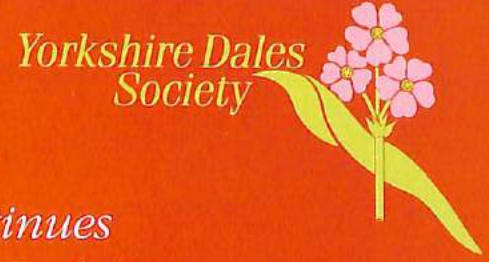


No. 88 Autumn 2004

Yorkshire Dales Review



- *Listening to our Members*
- *Gayle Mill - 3rd in National BBC2 Restoration Programme*
- *Wind Farms - the Debate Continues*
- *Nidderdale AONB - a "Nature Park" in the Dales*



£1.50

Listening to Our Members

The excellent response to our request for comments on Wind Farms has reminded us how important it is to listen to what our members tell us. The thoughtful letters and articles from everyone who wrote to us contrast with the knee-jerk reactions which fill most letters and even articles in the press. Inevitably there isn't space to do justice to everything that was written, but it is clear that there is an overwhelming opposition among most YDS members to large groups of wind turbines in our finest upland landscapes. And before we get simplistic accusations of Nimbyism, this opposition reflects a clear awareness that with our profligate, energy-consuming habits, even covering all our hillsides with turbines will not solve the major problems the country faces. A new report published in July from the House of Commons Select Committee on Environmental Audit slams the Government for giving in to the petrol protesters: "carbon emissions for transport since 1990 have moved spectacularly in the wrong direction". Higher fuel taxes could have a more significant impact than wind farms in reducing carbon emissions and reducing the looming energy gap.

The truth is that wind power (in the right location), wave power, solar power, hydrogen technology, some people would argue even nuclear power despite its many risks, but above all a huge variety of energy-saving conservation measures (including walking, cycling and using public transport whenever possible) all have a role to play to meet the twin requirements of finding new sources of cheap energy to support our way of life, whilst dealing with the resultant energy-related forms of environmental pollution. What is clear is that we do not have to accept ugly new development covering our most precious landscapes as a form of token retribution for the gas-guzzling that continues unabated.

Should the Yorkshire Dales Society oppose all so-called wind farms on principle? This is an issue on which our members are divided. Ironically such a stand might actually weaken the Society's position at Public Inquiries, as well-paid planning consultants acting for the promoters will quickly claim the YDS is objecting "purely on principle", as a means of undermining and dismissing our concerns on particular landscape or amenity grounds.

But the exercise, as well as strengthening the Society's position on wind energy issues, also illustrates the vital role our members can play, at every level, in informing our work and the kind of decisions we take. There is considerable knowledge and expertise in the Society, not just within the Council of Management, but among the membership as a whole, not just on wind power but on a whole range of issues – agriculture, forestry, farming, rural economics, architecture, archaeology, ecology, history, culture. It may well be that we have neglected key areas of work, or have failed to understand key issues that relate to work that we are doing. No one has a monopoly of knowledge or new ideas, and sharing that knowledge is a process of empowerment. This might, for example, mean an article for The Review, or a range of issues and ideas which you would like the YDS Council to pursue.

So, if you believe that there are issues we should be addressing, or you have some special insight or knowledge that you'd like to share with other members of the Society, we look forward to hearing from you, either in the traditional way, by post, or by e-mail at yds@countrygoer.org

Colin Speakman



Mealbank Quarry, near Ingleton – see Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust article on page 9.

Gayle Mill – Third in National BBC2 “Restoration” Competition

The water-powered mill at Gayle, near Hawes in Wensleydale, is a unique survival of the industrial revolution and was one of the subjects chosen by BBC2 “Restoration” programme on 27th of July 2004 to represent the North of England. Gayle Mill reached the final on the 8th of August at Hampton Court Palace where it came third with 109,220 votes; the winner “The Old School and Saracen’s Head” received 113,326. An incredible effort, bearing in mind the relatively small population of the Gayle and Hawes area.

The mill was first recorded in 1776 as a “cotton factory” powered by a 22 foot internal water wheel. By the early nineteenth century it had changed to processing flax then wool. Towards the end of the nineteenth century Gayle Mill was again converted, this time to a saw mill, the water wheel being replaced by a 1878 Thompson Double Vortex turbine supplied by Williamson’s of Kendal and numbered 406. This turbine is still in situ and believed to be the oldest in-situ water

turbine in Europe. At the same time a rack bench for converting timber was installed together with a range of high quality woodworking machinery, all of which is still in place and together with the structure of the mill and its associated water system has been designated a Grade 2* rating by English Heritage.

In 1890 J.C.C. Routh, the owner, installed a generator which supplied electricity not only to the mill, but also to his house. In 1915 the Hawes Electric Company, based at the mill, was formed to supply electricity for a public lighting system in Gayle village. This continued until the mid 1930s.

In 1925 a second turbine was installed directly coupled to a J.W. Hall of Oldham generator which supplied electricity for lighting the mill until the mill closed for business in 1988.

In 1988 the Yorkshire Dales National Park funded a survey of the site and in the mid 1990s North East Civic Trust was asked to find ways in which the buildings, the Victorian machinery, turbines and associated water structures could be saved. A working group of local people and specialist advisors, formed in 1997, together with North East Civic Trust, sought funding and commissioned specialist reports, culminating in the Heritage Lottery, together with other partners, funding the



acquisition of the mill by the North East Civic Trust in 2003.

The Working Group has evolved into “The Gayle Mill Trust” a company limited by Guarantee (formed in July 2004) which will take on a lease of the building once restoration is complete. In December 2003 the “Friends of Gayle Mill” was formed to gather together a band of volunteers to support and assist in the restoration of the mill and its infrastructure.

The restoration project will involve the stabilisation of the fabric of the mill, the repair and restoration

of the whole water system, dam, mill race and turbines which together with the original and a new generator, will provide electricity for the mill, selling surplus power to the National Grid; thus resuming the production of electricity to Gayle and Hawes as it did from 1890 to the mid 1930s. The original 1878 turbine will also drive the lay shafts thus enabling us to restore and bring back to working order the rack bench and the Victorian wood working machinery for demonstration purposes to visitors. These machines plus a range of craft and industrial type modern wood working machinery will provide the basis for timber based and countryside craft training in conjunction with Craven College of Skipton who already have training interests in the Dale. As a visitor attraction there will be ticketed access with guides to demonstrate the workings of the mill and its infrastructure. A market has been identified for a small mobile saw bench, based at the mill to service the local dales area, converting timber on the farm for farm use. This will also provide the mill with a local and sustainable supply of sawn timber for training and craft purposes. Additional



benefits to flow from processing timber will be realised by the installation of a high tech wood burning boiler, using the residues and off cuts from the craft and training aspects of the mill and its associated saw milling enterprise.

The Gayle Mill Trust proposes to operate as a not-for-profit business with its main interest being to provide a means of retaining the mill and its associated structures in a good state of preservation in perpetuity. It aims to provide access to the public and to provide training in countryside skills and demonstrate environmentally friendly conservation and business. It is envisaged that in

due course charitable status will be sought.

Approved funding for the restoration of the mill is already in hand or promised from:

Heritage Lottery Fund	£585,000
Yorkshire Forward	£100,000
English Heritage	£ 50,000
English Heritage (Conservation Plan)	£ 8,000
European Regional Development Fund	£100,000
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust:	
Sustainable Development Fund	£ 30,000
Total	£873,800

With the majority of the funding in place for the restoration of the main building, there is still a requirement for funding of the ancillary works and for revenue funding to cover the first three years start up costs. A figure of £236,000 has been identified through the business plan as still being required. Unfortunately it is not likely that any moneys will be received from our participation in the BBC2 Restoration programme, however, the

programme has created significant interest nation-wide. Approaches are being made to other funders for assistance towards these costs, but in all cases matching funding is required. Events organised by the friends of Gayle Mill have started to raise funds which together with donations from the general public will, we hope, enable the Trust to meet the matched funding commitments in due course. We hope to announce via the Yorkshire Dales Society Review progress on the restoration of the mill and in due course

arrangements for visitor opening, provisionally scheduled for late summer 2005, all dependent of course on our ability to raise the additional funding required.

Donations towards the restoration of the mill can be sent to: The Treasurer, Gayle Mill Trust, Force Head Farm, Gayle, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3RZ, cheques should be made out to "Gayle Mill Trust".

John Cumberland
Vice Chairman of Gayle Mill Trust

Wind Farms: the Debate Continues

In the Summer issue of the Yorkshire Dales Review, we invited members to tell us their thoughts and concerns on the subject of Windfarms – The Great Debate, after reading Colin Speakman's article on the subject. We were delighted with the response when a large number of letters reached us on an issue that many of you care deeply about. Some non YDS members also sent us their views and this was most welcome.

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND CARBON SAVING

Chris Alder, a former YDS Council member who lives in Grassington, is particularly concerned that any opinions and judgement should include an awareness of all the relevant facts in any debate and not just a partial presentation.

As an example of the partial presentation of facts, I will use Ovenden Moor, a modest wind farm overlooking Halifax and Bradford, which I pass every day on the way to work. Its turbines dominate the landscape for miles; you can even see them on the horizon from the top of Great Whernside. They were headlined as producing enough electricity to power ten thousand homes. On reading the environmental impact report, I discovered that was peak output, achieved for a very modest proportion of the time, and assuming what seemed to me, low consumption households. A comparison between what Ovenden Moor was predicted to generate against what it actually generates would be illuminating.

I am persuaded of the reality of global warming and so do believe that something has to change about the way we run our lives, probably many things. What I am not persuaded of is that wind farms on a massive, land-based scale, should be part of the response. That is for two reasons; the first is that I do not believe that they will make a significant carbon saving, if at all, the other is that they will have a huge detrimental impact on our lives. We will become hemmed in by a massive moving metal fence on our hill tops, imprisoning us on a tiny, crowded, island where any sense of space and freedom is already at a premium.

The argument on carbon dioxide saving rests on several factors: All such large-scale industrial developments start with a huge carbon deficit involved in their construction. In the case of wind farms, there are metals used in construction of the



Photo: Chris Wright

turbines and power lines, and the many hundreds, if not thousands, of tons of concrete per turbine involved in building their bases and access roads. I have never seen any hard information on the figures involved, but I do know that making concrete is an energy intensive activity and that for each lump of concrete, there is a larger hole created somewhere such as in the limestone scenery of the Dales. How long does a turbine have to be before it actually starts to save any carbon dioxide over that what was created in its construction?

Conditions for a peak demand in electricity occur when the weather is very cold across large areas of the British Isles. This happens when an anticyclone covers the country in the winter. Anticyclones produce those series of beautiful cold, clear, still days. There is little or no wind for long periods. So we will still need power stations to the same total capacity as the wind farms. Even gas powered ones take some time to run up to speed. Consequently, to ensure continuity of supply in conditions of fluctuating wind, even when the wind farms are working, will require conventional power stations to be running on standby, generating carbon monoxide to no good purpose.

Currently the fastest-growing addition to carbon dioxide is from low-cost air transport, in comparison with other means of transport, a hugely subsidised activity and with many other environmental costs. A mix of responses - sensibly controlling air transport is one. A better transport policy, integrated with sensible planning policies, which do not encourage unnecessary road transport would be another. Investment in energy conservation would be yet more help. If the investment in wind power was directed towards energy conservation, I suspect that there could be

large-scale savings using low-tech methods that directly benefit individuals.

PLANNING ISSUES: VISUAL IMPACT & NOISE

Ilkley Parish Council Planning Committee members used the following arguments to oppose a potential wind farm development at Knabs Ridge near Kettlesing above the Washburn Valley and sent them to the YDS as a contribution to the debate.

The Parish Council Planning Committee opposed the Knabs Ridge developments because of the visual impact on the landscape, as regards short and long distance views. For this reason the Committee asked the Inspector to modify the Revised Unitary Development Plan so that it prohibited such development in areas of high scenic value such as Ilkley Moor. The Committee regrets that he chose **not** to do so. There was also concern regarding the effect on the Green Belt as road building on site and the additional buildings required to service these turbines change the character of the green belt where they are situated. There are also issues with noise and the impact on tourism if wind farms are situated in areas of high visitor numbers. Finally, there is the suggestion of inefficiency of electricity provision, as research would now appear to indicate that wind farms are not an efficient method of production and the Committee believe that other sources should be thoroughly investigated before the countryside is blighted by more wind farms.

LAMBASTING THE GOVERNMENT

YDS member J.E. Wilson from Altrincham is strongly against wind farms for a number of reasons:

Wind power generation, especially on shore, is only in the frame at all because of government cowardice and developer's greed. In its mad dash to chase the shadow of reducing global warming rather than the substance, government has embraced wind farms as the extravagantly –subsidised New Jerusalem, and companies rush to build them only because of the fat pickings available - three times the market value of their output.

Turbines have been grossly oversold here, not least by Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. Sweden, Holland and Denmark have already abandoned their wind programmes because of their insignificant actual contribution to fighting global warming. They produce only one-third of their declared capacity and need conventional power-station back-up when the wind drops. Both existing and future wind installations' contribution could be replaced by just one conventional, clean power station. Higher taxes on motor and aviation fuel – off limits of course for electoral reasons, would

yield far greater reductions in harmful emissions.

Each turbine at the proposed Whinash site will require 100 tons of concrete, with associated roads, conduits and pylons, and their "flicker" will intrude on say 100 square miles of wilderness. No other structure would be allowed to commit such an outrage, but under Labour, the planning system has been tweaked to ease the operation of market forces rather than protect the environment. Schemes are being allowed to proceed even in Special Landscape Areas without an enquiry, or even a site visit, so long as they are located out of ministerial sight. No one has suggested a wind farm on the crest of the Chilterns overlooking Chequers.

Sixty four wind farms the size of Whinash would be needed to replace just one conventional coal-fired power station. And subsidies of that order devoted instead to energy conservation would save as much power by 2020 as all renewables, not just wind, are expected to yield by then. That is a crazy equation on which the planned destruction of our most precious coastal and wild upland areas is based. Wind is in fact only an intermittent, additional source of a small amount of electricity, and not a serious alternative for an industrial nation like ours.

GAS PIPELINES AND TERRORISM VERSUS NUCLEAR POWER

YDS member Harry Jeavons from Addingham, near Ilkley enclosed three relevant articles with his letter and raises the question of nuclear power as an alternative to wind power:

The Government is progressing towards a situation in 2020 where natural gas will be used to generate 75% of our estimated electricity requirements, with renewables (including wind farms) 11.95%. Where is this natural gas to come from? It will be mostly imported from Russia, the Ukraine and the Middle East! This will lead to 75% of Britain's energy supply being out of price control, at the mercy of terrorist and political hazards within these countries and across thousands of miles of pipelines. In this scenario, it would be realistically possible for Britain to be economically and socially crippled.

Many countries are now turning to new nuclear plants to meet the bulk of their energy requirements with reactors which are both safer and cleaner. We should be following the lead of countries such as Sweden which is already generating half its electricity requirements from nuclear power stations. Switching from the risky policy towards imported natural gas to nuclear power would mean that our vital energy requirements would be under our own control.

Wind farms are there virtually to appease the "green" lobby. They are inefficient (33%-38%), the

electricity generated is costly (currently highly subsidised) and they are an environmental nuisance on the landscape and to nature. They are very much a white elephant of the future, and totally incapable of producing the projected estimate of a 46% shortfall in UK generated requirements by 2020 from today.

So if we wish to remain independent of unreliable sources for our natural gas/energy supply, and North Sea Gas does have a time limit, we should be pressing the government now to stop the drive towards the potentially highly dangerous and risky policy of imported gas and start planning and building our own new technology nuclear power generation plants. If we plan our power generation soundly with nuclear being the prime source supported by new clean coal and natural gas, then wind farms become redundant. We will not have to suffer the environmental damage that they impose upon society and nature, and more important, we will also meet our greenhouse gas emission requirements.

DANGER TO WILDLIFE?

Martin Vallance, YDS member from Brompton on Swale, Richmond believes that scientists on research budgets have a vested interest in pushing the "carbon monoxide/ hole in the ozone layer scare", and also sees nuclear fuel as a solution to the energy problem.

I also think that wind farms will make a negligible contribution to our energy needs and such energy as they do generate is at ridiculously high cost. Further I understand that there is a risk of considerable damage to ground habitats/ drainage due to the large concrete foundation which the turbines require and also that there are many birds at risk of collision with the rotating blades.

POETS LIKE WORDSWORTH WOULD HAVE BEEN OUTRAGED

Malcolm and Miriam Raven YDS members from Bridlington, view wind turbines and wind farms as "ugly monstrosities."

They destroy landscape views for miles around. If you doubt this or have muddled opinions, imagine the thoughts of our great poets had they lived now. England's landscape is rapidly being destroyed by the acts of our politicians at our expense. Motorways have already destroyed thousands of square miles of open countryside. This small island will soon become a single concrete built-up urban area like the cities which swallow up villages.

Come on YDS, fight for our beautiful Dales. Come on English politicians, *enhance* the beauty of England.

RECOVERING THE ENERGY COST OF TURBINE MANUFACTURE

John and Anne Towers, YDS Harrogate members, believe that wind farms have no place in the Dales, though they may have a place off shore or in industrial areas.

Does it take 20 years for a wind farm to recover the energy cost of its manufacture, as is sometimes claimed? Denmark with almost 20% wind capacity still has the same hydrocarbon usage as formerly. They cope, apparently, by importing electricity

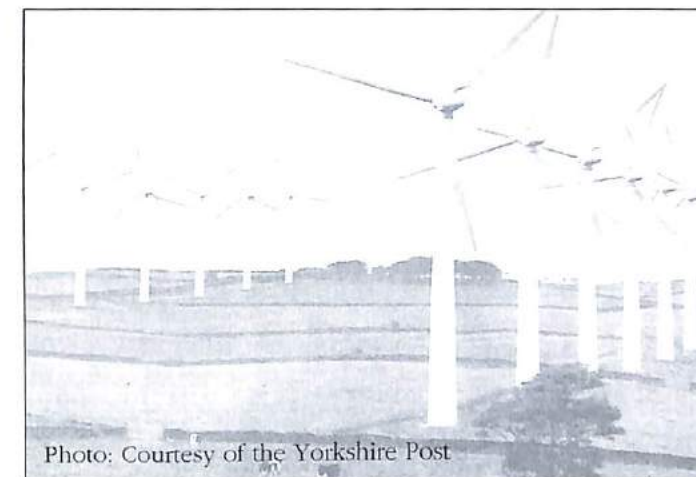


Photo: Courtesy of the Yorkshire Post

from Norway which is probably generated with gas. Without taxpayer subsidy and government laws, there is no economic case for wind generation, only a political one.

The only long term solution is nuclear and we are glad that at last the government is perhaps showing some resolve and courage in reviewing the latest research in this area. If the government want to reduce our CO 2 emissions easily, they can simply import all our electricity from the French nuclear supply.

TURBINES UNPREDICTABLE AND NOT EASILY CONTROLLED

Vicky Crossfield of Ripon, who has written against wind farms for many years and whose brother-in-law, Jack is a YDS member, was moved to comment on the debate by "the excellently presented article" and continues "Indeed I have never read such a balanced account." She continues:

Each turbine is set into concrete the size of a swimming pool, which is very polluting in its production. The wind turbines can be unpredictable as wind speeds can vary between 11 and 55 mph. The surge of power can sometimes damage the equipment at the generating station as it can't be controlled.

We **all** need access to rest and recreation, and seeing the lovely fells [visually unpolluted], is an integral part of the nation's mental as well as physical health.

THE VISUAL INTRUSION OF TRANSMISSION

Martyn Berry, YDS member from Kent, mentions that he has no objection to wind farms "in the right place", but we should be aware of the landscape impacts and energy losses of grid transmission.

And what's 'right' now, won't necessarily be so in 2020. I find them (wind farms), a much more bearable intrusion than dark slabs of conifer or a giant concrete building or towers. But it saddens me that a massive proposed 'farm' on the Isle of Lewis will need massive pylons to deliver electricity to the populated part of Scotland. This misses the point – solar and or wind power and other alternatives, should enable us to decentralise, and to avoid approximately 30% energy losses involved in long distance transmission.

SHOULD THE SOCIETY HAVE A VIEW ON WIND FARMS AS A WHOLE?

Richard Harland, a YDS founder member from Grassington, feels it would be a mistake for the YDS to judge every application on its merits.

What might be useful would be to work towards an analysis of factors that each of us might wish to take into account in forming a view on particular

cases, including 'landscape analysis.' It could not presume to be definitive. We could each attach our own weight to each respective factor.

IN CONCLUSION

Some members feel that some of the crucial facts which would help to make an informed opinion on the wind farm debate are not easily available. Energy conservation could make appreciable carbon savings, and a number of respondents point out that some of our mainland European neighbours have already turned their attention from wind energy to nuclear power. Wind farms are seen by some as a diversionary tactic to appease the green lobby; others see them as a threat to wild life and an ugly visual and even audible intrusion in the countryside. Still others are also concerned at the cost of building and producing wind farms and their unpredictability as regards output is also stressed.

If you feel that there are any further points that can be made, we would welcome some further comment. It would be particularly interesting to hear from those who have not so far joined in the discussion.

Wardens Wanted!

As a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, access on foot, to previously inaccessible areas will soon be reality in Nidderdale AONB. The new rights have lots of implications for both users and landowners. There are areas of moorland across the country such as Barden Moor, which already have similar access rights. It has been invaluable to have a number of wardens patrolling the known, popular access points in order to be able to assist and inform visitors. This has helped reduce conflict with the people who work on the land.

Do you want to play your part in ensuring the new access rights to the countryside are a success? If so, we are looking for voluntary wardens to patrol new access land within the Nidderdale AONB and beyond. Your duties will be varied and interesting, expenses will be paid and full training will be given.

Duties will involve:

- **Patrolling/monitoring known access points and observing any ad-hoc points which may develop.**

- **Wardens to advise visitors where the Open Country boundaries are if there any doubts.**
- **Checking/updating access point information boards.**

Full training will be given by BTCV over a number of training sessions, below are some of the topics that will be covered:

- **Introduction to existing and new access legislation**
- **Role of the access warden**
- **Countryside safety**
- **How to handle situations**
- **Navigation/hillcraft theory**
- **Practical Training Day**

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming an Access Warden and being part of something new.

For more details please contact Chris Jones at the Nidderdale AONB offices. Tel: 01423 712950 or E-mail chris.jones@harrogate.gov.uk

Familiar Face to Head the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

There has been a change at the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, but one you maybe familiar with. David Sharrod, who started working for the Trust as Project Officer in May 1997 has just been appointed as Director. Following the resignation of Iain Oag in July, Trustees appointed David as his successor.

Iain was happy to be handing over the reins to David and said, "It has been Mr Sharrod's drive, enthusiasm and imagination that has produced the many and varied programmes the Trust has undertaken."



Since it was established eight years ago, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has undertaken more than 600 conservation, heritage and education projects throughout this distinctive and much loved area.

Dales Living Landscape Map

To celebrate the completion of the Dales Living Landscape Scheme the Trust has produced a colourful leaflet illustrating the completion of another 147 individual projects with a total value of £2.3 million. The maps are available to collect from YDNPA Information Centres or the Trust's office in Clapham.

Education & Heritage

More recently the Trust has been developing a Dales Education and Heritage programme. This work has increased awareness, understanding and skills, supporting the conservation of the Yorkshire Dales landscape. One such scheme has seen the placement of four apprentices with our partner organisations.

This summer four young people were placed with English Nature, North Yorkshire County Council (Highways), Bolton Abbey Estate and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. James Holden, the apprentice in placement with Bolton Abbey Estate said,

"I am enjoying my time at Bolton Abbey Estate. I think that the apprenticeship in Countryside Management is really good, as it is made up of loads of different jobs, such as forestry, fencing, repairing public rights of way and managing the countryside."

I think that it is a really good idea that the YDMT came up with the idea and provided the funding for the scheme."

Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Fund (which is grant-aided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs through the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) was launched in October 2002. It challenges organisations, individuals, and businesses to come forward with new ideas for achieving a more sustainable way of living in the countryside and is administered by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. Since the Fund was launched 41 projects worth £1.4 million have been supported. One project that has benefited from this funding is Meadow Mania with further part funding secured for the Dales Meadow Heritage Initiative.

Meadow Mania

In 2003 the Sustainable Development Fund supported a project called Meadow Mania. This project development phase produced a business plan, funding and detailed work programme for a project looking at the opportunities to 'add value' to the Dales & Cumbrian Fells traditional hay meadows. The project identified the opportunities to use hay meadows as a tourism and marketing resource in addition to promoting the development of their wildlife and conservation value.

The Dales Meadow Heritage Initiative leads on from this previous development work with bids now being written to fund a project co-ordinator to develop and manage the initiatives identified through the feasibility study.

Future Projects

There is still more to do. The Trust is constantly receiving requests from individuals and organisations for funding for a variety of projects within the Dales. David Sharrod said, "We currently have 400 applications on our books. This proves that there is still a great need for funds towards the type of work the Trust specialises in."

With no major lottery funding currently available to the Trust, we now have to rely more and more on the generosity of the general public.

With your help we have the opportunity to:

- plant more woodlands
- repair more drystone walls

- protect more wildlife habitats
- restore more field barns
- contribute to community projects

For example, Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton.
"Mealbank Quarry could be an excellent project. Apart from safeguarding an important post-industrial landscape, it offers educational and tourism opportunities, and scope for community involvement. YDMT would be keen to be involved in its development."

Don Gamble, Project Officer

Fundraising

Our aim this year is to raise £500,000. You can help us to achieve this target by giving a regular donation. We are a registered charity and your money goes towards retaining the specialist skills needed. We have a dedicated team of staff all working towards a common cause, to conserve the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Tree Dedications

We are still running our tree dedication scheme. For a gift of just £15 we will dedicate a tree on your behalf in our next donor wood. Your friend or loved one will receive a certificate, a specially commissioned greetings card with your personal message and details of the wood - and how to visit, once planting is complete.

2005 Calendars

Our 2005 calendar is now available at a cost of £8.00 incl. p&p. It features twelve stunning views of the Yorkshire Dales photographed by David Tarn.

To purchase your calendar or to make a donation please contact our fundraising team on 015242 51004. Alternatively a donation can be made on line, our website address is www.ydmt.org or email to info@ydmt.org.

Please contact the Trust for more detailed information about any of the above projects if required. Telephone: 015242 51002

Gouthwaite Reservoir, near Pateley Bridge



How do we work?

Nidderdale AONB has a small team of staff who work to further understanding of the AONB, advise on its management and enable action to conserve it. Their work is managed through the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). The JAC's main responsibility is to guide the production of a management strategy for the AONB, agree budgets and oversee the work and objectives of the AONB staff team. JAC members also have a key role in implementing, monitoring and reviewing the current management strategy and generally promoting the AONB. The JAC has a maximum membership of 28 including 12 Local Authority representatives.

Joint Advisory Committee

The JAC terms of reference are to:

- Promote awareness and understanding of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Advise local authorities, and other bodies, on conservation, informal recreation and environmental management in the AONB
- Advise on the preparation, implementation and review of a Management Plan for the AONB
- Consider and offer advice on development plan proposals and reviews insofar as they relate to the AONB
- Act as a forum for discussion of major issues affecting the character of the AONB and, where appropriate, make recommendations.

AONB planning policy

AONB designation does not give the local planning authorities any significant extra powers to restrict development, although Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils, and North Yorkshire County Council, all have policies that seek to protect the natural beauty of the AONB from harm. These policies are in line with Government guidance on protecting nationally important landscapes. For further details about local authority planning policies for the AONB, please contact the relevant Councils directly.

The AONB's Joint Advisory Committee does not become involved in the planning process in the majority of cases, and relies on the local planning authorities to follow their AONB policies to ensure

that the environment is not damaged.

The Committee is consulted about large scale applications however, including developments of 10 or more dwellings, applications that have a site area of 2.5 hectares or more, all mineral extraction and waste disposal applications, proposals for new telecommunications equipment and development of a novel nature which may have an effect on the AONB or set a precedent. The Committee is a consultee only, and does not have powers to approve or refuse applications for planning permission.

Although members of the Committee will continue to urge the planning authorities to resist harmful proposals, the AONB will support development that benefits local people, the economy and improves the environment. In assessing proposals that claim to bring environmental benefits, the Committee will look for evidence of net environmental gains that will invariably mean innovative schemes that do much more than introduce 'landscaping' to hide badly designed and sited buildings, or new woodland planting to compensate for the removal of long-established habitats. Genuinely sustainable development is a challenge.

What do we do?

Following an increase in funding, the Nidderdale AONB team increased from 1 to 4.5 full time members of staff in 2002. Working closely with landowners, visitors, organisations and local communities the AONB team aims to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB by:

Conserving the AONBs Special Qualities – We:

- Input into planning applications, plans and strategies produced by others so that they consider the needs of the AONB
- Provide grants for conservation work in the AONB
- Provide practical land management advice and act as a signposting service
- Protect the historic environment through coordinating research, developing new projects, providing grant assistance and improving access and information for visitors and the local community

Nidderdale AONB – a “Nature Park” in the Dales

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is exactly what it is: a precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.

There are 41 AONBs in England and Wales. Created by the legislation of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949, AONBs represent 18% of the finest countryside in England and Wales.

The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated area. In pursuing the primary purpose, social and economic development that contributes to the natural beauty of the AONB should be encouraged and the management of recreation and tourism improved.

Nidderdale AONB was designated in 1994 and covers 603 square kilometres of countryside within the County of North Yorkshire.

Why is Nidderdale AONB special?

Nidderdale AONB has many special qualities that make it a landscape worthy of protection:

- There are 9 sites of Special Scientific Interest

covering 29% of the AONB. Three of the sites contain geological features of national importance (Brimham Rocks, Upper Nidderdale and Greenhow Quarry).

- Extensive moorlands (much of which has Special Protection Area status) provide a home to internationally important bird populations such as red grouse, golden plover and merlin.
- A wealth of important historic and archaeological sites with over 545 listed buildings, 126 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Fountains Abbey - A World Heritage Site.
- Fourteen Conservation Areas covering 267 hectares of land which has special architectural or historic interest.
- Historically important ancient woodlands, hedgerows and veteran trees dating back more than 800 years.
- A wide variety of habitats, from moorlands and vales to rivers and reservoirs, are host to a diverse range of plants and animals many of them rare and protected under British and even European law.
- Past generations have created a beautiful landscape through the creation of a network of dry stone walls, barns and small picturesque villages.

- Source major resources for Nidderdale AONB

Living and working in the AONB – We:

- Encourage people to be active in their community by supporting local partnerships. Provide the general public with an opportunity to develop new countryside skills through our volunteering and training programmes
- Provide grant assistance for projects which contribute to the conservation of the AONB
- Provide advice and support to encourage landowners to enter agri-environment schemes.

Understanding and Enjoyment – We:

- Improve opportunities for everyone to enjoy Nidderdale AONB
- Work with others to minimise the environmental impact of visitors
- Organise countryside events and activities
- Raise awareness of local people and visitors about what they can do to look after the AONB
- Deliver education programmes
- Are co-ordinating the implementation of the right of access to open country
- Work to raise the profile of the AONB and ensure the designation is widely understood.

Enjoy an Autumn Break in the Dales – without having to drive there

As part of its efforts to encourage sustainable tourism in the Yorkshire Dales, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, with the support of the EU-funded TARGET project, is working with Oswaldkirk-based tour operators Special Place Tours to develop short mid-week or weekend walking breaks in the Yorkshire Dales. The holidays are planned to remove the need to have or to use a car, either to reach the Dales or to get around when you arrive. Trips are planned to explore the countryside using local footpaths and local buses – as well as the Settle & Carlisle railway.

With catchy titles such as **A Wander in Wensleydale**, **Settle Down in Settle** and the **Grassington Getaway**, the three days breaks vary in price according to the type of accommodation used, from comfortable Youth Hostel to luxury country hotel. Everything is arranged for you – accommodation, routes, maps and transport.

Details of this autumn's short breaks can be found at www.specialplacestours.co.uk or for more information phone 01439 788000.

CAR FREE HOSTELLING WEEKENDS

In addition to its regular day walks using Dales Bus services, the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group, now over 400 members strong, are organising a series of public transport-based walking weekends in Youth Hostels in the Dales. Following highly successful weekends to Malham and Kettlewell, the group are planning an autumn programme – and YDS members are welcome to join.

The programme of weekend walks is now receiving the support of the Y.H.A. through its national Empty Roads project – designed to increase the use of sustainable travel to and

between hostels. Leaving the car behind gives much more flexibility for linear walks or cycle rides – especially if you break your journey at a hostel en route. No need to return to a parked vehicle or to worry about car thieves whilst you are away overnight. Although around 45% of hostellers already walk, cycle or use public transport to reach hostels, the Empty Road project hopes to encourage even more people to travel the greener way.

If you would like to know more about the YDPTUG hostel weekends, contact Jeff Davies on 01423 563159 or visit www.dalesbusramblers.org.uk

WINTER DALES BUS – GOOD NEWS AND BAD

At time of going to press, it seems that pressure from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, YDS and the YDPTUG has ensured that the well used hourly 67A bus service will continue to operate on winter Sundays between Keighley, Skipton and Grassington. However the future of service 24 on Sunday between Harrogate and Pateley Bridge seems extremely doubtful. This service is mainly used by local people, and if withdrawn, it will leave around 5,000 people in Nidderdale without any Sunday bus service – a situation which reflects extremely badly on North Yorkshire County Council which has a duty to meet local travel needs. About 50 regular journeys are made on this service most winter Sundays. With the withdrawal of funding by both NYCC and the Countryside Agency, the future of the popular winter Dales Bus 800 between Wakefield, Leeds, Grassington and Hawes also looked bleak, but in a surprise move, the National Park Authority have asked the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group if they would be prepared to underwrite the service, subject to the National Park offering

financial support at the level provided in winter 2003/4. YDPTUG have accepted the challenge, and could be the first user group of its kind in any National Park in the UK to take responsibility for an important weekend recreational bus service in this way.

Please support their efforts by travelling on the 67A and 800 scenic bus services whenever you can during the winter months. Both services provide excellent park, ride and walk opportunities, for example, along sections of the Dales Way. As well

as regular YDPTUG guided walks from the service, there will be at least one YDS guided walk using the 800 on December 19th.

THE WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY REACHES REDMIRE

The newly reopened Wensleydale Railway is now operating daily from Leeming Bar to Leyburn and Redmire until October 31st. For those without cars, there is a bus link from Northallerton to Leeming Bar (service 73) on Mondays to Saturdays.

Book Reviews

ECHOES FROM RIPON'S PAST: Over 100 illustrated articles on the history of Ripon, edited by Mike Younge, Ripon Local Studies Research Centre, at £10 plus postage & packing £1.65 per copy. Cheques payable to Ripon Local Studies Research Centre and addressed to Ripon Local Studies Centre, 42 Market Place, Ripon, HG4 1BZ.

This book is based on over a 100 illustrated articles on Ripon's history, revised and updated from the weekly series that appeared in the Ripon Gazette from 2000-2002 which dealt with a variety of themes: the government of the city, its main streets, notable buildings, crafts and industries, leading personalities and important events.

With a forward by Prince Charles, this volume conveys much of the rich tapestry of Ripon's history and the excitement of discovering changes of use of particular buildings or records of the site of, for example, of a long defunct maze. Ripon's market provisions especially its meat and fish, were

approved of by that redoubtable and inveterate seventeenth century traveller, Celia Fiennes, who also writes of the sound structure of its Hewick Bridge. Wilfred Owen, the celebrated poet of World War I, found a sojourn in Ripon most congenial, and in 1905, in spite of a lack of indigenous medicinal waters, Ripon Spa



Above: An omnibus in Ripon Market Place and below left: The Ripon Hornblower, both reproduced from "Echoes from Ripon's Past", edited by Mike Younge.

(housed in the present day swimming baths), was opened ceremoniously with a solid gold key by two royal princesses, Princess Beatrice and Princess Victoria Eugenie, but unfortunately the spa was unable to compete seriously with its more successful rival Harrogate. Ripon's railway, publicised itself in 1848 by sending the first trainload of passengers (with a navvies' band) free of charge from Ripon to Thirsk, and though crucial for its future prosperity, is sadly no more, though recently there has been much interest in a potential revival.

A book with much to interest, it is a fitting memorial to its editor Mike Younge, who sadly died prior to publication.

F.S.

SHARING INSIGHT INTO A UNIQUE HERITAGE

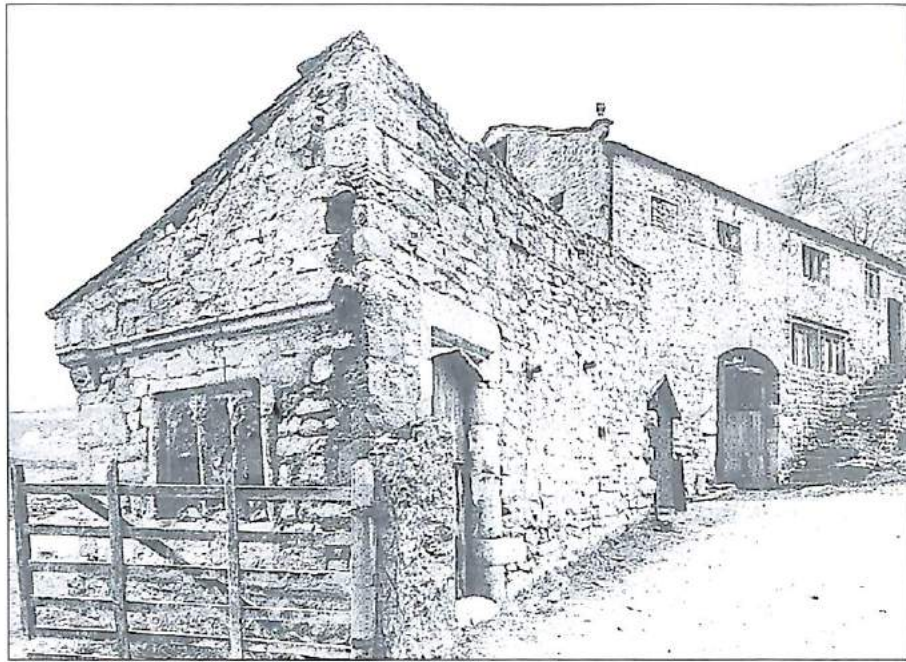
Archaeology and Historic Landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales edited by RF White and PR Wilson. Copies of the book can be found in local bookshops, National Park Centres or by post price £20 plus £5 to cover postage and packing from the



Yorkshire Archaeological Society,
Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road,
Leeds, LS2 9NZ.

This splendid volume of no less than 21 detailed essays on a variety of aspects of both history and archaeology of the Yorkshire Dales will be compulsory reading for many members of the Yorkshire Dales Society this autumn. Each article is by a different expert in his or her field, and, as well as a scholarly text, is superbly illustrated with detailed maps, diagrams and photographs. Diverse topics covered include field barns in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, Hogg Houses in Upper Swaledale, Dales' literary institutes and reading rooms, historic landscapes and boundary surveys, historic buildings such as Downholme Hall and Kilnsey Old Hall, prehistoric settlement on Burton Moor, drystone walls in Malhamdale.

Many of the authors will also be familiar to YDS members as lecturers or writers. They include YDNPA archaeologist Robert White, who as well as co-editing the collection with YAS's Dr Pete Wilson, contributes an excellent introduction and, in partnership with local historian and former Swaledale National Park Warden, Laurence Barker, a fascinating essay on the Beldi Hill Low Level Dressing Floor. Also familiar will be Hebden Archaeologist Heather Beaumont who is lecturing to the Society this autumn, and our own recently elected Honorary Member Tom Lord, who filled Settle Victoria Hall at a YDS event last Spring, now writing, almost inevitably, about his beloved stone



Above: *The gatehouse and east elevation of the main block of Kilnsey Old Hall, reproduced from "Archaeology and Historic Landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales".*

walls. But other authors, many equally well known, deserve equal recognition for some outstanding contributions to this collection.

This book is second in a series of Occasional Papers published by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Significantly enough its publication has been made possible by a "generous grant" from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, adding much to our understanding and enjoyment of our rich Dales heritage. It underlines how the Authority can act as a catalyst by working in partnership with bodies such as the Yorkshire Archaeological Society to achieve common aims; aims the Yorkshire Dales Society so closely shares.

C.S.

Daleswatch

KETTLEWELL'S POST OFFICE MOVES INTO THE YOUTH HOSTEL

Kettlewell has been without a permanent Post Office for around two years, but thanks to a new partnership between the Post Office Ltd and the YHA, and a £40,000 funding package by North Yorkshire County Council, the Countryside Agency, Craven District Council, the Post Office and the YHA, a new post office has been installed in the Hostel's reception area. In a ground-breaking move by the YHA and Post Office, Britain's first post office in a Youth Hostel restores this important community service to the village, as well as providing a valuable facility for all visitors – not just hostellers.

To launch their new Post Office on July 12th, children from Kettlewell Primary School were invited to write and post a letter to anyone they've ever wanted to – footballers, pop stars, actors, Nelson Mandela – and even someone's Mum. The new Post Office is open between 1030 and 1230 every day, except Wednesdays and Sundays. So when you're in the Kettlewell area, make sure you use the new post office to buy your stamps and pay your bills – and help to keep this important new facility.

ILLEGAL OFF-ROADERS PAY THE PENALTY

Law breaking off-road motor cyclists in Upper Wensleydale, causing severe damage on footpaths and in open countryside, were targeted by police during three "Action Days" in the Cotterdale and Marssett areas, resulting in formal notices being served on them. These meant that they could have

Autumn Events

EVENTS PROGRAMME FOR AUTUMN 2004

Enjoy a varied programme of YDS walks and lectures this autumn in good company - including the perennial delights of Brimham Rocks, or learning about the fascinating history of Hebden, the rigours of the Ilkley water cure and the historic trees and hedgerows of Nidderdale.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 16TH A WALK ROUND BRIMHAM ROCKS: LEGENDS OF THE ROCKS BY CHRIS HARTLEY tel: 01943 873 197 or mobile: 07876 346375. A moderate walk with no real steep sections. Meet at Brimham Rocks car park at 10.30am. Bus 24 0930 from Harrogate – alight Summerbridge (1¼ mile walk). Estimated time of walk finish 12.30pm. Packed or pub lunch. The walk will focus on the property of the National Trust estate and will look at the various folk stories and legends about the area.
LECTURE: BRIMHAM ROCKS: SOME DRAMATIC FORMATIONS BY JEREMY TUCK, Property Manager at Brimham Rocks, venue Grantley Village Hall at 2.15pm.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13TH WALK: A KETTLEWELL SAUNTER LED BY RHONA THORNTON, tel: 0113 2751359. An easy 4 mile walk with two short uphill sections. Pub, packed or café lunch. **Meet at Kettlewell outside the Bluebell Inn at 10.50am**, bus 72 from Skipton bus station at 10.05, 0935 no 74 from Ilkley. **Walk finishes at 1pm.**
LECTURE: POINTERS TO THE PAST: THE HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE OF THE HEBDEN TOWNSHIP BY DR HEATHER BEAUMONT, at Kettlewell Village Hall at 2.15pm. Heather's book of the same title is with her publisher.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4TH WALK - THE ILKLEY HEALTH CURE - LED BY COLIN SPEAKMAN, tel: 01943 607868. A four mile walk around the edge of Ilkley and its Moor looking at some outdoor

Daleswatch (continued)

their machines confiscated if they offend again.

Meanwhile, the Yorkshire Dales Society has accepted an invitation to contribute to the work of the Green Lanes Liaison Group, chaired by North Yorkshire County Council, to consider if and how the current Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders in the Dales could be extended. Given that off-road user groups are also represented on the Liaison Group, it is difficult to imagine how agreement between conservationists and user pressure groups



aspects of the former spa. Meet Ilkley station 1030 (1002 train from Leeds). One fairly steep climb. Cafes, pubs or picnic lunch in Ilkley. (Please note the walk will finish in Ilkley.)

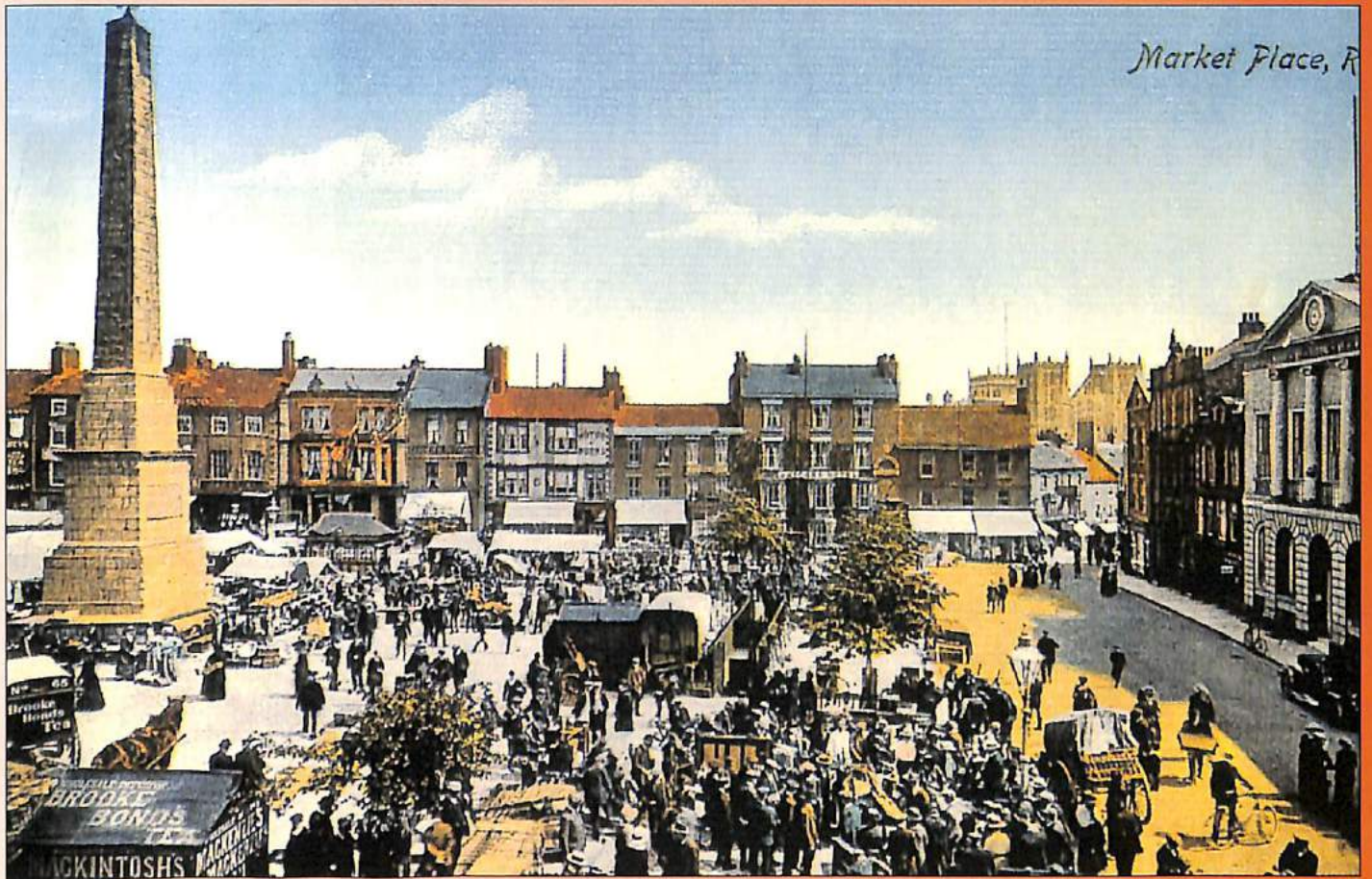
LECTURE: THE ILKLEY WATER CURE BY PROFESSOR MIKE DIXON at Ben Rhydding Methodist Church Hall at 2.15pm. **Please do not park on the drive, and share transport when possible - or take a one mile walk from Ilkley.** Limited parking at church car park, plenty of space on road in front of church.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19TH A CHRISTMAS WALK ALONG THE DALES WAY - KETTLEWELL TO GRASSINGTON, LED BY COLIN SPEAKMAN. Take advantage of the user-group supported Dalesbus 800, d. Wakefield 0820, Bradford Int. 0910, Leeds CBS 08940, Ilkley 1025, Grassington 1135 to Kettlewell a.1155. 7 miles moderate. Picnic lunch. Motorists park Ilkley or Grassington NP Car Park to catch bus; return to Grassington around 1530. tel: 01943 607868.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH 2005 WALK: ANCIENT WOODLANDS ROUND PATELEY BRIDGE LED BY JOHN HONE, tel: 01423 711471. A moderate 3-4 mile walk with half a mile uphill, and some rocky paths and stiles. Pub, café or packed lunch. Meet at circular bench in front of riverside car park (first over bridge) at 10.30am. Bus 24 9.30am from Harrogate bus station, arrive 1020. Walk ends approximately 12.30. Return from Pateley Bridge at 1630.

LECTURE: ANCIENT TREES AND HEDGE-ROWS IN A LANDSCAPE BY DR. RICHARD MUIR, eminent writer on landscape, and new YDS Honorary Member. At Bishopside and Bewerley Memorial Hall, Park Road, Pateley Bridge at 2.15pm.

can be reached. The YDS is also concerned that NYCC could allow LARA - the leading camp-aigining organisation for opening up more rights of way to motorcyclists and to 4x4 users - to use the Group as a "talk shop" to delay or prevent any action to deal with an increasingly serious environmental problem in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB. The AONB, which suffers some of the worst problems, is currently not even represented on the Liaison Group.



Front Cover picture: *Gayle Mill*, courtesy of the BBC via the North East Civic Trust.

Back Cover picture: *Ripon Market Place* – from 'Echoes from Ripon's Past', see book review on page 13.

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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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