

Yorkshire Dales Review

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DALES
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Ribblehead – A Defining Moment

News that the international quarry company ARC has agreed to relinquish their planning permission to quarry at Ribblehead, (see pages 8 & 9) is an event of immense importance to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

It represents the moment when the case for conserving a unique landscape, natural and cultural heritage was recognised as being of paramount importance, not just by conservationists, but by the quarrying industry itself. Blasters and diggers destroying a Site of Special Scientific Interest, cutting into a superb limestone pavement, ripping into the finest surviving Viking homestead in the Dales would have been obscene. Indeed a few years ago we supported a plea by a distinguished Yorkshire Dales Society founder member - war veteran, educationalist and writer, the late Professor Harry Rée (author of a fine book about the Three Peaks) when he wrote to ARC asking the company to do the decent thing, and give up their permission. Harry would have been thrilled to hear the news.

It is easy to be cynical and speak of ARC's public relations exercise, a gift of a small quarry at a time of declining demand. But Ribblehead is more than that. It reflects new environmental awareness and concerns, evident not only during the YDS's own recent visit to Tilcon's Swinden Quarry, but on a recent visit I made in the company of Vicki Elcoate, Director of the Council for National Parks, to Tarmac's Horton and Arcow Quarries in Ribblesdale. We were impressed by Tarmac's investment not only in tidying up and landscaping their sites, but plans to transform the quarries into ecological and interpretive sites as they reach the end of their working lives next century. Serious consideration is being undertaken to restore the rail connection at Horton, both to reduce lorry movements and to access longer distance markets. When this was suggested by the YDS in the Craven Herald some years ago, we received hate mail from lorry drivers' wives who only saw jobs at risk (despite new rail-based jobs).

No one claims that everything the quarry companies are doing is purely altruistic. Rail links are both environmentally friendlier and, thanks to the new entrepreneurial drive of the privatised EWS rail freight company, more economic, opening up new longer distance markets for quarry products at lower cost. But the companies now recognise that environmental and economic goals are intertwined. Being a good neighbour and caring for the National Park (quarrymen go walking and look at orchids too), is, in the long term, good for business.

All our quarries in the Dales now have a finite life, and it is extremely unlikely new permissions will ever be granted. No doubt many of our members would like to see the end of quarrying and its associated heavy lorries as soon as possible, well before 2042, the final end date of the longest permissions. All were planning mistakes of the 1950s which have no place in a National Park. But as the somewhat futile Open Access debate illustrates so well, fundamentalist positions and emotional statements come cheap, but rarely achieve progress. Quarries create environmental blight, but they are also about creating products, from roads to pharmaceuticals, we all use, and are also about jobs, professional pride and financial security for many people in Dales communities. Minimising damage and maximising benefits depends on creating mutual understanding, respecting other peoples' legitimate needs and aspirations and taking a long term view.

The welcome decision at Ribblehead, and other developments noted in this issue of the YDS Review, suggests an industry which has come of age, and whilst we shall most certainly not "go soft" on any environmentally damaging activities of the quarry companies in the years ahead, we are beginning to talk the same language.

Colin Speakman

Access – The Debate Continues

Kate Ashcroft, a leading figure in the campaign for Access, is General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society, the Chairman of the Ramblers' Association Access Committee and an individual member of the Yorkshire Dales Society. She takes issue with Colin Speakman's views on the need for new legislation on Access.

Dear Editor,

Your sententious article *Rights and Roaming* (YDR Spring 1998) is pretty naive. If the government's excellent aim, of opening up to permanent access all 3.5 acres of mountain, moor, heath, down and common in England and Wales, is to be achieved, it will need legislation. It's no good hoping that the voluntary approach will work; landowners have had 50 years to prove they can volunteer access and we haven't seen much.

Of course responsibility is important as well as rights, and rights encourage responsibility. A new law giving rights and responsibilities to the public will benefit everyone.

You might have pointed out that on those urban commons on the edge of the Dales, such as Ilkley Moor, where there is already a right to walk, people coexist happily with farming activities and nature. Indeed, people act as watchdogs on the land, for farmers' stock and wildlife.

Barden Fell is one of the few examples where the voluntary approach has worked - but it has not come cheap. A great deal of public money has been spent on that Access Agreement. Meanwhile access to other parts of the Dales is not secure. And, of course, giving people a legal right to walk on uncultivated land will encourage them to speak out in defence of that land - something the Yorkshire Dales Society would wish to promote.

Kate Ashbrook

Colin Speakman replies

Naive? Kate is wet behind the ears.

Let's understand this clearly. I believe in the right of access to open countryside every bit as deeply as Kate. As a freeborn Englishman I have to travel to Germany, Austria, Scandinavia, ironically even

former Communist countries such as Poland and Slovakia to enjoy a legal freedom to walk on mountains or through forest. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to wake up one morning and to find, just as in these very civilised countries, I have a right to wander freely over open countryside or in forests.

But it isn't going to happen like that. As the Government's Consultation Paper makes clear, if we do get legal access it will come at a price, with so many qualifications and restrictions, and expensive bureaucratic demands including "official" access routes, that far from improving the situation it could make things very, very much worse. We could find, for example, that the centuries old tradition of tolerated or "de facto" access that operates over most of the Yorkshire Dales is challenged by angry landowners who will now seek financial and legal redress for what we already enjoy, as a result of a backlash from what is certain to be a hotly contested Act.

Like it or not, many country people don't share the Ramblers' Association's passionate belief in Open Access, but (mistakenly in my view) perceive it as a real threat to their way of life, believing it will allow the ignorant and undisciplined new freedoms to do as they please. Of course Kate, and I, would argue that they are totally wrong, and have been victims of malicious propaganda by the Moorland Association and others. But sadly views are now so polarised, that it has become a rural versus urban issue, a landowner against ramblers battle.

Does Kate really believe that the Government will only listen to Ramblers? New Labour differs from other Labour Governments in that its future depends on retaining many key rural seats. Country dwellers are voters too, and if the Government feels, as it surely will, that it cannot risk alienating the rural vote, it is likely that what will appear will not only be a weak compromise, it may actually undermine that fine and powerful piece of legislation, the 1949 Access to the Countryside Act that gives local authorities real powers to deal with that tiny minority of intransigent landowners whose feudal attitudes have no place in a modern society.

It is wrong to suggest as Kate and others claim that the 1949 Access to Countryside Act hasn't worked. Not only has it given us such a model of well

balanced management as our own Barden Moor and Fell Agreements, (which is actually not that expensive in real terms), but for many years the simple knowledge that Access Orders were available to deal with the intransigent landowners helped not only helped to secure Access Agreements but actually helped maintain the tradition of informal access which we have long enjoyed in the Yorkshire Dales and in most other parts of Northern England. The outrageous situations at Abbeystead Moors in Bowland or on Boulsworth Hill in the South Pennines have continued not because the legislation to deal with them doesn't exist, but because local authorities and previous Governments preferred not to upset powerful and wealthy landowners by using Orders, despite continued unsuccessful lobbying by Ramblers. Even in the Peak District, gross overpayment demanded for Access Agreements has been tolerated, helping to stoke up the myth that the 1949 Act isn't working, and can't be made to work.

Those times have passed, but instead of pressing for a return to the spirit and purpose of the 1949 Act to deal with a few, high profile situations, (without paying a King's ransom), the RA/Open Spaces Society have set their stall for new legislation. Fine. But this may, ironically, reduce, not increase informal access to moorland and mountain, and put at risk all we ought to be working to achieve - a better understanding between ramblers and farmers to achieve our common goal, a prosperous, well cared for, and above all accessible countryside.

In my article I did not actually rule out nor oppose new legislation. My exact words were "the Government's Consultation Paper is almost certainly right to seek voluntary agreements, if at all possible, rather than using new legislation and compulsion." (And I do mention both urban commons and care for wildlife in my article).

It is a question not of ends but of means. Dales people in particular do not respond to compulsion. New compulsory access laws, even if passed, would be deeply resented by the farming community - we have farmers and landowners among our members - and would put at risk exactly the kind of mutual understanding and respect which organisations like the Yorkshire Dales Society exist to foster. I have known and worked with Dales farmers long enough to believe that there are more effective ways of achieving what we want without alienating the farming community. Farmers are the only long-term guardians of our landscape. If agreeing long term access to open countryside is perceived by farmers to be part of a deal, by which they are offered even modest financial inducements for conservation and appropriate access rather than headage payments which only encourage overgrazing and overproduction in a declining market, this could enable hill farm enterprises to survive at a time when, according to official figures, their incomes have been cut by 40%. And it would also mean that our presence would be welcomed, not bitterly resented, when we walk the felltops.

Colin Speakman

The Postman's Walk, Upper Wharfedale

*Brenda and Derek Parkin enjoy an annual pilgrimage to a favourite bird watching walk in the lower Dales and had a record day. (If you would like to try your hand at bird watching and learning how to recognise some of the commoner dales species, turn to the review on page 12 of **Birds of the Yorkshire Dales** by WR Mitchell).*

A five mile circular walk from Hubberholme to Yockenthwaite, Cray Beck and return to Hubberholme never fails to give us pleasure; we walk it annually usually in late May. It's like a pilgrimage. The area is rich in fauna and flora and the views are some of the most spectacular in Wharfedale. Derek counts the number of bird species seen or heard (usually 30-35) and I count the singing redstarts* (usually about 15).

A flock of sheep and their lambs were enjoying lush vegetation in Hubberholme churchyard; we hoped they didn't suffer from indigestion later. A little further along the river - our first surprise. A singing male pied flycatcher could be heard, sometimes we are unable to record this species on this walk, and already I'd heard five redstarts. Could this be a record count? A nearby tree pipit sang briefly, not its full delightful trill, but enough to alert our attention. A female goosander swam down river looking for fish, perhaps she had just left her nest, and a pair of common sandpipers flew upstream while a male yellow wagtail was visible on an overhead wire.

At Yockenthwaite a flock of sheep were having their spring check-up by the farmer, his two boys watching from the top of a gate, hopefully learning useful knowledge for later years. Nearby we met a friendly couple from Nottingham on a similar pilgrimage and showed them nesting house-martins and our fifteenth male redstart.

A sharp right turn uphill leads up to the postman's walk towards Cray where we stopped to watch a male wheatear. The local walk at the top was lush with wild flowers and we had a picnic lunch near Scar House where we once stayed while walking

the Dales Way. Our nineteenth redstart sang to us from several song-posts and a cuckoo called from across the valley. A little further on and a male pied flycatcher, our third, was busy in and out of the tree hole.

The views soon opened out towards Buckden Pike and down the valley towards Buckden, Kilnsey Crag and beyond, the Wharfe meandering through yet more lush meadows of flowers. This is one of my favourite views. We followed Cray Beck past its pretty waterfalls, enjoying milkwort and rockroses and a pair of grey wagtails. Green woodpecker was heard here and later the great spotted woodpecker.

Our fourth and last pied flycatcher sang at the roadside before we reached the bridge at Hubberholme.

Our total number of bird species was an amazing forty; the number of male redstarts (mainly heard rather than seen) a staggering twenty-one. Yes, a record day. The weather was mainly overcast but fine and warm, so contours and the effects of glacial erosion showed up well in these conditions.

There was also time to sit and reflect on our splendid day, time to remind ourselves that most birds recorded were summer visitors, spending the rest of their year in Africa and Southern Europe. We look forward to seeing them again next spring; the numbers really aren't important, just to appreciate them in these surroundings is enough.

**A redstart is a robin-like bird, both sexes having a rufous tail. A breeding male has grey upper parts, black cheeks and throat, white forehead and rufous under parts, rump and tail. Arriving in spring the male sings to attract a female and determine nesting territory. When the female incubates eggs, the male sings again. Redstarts like woodland, rocky hills, park land and river banks with scattered old trees. Langstrothdale obviously suits them very well.*

Brenda Parkin



Keep it in the family!

Muker Show, Winner of the Yorkshire Dales Society Trophy for Best Bale of Hay, 9 year-old Adam Hunter with Adam's mother and father awarded 2nd prize. Photo by TC Rutter.

A photograph of the Swaledale tup belonging to John Hunter, Adam's grandfather and Norman's father, was used to produce the logo for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. That original photograph was taken at Muker Show many years ago.

Freeholders Wood Millennium Trail

A walk through the historic Freeholders Wood at Aysgarth Falls, including views of the spectacular waterfalls, has been extensively improved to mark the millennium. The project has been the result of a funding partnership between the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the National Park Authority and the Environment Agency.

The area around the famous waterfalls and through the woodland has long been a popular attraction for visitors to the Yorkshire Dales, but the footpaths suffered from heavy use and were often rough and muddy in places. The Trust has part funded major improvements to these routes, to make them more accessible and enjoyable for everyone including people who use wheelchairs.

The most exciting part of the project has been the installation of imaginative "sculptures" along the



path through Freeholders Wood. These features have been created by a local artist, Vivien Mousdell who consulted local people and the public through a series of workshops and events in the wood itself, and in local schools and village halls. The freeholders of Carperby, children and teachers from Askrigg School, visually impaired students from Henshaws College, and many others have been involved in the inspiration and design of the new features.

The end result has been the creation of a series of stunning interpretive sculptures for the new trail. Vivien has used traditional tools and techniques to craft the natural materials of wood and stone. Carved motifs, words and symbols reflect the story of the woods and waterfalls, in an innovative and beautiful way. Some of the features double up as simple benches, ideal for pausing to listen to bird song or to the roar of the waterfalls.

The sculpture trail and footpath improvements form part of a £45,000 programme of work around the Aysgarth Falls visitor site which also include landscaping and hedge planting around the new National Park Visitor Centre.

For the Trust which provided half the costs, this has been a very exciting project to work on. Alison Quigley, the Trust's Community and Environment Officer, and Sue Manson, Project Officer, worked closely with staff from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Environment Agency to make the project happen. This is one of the 200 or so environmental and community schemes the trust is currently funding through its £10 million Dales EnviroNet project, with the help of a £1 million grant from the Millennium Commission.

The Trust also hopes that its first major donor woodland will be planted at The Riddings, next to Freeholders Wood in spring 1999. Any members wanting more information on this, or any aspect of the Trust's work are very welcome to contact us, or to visit our offices at Clapham near Settle.

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Swinden Quarry: A Bird's Eye View

YDS Chairman Chris Wright describes a stimulating and exciting visit as he headed a group of 30 strong YDS members keen to discover at first hand the mysteries of limestone extraction.

For once at a Yorkshire Dales Society event there was a stunned silence. A large group of us were standing at the top edge of the working face of the Tilcon limestone quarry at Swinden, near Cracoe, in Wharfedale. Whether the silence was due to the previously unseen enormity of the workings or due to the fact that we were standing on landscape that was soon to fall several hundred feet to the floor below was not clear.

Swinden Quarry and its associated lime works has in fact dominated this area for over a hundred years. Following the controversial application to extend the life of the quarry by digging further down as part of the twenty five year development plan, members were keen to see proposals planned for the future. A new access road is being constructed direct to the quarry floor where new plant will be installed next year. This will be mobile, advancing to the face being worked and so eliminate the need for dumper trucks to lumber round the quarry, thus further reducing dust and noise. It will, however, also reduce employment by about half, which is rather ironic, since the main argument for continuation of the quarry was for the sake of local employment.

Some of our group were somewhat apprehensive when descending a steel ladder into the heart of the crushing plant, though conditions were quieter in the main control room where each individual order for the various ores is processed before being loaded for transport, both by truck and by a well organised rail operation.

The whole quarry operation is on a massive scale and we all wonder what things will look like twenty years from now, but we hope to have another visit before then.

Chris Wright

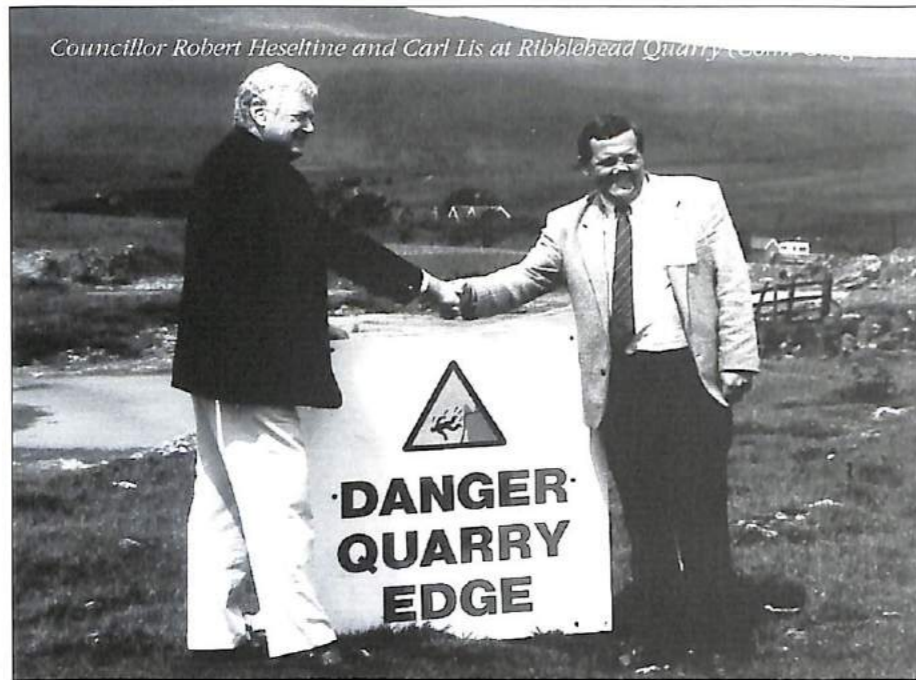
Since the YDS visit, TILCON have announced that they are planning to open a rail transshipment base near the M62 at Dewsbury, to allow aggregates and other material for West and South Yorkshire to be taken out of the Dales by rail, saving many thousands of heavy lorry journeys along Dales roads.

GIVE THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY A WINDFALL WITHOUT COST TO YOURSELF

The Yorkshire Dales Society was able to collect £1314 from the Inland Revenue thanks to the efforts of Company Secretary Alan Pease and all those YDS members who signed covenants. But this is still only from a fraction of our membership - any taxpayer and YDS member who signs a covenant is helping the society to recoup some tax benefit, but **do remember**, you still have to **pay** your subscription as well !

Negotiated End to Quarrying in the Dales?

In June as part of "Minerals 98 Week" coordinated by the Quarry Products Association (QPA), ARC, at its Ingleton Quarry Open day, announced that it would not reopen its "dormant" quarries at Ribblesdale and at Helwith Bridge in Ribblesdale. The most important concession is for Ribblesdale Quarry; last worked in the early 60s, which lies close to the heart of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve and forms part of a proposed Special Area of Conservation.



Councillor Robert Heseltine and Carl Lis at Ribblesdale Quarry

Existing planning permission would have allowed about 23 million tonnes of limestone to be removed from the 24 hectare site, which in addition to its valuable limestone pavements making up an SSSI, contains the site of the only excavated Viking Homestead in the Yorkshire Dales (see Robert White's *Book of the Yorkshire Dales - Landscapes through time*).

In his statement Simon Vivian, ARC's Chief Executive and currently chairman of the QPA said, "Ribblesdale, along with two other sites, will never be quarried again. If prohibition notices are served by the respective Park Authorities, we will not contest them. This will effectively rescind our planning rights without compensation."

Accordingly, on 29th 1998, John Mortimer of ARC handed a letter to Robert Heseltine, chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, relinquishing ARC's rights to quarry at Ribblesdale and in return, Mr Heseltine served a prohibition notice that legally prevents any further quarrying at that site.

Mr Mortimer explained that in view of the very special nature of Ribblesdale, ARC had concluded that it would be irresponsible to exercise or retain

their rights to quarry on the flanks of Ingleborough. "Of course," stated an editorial in the *Craven Herald* on July 3rd, "there would have been a huge outcry, a vigorous campaign of protest and condemnation. Perhaps ARC did not want the bother. But let us give credit where credit is due, they have responded to the gentle pressure and persuasion and given up without a fight or demand for compensation, the right to quarry."

This announcement from ARC follows a recent national policy statement from the quarrying industry to initiate a review of operations within National Parks in collaboration with Park Authorities. Dormant quarry sites would not be reopened and there would be no applications for new workings or quarry extensions in National Parks, "unless there is a national need or where there are environmental and economic benefits for the Park".

Aggregate Industries who operate Cool Scar Quarry behind Kilnsey Crag in Wharfedale also confirmed that they would not seek to extend quarrying there once current planning permission runs out in the near future.

In the past the YDS argued unsuccessfully against an extension of planning permission to the year 2020 at Swinden Quarry in Wharfedale (see YDS Review no. 45 Winter 1993 and no. 46 Spring 1994), but many may now agree with Robert Heseltine that pragmatism and common sense have paid off when he says, "This agreement not only makes sacrosanct the long-term landscape quality of the Yorkshire Dales, but also retains sufficient flexibility for the quarrying industry so that some extension

of existing quarries could be acceptable in exceptional circumstances."

Under pressure from environmentalists most of the eight working quarries in the Dales National Park have developed detailed plans for restoration of sites for leisure or wildlife reserves once quarrying is finished, and already have undertaken extensive earthworks, drystone walling and tree-planting schemes to enhance the immediate environment of their sites.

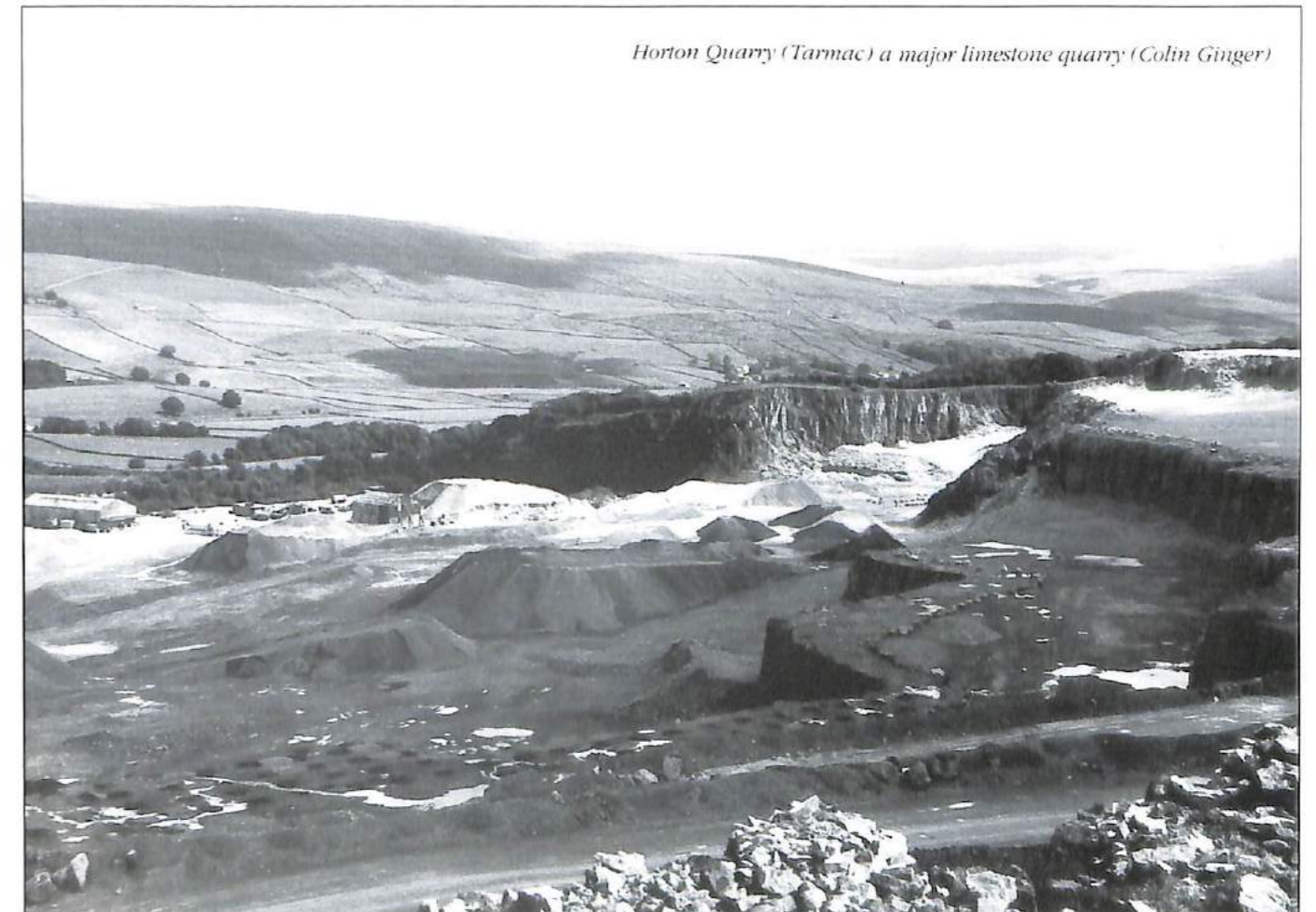
The *Craven Herald* has the final word. "This week's news heralds the end of quarrying in the dales. But it will be a phased withdrawal with thought given

to restoration rather than a scorched earth retreat leaving the ugly scars of battle."

Colin Ginger



Ingleton Quarry (ARC) - currently quarrying for Greywacke Grit (Colin Ginger)



Horton Quarry (Tarmac) a major limestone quarry (Colin Ginger)

John Baker – Assistant National Park Officer 1974 -1998

The death of John Baker, at the early age of 54, after a courageous fight against cancer, will sadden everyone who knew him, and is a real loss to the Yorkshire Dales.

John Baker joined the fledgling Yorkshire Dales National Park Department as an Assistant National Park Officer in 1974, and remained in post until his untimely death in July. For almost a quarter of a century John was in charge of the Grassington office and a driving force behind the work of what is now the National Park Authority. He developed the Visitor and Area Management services from fairly rudimentary information and warden services to their present sophisticated level, doing much to create and develop the National Park's outstanding reputation on footpath and access matters, and its high quality visitor services.

His ability to ask often uncomfortable questions of his colleagues and challenge established ways of thinking resulted in many new important ideas and initiatives. He developed and applied the concept of Sustainability to much of the Authority's work, and played a key role in work which eventually led to the setting up of the independent Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. In latter years he encouraged contacts with European National Parks, and only a few months before his death was developing links with the Lower Tatra National Park in Slovakia - with the active support of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

The loss of John, in mid career, is a grievous blow to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority during a period of dramatic change when his skills, energy and experience would have been invaluable. But above all, our sympathies lie with his wife, Angela, and their children and grandchildren, in their tragic and untimely bereavement.

CS



Roland Wade CBE

When Roland Wade died in Ilkley on the 31st of July at the ripe old age of 91, the English countryside lost one of its staunchest defenders.

Born in Ilkley in 1906, he read law at Cambridge and then entered the Leeds firm of Booth and Co. where he remained until his retirement in 1972 as the senior partner. During this time he became, in 1968, President of the Leeds Law Society, after being Secretary for several years. He was a JP from 1959 until 1976.

Roland was a keen supporter of the Ilkley Book Club on which he served as Secretary for 50 years and as President until his death. Equally as a keen pianist who continued playing until his 90th year, he was a founder member of Ilkley Concert Club, assuming the office of Chairman between 1953 and 1965.

He was a great pioneer of the outdoor movement in this country. He was early associated with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, being its National Chairman from 1978 to 1993. Additionally he was an early member and later Chairman of the council's Craven Branch as well as founding and chairing for many years, the West Riding Branch. Together with the formidable HH Symonds and Graham Watson, he was in the mid thirties, a founder of the Friends of the Lake District which he served with distinction for many years. He was appointed too, as a Minister's nominee on the original Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee from its formation to when it was re-organised in 1974. In addition, he was an early member of the Yorkshire Dales Society and always took a keen interest in its affairs, particularly at the time of the proposed riverside leisure development between Ilkley and Addingham. He was awarded the CBE in 1979 for his services to the outdoor movement.

Roland Wade was a very kindly man and it was a privilege to have known him. Through his varied activities, he made many friends. All will view his passing with great sadness. He will indeed, long be remembered.

Ken Willson

Book Reviews

SWALEDALE VALLEY OF THE WILD RIVER by Andrew Fleming, published by Edinburgh University Press at £17.95.

Swaledale with its wild tumultuous river prone to flooding, and desolate moorland, had been something of a Cinderella archaeologically speaking when Andrew Fleming and his colleague Tim Laurie started working together there in 1983. Though Fleming fully acknowledges the painstaking work that many local historians bring to their chosen speciality, he warns of the danger of the "neat little package" which makes their site into something unique instead of part of a greater whole, and where in reality there has often been conflict, uncertainty and paradox. There is a need he states:

to convey some sense of an ongoing relationship between researcher and landscape, between the present and the past,

and to deploy the skills at times of such experts as environmental archaeologists, physical geographers and even palaeobotanists where appropriate.

What is particularly impressive about this research is that Fleming is never content with an easy, superficial answer, but tests and retests any findings or hypothesis, yet at the same time involves us in the process of unravelling a series of mysteries as fascinating and as readable as any detective novel.

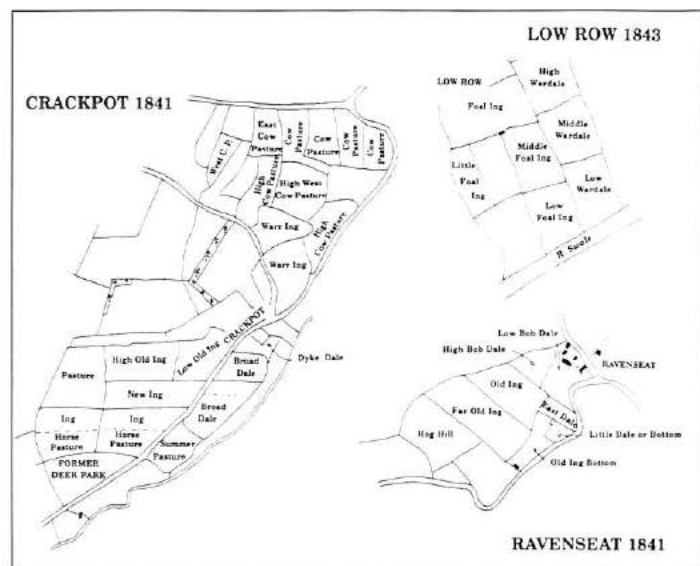
Why do some places have more than one name? Why do some names appear not to fit the places which they are supposed to describe or apparently seem to have got displaced?

Some clues to Swaledale's past are revealed in the Grinton-Fremington dykes, others from a very careful study of place names, one authority suggesting that names in the dative case such as Feetham (at the meadows) makes it clear that Old Norse was actually formerly spoken in Swaledale, while the use of surnames ending in "son" appears to indicate that people at the "Norse" end of the dale emphasised their descent and kinship, while the "English" part of the dale appeared from the style of a number of surnames to suggest a derivation from an actual place. Earthworks, ancient walls and cairns on the moor, pollarded trees, old maps, footpaths, pollen counts and even "humps and bumps in the fields" all help to tell Swaledale's ancient story. Medieval field patterns have often destroyed evidence of an even earlier history, but Fleming argues that since the ancient Roman fields were defined by low walls in Swaledale, it is perhaps likely that rather than spend considerable time shifting such stones, some medieval strip-fields running up and down the slope between Reeth and Healaugh, and below Harkerside for example, are actually based on Roman field systems.



Meticulously researched with excellent maps, photographs and bibliography, this book will cause the reader to look with fresh eyes at the landscape and perhaps also try to catch those

View from Reeth School showing aspects of the ancient landscape in Harkerside farmland from "Swaledale Valley of the Wild River" by Andrew Fleming.



special wintry light conditions when the landscape of Swaledale allows glimpses to be caught of its ancient and pre-historic field patterns and its continually evolving history.

Fleur Speakman

brothers of Swaledale who pioneered wildlife photography, and are credited with being the first to have a bird photograph reproduced in a book in the 1890s, while they were later to travel over 30,000 miles and take over 10,000 photographic plates, sometimes fabricating exotic hides such as a stuffed cow or sheep or an artificial rock for a book on *British Bird Nests*. Nowadays dedicated ornithologists still spend many cramped hours in some extraordinary perches in search of those exclusive and fascinating pictures.

The closing section gives useful hints on where to find particular species in the dales aided by the beautiful black and white illustrations.

Fleur Speakman

The Curlew, a long-necked summer visitor to the moors - a drawing by David Binns featured in "Birds of the Yorkshire Dales" by W. R. Mitchell.

BIRDS OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES

by W. R. Mitchell and with illustrations by David Binns, published by Castleberg Press at £6.50, is available at local bookshops.

Bill Mitchell brings over half a century of intimate knowledge to his popular guide to the birds of the dales and their haunts; concentrating on the most distinctive species and their habitats, but salted with much local information in his own delightful anecdotal style.

How many keen dales bird-watchers actually know some of the imaginative local names for the various species? Test yourself on whether you know a yaffle from a dicky devilling or a cow bird from a laverock.

Bill Mitchell gives us a historical survey of bird life since the last Ice Age and some explanation as to why a particular species has adapted or otherwise to changing conditions over the centuries. There are also fascinating facts on the Kearton



Daleswatch Report

1. The Yorkshire Dales

Having just returned to this country from an extended holiday in Australia which in truth was rather hard work at times, I am only just beginning to get my Yorkshire bearings back again. Whilst we were away, my wife and I circumnavigated the whole country (including island Tasmania) by what seemed to be every form of transport available and travelled many thousands of miles through countryside that ranged from the deserts of the interior to the tropical jungles of the north, across the vast plains of the mighty Murray basin and taking in some of the world's most magnificent coastal scenery. We saw what seemed to be about half the species of our planet's flora and fauna. And for good measure we threw in visits to amongst many other places, the Sydney Opera house and the Bradman museum at Bowral (I was a keen cricketer in my youth!). In short, we had a wonderful time.

But perhaps the Yorkshire Dales beats the lot. It is all too easy to get over-familiar with those characteristically narrow and winding lanes; with the dry stone walls, the mists in the valleys - and the magic, on a showery day, of sunlight and shadow chasing one another across rugged, treeless hills, with the limestone pavements, and the man-crafted ambience of our dales villages; every stone carrying its own bit of history. And, of course with the sheer magnificence of those jewels in our crown that are the remains of the abbeys and priories of old. We have a wonderful heritage of our own to look after.

2. The National Park Authority

Re-organisation of the structures of the National Park Authority has been a very prominent item over recent months. One of the most important changes is the streamlining of the decision making process relating to planning matters. It has long been felt that the old system - combining planning matters with full Authority business was neither the most efficient, nor the best for applicants and other members of the public who attended meetings specifically to hear the result of a particular planning application. This has now been changed so that a new Planning Committee (which

comprises all Members of the Authority but only considers matters relevant to planning) meets monthly, under a separate Chairman, whilst the full Authority meets every second month under the elected Authority Chairman. This system looks likely to be more efficient and also more helpful to the public, so it is good to see our new Chief Executive already putting her own stamp on how things are to be done within the Authority. This will result in some shuffling of staff to fit into the new structure that is being created, but the basic shape of the new authority has now been settled and the necessary reorganisation well in hand. Apparently there is also a perception that life working for a National Park Authority may be worthwhile. A recent advertisement for six vacancies amongst the Authority's staff resulted in no fewer than 900 requests for information and 301 applications! There should be no difficulty in sustaining the high standard of the staff recruited if this type of interest persists.

3. John Baker

I was deeply saddened upon my return from Australia to learn of the death of Assistant National Park Officer John Baker at the tragically early age of 54. His illness was of course well known to me before I left the country, but the suddenness of the final stages gave me a deep sense of shock when I learned of it on my return. John, was of course, with George Hallas, one of the two original Assistant National Park Officers appointed under National Park Officer Richard Harvey back in 1974 and I had worked with him on a number of important matters largely concerned with questions of access and transport management, finding his incisive comments helpful on many occasions. The National Park's Transport and Visitor Management Strategy owed much to his dedicated work, and eventual implementation of such a strategy will be one way in which he may best be remembered. (YDS In Memoriam p10).

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)

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
Welcome Walking Weekend – 23rd-25th April 1999



Yorkshire Dales Society members are invited to join a unique Welcome Walking Weekend with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, at Thorns Hall, Sedbergh at the edge of the Howgill Fells. An exclusive opportunity to stay in a historic manor house with lovely en suite bedrooms and superb grounds. Full board with breakfast and evening meals in a converted barn with exposed beams. Walks and tours led by Trust staff on Saturday and Sunday through the stunning countryside of Dentdale and the Howgill Fells.

The weekend costs £125 for two nights accommodation, all meals, guided tours etc. Accommodation limited – first come first served. Deposit of £25 per person required by 19th October.

Full details from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Beckside Barn, Church Lane, Clapham, LA2 8EQ. Telephone 015242 51002.



Octagon Mill, Swaledale – Photo by Geoffrey Wright

Events for a Dales Autumn



After a wet and miserable summer in Northern Britain, perhaps we'll have an autumn of dry days and glorious colours. Come along and meet other like-minded YDS members on one of our popular days of walks and talks - a friendly welcome is guaranteed. All the walks are 3 to 4 miles and last around two hours. Don't forget that though only YDS members get a £1 discount for the lectures, (standard admission £2.50; YDS £1.50) members of the public are warmly welcome, so please bring a friend with you, and encourage them to join - and save a pound.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH

WALK: EXPLORING STRID WOODS, BOLTON ABBEY Open our 1998/9 Walks and Lectures season with John Cumberland (01943 608961) Meet/park Cavendish Pavilion at 1030am. Packed or cafe lunch. (No Public Transport to Bolton Abbey - lifts can be arranged from Ilkley Station; if required please leave a message on 01943 461938 no later than 10am on 5th October).

LECTURE: PHOTOGRAPHING THE CHANGING COUNTRYSIDE with Simon Warner, leading Yorkshire landscape photographer at 2.15pm in Bolton Abbey Village Hall. Park at Village Hall.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7TH

WALK: AROUND DACRE Meet outside Dacre Banks Village Hall at 10.30am for a walk with Chris Hartley (01943 873197) along the Nidd to Hawkshaw Gill Wood. Packed lunch required. Park Village Hall. Public Transport 0930 Bus 24 (Pateley bus) from Harrogate Bus Station to Dacre Banks.

LECTURE: WASHBURN VALLEY YESTERDAY - lecture looking at the history of the Washburn Valley by Otley historian David Aldred, at 2.15pm in Dacre Bank Village Hall.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH

WALK: AROUND SKIPTON Meet outside St. Andrews Church, Newmarket Street (main road from Ilkley) at 1030am. Leader Chris Wright (01756 792297). Park in any of Skipton's main car parks. Public Transport 0904 train from Leeds and Keighley to Skipton. (10 minutes walk to St Andrews). Cafe, pub or packed lunch.

LECTURE: WHEN GRANDAD WAS A LAD by Dennis Cairns, based on his popular book of Barnoldswick local history at 2.15pm, St Andrews Church, Skipton.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19TH **CHRISTMAS WALK IN DENTDALE** Take the Settle Carlisle Santa Special Train to Dent Station (Leeds d. 0847, Keighley 0911, Skipton 0925, Settle 0946 for 4 miles gentle walk (uphill return) between Dent Station and Dent village for seasonal refreshment in pubs, cafes - or take sandwiches. Return on 1737 train so bring a torch. Silly hats not obligatory. Leaders: Colin Speakman (01943 607868) and Chris Wright.

SATURDAY JANUARY 9TH

WALK: AROUND EMB SAY with Jean Dobson (01943 601749) Park near village hall. Public Transport: Train as 12th December from Leeds to Skipton then 1020 Pennine Bus from Skipton to Embsay a. 1030. Packed or pub lunch.

LECTURE: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMB SAY-BOLTON ABBEY RAILWAY A history of this inspiring steam railway and Dales heritage project by Railway Manager Stephen Walker at 2.15pm, Embsay Village Hall.

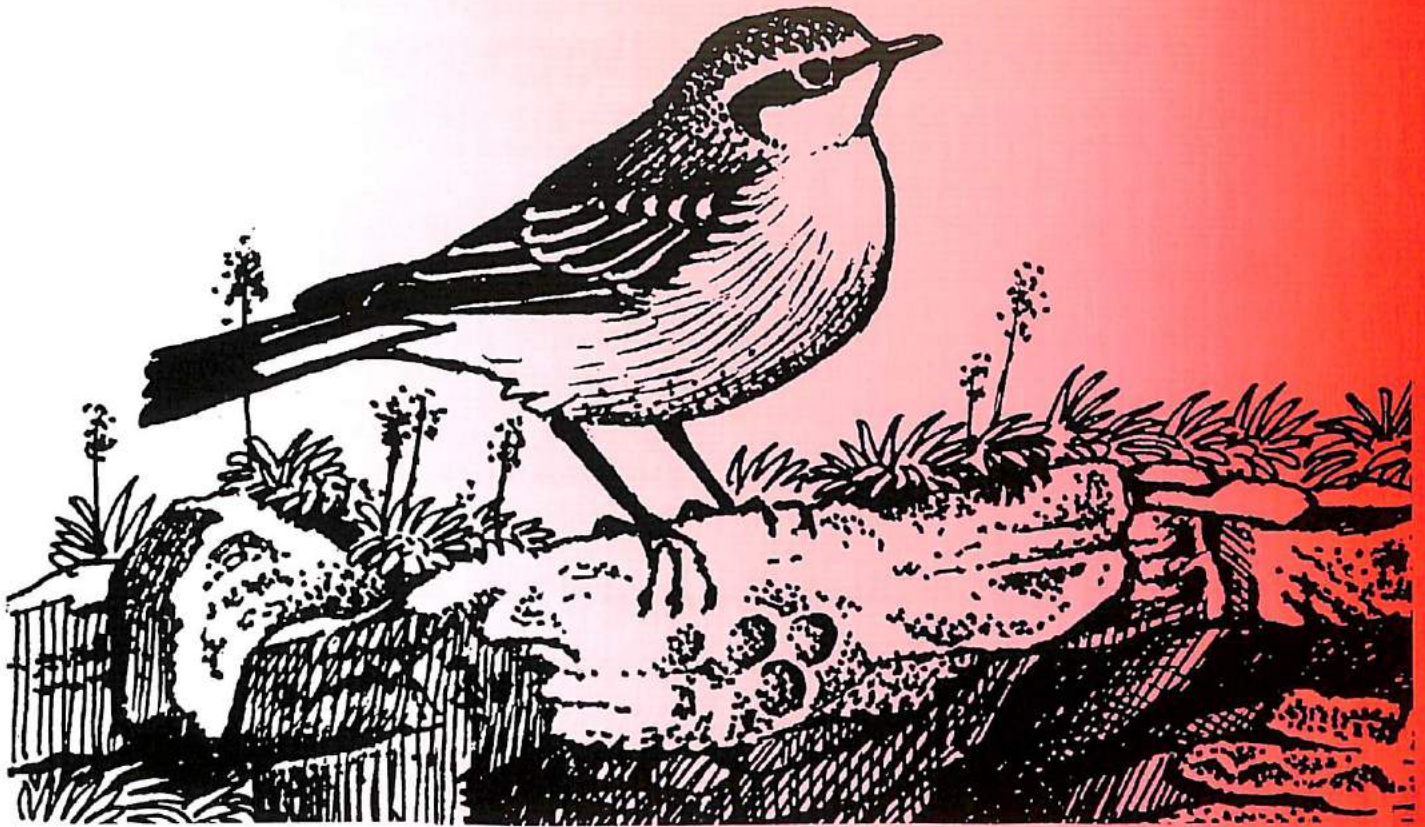
Did you notice ? Several observant members have pointed out that the photograph on page 11 in the last YDS Review was not butterburr but the Field Horsetail - *Equisetum*.

Airedale – A Changing Landscape

Photographs by Simon Warner

East Riding Museum, Hull

26th September –
22nd November 1998



Front cover picture: Chert Quarrying in Swaledale by Geoffrey Wright (Geoffrey Wright Collection). This picture, from the mid 1950s, shows a very different type of traditional quarrying to that familiar in the Dales landscape of today – and a key theme in this edition of the Review. Geoffrey was a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society. This picture is one of many thousands of classic pictures in the collection soon to be entrusted by the Wright family to the joint care of the Yorkshire Dales Countryside Museum and the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Back Cover picture: Wheatear (Dales name – stone chopper) by David Binns. See review of "Birds of the Yorkshire Dales" on page 12.

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