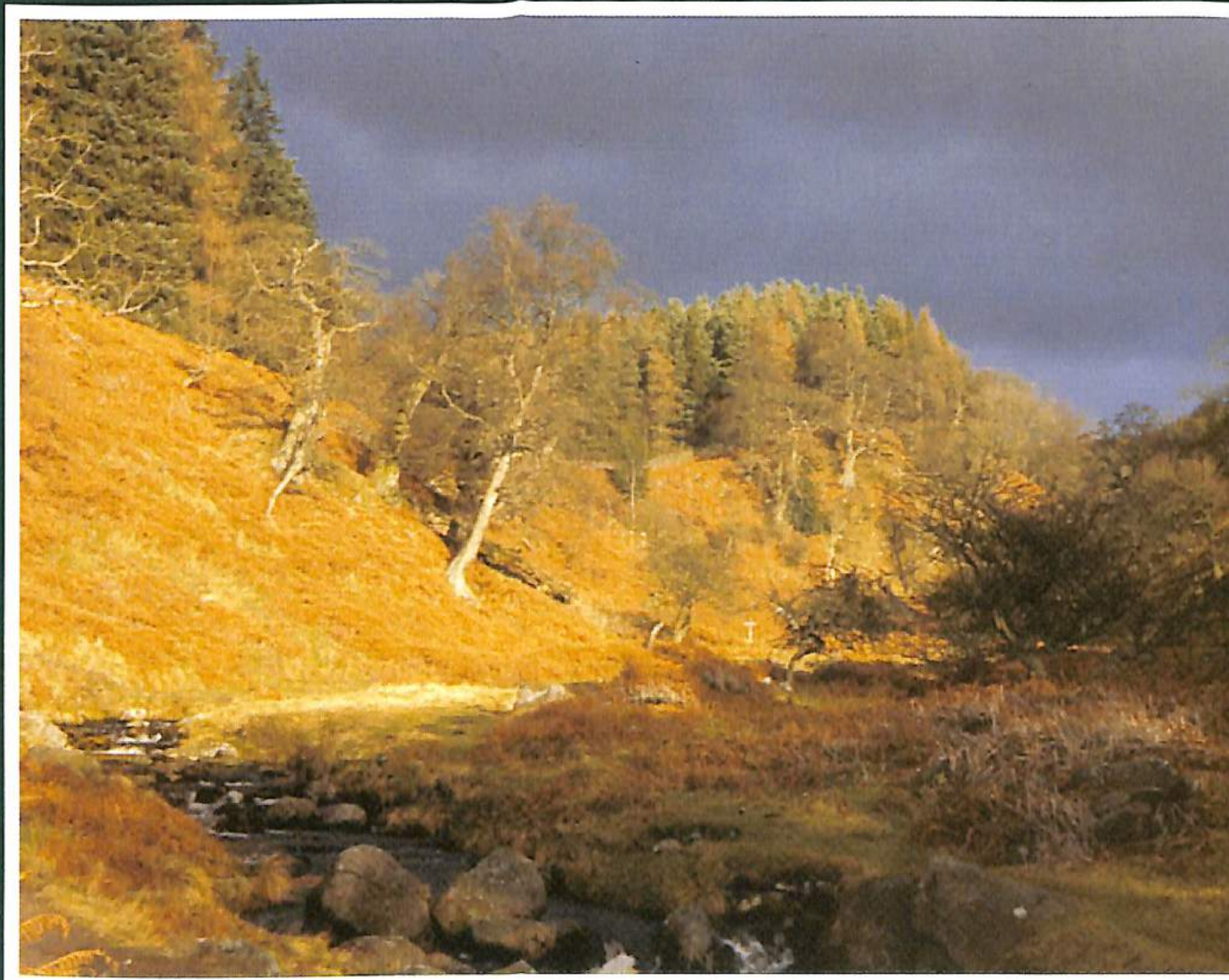


# Yorkshire Dales Review

No.80 Autumn 2002



- *Putting the Nation back into National Parks*
- *Freedom to Ride or Freedom from Noise and Rutted ways?*
- *Hey, Diddle, Diddle and the Bolton Abbey Connection*
- *Profile: YDS Chairman, Chris Wright*

Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50

## Putting the Nation back into National Parks

The Government's Review of National Parks in England which was launched at the Council for National Parks' AGM in July, offers a new vision for National Parks in England. There are no less than 54 separate recommendations, dealing with a wide range of issues, grouped under Policy, Governance, Sponsorship and Resources.

Whilst there are few surprises in the Report, what is important is its firm and unequivocal indication that National Parks are "national assets". The fundamental twin national park purposes of conservation and promotion of understanding and enjoyment are reasserted, but with a recommended strengthening of socio-economic powers by removing the ceiling on expenditure on sustainable economic development and by encouraging green travel and sustainable forms of tourism. There is also stress on National Park Authorities developing good practice, developing partnerships with local stakeholders and businesses, including farmers, and working closely with other agencies such as English Nature. Development control and high quality forward planning are suggested as being essential in terms of consistency and achieving Park purposes, whilst the vexed question of affordable homes is seen as part of a wider context of need for affordable housing in all attractive rural areas, to be tackled with local authorities.

The Review supports the key Sandford principle of primacy over conservation, where the two are in conflict, but also suggests that most conflicts can be resolved by good management measures – a view the Yorkshire Dales Society would fully support. More equivocal perhaps is the suggestion that Parks "seem relatively robust environments capable of absorbing a range of recreational users" and this ought to be reflected by policies "appropriate for modern day recreation". Realising perhaps certain of these "modern day" activities (which is generally a euphemism for motor based activities of some kind) might destroy the very quiet enjoyment of natural beauty (which is also a "modern day" activity) and tranquillity which is at the essence of National Parks, the Review's authors recognise the

need for European style zoning strategies, which would designate semi-wild areas within Parks where conservation and quiet enjoyment should indeed be supreme.

Welcome too are the recommendations on additional powers on social inclusion, access and footpaths, noting that too few new rights of way have ever been created in National Parks. Interesting too is the suggestion that National Parks should have a higher profile and should work with schools in major urban catchment areas to help develop real understanding of Park purposes and of wider conservation issues. We believe that educating children in local schools is equally important, as many are future stakeholders within the Park.

Especially pleasing for the Yorkshire Dales Society are some forthright recommendations on the makeup and behaviour of National Park Authorities, with a proposed significant increase in appointed members from 25% to 40%. Whilst still keeping a locally elected majority, this would create a better balance. Many Ministerially appointed members are actually local people anyhow, but are less likely to be browbeaten by the shoddy wheeler-dealing of local party politics. Good to see the suggestion of more independent Chairmen, the monitoring of the financial interests and performance of all members, and closer involvement of both Government and the Countryside Agency in training, monitoring, advising and helping Park Authorities to become "more outward looking and more outcome focused".

If a little weak on the wider conservation agenda, there is much in the Review the Yorkshire Dales Society warmly welcomes. Above all it is a clear commitment by Government for the evolution of stronger, more effective National Authorities which are truly national in their vision and perspectives.

Colin Speakman

## Freedom to Ride or Freedom from Noise and Ruttled Ways?

### A GREEN LANE DRIVER SPEAKS OUT

*We are pleased to publish a thoughtful letter from Michael Rogers of Langthwaite, Arkengarthdale on the subject of green lanes and four wheel drive vehicles, and can assure him that the Yorkshire Dales Society always has and always will reflect a wide range of views on many countryside issues, including off-road driving.*

I read with interest the proposals and letters regarding the banning of recreational four wheel drive vehicles from the green lanes of the Dales National Park. As both a walker and a recreational four wheel drive owner, I am dismayed that you only publish letters from those who support the proposed ban.

A ban of this type will only deter the responsible lane users just as speed restrictions on surfaced roads only slow down responsible drivers. Irresponsible drivers will continue to find lanes in the Dales as they do now with no concern for the

environment, or whether legal vehicle rights exist.

There are many hundreds of miles of footpaths well away from vehicles for those of us who choose to enjoy the Dales on foot, but only tens of miles for those who for many reasons prefer to use a vehicle to reach an otherwise inaccessible beauty spot.

I myself have led small convoys of vehicles including disabled drivers along many of the Dales' green lanes including Mastiles lane. Yes damage was apparent on Mastiles, but only on a small easily repairable section.

Whilst walking in the Dales (and elsewhere) over the past 25 years, I have only ever met one convoy of recreational vehicles, which pulled over to allow us easy passage. Yet on most days walking I can expect some agricultural traffic, which on the whole is far noisier.

If the closures go ahead what will come next? Perhaps footpaths that are becoming damaged by



*The Old Hall, Kilmsey –  
Eastern End of Mastiles Lane*

walkers such as many sections of the Pennine way will be closed to the public, or bridleways that are becoming unwalkable due to the passage of horses will be restricted to walkers only.

**Michael Rogers**

## A DAY FOR PUDDING

*YDS Chairman Chris Wright describes the Society's August Yorkshire Day Pudding Walk- and how off-roaders impact on walkers' enjoyment.*

Several passengers leaving the early Dalesbus at Kettlewell sported flags and white roses. Yes, after the ravages of foot and mouth, Chris Hartley was initiating the first YDS Yorkshire Pudding Walk. Leaving the bustle of Kettlewell, we headed up the steep ascent of the old stone Top Mere Road. Towards the top we paused, not only to get our breath but to enjoy the view and the solitude. Our peace should have only been broken by the plaintive call of the curlew, but this was Sunday in the Dales so the peace of the valley was broken by the sound of the first trio of motor cyclists heading our way; the sound of the screaming engines reverberating from the bottom of the valley. We then followed towards the old Starbotton Road circumnavigating a large morass of peat churned up by vehicles. Rather unnecessarily there is a small wooden sign bearing the legend "deep bog". After we had turned downhill towards our lunch, we were met by an old Range Rover clawing up the hillside with agricultural tyres and festooned with ropes etc. As one of our party tried to write down its registration number, the driver stopped and said, "You do know this is a bridleway!" Funny, we thought only horses were associated with bridles. We continued down to the Fox and Hounds to be greeted by the aroma of cooking as we settled down to tuck into our Yorkshire puddings and apple pie....All was well in this heaven till the appearance of a mud bespattered and lycra shod young man from the Range Rover who asked where he could get assistance from a farmer, as his vehicle was stuck on the moor. As we left, we suggested that maybe a horse would have been better after all, albeit with a slight grin! We wandered quietly down the riverbank where Chris gave us all a heartrending recital of "The First Yorkshire Pudding". You will have to come next year to find out what you missed.

Unfortunately our wonderful day was finally clouded quite literally by a haze of blue oil smoke as a further large squad of motor cyclists headed up the hillside towards Old Cote Moor. We had

maybe hoped the old green lanes and tracks would resound only to the relaxed chatter of walkers against the background of the odd ewe looking for her offspring. Sadly the Dales on Sunday even off the beaten track is no longer a quiet refuge.

**Chris Wright**

## RESTORING THE BALANCE

The Yorkshire Dales Society has never actively campaigned for a total ban on motor vehicles on all unsurfaced highways - or green lanes - in the Yorkshire Dales National Park or Nidderdale AONB. Indeed many of our members are themselves responsible users of 4 wheel drive vehicles, as Michael Rogers's letter indicates. The Society's position is that where and when there is severe conflict with other users in terms of disturbance, noise and damage to surfaces, or an area's ecology or landscape is being adversely affected by recreational use of off-road motor vehicles, then appropriate management and regulation of those vehicles is required. Indeed appropriate sensitive management of all visitors - whether on foot or wheel - is fundamental to what every National Park anywhere in the world is about.

That such management is now needed on a number of routes with (and in some cases without) vehicular rights is demonstrably the case now in many parts of the National Park, most notably in Upper Wharfedale and Malhamdale where the quality of the environment is suffering, especially at weekends thanks to the totally unregulated activities of a small and selfish minority of users. Through a combination of effective lobbying, websites, orchestrated letter writing to sympathetic county councillors, bully-boy pressure tactics and even legal threats, the off-road lobby has so far delayed the Highway Authority, North Yorkshire, already sympathetic to their cause, from proceeding with even a token four Regulation Orders to deal with high profile cases where conflict and damage are occurring every weekend. Our Chairman's account of what happened on a YDS walk on a typical August Sunday in Upper Wharfedale illustrates the situation vividly - and this is not in any way an exaggeration of what happens almost every weekend.

Whilst the motor sport lobby may claim to bring economic benefit to the area, there is also severe damage to more sustainable forms of tourism as many visitors who would otherwise spend their time and money in the Dales are deterred from



*Damage caused by recreational vehicles on Roman road, Cam Fell*

coming or from repeating their visits by the constant whine of motor cycle engines and having to walk along churned-up, rutted bridleways which in many cases have reached a stage where walking or cycling is no longer a pleasure. Drown the calls of the curlew with the rattle of an engine, and tranquillity, an essential quality of the Dales and one which attracts so many thousands of visitors, is destroyed. This is already beginning to happen in many parts of the Dales. It is a very real threat to the tourism industry of the Dales.

However, it now looks likely that, reflecting increasing opposition from a wide range of conservation interests - walkers, naturalists, landowners, farmers, archaeologists, parish councils, organisations most ably represented in the Dales by the Yorkshire Dales Green Lane Alliance - even North Yorkshire County Council will eventually have to stand up to the 4 wheel drive and motor cycling lobby and pass Traffic Regulation Orders on some high profile green lanes to reduce the worst areas of conflict. An important new Government Planning Policy Guidance Circular, PPG 17 sets out clearly and simply what the National Park Authority, Nidderdale JAC, Cumbria and North Yorkshire County (as highway authorities) must do. The Guidelines do not suggest there should no sports or recreation facilities in designated areas, but that they should take place in suitable locations. In fact the YDS would go further

to suggest the most intrusive facilities and activities should take place outside National Parks or AONBs in places where they don't impose their unwelcome noise and disturbance - including traffic - on other people.

The key paragraph (27) of PPG 17 reads as follows:

*Designation of areas as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty does not preclude the use of land for sporting and recreational activities, but noisy or other intrusive activities should be restricted to locations where they will have minimal or no impact on residents or other recreational users. National Park Authorities should work with other local authorities and with sports and recreational bodies with a view to securing new sports and recreational facilities in appropriate locations within National Parks.*



*Drawing:  
Natural  
Rock and  
Dry Stone  
Wall  
by Richard  
Bancroft*

# Hey, Diddle, Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle – and the Bolton Abbey Connection

*'Hey, diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle.  
The cow jumped over the moon.  
The little dog laughed to see such fun.  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.'*

In 1085, William the Conqueror granted land in Yorkshire to one of his knights, Robert de Romille. The daughter of de Romille, Cecily (Cacilia) de Romille (Romilly), married William Meschin (de Meschines) and, by a grant of land, established a group of Augustinian friars (Black Friars) at Embsay in 1120. She endowed them not only with land for the priory, but also Skipton church and its dependent chapel at Carleton with the township of Embsay.

In 1145 the township of Kildwick with its church, together with the cornmills of Silsden and Harewood, the manors of Sturton and Skibeden plus land at Weeton and Rawdon, was added as a gift from the same family. In addition, in the same year Helto Mauleverer of Beamsley gave a quarter of the township of Malham and a large tract of forest north-west of Beamsley to the Priory. To add to that, Robert, son of Malger, gave the Priory one third of the township of Yeadon.

In that year (1145), the canons were also given patronage of the churches at Broughton and Long Preston, but not the right to appropriate them. In 1154, Cecily's daughter, Alice (one of three daughters; married William Fitz-Duncan, nephew of Duncan, King of Scotland) inherited to become Patroness of the Prior of Embsay and granted the canons the whole manor of Bolton in exchange for the manors of Sturton and Skibeden. She also, in 1156, gave Kilnsey to Fountains Abbey.

The Canons transferred to Bolton in 1155 when the site of the Priory was probably determined by the suitability of what remained of the mansion of Earl Edwin (brother of the Earl of Mercia), and pre-conquest Earl of Bolton Manor which included Skipton, Gargrave, Stainton, Otterburn, Scosthrop, Malham, Hellifield, Ainley, Hanlith, and Addingham.

Once the Priory had been established on the new site (now known, erroneously, as Bolton Abbey), there developed a very large and rich demesne

farm outside the walls of the Priory.

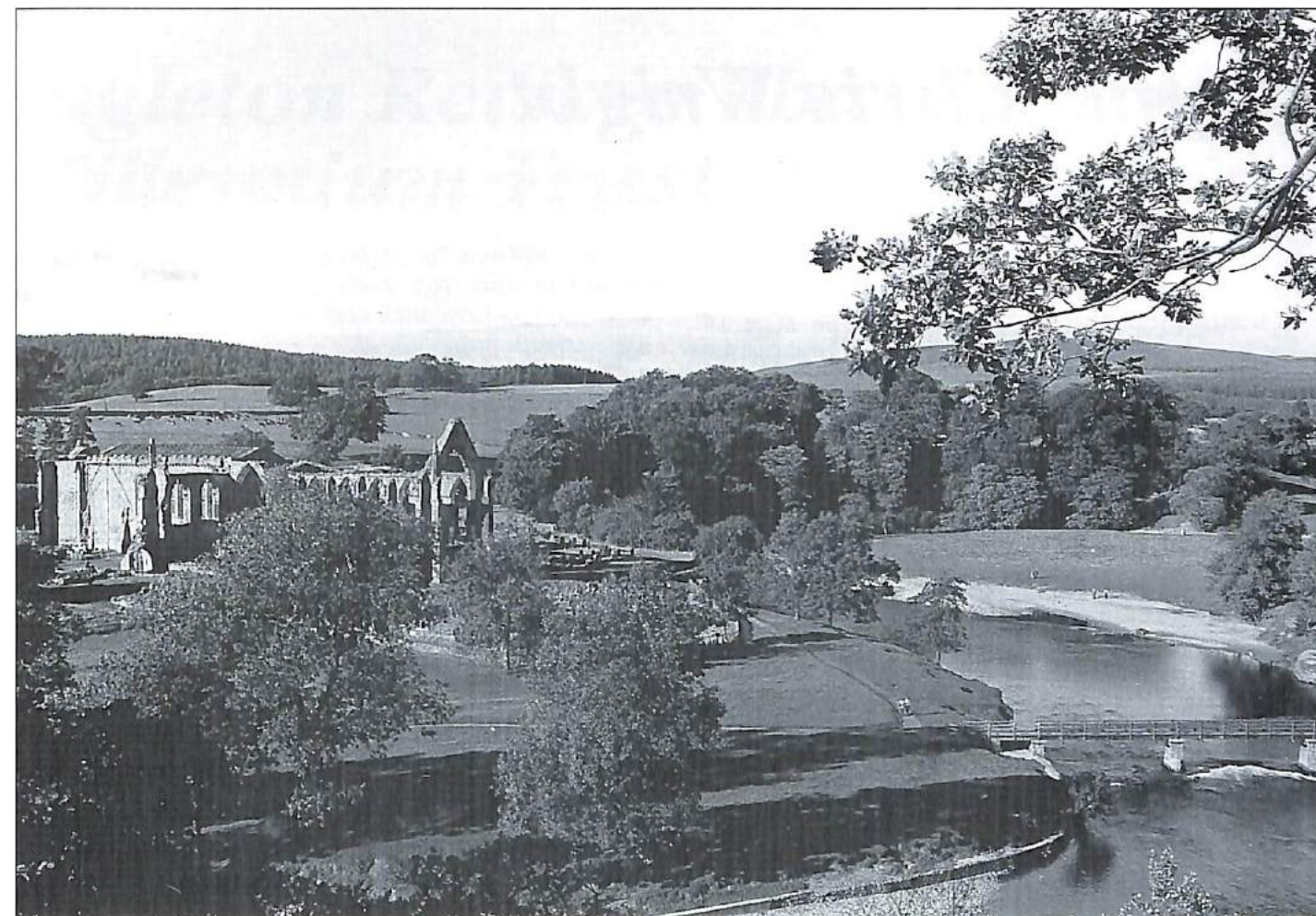
Development was also begun at Malham where the manor was located at Malham East (Priors Hall Farm – residence of the bailiff and also served as the prior's hunting lodge.) In addition, there was the steward's house (a grange) at the current site of the Friars Garth, one quarter of a mile to the south. The proximity of both these buildings to the grange of Fountains Abbey which was also located on the east bank of Malham Beck (on the site of the current Beck Hall), was to cause much strife between the two communities, on occasions leading to physical violence and eventual intervention by the King's Court.

1536 saw the Dissolution of the Monasteries introduced by King Henry VIII for a variety of reasons. On 29th January 1539 the last prior, Richard Moone, a native of Long Preston (elected 1513, died 1541) surrendered the Priory, together with all its holdings, which was granted to Henry Clifford, first Earl of Cumberland, on April 3rd, 1542 at a rent of £19.13s.10d. The Romilys' connection with the area (the Honour of Skipton) ended in the female line in 1311, when the castle at Skipton was granted by the Crown to Robert Clifford.

## The Rhyme

The rhyme originated in the area of Bolton Abbey, soon after the Dissolution, in about 1539. Prior Moone was the last Prior of Bolton Abbey and, on vacating his office, settled with members of his family who held and farmed lands in the area of the priory (the present Moones of Bolton are descended from these.)

Another family in the district, the Heys, had a friendly rivalry with the Moones concerning which of them might reach the higher social position in the community. This was watched with much amusement by the villagers, hence the compilation of the rhyme. 'Hey, diddle, diddle': Hey – the family name. Diddle was an Elizabethan 'nonsense filler'. 'The cat and the fiddle': *Cato fidelis* – The faithful of Christ or the Church. Both families were devoutly attached to the church. 'The cow jumped over the moon': The cow (the Heys were cattle



Bolton Abbey, Wharfedale Photo by Christine Whitehead

farmers – the Moones sheep farmers) managed to get one jump further up in the social order than the moon (the Moones.)

'The little dog laughed': When Prior Moone commenced building the West Tower of the Priory (1520), it was still unfinished in 1539. He had put two buttresses at the front of the tower, each with a stone dog sitting on top (these can still be seen today.) This was in memory of William de Meschin (Michenes) and his wife Cecily de Romilly, who founded the Priory (my dogs – mes chenes: Norman French.) This is a pun or rebus (*rebus* – an enigmatical representation of a name by pictures punningly representing parts of the word, as in a puzzle or a coat of arms.) When the little dog laughed, it was to infer that the whole community, all of whom were under the lordship of the descendants of the de Meschins, was amused.

'The dish ran away with the spoon': The Heys were almost hereditary officers of the church for the collection of offerings. Hence, the connection with the alms *Dish*. The Moones, likewise, were almost hereditary holders of the office of the Anointing *Spoon*. Hence the connection, something that

would have been understood by all at that period in the Bolton area.

**Keith Budd**

## References:

John Richard Walbran (Revised by William Fowler Stephenson).  
*A Summers Day at Bolton Priory*. 3rd edition.  
A Johnson, Ripon. 1874

RWK *Bolton Abbey: Its History and its traditions*.  
J Shuttleworth, Ilkley. 1862.

Mitchell WR *The Story of the Yorkshire Dales*.  
Butler & Tanner Ltd, London 1999.

Gunn P. *The Yorkshire Dales*.  
Century Publishing Co. Ltd, London 1984.

Raistrick A. *Old Yorkshire Dales*.  
David & Charles, London 1967.

Jennings B. *Yorkshire Monasteries*.  
Smith Settle Ltd, Otley. 1999.

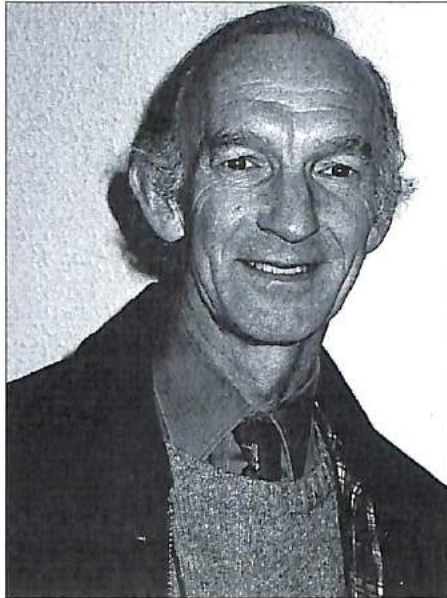
Hartley M, Ingilby J. *The Yorkshire Dales*.  
Dent J M & Sons, London 1963.

## Profile: Chris Wright

Congratulations to Yorkshire Dales Society Chairman Chris Wright on his sixtieth birthday and our warmest wishes for the future. Chris joined the Society in its early days in 1984, becoming Chairman in 1994, and guiding the Society with skill, dedication and his own inimitable style of warmth and enthusiasm which wins friends for the YDS wherever he goes.

Both his parents came from farming families in North Lincolnshire, but he has lived in Yorkshire since the age of four and was later a pupil at Leeds Grammar School. Much of his holiday time was spent helping with the harvest on the farms of various relatives; even at Christmas sugar beet had to be taken to the factory. Like many people Chris got his first experiences of the Dales from childhood trips with both school and scouting expeditions.

Later Chris's parents built a house on a plot of land behind a dairy farm on a hill overlooking Bardsey near Wetherby with a view of the Dales in the far distance. Tinkering with old cars and motorbikes or watching old steam trains wheezing up the valley were favourite diversions. Farming, brewing, forestry or medicine were suggested as possible careers, but Chris chose to read medicine at the Leeds Medical School, apparently convincing the Dean that his rugby-playing skills were perhaps more important than high-flying academic achievements. York with hopes of a nice rural practice in the country, seemed an idyllic possibility, after qualifying, but changes in General Practice made it obvious that more hospital experience was required to gain extra skills. Chris found himself specialising in Anaesthesia, and an interesting year in Edinburgh followed, living under the shadow of the Pentland Hills, with some challenging travel to various hospitals in the Lowlands during some real snowy winters. After a return to Leeds, Chris was sent to Bradford, but decided to take up a post with the Overseas Development Agency as a specialist Maxillo-Facial anaesthetist to a project in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria for 6 months. This was quite a brave decision with a young wife, Sue, and two young daughters, aged three and six months. As there was a military government at the time, Chris was made an Honorary Officer with a staff car and driver. The car was a very elderly Mini, its engine held together with a piece of rope, started by a screwdriver, and devoid of instruments and lights,



but with good air conditioning through the hole in the floor!

On his return from Nigeria, Chris took up a Consultant post at St James's Hospital in Leeds, just as kidney transplants and other forms of surgery were being introduced. Partial early retirement allowed more opportunity for walking in the Dales, but Chris continues to work with special needs patients who need help to get community dental care. He says he has been fortunate to see his speciality change from basic glass bottles and levers to the rows of high tech multicoloured machines and monitors of the present day. He was also part of the initial team set up to develop paramedic training; West Yorkshire (as far as Ingleton) being a pilot area. Medical skills coupled with his interests in cars helped him to gain further practical experience, as a rally doctor for the RAC and other rallies in the North Yorkshire forests. While working with the ambulance crew at Grassington, Chris was persuaded to help them set up an ambulance service in Romania and has taken over vehicles and equipment with the Grassington-based MESH charity.

For the Chairman, joining the Yorkshire Dales Society is a way of keeping in contact with the Dales. The Society, he feels, bridges the gap between those who live and work in the Dales and the visitors who often bring in much needed economic benefit. It is that interdependence of inhabitants and visitors and the delicate balance of environmental protection and economic needs which the Yorkshire Dales Society is in a good position to monitor, and to assist such bodies as the Yorkshire Dales National Park in helping to maintain the fabric of our outstanding countryside. (Chris's two daughters, Joanna in environmental consultancy and Samantha as part of the management of a prestigious Lake District hotel seem to have achieved that balance.)

The Yorkshire Dales Society is most fortunate to have a Chairman who is deeply committed to such concerns, but at the same time is 'hands on' in producing photographic displays, leading Society walks, acting as a key member of the Events sub-committee, also representing the Society on numerous occasions, and above all being so immensely approachable.

*Fleur Speakman*

## Ingleton Revives Thanks to the Millennium Trust

In stark contrast to the despondency of last year in rural areas, the mood in the Dales is now one of optimism. An initiative in the village of Ingleton has demonstrated how much can be accomplished by community effort in implementing proposals for the successful recovery of the area.

Reliant on walkers, cavers and tourism in general, local businesses were anxious to attract visitors back to the area.

Carl Lis, chairman of Ingleton Parish Regeneration Association, explained: "Together with David Ireton, county councillor for this area, we organised a public meeting to brainstorm some ideas with regard to regeneration schemes. The turnout was very encouraging and we had the most amazing response.

"From that initial meeting, we came up with various priorities, one of which was a Heritage Trail walk around the village with leaflets for adults and children. Volunteers formed a group to look at the trail, as well as a number of other events and activities which have now borne fruit and are up and running."

The Heritage Trail project was funded by Yorkshire Forward's Rural Economic Recovery Programme through the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, North Yorkshire Small Projects Fund and Craven District Council Community Chest fund and includes adult and children's leaflets plus interpretation boards around the village. Other Ingleton initiatives were also funded by Yorkshire Forward's Rural Economic Recovery Programme. These included village events as part of the Fire and Light Festival, improvements to the visitor reception point at Ingleborough Community Hall and practical and access improvements to the woodland of St. Mary's Church. Part of this project also involved local school children in producing artwork and text for two interpretation boards that are to be placed within the church grounds.

Isobel Hall, project officer for the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, managed the Yorkshire Forward funds on behalf of the Trust and said, "We were given £200,000 to distribute through the Rural Economic Recovery Programme (RERP). Out of the £200,000, £50,000 could be spent by the Trust on environmental and community projects that aided rural economic recovery throughout the Yorkshire Dales.

"The remaining £150,000

was to be spent to aid rural economic recovery in the Craven, Harrogate (within the Nidderdale AONB) and Richmond districts outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park. These projects ranged from a series of Welcome Back Events held across the region, to improvements to the public rights of way network, to enhancements to community buildings and village greens and habitat management projects."

Isobel is very enthusiastic about the work carried out at Ingleton and commented: "Ingleton is a marvellous example of the way in which these funds have been used to benefit the local people and economy."

Carl Lis is also anxious to pay tribute to the Heritage Trail group who have all worked hard to



research the Trail, secure funding and produce the Trail leaflets.

A decision was made to produce a publicity leaflet in conjunction with the Heritage Trail for distribution to tourist outlets. All interested parties were invited to suggest potential items for inclusion by identifying features of special significance in Ingleton.

Said Mary Kendall, chairman of the Heritage Trail group: "As part of the funding, we employed a local potter, Lee Cartledge, and Paul Farley, a poet from the Wordsworth Trust, to do workshops with the children in the local primary and middle schools based around the theme: 'What Ingleton means to me'."

The group also ran a children's competition based around the same theme and the children's efforts

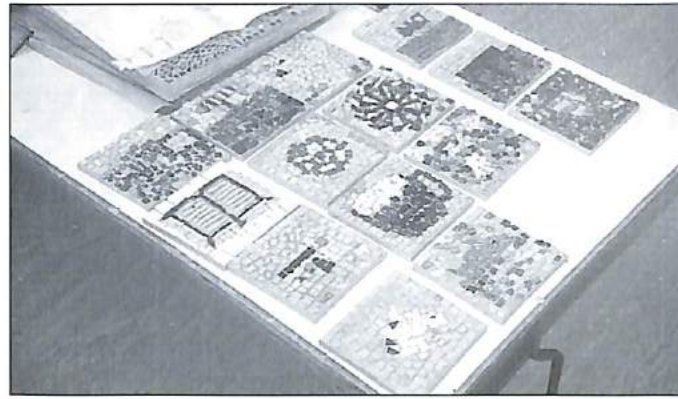


culminated in an exhibition of their work at an Open Consultation Day in March in Ingleborough Community Centre. The display featured poetry, pictures, ceramic pots, models and "hand" tiles, from the very young children. The work had been generated individually as well as through the three days of school workshops with the potter and poet. Prizes were awarded and some of the winning poems and pictures were incorporated in the final printed adult and children's Heritage Trail leaflets.

At the Open Day, which attracted over a hundred people, the public were invited to comment on the proposals and suggest things to include in the Trail. A significant part of the day was a free drop-in mosaic workshop, run as part of the project by Yorkshire Rural Arts, to help people identify their favourite things about Ingleton to generate ideas for the Trail.

Continued Mary: "The Consultation Day brought everybody together. It was a tremendous example of a community working together and provided a focus for visitors and locals alike. There was a great atmosphere: everyone was so positive."

The adult leaflet was successfully launched at the



beginning of September with the children's leaflets and village interpretation boards following on. Carl Lis declared that the initiative had exceeded all expectations.

"It's a fantastic effort and the village of Ingleton has recovered well. We are now very close to achieving our initial aims."

**Hilary Gray**

*The pictures show members of the local community engaged in the free drop-in mosaic workshop run by Yorkshire Rural Arts, making mosaics showing their favourite features of Ingleton.*

## The End of an Era and the Beginning of a New: Swaledale Woollens

David and Grizel Morris who created and developed the cottage industry of Swaledale Woollens have been providing locally made knitwear not only for the home market, but for customers in many parts of the world, for a thirty year period. Swaledale knitters, who are mainly, but by no means exclusively, farmers' wives from farms and cottages throughout Swaledale and Arkengarthdale - have sent their products to such countries as America, Australia and Japan, and occasionally there have been some very special requests. An Arctic expedition needed 125 pairs of hand knitted gloves, a native American chief asked for some very outsize long stockings and an order came from Russia for 'something to keep out the cold.' Swaledale Woollens' warmth and protective qualities have been well and truly tested. It has been a story of interest and achievement by the many people of the Dale who have been involved and to the far-sightedness of David Morris and his concern for the economic well-being of his dale. The Yorkshire Dales Society would like to pay tribute to this achievement and to send David and Grizel our best wishes on their well-earned retirement.

Kenneth and Kathleen Hird, also well known in the Dale, are taking over the business. We wish them well as with the support of the existing staff, they intend to continue this valuable contribution to Swaledale's economy. When in Muker make a point of calling in the Swaledale Woollens shop and supporting this important part of the Dales economy.

Visit their website at [www.swaledalewoollens.co.uk](http://www.swaledalewoollens.co.uk)



*Looking down on Muker, home of Swaledale Woollens.*

Photo by Margaret Smith

# Daleswatch

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Yorkshire Dales Society was delighted to learn that Councillor Steve Macaré has been elected unopposed as Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for a fourth term of office. Steve is a North Yorkshire County Councillor representing a Harrogate Ward, and is currently deputy Mayor of Harrogate. His thoughtful, balanced approach to a wide range of issues affecting the Yorkshire Dales has gained wide respect among both farming and conservation interests within and outside the National Park.

Equally good news has been the election of Jerry Pearlman as the Authority's Vice Chairman. Honorary Solicitor of the Ramblers' Association, Jerry is a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, a member of the YDS Council of Management, and a leading campaigner for National Parks and for access to the countryside.

Congratulations too, to Yorkshire Dales Society Vice-chairman Dr Malcolm Petyt who has recently been appointed as a member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Malcolm has had wide experience in the RA, CNP, the National Trust and other leading environmental organisations.

## LIMESTONE COUNTRY PROJECT TO HELP DALES FARMING – AND TO KEEP THE BIRD'S EYE PRIMROSE

English Nature and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have joined forces in developing the £1.27 million Limestone Project. Confirmation of a successful joint £563,000 bid to the European Union LIFE fund means that the project can now go ahead.

The aim of the Limestone Country Project is to reintroduce and support traditional farming practices in the Malham and Ingleborough areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in order to conserve and protect the special landscape of these

uplands. Hardy cattle breeds will be introduced to help halt the decline in mixed livestock farming which has occurred over the last forty years, a process which has seen a sharp rise in sheep production in the hills at the expense of cattle. The Project will help to conserve the internationally important limestone pastures of the higher Dales, a habitat of many important wildlife and botanic species, including the bird's eye primrose, the Yorkshire Dales Society's own logo.

The Limestone Country Project is just one of several initiatives now being undertaken by the National Park Authority and its partners to help agriculture in the Dales. These fully recognise the key role that farmers and land managers play in the conservation of this nationally important landscape.

As National Park Authority Chairman Steve Macaré comments: "Our support for sustainable farming in the Dales is as absolute today as it has ever been. The role played by sustainable farming in



conserving the landscape and cultural heritage whilst protecting the well being of local communities, is vital if this area is to undergo a rural revival and match both local and visitor expectation".

The Yorkshire Dales Society fully endorses Mr. Macaré's views, and looks forward to seeing increasing support for the kind of careful husbandry of the uplands which has, over the centuries, produced one of England's greatest and best loved landscapes.

## Daleswatch continued

### 1,500 COMMENTS ON THE NATIONAL PARK PLAN

In these days of apathy over the democratic process, it was heartening to learn that there have been over 1,500 detailed comments made about the Yorkshire Dales First Deposit Local Plan. 249 individuals and organisations (including of course the Yorkshire Dales Society) have produced a response to the draft Plan, (including the excellent new Design Guide) in their comments, either to

support or object to the many policies it contains. This will be fed into a Second Deposit Plan which will incorporate, as far as possible, comments made, with a Local Plan Inquiry being held some time in 2003, followed by an independent Inspector's Report. There will be further consultations before the Final Plan is adopted by the Park Authority in 2004, which by then should truly reflect the views of an impressively wide range of individuals and organisations, within the terms of reference laid down by Parliament itself.

## Loos in the Dales

*A few months ago we asked our members to report any problem regarding loo closures in the Dales; we reproduce some varied responses and a number of interesting points are made. Recent press coverage indicates that these problems are still very much with us.*

**J & D Storey** write from Menston

Congratulations on tackling the closure of public toilets. Now my husband and I are older, it has become a real problem affecting our choice of walks.

One of the worst places locally is the Chevin, a so-called country park, suitable for quite long walks. Now the café is closed, the toilet is never open, and this has made this almost a no-go area for us, especially when taking the grandchildren.

The other place which is difficult for people starting and finishing a walk, is Menston. The public toilet at Kirklands is closed now and there are no toilets at the station, even after it was expensively refurbished!

**Ken Brown** from Wakefield is also most concerned at this lack of facility.

I agree that it is an infuriating problem visiting the Dales and finding loos closed for whatever reason. Last year I visited Ilkley and found the loo in the town car park closed. I needed to use a loo, and was obliged to visit a café and pay for a meal which I would otherwise not have had, just to visit their loo.

There is, however, another way of dealing with this problem. The central loo in the Ilkley car park is now refurbished and open for use, though one has to pay for the privilege. That is annoying when first encountered, but after a little thought, one gets a nice clean loo that hasn't been vandalised.

I believe this is the way forward to solve this problem in the future. The loos in the Skipton car park have been manned and a charge imposed for many years. I would, with respect, suggest that it could be irresponsible and counter-productive to persuade local authorities to refurbish public loos and then leave them to the mercy of the yobs.

**Kate Rhodes** from Appletreewick reports on a possible potential closure.

Re "Loo Closures", I cannot at the moment report a closure, but I felt I must comment on the Hebden toilets and add my protest against any talk of their closure.

Apart from the Foot and Mouth year of closed footpaths, I have frequently walked from my home along the riverside to Hebden and back, pausing to buy a simple picnic at Hebden Stores. At my age, by the time I have got to Hebden, I have needed a loo. I have always found the Hebden loos clean, tidy, fully supplied with soap and paper and hand-drying facilities - and easily accessible.

Without this provision (and unless the Old School Tea-Rooms are open, which is not always the case, and the purchase of a 'cuppa' would defeat the object!), one's only alternative would be wallsides and among the bushes.

As someone who has shared the work of a Dales farmer along wallsides and among bushes, I find this forced alternative utterly repulsive, as I'm sure we all do.

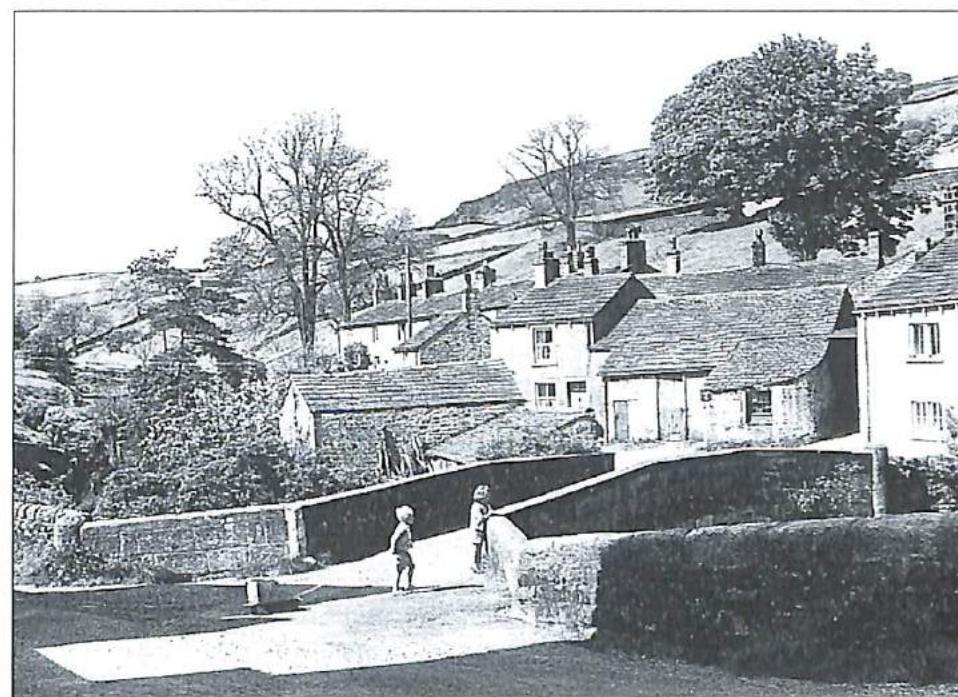
The lady at Hebden Stores tells me that the Hebden loos are in constant use by walkers.

Although disabled access is desirable, surely not every structure which cannot be so adapted needs to be shut down or demolished!

## Book Review

**HEBDEN: THE HISTORY OF A DALES TOWNSHIP** by David Joy (on behalf of Hebden History Group), and published by Hebden History Group, available at £7.50 from Hebden Post Office & the Old School Tea Rooms, Hebden & the Dales Book Centre, Grassington or by post from Hebden History Group, Hole Bottom, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5DL at £8.50. (Please make cheques payable to Hebden History Group.)

Hebden, an attractive Dales village with a long history, popular with present-day walkers and tourists, still has a number of surprises in store: a remarkable early powered ropeway for the pumps



Above: A view of Hebden by the noted Yorkshire photographer Bertram Unne, from "Hebden - The History of a Dales Township" by David Joy for the Hebden History Group.

of Bolton Gill shaft where the lead was mined about a mile away; it also briefly hosted the Dales indoor skating rink on the top floor of its cotton mill prior to its demolition, while there was a definite royal connection when Jeremiah Metcalfe, master tailor, formerly a Hebden apprentice, was called to fit Queen Mary (the Duchess of York) with his creations at St James' Palace on several occasions.

Although early settlement traces have not been found on or near the village itself, there are undoubted remains on the remote moorland with sites which may date from the Early Bronze Age, but there is some scientific evidence due to pollen analysis that in fact man might have made his

home here in the mid to late Stone Age. The Romans, Celts, Saxons and Norsemen evolving over time into the "fiercely independent dalesfolk" who took entries in Domesday, and feudal England in their stride, while the monastic riches of fountains Abbey with its far-flung estates helped to establish Hebden as a strategic route for the great sheep flocks, trains of pack-horses, and large laden waggons which trundled through it or on through Mastiles Lane, the latter "being churned up by wheeled vehicles" to the detriment of those using it on foot."

*Hebden, the History of a Dales Township* is a highly readable guide to a village with an interesting history, brought vividly to life by accounts and anecdotes about various individuals over the centuries, their lawsuits, idiosyncrasies and the like. The village rather surprisingly had no church till Victorian times and worshippers in each case had to make their way either to Linton or Burnsall church over stepping-stones: the incumbent of Linton church, the Rev Benjamin Smith, a nephew of Sir Isaac Newton, apparently preferring to have his manservant read Latin and Greek aloud to him rather than attend to his parish duties.

Flood damage to older bridges in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries accelerated

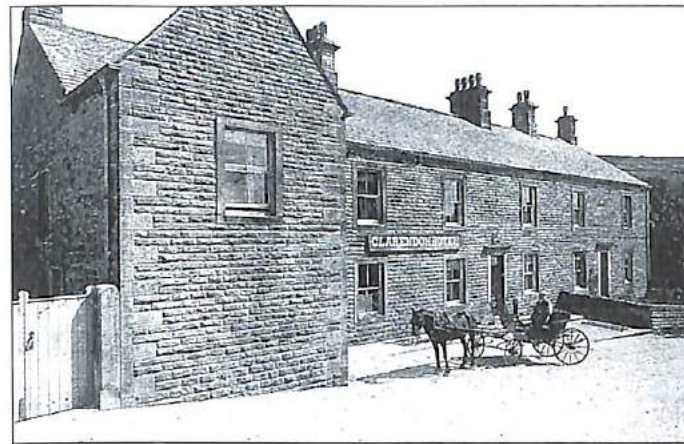
the building of the Pateley Bridge to Grassington turnpike: the work of the celebrated Blind Jack of Knaresborough. For about a century, the older rhythms of farming the land and fulling cloth, were joined by worsted power loom weaving, mixed spinning, drawing and winding, though the lack of steam power and rail transport for rural mills were a disadvantage for their long-term future. In the first half of the nineteenth century lead mining was to form the main occupation of the village, but as lead prices fell during the depression, some inhabitants began to seek their fortune overseas.

The building of the Dales Railway from Skipton to Grassington in 1902 saw the growth of commuters, particularly from Bradford and increased leisure

brought numbers of visitors entranced by the popular novels of William Riley and their Hebden setting.

A particularly attractive feature of this well produced and illustrated work are the four short walks round the area which allow the village to be seen in its setting as well as being a useful guide to many of the key buildings and sites mentioned. The list of works consulted is a roll-call of the many Dales writers such as Dr Arthur Raistrick, Dr Whitaker, Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby, Geoffrey Wright and Richard Muir whose historical and topographical works have done so much to enhance our understanding of the essential Dales landscape, its character and its past.

FS



Clockwise from top right: Thomas Hammond, The Clarendon Hotel, traditional haymaking and T. Stockdale's delivery torry (the latter courtesy of the Janet Stockdale collection), from "Hebden - The History of a Dales Township" by David Joy for the Hebden History Group.



## Autumn Events

Join us for what promises to be an interesting mix of walks and talks for the autumn, ranging from a Dales' farmer's experiences with foot and mouth linked to his inspiring trip to Africa, to the uses of fuel cells as alternative energy presented with some panache, and an unusual Dales-based community arts project. A reminder that lecture admission is now £2 for members and £3 for non-members on account of rising costs.

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 5TH A WALK IN RIBBLESDALE

Meet outside Settle Station at 1030, (drivers please park in one of the town centre car parks **not** at the station); train from Leeds 0849, Skipton 0926, arrives in Settle at 0949. This is a moderate 4 mile walk with one steep section approximately half a mile from the River Ribble above Langcliffe. The walk is planned to finish between 12.30 and 1pm. Pub, café or packed lunch in Settle. Return train times after lecture either 1604 or 1801. Leaders: Ron & Vanessa Stone, tel: 01729 840451.

**LECTURE: OUT OF THE DALES AND INTO AFRICA BY CHRIS HALL**, an Airtion farmer (near Skipton) with first-hand experience of Foot and Mouth disease in Malhamdale last summer, went with his wife on a fact-finding trip to discover how another farmer and her family in Africa coped with the loss of her traditional market, Victoria Hall, Settle, 2.15pm.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2ND WALK : BARDEN TOWER TO BOLTON ABBEY.** Meet at Bolton Abbey village bus stop after catching the Pride of the Dales Bus no 74 from Ilkley Bus Station at 0935, Bolton Abbey 0950 to Barden Tower. This is an easy walk, bring a packed lunch or food available at Cavendish Pavilion or Bolton Abbey tea room. Riverside walk from Barden Tower via Aqueduct Bridge, Strid Wood & Cavendish Pavilion, ending at Bolton Priory. Mainly level with occasional short climbs. Use the village hall car park if necessary as we shall be there for the afternoon lecture. Leader Colin Ginger, tel: 01756 752953.

**LECTURE : GET RID OF THE GRID: THE FUTURE IS HYDROGEN: using fuel cells as alternative energy in the Dales by Martyn Berry** – teacher and expert on renewable energy. The lecturer promises some surprises ! Bolton Abbey Village Hall, 2.15pm.



**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH A WALK IN THE WENNING VALLEY.** Meet High Bentham at 1030 am at Town Hall. Cars may be parked by the Black Bull pub/Town Hall. Train 0819 from Leeds, 0855 from Skipton. Walkers are welcome at the coffee morning at Upper Hall in the Town Hall from 10am for a quick coffee. An easy to moderate 4 mile walk. Please bring packed lunch or pubs and cafes available. Leader Keith Wear, tel: 012524 262539.

**LECTURE: PROMOTING HEALTH AND CELEBRATION THROUGH THE ARTS: THE WORK OF THE LOOKING WELL PROJECT IN BENTHAM BY ALISON JONES**, local artist and project manager, Bentham Town Hall at 2.15pm.

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND - YDS CHRISTMAS WALK IN WHARFEDAILE

A relaxed seven mile pre-Christmas walk to four Dales villages - Thorpe, Burnsall, Hebden and Grassington; bring a packed lunch but there will be time for convivial refreshment at the end of the walk. Catch the 67A bus 0945 from Keighley, 1029 from Skipton Bus Station, alight Threaplands Lane End (400 metres beyond Cracoe); return 1550 or 1650 bus from Grassington. Leader: Colin Speakman, tel. 01943 607868.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH WALK: ENCHANTED PLACES IN LOWER WHARFEDAILE.** Meet on the bridge over the river, Pool, at 10.30 prompt for a five mile easy walk. Buses from Bradford, Leeds, Ilkley and Otley. Pub, café or packed lunch. There is a short moderate climb to Riffa Wood. An easy walk via field paths to Leathley Hall, Leafield Lane to Riffa Wood, then crossing A658 Harrogate/Otley road to Castley & back along Wharfe to Pool Bridge. Leader: Chris Hartley, tel: 01943 873197 or mobile 0787 6443675.

**LECTURE: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES AND THE STAFF OF LIFE BY MILES FOULGER**, Environment and Catchment Manager, Yorkshire Water, a company who are also major landowners and countryside managers in Nidderdale AONB. Pool-in-Wharfedale Village Hall at 2.15pm.

For news and events update see the Yorkshire Dales Society Website – [www.yorkshiredalesociety.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredalesociety.org.uk)





Front Cover picture: *Autumn in the Dales*. Photo by Colin Speakman.

Back Cover Drawing: *Wensley Church* by David Hoyle, from "How they lived in the Yorkshire Dales" by W. R. Mitchell (reviewed in an earlier issue).

***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 Given,  
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.*