

No.65 Winter 1998/1999

Yorkshire Dales Review



Yorkshire Dales
Society



- *The Bird's Eye Primrose Leads the Way*
- *Sheila Marks - A Tribute*
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£1.50

Yorkshire Dales Review • No. 65 • Winter 1998/1999

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editors Colin and Fleur Speakman

The Bird's Eye Primrose Leads the Way

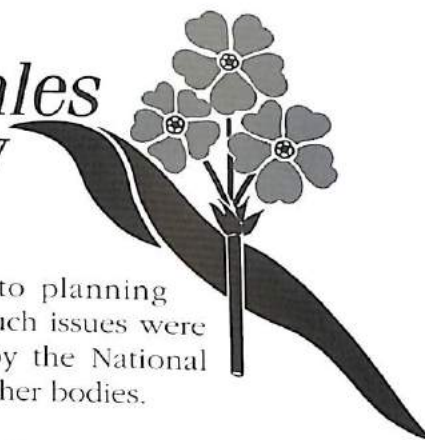
The Yorkshire Dales Society has a new logo. That most characteristic flower of the upland limestone pastures, the bird's eye primrose, has escaped the confines of the old white rose and stands proud above a steep, Dales fellside complete with curving drystone wall. Nature and the cultural environment - that's what we're about.

Image is important. After 18 years the Society was starting to look a little tired. Membership was static, even declining. Since our first meeting, on an Upper Wharfedale hill farm in 1981, many things have changed. For example, there's the creation of a new, independent National Park Authority; the emergence of an energetic and well resourced new sister charity, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, helping to achieving many of the things we also set out to achieve in 1981; a new political climate on such issues as conservation, access and rural transport; upland farming facing its worst economic crisis since the 1930s; proposals to create powerful new Regional Development Agencies, which might be the forerunner of Regional Government for Yorkshire and Cumbria, with great influence on the many environmental and economic matters that affect all our lives.

Unless the Yorkshire Dales Society changes to meet these new challenges, we shall decline in membership, ideas and influence, overtaken by events, less and less relevant to the challenges that lie ahead.

So a more modern, more dynamic image is needed. Changing the image doesn't change the organisation - and continuity is as important as change - but it gives out certain messages. In lots of ways the YDS has, over the last two decades, been in the forefront of new thinking in the Dales. For example, we were amongst the first to recognise the vital importance of economic and social factors in conserving both the natural world and the landscape, and celebrating the rich and vibrant culture of the Dales, and developing a more

Yorkshire Dales
Society



dynamic approach to planning issues, long before such issues were even talked about by the National Park Authority and other bodies.

But the future offers both opportunities and very real threats. We need new ideas, new policies, new initiatives. But the future is also about people. About us. We need your help and active involvement if we are going to re-invent ourselves to meet the challenges ahead.

We also need new members. That's why, on April 22nd, at Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley, we are holding a Wine and Canapé Reception for all members. You are warmly invited to come along and meet us, but the stipulation is that you bring along a guest who is not yet a member of the Society, who might wish to learn more about the Society. There's a small charge to members, to cover the cost of the evening including refreshments, but your guest - thanks to a generous donation from one of our members - will be our guest and will come along absolutely free of charge. Up to two guests per member can be invited.

Tickets for you and your guest(s) must be ordered direct from the Society office (see page 7) and are strictly limited in number. So please get your booking to us as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you on April 22nd.

Colin Speakman

Sheila Marks

Sheila Marks, a long serving Council member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, died on November 23rd, at Arden Lea, Ilkley, after a short illness.

Although Sheila was born in London, and trained as a teacher at the Roehampton Training College, she returned to the Ilkley area where there were family connections, for much of her working life. She obtained a post at Ladyroyd School Bradford where she taught general subjects and later became deputy head till her retirement.

Always deeply involved with the Dales countryside, she taught generations of Guides to enjoy the outdoor life and specialised in training them in camping activities. Her special talents for administration were recognised by her role as County Commissioner for the Guides for a number of years and by the Laurel Leaf award in 1973, in recognition for her outstanding service, while the Guides Activity centre at Wynchets, Burley Woodhead is largely a tribute to her fund raising efforts.

It is above all in Sheila's services to the Yorkshire Dales Society that we wish to pay tribute. Already a member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, Sheila was recruited on her retirement from teaching eleven years ago to help with the Yorkshire Dales Society office administration and speedily adapted to the requirements of computerisation with legendary efficiency. Her flair and skills will be sorely missed. As a Council member, Sheila's opinion was always much valued and as Events Organiser she was meticulous in her attention to detail and to the smooth-running of our annual Walks and Talks Programme; a characteristic figure at the YDS sweat-shirt stall, ably fielding complex enquiries on the subject of direct debits and covenants. It was Sheila who generally saw to it that the YDS Committee had

their morning coffee and biscuits at the YDS Council meetings and Sheila who was always generous with the help of a lift to meetings and events.

In addition to the Yorkshire Dales Society, Sheila still found time to work in a local charity, the Ilkley Council for Voluntary Service and take part in minibus escort duties, and also to work for Insight, an organisation for the partially sighted. Her deep love of her religion and strong commitment to public service was recognised by her church when Sheila agreed to become a Church Elder at the Bridge Church in Otley.

We are saddened by the loss of a very special person, a unique personality, who gave an enormous amount of time, energy, expertise and personal commitment to the Yorkshire Dales Society. The YDS Council and Society members would like to express their sincere condolences to Sheila's

relatives who have had a very traumatic few months. At the Thanksgiving Service on Friday 27th November, a packed church filled with people from the many organisations who benefited from Sheila's talents and dedication, as well as friends and relations, was the most eloquent of tributes.

Fleur Speakman

The Yorkshire Dales Society hopes to make a Memorial Collection at the YDS event on January 9th at Embsay, or any members wishing to contribute should mark their envelopes The Sheila Marks Memorial Fund and send it to the YDS Office with cheques made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society, and addressed to the YDS at The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD. Further details on the fund in the next YDS Review.



Helping to Preserve a Yorkshire Tradition?

Are traditional crafts and craftspeople given their rightful acknowledgement today? Or are they regarded as quaint relics of another age, outside mainstream design and technology, particularly those who still work in the Dales?

Until recently I had the feeling that 'Craft' (a calling requiring special skill and knowledge' according to the Oxford Dictionary), had become a devalued word, whereas the Arts & Crafts movement of the late nineteenth century, as typified by William Morris and his disciples, was clear and unambiguous in its aims and standards. The pervasive use of the word 'craft' today, particularly when coyly coupled with 'fayre', is confusing. More often than not it is used when 'handiwork' would be more appropriate and covers a multitude of miscellaneous activities and artefacts. Sadly many 'craft shops', though a part of rural tourism, are full of trinkets and other ephemera, belonging to no particular tradition or region with many items being imported. So people can sometimes regard a 'craft' item as a low-cost souvenir bought on a day-trip or

holiday instead of a major investment in an individual's skill and experience.

However, the way in which the current exhibition of my photographs of traditional Yorkshire craftspeople, called *Privileged People*, has been received has given me both pleasure and encouragement. Having toured various locations in Yorkshire, including Harewood House near Leeds, Keighley's Cliffe Castle museum, the Bankfield museum in Halifax and, planned for January, at the Dales Countryside museum at Hawes, it has reassured me that traditional craftsmanship is still prized as part of a heritage stretching back to medieval times and an integral part of the fabric of our contemporary lives.

Observing the deep interest shown in the images - and the individuals, materials and tools captured in them - by visitors to the exhibition, has convinced me that people are becoming more aware and understanding of traditional craft activity. More and more people are realising that craft products have a



The rug-prodders of Arkengarthdale, who still produce rugs for Langthwaite Chapel funds.



Cutbert Craft, who formerly ran a long-established family tinsmith's business in Reeth, at work on his 'stake' or anvil.

natural sense of design and practicality as well as innate worth, all of which can be prized above many mass-produced items. There is a deep respect for traditional craftspeople with perhaps an envy of the involvement and satisfaction they derive from their work; elements which are all too often missing from our own lives in office or factory. Hence the exhibition's title *Privileged people*.

My portraits of individual craftsmen were taken over several years in the seventies in town and country throughout Yorkshire. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby who opened my eyes when, on arriving in Yorkshire in 1965, I read their remarkable books about the region's life and tradition.

I came across more and more craftspeople as I discovered Yorkshire's dales, moors, towns and villages for myself. I was fascinated by the diversity of activity, including coopers, thatchers, wheelwrights, rope and net makers, saddlers, furniture makers, monumental masons, makers of baskets and besoms, quilters, clog-makers, ship's figure-head carvers, coble boat-builders and cutlers. It was a great privilege to win their trust, to talk to these remarkable individuals, watch them at work and try to capture the essence of achievement. I chose to work in black and white

photography because I wanted to concentrate on the strength of the individual craftsman's character as well as the texture and shape of materials. Colour can often be a distraction.

Now, all these years later, seeing faces staring back at me from the walls of an exhibition venue revives many happy memories - and a few regrets. Some crafts have survived robustly in Yorkshire. Others, sadly, have disappeared as individuals have retired or died without passing on their skills.

I hope that the photographs and the re-publication of my book, *Yorkshire Craftsmen at Work*, will encourage everyone to support existing Yorkshire craftspeople and help preserve a fine, live tradition. In buying a hand-made item made by a craftsman, people will derive immense pleasure and satisfaction from owning something which is truly unique, like an original painting or piece of sculpture.

David Morgan Rees

David Morgan Rees has lived and worked in Yorkshire since 1965. A former vice-chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society, he lives in Ilkley. He has written regularly for a wide variety of publications, including 'The Dalesman', 'The Countryman' and 'Yorkshire Journal', many of his articles are illustrated with his own photography. He is particularly interested in how people live and work in rural communities.

We are delighted to offer David Morgan Rees's book *Yorkshire Craftsmen at Work* recently re-published by Sheffield Hallam University at a special discount price to members - see book offer insert.

A New Countryside Agency to Champion Rural England

The Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Agency have been set the challenge of creating a new body to champion rural England and the English countryside. The newly merged agency will begin life in April 1999 with a staff of some 350 from the two existing organisations and a budget of around £50 million.

Priorities in the new Agency's draft prospectus are :

- a living countryside, vital and viable with services for residents and visitors;
- a working countryside, with jobs for local people;
- enhancing the environment, protecting and enhancing the beauty and diversity of the countryside, including its wildlife, for this and future generations
- one nation, town and country, recognising their ever greater interdependence; and
- a countryside for all, improving access so that everyone can enjoy the beauty and character of the countryside.

The New Countryside Agency (provisional title) recently set up a number of regional and national consultation meetings, sixteen in all, with the Yorkshire Dales Society invited to send a representative to the relevant meeting at the Queens Hotel in Leeds on Tuesday November 17th 1998. Nearly 90 delegates attended from all over Yorkshire with representatives of various local authorities being balanced by bodies such as English Nature, the RSPB, the Ramblers Association, with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority being represented by Philip Brown, Head of Planning, and Councillor Robert Heseltine as Chairman of the YDNPA.

Richard Wakeford, Chief Executive of the existing Countryside Commission gave the keynote speech stressing that the new Agency was hoping for a better understanding of socio, economic and environmental issues, producing a synergy or a more holistic attitude.

He stressed that they had come to listen and learn in order to decide how best to make their twin roles of direct action and influencing organisations at regional and local level work. It was imperative that however seriously it undertook these roles, it did not duplicate activities already being

undertaken. It saw its mission as striving for a diverse, prosperous high-quality countryside. The key question was *how to manage* this high quality countryside.

In the general discussion facing new issues in the countryside, diverse concerns were expressed and suggestions made, for example concerns about the growth of supermarkets driving out local shops, the special needs of young people in the countryside (an often forgotten group), the regeneration of urban areas with, for example, informal access along riverbanks and regenerated green corridors which might well deflect some wear and tear on the countryside, the possible use of hydro-electricity, using "intermediate" low cost technology, and a plea for more resources for Heritage Coasts which were seen as the Cinderella of protected areas.

Local Agenda 21 was an essential ingredient, as was Sustainability if the future of our countryside was to be safeguarded. There was a need for an integrated programme of development and it was essential that urban and rural needs were seen as related whether it be in such areas as child care, mobility or housing. Indeed this inter-relation of the needs of urban and rural communities was a key theme of the Conference.

After lunch, the discussion groups concentrated on four main issues: A National Centre of Expertise; A Diverse, Prosperous High-quality Countryside; Quality of Life and Social Exclusion; and Countryside Recreation and Tourism. The last group dealing with recreation and tourism seemed to be sidetracked by the issue of access to open countryside. But it also asked if national standards should be enforced and who would be responsible for funding and maintenance. There was further talk of an access strategy and the possibility of learning from overseas. In the final portion of the allocated discussion time, questions were raised about such matters as accommodation standards and who should give the lead, the BTA or the Agency, while local sustainable tourism opportunities were also mentioned.

The Chief Executive pointed out after the brief report back that since there had been much good

sense and remarkably little controversy, he would call for additional suggestions about any matters that had not as yet been raised. The issue of second homes in areas like the Dales and the problem of affordable accommodation for young rural couples was brought to his attention at this point.

There had been ample opportunity for networking at the Conference. However, how much the new Agency will take on board its commitment to listen to those at the grass roots level, and to prioritise a truly sustainable agenda, remains to be seen.

Fleur Speakman

WINE AND CANAPÉ RECEPTION

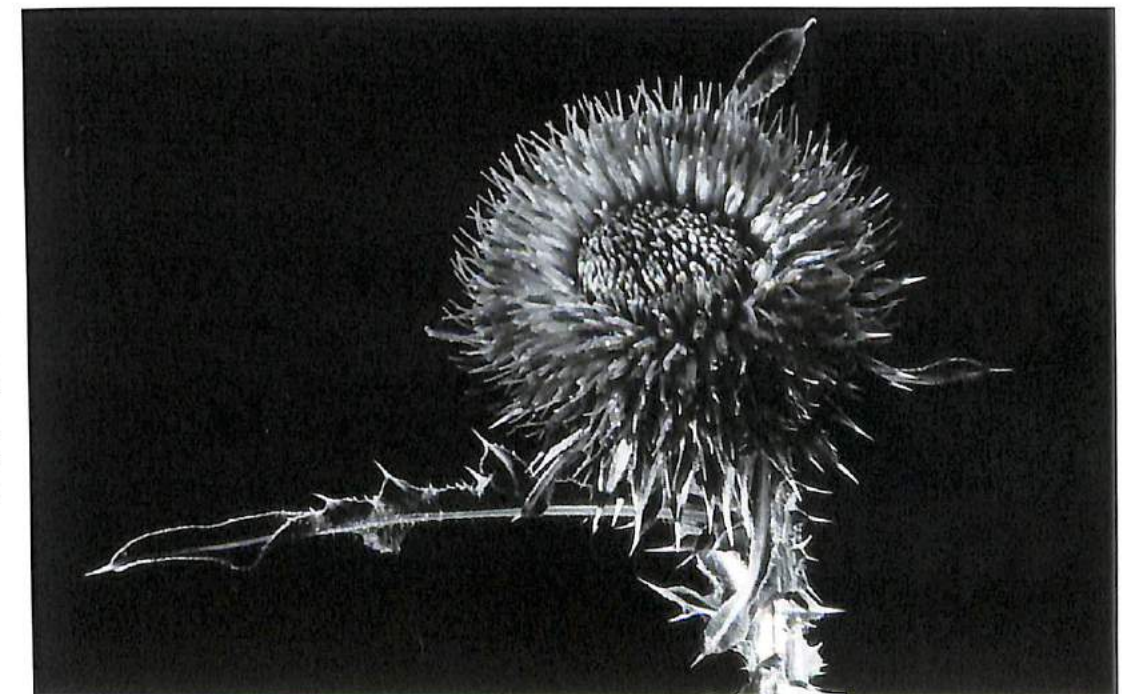
All members are very warmly invited to a *Wine and Canapé Reception* on Thursday April 22nd at 8pm at the charming Craiglands Hotel, in the Dales Room, Cowpasture Road, in a beautiful setting close to Ilkley Moor. **The only condition is that that you bring with you either one or two potential members from another household who could be seriously interested in joining the Yorkshire Dales Society once they know a little more about it.**

Members will pay £5 a head for themselves, but their guests will come as guests of the Society. We need you to write in to book your tickets for your guests and yourselves with the names and addresses and telephone numbers of everyone who is coming to the evening with an sae for yourself large enough to take the printed tickets.

The evening will take the form of a welcome with a glass of wine or soft drink and canapés. Other drinks are available at the bar in the Dales Room. There will be a short introductory slide show, plenty of time for socialising and coffee. We look forward to seeing you.

Please book early as numbers may be limited. **All bookings to be in by Monday 29th March.** Please mark your envelopes YDS Reception and send to The Yorkshire Dales Society The Civic Centre Cross Green Otley, West Yorks. LS21 1HD. Please include your cheque for £5 or £10, made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society as YDS members for your own tickets and an sae large enough for the return of printed tickets. We are happy to accept donations for the event in addition, to help us cover costs. If you have extra friends in addition to the initial one or two, whom you may also wish to invite to the reception, please let us know. Ring Fleur Speakman on 01943 607868 if you have any queries.

*A Recent New
Arrival in
Malhamdale is the
Milk Thistle.
Photo by
Peter Sharp*



Award-Winning Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST

I am delighted to give more details to members of the Yorkshire Dales Society about the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's recently prestigious

British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award, European Special category. British Airways have selected the Trust as the 1998 winner because of its outstanding contribution to environmental conservation and sustainable tourism in the Dales. This year the awards attracted over 100 entries from around the world, including tour operators, hotels, and heritage sites. It's a great honour that our work with local communities to protect the Dales environment is now a role model for the rest of Europe.

A film crew from the "Wish You Were Here..." TV travel programme came to the Dales in the autumn, to film the work of the Trust in Wensleydale, Malham and Burnsall. The Feature will be shown this March on a special edition about Tourism for Tomorrow Awards, potentially reaching over 10 million viewers. Representatives from the Trust will be attending a gala awards ceremony at the Banqueting House in London on 24th February, and the Trust will also provide a display for a public conference on sustainable tourism at the Royal Geographic Society the following day.

Update on projects

The Trust is now about half-way through the £10 million, four year millennium project, Dales EnviroNet. This is funded in part by a £4 million

grant from the Millennium Commission. Each of our four Project Officers has a current case load of

about 60 schemes, across all the different categories. They are now beginning to see the fruits of their labour reflected in lots of opening ceremonies and finished projects. Here are just a few of the projects that the support from Yorkshire Dales Society members and other donors has helped us achieve. Do look out for them when you are next in the Dales:

By the time you read this, the roof on the new **Cracoe and District Memorial Village Hall** should be complete and the building weather-tight, ready for all the internal fittings to be installed. The total cost of this project is nearly £360,000 and the Trust has helped with a grant of £125,000 overseen

by Sue Manson. Sue and Alison Quigley, The Trust's Community Environment Officer, have worked together with Hawes Primary School on a project at Cotter Force Waterfall. The school children have helped design a viewing seat, carved by sculptor Peter Hibberd, installed at the end of the waterfall path. The path has been widened and ramped by the national park authority, and gates and stiles removed, to improve access for wheelchair users and pushchairs.

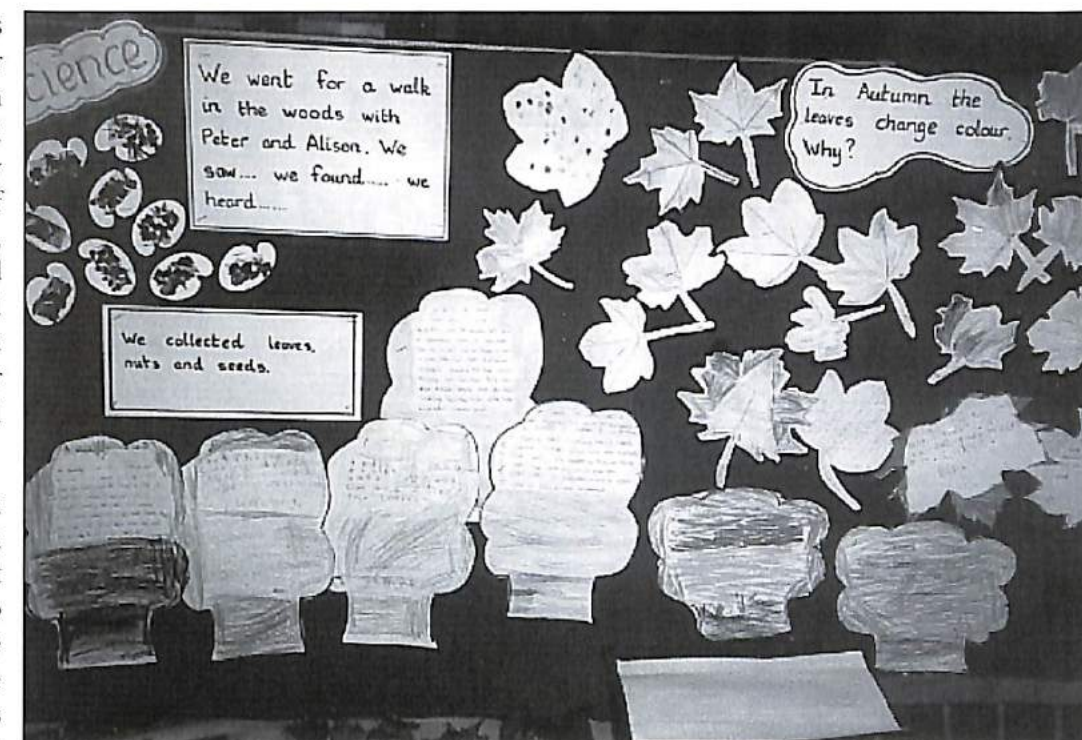
Juliet Coates has worked closely with the trustees of **Malham Village Hall** to help them refurbish the cold, damp village building with the help of £2,500 grant. An opening ceremony was held in November, with guests of honour Harry

Bolland and his granddaughter Kayleigh who live in the village. Local people can now enjoy the luxury of proper heating, dampproofing, and new carpets - all providing a much cosier, better equipped local facility.

Juliet has also been closely involved with a project at **Austwick, to underground** some of the low voltage lines. The Trust has grant aided NORWEB to carry out a project for the removal of cables last autumn. The total cost was around £151,000 but the Trust's contribution was just over 20% of the total remainder paid for by NORWEB. The last pole was removed at a ceremony in late November, performed by Ernest Guff, Managing Director of NORWEB, and attended by a wide range of local people and organisations. Guests then retired to the village hall - which has also benefited from a Trust grant - for refreshments!

David Sharrod is working with Yorkshire Electricity to **underground lines** in villages in the south of the National Park, for example Hebden, Conistone with Kilnsey, Beamsley and Thorpe. David has also been closely involved with the restoration of a major ancient woodland above Low Row in Swaledale. Rowleth Wood was open to grazing by sheep as part of the Common Land of Low Row Pasture. Although there is a long history of wood-pasture here, recent levels of sheep-grazing mean that this is now a classic case of a Dales wood - it looks healthy at a distance, but has little regeneration or ground flora. The Pasture Committee put forward a restoration project including fencing, wall repairs and planting native broadleaved trees.

Jo Wilkes and Alison Quigley have helped pupils of **Kettlewell School** to work with environmental artist Fiona Hudson to design some very special seats for the school's new woodland garden. Their ideas and mini sculptures have been incorporated into four large oak carved seats with designs ranging from badgers to worms, to beetles, leaves and seeds. Local National Trust Warden, Peter Katic, helped run field activities with the children to



discover woodland wildlife to inspire their imaginations. Many parents and people from the local community turned out to help the children plant nearly 200 native trees in the school grounds in late November last year.

Also look out for these other projects which are completed or in progress: - **Low Cross Barn**, a restored barn beside the main road just north of Kettlewell; **Dalesway at Burnsall**, improved access for wheelchairs and pushchairs and restored river bank; **Reeth Green**, recobbling and "grasscreting" the eroded edges of the village green; **West Burton Village Hall**, rebuilding and extending the hall destroyed in a fire in 1997; **Crackpot Hall**, consolidation of this spectacular ruin above Swaledale.

We are very grateful to Yorkshire Dales Society members who continue to support our work, and we were delighted to see representatives from the Society at the "Welcome Days" we held last October in Wharfedale. In turn, we will be helping the Society to recruit new members by publicising a special promotion of six months free membership, offered by the Society exclusively to our new donors.

Contact details: Ann Shadrake, Fundraising Manager: telephone 015242 51002, fax 015242 51150 e-mail: info@ydmmt.org. Website www.ydmmt.org. Offices: Becks Barn, Church Avenue, Clapham, LA2 8EQ.

The photographs show some of the children at Kettlewell School working on the Millennium Trust Project.

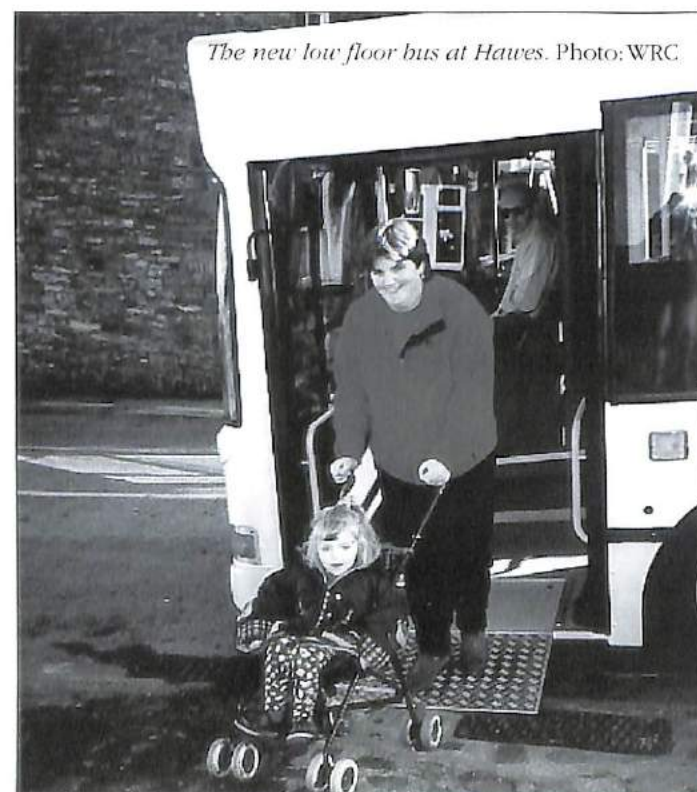
A New Integrated Winter Transport Service for Wensleydale

Wensleydale now has a seven days a week, all-year, bus service linking Garsdale or Ribblesdale Stations and Hawes with Bainbridge, Aysgarth, Leyburn, Masham, Bedale and Northallerton.

Thanks to the Government's new finance for rural buses, the Wensleydale Railway Company have won the contract to run the new bus services with the support of North Yorkshire County Council. The WRC has obtained three, state of the art, low floor easy access buses for the services, giving unrivalled comfort for passengers and their luggage.

Services now run from early morning until late evening to serve the needs both of local people and visitors, to meet work, business, social and leisure needs. Buses also connect with trains on the famous Settle-Carlisle line at Garsdale or Ribblesdale, or with Northern Spirit Pennine Express services at Northallerton to and from York, Middlesbrough, Leeds and Manchester - giving superb opportunities for winter walking and day and weekend breaks in the northern Dales.

Full services details, including additional connections and details of other operators' services, will be available in the full timetable which will be available from shops, post offices, Tourist



The new low floor bus at Hawes. Photo: WRC

Information Centres and National Park Centres. Richmondshire District Council concessionary fare passes will be accepted for travel at half the nominal fare. Yorkshire Dales Society members will receive a £1 discount off the £4.95 Day Explorer ticket on production of their current membership card. For your copy of the full timetable please write to WRC Ltd, 35 High Street, Northallerton, DV7 8EE.

Main departure times from Hawes and along Wensleydale to Northallerton:

Mondays to Saturdays: 0730r, 1035SXg, 1055SOg, 1240g, 1640g, 1845g, 2105r.

Sundays 0735, 1105g, 1245, 1520g, 1545, 1815g, 2000.

Notes: r = from Ribblesdale Station 20 minutes earlier

SX = Saturdays excepted

g = from Garsdale 15 minutes earlier

SO = Saturdays only

Main departure times from Northallerton to Hawes

Mondays to Saturdays: 1000, 1300, 1700, 2100
Sundays: 1000, 1300, 1500, 1800, 2040.

From Hawes to Garsdale/Ribblesdale stations

Mondays to Saturdays 0645r, 0935g, 1155gr, 1455g, 1545g, 2015r.

Sundays: 1000g, 1415g, 1725g

Notes: r = to Ribblesdale Station arriving 20 minutes later

g = to Garsdale 15 minutes later

Don't forget that Dalesbus 800 now runs every Tuesday (throughout the winter) from Ilkley d. 0910, Bolton Abbey 0925 Grassington 0955, Kettlewell 1015 for Hawes (Market Day) a. 1115, returning from Hawes at 1245. For details ring Keighley & District 01535 603284.

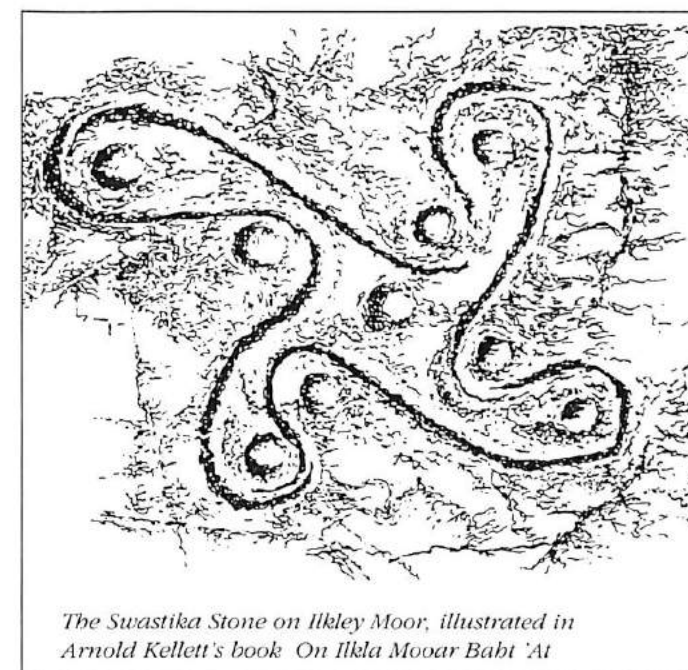
Information about local bus services in the Dales and other areas of Britain can be obtained from the UK Getting Around series of pocket timetables - details from Southern Vectis on 01983 522456, whilst the new Countrygoer web site (www.countrygoer.org) has details of services in all UK National Parks, including full Moorsbus timetables (including the Spring Daffodil service) and links to the Dalesbus pages.

Book Reviews

ON ILKLA MOOAR BAHT 'AT by Arnold Kellett
published by Smith Settle @ £7.95 - at local bookshops

Dr Arnold Kellett, historian and expert on Yorkshire Dialect (he edits the scholarly Transactions of that other YDS, the Yorkshire Dialect Society) is well known to members of the Yorkshire Dales Society, having recently entertained us at Bolton Abbey on the rich and complex dialect of our Yorkshire Dales.

His new book *On Ilkla Mooar Baht 'At*, about Yorkshire's, and arguably England's, most famous folk song, is a tour de force, a delightful blend of detective work, scholarship, erudition and humour. The tune, disappointingly for some white-rose wearing diehards, was written in Kent, composed



The Swastika Stone on Ilkley Moor, illustrated in Arnold Kellett's book *On Ilkla Mooar Baht 'At*

by one Thomas Clark, of Canterbury, published in 1805 and as a hymn tune "Cranbrook", famous long before the words with which it is now eternally linked. How these came to be fitted to the tune is a long and complicated story, with associations of Charles Darwin, Heptonstall Glee Club, several chapel choir outings, alleged grisly moorland murders and many other amazing tales. To find out just how and when it came about you'll have to buy the book - and there's lots of other fascinating material in its well illustrated pages about Victorian Ilkley, Ilkley Moor and Yorkshire dialect, as entertaining as it is informative, complete with a definitive copy of the words and music set (of course) in four part harmony - though it has even

been set, as Arnold reminds us, by Eric Fenby in the style of Rossini.

CS



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DALE by Gervase Phinn, published by Michael Joseph, London, £15.99, at local bookshops.

Gervase Phinn's *The Other Side of the Dale* is likely to do for the profession of school inspectors, a notoriously unglamorous calling, what James Herriott did for vets. Gervase who suffers more than most from mis-spellings, mispronunciations and misconceptions regarding both his names, is delighted to find himself announced by one child as "Mr Grim, the school spectre."

With infectious enthusiasm, he chronicles his deep love for the dales, entranced by its matchless landscape, his delight in the company of the young children he comes into contact with and the deep respect he has for what they have to teach him. Above all, he conveys his admiration for the many dedicated teachers he comes across in his travels who even in spite of adverse conditions, make their classrooms bright and welcoming with often stunning displays of work by the children in their care and who help to train rounded personalities, with a thorough grounding in the basic skills demanded by society as well as much more.

At the same time, with a good deal of wit and vivacity, we get introduced to the various characters who impinge occasionally on Gervase's own routine as inspector, the redoubtable Mrs Savage, the Cruella de Ville of the Education

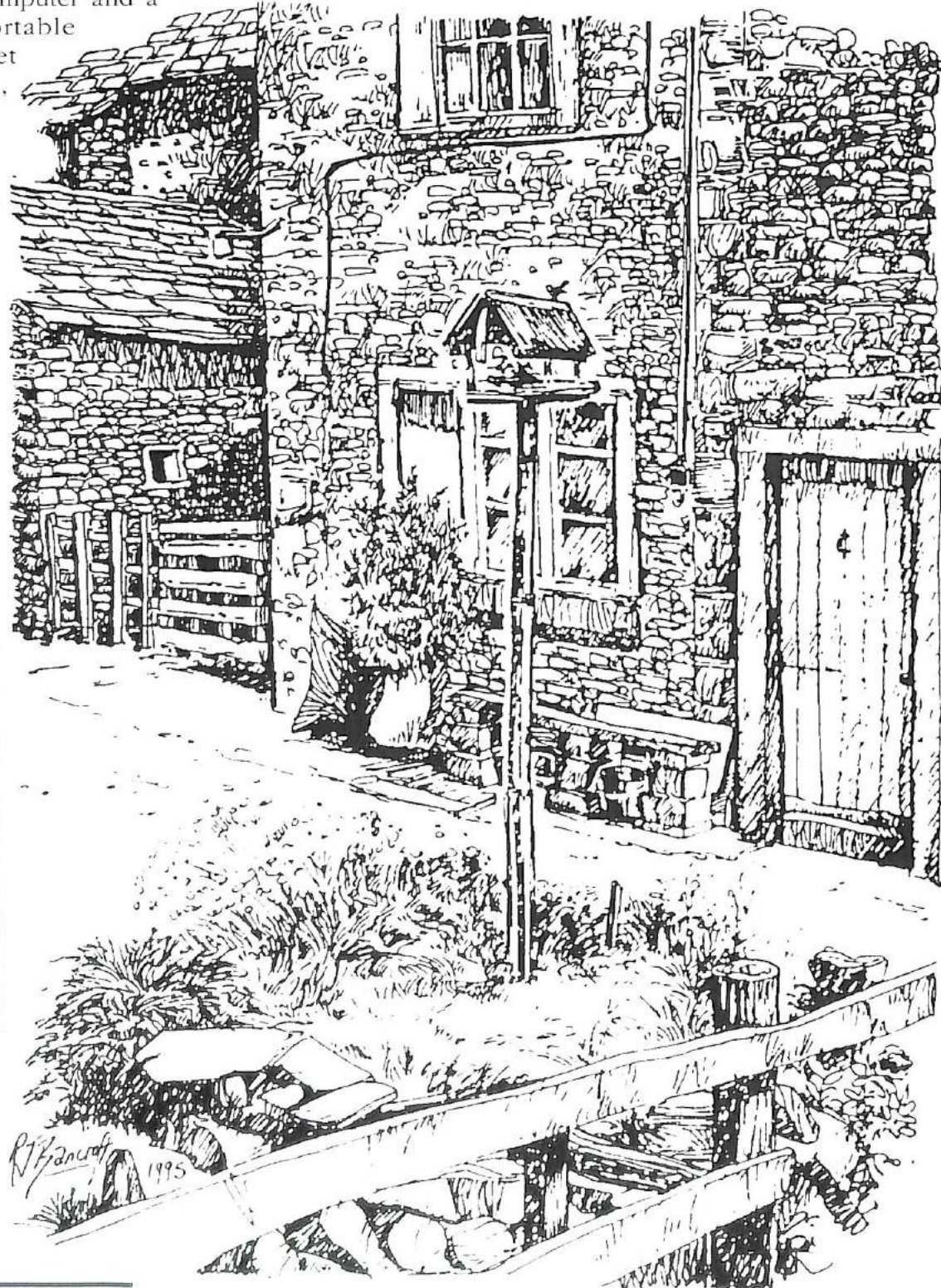
Book Reviews, continued

Department or the fanatical Connie, who as housekeeper in the Teachers' Centre, is only concerned that the rooms used for courses are left in a pristine state and takes it on herself to bin a magnificent dragon, imaginatively fabricated out of rubbish, and an entire afternoon's work, before it can even be photographed.

Although we are definitely in the modern, contemporary world where every primary school seems to have a computer and a carpeted, comfortable reading corner, yet there is a curious, charmingly old-fashioned flavour about these reminiscences, making it an enjoyable read.

Fleur Speakman

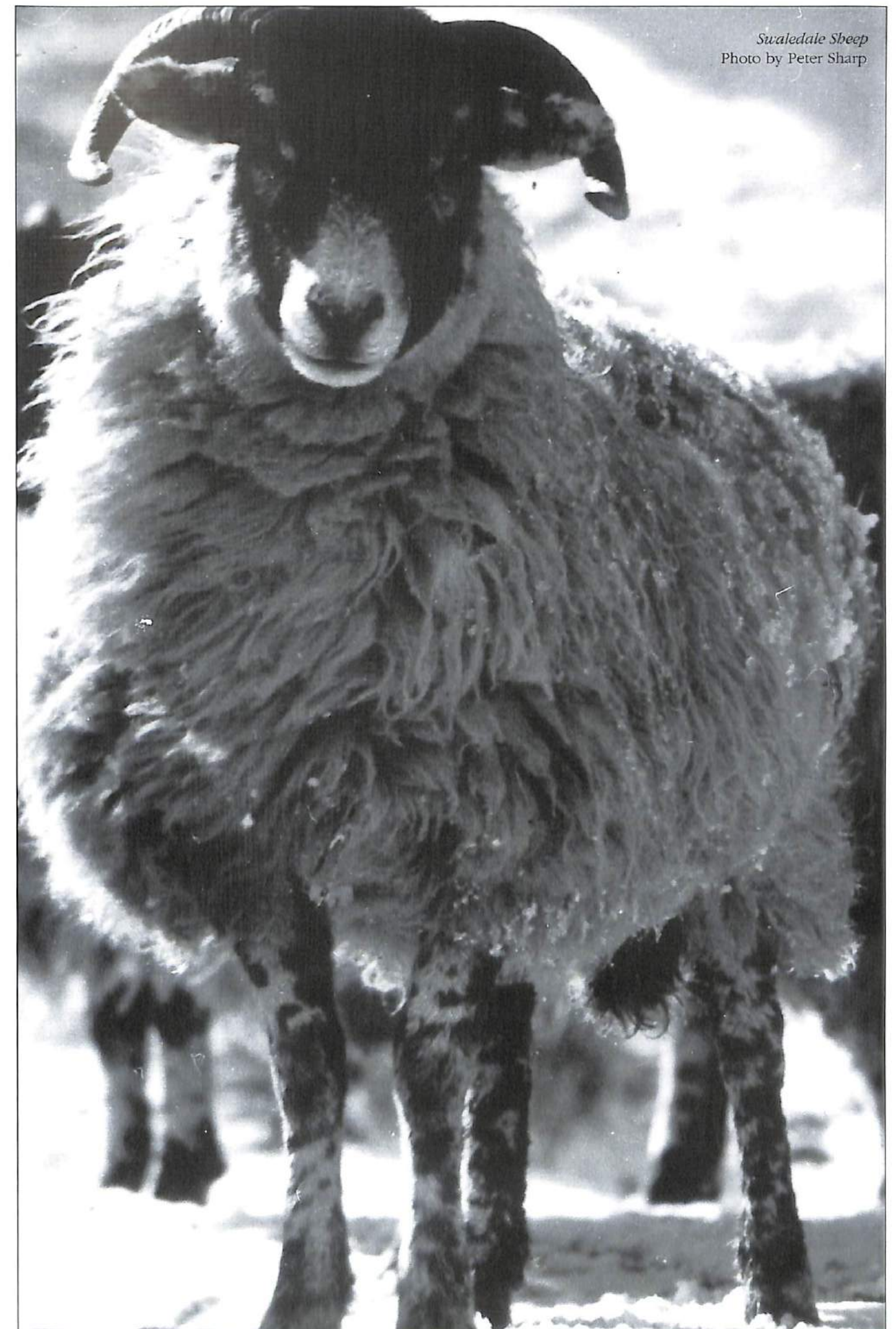
An Apology:
Apologies to Kate Ashbrook for mis-spelling her name in the last YDS Review. She also wishes to point out that she was writing as spokesperson for The Ramblers Association.



SHORT NOTICE

SUMMAT & NOWT by WR Mitchell, published by Castleberg Press, £6.50, available at local bookshops or direct from Castleberg Press, 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, Settle North Yorks. BD24 0AY. Please add £1 postage and packing.

The book is illustrated by Richard Bancroft, among others, one of his drawings being shown below.



Swaledale Sheep
Photo by Peter Sharp

Daleswatch Report

1. The Dales Farmer

To the casual visitor the Dales farmer is a near legendary character. The popular image is of a weatherbeaten figure, blunt and outspoken in conversation who can, at times - and with some reason - be especially severe on those unwise and inconsiderate enough to exercise their dogs off the lead in the presence of farm animals, or who scramble over stone walls after an expedition spent wandering half-lost across an open moor. The barrier between country folk and "townies" can be wide at times, but it has to be acknowledged that when problems occur, much of the blame can often be apportioned to the ignorant or unthinking visitor.

And indeed it is to the farmer that our thanks are due for maintaining that very beauty of our much admired Dales countryside that the visitor is able to enjoy. Yet despite the enormous debt that countless thousands of us owe to the Dales hill farmer, the financial plight of many of these custodians of our heritage is now dire indeed. For all the apparent attraction of the rural idyll in summer, farmers live a hard life for much of the year, whilst the material rewards are small. The cry of the hard-up hill farmer has been heard before, but the situation now faced by many of the Dales farmers is on a scale that is quite new, with farm incomes as low as £5,000 being quoted in some places.

More and more frequently nowadays we find that farmers are not passing on their farms to their children because the latter, understandably, are not prepared to face the rigours and uncertainties of hill farming for the paltry return that such a way of life is now providing. And without the hill farmer, the Dales as we know them will soon lose much of the character that we cherish. The situation really is approaching crisis point and clearly only significant sums of money will alleviate the situation. It is hoped that this can be found before the decline becomes irreversible.

2. Housing in crisis

There are some 9,500 houses within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, of which around 2,000 are holiday or second homes, and - since the

beginning of January 1991 when the current North Yorkshire Structure Plan became valid - planning permissions for about 510 houses in the Park have been granted at a ratio of some 3:1 as between its North Yorkshire (Craven and Richmondshire Districts) and Cumbria (South Lakeland) sections.

If permissions continue to be granted at the present rate, then in 100 years time (which for a growing number of people - is no more than a single life span), over 6000 more houses will have been built or be on their way within the National Park. The capacity of the Park to absorb such a level of construction without losing something of its character is debatable. If we assume that the new houses will be built almost exclusively within the 37 so-called "H2 settlements" (those listed under "Local Plan Policy H" as being where new building might "... be permitted on suitable plots within the village boundaries..."), as the Local Plan would indicate, then, on average, each of these settlements will have to absorb more than 160 houses. This is certainly enough to change the character of many of them, and certainly enough to produce a very noticeable increase in the extra vehicular traffic on Dales roads. And if the houses cannot be built in the villages, then local and national policy combine to prevent them being built in the open country outside. It is undoubtedly a major problem.

But it is far from being the only one as pressures build up from outside the National Park. The next UDP round of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan District Councils will soon be underway and each of the five Councils will have to meet demands for new housing that are already emanating from Government. The mighty conurbations of Leeds and Bradford are within walking distance of the south of the National Park - indeed, the Bradford boundary abuts the National Park in the vicinity of Addingham - and these authorities may well be looking to North Yorkshire to absorb some of their commuter housing requirements. Projections suggest that there could be 400,000 extra dwellings by 2016 for Yorkshire and Humberside alone. Such a problem could escalate into a crisis and could also be multiplied in a national context.

Jim Burton

Winter Events

Make the most of those winter weekends by joining fellow members on one of our "walks and talks programme" - come for the walk, (no more than 3 - 4 miles at an easy pace) or for the talk, and preferably both, with ample time for a pub or sandwich lunch in between.

SATURDAY JANUARY 9TH - EMB SAY STEAM RAILWAY

WALK: AROUND EMB SAY with Jean Dobson (t. 01943 601749). Meet Embsay car park near Village Hall at 1030am (public transport: train 0904 from Leeds and Keighley 0932 to Skipton 0948 then 1020 Pennine Bus from Skipton Bus Station to Embsay). Station cafe or local pub for lunch.

LECTURE: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMB SAY - BOLTON ABBEY RAILWAY by Stephen Walker at 2.15pm in Embsay Village Hall. Stephen Walker has played a leading role in the rebuilding of this historic railway line on the edge of the National Park. (NB the railway will be in operation both on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend).

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13TH - MOLE CATCHING

WALK: Around Long Preston with Hilary Baker (t. 01729 840609). Meet at Long Preston Station for a 3-4 mile walk (public transport: train Leeds d. 0817, Keighley 0839, Skipton 0855 to Long Preston).

LECTURE: RAMBLINGS OF A MOLE CATCHER by Peter Sharp at Long Preston Village Hall 2.15pm.

SATURDAY MARCH 6TH - MIGRATION IN THE DALES

WALK: Around Aysgarth with Chris Hartley (t. 01943 873197). Meet Aysgarth National Park Centre at 10.30am.

LECTURE: WHERE FROM AND WHITHER ? MIGRATION IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO WENSLEYDALE AND SWALEDALE 1790 - c.1915 by Dr Christine Hallas in Aysgarth Village Hall. (Public transport - for lecture only: connecting buses via Garsdale or Northallerton a.

1120/1134; return to Northallerton 1715, to Garsdale 1814/1938).



THURSDAY APRIL 22nd - **WINE AND CANAPÉ RECEPTION** for members and their guests Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley at 8pm. Early pre-booking essential - full details page 7.

SATURDAY APRIL 24th - **A SPRING WALK TO SEDBUSK AND MILL GILL** An eight mile walk along Wensleydale between Hawes, Askrigg and Bainbridge, using the new Wensleydale Railway Company Bus service with Colin Speakman (01943 607868).

Catch the 0847 Settle-Carlisle train from Leeds, (0925 ex Skipton, 0946 ex Settle) to Garsdale for WRC 1040 bus to Hawes - book Explorer ticket (with YDS discount).

Calling Volunteers

The YDS urgently needs some extra help at events and in the YDS office. Call Fleur Speakman on 01943 607868 if you can help.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Yorkshire Dales Society - Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY MAY 15TH 1999

We will use the newly built Millennium-funded Cracoe Village Hall, Wharfedale, for this event. Details to be confirmed in the next YDS Review.

A selection of warm **YDS sweatshirts** is available at £10.50 plus £1.25 p&p. Call Fleur Speakman on 01943 607868 for details.



Front cover picture: Snow Cairns near Cam Houses by John Fawcett.

*Back Cover drawing: Fellside, Clapham by Steve Burke.
See "Summat & Nowt" by W R Mitchell, noted on page 12.*

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.
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