

No.83 Summer 2003

# Yorkshire Dales Review



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Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50

## ***A Milestone in Wensleydale***

After years of highly professional campaigning, negotiating and fund raising, the Wensleydale Railway Company achieved in June what many people believed to be impossible – the securing of a 99 year lease from Network Rail for the 22 miles of disused freight railway line between Northallerton and Redmire.

Many Yorkshire Dales Society members have supported this project, and some are actual shareholders – over a £1 million has already been raised – in what is one of the most ambitious rail restoration schemes ever conceived in the UK. This is not only to get the 22 miles of railway between Northallerton and Redmire back into regular passenger operation, but to rebuild and restore the 18 miles of track that forms the “missing link” between Redmire, Hawes and Garsdale on the Settle-Carlisle line, thus restoring a valuable 40 mile cross-Pennine rail link as well as serving communities through the heart of the Yorkshire Dales.

No one imagines this will be achieved in the near future, but the promoters, realistically, see the plan moving ahead in a series of carefully planned stages. The first stage begins this summer with regular passenger trains operated by a “Heritage” Class 107 diesel multiple unit between Leeming, Bedale and Leyburn. It is hoped that the next stage will be to extend the service back to Northallerton and forward to Redmire, and soon to Castle Bolton to bring visitors into the National Park without the need to drive. This first aspiration is given strong endorsement in a new report sponsored by the Countryside Agency **Railway Reopenings: An Audit for Yorkshire & the Humber** which identifies the Redmire Line as viable for reopening in the near future, with its development westwards a longer term option.

Success breeds success and once local authorities, Government Agencies and even the EU begin to see this success in terms of new jobs and economic benefit to the communities of Wensleydale, then investment funding will begin to follow. Important as tourism is, this will not just be a tourist railway, but an all the year round, fully integrated rural transport service, using state of the art lightweight railcars and linking buses that will provide a real alternative to the private car for business, shopping, education as well as leisure.

Sadly, not everyone shares this vision. Understandably many people owning properties along the line which was sold off piecemeal in the 1960s have genuine concerns, and it will take a lot of time, and careful negotiations, to ensure that their rights are protected and adequate compensation deals agreed.

A key partner will be the National Park Authority. The Authority’s initial negative reaction was perhaps less forgivable, suggesting, with more than a whiff of hypocrisy, that rail passengers (as opposed to the thousands of motorists who cram into the crowded car parks at Aysgarth), would be a threat to the nearby Freeholders Wood nature reserve. Fortunately more rational arguments have prevailed, though the National Park are right to insist that the Wensleydale Railway must not just become another car-served tourist attraction, but be the basis of a fully integrated transport system, encouraging people to leave their cars at home with excellent connections with the national rail network at Northallerton and eventually Garsdale, but also offering park and ride facilities, at say, Leeming, easily accessed off the A1 Motorway.

The time has now come for the main local authorities – the National Park, North Yorkshire, and Richmondshire, to become active participants in this vision for sustainable transport and tourism. Only by creating truly high quality networks of rural public transport (and there are some superb examples of how this can be done in Germany) will people feel they have a real choice to reduce their car dependency and for at least some journeys experience the freedom and flexibility integrated public transport can offer.

Yet this will only happen if ordinary people, including members of the Yorkshire Dales Society – whether or not we live in Wensleydale – prove that there is real grassroots support for the Wensleydale Railway, by using the railway as passengers, by working as volunteers, and by subscribing as shareholders. For the latest information on how to achieve all three, look out for local publicity, call into the WR shop in Leyburn (now open daily) or log onto the company’s informative website ([www.wensleydalerailway.com](http://www.wensleydalerailway.com)).

*Colin Speakman*

## ***Meeting the Housing Needs of Wensleydale***

*Dr. Peter Annison, of Askrigg, is the Chairman of Richmondshire District Council’s Local Strategic Partnership. In commenting on the editorial in the Spring YDS Review, he explains the problems of housing-related social change in Wensleydale and an important new approach being taken by the Local Strategic Plan in tackling these problems in the Dale.*

It is going to be a difficult task to bring together the myriad of different public bodies, support agencies and others who have a part to play in promoting the well being of the local communities in the District. The first task of the LSP is to produce a Community (Strategic) Plan that will overarch the many existing, but separate ones and then get everyone to sign up to it.



*Photo: Social Housing in Askrigg*

There is a particular problem with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in that, unlike most of the other bodies involved in the LSP process, its primary purposes are focused on the conservation of a geographical area rather than on the well being of communities within the Park boundaries. In practice this should not be an insurmountable obstacle to partnership working since it is recognized that national park purposes are intimately dependent on the continuing contribution of the local communities. However the significance of this linkage between conservation and community needs to be constantly emphasized and reinforced because there are some who appear to be unable to grasp its significance and importance. This latter point is well illustrated by those who ‘bang on’ about ‘national’ versus ‘local’ interest. For a start this is an unpleasantly divisive argument, with its undercurrent of a two-nation society, but more importantly it damages the concept of partnership.

During the 28 years we have lived in Wensleydale, I have never seen so many job vacancies advertised. County Social Services are unable to recruit Home Helps locally and these important aids to keeping older people independent in their own homes are now travelling from Catterick, Colburn and Richmond each day. High Hall, our old peoples’ home, had no response at all to their recent advert for night staff. Businesses are experiencing similar problems. All the local building trades are short of skilled staff and none have been able to find apprentices. Even the YDNPA is finding it difficult to fill vacant posts.

I know that other areas of the country are experiencing similar problems, notably the South East. But just because it is shared with others does not mean it is any less of a problem. Even if you are correct in asserting a population increase in the Dales, it clearly is not addressing the problems. Observation suggests (and the Parish ward statistics from the 2001 census will give us a clearer picture when they are released in July) that the inward migration is from the older end of the age spectrum and so does not help to replace the outward migration of young people.

In a private survey we have just conducted in the four primary schools (Hawes, Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) in Upper Wensleydale, it is clear that the proportion of local children (defined as those whose grand-parents live in the Dale) is falling sharply and that this drop is not being compensated by the increase in off-comers’ children. Farm closures (by amalgamation) and lack of family succession appears to be a significant factor. The study also highlighted the fact that the four schools needed a combined intake of between 35 and 40 children each year into their reception classes. On the simplifying assumption of two children per family, this means we need to see 17-20 family producing partnerships ‘created’ per year and we are falling significantly short of that number.

I am not for one moment suggesting that the YDNPA is a primary cause of these problems or that it is in a position to do anything significant to alter the situation. The causal factors are a range of powerful social and economic forces, many external to the Dales. But if we are to have

any chance to mitigate the most damaging effects and manage this process of change, it is important that all the disparate agencies work together and add, rather than subtract, their contribution quantum.

You say that 'the only possible solution is to have a reservoir of rented homes'. But the Right to Buy legislation changed the nation's attitude to home ownership and young people today are no longer content with second-best social housing. Apart from that do you really want to advocate building substantial numbers of council type housing in the Dales, probably on exception sites adjacent to conservation villages? This is a damaging sticking plaster solution that should not be necessary when we have more stock in the Dales, the 20% or so of second homes and holiday cottages, than is required to meet local need.

You also repeated David Butterworth's criticism that the District Council had not fulfilled its obligations to build affordable homes. In fact that is incorrect. Local authorities do not build houses anymore - instead they put in bids to the Housing Corporation for funding and any building is undertaken by a Housing Association. Richmondshire has been both active and successful in making such bids. Examples include social housing estates in Hawes, Askrigg and Reeth, all built within the last 10 years or so, as well as other examples outside the National Park.

There is a social housing scheme currently being developed for Askrigg at the District Council's instigation. It will be the third one in the village (1950s council housing followed by a Sanctuary Housing scheme in the 1990s). All are at the edge of the village and as someone pointed out, if we carry on like this, it will not be long before we emulate a Roman settlement with the patrician houses in the centre and the workers around the perimeter. What a prospect!

One of the problems of having to operate in this way is that rural housing costs, especially within a National Park, almost always exceed the Housing Corporation's upper spending limits. In consequence obtaining the necessary funding becomes extremely difficult and usually lags behind the demand.

We are currently working with the Joseph Rowntree Trust on a feasibility study into some form of privately financed investment vehicle for helping families to buy existing housing on the open market on a shared equity basis. The idea has already caused some excitement, but it is too early to know whether it will provide a meaningful answer. But I think we must remain open to innovative ways of tackling apparently intractable problems and not just advocate failed policies of the past.

*Peter Annison*

## Grace Cairns

It was with enormous sadness that the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management learned of the death on April 11th of long-time YDS Council Member Grace Cairns, who was a most supportive member of our team. Grace was a

most enthusiastic and loyal helper, whose unobtrusive style and baking skills delighted the Society on a number of occasions. A memorable tea provided by Grace after a visit to Bancroft Mill a few years ago, is still remembered with great affection. Apart from a period in Shropshire, Grace was chiefly associated with Earby and particularly Barnoldswick which also became the town that she and her husband Denis retired to. Grace was much involved with the Girls Brigade and she also showed a particular interest in helping with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in her local area. Working with children and youngsters was



something that meant a great deal to her. Marriage to Dennis in 1950, who was to hold a number of teaching posts including headmasterships, and two sons still gave Grace time to savour the beauty and grandeur of the

Yorkshire Dales landscape which was a constant delight. Sadly a major illness in her last year led to a fatal heart attack. After a private family cremation on April 17th at Skipton Crematorium, a packed St Andrews Church in Barnoldswick on an unseasonably hot, but glorious April day celebrated the life of a very charming and courageous lady who will be remembered for her generosity of spirit and for her determination to serve and help others. We extend our most sincere condolences to

her husband Dennis, her sons, grand-daughter and other close family members.

*FS*

# The Healing Arts - Pioneer Projects and Looking Well

Pioneer Projects Ltd is a nationally recognised charity based in Bentham on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, that uses the arts and celebration to promote the health and well being of communities. The founder members of the company are artists who have pioneered this field of work since the mid 1980s in urban and rural locations throughout England and have campaigned for recognition of the value of the arts and creativity in promoting the health of individuals and communities. They have been influential in the creation of an academic research base at the University of Durham (Centre for Arts and Humanities in Health and Medicine or CAHHM), the National Network for Arts and Health in London and a flowering of projects and practitioners throughout the UK.

## Looking Well

Here in the Yorkshire Dales, the charity has two flagship projects. The Looking Well Centre opened in Bentham in 1997 following an arts based health needs assessment in partnership with local health, education and social care providers. Mike White, Director of CAHHM describes it as "an informal community space where arts, health promotion and lifelong learning programmes come together. Purposely shoestring and low tech (there's no phone but there's a woodstove), Looking Well has turned a small town store into a haven of creativity for the community and a growing number of care agencies. Domestic in feel and content, it offers a congenial space with the atmosphere of a well-functioning extended family, developing supportive arts activities out of its own health need assessments. Its cheap, simple and it works."

Well over 1000 people use the centre every year, and they include adults with enduring mental health problems and other long term health conditions, older people, vulnerable children and families. The project has proved its worth and has influenced the creation of other Wells in Settle and Hellifield, outreach work at Airedale Hospital, and projects with excluded communities in Skipton.

## Yellow Brick Road

A second flagship project is emerging out of a 6 month mobile play and research project (primarily

funded by the Countryside Agency) aimed at children and families in the isolated communities of the Dales. The Yellow Brick Road has been researching the childcare needs of families while giving children the chance to explore, create, discover and relate to others through imaginative play. The project has focused on the under twelves in school and after school, toddler and playgroups, childminders and the particular needs of children with learning and other disabilities. Over the summer extra funding from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is taking the project outdoors to Hazel Brow Farm visitor centre in Swaledale (19-21 August) and Lower Winskill Farm at Langcliffe.

Both projects have received much praise for their innovative and grassroots approach to responding to the needs of people in rural areas. In 2000, Pioneer Projects received a national Smith Kline Beecham IMPACT Award for Excellence in Community Health, and Looking Well secured core funding from the New Opportunities Fund until 2005 as it became one of the first Healthy Living Centres. This funding has enabled the charity to develop a sustainable plan for the future which includes setting up a training base



for developing the practice of arts and health, finding a new home for Looking Well in Bentham (the lease finishes in 2005), and providing a base for Yellow Brick Road. A feasibility study has identified sites in Bentham and a phased development is proposed to give time to raise the funds required. In an area of such sparse population, the trustees recognise that raising the funds will be a major undertaking, but they are convinced of the need to stay in Bentham with local outreach into Craven and the Dales, and a wider invitation (through training courses) to other communities, both urban and rural, to visit and learn from the Looking Well experience.

*If you would like to register your interest and keep in touch with what is happening, the charity would welcome your support. Contact Alison Jones (Projects Manager) by post at Pioneer Projects Ltd, 32-34 Main Street, High Bentham, LA2 7HN or email to [alison.ppltd@dial.pipex.com](mailto:alison.ppltd@dial.pipex.com).*

## Free Parking in the Dales – or Freeloading?

The Yorkshire Dales Society organises many events in the Dales, and when we do so, we always try to arrange that our members use official car parks, whether belonging to the National Park, the District Council, the Chatsworth Estate or a village hall, where as hirer of the hall, the Society is also paying for its upkeep.

We do so for the simple reason that 20 or 30 cars parked on the roadside of a Dales hamlet or village are both unsightly and a nuisance, obstructing roads, house fronts, gateways and crossing places, or even the local bus, just the kind of thing that local people most resent about visitors.

But where there is a charge as in a local authority or estate car park, we are also aware that the payment is an important source of income. This is especially important for the National Park as a recent Press Release has confirmed. Cash collected directly helps to pay for the conservation and related work of the Authority, including maintaining the car parks themselves and their toilets, a key issue for many visitors as letters to the Society have confirmed.

But many people, for understandable reasons, resent paying for car parking. Why pay when you can park on the roadside nearby for free?

You see this especially acutely around the Bolton Abbey Estate where faced with a £4 charge some motorists will go to great trouble to find any lay-by or verge nearby to leave their car perhaps for several hours whilst they go for a walk. The problem is especially severe at Barden Bridge where there can be up to 60 cars squeezing onto narrow verges turning this lovely area into a large, unsightly linear car park.

Ironically, when you leave your car in an isolated position, it is an easy target for car thieves who now target walkers in particular, and many walkers in the Dales have been victims of car crime.

But there is another reason to pay to park your car. Though National Parks are provided by the nation with money we pay as taxpayers, it is reasonable, given the many other demands on our taxes, including hospitals, schools, police, transport, that people who are fortunate enough to be able to come to a National Park should make some contribution towards their cost. A £2 car parking charge for four people only amounts to 50p per head – not even the price of a cup of tea in return for enjoying and sharing one of the loveliest

landscapes in Europe. And it is a vital source of funding for the Park. In 2002/3 a total 240,000 visitors to the 12 National Park car parks in the Dales contributed £338,900 to the income of the Park.

This is equally true of the Chatsworth Estate at Bolton Abbey. This estate is superbly, privately managed for its many tens of thousands of visitors, with networks of beautifully maintained paths and facilities, carefully conserved woodlands, seating, and magnificent access areas. The £4 collected at the car parks is money which directly maintains this stunning landscape.

Walkers, cyclists and public transport users (who generally pay much more than £4 to reach Bolton Abbey but by so doing are helping to maintain the rural transport networks of the Dales) are not charged to enter the estate. This itself is a major contribution to sustainable access.

If you look at it this way, the people who congratulate themselves at not contributing to the upkeep of the landscape are not all that different from people who avoid paying on a train or bus, “freeloaders” who enjoy the benefits of – in this case – a great landscape without paying their modest share of the cost of its upkeep. As the quality and newness of their cars confirms, they are usually people who can well afford to do so.

So the Yorkshire Dales Society fully supports the principle of paying a reasonable amount for car parking – though there is, perhaps, a case, for making all official car park tickets in the Dales interchangeable over a day so you didn't have to pay for parking more than once.

So when you feed the coins into the machine or hand them over to the attendant, do so in the knowledge that you are making your vital contribution to protecting a unique landscape and cultural heritage.

CS

*Free Parking or Freeloading? Lay-by near the Cavendish Pavilion.*



## A Fine Day Out

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has long recognised that the vast majority of its visitors are from a very narrow spectrum – overwhelmingly white and in the 45 – 65 age range. Considering the diverse communities in the surrounding area it is clear that there are many people missing out on the chance to visit this wonderful area, and that local businesses are missing out on new customers.

To try and address this issue the Target team initiated a series of taster days to bring new groups to the Yorkshire Dales. A partnership was formed with ‘Walking for Health’, a project working with different communities in the area and promoting walking as a way to become healthier. The ‘Walking for Health’ co-ordinator organised the groups, and Target funded them to come on public transport to the Dales where they were met by a volunteer who guided them on a suitable walk.

These days really took off with groups coming from a wide variety of communities during the Spring months. Two parties, from the Active for Life group and the Kashmiri Elders Association in Leeds, took a total of 78 visitors to Bolton Abbey. A group



of 15 senior gentlemen from Bradford made up a party visiting Ingleton waterfalls under the auspices of the British Council for Mosques (featured in the photograph above) and a group of 12 members of the Keighley Walking for Health ‘Walking Women Group’ made a visit to Grassington. The West Bowling Walking group took 30 white and Asian mothers and children on the Settle to Carlisle line from Shipley to Ribbleshead.

Anecdotal evidence from the Volunteer Rangers suggests that the visits are proving successful, with many of the visitor's expressing a wish to visit again. One member of the group of Asian gentlemen visiting Ingleton waterfalls commented that he had lived in Bradford for 40 years but had not known that the Yorkshire Dales existed. Looking up the Doe valley towards Ingleborough he commented on how beautiful it was and how it reminded him of his country of birth.

My involvement with the visits began in my first

week of work when the volunteer who had been organising a walk for the next weekend fell ill. I then discovered that the group size had increased from 30 to 70 and that so far nothing had been planned for the walk. It was a busy week, reconnoitring a route, finding the staff to accompany the group and writing a quiz to keep the children amused.

Fortunately that Saturday the weather was beautiful and I joined 70 people from West Bowling in Bradford that filled the train to Settle. There was a chance to look around this wonderful station, including the old signal box, before heading through town and out into the countryside. The large group of mainly Asian women and children caused a few heads to turn and local people were curious and friendly as we made our way through

Settle and out along Langcliffe old road. Some of the group stuck to the road, while another group took a higher route through the fields. We all got back together for a picnic on the lovely green at Langcliffe before heading down to the River Ribble and back to Settle, for a session in the park and the essential tea shop visits.

This was a great day out both for the staff involved and the people on the trip, and many were already asking about ways of returning with their families.

There have now been a total of 15 visits with nearly 500 people coming out to the Yorkshire Dales from disadvantaged groups. This has been funded by a grant of just £4500 which came from the Countryside Agency and Bradford M.D.C and future plans are to look for funding to continue visits for new groups and to train ‘Walking for Health’ leaders and volunteers to have the confidence to organise and lead trips to the Dales. The first application is in, so watch this space.

**Mark Allum**  
(Target Project Officer)

With many thanks to:  
Bernard Lynch (Dales Volunteer)

# Yorkshire Dales Society

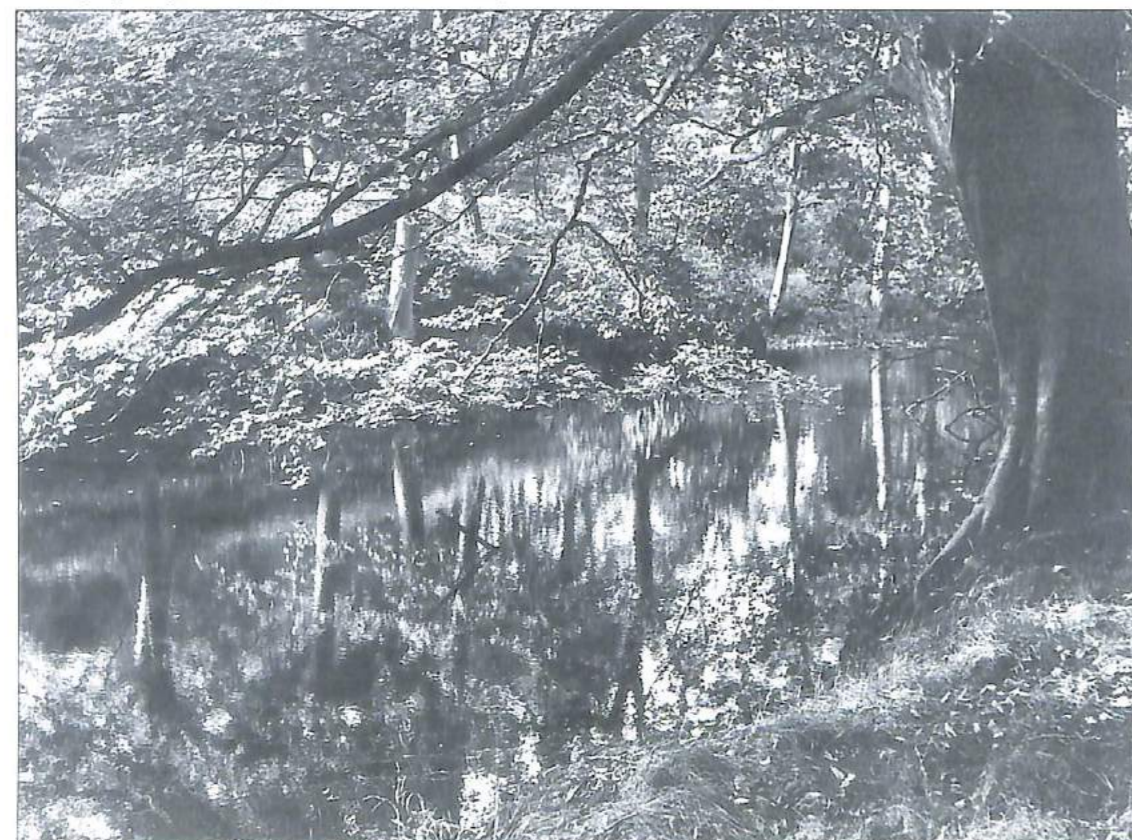
## Chairman's Report 2002-2003

We start with the sad news of the death of Grace Cairns, one of our longest serving Council Members who was so strongly supportive of so many of the Society's aims and initiatives. Many members of the Society attended the Thanksgiving Service at Barnoldswick. During the year we also sadly lost one of our Honorary Members at the age of 94, Mr Graham Watson.

Since last year's AGM and Annual Report, the Society has continued to be concerned with the restoration of normality following the foot and mouth epidemic. This included the development of ideas considered by a sub committee to discuss membership. Several actions were suggested including restoration of the special offer to Millennium Trust patrons, circulation to sister organisations and a new category of corporate members.

The latter involves invitations to selected businesses, and the named individuals have the usual rights of membership. This required no change to our existing constitution and has been received with considerable success. Less predictable is the response to our fifty second slot on the local radio Action Line which is in effect a

Tree Symphony: Wensley Woodlands. Photo: John Fawcett



free commercial on Fresh Radio in both of their areas.

These measures are a follow up to the 'Business in National Parks' Seminar organised by CNP a year last March. A summary of the scheme was outlined in the winter issue of the *Review*. Particular changes in Dales farming have been reflected in two of our events. At the start of our series of winter talks we welcomed Chris Hall from Airtton who gave a moving account of life in both the Dales during Foot and Mouth disease and also about his visit to see at first hand subsistence farming in Ghana. Both farms were hoping to improve their local viability by diversification for specific markets. The Council of Management also visited Redmire Farm in Wharfedale to enjoy a lunch of local produce and see at first hand farm diversification. We were pleased to have Julia Horner as one of our first corporate members.

Local community life also featured in our superb day at Bentham hosted by Alison Jones, the project manager of the Looking Well project. We have also covered subjects as diverse as water resources and the practical physics of the hydrogen fuel cell.

Those who have difficulty hearing some of our speakers and who have to compete often with many noises off and vagaries of antique heating systems, will be pleased to know we hope to have a suitable voice amplification system operating soon at all our meetings.

Tradition was upheld by Chris Hartley's Yorkshire Pudding Walk, which also highlighted two other un welcome traditions, declining public toilets and the gross disturbance of recreational off road vehicles. As you will see in the *Review* there are some positive developments in

both areas, firstly at Kettlewell, with the bonus of a new bus shelter and information point as well as new toilets.

Pressure has continued on the Highways Authority of the North Yorkshire County Council and on public opinion to stop the irreversible damage to what are some of our ancient monuments with the result that at long last traffic restriction orders, though experimental in name, are to be made in regard to four of the most important green lanes.

Last month the Society had a full day's walk and a visit to Tom Lord's farm at Winskill to see a different but equally positive approach to the future with the concentration on maintaining traditional skills.

Progress in the implementation of the *Mosaic* project in the Dales has continued and the Society is involved in a weekend of events in mid June. We hope to build on the experience gained at previous events in the Park including a weekend when 70 people from Bradford travelled by train to Settle and surrounding areas.

This year the Council has spent much time and effort over consideration of the National Parks Authority's first draft Local Plan. This involved much late night work by our Secretary, Colin Speakman, John Cumberland, and member Julie Bradwell. This included reference to a barrister and we are grateful to Julie for arranging this.

Although we are now an official objector to the plan, this has meant that some provisions in the plan may be strengthened. The importance of this in relation to issues like local housing has been highlighted by recent well publicised controversy over one particular application. We maintain a good relationship with the Authority and have had meetings with the Chief Executive, David Butterworth, on more than one occasion.

We had good support for the National Park Societies' meeting in the Norfolk Broads in

September which focused on the topical theme of Global warming and its likely impact on our National Parks. In 2003 we look forward to continuing our close and fruitful relationship with the Council for National Parks Council and to meeting their new Chief Executive Kathy Moore, and send our sincere good wishes to Vicki Elcoate who has left to join the Society of Environmental Lawyers.

Dawn Burton continues to provide an excellent summary of the media's reporting of Dales activity in the *Dales Digest*; essential reading for all. *The Review* under the editorship of Fleur and Colin goes from strength to strength with a particularly wide range of items on the Dales and related issues, and we thank all our contributors for their hard work. We are delighted to accept any appropriate items, particularly shorter pieces and suitable pictures for inside pages or even the cover.

As always Rod and Judith Clough manage to produce much-valued refreshments whatever the circumstances of our varied venues. I must mention one important group by name and that is the team who man our office in Otley every Monday morning with Fleur: Margaret Rhodes, Maurice Denton and Mike Johnston. Many thanks both for all your hard work to help our affairs run so smoothly and for the amount of time you give so regularly and generously.

Our Council of Management continues its regular meetings to discuss the Society's affairs, at different venues throughout the Dales. There is always great support from Council Members, led by our Secretariat Colin and Fleur. Our Honorary Treasurer David Smith and Company Secretary Alan Pease superbly handle our financial affairs.

Finally, a warm thank you to all our members, for their continuing support.

C. J. Wright, Chairman

### Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management 2003/04

**PRESIDENT** KEN WILLSON (Addingham)

**CHAIRMAN** CHRIS WRIGHT (Gargrave) **VICE-CHAIRMAN** MALCOLM PETYT (Kildwick)

**COMPANY SECRETARY\*** ALAN PEASE (Bardsey) **TREASURER** DAVID SMITH (Ben Rhydding)

#### COMMITTEE

HILARY BAKER (Long Preston)	JANE ELLISON-BATES** (Kilnsey)	JERRY PEARLMAN (Leeds & Stalling Busk)
JULIE BRADWELL (Leeds)	SIMON FERN** (Calton)	
KEITH BUDD (Menston)	CHRIS HARTLEY (Menston)	PETER SHARP (Malham)
DENNIS CAIRNS (Barnoldswick)	CHARLES HEPWORTH (Muker)	ALAN WATKINSON (Hawes)
JOHN CUMBERLAND (Ilkley)	JOHN HONE (Pateley Bridge)	

**SECRETARIAT:** COLIN SPEAKMAN (policy) FLEUR SPEAKMAN (membership/administration, etc.)

\* The Company secretary is a legal requirement and involves YDS Company status.

\*\* These Council Members are also Corporate Members

# Daleswatch

## PAM WARHURST TO HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NATIONAL PARK

In its submission to the National Parks Review Committee, the Yorkshire Dales Society made the point that there should be closer involvement of the Countryside Agency – the Government's main advisory body on rural economic matters and on recreation in the countryside – with National Parks. This is especially true in Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority meetings where a parochial pro-development cabal frequently try to dominate the Authority's agenda, and to undermine both agreed policies and officer confidence.

We are delighted therefore to hear that the Deputy Chair of the Agency, Pam Warhurst, has been appointed as the Agency's Board member with special responsibility for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. As well as having a deep commitment to both rural and conservation values – she is a Trustee of the Earth Centre at Doncaster, Chair of the National Countryside Access Forum and Chair of the Rural Affairs for England Urban/rural Interdependencies Sub-group, Pam is a forceful personality with a high reputation in Government circles, who will be a great support to the Authority, and in particular to its often hard-pressed professional staff.

## THE YORKSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Second Deposit Local Plan has now been published and the Yorkshire Dales Society, along with other objectors, has until the end of July to register its views. The Society is an "objector" even though it supports virtually everything within the Plan, though naturally we would like to see key conservation elements in the document strengthened. But only by registering an "objection" are we allowed to comment on this next, almost final stage, and therefore be a counter balance to the many interest groups and self-seeking individuals who would like to see development control policies relaxed in the National Park. This is despite the fact that 95% of all planning applications are approved within the Dales, compared with a national average of just 85% for other planning authorities outside the National Park boundary; a salient fact conveniently ignored by the more emotional letter writers to the local press.

Members of the Society's Council for Management will be going through this document carefully

before the deadline date, examining any issues that may have changed since the first draft such as allowing more conversions of barns for local housing in many smaller, more isolated settlements, before putting forward the Society's views. When finally approved by the Authority, this document must then be approved by the Secretary for State. It will then be the major determiner of policy in the National Park for the next decade or more. So it is vital that the Authority achieves the right balance between the needs of the local community, visitors and a unique environmental heritage, on which, ultimately, the well being of both local people and visitors depends.

## THE WALDEN ROAD

The Yorkshire Dales Society has written to the National Park Authority asking that action be taken to protect Walden Road, the ancient packhorse road across the shoulder of Buckden Pike, in one of the wildest and remotest areas of the Dales between Starbotten and Walden Head. This packhorse road is one of several which have recently been claimed by motor cyclists, without any form of public investigation or legal verification, as having "vehicular rights". Until very recently it was a faint path, difficult to find, across peat moorland and ecologically vulnerable wetland, and impassable by any vehicle except a purpose built off-road scramble bike.

This ancient way is now one of several being constantly used as a challenge route by a small number of off-road bikers, despite efforts by farmers and landowners at the Walden end to close off access. This abuse has resulted in massive, accelerating erosion in vulnerable peat areas, with slow growing vegetation now completely stripped, and causing tracks to appear up to 5 metres wide. Ironically part of this area is a DEFRA "Stewardship" area to which the public are allowed access - on foot.

As correspondence in the local press indicates, this is one of several such routes now receiving massive damage every weekend in the Dales. We ask YDS members to note all such damage, ideally with photographic evidence, passing the evidence to ourselves or our sister organisation YDGLA, so that this evidence can be presented to Government to illustrate just how endangered our National Parks are because of the increasingly destructive activities of a selfish minority.

# Yorkshire Dales Society – Financial Report

## BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March 2003

	2003	2002
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	403	807
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank	35,074	29,593
Cash in Hand	600	600
Stock: Goods for Resale	25	131
	<u>35,699</u>	<u>30,324</u>
<b>CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
Accruals and Deferred Income	<u>435</u>	<u>435</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>35,264</u>	<u>29,889</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u><u>35,667</u></u>	<u><u>30,696</u></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Reserves	<u><u>35,667</u></u>	<u><u>30,696</u></u>

*Didn't we have a lovely time ... ?*

*One of the YDS Events was a walk in the Langcliffe area for the whole of the family, which proved very successful. A brief report by one of the families taking part is on page 15.*



# Yorkshire Dales Society – Financial Report

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for year ended 31st March 2003

	2003	2002
Subscriptions	13,913	14,123
Donations	1,988	2,448
Bank Interest	459	707
Legacies	-	-
Profit on Events	165	52
Retail Sales	128	124
Less Cost of Goods Sold	106	60
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	6,356	-
	<u>22,903</u>	<u>17,394</u>
“Review”	5,005	4,900
Postage	1,994	2,109
Stationery	775	1,088
Administration	5,715	5,730
Office Rent	970	924
Telephone	265	272
Subscriptions & Donations Made	165	240
Depreciation	404	493
Travelling Expenses	137	168
Accountancy	415	396
Sundry Expenses	72	12
Bank Charges	142	150
Printing & Publicity	1,874	275
Repairs	-	-
	<u>17,933</u>	<u>16,757</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u><u>4,970</u></u>	<u><u>637</u></u>

A copy of the full Financial Report is available from the Yorkshire Dales Society office:  
The Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1HD

## Book Reviews

**WILD FLOWER WALKS OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES, SOUTHERN REGION BY AMANDA AND BRIN BEST** published by Waterfront, a division of Kingfisher Productions, Watershed Mill, Settle, North Yorks, BD24 9LR, at £7.95 and available locally.



This attractively produced and handy guide contains 10 very well-known circular walks and does at least indicate that it is possible to make use of public transport, though it is a pity that more emphasis was not placed on this feature and the opportunity taken for a number of themed linear walks. Strid Wood, Trollers Gill, Grassington and Grass Wood, Buckden, Langstrothdale, Malham Tarn, Langcliffe Scars and Ingleborough would all particularly benefit from less parked cars, while both the Chatsworth Estate and the Yorkshire Dales National Park have particularly helped to encourage those walkers without their own transport and show their concern for the environment at the same time.

Over eighty plant photographs are a great help to identification, and maps and fact files assist with planning the trips.

Illustrated above: *Wild Strawberry*, and right: *Bird Cherry* from “Wild Flower Walks of the Yorkshire Dales”.

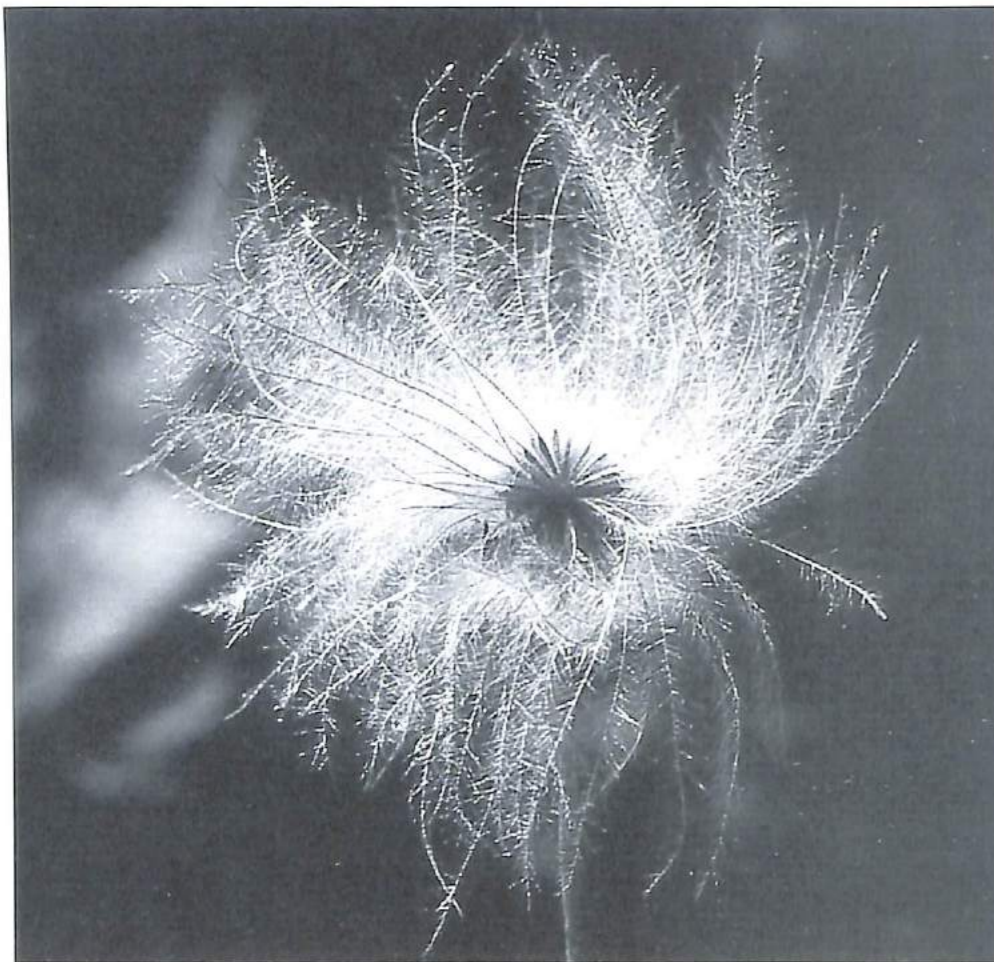


Illustrated right: *Field Scabious*, and below: *the Footbridge at Linton Falls* from “Wild Flower Walks of the Yorkshire Dales”.



**FLORA OF THE FELLS: CELEBRATING CUMBRIA'S MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES** published by Friends of the Lake District and English Nature, edited by Martin Varley, with a foreword by well-known local botanist Geoffrey Halliday, and supported by the Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria Tourist Board, Wildlife Trusts Cumbria, North Pennines AONB Partnership, CNP, East Cumbria Countryside Project, The National Trust, Tullie House Museum and Arts Services Carlisle and the Forestry Commission, at £3.95 and locally available.

Helvellyn and Striding Edge brilliantly lit form a magnificent cover picture for *Flora of the Fells* which has been produced as part of a conservation project with the same name. The book describes the evolution of Cumbria's landscape and diversity, introducing the reader to many of its plants and their many uses over the centuries. The guide more unusually also features a number of insights from local people: a botanist, fell walker, farmer, conservationist and even a decision-maker who is a Lake District Park Authority Member. Superb photography further enhances a most stylish layout. “The Hills have a natural tendency to make



the area around Reeth in Swaledale. Suggested walks are shown on full colour coded route maps, at 1: 20,000 scale, on water resistant paper, offering three short (3-4 mile) circular walks, four long walks (7 miles) in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, and one linear (6½ miles) between Reeth and Gunnerside designed for public transport users, which can be done by using either the number 30 bus on weekdays or the 803 on summer Sundays. The maps are beautifully clear, with a wealth of detail including field boundaries, parking places, toilets, refreshment points, accommodation as well as route directions in text format to support the maps. There is also some excellent local interpretive information on features of interest.

At just £2.20 or less than 28p per walk they are ideal to help make the most of a short visit to

Swaledale. Available in local bookshops, at National Park Visitor Centres, by post from *Harveys 12-22 Main Street, Doune, Perthshire, FK16 6BJ* (please add 80p postage) or over the Internet via the *Harvey website on www.harveymaps.co.uk*.

interesting shapes against the sky,' as Edmund Vale so aptly noted in his *North Country: The Face of Britain*, published in 1937. More information about the *The Flora of the Fells* project which aims to promote public understanding and enjoyment of the mountain landscapes of Cumbria through its flora can be obtained from its website at [www.floraofthefells.com](http://www.floraofthefells.com)

#### REETH WALKS

Harvey Maps, the Scottish based cartographical publishers, have produced a number of walkers' maps for the Yorkshire Dales including the Three Peaks, Howgills and Bentham area as well as the Dales Way, Nidderdale Way and a Dales Cycling Map. The latest addition to the range is a new "Walks" series, starting with



Illustrated above: *Beauty in a Seed Head*, and right: *A Lakeland Snow Scene* from 'Flora of the Fells: Celebrating Cumbria's Mountain Landscapes'

## Summer Events

Enjoy the company of friends on long summer days with the Yorkshire Dales Society, with a choice of walks and visits in different parts of the Dales

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD THE WHAREFDEALE YORKSHIRE PUDDING WALK

Celebrate Yorkshire Day (well almost) in style in the company of that patron of the White Rose and all things Yorkshire Chris Hartley. A circular walk from Kettlewell via Moor End to the Fox & Hounds in Starbotton, returns via Calf Hills and Grass Wood – around 8 miles. (To reserve a traditional pudding ring 01943 607868 by Monday July 21st. Pudding + onion gravy or Pudding + vegetables £3.95. Pudding + sausages £4.95. Pay on the day!) Meet at 1015 in Kettlewell Car Park or to enjoy a pint of good Yorkshire ale with your pudding, take Dalesbus 800 from Leeds d. 0815, Otley 09845, Ilkley 0905, Grassington 0955, a. Kettlewell 1012, returning in time for the 1613 bus back down the Dale.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH CONSERVATION AT REDMIRE FARM, UPPER WHARFEDALE

An opportunity to meet Julia Horner, farmer and conservationist, one of our new Corporate Members, who as well as breeding Dales Lamb on this upland farm, works closely with the National Trust to conserve this spectacular upper Dales landscape which she will explain to members. This will involve a 5 mile walk, with some steep uphill sections.

Park at the National Park Car Park, Buckden at 1.30pm; Public Transport: Pride of the Dales bus 72/74 from Ilkley d.1135, Skipton d. 1200, Grassington d. 1230 to Buckden a. 1259 – picnic

## Didn't we have a lovely time ... ?

The happy chatter of excited children is not usually associated with Dales Society events. A sunny June day at Stainforth in Ribblesdale provided the perfect setting for our 'Family Walk'

This new, and probably overdue, venture attracted over 30 participants from 15 months to, shall we just say, very much older.

We started at the falls and though plenty of fish were in the river, there was disappointment not to see any salmon leaping skywards. The meadows, filled with wild flowers accompanied us to the fish

lunch or pub lunch at Buckden.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH A VISIT TO THE GREENHOW LEAD MINES

A walk around the lead mines of Greenhow led by archaeologist Shirley Everett on Saturday September 27th, at 2pm. Meet near the entrance to Greenhow Quarry, on the B6265. There will be a charge for the visit of £2 a head to cover costs. Pre-booking to the YDS Office with payment is essential (cheques to the Yorkshire Dales Society – please enclose a SAE by Monday September 15th). As parking is limited at the Quarry, some car sharing may be necessary; it may also be possible to arrange lifts from Pateley Bridge or Grassington for those without their own transport.

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

The first event of 2003/4 in our popular season of autumn and winter Saturday easy walks and fascinating lectures, continuing the lead mine and quarrying theme in Nidderdale.

#### WALK: PATELEY BRIDGE IN ITS LANDSCAPE.

This is a moderate 3-4 mile walk with a steep climb at the start. Meet at 1030 at Southfields car park at the bottom of the High Street. Catch the 0930 Harrogate bus (no 24) to Pateley Bridge to arrive 1020. Walk ends around 1230 for pub, café or packed lunch. Return transport 1630 or 1730 to Harrogate. Walk Leader John Hone, tel: 01423 711471.

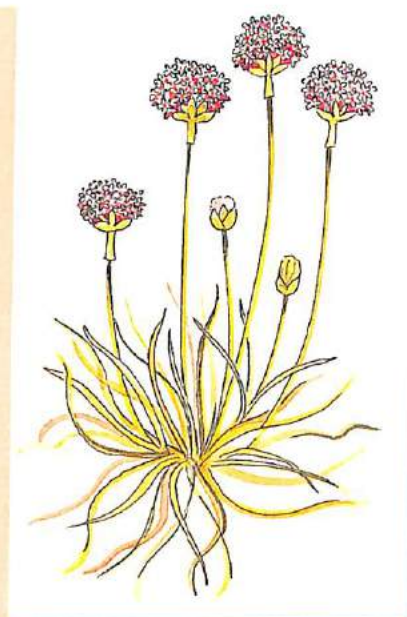
**LECTURE: LEAD MINING IN NIDDERDALE BY MIKE GILL**, local historian and lead mining expert, in the Memorial Hall, Park Road (behind High Street), Pateley Bridge at 2.15pm. (This will have thematic links to the Saturday September 27th Greenhow visit as well as the morning walk).

lock at Langeliffe. Onwards to the Hoffman kiln, many were surprised at the spooky interior complete with bats, though the cool interior was welcome. Even more welcome was the tea and cakes produced at nearby Stainforth Youth Hostel. The older members of the party were surprised at the comforts available to modern hostellers, particularly the family rooms, many with en-suite facilities.

On return the only question unanswered was "when is the next one?"

See photograph on page 11





Front Cover picture: *Water Cut* by Mary Bourne, on Mallerstang, East Cumbria Countryside Project, and one of ten Eden Benchmarks Sculptures. Photo by Dorian Speakman.

Back Cover Drawings (Clockwise from top): *Mountain Avena*, *Alpine Lady's Mantle* and *Sea Pink* from "Flora of the Fells: Celebrating Cumbria's Mountain Landscapes" published by Friends of the Lake District and English Nature – see Review on page 13.

**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. Your reminder 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.*

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