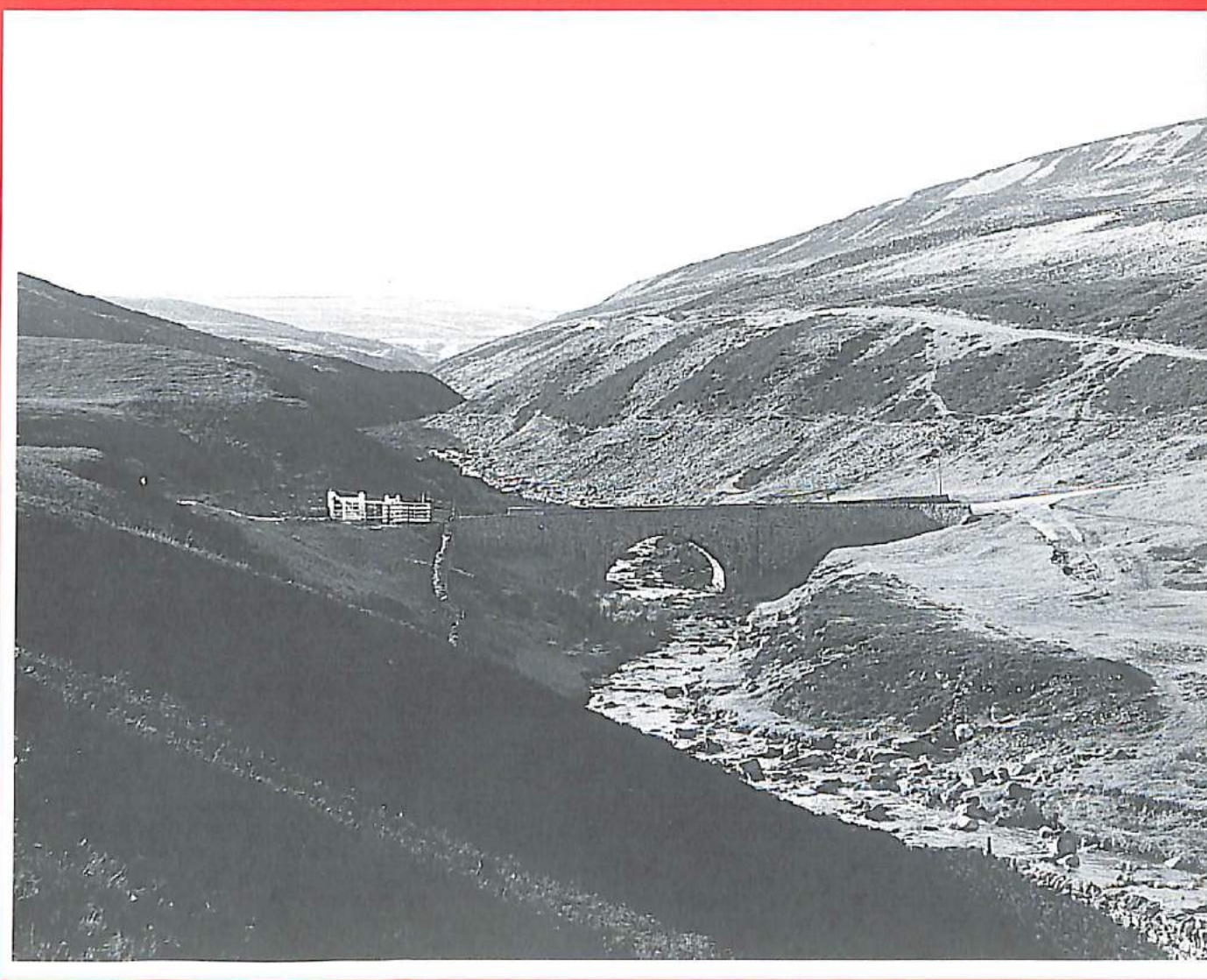


Yorkshire Dales Review



- *Dales farms in crisis - this time it's real*
- *Green Man at Cotter Force*
- *Malham Tarn Field Centre - a landmark development for the new century*
- *Conserving one of Yorkshire's best loved rivers*

Yorkshire Dales
Society



£1.50



Dales Farms in Crisis – This time it's real

Few people in the Dales can be unaware of the crisis now affecting our hill farmers. The collapse in both sheep and cattle prices - a ewe was sold in Hawes market recently for as little as 20p - means financial hardship not only for farmers and their families, but for agricultural suppliers and others who provide for their needs.

Hardship in the hill is a not unfamiliar story. There have been falls in prices before - and recovery when prices improved. But all the evidence is that this crisis is of a different order of magnitude and duration. It reflects several unpredictable elements coming together - the collapse in beef prices owing to the BSE scare, the end of live lamb exports, the loss of the Russian market for sheepskins owing to the state of the Russian economy, the high pound making UK exports more expensive.

The Government has made it clear that it cannot intervene in the market place, and claims £500 million per year is already going into hill farming subsidies, support received by no other UK industry. In addition, the Government has just announced that a further £60 million in emergency financial support has been found, which will be directed at upland sheep farmers in particular. This is welcome news, but it won't solve the longer term problems. Dales hill farmers are second to none in being able to survive in difficult conditions and on meagre incomes. But the fear is this winter that many smaller farming enterprises, faced with mounting bank overdrafts and unpaid bills, will have to sell up to meet their debts. Early retirement must seem a temptation to older farmers in the Upper Dales who may, ironically, be sitting on huge capital assets of land and buildings which could buy a retirement home and steady income in warmer parts of Britain or Europe.

There is likely to be a buoyant market in such land, not from other farmers, but investors benefitting from the property boom in the south of England. A 50 acre Lake District farm recently was sold for

about the price of a detached family house in Surrey or Oxfordshire. The temptation to buy a traditional Dales farmhouse for a weekend or holiday retreat, keep a few acres to paddock horses for a hobby and ranch farm the rest, is a strong one. Not all such incomers will respect planning regulations or footpaths or traditional access, or have the interest or the skills to repair walls or stiles, but may simply add their voices to the already vociferous pro-development anti-National Park lobby, in order to make as much money as possible from tourist or leisure development to justify their investment.

It is a bleak scenario. Loss of every Dales farming family means loss of the skills, knowledge and traditional values which make the Dales such a rich and distinctive landscape. In every sense, the working farmers are the keepers of the Dales landscape and its living culture.

So how can we ensure that, in spite of the present crisis, Dales farming has a future?

To some extent, the reality of the changing market place for upland farming has to be accepted. Indeed, the present support regime of hill farming subsidies and headage payments has contributed to the present crisis, by encouraging overstocking, overgrazing and the collapse in prices. There needs to be, as a matter of urgency, transference of support mechanisms away from headage payments towards environmental payments. Schemes such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), the National Park's Dales Barns and Walls scheme, and a variety of other upland landscape management projects, can both improve the environment and help support farm incomes. Schemes such as the very successful agri-environmental Tir Cymen in Wales (now Tir Gofal) can give farmers additional payments for footpath maintenance, conservation and access to open countryside, thus improving access to the countryside for visitors whilst helping to sustain farm incomes - and thereby helping to

resolve otherwise futile conflict.

As in many other parts of Europe, actual farming may soon become just one source of income for many Dales farming enterprises. Nobody likes the term part-time farmers, but if raising livestock is just part of a farm's income, that need not be a bad thing. Tourism can have a major role to play - either directly through farm accommodation provision, or indirectly through the selling of other goods and services to visitors.

Tourism isn't the whole solution. Tourism in the Dales is still largely seasonal, and exists on narrow profit margins. There is a limit to the demand even for quality farmhouse accommodation, and for many farmers tourism just isn't appropriate. Other solutions are needed. Some farmers need to diversify into other products. Organic farming for example is more than a fashionable food fad, but a growing consumer trend, with demand for quality organically grown, herbicide and pesticide free food now far exceeding supply.

What is really needed is a fundamental change in the basic economic system which gives farmers often derisory prices for their produce at the farm gate whilst supermarkets make huge profits. If farmers can add value to basic products, that value goes into their pockets not into that of outsiders. Thanks to the joint initiative of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the Meat & Livestock Commission, and Craven District Council, a new high quality product, Dales Lamb has recently been launched, enabling people to look for and buy

Dales Lamb in their butcher's and supermarkets, knowing that the lamb has come from the area, is of high quality, and the farmer has received a fair price. Already two leading Dales restaurants, the Angel at Hetton and the Red Lion at Burnsall are serving Dales Lamb and beef, and others will follow. As the hugely successful Wensleydale Creamery demonstrates, (48 farms in Wensleydale now supply the milk that makes Wensleydale Cheese), tourism can directly support farming. Visitors not only eat local cheese or take it home with them, but look out for the Wallace and Gromit label in their local supermarkets when they return. Swaledale Woollens at Muker is another success story in which Dales farmers' wives hand-knit locally produced wool to craft high quality garments whose added value goes into local pockets. The same will surely happen with Dales lamb - and beef, and other products in the future.

So what can we, members of the Yorkshire Dales Society, do to help our hill farmers? As individuals we can use our purchasing power whenever possible to shop locally and to buy these Dales products. As a Society we can support our farming friends, bodies like the NFU and MAFF, local MPs and elected councillors, and other Government agencies and local authorities, in the efforts they are making to ensure our hill farmers get a fair deal. That's the very least we can do for the people whose ancestors have done so much to create the landscape we now enjoy, and which they in turn do so much sustain.

Colin Speakman

Cuts of Dales Lamb on display following a butchery demonstration in the "Yorkshire Dales Lamb: Testing and Tasting" event" organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Meat and Livestock Commission in Hawes in June. This was one of a number of initiatives to come out of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's "Supporting Agriculture in the Dales" Group set up last November with the aim of finding ways that the National Park Authority can support the agricultural scene whilst achieving National Park purposes.



The Green Man of Cotter Force

Peter Hibbard is a professional sculptor and a long time member of the Yorkshire Dales Society. He writes about a unique community-led project he has been involved in at Cotter Force, near Hawes.

I must be one of the luckiest people in the Dales; not because of any previous success in leading Middleham's Rural Challenge Regeneration team, but because I was chosen, a year ago, to become involved with an exceptionally interesting community project in Hawes, to provide improved public access and seating at Cotter Force, one of the Yorkshire Dales' most delightful hidden beauty spots. This proved to be one of the most enjoyable experiences of my professional life and everyone involved, but most particularly the children of Hawes Primary School, should be publicly thanked for helping to make the project such a great success.

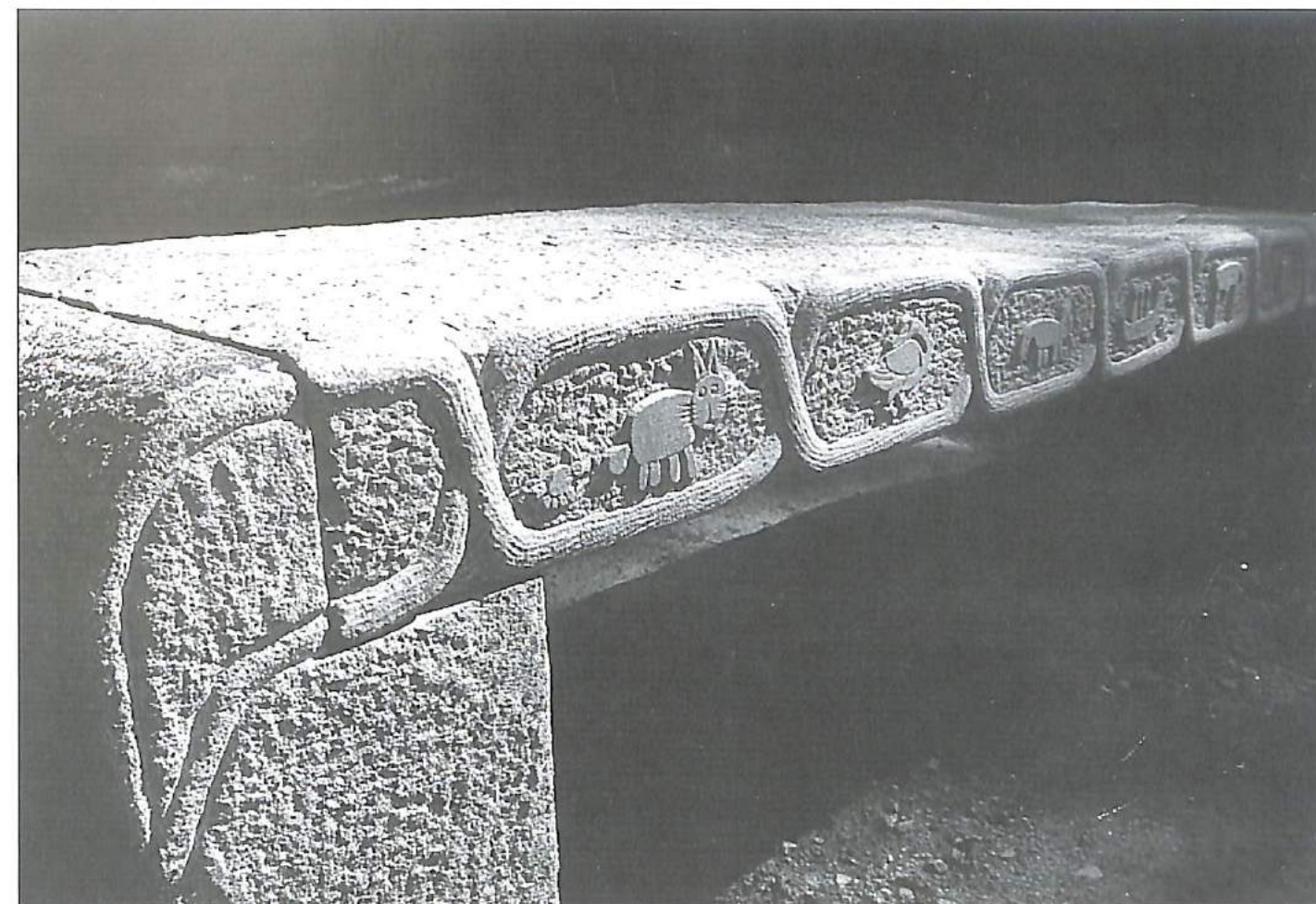
Each time I return to my home in Middleham, even after relatively mundane shopping trips, the pattern and form of the surrounding landscape is enough to trigger the recurring thought that we are privileged to live and work in the Yorkshire Dales. Living and working here, not just visiting the area, brings clear rewards but it also presents us with opportunities and responsibilities. We can all learn from the many examples of historic precedent, but we do not live in a museum and changes, even modest ones, can demonstrate the vibrancy of our communities and the willingness of people to contribute towards the future. A seat, near a waterfall, approached via

a restored footpath, will never become more than a modest contribution to our Dales heritage, but it is worth going to see because it has been created as the result of a really successful community project.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and Hawes Parish Council co-funded the Cotter Force project. Planned path improvements have blended in seamlessly and have given better access for disabled and elderly



people. There is now an inclined approach to the gated path, leading from a discreet parking area on the road from Hawes (beyond Appersett). Along the improved pathway there are three stone seats,



the third of which is a viewing platform, near the waterfall. Not only is this an appropriate resting seat, it is also thought-provoking, as it is an elaborately carved feature which records interpretations of both the past and the present.

Creating the design for the panels of carving on the Cotter Force viewing platform involved close co-operation between children from Class 2 at Hawes School and myself as the sculptor. We went on a site visit together, then workshop sessions in the classroom helped the children to provide me with a package of design information from which the blocks of hard gritstone could be carved. There was one splendid messy day when plaster and sand was made into home-made stone so that everyone could experience the trials and tribulations of carving their own designs. By Christmas, we had a blackboard sketch of our planned carved seat and the stone could be cut to size and delivered to the small shed at the back of Hawes School which was to become my temporary studio for the duration of the project.

Working in a shed in Hawes proved to be a surprisingly rewarding experience. Children, staff, parents and friends of the school kept an eye on my progress and they made me feel most welcome, providing me an almost continuous supply of coffee and encouragement. The finished work,

once fixed in position near the waterfall, has become instantly popular, both with people who recognise it as a product of local endeavour and by visitors who are challenged to understand all the imagery, including those elements quoted from history.

Every detail, carved on our Cotter Force viewing platform, has a meaning. This may be a magic site and perhaps, if you can rise to the challenge of understanding the carved story, you may be rewarded with a brief glimpse of the mysterious Green Man who emerged from the trees when the children from Class 2 called to him as they inspected the finished carving.

Peter Hibbard

Peter can be contacted at his studio, at Old School Arts Workshop, Middleham, near Leyburn DL8 4QG (telephone 01969 623056) from where he runs an annual programme of weekend and summertime sculpture courses for both residents and non residents. He would be very pleased to hear from any community or individual who would like to consider commissioning sculptural projects, both for the Millennium year and beyond.

Malham Tarn Field Centre – a landmark development for the new century

Cory Jones, Manager of the Malham Tarn Field Centre, writes about the major new developments at the Malham Tarn Field Centre which are taking place, thanks to the support of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and how YDS members can become involved with this important project.

I learned recently that the Centre's links with the Society go back several years. Henry Disney, a past Warden of the Centre was a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society; incidentally Henry retired as the FSC Research Fellow earlier this year.

In many ways 1999 has been a 'Landmark' year for the Field Studies Council at Malham Tarn. The Field Centre has now begun a much needed and long awaited refurbishment, grounds, improvements are underway and the NNR is about to begin a boardwalk upgrade and extension. Many Society members will have visited or stayed at the Centre over the years, but for those who have not, here is a quick summary!

Malham was one of the FSC's first Centres in 1947. A charity with its mission 'Environmental Understanding for All', it has remained a pioneer in outdoor education ever since, and now operates 13 Residential and four Day Centres in England and Wales. Tarn House and its associated buildings were leased by the FSC from the National Trust to create 'a Centre for Learning'. The house is an elegant property with magnificent views across Malham Tarn. Visitors experience not only the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales but also the pleasure of living in a well preserved country house. A visit to the Centre has touched the hearts and minds of thousands of individuals, both young and old, not only through experiencing the dramatic landscape around the Centre but also through contact with the FSC staff and tutors who impart knowledge and enthusiasm on their subject.

Malham Tarn and the surrounding area form a 136.5 hectare National Nature Reserve (NNR) designated in 1992. It was also designated a RAMSAR site in 1994, a site of international wetland importance. The National Trust in partnership with the Field Studies Council manages the NNR with

advice from English Nature.

As the longest running Field Centre in upland Britain, very many biologists, geographers and geologist have been attracted to Malham over the years by its distinctive geology and landscape with the associated range of habitats and diverse flora. Students can study limestone scenery, upland ecology and ancient peat bogs as well as the human activities within this rural landscape.

In doing so they achieve a better understanding of the environmental issues associated with our rural environment. They can also pursue a wide range of personal interests such as painting, archaeology, and rural architecture.

As you will read elsewhere in the magazine Malham Tarn has received a grant of £350,000 towards the redevelopment of the High Stables building, which has great architectural significance. It is intended that the building project will reinstate the two towers of the old stableblock, taken down in the 1950s. This will significantly enhance the traditional feel of the courtyard for visitors.

Refurbishment will go beyond improving accommodation, by creating the opportunity to reorganise facilities throughout. The grant has come from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust making us one of their 'Landmark Projects'. Of course the FSC now needs to match fund this grant and improve on it if other parts of the Centre are to be improved. An appeal has already been launched.

How you can help

A donation of any size would be welcome, remember that every pound you donate can be matched from the Millennium Trust grant.

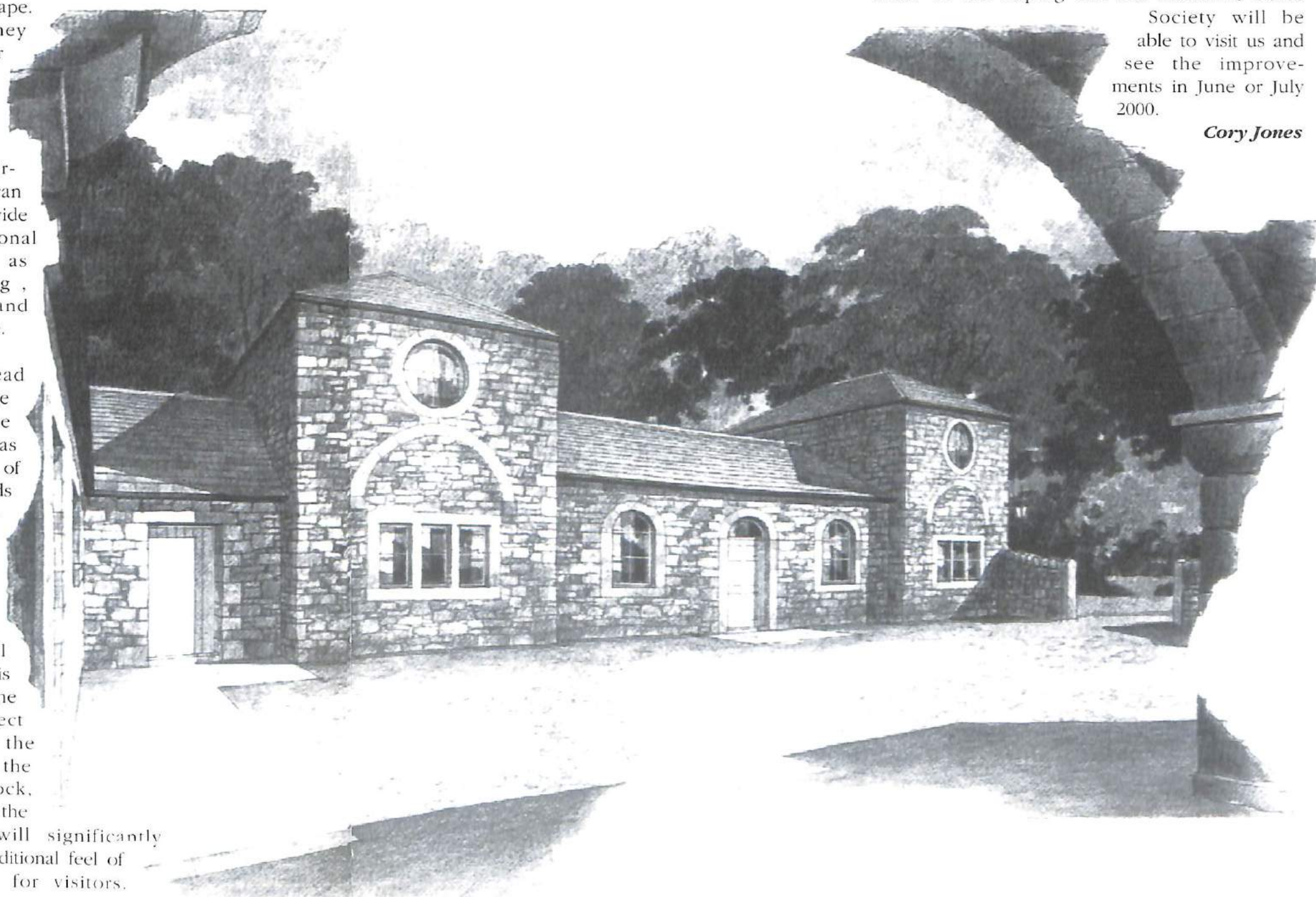
For more information about Malham Tarn Field Centre, courses currently available and the Appeal, phone or drop the centre a note a note addressed to the Secretary, Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9PU or look up the Malham Tarn web page at fsc.malham@ukonline.co.uk.

An adventurous Challenge Trek to Namibia in 2000 will support the Appeal and also the Namibia Cheetah Conservation Fund. Why not join us? Raise £2300 in sponsorship and the personal cost to you is £220; raise £3300 and your registration fee is refunded. For further information visit the trek website at <http://www.vsm.org.uk>.

Malham Tarn Field Centre is a very special place; many visitors leave with a great affection for the area. We are hoping that the Yorkshire Dales

Society will be able to visit us and see the improvements in June or July 2000.

Cory Jones



Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust – on target for the future

Now in its third successful year, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has already identified 400 conservation projects in the Dales, over 150 of which have been awarded grant offers and 80 have been completed. The total spend on these capital schemes is likely to exceed £7m - good news for the local economy, as labour and materials are sourced locally wherever possible.

The Trust's last round of applications for the Dales EnviroNet project is currently underway and a wide range of projects may qualify, including drystone walling, repairing field barns, planting broadleaved woodlands and combating river erosion.

The partnership between the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has mutually benefited both organisations (with over 180 of Trust donors being offered trial membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society, to date). More importantly, the success of community projects, such as West Burton Village Hall, illustrates how the Dales can benefit directly from their association.

The new West Burton Village Hall, which will be opened in November this year, is one such project. The previous hall had recently undergone a full refurbishment programme but unfortunately burned down last year owing to an electrical fault. The committee had already raised a substantial amount of money for this, had planning permission granted and a full specification drawn up. The West Burton Village Hall committee then applied to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for a grant of £125,000 to contribute to the total project cost. Due to its substantial size, it was awarded Landmark Project status. An adjoining piece of land was also donated so that the new hall will be slightly larger than the previous building and more user-friendly, providing a much improved facility for the West Burton community. It is hoped that the Yorkshire Dales Society will be supporting the community by using the Hall for its own events in the near future.

Work has also commenced on another major Landmark Project undertaken by the Trust - the redevelopment of Malham Tarn Field Studies

Centre.

This will provide

suitable accommodation including disabled access for the environmental education centre. The total cost of this project, which is due for completion in June 2000, will be £748,000, funded 50% by the Field Studies Council and 50% by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Fiona Chalmers, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Project Manager, explains that the refurbishment at Malham Tarn is the first of three redevelopment programmes at environmental education centres, funded by the Trust under the current EnviroNet programme.

She adds, "Although the Malham Tarn project is one of our biggest grants, the benefit of the EnviroNet programme is that the Trust can enable a huge range of environmental and conservation work to take place, from small local projects to high profile, complex undertakings such as this. The Trust is very much an enabler, working with local people and communities to make things happen on the ground. By the end of the EnviroNet Project in March 2000, 400 individual schemes will have been completed. However, the work of the Trust will not end with the completion of the Dales EnviroNet project in 2001. It has always been the intention that this charity will continue on into the Millennium developing further similar schemes."

It is hoped that Malham Tarn Field Centre might eventually be a suitable future venue for the Trust's expanding Walking Weekend Programme. When Charles Kingsley stayed at the house he was so entranced by the local landscape, by the clarity of the streams, he used delightful words about the area to be the canvas on which he painted the story of the Water Babies.

The first Walking Weekend held earlier this year in Sedburgh, was supported by both Trust donors and Yorkshire Dales Society Members, who enjoyed visiting a number of projects with local experts. Places are available for the Wensleydale Walking Weekend, to be held on 12-14 November

**YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST**



this year, staying at the charming Stone House Hotel in Sedbusk, near Hawes. Further weekends in Malhamdale and Wharfedale are planned for next year.

The second planned redevelopment programme focusing on an environmental education centre will commence in September of this year at Marsett Barn above Semerwater. The applicant is Low Mill Residential Young People's Centre in Askrigg, a charity which has operated since 1976, specialising in catering for groups of young disadvantaged or disabled people. Over the years, the facilities have been gradually upgraded until the centre now offers high quality accommodation for all including wheelchair users and is fully booked all year round. It is this very success which has led to the present application. Low Mill would like to provide further accommodation and in a more basic "back to nature" manner.

The plan is to purchase a disused barn and surrounding field just outside Marsett above

Semerwater. This will then be restored and provided with basic facilities - with the exception of electricity! Essentially it will provide a camping "experience" but will be usable in all weathers. It is near enough to Low Mill to be easily serviced from there and to be reachable by bicycle but remote enough to provide a sense of isolation.

The cost of the project is expected to total £133,530, 50% of which to be funded by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The refurbishment is expected to be completed by September 2000. Not only will this project be excellent use of an old barn to preserve its place in the landscape, it will provide future generations with a place to learn to appreciate the Yorkshire Dales in a natural setting.

For more information on these Trust projects or how to take part in one of our Walking Weekends, please contact Rebecca Page on 015242 51004.

Carriages at Aysgarth

Seeing a photograph of a ghostly effigy sitting in one of the exhibits was only one of the many surprises for a small group of Yorkshire Dales Society members recently. The occasion was a visit to the Yorkshire Carriage Museum, situated at Yore Mill at Aysgarth Falls. We were privileged to hear from the Curator, David Kiely, of the practical difficulties associated with stage coach travel, particularly the vital ability to keep warm enough to avoid "dropping off."

The collection was started by George Shaw a builder from the Richmond area who was dismayed to see these fine vehicles rotting away in garages and outhouses at some of the properties where he worked. From 1949, till he died three years ago, he amassed 170 different horse drawn vehicles, of which 57 are displayed in the Grade 2 Listed mill building which George also purchased.

The current mill building was rebuilt after a fire during the early part of last century. Its construction involved the importation of thirty enormous timber beams from Sweden via Newcastle. How these were transported by horse transport across an area with very poor road connections is a feat never explained. Getting the

carriages into the Mill and displayed there also proved quite a feat in itself as David explained.

All the vehicles have their own fascination, from the flamboyant yellow coach of the Collingwood family as featured in the recent dramatisation of "A Woman of Substance", to the more modest Hovis bakers' vans and milk floats of living memory.

Next time you visit Aysgarth Falls do NOT pass by, but take time to visit this fascinating opportunity to step back in time. The view of the Falls alone is worth the modest admission charge. Along with the adjacent tea shop it provides an ideal stop for users of nearby Dalesbus services.

Also of interest to YDS members are the new Millennium tree plantings in St. Joseph's Wood, about 10 minutes' walk away. This is on land owned by David Kiely who kindly donated the land for the planting, which was undertaken in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and inaugurated by Sir Chris Bonington in April.

C.J. Wright

The Dales in Camera



Above: Village Green, West Burton, Bishopdale. Photograph by Christine Whitehead.

Below: Green Lane north of Twistleton Hall, Twistleton Scar End, near Ingleton. Photograph by Tom Richardson A.R.P.S.



Conserving one of Yorkshire's Best Loved Rivers

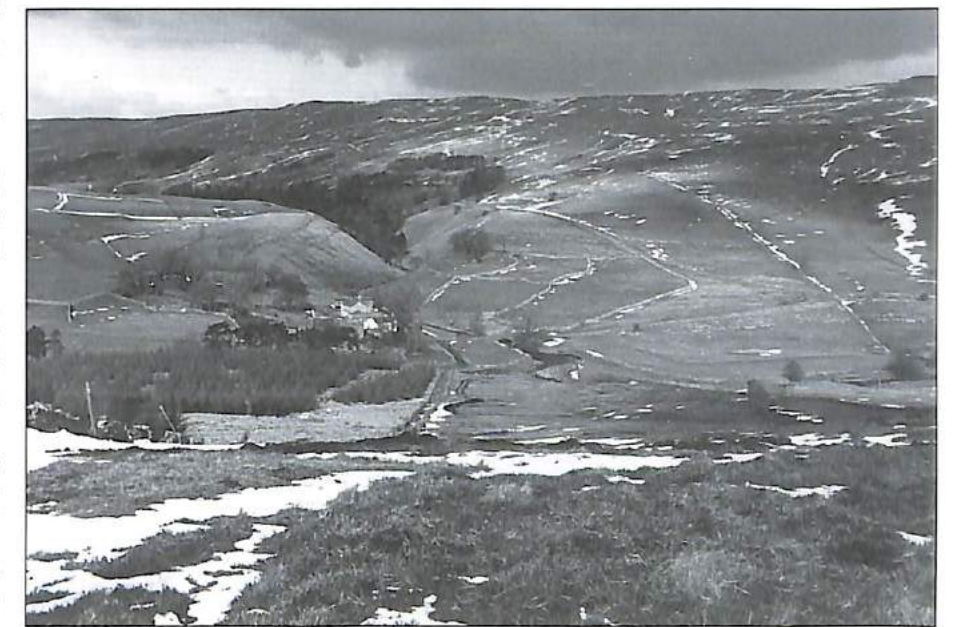
The Upper Wharfedale Best Practice Project, is a three year scheme, lead by the Environment Agency, to help restore and improve the river quality, embankments and the corridor of the River Wharfe from its confluence with the River Skirfare, north of Kilnsey, through Kettlewell, Starbottle, Buckden and Hubberholme, almost to its source high on Cam Fell. This includes a long section of the popular Dales Way long distance footpath.

The Project has ten key aims, which are to:

- Protect river banks to help prevent erosion and benefit wildlife.
- Manage woodland and encourage planting on the valley floor, beside hillside streams and other areas.
- Create wetland areas on the valley floor where appropriate and protect hay meadows.
- Improve footpaths susceptible to erosion.
- Seek positive changes in upland livestock farming practices to bring about environmental and social benefits.
- Protect spring water sources and other supplies to produce good quality water sources and protect the environment.
- Seek ways of improving sheep dipping practices to prevent river pollution.
- Carry out education projects with schools, colleges and the wider community.
- Put together a long-term plan and set targets to ensure the environment is protected for future generations.
- Block drainage channels, known as grips, to retain more water on the moor, which benefits flora and fauna.

These are all aims that the Yorkshire Dales Society fully and completely support. The project is being managed by Project Officer Liz Chalker, and directed by a Steering Group representing the Environment Agency, The National Trust, English Nature, the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Authority, Farming and the Community, Yorkshire Water Services, Newcastle University, the Forestry Commission, Tilhill Economic Forestry and the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency. The Partnership has already secured a grant of £200,000 from the European Union towards the £400,000 scheme. Achievements to date include fencing at Heber Farm, Buckden, to create ungrazed pasture, creating a new wetland area and planting trees. A pilot sheep dip has been built at Church Farm, Hubberholme, to show how good design can minimise the pollution of the river. Small weirs have been installed in two of the modern drainage channels on Oughtershaw Moss to measure water run off, to obtain more information on how much water is lost from the moor. Other planned schemes include the blocking of more fellside



Above: Beckermunds, Langstrothdale

drainage channels, more tree planting and wetland creation, working with local farmers to improve sheep dips and to achieve better moorland and riverbank management.

It is also hoped that there will be some related educational and other events - possibly in partnership with the YDS - in the near future. For further details of the Project contact Liz Chalker, Environment Agency, Coverdale House, Aviator Court, Clifton Moor, York, YO30 4GZ tel: 01904 692296.

Book Reviews

TOT LORD AND THE BONE CAVES A mini-biography by W.R. Mitchell (Castleberg Press), £4.50 from local bookshops or by post direct from the publisher (add 50 postage) at 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, Settle, BD24 0AY.

Bill Mitchell conjures up the extraordinary and complex personality of Tot Lord, a locally renowned amateur archaeologist based in Settle, whose interest in the 'early bone' caves was awakened in the 1920s, and further stimulated by a series of lectures given by Dr Arthur Raistrick, the celebrated historian and geologist. Tot repeatedly explored Victoria Cave as well as Jubilee and Attermire Cave, 'pot-holing for relaxation'. He started the celebrated Pig Yard Club in Settle for like-minded individuals who would bring their finds to this meeting place. Treasures included ancient artefacts or human bones dating from Bronze or Iron Ages, or from Roman and Anglo-Saxon times, or the even more remarkable bones of rhinoceros, elephant and wolverine dating from 120,000 years ago. Tot, whose work was praised by professional anthropologists, had the foresight to make use of surplus army mine detectors which were sold off cheaply after World War II, for his field archaeology, finding some Roman coins at Attermire Camp.

FS

Below: Tot Lord - photograph from the Lord family collection, reproduced in Bill Mitchell's book.



EDITH CARR: LIFE ON MALHAM MOOR A mini-biography by W.R. Mitchell (Castleberg Press), £4.50 from local bookshops or by post as above.

Edith Carr spent the major part of her life, including the war years, farming at an isolated farm, Capon Hall on Malham Moor. Their boarder, Karl a German prisoner of war, proves to be a valuable member of the household. What impresses are not only the hard physical tasks indoors and out endured by such subsistence farming in the 1940s, but the amount of planning and organisation needed to sustain such a household. But the severe winter of 1947 which follows a poor hay crop of the previous year, leaves the farm and its animals dangerously short of food in spite of all their efforts, and the RAF air-drop of supplies comes in the nick of time 'like manna from heaven.' Though troubles are not over as Edith slips on the ice carrying coals and uses butter-pats and bandages as splints on her badly bruised arm and mis-shapen wrist. This fascinating "mini-biography" gives real insight into farming in the Upper Dales as it was in quite recent times, through a fascinating series of anecdotes.

FS

A GUIDE TO THE LANDSCAPE OF OTLEY: SEVENTH TO SEVENTEENTH CENTURY by Paul Wood, published by Christine Dean and Paul Wood at £8.50 plus £1 postage and packing. Please send cash with order to 5, Garnett Street, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 1AL or obtain the guide from local bookshops.

This landscape history of Otley by Paul Wood, the Keeper of Otley Museum, traces the patterns of human activity from the Anglo-Saxons onwards, using a variety of documentary sources, including court rolls and verdicts, maps, archaeological surveys, and the actual pattern of tracks and pathways with their tell-tale traces. Otley still preserves relics of her Anglo-Saxon, Danish, Norman and Scottish past, and later ecclesiastical control under the Archbishops of York. It is also intriguing to learn that bracken was used by Otley's medieval fullers as a useful resource when soap was scarce for the cloth-making, and that an old leper hospital was situated at Spittle Garth, in the Harewood direction. The lay-out of the guide is particularly user-friendly with clear headings, detailed scale drawings and facsimile script where appropriate, with a useful index, notes and glossary.

Fleur Speakman

Freight on the "S & C"

News that the Settle-Carlisle line, so narrowly reprieved from closure in the 1980s, is now to be developed by Railtrack into one of the major rail freight routes between England and Scotland will delight campaigners for this famous scenic line, and confirm their view that so-called transport "experts" who at that time, just ten short years ago, stated that the line was no longer needed for strategic rail purposes, didn't know best. One downside of the planned huge new investment programme is that

the line will close for the whole of November for essential track renewals and maintenance. Join us for a pre-Christmas trip over the reopened line to Appleby on the new Scottish express on Saturday December 18th - see Events on page 15 for details.

Railway photographers are also delighted that there will be many more freight trains to photograph over the line. Freelance photographer and S&C campaigner Pete Shaw captures the power of a



Class 56 with a train of empty coal hoppers travelling from Milford to Ayr, crossing through Dentdale near the summit of the line. Pete is the best known contemporary photographer of the Settle-Carlisle line, and the beautifully printed and produced Pete Shaw Settle-Carlisle Calendar for 2000, from which the shot (for January) is taken, can be obtained direct from Pete Shaw, 33 Temple Rhydding Drive, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 5PX price £6.90 inclusive of postage and packing - cheques made out to Pete Shaw Photography.

Help from the Friends - in Cumbria

Our sister organisation and fellow charity, the Friends of the Lake District, because it also functions as CPRE Cumbria, doesn't just look after the Lake District but the whole of Cumbria. FLD works closely together with the Yorkshire Dales Society, not only in the three Parishes within the Yorkshire Dales National Park which happen to be in Cumbria (Dent, Garsdale and Sedburgh), but on keeping a watchful eye on that important landscape corridor between the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales which in recent years has been the subject of a number of proposals for windfarms.

FLD are in the fortunate position of being able to offer small conservation grants to local communities within Cumbria for a wide range of

conservation and environmental improvement projects. Footpath improvement, tree planting, drystone walling and hedging, enhancement of village ponds, restoration of locally distinctive and historic features are all projects which could be eligible for funding by an FLD Environmental Improvement Grant, and an FLD Grant could also be used as part of a match-funding package, for example with a Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust project. Which must be good news for people in Dent, Garsdale and Sedburgh! If you live in Cumbria and have any projects planned, or would like to find out more about the FLD scheme, write to Environmental Improvement Grants, Friends of the Lake District, No 3, Yard 77, Highgate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4ED.

Daleswatch Report

Dr Jim Burton, Vice Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a Secretary of State appointed member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, gives his regular roundup of key current issues facing the National Park.

1. SWINDEN QUARRY - THE UPSIDE

Most Yorkshire Dales Society members will remember the controversy over Swinden Quarry. The issue - which came to head in the mid 1990s - concerned the extension of the Quarry, mostly downwards, the removal of the quarry machinery into the resultant hole, and continuation of the use of large numbers of quarry lorries to transport the aggregate products along our Dales roads. But it did also include a comprehensive restoration scheme and a pledge to use the railway more intensively for transportation purposes.

The actual vote by the National Park Committee followed a long and tense debate that went on for a full hour - before the verdict to approve the application was given by the narrowest possible margin, the Chairman's casting vote. It was a heavy defeat for the conservation lobby at the time, but subsequent happenings have materially helped to mitigate the consequences. First - it must be said - Tilcon appear to be observing to the letter the conditions attached to their permission and have already moved towards decreasing the adverse impact of the workings. One good result has been a significant increase in the portion of aggregate being taken out by rail. Whilst an even bigger one is now becoming evident.

Tilcon have now agreed to the erection of a passenger platform alongside the line - on Tilcon land but away from the workings. Clearly this brings the probability of passengers trains running into the south of the National Park much closer to fruition. With the possibilities of linking Embsay to Bolton Abbey steam railway to the main line at Skipton and greatly improved bus services into the southern Dales, this helps to make the prospect of a comprehensive integrated public transport system for the area ever more realistic.

2. REFERRAL BACK

The National Park Local Plan is, of course, a document of fundamental importance in the planning system within the Park. It was formally adopted in September, 1996 following an extensive period of publicity and consultation that started some five years earlier. During this period well over 600 objections and representations of support were

made and it had to go through two public inquiries. Finally a small number of modifications had to be made by the direction of the Secretary of State. It is, consequently, a document of considerable status, has obtained widespread public acceptance and governmental approval and, clearly should only be overruled under genuinely exceptional circumstances. Additionally, of course, it is a fundamental principle that a planning decision should not take the personal circumstances of an applicant into account - but should go with the land and property that will still be there long after the applicant has gone.

Now, of course, the Planning Committee - being human - sometimes finds it difficult to keep conflicting issues in their proper perspective when marginal planning decisions are made. Last year the National Park authority adopted a system that helps Members to give proper weight to the issues involved. The Planning Committee meets monthly and, whenever it takes a decision that departs from the Local Plan, a named vote is taken and Members have to give their reasons for the departure. These are then commented on by Officers prior to the next meeting and another named vote is taken, which is decisive. Some Members are unhappy with this procedure, but the probability of their taking decisions against approved policy has declined and the strength of the broadly crafted and meticulously derived policy framework has been enhanced.

3. DALES LAMB

The plight of the hill farmer over recent years has been steadily getting worse. Prices for sheep have been touching new lows with the problems applying to both meat and wool markets, and it is good to see the National Park Authority taking a leading part in trying to alleviate the situation (see Editorial and page 2). The high quality of Yorkshire Dales products is well known, and the successful Market Testing and Tasting event held in Hawes some weeks ago, with representatives from the farmers and catering and butchering trades present, was a great success. The concept of the scheme was accepted by the participants, although there is still some disagreement as to what is likely to be the best way forward. Nonetheless, the broad idea of publicising Yorkshire Dales Lamb as a quality product was seen as being worth progressing, with not only the local butchers and restaurants being targeted, but also the lucrative outlets of the supermarket shelves.

Jim Burton

Autumn Events

Cooler days of autumn in the Dales are better for walking and sightseeing, with rich colours and scents, and more open views as foliage cover disappears. Make the most of such days by joining us on one of our celebrated monthly Walks and Talks in the Dales for Members and friends. Don't forget that though YDS members get a £1 discount for the lectures, (standard admission £2.50; YDS £1.50) members of the public are also warmly welcome, so please bring a friend with you, and encourage them to join - and save a pound.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6TH

A WALK IN THE DACRE BANKS AREA - Meet outside the Royal Oak, Dacre Banks (behind Village Hall Car Park) at 1030am for a moderate 4 mile walk in Nidderdale AONB. Bus 24 departs Harrogate Bus Station for Dacre at 0930am. Pub or picnic lunch. Leader Chris Hartley tel: 01943 873197.

LECTURE: THE STONE INDUSTRY OF NIDDERDALE by Geoff Blacker at Dacre Banks Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4TH

A WALK AROUND EMBSAY - A moderate 4 mile walk in the southern edge of the National Park. Meet outside Embsay Village Hall at 1030am. Pennine 214 Embsay Bus departs Skipton Bus Station at 1020am. Pub or picnic lunch. Leader Chris Wright tel: 01756 749699.



LECTURE: SUBTERRANEAN MALHAM by Alan Speight at Embsay Village Hall at 2.15pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH PRE-CHRISTMAS RAMBLE TO

FLAKEBRIDGE AND DUFTON - Join Chairman Chris Wright and Secretary Colin Speakman on Northern Spirit's new Scottish Express through the Yorkshire Dales to Appleby, for a 7 mile Yuletide ramble (and last YDS event of the Millennium) near the edge of the North Pennines escarpment. Bring a picnic lunch, a torch, and boots as it will (probably) be muddy; lunchtime Xmas pint possible, as well as last minute Christmas shopping in this lovely old market town. Train leaves Leeds 0947, Shipley (free parking) 1001, Keighley 1012, Skipton 1026, Settle 1045. Book Appleby Day Return. Tel 01943 607868 for walk info.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH

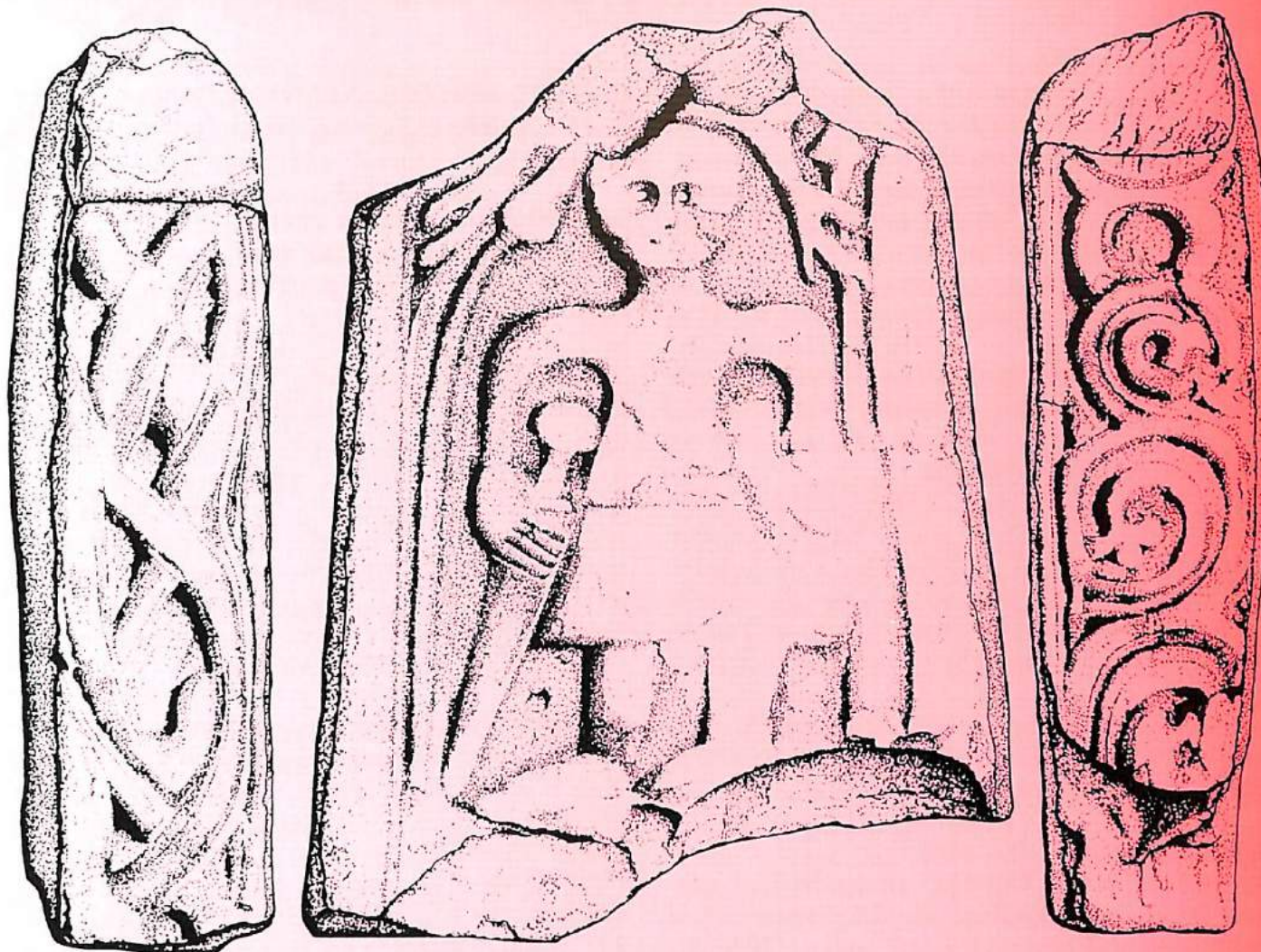
A WALK FROM LONG PRESTON - Meet outside Long Preston Village Hall for a 4 mile walk through surprisingly open countryside close to this busy village. Train Leeds d. 0817, Keighley 0839, Skipton 0855. Book Long Preston return. Picnic or pub lunch. Leader Dennis Cairns tel 01282 812956

LECTURE: MY LIFE AS A RAILWAYMAN by Derek Soames, at Long Preston Village Hall, 2.15pm.

PICK UP A LEAFLET

A leaflet of walks from the Settle-Carlisle and Morecambe-Lancaster line is now available for the period October 1999 to May 2000. These walks are free of charge and fully guided throughout. The Programme contains various distances with a Millennium Walk and a series of walks completing the journey of Lady Anne Clifford from Skipton to Penrith.

For a copy please send sae to: Walks Co-ordinator FoSCL 16, Pickard Court, Leeds, LS15 9AY or pick up a copy from a Tourist Office, Railway Station or any information point.



*Front cover picture: Surrender Bridge, Swaledale
by Christine Whitehead.*

*Back Cover drawing: 10th century Viking "Warrior" sculpture
re-carved on an Anglo-Saxon cross arm, Otley Museum.
See Review, page 12, A Town Guide to the Landscape of Otley
by Paul Wood.*

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