

# Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 84 Autumn 2003



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Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50

## ***The Most Prosperous National Park?***

A collection of facts and figures about the eleven National Parks in England and Wales, recently undertaken by Jonathan Avis, a researcher working for the Council for National Parks, makes fascinating and even quite surprising reading.

Basing his work on the detailed 2001 Census and other Government sources, he notes that of all the Parks, the Yorkshire Dales has enjoyed the most dramatic increase in population since 1991 – a remarkable 8.5%, with a total of 19,654 people now living in the Park. Though 21% of this population is over 65, (slightly higher than the national average), this still represents a large number of people of working age.

By any criteria, the people who live in the Park are prosperous compared with most other urban and rural areas of our Region. 74% own their own homes, a percentage only passed by the Peak District, and unemployment, at a tiny 1.5%, is the lowest of any National Park, with long term unemployed a minute 0.32%. Only 12% of households do not own their own car – again lower than all Parks except for remote Northumberland. Interestingly 12.8% of the population still work in agriculture, compared with 11% working in hotels and catering. But that still leaves a significant proportion of people working in a variety of other industries, underlining the ever increasing role of small businesses in the Dales.

Of course statistics can always be interpreted in different ways. You could argue that unemployment has been “exported” by people without jobs leaving the Dales to find work (though in fact many key Dales workers, such as bus drivers, now drive into the Park each day from less prosperous, cheaper housing areas) and it is certainly true that there is under-employment in the Dales, with many people in low paid or part time jobs, perhaps forced to keep a car on the road they really cannot afford.

But in truth these are the problems of success. Far from half a century of National Park strict planning controls “crippling” the local economy as the anti-Park lobby and certain local politicians constantly predict, here is an area whose success people are all too eager to share. Such problems are common to all beautiful areas of Britain where, in a free society, people will choose to live. Market forces will reflect those choices in terms of high prices for even ordinary housing.

To maintain this superb landscape does not come cheap, in terms of planning control, vigilant environmental protection and careful visitor management. The Yorkshire Dales now has an annual budget of £4.76 million, the bulk of this income (£3.96 million) coming from central Government grant. It could be argued that such funding, supporting a full time staff of over 100, is a disproportionate subsidy to people who already enjoy a high quality of life, which those not fortunate enough to live in a National Park have every reason to envy.

The answer to this argument is an appropriate one as the Yorkshire National Park approaches its Golden Jubilee year of 2004. We must ensure that, as far as possible, our National Park is about equality of opportunity. Opportunity should be there for local people on lower incomes; to be poor in an affluent society can mean exclusion as local services such as public transport and village shops disappear because the mobile majority don't need them. One worrying statistic – which echoes Dr Annison's article in the Summer YDS Review – is that now around 18% of houses in the National Park are second or holiday homes – a total exceeded only by Pembrokeshire and the Lake District. This means schemes to allow young couples with legitimate reasons for living in the area to have access either to rented accommodation or assisted purchase schemes, ideally from the existing pool of housing stock, rather

than any significant new build. It also means that flexible transport schemes, such as the new Craven Little Red Bus, should be available to ensure decent access for people living in more isolated locations into local market towns such as Skipton, Richmond and Settle for their services and facilities.

Equality of opportunity must also be there for those many people, some of them living close to the National Park boundaries, who, for whatever reason, be it lack of affordable, properly integrated public transport, cultural or psychological barriers, or simply appropriate information, are not able to share in all that the Yorkshire Dales has to offer in terms of spiritual renewal and the physical and mental benefits of outdoor recreation in open landscapes.

In another important new publication from CNP about UK protected landscapes **Benefits Beyond Boundaries**, published for the 2003 World Parks Conference in Durban, it is pointed out that National Parks in Britain were inspired by Wordsworth's celebrated dictum that his beloved

Lake District was for “all with an eye to see and a heart to enjoy” - not just for a fortunate elite.

Priorities for the National Park Authority in its second half century must therefore be to engage both with the local community and this wider audience. Schemes such as the excellent TARGET project, the CNP Mosaic Project and Dales Bus, which aim to remove some of these barriers, must be at the top of the National Park's agenda to justify the continuation and even expansion of that £4 million of taxpayers' money. But such activity must also be firmly linked to a programme of wider education aimed at the whole community on such matters as sustainability. This will include raising awareness of the global and local impacts of all our activities, including how we use the earth's scarce resources, of which the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB is just one, outstanding example.

*Colin Speakman*

## ***Yorkshire Dales Calendar 2004***

Get a fantastic Yorkshire Dales 2004 Calendar at a special price for Yorkshire Dales Society Members of £5.00 including postage & packing.

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park – what better time to send the ideal gift; stunning views of the Park in full colour to look at month by month. Published by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, this calendar will



help the Trust in their work of conserving the landscape and heritage of the Dales while gracing your wall.

Send your payment (payable to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust), together with details of your name and address to YDMT, The Old Post Office, Clapham, LA2 8DP.

**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.

# Missing the Point ...

Even the less athletic amongst us will be familiar with the "Trig Point" found on the tops of many hills. Whilst some are rigid stone structures most are the usual white concrete pillars. You may have noticed recently that many are looking the worse for wear, subject to the elements as they are. Have you ever wondered why they are in a particular position and how they work?

Some of the earliest maps produced by early surveyors such as Christopher Saxton, born near Wakefield in 1542, relied on estimates of distance taken from various points of the compass at different view points. John Ogilby who published his famous strip road maps in 1667, enhanced the accuracy. This was aided by Parliament's introduction of the statute mile and a measuring wheel operating a distance counter almost identical to those used today. In the mid eighteenth century triangulation was introduced. This followed the introduction of the sextant in 1730 to measure angles with the sun or stars to revolutionise navigation at sea. Using the properties of the triangle, surveyors measure a certain length with a chain exactly, to provide a base line. From each end of the line an angle is measured from a distant point. This allows a simple calculation to be made to calculate the distance to that point. One new side of the triangle is the base of another triangle, which spreads till the whole country is covered by triangles. No wonder it took 20 years to cover a

third of the south of England, initiated by a young engineer called William Roy. If this seems slow in these satellite days, then spare a thought for Major Thomas Colby, the later Director General of the Ordnance Survey who walked 586 miles in 22 days on a reconnaissance in 1819.

The first line was originally laid out at Hounslow Heath – now Heathrow! There was added urgency as the French had already started a triangulation survey of France and war with them was imminent. Whilst these triangles are two dimensional in the horizontal plane, they work equally well in the vertical plane to assess heights.

Another Yorkshire contribution was by one William Lambert, who was born on a North Riding farm. He took on the task of surveying India. His theodolite weighed nearly half a ton and had to be carried through swamps and jungle. His baseline near Madras was corrected to seven thousandths of an inch over the hundred foot chains to allow for any temperature effect, such was his obsession for accuracy. Sadly, his arrogant successor, Colonel Sir George Everest left his name in history, whilst Lambert's remains are buried in a squatters' latrine area in central India.

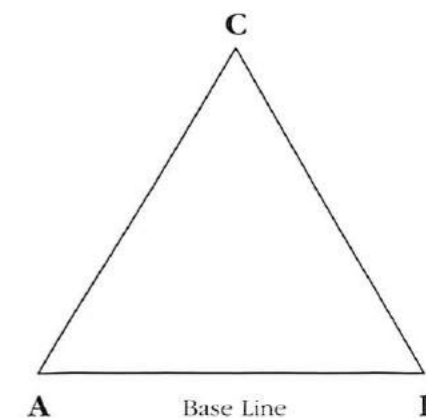
Due to a raft of new legislation, (nothing new there!), the work of the Ordnance Survey was reviewed in the 1935 Davidson Committee. Amongst recommendations were the adoption of

the metre National Grid reference system and a retriangulation of Great Britain. This led to surveyors building the familiar four-foot pillars on remote hilltops throughout the country. Deep foundations were dug by hand and staff dragged heavy loads of materials over isolated terrain by lorry, packhorse, but usually by brute force. Afterwards our much loved 1:25,000 map was launched.

The pillars consist of a vertical shaft for a plumb line with a cross tube to establish the horizontal level. A platform at the top allows a very firm platform on which the theodolite is clamped.

After the war, work continued with the added advantage of much aerial survey being available. This has become very sophisticated in this digital age and accurate 3D plots are made using reference stations 20 km apart with both height and distances being made with the satellite GPS (Global Positioning Systems). This has made the familiar concrete pillars redundant. Details are now fed directly into the master computerised map on a daily basis. The days of notebooks, pencil lines drawn on a master plan and climbing up church towers with poles are now only in the memory of ordnance surveyors, though legwork is still needed to record house numbers, street names and the position of new buildings. The humble map in your corner shop is a compilation of the experience of many generations.

Chris Wright



***If line AB is measured accurately on the ground and the angles on point C are measured from points A and B, the lengths of AC and BC are calculated to form the base line for a further triangle.***

Know...

That on the summit whither thou art bound  
A geographic Labourer pitched his tent,  
With books supplied and instruments of art  
To measure height and distance; lonely task,  
Week after week pursued!

*From 'Written with a slate pencil on a stone on the side of the Mountain of Black Comb';*

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH, 1818.

The Trig Point on Moughton Summit. Photo: Chris Wright



## A YDS Windfall

A Yorkshire Dales Society member, Heather Thompson, was instrumental in causing the Society to receive some very welcome news. Heather who works for the Halifax Building Society in Halifax and lives in Otley, was asked with her colleagues to nominate a Yorkshire Charity who would receive a donation of £5,000 on Yorkshire Day from HBOS, a charitable foundation composed of the Halifax Bank and the Bank of Scotland as part of a tribute to Yorkshire Day on August 1st.

Heather successfully nominated the YDS, one of three eventual beneficiaries. The Yorkshire Dales Society received its cheque in due course and the YDS Council of Management have started considering appropriate schemes at their last Council meeting in September. This is splendid news and a sufficient amount to make a considerable difference to the Dales. The money

could be used for one single scheme or even for several smaller ones, but we feel that it should involve conservation in some way. It may be that we look at schemes involving children or young people, but at the moment, we are open to a range of suggestions from YDS members. So please do write to us, labelling your letter "Project Schemes" and with some additional detail if this is possible, and send your letter to the Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1HD. We look forward to hearing from you.

If you have an opportunity to mention the Yorkshire Dales Society in a similarly positive way or even to consider leaving us a legacy, in order to promote more of our work in the Dales, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

# An Early Visitor to the Dales

The two "picturesque" accounts of Brimham Rocks and Hell Gill, Mallerstang, feature in a Regency guidebook **Tours to the British Mountains** by traveller Thomas Wilkinson, which was published in London in 1824. The Preface explain:

*Mountains are my flower-garden, or my museum; and they exhibit the oldest and most magnificent specimens of pristine grandeur...Now, Mountains may be said to be among the most conspicuous and imperishable monuments of the Creator's power that we behold...Though Mountains are the prominent features of this Work, yet the contrast of plains and valleys is also necessary to the altitude of the Mountains.*

## ROCKS OF BRIMHAM

Next morning, looking accidentally out of the window while at breakfast, I inquired, - "What are the buildings on the dark mountain?" The landlord replied, "Oh! There are no buildings. Have you not heard of the Rocks of Brimham, and the rocking-stones there? People come from Rippon and from Leeds, and from Harrogate, and far and near to see them." This speech spread an unexpected temptation before me, and I gave way to it. The landlord was my guide, and entertained me, as we walked along, with their custom of *driving bees*.

In Autumn they turn their replenished hives the wrong side up, over which they set an empty one. The bees ascend into their new apartments; they then take them into their solitudes of health, now in full bloom. The industrious little people become wonderfully rich in a short time; quarts of honey being obtained in one day.

We now ascended to the rampart Rocks of Brimham, steep on different sides; and soon found ourselves on a spacious plain, perhaps thirty or forty acres in extent. If we had carried back our ideas a thousand years, and added a little imagination, we might now have supposed ourselves among the ruins of a city in the wilderness; for, waste as it looked now, the surrounding country *then* would have been still more dreary. If we looked on the numerous objects around us as ruins, here were turrets and rifted towers, there were prostrate columns and fallen battlements, and every where large masses that might be supposed to have once braved the attacks of man and the storms of nature. But these remains of antiquity are far more ancient than the perishable works of man. Amid these solemn objects Lord Grantley has built a dwelling for a guide. I inquired his age, and he shewed me his Bible, where he was registered in 1724. Though far past ninety, he did not seem entered into extreme

old age; so that he may continue the guide for several years to come.

Looking at the Rocks of Brimham, I give up the idea of the ruins of art, and contemplate them as the remains of Nature; for I conceive here even rocks have had a change. These rocks are of a soft, gritty freestone; and the imperceptible hand of time has wrought wonders. We were conducted by our guide to the entrance of what I think were called *Divers Chambers*. We were cautioned at the entrance, and then left to make our way by scrambling into one lofty apartment after another. These, though not the least surprising, were the least gratifying of all we saw; for pleasure was at an end when the apprehension of sticking between two rocks was entertained. As perhaps I could not allow myself more than a hour, I can but attempt the description of a few particulars.

In one place, where the rocks assumed a lofty appearance, stood two mighty masses, placed there by the powers of Nature, but just separated by her potent hand. Anon my attention encountered leaning columns and misshapen towers; and in one place I saw something like the strong tube, with the hopper bent to one side, which admits air into a coal-pit. All these objects were of stone of a dark colour, and beautifully weather-stained. At a distance, by itself, I saw the *Tea-table Rock*, which from certain stations had an appropriate name, - the stalk and top being proportionate, and having that appearance. When I came to it, its top was not circular, but oval: I did not measure its dimensions, but suppose it might be six or eight yards in circumference.

The Rocking-stones, however, have given the greatest celebrity to these scenes; and such are their mighty masses, that they might be as well denominated *the rocking Rocks as the rocking Stones* of Brimham. In one place four of these vast bodies lay side by side, on other rocks of the same dimensions. I regretted not having measured them. My old friend spoke of some of them being twenty tons: I have seen two of them stated in print to be of a weight I hesitate to mention. But, whatever their weight, I moved them one by one in a rocking motion; and from one that I clambered upon, the day being windy, I was very glad to get down again, it seemed so unmercifully agitated. To be upon a wall tumbling beneath one's feet is not desirable; but to be upon falling rocks has something horrible in it. I did not believe these rocks were falling with their burthen; but they were so unstable beneath my feet, that I experienced an uneasy sensation as I paced backward and forward on my restless inanimate. The largest of these

sleeping monsters lay by himself: I awakened him with my hand, and he moved his head and tail at least a foot up and down. Having ascertained the fact, perhaps I did not sufficiently examine into the cause of this surprising motion. It would seem to me that the air, acting on a very soft substance through a long series of ages, has undermined these ponderous blocks at their extremities, and less and less to their centres on which they rest: hence a motion is easily given at their extremities to the whole.

But the most interesting object to me was, if I may use the expression, a *stone tree*. It must have been so to the former owner of Studley, who said he would give ten thousand guineas to have it standing perfect in Studley Park. It bears his name, by being called *The Aislabie Rock*. Now, suppose a tree of similar outline, with an impenetrable foliage of dark green, crowned with purple blossoms, and you have the Aislabie Rock, or the Stone Tree of Brimham. The stalk of the tree, which I measured with my garters knotted to a handkerchief, was eight feet, or rather more than two yards and a half, in circumference. The girth of its shade above was forty-eight feet, or sixteen yards: and this surprising bulk was perhaps about six yards high. The heath grows luxuriantly on its summit: I now beheld it in admiration and with wonder. How magnificent an object must it be in Autumn, illuminated with the sun, and crowned with its purple turban! If the incongruity of the idea and expression of a wood of stone could be tolerated, I would say, a forest of forty acres of such like stone trees would be the most wonderful wood in the world. But, Nature! thy lofty, luxuriant, and *waving* forests introduce more pleasurable and elevated ideas into the mind, than could be received from what we are now contemplating; for an assemblage of stone trees would be like the grove of Death.

## HELL GILL

Being at Grisedale, an island of cultivation among barren mountains, and perhaps the highest inhabited ground in Yorkshire, if not in England, I took an afternoon ramble with a relation; and being told that the Eden and the Ure, called at York the Ouse, issue from these mountains at no great distance, I was desirous of visiting their sources. The evening was mild and clear, the sun gilt with his beams the cottages on the elevations around us, while the deep shadows of the mountains filled the valleys beneath our feet. Into these we rapidly descended, and soon found ourselves on the awful borders of Hell beck. Ah, Eden! little did I think that thou, that in laving the lovely scenes of Westmorland and Cumberland takest the name of that happy garden which held our first parents, shouldst here from thy terrors derive a name so dreadful!

The channel of Hellbeck, though one might almost leap over it, it is terrifying: perpendicular and

overhanging rocks thirty feet high enclose the imprisoned waters. I peeped down with apprehension: I should have liked in a dry season to have peeped up from beneath, and have seen the blue heavens reduced to a ragged riband. I drank at its source; then stepped over into Yorkshire, and in ten minutes drank of the Ure: indeed, in little more than an hour I drank, near the source, of three celebrated British rivers, the Eden, the Ouse, and the Lune; thus depriving them of a portion of their waters, which they might otherwise have taken to the East, West, and North Seas.

The shades of night now fell upon us, and we reascended the mountains. Perhaps one of the most melancholy scenes in British landscape is a *peatmoss* under the shades of evening: but a companion in gloom lightens the dreariness. We lost ourselves in a labyrinth of peatmosses. The night was dark; the heath was dark; the sides of the peat-pits were dark, and they communicated their colour to the water; so that all was black together. Perhaps these peat-pits might be filled with four or five feet deep, where a plunge would have been most undesirable. Our care was exerted to the utmost; but as every earthly object is bounded, so was this doleful common, and our tribulation among the peatmosses was not of long continuance.

We now came to a wall, and climbed over it. A dim light sprang up, which we followed to a cottage, where two sisters gave us a dish of tea. On relating our difficulties among the peatmosses, one of our female friends narrated what had befallen her five weeks before. Returning in the dark from a visit in Luns, she lost herself on the same dreary heights. She wandered about till she found herself at the place from which she first set off; but would not discover her situation to the friends she had visited. Setting off again, again she lost her way. She walked sorrowfully among the peatmosses till she fell, and her clothes were black with mud. She got up again, and wandered till she came a second time to the cottage she had left. She now made known her distress; and the good woman of the house took her lantern, her granddaughter, and her pet-lamb, and conducted her young friend safe over the moors into Grisedale.

We now rose to pursue our journey, and our young friend rose with her lantern, volunteered her services, and lighted us over many a little brook and many a little bridge, to the confines of Grisedale. Here a dispute arose who should now possess the lantern; she insisting that its services would still be useful; and we, that she was alone, had brooks and bridges to pass in the dark, and that if it had not been for her light we should not have escaped falling into the water. We obliged her to keep the lantern; but I verily believe, if I had been alone, female generosity would have been too many for me.

# The Tourist's Companion

This description from Hackfall Woods dates from 1818 and is taken from *The Tourist's Companion being a concise Description and History of Ripon, Studley Park, Fountains Abbey, Hackfall, Boroughbridge, Alborough, Knaresborough, Plaumpton, Harrogate, Harewood House and Bolton Priory intended as a Guide to persons visiting those places. It was printed and sold by T. Langdale of Ripon, but no author is acknowledged.*

*Hackfall Woods have in recent years fallen into a state of neglect which is being remedied to some extent by a number of different organisations, though financial constraints make progress perhaps slower than desirable.*

## HACKFALL

*To Hackfall's calm retreats, where nature reigns  
In rural pride, transported fancy flies.  
Ob! Bear me Goddess, to these sylvan plains  
Where all around unlaboured beauties rise.*

This sequestered and Romantic Spot is the property of MRS LAWRENCE, distant from Masham 3 miles, from Ripon 7, and from Bedale 9. It consists of two deep Dingles, covered on either side with a profusion of Wood, except in such parts where the naked Scars contribute to vary and improve the view; a small Stream running through is obstructed in various places by upright pieces of Stone, and thus forms several artificial Cascades.

The Buildings are Pavilions, covered, with Seats, from the first of which is a View of the great Fall, divided into two parts, which, as Dayes observes,



Fisher's Hall, Hackfall Woods

"rather steals than dashes down rocks richly clad with moss, and possesses a mildness and beauty peculiar to itself;" artificial Ruins, a small Octagon Room, built of Petrifications, called Fisher's Hall:

*Fast by this stream, and in the thickest shade  
A straw roof'd cot appears, with ivy bound,  
The walls with shells, and varied moss o'erlaid,  
And rough hewn altars mark the hollow'd ground.*

a Grotto, situated in front of a Cascade which falls forty feet: a Rustic Temple, on the margin of a Sheet of water, in the middle of which there was formerly a Fountain throwing Water to a great height, are bounded by a noble Amphitheatre of tall Trees, which, though rather too formal for the surrounding Scenery, have a pleasing effect. The Walks are laid out with great judgement and much taste, which, as you ascend, exhibit several Views of Masham Church and Town, &c. but the best Views are from Fisher's Hall, which commands the whole of the two Dingles, where they fork from each other with the bottom of each filled with the rapid river Ure, which here "boils and foams and thunder through." The View is perfectly American, for nothing is seen from it but hanging Woods, extensive Scars, and Water. From the Hut, on the margin of the Ure, which winds rapidly at your feet, is seen a small Cascade trickling down the hill, Fisher's Hall, Mowbray Castle, and at a short distance, the Weeping Rock. The View from Mowbray-Point, on the brink of a very high Precipice, commands the same woody Dells and water, as from Fisher's Hall, but overlooks a vast extent of country, enriched with corn, meadows, and groves, a tract of unequalled beauty and exuberant vegetation. From this place may be seen, Tanfield Church, and the Gateway of the old Castle, Kirklington, Buneston, Topcliffe, Thirsk, Craike Castle, York Minster, Whitestonecliffe under the edge of Hambleton, Roseberry-Toppin, &c. In the Building are a handsome Dining-room, a small Drawing-room, and a Kitchen, none of which are in use.

On an eminence, not far distant, says Pennant, are to be seen the remains of Mowbray's Castlehill, which are unquestionably Roman: a Square defended on one side by the steep of the Hill, on the other by a Dyke and deep Ditch on the outside.

# Unforgettable

*(In contrast to our early nineteenth extracts on the beauties and awesome presence of Hackfall, Brimham Rocks and Hell Gill, Malcolm Petyt, vice-chairman of the YDS, and active in many fields relating to the environment, reveals one of his earlier camping experiences in the Dales during the rather less distant 1950s.)*

I had to go to school on Saturday mornings, so it was well into the afternoon one day in the October of 1957 when I caught a train from Forster Square station for the first stage of the journey from Bradford to Horton-in-Ribblesdale. My companions were three younger lads, Patrol Leaders in the Scout Troop which I had recently started to help. I



The N.W. edge of Moughton Scar. Photo: R. W. Chaney

had persuaded them to come for an expedition into the Dales.

It was after five when we left the train at Horton and decided to set off towards Ingleborough. This is limestone country, and the springy turf over which we tramped had outcrops of rock, which became more frequent and extensive as we climbed steadily in a westerly direction.

Within little more than an hour it began to grow dark. Since we were far from habitation, the darkness soon became complete and we had to get out our torches. The lights of isolated settlements became visible, but they were far away. By now we were in an area of limestone pavement – where the outcrops of rock are almost continuous – and suddenly we came to the edge of a steep cliff. We walked some distance in each direction, but could find no obvious route down (next morning we found that we had got onto an almost horseshoe-shaped upland bounded by the cliff called

Moughton Scar). We were not afraid, but we knew that it was not safe to go on.

Among the limestone pavement we found just one space large enough to pitch the four-man tent we were carrying. There was no water-supply, but we had tins of soup in our rucksacks, so we set about lighting a fire. It was quite literally a roaring success. In the cracks between the limestone there was an abundance of dry wood apparently "growing"; we made our fire with a base and back formed by the rock, and a funnel of wind developed. With nothing else to do, we crawled into our sleeping bags soon after the meal, and chatted for several hours before going to sleep.

I woke at about six. It was light, and I came out of the tent and saw the limestone landscape stretching in all directions. The sun was starting to come up – and as it did so, the limestone for miles around me turned rose-pink. It was the most beautiful sight of my life.

## Post Script

As a youth leader one sometimes wonders whether one is making any lasting difference to the lives of the young people under one's charge. For instance, how many of the lads I have introduced to hiking or sailing or countryside conservation have

gone on with such pursuits after leaving the organisation? One rarely finds out.

Among the lads on the above expedition was one I later took on Scout camps at Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Garsdale, and on other trips to the Dales and the Lakes. I think I might claim to have introduced him to the Yorkshire Dales. His name was John Baker – and he later became Assistant National Park Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

**Malcolm Petyt**

*Editors' note: Calendar Girls, the hugely popular film, shot on location in the Dales and based on the ladies of Rylstone and District WI who tastefully removed their clothes for the famous Calendar to help fund research into leukaemia, was premiered recently in Skipton and is now on general release. John's tragic and untimely fatal illness precipitated the decision to launch the calendar, and ultimately the film, raising enough money to equip new leukaemia research laboratories at the University of Leeds dedicated to his memory.*

# The Rural Trades Register

*The foundation for skills growth in the Yorkshire Dales*

The widespread shortage of skills in construction and related rural and heritage trades is nationally acknowledged. It is estimated that nationally the construction industry alone will need an additional 380,000 workers over the next five years. The increasing scarcity of appropriately qualified, skilled labour in the Yorkshire Dales and in the surrounding rural areas is already having an effect on the area's capacity to resource local building, preservation and maintenance projects.

In the heritage sector, despite the flow of substantial funds into the repair and restoration of traditional structures and landscapes, the skills base has not grown to meet the demand. A sustainable future for the landscapes and habitats of the Dales, and for traditional structures such as barns and walls, depends upon the availability of people with a wide range of specialist craft and conservation skills (skills that are increasingly difficult to find).

So, what needs to be done to redress this imbalance between the demand and supply of skills needed by these sectors?

Firstly, there needs to be a radical shift in attitudes to training and development.

While some employers are working hard to provide staff with opportunities to develop skills and gain qualifications, there are still too many of them that are failing to recognise the vital importance of training and development, both to the success and future viability of their businesses and to the local economy as a whole.

Secondly, local research demonstrates that this skills shortfall has to be addressed through the development of an infrastructure that supports local employers, identifies job vacancies, registers the availability of skilled labour and provides easy access to appropriate training resources.

## How the Register will help

The development of a Rural Trades Register will be the foundation for a rural trades communication

network in Craven and the Yorkshire Dales. It will:

- support and develop employment and training opportunities in rural trades including construction, heritage, countryside skills and conservation.
- give rural trades businesses an opportunity to market their own services, advertise permanent vacancies or temporary labour shortages.
- allow individuals to promote themselves according to their location, their skills and availability in the local employment market.
- allow individuals, landowners or businesses to register their requirements along with details of



project type, location and timescales.

- facilitate access to training information and training providers.
- introduce registered users to a range of business support services and suppliers.

The Rural Trades Register website ([www.ruraltrades.org.uk](http://www.ruraltrades.org.uk)) is being developed by local web technology provider and Yorkshire Dales Society Corporate Member, QDK Limited, in association with Craven College and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The next phase of the

website will be made available on October 8, 2003. A paper-based version of the register is planned for next year.

Funding for the initiative has come from the Learning and Skills Council North Yorkshire, as part of a contract with Yorkshire Forward to deliver the skills elements of the Sub Regional Action Plan (SRAP).

**Gareth Williams**

*If you would like more information on this project, or would like to register an interest, please visit the website at [www.ruraltrades.org.uk](http://www.ruraltrades.org.uk), or contact Gareth Williams at The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Old Post Office, Main Street, Clapham LA2 8DP Telephone: (015242) 51002 E-mail: [gareth.williams@ydmtd.org](mailto:gareth.williams@ydmtd.org)*

# Daleswatch

## New National Park Vice Chairman elected

Members of the National Park Authority have re-elected Steve Macaré, unopposed, as Chairman of the Authority for a fourth full term. The Yorkshire Dales Society was also delighted to hear that Carl Lis has been elected Vice Chairman. Mr Lis has had extensive experience in the quarry industry, but is known for his balanced and considered approach to all National Park matters.

There have also been changes to the Authority's Planning Committee. Harold Brown has been elected Chairman and Wilf Fenten as deputy chairman. Harold Brown of Swaledale, has been chairman of Grinton Parish Council since 1975 appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment in 1996. Mr Brown has farmed at Grinton since 1951 and is active on a number of farming and environmental committees.

Wilf Fenten, born in Germany but a British resident since 1967, managed a translation company in London for twenty years. He has lived in Selside, Horton-in-Ribblesdale since 1989 where he has been a parish councillor since 1994. Like Mr Brown, he is also a Secretary of State Parish Council appointee.

## National Park Plan Second Deposit

The National Park Local Plan is the key document which determines planning policies, including where development might take place in Dales villages in years ahead. The Yorkshire Dales Society has been making detailed observations about the Plan, including its latest stage, the Second Deposit. Any outstanding objection at this stage will go to a formal Public Inquiry some time in 2004, pending its adoption by the Park Authority, and even more important the DEFRA, the government Department responsible for National Parks.

Almost everything in the Second Deposit Plan reflects policies towards the safeguarding of the landscape and built environment which the Yorkshire Dales Society fully supports. One issue of concern are proposals to allow conversion of barns into homes to meet local agricultural housing needs in the remotest hamlets, which the YDS believes could be ultimately used as a way of securing luxury barn conversions for second homes or holiday letting, with consequent urbanisation as modern utilities, car park spaces etc are added.

These are complex issues which rightly need to be resolved at Public Inquiry with a Planning Inspector and the Secretary of State reflecting long term, national interests, rather than local politicians who are more easily persuaded by local pressures and financial interests. However even with a Local Plan in place, the main problem in the Yorkshire Dales is persuading some Authority Members to have ownership of their Local Plan. Too often attempts are made to undermine both the Plan and their own officers' recommendations.

## The National Park Authority publishes its 'Best Value Performance Plan : 2003-2004.'

This is the Authority's fourth such Plan, which reports on the work of the Authority, how well it has been performing and how it hopes to improve in the future. The Plan contains information about the Authority and compares its performance against other National Park Authorities. David Butterworth, YDNPA's Chief Executive and Steve Macaré, in their foreword to the document state, that the majority of their work over the next two years will be focused on making a real difference on the ground in the National Park; and will include the implementation of the recommendations of DEFRA's Review of English National Park Authorities, published in July 2003 and developing on-line access to their services. A copy of the Best value Performance Plan can be obtained from Helen Noble, Corporate Management Officer, on 01756 752748 or by email: [helen.noble@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:helen.noble@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

## Limestone Country – Lessons to be learned from Cattle

DEFRA officers travelled from London to view the work of the 'Limestone Country' Project, a £1.25 million initiative to introduce hardy upland cattle breeds to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the Ingleborough and Malham areas of the Yorkshire Dales. 26 Blue-Grey cattle have been introduced to graze the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve.

The Limestone Country Project is an ambitious five-year initiative that sees the re-introduction of hardy upland breeds into limestone areas as a way of redressing the decline in missed livestock farming in the Park. It also allows the rare flowers and fauna of the limestone upland to thrive.

## Helicopters to assist with Rights of Way maintenance

Throughout August over 1500 tonnes of crushed stone were transported by helicopter to the moors of the National Park as part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's footpath and bridleway maintenance programme.

The National Park Authority uses helicopters to lift materials to remote sites as an alternative to vehicles which can damage the very routes the Authority has set out to maintain. The materials will be airlifted to three locations in the Malhamdale and Threshfield area of the National Park – Hetton Common, Weets Top and Threshfield Moor, and will be used to resurface a number of routes during dry weather. The project has been funded by Yorkshire Forward, the regional development agency.

## Craven's Little Red Bus

If you see a little red bus bustling around the quieter roads of the southern Dales this autumn, it



is quite likely to be – yes The Little Red Bus. An initiative of North Yorkshire County Council and the Craven Rural Transport Partnership, supported by Rural Bus Challenge funds, the Little Red Bus operates on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays in an area between Grassington, Appletreewick, Rylstone and Skipton, on Mondays and Wednesdays around Carleton, Lothersdale and Cononley area and on Tuesdays and Fridays around Malham, Airton, Hellifield and Long Preston.

It is designed for people who for whatever reason either don't have

Right: *Brimham Rocks*. See article "An Early Visitor to the Dales" on page 6



a bus in their village or have difficulties, because of a disability, in using conventional buses. Holding up to 15 passengers and a wheelchair, for a mere £2.50 the Little Red Bus will take you from and anywhere within the agreed Zone including into Skipton for shopping or other purposes. The Little Red Bus, driven by a team of volunteer drivers is also available for hire to groups. If you in live in the area and need the service, or know someone who does, contact The Little Red Bus on 0800 917 4678.

All bus users, and most motorists, will benefit from the new "Visitor Facility" at Kettlewell. This new building on the road by the bridge at the exit from the National Park Authority's car park in Kettlewell provides welcome new disabled-accessible toilet facilities for visitors, as well as a small bus shelter with seating. Such a facility is a good example of just the kind of thing car park charges can help to provide.

## House of Lords takes action on Green Lane destruction

In an important amendment to the Railways and Transport Safety Bill, the House of Lords have proposed a total ban on all off-road vehicles on National Trails, including the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway in the Dales. Shadow Transport Minister Tim Collins MP for South Lakeland (which includes the Cumbrian part of the National Park) is supporting this amendment in the Commons, and possibly its widening to include other trails in National Parks. The Society is supporting Mr Collins and urging other Dales MPs to do the same. In the meantime, if members witness any misuse of public bridleways by 4x4s or motorcyclists, they are urged to contact North Yorkshire Police. The YDS would also welcome photographs of severe damage to green lanes in the National Park or Nidderdale AONB to pass on to the relevant authorities.

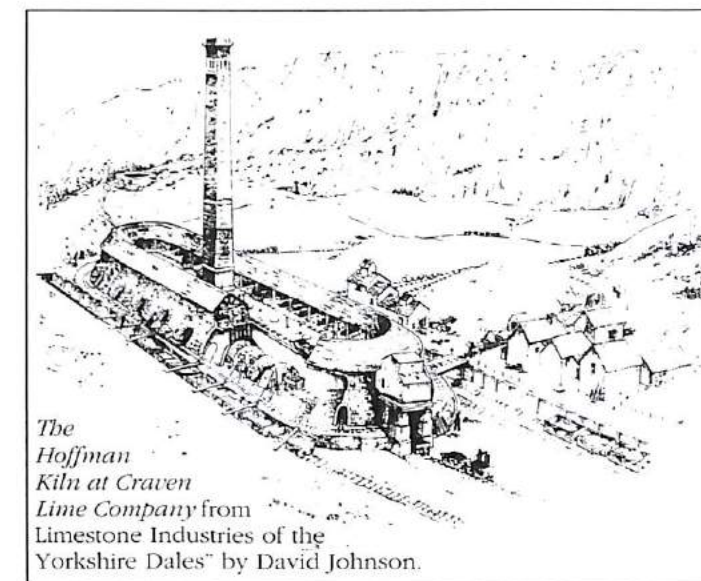
# Reviews

**LIMESTONE INDUSTRIES OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES** BY DAVID JOHNSON, ISBN 07524 2394 0, published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2 QG at £16.99, please add £1.50 for p.&.p. or generally available in the Yorkshire area.

A substantial, highly informative and readable book which deals with numerous aspects of the local limestone industries, ranging over early beginnings of lime usage, its later development, industrial growth and scientific and technological advances, as well as details of the various kilns, quarries and their mode of transport; *Limestone Industries of the Dales* convincingly shows how the demand for this crucial substance helped to shape the present Yorkshire Dales. David Johnson brings the industry up to the present day and includes information on environmental concerns and details of current quarry extraction permissions.

It is perhaps difficult to appreciate with our twenty first century sensibilities as regards quarrying and potential visual and environmental pollution, how closely this versatile substance was interwoven with the fabric of people's lives. Lime plaster seems to have already been in use in Anatolia in 700 BC and elsewhere in the Middle East from 6000 BC, while ancient Greek records exist of the sinking of a ship carrying lime to bleach its freight of linen. Of great interest is the mention of Cato's description of the construction of a lime kiln in the second century BC, which suggests a remarkable similarity between Roman lime kilns and those still in use in Britain centuries later in the early modern period. Excavations from the Roman period in Britain and on the continent in fact suggest that the Roman versions were more technologically advanced than the British variety centuries later. A later chapter on the celebrated Hoffman Kiln at Langeliffe which details its flue and firing system, will interest many who marvel at its structure, but are curious to know more about its technology.

Lime's uses were myriad: leather tanning, soap-making, medicines, dewponds, as a road stone, and of course in mortar, plaster and stucco work. Lime from the bottom of the kiln was frequently used on the land to improve the soil. Writing in 1603, George Owen thought that lime was the most efficient of soil improvers though marl (an amalgam of clay and sand) was even better and quotes an old country saying, "a man cloth sand for himself, lime for his son and marl for



The Hoffman Kiln at Craven Lime Company from *Limestone Industries of the Yorkshire Dales* by David Johnson.

his grandchild," suggesting that marl was even more effective. In the eighteenth century Robert Maxwell, a Scottish landowner reported that the application of lime had increased the aggregate value of an estate near Edinburgh four-fold. During the period of about forty years of the Enclosure movement, lime was greatly in demand and it was at this time that "the English and lowland Scottish and Welsh landscapes became the artificial creation that we now regard as quintessentially British." In the late seventeenth century there was a huge demand for lime as part of the re-building programme of houses in stone and brick post-Cromwell as the country recovered from its civil wars.

Quarrying for limestone could be dangerous and back-breaking labour. In spite of these factors quarrymen were only paid about 2p as an hourly rate pre-1914. Even riskier in the 18th century, was the task of quarry men known as barers of prising loose rock which had not fallen away after blasting. With a chain or rope round their thigh, they scrambled down the face from the top with a metal rod in their hand, as precariously balanced, they pushed down the loose rock for other quarry workers who broke up the stone and filled the carts. A contrast indeed with major blasting operations attended by the public as at Horton Quarry's blast of 60,960 tonnes of rock which was recorded by the BBC in 1938 and which hurled great blocks of stone 200 yards, threw heavy trucks from their rails and damaged two gantrys!

And in a direct link with our own period, in 1960 our own great Dales scholar and archaeologist, Arthur Raistrick, remembers being sent as a boy to the local lime kiln to buy "a twopence lump of fresh lime" for whitewashing the walls of the family house as part of the traditional spring-cleaning ritual.

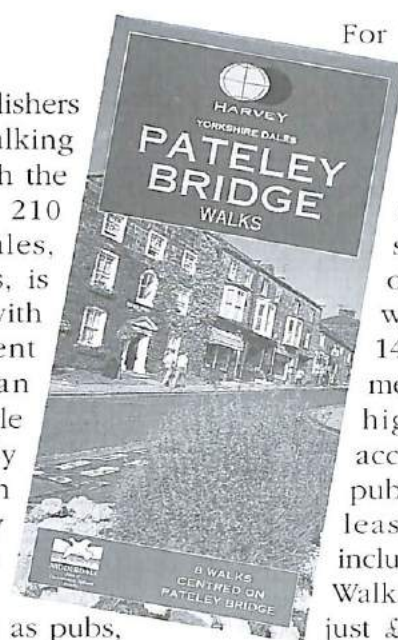
Generously illustrated, with additional maps, plans,

diagrams and a useful glossary and reading List, *Limestone Industries of the Yorkshire Dales*, is a splendid investment and addition to your bookshelf for all those who would like to know more about this fascinating "Cinderella industry".

*Fleur Speakman*

#### HARVEY MAPS - A NEW DIMENSION

Harvey's, the Scottish cartographical publishers who are now producing new style walking and cycling maps, have scored a hit with the Yorkshire Dales Cycle Way. This 210 kilometre cycle route around the Dales, going through most of the main Dales, is fairly hilly, and needs to be tackled with plenty of gears, but offers magnificent scenery to be savoured in an environmentally friendly way from a cycle saddle. Not only is the route carefully picked out in clear colour coding, with linking roads and gradients clearly marked, and advice over such issues as steep hills or tricky corners, there is lots of practical information on facilities such as pubs, cafes, accommodation (YHA and B&Bs) and cycle hire and repair shops - almost all the information



you need to plan a few days healthy cycling in some of the finest scenery in England. The map, printed on weather resistant paper, is available in local bookshops and National Park centres at £5.95 or direct from Harvey Maps at 12-22 Main Street, Doune, Perthshire, FK16 6BJ - add 80p for postage and packing.

For walkers there are three welcome additions to the Yorkshire Dales Walks range - Pateley Bridge, Grassington and Hawes. An ideal introduction for someone spending a day or having a short break of several days in the area; each map offers an impressive selection of 8 walks from 1.5 to 9 miles (2.4 km to 14.5 km - walks are both imperial and metric) in length. Again key routes are highlighted with a wealth of accompanying information; including public transport (both circular and at least one bus based linear walk is included) and accommodation. The local Walks Guides are outstanding value at just £2.20, again available locally or by post as above - add 80p postage and packing.

## Corporate Members

We warmly welcome two more businesses as Corporate Members to the Yorkshire Dales Society and to the Yorkshire Dales Business For Conservation Directory. Please make every effort to support these Dales-based businesses or businesses with Dales' interests.

We expect to run a special event for our Corporate members in early December, Thursday December 4th, so corporate and potential corporate members, please keep this date free, and we will be in touch in due course with further details. We look forward to meeting you all.

#### TEMPEST ESTATES

Broughton Hall Business Park provides a unique environment of listed historic buildings away from congested city centres, with easy access and sophisticated communications within easy reach of rail and air networks and key motorways. Tempest Estates, Broughton Hall, Estate Office, Broughton, near Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 3AE. Tel: 01756 799608. Fax 01756 70035, e mail: LizWebster@broughtonhall.co.uk

#### THE LANDSCAPE AGENCY

Established in 1998, the Landscape Agency is a professional consultancy of landscape architects,

planners, ecologists and designers. Areas of expertise include landscape design, environmental assessment and planning, land reclamation, and the conservation and design of parklands and gardens. St James Lodge, Picks Lane, Thirsk, North Yorks. YO7 1PS. Tel: 01845 527729, Fax 01845 527737, e mail: enquiries@landscapeagency.co.uk

#### EVENT AT REDMIRE FARM

Corporate Member and National Trust tenant, Julia Horner of Redmire Farm, Buckden, hosted a successful YDS event at the farm on Saturday September 6th. Julia gave an account of the farm's history, her farming practices and her environmental concerns to a group of YDS members.



Several members took the opportunity to buy some of Julia's excellent Dales lamb.

## Autumn Events

Brighten up your autumn and winter by coming along to the Yorkshire Dales Society's latest series of Walks and Lectures in various venues; topics range from red kites in Lower Wharfedale to drystone walls and the Dales arts scene.

#### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

**WALK: RED KITE AND EMMERDALE IN HAREWOOD** An easy/moderate 4 mile walk with some moderate slopes. Packed or pub lunch. Meet 1030 outside Harewood Village Hall, Church Lane, Harewood. Bus: Harrogate & District Service 36A d. Leeds Bus Station 0955, d. Harrogate bus station 1000. Walk ends about 1230. Return transport every 20 minutes in each direction. We hope to see spectacular red kites on the walk and should catch a glimpse of the village set used by Yorkshire TV for Emmerdale. The walk should also capture some of the landscape which inspired Turner, the celebrated artist. **Leader: Andrew Hamilton**, tel: 01937 581490 or 0776 2576025.

**LECTURE: THE RED KITES OF HAREWOOD BY DOUG SIMPSON**, expert in charge of the very successful Harewood Red Kite Project, at Harewood Village Hall at 2.15pm.

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH

**WALK: TRACKS AND TOWPATH OF GARGRAVE** Meet at West Street car park next to Gargrave Village Hall at 1030. Train from Leeds 0849, Skipton 0926. The Walk will end at approximately 12.30. An easy 4.5 mile walk with lunch available in cafes, pub or fish and chip shop or bring packed lunch. Return transport on Pennine bus at 1556 or 1756, train at 1735. **Leader: Chris Wright**, tel: 01756 749699.

## Special Offer

### COME DOWN TO THE WOOD: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A DALES WOODLAND

In time for Christmas the Yorkshire Dales Society is offering members Judith Bromley's new book *Come Down to the Wood: A Year in the Life of a Dales Woodland* in words and pictures, with a foreword by David Bellamy and additional illustrations by Robert Nicholls, at the special price of \$11.99, post free, saving £3.

Judith Bromley is a distinguished artist who follows



**LECTURE: CHRYSALIS ARTS BY RICK FAULKNER**, Director for the Promotion of Arts in the Dales. Learn more about this remarkable Dales-based project, Gargrave Village Hall at 2.15pm.

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH

**CHRISTMAS WALK IN DENTDALE** A trip on the Settle-Carlisle to England's highest station to a favourite Dale then 4 1/2 miles along meandering paths to Dent for a seasonal pub/café lunch, and amble back to Dent Station for the teatime train. Train leaves Leeds 0849, Shipley 0902, Skipton 0926, Settle 0949 a. Dent 1016 (please check train times in winter timetable) Park Shipley, Skipton, Settle. Book Day Return Dent. Return train 1540 or 1726 - bring torch. **Leader: Colin Speakman**, tel: 01943 607868.

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 17TH 2004

**WALK: CLEATOP PARK WOOD** Cleatop Park Wood is owned by the Yorkshire Dales National Park and is an SSSI. A moderate 4 mile walk with one steep track of approx. 200 yards. Meet at Settle Market Place at 1030 with a choice of public car parks in Settle. Catch the 0849 train from Leeds, Skipton 0925 to arrive in Settle. The walk is timed to end about 1pm. Return transport from Settle 1605, 1716 or 1801, packed, pub or café lunch. **Leaders Ron and Vanessa Stone**: tel: 01729 840451.

**LECTURE: UNDERSTANDING DRYSTONE WALLS, THEIR HISTORY, IDENTIFICATION AND RESTORATION BY TOM LORD**, leading Dales Archaeologist and historian (follow-up from YDS visit to Winskill in May) at Settle Victoria Hall 2.15pm.





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Front Cover picture: "Arkle Town", Arkengarthdale. Photo by John Fawcett.

Back Cover picture: Toft Gate Lime Kiln before restoration from "Limestone Industries of the Dales" – see Review on pages 13-14.

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*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.*

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