

Yorkshire Dales Review



- *This Summer - Think Bus*
- *Green Lanes - Time for Solutions*
- *Oh, What a Glorious Day!*
- *Chairman's Report*

Yorkshire Dales
Society



£1.50

This Summer – Think Bus

You may notice, however you travel around the Dales this summer, there's suddenly a lot more buses about. There might not be many people on them, but at least they are running. What has happened? In parts of the Dales where public transport had all but vanished, suddenly buses have re-appeared.

The reason for this lies in the Government's Rural Bus Grant, a £50 million fund designed to reinvigorate rural transport. Thanks to some excellent negotiations between the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North Yorkshire County Council, a good deal of this money is being spent in the Yorkshire Dales. Some of the services also reflect last year's successful YDNPA/NYCC Transport Package Award, and also very effective lobbying by the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group. New Sunday Dalesbus services now operate from West Yorkshire to Swaledale, Nidderdale and Malhamdale to augment the existing Upper Wharfedale service. The Bolton Abbey - Embsay steam railway now operates as a park-and-ride, meeting the Wharfedale Wanderer service at Bolton Abbey Station.

Nor is this just about leisure travel. Local communities in Upper Wharfedale now enjoy an early morning and evening commuter service to Ilkley Station to meet MetroTrain services to Leeds. There is now a park-and-ride service from Grassington car park (where local residents enjoy free parking) to the centre of Leeds for work, education, business or shopping trips. Likewise, despite some reduced services when the Wensleydale Railway Company's bus contract was not renewed, there is a good network of daily services in Wensleydale, with some of the links from the Settle-Carlisle railway being restored.

So why are so many of the new services operating with so few people on them? The answer lies in the fact that after 30 years of decline and reduction in Dales public transport, and rapid increases in car

ownership (the two factors often being related), most local people and visitors have forgotten that buses exist. Too often buses are a "distress purchase" only to be used when the car breaks down and you can't afford a taxi. In fact a decent public transport service gives everyone, young and old alike, opportunity and choice. Why drive in snowy weather if there's a well planned bus and train service? Why collect the kids from the youth club or cinema if there's now a late evening bus? Why have the stress of driving and parking in central Leeds if the train and bus gets you there without hassle?

For a generation the bus has been forgotten. Cars have triumphed, leading to a situation in the Dales where without a car (expensive for poorer families and older people to purchase, tax, insure and run) local people are faced with almost total isolation. Whilst buses can never match the flexibility of the car, people at least now have a choice. Bus travel can also be relaxing, social, convenient, and superb for anyone planning a linear walk.

What is now required is high quality promotion, clear, simple information which will spell out the advantages of leaving the car behind, and the choices and opportunities that are available. Marketing of any product is expensive, and takes time. The next challenge for the local authorities and operators in the Dales is to develop effective promotion of the new services to ensure that they don't continue to carry fresh air, but people, helping to cut subsidies and improve quality of life. But if the new services are not used, they will most certainly vanish. If they disappear again, they are unlikely ever to return. Every passenger helps. So if you are coming to the Dales this summer, or live in the Dales and want to do your shopping in Northallerton, Skipton, Leeds or Kendal, think train and bus. It's much better for the environment, better for the local economy, and better for your health.

Colin Speakman

Green Lanes – Time for Solutions

Tim Rathmell, of Starbotton, Upper Wharfedale, has responded to Dr. Colin Ginger's request in the last YDS Review, seeking members' views on the contentious Green Lanes issue:

In 1988 the Yorkshire Dales National Park became concerned about the deterioration of green lanes and made a detailed survey of 36 routes, mainly

unclassified county roads, but including some bridleways. The survey showed "..... that the majority of green lanes in the Yorkshire Dales National Park are suffering from some form of damage," and that "..... there has been a recent upsurge of use of green lanes by recreational users with consequential damage."

Now, more than ten years later, the situation has not been improved and there is little evidence to suggest that realistic plans exist which can lead to a solution of the problem.

Following the 1988 survey, National Park officers increased their efforts to clarify the legal status of green lanes. It was envisaged that by creating BOATS where historic vehicular rights existed, traffic could be controlled using Traffic Regulation Orders. Following widespread objections and delays, it was decided that this legal process was not working and so by the mid 1990s, the policy had changed to one in which voluntary agreements would be sought with vehicle user groups for the use and management of green lanes. This remains National Park policy although it is understood that no agreements have been made in the years which have passed since this policy was adopted. The implementation of this type of policy can however be seen in the Lake District where the National Park have negotiated a Hierarchy of Trails involving 148 routes on which some vehicular use is allowed. The scheme has been advocated by the Countryside Agency as a model for other highway authorities, but this view is not widely held. The long established organisation, Friends of the Lake District have been



Sir Chris Bonington surveys Mastiles Lane with YDS members and farmer on his visit to the Dales on April 14th this year.

Photo: Colin Ginger

extremely critical and have stated that the agreement "... cannot be enforced and indeed it may be counter-productive by advertising routes."

It is clear that such agreements can do nothing to control the activities of vehicle users who do not belong to responsible user organisations nor do they establish the legal status of green lanes upon which the enforcement of restrictions ultimately depends.

And so the question arises, is there an alternative approach which can be more effective than the policies which have been followed by the Yorkshire Dales NPA over the past decade? Well - there seems to be.

In an August discussion paper entitled *Vehicles on Byways*, the Government acknowledged the concern felt about damage caused by motorised vehicles and suggested that:

"If further action is considered to be needed, the most attractive course of action in the Government's view would be the creation of a new class of highway. This might be officially named a byway on which motorised vehicles would be generally prohibited, except for access to premises, property or equipment."

Inevitably this proposal brought a storm of protest from vehicle user groups and from hundreds of 4x4 and trail bike owners. The more muted reaction from local authorities and other representative bodies was generally favourable. Those in support included the Council for National Parks, the Association of National Park Authorities and the North Yorkshire County Council. The Yorkshire Dales NPA somewhat grudgingly thought the new "definition" might be acceptable."

It is a matter of regret and some concern that elected and appointed members of public bodies responsible for the conservation of our glorious landscape did not see fit to fight and fight again for a proposal which could be effective in preventing further damage to the nation's network of green lanes. Instead the argument seems to have been conceded, for the present, to the vociferous and well organised lobby of all-terrain vehicle users.

The legal rights of such users are well established and cannot be ignored. Even though there is a widely held view that motorised vehicles have no place on green lanes, especially within National Parks, lobbying for the complete exclusion of vehicles is likely to be politically unrealistic. On a strictly limited number of routes the prohibition on

vehicular access would be disappplied, but it would be essential to lift the ban only on routes where the responsible authority is satisfied that the expected level of damage and loss of tranquillity is acceptable and where maintenance cost can and will be met. Fortunately the Government's proposal has not been completely swamped by the vehicle lobby. The North York Moors NPA have resolved to seek, through the Association of National Park Authorities and with the support of fellow members, legislation to establish the Government's suggested byway classification. At present there is no indication as to whether or not the Yorkshire Dales NPA will give their full backing to the North York Moor's initiative. The recently formed Member/Officer working group of the Dales NPA has as one of its terms of reference, the establishment of an authority position on the use of the National Park for recreational vehicular use and they will presumably take a view on the North York Moor's proposal. Meetings of this working group are not open to the public and we will have to await their conclusions which will be reported to the Park Authority meeting this September.

Whether the working group support the North York Moor's proposal or come up with a better suggestion, they should take account of the need to win support for their policies from other National Parks and relevant authorities in order to ensure that a clear and united view can be put before the Government. Park residents and the wider public are entitled to expect, after a long period of inaction and the continuing deterioration of green lanes, news in September of clear effective policies which can attract wide support.

Time is now of the essence. The Countryside Agency has recommended to Government that a time limited working group be convened to consider the vehicular use of rights of way and the Government has responded by proposing that revised rights of way be considered in the proposed National Access Forum.

Now is the time for our National Park Members and Officers to agree upon practical policies. Now is the time for public authorities and conservation groups to unite and press for legislation which will arrest the deterioration of our historic network of green lanes and now is the time for us, members of the Yorkshire Dales Society and members of the public, to lobby actively for a successful outcome.

Tim Rathmell

Oh, What a Glorious Day

Dennis Cairns, ready to lead the walk to the Flower Fields of New House Farm, Malham, on June 2nd is reassured after listening to the forecast, that the deep depression moving from the south, will not strike till early evening and it will be a glorious "flaming June" day.

Wednesday June 2nd

They got it wrong by some twelve hours! The depression arrived around breakfast time and whilst driving up to Malham with the rain steadily increasing in intensity and the wind blowing gustily, I felt sure that noone would be in a fit state to appreciate anything but a hot bath and the comforts of home if we had to walk the exposed three miles to the farm, concentrate on what we might be shown, then walk the same distance back to Malham in such atrocious conditions.

By 10.30am, with the rain varying from downpour to drizzle and back to downpour, the expected twenty members for the visit had for various reasons, become twelve! However, we were given the use of the lecture room at the National Park Information Centre in Malham in which to consider the situation. So it was agreed that we should eventually travel in three cars as far as Lee Gate Farm, asking if we could park there before walking the short distance to New House. In the meantime, for entertainment before an early lunch, we were invited to view the National Park's video. Now having had previous experience of the electronic gadgetry at Malham, I knew that its operation could be very temperamental, but I was left in charge of the remote control and hoped for the best. Lo and behold, it worked at the first attempt, even to the automatic lowering of the window blackout screen just as one member had leapt to his feet to do it manually!

The rain was still coming down in spots and splashes as we drove to Lee Gate, but much to our delight, it suddenly cleared as we parked the cars even though it was very breezy and still overcast and the short stroll along the track through Lee Gate to New House Farm in drier conditions lifted our spirits.

In the shelter of the large, airy barn at New House we were welcomed by Martin Davies, the recently appointed manager of the National Trust's vast acreage around Malham Tarn, Wharfedale and Langstrothdale. With him was Alison Fawcett who explained to us why the 65 acre farm had been acquired and its importance in the trust's conservation programme. As we were taken around, it soon became abundantly clear why this small farm is so valuable in terms of nature conservation. The previous owner Mr W Umpleby, who retired in 1996, had taken over the farm from his in-laws and had managed it in a traditional and almost self-sufficient way, virtually unchanged since the early 1950s. The new tenants, although having paid work elsewhere, continue to farm on the lines laid down by the trust, acting on Mr Umpleby's guidance and advice.

The Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) were four meadows and a small limestone cliff. Would the rain hold off whilst we did the tour? It did not! As we negotiated a stile to enter the large meadow, the rain, accompanied by a Force 8 squall, was driven horizontally against us with incredible ferocity. Fortunately it was short-lived, clouds actually began to disperse, the horizon cleared and there was even a glimmer of sunshine. Whilst the buttercup predominated in the meadows, there was ample evidence of many other flowers which were once commonplace in all such fields in these northern farmlands. From the large meadow with its flora, it was on to an area of pasture with a small limestone cliff, not more than four to five metres high. The cliff supports a completely different range of flowers including a number of nationally rare species, principally because they are out of reach of grazing sheep and cattle. In order to maintain this balance of nature, the number of livestock permitted is strictly limited, as is the time spent by cows and sheep in the four meadows. The meadows themselves, free from artificial fertilisers with only honest manure being used, are not cut for hay until the flowers have had time to die down and seed, usually in early June.

The tour concluded with information about the farmhouse itself; a Grade II listed building, but one on which the Trust has spent a great deal of money

in order to make living conditions more comfortable for the tenants in what, after all, is a rather remote site. As we drove back to Malham we all considered that it had been a real privilege to have visited a farmstead which has been officially described as having meadows which are "the most floristically pristine of their type in the Dales" and a limestone cliff noted as "a habitat which in its present state is probably close to a wholly natural as any habitat in England."

Dennis Cairns

It is hoped to put this event in the programme again next summer. (Eds.)

Announcement

THE SHEILA MARKS MEMORIAL FUND

The Sheila Marks Memorial Fund reached £150 and it was decided to take part in the Woodland Planting Scheme via the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust which doubles the money raised. The chosen site is Scar Top Wood, Kettlewell and it is hoped, with the owner's permission, to have a short ceremony in her memory at some future date in the autumn.

Book Review

THE STORY OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES: W.R.Mitchell (Phillimore £17.99)

"This book has been over fifty years in the making" confesses Bill Mitchell in the Preface to a book which is indeed a distillation of a lifetime's work as historian, naturalist, journalist, author, and above all sharp eyed recorder of the Dales scene.

The Story of the Yorkshire Dales breaks down into three deliberately, unequal parts - four introductory chapters deal with key themes - Landscape, Man in the Landscape, Transport and the National Park. The next eight chapters take us on a brief but well informed tour of the each of the main Dales, including Nidderdale. A final, brief coda, the Dales Today, looks at how things are now, raising some serious conflict and conservation

issues, but ending on a note of quiet optimism in which both the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the Yorkshire Dales Society play a part. The many admirers of Bill Mitchell's work will find this a serious, scholarly work rich in detail and anecdote, stylishly written, with much new material. As well as an absorbing narrative, it will be an important reference work for future scholars of the Dales. But for me it wasn't the excellent colour illustrations that impressed but the older black and white photographs, some from the start of the century now passing, for example, young Edward Elgar at a family garden party in Hellfield, Mr Harker of Muker with a donkey and back cans, and a pony and trap crossing the bridge on an idyllic empty road in Langstrothdale.

CS

Silent Stones Wait Still

As tens of thousands sweep by to admire and enjoy the ruins and Wharfeside setting of Bolton Abbey, a small unpretentious building beside the way stands unseen. It too is a relic of by-gone ferment within Christianity. 1689 is carved over its low doorway, a time when it and others like it were a deliberate challenge to the priestly opulence of the mainstream.

This is Farfield Quaker Meeting House. It belongs now to the Historic Chapels Trust, an offshoot of English Heritage who have carefully restored it. The Trust, not set up till 1992, aims to bring into its care disused chapels, synagogues, temples - whatever is of historic or architectural value and make them publically accessible.

Farfield Meeting House will never be easily accessible. In due course there may be parking for a car or two, but so far there is officially none, though one might be squeezed in with the aid of Mr and Mrs Spencer (01756 6710225) in the adjacent Farfield Cottage, who hold a key and will admit visitors. Most people will walk there along the Dales Way to Addingham in one direction or from Bolton Bridge and Bolton Abbey in the other.

A high stone wall shields the Meeting House and its small burial ground from the Addingham to Bolton Abbey B6160 Wharfedale road where a side lane leads off to a farm and stables.

Inside it is not statuary and inscriptions that intrigue the visitor. In a way, what is worth seeing is that there is and always was so little to see in such a building of a religious nature. Rather there is reverence in simplicity, in the evocative odour of old (and renewed) stone and wood. The strict Puritanism and self-discipline of early Quakers linger there still.

In 1689 there were as yet few such places of worship for the Society of Friends had hardly taken shape. Farfield is on the fringe of what Quakers today know as "the 1652 country." Their founder

George Fox made his way in that year from western Yorkshire to Cumberland on a circuitous journey known to the whimsical as "the Foxtrot", gathering adherents who formed the new movement.

Their Meeting House at Farfield is vernacular in design - indeed just square with a roof, contrasting with the French inspired erstwhile grandeur of the largely roofless Abbey a couple of miles away. In it Quakers sat silently "waiting upon the Spirit" as they would have said. There were no priests, no liturgy. There are none now in Quaker Meetings, the main change in three centuries being that many Quakers are not now explicitly Christian, for the contemporary Society of Friends spans a diversity of religious outlooks. But the waiting stillness continues as ever.

The Yorkshire Dales Society will be the first to make a visit on Saturday July 10th to the Old Meeting House since its restoration.

David Hickson

Convenor, Friends of Farfield House

Details are given in the Events section on page 15 of this issue.



Farfield Friends Meeting House

Chairman's Report 1999

This is my fifth annual report as your Chairman.

Over the past year we have continued the development of a good working relationship with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the National Park Authority as was evident from our choice of speakers at the AGM:

Richard Witt, Director of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Alice Owen, Head of Conservation Policy at The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Very appropriately the Society chose to meet in the splendid new Cracoe Village Hall as an example of the Trust's contribution to this and many other projects which have now come to fruition. As a mark of our contribution as members of the Society, all new donors to the Trust have been offered the opportunity of a trial free six month membership of the Society. As your Chairman, I was delighted to be invited to the Official launch of St Joseph's Millennium Wood at Aysgarth by Sir Chris Bonington in April.

Following the implementation of the new National Park Authority Management Structure, we were delighted to meet with Heather Hancock, the Chief

Executive, along with her senior colleagues. It was pleasing to note that the important role of the Society was acknowledged and much practical help with publicity was offered. This was followed up with an opportunity to meet all the Park Centre Information Assistants at Hawes, at a meeting later in the season, to present the Society to them.

Members were much saddened last year by the unexpected and sudden loss of Sheila Marks. Much has been written about the major contribution Sheila, a one time vice-chairman, made to the work of the Society, and many members of Council and the Society joined the packed Congregational Church in Otley for the Memorial service. Donations from members in Sheila's memory have been passed to the Millennium Trust to fund woodland planting. It is hoped to arrange a small ceremony during a visit to woodland to commemorate her service to the Society.

The vital work of the office has been strengthened by the addition of three new volunteers who continue to battle with the vagaries of computers and other tricky problems. In this connection I must single out for special mention the incredible time

and effort that our treasurer David Smith has devoted to assisting our new volunteers with managing our ageing computer system which also requires his unique expertise to sort out whatever afflicts it.

Otley Civic Centre have announced changes in their rental for our office which will mean a doubling of costs over the next three years and a more realistic rent for them.

Our recent programme of events continued to be well supported and the new programme will continue to reflect a variety of dales interests and concerns. Thanks are due to the organisers and leaders of walks, and to Rod and Judith Clough for unfailingly supplying welcome tea and biscuits.

A recent highlight was the visit of CNP President Sir Chris Bonington and his wife Wendy, together with CNP's Alison Marshall, who had the opportunity to visit Malham Moor using the local bus service and to meet farmers from Arncliffe Cote and Lee Gate to hear their grave concerns with regard to use by motorised vehicles and motor cycles of the beautiful green lanes such as Mastiles Lane. We found some have become an impassable sea of mud in places. After an exhilarating walk in the snow to meet the press, we had a further discussion with regard to access provisions with a local landowner.

The membership situation continues to deteriorate, but the Council of Management has taken a number of steps to change the situation. The help from the Millennium Trust appears to be paying

dividends, but we have not yet included the considerable number who have taken up our offer of free trial membership in our final figures. A new departure for the Society was a publicity reception at the Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley, whereby members who had purchased a ticket could invite guests free of charge in the hope that they might be persuaded to join the Society. The evening was a great success and we obtained around 20 new members during and after the event. We are very grateful to all those whose support made this possible without incurring extra costs for the Society.

Our new logo, resplendent in full colour, has been well received and should help to give the Society a higher profile. It has attracted many complimentary remarks from other organisations. Our new full colour membership leaflet will be ready before we go to press with this issue of the Yorkshire Dales Review and a website is being developed to incorporate Dales events and news about the Society as well as general information. Both the Yorkshire Dales Review, edited by Colin and Fleur Speakman, and the Dales Digest compiled by Dawn Burton, continue to attract their readership.

Finally, this has been a challenging year. As Chairman, I would like to express my thanks to the Council of Management, to yourselves as members and particularly to Colin and Fleur for all the hard work and extra tasks that have fallen on them this year.

Chris Wright, Chairman

List of Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management 1999/2000

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – KEN WILLSON
CHAIRMAN – CHRIS WRIGHT
VICE CHAIRMAN – JIM BURTON
COMPANY SECRETARY – ALAN PEASE
TREASURER – DAVID SMITH

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

RALPH ATKINSON
HILARY BAKER
JOHN BELL
JULIE BRADWELL
DAWN BURTON
DENNIS CAIRNS

GRACE CAIRNS
JOHN CUMBERLAND
COLIN GINGER
CHRIS HARTLEY
CHARLES HEPWORTH
JOHN HONE
JERRY PEARLMAN
PETER SHARP
ALAN WATKINSON

SECRETARIES

COLIN SPEAKMAN (policy)
FLEUR SPEAKMAN (administration)



**Yorkshire Dales Society
Income & Expenditure Account
for year ended 31st March, 1999**

	1999	1998		
Subscriptions	12,472	12,266		
Donations	1,580	1,951		
Bank Interest	1,018	883		
Legacies	400	-		
Profit on Events	381	878		
Retail Sales	307	249		
Less Cost of Goods Sold	190	84	117	165
Tax Recovered on Covenants	1,314	1,022		
	17,282	17,165		
"Review"	4,200	4,200		
Postage	2,223	2,216		
Stationery	1,675	1,073		
Administration	5,040	5,060		
Office Rent	621	600		
Telephone	232	230		
Subscriptions & Donations Made	150	264		
Depreciation	308	363		
Travelling Expenses	97	34		
Accountancy	411	394		
Sundry Expenses	29	-		
Bank Charges	186	186		
	15,172	14,620		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	2,110	2,545		

Please send a large sae if you would like a copy of the annual accounts of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Volunteers Wanted to Help the National Park

Yorkshire Dales Society members often ask if they could do something to help the National Park. The answer is almost certainly 'yes', as Rae Lonsdale explains.

For me, the words "National Park" and "volunteering" are inseparable. Together, they mean people who care, who believe in and work unpaid, for something which others might take for granted. Yet, for years, many of us who have been privileged to have been paid to protect, enhance

and promote what is so special about the Yorkshire Dales have not fully recognised the potential for sharing "our" task with volunteers. Too many times we have thought of "amateurs" in the derogatory, rather than the literal sense.

The National Park Authority's recent appointment of a Volunteer Co-ordinator should signify that it intends to take this valuable and willing resource much more seriously. Our hundred or so Voluntary Wardens already enjoy a wide range of tasks

associated with National Park purposes. They monitor the condition of trees and limestone pavements where these are protected by statutory orders; work with the paid staff on practical projects; survey the condition of the whole network of Definitive Rights of Way; carry out minor maintenance on routes; interview users of public transport; patrol the Access Areas on Barden Moor and Barden Fell; give talks; lead or back up interpretative events; lead school parties on educational walks. It is in this latter area that Voluntary Wardens have their highest profile and where more volunteers are needed to help spread the message which the Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Society promote, each in their own way. While we have enough volunteers to run the **Pathfinder** programme (teaching basic navigation) and the current interpretive events and guided walks programmes, more people with experience of working with school groups are urgently required. For the past few years Voluntary Wardens have been accompanying some of the many school groups who visit Malham each year. This service has now been extended to take in school groups starting from the Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre. Voluntary wardens are



Improvements by YDNP Volunteers at Cotter Force include a new, wider path and a wheelchair ramp - seen here put to good use by members of SCAD - Skipton Action for Disability.

also working with Bill Wood, our Education Officer, to develop walks in the Hawes area, thus extending the educational experience of a visit to the Dales Countryside Museum and putting it into the context of the working landscape people see around them.

Education group-leading apart, particular experience we are actively seeking at the moment is in the fields of habitat monitoring and species identification and monitoring, with emphasis on the lower plants and invertebrates.

Some of the work above fits into the fairly traditional mould of volunteering in the Dales. However, we are demonstrating, already, that volunteering in a National Park does not have to be about big boots and badges. You don't have to be seriously energetic to talk to people or to pass on your expertise and experience. On the other hand, nor do you have to have "the gift of the gab" or a lot of experience of life to help make a path more accessible to people with a mobility handicap. Volunteering is like any other form of investment.

The more you put in, the more interest you're repaid.

People of all ages have something to offer and you don't know who might use what you have to offer until you offer it! Any expressions of interest in volunteering, whether for a specific area of work or the wider-ranging involvement of the Voluntary Wardens Service should be directed to me, Rae Lonsdale, at the National Park Office, Hebden Road, Grassington, BD23 5LB. Alternatively, I can be contacted on (01756) 752748 [evenings (01729 822461)] and if I am not immediately available, I will ring you back.

Rae Lonsdale

Rae Lonsdale is Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and does his own volunteering as a Duty Controller for the Clapham-based Cave Rescue Organisation, and as a Wild Country Assessor for Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions.

Eventful Spring for Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust



Spring has been a particularly eventful time for the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust with the completion of its first major Millennium Donor Wood, as well as several other fundraising events throughout the Dales.

On a very wet and cold day in April, the Trust was delighted to welcome noted explorer and mountaineer, Sir Chris Bonington (President, Council for National Parks) to the press launch of its first major Millennium Donor Wood at Aysgarth Falls, Wensleydale. During a visit to the Dales, Chris joined the Trust and some of its key supporters to plant the last tree in St. Joseph's Wood.

Located next to the ancient Freeholders Wood and near the famous waterfalls, the 12 hectare site has been planted with around 11,500 trees - ash, oak, holly and rowan - to create one of the largest areas of new native broadleaved woodland in the Yorkshire Dales. This planting will not only help to regain some of the tree cover lost to this region

over the centuries, but it will also provide a wonderful haven for wild flowers, birds and animals.

More than 3,500 Trust supporters (including many Yorkshire Dales Society members) have dedicated trees in St Joseph's Wood, in their own name, as gifts for special occasions or in memory of loved ones. Many of them will hopefully be able to visit the site this year to view the planting and in successive years as the trees develop.

The planting at St. Joseph's Wood was enthusiastically supported by the landowners, Mr and Mrs Kiely and by the Millennium Commission (through a grant from the Trust), the Forestry Authority and English Nature. As Trust Project Officer Jo Wilkes explains, "It has taken several months to co-ordinate such a large scheme, but it represents a very unusual opportunity for the Dales. It will significantly increase the amount of

tree cover and it will help the Trust achieve its target of planting 80 hectares of new native woodland by 2001."

The Trust's Project Team is currently identifying a suitable project for the next Millennium Donor Wood which will hopefully be planted during the next planting season (Oct 1999- Mar 2001). Anyone wishing to dedicate trees in this or other future new woods should contact the Trust on its new Donor Hotline 015242 51004.

Welcome Walking Weekend

Other recent events include the Trust's first Welcome Walking Weekend which was based at the beautiful sixteenth century Thoms Hall in Sedbergh. In contrast to the press launch of St Joseph's Wood, the last weekend of April saw blue skies and sunshine which provided perfect conditions for the programme of walks around Sedbergh.

The 33 guests enjoyed walks in Dentedale and around Cautley Spout. Several Trust projects were seen en route including the improved footpath alongside the Spout, proposed enhancements to Queen's Gardens in Sedbergh and revetment works on the River Dee.

Paul Wilkinson (Area Ranger, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) and local walk guide, Ingram Cleasby, very kindly joined the groups to provide specialist local knowledge.

The Trust is planning to host further holiday weekends in the Dales. Dates and details have yet to be confirmed, but if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Joanne Darlington on 015242 51004.

Finally, with this issue of the Review, you will have received details of a special offer on a new celebratory Dales book which is being compiled by David Joy and Colin Speakman, who are the trustees of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. Due to be published in Autumn 1999, *The Yorkshire Dales - A View From The Millennium*, will be a beautiful collection of photography, paintings and prose, and will include a foreword and painting by the Trust's patron, HRH The Prince of Wales. The Trust will receive £1 for every copy of the book sold.

For further information about any of these activities or to make a donation, please call the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Donor Hotline on 015242 51004.

Daleswatch Report

Dr Jim Burton, Vice Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, reflects on some current issues affecting the National Park.

The Changing Face(s) of National Park Authorities

As everybody who knows anything about the National Parks of England and Wales is well aware, the Parks themselves are associated with conservation. Indeed the primary purpose of National Park Authorities is... *to conserve and enhance* ... those qualities that caused the designation in the first place. And right well have they performed that function, as the magnificence of both the scenery and environmental qualities of the National Parks stand testament.

But, as anyone who has had contact with the Park Authorities for any length of time soon comes to realise, in a charging world they have also, quite unintentionally, been rather too successful in also conserving something entirely different that is

increasingly seen as being unacceptable in the modern age. Namely they are seen as one of those areas of society that are overwhelmingly dominated by human beings of the masculine gender. Perhaps indeed, we should be surprised that there has not been more of an outcry on the lines that this is something that has been going on for far too long. But, at last - and probably not before time - things are changing. Indeed the Yorkshire Dales helped to kick things off by a wise selection that sees the National Park under the charge of a young and remarkably capable Chief Executive in Heather Hancock; whilst to our north, the Chairmanship of Northumberland National Park is now in the able hands of Frances Rowe.

And perhaps the message has gone home because the Secretary of State has now decided to get involved. As most people probably know, the Secretary of State directly appoints seven members of the National Park Authority for terms of three years, often with a prospect of re-appointment after the first term. And three such (male) members were due for consideration in April and probably

anticipated returning to the Committee; but the direct Government, appointments went instead to three ladies and, whilst commiserating with the departing John Sayer, Peter Annison and Kevin Lancaster who all made significant inputs to the Authority during their terms of membership, it is also good to welcome three very capable successors, all of whom have already made distinctive contributions to Authority business. And the appearance of the Authority will never be the same again - although Kevin, will, in fact, be returning to the Authority in a different role, as an elected representative of South Lakeland District Council.

Alice Amsden is, of course, well known as the Marketing Director of the Wensleydale Creamery in Hawes, that remarkable success story that built triumph from disaster only a few short years ago. Deborah Millward comes from near the centre of the National Park at Thornton Rust, and will also add to the Wensleydale contingent on the Authority; whilst Gillian Travis, from further afield, near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, will bring a welcome expertise in environmental landscaping to the Authority's deliberations.

Plans

The National Park seems awash with Plans at the moment.

The best known to the general public is probably the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan, comprising, as it does, the set of rules by which the Planning Committee and Officers regulate development within the National Park. It tends to be maligned by those whose activity is circumscribed, and it is, I suppose, no more than human nature for prospective developers (large and small), who view

with suspicion anything which interferes with their insatiable desire to build things, to treat such documents with contumely. And the Local Plan certain proscribes quite a lot, although many people do not realise that virtually the same rules apply both outside as well as within the National Park. In reality it has, indeed, served most of us well as a guardian of those of the Park's landscape qualities that we want preserved and enhanced; and it is nowhere near as severe as its reputation suggests. Some 93% of *all* applications processed by the National Park Authority during the first quarter of this year were approved (perhaps, indeed, some people would think that to be *too* generous !)

But there are many other Plans about at the moment. The National Park Management Plan, about which a lot will be heard over the next few weeks and months, will set the overall strategy and objectives for the next 5-10 years and will involve a lot of consultation; the Corporate plan, which is the basis for managing and monitoring of the Authority's activities, will run for four years, being rolled forward annually; whilst the Business Plans will operate on an annual basis, with detailed operational plans for each Department within the Authority. Targets will be set for all aspects of this work, and these will be monitored to see that the aims are being met. It sounds like a lot of work, but it also sounds as though the National Park Authority will be operating under a system that will give it a true sense of direction. The proof of the pudding, as they say, will be in the eating, but the direction that is being taken by the National Park seems to be a good one. The coming years will show how well these well-laid Plans manage to take shape.

Jim Burton

Announcements

KEN WILLSON, MBE

The Yorkshire Dales Society is delighted to offer its warmest congratulations to Ken Willson, the Society's President, for his recent MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to the environment in the North of England over many years.

SIR CHRIS - HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

At the Yorkshire Dales Society's AGM at Cracoe on May 15th, members unanimously elected Sir Chris Bonington, President of the Council for National Parks, as an Honorary Member of the Yorkshire Dales Society. Sir Chris writes: "I truly will treasure this and look forward to seeing you all in the future, after my term as President has come to an end. I've a warm love of the Dales..."

Summer Events



Make the most of your summer with Yorkshire Dales Society visits and walks to particular areas of interest.

SATURDAY JULY 10TH - WALK TO OLD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE WITH TALK ON ITS HISTORY. (NB corrected date.) Meet at Addingham Memorial Hall car park at 2pm (buses X84/762) for a lovely walk over Haw Pike to the Meeting House, led by David Hickson tel: 01943 609839. Please note there is a steepish climb, and no toilets, refreshments or car park at the Meeting House. There is historic seating for 25 and plenty of standing room. Don McLellan, an expert on Quaker history and this early building, will give a short "acted presentation." Return along River Wharfe, total walking distance 4 miles. Arrive Addingham approx. 4.30pm.

SUNDAY AUGUST 15TH - BLUBBERHOUSES TO BOLTON ABBEY WALK.

Catch the 802 bus from Bradford 0900, Leeds 0930, Otley 1000 (Book Explorer and alight at Blubberhouses; return on 805 or 801 from Bolton Abbey; motorists park Otley NOT Blubberhouses). This is a moderate walk of 10-11 miles. Please bring a packed lunch. It is planned to finish the walk at about 3.30pm. Walk Leader: Chris Hartley tel: 01943 873197.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH - VISIT TO YORKSHIRE CARRIAGE MUSEUM, FORMER EARLY MILL AND INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX NEAR AYSGARTH FALLS FOR TALK ON ITS HISTORY. The cost is £2.50 per person and **must** be prebooked. Please send your cheque made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society to the Society's Office: The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD, **to arrive no later than Friday August 20th.** Meet outside the Museum at 2.30 pm. The visit will last about an hour. (Contact Fleur Speakman on 01943 607868 if necessary, up till Monday September 6th or Chris Wright **after that date only** on 01756 749699). Members who arrive earlier might like to visit Aysgarth Falls and Freeholders Wood nearby. (Dalesbus 800 d. Bradford 0925, Leeds 1000, Ilkley 1040 a. Aysgarth Falls Corner 1228).

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9TH - WALK IN GRASS WOOD, GRASSINGTON with leader John Burgess

Tel: 0113 2843659, for a moderate 4 miles. Meet outside Grassington National Park Centre at 10.30am. Return 12.30pm. Packed lunch, or cafes and pub lunches available. (Bus 74 d. Ilkley 0845 for Grassington NP Centre)

TALK - THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK - STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE - YDNPA Chief Executive Heather Hancock in the Octagon Room at Grassington Town Hall at 2.15pm.

THE LAST OF THE FEW

The last few Yorkshire Dales Society sweatshirts are offered to members at the **bargain price** of £9.50, post free. Remaining sizes at time of going to press are small and medium, in various colours, with one XXL size in navy. Please call Fleur Speakman on 01943 607868 for further details.

NEW MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

Word of mouth is usually the best way to convince someone of something you think they'll enjoy. Our splendid new full colour membership leaflet (see p.8) is now available for you to help us to find new members. Send an sae with a 19p stamp, envelope **needs** to be 9 x 4¹/₄ inches or 23 x 11cms for up to 5 leaflets. If you need more leaflets, check postage with us or arrange to call if you can at the YDS office.

DON'T FORGET THE DIGEST

If you don't have time to discover the various serious and not-so-serious issues and happenings in the Dales, then subscribe just £6 a year for four issues of the Dales Digest (February, May, August and November) packed with information from a number of newspapers and periodicals to keep you up to date with what's afoot in the Dales.



Front cover picture: Countersett Hall, Raydale.
Photo by J. C. Moore.

Back Cover drawing: The Tarn, Ilkley.
Drawing by Bill Pates.

Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.

Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Views expressed in the YDS Review are not necessarily those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

*Any contributions should be sent to the Editors,
The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green,
Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1HD.
Telephone/Answerphone 01943 461938.*

The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Membership Subscription Rates

*Single Adult £11, Family/Couple £15
Single Retired £9, Retired Couple £12.
Student/Unwaged £6.*

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