

# Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 85 Winter 2004



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£1.50



## The Last Bus to Malham?

At a recent conference in York on rural railways, Pam Warhurst, the outspoken Deputy Chairman of the Countryside Agency, gave a powerful address on the urgent need for the development of sustainable transport networks in all our protected landscapes, not just as an alternative to the private car, but also to ensure an environmentally sustainable, fully socially inclusive, and economically healthy countryside.

Sad to note that as Pam was making her speech, North Yorkshire County Council had decided to end its contract with Arriva buses to operate the Saturday 804 service between Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Keighley – conurbations of over two million people – before going on to Skipton and Malham. The new contract for the Saturday Malham bus has now been placed with an Easingwold operator, so that to save a little money on the actual contract, the bus will run empty, without a single passenger or ticket being sold, some 45 miles each way between Easingwold and Skipton.

Of course this won't actually save any money, as two thirds of the regular users of this popular bus service happen to live in West Yorkshire. Faced with the loss of their through bus, and a doubling of fares, most users will go elsewhere – one Leeds walking club has already cancelled its proposed visit to Malham in March and are going to the Peak District instead.

Access to Malham, a heavily congested village, will in effect be denied to people without their own transport or who prefer not to take their car, and local traders lose useful extra all-year-round custom. It will also badly affect Malham Youth Hostel which is still recovering from the impacts of Foot and Mouth. Lacking the majority of its core fare income from West Yorkshire, the truncated 804, now known as the 210, will lose significantly more money and is certain to be withdrawn within months. When the absurdity of the situation was pointed out to the official of North Yorkshire responsible, it was claimed that it wasn't North Yorkshire's job to run buses in West Yorkshire. The

fact that most of the 804 bus customers live in West Yorkshire and spend their money in North Yorkshire didn't matter. Nor that it is the policy of the National Park to encourage sustainable transport access, and social inclusion. Nor even that it is tax payers' money, in the form of Rural Bus Grant, that is being squandered by running an empty bus for 90 miles from and to Easingwold rather than carrying passengers from the town and cities where people live.

Sadly, the loss of the 804 could be only the beginning of some severe cutbacks in the Dalesbus network during 2004. Loss of Countryside Agency Wider Welcome funding, and overspending by North Yorkshire on other services, could result in draconian cuts not only to the summer 2004 services but a total withdrawal of winter Sunday Dalesbus services, including the popular 805 bus between Wakefield, Leeds and Hawes.

Ironically the winter 805 bus has been enjoying exceptional success, mainly thanks to a splendid leaflet **Winter Walks in the Yorkshire Dales** produced by the lively Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group and financed by the excellent TARGET project. This leaflet is both a timetable and a walks guide, with attractive, free guided walks on alternative Sundays, open to everyone. Not only is each walk attracting around 20 walkers of all ages, but many other people are either doing their own walk or, those not able to walk far, are enjoying one of the most dramatically beautiful bus rides in England, with plenty of time to shop or buy a meal in Hawes; vital weekend trade to local shops and cafes during the long winter months which is much appreciated. On most Sundays at least 30-40 people are using the bus, with up to 50 on fine days, making this perhaps one of the busiest rural bus services in the whole of North Yorkshire.

The excuse, as always, is lack of funds as Countryside Agency support runs out and North Yorkshire finds its rural bus budget overspent. The National Park contributed a miserable £14,000 to

the Sunday Dalesbus network, which might seem a lot, until you reflect that this represents less than 0.3% of the Park Authority's total annual budget of £4.3 million.

Budget allocations are the true test of priorities, and it is not surprising to find that the Park Authority has transport as a "low priority". Yet without quite understanding the contradiction, the Authority has also determined that developing sustainable tourism is a high priority. But sustainable tourism can only be achieved by developing high quality greener travel networks, including public transport networks directly from our major towns and cities, rather than giving people no choice but to use their cars – if indeed they have access to one.

The Authority now employs officers to deal with sustainable tourism and social inclusion issues and that is something the Yorkshire Dales Society warmly welcomes. But there is absolutely no point in financing such posts if the essential requirement for both jobs is not in place. In practice this means high quality, affordable networks of services, so well represented by the 804 and 805 cross-boundary bus services, and indeed the superb YDPTUG guided walks programme that makes a day out in the Dales possible for less than a fiver.

Cutting such services in its own Golden Jubilee year, especially when that Jubilee has the theme of outreaching to people who rarely or never visit National Park, will prove a huge embarrassment. Clearly the National Park is not the only player providing transport to and within the Dales. We need to ensure that other partners, including North Yorkshire County Council, Metro, the Countryside Agency and above all Yorkshire Forward who are in business to think beyond the blinkered "only within our boundary" attitudes of some local authorities. However when a local authority only commits 0.3% of its budget to deal with issues that



Photo: Howard Handley

relate to the delivery of a fundamental part of its prime purposes, it is difficult for other authorities and partner agencies to take them seriously.

In order to encourage some more imaginative thinking, the Yorkshire Dales Society has resolved to work with the National Park Authority and the TARGET project in summer 2004 to reflect the Jubilee "outreach" theme. We shall use the HBOS "August Day" project gift to develop links with community groups both within and outside the Dales to enable people who do not normally have a chance to visit the Dales to do so, using both regular public transport and community transport options. We believe this will truly reflect the real purpose of National Parks, which are in being not just to benefit the more fortunate, and more affluent such as ourselves.

But Pam Warhurst's wider message of developing truly sustainable networks to support the rural economy and achieve real sustainability, needs a sea change in attitudes at every level, officers as well as Members, within the National Park Authority and indeed most of its partners. The Park's Golden Jubilee Year provides the ideal opportunity for the Yorkshire Dales Society to join with others to ensure that re-appraisal of priorities begins without delay. And in our own contribution to Golden Jubilee year we shall lead by example.

Colin Speakman

# “Walls Can Talk”

In 2004 Winskill Farm Visitor Centre is organising a programme of events designed to raise awareness about the history and conservation of dry stone walls in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The programme is called ‘Walls Can Talk’ because dry stone walls are a wonderful resource for understanding the history of the Yorkshire Dales Landscape. They help define the identity of the dales and probably represent their best known icon, and their greatest heritage asset.

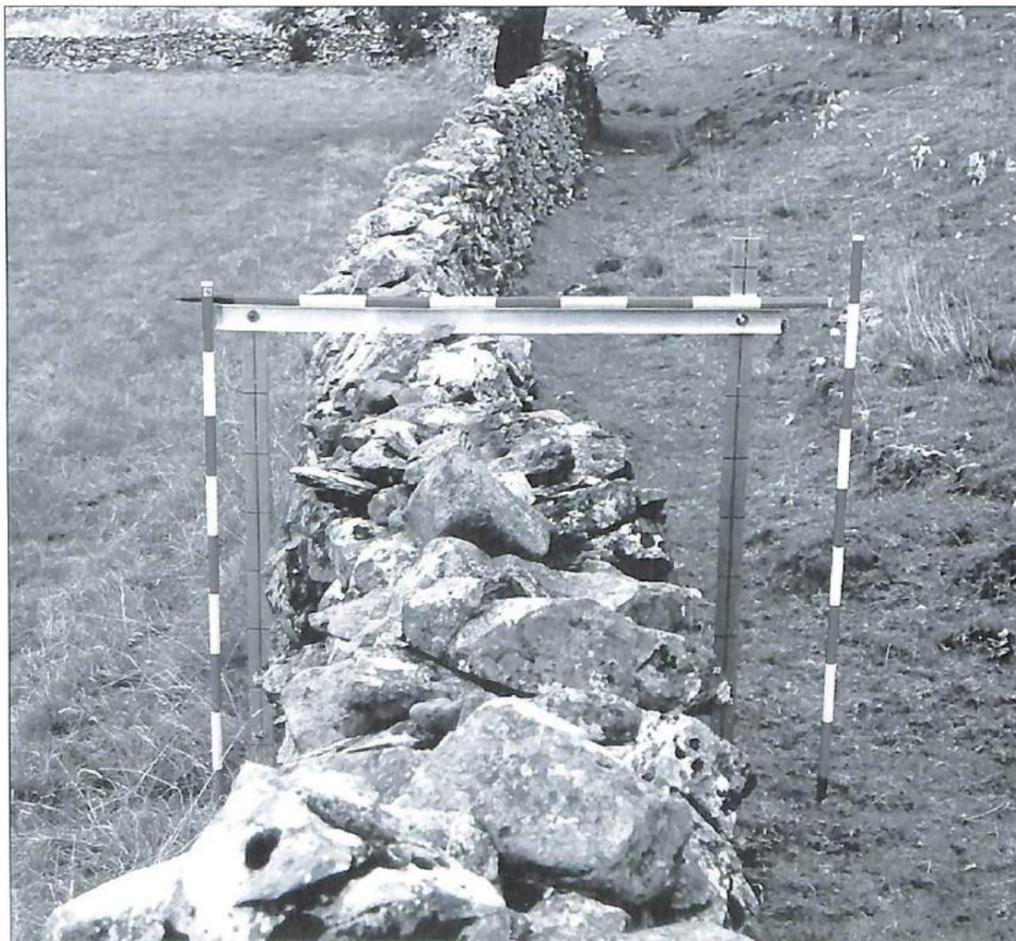
However, conservation schemes for dry stone walls in the National Park are currently greatly under resourced. All too often the various agencies display a lack of co-ordination. And all the agencies involved have failed to fund significant research into the history of dry stone walls. The conservation policies for dry stone walls in the National Park have been based on guesswork.

There are some 8,500 kilometres (5,300 miles) of dry stone wall in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. They represent the largest man made feature in the National Park, yet until recently surprisingly little was known about their history. New survey methods developed at the Winskill Farm Visitor Centre revealed changes in construction styles and techniques that could be dated by reference to historical documents. The results showed conclusively that some lengths of wall have survived almost intact for much longer than hitherto believed.

Extensive survey work in Upper Ribblesdale, the

Malham area, and Upper Wharfedale has identified tens of kilometres of standing dry stone wall built in the mediaeval period and still in use. These walls are built in obsolete styles with distinctive structural characteristics, notably flat projecting topstones designed to provide an extra deterrent against jumping animals. The distinctive projecting topstones provide crucial dating evidence, because they go out of use sometime before the end of the sixteenth century. Why this happens is still unresolved: it might result from the local extinction of large predators such as wolves, or possibly involve new systems of livestock management and changes in sheep breeds.

Mediaeval dry stone walls often survive on the upland holdings of the Cistercian monasteries especially Fountains Abbey, Furness Abbey and Sawley Abbey. Here the walls are so similar to each other that the Abbeys must have had trained estate



Documentary and field evidence indicates that this wall was standing in 1592. It was built in the mediaeval period as part of the infield boundary at Winskill, Upper Ribblesdale. It survives more or less as it was built apart from the loss of original topstones. The adjustable metal wall frame is an entirely new survey tool developed by Winskill Farm Visitor Centre to improve the recording of dry stone walls. Photo: Tom Lord.

managers, directly controlling wall building. This is a completely new finding and one which will significantly advance our understanding of monastic farming practices. In parts of the Yorkshire Dales during the mediaeval period dry stone walls clearly played a key role in protecting livestock from predators and in livestock management generally. Certain areas of the National Park such as Upper Ribblesdale and Malham have an extensive and well preserved mediaeval dry stone wall landscape. It is important nationally and deserves recognition at a European level.

The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries witnessed a further expansion in dry stone wall construction, but building in a different style to the mediaeval period and using different techniques. Some of these walls replaced earlier stock-proof boundaries such as hedges, banks and ditches and even wooden fences. Again, why these various forms of stock-proof boundary go out of use and are replaced by dry stone walls is not understood. Possibly climate change may be a factor: by this time Europe is in the grip of the ‘Little Ice Age’. Perhaps we should see the expansion of dry stone walls at this time as part of a strategy which enabled upland farming to survive despite the worsening climate.

The widespread enclosure of upland pastures by dry stone walls in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries stimulated further advances in construction techniques. Parliamentary Enclosure Award walls, positioned according to an arithmetic division of hitherto open pastures by a land surveyor, often disregard local topography. These walls need to be especially robust, and regular arrangements of throughstones are often included in the specifications attached to the award.

Many private estates in the Yorkshire Dales financed wall rebuilding programs in the nineteenth century expecting the profitability of livestock farming to continue indefinitely. This resulted in the construction of some of the most technically accomplished dry stone walls ever built. However, cheap imports of food and livestock products in the later nineteenth century caused farm incomes to fall and the craft of dry stone wall building suffered calamitously. New work dried up so much that by the end of the nineteenth century

dry stone walling had become largely a matter of putting up gaps.

The advent of cheap wire fencing in the twentieth century enabled walls to be maintained as stock-proof merely by placing wire on top of them. Routine maintenance was put off, especially with rising labour costs. The break up of the private estates after the Second World War, the amalgamation of farms and the increase in owner occupation removed further checks on keeping walls in good order. The results are decades of under-investment in dry stone wall maintenance.

The current level of financial support offered to farmers to maintain dry stone walls in the Yorkshire Dales National Park is inadequate. The rates are much less than those currently available to farmers in other National Parks such as the Lake District National Park. Moreover, farmers who attempt to keep their walls in reasonable condition without assistance might find that as a result they are then ineligible for support, and so in effect have financially penalised themselves.

The various agencies involved in the conservation of dry stone walls in the Yorkshire Dales National Park need to implement training programs urgently. At present dry stone wallers generally lack the skills to restore mediaeval walls authentically. Without training, dry stone wallers will continue to rebuild important historic walls in modern styles. This is replacement, not restoration.

Farm conservation schemes have singularly failed to prioritise training. Until the agencies invest in training, the irony is that public funded schemes to conserve the historic landscape actually present a major threat to the dry stone wall heritage.

The ‘Walls Can Talk’ program will build on the themes outlined above in events at Winskill Farm Visitor Centre and elsewhere in the National Park in 2004. The programme begins with a lecture by Tom Lord for the Yorkshire Dales Society at the Victoria Centre, Settle, at 2pm on Saturday, 17th January. Further details of the ‘Walls Can Talk’ program will then be available.

Tom Lord

**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.

# Hostelling along the Herriot Way

*YDS members John and Pat Burgess describe their experiences walking the Herriot Way earlier last summer and evoke the fascinating contrasts between old industry, wonderful landscapes and attractive architecture they encountered, whilst staying at Youth Hostels along the route.*

The Herriot Way is a fifty two mile circular route linking four Youth Hostels in Wensleydale and Swaledale, which takes four days to complete. It was inspired by a detailed account in *James Herriot's Yorkshire* (1979) of his tour staying in turn at Aysgarth, Keld and Grinton Youth Hostels.

The idea of supporting the Youth Hostel Association after the Foot and Mouth crisis strongly appealed to us and we felt that this particular walk held a promise of mile after mile of peaceful villages, scattered hamlets, lively markets towns, rugged fells, abandoned mine workings and so much more. After eating an enjoyable breakfast at the Aysgarth Falls Youth Hostel, we set out for a twelve mile walk to Grinton under an over-cast sky. Our path led past Aysgarth Church with its twelve century foundations, over the pack horse bridge where the peaty waters of the Ure can be admired plunging over the limestone terraces of the Upper Falls, on to the Carriage Museum, (now sadly defunct) through the National Park Centre car park to enter ancient, coppiced woodlands. The Middle and Lower Falls are accessed from the woodland path.

Following a sign to Castle Bolton, we walked through fields with an abundance of rabbits and flowers, through farms into a marshy lane where the adjacent meadows and grasslands provide breeding locations for ground nesting birds. Nearby was the lost village of Thoresby presumed to be wiped out by a plague. Eventually we made our way up a bushy path which crossed over the old railway track, and came out just below the castle. Castle Bolton is a formidable fortress, which has dominated Wensleydale since 1379. It was built by Richard le Scrope, Chancellor to Richard II. Its major appeal focuses on the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, from July 1568 to January 1569, but it also had associations with the Pilgrimage of Grace and the Civil War. Today it is regarded as one of the best preserved castles in England and offers its visitors evocative tableaux, restored gardens and a summer programme of pageants and parades. Both Thomas Girtin and his contemporary and friend, the celebrated J. M. W. Turner painted the castle, and Dorothy Wordsworth made a reference to a visit in *The Grasmere Journal* (1802).

Seated on the stone Millennium bench on the

village green for a brief water stop, we gazed across the valley to table-topped Penhill with its Knight Templar chapel and the cramped contents of the small stone coffins. We speculated in what manner Mary spent her reluctant stay. Records reveal that she enjoyed a dignified life style with a large retinue of servants, and was well provided with linens, hangings, domestic utensils and a weekly supply of venison. She was also permitted to hunt.

As we climbed up an old miner's track on East Bolton Moor towards forlorn and maybe forgotten Apedale, we had our initial sighting of earlier lead mining operations. A light drizzle accompanied us on our way to a shooting hut where we exchanged greetings with a cheerful group of grouse shooters pausing for lunch. Turning left we proceeded through the valley which was once the scene of much frantic mining activity. The track climbed steeply to reach the bleak moor-top, passing an old railway carriage, numerous spoil heaps, disused shafts, and dried-up streams, to weave in and out of shooting butts with freshly painted white digits, reaching clearer and firmer paths below.

Walking became easier now the drizzle had ceased and clear views of Swaledale presented themselves. This was our cue for a lunch stop before we moved eastwards over Harkerside Moor, receiving elusive glimpses of Grinton Church and the fairy tale castle of a Youth Hostel which had been a former shooting lodge. Pursuing a less distinct green path leading to a metalled road, we unexpectedly beheld two guitarists strumming in a nearby field! We then entered the refurbished Grinton Youth Hostel. A well cooked meal was served promptly at seven o'clock amidst a store of animated conversation and a bottle of Dent Ramsbottom ale was more than welcome; we were indeed grateful that the Youth Hostel had acquired a liquor licence!

We left the Youth Hostel under a deep azure sky to start a fourteen mile trek to Keld. As we approached Reeth, we heard music. It was the village band decked in smart turquoise jackets with black and gold trimmings, on the march to the annual show. Originally an Anglo-Saxon settlement, *at the stream* and included in the Domesday Book, Reeth had a market charter dating from 1695 and regular fairs, later prospering as a lead mining centre in the nineteenth century. It has become a very popular place for visitors and is well equipped for the tourist industry. But on our way to the riverside we noted the closure of Barclays Bank.

Moving on to another Anglian settlement at Healaugh, *a high clearing in the forest*, we found a

narrow path on a steep sided wooded valley leading to the Surrender Bridge Smelting Mill. This present mill was built in 1839, superseding a seventeenth century mill. The pigs of lead from here were carried by cart and pack horse along the so-called jagger roads to Richmond and Barnard Castle to be transported elsewhere. The mill bears a familiar blue and white conservation plaque, declaring it an ancient monument.

Crossing the road to continue upstream along the Old Gang gravel track, a posse of weary walkers heavily burdened with bulky rucksacks advanced towards us on their way eastwards. We arrived at the interesting complex of the Old Gang Smelting Mill with a conspicuous chimney and huge peat house. It also sports a conservation plaque. Some convivial grouse shooters wearing a post-luncheon glow, emerging from a nearby refreshment hut, cheered us on our way. A cairn of stone slabs indicated that a hundred miles of the Coast to Coast Walk starting at St. Bees Head had been accomplished. The way climbed steeply from Level House Bridge through the Old Gang mining field; *gang* is an old English word meaning a road, to a moorland summit. Here was an awesome but fascinating tract of rocks and gravel, spoil hills and scattered items of machinery - lingering reminders of a former industry in melancholy decay. The track seemed to merge with the scenery until it reaches the silent uppermost reaches of Gunnerside Gill. There are remains of disused dams, deep ravines, exploited hushes, miners' tracks, redundant mine buildings and trickling waterfalls, well concealed from all other than determined walkers and enthusiastic industrial archaeologists. This was once the arena of fierce animation and intensive lead mining activities. It was all too easy to conjure up the ghosts of *towd man*, a term used by the miners to describe their predecessors in their unceasing toil for galena, lead ore from the rich vein in the highest of the Yoredale limestones.

It seems appropriate at this point to consider some background details to this industry which prevailed in the northern side of Wensleydale, Swaledale and Arklengarthdale. Apart from an ingot of lead discovered in Lower Swaledale, it is unclear as to when the lead mining industry was first established. The Romans utilised lead for several purposes.

During the post-Conquest period lead from these northern dales found a ready market; large amounts were required for the roofs of stone castles, cathedrals and monasteries. The late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries saw a great expansion of the industry, which reached its zenith about 1780 to 1820 when vast profits were amassed by the owners.

When a recession struck in the late 1820s, the impact of real hardship was felt, motivating a first wave of emigrants who were prepared to cross the *Gert Dub*, the description given to the Atlantic Ocean as a great deep pool, in the face of an unknown yet optimistic future in the lead mining areas of the Mississippi River. Production costs mounted as the mines

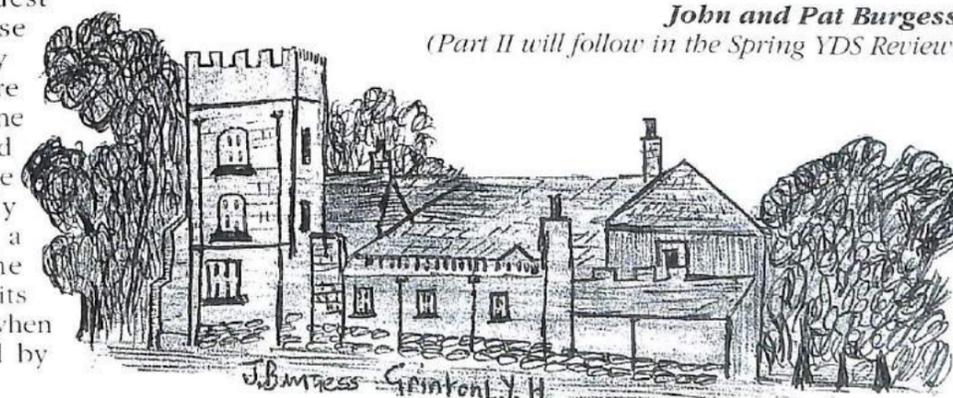
became overworked and together with cheaper imports of Spanish ore, a further downturn in lead mining fortunes ensued in the latter years of the century. As a consequence, there was an enormous exodus of workers, particularly those without the security of a farm or a smallholding. They left to seek fresh employment in Durham, Lancaster, the mill towns of Yorkshire and ironically the lead mines of Spain. A subsequent and larger group went to join those strong-willed pioneers now settled in the New World. Swaledale names of Alderson, Buxton, Calvert, Dinsdale and others are still to be found along the banks of the Mississippi.

The miners, *the getters of ore*, a term used by Arthur Raistrick to distinguish their role and working conditions from those of the dressers and smelters, had a harsh and precarious existence. Payment of wages was determined by the amount of ore discovered, resulting in a repeated pattern of debt and near starvation. Women and children obtained remunerative employment such as *kibbling*, sorting and washing the ore. Households relied heavily on knitting to supplement their low incomes and their meagre diet consisted chiefly of porridge and brown bread. Some workers lived in communal lodgings close to their workplaces, but the majority of them walked several miles from home to the mines. The nature of their work was both dangerous and physically demanding. Dust, fumes, constant wetness and the lack of fresh air and light were major hazards. The average life-span of a miner was forty-six years. There was a prevalence of lead poisoning, respiratory disease and rheumatism.

However, there was a lighter side. Whenever possible they would engage in outdoor pursuits: organised horse races, hound-trailing, poaching, boxing and wrestling events at Tan Hill, and support local fairs. They also involved themselves in brass bands and chapel work.

**John and Pat Burgess**

*(Part II will follow in the Spring YDS Review)*



# Kenneth Willson, MBE, 1914-2003

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Everyone who loves the countryside, the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District has lost a great champion and passionate ally, with the death of Ken Willson, after a short illness, in October.

There is no environmental campaign in the Dales or Lake District over the last 50 years in which Ken Willson did not play a major part. He fought for our footpaths, our National Parks, access to open countryside, and against industrial despoliation or ugly development, in his own village of Addingham or the high Lakeland Fells. He opposed ugly afforestation schemes, damaging new roads, inappropriately sited wind farms and, in recent years, the destruction of our wonderful green lanes by motor vehicles. He was passionate about all these campaigns and supported conservation of the countryside he loved so deeply through his long, and to the very end, very active life.

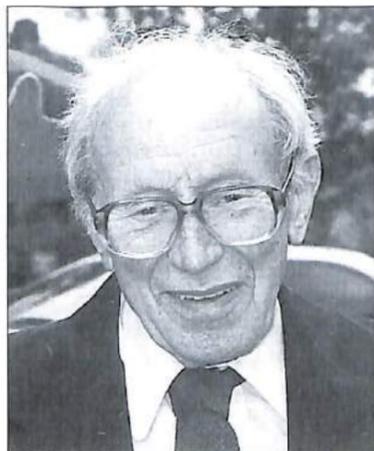
Ken was born in 1914 and grew up in Solihull, West Midlands. In 1939 when war broke out he was still in his mid 20s, and fought for his country in the Royal Air Force. Though he survived the conflict, tragedy struck when his first wife was killed during the Blitz whilst Ken was abroad on active service.

After the War, and by now a qualified Chartered Surveyor, he became a civil servant and worked for the old Ministry of Agriculture in Lawnswood, Leeds. He was already discovering the joy of rambling so joined the Holiday Fellowship, and on one of his first HF walks from Roundhay Park, Leeds met Dorothy and they married in 1947.

His professional work soon led him to becoming the District Valuer for the Craven area, spending much of his professional time working with farmers, landowners and land agents across much of the Yorkshire Dales. Soon he built up an incredibly detailed knowledge of the Dales and local people which was to prove immensely useful when he became a member of the National Park Committee years later.

By the 1950s Ken was active in numerous environmental groups, soon becoming the long standing Chairman of the Ramblers and later their President; a familiar figure in a Scottish kilt leading RA walks. He knew and worked closely with the great founding fathers of the National Park movement – men like Tom Stephenson, Arthur Raistrick, Arthur Dower, Graham Watson. He was a leading light in Craven CPRE, and became one of

the longest serving members of the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Lake District. He was a key figure in Keighley Naturalists, the Pennine Way Council, the Standing Committee for National Parks later Council for National Parks. He served for many years on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee, a radical, outspoken voice always supporting the cause of access and conservation. He was not only a founding member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, but its first Vice Chairman, taking over as its Chairman at a difficult time; support which secured the Society's very survival, eventually serving, until the day he died, as its much revered and immensely supportive President. It was Ken with his local contacts who enabled the YDS to have its first office in Addingham and whose wise counsel helped to guide Society strategy.



Ken had a breadth of vision and a generosity of spirit which put most of us to shame. He was a great lover of classical music including opera and a highly entertaining speaker, with some delightful anecdotes, and a mordant wit.

But perhaps one of Ken's most important, defining qualities, was that even in old age and increasing infirmity, he never looked back. He rarely missed a meeting of the many organisations he was actively involved with. He constantly supported causes and concerns – from Greenpeace to the National Trust – that he believed would safeguard our countryside for future generations. Even though he could no longer walk the hills, he constantly travelled into the countryside of Britain and even abroad. Ken's refusal to give in, even to the terrible infirmities of old age, was a triumph of the spirit.

Wherever we walk over the open fells of the Upper Dales or the high Lakeland crags, something of Ken Willson and the battles he fought to keep them the way they are will live on. Generations to come may not even know his name, but the things he stood for will remain, such as the many pleasures that come from quiet enjoyment and contemplation of the countryside, that we and our successors will share in decades ahead.

**Colin Speakman**

*[It is planned, in partnership with other amenity groups with whom Ken was involved, to have a permanent Memorial to Ken somewhere in the Dales. We will keep members informed].*

# The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's 50th Jubilee

Let the celebrations begin! As we all know, the 12th October 2004 is the 50th birthday of our beloved National Park. We need to celebrate this and take the opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the Park and think about the future. The Anniversary is going to be a great opportunity to springboard our outreach programme by using the massive publicity to target new audiences and spread the word about the Park to wider and more diverse groups. The festivities are also developed to appeal to current visitor and resident 'audiences'. We are attempting to make all events socially inclusive, sustainable and linked to public transport.



The Anniversary of the designation will be a year-long calendar of events inside and outside the Park, with festivals, roadshows, events and maybe even a party or two! The launch is to be on Friday 30th January, starting in Leeds railway station early in the morning. We are attempting a torch-lit relay along the Dales Way to the Bolton Abbey estate, just inside the Park boundary, arriving at dusk to light a huge '50' of fire. If all goes to plan, this will be broadcast live on regional television and will reach local and national press. We are encouraging as diverse a group as possible of people (animals?) to join the relay to show how accessible the Dales are to all. Everybody is invited, and you will be on the television!

Other big events in the pipeline are The Clapham

Festival of Magic, Myths and Legends on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of May. This will be an extravaganza of pageants, processions, music and film. Clapham is such a beautiful village with that air of mystery that lends

itself to this theme. And there is a Clapham witch! Hopefully, we'll see you all there. There will be plenty of 50th Anniversary goings on at the Dales Countryside Museum next year, and at local and not so local events. The Anniversary year will see the development of exciting landmark projects in the National Park. In the pipeline is the possibility of new shelters in prominent places. Watch this space!

The BBC have expressed an interest in following the year's events very closely. They are going to broadcast a series of features on the past of the National Park and would like some help from all of us. If you have any footage of the Dales from 1954 onwards, or know of any contacts, please let me know. They are also interested in talking to Dales 'characters', locals, farmers, early National Park Wardens, any suggestions for these would also be most welcome. Finally, the BBC wants information on key events in the National Park area of the last 50 years, specifically with archive footage. If you have any thoughts on this, or any ideas about the 50th, please contact me at Colvend, on 01756 752748 or at [cathy.bennett@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:cathy.bennett@yorkshiredales.org.uk).

**CJLB**

## Tributes

Loss of members of the Society through illness and death is always extremely sad, but it is a comfort to know how much they, or their relatives, cared for the Dales and for the Society, when we receive a small legacy or, as has happened recently, a donation "instead of flowers" at a funeral collection.

Two such gifts have recently reached us from the late Mr Baldry of Leyburn and the late Mr Smithers of Ipswich. Such kindness helps to ensure that the work of the Society to campaign and care for the Yorkshire Dales will continue in the years ahead.

## The Angel Inn, Hetton

The Yorkshire Dales Society is delighted to welcome one of Yorkshire's most famous restaurant inns as a Corporate Member, the award winning Angel Inn in the Wharfedale village of Hetton. Originally a drovers' inn, many original features have been kept, and there is a popular real ale bar. The restaurant has a policy, whenever possible, of buying local, including Dales lamb, and there is a range of comfortable accommodation available. Tel 01756 730263, or visit the web site at [www.angelhetton.co.uk](http://www.angelhetton.co.uk)

# Social Inclusion Debated

at Wyedale Hall, North York Moors, 17th - 19th October 2003

National Park Societies' Conferences are always very good value; an opportunity to exchange ideas, and debate and discuss key issues relevant to the various societies in challenging and occasionally provocative ways, with excellent speakers, a splendid setting, and good food. This all makes for a great networking opportunity and a very worthwhile event, notably the 2003 Conference hosted by our sister organisation, the **North York Moors Association** at Wyedale Hall, near Scarborough, in November.

**Louise Davis of Yorkshire Forward** proved to be an especially stimulating speaker on **Sustainability and Tourism**. The Foot and Mouth Crisis finally caused Government to confront the fact that tourism is central to the rural economy, most especially to that of protected landscapes. Sustainable tourism is not solely about the physical environment, but has crucial social and economic implications. National Parks with their concern for the environment and for those who live, work and visit the Parks, are clearly in a strong position to give a clear lead on these issues.

**Andy Monaghan, Outreach Officer for the North York Moors National Park Authority**, spoke passionately on the need for social inclusion in National Parks, both among local communities in the Parks and people living within the catchment conurbations. He spoke of the results of an on-going Lottery Funded project in the Moors which particularly targets urban areas in nearby Teeside. His initiatives involve youth and community groups coming into the Park, linked with new activities and a Walking for Health Initiative, fostering new activities for people with special needs. His enthusiasm and dedication, and the obvious success of many initiatives, was clearly apparent.

**Maria Davis, of Disabled Ramblers**, who has mobility problems herself, clarified the variety of problems faced by people with distinctly different levels of mobility impairment and spoke eloquently of the need to find different solutions for these differing needs.

**Bill Breakell** gave a stimulating presentation on **Sustainable Visitors to the NYMNP**, emphasising the substantial contribution visitor spend makes to the local economy. Better public transport like the

highly acclaimed Moorsbus scheme with its competitive pricing and inbuilt choices, were encouraging many visitors to leave the car at home and let the bus take the strain; thereby reducing congestion and pollution. Crucially it also addresses social inclusion issues by helping those unable to get to the Moors because of lack of their own transport to have equal access to outstanding countryside and all the pleasures and benefits visiting a National Park can bring.

Discussion groups were asked to consider whether the volume and nature of tourism in National Parks today was acceptable and sustainable, and also whether positive discrimination in the Parks was necessary to encourage their use by groups currently under-represented. **Professor Ash Amin** from the **University of Durham** gave the Post-Dinner lecture on **Social Inclusion versus Cultural Exchange**, focusing on ethnic minorities in the English countryside. He demonstrated the complexity of views, attitudes and experiences such concepts can arouse, in both ethnic minorities themselves and in longer established residents.

Two key points emerged at the end of the Conference.

- National Parks are in the best position to evolve and deliver sustainable tourism strategies and to encourage local business opportunities and good practice linked with them.
- National Park Societies are in a good position to influence and help implement strategies for sustainable tourism and social inclusion – the two themes are closely linked - within National Parks and with such bodies as Local Authorities and the Rural Development Agencies. They must themselves demonstrate good practice, for example, by working with community, disability and ethnic minority groups to help ensure equality of access, and also by using local services and facilities, as well as ensuring that member events are fully accessible by public as well as private transport.

**CPRE Sheffield & Peak** offered to host the next conference in Derbyshire in the autumn of 2004.

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# Integrated Rural Development Project - Heritage Forum

The Integrated Rural Development Project (IRD) is a partnership between Craven District, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Yorkshire Forward. One key area of its work is Heritage Regeneration, and at the second meeting of the Heritage Forum in Settle in December, Kate Crosswaite, Heritage Regeneration Officer, outlined IRD's Heritage project work. This includes ways of developing the historic landscape, safeguarding the built environment potentially at risk from unsympathetic conversions, and methods of developing sustainable tourism in the Craven area of the National Park by sharing good practice, networks and partnerships. Crucially, through the IRD, there will be access to training in traditional skills for conservation.

Craven's formidable environmental assets were listed in twelve groups, comprising: limestone pavements, geomorphologic features, quarries, caves, habitats, important species, designated areas such as SSSIs, woodland, landscape, barns and walls, major scheduled ancient monuments such as the Hoffman Kiln, and listed buildings. The built heritage, natural heritage and cultural heritage form a vital trio which often inter-relate. It was hoped that examples of good practice generally would be encouraged, especially sustainability in the form of access by greener modes of transport – walking, cycling and public transport. Information about how particular projects might be funded would also be available.

John Hinchcliffe of English Heritage outlined the many major economic benefits of our heritage assets, emphasising that they gave local distinctiveness to an area. Historic buildings were often the key to regeneration schemes, forming either the centre-piece, or an outstanding landmark, or even giving a particular framework or a context for further renovation. Tourism was a major player in economic regeneration; it formed the UK's fifth largest industry, with expenditure for 2002 standing at £76 billion. 80% of this was generated by domestic tourism. Visits to historic attractions in 2002 had risen by 7% from the previous year. Tourism in Yorkshire alone generated £4.2 billion in 2002 and supported 160,000 jobs in the region, representing 7% of the workforce.

The relationship between historic buildings and the community demonstrates it was generally more economic as well as popular to retain and renovate than build new. For example Victorian terraced

housing in Nelson, Lancashire could be restored at a fraction of the price of new development, something the local community wished to see. Partnership with developers could also help retain features and give old buildings a new purpose. Part of the historic Lister's Mill complex near Bradford was now used for housing, rescued from increasing dereliction, while work on public parks such as the People's Park, Halifax had had a very positive community effect. Plans for Gayle Mill near Hawes, recently acquired by North East Civic Trust, include its restoration as a saw mill with opportunities for training as a skills centre. Partnership schemes for buildings in conservation areas are often better able to source match-funding.

Delegates then heard detailed and contrasting presentations on The Gibson Mill Project, at Hardcastle Crag, by Denise Loten of the National Trust. The Trust is keen to use the renovated cotton mill partly for community purposes and partly as a visitor centre with the usual facilities, but intends to make full use of a number of renewable energy resources. Access to the mill is a major issue. Stephen Walker of the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway, outlined a scheme which began as a major act of faith but which has developed into an enormously successful visitor attraction with further expansion plans. Sponsorship for the Bolton Abbey station building had been won from over 170 different companies. Tom Lord spoke of his own personal family heritage, and his involvement with the Winskill Farm project (see p.4), which had to be balanced with his own commitment as a hill farmer. Twenty five acres of hay meadow had already been restored and a nationally important wild flower seed collection established. He had made important archaeological discoveries regarding medieval dry stone walls which he would present initially on January 17th to the Yorkshire Dales Society, the launch of the Winskill programme of "Walls Can Talk".

Discussion groups in the afternoon considered the various barriers to developing heritage assets in the National Park sustainably and ways of reducing the barriers that prevent things happening. High on the list of suggestions came the establishment of a one-stop shop in the Dales to advise and support anyone who found making the right contacts and filling in the right forms a daunting business.

FS.

map was produced to force towns to undertake improved sewerage, hospitals, cemeteries and housing. Two years later the Ordnance Survey map is an example of an official map which began to supersede the maps of private cartographers. Much can be learnt about the growth of the town and the changes in its industries from the whole series, which is brought up-to-date by recent aerial photographs. Skipton Civic Society are to be congratulated on a very imaginative, attractive, high-quality product, a copy of which has been presented to all the local schools. Whether maps are your passion or you are just interested in the growth of an important historic Dales' market town, or want a more unusual souvenir, it will certainly give great long-term interest and pleasure.

**IMAGES OF DALES LIFE IN THE 1930s: Excerpts from the diaries of Joseph Norman Frankland (1904-1955)**, published by the North Craven Heritage Trust at £5.99 and locally available. Or from the NCHT Committee, 1, The Hollies, Stainforth, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9DQ



SKIPTON  
in 1830

(please add 85p for p&p), cheques to North Craven Heritage Trust.

The photo of Joseph Norman Frankland at ease in his plus fours perfectly captures the essence of his relaxed style of reminiscence of earlier days in the Dales. His story of the Lost Cow at Middlesber and account of Old Neddy Clark, a typical character, in his plaid (former Dales outer covering with no Scottish connections) evoke authentic glimpses of Dales life in the thirties and forties. But Frankland was also a noted local naturalist, his Flora of Craven, published by the North Craven Heritage Trust, is testimony to his lifelong interest. The final chapter tells of Frankland's week-long botanical visit to Lyme Regis in 1931 to visit botanical sites by motorbike with predictable, but entertaining, misadventures.



A major rescue operation had to be mounted when the Edinburgh to London sleeping car express became snowbound near Dent in January 1963. From "Weather or Not!" by Paul Hudson and Bob Rust

# Winter and Early Spring Events 2004



Banish winter gloom by enjoying our informative and enjoyable Walks and Lectures around the Dales in 2004.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 17TH 2004. WALK: CLEATOP PARK WOOD.** Cleatop Park Wood, an SSSI, is owned by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. This is a moderate 4 mile walk with one steep track of approximately 200 yards. Meet at Settle Market place at 1030; there is a choice of public car parks in Settle. Train 0849 train from Leeds, Skipton 0925 to arrive in Settle at 0949. 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 DRY STONE WALLS, THEIR HISTORY, IDENTIFICATION AND RESTORATION - TOM LORD**, leading Dales archaeologist and historian (follow-up from YDS visit to Winskill in May) will launch his Walks Can Talk programme, at Settle Victoria Hall at 2.15pm.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 2004. WALK: BILLY BANK WOOD AND THE RIVER SWALE.** This is an easy walk of 3 1/2 miles, with some steps up and down, and one ascent of half a mile. Meet at Richmond Market Place Obelisk at 1030. Bus X27 from Darlington Railway Station 0933. Walk should finish 12-1215pm. Pub, café or packed lunch. **Leader Charles Hepworth, tel: 01748 886397.**

**LECTURE: THE RESTORATION OF THE RIVER SWALE - JAMES LAMB**, conservationist, will explain work currently going on to restore this spectacular Dales river and its embankments. Richmond Town Hall at 2.15pm.

**SATURDAY MARCH 13TH 2004 WALK: BOLTON ABBEY TO BARDEN FELL.** This is a moderate walk of 4 1/2 miles with a steep climb through Hammerthorn Gate. Meet or park at the Cavendish Pavilion at 1030; bus Pride of the Dales no 74, departs Ilkley 0935. Walk to finish approximately 1230. **Please note no dogs can be allowed on this walk which uses part of the Public Access Area on Barden Fell.** Café or packed lunch. **Leader Chris Hartley, tel: 01943 873197 or mobile 0787 634 3675.**

**LECTURE: SEVENTEENTH & EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CLOCK-MAKING IN THE DALES - DEREK CLABBURN**, an insight into this once thriving Dales industry. Bolton Abbey Village Hall at 2.15pm.

**SATURDAY APRIL 17th DISCOVERING HACKFALL WOODS - PATRICK JAMES**, Director of the Landscape Agency and Corporate YDS member, will introduce members to this nationally important historic landscape garden, and explain how its restoration is being planned. About a four mile walk, but with steep or overgrown sections. Meet Crown Inn, Grewelthorpe. Customer parking at inn, or close by. Bus Service 169 1150 from Ripon Bus Station direct to Grewelthorpe a. 1212 (please check with Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 before travelling; lifts back to Ripon will be arranged for return journey). Please note that a donation to Hackfall Trust (minimum £1 per person) is advised on the day.

**May 8th/9th SEDBERGH AND THE HOWGILLS - AGM Weekend.** Keep the date clear in diary – details in Spring Review.

## YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 2003-4

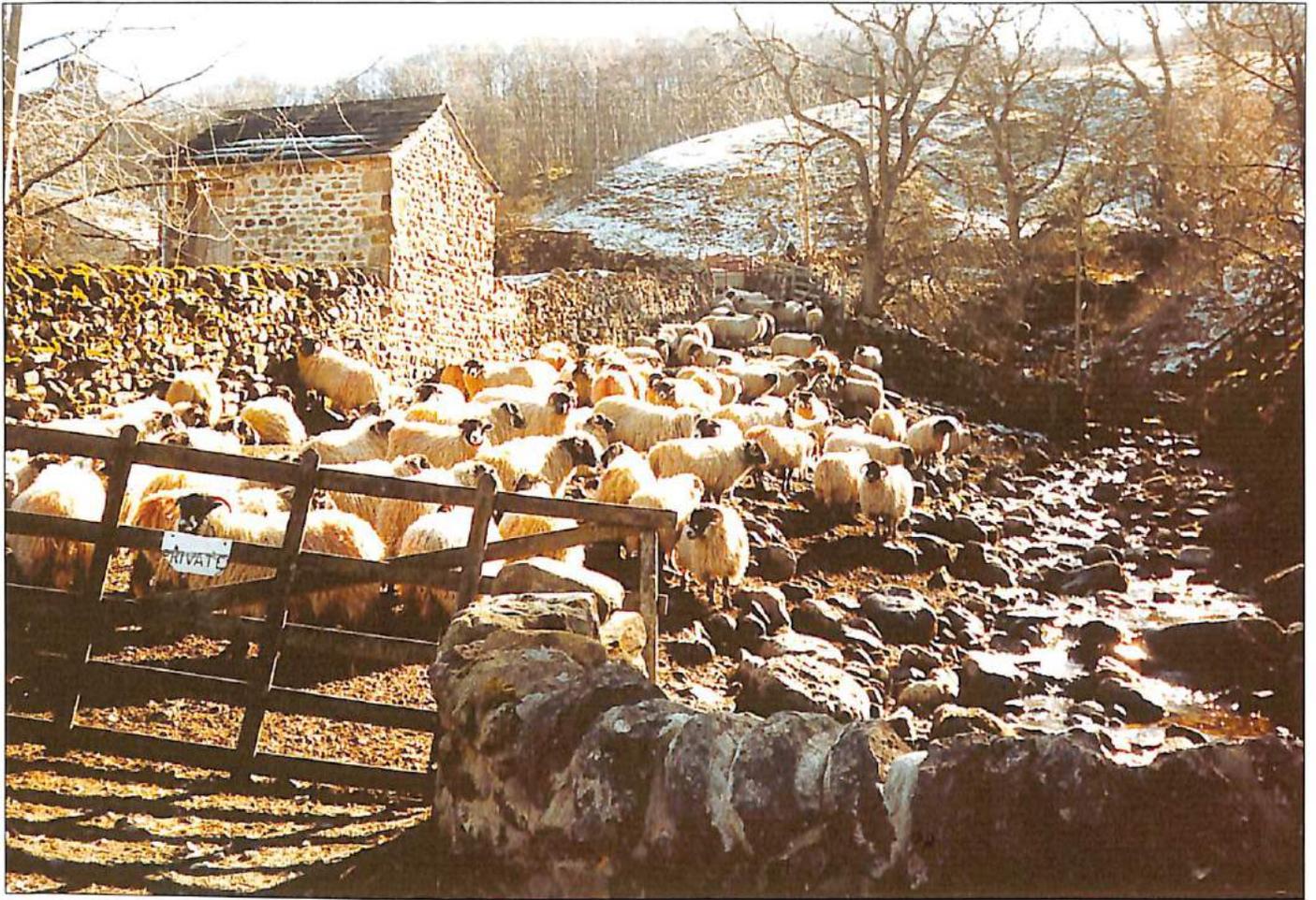
The Yorkshire Gardens Trust can distribute up to £500 per annum to help projects concerning important parks and gardens in the County, both large and small.

The maximum single grant will be £500 or not more than the 50% of the total cost of a project costing less than £1,000.

The grant may be towards the cost of one or more of the following:

- A survey or environmental assessment, covering physical, horticultural, botanical, archaeological or historic aspects,
- A management, development, restoration or conservation plan
- Restoration or conservation works
- The creation of a new garden
- The restoration of appropriate garden ornaments or statues
- The preservation or restoration of documents associated with an important person who has been concerned with Yorkshire's parks and gardens
- Public interpretation of park and garden

Details of the above and the criteria the site should fulfil, the conditions of offer, terms and conditions of grants and application form are available via the Yorkshire Dales Society, Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 1HD.



Front Cover picture: *Snowdrops, Ivy, Mosses and Lichens* from "Come Down to the Wood" by Judith Bromley (see also Book Review, page 13).

Back Cover picture: *Sheep Pen in Hubberholme* – photo by Sheila Hone.

***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.*

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*Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.*