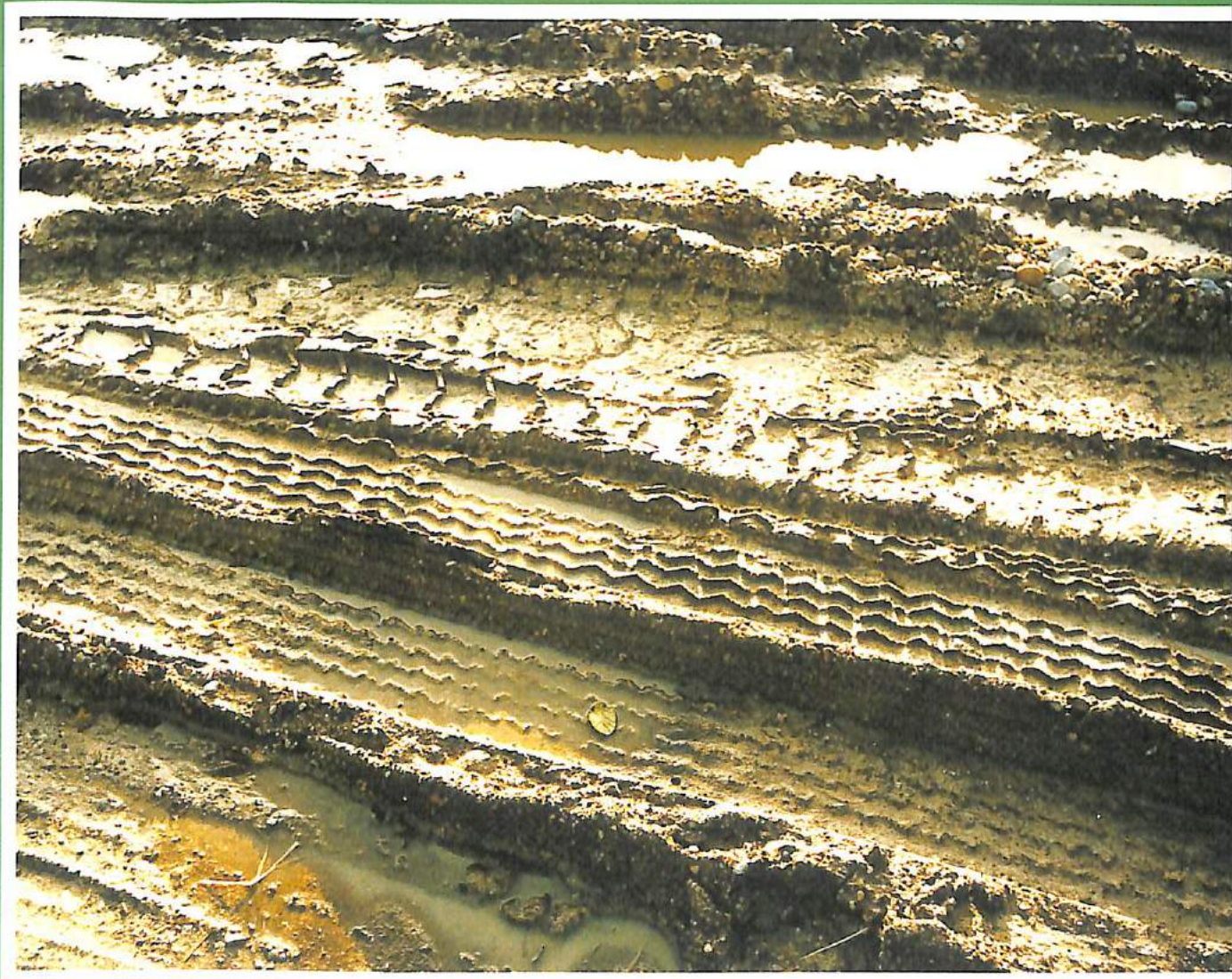


Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 78 Spring 2002



- *Goodbye Clapham National Park Centre?*
- *Putting Wildlife back on the Map*
- *Tracks in Time*
- *Green Lanes – the Fight for Our Heritage*

Yorkshire Dales
Society



£1.50



Goodbye Clapham National Park Centre?

News that the popular little National Park Centre in the Dales village of Clapham will close at the end of the 2002 season will be a shock to many people. Clapham Centre in the Old Manor House by the car park is the oldest Visitor Centre in the National Park, being opened by the former West Riding County Council in the 1960s.

Declining visitor numbers at the Centre, combined with Best Value studies by the Park Authority, have contributed to a decision by the Authority that the cost of operating the Centre can no longer be justified. Other small Centres, such as Sedbergh, could also be under scrutiny in the future, and even the showpiece centre at Malham is not achieving the visitor numbers it used to.

So what's happening? The network of National Park Centres, mostly at key gateway car parks, reflects visitor management strategies of the 1970s designed to intercept car-borne visitors as they arrived in the National Park, and, following an inevitable loo stop, ensure that contact was made with Park staff and interpretive displays so that people began their visit with greater knowledge and understanding. This would lead to respect for the countryside and the needs of the local community, especially farmers.

Not only are less people now arriving in the National Park (even excluding the two difficult years of 2000 and 2001), but a smaller proportion of those that do are calling in National Park Centres. The positive side is that visitors are tending to stay longer and therefore spend more money on local goods and services, helping the local economy. Less visitors means less congestion, less wear and tear on the countryside.

What then should be the future of National Park Centres? The Park Authority fully recognises the enormous value of personal contact with visitors, as this year's foot and mouth crisis proved, staff at Park Centres providing the only reliable source of

information on available footpaths at a time when Internet information could best be described as misleadingly patchy. There is still a huge public education job to be done, and presence of knowledgeable, well informed Information staff, linked with the Ranger service, is vitally important in terms of visitor contact and getting across the Park's many conservation and management messages.

But equally, we have to recognise that the world is changing and Park Centres have to reflect these changes. A more sophisticated public, able to use the internet for much basic information, may be less impressed even with interactive displays, let alone standard text and photographic displays. Maybe Park Centres will need increasingly to become focal points for events and visitor contacts, as well having a continuing role as retail outlets.

It is indeed sad that the Old Manor, a small listed building which cannot be altered, for example to create disabled access, will not have a future as a Centre. Settle and Ingleton are in fact now more important as visitor gateways into the Park, and initiatives are being explored by the National Park with Town and Parish Councils for improved provision in both communities.

Perhaps there could still be a way of using this historic building for Park purposes, in partnership with the local community, as well as the Ingleborough Estate, Ingleborough Cave, the Fell Rescue, and the Clapham based Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust who all have need for some kind of public presence in the village, and who could all benefit from imaginative use of the Manor House. Let's hope some practical ideas can be progressed, soon, hopefully before this lovely old building is sold by the National Park Authority to become yet another weekend cottage or antique shop.

Colin Speakman

Putting Wildlife Back on the Map

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Ecologist, Tim Thom, makes a plea for the importance of the Biodiversity Action Plan in the Yorkshire Dales. You can help implement it!

Nature in the Dales – a biodiversity action plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park

In recent times there has been an unprecedented loss of wildlife and natural areas on a global scale as a result of human activities and the Yorkshire Dales National Park has been no exception. In 1992 the world's governments met at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to discuss how to begin the process of reversing this decline in the Earth's natural environment. The majority of those governments went away from the Earth Summit promising to: "develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, or adapt for this purpose, existing strategies, plans or programmes ..."

In January 1994, the United Kingdom government did just that by publishing *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan*. In 2000 *Nature in the Dales*, a biodiversity action plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park was published, which sets out how all those who live, work, play and study in the National Park can act locally to make a vital contribution to the conservation of the Earth's biodiversity.

Why do we need a biodiversity action plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park?

Nature in the Dales is the biodiversity action plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. There are several reasons why we need to produce *Nature in the Dales*:

To translate the objectives of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan into practical local actions.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan considers that the best way to deliver national targets for habitats and species is through Local Biodiversity Action Plans, which should:

- Ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan are translated into effective action at a local level;

- Identify targets for species and habitats appropriate to the local area and reflecting the values of people locally;
- Develop effective local partnerships to ensure that programmes for biodiversity conservation are maintained in the long-term;
- Raise awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation in the local context;
- Ensure that opportunities for conservation and enhancement of the whole biodiversity resource are fully considered, and;
- Provide a basis of monitoring progress in biodiversity conservation, at both local and national levels.

To provide a mechanism for implementing the visions for nature conservation set out in English Nature's Natural Area Profiles.

Natural Areas are regions of countryside that are easily recognised by their characteristic landforms, wildlife and land-use. English Nature has divided the whole of England into Natural Areas. For each Natural Area a profile has been prepared which characterises the important natural features and their associated wildlife, identifies the factors that affect these features and sets out broad nature conservation objectives. The area covered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park forms part of two Natural Area Profiles – Cumbria Fells & Dales and Yorkshire Dales. Natural Area Profiles are designed to be visionary in their objectives without taking account of tight time-scales, budgetary constraints or what can be achieved under current circumstances. *Nature in the Dales* uses these visions to develop more precise targets for habitats



Limestone Pavements near Ingleborough from Rainscar Scar.
Photo: Christine Whitehead

and species that can be realistically achieved within defined time periods.

To contribute to the delivery of sustainable development targets for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The underlying principle of sustainable development is that the economic, social and environmental needs of this generation should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The maintenance of biodiversity is, therefore, an important factor in delivering sustainable development.

Aims and objectives of Nature in the Dales.

The overall aim of *Nature in the Dales* is:

To conserve and enhance biodiversity within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and to contribute to national and international biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.

To achieve this aim, we will need to:

- Conserve and, where practicable, enhance;
 - a) the overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of habitats in the Yorkshire Dales;
 - b) the biodiversity value of nationally and internationally important and threatened species and habitats;
 - c) the biodiversity value of species and habitats that are characteristic of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and ;
 - d) the biodiversity of natural and semi-natural habitats where this has been diminished over recent decades.
- increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity, and;
- contribute to the conservation of biodiversity on a national and international scale.

What does Nature in the Dales contain?

The actions needed to conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of the National Park are set out in a series of Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans. *Nature in the Dales* contains 23 Habitat Action Plans (14 of which are UK priorities) and 21 Species Action Plans (13 of which are UK priorities), plus a further 66 species for which further information is needed.

Habitat Action Plans cover the conservation of internationally important habitats such as the irreplaceable limestone pavements and the world-renowned wildflower rich hay meadows. They also cover more locally important habitats such as flower-rich road and rail verges.

Species Action Plans cover the protection and conservation of a number of rare and endangered species such as black grouse (now in a very precarious position in the Dales), lady's slipper orchid and the northern brown argus butterfly. However, we should not ignore the importance of the Dales for more locally common species that are nationally more scarce. The Yorkshire Dales Society has an important example of one of these as its emblem – the beautiful bird's eye primrose.

How can members of the Yorkshire Dales Society help?

The vast majority of the conservation actions in *Nature in the Dales* are directly linked to land management – farming, forestry and moorland management. The main focus in implementing these actions is through dialogue with landowners and through the provision of grants such as the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

However, one of the key issues for the National Park Authority and its partners in conserving habitats and species, is knowing where they are, what condition they are in and what can be done to look after them. In the case of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, we have a pretty good idea of what there is and how to manage it, but in the wider countryside we are working from information that is, in some cases, 20 years old. We urgently need to update this information. Therefore, as part of its role in implementing *Nature in the Dales*, the National Park Authority is starting a **Wildlife Mapping Project** to update this information. The project will take a new approach in that, rather than simply employing consultants and contractors to go out and carry out our surveys, we want to utilise the wealth of knowledge that is already available through local people.

As a first step we want to get some basic information on a number of species and a few habitats that we have scant knowledge of. This will enable us to identify "biodiversity hotspots" that would be followed up by more detailed assessments and targeted conservation activity. If you would like to help with this work, we have produced some simple wildlife recording forms (see opposite page for details and how to obtain these forms). These forms cover a list of readily identifiable species (some may require a little practice!) and a few specific habitats that anybody can look for on a day out in the Dales. All you have to do is record some simple information and send the form back.

In addition, if you are a real expert in a particular aspect of nature conservation such as in botany or

invertebrates, and have been keeping records of wildlife in your area of the National Park, we would like to hear from you. Your information may be vital in identifying vulnerable species or habitats in need of urgent conservation action.

With your help and with the support of professional habitat and species specialists, we hope to gradually build up a better map of the biodiversity of the National Park. We can then use

this to help implement *Nature in the Dales* and secure the future of wildlife in the priceless landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales.

**For wildlife recording forms please write to:
Tim Thom or Janet Swain at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, North Yorkshire BD23 5LB.**

An Embarrassing Problem

Both the local press and the YDS editors' postbag have seen reports of the closure or potential closure of a number of public toilets in or near the Dales. The problem is not unique to the Yorkshire Dales as we have also received reports of closures elsewhere, in Calderdale for example.

As Alan Gaskell, YDS member and lifetime Rambler points out, "Walk leaders often arrange the meeting point for rambles where there are toilets for use before and at the end of a walk.....Embarrassment can be caused by lack of toilets, even more so when one finds them closed." In fact as he so justly remarks, closed toilets are not just a problem for visitors, but can actually damage the local tourism industry.

District Councils, faced with additional costs caused by mindless vandalism and anti-social behaviour, as well as a desire to save community charge payers' money, too often see closure as a solution without thinking through the consequences. The costs of disabled provision are also a factor. Since provision of public toilets is not a statutory obligation, there is a temptation for some authorities to save costs whenever they can get away with it. The future of the village loos at Hebden for example - a popular starting place for many Dales walks - is currently under discussion.

Margaret Rooker, life-time Rambler, YDS member and former YDS council member, writes that after some correspondence with Joyce Whitley, an officer at Yorkshire Dales National Park, it appears that Horton loos are currently under repair and Kettlewell will be replaced with new premises to be built on the car park in conjunction with Craven DC, who will eventually bear the running costs. But YDNPA cannot take on any new commitments unless more funds are made available.

Readers of the Craven Herald and Ilkley Gazette will know of other cost savings of this nature, or perhaps have found out from first-hand experience.

Skipton bus station has closed the public toilets pending re-building of the bus station (there is no definite date for this), and the problem is particularly acute on Sunday mornings. Otley loos near the bus station, "celebrate" Sunday by remaining closed, and Ilkley Gazette has had a long-running saga on the state of the constantly vandalised toilets at the riverside in Ilkley. Addingham's loss of facilities at Sugar Hill has already lasted some time as part of a Bradford MC cost-cutting exercise. Addingham Parish Council is now investigating whether they can re-commission their toilets when they receive their own budget.

Margaret Rooker continues: "We have asked all groups to object to toilet closures. *Walking For Health* programmes are now sponsored by local authorities and get support from the Countryside Agency. These are often aimed at the less mobile, including the elderly who may have bladder problems. Loos at reasonable intervals on the urban fringe are necessary for them, especially if using public transport, which lengthens journey times."

Some authorities take this responsibility seriously, others do not. It is time to understand just how bad this problem is, and if necessary press for national guidelines to be imposed on local authorities who ignore what is a basic need for local people and visitors alike. We are sure that YDS members know of other cases in or near the Dales where the problems are severe or getting worse. To help us make the case, please let us know clearly where public toilets in or around the Dales have been closed, or where their general state is a cause for concern. Please keep details concise: location, closure times or total closure and any other relevant factors.

Send details of Loo Closures to The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD.

Tracks in Time

As a part of its post-F&M Welcome Back to the Countryside, the National Park Authority has been organising a series of events this Spring to celebrate the rich heritage of green tracks and ancient ways of the Dales which are such special landscape features. Communications Officer **Cassandra Tebb**, explains why they are such an important part of our literary as well as physical heritage. At a time when several are under threat, this is a useful reminder of why their protection is now so very urgent.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park has an outstanding heritage of bridleways and footpaths. For centuries, these routes have carried the lifeblood of the Dales and each one has a story to tell about the people who built it and the people who used it.

'Tracks in Time' is a celebration of this heritage. It is also a reminder that these rights of way are as important today as they have ever been.

"The foot passenger who is wise, with time to spend and a holiday to enjoy, avoids the obvious pattern and looks beneath its harsh lines for something softer and older: the tracks that cling to the hillside and the fell edges, that run unfenced across the moors, and that offer many a wild prospect of hill and dale...All dalesmen worthy of the name must at some time or another have walked with joy and gratitude along one or other such track and perhaps, in his heart be poured blessings on the unknown makers of such a lovable way"

Arthur Raistrick 1962

Cam High Road

Some tracks meander quietly along in no particular hurry, but Cam High Road flies arrow straight across the moors above Wensleydale. It's not hard to guess that it began life as a Roman road. It was built 2000 years ago to carry soldiers and supplies through the Pennines. This section leads to the Roman fort at Bainbridge whose soldiers kept an eye on the troublesome northern tribes for over 200 years.

"Cam road - meaning 'a ridge of hill'...Bowen's map of 1785 gives it as 'The Devil's Causeway,' which suggests that people of that date had sensed something unusual about this well-made road. It has the swing and sense of adventure of a Roman hill road. As we trod it a moor wind blew on our faces, and we felt rested and exhilarated at the

same time."

Ella Pontefract and Marie Hartley 1938

Mastiles Lane

Although Mastiles Lane runs through a Roman marching camp, it was probably built much later. In medieval times, the monks of Fountains Abbey owned huge estates in the area. They grazed sheep on Malham Moor and Mastiles Lane became a vital route for them between Malham and Kilnsey.



Roman Soldier at the Mastiles Lane Camp.
Photo courtesy of the Ermine Street Guard website.

Provisions went up to Malham for the shepherds, and sheep; their wool; milk and cheese came back via the grange at Kilnsey for the monks.

In those days there were no walls and the way was marked with stone crosses placed at prominent points along it. Only a few of the cross bases survive.

"[Mastiles Lane]...the greenest, softest, springiest walking ever, and unspoilt after six years of war, praise be. Head on into a strong west wind full of curlews' cries, sweet clean winds to blow away the last of the accumulated cobwebs of town and winter. I think I shall dream tonight of curlews, of a green ribbon of turf between twisting white walls and of a memorable last picture as the sun went down over the head of Gordale."

Jessica Lofthouse 1950

The Corpse Way

Six hundred years ago, upper Swaledale was remote and wild, many miles from the only consecrated burial ground in the dale, at the church at Grinton. When someone died, their friends and neighbours joined together and carried them there in light wicker coffins. The Corpse Way got its name from those long, sad journeys.

"...at Riddings farm, a little farther along, there are, in a corner of a meadow, the remains of a barn known as the Dead House. Funeral processions coming from a long distance are said to have halted here for the night, the bearers leaving the coffin in the Dead House while they went down to the Punch Bowl Inn at Feetham for a merry evening."

Ella Pontefract and Marie Hartley 1934

Craven Way

From medieval times, right up until the building of turnpike roads in the 18th century, packhorse trains were the main way of moving goods around the Yorkshire Dales. The surefooted ponies could climb the toughest, narrowest routes imaginable carrying loads of knitted goods or lead up to 100kg in weight. The Craven Way was developed as a packhorse route out of Dentedale. It follows a high level track over the bleak northern slopes of Whernside with the village of Ingleton as its destination and from there, on to the markets at Skipton and beyond.

"...their presence was generally known by the tinkling of the bells, which could be heard at a good distance...When the traffic ceased, hundreds of these sonorous pack-bells were sold for old metal, and the brokers' for a time were full of them. Each bell weighed from 1lb to 2lb."

Harry Speight 1897

Our right to use the public footpaths, byways and bridleways of the Yorkshire Dales is enshrined in the law, but these laws were hard fought for. In the 19th and early 20th century, locals like John Crowther, Grassington's chemist and amateur antiquarian, defended the rights of villagers to walk their ancient routes.

"An arbitrary attempt was made some time ago to close this footpath, and for no other reason, forsooth, than because an individual about to build a house fancied that a path through his twenty or thirty acres would interfere with his comforts. An order to close the path was obtained from the magistrates, the stiles were walled up and notices posted as to trespassers. But the residents were not thus to be deprived of their rights, - the notice boards were ignored or pulled down, and the stiles were re-opened...There have been many similar

attempts to close this road, and I am proud to say that some of them have been frustrated through my advice."

John Crowther 1930

The mapping of public rights of way began officially in 1932, but it was not until 1961 that the so-called Definitive Map with all the Public Rights of Way in the North Riding was finally sealed and formally advertised. The West Riding Map wasn't finalised until 1969.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority now maintains the Definitive Map for this area.

"I love to go a wandering..."

Access to clean, fresh air and the chance to walk among the hills has always been important to the people living and working in the industrial towns and cities of northern England. For many, the weekend ramble or cycle ride in the Dales with friends has become an essential activity, a way of recharging the batteries. Those who have written about it try to capture how spiritually refreshing walking in this beautiful countryside is.

"Some of these lovely green tracks once seen remain in the memory like magic lyric poems; and it is no bad thing to have the mind stocked with them so that, on melancholy days, they flash upon the consciousness and restore one's faith again. To tramp over such a track at early morning, with the dew sparkling on the grass and the white limestone jutting out of the green hillsides and glinting in the sunlight, is to enter an enchanting world of faerie where dreams come true."

A J Brown 1931

Preserving our heritage

There are over 2,000 km of public rights of way in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The National Park Authority helps to maintain this network in good working order. Many of you will have seen our Rangers and volunteers working hard in all weathers restoring track surfaces, building gates and stiles and installing new bridges. Keeping our public rights of way in good repair gives every one of us the chance to enjoy the freedom and simple pleasure they offer.

"...underlying it all is the older system of roads and tracks that have evolved over a thousand years or more. The resulting palimpsest of routes is a superimposition of the journeying needs of fifty generations of dalesfolk. Today they are used for work and pleasure by more people, in or out of vehicles, than at any time in their history."

Geoffrey N Wright 1985

Profile: Dawn Burton

Continuing our occasional series of Yorkshire Dales Society Council Members Profiles, Dawn and Jim Burton have made a really special contribution to the Yorkshire Dales Society over a number of years.

Dawn Burton, a YDS Council Member since 1988, has the distinction of having a strong antipodean connection. Born in Launceston in Tasmania, a beautiful, mountainous and sparsely populated island, her particular interest in speech and drama led to a teaching career in schools in Tasmania and Victoria, before sailing to England in 1959. A secretarial course at college during her studies and work as a college secretary would later prove invaluable for funding further part-time studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. One particular assignment - a temporary secretarial post with the Royal Society was to lead to important consequences. There Dawn met Jim Burton, her future husband. Jim had just returned from an International Geophysical Year (IGY) expedition at Halley Bay in the Antarctic. The couple married in London, moved initially to Salisbury in the south of England, but returned to Australia with their first-born son Michael, which was later followed by the birth of Tony, their second child.

In 1970 the family took the decision to return to England, realising that two exceptionally able youngsters would perhaps have greater educational opportunities in the UK. Now living in Surrey, Dawn became interested in the Adult Literacy scheme and took further training in this field before working part-time for Surrey County Council and later at the Bradford and Ilkley Community College, until her retirement in 1999.

Both boys completed degrees at Cambridge: Michael was to become Senior Lecturer at the University of New South Wales and Professor at Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, and Tony formerly Director of Policy at CPRE, has recently been appointed Director of Policy & Planning at the National Trust.



Dawn's particular contribution to the Yorkshire Dales Society has been especially in the form of the Dales Digest which she took over from YDS and former Council Member John Ward about ten years ago. This quarterly periodical in highly readable format, sets out a wide variety of Dales issues which have been high-lighted in the local and national press. Dawn has incredibly edited about 40 issues of the Digest to date, while a small group send out newspaper cuttings to her on a regular basis. For an additional £6 a year, YDS members have been able to familiarise themselves on transport, social issues, the environment, and many other matters. The Society congratulates Dawn warmly on a splendid achievement; the Digest goes out not only to a number of members, but also to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, local MPs and other opinion formers.

Dawn sees the Yorkshire Society as an organisation with a strong "lobbying" voice, which is highly respected. She is keen that a balance should be maintained between the needs of tourism and the economy, and the fragile landscape of the Dales, which she sees as her spiritual home - "we should tread softly".

Dawn's considered thoughtful contributions at YDS Council meetings and her readiness to help at YDS events when required, have made her a valuable colleague. Her commitment to the importance of landscape and open spaces are shown also by another voluntary activity - she acts as membership secretary for the West Yorkshire Branch of CPRE. Horse-riding in Tasmania awakened her initial interest in the countryside at an early age and she was formerly a keen tennis player. Theatre going is a major interest, formerly she graced some amateur productions. She is now attending a variety of U3A classes, including a course on cosmology in order to have an insight into a popular book on the subject, which is in preparation by her astro-physicist eldest son.

Profile: Jim Burton

Perhaps not too many people on the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management have endured living at temperatures of up to -60°C (in the Antarctic) or the other extreme at 47°C in the heat of Australia; Jim as a meteorologist has not only endured both, but thrived on it.

Originally from Stockport in Lancashire, Jim was later educated at a Leeds grammar school, when the family moved to Cookridge in Leeds. He excelled at cricket and football, and is still a passionate cricket enthusiast. Like so many others, he started to explore and enjoy the Yorkshire Dales on his bike in the 1940s. After two years as an articled clerk, he joined the Meteorological Office in 1950. Here he speedily rose through the ranks and then served in the Royal Air Force for his deferred National Service, 1951-53, finding that

his meteorological skills were equally in demand there. Demobilisation in 1953 meant a return to the Meteorological Office at Linton-on-Ouse near York. He was then selected for a Royal Society expedition for the International Geophysical Year 1957/8 as one of 21 scientists and technicians to serve at a new station on the shores of the Weddell Sea in Antarctica. The expedition left London November 1956 with the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, and with only six months to make the base ready for the IGY in July. Communications were of course less sophisticated in those days.

A fascinating two years including an emergency situation as their team doctor fell ill with a potential fatal condition, was followed by return to London to work on the expedition results. Jim had every intention originally of returning to Antarctica, but meeting and marrying Dawn caused a move to Salisbury and forecasting for some advanced experimental work. Jim and his Antarctic team were honoured by a Polar Medal from the Queen before Jim left to work in the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, taking charge of the office at Hobart airport, while further moves in Australia followed, including to Tasmania and a number of centres in Australia. In England once more, after 14 years service at Heathrow Airport, he worked for three years in the Flight Crew Licensing Department of the Civil Aviation Authority in London.

Keen to help his sons with their schoolwork, Jim took his BA (hons) degree at the Open University and inspirationally, followed that by a PhD a few

years later in the 1980s. With the opening of the Met Office's new Weather Centre in Leeds, there was an opportunity for Jim and Dawn to return to Yorkshire. Retirement in 1993 meant that Ilkley, with the Dales on view from their garden, was the perfect spot for them.



Jim's strong commitment to the protection of the countryside and delight in the beauty of the Dales landscape has been demonstrated by his years as a Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, 1992-2000, where he was not afraid to speak his mind. He was also heavily involved in a campaign to prevent the devastation of the Wharfe Valley by the building of a major bypass in Ilkley, and became an active member of CPRE, then chairman of its West Yorkshire branch and also of the Yorkshire and Humber

Regional Committee. He has been a most able Vice-chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society since 1992, tirelessly attending and reporting on additional meetings and seminars, leading occasional walks for the Yorkshire Dales Society, chairing our original Daleswatch committee meetings, and being a tower of strength on our YDS Council. Jim is also a member of the recently formed Green Lanes Alliance which campaigns against the devastation of our ancient tracks and is also much concerned in a Multi-Cultural Initiative, which aims to encourage ethnic groups to enjoy the Dales countryside.

Jim feels that the National Park needs as much support as possible from amenity societies and it is essential that they speak with the kind of authoritative voice he feels that the YDS has promoted.

As a keen walker, his ambition in his early seventies is to climb Ben Nevis, followed by Snowdon and Scafell in the following two years. Keen on orienteering and master of his local club, Jim was also involved regionally and nationally in the sport, so there shouldn't be any route-finding problems! Treasurer of the Royal Meteorological Society Specialist Group for the History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography, he is also keenly interested in the history of meteorology.

A warm thank you to our then YDS chairman (now president) Ken Willson, who initially recruited Dawn and Jim Burton, a splendid team, to the YDS over 13 years ago!

Fleur Speakman

Developing Rural Skills in the Yorkshire Dales

YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST



David Tayler, of the **Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust**, is currently researching the development of an innovative training programme for rural skills in the Yorkshire Dales National Park with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Yorkshire Forward.

He explains: "There is evidence to suggest that there is an increasing shortage of certain skills within the Dales, which has obstructed the completion of conservation projects in the past and required the Trust and its partners to seek labour outside the local area."

With increasing emphasis in funding towards rural regeneration, at a time when the rural economy is under such pressure, there will be an increasing need for such skills in the future. The development of training for these 'skills gaps' will potentially contribute towards much-needed employment in the area.

In the development phase of this scheme, David's remit has been to identify the skills and training needs which are most urgently required, working closely with providers of existing training programmes and developing partnerships with training agencies and like-minded organisations.

Although an immense amount is currently happening in the area in terms of training provision and research for training provision by a whole wide spectrum of training providers during this period of much-needed regeneration, a cohesive strategy is required.

Says David, "By helping to co-ordinate different providers the aim is to provide a single package involving a number of partners, rather than different organisations all setting up courses independently and possibly not getting the numbers and therefore not being viable."

"Another advantage to working together is that different organisations can access different funding. I am presently identifying methods to promote the programme and recruit for courses, as well as researching existing labour networks in the area and exploring further funding opportunities."

"After contacting a wide range of individuals and organisations with an interest in conservation-related training in the area, initial findings have

pointed particularly towards shortages in conservation-grade wallers and people with knowledge of traditional building materials and techniques. Other needs are for people with skills to construct and maintain boundaries and access in general, as well as those with knowledge of habitat management and the potential value of diversity in all its forms."

The next phase of the project will examine the potential to develop training for different groups in the area and the various ways of overcoming obstacles.

"Historically, there is a real problem in this area with getting training off the ground," says David.

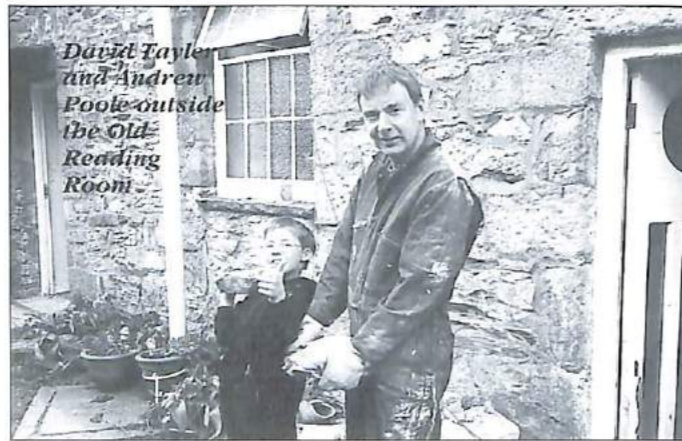
"The area has a low, widely-dispersed population, resulting in transport costs, child care costs and financial issues for small businesses in the area who may struggle to afford to send people for training."

It is hoped that relevant countryside apprenticeships will attract young people, as well as volunteers and that funding can be accessed to put the

training in place. The idea is to set up combination funding sources, all assisting the provision of long-term conservation skills.

David stresses: "The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is not acting as a rival provider but to set up specialist courses. One such seminar, which had to be postponed last year because of the Foot and Mouth crisis, is taking place at Malham Tarn Field Studies Centre in April. Archaeologists from the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Park Authorities, the National Trust and regional representatives from DEFRA (Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) will be working towards a common policy for wall conservation. That will then guide project work and the sort of level of conservation work provided by contractors."

As far as the voluntary work is concerned, David is looking at various possibilities, involving assisting with surveys on traditional buildings at risk, flora, access or assisting with practical conservation work such as habitat management. It is hoped that a wide spectrum of local people could become involved.



"We want to interest adult groups, youth groups, Duke of Edinburgh participants, environment graduates and so on. We're trying to reach out to a wide variety of different types of people, be they young, old, unemployed, farmers or people who are leaving school."

Although the structure of courses still has to be finalised, David hopes that the scheme will provide

a major boost to the area at a time when it has never been more urgently required.

Ideas, contacts and support from interested parties are most welcome!

Contact: David Tayler, YDMT Conservation Skills Training Co-ordinator tel: 015242 51002.

It's Your Business

A seminar aimed at small and medium-sized businesses in the Yorkshire Dales, on Wednesday March 13th 2002, was hosted by the Council for National Parks (CNP), under the chairmanship of John Hill, an independent Sustainability Advisor, at the Dalesbridge Outdoor Centre near Austwick, North Yorkshire.

On the lines of an initial pilot project in the Lake District, the aim was to develop a common understanding between the National Park and local businesses and explore how to create mutual benefits. Key preliminary questions were:

- Why is a National Park good for business?
- Why is a National Park not a good business location?
- Why is local business important to the National Park?
- Why is local business not so good for a National Park?

The packed venue accommodated a wide variety of business representatives including the chairs of local chambers of trade: the Countryside Agency who were sponsoring the event, represented by Mike Feist, Senior Countryside Advisor, Yorkshire Forward's Rural Renaissance Manager for Business Mark Firth, members of CNP's Corporate Forum including its Chairman Sir Chris Bonington, CPRE's Regional Policy Advisor for Yorkshire and the Humber Andrew Wood, The Yorkshire Dales Area Manager of the National Trust Kathy Gresty, the Visitor Manager for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Julie Barker, the Director of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Iain Oag, Jerry Pearlman representing the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, and YDS Chairman Chris Wright with YDS Joint Secretaries Fleur and Colin Speakman.

The Seminar's emphasis was on drawing out as

much input as possible from the participants which was emphasised by seating delegates at tables where a number of brain-storming sessions under a facilitator took place. Post-it notes were much used to encourage as many people as possible to add to various points and concerns to the growing body of material under discussion. This was refined down to fourteen topics which were considered by the groups to have maximum importance for business and their siting in a national park. Voting took place to refine the initial list to a further six topics which were then extensively discussed in the afternoon sessions, with the emphasis on "how we move forward" and "what needs to be done" and very pertinently, "by whom". Tourism, Innovation and Conservation, Transport, Rural Recovery, the National Parks as a Brand Image and Business were prioritised by the delegates. It was felt for example that the appointment of a Dales co-ordinator would be particularly helpful for anyone seeking to make distinct changes of some kind under the heading of Innovation and Conservation, and that Business Link could raise awareness by publicising relevant information. Tourism could perhaps explore new markets by the help of the Joint Partnership Initiative (JPIs), while the Countryside Agency could well help with joint local promotion in the countryside.

CNP Directors Vicki Elcoate and Ruth Chambers are to be congratulated on so ably steering a challenging and most stimulating event. John Hill showed the necessary flexibility to keep the Seminar on course, but enabled everyone to air their deeply-felt concerns. Sir Chris Bonington gave the necessary votes of thanks with typical wit and charm, and Eva Gomez from CNP who had shouldered much of the organisation and administration, should be congratulated on a smooth-running function with an excellent lunch.

Fox and Hounds is saved

News that the Fox and Hounds Inn at Starbotton, on the Dales Way, will continue as a popular Dales pub is good news for Upper Wharfedale. After a campaign by the YDS and other local bodies to prevent planning permission to allow the 17th century inn to be sold as a private house, new owners Steve and Sarah Abbot plan to run the pub as a traditional Dales inn welcoming walkers and other visitors. It will also now stay open all day at weekends, to provide food as well as liquid refreshment – though it will close on Mondays to give the family a rest day. Make a point of calling in the Fox on your way past this Spring to help support their business!

Green Lanes – the Fight for a Heritage

Following representations from several conservation bodies including the Yorkshire Dales Society, North Yorkshire County Council, in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, is finally considering pressing ahead with four experimental orders on Green Lanes in the Dales using its powers under the 1984 Traffic Regulation Act. The effect will be to restrict access by motorised vehicles – other than access by farmers and landowners – on just four vulnerable green tracks in the Yorkshire Dales.

Whilst this might appear to be great news for everyone who loves the Yorkshire Dales, North Yorkshire County Council is suggesting a two-stage process. First is to consult interested organisations, including user groups, whether or not to go ahead with the Orders. If so, the County Council will then decide in consultation with the National Park which Green Lanes are most appropriate to proceed with. There will then be another six week period when once again individuals and groups can make their views known.

Already there is a huge, well orchestrated letter and e-mail campaign by groups such as LARA (the "Land Access & Recreation Association" – which is a motor-industry funded front for motor cycling, trail riding and four wheeled drivers in the countryside) – and the so called Ancient Lanes Conservation Group which claims to "repair" the very tracks destroyed by their own activities by filling in ruts with crushed stone. Their members are urged to write letters to local MPs and Councillors, claiming that preventing them driving on unsurfaced moorland tracks is in breach of their human rights. Even worse, they play the disabled card, claiming that denying access for motor vehicles on any track is preventing disabled people from enjoying the countryside, even though the last thing the overwhelming majority of disabled people want to do is to bounce around over a rough track in a Landrover. This also conveniently ignores the fact that motor vehicles actually prevent use of green lanes by non-motorised wheelchair users, and those with disabilities including those who can walk on traffic free trails which don't have stiles, both because of the rutting of tracks and constant danger from fast-moving vehicles.

Already wild claims have been made by the motor lobby, that all unsurfaced roads in the Dales are to be closed. More than 400 letters, many of them

abusive, from all over the UK, have already been received by the County Council, even before the consultation period has begun. County Councillors and officers, are already receiving phone calls, claiming that rights are under threat.

In fact the County Council is only suggesting a mere four out of over 100 unsurfaced tracks in the Yorkshire Dales with vehicle rights should be managed in this way – on an experimental basis. The 1984 Act (Section 22) gives local Highway Authorities powers to restrict traffic for "conserving or enhancing the natural beauty of the area, or of affording better opportunities for the public to enjoy the amenities of the area, for recreation or the study of nature in the area."

Nowhere perhaps in the whole of England than the Yorkshire Dales, better illustrates the conflict between those who want to enjoy quiet recreation and a small, selfish minority who see such routes as a challenge for their individual sport at no matter what cost to the enjoyment of other people, the feelings of local farmers and landowners, or the environment, including the loss, for ever, of what are great linear, historic monuments across the landscape; so eloquently described by the Dales authors in Cassandra Tebb's article in this issue of the Review. And the words of the Road Traffic Act could not be more appropriate to deal with this precise problem.

If your enjoyment of the Yorkshire Dales, whether as a local resident, landowner, visitor, naturalist or historian, is being affected by the activities of motorcyclists and four wheel drive enthusiasts in the Dales, it is vital that you make your views immediately known to North Yorkshire County Council. Say exactly where you have experienced damage or disturbance, noise, physical danger or obstruction because of deep rutted tracks, how many vehicles you have seen, their speed, behaviour, the date when incidents occurred. Photographs are also useful. Write as soon as possible to the Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AH, and ask him to note your comments and to inform you if and when the Orders will be made. Please send a copy of your letter to Jon Avison, Head of Visitor Management, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Colvend, Grassington, BD23 5LB, and if you live in the Dales, also to your local County Councillor.

Let's be quite clear about this. If LARA and its allies have their way, it will be "open season" in the Yorkshire Dales for off-roaders and trail bikers for years to come. Claims are currently being lodged for virtually every ancient packhorseway and bridleway in the National Park to be used as a scramble track for motorbikes or a challenge route for four wheel drive vehicles.

There is no greater current threat to the quality of the landscape and the tranquillity of the Yorkshire

Dales. It is a national outrage that this kind of anti-social activity can continue, virtually unchecked, in the very heart of the National Park. It is vital you write that letter now to ensure the conservationists' and the local community voice is listened to. For more details of the work of the Green Lanes Alliance which is spearheading the campaign to keep at least some ancient ways free from off-roaders, (YDS is a member) write to Michael Bartholomew, Chairman, YDGLA, 9 Fern Bank, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1HG.

Book Reviews

NIDDERDALE YESTERDAY: A PICTORIAL RECORD OF LIFE IN A DALES VALLEY and WASHBURN VALLEY, Vol II : A SECOND PICTORIAL RECORD OF LIFE IN A DALES VALLEY

by David Alred, published by Smith, Settle, Otley at £10.95 and £8.95 and locally available.

Earlier farming practices and agricultural equipment, particular buildings, and businesses, transport and special projects, but especially the people of the two valleys at work and play, come vividly to life in these two photographic collections. There is even a rare photograph of Dob Park Mill beside the River Washburn from 1897 and a turn of the century group outside the Frankland Arms, Blubberhouses, in *Washburn Valley Yesterday*, while a photo of old Gouthwaite Hall, dating from 1899 and since demolished is featured in the *Nidderdale Yesterday* complete with pictures of the work force of Irish and Scottish navvies, while steam buffs are



George Hinde and a Prize Teeswater at Nortwood - from "Washburn Valley Yesterday Vol II" by David Alred

also well catered for in the same volume with views of some splendid locos.

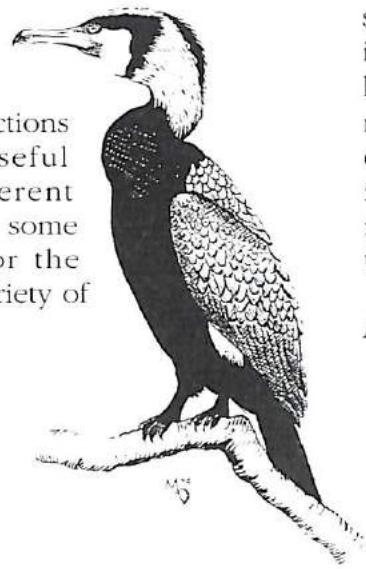
A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE WASHBURN VALLEY by Peter Riley, bird illustrations by Mark Doveston, published by Peregrine Books, at £6.95 (includes p.&p) direct from the author, Peter Riley, Woodhill, Station Road, Burley in Wharfedale, West Yorks, LS29 7NT.

Co-incidentally the Washburn Valley features again on our Book Review pages. The author of this field guide, Peter Riley, is Bird Recorder for the local Wharfedale Naturalists Society, and works in a voluntary capacity for a number of nationally known bird trusts. Yorkshire Water, who are keen to increase public access to this beautiful part of Nidderdale AONB, have also helped to sponsor this volume.



Lofthouse and Middlesmoor Band, formed in 1914 - from "Nidderdale Yesterday" by David Alred

The book indicates three standard easy birdwatching "walks" which cover the lower, upper and middle sections of the valley, and useful information on the different habitats and sites. There is some good detail especially for the novice bird watcher on a variety of



A Cormorant (right) and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker (far right) - from "A Guide to the Birds of the Washburn Valley" by Peter Riley, illustrated by Mark Doveston

species with some charming illustrations and a checklist of all the species mentioned. Amazingly over 200 are listed; an indication of the richness of birdlife in the lower Dales.

FS



YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY SWEATSHIRTS

A small range of sweatshirts and hats are available at indoor meetings or please order direct from Coniston Woollen Mill, Lake Road, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8EW. Tel: 015394 41360. Please mention the Yorkshire Dales Society and ask for Robin. (Switch, Access and Visa cards accepted). Prices depend on items purchased. Sweatshirts around £16 (postage extra).

If you are in the area, you can visit the shop where there is a range of outdoor clothing, fleece jackets, boots and waterproofs etc. Most items can be embroidered with the YDS emblem for £1.50.



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.

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

Spring Events – continued from page 15

for the walk. Meet 2pm outside Fountains Mill where Terry Frazier will give a short talk on the background. Return to Ripon by slightly shorter route (3 miles) to Ripon for return buses to Harrogate and Leeds.

If you don't want to walk, park at the western car park and join us at the Mill. There are two cafes and a kiosk in the grounds. There should be plenty of time available afterwards to see the Abbey and the Water Gardens.

SUNDAY JULY 14th - JOHN BELL MEMORIAL WALK

As a tribute to former Council member John Bell, we are repeating the visit to Mirk Pot Nature Reserve where trees have been planted as a tribute to John's life and work. Hugh and Jane Kemp, owners of Mirk Pot, have invited the Society back

to learn about progress - this Reserve has also been recently recolonised by the native red squirrel.

If you want to join the full walk, catch the train to Dent which leaves Leeds at 0900, Shipley 0913, Keighley 0923 Skipton 0939, Settle 0958 (please check train times) for a seven mile walk, (some steep sections). Bring packed lunch. For those not able to join the walk, there is limited parking along the lane to Mirk Pot (GR 828 871 - park by gates and walk down to farm) where we shall meet at approximately 2pm. To return, a bus link will be provided from Snaizelholme bridge to Ribbleshead Station – cost approximately £2.

As we need numbers for the bus and light refreshments (at Mirk Pot), please ring 01943 461938 or 01943 607868 no later than Monday July 7th if you intend to join us.

Spring Events

Enjoy a interesting variety of outdoor events in the Dales this Spring ranging from a visit to a stately home, Harewood House, which has initiated a nationally important sustainable transport project, and a visit to Fountains Mill, the newest attraction at Fountains Abbey, a special post-AGM walk round the Ingleborough Estate and a number of other interesting walks and events.

SATURDAY MAY 11TH 2002 - EASY ARRIVALS AT HAREWOOD

(Joint Event with Transport 2000).

Jean Hunter, Marketing Manager at the Harewood Estate will introduce the special national "Tourism without Traffic" Demonstration Project sponsored by Transport 2000 and DTLR, with a short 15 minute presentation (plus coffee). She will also give a short general introduction to Harewood itself, and demonstrate the battery-powered people mover designed to help public transport users access the estate.

Meet at Harewood House, just off the A61 between Leeds and Harrogate. **Those who arrive by bus will receive half price entry** to the House and Grounds (includes the Bird Garden) at £4.50 or half price entry to the Grounds only at £3.25 if you produce your bus ticket to prove you have travelled by bus – this discount is an integral part of the Harewood scheme. You may still come by car, but the discount is **only** for bus users in order to encourage people either to leave the car at home or to help those without their own transport.

Public transport users should meet at the main entrance gates at 11am for a 20 minute walk to the Study Centre, which is to the left of the bird garden, (upstairs), for 11.30am (the electric shuttle will take you to the House if you do not wish to walk). Car drivers should pay standard charges and park in the usual car park and walk to the Study Centre. **We do need to know numbers for coffee so please ring Fleur Speakman on 01943 607868 or leave a clear message on the YDS office answer phone 01943 461938, by Monday May 1st.** There is a cafe and refreshment facilities at Harewood, so enjoy a full day at the House and bird garden all with your discount ticket. If you can't come on May 11th, remember the offer for bus users to Harewood is available throughout the season.

Bus times: Service 36A leaves Leeds Central Bus Station at 1035, Ripon Bus Station at 1005, Harrogate Bus Station at 1040, whilst 923 leaves Menston Station at 1023, Otley Bus Station at 1033.



SATURDAY MAY 18th AGM WEEKEND

The YDS AGM will take place at Clapham Village Hall at 2pm prompt. Full details on the Agenda – enclosed. After the AGM and the necessary tea break, Iain Oag, Director of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust will speak on *The Trust in the Dales: Work in Progress*, around 3.30 pm. Train to Clapham leaves Leeds 1019, Skipton 1055 (1¼ miles from village – pub, cafes in village). Return train from Clapham at 1734.

Why not make it a mini-weekend in the Dales – there is a choice of inn and guest house accommodation and cafes in Clapham – and join us for the Sunday walk.

SUNDAY MAY 19th - INGLEBOROUGH ESTATE

Even if you can't get along to the AGM, please join us for what will be a fascinating walk around the Ingleborough Estate. Meet outside Clapham Village Hall at 10.30am for a tour of the Ingleborough Estate by Roger Neale who will be taking us into some areas not normally open to the public. Please note that there is a 40p per person charge to enter the Estate (please have your money ready so as not to hold up the tour) – it would be most helpful if you could arrive a few minutes early so that arrangements can be made to pay together. Our professional Guide has a fee for his services which we are NOT passing on members on this occasion to encourage members to come along to the AGM.

Train to Clapham leaves Leeds at 0830, Skipton 0908 a. Clapham 0942; returns at 1529.

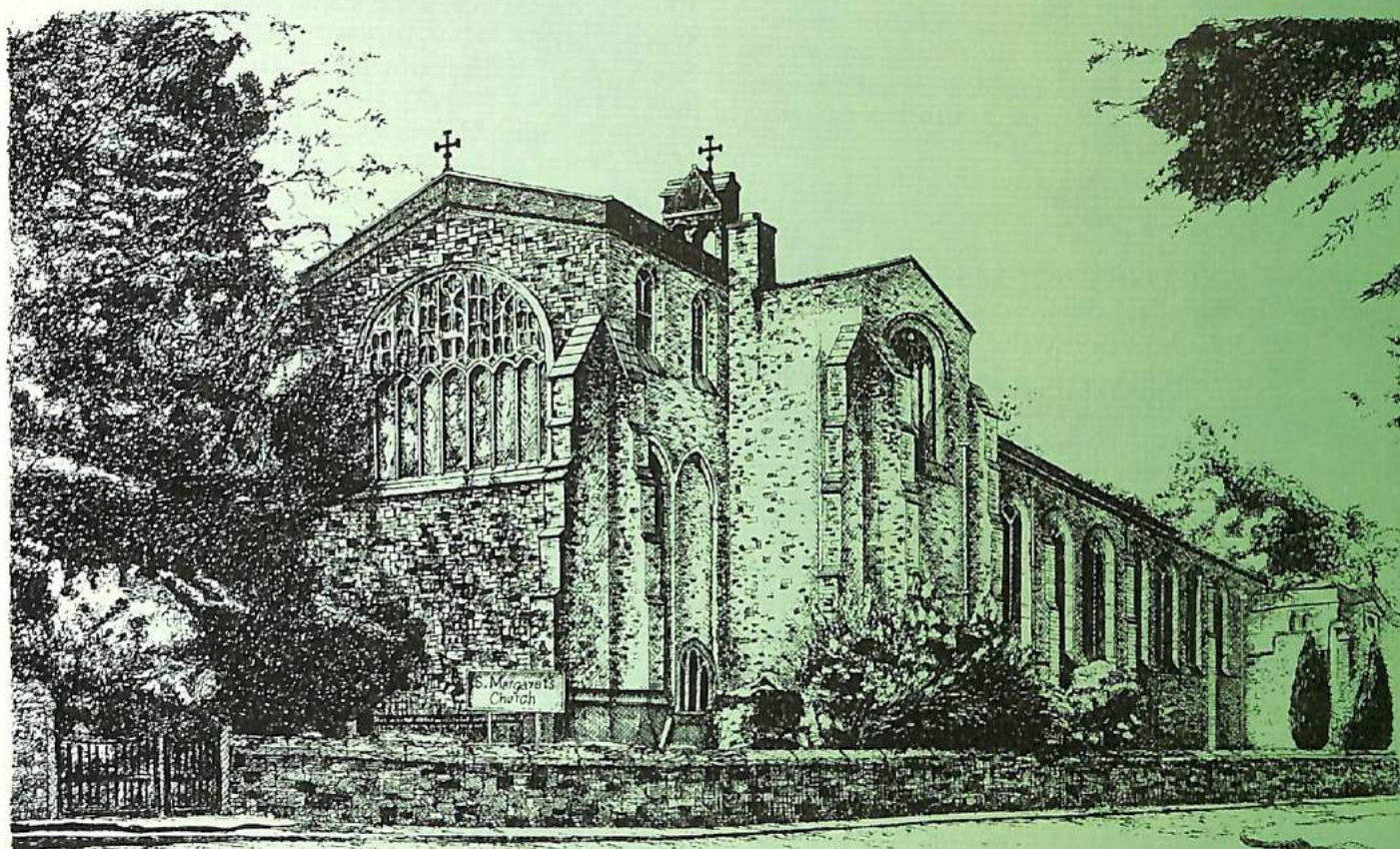
SATURDAY JUNE 8th - WHARFEDALE VILLAGES

An 8 mile late Spring walk (moderate) to enjoy some attractive Wharfedale villages in their settings – Hebden, Thorpe, Linton. Meet Grassington outside the National Park Centre at 1030. Park at main car park. Bus 74 from Ilkley Station d. 0935, Bus 72 from Skipton Rail Station 1000, Skipton Bus Station 1005. Walk finishes around 1630. Leader: Colin Ginger (tel 01756 752953).

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH - FOUNTAINS MILL AT FOUNTAINS ABBEY WITH AN OPTIONAL WALK

Please join us at Ripon Bus station (main car park, loos close by) at 1135 (Bus 36 d. Leeds 1015, Harrogate 1105) for a 4 mile circular walk through the Skell valley and the Seven Bridges to Fountains Abbey. (Free entrance to those with National Trust Membership, otherwise usual admission rates of £4.50 per person apply). Please bring packed lunch

/ continued opposite



St Margaret's Church, Ilkley.

Front Cover picture: *Mud Tracks, Wharfedale – Is this the future of green tracks in the Dales?* Photo by John Fawcett. See page 12.

Back Cover Drawing: *St. Margaret's Church, Ilkley* by Bill Pates

Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.

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

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

The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Membership Subscription Rates

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

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

Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.