

Yorkshire Dales Review

No.82 Spring 2003



- *The Cams House Furore – Who are the Culprits?*
- *£585,000 Lottery Funding for Gayle Mill*
- *Get Rid of the Grid*
- *Daleswatch*

Yorkshire Dales
Society



£1.50

The Cams House Furore – Who are the real Culprits?

Most members of the Yorkshire Dales Society will have every sympathy with Sharon Spensley and her partner James Winspear, a Dales builder and waller, and their young family, whose plans to rent a converted barn at Cams House, in Low Abbotside, near Hawes, have been thwarted by the apparent “intransigence” of the National Park Authority in refusing planning permission for the conversion of the barn because it contravenes the National Park Plan for isolated barn conversions away from settlements.

What has caused the issue to hit the national press is the fact that the decision of the Planning Committee was to turn down the application was on the casting vote of the Chairman on being told that approval would be illegal.

The furore which has ensued has provided ample ammunition for what has been described as a “wave of hostility” against the National Park Authority’s allegedly restrictive planning policies. Rhetorical bluster in the national press and on TV has talked of “dying communities” and “youngsters leaving the area” because of the National Park Authority’s heartless policies. The fact that the population of the Dales is actually growing (a 10% increase has been recorded over the last couple of decades) doesn’t quite match these emotional claims.

What does incense local people is the suggestion, rightly or otherwise, that had this been an application for a holiday cottage, to be rented to affluent couples from Surrey, the application would have been approved on the grounds that it would help the rural economy and farm diversification. Ironically such leeway, introduced by the Park Authority because of pressure from the farming community itself, is now thrown back at the Park as evidence they prioritise visitor not local needs.

As always sensational individual hardship stories mask a much more complex picture. Clearly the easy decision would be to make the Cams conversion an exception and allow the barn to become a home which, being close to the roadside, would hardly be an environmental disaster –

indeed a home for a local family would be a much more attractive feature than a semi-derelict barn. The problem with any planning policy is where you draw the line on the sand. What happens when the next application for a conversion appears, and the next, each pointing to the Cams decision as evidence why their application should be granted, plus car parking space, plus overhead phone and power lines, plus new windows and all the subtle suburban-style improvements everyone wants to have in their homes? And what happens when Sharon and James’ family grow up and they decide to move to their own place – will it remain as a local house or will the owners eventually offer it on the open market at the highest possible price to a wealthy retired couple from Bradford or Birmingham to purchase as an investment?

The Yorkshire Dales Society has always campaigned to ensure that a healthy local economy survives and flourishes, which is ultimately the only way to conserve the landscape heritage. This means not only ensuring jobs in farming, tourism, conservation or new high tech. industries for young people, but affordable housing. Again, one of the much repeated myths is that high housing prices are unique to the Dales. Many affluent suburbs outside the National Park – towns such as Wetherby, Ilkley, Harrogate – let alone most of South East England – have the identical problems with even higher prices as any estate agents window will confirm. This is a national, not a local problem.

The only possible solution is to have a reservoir of rented homes which can be made available to young people until they reach a stage in life when properties are affordable to purchase. Unfortunately as and when smaller properties such as farm cottages come onto the market they are snapped up as weekend or holiday cottages, creating investment income for those with plenty of money to invest, outbidding Sharon and James or other young people within the local community. Around 20% of homes in the National Park are now used for weekend or holiday use.

In fact estate agencies exist for this very purpose. According to the Yorkshire Post the most vociferous critic of the National Park’s “restrictive” policies is a prominent local politician who as well as being a member of the National Park Authority himself (so much for collective responsibility ...) just happens to operate a “holiday cottage booking and management service” in Wensleydale.

The only way to solve Sharon and James’ problem lies with their local own authority. A reservoir of publicly owned housing should be available at affordable rents to families who have local employment, in each of the larger settlements. But the National Park Authority is not the housing authority for Wensleydale. This is the responsibility of Richmondshire District Council. Yet as far as we are aware, over the last ten years, Richmondshire has not built a single new home for rent in Wensleydale.

And for the record who is the leader of Richmondshire District Council? That very same outspoken local politician and champion of the people!

As National Park Authority Chief Executive David Butterworth has expressed it:

Our First Corporate Members

We were delighted to be able to welcome our first local business into the Yorkshire Dales Society.

To be a Corporate Member (with full voting rights) a Business has to agree to support the Society’s twin objectives:

“To advance the public knowledge and appreciation of the social history and the physical and cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales and to preserve its condition, landscape and natural beauty”.

In addition our corporate members are asked to share the Society’s concern to support economic activity in the Yorkshire Dales by encouraging sustainable development in all its forms, especially farming, tourism and small business within the Dales, providing such activity does not compromise the special landscape quality and natural beauty of the Dales, and to support innovative ideas in business development, transport and communications technology which will help deliver a prosperous future for Dales’ communities, especially for its young people.

So far we have the following eight Dales businesses have signed up as members.

Dalesman Café, Gargrave (The Dalesman,

“The time has come for the authorities with the remit to deliver affordable housing to get on and do it, and for the politicians to stop their crowing every time we refuse an application on sound, published and agreed policy grounds.”

The Yorkshire Dales Society can only echo David’s words. We fully agree that there are anomalies in a National Park Plan which can allow holiday use but not permanent residence for people, and that there perhaps needs to be flexibility when circumstances are exceptional. The Yorkshire Dales Society will be making representations to ensure the Second Draft Deposit Plan achieves the right balance.

But there needs to be fresh action by all interested parties to ensure that measures to help sustain local communities are put in place within the Dales, and an adequate supply of affordable housing – including Housing Association schemes – is central to any such provision. Instead of deliberately fanning destructive flames of prejudice against the National Park Authority to divert attention from their own activities and failings, it is time for critics to decide exactly where blame is due and exactly who is not delivering. Perhaps they might start by looking into a mirror.

Colin Speakman

Gargrave, Skipton, BD23 3CX, tel: 01756 749250.) The popular cyclists’ and walkers’ café which caters for everyone, is situated on the Pennine Way route. It includes a specialist sweetshop, wedding cake studio and showroom, and is renowned for its local baking.

Dorothy Ward, Gargrave (The Barn, North Street, Gargrave, BD23 3PN. tel: 01756 749275) Affordable goods, mainly of natural materials, including: basketware, home furnishings, glassware, lighting and kitchenware, also knitwear, silk scarves, stationery and wooden toys in a converted Dales barn. Gift wrappings & calligraphy part of the service.

Erskine Corporation, Settle (Erskine Corporation Ltd. 7, High Street, Settle, BD24 9EX. tel: 08708 456456, fax 0207 900 2322 also www.erskinecorp.com) This Dales based consultancy specialise as brand and communication consultants and also have particular expertise as rural regeneration specialists, creating holistic business solutions through public funding bodies

George Fisher, Skipton (1, Coach Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1LH. tel: 01756 794305; www.GEORGEFISHER.Co.Uk.) Leading

outdoor clothing specialist for walking, climbing or serious mountaineering. Weatherproof garments to suit all needs. Boots for all climates and terrains, experienced staff. The firm has a keen interest in National Parks and the environment.

Julia Horner, Redmire Farm, Buckden (Julia Horner, Redmire Farm, Buckden, Skipton, BD23 5JD. tel: 01756 760 253, email: Julia@redmirefarm.co.uk) Superb quality Dales fell-bred lamb available to callers - ready cut in portions. Redmire Farm also has a particular interest in helping to regenerate some of its very special landscape features.

Lyon Equipment Ltd, Dent (Lyon Equipment Ltd, Dent, Sedbergh, Cumbria, La10 5QL, tel: 015396 25493, fax 015396 25454, www.lyon.co.uk) Top quality outdoor equipment supplied both nationally and internationally. A complete training and equipping service for work and rescue work. Lyon Equipment are market leaders in hands-free personal lighting and in the manufacture of flexible sided ladders, tackle bags and slings.

Manifest Marketing Ltd, Kilnsey (PO Box 1, Kilnsey, Skipton, BD23 5UW. tel: 01756 753232

email: jane@manifestmarketing.co.uk) A Dales based team of professionals dedicated to bringing marketing experience to customers in a way which is straightforward, using a combination of skills in PR, advertising, database development, corporate design, direct mail and telemarketing.

QDK Ltd. (The Fleets, Rylstone, BD23 6NA. tel: 01756 730123 www.qdk.co.uk) is a knowledge and new media company with cutting edge creativity and is perhaps best known locally for creating the BEMAS award shortlisted site (www.daelnet.co.uk), a community internet site dedicated to the Yorkshire Dales.

We are waiting to hear from other Dales businesses who we hope will be signed up during the spring so we can publish our **Dales Business for Conservation Guide** in the summer. In the meantime, make sure you find opportunity to support our Corporate Members who care for the Dales with your patronage whether for business or pleasure. Explain on your visit that you are also a member of the Yorkshire Dales Society - for that extra welcome.

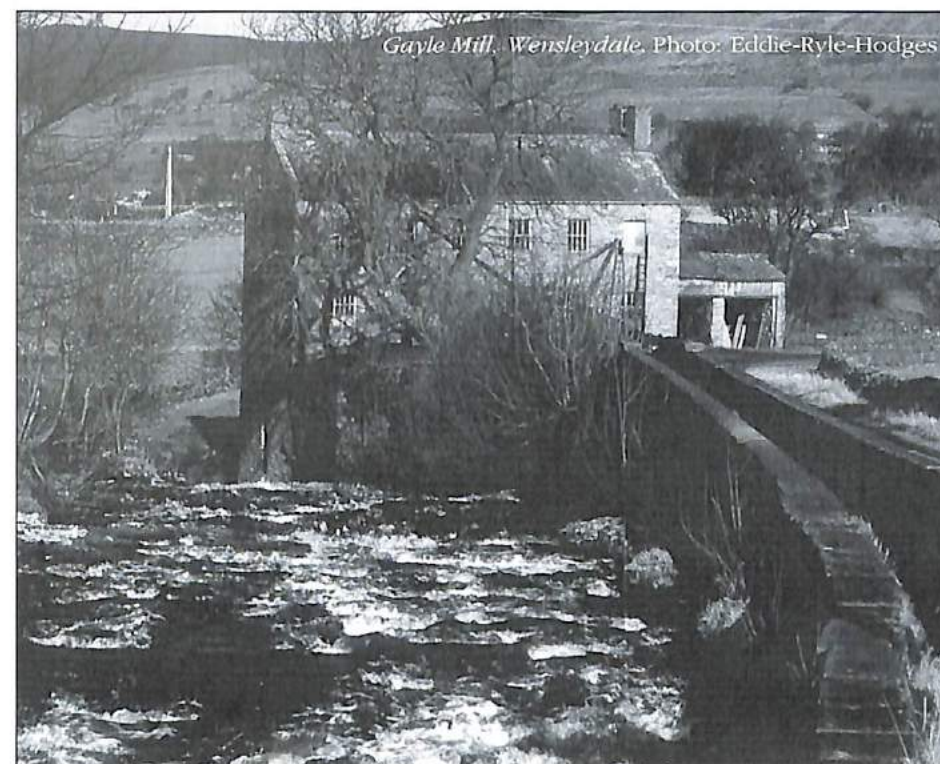
£585,000 Lottery Funding for Historic Gayle Mill

The North East Civic Trust has just been awarded a grant offer of £585,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the capital costs of buying and restoring one of North Yorkshire's most important historic buildings - Gayle Mill, near Hawes, North Yorkshire. The grant is the result of over five years hard work by the Trust, supported by local people, the current owner and local authorities. Work should start on site in the summer in the hope of re-opening the mill for business, and for visitors, by Easter 2004.

Uncertainty has overshadowed the mill since the early 1980s when its use as a commercial saw mill became unprofitable. Despite several expressions of interest, all came to nothing, the mill pond was drained, and the mill has stood silent ever since. It marked the end of the Alderson family business going back to 1879, as part of many local people's childhood and early working life. Brian Alderson, the current owner, was apprenticed at the mill before taking over the business from his father: 'Gayle Mill has been part of my life since a boy, but the cost of keeping it going just became too much. I am so relieved that the mill's future has been secured, and it will, once again, provide employment and training and bring pleasure to workers and visitors alike.'

So the story hasn't ended with family memories and faded photographs. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority approached the North East Civic Trust to see if it would take on the mill, and so began the challenge by the Trust to identify the best use for it, and raise over £3/4m needed to save it. The Trust sees the Heritage Lottery Fund grant as clearing the final hurdle, and for many people it is the salvation of 'an old friend'. Alec Dinsdale was asked by the Trust to chair its local Working Group: 'The last few years have been difficult, and it was by no means certain we would achieve our aim. But we *have*, and I hope that everyone can join with us in being as excited about its future as much as its past. I knew it well as a young lad and, as with many in the village, it holds a special place for me. It would be good to see new generations growing up, not only fascinated by how water can be put to work, but also gaining skills that will help their employment prospects.'

Gayle Mill is regarded as one of the most important built heritage assets in North Yorkshire, and is of national significance principally because of its innovative part in the development of new technologies, particularly cotton manufacture and hydro-electricity. The current mill was built as a waterwheel-powered cotton mill and is now an



important survivor of a small number built in the northern dales in the first decades of mechanised cotton working. Primary documentary sources on the history of the mill remain relatively few, though sufficient exists to broadly confirm current understanding of the mill's development. Debate has arisen, however, about the exact date of construction - whether it is as previously understood as 1784, or perhaps as 1776 as the title deeds and the Arkwright Society Director's view indicate. Intriguingly, the site investigation conducted for North East Civic Trust by Tees Archaeology suggests the east outbuildings are the remains of an earlier building on the site (a mill?), that the head race is not as old as previously understood (having been substantially re-built), and that the reservoir in its current form may possibly also have been constructed later. These findings do not undermine the significance of the mill, but simply add to the mysteries it has yet to reveal.

By 1826 the mill had been used for processing flax, and then wool, supplying yarn to the local hand-knitting industry. In the nineteenth century it was converted to use as a saw mill. The Williamson turbine, installed in 1879 to replace the waterwheel, is in itself significant, reputedly being the oldest working *in situ* example to survive. The woodworking machinery, installed about the same time as the turbine, is also of historical interest, as are the remains of the mill's early twentieth century electricity generating system. Individually, each represents the rare survival of important historic elements, but together, they make Gayle Mill outstanding, recognised by its status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade II* Listed Building.

The need to find a working future for the mill hit

home in 2001 when Foot and Mouth hit the dales hard. Thoughts of running the mill purely as a visitor attraction had already been ruled out, but Foot and Mouth confirmed that the best mill would be a working mill, aiding rural recovery. Though Gayle Mill was built as a cotton mill and later adapted to other textiles such as flax and wool, many believed its future lay in reviving its role in the timber industry. Expert advice confirmed the mill could make a unique contribution to the economy of the upper dales by supplying custom-made products and providing training courses in woodworking skills. Add to this the opportunity to harness water power as sustainable energy, and the idea began to make sense in

all sorts of ways.

Graham Bell, Director of North East Civic Trust, summed up feelings at the news from the Heritage Lottery Fund: 'Clearly, we're thrilled that in trying to find a way of both preserving the mill and giving it a purpose, everyone's efforts have paid off. These projects don't fall into place easily, so we appreciate everyone's support. I am sure even more of the mill's secrets will be revealed in the coming months, enabling us to tell its story to visitors, but I also look forward to seeing it help the local economy.' Ray Taylor, Heritage Lottery Fund Manager for Yorkshire & the Humber, adds: 'No one could dispute the heritage value of Gayle Mill, but we were also keen to support this project because of the local community's enthusiasm towards getting it up-and-running again - it obviously matters a lot to them. Another decisive factor was the role that the Mill will play in helping to regenerate the local economy and developing new skills.'

As a registered charity (No. 513055), North East Civic Trust takes on interesting, derelict historic buildings that private owners and others either cannot see a future for, or cannot afford to repair. The project for Gayle Mill could still do with additional funding to make it even more successful, so if anyone would like to make a donation, become a volunteer, or help in other ways, please contact the Trust's Director, Graham Bell at North East Civic Trust, Blackfriars, Monk Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4XN. Telephone 0191 232 9279. Email: nect@lineone.net Website: www.nect.org.uk

Graham Bell
Director, North East Civic Trust

Get Rid of the Grid

With proposals for 90 metre (300 feet) high wind turbines close to Nidderdale AONB boundary along the A59, the conflict between the needs of landscape conservation and renewable energy production seems to be acute. But are there other solutions?

Martyn Berry, who gave the Yorkshire Dales Society a most interesting lecture in early November 2002 on the uses of hydrogen and the role it can play in renewable energy, believes that the Yorkshire Dales could be substantially more energy efficient without sacrificing landscape quality.

Some Yorkshire Dales Society members may remember when many farms and even small villages had either no or at least no reliable electricity or gas supply. (Although many continental farmers use anaerobic fermenters to turn muck into methane as well as compost, this has been rare in Britain). To link outlying farms and villages to the grid was a massive job, often involving unsightly overhead lines or where these were too intrusive, extremely expensive buried cables. But, the further away the user is from the generator and the lower the voltage used in lines or cables, the greater is the waste of electrical energy in simply overcoming the resistance of miles of conductor. We need to remember in addition that about 75% of our electricity is produced by burning irreplaceable fossil fuels to make climate-changing carbon dioxide in power stations which, in accordance with the laws of thermodynamics, are inevitably inefficient. (The rest is mostly generated through nuclear fission, which has its own particular problems.) Energy use can be cut by, for example, recycling everything that can be recycled. An even stronger case can be made for decentralised energy generation using solar and other renewable means.

One way in which solar energy input is expressed on the Earth's surface is wind. Large wind turbines in the appropriate place are one solution, but this too can be a most sensitive issue. But the Sun is our prime energy source and it can be utilised by means of solar energy coupled with its potential for producing hydrogen for use in fuel cells. Roofs with photovoltaic tiles, which convert light to electrical energy, are now available commercially in Britain, although still expensive at the present time. But since the Sun doesn't always shine, energy must be stored. Batteries are heavy, occupy much space, and often contain toxic metals like lead, nickel and cadmium, causing disposal problems. However, modern chemistry, physics and engineering has made the increasingly economic

production of hydrogen from pure water by electrolysis possible. Electrical energy is converted into chemical energy in the form of hydrogen gas, which can be stored and used when needed.

A hydrogen fuel cell does the exact opposite of electrolysis, hydrogen is recombined with oxygen to release electrical energy and re-form as water. Water is the *only* product. Both the hydrogen fuel cell and the new electrolysis cells use solid polymer electrolytes, and the reactions are greatly speeded up ('catalysed') by very tiny particles of platinum and other precious metals. The cost is falling rapidly as better methods are developed for dispersing the platinum. Stack cells in series and you can achieve any voltage; connecting stacks in parallel gives any desired current. Fuel cells have been increasingly tested and used in transport (cars, trucks, buses and even ships), domestic power supplies (7 kW units have been available for some years in parts of North America), and in applications where an uninterrupted power supply is essential. Several major banks in the United States, for example, have installed 250 kW units to secure card transactions. In the UK, Swindon uses a 200 kW unit to power its administration.

Iceland is the country which seems to be leading the way forward. It has decreed that within about 15 years fuel cells will be used for transport and ships, and anything for which geothermal energy is not suitable. Ballard, the leading company in fuel-cell technology, has had some buses running since 1998 in Vancouver and Chicago; it is currently, with Mercedes-Benz, supplying 30 buses to ten EU cities, (three are for London). All major car companies are also now investing heavily in the technology.

European Fuel Cell Bus Project



Hydrogen is no less safe than petrol. If hydrogen leaks or ignites, it goes straight up. (Of 35 people killed in the Hindenburg disaster, only two died of burns; the rest died because they jumped out of the airship. Those who waited for the gondola to touch the ground escaped.) Most people in towns cooked, heated and lit their houses for many years with coal gas – which was about 50% hydrogen.

Finally, Professor Anastasio Melis has set up a California company, Melis Energy, to produce hydrogen in large quantities from green algae, once

more, a use of solar energy. Perhaps, within a couple of decades, small communities and farms in the Dales will have their own small aerogenerators, their photovoltaic roofs, algal ponds, biomass furnaces, methane-from-muck digesters, and fuel cell cars, tractors and domestic units, and will have reached complete energy independence. The Government could and should assist in this process.

Martyn Berry

Yorkshire Gardens Trust – Have You some Inside Knowledge?

Yorkshire has some of the UK's finest and greatest country houses, gardens and landscapes: Beningbrough Hall, Bramham Park, Brodsworth Castle, Castle Howard, Harewood House and Studley Royal. Nearly all the great names associated with gardening and landscape design have worked in Yorkshire: William Kent, Lancelot (Capability) Brown, Humphrey Repton, Getrude Jekyll and many others have influenced the designs and styles of Yorkshire Gardens.

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust formed in 1996, and a registered charity, works to conserve and foster garden heritage for the benefit of present and future generations and aims to improve the awareness and appreciation of the value of parks, gardens and designed landscapes as part of our local and national inheritance.

Since September 2002 the Yorkshire Gardens Trust has been involved in a joint project with the Yorkshire Dales National Park to compile an inventory of historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes which lie within the Park's boundaries. Robert White, Archaeologist of the YDNP, introduced the project at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, on September 16th and showed some aerial photographs; invaluable tools for more in-depth research of sites.

Garden, landscape and park design are aspects of the cultural heritage which so far have received relatively little attention with to date, only the garden of Parcevall Hall included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, although some individual garden features have been listed on the buildings Register. So far a team of researchers have scanned the first editions of the six inch and twenty five inch to the mile Ordnance

Survey maps. It is now planned to research in greater detail some parishes which have been identified as having garden features of interest. The first will be Sedbergh, Austwick & Grinton/Reeth where site visits will be made in the next few months.

Any one interested in the project, or who has any information on any notable gardens or garden features in the Yorkshire Dales, should contact the project leaders who would be delighted to hear from you. Contact **either** Helen Lazenby, Hill Garth, Kettleasing, Harrogate, HG3 2LR, tel: 01423 770483 or email: Helen@lazenby.plus.com **or** Moira Fulton, The Old Chapel, Coxwold, York. YO61 4AD, tel: 01347 868540 or email: moira@fulton58.fsnet.co.uk

Alternatively, if you would like the opportunity to join the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and enjoy its programme of visits, talks, lectures and seminars, contact the Membership Secretary, Yorkshire Gardens Trust, Mrs Denny Hurst, Black Wood House, Stamford Bridge, York YO41 1HY.



Sunflowers on Pen-y-Ghent?

The Broads National Parks Societies Conference on Climate Change in the autumn of 2002 convincingly demonstrated that we all have a joint responsibility for the climate of the future. Energy saving and investing in renewable energy could have a dramatic effect on some of the potentially gloomier scenarios see Martyn Berry's "Get rid of the grid" (pp6-7). Government sponsored seminars by ETSU (the Energy Technology Support Unit) across the regions in October and December 2001 have also been concerned about the scale and type of energy savings that can be made (see winter issue no 77 YDS Review) and the need to plan for the future. More recent press reports announce that the government plans an initiative to cut the UK's green house gas emissions by 60% by 2050, a welcome announcement, but it is feared in some quarters that the renewable power industry may only have five years to prove itself, with an ailing nuclear power industry waiting in the wings.

Exotic and tender plants at risk

Scepticism about the extent or even the possibility of climate change is no longer an option. The National Trust which has some exceptionally fine historic gardens in its care, is so concerned about the implications of global warming on a number of its special collections of plants, trees and bushes in southern and eastern England in 20-30 years time, that it is already making contingency plans to adapt some of its sites to plants and trees that will be more comfortable with less water and a drier climate, while northern areas may apparently gain with somewhat less severe conditions, and perhaps more tolerance of tenderer and more exotic species. Perhaps it is only a matter of time before we see sunflowers on Pen-y-Ghent!

Energy Saving

But according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "Britain still lags behind in key areas of pollution control, waste management, and in prosecuting environmental criminals." Britain uses twice as many pesticides as other similar countries and around 70% more fertiliser. Pollution from farmland draining into rivers and canals is reducing water quality and some of the best wildlife areas have been damaged by farm pollution. The loss of farmland birds and other wildlife, the damage to SSIs and failure to protect designated areas for biodiversity were all acknowledged by the environment minister, Michael Meacher. Some undoubted improvements were also balanced by a fairly catastrophic record in waste management and

there is a suggestion that Britain is unlikely to reach recycling targets set by the European Union; a major stumbling block being too few places where councils can send recycled waste such as bottles, plastic, cans and paper. It is likely that this sorry state of affairs will be rectified with some necessary legislation.

New Proposals for Local Authorities

However, recycling domestic waste could also receive a fillip by hitting the householder where it hurts as householders who do not co-operate in recycling domestic waste could receive council tax increases in future or more positively, a reduction in their council tax if they regularly recycle. The aim is for every home in the country to have a kerbside collection for recyclable materials and to have 50% of the country composting its own food waste by 2005. The 1000m tonnes of waste produced annually by homes, businesses and factories, is currently increasing at an alarming 3% a year while landfill sites become scarcer and more expensive. The landfill tax now stands at £13 per tonne a year which the chancellor is likely to increase by £3 a year from 2005 till it reaches £35.

Food waste has a positive future

However surplus can be put to positive use. Farmers will be encouraged to grow sugar beet or wheat to produce bioethanol as an alternative to petrol. Cars are already widely powered on ethanol from surplus sugar in South America and a particular bonus is that this does not add to global warming, and reduces reliance on imported oil. Furthermore it gives farmers a good alternative market at a time when sugar beet subsidies are being produced and there is a danger of over-production.

Microbial fuel cells (MFCs) have been developed in the past and proved till recently extremely inefficient and expensive. But the University of the West of England (UWE) have produced a simplified MFC that costs only £10. Their fuel cell runs on sugar cubes, (which has virtually no waste). Inside the battery bacteria produce enzymes that break down the carbohydrates, releasing hydrogen atoms. The cell also contains chemicals which strip electrons from the hydrogen atoms which are delivered to the fuel cell's anode, creating a voltage that can be used to power a circuit. The team hope to move on to carrot power!

Fleur Speakman

Daleswatch

Dry Rigg Quarry extension approved.

The Yorkshire Dales Society was shocked to learn that the National Park Authority had overturned their own planning officers' recommendation in order to extend the life of Dry Rigg Quarry, Horton in Ribblesdale, for the production of road stone, even though such a five year extension of the quarry's life (until 2009) is contrary to National and Regional Planning policies and its own National Park Plan.

The decision was undoubtedly heavily influenced by vociferous and often highly emotional letters in the local press and demonstrations to the effect that 15 jobs would be lost if the quarry closed. In fact jobs will be lost in any case when the quarry closes, and in the meantime Ribblesdale communities, especially Settle, will suffer continued traffic nuisance and disturbance and loss of amenity - which also costs jobs as less visitors stay in the area.

What Authority members have done is to perpetuate planning mistakes of the 1950s. Major quarrying has no place and should never have had a place in a National Park. Though there is some consolation in the fact that the permission does not mean any extension in the size of the quarry, and restrictions of vehicle movements and restoration measures will be undertaken, national purposes have once again been set aside for political expediency. Council for National Parks have recorded a formal complaint with the Minister for Rural Affairs, asking the Minister to implement the DEFRA Review recommendation to undertake "an analysis of the application of planning policies in National Parks as well as the range and content of those policies."

Skipton becomes Regional Centre for Organic Farming

Skipton Auction Mart has become host to the Yorkshire Organic Centre, an organisation founded by the Soil Association, which seeks to develop organic farming and food production through the whole of the Yorkshire & Humber Region. There will be technical service staff and a Development officer to provide business support, training and marketing advice for farmers and growers moving into organic production. The intention is also to help make locally grown organic products available to local people in the region.

North Yorkshire announces four experimental Traffic Regulation Orders on Green Lanes in the Dales

Following extensive initial consultations, North Yorkshire County Council has announced proposals to carry out experimental Traffic Regulation orders

to limit the use of motor vehicles on four popular green lanes within the Yorkshire Dales National Park - Mastiles Lane, Long Lane at Clapham, Top Mere Road at Kettlewell and the Horsehead Pass between Yockenthwaite and Halton Gill. Further consultations have taken place and at time of writing Parish Councils are also being consulted.

Reports from Upper Nidderdale confirm that bed and breakfast proprietors are now suffering from cancellations of weekend bookings from visitors because of the intrusive noise and physical damage to walking routes caused by increasing numbers of motor cyclists and 4x4 drivers along local green lanes. It is reported that groups, encouraged by the Internet where many controversial routes are now being advertised, are now coming to the Dales from as far away as Belgium to enjoy the "challenge" of inflicting nuisance and damage on our nationally protected landscapes.

Goodbye Vicki - Welcome Kathy

The Yorkshire Dales Society was sorry to learn that Vicki Elcoate, who has been such an outstanding Chief Executive of the Council for National Parks, and a great friend of the Yorkshire Dales Society, has left CNP to join the Environmental Law Association. We shall miss her greatly.

She is replaced by Kathy Moore, former Head of Human Resources and Project Director of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in Nepal. Kathy is a keen hill walker and brings a wide range of experience to leading National Parks campaigning in the UK. We look forward to meeting her in the Yorkshire Dales in the none too distant future.

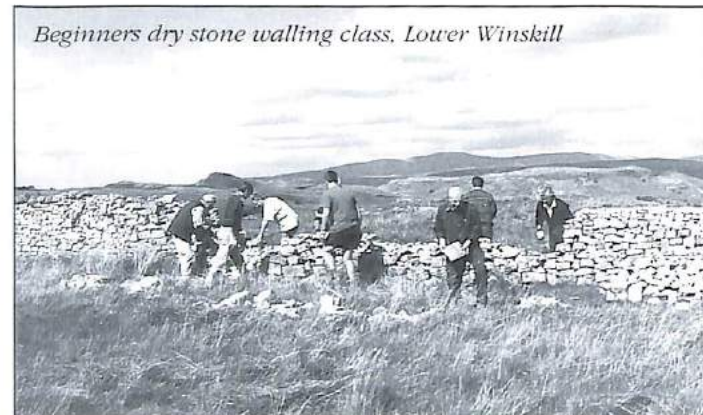
A New Management Plan for the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

A new Management Plan for the Nidderdale AONB is in preparation. The area covers 603 sq. km. north-south from Ellingstring to Otley, and east-west from Fountains Abbey to Middlesmoor. The leaflet guide to the plan contains a questionnaire for those interested to register their comments before a draft is released for widespread public consultation in the summer. The questionnaire should be returned by June 30th 2003 to the address below (and **not** to the YDS). The Yorkshire Dales Society will be sending in its own considered response. If you would like to obtain your own copy of the guide and questionnaire, contact Nidderdale AONB, Council Offices, King Street, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LE, tel: 01423 712950, fax 01423 712841 email: nidderdaleaonb@harrogate.gov.uk

Winskill Farm - Past, Present and Future

Lower Winskill is a historic hill farm in the spectacular limestone landscape overlooking Ribblesdale near Settle. The farm was established in the mediaeval period as part of the Salley Abbey holding in Langcliffe and Stainforth. Today, it consists of just over 140 acres of enclosed land, with about 30 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture and about 10 acres of woodland.

In May 2001 all the farm livestock, nearly 50 head of cattle and 200 sheep, were culled because of Foot and Mouth Disease. Restrictions on the farm were not lifted until April 2002, nearly fifteen



Beginners dry stone walling class, Lower Winskill

months after the beginning of the outbreak nationally. The farm is still re-stocking, but the main focus of development is the Visitor Centre.

The Visitor Centre provides facilities for groups of adults and children to learn about the history of the Yorkshire Dales landscape. The farm also enables visitors to experience directly hill farming's unique role in conserving the wildlife and landscape of the National Park.

New plans are in hand to provide facilities for visitors with a range of physical abilities. There will be an indoor teaching display and activity areas in a converted range of traditional farm buildings, and a small residential facility. A hay meadow and an adjacent wooded limestone pavement will be made accessible to wheelchair users by installing a boardwalk and decked seated areas. A stone outbuilding in the hay meadow will be restored to protect visitors from the elements, and give them the opportunity to enjoy being there at different times of the farming year.

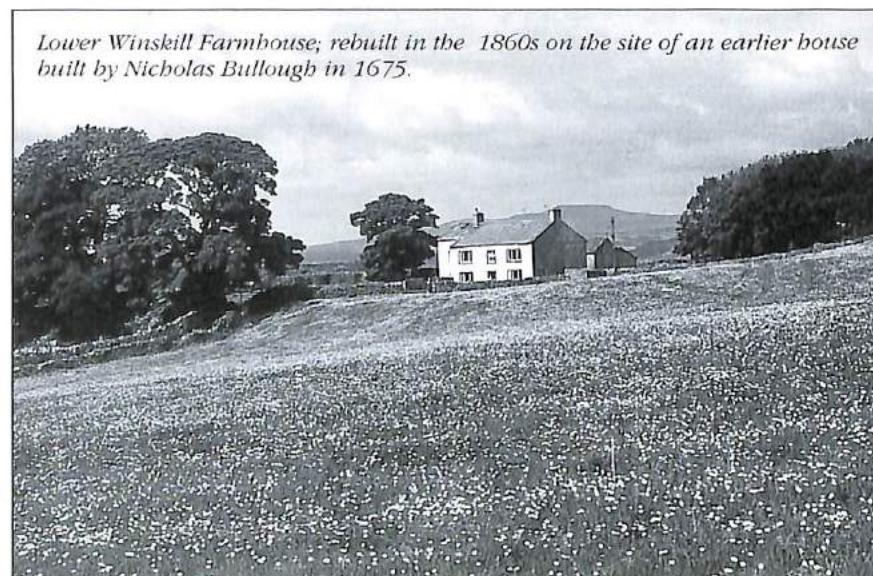
The intention is to involve visitors with the entire spectrum of management tasks and decision making required in maintaining a traditional Dales hay meadow.

A further aim of the Visitor Centre is to extend provision for students and professionals to train in aspects of sustainable landscape management, and in the recording, care and restoration of the distinctive archaeological features, historic buildings and artefacts found in upland farming settings. The Visitor Centre is developing a dry stone wall heritage education resource and training facility for professionals, students and visitor groups to learn how to identify, record and construct the vernacular dry stone walls found in the area.

A distinctive type of mediaeval dry stone wall survives at Winskill and elsewhere in the Malham-Ribblesdale area. It is a wholly obsolete walling style with structural characteristics quite different to wall construction techniques currently practiced in the Yorkshire Dales. The conservation and restoration of this rare mediaeval wall type is now a matter of concern. Large scale wall restoration schemes fail to recognise it, and simply replace it with wholly contemporary styles, rather than restoring the original structure.

During their visit to Winskill, members of the Yorkshire Dales Society will have the opportunity to see the documentary and field evidence for the dating of a variety of dry stone wall types, including the mediaeval wall type.

Tom Lord.



Lower Winskill Farmhouse; rebuilt in the 1860s on the site of an earlier house built by Nicholas Bullough in 1675.

Mosaic Training Day in Birmingham

Wednesday February 12th, 2003 at the Paragon Hotel

Delegates at the Mosaic training day in Birmingham included CNP (the Council for National Parks), and representation from the following national parks: the Yorkshire Dales, Brecon Beacons, Northumberland, North York Moors, CPRE & the Peak, and Exmoor, and from Exford YHA and the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Overview of Mosaic Project and BEN

The Mosaic Project is an initiative set up by the BEN (the black Environment Network), and the Council for National Parks to enable ethnic communities to access everything that national parks have to offer. BEN works to establish ethnic environmental participation in the natural environment, and is also concerned with the built environment, heritage and the environment, health and the environment, and housing and the environment.

Jessica Nar, Mosaic project director, introduced the training day and gave a summary of eight visits made by different ethnic groups throughout July and August. These included a Wai Yin Chinese group from Manchester visiting the Dales, a Community Environment Project in Bradford and a visit to the Lake District by some Bolton Asian Elders who took their own chef. Each of the events had been very successful. A wide range of activities for the various different groups, which varied in age and ability, included: kayaking in the Lakes, horse-riding, walking and a farm visit in the Dales, music-making in Northumberland, rock-climbing in Exmoor, raft-building in the Peak District, archery in the North York Moors, and surfing on Exmoor beaches.

Issues

- In one case a YHA booked as sole use for a women's group, was **not** sole use.
- Transport - public transport costs high therefore minibuses often used.
- Food - specific directions needed to be given
- Accommodation good in YHAs, but elderly won't use top bunks
- Activities - need to know the group's level of experience
- Questionnaire results useful
- Also Diary feedback
- Urban events in Wales and Birmingham
- Overall Evaluation

Outcome

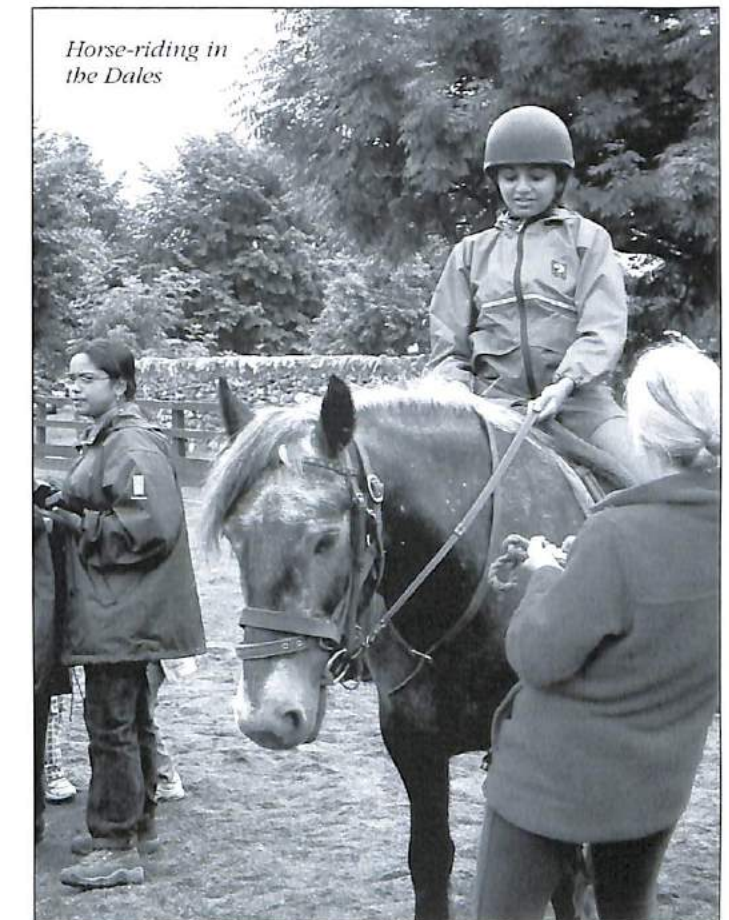
Greater interest in visiting national parks
More knowledge of what to do in national parks

What happens next?

Groups act as ambassadors
Participation widened
Revisiting of national parks
National Parks as proactive

Two short presentations were given by the leader of a Birmingham Youth Group and from the leader of the Chinese Elders.

Young people who used the Edale activity centre in the Peak Park found it helped them to greater independence, better social and communication skills, and in learning how to tackle problems



Horse-riding in the Dales

together. Also a demand was stimulated for their own follow-up visits.

The older people, though less active, delighted in the possibility to explore the landscape which often reminded them of their own landscape in their mother-country which they might have left behind very many years ago.

Funding for repeat visits should not be a problem as it is often available for smaller groups or individual follow-up visits.

Perhaps we should really be looking at communities - whoever lives in the larger cities for

example, rather than laying such emphasis on the word "ethnic".

Organising and managing a suitable visit for ethnic minorities

The key point that emerged was firstly how to manage the first overtures. Who makes them? When? Where? How? What was the next stage? A good deal of discussion was initiated with further group workshops, scenario discussions and presentations. In each case a decision had to be made as to who took responsibility. A considerable amount of detailed forward-planning was of course crucial for a successful visit including various worst case scenarios – risk assessment. Various projected itineraries for particular groups were dissected in detail.

The final discussions centred on how the various national parks could best communicate with each other and the sort of measures they would take to drive the project forward.

Generally it had been a most useful day as real scenarios were used at the workshops and some suggested problems had actually occurred. It might be also useful to know that part of the funding of the Mosaic project is conditional on the parks using voluntary societies like our own.

On June 13th-15th of this year the Bradford Asian Women and children's group plan to return to the Dales and stay at Malham youth hostel for the weekend and enjoy some varied activities with the help of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Yorkshire Dales Society. We look forward to being involved.

Members will have an opportunity to learn more about the project when Jessica Nar gives a presentation on the Mosaic Project after the AGM at West Burton on Saturday May 10th.

exercise had been wider-ranging, for example we know that the YDS Review matters more to those for whom it is their main link with the YDS. However, we feel that the major findings are reasonably accurate and were a useful exercise.

Top of members' list was interest in the countryside and the environment as reasons for joining the Society, while the opportunity to go walking also scored fairly high. While one or two thought that we could campaign more, others said we should not be seen as a pressure group. However, all agreed that they were happy with the balance between campaigning and servicing members. Conservation and Dales issues topped the list as to why our members stayed with us, but there was a query whether members could have more opportunities to be involved in causes. Some concern was expressed on the issue of affordable housing for younger people. Our leader on pages 2-3, in the current issue of the YDS Review, deals with aspects of this particular topic. There was approval that the subject of light pollution had been raised.

One member believed that small repairs on houses and bridges were not always in keeping with their surroundings.

Poor acoustics in some of the halls featured quite strongly in the questionnaire. This is a concern which has been discussed on different occasions over the years in the Events sub-committee meetings and even in Council meetings. We are now looking into the possibility of a good, portable public address system which will be suitable for our events. *(Any member with expertise in this field who can give clear details and costings for such a system should write to Fleur Speakman at The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD. We would be most grateful.)*

There was a query about Daleswatch. The YDS Review carries a round-up of Dales issues under Daleswatch which we think are of general interest, and the quarterly Dales Digest also features a number of such concerns. Should any very specific damaging threat arise, a former Daleswatch group could easily be reactivated.

One member thought that insufficient attention was paid to Calderdale by the YDS. The area is actually outside our remit, though we have had an occasional walk in the area.

The fact that young people were not joining the Society was raised; a very real concern which many organisations share.

Finally, a member queried whether the YDS Review should be re-vitalised, though we have had very positive comments on this subject both in the questionnaire and from individual letters written to the editors on a number of occasions.

Book Reviews

NIDDERDALE – "LAND IN OUR BLOOD" : A portrait of life and landscape in Yorkshire Dales Photography by Paul Harris FRGS & the Students of Nidderdale High School and Community College, with a foreword by Gervase Phinn and text by Lambert Coverdale, published by Nidderdale High School and Community College at £9.50 and available from the Nidderdale Festival Secretary, at the above mentioned school, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate, HG3 5HL. Please add £1.65 for postage & packing, or obtainable direct locally at the Book Tour Bookshop in the High Street, Pateley Bridge, at £9.50.

This is a large format book of many splendid photographs which capture the essential qualities of Nidderdale's spectacular landscape and the character of its people in a number of superb portraits.



Farmers Alison Bray and Mark Exelby who are very involved in the Country Stewardship Scheme with Phil Lyth who has worked for The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) for a number of years.



Ann Poulsen set up the Yorkshire Exmoor Pony Trust in 2002; the Exmoor ponies are known for their suitability for "conservation grazing".

Report on the Yorkshire Dales Society Membership Recruitment Questionnaire

The Yorkshire Dales Society Membership Recruitment Questionnaire was organised at the final two events of the YDS Walks and Lecture Series in February and March of this year as an opportunity of finding out in a short space of time what had prompted some members to join the Yorkshire Dales Society and what issues they felt were most important. Members' concerns in order of importance were dealt with in the second part of the questionnaire and there was room for additional comments in each case. Recruitment and publicity material would benefit from a more focused approach.

55 members responded to our survey on Saturday February 8th at Clapham Village Hall and more recently on Saturday March 8th at Pateley Bridge and Beverley Village Hall. Checks were made that forms were only filled in one occasion. Approximately over four-fifths of those who responded had been YDS members for a number of years, while the remaining section had been members for two-to three years.

Couples were given the option of filling in the form together or separately and were counted as two individuals whatever their choice. The information has been presented in tabulated form for easier assimilation.

Reasons for joining the Yorkshire Dales Society

	Influence	Importance
1. Interest in the countryside & environment	52	27
2. Liked walking	47	10
3. Meeting like-minded people	33	1
4. Interesting programme	29	1
5. Help with campaigning issues	26	3
6. Recommended by a friend	25	1
7. Publicity	13	0
8. Relocating to the Dales	5	0

Stayed with the YDS because:

	Influence	Importance
1. Conservation & Dales issues addressed	53	22
2. Social programme Walks & Lectures	49	14
3. Enjoyed Review/Digest	32	1
4. Opportunity to influence decision-makers	25	2

A number of people did *not* identify what was their most important point. By the nature of the exercise, we were dealing with members who were able to get to events' meetings. Some of the proportions in the various choices might have varied if the



Wardens Richard Lee and Philip Harris at Brimham Rocks are involved in landscape maintenance and practical conservation.

Artist Sarah Garforth works from a studio in Ramsgill, once used by her great Uncle Stephen, himself a painter of Nidderdale landscapes and characters.



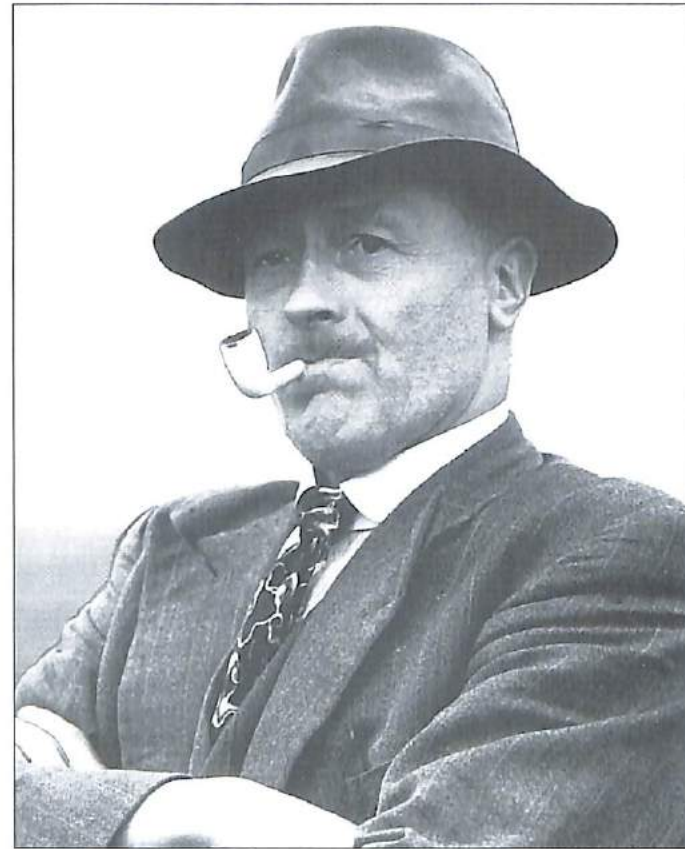
THE DALES DIGEST

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.yds.org.uk

KIT CALVERT, YORKSHIRE DALES MAN and DALESFOLK & DIALECT BY WR MITCHELL, published by Castleberg Press, at £5.99 each, available from Castleberg Press, 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, Settle, BD24 0AY (post-free).

Kit Calvert, Yorkshire Dalesman: Kit was a true Wensleydale character, celebrated as the saviour of the Wensleydale cheese industry, and known for his translation of passages of the Bible into local dialect, as well as being the owner of an amazing bookshop.



Kit Calvert, complete with clay pipe. At Kit's request, his coffin was hauled to the graveside on a cart drawn by his old pony, Dolly.



Dalesfolk and Dialect is a useful and entertaining guide to some extraordinary Yorkshire dialect words and others that are more generally known.

Spring Events

New lambs, wildflowers, longer days – there's no nicer time of the year to get out and about in the Yorkshire Dales than Spring. Join us on some interesting and perhaps unusual days out including our first ever family day event. Take the opportunity to enjoy a spring weekend in the Wensleydale area in early May for our AGM.

SATURDAY MAY 10TH YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY AGM, West Burton Village Hall at 2p.m.

Details and formal Agenda are enclosed with the Yorkshire Dales Review. Jessica Nar, Director of the Mosaic Project, will talk about the highly successful scheme of bringing different ethnic groups from nearby inner cities such as Bradford to enjoy the Dales countryside.

SUNDAY MAY 11TH A VISIT TO THE WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY

Proposals are being finalised to have the first trains operating along part of the Wensleydale Railway (Bedale-Redmire) during 2003. Meet Leyburn Market Place at 1030 for a visit to Leyburn Station and then a short walk in the Leyburn area via Leyburn Shawl with its impressive views of the dale. If a train service is operating on that date, members will be invited to join the train.

SATURDAY JUNE 7TH THE YORKSHIRE DALES FAMILY AFTERNOON IN RIBBLESDALE

Meet in Stainforth Car Park, 1pm for a 3½ mile

Yorkshire Dales Society

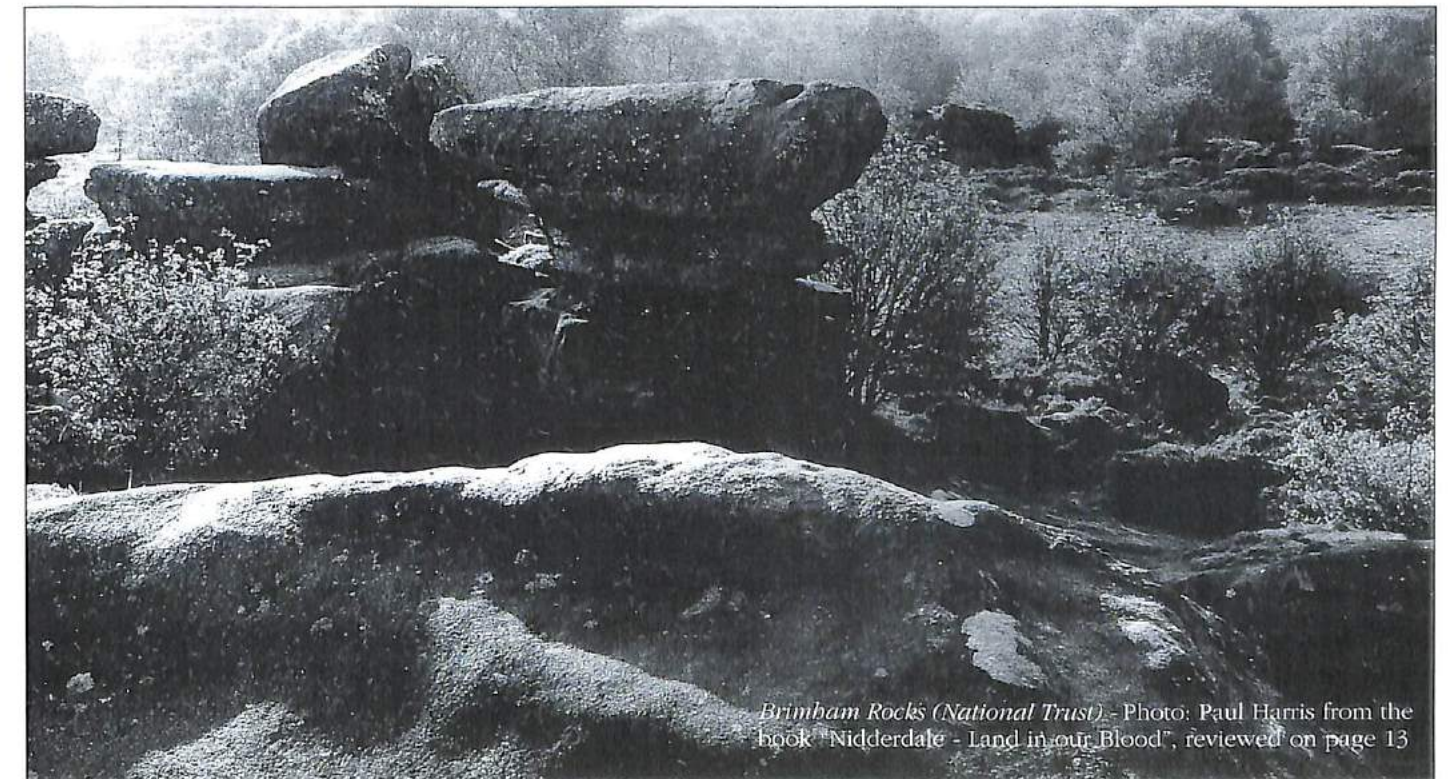


walk under the tunnel and past Stainforth Falls, riverside (lots of stiles) to Langcliffe Weir with salmon leap, upstream to the amazing Hoffman Kiln, tea and cakes (£1.50p per head) around 4pm at Stainforth Youth Hostel (with an introduction to family hostelling) returning via Stainforth Stepping Stones to the car park. Expected return - 5pm.

Lots to see and do on the walk – suitable for 4 year olds upwards who can walk at least 3 miles. Parents/uncles and grandparents also welcome. There's a bus at 1215 from Settle Market Place (581) to Stainforth (1045 train from Leeds, Skipton etc connects); lifts will be arranged back to Settle for anyone without their own transport. Leader Simon Fern. Please phone 01943 461938 or 01943 607868 for information and your numbers.

SATURDAY JULY 5TH A VISIT TO INGLEBOROUGH NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Following the extremely enjoyable talk by John Osborne of English Nature on the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, YDS members have been invited to join John on a short (5 mile) walk on the reserve. Meet at Ribbleshead Station entrance at 1215 (train d Leeds 1049, Skipton 1127, Settle 1447 arrives 1205); car parking nearby. Some steep sections crossing limestone pavements; walking sticks useful! Bring packed lunch.



Brimham Rocks (National Trust) - Photo: Paul Harris from the book "Nidderdale - Land in our Blood", reviewed on page 13



Front Cover picture: *Hawes, Upper Wensleydale from the Creamery*. Photo by Chris Wright.

Back Cover Drawing: *Feeak or Fleg: Wooden Rack for drying oatcakes*: line drawing by Richard Bancroft from "Dalesfolk and Dialect" by W. R. Mitchell – see Review on page 14.

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.