

Yorkshire Dales Review

No.75 Summer 2001



- *The Forgotten Dales*
- *Review of National Parks in England 2001*
- *Daleswatch*
- *Chairman's Report*

Yorkshire Dales
Society 

£1.50



The Forgotten Dales

When a second Foot and Mouth outbreak occurred in the Dales in the middle of May, just when everything seemed to be slowly getting back to normal, with even a few footpaths being reopened, no one could quite believe it.

It was the news nobody wanted to hear. Certainly not politicians in a pre-election period who had more important, vote winning concerns such as health, education or the future of the pound. What was serious in late winter and early spring turned to catastrophe as spring turned to summer with over 100,000 animals being slaughtered from the fields and fellsides of Craven alone, over 30 farms being directly affected and at least 120 others losing their stock as being "contiguous premises". Closure of all footpaths and access areas in the Dales has continued, with even some minor roads being closed during the culling. No longer national news, Dales people have begun to believe they have been quietly forgotten by the media and the politicians.

Many Dales villages and even towns such as Settle remain in a state of siege, with many tourism and related businesses coping with disastrous losses as visitors, many of them genuinely concerned at the possibility of spreading of the disease, have stayed away. Many small businesses are facing closure and bankruptcy, and there has already been a 10% increase in local unemployment in the Dales. Grants and rate relief offered to businesses are generally considered to be too little and too late, and Yorkshire and the Humber Region has so far received less help than other regions, despite being one of the country's worst blackspots.

Optimistic forecasts by MAFF and Government officials that the disease is "under control" have an ironic ring as cases have, in spite of all controls, continued to spread. There seems little hope that the Dales will be fully open to visitors before autumn 2001.

It will take a long time for the full impact of what is happening to be fully understood. How many

small, family Dales farmers, already struggling to survive, will bother to restock when the nightmare is finally over? How many small and even medium tourist and craft businesses will survive a year when an entire season's income was wiped away? What will be the impact on their many local suppliers as food remains uneaten and stock remains unsold?

Strong emotion has understandably replaced rational argument. Who is to blame? The Government? MAFF? Farmers moving stock? Visitors? Deer? Birds? The wind?

The truth is that there is little real understanding of how Foot & Mouth actually spreads. Placebos such as bits of old disinfected carpets on lanes may make people feel that "something is being done" but replace real action. Without scientific research there can be no guarantee that F&M is not now endemic in the animal (or bird) population, or that, after all this hardship, it may not re-appear again. Many farmers in the Dales have contested the slaughter policy. There are also suggestions that vaccination, bitterly opposed by MAFF and the NFU, is the only long term solution, as experience in the Netherlands would seem to prove.

The Yorkshire Dales Society pledged to do everything it can to help the recovery when it comes, including encouraging our members to support local Dales businesses with their individual purchasing power. But we also believe that when the nightmare is finally over it cannot be business as usual. There needs to be radical re-thinking of how this disease should be dealt with should it ever return, but also the future of our farmers whose role in maintaining our landscape heritage is as vital as that of food production, and must be recognised and rewarded accordingly. Equally the economic importance of visitors - particular those who walk the footpaths - must never again be underestimated in terms of the major contribution they make to sustaining the rural economy.

Colin Speakman

Review of National Parks in England 2001

(This article takes some of the key issues raised by David Butterworth for his talk on the same subject at the recent YDS AGM on May 19th at Reeth Memorial Hall which we felt would be of great interest to the YDS membership. As David says, the Society has a unique opportunity to have a strong voice in a future vision for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.)

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Society may be aware that all national parks in England are subject to a review, to be carried out by the Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions (DETR), during the current year.

Organisations such as the Yorkshire Dales Society are being asked for their views on the future structure and governance of national parks. The review represents the best opportunity in a generation for members of the Society to shape the authorities that manage these most beautiful of protected landscapes.

REVIEW

The review was announced by the then Minister of State, Chris Mullin, at the National Park Conference held at Skipton in September.

It is clear that the review is likely to be far-reaching and of potentially great significance for the way in which national park authorities are constituted and governed. It is particularly useful that the experience of the past four years, since independence, can now be examined to see if the constitution, governance and resources are suitable to enable the Authority to carry out its two statutory purposes:

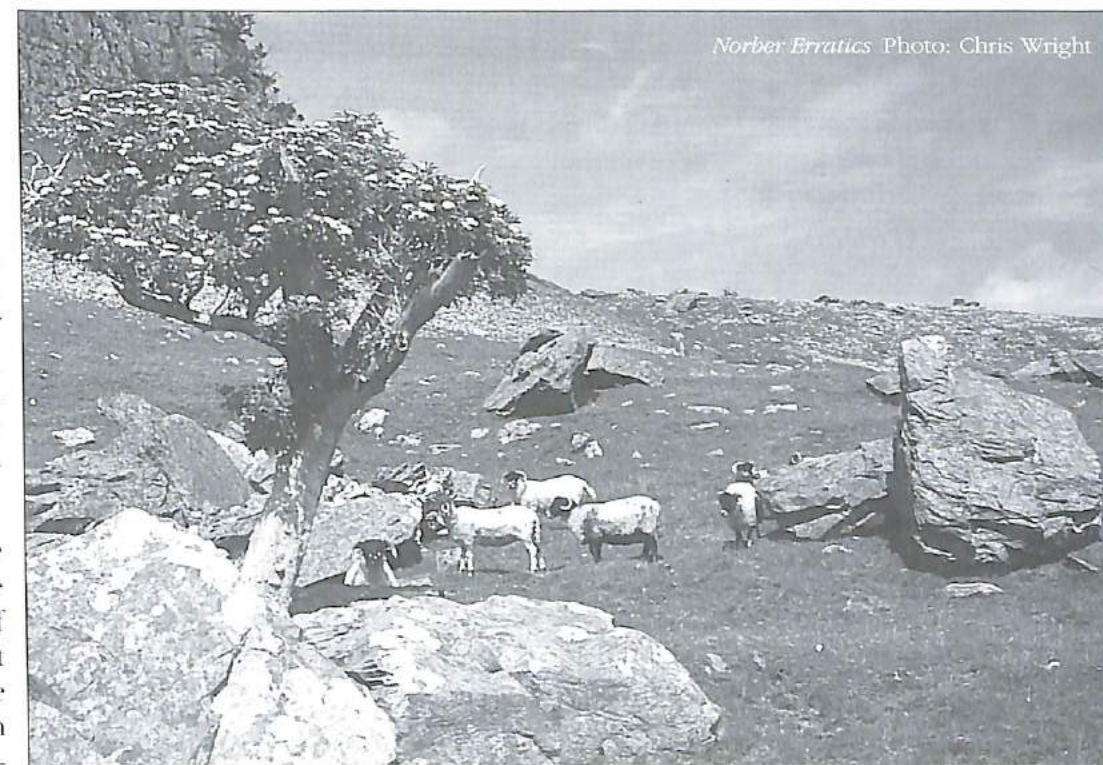
- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area;
- Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To examine the principle functions of the English national park authorities (NPAs), the key tasks undertaken to perform them and the structure of the authorities. The review will assess the following issues:

1. Policy

- The role and functions of the national park authorities and the extent to which they are able to deliver government policies;
- Their organisation and culture, and relationship with other organisations, including government



- departments, statutory agencies, other public bodies at national, regional and local level;
- The specific national park statutory powers and responsibilities in legislation including the Environment Act 1995;
- The authorities' planning and development

control arrangements and their role in terms of sustainable development;

2. Governance

- The structure of the authorities and their accountability;
- The selection, appointment, training and performance of Members;

3. Sponsorship

- The current role of the Countryside Division, DETR, other government departments, and the Countryside Agency;

4. Resources

- Sources and levels of funding and an assessment of whether they are appropriate;
- The application of the funding formula for National Park grant.

The review will make recommendations to DETR ministers. It will take a strategic view of the role, purposes, functions and overall sponsorship of the national park authorities.

TIMETABLE

The review will commence in June/July and will last for approximately six months. A consultation period of two months has been set aside for organisations like the Yorkshire Dales Society to make their contribution.

Once the review has been completed, it will then go onto Ministers for further consideration.

The announcement by the Government, that should they be successful in the General Election, they are likely to merge MAFF and parts of DETR into a new "Department of Rural Affairs" makes the timing of the Review particularly pertinent. It is important that the voice of conservation and the environment is a strong one in any new department.

WHY THE REVIEW MATTERS

Put simply, the review matters because the Yorkshire Dales National Park is one of the finest examples of upland landscape in Western Europe. Appropriate management, of this precious resource, is clearly important both nationally and regionally.

CURRENT ISSUES

There are a number of issues being discussed amongst various bodies which are likely to be included in the review. It might be useful if I gave you a flavour of some of them:

- What is the legal standing of National Park Authorities? Are they part of local government, a quango, or (their present status) a hybrid?
- How should authorities deal with their national/local role?
- Should government seek declarations of commitment from all Members who are appointed to National Park Authorities – from whichever body they are appointed?
- What should be the role and responsibilities of chairmen of National Park Authorities? -Do they require a "national" job description?
- Should chairmen be appointed from within the ranks of National Park Members or be appointed directly by the Secretary of State? Should the performance and discipline of Members rest with the chairmen?
- Should all Members of National Park Authorities, not just those that are Secretary of State appointees, be subject to an annual appraisal of their "performance"? This is considered pertinent in some quarters as the electorate do not have the provision to remove non-performing Members of the Authority.
- Does there need to be greater transparency in the appointment process for Secretary of State and Parish Council Members?
- Is it appropriate that planning power should rest with National Park Authorities rather than those District Councils within the National Park area?
- Is the importance of National Parks, as protected landscapes, given sufficient profile within the national and regional government decision-making process?
- Should there be different treatment of "green lanes" inside National Parks as opposed to those more generally within the countryside?
- Are the close links that have previously existed between National Park Authorities & the Countryside Agency (formerly Countryside Commission) appropriate for National Parks in the 21st Century?

CONCLUSION

As a Society you will need to take a view on these issues. As I have previously said, this is a once in a generation opportunity to shape the future of the National Park. I hope you will take it.

David Butterwoth
Chief Executive, YDNPA.

Profile: David Smith

Every organisation usually has one or two key people who are absolutely essential to its smooth-running, and David Smith is most definitely one of those, both as YDS Treasurer and its Computer buff. Since 1990 David has guided the finances of the Yorkshire Dales Society, his reports to the Council a model of clarity and lucidity, and his contributions as a Council member always thoughtful and considered. In the YDS office, his entirely self-taught expertise on the computer, skill in devising suitable programmes for the secretariat and readiness to trouble-shoot whenever computer problems arise, is a tremendous boon.

David born in Southampton in 1930, was evacuated with his school to the New Forest, later moving to Sherborne (Dorset). An early interest in cycling and the countryside, continued after leaving school, when he cycled from Hampshire to Kendal, and included a walking tour of the Lakes before cycling home via Wensleydale.

A 5 year Engineering Apprenticeship with the British Thomas Houston Company in Rugby contrasted with cycling, walking and climbing with friends mainly in the Welsh borders at weekends. Even as Engineering Officer in the Royal Air Force for his deferred National Service, based in Scotland and Northern England, he was able to involve himself with the Mountain Rescue Team at his Station, and started climbing the Scottish Munros. In 1954 he returned to the Technical Sales department at BTH Aircraft Equipment factory in Coventry, and was then closely involved with development work for Viscount, Vanguard, VC10, BAC1-11 and Concorde aircraft (his interest and eventual career sparked off by his father's key role in the development of Spitfire aircraft during the war.)

Regular summer visits to the European Alps and in 1961 marriage to Judith, and a new position as Export Manager, meant increasing business trips from his Coventry home. Work followed for Rotax, later Lucas Aerospace, with further business trips to Brazil, Japan and the USA and Europe. By 1975 David's working base had transferred to Bradford and two years later he moved to Ilkley with his wife and three children. Although under some pressure to return to Coventry or even the States, for long-term career prospects, David preferred to

complete his ascent of all English and Welsh Hills over 2,000 ft, also the remaining Scottish Munros in 1984 and become Chairman of the British Mountaineering Council from 1983 to 1986, joining the YDS in 1985. He was to take early retirement in 1988 and continue his daunting programme of activity, completing the Scottish Corbetts in 1995, and undertaking some biking tours to Morocco and



Southern Spain with additional trips to the Canadian Rockies, the Hindu Kush and a trek to Kangchenjunga in Nepal. Back in the UK there are two small lively grandchildren to entertain.

But Scotland and the Dales hold very special places in David's affection. Walking especially in the Scottish hills, back-packing and climbing among the great peaks in all their grandeur and wildness give him a great sense of freedom. But the Dales though far less wild, offers a different

sort of experience and a very satisfying kind of walking, with the chance to explore long distance trails or of route finding through the meandering dales. David is concerned that the Dales should continue to remain unspoilt by inappropriate development and traffic congestion. He is also deeply concerned that nothing should happen to limit walking, that paths are properly maintained and he values the current Right to Roam legislation. For his 70th birthday year David cycled the Lands End to John o'Groats route over a three week period!

Both as a YDS Council member and Secretary/Treasurer of the Dales Way Association since 1991, David feels that strong relationships with the Yorkshire Dales National Park are tremendously important and that it is vital that the Dales Way Long Distance Walk which is enormously popular with walkers, should be properly recognised as an official National Trail.

David's other interests include listening to classical music, DIY, photography and computers while his range of outdoor interests are demonstrated by his membership of the Ramblers, YHA, Alpine Club, CTC and Mountain Bothies Association.

Modest, with a gift of relating to people and putting them at their ease, David's work for the YDS is both formidable and an inspiration.

Fleur Speakman

Daleswatch Report

Behaviour of some National Park Authority Members condemned by Audit Commission

In a detailed report entitled **Probity in Planning**, District Audit Officers of the Audit Commission have provided a damning indictment of the behaviour of certain members of the Authority. Expressing their "serious concerns" about aspects of the planning process, the authors note "there is a conflict between the national remit of Members of the National Park Authority to conserve and enhance the environment and local concerns as representative of their communities." This has resulted in some members favouring applications from their local community "and in doing so to give less weight to the strict planning merits and planning policy consideration applicable," with consequent strains between other members and between themselves and officers.

On standards of behaviour at meetings it is noted that certain members attacking officers' recommendations described themselves as "The Howitzers" and approvals against planning officer's recommendations as "Victories". Such childish posturing apart, there is serious concern about occasions when site visits have been used for lobbying, and also about members not declaring their full interests, even though certain members have business and financial interests which could clearly benefit from weakened and undermined Development Control policies in the Park.

Solutions suggested by the authors include a Code of Conduct for all site visits, with better record keeping, proper (and full) declaration of all members' and officers' interests as well as a Code of Conduct for lobbying. There should also be training for members in line with DETR guidelines.

The Authority has considered the report, and hopefully appropriate action is being taken, but the matter most certainly will not end there. It is quite unacceptable that individuals - actually appointed by their Local Authorities and not elected to the Park Committee - can oppose not only their own Authority's policies, but in some cases the very principles for which a National Park Authority is established. This kind of behaviour by certain members no doubt contributed to the recent resignation of Heather Hancock, the National Park's Chief Executive. It also raises issues of the function and duties of all National Park Authority members.

The Nation pays for National Parks and has every reason to expect members who agree to sit on a National Park Authority - and accept expenses and allowances - to support the Park's key objectives and not simply be a mouthpiece for local developers' interests. This Audit Commission report will almost certainly be noted by Government Ministers during the forthcoming Review of National Parks, and the Yorkshire Dales in particular.

State of the Park Report

National Park Officers are currently working on a State of the Park Report, which is intended to be a kind of audit on what the Authority is actually achieving over the five-year life of the Management Plan. It takes a number of key areas of work, outlines the National Park Management Plan's aims in each area, and identifies a series of indicators to see to what the pressures are, and to what extent the Authority's own actions and those of its partners are able to influence changes to reduce those pressures and with what result. Proposed action programmes are related to the Authority's own Best Value Performance Plan and key Business Plan targets. The main areas of concern are Landscape, Community & Culture, Access & Recreation, Understanding & Enjoyment, Nature Conservation, Built Heritage & the Historic Environment, and Economy & Employment.

Conserving Barns and Walls in the Dales

The scattered barns and drystone walls are a defining feature of the Yorkshire Dales landscape. The National Parks Authority's Barns and Walls Conservation Partnership scheme in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, jointly funded with English Heritage, has, during 2000/1, resulted in 12 traditional stone barns being restored in the two Dales, and 1102 linear metres of dilapidated dry stone wall being rebuilt. Sadly Foot & Mouth will slow down progress in the current year. Further funding of a variety of wall and barns schemes will however proceed as soon as circumstances permit throughout the National Park through Barns & Walls schemes, and within a wider "Whole Farm Holding" approach, using funding from a variety of sources - Yorkshire Forward, MAFF, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Heritage Lottery Fund), English Heritage and EU Objective 2.

Give the Yorkshire Dales Society a Twentieth Anniversary Birthday Present which costs you nothing!

2001 members for 2001 ?

Good news on the membership front - an increase in membership to 1818; this is very nearly 2,000. What more appropriate present for the Society than an increase in membership to at least 2,000 plus for our Twentieth Anniversary Year? Help to make this a reality by using the specially marked membership form in this issue to **personally recommend** the Society to a friend or relative so that we can continue with our work of caring for the Dales, making people aware of important issues and helping to give much needed moral support to the Dales communities who have been so tragically hit by the recent Foot & Mouth outbreaks which have devastated farming, tourism and businesses.

Our celebrations have been fairly low-key in the wake of recent events, but we are delighted to report 66 people will be attending the Society's Anniversary Dinner in Malham on Thursday June

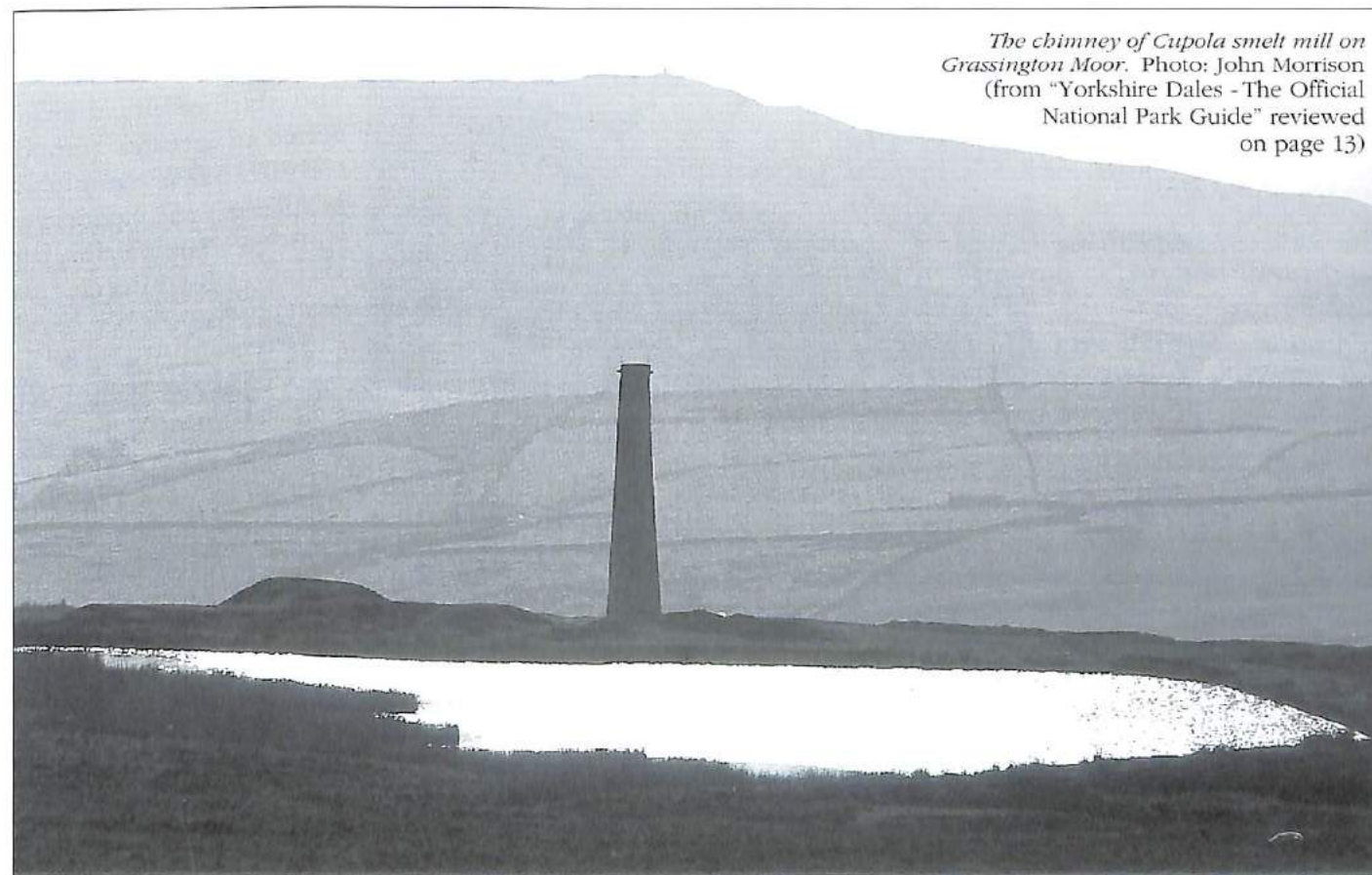
14th as we go to press, helping to bring much needed business into the dale with several people having booked overnight accommodation in order to avoid a late drive home. We look forward to a very pleasant evening.

Please, please do *not* use the enclosed membership form to renew your own membership, otherwise we lose a lot of time. Thank you in advance for all your help.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the planned events for June, July and August which involved restricted areas, but we hope to reschedule these events at a future date. We look forward to meeting you and any new members at our September event or at the walks, lectures and visits in the coming months.

Fleur Speakman

The chimney of Cupola smelt mill on Grassington Moor. Photo: John Morrison (from "Yorkshire Dales - The Official National Park Guide" reviewed on page 13)



Chairman's Report

I feel I should give two reports this year as all recent activities have been eclipsed by the horrendous consequences of the current outbreak of animal foot and mouth disease. However, the year is significant to the Society as the landmark of its twentieth anniversary.

Last year we ended our AGM with a fascinating presentation by Chris Armitage, the Regional Officer of the Countryside Agency. This was followed in the evening by a preview of 'Gaping Gill -100 years of Exploration', a new film by the world famous caver and photographer, Sid Perou. Unlike the curtailments of this year we had walks and visits to West Burton, and Malham Field Centre which were followed by the first of the year's floods. But this year Dennis Cairns had glorious weather for the nineteen members who enjoyed a glimpse of the possibilities of managed farm conservation at New House Farm, Malham.

Losses and Gains

The visit to Snaizeholme and the Mirk Pot woodlands at the invitation of Hugh and Jane Kemp on August 5th was overshadowed by tragedy, with the death of our friend and YDS Council Member John Bell who collapsed at the start of the walk from Dent Station. The affection for John was reflected in the size of the congregation at the memorial service at Keighley Parish Church, but all of us in the Society have lost a very good friend. We were all moved by the family's choice of the YDS Birds Eye Primrose emblem on the front of the Order of Service.

Sadly during the year we also lost one of our Honorary members, Joan Ingilby who with her colleague Marie Hartley, has contributed so much to our knowledge of the Dales. Nobody who met

her could not be infected with her passionate love for the Dales and its culture.

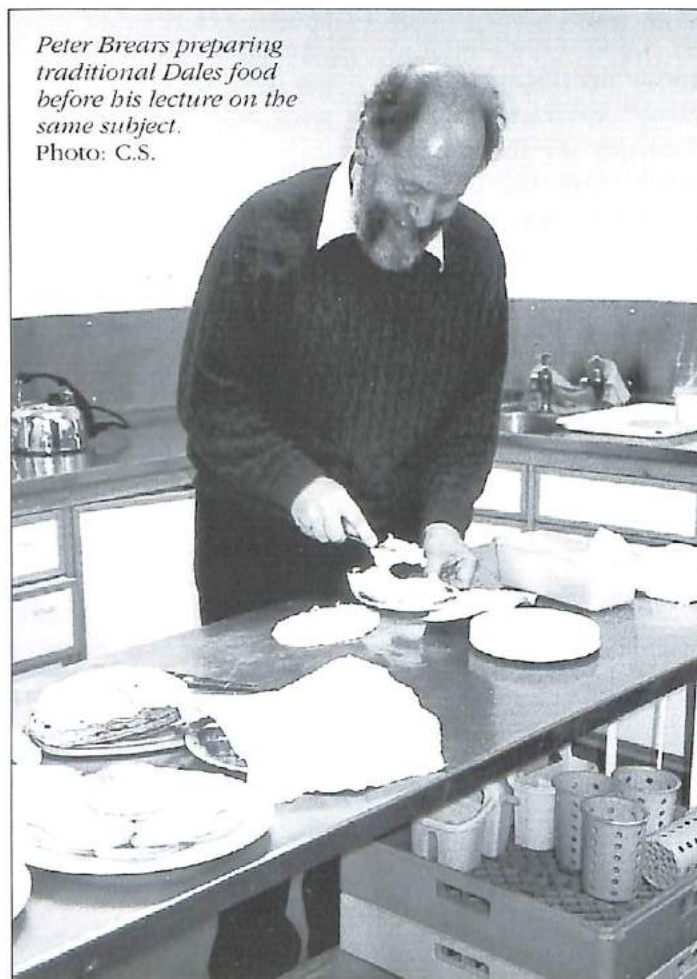
We were able to remember another of our founder members with fine weather to unveil the Arthur Raistrick Millennium Seat to which so many YDS members and others had generously contributed, on Yorkshire Day August 1st. About 50 people, including many of Arthur's former leadmining enthusiasts joined YDS and other invited guests for the short ceremony at Grassington National Park Centre which was followed by a splendid afternoon tea prepared by Hilary Baker with the assistance of Shirley McCauley.

Probably the hottest day of the year was reserved for Malcolm Petyt's Walk in the Howgills, while walks around the village of Clapham and round the Dallowgill area on the Mosaic Walk demonstrated our wider coverage of the Dales.

The start of the Winter Series of lectures turned out to be a very appropriate presentation by Andrew Humphries on Dales Farming: An Anachronism or the Heart of the Cultural Landscape? The discussion has

continued in the pages of the Review and Andrew was to present the keynote lecture at our study day on Co-operation with Farming and the Amenity Societies, which was to be held with an invited audience in early May, but inevitably it had to be postponed, probably until mid-November.

We have again enjoyed listening to talks about a variety of subjects, in our usual range of venues throughout the Dales. Subjects included Traditional Dales Food with some wonderful freshly baked samples. A Victorian Family Christmas, The Ingilbys of Ripley and Perceptions of Hedgerows throughout the Ages, among others. Although latterly our walks programme had to be curtailed, I



Peter Brears preparing traditional Dales food before his lecture on the same subject.
Photo: C.S.

would like to thank those who led morning walks, and assure you that we have an excellent programme being developed for later this year. Our Secretary again led the Christmas event using the Settle Carlisle Line from Horton, with an opportunity to see the new Interpretative Centre at the restored Ribbleshead Station.

As you will have heard from our Treasurer, we have had a modest but very welcome increase in members. This is our only resource and we are grateful to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for their help with promoting our trial membership scheme and look forward to working with them under the new Director Iain Oag in the future.

Thanks are due to Hilary Gray who has kept us informed of the Trust's developing projects with articles in the Review

No one can be unaware of difficulties in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority so soon after its establishment.

We were very sad to realise that Heather Hancock felt she had to move, but welcome her as Director of Environment and Development of the Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward and to her continuation as a Trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

A more positive Future

David Butterworth who did such an excellent job as Acting Chief Executive was appointed Chief Executive after competing against a formidable field of candidates. We were delighted to welcome David at our AGM and have already had fruitful discussions in spite of his very busy schedule, and enjoyed to his talk on the *Forthcoming Review of the National Parks*.

The Yorkshire Dales Review continues to go from strength to strength thanks to our editors, Fleur and Colin Speakman. Its appeal has been enhanced by the introduction of colour for the cover photograph. Appropriate photographs for the cover would be most welcome from any members. If you have used the YDS Website I am sure you will have been impressed. In addition to some helpful links it is one of the few immediate ways we can bring the latest items of news with regard to events, the

value of which has been demonstrated during the unprecedented recent troubles.

Similarly please send any items to Dawn Burton who does such an excellent job with the Dales Digest. This is of particular value not only to distant and overseas members but good reading for those nearer the Dales, who may have missed some item of news or interest. Our warm thanks to the core office team volunteers Maurice Denton, Mike Johnson and Margaret Rhodes who give unstintingly of their time and energies.

Members and friends on Grassington Moor.
Photo: Colin Ginger



We must thank Rod and Judith Clough for rising to the challenge of new and sometimes strange kitchens, but always producing a welcome cup of tea at our meetings.

The Council of Management has as usual met in various venues across the Dales at about two monthly intervals and I am always amazed at the turn-out considering the distances involved. I would like to thank Jim Burton for his work as Vice Chairman and his tremendous support throughout the year.

As we look forward to the dinner at the Buck Inn at Malham, we are fortunate many of our founder members are still able to advance the ideals for which the Society was originally founded. In particular our President Ken Willson and our joint Secretaries Colin and Fleur Speakman. With their enthusiasm and hard work, we are able to face the challenges of the next twenty years and beyond knowing that your Society has the respect and knowledge necessary to continue to protect and enhance the natural and cultural environment that makes the Dales so special.

C.J. Wright
Chairman

Yorkshire Dales Society Financial Report

Yorkshire Dales Society Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2001

	2001	2000
FIXED ASSETS	1,300	1,793
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	28,404	26,569
Cash in Hand	600	500
Stock: Goods for Resale	191	230
	<u>29,195</u>	<u>27,299</u>
CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Accruals and Deferred Income	435	2,088
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>28,760</u>	<u>25,211</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>30,060</u>	<u>27,004</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Reserves	<u>30,060</u>	<u>27,004</u>



Yorkshire Dales Society Income & Expenditure Account for year ended 31st March, 2001

	2000/2001	1999/2000
Subscriptions	13,962	13,088
Donations	2,525	4,950
Bank Interest	856	669
Legacies	1,000	250
Profit on Events	243	16
Retail Sales	209	299
Less Cost of Goods Sold	<u>153</u>	<u>56</u>
Tax Recovered on Covenants	<u>1,418</u>	<u>1,175</u>
	20,060	20,236
"Review"	5,160	4,566
Postage	3,009	1,722
Stationery	638	469
Administration	5,260	5,090
Office Rent	840	800
Telephone	256	236
Subscriptions & Donations Made	255	330
Depreciation	493	769
Travelling Expenses	68	172
Accountancy	447	423
Sundry Expenses	61	20
Bank Charges	211	193
Printing & Publicity	271	2,861
Raistrick Bench Project	-	2,540
Repairs	<u>35</u>	<u>-</u>
	17,004	20,191
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>3,056</u>	<u>45</u>

The Dales Living Landscape Programme

YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST



At last there is optimistic news for the Dales at a time when the local economy is experiencing unprecedented difficulty. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, having completed its four-year Dales EnviroNet Project of improvements throughout the Dales, has been successful in its bid for ongoing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Iain Oag, Director of the Trust, is delighted by the outcome of the bid, which could mean a massive injection of £3 million into the local economy over the next three years. In the first year of the new Dales Living Landscape programme of environmental improvements, HLF are supporting the Trust initially with a 54% grant of £500,000, the remainder to be co-funded by the Trust's various partners and its own fundraising activities.

Iain is confident that years 2 and 3 will follow the same pattern and commented, "We already have an established track record for a wide range of environmental projects, protecting and enhancing key elements of the Dales landscape. We now have the opportunity to build on that experience and to widen the relationship between the community and the environment by working together with local people to embark on projects we were unable to undertake in the last major programme."

Through the Trust's established network of contacts, the programme for the first year of the new initiative has already been identified. By late summer 2001, the Trust will be evaluating further applications to be put forward and considered for implementation in the second year, for completion during the year 2002.

The Trust, as before, will be working with key partners and agencies and its role will be to provide help, support and guidance to individuals and community groups who do not have the time, expertise or financial capabilities to manage specific projects.

Main criteria for every project, both natural and built heritage, must include the following provisos,

That it will:

- significantly conserve, enhance or add to the understanding of the overall cultural or landscape heritage, nature conservation interest, or community life of the Dales
- not happen without a grant from YDMT/HLF
- be accessible to the general public or be clearly visible from a public right of way

Planting and regeneration of woodland have been unavoidably put on hold until agricultural land has once more been declared accessible and the next tree planting season is underway, but the Trust is continuing to run its Tree Dedication Scheme whereby public donations will be utilised towards its next Donor Woodland. And while barn restoration, walling and footpath projects are temporarily postponed, work will proceed on the conservation and interpretation of industrial archaeology sites and the repair of heritage buildings at risk as well as village improvements.

Initial projects are presently being prioritised for commencement at the earliest possible opportunity.

The grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund could not have been more timely. The diverse range of improvements, which the Trust has proved it can undertake, will mean the organisation is ideally placed to begin the process of regeneration in the Dales.

Says Lord Shuttleworth, Chairman of the Trust, "The work, which we know we can do, is exactly the sort of work that is going to be needed in times ahead, providing employment for local contractors and getting community projects under way – the kind of projects which communities desperately need, but for which they will have fewer funds available, given the difficulties that both farming and tourism are currently facing. Where rural businesses in the past might have been in a position to assist their local communities, they are not currently able to do so. As an environmental fund putting money into the rural economy via



Lord Shuttleworth. Photo: John Mills Photography Ltd.

projects, we are able to help communities source the help and funding they require to carry out vital work.

"If anybody feels minded to give money to rural communities because of the difficulties they are experiencing, a donation to the Trust is an absolutely guaranteed way of making sure that the benefit happens on the ground. We can deliver. We are already in action, we have the experienced staff

and we know how to achieve results.

"If the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust did not exist, we would be wanting to invent it right now. Without an organisation such as this, projects simply would not happen or would certainly be delayed for a number of years. The remit of the Trust fits exactly what is needed in the Dales at this time of crisis."

Hilary Gray

Book Reviews

YORKSHIRE DALES: THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL PARK GUIDE BY COLIN SPEAKMAN, Photographs by John Morrison.
Pevensey Guides, David & Charles, £8.99, ISBN No 1 898630 17 8, available generally.

Knowledge, Authority and Devotion.

Who better than Colin Speakman to write the official Yorkshire Dales National Park guide, in a new series published by Pevensey Press - an imprint of David & Charles? Not only has he already written an impressive list of books about the Yorkshire Dales (sadly some of them out-of-print now) but in addition to being co-founder of the Yorkshire Dales Society twenty years ago and a trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, he was a former Park Officer. So, besides making a major contribution over many years to the interpretation and promotion of the Dales, he has a wide perspective and experience as well as an almost evangelical devotion to the very special features, qualities and atmosphere of the Park. He can cater for the needs of visitors with the realism and foresight to spell out the ways in which the landscape and facilities can best be enjoyed and preserved.

Beautifully illustrated by John Morrison's stunning colour photography, Colin Speakman's text is written in an authoritative yet approachable style. There is an excellent over-view of the Yorkshire Dales National Park itself, its *raison d'être*, management and issues today and in the future. As he points out 'there is a symbolic relationship

between the Dales of Yorkshire and the towns and cities of the region, especially within the old West Riding.' Interestingly he goes on to characterise their special characteristics as an example of what German environmentalists describe as a *Kulturlandschaft* - a cultural landscape. 'A cultural landscape is all about processes, the long and continuing story of geological change, evolving natural and wildlife habitats, human occupation and history, and above all the constant, dynamic interactions of man and nature. This includes folklore, myth, literature, painting, and in a wider context reflects the place that a particular landscape has within our early twenty-first century culture.'

He then ably proves this by a practical illustration of its compelling logic in the book's six main sections. These deal with the geology beneath the Dales distinctive scenery, climate, vegetation and wildlife, man's influence over the ages, land use, culture and customs, the rich resources for recreation and useful pointers to exploring the Park by public transport, car, cycle and, best of all, on foot. His approach is comprehensive, backed up by an excellent index (often omitted these days by penny-pinching publishers).

As well as unlocking and interpreting a wealth of fact and detail, he adds nuggets of information aside from the main text, for example, about reef knolls, Malham's Niagara, 'assarting', 'Farrer's friend' (the beautiful bird's eye primrose), pack horse trains and green tracks, how and why the 5,000 miles or 8,000 kms (estimated in the late



Kettlewell. Photo: John Morrison (from "Yorkshire Dales - The Official National Park Guide")

1980s) of dry stone walls were built, the '80-20 rule' and other curiosities.

Sensitively, - and particularly relevant in view of the recent traumas of Foot & Mouth disease - Colin Speakman emphasises the importance of a healthy farming economy, reflecting an essential balance 'between man and his environment, and social and economic values which are far from being irrelevant in the twenty-first century.' Indeed, one could argue that, despite the constraints of such a book, he could have added more about the background and methods of today's hill farming which impact so crucially on Dales life. There is still a need for much more to be spelt out in layman's terms about the vital yet sometimes awkward relationship between agriculture and tourism.

Colin Speakman and John Morrison's new book is an impressive contribution in the long tradition of Yorkshire Dales literature. It will delight and enlighten regular and new visitors. But should it not be pointed out that it does occasionally rain and snow in this part of Yorkshire. The breathtaking photos of one brilliantly sunlit scene after another could possibly create a false touristic impression!

David Morgan Rees

WATCH THE BIRDIE; The Life and Times of Richard and Cherry Kearton, Pioneers of Wildlife Photography by W.R. MITCHELL,

available from the author at Castleberg Press, 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, Settle, BD24 0AY. £7.99, post free.



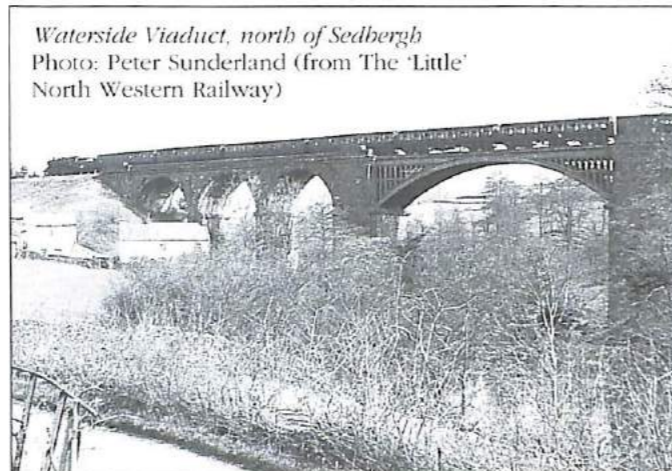
Even if you are not specially interested in birds, you will certainly be gripped by the excitement and interest of this biography of the Kearton brothers who were pioneers of nature photography. Bill's earlier work *Birds of the Yorkshire Dales* touched on some of the work of the Thwaite-born brothers who are credited with producing one of the earliest bird photographs; the photo of the nest and eggs of a song thrush in 1892. Intrepidly the brothers clamber to dizzying heights or spend hours waist deep in rivers and streams or cramped in some amazingly insalubrious hide in search of those elusive pictures. From their pioneering *British Birds' Nests*, published 1895, illustrated with authentic wild life photographs, and in later books, lectures and moving pictures, they took a fascinated public by storm and deserve to be remembered for their many initiatives, artistry and

boundless enthusiasm for their subject. The quality of their work is demonstrated by some fine photographs and there is a useful reference list of their collected works.

F.S.

THE 'LITTLE' NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY by MARTIN BAIRSTOW, available from local bookshops or direct from the author/publisher, 53 Kirklees Drive, Farsley, Leeds LS28 5TD, £10.95, post free.

As well as being the Yorkshire Dales Society's expert auditor, Martin Bairstow is a leading northern railway historian and publisher. His recent study of the Little North Western Lines from Skipton to Morecambe and Heysham and from Clapham to Low Gill will fascinate more than railway (and ship) buffs. There was once an extensive network of lines in the western Dales, carrying frequent local, express passenger (including Irish ferry) and freight trains. Only the half-rusty and somewhat neglected Skipton-Carnforth line remains, with a little diesel



Waterside Viaduct, north of Sedbergh
Photo: Peter Sunderland (from 'The Little North Western Railway')

railcar shuttling along every two to three hours or so along the edge of the Dales from Leeds to Morecambe. Few routes are more evocative, however, than the Clapham-Ingletton-Sedbergh-Tebay line up the Lune valley, which finally closed in 1966, and whose huge rotting viaducts and overgrown trackbed are a sadly wasted asset. Ironically, had the Settle-Carlisle line never been built, Leeds-Carlisle trains would now thunder that way.

As well as being a detailed history, the book is richly illustrated with period photographs, for this reviewer non more evocative than the cover photo of a Stanier 8F approaching Lowgill with the Howgills in the background, or the Ramblers Excursion from Bradford, as late as April 1960, heading over what is now the handsome but ghostly Waterside Viaduct north of Sedbergh, familiar to walkers on the Dales Way.

C.S.

Summer Events

Summer 2001 is proving the most difficult in the history of the Society for outdoor events, owing to re-occurring Foot & Mouth outbreaks in the Yorkshire Dales. Though we have cancelled our planned July and August events, which would have used footpaths, to prevent any possible risk of spreading the disease, members are urged to give every support to Dales communities and businesses by continuing to visit Dales towns and villages, enjoying food and drink, and visiting attractions that are open whilst "staying on the tarmac".

Regretfully we must ask members to check the web site on www.yorkshiredalesociety.org.uk or a named contact while the Foot & Mouth crisis continues in order to discover if events are taking place. Our websites also list attractions in the Dales which to our knowledge are currently open to the public.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9th - A PLACE TIME FORGOT

A visit to the newly opened Reindeer Cavern, part of Stump Cross Caverns (which are fully OPEN during the current F&M outbreak). Meet at 1pm at Stump Cross Cavern entrance, Greenhow for introduction, talk and visit to this spectacular new extension to this major Dales show cave. Admission with party £4 (YDS Group discount). Light lunches are available at the Cave from 12 noon onwards. **Please book in advance**, £4 a head is for the cave visit only, but please indicate if you are likely to want lunch so we can help the Caverns' management plan ahead. Send your booking to reach the YDS office not later than Wednesday August 22nd and make out the cheques to the Yorkshire Dales Society. The address is: the YDS,



Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD. Dalesbus 26 York Station d. 0930, Harrogate 1010, Pateley Bridge 1110 a Stump Cross 1120. (Connection on Dalesbus at Pateley from Bradford 0900, Leeds 0930, Otley 1000). Also service from 26 Grassington d. 1200. Return to Pateley etc. at 1625. If F&M restrictions permit by this date, a short walk to Grimwith Reservoir will be arranged after the visit to fit in with Pateley Bus return times.

SATURDAY OCT 6th - WALK: A SCENIC STROLL IN NIDDERDALE

Meet Dacre Banks Village Hall (park at Hall) at 10.30am for an easy 4 1/2 mile walk, finishing at 12.30pm. Packed, pub or cafe lunch. (Bus 24 d. Harrogate at 0930 passes Hall entrance). Note just one steady climb, but some nice views. Route up Cabin Lane via Harwell Hall farm, down & across river, up to Smelthouses and return along river to Dacre Banks. Leader Chris Hartley: 01943 873197.

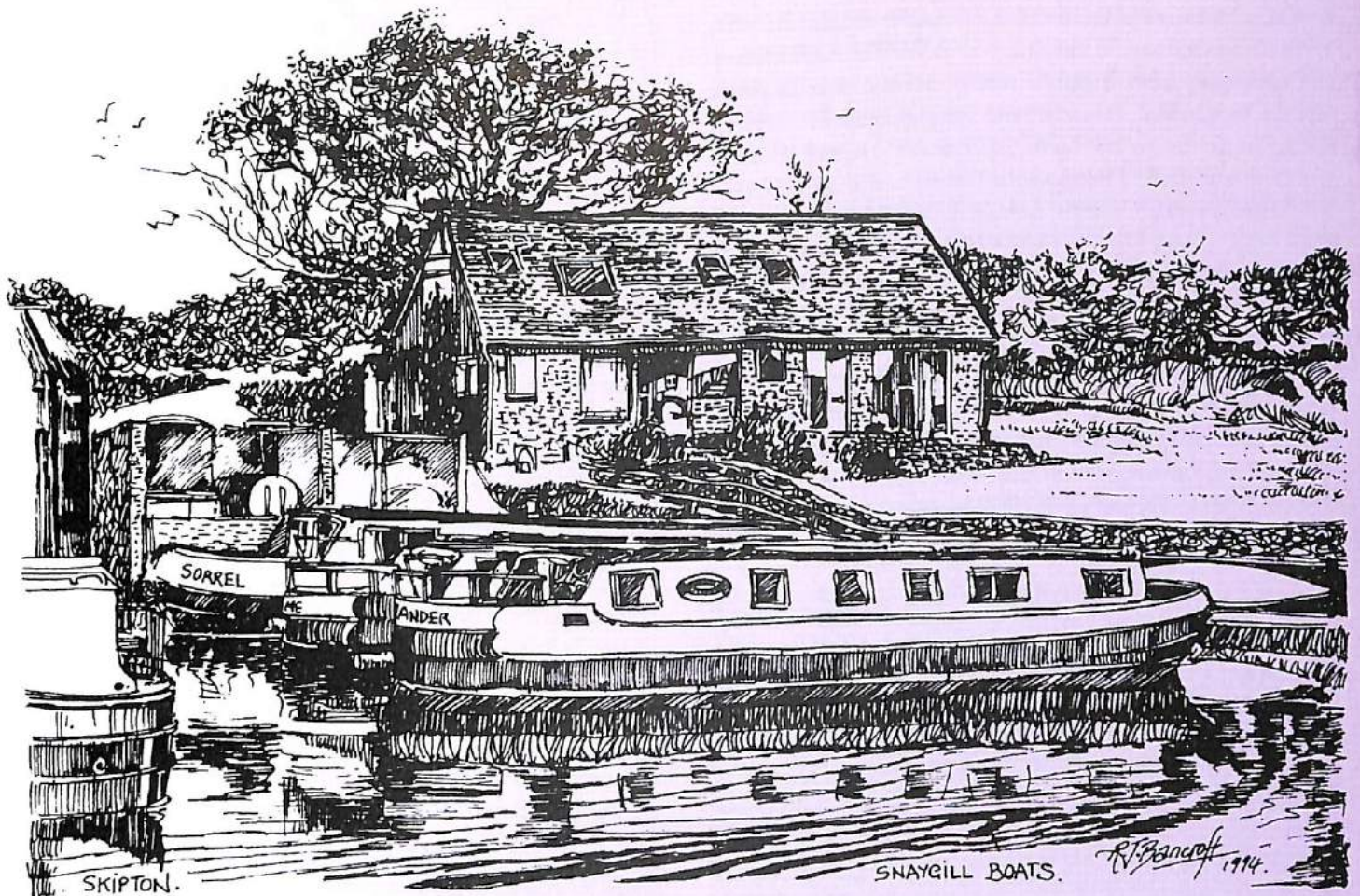
LECTURE: SANCTUARY IN THE NORTH: A LICENCE TO KILL ? by MAURICE TAYLOR A talk on Yorkshire churches which in medieval times offered sanctuary to malefactors as well as other privileges. 2.15pm. at Dacre Banks Village Hall. Bus 24 d. Harrogate at 1230.

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.

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by Richard Bancroft.

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