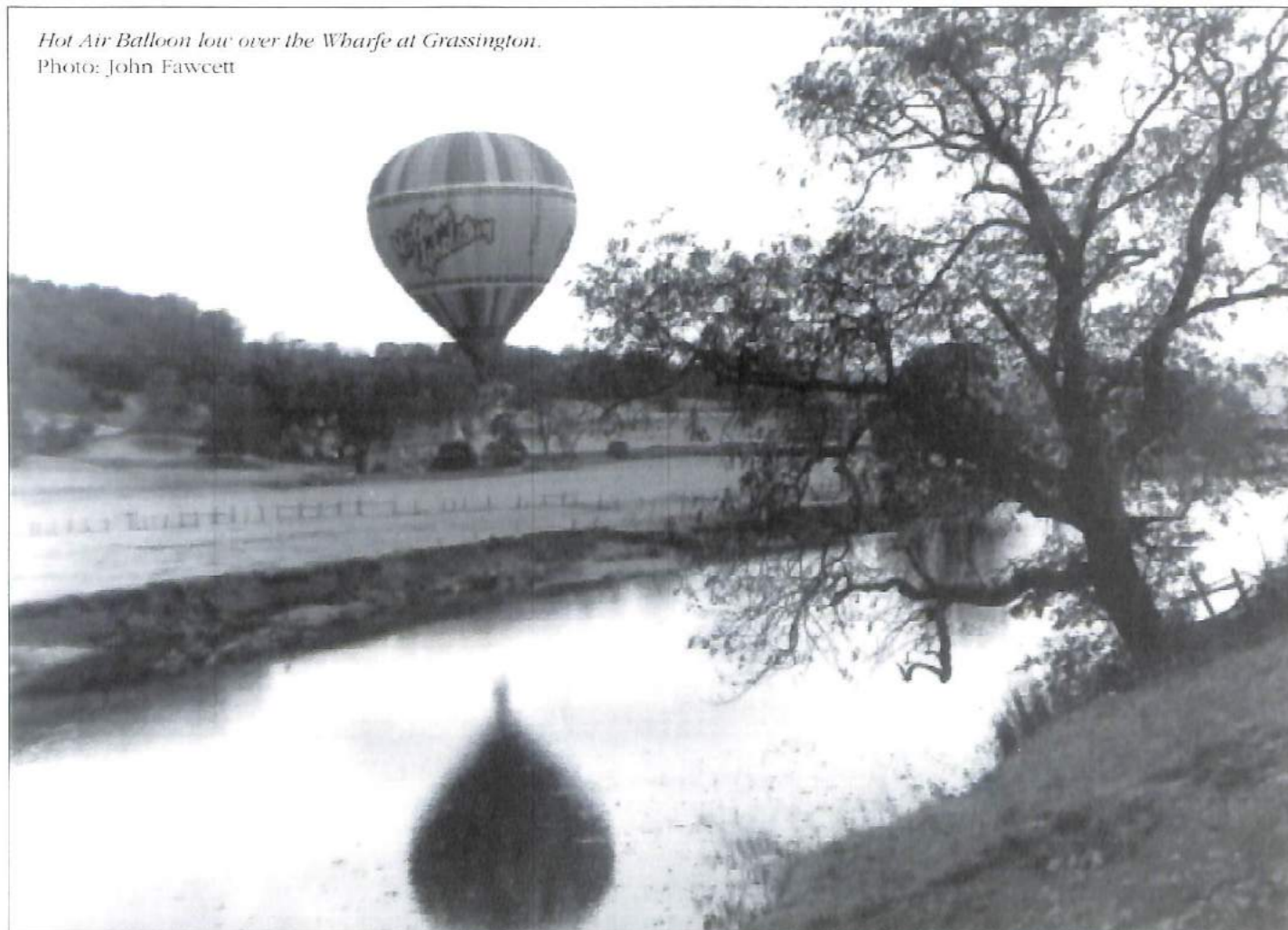
### John Blakeborough

It is with very great sadness that the Yorkshire Dales Society records the recent death of **John Blakeborough** at 84 who served the Society as a regular volunteer in the Society's office in Addingham and Otley for many years. John had been a gifted engineer before his retirement, first at Crownpoint Generating owned by the Leeds Tramway Department and in the tramway workshops, later at the Kirkstall works. He was also responsible for inventing a new trackway system which was used internationally and was a member of the Institute of Road Transport Engineers, a Fellow of the Permanent Way Institute and Member of the Chartered Institute of Transport. But it was the immaculate care which characterised all his work, and his abiding love of the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Dales themselves that we will remember. At John's Funeral at Rawdon Crematorium the Society was represented and it was made clear that the YDS was an important part of John's life. We were very honoured that the collection, which took the place of flowers, was generously given to the Yorkshire Dales Society as a donation.

In recognition of John's services and unswerving loyalty, the Yorkshire Dales Society made a further collection at a recent YDS event, with the intention of contributing to a wood planting scheme under the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust which in effect doubles the amount raised through matching Millennium funding. John's name will be recorded "In Memoriam" at the Millennium's Trust office in Clapham and in similar books at each of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Centres. We send our sincerest condolences to John's widow Evelyn and to the rest of John's family.

FS.

Hot Air Balloon low over the Wharfe at Grassington.  
Photo: John Fawcett



## The Year of the Deerwarden at Studley Royal Deer Park

*A substantial number of YDS members packed Studley Roger Village Hall on Saturday February 7th to hear a fascinating lecture on the Year of the Deerwarden by Stuart Burnham of the National Trust, and later braved the chill of the winter afternoon to observe and hear about the various species of deer in more detail. Members were particularly impressed by Stuart's own full-size tame deer and by the very muddy and boggy rectangle where the stags often fight each other for mastery. We asked Stuart Burnham to write a short article for the rest of our membership.*

Studley Royal Deer Park near Ripon is home to some 650 deer, comprising three breeds Red, Fallow and Manchurian Sika, each with their distinctive markings or colours. In February of this year, I was delighted to take about 70 members of the Yorkshire Dales Society around the park and to try to give them an insight into the work I do in maintaining and managing the park and the deer in my job as a Deer Warden for the National Trust.

The park consists of 360 acres surrounded by walls and deer fencing reaching a minimum height of six feet. Within the park there are four types of trees which benefit the deer by supplying them with food and shelter throughout the winter months. During the winter I supplement this naturally provided food with fodder beet, hay and maize. This is a seven-day a week job and usually lasts through November to March, depending on the severity of the weather conditions.

In the spring the stags and bucks start to lose their antlers and new ones start to grow. My work now involves the maintenance of the park; chain

harrowing is an important part of this job, freshening up the grass for the summer.

Fawning and calving, the busiest and most enjoyable part of my job starts in late June and continues into August. This means a 5am start to catch the mothers giving birth so I can find the young for tagging.

August means the start of the topping of the park which involves cutting the grass down to some

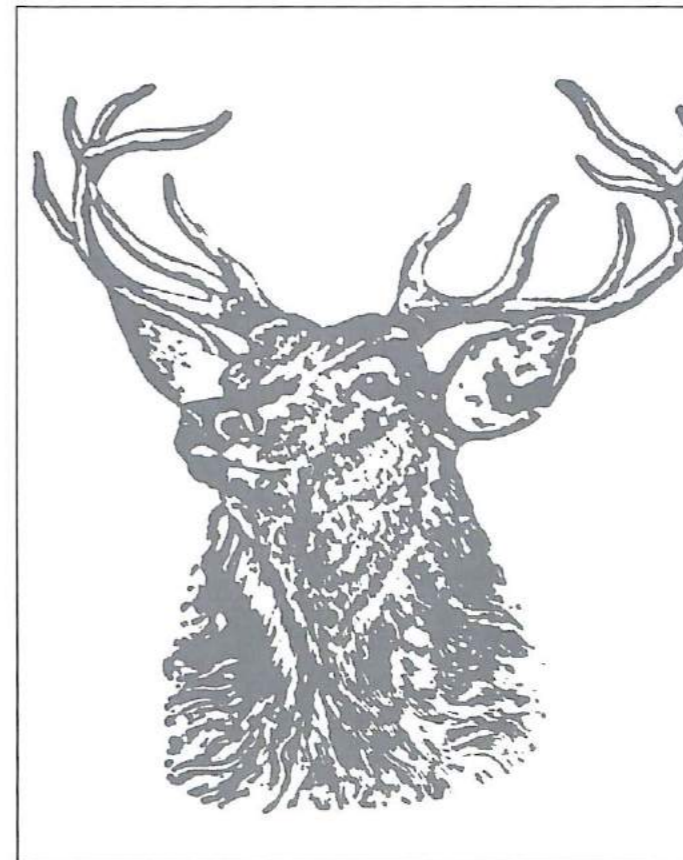
three inches in length, giving me sweeter and more manageable grazing for the deer.

October brings a lot of activity and noise in the park, Red Stags groaning, Fallow bucks grunting and the Sika whistling, and once again we are in the rutting season with males doing battle for their harems and prowling round their territories, warning off any approaching buck or stag. The rut takes a heavy toll of the male and especially on the Red Stag which can lose up to one third of its body weight during this time. Just at the

right time for the animals, the trees start to yield their nut crop, one of the deer's favourite foods. This enables the deer to build up their body weight once more for the approaching winter months.

The National Trust holds deer walks throughout the year run by wildlife volunteers. Last year around 800 people attended these walks. We look forward to welcoming you some time in the future if you missed the recent YDS event.

Stuart Burnham



# Eric Jackson - The End of an Era

Where would the Yorkshire Dales Society be without the dedicated help and support of its regular team of volunteers who serve us in any number of ways?

Eric Jackson, who recently moved down to Gloucestershire, was one of our longest serving and valued members, both on the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management, and as a voluntary worker in the Yorkshire Dales Society Office both at Addingham and Otley, as well as being an essential member of our Membership and Events sub-committee, ready with suggestions and offers of help.

Born in Leeds in 1925, Eric's interest in the countryside was kindled during the early years of the second world war when he was evacuated to the Nottinghamshire countryside and spent many weekends walking, cycling and studying the geography of the area.

On his return to Leeds, Eric took increasing pleasure in constant trips to the mountains and hills of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, cycling or walking with friends and writing home about the "very wonderful views of the Yorkshire Dales".

Eric shared his enjoyment of the countryside with his wife Audrey whom he married in 1951, and in many subsequent family holidays and days out in Yorkshire, passing on his knowledge and love of the Yorkshire Dales to his children. To such effect that his son Richard was to spend seventeen years in the Voluntary Warden Service of the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a consequence.



Starting as a laboratory assistant in the Agricultural Department of Leeds University, Eric took a degree in chemistry and soon showed his calibre, becoming a member of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. When the department was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture, Eric became an analytical chemist. Based at the government laboratories at Adel in Leeds, during the early part of his career, he spent much time travelling around farms in the Yorkshire and Lancashire countryside sampling hay, grass and silage. Ultimately he was to become Principal Analyst for Yorkshire and Lancashire. In 1983 he moved to the Ministry of Agriculture's Newcastle Laboratories where he was responsible for the provision of Analytical Services throughout North East England.

He and his wife Audrey joined the Yorkshire Dales Society virtually as founder members and he remembers responding to the very first membership advertisements in the local press. Following his return to Otley from the North East in 1986, he began a special interest in the

Society working in the office, and leading the Society's walks throughout the area with a particular interest in Wharfedale and Nidderdale. He remembers with particular amusement the difficulties of shepherding groups of 60 people through narrow stiles!

Eric gave both the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Dales themselves unstinting loyalty and devotion over very many years; his quiet competence and many talents are sorely missed.

RJ/FS

# Three Giggleswick Connections

*Links between a Dales village and three people of international renown.*

## Sir Joseph Banks

**Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820):** While waiting at an American airport for a flight back to England, a friend bought a copy of *Joseph Banks: A Life*, by Patrick O'Brian, published by the University of Chicago. On the cover was printed a portrait of the famous naturalist, set against a photograph of beetles in a case, each beetle being neatly mounted and labelled in the style of the period.

In that busy airport, several thousand miles from home, my friend read of the descent of Joseph Banks, a native of Giggleswick. Further inquiries in the village revealed that the celebrated naturalist who sailed with Captain James Cook on his three year voyage in the *Endeavour*, and who founded Kew Gardens in London, was descended from the Rev Robert Banks and Margaret (née Frankland), of Beck Hall, now Beck House, part of Giggleswick School. The Franklands lived at Close House.

## Virginia Woolf

**Virginia Woolf (1882-1941):** William Wyamar Vaughan, appointed Headmaster of Giggleswick School in 1904, was a cousin of Virginia Stephens (who was to become renowned in literary circles as Virginia Woolf). Before her marriage, and while recovering from a second nervous breakdown, she visited Vaughan, his wife Madge and their children at Giggleswick. Moreover, Virginia's first published work was an article inspired by a day trip to Haworth from Giggleswick.

Virginia, fascinated by Mrs Gaskell's biography of Charlotte Bronte, had the company of Madge for the rail journey to Haworth via Keighley. On that November day, when snow lay on the moors, Virginia was quite well disposed towards the village and its famous family, though on visiting the little Bronte museum, precursor of that in the Parsonage, she saw a "pallid and inanimate collection of objects and considered that "an effort ought to be made to keep things out of these mausoleums." She did concede that "the choice often lies between

them and destruction." Before the year was out, Virginia's article about Haworth had been published in *The Guardian*, a London weekly newspaper appealing mainly to clerics.

## Walter Morrison

**Walter Morrison (1836-1921):** Recent celebrations marking the centenary of Giggleswick's domed chapel have stimulated thoughts of Walter Morrison, the millionaire businessman with international connections who had a fine home in London and a "mountain home" at Malham Tarn House. As a governor of the school, Morrison offered to provide a chapel on the occasion of Queen Victoria's diamond anniversary. It should be completed in such a way that his grand plan for a domed structure could not be radically altered.

The architect, TG Jackson, RA, dutifully arranged for a dome to be used on what was otherwise a gothic building. An impression of the proposed chapel was admired by the Queen and Princess Beatrice when it was forwarded from the Royal Academy exhibition to Balmoral. Jack Brassington told me that when the gift of the chapel was accepted, Morrison summoned his architect and Thomas William Brassington, head of the joinery firm, and they accompanied him on a walk through the fields beside High Rigg. When they reached gritstone crags overlooking Ribblesdale, Morrison pushed the tip of his umbrella into the ground. That, he said, was where the chapel should be built. And so it was!



MARKET PLACE, SETTLE.



## Dales Transport Seminar Calls for a Radical Approach

*"I love the Dales. I just want to visit the Dales using public transport," said an elderly Bradford lady plaintively, "Bradford seems to get left out."*

Fifty people attended a highly successful Public Transport for the Dales seminar at the Black Horse Hotel, Skipton on Wednesday March 11th, jointly presented by the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group and the Yorkshire Dales Society. The theme of the seminar was **Public Transport in the Yorkshire Dales - towards an Integrated Future** - reflecting the forthcoming Government White Paper on Transport. The YDPTUG had the major task of organisation, and the Yorkshire Dales Society would like to congratulate this group, especially Duncan Ward, Eric Mizen and Howard Handley, on a truly splendid effort. Delegates included professionals from the bus industry, local authority officers, a North Yorkshire County Councillor, members of the YDS, the YDPTUG, Craven Transport Forum, the Ramblers, T2000WYG and several interested individuals.

Yorkshire Dales Society Chairman, Dr Chris Wright, welcomed and introduced the seminar, skilfully easing the transition between speaker and questioner. He pointed out that the Yorkshire Dales Society was an organisation which was there to conserve, protect and promote a sustainable future. There were already signs of change in the public attitude to public transport.

Colin Speakman, Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, gave the keynote speech on *Integrated Solutions*. An alarming 91% of visitors visited the Dales by car, and the remaining 9% was divided among coach transport, cyclists, trains and buses. This was increasingly unsustainable. Only 80-85% of households in the Dales own a car, though in effect this did not always mean that *all* household members had access to one. Public transport was seen by local authorities as a marginal factor. But public transport is about accessibility and sustainability, and also to give local people and visitors both opportunity and *choice*. The Environmental Commission on Pollution indicated that the car is a major source of congestion, pollution, noise, visual impact and danger. Forecasts of at least doubling of traffic in rural areas were reinforced by current trends in the Dales.

A profound change was required and these issues need to be addressed by national and local government bodies, as well as voluntary bodies like the Yorkshire Dales Society and YDPTUG.

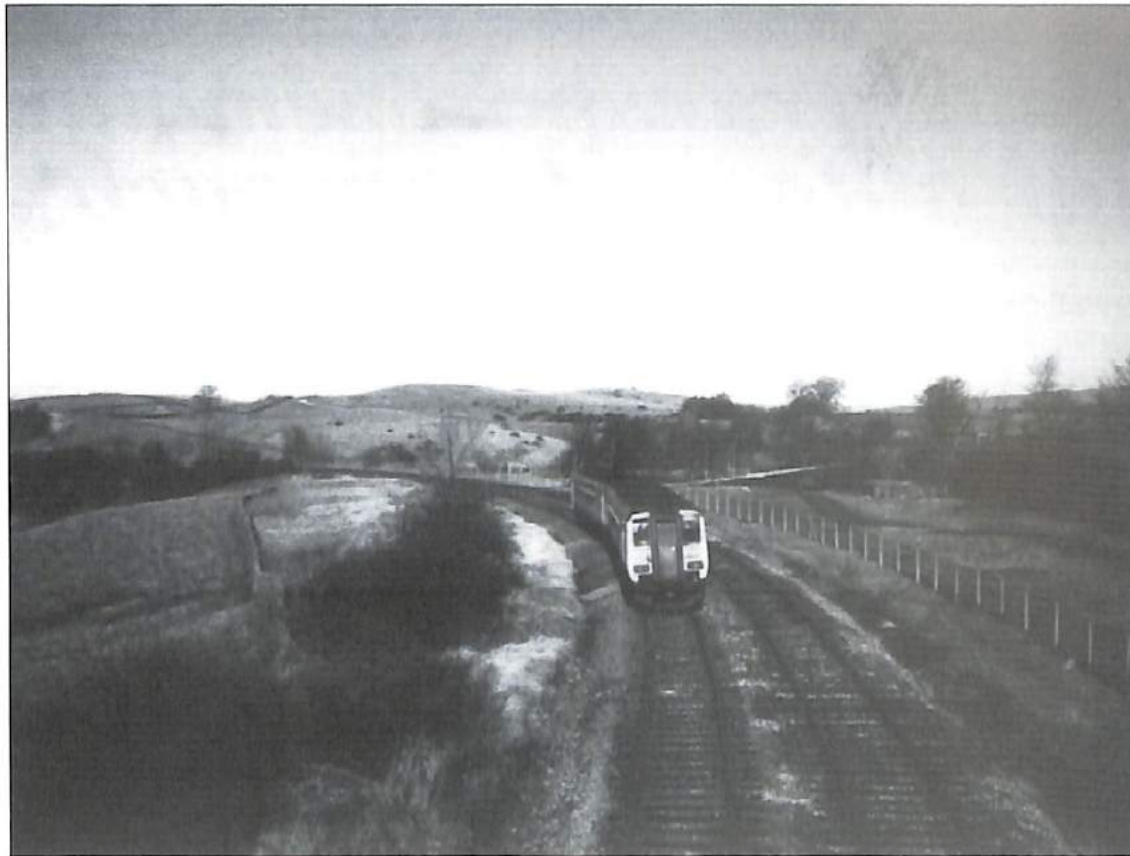
Five key points were outlined for a future integrated strategy for public transport:

- Connecting services (road and rail) plus guaranteed back-ups if anything went wrong.
- Physical provision of connections (safety plus comfort at night at stations)
- Clear up-to-date information about times and fares
- Need for through ticketing (integrated fare structure)
- Integrating transport provision with wider economic, social and environmental strategies for the Dales.

What could be done to provide the necessary level of service? Following a reminder of the success of the 1970s Dales Rail scheme with trains and buses chartered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park, examples were given from other National Parks: Moorsbus in the North York Moors with its £3 ticket covering the network, the Lakes with its excellent services and information booklet, Snowdonia with its integrated ticket and Sherpa bus network, the Hope Valley Line in the Peak District with its Wayfarer ticket, linking buses and guided walks, and in Dartmoor where a derelict station at Okehampton was transformed, with local business investment, and an integrated bus and rail service provided into the National Park for visitors and locals alike. Meanwhile, in the Dales, cuts to the Dalesbus network meant that Malham, one of the busiest tourist honeypots in the Dales, would no longer have a weekend bus service in 1998.

Dr Caroline Cahm, from the National Federation of Bus Users, emphasised that a number of rural settlements were without any buses at all and among communities of less than 25,000, 20% had no car or access to a car. Rural services were continually being eroded by cuts and often local authorities were car users with little conception of the hardship their negative decisions could cause. Examples were given of the cost some local authorities expended on their public transport per capita ranging from 72p in Cumbria, 96p in Humberside to £3.12 in Buckinghamshire and £5.95

in Nottinghamshire. Caroline Cahm's clear message was that local authorities need to *consult* users, and *listen* to what they have to say. There needs to be a clear strategy of minimum standards round the country. The policy of tendering every year for bus contracts as Mark Clarke of Pride of the Dales later suggested, was extremely unhelpful to an integrated, efficient and sustainable transport policy; authorities often being tempted by the cheapest option.



Dr Jim Burton, Vice Chairman of the YDS, Member of YDNP Committee and Chairman of its Access and Transport group, pointed out that TPPs should include the costs of service provision. He called for radical solutions, that the Settle/ Carlisle railway should be part of a park-wide rail and bus network, joined by the re-instatement of a number of lines such as Skipton/ Threshfield to take passengers, the Wensleydale Railway line, and eventually even the Colne-Skipton and Harrogate-Ripon-Northallerton lines. All could be key features in discouraging cars and encouraging public transport use into the Dales.

Ruth Annison and Scott Handley of the Wensleydale Railway Association, spoke of the way forward for the Wensleydale Railway. Ruth Annison stated that the track, shared with the Ministry of Defence, was already in place between Northallerton to Redmire, and work was taking place to extend the line to Castle Bolton. Only 18 miles were missing to take the line to Garsdale and link with the Settle-Carlisle. 91% of tourists came to Wensleydale by car but many of these would use a direct train service. Walkers, cyclists, accommodation providers and many local businesses could benefit, with the railway itself potentially providing year-round jobs. The audience were shown a number of practical ideas from examples in Europe in terms of train design, better

use of station premises and marketing at relatively little cost.

Scott Handley emphasised that at about £3 per head, visitor spend in Wensleydale was one of the lowest in the country. Decent public transport would bring wider economic benefits, and, coupled with car restraint, could succeed. Because the Wensleydale Railway scheme is close to being a viable financial proposition, it couldn't attract high level grant aid from funding bodies. So far around 60% funding has come from Wensleydale residents who had contributed widely in relatively small amounts. He outlined an extensive network of bus services which were being planned by the Company in Wensleydale along the corridor served by the railway for summer 1998 if proposals for Aysgarth Station were successful.

Morning and afternoon sessions allowed time for questions, discussions and a high level of debate. The final summing up indicated that even with such welcome services in 1998 as the Wharfedale Wanderer and Nidderdale Rambler, there needs to be a considerable improvement in the level and frequency of public transport services in the Dales. Local authorities were perceived as "doing too little" to prevent the Dales from being engulfed in the flood of visitors' cars, whilst many people suffer loss of access.

*Fleur Speakman*

## Juniper Regeneration – an imaginative scheme

*Good homes needed for native species*

In mid-1993 the Managing Director of Hargreaves Quarries (now owned by RMC) who operate the important "whinstone" quarry on the north side of the river Tees, upstream from High Force, was looking for an imaginative restoration scheme which would fit in with the quarry's situation. It is surrounded by a large SSSI, across the river from the larger NNR on the south side, designated for the juniper which grows there in full view of the Pennine Way footpath which passes in front of the workings.

In essence, it was recognised that the restoration scheme must reflect not only the glacially formed landscape character of the area, but must also incorporate sufficient of the local flora so that the aim could be to establish SSSI status on completion of the quarry restoration in years to come. But how were new Juniper plants going to be introduced when regeneration in the NNR was not occurring?

By chance, a specialist was discovered, Ken Brown of Ashlands Trees in Leeming Bar. The quarry were warned that they would have to wait some

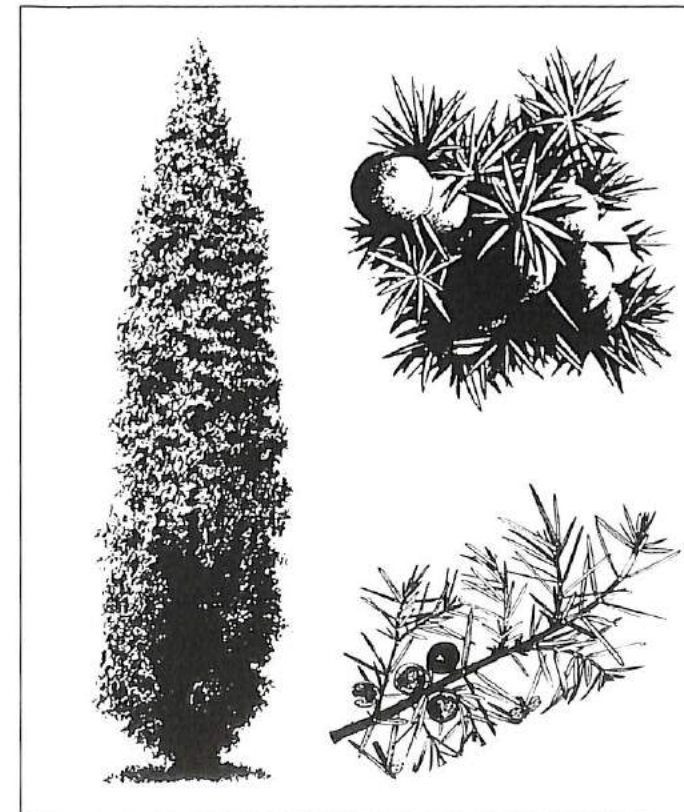
considerable time for results. Juniper from seed takes a very long period to germinate.

There was no significant germination in 1994, but more green shoots appeared in the following year. By 1996 Ashlands reported that a further thousand or more plants had appeared in their trays. Potentially, with Ashlands' skills, any areas in the Dales which have supported a juniper population in the past can now be restocked. This should include much of the upper dales, since juniper was an early coloniser after the last Ice Age.

The quarry, now owned by RMC, has taken the juniper stock it required and so has English Nature in Teesdale, but several hundred plants remain at Ashlands ready for planting out (with suitable protection from rabbits and sheep). So there are now surplus plants in the Dales area for anyone who would like to plant out and nurture groups of juniper. Naturally, the nursery will charge for them, reflecting the time and effort involved. We would *much* prefer them to go into natural settings in the AONB or National Park rather than into people's gardens where they would tend to hybridise with introduced stock from other exotic sources. Yet you might like to try to give your Dales garden that authentic flavour.

*Peter Woods*

*Enquiries to Ashland Trees, Ken Brown, 01677 424794 for large scale plantings. The nursery will offer 3 juniper plants complete with postage and packing for £7 to YDS members in the Dales. Address: Ashland Trees, 19 Ashlands Drive, Leeming Bar, Northallerton, North Yorks. DL7 9DF. Cheques should be made out to Ashlands Trees.*



### STOP PRESS

**'AIREDALE - A CHANGING LANDSCAPE' -**

Photographs by Simon Warner.

28th March – 31st May 1998

Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley

*NB. Simon Warner will lecture on photography to the YDS in October 1998.*

# Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Community Environment Officer

Yorkshire Dales Society members will be aware of the achievements of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust from a number of recent articles in the local press and in The Yorkshire Dales Review.



I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself. Alison Quigley, the new Community Environment Officer. This role is to develop community involvement in projects which are part of the EnviroNet programme - an £8 million scheme which has been given a £4 million grant from the Millennium Commission.

The aim of the post is to organise and encourage local people to develop projects and implement improvements to their environment. I am currently involved in an exciting partnership project with the National Park Authority and Environment Agency at Aysgarth Falls and Freeholders Wood in Wensleydale. Liaising with the artist Vivien Mousdell, this project allows young people and adults to work directly with the artist in presenting their thoughts and views on the interpretation for the site.

The second year of the EnviroNet projects are currently underway, community involvement projects are soon to be developed with help from

this dedicated and unique post. If members would like further information about the work of the Community Environment Officer or the work of the Trust, please do feel free to contact us at our Clapham office on : 015242 51002.

*Alison Quigley  
Community Environment Officer,  
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust  
Beckside Barn, Clapham, LA2 8EQ*

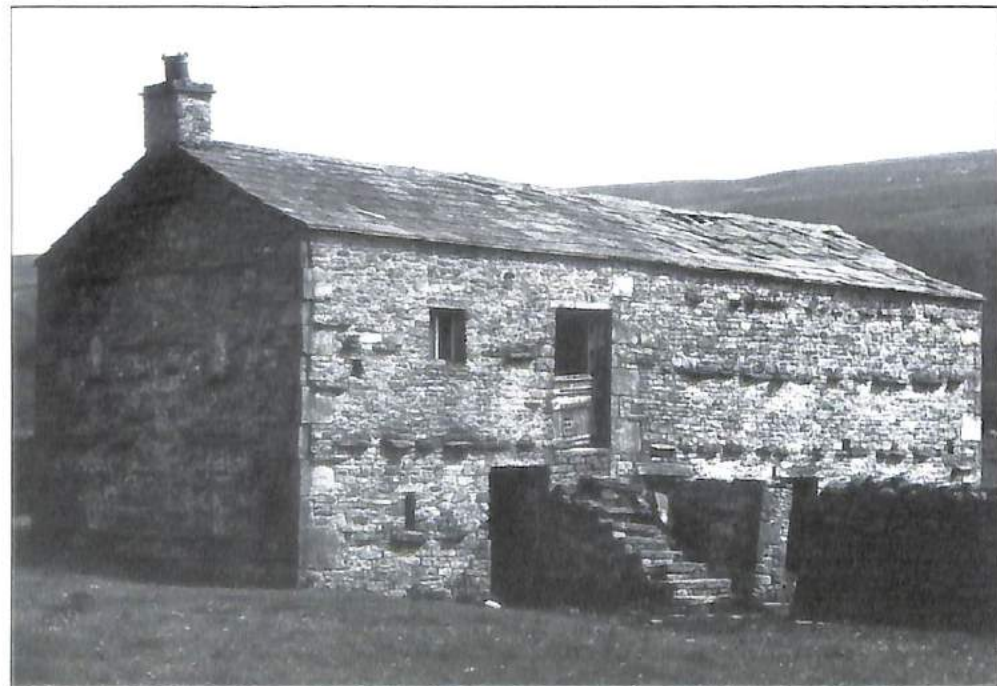
## **Congratulations Yorkshire Dales Society – a wonderful response**

The Trust is very grateful for the continued support of Yorkshire Dales Society members. To date over 60 members have made donations to the Trust, totalling over £3,500. This is a wonderful response and makes a significant contribution to our conservation work.

The Project Team are currently working with landowners to identify sites for planting this year's Millennium Woods. About five woods have now been identified and will be planted in the next planting season (from autumn onwards). Woods are allocated to donors on a chronological basis - earliest donors first. This means it may be a while before all donors hear from us as to where "their" wood has been planted. In the meantime, the public registers of donors will be available for viewing in National Park Centres and at the Trust's offices from Easter.

Any Yorkshire Dales Society member is welcome to call in at our offices at Clapham to meet staff and hear more about specific projects - please just call Ann Shadrake on 015242 51002 if you are in the area and would like to meet us.

*'Botby' Barn near Askrigg  
Photo: Geoffrey Wright*



# Daleswatch Report

## 1. Barns and Walls

Those of us fortunate to live in and adjacent to the Yorkshire Dales have one of the world's most inspirational landscapes for stimulus. But it is a landscape that derives many of its very special qualities from an interaction over the centuries between the original primeval, wild and probably rather frightening place that it must have been long ago and the people who shaped and tamed the raw material into the ambience we have today.

And first of the perceptions and memories that many people carry away with them after a visit to the Dales, is the fascinating pattern of barns and walls, made by man, but blending into their surroundings so easily and harmoniously as to give the impression of having been hewn by nature out of the very bedrock of the place. Yet the reality is that most of them were put in place as a necessary adjunct to farming the land, and have not been there that long. Every stone in its particular place is the result of hard and skilful work by those who put them there, and if they were left to themselves, they would surely crumble and fall down. Most of the walls and some of the barns still have significant utilitarian value, but farming patterns have changed over the years and from a purely practical point of view, many of the barns are not needed. And there is a case for thinking it unreasonable to ask hard-pressed farmers to spend significant portions of their time, work and hard cash to maintain something, the main purpose of which is to give aesthetic pleasure to others.

Clearly the cost implications of maintaining the barns and walls are considerable and cannot be met from the limited resources available to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. However, the Authority has met the challenge with imaginative schemes, funded by English Heritage and the European 5b Programme, which provides up to 80% of the cost of repair for barns and walls in designated areas of the Park. But these funds are limited and at present the schemes are restricted to Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Littondale. There is also a problem that even with 80% assistance, hard pressed hill farmers may be unwilling or even unable to provide the outstanding 20% for a barn that is of no practical value in their work. But a contrary argument maintains that whatever is given freely is never truly valued. In any case, the funding agencies will not contemplate giving 100% grants.

An extension of the schemes to the whole of the National Park would clearly be in the interest of everyone and it is to be hoped that this will be achievable over the next few years. The argument about the possibility of 100% funding is more intractable and there are strong points on both sides. But whatever the resolution of that problem might be, a final result whereby the whole of the National Park is covered by whatever grants are available will be to the benefit of us all.

It should be pointed out, however, that the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has also taken on a number of Barn projects in the Yorkshire Dales with great success.

## 2. Vehicular Rights

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is covered by a comprehensive network of footpaths, bridleways and byways open to all traffic and other improbable sounding things like *ratione tenurae* roads (public highways where there is an obligation for maintenance on the occupier of the land through which it passes), green lanes and unclassified county roads, the latter being roads that are the responsibility of the County Authority but without having been given a classification. Unfortunately their precise legal status seems far from clear, and there is a growing presumption that those that do not appear on the definitive map (which in general defines rights of way relating to bridleways, footpaths and other non-vehicular routes) may well be deemed to have vehicular rights.

The implications of such a presumption for the Yorkshire Dales, and for the delightful green roads that criss-cross much of the National Park are serious, and the potential loss of the feeling of isolation and wildness in some of the Park's remotest areas could well be at risk if such a *de facto* re-definition of vehicular rights is found to give the right to traverse these places by four-wheeled drive vehicles, motor cycles and mountain bikes. Not only that, but the potential for depredations of some of the ways across the Park and the effect this could have on our wildlife, are matters for serious concern. The protestations by the relevant motoring organisations regarding their responsible attitude and their intention to keep such incidents to a minimum are welcome and doubtless sincere, but the potential for harm would be considerable and immediate, and the control

they might be able to exercise may not be as tight as they would wish.

### 3. George Hallas

It is time to say our farewells to one who has served the Park with devotion, skill and wisdom for many years and who was at all times a delightful friend and companion - George Hallas.

George served the National Park as number two to Richard Harvey from the time of the Committee's inception, but his biggest contribution was saved until the end. The transition to independence for our National Parks in 1997 came at a time when he should have been easing himself gently through his last few years of pre-retirement. But, in the event, Richard had to retire early due to ill health, leaving George to carry the Authority through a difficult and complex transition period. The smoothness of the change is a great tribute to his organisational powers. Always the most pleasant of companions at a social event and an easy person to work with,

George will be very much missed by us all. We wish him a very long and happy retirement. He has certainly deserved it!

*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          | John Hone (01423 711471)        |
| 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)         |

*Controversial new Milking Shed near Kirkby Malham, which may have contravened planning regulations. Is this an appropriate development in the heartland of a National Park?*



## Spring Events

*Enjoy walks this spring which will enhance your knowledge of a particular area or just enjoy some beautiful Dales countryside. We have chosen Dentdale for our AGM this year, both to cater for our membership who live in or nearer this northernmost area of the National Park, and to give the opportunity to members who would like to get to know this very special part of the Dales a little better. We do hope you will stay for the weekend!*

SATURDAY APRIL 18TH - INTERPRETIVE WALK - **HISTORY OF HEBDEN'S LANDSCAPE** by Dr Heather Beaumont. Fully booked. **Please check with Sheila Marks on 01943 608968 if there are any places available.**

SATURDAY MAY 16TH - SUNDAY MAY 17TH **DENTDALE MINI WEEKEND**

SATURDAY MAY 16TH - **SHORT WALK ALONG DALES WAY FROM DENT STATION** to Dent village prior to AGM moderate, 4 1/2 miles. Train arrives Dent station 10.12am. Start of Walk approx. 10.30am, with two YDS members, Sheila Marks and Dennis Cairns, willing to meet train with their cars and carry luggage to the Memorial Hall, Dent. There are 2 cafes and 2 pubs in Dent for lunch or bring your own packed lunch.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2PM**, tea and biscuit interval, Heather Hancock, Yorkshire Dales National Park Officer will talk on **"Developing a shared vision for the Yorkshire Dales."**

**"A View of Dentdale"** by Colin and Fleur Speakman, **7pm** in the Dent Memorial Hall. 8.30pm finish. Admission £1 at door plus tea & biscuits in

interval. Stay on in Dent for the event and return home or stay over. Please have *an early evening meal* before the talk at one of the cafes; pubs only start serving food later. We hope that a number of people will decide to stay in Dent and enjoy the area.

SUNDAY 17TH MAY - **MORNING WALK IN DENTDALE**, led by local member of YDS, meet outside Memorial Hall 10.30 am for moderate 4-5 mile walk, finishing approx. 12.30pm, with return walk/transport to Dent station for return train at 14.42. (Please make your own lunch arrangements.)

SATURDAY JUNE 6TH - **EXPLORING RIBBLEHEAD** with Roger Neale. Meet where the track going to the viaduct starts from the road, just beyond the cattle grid just after Station Inn at 2pm. (10.46 train from Leeds d. Skipton 11.25, Settle 11.46 a.12.12 - time for lunch) The moderate walk lasts between 2 and 2 1/2 hours - return train 16.57) **Maximum numbers 20**, bookings with £1 per person to the YDS office, cheques to Yorkshire Dales Society, by May 27th: The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley LS21 1HD.

SATURDAY JULY 4TH - **RURAL WALK IN URBAN AIREDALE**- Leader Rod Clough, tel: 01274 752092, for a moderate walk of approx. 9 miles. Meet at Saltaire Station at 09.55 (trains 09.34 from Leeds, 09.31 from Bradford FS, 09.31 from Skipton) for short walk along towpath to Hirst Wood car park, Saltaire where motorists should park (next to Canal) and meet group at 10.15am. Bring packed lunch. The walk will finish at approx. 4pm.

*SPECIAL - SPECIAL - SPECIAL - SPECIAL - SPECIAL - SPECIAL*

## Spring DalesBus Services

EVERY SUNDAY FROM EASTER - DALESBUS SERVICES. Thanks to generous sponsorship by members of the YDS/YDPTUG, Dalesbus 801 will now operate **on all Sundays** after Easter during April and May 1998. Please support this scenic bus service which will leave Leeds City Bus Station at 09.30, Ilkley 10.10, for Bolton Abbey, Grassington, Upper Wharfedale, Wensleydale and Ingletton - Explorer Tickets available (£5.60); buy your ticket on the bus.

Look out for details of the Sunday Wharfedale Wanderer and extended Nidderdale services (Fountains Flyer and Nidderdale Rambler) starting Spring Holiday Weekend..





*Front cover picture: Walkers heading for Ingleborough via Clapdale, by Colin Speakman.*

*Back Cover picture: Cattle grazing in the Dales by Richard Bancroft.*

*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.*

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