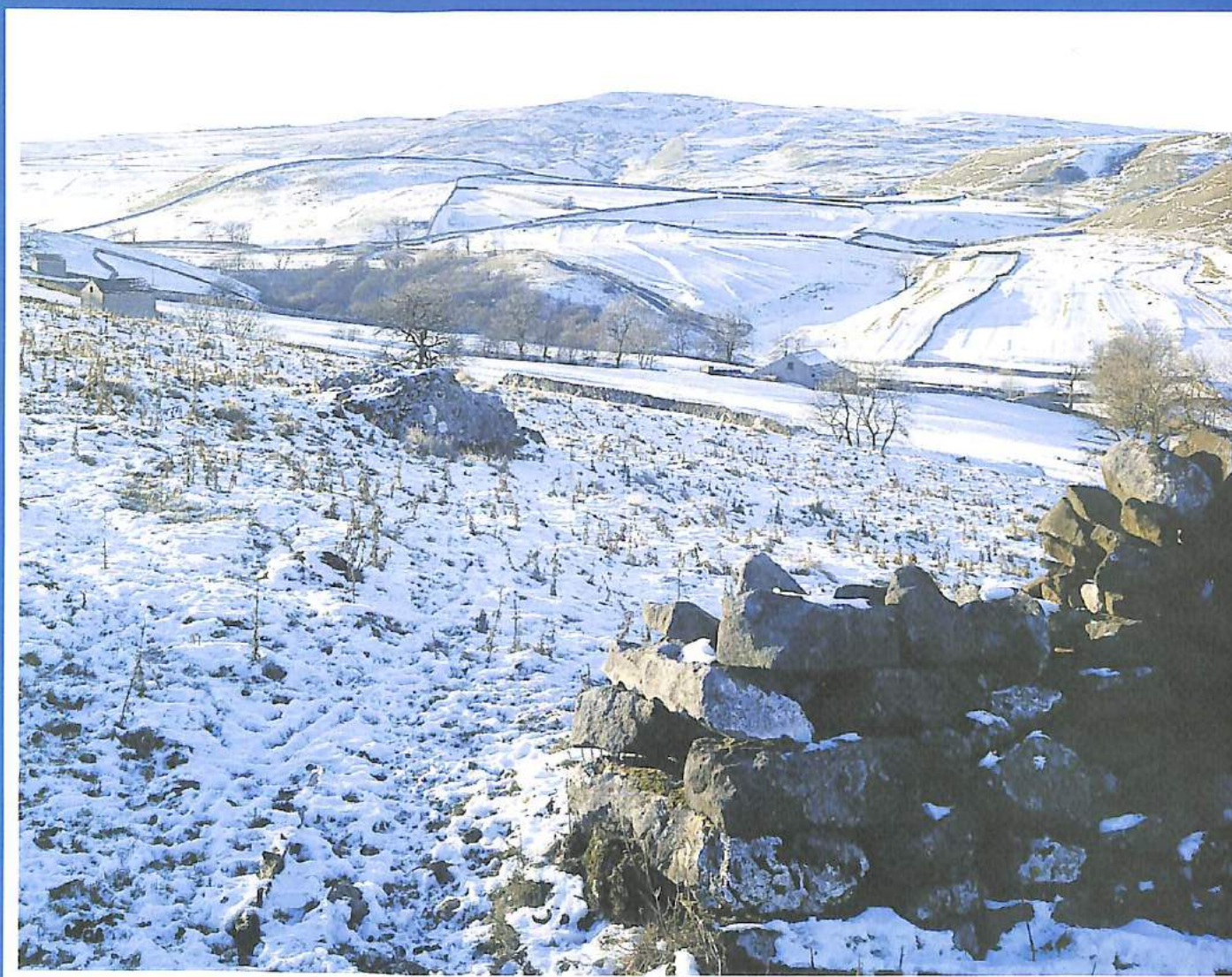


Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 73 Winter 2001



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Two Cheers for the White Paper

The Government's long awaited Rural White Paper **A Fair Deal for Rural England** has predictably enjoyed a mixed reception, from those who have dismissed it as yet more Ministerial spin and hype to those who have given it a warm, if guarded welcome. Even the Countryside Alliance, not normally a supporter of the Government, has confessed itself satisfied by many of the proposals in the document, though the proposed Countryside March on 16th will take place in London as planned.

Of course there is spin and hype, but that's only to be expected from any Government document nowadays. More interesting is the fact that this document clearly recognises, perhaps for the first time in any similar White Paper, the complex inter-relationships that exist between rural and urban communities, and the need for real investment in the countryside, whether for agri-environmental schemes to help farmers diversify by protecting the environment (money for such schemes will double), or for farm business schemes through a new £152 million Rural Enterprise Scheme and help for small and medium sized rural abattoirs to boost local food production. There will also be Community Charge relief for rural pubs and garages, extra help for rural housing, police services, and village schools and a special £15 million fund for rural communities to help restore services that have been lost. Very welcome is the suggestion that local authorities will be allowed to charge full Council Tax on second homes, the money collected used to meet local housing needs. The rural transport sections almost mirror the leader in the last YDS Review with a hefty 45% increase in support for rural buses and new cash for Rural Transport Partnerships, rural taxis and minibus schemes with Parish Councils being given up to £10,000 for their own local projects. At the same time there is a clear commitment to protect the countryside and to allow people better access through the new Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

It's by far the most comprehensive document about the problems and needs of the countryside that has been produced by any Government in

recent years, and it strongly reflects the guiding hand of the Countryside Agency, the Government's independent advisory body.

So where's the catch? It's always easy to suggest that the White Paper is so many words, so much hot air, until things actually begin to happen on the ground. But things simply don't happen unless the right policies, which means the right words, backed by real resources, are also in place. Nor does anyone, including the Government's critics, imagine that it is all "up to Government" to deliver. As Andrew Humphries' excellent article in this Review suggests, helping rural farming communities is increasingly all about partnership, working with local authorities, parish councils, government agencies, local business, voluntary bodies such as ourselves, on many levels. Therein lies both the strength and weakness of the White Paper. What if the partners don't deliver? Suppose a local authority, such as a County Council, for whatever reason, decides it doesn't share the Government's priorities on rural shops, housing or buses? There needs to be a mechanism to allow local communities to both monitor and stimulate action. Perhaps the proposed Rural Services Standard will be such a mechanism to ensure that in areas like the Yorkshire Dales, too often marginalised in the past, local communities don't get second best treatment. This is one area where the Yorkshire Dales Society can and should work together with other organisations such as the Yorkshire Rural Community Council to ensure that goals and targets are met.

The Government emphasises that the White Paper is not a final statement but part of a process, a dialogue with rural communities. Of course the real proof will be the achievement, on the ground, in areas like the Yorkshire Dales, of the Government's vision of a "living, working, protected, vibrant" countryside. Setting out the agenda, though vitally necessary, is the easiest part. Making it happen will be the real challenge, not just for government, but for all of us. But there can be little doubt that the Rural White Paper is an important step in the right direction.

Colin Speakman

Farming in the Yorkshire Dales: An Anachronism or a Jewel in the Cultural Landscape?

This article by Andrew Humphries, former Dales farmer, Agricultural Adviser and current Chairman of Cumbria Rural Community Council, is based on his lecture of the same title which opened the Autumn Yorkshire Dales Society Lecture Series in October 2000. This major topic, and the ideas and concepts it brought out deserved an even wider audience. The second part of this article called 'Embracing a Strategic Approach for the Yorkshire Dales' will follow in the Spring issue of the YDS Review in April.

Many of the factors which will influence the landscapes of Upland England in future, are largely outside the control of farmers. Agriculture operates in an economy in which intervention and regulation have created the agenda to which farmers must necessarily respond. Those agendas increasingly challenge the survival of traditional Dales farming and animal husbandry.

Hill farming at one level may be about sheep keeping, but it is much more. Farming is a complex of economic, environmental, social and cultural

factors interacting within a framework which is political. So that the future of farming families within the Yorkshire Dales will be profoundly influenced by policies at National and EU levels and through agreements by the World Trade Organisation - all of which indicate movement towards reduced support for agricultural commodities and greater liberalisation of trade, according to the European Commission. There is an implication here that farming is valued less for its contribution to food production than as a basis for environmental and leisure interests.

Clearly the farming community recognises the tensions of tax payers, who perceive that they are paying for food commodities under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), yet seek benefits in the form of environmental enhancement, landscape and access. Moving support from commodities will happen, but great sensitivity will be required to avoid devaluing the traditional farming practices which underpin the landscape.

Supporting agriculture has for most of modern history been a low priority, and has only

Loading haybales on to an elevator for storage in a field barn, Scar House Farm, Swaledale. (Photo: Simon Warner)



commanded support when continuity of supply has been an issue. The post war period is the only significant example of sustained public investment in agriculture, yet perceptions of surplus and CAP spending fuel resistance to such support and erode empathy between producers and consumers. In the 1950s the real price of food accounted for around 30% of the household budget, now it typically consumes only around 10% of that budget. Even with the cost of the CAP, the cost of food for a family has fallen 50% in terms of household income and is among the lowest in Europe.

Upland farmers certainly recognise that their role must change to embrace a multifunctional purpose. However the importance of food production must not be lost, since farmers gain much of their fulfillment from animal husbandry. Yet the stewards of the Yorkshire Dales landscape find the pace of change is proving difficult to handle.

In 1995 the Net Farm Income of a small less favoured area farm, typical of the Dales was around £8k per annum. MAFF figures show that incomes on less favoured area farms fell between 1995/6 and 1997/8 by about a third. The years 1998-2000 will show an even more dramatic decline, about 50%. Many farms are of low viability and are drawing on capital to survive. Farms have moved from a weak to an unsustainable position. Increasing numbers of farms are becoming part-time. In the uplands around half of the units fail to meet the definition of a full-time business financially, although the farmers are physically under great pressure with labour of necessity cut to a minimum and frequently beyond.

Some Key Questions

The potential consequences for the landscape are clear, but key questions remain unanswered. What is the critical population necessary to maintain or restore the landscape? A fundamental question arises as to whether we have any real idea what the human resource needs are to maintain the landscape either in a National Park or even on an individual valley basis and how that relates to the local farming and associated population. Without such information how can the future of the landscape be addressed holistically? Will groups of workers be brought in to build walls, lay hedges, burn heather and undertake many other tasks? Will they be proficient in the local styles and methods?

What would that cost financially and in terms of the local community and culture? Do the annual support payments to the Dales farming community look value for money when related to the tourism income of several hundred millions of pounds which primarily benefits the non farming community, including businesses based outside the Park? The cost of farming is well documented but what is its actual value?

Do we have the right model and balance of inward investment to achieve sustainable rural communities? Do we realise that tourism spending estimated in hundreds of millions of pounds per annum is attracted consciously or unconsciously in a significant way by the human factor in the cultural landscape? These issues are a real cause for concern yet there are possibilities which offer opportunities for regeneration of the rural economy of which farming is the keystone.

Opportunities

Continuing reliance on primary production as the focus of farm income is unsustainable. Liberalisation of markets will restrict prices and output is constrained by the permanent handicaps of the Less Favoured Area and by policies. Adding additional streams of income are in the interest of farmers, and by taking pressure off primary production, offers real opportunities to benefit the biological environment and landscape. Adding value to primary produce, securing a more equitable share of tourism income, diversification and delivering environmental goods all need to be seen as integral to farming activities. Other rural development strategies may provide off the farm employment as part of the incomes of farming families and are equally relevant to the needs of household economies.

Such potential needs to be tapped through action. Local initiatives must be encouraged and supported by all interested parties. Agenda 2000 drawn up by the European Union includes reforms to change the CAP to a more integrated policy.

Of the four elements, the two which fund commodity support and transitional compensatory payments will decline in relative importance. The two areas of the proposed policy which will receive increasing funding in the longer term are the Rural Development Incentives (RDI) and the Environmental and Cultural Landscape Payments (ECLP).

Both are potentially important to the Dales if well supported by appropriate local and regional partnerships. These may need to include "arranged marriages" between interests, which perhaps have seen their approaches as different, but which in reality reflect common aims. No single interest group can or should attempt to go it alone. Partnership is the only option if real progress is to be made to develop sustainable farming communities in a sustainable environment. A unique opportunity is emerging through the establishment of the Regional Development Agencies to clearly demonstrate a vision which recognises the importance of the uplands to rural and urban interests alike.

Environmental and Cultural Landscape payments link to modern concepts of sustainability and imply

that credit should be given for environmental goods including landscape as a significant addition to the narrower value created by primary production. However the concept of landscape as environmental goods to be rewarded presents particular challenges and requires innovative policy and practice. Evaluation of the cultural landscape involves the interpretation of aesthetic qualities and



Young Bullocks at Bolton Castle, Wensleydale. (Photo: John Edenbrow)

values which by their nature are perceived in a variety of ways. How do we define, assess and record such landscapes and how objective are we?

The Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme (ESA), compensates the farmers who agree a ten-year plan to farm in an environmentally friendly fashion. The criteria for entry are mainly based on vegetation assessments and habitats. Landscape is included as a secondary consideration and help is given with vernacular features including walls. However, an applicant cannot gain entry primarily on landscape grounds although the primary objective of the National Park is care and enhancement of the landscape. However a significant number of farmers have ESA management agreements. The ESA being an example of good practice on which to build and refine under Agenda 2000.

The physical elements in the landscape have intrinsic form through shape, colour, pattern and texture. Some of these features are natural whilst others reflect human intervention. The concept of Environmental and Cultural Landscape is

highlighted in the Agenda 2000 proposals though the recognition of the issues can be traced back to the Single European Act of 1986.

At a local and regional level interested parties should work together with the purpose to ensure an equitable approach, and seek ways to inform Government and the EU of the particular case and needs of the Dales. This includes recognising that

traditional farming practice is as much a part of the landscape as a particular plant or flower. The area includes unique breeds of stock in their cultural setting which distinguishes in part the landscape of that region.

Cultural factors such as local breeds and communal land frequently limit commercial performance,

but can deliver valuable public goods. Payments on a tiered basis, above a threshold level, similar in principle to the ESA approach should be considered. Key features such as walls, hedges, buildings and other vernacular features would be central to the payments, which need to reflect quality, local style and intensity between the tiers. Many smaller farms contribute more significantly to the cultural landscape than to habitats, while the converse is equally true of larger holdings.

Radical change demands a high level of responsiveness and new levels of commitment to partnership between parties with common objectives, but which may be differently expressed. Groups whose relationships in the past have not always been completely harmonious need to work together to develop the case, lobby for support and deliver through appropriately adjusted farming systems. The alternative: to explain our failure to those who will inherit our legacy seems even more difficult to contemplate.

Andrew Humphries

Joan Ingilby - An Appreciation

A very few days before the death of her very dear friend and colleague, Joan Ingilby aged 88, Marie Hartley wrote to the editors of the Yorkshire Dales Review, with great courage and sadness to give us some background information on Joan Ingilby's life, as she believed that a crisis in Joan's terminal illness was approaching. We are indebted to her for that letter and wish to offer our formal condolences once again on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales Society who were privileged to have Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby as the Society's first two Honorary Members.

Joan and Marie's writing partnership was a very special one and their works have left a unique stamp on the Dales as both Yorkshire Dales Society Chairman Dr Chris Wright made clear in his recent tribute at the November YDS event in Cracoe; a tribute which was warmly seconded and indeed emphasised by lecturer and historian Peter Brears who expressed his immense gratitude for the way Marie Hartley's and Joan Ingilby's writings on the Dales had helped to shape and structure his own thoughts, interests and writings.

They were indeed appropriately named as "Ambassadors for Yorkshire" in the *Yorkshire Post*, in recognition both of their work and their generous, warm personalities.

At a time when it was relatively unusual to record a way of life that was passing in such detail, Joan and Marie meticulously researched, interviewed, photographed and drew what they saw, leaving Yorkshire a formidable archive in the form of their various writings and in their own personal collections of major exhibits.

Their first book on *The Old Hand-knitters of Dent* (1951) originally published by Dent was a highly influential work in this field, soon to be re-issued in hardback, (its 5th edition) by Smith, Settle. *Yorkshire Village* (1953) a history of Askrigg, caused great interest when it was first published and is still in print, while *Life and Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales* (1968) was part of a classic trilogy on different regions of Yorkshire. As Marie points out, their own original idea was later used by their publisher to commission other authors to tackle other regions of the UK. The authors regarded *A Dales Heritage* as one of their best books, a skilful

combination of oral tradition with documentary evidence, while *A Dales Album* and *A Yorkshire Album* contain superb collections of old and new photographs. Their most recent work was very much a retrospective, *Fifty Years in the Yorkshire Dales* (1966), while *A Farm Account Book*, published at North Yorkshire County Record Office was the fruit of a year's painstaking research, and *Diary of Alexander Fothergill* (a member of a well-known family at Carr End near Semerwater), and *Richmond to Lancaster Turnpike Road* were also published by North Yorkshire County Record Office. Typical also of their intense appreciation of the skills of craftsmanship are their series of small photographic books on such traditional skills as the making of a cartwheel, cheese, backcans, ironwork and a variety of other objects. Joan and Marie



Joan Ingilby in 1962. (Photo: Mark Gerson)

were also responsible for numerous articles in the *Dalesman* and other magazines. They complemented each other, with Joan meticulous as regards the detail while Marie, as Bill Mitchell who has had along association with both of them, suggests, was particularly good at developing "the broad sweep" of a book.

An enduring monument to their foresight and deep appreciation for traditional implements and objects is the collection of the Dales Countryside Museum which was founded by Joan and Marie and finally opened in 1979 when they became Chairman and Vice chairman of the Friends of the Museum; the enlarged museum is now run by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The ladies have lectured all over Yorkshire to WEA classes and run the Askrigg Art Club for 16 years. They have been central to the life of their village in Askrigg, with Joan as President of the Askrigg Produce Show. They have also helped with the compilation of large Village Books in 1977 and 1990 and acted as advisers for one destined for the year 2000.

Honours and recognition came from a number of sources. They received the Silver Medal of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society for outstanding service and will be donating their invaluable great archive of photographs to that organisation. In 1997 they received MBES for "services to the culture and the history of Yorkshire" and were awarded

honorary degrees by the Open University in 1999 in recognition of "their contribution to the education and well-being of society," having previously also been awarded honorary degrees by York University. They were also proud Honorary Members of the Wensleydale Society.

Many YDS members will remember with gratitude the occasion when they were given a personal conducted tour by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby around the Dales Countryside Museum some years ago and how valuable their comments on the exhibits were and how welcome they made us feel. It was typical of the immense support and encouragement they have given the Yorkshire Dales Society over the years and the Society will be forever indebted to them. They have a unique and very special place in the history of Yorkshire. Joan, who was related to the Ingilbys of Ripley Castle, in her poem "I Love the Quiet Lands" written in 1937, expresses that deep love of the Dales and other quiet places which meant so much to her.

I Love the Quiet Lands

I love the quiet lands
That speak no words,
The earth which understands
The songs of birds,

Where forest trees and flowers
And grasses grow,
Where coloured showers
In streams and rivers flow,
Where downland hills
Bend long, strong arms
And windmills turn by flat-land farms,
And deep red beech rides
In October,
And ploughland and plover.
All these I love,
The brown moorside,
The blossom grove
And muddy Norfolk tide,
Sweet water meadows
Glossy green,
The filtering shadows
In between
Bee covered limes,
Tracks in the mist
Which climb and twist
By cold round mountain tarns.
And I love the stubble,
Thatched barns
And the bubble in the middle of a spring,
And the aching calls
Of a curlew on the wing
And grey stone walls.

Joan Ingilby

David takes the Steering Wheel

The Yorkshire Dales Society warmly welcomes the appointment of David Butterworth as new Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. David, the Authority's former Head of Finance and Resources, had been acting Chief Executive for a number of weeks following the resignation of Heather Hancock, but he still had to beat a formidable field of well qualified candidates to secure the appointment.

David has already impressed people both inside and outside the Park with his clear understanding of some of the big issues and his diplomatic approach which will surely secure friends and allies from among the many different partners with whom the Authority has to work. "I want my time as Chief Executive to be marked by openness", he commented. "I hope the public will applaud our achievement and if they think we can improve, tell us in an open and honest way."

David particularly values the role organisations like the Yorkshire Dales Society can make in

helping to get the National Park's message across to a wider audience. But he believes there are other major contributions the Society can and does make:



"I have always valued the support and encouragement that the Authority has received from the Yorkshire Dales Society", he told the YDS Review. "This has been both formal and informal and has been very much appreciated."

"It is important to this Authority that organisations like the Yorkshire Dales Society, continue to grow and develop as they are a major contributor to the future well-being of this wonderful landscape. I look forward to continuing to work with

the Society's officers and its members in ensuring the conservation and enhancement of this area for future generations."

Society members will have a chance to meet and listen to David when he attends our Annual General Meeting as part of our Swaledale week-end May 19th 20th. Keep the date clear in your diary now.

Profile: Chris Hartley

As part of an occasional series, The Yorkshire Dales Review will run a series of profiles on Members of the Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management to introduce them more fully to members of the Yorkshire Dales Society. Council Members come from very wide and varied backgrounds with expertise in various fields and all united by a tremendous commitment to the Yorkshire Dales.



Yorkshire born and bred, a long standing Member of the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management, (thirteen years), Chris Hartley's interest in the Dales was sparked by a visit to Brimham Rocks as a young adult. He then became increasingly fascinated and inspired by his visits to the Yorkshire Dales particularly by its geology and fauna and flora. In 1982 Chris saw an advertisement in the YDNPA *Visitor* Newsheet for volunteer helpers for the Yorkshire Dales National Park and has used much of his spare time helping to keep the Dales as a very special place and encourage others to enjoy its beauties. Chris is equally dedicated to furthering the work of the National Trust which he joined as an active volunteer in 1978, initially leading walks, helping with car

parking and litter collecting, while since 1983 he has been involved with FASR (Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal), guiding and wardening, giving up on average about two days a month. In 1983 Chris became a YDNP conservation volunteer, and in 1987 a member of the Area Warden Team in the Wensleydale and Swaledale area; a commitment which averages about 15 days a year. His duties include footpath surveying, Walks with a Warden, Woodland Management monitoring and practical conservation work. He is also involved with occasional work parties with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and leads winter walks for Wharfedale Naturalists.

Chris has contributed much enthusiasm and positive thinking as a member of Council and a number of very useful suggestions. He has been a key member of the Yorkshire Dales Society Events and Membership sub-committee, making innumerable valuable suggestions for speakers for our annual Lecture Series and leading many highly successful walks for members which are always well prepared and full of interesting information. He warmly supports the work of the Yorkshire Dales Society in general and has given slide-lecture talks on behalf of the Society to a number of outside groups.

Chris rated the qualities he thought most useful in a good walk leader as an outgoing personality, friendliness, good local and general knowledge, and the ability to keep one's head in an emergency. He stressed that in any group it was a two-way process; that the leader not only imparted information, but also had much to learn. Those who have been out with Chris Hartley on his walks will know that he has the qualities he rated in abundance.

Born in Wetherby, in 1946, and educated in Menston and at Norwood College, Chris first found work at Denton Hall Gardens, Ilkley, in 1962, specialising in the cultivation of chrysanthemums and mushrooms, before moving on to the orchid nurseries of Mansell and Hatcher at Rawdon in 1967. He then exchanged the outdoor life for the retail trade at Greenwoods Menswear till 1999. In his local area in Menston he is also involved in the Village Design Statement.

For Chris 'putting something back into a superb place' has become his mission in life whether it is volunteering to lead a walk, delighting an informal group of YDS members with a rendition of some well-known dialect verse or helping with some of the chores at some of the YDS events.

FS

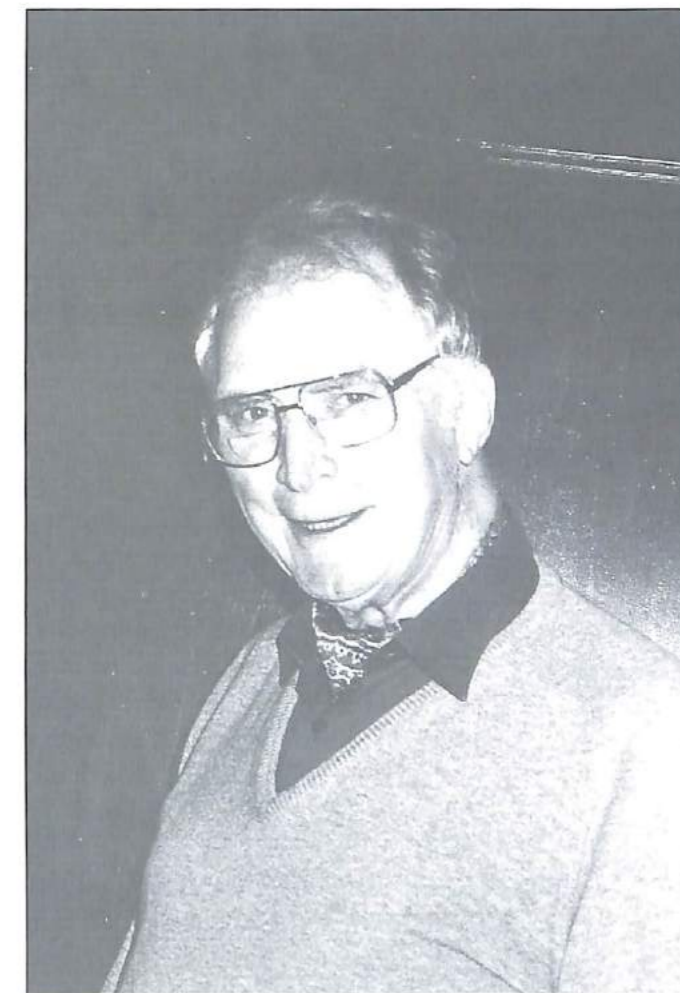
Profile: Ralph Atkinson

Ralph Atkinson, who lives in High Bentham, has a background in farming, with an incredibly rich and wide-ranging experience, though much of it in areas far removed from the Dales. Born in Coventry in 1929, Ralph moved to Shipley in Yorkshire soon after the outbreak of World War Two and gained a scholarship to Bradford Grammar School. His first contact with the Dales was as a Boy Scout with camping experiences in the southern Dales. His initial two-year stint as a farm labourer on leaving school gave him practical experience of farming before obtaining his BSc in Agriculture at Bangor University. Jobs in the UK being in short supply, Ralph applied for the Colonial Service and was appointed as a probationer, then obtaining further qualifications: a Diploma in Agriculture from Cambridge in 1953 and a further Diploma in Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad in 1954.

For some years Ralph was to take up his responsibilities in many areas overseas with very different climates, conditions and culture to the Yorkshire Dales, but each leave was spent back in the Dales where dry-stone walls and green fields were a refreshment to the spirit and recharging of the batteries. 1954-63 saw Ralph, with his young wife Patricia, as District Agricultural Officer in Uganda, to be followed by a year as Unilever Large Livestock Adviser for the UK, before becoming Senior Agricultural Adviser in Botswana for five years, then spending some time in charge of the Peasant Tea Project where tea plants grown by European planters would be distributed to the peasants for processing. During 1969-86, Ralph amassed ever greater experience and seniority. He joined the Food and Agricultural Organisation at the United Nations and was sent as Livestock Adviser in Iraq to Baghdad. His later postings included Kenya, Extension Adviser in the West Indies and Lesotho, and as a Consultant in Malawi, India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Turkey, while his seven years in Pakistan were spent initially as Livestock Adviser at the University and finally as Senior Agricultural Planning Advisor.

On his return to the UK, he bought a home at Crooklands in Cumbria where he was able to spend much of his time walking in the dales and lakes and had a chance to pursue his interest in wild life especially birds of the Dales. Ralph used his considerable organisational skills for the benefit of his local area when he served as District Councillor for Craven, North Yorkshire from 1987-98 and as County Councillor for North Yorkshire 1989-99, becoming Vice-chairman and Chairman at early stages of his tenure. Ralph was also appointed

to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee serving for three years till May 1999. His balanced views, thoughtful, considered contributions and wide-ranging experience have made him a tremendously valuable member to the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management on which he has served for the last three years; his experience an asset especially when trickier environmental matters are under discussion.



A man of conviction, Ralph has been a member of the Society of Friends since 1957. When asked what he finds so special about the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Ralph replied that, he felt other National Parks have lost much of their rural quality, which still remains in the Dales. Formerly the green landscapes of the Dales offered Ralph and his family a contrast to more arid parts of the world, a haven in which to relax and be re-assured. Thankfully for Ralph some of that serenity still persists, though with three children and seven grandchildren, he enjoys a lively retirement.

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Daleswatch

COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000

On December 1st the new Countryside and Rights of Way Act received Royal Assent, and will come into effect from February 2001. The Act will provide new rights of managed public access to open countryside, (this includes mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land), changes in footpath and byway legislation (including a new category of Restricted Byway for non-motorised access to Green Lanes), new support for AONBs, for Village Greens and for biological diversity and nature conservation. Implications of this important new legislation for the Yorkshire Dales will be examined in greater detail in the later issues of the Yorkshire Dales Review.

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

The Yorkshire Dales Local Plan is the statutory document which sets out clear policy guidelines for all development control and local planning matters within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The current Local Plan is now subject to a major Review by the Park Authority. Individuals and organisations have up until January 15th to respond to this review. Details from Nichola Drummond at the National Park Office tel 01969 650456.

LOCAL RESIDENTS BACK NATIONAL PARK FIGHT TO CONTROL OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON GREEN LANES

The Yorkshire Dales Society's high profile campaign to safeguard Green Lanes in the National Park from destruction caused by a selfish minority of off-road vehicle users has not only been taken up strongly by the National Park Authority, but has emerged in Local Area Action meetings as perhaps the single greatest source of concern among local residents in the Dales, who are angered at the damage to their environment which has taken place over the last few years, including noise and disturbance in otherwise quiet areas of Dales countryside. The Yorkshire Dales Society will be pressing North Yorkshire and Cumbria County Council, as Highway Authorities, to proceed with

Traffic Regulation Orders on green ways in the National Park where damage and disturbance is now an ever-increasing problem, and where the quiet enjoyment of the natural beauty - a prime reason why National Parks were established - is being threatened by the activities of a selfish minority. Traffic Regulation Orders, on such tracks as the Roman Cam High Road and the medieval Mastiles Lane which are already severely damaged, will be strongly supported by the overwhelming majority of landowners, farmers, walkers, conservationists and local people alike. The so-called Sandford principle, adopted by all UK National Parks, makes it clear that if and when recreation and conservation are in conflict in a National Park, conservation must prevail. Action now will protect what remains of these historic landscape features before it is too late. The new Countryside Act will also make it much more difficult for trail riders and off-road 4-wheeler drivers to use ancient footpath and bridleways whilst claiming alleged (and often unsubstantiated) vehicular rights. This is a loophole in the law pointed out by the Yorkshire Dales Society which has been fully exploited by off-road trail biking groups in recent years, with devastating impact on some of the most beautiful ancient paths and tracks in the higher Dales.

WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY TAKES OVER THE LINE

The Wensleydale Railway Company has secured agreement for Railtrack to transfer its interest in the 22 mile Northallerton-Redmire line. A £2.5 million public share offer will allow the Company to acquire, upgrade and operate the line initially between Leeming Bar and Leyburn, which it is hoped will see a limited train service in summer 2001. This will be the first phase of an ambitious plan to see the line reopened in stages to Castle Bolton, Aysgarth, Hawes and eventually to rejoin the Settle-Carlisle line at Garsdale, as the spine of an integrated, sustainable public transport network for the northern Dales. For further details of the share offer and illustrated prospectus return the WRC leaflet circulated with this Review or write to Wensleydale Railway PLC, 35 High Street, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 8EE.

Keeping in Touch with the Environment

One of the greatest attractions of the Yorkshire Dales is the liberating effect of being able to stride across the moors, fells and dales, far from the trappings of modern technology. But how does that agree with the provision of mobile telephone networking the Dales? And how does a company like Vodafone, reconcile its wish to improve its service to the residents and visitors in the National Park with the overriding need to protect this precious and beautiful environment?

According to Kevin Weeks, head of Vodafone's specialist National Parks Project Group, "everyone who has a mobile phone, and that's the majority of people these days, knows that reception is poor or patchy in the Yorkshire Dales. We have a duty, under the licence issued by the Government, to improve that situation, but we want to do so responsibly, and with the environment and the views of local people very much in mind." The company, therefore, is working with the National Park Authority and interest groups like the Yorkshire Dales Society on a structured programme of agreed sites for base stations, which will have the environment of the protected landscape as the number one consideration.

The Group has already met planners and members of the National Park Authority and officers of the Dales Society, and a presentation to all interest groups and a public surgery took place in Hawes in December. Vodafone was quick to recognise that the National Parks - the jewels in the nation's countryside crown - merited a special approach. It was sparked by an initiative by the North York Moors National Park Authority which called all the operators together and asked for their network plans, requesting them to get together and agree site and structure sharing where possible.

Only Vodafone took up the challenge. A comprehensive plan was produced and after 14 months of discussion, eight applications were made and eight approved - a result unheard of in National Parks. That 100 per cent record has since been maintained with the company's applications for base stations in the Lake District and Peak District National Parks.

Building on the experience of its work in the North York Moors, the company set up the National Parks Project Group to deal exclusively with applications in the Parks. Its members include environmentalists, radio planners, architectural and planning consultants, property surveyors and

construction engineers, all of whom have experience of working in environmentally sensitive protected areas throughout Britain.

The four core principles of the group's approach are:

1. Applying a partnership approach to working with the National Park Authority and local communities;
2. Providing transparency for proposals and working practices;
3. Adopting a comprehensive, holistic strategy for network development in the Park;
4. Using existing sites wherever possible and where new sites are needed, ensuring that environmental considerations are paramount.

"There are many discussions, compromises are made, some options are redesigned while others have to be abandoned," stated Kevin Weeks. Prior to applications being made, proposed sites are



discussed with planning officers and interest groups and in some cases, their visual impact is assessed using a pump-up mast. Eventually, a comprehensive pre-application consultation report is prepared before the sites are finally agreed.

The old heavy-duty lattice towers are a thing of the past. They have been replaced with slimline masts which support much smaller antenna. And many innovative solutions have been developed, from disguised trees to false chimney pots, such as one on a listed building in the shadow of York Minster. In other places, gable ends, such as on a slate-roofed hotel at Windermere in the Lake

District, or on traditional stone-built barns, such as those which form such an intrinsic part of the Yorkshire Dales landscape, have been used.

Vodafone is the first mobile phone company to join GNP's Corporate Forum for National Parks, underlining the company's commitment to the promotion of careful planning and best practice in environmentally sensitive areas. The company's Environmental Handbook for Radio Site Selection was first published six years ago, after consultation with organisations including CPRE, English Heritage and the Royal Town Planning Institute. It is now entering its third edition and has been sent to all

local planning authorities and is available to interested parties.

Kevin Weeks added: "People are increasingly recognising that the introduction of an efficient mobile phone network can make a significant contribution to the socio-economic well-being of the residents of National Parks. If a sensitive and strategic approach is adopted, as we try to do, it can have a minimal impact on the landscape."

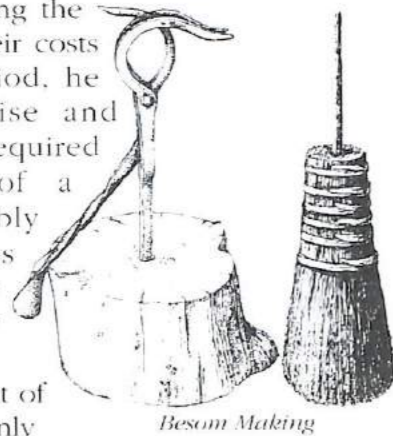
Roly Smith

Book Reviews

THE COMPLEAT HOUSEKEEPER: a household in Queen Anne times by Peter Brears, published by Wakefield Historical Publications at £18 (hardback) and available from local bookshops.

Peter Brears, historic house consultant and food historian and formerly director of Castle Museum York and Leeds City Museums, was given the chance opportunity to purchase a Housekeeper's account book in a London sale room which proved to be that of Kildwick Hall near Skipton in Yorkshire. By interpreting the lists of produce and their costs in the late Stuart period, he unravels the expertise and organisational skills required for the direction of a fashionable comfortably off middle class household in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century.

It becomes an account of absorbing interest not only to the historian, but to anyone who is interested in the details of a world before modern technology whether it was the stocking and cultivation of the garden to allow an almost continuous supply of fruit and vegetables, a description of how exactly rush lights, the cheaper alternative to candles, were made or an account of the different types of household textiles, their appearance and precise use. Peter Brears analyses the meat and fish entries in some detail and concludes that years of experience of local conditions and climate, trade and other factors enabled local traders and housekeepers to maintain a continuously changing sequence of meat and fish, in prime condition and at an advantageous price. Interesting to realise that pre-industrialisation the River Aire supported a



Besom Making

wide variety of fish including salmon. Margaret Curren, the lady of the house, has her wardrobe costed and described in detail, her costly attire being a symbol to the world that her husband was an exceedingly prosperous man; and even her simple black ribbon necklace cost as much as a labourer's wages. The real surprise is the emphasis on health and hygiene at this period, and at a time when there was no organised health care, with effective provincial hospitals still half a century into the future, much is owed to the skilful and dedicated wives of the gentry and their housekeepers who were responsible for the medical care of their families and often their poorer neighbours.

There are beautiful line drawings in this elegantly produced book, useful indexes and a family tree of the Curren family, the incumbents of Kildwick Hall. Peter Brears has the enviable quality of blending true scholarship with an infectious delight in his subject and communicating his sense of adventure to his readers.

F.S.

BARNOLDSWICK - A CENTURY OF CHANGE published by Barnoldswick History Society, at £6 plus £1 postage & packing, to mark the 25th Anniversary of its foundation, presents an interesting photographic record of the town during the past century. The book is available at local bookshops or direct from Dennis Cairns, 18 Pen-y-Ghent Way, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs. BB8 5PY.



National Park Societies Meeting, Exmoor

Through flood and tempest, two members of the Yorkshire Dales Society made their way to the annual National Park Societies Conference hosted by the Exmoor Society at Holnicote House, Selworthy. Whilst the theme of the Conference was 'The Role of National Park Societies in the New Millennium', the first day was devoted to the particular features of Exmoor. Unlike the Dales the area is compact, away from major urban centres and features a coastal border. Many problems are common, however, such as the parallel decline in farm incomes and recently a steep decrease in the

number of people staying in the area. Those that do come tend to gravitate to the 'honeypots' with their cars to the detriment of towns like Dunster. However it was of interest that Holnicote House run by the Holiday Fellowship and owned by the National Trust was thriving with its programme of themed events and walking. A recurrent theme was the need to constantly promote the very special qualities of our National Parks. For instance, the draft of the forthcoming Rural White paper has no mention of National Parks. Regional Development Agencies, which include National Parks (such as Yorkshire and Humberside), make no mention either of any special provision. It is possible that any targeted funding will be directed to other obvious areas of deprivation without any plans for specific Park problems. The keynote speaker, Rachel Thomas, took up this theme again. Rachel, a Vice President of the Exmoor Society, is a noted environmentalist

and former Countryside Commissioner.

A break in the weather allowed four groups to go out into the local countryside. There were visits to the famous Porlock pebble ridge, which is now breached, Dunkery Beacon to see management of path erosion and a visit to Dunster to study management of tourist pressure. A more energetic but quieter alternative was a visit to Horner Woods, part of the National Trust owned estate. Their longer-term management plans had been disrupted by the effects of the previous week's flooding which meant a lot of replacing of paths and bridges,



as well as general clearing up. This however, had not upset the deer. Whether we were studying them or they were studying us was not clear. There also seems to be little problems with unauthorised recreational vehicle use and when it happens, they simply block off the routes with boulders.

The last sessions covered areas familiar to most National Parks such as traffic problems, local facilities and affordable housing. It was pointed out that there was anger at second homes, of which there are many on Exmoor, paying a much reduced council tax. It has been estimated here that this could cost Craven alone in the region of £700,000. Many and ingenious ways were found of getting home from the Conference with virtually no rail services, but the message came through that we must not flag in our combined efforts to look after our National Parks.

Chris Wright

Just before we went to press we received this Resolution passed by the Conference of National Park Societies on 5th November 2000. (Eds.)

THE URBAN RURAL DIVIDE IN RELATION TO NATIONAL PARKS

The Conference of National Park Societies, meeting on Exmoor -

WELCOMES the Government's commitment, as set out in its Consultation Document on Rural England, to preserve a living and working countryside, in which the environment is "properly protected" and may be "enjoyed widely", and its recognition that many rural areas experience problems different from those faced in urban areas;

URGES the Government, Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales to provide the funds needed to improve the environment, economy and ways of life in National Parks, including housing for local people, flexible community transport, transport costs for local people, and essential services; and

CALLS on the Regional Development Agencies (for those Regions containing National Parks) to consult with National Park Authorities, National Park Societies and other interested bodies in order to bring forward, as soon as possible, sub-regional action plans, with the necessary funding, for resolving the special problems and needs of each of those National Parks.

Millennium Trust: Conservation

The concept of conservation and protection of the Dales must encompass not only natural landscape, such as dramatic limestone outcrops, majestic caverns, desolate moorland and green, sheltered valleys but also the structures made by Dales inhabitants which complement that landscape. Agriculture and landscape are inextricably linked and much of the intrinsic character and special qualities of the Dales can be directly attributed to traditional farming practices over the centuries.

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is committed to ensuring that the Dales retains that special harmony between natural features and the influence of people on the Dales landscape. It has funded projects that protect and conserve key landscape features of the Dales including the restoration of drystone walls, woodlands, traditional field barns, community buildings and bridges.

One Trust funded walling project can be seen at Watlowes Valley where work involved the reinstatement of 100m of a prominent historic monastic boundary wall running the length of the



Whernside Summit Viewpoint

valley from the top of Malham Cove north towards Malham Tarn. The site is a SSSI, forms part of an Open Access Area and is one of the most popular visitor areas in the Yorkshire Dales. The walls, possibly dating from medieval times, form the boundary between the monastic estates of Bolton and Fountains Abbeys and were recently part of an archaeological survey of all the walls on the Malham Estate owned by the National Trust. The walling project has created a stockproof boundary for the farmer landowner and was carried out to guidelines set by the National Park Authority and English Nature. The total project cost was £2,400, 100% funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, EI and English Nature grants.

In September 2000, A Millennium Viewpoint was opened at Whernside Summit, a £5,000 venture,

jointly funded by the Trust and the Yorkshire Dales

National Park Authority. The Boundary wall along the summit of Whernside lies between the two counties of North Yorkshire and Cumbria, but was falling into disrepair after top stones had been removed to afford temporary seating. The new viewpoint incorporated the creation of two stone seats, each sheltered by curves created in the wall. The design, in keeping with the remote location, allows walkers to appreciate the views of Chapel-le-Dale and Kingsdale as well as the other two summits of the Three Peaks, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent, whilst being sheltered from the elements.

Low Cross Barn is a typical example of an early traditional stone barn of intrinsic architectural importance, occupying a prominent valley bottom position next to the main upper Wharfedale Road between Kettlewell and Starborton and is visible to all travelling along the valley. The barn had become derelict and work, enabled by a Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust grant, involved re-pointing, re-roofing and the partial rebuilding of a collapsed wall. The renovations have rendered the barn fully windproof and watertight to help secure future uses. The total project cost was £24,584; £222,125.82 of which was funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and EU grants.

Another project which reached completion in the autumn of 2000 took place at Kennel Field, Thornton Rust, Wensleydale. This scheme was a perfect illustration of community involvement with long term benefit for the environment, local people and visitors.

The 3-acre field, in the Pennine Dales Environmentally Sensitive Area, had been used as an informal recreation area for many years. The pasture had been traditionally farmed, supporting a wide variety of botanical species, and a local group was anxious that the field should be retained as a nature conservation site, accessible to residents and visitors.

The local community formed a registered charity, the Kennel Field Trust and a Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust enabled the group to purchase the land. The scheme involved many different facets and incorporated a tremendous volunteer effort, part of which was the demolition of some derelict, abandoned dog kennels in the field. There was also a field barn and 'huntsman hut' in need of restoration and walling repairs needed to be carried



Autumn Events

Make life even more interesting on Winter afternoons by enjoying our stimulating Winter Lecture Series in 2001 and taking a walk in the morning prior to the lecture to some fascinating spots if you are available.

SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH - A CHOICE - EITHER A TOWN TRAIL ROUND HISTORIC RICHMOND, meet Friary Gardens next to the Tourist Information Centre, Richmond at 11am for a tour lasting one to one and a half hours, walking clothes not necessary for this tour. £1 donation per person welcome, to Richmond Georgian Theatre Royal Museum. Pub, cafe or packed lunch.

OR **DRUMMER BOY WALK,** meet Friary Gardens near TIC, at 10.30am for a walk of 3-4 miles, leader Charles Hepworth, tel: 01748 886397. Walk finishes about 12.30 pm, packed, pub or cafe lunch. Bus 27 from Darlington Rail Station 0933.

LECTURE : FLOWERING MEADOWS OF THE DALES: JEWELS OF THE SWORD by Robert Hannah, at Richmond Town Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD - WALK IN THE PATELEY BRIDGE AREA. Meet at main riverside car park at 10.30 am for a 3-4 mile moderate walk, leader John Hone, tel: 01423 711471, pub, cafe or packed lunch. Return for approximately 12.30pm. Bus 24 from Harrogate Bus Station 0920.

LECTURE : THE INGILBYS OF RIPLEY by Kelvin Gott at Pateley Bridge and Beverley Memorial Hall, Park Road, Pateley Bridge, at 2.15pm (Please allow time to walk from main town car park as there are virtually no car park spaces near the hall).

SATURDAY MARCH 3RD WALK LEYBURN SHAWL. Please meet in the main square at 10.35am for a moderate 4 mile walk, leader Colin Speakman, tel: 01943 607868, packed, pub or cafe lunch. Return approximately 12.30pm. Bus 159

out. Another major part of the work involved the repair of a collapsed culvert which was causing water from East Beck to erode the access.

While the future of farming, particularly in upland areas, is still very much under threat, ongoing conservation work can at least protect the legacy left to the landscape by previous generations of the farming community, although conservationists are very much aware that the Dales must

0935 from Ripon, 0940 Postbus from Northallerton Nags Head.

LECTURE : HOW TIMES CHANGE! PERCEPTIONS OF HEDGEROWS OVER THE CENTURIES by Stephen Warburton, at the Methodist Church Hall, Leyburn at 2.15pm.

SUNDAY APRIL 29TH ST. JOSEPH'S WOOD. A Springtime walk in the Aysgarth Area, including to the Millennium Trust Environet Project, new woodland near the famous Falls. Moderate, 5 miles. Meet Aysgarth National Park Centre at 1.30pm - Dalesbus 800 0940 ex Leeds (**NB provisional only - times will be confirmed in Spring Review**) Leader: Chris Hartley, tel: 01943 873197.

STOP PRESS: Yorkshire Dales Society 20th Anniversary Dinner - Thursday June 14th, 2001.

THE DALES DIGEST

is available quarterly for £6 a year. 16 pages from the local and regional press, packed with information on the economy, transport, housing, employment and other issues of concern to anyone living, working or interested in the Yorkshire Dales.

If you haven't yet filled in your **Gift Aid Form** for the Yorkshire Dales Society, please remember to do so. You can help the Society in this way at no cost to yourself. Over 800 households have already done so, let's try to make this over 1000 at least!

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

never become a museum. Ours is a living, working landscape which must be safeguarded and farming must be given the support to continue to play a significant role in that aim.

Hilary Gray

For further details of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust including the tree gift donation scheme ring 015242 51002.



Front Cover picture: *Malbamdale in the Snow*
(Photo by Peter Sharp).

Back Cover Drawing: *Kildwick Hall* by Peter Brears (see Book Review on page 12 of "The Compleat Housekeeper: A household in Queen Anne times" by Peter Brears).

Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.

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

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The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Membership Subscription Rates

*Single Adult £11, Family/Couple £15
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Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.