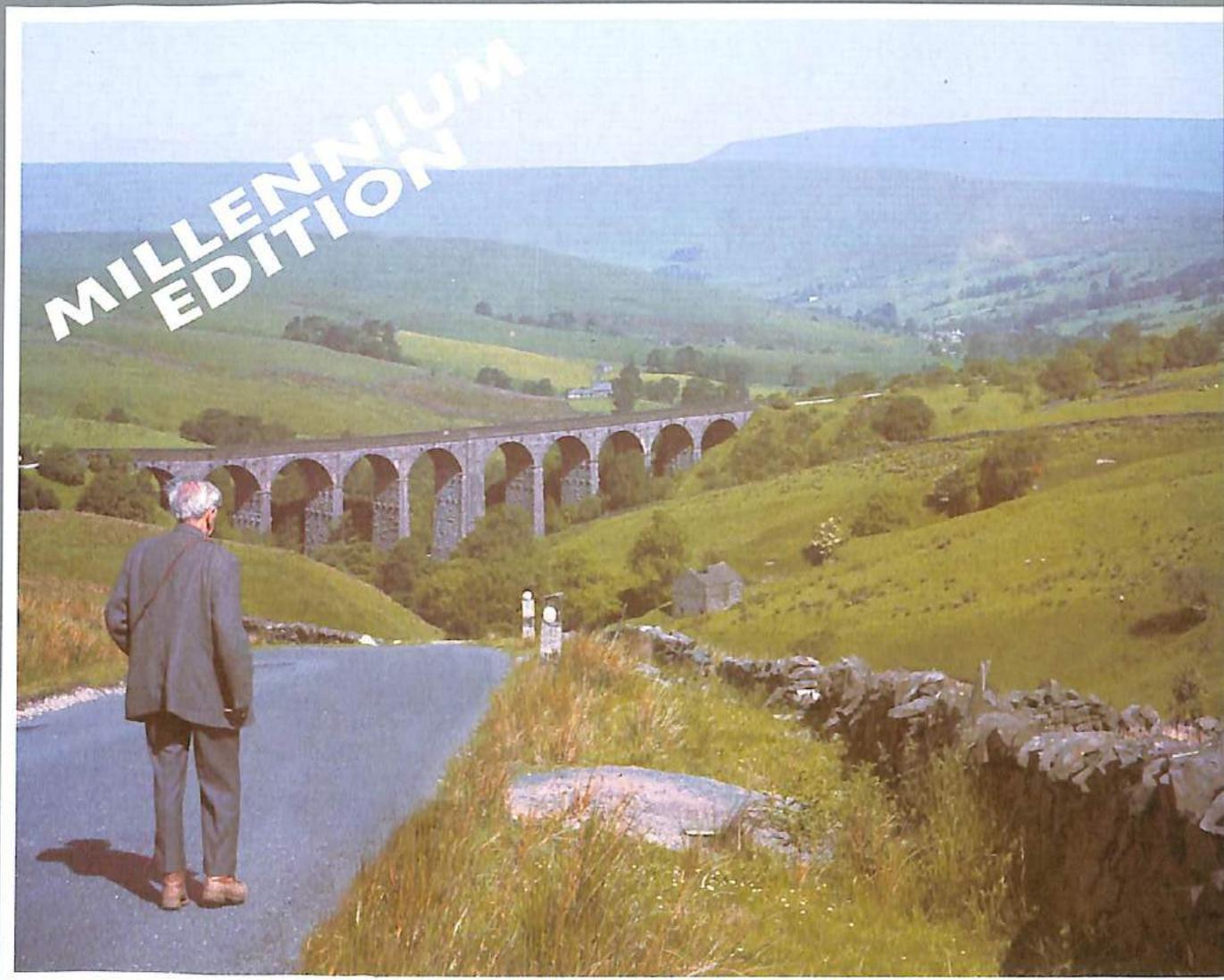


# Yorkshire Dales Review

No.69 Winter 2000



- *The Yorkshire Dales in the New Millennium*
- *Arthur Raistrick - Dalesman of the Millennium*
- *At home with Arthur Raistrick*
- *The Challenge of Ageing - Debate of the Age: Your Say in the Future*

Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50



## ***The Yorkshire Dales in the New Millennium***

Waking up to a new Century and a new Millennium is to pass one of those milestones of human history which, whilst nothing has actually changed, makes one aware of whole new perspectives of time. "Last century" which for most of us used to mean the remote sepia-print time of our grand and great grand parents, when the pace of life was determined by horses and steam engines, is now just a few weeks ago.

In a very real sense the twenty first century has already been with us for some years now. The "cybernetic revolution" - the world of the microchip and global communications - has already begun to transform society as radically as did the Industrial Revolution at the end of the eighteenth century.

By our very nature, we are backward looking creatures, shaped by our past, our history, our memories, our experience. In many ways we are ill-equipped to deal with the profound implications of the technological change now taking place around us, even within the Yorkshire Dales. The very existence of the Yorkshire Dales Society has its roots in a desire to protect, keep, conserve what we most value of our past, that rich cultural inheritance of landscape, tradition and experience we call the Yorkshire Dales.

But to understand and to come to terms with both the present and the future needs just such an awareness of the processes which have shaped and controlled the landscapes and communities of the past. More than in any other period, mankind now has the power to choose what kind of world he and she wishes to live in. A sense of continuity with the past - the Millennium we have just left behind - is essential if we are to understand where and who we are now, what we want for the future, and the kind of world we want to create for our own children and grandchildren.

Appropriate therefore, that the Yorkshire Dales Society has chosen to mark the Millennium with a celebration of the life and achievement of one remarkable individual who, more than any other, has helped us understand some of those many processes that have created and shaped the Yorkshire Dales - their geology, archaeology, history and perhaps especially their industrial history, which so profoundly changed the Dales two centuries ago, and the need for their conservation in the future years ahead.

His name is one well known to most members of the Yorkshire Dales Society: Dr Arthur Raistrick. Dr Raistrick was a founder member of the Society, who when he died in 1991 aged 94 left a profound legacy of scholarship of the Dales. Our plan is to erect not just a memorial but, great walker he was, something useful, a stone, sculptured bench close to the National Park Centre in Grassington. This Millennium issue of The Review reminds us why Arthur Raistrick, was, in a real sense, the Dalesman of the Millennium just past, and why his achievements are so relevant for the Millennium to come.

Please support our appeal to help build the Raistrick bench.

*Colin Speakman*

***The Dales in 2000*** - this classic study of *Littondale* from over *Couside Beck*, above *Arncliffe* by *Simon Warner*, illustrates how, in *Dr Raistrick's* words, the Dales landscape is a "true palimpsest" - a parchment on which, to the trained eye, traces of generations of human activity and settlement from prehistoric times to the present can, like faint handwriting, be deciphered.



# Arthur Raistrick - Dalesman of the Millennium

Dr Arthur Raistrick was born in Saltaire, Airedale in 1896, of Dales stock - his grandparents came from Wharfedale and Wensleydale as well as Airedale. His father - a founder member of the Independent Labour Party - and uncle were committed socialists and pacifists, and he spent much of his boyhood walking in his beloved Dales, often combined with speaking for peace at meetings with his uncle. Educated at Bradford Grammar School, and apprenticed in Shipley Electricity Works, he and his uncle were arrested and gaoled as conscientious objectors in World War I. After the War he became a Quaker, and won a scholarship to Leeds University to study civil engineering and geology, eventually being awarded a PhD. Then followed a period of research work in various mines looking at abnormalities in coal seams, eventually winning the Lyell Gold Medal for achievement in Geology. Between 1929 and 1939 he was a Lecturer in Mining Engineering at King's College, Newcastle, but on the outbreak of World War II was suspended when he refused to undertake munitions work for the Ministry of Supply.

He and his wife Elizabeth - also a writer and scholar - came back to the Dales in 1940 and converted a barn in Linton to a house, which for the next half century became their home. Without a salary he supported himself by writing - he was an early contributor to the Dalesman - and by lecturing for the WEA, which he had been doing since 1922. He would travel around the Dales on foot or by train and bus, (he never owned either a car or a television set) giving a weekly class on Dales history in, for example Dentdale, walking the 4 1/2 miles from Dent Station to the village, giving his evening class, staying overnight and walking back to the train the following day.

After the war he returned to Newcastle to become Reader in Applied Geology, and an Extra-Mural Tutor at the Universities of both Leeds and Durham. But he formally retired from lecturing full time at Newcastle in 1956 to devote himself increasingly to research, writing and his role as a Secretary of State Appointed Member to the then newly established West Riding Planning Committee of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and became a member of the Standing Committee for National Parks. He was at various times national and regional President of such organisations as the

Ramblers Association, Holiday Fellowship, the YHA, as well as being President of the Industrial Archaeology Unit of Bradford University, Honorary Curator of Coalbrookdale Museum, Vice President of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, an Honorary Life Member of the Newcomen Society, and the President of many local organisations such as the Upper Wharfedale Field Society. He died, at the age of 94, in 1991.

Over a long and active life, he was the author of 39 books and almost 300 pamphlets and learned articles, most of them about the Dales. It was Raistrick who first pointed out the links between the Cistercian Monks of Fountains Abbey and the merchant princes of Venice and Florence, trading Dales wool through the great medieval port of York. His archaeological fieldwork in the Dales, much of it immensely important pioneering work, is still classic work to which all later archaeologists and landscape historians refer, though inevitably overtaken in many areas by the work of scholars with more sophisticated techniques at their disposal. His work on Industrial Archaeology, (his book on the subject published in 1973 is still the standard work) virtually established the discipline in the UK, and he would frequently travel by train and bus down to Ironbridge to help set up that pioneering museum, with its many Quaker connections. He was a founding father of the National Park movement, working closely with fellow Quaker John Dower when Dower was writing his influential report on National Parks in Kirkby Malham, and during the darkest days of World War II, and they joined forces with people like Tom Stephenson, G.M. Trevelyan, Hugh Dalton, Barbara Castle and Arthur Blenkinsop to help create the great and forward looking 1949 legislation which laid the foundations of National Parks in England and Wales.

Raistrick's achievement lay in many fields, but it was above all as a teacher that many people best remember him. His classes, lectures, field trips brought him in contact with many thousands of people, from high flying academics to ordinary working people and housewives for whom his love of history, geology, archaeology, and above all the Yorkshire Dales was communicated, not merely as a set of facts, but as a discipline, a way of seeing, a rare enthusiasm. Even in his mid 80s, this quietly

spoken, seemingly frail man could hold an audience enthralled, narrating the story of how the Dales we know evolved, yet could still find time to explain to children the significance of a fossil or rare mineral.

But there was another side to his character - the iconoclast, the rebel, steeped in pacifism, not prepared to suffer fools gladly, but with a dry wit.



*Arthur Raistrick leads a group of Friends of Craven Museum excavating a Tiler's near Scale House, Rylstone, in the early 1970s. In the group (left to right) are Jean Reinsch, Dr Raistrick, Frank Woodall, Griff Hollinshead and Ken Elwood (Photo: Jean Reinsch collection).*

He could often be found, in his ubiquitous grey flannel suit and black boots, in often freezing conditions, striding over lead mine remains with his beloved Earby Gang (better known as the Earby Mines Research Group), working men from mills and factories from nearby towns, out on Grassington Moor with a bag of cement to repair

the remains, once causing the Skipton fire brigade to chase what they thought was a moorland fire when old tyres were burned in the smelt mill chimney - to see if the flue actually worked.

So how can the Yorkshire Dales Society adequately, if at all, celebrate such a life? We have commissioned Middleham sculptor Peter Hibbard to prepare a simple bench, very much as

Dr. Raistrick himself purchased for the people of his own village Linton outside the Youth Hostel (two he gave are still there), without a back, so walkers don't need to take off their rucksacks. On the bench, made of Swaledale gritstone, will be carved just his name and dates, in the manner of the memorial to Adam Sedgwick of Dent, another great Dalesman whom Raistrick so admired and so resembled, plus a series of symbols, for those who know and understand, which will represent his lifetime achievement. It will be placed close to the National Park Centre at Grassington, a fitting place to recall a man who did so much for the National Park movement and the Yorkshire Dales in particular.

The cost of the bench for stone, carving and transport, amounts to £2,500. We have already received a generous anonymous donation of £1,000 from one Society member, but need to generate a further £1,500 for the project to go ahead. If you would like

to make a donation, please send your cheque made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society and (marking your envelope Raistrick Appeal), send it directly to the Yorkshire Dales Society at the Civic Centre, Cross Green Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1HD.

*Colin Speakman*

# At Home with Arthur Raistrick

When I first knew them, Arthur and Elizabeth Raistrick lived in a barn, though I hasten to add that they had converted it into a pleasant greystone house. What I took to be the front door was set, with an adjacent small window, in a plain wall. In the old days, this had been the porched main entrance to the barn. On the south side, there were windows galore, offering a wide view from Greenhow and the Fancarl Crag, round past Elbolton and the other reef knolls to the line of Thorpe and Rylstone Fells.

In 1956, I persuaded Elizabeth to write an account of the barn conversion for *The Dalesman*. When, subsequently, I rapped on the door on my first visit, I was keen to see what lay beyond. I looked into Arthur's diminutive study, which was a ten-foot square space beside the stairs, cut off from the hall by a double curtain. The best that could be said about the study, when space had been claimed by bookshelves and a large desk, was that it was cosy. Arthur, wearing his shapeless old suit of Quaker grey, was clearly attached to his cubby-hole and to the old typewriter on which he produced his many papers, articles and books.

Elizabeth told *Dalesman* readers that because they desired to have an east-facing window in the kitchen, with a view over Greenhow, the longer

bay in the east should be divided into a kitchen and a larder. A wish to have at last a room large enough to house a grand piano, and still have space to move about, fixed a large two-bay room at



the west end. Arthur, who went early to his bed and rose at a time when most people were turning over for another sleep, enjoyed an hour or so of gramophone music before resuming his latest scholastic project.

Elizabeth, the former Miss ME Chapman, M.Sc.,

formerly head of the department of geography at Leeds Training College, had a considerable intellect and wrote stylishly about the Dales, especially about home life and village education. She was usually content to let Arthur occupy centre-stage. I remember her mainly for her freshly-baked and buttered scones, having developed the knack of arriving on baking day.

Arthur, inviting me into the larger room, would show me his latest project. Once it was an enormous collection of lead-mining photographs he was collating into book form. I listened to a man whose every utterance was worth hearing. Though he was born at Saltaire in 1896, his family had Dales associations, a grandmother (on the mother's side) having been a Stockdale of Wensleydale and her father a Bell from Swaledale.

I never left Arthur without having picked up a worth-while item of information. One day, telling him that on my way to Linton I had been crooning the hymn tune *Deep Harmony*, he said that when he was a lad his uncles called on their way to a choir practice and suggested that Arthur might join them because Handel Parker (composer of *Deep Harmony*) was the conductor, and "he's trying out a new hymn tune on us."

At *The Dalesman*, I sometimes incurred Arthur's annoyance (expressed in a letter) for popularising the articles he wrote by breaking them up into smaller paragraphs for presentation in the magazine. His most terse letter followed our publication of a cigarette advertisement in colour. When, in due course, I approached his house, wondering what sort of reception I would have, he opened the door, smiled and said in his quiet and pleasant voice: "Come in - it's so good to see you."

In our discussions about aspects of Dales Life, I kept off lead mining, having had the audacity to write a book based on the life of a lead-miner on the northern Pennines, one of Arthur's cherished areas and topics. Arthur, having graduated from Leeds University in civil engineering, then in geology, had been inspired by Professor Kendall (joint author of the monumental *Geology of Yorkshire*) to study the coal measures. His researches, 1925 to 1929, earned him a Lyell award. He gave his name to one the main groups of plant spores that he isolated from British coal and described in 1933-37.

In 1929, he received his appointment as lecturer and reader in economic geology at King's College, Newcastle and after owning an old house near Shipley Glen, he and Elizabeth moved to the converted barn at Linton. Ten years later, when the

Second World War broke out, Arthur acquired extended leave from King's College. A conscientious objector who spent a good deal of the Great War in gaol for his beliefs, he now did not want to embarrass the College. Writing to Harry Scott, founder of *The Dalesman*, who also had Quaker associations, he said he was thinking of buying a bike.

In 1956, he retired from King's College to devote more time to adult education in the Dales. When he was about to celebrate his 90th birthday, in 1986, I invited some of his friends to write short pieces about him that I could print in the magazine. Among them was Griff Hollingshead. The next letter I received from Arthur was congratulatory. The gesture in the magazine had pleased him. He added to my surprise that he had always counted me among his closest friends!

W.R. Mitchell

The photograph is of Arthur Raistrick and Constance Pearson (artist) with her View of Malham. (Photo: W.R. Mitchell)

## Book Review

### BOOTS AND BOOKS - THE WORK AND WRITINGS OF ARTHUR RAISTRICK

by Trevor Croucher

(Smith Settle, Ilkley Road, Otley LS21 3JP - £9.95 hardback - can be ordered from bookshops or direct from the publisher).

This is a comprehensive bibliography of AR's work, with an excellent personal appreciation by Professor Bernard Jennings, and a useful introduction to his writing by Trevor Croucher. Illustrated with some rare photographs of AR and some of Trevor's own fine photographs of Dales landscape features associated with his researches, this is an invaluable book for anyone with an interest in the life and work of Arthur Raistrick.

# Beehive Coke Ovens and Dew-Ponds: Raistrick and the Millennium Trust



Arthur Raistrick, outstanding scholar of the Dales and one of the country's leading industrial archaeologists, would have been an invaluable consultant to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. Much of the Trust's work throughout the Dales focuses on projects of historical and architectural importance, including the restoration of field barns, drystone walls, dew-ponds and other unique Dales features.

In his book *Malham and Malham Moor*, first published by *Dalesman* in 1947, Arthur Raistrick states: *The history of Fountains Fell is almost limited to the activities of the colliery and to its use as a common sheep run and art deer forest by Fountains Abbey.*

In the summer and autumn of 1999, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust was engaged in a project to fund consolidation work on the Fountains Fell coke oven, which had fallen victim to subsidence. The coke oven was built between 1807 and 1815 to produce coke for lead smelting at Malham Moor. The oven is of the classic beehive form and is thought to be the earliest surviving example of its kind in the country. The Trust's £2,000 project will help to conserve this important landscape feature and prevent further deterioration taking place.

Historical records tell us that the promotion of the Enclosure Acts in the mid 18th century led to nearly everyone in the village of Malham selling, buying or exchanging to bring sufficient parcels of land together that could be walled. By the end of that century, the fields

around Malham would have reached very much their **YORKSHIRE DALES** present **MILLENNIUM TRUST** form of walling.

A significant number of walling projects in the Malham area currently include the restoration of over 500 metres of prominent drystone wall visible from the Malham Langcliffe road and the adjacent bridleway. 25% had fallen into disrepair and the Trust is undertaking to fund an £11,000 refurbishment programme, to be completed in spring 2000.

Another extremely prominent drystone wall of intrinsic historical importance at Malham runs along a bridleway leading to the Cove Road. Traditional techniques are being employed to repair 270 metres at a cost of £5,346.

Arthur Raistrick would no doubt also have approved of the work carried out by the Trust in 1998 on a local historical feature - the dew-pond at Langcliffe Scar at a cost of £2,684. In a *Dalesman* article written in November 1944, the author quoted lines from Kipling:



*Dales waller Geoff Lund building a new stretch of wall in the traditional way. This view shows well the arrangement of throughs, fillings and top-stones.* (Photo: David Morgan Rees)

*We have no waters to delight our broad  
and brookless vales -  
Only the dew-pond on the height  
unfed, that never fails,  
Whereby no tattered herbage tells  
which way the season flies -  
Only our close-bill thyme that smells like  
dawn in Paradise.*

He goes on to explain that the term dew-pond was coined only in the mid-9th century but that such ponds, historically a means for providing water for animals, were often of considerable antiquity, surrounded in mystery and ascribed to the work of craftsmen whose art has been long lost.

Another project, which involves the community of Littondale from schoolchildren to the older residents, is a tree-planting scheme inspired by the resurrection of the Littondale Forest

Society, originally set up in 1892. Trees were planted in December 1999 in an event held during National Tree Week. This project will not only enhance the landscape and habitat diversity of the dale, but has helped the local community to work together to carry out direct action to improve their environment.

Arthur Raistrick would surely be gratified to know that his generation has passed on a legacy of caring for the landscape about which he had such a wealth of knowledge, for many generations to come.

*Hilary Gray, Press Officer,  
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust*

## The Yorkshire Dales Review - A Forum for Issues and Ideas

*From the perspective of our Millennium issue, Fleur Speakman takes a look at how the Yorkshire Dales Review has changed over its 69 editions.*

The Yorkshire Dales Review was launched in the Winter of 1982 and outlined the reasons for the formation of the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Society's choice of logo. The journal was launched as a quarterly forum for issues and ideas, with articles which had a particular Yorkshire Dales context and was enlivened by drawings and photographs, book reviews and information on the Society's active social programme. For the first ten years under the editorship of Colin Speakman, assisted by Fleur Speakman, the Review was produced from "scissors and paste" typescript in off-set litho, printed by John Mason, Skipton, and dealt with an impressive number of topics. These ranged from the contributions of the hill farmer to the Yorkshire Dales landscape, the early archaeology of the Dales and its climatic fluctuations which had resulted in such spectacular fossil remains in Victoria Cave to such concerns as Rural Transport and the Decline in Hill-farming, underpinned by YDS seminars, while the problem of such quarries as Coolscar, the Housing Crisis in the Dales and concern for the fate of the Settle/Carlisle railway, then under threat of closure, were all thoroughly aired in the Review.

The journal also welcomed the re-vitalising of the Hawes rope-making industry, the Swaledale Woollen industry and at a later date lobbied and supported initiatives for Hawes Creamery. Conservation of the landscape proved a constant theme, with the then Yorkshire Dales National Park Officer, Richard Harvey, writing of the balancing act involved between conservation and development. Ken Willson, then YDS chairman and now our president, was in the vanguard at voicing disquiet at the intrusion of modern windpower at Chelker Reservoir, while articles on green lanes, woodlands, hedges and fields demonstrated that every element in the landscape needed care and protection.

In Spring 1992 the Society was approached by publishers Smith Settle suggesting a new format Yorkshire Dales Review with colour cover to be part-funded with advertising revenue. Colin was now joined by Fleur Speakman as joint editor, while the partnership with Smith Settle continued for two years, though unfortunately was to prove uncommercial for the publishers and perhaps at times less satisfactory for the YDS who felt that they were not always in total editorial control. In Spring 1995, the Yorkshire Dales Review returned to its original Skipton home at John Mason, printers, with a newly designed house-style and much superior computer type-setting compared with the original magazine.

Other issues which have become increasingly important in the Review have been Countryside Stewardship and Access sites, Green Lanes used increasingly by four wheel drives, Sustainable Tourism in the Dales and the issue of Traffic Management, and the amount of miles food has travelled when there is often excellent local produce near at hand. The Yorkshire Dales Review has also given space to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust with its many schemes and initiatives for improving or restoring barns, woodlands and the like. For some years Jim Burton, our Vice-chairman, has provided a most instructive series of reports on what is happening in the Dales from the perspective of an appointed National Park Committee member, and particular articles have made a more enduring impression such as John Ward's series in three parts on vernacular architecture. The Dales heritage and culture has also been promoted through a number of articles or lectures on dialect, music and dance and even through art, while occasional more light-hearted accounts of YDS activities have all helped to contribute to what we hope is a highly readable and perhaps even occasionally influential magazine.

*Fleur Speakman*

# The Challenge of Ageing Debate of the Age: Your Say in the Future

Appropriately enough our main feature in the *Yorkshire Dales Review* deals with Dr Arthur Raistrick, a man who was mentally alert and physically active, though somewhat frail into his nineties, still publishing his books on the Dales and campaigning for Dales issues. Figures like these are an inspiration and potential role models to young and old alike.

Fleur Speakman represented the Yorkshire Dales Society at a recent conference co-ordinated by Age Concern on *The Debate of the Age: Your Say in the Future*, held at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds on Thursday November 18th, where the Yorkshire dimension was given particular resonance. The dilemma of an aging population is perhaps even greater in the Yorkshire Dales itself which is for so many a highly desirable retirement area, though this particular issue was not specifically addressed. The conference was part of an ongoing series of eight regional conferences which culminates in a final report presented to government in Spring 2000, which should influence future legislation and strategy.

We live in an aging society with proportionally fewer young people. This will have far-reaching implications on housing, transport, health, pensions, community care, the labour market and even public attitudes. Age Concern has launched this debate in order to raise awareness and provide a discussion forum where people of all ages and walks of life can influence public policy for these demographic implications. Forcefully expressed by various speakers was the message that whatever your interests or particular gifts, experience and maturity are very valuable commodities, and at the same time declining years are often an opportunity to branch out in new directions.

*Debate of the Age* is a two year project supported by all political parties with five key themes: Health and Care, Paying for Age, Values and Attitudes, Work and Lifestyles, and the Built Environment. Introduced and chaired by Christa Ackroyd of Yorkshire Television, who stressed that women media presenters in their early forties were often at the mercy of ageist attitudes, Ian Nowell, Age

Concern England, set the scene for the debate by giving some statistical demographic information. In 1961 one senior citizen would be supported by four working people, whereas it was expected by 2030 this would shrink dramatically to only two. Projected figures for the Yorkshire region were fairly similar. Only 300 people achieved their hundredth birthday in 1951 in the UK, but this was expected to jump to a staggering 36,000 by 2030. There was an urgent need to prepare for such conditions.

Other trends included people's changing expectations, the rise in more single people, later childbirth, changing work patterns and the increasing diversity of older people. Other changes included: a decline in traditional manufacturing industries, more home-working and the increase in women's work while work for males was often decreasing.

Jude Kelly, Chief Executive, West Yorkshire Playhouse and acclaimed director, pointed out it was a time for self-definition. Women now often had two or three careers, but men felt failures if they were not successful by the age of forty. Perhaps the role of house-husband needed to be considered more. She emphasised the necessity for computer literacy for everyone to make the best use of the available technology so that they have the knowledge and the potential to achieve. Even the terminally innumerate can master a spreadsheet and the intricacies of finance if what you are involved in matters to you enough - and she was speaking from experience.

She also illustrated the way that youth can patronise age though often with the best intentions and has never forgotten the salutary lesson she learned as a member of a young enthusiastic theatre group who went to entertain some elderly residents with songs of World War I. One resident refused point-blank with some bitterness to listen. Afterwards he talked to her and explained why his own actual harrowing experiences made it impossible for him to listen to such songs in a light-hearted way. But Jude Kelly also made the point that getting older does not mean getting out of

touch with the world of the young.

Sir Ernest Hall, Dean Clough Mill, gave an inspirational and energetic speech about reversing the sense of decline. A longer life span means that there was the possibility of greater achievements whether it was as an artist, entrepreneur or in some other field. Work should ideally be seen as life-enhancing and it should be possible to re-invent one-self, to make opportunities and choices. After an early career as a concert pianist, Sir Ernest became a successful businessman and then forty years later at the age of seventy returned to his musical career, recording Bartok's formidable demanding piano sonatas. He is at present engaged on recording the whole of Chopin's musical opus.

Yet it is often the young whose aspirations are too low, as he had discovered during his time as Vice-Chancellor when talking to young graduates. His message was: at any age *be ambitious*. Age can often in fact be an advantage, as it favours the slow learner as well as the achiever.

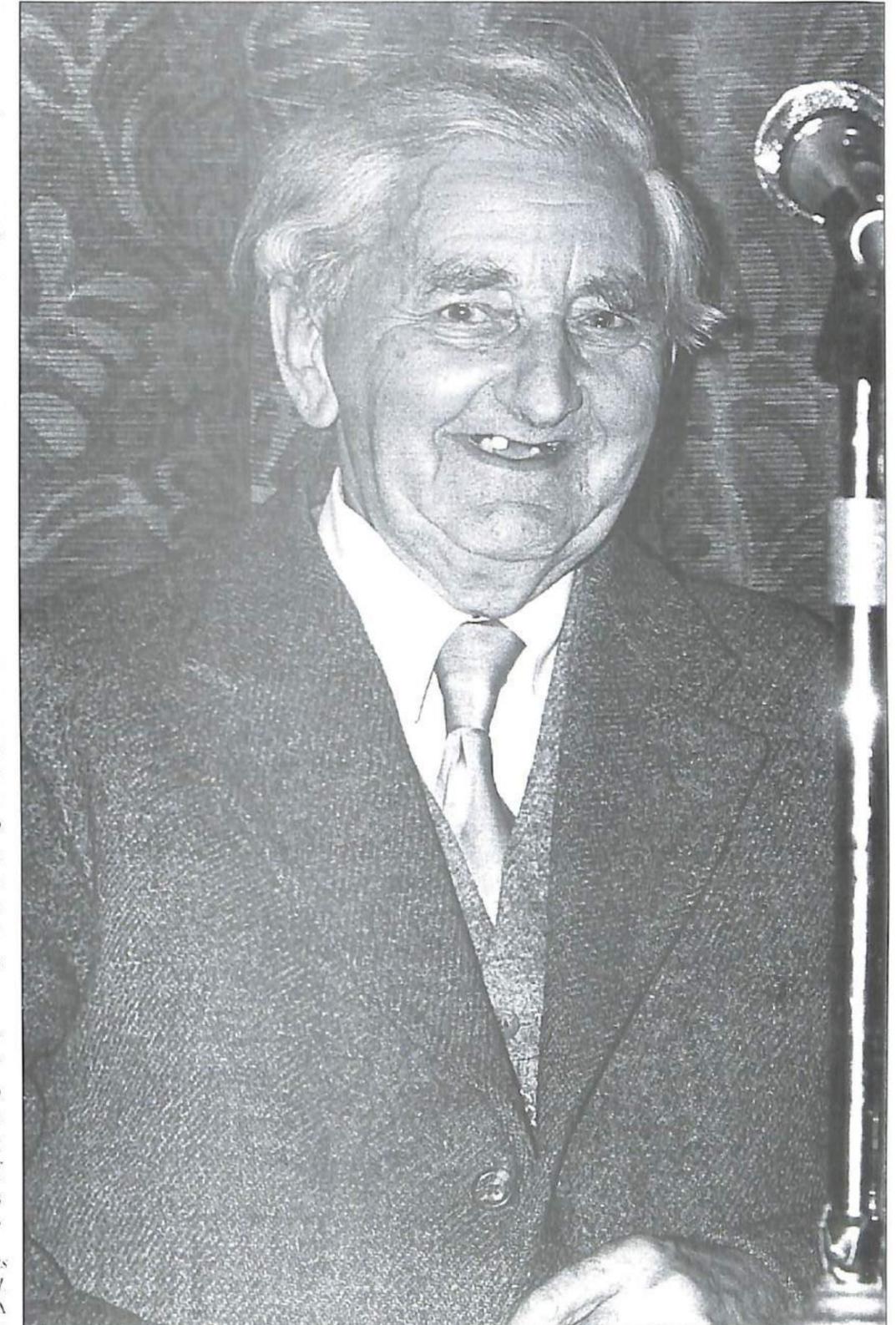
Delegates were also entertained by a drama group who had put together a short programme of sketches, poems and songs on the

Arthur Raistrick as  
Role Model  
Photo: YDNPA

theme of 'Act Your Age' specifically for the conference.

It remains to be seen how carefully the government will listen to the various recommendations and proposals and how these decisions will shape our own futures.

Fleur Speakman



# A New Millennium System for Subscription Renewals

In order to ease the administrative work-load in the Yorkshire Dales Society office and to help clarify the details of membership renewal, a new computerised system is being introduced in the New Year to notify Members when their annual Subscriptions are due for renewal. This follows the scheme used by a number of Organisations with Membership Cards being incorporated on the Notification letter. These are detached for use and of course are only valid when the Subscription has been paid.

The letter will include a statement giving full details of the Membership. This includes the current Subscription rate, whether it is presently paid by Cash, Direct Debit or the old Standing Order system, together with details of any Covenant that has been signed. It will also point out if there is any discrepancy where a Covenant may be greater than the current Subscription and needs to be taken into account when paying. Of necessity this payment can only be very brief. If anything should not be clear, Members are asked to contact the Society office on a Monday morning or make use of its Answerphone, leaving a clear message.

In addition to checking their details, those paying by Direct Debit or Standing Order need take no action apart from removing their Membership Cards. For those paying by cheque a removable payment slip is included which should make paying a little bit easier and greatly help office staff.

We would urge any Members still paying by the old Standing Order system to consider changing to a Direct Debit. Details are included on the Renewal letter. Otherwise would they please check that their Standing Order is up to date and is sufficient to cover their present Subscription or their Covenant if this is greater. Despite repeated reminders from the office, there are still a significant number of Members underpaying by their Standing Order. This can be a considerable loss of revenue for the Society. (Second and Third Reminder systems will still remain on our older renewal system.)

This new scheme should be beneficial both to our Members and for our office staff. In order to avoid extra postal costs, the new Renewal letters and

Membership Cards are on fairly thick paper rather than card. Please take care when detaching the card and when it is in use.

## LEGACIES

Start the new Millennium by deciding whether you would like to support the campaigning work of the Yorkshire Dales Society and its care and preservation of the Yorkshire Dales by leaving the Society a legacy in your will. The Society would be extremely appreciative of such generosity.

*David Smith, Treasurer.*

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY -

our **AGM** will this year take place at the restored West Burton Village Hall - a Millennium Trust Flagship Project - **Saturday May 13th**. A Wensleydale walking weekend is planned - details in the next issue.

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**Do Remember** that the **DALES DIGEST** is packed with useful information on a variety of Dales issues, culled from a number of local and national newspapers. Please send £6 for a annual subscription for this quarterly periodical, made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society at the Society's office, The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1HD. (*Date for cuttings - before January 31st direct to Dawn Burton, 139 Curly Hill, Ilkley, LS29 0DS*).

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## The Yorkshire Dales Society goes on line.

Log on to the new Yorkshire Dales Society website on

<http://www.yorkshiredalessociety.org.uk>

for regular news, updates and membership matters.

# Book Reviews

**THE YORKSHIRE DALES: A VIEW FROM THE MILLENNIUM, 'a celebration of the Dales in words and pictures' by Colin Speakman, edited by David Joy, published by Great Northern Books, at £25 and available from bookshops throughout the region.**

Make no mistake - this is a very special book and particularly so for Yorkshire Dales Society members. It is produced in association with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the dust-jacket tells us that it is a Celebration of the Dales in words and pictures - but what words and what pictures! By the most fortunate chance (or was it inspired forethought), there has been selected for the onerous job of an anthology, those two likely lads Colin Speakman and David Joy, both exceedingly well-known for their continuing output of works relating to the Dales. Both are members of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, both are founder members of the Yorkshire Dales Society and both are ex-members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

In general Colin has provided the text and here his earlier *Yorkshire Dales Anthology* (which surely cries out for a reprint), stands him in good stead, whilst David chose and edited the pictures and photographs. It may be remembered that it was he, who in 1997 organised in Settle, the remarkable exhibition of 200 Dales paintings, arguably the largest collection of such works ever to be assembled in one place.

Prince Charles, Patron of the Trust, has contributed an enthusiastic foreword and agreed that his own painting of Mossdale could be reproduced in the book.

The whole is beautifully produced and edited with a superb collection of writings and illustrations. It fully justifies the oft-repeated declaration that it is a work that will be treasured for generations to come. If indeed, as we are told, it was the authors' intentions to mark the year 2000 with 'a work that would celebrate the area's literary and artistic heritage in the widest sense', they must indeed be gratified that so laudable an ambition has been so palpably achieved.

*Ken Willson*

*All royalties from the book go to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Eds.*

## TWO WINTER WALKING BOOKS

**AN OTLEY RINGWAY WALK - Brian Watson - published by Otley Town Council** (Available from Otley Civic Centre or local bookshops price £2.50)

This 25 mile circular walk in mid Wharfedale and Washburndale includes some excellent countryside in the eastern Dales, starting and finishing at Menston Railway Station. You don't have to walk the full 25 miles, but can divide it up into shorter stages, the longest being Pool to Denton Bridge via Timble about 13 miles (though Timble Lane End is served by Dalesbus 802 from Otley on summer Sundays), in all making some fine winter walking. Good, clear sketch maps support well written text.

## RAMBLERS BRADFORD (VOL 1) - Douglas Cossar (RA West Riding Area, price £4.50)

Available in local bookshops and tourist offices or by post from West Riding RA, 27 Cookridge Avenue, Leeds LS16 7NA - please add 80p for postage and packing.

Twenty walks, 2 - 10 miles in length, all circular, but all accessible by public transport, in and around the City of Bradford but also including several popular routes in Wharfedale and the lower Dales. At a time when many paths in the higher Dales are over-used with queues at stiles, the rich network of less well used rights of way in the Bradford District - which includes Ilkley and the Brontë Moors - offer some outstandingly good walking, accurately described and illustrated with black-and-white photographs and excellent maps. Douglas Cossar is a Vice President of West Riding RA and Vice Chairman of the Dales Way Association, and the book is appropriately "affectionately dedicated" to Tom Wilcock, Dales Way pioneer and former RA Footpath Secretary, who has done so much to safeguard our Dales footpath heritage.

CS

## STOP PRESS

Our newly designed leather badge, complete with up-to-date logo, is now available for £2 post free, from the YDS office or at YDS indoor meetings. A coat of clear nail varnish makes it totally waterproof.

# Daleswatch Report

## 1. The Right to Speak

The question as to whether or not an applicant for planning permission should be afforded the right to address a Planning Committee in person is one with very difficult overtones, even allowing for the fact that some Planning Authorities (including Craven, Richmondshire and South Lakeland - the three District Councils within the Yorkshire Dales National Park) already permit some such form of public participation in the process. On the face of it nothing could appear simpler or fairer than giving the person or persons most affected by a decision an opportunity to put their case directly to the body making the actual decision. If accepted within the National Park, such a system might allow for ambiguities and uncertainties to be cleared up: would permit an applicant to explain doubtful or obscure points concerning the actual application and to demonstrate the presumed need for the development: and it would help to clarify possible misunderstandings between the various parties.

But it is not as simple as that (it never is!). The first and most obvious argument against the proposal is that it would place a premium on the gift of oratory - with the more fluent and convincing speakers probably winning more than their fair share of the decisions. Whilst the length of time taken up by the Planning Committee meetings - which already occupies several hours at the least, would doubtless be extended markedly on the majority of occasions, especially - as would be only fair - if objectors to the proposal were also allowed to speak.

Nonetheless the process would open up the decision making in what might prove to be a useful and constructive manner and, at the least, it would help to dispel the very false but unjustifiably prevalent notion that the National Park takes many of its decisions behind closed doors. It is a tricky decision for the National Park Committee to make and, doubtless (as has happened in the past), it will be criticised whichever way it decides to move. But it could lead to an increase in the number of people who turn up to witness its deliberations - and that would probably be no bad thing.

## 2. The Swinden Line

One of the most significant events in the short history of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (as distinct from the land and heritage that forms its very core), was the arrival on December 18th at Tilcon's massive Swinden Quarry between Cracoe and Threshfield - of the train from Kings Cross, London. The train brought people from the south to the Grassington Dickensian Festival. It was an

event that - in a relatively small but quite delightful way - demonstrated the value of two massive changes in Government policy. The first of these relates to the special character of England's unique National Parks: the second to the use and abuse of the nation's roads. Many people will remember that a very few years ago the name of Tilcon was not exactly the flavour of the moment amongst many who live in these parts. By the narrowest of margins they had obtained permission to continue operations at Swinden for what seemed to many people far too many years. And that permission would allow them to complete the demolition of what had been a picturesque reef knoll - and to export its contents, largely by road, thereby adding to the general mayhem of the region's traffic.

But it hasn't worked out as badly as that. First of all Government policy relating to quarrying in National Parks has been tightened up to a degree that will make it difficult indeed for such a permission ever to be granted again within the National Park. Second, the Tilcon management is more than fulfilling its share of the bargain by showing every sign of meeting its obligations under the agreed stringent restoration scheme that will greatly improve the final appearance of the area when the quarry finally closes. Third, they have also already ensured that the existing railway line has been activated at a significantly increased level, thus greatly reducing the volume of heavy traffic on our too busy dales roads. Whilst fourth - and possibly most significantly of all - they have accepted the principle that the quarry railway line, which links directly to the national network at Skipton, may be used for passenger traffic. And, of course, this fits in very exactly with the latest Government policies on transport.

It won't happen overnight, of course, but the way is now open for development of a genuinely integrated public transport system within the National Park. Extension of the Tilcon line to Threshfield seems practicable, whilst probable future links with the private Embsay Steam Railway line to Bolton Abbey and the developing public bus services from Ilkley and Skipton should, in the next few years, see the south of the Park with a public transport service that is securely linked to the good and improving West Yorkshire Metro system. It is unfortunate, of course, that public transport in North Yorkshire is in such a woeful state - a symptom of years of blinkered thinking at County Hall - but even here some progress is being made. The reinstatement of the Harrogate to Northallerton railway is no longer a cranky pipe-

# Winter Events

Chase away any winter blues by coming along to our various Walks and Lectures at a variety of venues in the Dales. Enjoy absorbing the expertise of ornithologist Colin Straker who will be leading us a short walk outdoors as well as showing us some appropriate slides in the afternoon. The Sheila Marks Memorial Woodland will form part of a walk in the Kettlewell area in early April.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH - WALK IN THE LONG PRESTON AREA.** Meet outside Long Preston Village Hall at 10.30am for a moderate 4 mile walk. Packed or pub lunch. Train d.Leeds 0817, Keighley 0839, Skipton 0855; Pennine bus 580 d. Skipton 0945. Leader : Dennis Cairns tel: 01282 812956.

**TALK: MY LIFE AS A RAILWAYMAN** by Derek Soames who will bring along some railway memorabilia, at Long Preston Village Hall, 2.15pm.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12TH - SEMERWATER BIRD-WATCHING WALK.** Meet at 10.45am at the Semerwater foreshore. Please share cars if possible because of very limited parking. There will be a short walk to Stalling Busk. (Lifts can be arranged to/from Garsdale Station or Bainbridge if booked a week in advance - tel 01943 607868). Bring packed lunch, or cafes and pubs in Leyburn. Leader : Colin Straker tel: 01756 752574.

**LECTURE: BIRDS OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES** by noted Dales ornithologist and former YDNP Warden Colin Straker, in the Methodist Church Hall, Leyburn at 2.15pm. Bus 156/7 from Northallerton d. 1235.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13TH - UPPER WHARFE-DALE DALESBUS WALK** using winter Dalesbus sponsored by the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group. Leader Maurice Denton tel: 0113 2673053. Catch the special winter Dalesbus 800 for a moderate 6-8 mile walk from Kettlewell to Grassington. Bus leaves Bradford Int. 0855, Leeds Bus Station 0930, Ilkley Brook Street. 1010 Grassington NP car park 1105 arrives Kettlewell 11.25 am. (NB Don't park Kettlewell as this is a

## Daleswatch Report continued

dream - it is being talked about seriously. And of course, this should add even greater impetus to the Wensleydale's Railway's Association's continuing fight to improve northern Dales services - by train and bus. Whilst, in addition, there is now the admirable Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group that not only advocates improving the



linear walk!) Packed lunch. Return bus from Grassington 1636, to arrive in Ilkley 1715, Leeds 1800, Bradford 1825.

**SATURDAY MARCH 4TH - WALK AROUND HAREWOOD AREA** Meet outside Harewood Village Hall at 10.30am for a moderate 4 mile walk in mid-Wharfedale. Bus 36A d.Leeds Bus Station 0955, d. Harrogate 1000. Packed or cafe/pub lunch. Leader Alan Pease, tel: 01937 7573699.

**LECTURE: YORKSHIRE SURNAMES** by David Hey at Harewood Village Hall, 2.15pm. Discover what your Yorkshire name really means .....

**SUNDAY MARCH 12TH - DALESBUS TO UPPER WHARFEDALE, AYSGARTH FALLS AND HAWES.** YDPTUG sponsored service - times as for February 13th (buses continue to Buckden, Aysgarth and Hawes on all dates).

**SATURDAY APRIL 8TH - SHEILA MARKS MEMORIAL WALK KETTLEWELL.** Colin Ginger will lead a walk to the Millennium Trust Donor Woodland at Scar Top, Kettlewell, where contributions from YDS members helped to plant this prominent hillside woodland in memory of former YDS Council Member Sheila Marks at or close to the woodland site, where a short tribute to Sheila will be paid.

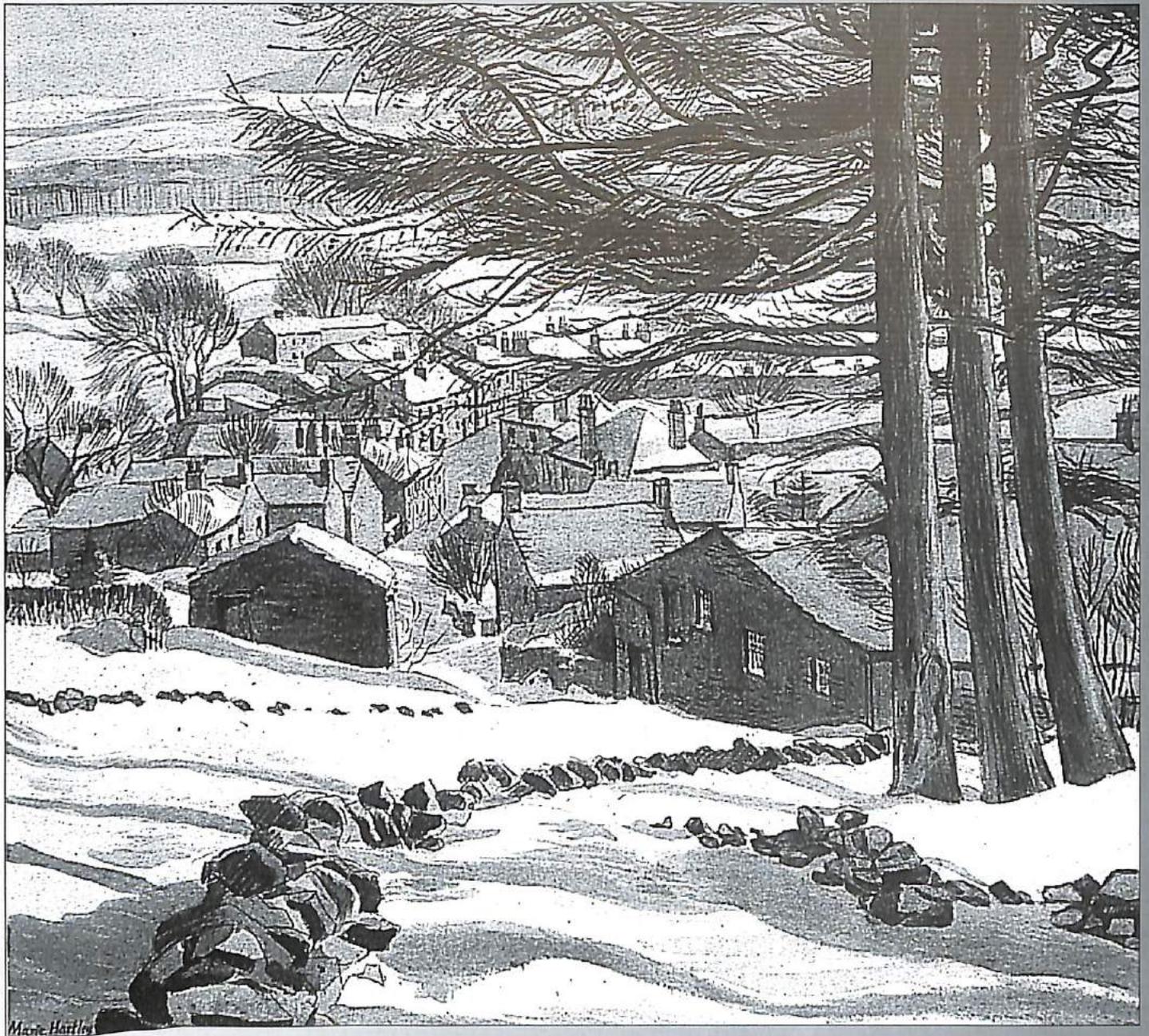
Walk will include Cam Pasture up Top Mere Road (uphill walk) then via Starbotton (pub lunch or packed lunch) and back along river - 6 miles. Meet Kettlewell Village Car park at 1030am. Bus service 74 from Ilkley Station 0845, Grassington, 0940, (Skipton 0800 change at Grassington). Bus returns from Kettlewell at 1523. (Please check these times on NYCC Transport Line 0870 608 2 608 as there could be changes before April).

**SUNDAY APRIL 9TH DALESBUS TO UPPER WHARFEDALE, AYSGARTH FALLS AND HAWES.** YDPTUG sponsored service - times as for February 13th.

service, but when the service is in place, actually goes out and uses it, thereby ensuring its continued viability.

The future's bright; the future's greener!

Jim Burton



Front cover picture: *Arthur Raistrick at Dent Head*  
by Colin Speakman.

Back Cover painting: *Askrigg in the severe winter of 1947,*  
*when the moor road was wall-top high with snow* (watercolour  
by Marie Hartley).  
See page 13 for the Review of *The Yorkshire Dales: A View*  
*from the Millennium*.

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