

Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 70 Spring 2000

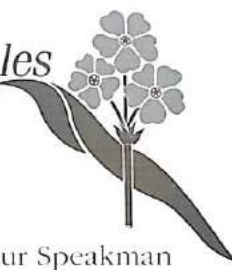


- *We can make a Difference*
- *Drought and Sheep: Is there a Link?*
- *A Youthful Perspective on the Dales*
- *Sculpture Designs for Raistrick Bench*

Yorkshire Dales
Society



£1.50



We can make a Difference

Eight years of campaigning, including attending a 13 week Public Inquiry, by our sister organisation the Friends of the Lake District and by the Council for National Parks, (of which the Yorkshire Dales Society is a constituent member), has helped produce a major victory for conservation in our National Parks. In 2005, a 10mph speed limit for power boats on Windermere will come into force, ending the invasive scream of high speed engines hauling water-skiers along England's greatest lake. The ban will not be imposed for another five years, giving business and sporting interests time to relocate.

This is an excellent decision for the Lake District, and it indicates that the Government is at last taking protection of our National Parks seriously. For decades the quiet enjoyment of the majority of visitors and many local residents around Windermere has been ruined by the selfish activities of a small minority, causing huge noise pollution across the entire valley.

What has this to do with the Yorkshire Dales Society? Simply this. The Windermere decision recognises that the peace of our countryside, and of our National Parks, is something which deserves protection every bit as much as the landscape. Members of the Society will recall our spat with former Lakeland MP Michael Joplin, motor sport devotee, who succeeded in getting the words "quiet enjoyment" eliminated from the 1995 Countryside Act that established the new National Park Authorities so that these anti-social activities should not be challenged even in the heartland of our National Parks.

There is now a new Countryside and Rights of Way Bill before Parliament which will give a new statutory right of access to mountains, moors, heath, down and registered common land. It will not offer unrestricted access, but will be subject to important limitations respecting landowners' and occupiers' rights. There will also be better protection for SSSIs, wildlife, and intriguingly, a new designation of 4,000 miles of public highway which will be open to all traffic except motorised vehicles. Could this new measure help prevent not only the appalling damage being inflicted on the

Green Lanes of the Yorkshire Dales (only a few weeks ago a cyclist was killed on historic Mastiles Lane after falling into a rut caused by off-road vehicles), but also help reduce the noise pollution which trail bikes and off-roaders bring into the remotest areas. There are now few places left even in the Dales where you can escape the roar of the internal combustion engine.

Both the Windermere decision and the new Countryside Bill herald a new awareness that the countryside is there to be enjoyed, but that enjoyment, especially in our National Parks and AONBs, should not put at risk the very qualities, including the tranquillity of our wildest places, that people value most highly.

Organisations like FLD, CNP and ourselves have a key responsibility to articulate the views of many, many millions of caring citizens to both national and local Government bodies and agencies. We must also offer our support when forward looking decisions are taken, to counter the often well orchestrated objections of single-interest pressure groups. For example, we strongly support North Yorkshire County Council's recent decision to impose a Traffic Restriction Order on the badly damaged green road over Pock Stones Moor between Wharfedale and Washburndale, despite the protests of the off-road motor lobby.

In this first decade of the new century, there are some difficult issues facing our own National Park Authority, and the Nidderdale JAC which will require real political courage to solve - not only protecting Green Lanes and dealing with complex access issues, but such issues as traffic management and rural transport, and ways of supporting struggling Dales farmers with new and imaginative agri-environmental schemes rather than the current environmentally destructive headage payment system. Solutions are never easy and always take time. But well informed, persistent support from bodies like our own can help the agencies to find the right solutions.

Yes, we can make a difference.

Colin Speakman

Drought and Sheep – Is there a Link?

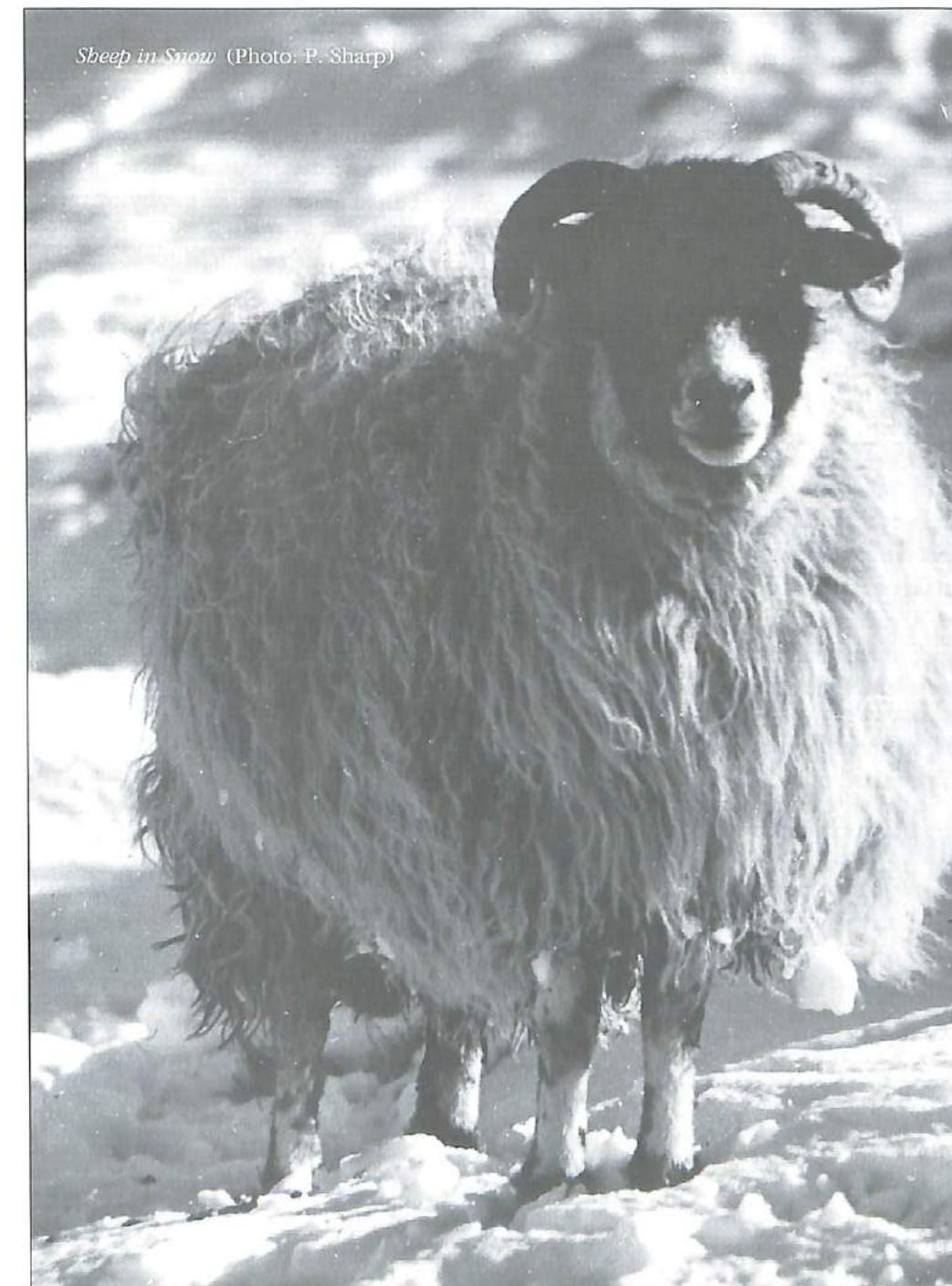
In Europe desertification and its implications had already been recognised by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification which was agreed in 1994. Yet even a country like Britain with a temperate, maritime climate and a relatively high rainfall can be at risk as Anne Samsom, Land Use Project Officer, of the Environment Agency, North East Region, demonstrates.

The process of desertification has occurred in many parts of the world, often with devastating

consequences to many different civilisations, leading even to the extinction of the peoples concerned. It is due to the denudation of the existing vegetation (through deforestation and /or overgrazing), followed by floods, soil erosion, drought and local climatic changes.

In many areas of the British Isles the existing vegetation is already becoming denuded, particularly in the west and upland areas. The main cause has been an almost four-fold increase in the

number of sheep since the 1940s. During the Second World War there were 12 million sheep in Britain, today there are 44 million. Ever since 1982 the population of this grazing animal has increased by an average of 34% across the country as a whole, and in some areas increases of up to 79% have been suggested. The increase has been fuelled by Common Agricultural Policy payments to support the incomes of upland farmers so that they can continue to look after these important areas of our national heritage. Headage payments of between £30-£40 per ewe, on top of the market value, ensure that there is no incentive for farmers to reduce the size of their flocks. The resulting severe over-grazing has led to the denudation of many of our uplands and to all sorts of other problems, including soil erosion, riverbank erosion (according to the National Rivers Authority, 1995), loss of habitat and diversity, damage to fisheries, possible changes in hydrology, and the socio-economic costs of



dealing with these and a chain of associated problems.

But how can this process of denudation lead to desertification in the British Isles? Reduced rainfall does have serious implications for certain types of vegetation, particularly if it is already stressed through overgrazing. But can the loss of this vegetation itself trigger a local change in the climate (i.e. reduced rainfall), particularly over the summer months? There is increasing evidence to suggest that summers are becoming dryer and winters wetter, particularly in northern Britain. In Yorkshire the 40% increase in the numbers of sheep over the last fifteen years has led to a serious reduction in the biomass of vegetation over the uplands of the Yorkshire Dales. The heather cover has been seriously damaged and over large areas, the combined root and shoot length of grasslands has been reduced to about three or four centimetres. Rabbits have exacerbated the tightness of this sward, apparently thriving in the droughted conditions. Reducing the average length of a grass sward leads to a corresponding reduction in rooting depth, the plants no longer dig deep for moisture and become even more prone to drought.

Drought also hits the grasslands harder when they are constantly grazed. Many people with lawns will have recognised how regular cutting during a drought accelerates the drying out of the sward and quickly leads to browned off turf. The constant cutting or grazing not only keeps the grass short *unnecessarily*, but it also stresses the plants which lose water through cut leaves while they are desperately trying to reduce water loss by closing their leaf spores. This additional stress means that with little or no rainfall, swards become drought stricken. The result is large areas of parched landscape, no longer green, but brown. Dry, browned off land absorbs radiant heat from the sun more readily than lush hillsides, stressing the plants still further and helping to accelerate weathering processes. The locally hot, dry climate that results from these drought conditions may also contribute to a reduction in moisture recycling.

The effects of increases in temperature and atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ have been calculated for the second half of this century, and J.G. Lockwood in his article in *Weather*, Vol. 50, No 8, has concluded that there has probably been a net reduction in evaporation from plants of between 2 and 4% for temperate zone grasses. He believes this is already enough to influence the weather and although Britain is too small for this effect to be very pronounced, dry soils and suppressed evaporation in recent summers have probably helped to keep summer rainfall below normal.

Just as certain parts of the world exist on a climatic knife edge, so ecological communities may be poised between survival and disaster. In the Dales the problems of general habitat degradation through overgrazing are severe, but not yet irreversible. Travel further west into higher rainfall areas and the problem worsens significantly. In the Lake District the denudation process has in some areas reduced upland turf (formerly heather and bilberry) to bare soil and scree, ripe for weathering and erosion. In parts of Ireland the situation is beyond repair, for the soil (formerly protected by vegetation) has been washed away from whole hillsides and catchments, devastating the fragile upland ecosystem in general and the fisheries in particular. The hillsides, after taking thousands of years to sustain vegetation and accumulate soils, have been reduced to bare rock, which no doubt has its own implications for the local climate, water resources and sheep farming. A fisheries consultancy APEM Ltd, has described the situation on the headwaters of the River Boyne as "quite frankly devastated beyond recognition." Parts of the 'emerald isle' are being turned into a moonscape - overgrazing caused by sheep is the problem. Not only is the EC paying for sheep subsidies, but it has also provided £14 M to the Central Fisheries Board in Ireland, towards river restoration schemes.

Regardless of whether overgrazing is linked to flooding or local climate change, the damage being caused to our environment is enormous. It will take only another few years for the extreme problems described in Ireland to begin to affect the uplands in this country. Positive action needs to be taken and taken soon. The policy makers must change CAP's Sheep Annual Premium Scheme into an environmental land-management subsidy instead. The main problem has already been identified, the remedy is simple and the restoration process would be rapid if nature were allowed to take its course. To delay while scientific research is carried out would be like treating a starving man by investigating exactly how he is starving to death instead of feeding him as soon as possible and returning him to health. If we choose the former course of action, it is likely that we really will have deserts on our doorstep.

Anne Sansom

*Land Use Project Officer, Environment Agency,
North East Region.*

Editors: This article has been slightly shortened from the original and does not necessarily represent the views of the Environment Agency.

Book Review

A TASTE OF LEEDS by Peter Brears, published by Breedon Books Publishing Company, Breedon House, 44 Friargate, Derby, DE1 1DA, at £7.95 and generally available. ISBN 1 85983 140 0.

Much has been written about the wholesomeness of country food, but Peter Brears, a former curator of Leeds Industrial Museum and expert on historical culinary matters proves that Britain's urban cooking traditions are at least as fascinating and incredibly diverse. Quantities of food were still locally grown round Leeds up to the first decades of the nineteenth century by market gardeners, arable and dairy farmers, while herb gardens provided for both home medicines and flavourings.

Commercially grown rhubarb in the famous "Rhubarb Triangle" between Leeds, Wakefield and Morley made Leeds famous throughout Europe for its early rhubarb which picked the night before by candle-light, was despatched to London by rail round the turn of the century, with between 60-160 tons of the fruit ready for Covent Garden's wholesale market the following morning.

Less well-known was the Leeds Dripping Riot of 1856 which took place after a cook's employer claimed that she had stolen his dripping and as a magistrate had her thrown into Armley jail for a month. Since dripping was normally regarded as the perquisite of the cook who could either give it away or sell it, the public were outraged and took to the streets, hurling missiles to such an extent that extra police and troops had to be called in to quell the riot.

There is much to interest and inform from the historical and sociological perspective: the plain food of the handloom weavers and industrial poverty contrasting with Georgian and Victorian prosperity. We can only admire the inventiveness and organisational flair and expertise of those who were in charge of those large-scale banquets though we may deprecate the conspicuous

consumption. Read or browse through the wealth of recipes which have been adapted for our own times: the book's large-scale format and numerous illustrations makes this a most enjoyable and appetising read. It is illuminated by Peter Brears breadth of experience, interest and enthusiasm. He is also an expert in his own right at recreating some of those mouth-watering menus he describes and cooking them in the palatial settings of some of our most famous stately homes.

Fleur Speakman

Illustration shows the Leeds Shambles which stood in the centre of Briggate until 1826.



Eds. Peter Brears will be lecturing to the YDS on Traditional Yorkshire Food on Saturday November 11th, 2000.

Apostle Stones, Ilkley Moor

31st December 1999

Valleys re-echo traffic's incessant roar. Above walls only an ache of wind over heather, washed grass. By the path a circle of angled stones, rain worn, souls metamorphosed to grit, wordless.

Old before saints were weaned, clock men command their ancient eminence, mark the turn yet of another millennium. Below, ephemeral, lives briefly burn.

send shadows over quivering pools, transient, then, voices bereft of breath, cease. The stones stand enigmatic, silent, enclosing whose wisdom within their space?

Gather, blood-warmed, hands hold, dance in ring, dance, moon-drunk, till the rock men sing.

Colin Speakman

A Youthful Perspective on the Dales

We invited Year 8, (12-13 year olds) from Ilkley Middle School to give their views on the threats facing the Yorkshire Dales. YDS material was made available to the school and discussions took place. The School takes the Yorkshire Dales Review on a regular basis and was enthusiastic. The editors would like to offer particular thanks to English teacher Helen Davies who guided the project and headmaster Richard Jennings. We looked for a well-



constructed piece suitable for the Spring issue of the Yorkshire Dales Review which showed evidence of handling ideas and concepts and used an appropriate vocabulary. Our last six YDS sweatshirts were offered for the most thoughtful pieces plus a Certificate for the winner.

Lydia Eustace, our eventual winner, comments tellingly on grid-locked roads and noise pollution from a large group of bikers. "I felt the area had been abused." Joe Millar originally from Newcastle, describes the landscape "hemmed by dry stone walls, stretching as far as the eye could see," and suggests a more child-friendly magazine! Josh Mitchell shows particular concern that residents of some small towns and villages, "are being overwhelmed by the vast numbers of visitors to the Dales" suggesting building visitor attractions away from the Dales. James Davison, a member of the RSPB, states, "It is a growing concern that there isn't a range of birds in the Yorkshire Dales", and believes that tourism expansion could threaten birds' habitats. Laura Beardsmore mentions the car-owning households who come to the Dales needing more roads which results in more "landscape being cut down and destroyed" though

buses are being introduced, "to take people to the places they would have gone to in cars." Ellie Jackson points out that, "Once the Dales had extensive woodlands in which you could find wildlife and wild flowers," but now only a fraction of the woodlands remains." Several mention that though they don't appreciate the Yorkshire Dales at the moment, that doesn't mean they want it to disappear for ever.

Fleur Speakman

THE BEAUTY OF THE DALES

I moved to Yorkshire six years ago from Devon, a place, that I thought was the most beautiful in England. I have now come to appreciate the rugged beauty of Yorkshire, especially the Dales. In particular, I have grown to appreciate the care with which those who live in the Dales preserve its natural splendour. For example, the stone walls, which are typical of the area give the landscape an aesthetic quality found in few other places. I am now a convert to the Yorkshire Dales and always look forward to my visits.



and protect the Dales in its present form.

As someone who lives a short distance from the A65 in Ilkley, a major route to the Dales, I know how much traffic leads out to the Dales at weekends and during the summer holidays. Often the road is jammed on Sundays until noon. Thousands queue to abandon the towns and cities and experience the beauty of the Dales.

How sad I was, when on a recent visit to the Strid, to find the problems of the town transferred

to my treasured Dales. The roads were gridlocked and parking was impossible. The noise of a large group of bikers was threatening and, upsettingly, litter was rife. I felt that the area had been abused.

I know the area is attractive and should remain

open to the public, but something does need to be done to keep it this way. I don't know what, but I would like to try and help, and I am sure many other children and adults would too.

Lydia Eustace (aged 12)

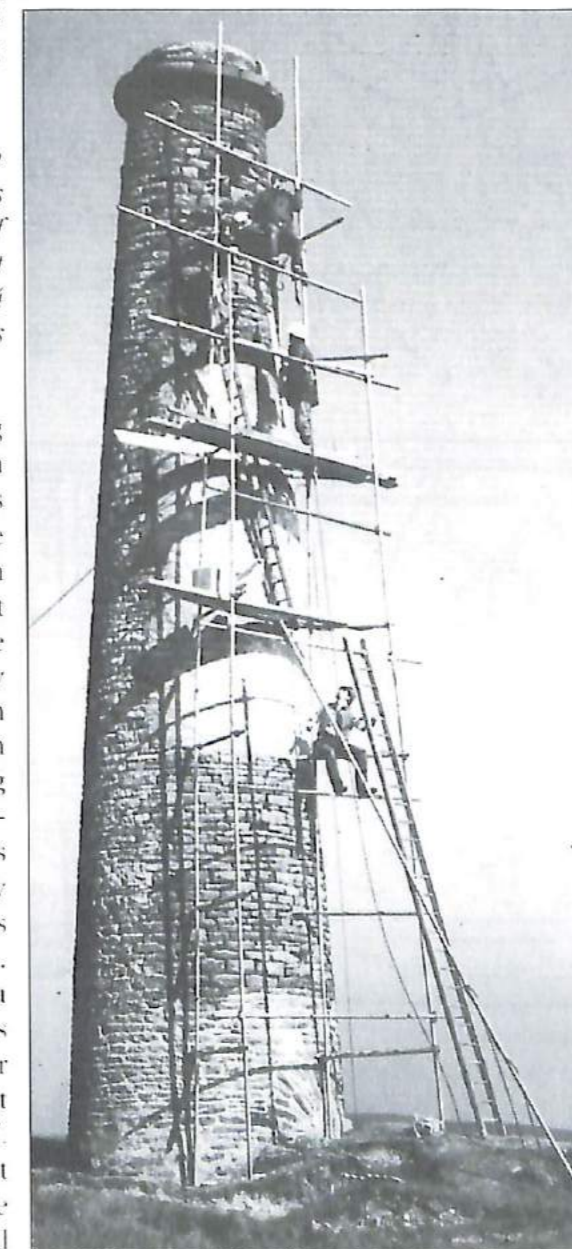
The Raistrick Appeal and some early Childhood Memories

The Yorkshire Dales Society is delighted to report that Arthur Raistrick Appeal for the Commemorative Bench, designed by sculptor Peter Hibbard, (see designs pages 8 - 9) has reached just over £2100 thanks to the generosity of our anonymous donor, many YDS members and even some non members. We have every hope to meet our target of £2,500 in the next few months and will publish details in due course as to when and where the bench can be viewed when completed.

YDS member John Harrison who lives in Edinburgh has sent us a personal memory of Arthur Raistrick whom he met when he was eleven in 1944 and who was to influence his later interests.

My father and I were walking in the Grassington area when it was noticed that a barn was being roofed at Linton. We went across to it by a path which I seem to recall for part of its way followed the Wharfe. A man was busy setting thick stone tiles in place on a wooden framework that to my young eyes seemed very substantial - watching modern houses being built suggests by contrast that the roof frames are made of matchsticks. Whether as an excuse for a rest or because he saw us watching him, the labourer came down his ladder to meet us. He introduced himself. The name of course meant nothing to me then. Of the conversation that followed

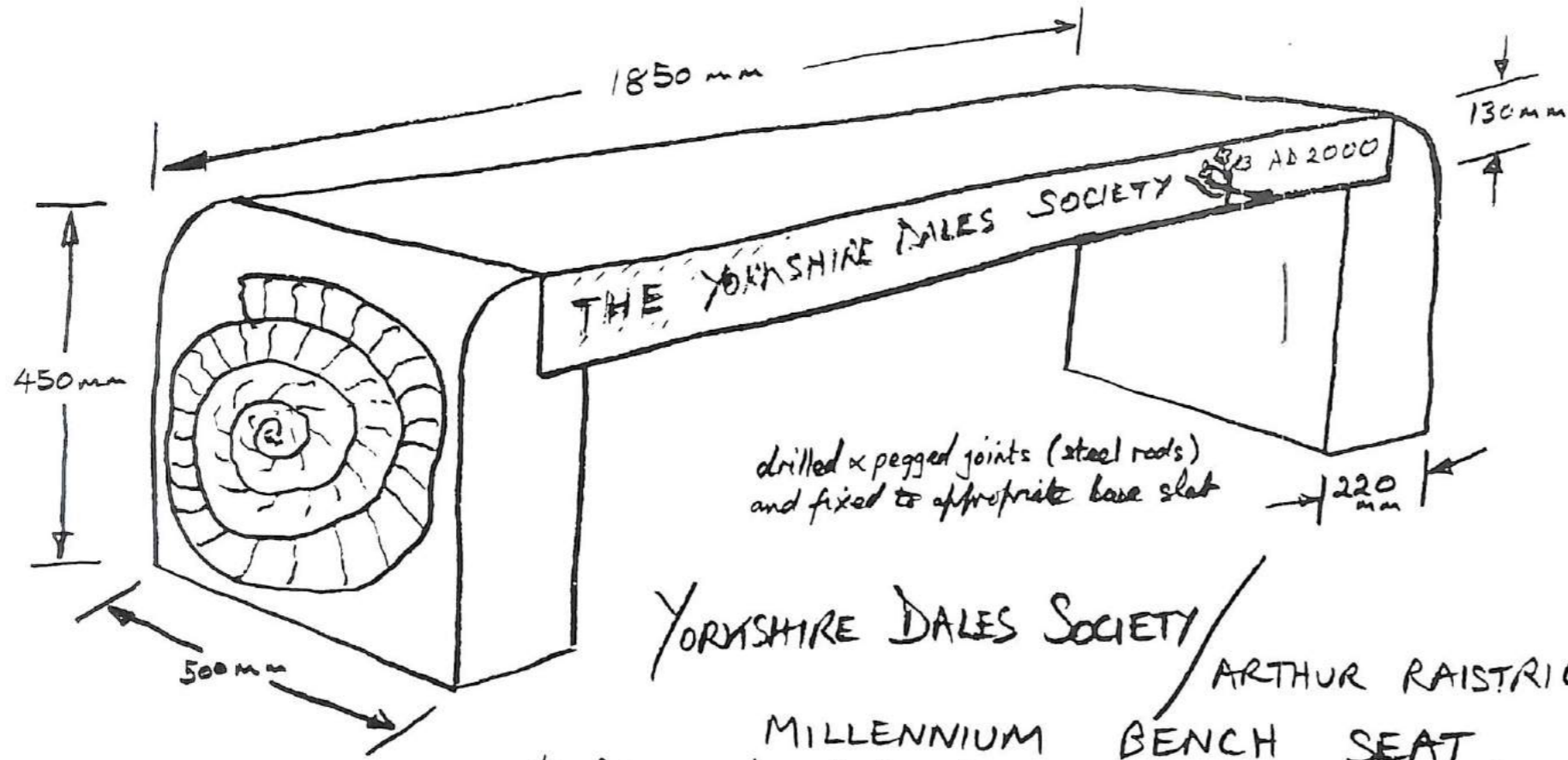
between him and my father, I recall nothing except that Arthur Raistrick said that when tiling was completed, there would be several tons of stone supported by the crucks and beams. In retrospect it is some measure of the man to say that years later my father had occasion to write to him and in his reply Arthur Raistrick said he recalled our meeting and conversation.



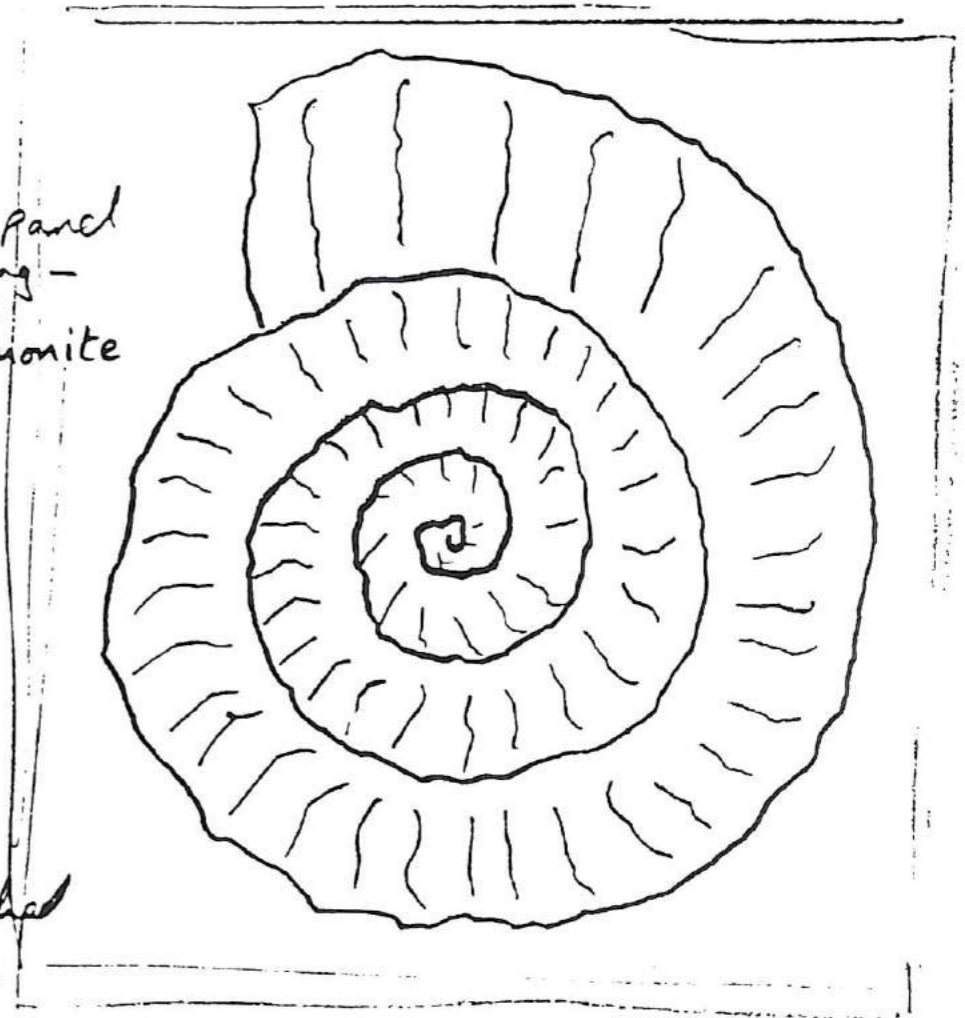
A few days later my father gave me a book, *Teach Yourself Geology* by Arthur Raistrick, and the date inside is April 1944. This was the start of a life-long interest in landscapes, an enthusiasm that has no great claim to professional expertise or scholarship, but which has enabled me to look at landscapes appreciatively. As a geologist he showed how present landscape-forming processes are the keys to understanding past events, and as an engineer he showed how past technological capacities are keys to understanding present cultural landscapes. His articles on human occupation of the area since earliest times and on place-names and early maps contain a wealth of fascinating details.

Grassington Moor smelt-mill chimney being repaired by members of the Farby Mines Research Group, June 1971 - an Arthur Raistrick project

Sculpture Designs for Raistrick Commemorative Bench

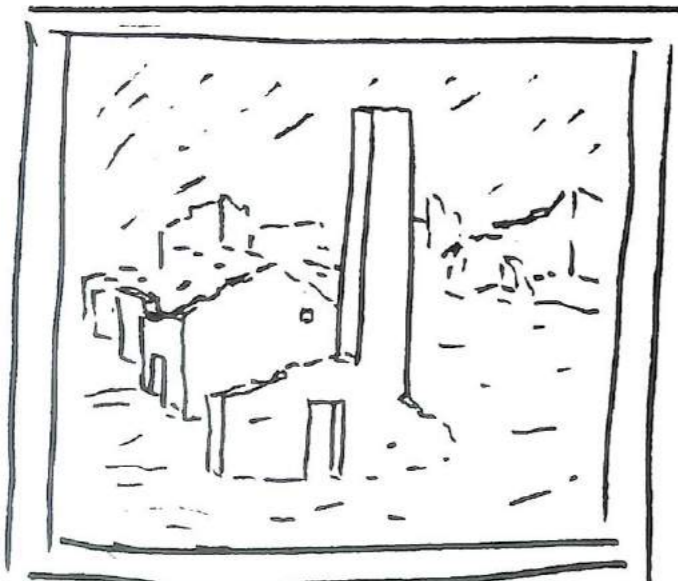


end panel carving - fossil ammonite

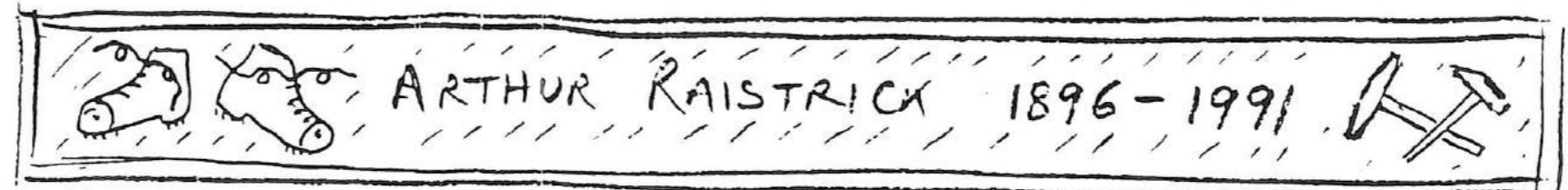


YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY / ARTHUR RAISTRICK

MILLENNIUM BENCH SEAT
 to be constructed and carved from 3 slabs of punch finished Dales Gritstone from the quarry which was the source of stone for building ~~Jervaulx~~ Abbey in Wensleydale.



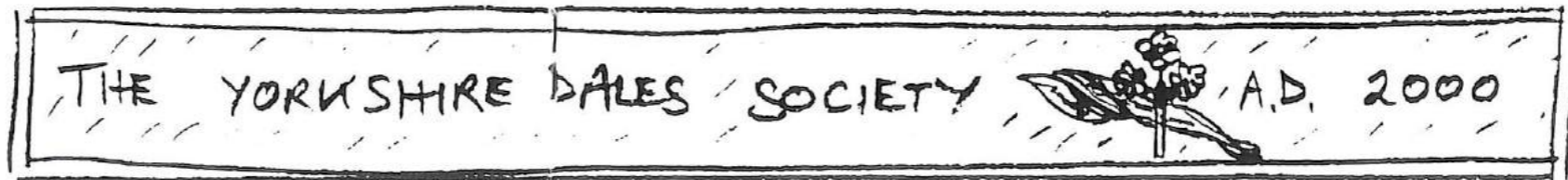
end panel carving to represent Old Gang lead smelting complex in Swaledale



old walking boots

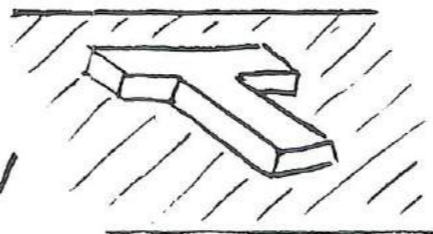
geology hammers

Layout of two edge panels



society logo

RAISED lettering with cross hatched carved background



Sketch designs (2) by Peter Hibbard
 OLD SCHOOL ARTS WORKSHOP, MIDDLEHAM.

Putting it on the Record: Marske in Swaledale

David Morgan Rees, a past YDS vice-Chairman and author of Yorkshire Dales Country Craftsmen, has produced a photographic record of a little known Dales village.

Writing about and photographing a favourite spot in the Dales for a book is a balancing act. On the one hand you feel you are disclosing a secret, perhaps opening it up to publicity, yet on the other hand you want to capture and record the essence of the place which has given you so much pleasure - for others to enjoy.

I have spent a considerable part of the last twenty five years in Marske-in-Swaledale which I have come to regard as a very special village in the Yorkshire Dales. Tucked away off Swaledale and held in the palm of a small yet nameless dale amid the wild surrounding moors at the northern edge of the National Park, it is still a vibrant agricultural community lived in by families who earn their living from the land unlike so many other Dales villages which are full of holiday homes or retirement settlements. With an avenue of tall lime trees leading up to its elegant Hall and stable block, mainly built in the 18th century, together with its handsome stone-built farm-houses and cottages, it was once feudal land dating back originally to the eleventh century and then controlled as a family estate from 1596 until the mid-twentieth century. Without a pub, yet on the Coast-to-Coast walk, Marske has retained its traditional character and peace, not least because of



the pride and care of its people in cherishing and preserving what they value. Changes have come over recent years to Marske, but less obviously so than elsewhere in Swaledale.

Thanks to the way in which the small community

accepted me, although an 'off-cumden', I have joined in its many activities. But increasingly, in recent years, I began to feel a compelling need to preserve the life of the village in pictures at the end of the twentieth century as a permanent record and also as a way of giving back something to my adopted community. I learnt only recently that a past vicar of Marske attempted to do what I have done, building up during the fifties a remarkable collection of photographs of every aspect of village activity. Horrifyingly, when he died, his relatives burnt all the negatives and prints in their



possession and only a few examples now remain of his work. My own effort started out purely and simply as a photographic archive for the village at the Millennium and then, as I wrote more and more notes to accompany my photographs, it suddenly and logically developed into a book, which I felt could be seen by many more people than if it was just a cardboard box full of photographs and notes.

Marske village 'calendar' is impressively full and recording this has been an absorbing activity. Though life seems calm and simple on the surface, the reality is more complex. Much of the annual cycle is governed by farming necessity - breeding and rearing sheep and suckler cows, managing the dairy herd, making silage and hay, the agricultural shows at Reeth and Muker, taking stock to market, the grouse and pheasant shoots, the Autumn 'top' sales at Hawes. Village social life underlies and reinforces this pattern with quiet moments balancing times of hectic seasonal activity.

There are a number of old photographs still kept by families in the village which show that Marske

was an active community at the beginning of the last century. The faded sepia photographs show well-supported church events, fetes in the Hall grounds, carriage rides, picnics and sports days. But there are probably as many if not more major events in the village life today - the summer parish walk, the children's sports day, the August grouse or Autumn pheasant shoots, Harvest festivals in church and chapel, the Nativity play and carol service. Some of the liveliest events are held in the village hall, located in the stable block behind the Hall, including the domino and whist drives, and the high teas which follow the annual parish walk as well as the excellent Harvest and Christmas parties. The catering by the local ladies is renowned far and wide. Recently over 80 people attended a domino drive and ate everything on offer, even the cakes for the raffle! Not least, there are regular meetings in the Village Hall of the Marske WI. These, of course are common to many another Yorkshire Dales Village, but because I am so attached to the village and under its spell, they

somehow seem as special as the place itself. Though it is reassuring that Marske has such a strong heart-beat today, it is harder to guess, after all the deprivation suffered by hill-farming, what will happen in the future with changes to farming financial support and practices which may threaten its viability.

I hope that my book is as comprehensive and faithful as possible. Yet I still have the uneasy feeling that, by putting it all 'on the record', a public gaze is now focussed on the village. A kind of 'secret' is now out in the open. I only hope that I have not altered a delicate balance. One important fact eases that worry for me. The royalties from the book will go directly to Marske to help preserve and enhance the village.

David Morgan Rees

In the Palm of a Dale: a portrait of Marske-in-Swaledale, is published by Smith, Settle of Otley at £11.95 paperback, £14.95 hardback.

Wheelchair Access from Burnsall Bridge and Regeneration of Buckden Gill



As the Yorkshire Dales attracts more and more visitors annually, access for people of all abilities is an issue of paramount importance. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is committed, not to funding repairs to existing access routes in the Dales, but to projects which improve or enhance footpaths and access routes for the enjoyment of both tourists and locals alike.

One such improvement scheme came about as a direct result of a project undertaken by a young resident of Burnsall, Phil Stockdale. A wheelchair user, he was unable to get to the river in his own home village. This prompted him to undertake a college research project on footpaths in his area. Having carried out an assessment together with background research, he then approached the National Park with his findings and detailed suggestions as to which paths might be upgraded.

One of the busiest sections of the Dales Way long distance footpath runs alongside the River Wharfe through Burnsall. Although the gradients here are gentle, the path was completely inaccessible to wheelchairs or pushchairs due to the uneven nature of the paths. There were steps in places and several narrow gates but the main problem was severe erosion - partly caused by heavy visitor

pressure but largely by flood damage from the river. As always in these cases, the path had begun to widen as people avoided the worst sections, but in places they had little choice as the path was fenced against the river. National Park staff turned the original ideas into detailed specifications.

In the summer of 1998, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust helped to fund the first part of an estimated £45,000 scheme to upgrade a significant (1km) length of the Dales Way running north from Burnsall Bridge in the centre of the village. The first part was the most difficult and expensive - a low



Phil Stockdale on the riverside path at Burnsall. (Photo: SCAD)

143 metre section right by the river which suffered heavily from flood damage. Previous attempts to protect this with timber revetments and a stone surface path had been washed out within a couple of years. For this reason a mortared wall was built alongside the river and back-filled. The path was surfaced with a dark coloured concrete and both the idea of the project and standard of workmanship brought the Trust and National Park much praise and local publicity - not least from the Trust's own donors.

Two ramps were built on the step section, one allowing access to the start of the path by Burnsall Bridge. A very low and uneven section was concreted in a similar but smaller scale to the previous year's section. Two locally designed and made metal kissing gates replaced existing gates which did not allow for wheelchair access. Two resting places were created and wooden seats for these were donated. The Trust's Community Environment Officer was closely involved with this project. Site meetings were held and local and community and adjacent landowners expressed strong support.

Tree planting and interpretation boards are currently being organised at the end of the trail by the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Members of SCAD (Skipton Craven Action for Disability) have been taking photographs of work in progress and their work will be incorporated in the interpretation boards. The total cost was £40,000, 50% funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, £8,500 5b monies, £6,500 by the Environment Agency and £5,000 by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Regeneration

As well as the improvement of access routes for all abilities, the Trust is involved with a number of regeneration schemes, one of which was to enhance the nature conservation and landscape interest of 12 hectares of Buckden Gill.

Buckden Gill cuts down through the daleside above the village in Upper Wharfedale, exposing the dramatic limestone geology. An SSSI, the gill has a rich, calcareous flora with areas of limestone grassland, limestone flushes, ledges and broadleaf woodland containing a number of nationally-scarce species. The project area is on a popular walking route from Wharfedale to Buckden Pike.

The limestone grasslands were short-grazed but harboured many rare species which were being prevented from flowering, such as the blue-

moorgrass and limestone bedstraw, with autumn gentian, wild thyme and common rockrose. The wetter, flushed areas support populations of the nationally scarce bird's-eye primrose as well as long-stalked yellow-sedge and butterwort. Limestone ledges have a particularly rich flora, including marjoram, golden rod, small scabious and burnet saxifrage.

The ash/wych elm woodland on the north side of the gill was heavily grazed with little woodland flora surviving and no recent tree regeneration.

The principal objectives of the project were: - to increase the abundance, flowering and diversity of the limestone plants, to regenerate the area of gillside woodland by promoting the growth of scattered trees and shrubs and to enhance the landscape character of the dale both through



The Daleway at Burnsall after improvements. (Photo: SCAD)

wildlife enhancements and rebuilding of prominent and highly valued existing drystone walls.

New stockproof and rabbit proof fencing was erected and rabbit drop traps installed. Levels of stock grazing was then restricted and the rabbit numbers controlled, with the aim of increasing the abundance and diversity of the limestone plants and promoting the growth of scattered trees and shrubs.

The project, in association with a Countryside Stewardship Scheme application on adjoining land, and a Wildlife Enhancement Scheme agreement on the gill itself, has had significant landscape and nature conservation benefits. The total cost was £18,000, funded 50% by the Trust and 25% by English Nature and the National Trust respectively.

The Trust is carrying out similar regeneration and access improvements throughout the Dales and is organising a programme of walking events and holidays to enable the public to see the work of the Trust first hand.

Hilary Gray

Daleswatch Report

1. Sustainability and Biodiversity in the Yorkshire Dales.

The January meeting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority saw important business passing through Committee without dissent and with relatively little discussion. The Committee is not renowned for eschewing lengthy debate where this might serve a useful purpose (even - on occasions - where it might not!) so it might be taken that the level of agreement around the table had reached an unwontedly high level on the subjects under consideration. And it is good that this was so - for the business being considered included some of the very subjects that our National Parks were designated to tend and conserve for the benefit of future generations.

The first of these papers contained the Authority's plans for supporting sustainable economic and community development. Basically, this follows from provisions in the 1995 Environment Act that lay down a duty on Park Authorities to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of their local communities. From the wording this is clearly a limited remit, and the National Park is not intended to be a lead Authority for economic and community development, a duty remaining with the local District and County Councils. Briefly this draft strategy is aimed at assisting in the development of vibrant and sustainable communities within the Dales, and of giving support, where appropriate, to community and economic development - whilst having regard to traditional land management practices and the principles of sustainability.

Next came the Biodiversity Action Plan - a summary of requirements needed to ensure that the future of the Dales is genuinely sustainable in the sense laid down at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. The intention of the Plan (set out under separate subheadings of the document) is to introduce the concept of Local Biodiversity Action Plans, to provide a mechanism for implementing the visions for nature conservation set out by English Nature in its publications on Natural Area Profiles, and to contribute to the delivery of sustainable development targets within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Plan also looks to the longer-term future under the headings of Agricultural Practice; Grouse Moor Management; Agri-environment and Conservation

Management; Access and Recreation; Community Involvement; and Policy and Planning. Costs of implementation will not be negligible and, in large part, be in the form of payments to land managers and met by grants from a wide number of bodies, including private landowners and individuals. There is a long string of actions and targets to be carried out and met, whilst the identification list of conservation priorities includes 40 habitat or land use types divided into four orders of priority.

Implementation will be co-ordinated by the National Park Authority and steered by the Biodiversity Forum - the latter involving input from some 40 bodies, including voluntary organisations, Government Agencies, local authorities and the police - whilst the attendant Action Plan looks to raising awareness of biodiversity, and at involving visitors and local communities in conserving the natural heritage. It is a massive project, and I haven't even mentioned the proposed European funded Limestone Country Project that was supported at the same meeting. It is an exciting time for the conservation lobby in the Yorkshire Dales.

2. Goodbye.

I discovered and fell in love with the Yorkshire Dales as a little boy on a bike in those wonderful days just after the war when there were no cars on the road, footballers got £10 a week and more or less everyone seemed happy. Fate took me away and I spent far too many years in a variety of improbable places - including fourteen or so in darkest Surrey - but was fortunate enough to be able to escape to live on the fringe of what was by then a National Park from the mid 1980s onward.

Then, some eight years ago, I received a letter from the Environment Minister Tony Baldry inviting me to "...accept appointment by the Secretary of State as a member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee...". Of course I did know I had been nominated for such a position - and even had been interviewed at my home by a Countryside Commissioner (they do things differently these days!) - but had not taken the prospect seriously. It took a moment to sink in but, when it did - hardened old stager that I was - my first reaction was to burst into tears of sheer joy at the prospect!

Of course, the Committee then belonged to North Yorkshire and used to meet at County Hall, Northallerton. Indeed it became my intention on

first joining the Committee to fight to get the meeting venues changed to within the Park – but, to my delight, the decision to do so came about almost immediately and I have been indeed fortunate to have spent a significant portion of the succeeding years actually within the National Park doing National Park business – and I will always be grateful for that opportunity.

During that time there have been some ups and downs and – it must be said – the camaraderie that existed within the Committee during my first few years has decreased (not, I hope, due to my influence!) but I will always regard my term of office as having been a very positive and – despite some disappointments – enjoyable experience. Perhaps the biggest down was the “loss” of Askrigg to Holiday Property Bond – who have taken over rather too much of the village for holiday residences and accoutrements when too many Committee Members failed to see the threat of one application “piggybacking” on top of another.

Whilst – having fought hard for eight years to get much improved, properly integrated, convenient and affordable public transport serving the National Park – undoubtedly the biggest “win” was the arrival of the train from London (Kings Cross) at Swinden just before Christmas. A true harbinger of a re-instated passenger service from Skipton (and, hence, the whole of the national railway network) through, eventually, to Threshfield. It WILL happen. It is hard to be leaving, but it was a wonderful and completely unexpected privilege to have had the opportunity to serve that part of our little world that is closest to my heart. Whilst - linked to my Committee service - the Yorkshire Dales Society pressed me into action as a scribe to keep readers of the Yorkshire Dales Review attuned to what was going on in the Park. Obviously that must now end, so I will bid readers adieu – at least it will mean that I don't have to worry about what to write for the next edition!

Jim Burton



Birds Eye Primrose
(Photo: Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust)

Administrative Matters

IF YOU NORMALLY PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IN QUARTER TWO - that is between April and June, either by Direct Debit, Banker's Order or by Cash, you should receive a copy of our new cream administration form. This gives you information as to your payment method, whether you have a covenant or not and if you are a company member. **Please tear off your membership card or cards and keep,** and only send to us the relevant left handside of the form **if you pay by cash** so we can identify your membership. Members who pay in other quarters will be sent the usual reminders if necessary.

Bookmarks and Badges

Send for our elegant and attractive new YDS leather badge, larger than the old one, with the pink flowered and green leaved *primula farinosa* (the bird's eye primrose) on a black ground, the words Yorkshire Dales Society are in gold, at £2 per badge post free.

New also are matching YDS bookmarks at £1.50 each or £4 for 3 on a black, dark green or maroon ground, post free. Cheques should be made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society and sent to The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD.

For news and events update see the new Yorkshire Dales Society Website - www.yorkshiredalesociety.org.uk

Spring Events



Enjoy a mini-weekend in Wensleydale Saturday May 13th to Sunday May 14th when attending our AGM at the newly rebuilt West Burton Village Hall, with an evening lecture and film from renowned cover and film-maker, Sid Perou, entitled "25 Years of Filming and Exploration at Gaping Gill" plus a choice of events in Malhamdale in June.

SATURDAY APRIL 8TH - SHEILA MARKS MEMORIAL WALK TO 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.

The Walk will include Cam Pasture up Top Mere Road (uphill walk) then via Starbotton (pub lunch or packed lunch) and back along the the river - 6 miles. Meet Kettlewell Village car park at 10.30am. Bus service 74 from Ilkley Station 0845, Grassington, 0940, (Skipton 0800 change at Grassington). Bus returns from Kettlewell at 1523.

SUNDAY APRIL 9TH DALESBUS TO UPPER WHARFEDALE, AYSGARTH FALLS AND HAWES. Bus service sponsored by the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group. Leader Alan Sutcliffe: tel: 01943 607627. Catch the special Spring Dalesbus 800 which leaves Bradford Int. 0855, Leeds Bus Station 0930, Ilkley Brook Street 1010 and Grassington car park 1105, for a moderate 5/6 mile circular walk. Alight Buckden 11.35am via the Fairy Glen to Cray, where a pub lunch is available at the White Lion, or bring packed lunch. Return via Hubberholme to Buckden for 15.57 bus home.

SUNDAY MAY 7TH WEST RIDING RAMBLERS' PROTEST WALK FOR GREEN LANES, MALHAM. Walk organised because of concerns about damage by 4 wheel drives and motor cycles to green lanes. Meet at 10am at Grid Ref. 894 668 on the road near Malham Tarn. Distance 10 miles. Route - Arncliffe Cote, Arncliffe and Monks Road. Leader Howard Medlock. Packed lunch.

SATURDAY MAY 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT WEST BURTON VILLAGE HALL, 2pm. The AGM will be followed by tea and biscuits. **CHRIS ARMITAGE, REGIONAL OFFICER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY FOR LEEDS AND THE HUMBER** will speak on "The Countryside Agency - a New Agenda for a new Century" at about 3.15pm.

We are delighted to welcome **SID PEROU** on Saturday evening who will present his film "25 Years of Filming and Exploration at Gaping Gill" at 7.30pm. Tickets £3 each, available from the YDS office with sae, from The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD. Cheques payable to the Yorkshire Dales Society. Some tickets available at the door.

SUNDAY MAY 14TH WALK IN THE WEST BURTON AREA. Leader Chris Hartley, tel 01943 873197. Meet 10.30am outside West Burton Village Hall for a 6-7 mile circular walk to the Knights Templars Preceptory and return to West Burton approx. 2.30/3pm. Bring packed lunch.

SATURDAY JUNE 3RD VISIT TO MALHAM TARN FIELD CENTRE AND TARN MOSS NNR. Please try to share cars as parking at the Field Centre is limited. Arrive for 1030am for tour of Malham Tarn House (National Trust property not normally open to the general public) and the newly refurbished High Stables building. Lunch approx 12.30pm. Please bring packed lunch.

Afternoon Guided walk round Malham Tarn Moss NNR & Ramsar site, starts approx 1-1.15pm with possible diversion onto High Folds limestone pavement depending on time and weather. Finish approx. 3.30-4pm. Please bring wet weather gear, even in June Malham Tarn can be an exposed place.

SATURDAY JUNE 24TH VISIT TO NEWHOUSE FARM FLOWER FIELDS, NATIONAL TRUST, MALHAM. Please share cars as parking is very limited. Park and meet at Lea Gate Farm by permission of the owners for 10.45am. The tour will start promptly at 11am and will take about 2 hours. Please bring a packed lunch. There will be a circular walk in the area after the lunch stop. Leader Dennis Cairns, tel: 01282 812956, walk finishes about 4pm. **Please book your place at £1 per head, maximum number 25, as soon as possible,** and send your fee with your details to The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD, by May 19th.

SATURDAY JULY 22ND WALK IN THE SEDBERGH HOWGILLS AREA. Please meet at Loftus Hill free car park, Sedbergh at 11am for a 5/6 mile with climb to one of nearer Howgills and lower level riverside return walk. Please bring a packed lunch. Walk finishes about 4pm. Leader Malcolm Petyt, tel: 015396 21574. Public transport details to follow.



Front Cover picture: *Langthwaite Church, Arkengarthdale*,
(Photo: Duncan Ward).

Back Cover Drawing: *A Yorkshire Christmas Pie*, made to the Harewood recipe, in the Harewood mould, contained a chicken wrapped inside a goose, and a variety of game, all packed in a rich forcemeat within an elaborately moulded piecrust. See "A Taste of Leeds" by Peter Brears, reviewed on page 5.

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

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

The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Membership Subscription Rates

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

Change to Direct Debit if you haven't already done so; write or call the YDS office. You may still keep your Banker's Order subscription if you wish. Your reminder now contains your membership card and details of your membership. Please return the relevant tear-off slip with your cash payments to the YDS office.

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