

No. 90 Spring 2005

# Yorkshire *Dales* Review



- *Houses for Locals*
- *Prehistoric Rock Art of the West Riding*
- *Taking the Rails to Redmire*
- *A Great Day Out at Malham Cove*

Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50



## Homes for Locals

It's not too often that the National Park Authority Members are solidly united over a single issue and win widespread support in the media and from a wide range of local organisations, including the Yorkshire Dales Society.

But it has happened over the tricky and controversial issue of local housing, as we report in this issue of the Review, as a result of ground-breaking new policies to confine new housing development largely to building homes for local people, including those of key workers in service and other industries so that the Dales' economy can survive.

Contrary to popular mythology, this isn't just a National Park issue. One of the least affordable communities in England for first time buyers is now Ilkley, just outside the National Park, where house prices are even higher than in the National Park because of escalating demand from Leeds' commuters. But in the Dales the problem is exacerbated by the demand for second and holiday homes, especially the kind of traditional small, farm workers' or lead miners' cottages which form the lower end of the price range.

The policy stand is a courageous one, supported by both officers and Authority Members, but is not without its pitfalls. Many have been quick to point out that interfering with the free market is always a risky process, with losers as well as winners. Whilst everyone wants to see "affordable" property, so alarming has house-price hyper-inflation become, that even if the policy results in a predicted third or more reduction in house prices for locals over the next few years, prices would be still well above the amount that any younger person on a typical wage or salary in the Dales can afford.

It will still be important therefore to develop affordable renting or "shared equity" schemes in the Dales, such as that being pioneered with the Skipton Building Society in partnership with the Park Authority and Craven Council to build new properties in the National Park for rent at less than the market rate. Shared equity schemes would also

allow a young couple to win a foothold on the housing market ladder without being forced to live in penury with an outsize mortgage.

Equally it would be wrong to abandon high development control design standards in a rush for "affordable" housing, and the challenge will be to consider more high density, cottage-style development (as many Dales villages traditionally had) in the larger settlements where there are services such as public transport, shops, schools. Consideration too should be given to developing sustainable communities with houses that require less energy to heat through use of such innovative concepts as photo-voltaic roof cells – which can replicate traditional roofing materials. Converting barns in remote locations by pretending a couple of farms and a cottage is a "settlement" will on the other hand do little to resolve real housing needs – though it will of course help developers with a sharp eye on the luxury property market for the kind of outsiders who can sell their suburban semi in Surrey to pay for a retirement dream.

Ensuring that Dales' economy remains healthy and communities remain socially diverse will depend on creating enough homes for young working families. It will require a combination of imagination, political courage and determination to find ways around all the inevitable obstacles, pitfalls and loopholes that will be put in the way. But the National Park Authority has taken an important step in the right direction, and this is something that the Yorkshire Dales Society fully supports – even though many of our own members are among those very people fortunate enough to come to live in the National Park in their later years, or who regularly hire a cottage for a week or more for a summer holiday in the Dales.

Even if the new policies make this more difficult or expensive for us to do so, we would all admit that it is the right price to pay to keep the Dales alive, not just a retreat for the affluent old and grey.

**Colin Speakman**

## Prehistoric Rock Art of the West Riding



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Fig. 1: 'Tree of Life Stone', Snowden Carr, Washburn Valley, north of Otley

Fig. 2: 'Elephant's Eye Rock', Green Gates, Ilkley Moor

Fig. 3: 'Bakestone Beck Rock', Ilkley Moor

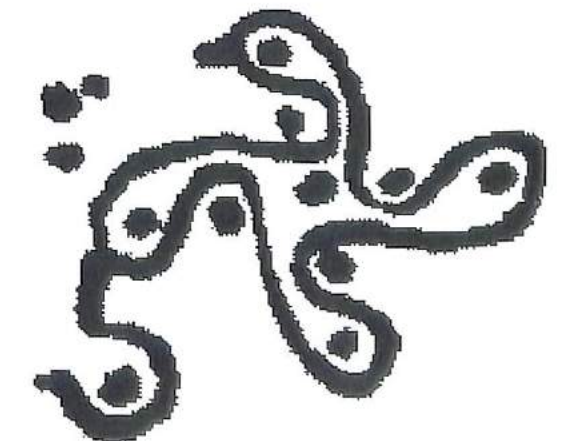
Mysterious carvings on natural rock surfaces are found scattered across a number of local moors in what was formerly the West Riding of Yorkshire (Figs 1-3). The designs are based on circular hollows or 'cups' cut into the rock, often encircled by one or more incised 'rings', from which they have taken the name 'cup-and-ring-marked' rocks. Association of such cup-and-ring carvings with other dateable archaeological evidence, in particular burials, suggests that they date from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, i.e. circa 2500 BC or even earlier. Familiar examples on Ilkley Moor, such as the 'Swastika Stone' (Fig 4), 'Badger Stone' (Fig 5), 'Hangingstones' and 'Panorama Stone' (Fig 6), have fascinated and puzzled local archaeologists for well over a century and may be familiar, but the fact is that similar carvings have a much wider distribution in the area. Over 650 individual carved

rocks have been recorded so far and others continue to come to light, e.g. the 'Heygate Stone' from my home village of Baildon (Fig 7), and more recently, an excellent example from Hartlington, a short distance E of Grassington (Fig 8).

'Cup-and-ring-marked' rocks occur in their many thousands in several parts of the British Isles, most notably in Scotland and Northern England. Sites have been recorded in large numbers running into many hundreds, for example, from Fife, Argyll, Dumfries and Galloway, Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire. Smaller concentrations are known from the Peak District and other further flung parts of Scotland such as Orkney and Caithness. Examples from the south of England, such as Cornwall, Dorset and the Cotswolds are widely scattered and relatively few in number.



Fig. 4: 'Swastika Stone', Woodhouse Crag, Ilkley Moor





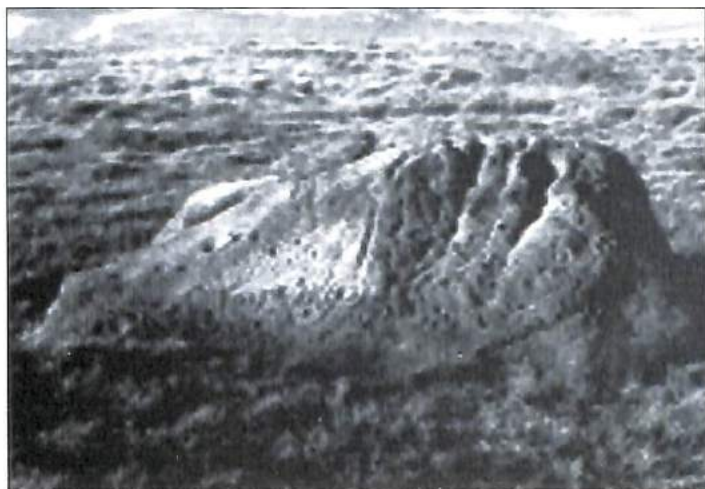


Fig. 5: 'Badger Stone', Green Gates, Ilkley Moor

Considering how much work has been done in the last twenty to thirty years in tracking down cup-and-ring-marked rocks throughout the British Isles, it seems unlikely that – apart from further isolated finds – any other major concentrations will now be found and that the map more or less represents their effective distribution.

As for the local picture, the region in question runs from the Lancashire border near Skipton to as far east as Harrogate, and from Keighley in the south to Grassington and Pateley Bridge to the north, covering some 2500 km<sup>2</sup> and 663 carved rocks (Fig 9). Even this must be well short of the original prehistoric total. Indeed, when you consider that many sites must have been lost in the past owing to a whole range of human activities, such as agriculture, quarrying, building, urbanisation, and so on, and that what we are dealing with here are mainly upland survivors on the more marginal and less economically productive land, this number is all the more remarkable. The original total in prehistoric times must have been many more, and almost certainly over a thousand – an astonishing figure. What we have here in our region is clearly one of the UK's major concentrations of prehistoric rock art.

Notice how the sites are not uniformly distributed but tend to cluster in smaller or larger concentrations. For example, on Horse Close Hill overlooking Skipton there is a small cluster of 10 sites; on Rombald's Moor, the SW flank overlooking Keighley in the Aire valley at Rivoek Edge contains a total of no less than 32 sites; and further east on Bingley Moor, are 19 sites, 14 of which are clustered together within less than a few hundred metres of each other on Stanbury Hill. On and around the slopes of Baildon Moor are no less than 45 sites with a further 21 in Shipley Glen just to the west. Green Crag Slack on Ilkley Moor overlooking the Wharfe has even more – one of the heaviest concentrations in the area. In fact, this distribution continues across the moorland terraces



Fig. 6: 'Panorama Stone', opposite St. Margaret's Church, Ilkley (removed from Ilkley moor in the late 19th century to make way for Panorama Reservoir)

to the east, running across Woofa Bank on Burley Moor as far as Menston. Ilkley and Burley Moors together contain 178 sites, over a quarter of the total for the entire region! Further concentrations occur on Askwith Moor with 26 sites, Middleton Moor and Middleton Moor Enclosure with a total of 70 sites, and Weston Moor with 18 sites – though these are essentially all a continuation of the same stretch of moorland north of the Wharfe. Of particular interest is an outlying isolated concentration well to the north near the village of Skyreholme below Simon's Seat in Wharfedale of 30 sites. Then there is Snowden Carr, where on a small spur of moorland overlooking the Washburn Valley N of Otley we have no less than 50 sites, a cairnfield, and a prehistoric enclosure – all within the space of a square kilometre or so.

But now to the \$64,000 question: what are these cup-and-ring carvings all about? A great many theories have been advanced as to what the carvings might 'mean'. What did the cup and the ring stand for? Were they some form of language, perhaps? Or were the symbols much more universal? For example, did they perhaps represent

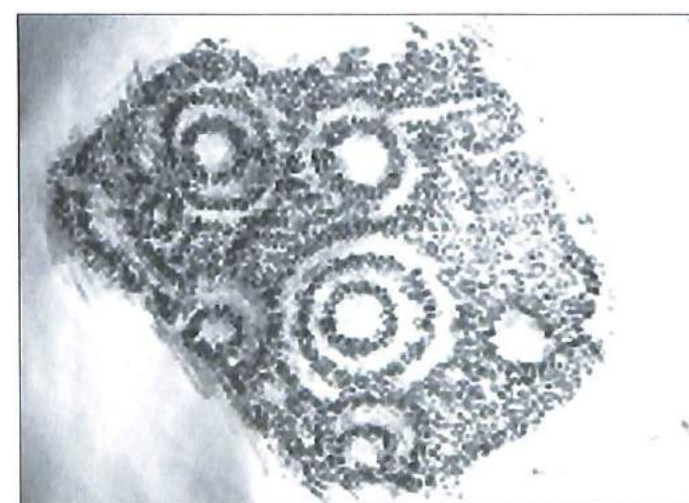


Fig. 7: 'Heygate Stone', Baildon (discovered by Mike Short of Baildon in 2001) (Wax rubbing by the author)

the Sun and the Moon, or even the Earth? Were they some form of religious symbol, very much like the cross is for the Christian today? Was this a secret language meant only for the benefit of a select group, such as priests or revealed only to shamans in one of their trances? Or were they a more public form of communication, meant to be seen and understood by the whole community? Were they a map of the area? Of the tribal village? Were the cups and rings meant to stand for houses and the grooves for connecting trackways or encircling stockades? Or do the designs depict the constellations in the sky? Are they maps of where to find water, or metal, or food? Were the cups and rings meant to hold blood or water in some form of ritual ceremony or sacrifice?

If, sadly, we can't understand the symbolism behind the designs, then perhaps we can learn something from their position in the landscape instead. In other words, as far as carved rocks are concerned, it is not so much *what* they are that matters as *where* they are. The designs are of less significance than where the carved rocks happen to be. For example, were they intended as boundary markers, indicating a tribe's agricultural, hunting or domestic territory? Were they pathfinders, way-markers, ways of marking viewpoints, of expressing ownership of territory or power over the surrounding landscape? Several, such as Piper's Crag Stone, Swastika Stone, Hangingstones and Pelstone Crag on Otley Chevin all command superb views over the Wharfe Valley below. But equally there are many outcropping slabs of rock with



Fig. 8: Hartlington Pasture, Hartlington, near Grassington (discovered by Ms. Yvonne Luke of Ilkley in 2004)

similar panoramas that are not carved and many fine carvings that do not command such views and indeed, given the extent of cover in prehistoric times, never could have. There again, some are close to trackways, maybe deliberately so – but again a great many are not and take some finding today. What we must remember is that the landscape that Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sites find themselves in today bears little or no resemblance to the landscape in which they were originally. The climate was warmer and wetter, the soils were richer and on what are now leached-out, acidic, relatively barren moorlands there was extensive tree cover and plant and animal life typical of a rich deciduous woodland habitat.

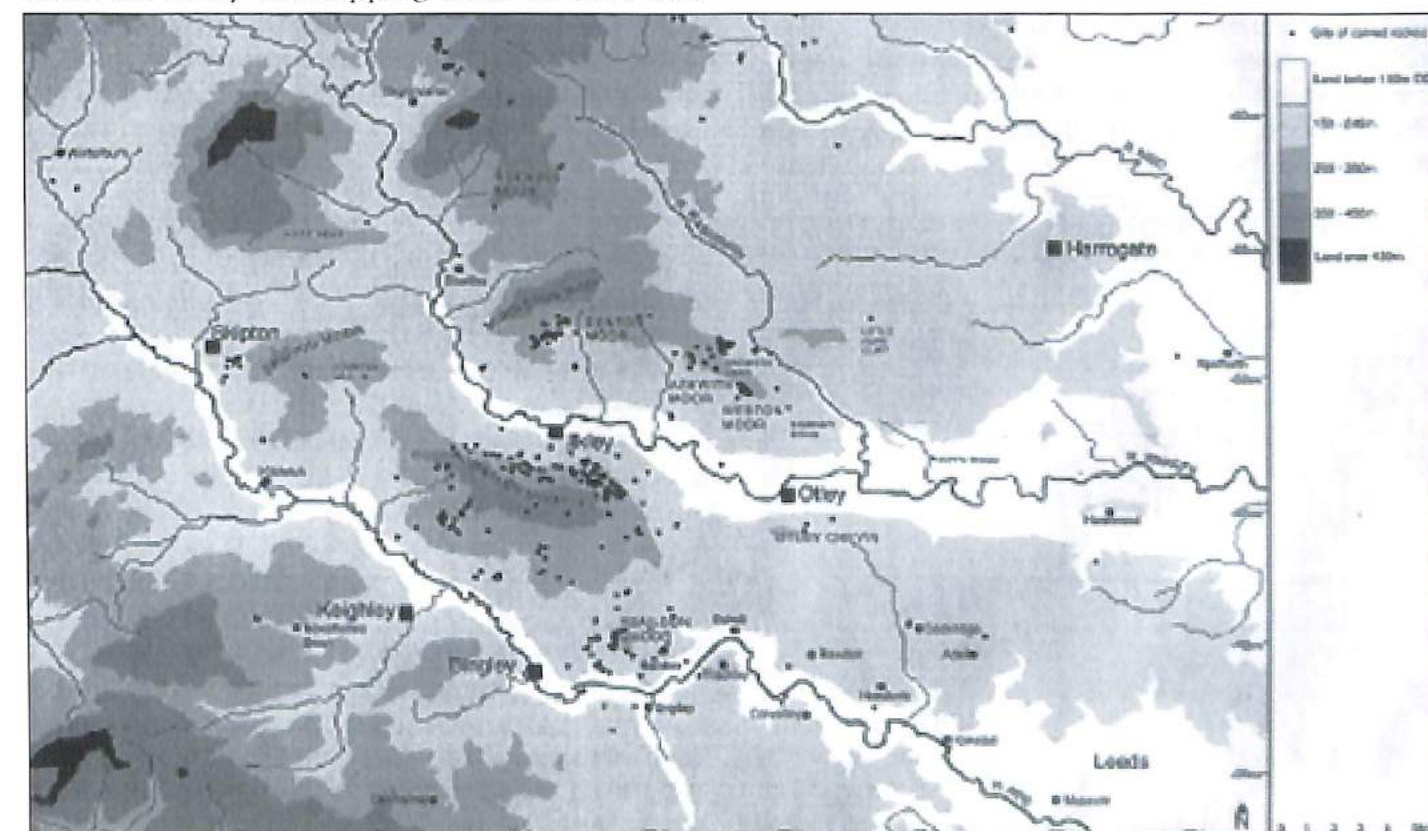


Fig. 9: Distribution of Cup-and-Ring-marked rocks in the West Riding



There are those who might claim that with a limited vocabulary of essentially just three elements – the cup, the ring and the groove – there is not much you can do and that this type of prehistoric ‘art’ is necessarily crude, clumsy, repetitive and boring. But I think that one look at the carvings themselves will soon convince you otherwise and that what we have here is an artistic tradition every bit as remarkable and sophisticated in its way as classical architecture, Renaissance painting, cubism or Art Deco. What is conveyed very strongly from their sheer number and variety is how significant they must have been to prehistoric man – a significance and a meaning which, no matter what some archaeologists might have you believe, is sadly completely lost to us now. This is indeed a remarkable heritage – these carvings have come down to us across over 4000 years of human history. They were already at least 2000 years old when the Romans built their fort at Ilkley. They were over 3000 years old when William the Conqueror overcame the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings and went on to lay waste the north of England. Yet they remain as a link to their world

and point to a society and a culture from Yorkshire’s prehistoric past every bit as sophisticated as that of Ancient Greece or Rome. They do not appear to have an immediately practical use, like a discarded flint or a broken piece of pottery, and that is precisely what makes them all the more puzzling to the archaeologist. If they suggest anything, they suggest that there was a symbolic dimension to prehistoric man – a dimension that some commentators have taken to indicate a spirituality or even a ‘religion’.

(For those who would like to know more, a book written jointly by myself and my colleague is available: Boughey, K.J.S. and Vickerman, E.A., *Prehistoric Rock Art of the West Riding. Cup-and-ring-marked rocks of the valleys of the Aire, Wharfe, Washburn and Nidd*, £14.00 plus £4.50 postage and packing from WYAS, West Yorkshire Joint Services, PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG or direct from the author at keith\_boughey@hotmail.com)

**K. Boughey**

## The Scandinavian Festival in the Yorkshire Dales

North Yorkshire, with its many links to a Nordic past, is a truly appropriate locality in which to hold a Scandinavian Festival. This annual event, organised by Yorkshire Dales Workshops, takes place this year from 29th April to 2nd May in and around Settle.

Five artists from Sweden are amongst those who will be performing and leading workshops in dance and music. They will be providing opportunities for anyone to have a go at learning some of the dances or playing the rich instrumental harmonies from these folk traditions. The programme includes: an extended weekend of dance & instrumental workshops, a Friday night concert in Victoria Hall, a Saturday night dance in Langeliffe Village Institute, an illustrated talk on the

Viking House at Ribbleshead, a presentation of myths & legends from Scandinavia & North Yorkshire with music, and a workshop on vocal harmony singing.

The Yorkshire Dales Society is pleased to announce its sponsorship of the talk on the Viking House. This will be given by archaeologist & historian Alan King of Settle. It will take place in The Friends Meeting House, Settle, opposite the Victoria Hall, on Saturday afternoon 30th April at 2pm.

For more detailed information about the Scandinavian Festival, contact Yorkshire Dales Workshops 01535 631166, email office@ydw.org.uk or see their WEB site, www.ydw.org.uk

### DALES DIGEST

For only £6 a year you can obtain a quarterly copy of the Dales Digest packed with information on many concerns and issues on the Yorkshire Dales: housing, planning and property, transport and roads, footpaths and access, leisure and the arts, the local economy, conservation and wildlife, local government and the social fabric.

If you already pay by Direct Debit, you can add the annual cost of the Digest to it.

## Art & Craft in the Yorkshire Dales



Debbie Moxon in her studio

initiative, which aims to make the work of professional artists based in North Yorkshire more visible and accessible to many more people”.

In support of this initiative there will be launch exhibitions at Skipton Castle, the Folly in Settle, and Duggleby’s Salerooms in Whitby. These will showcase a selection of artists’ work, and will hopefully encourage visitors to follow the Open Studios Trail across North Yorkshire.

There are many professional artists and makers based in the Yorkshire Dales, and this year, for the first time, they will be opening up their homes and studios to the general public as part of the North Yorkshire Open Studios event, in May and June 2005.

Artists work in varied locations across the county; amongst them is a studio built of straw bales, an old tractor shed, and a country house designed by Edwin Lutyens. A wide range of high quality work is produced and includes jewellery, ceramics, paintings and prints, textiles, sculpture, stone carving, metal work, and items in wood. These people produce their work, sometimes in extreme isolation, and, in some cases, unnoticed outside their immediate communities, except by the galleries and customers they serve in urban areas beyond the home environment. By opening their studios, they not only make themselves more visible, but by doing so, also make a valuable contribution to rural tourism and rural regeneration. This project will bring the people to the art as an alternative to taking the art to town.

Christine Keogh, the Art Connections Project Manager said: “It is the first time that people who are interested in the visual arts and crafts will be able to travel throughout the county, meet some of the artists and makers who produce such excellent work here, and if they wish, buy from the artists direct. We are delighted to be involved in this

The North Yorkshire Open Studios event is co-ordinated by Art Connections in collaboration with Create and the Yorkshire Coast Open Studios initiative. Art Connections is a project initiated and managed by Chrysalis Arts Ltd\*, Gargrave to support North Yorkshire artists and makers.

Printed information about the Open Studios event will be available from Marcia Whitham at Art Connections, The Art Depot, Eshton Road, Gargrave, North Yorkshire BD23 3SE or e-mail info@art-connections.org.uk or telephone 01756 748529. All information will also be on the Art Connections web site www.art-connections.org.uk.

\* Chrysalis Arts is a YDS Corporate Member.



Stephanie Black in her studio



# Taking the Rails to Redmire

Britain's newest rural railway is the 18 mile Wensleydale Railway in the Yorkshire Dales. Now open to provide regular train services between Leeming Bar (just four tantalisingly short miles from Northallerton) and Redmire; for many people it is



Redmire Station

the realisation of a dream to restore one of the most beautiful, but sadly lost cross-Pennine railway lines.

Though you can't quite get there from the present Trans-Pennine trains which serve Northallerton Station, a short bus ride from outside the station (Service 73) takes you to Leeming Bar Station where there is a temporary ticket office and café in a railway carriage. Then enjoy a true 1980s experience in a Dales Rail style "Heritage" unit along the 18 mile branch.

These old BR trains, only recently retired from the national rail network, offer splendid views not only from the ample seating, but at the front and rear of the train, perhaps behind the driver, looking along the snaking track. At present trains call at Bedale, Finghall, Leyburn and Redmire. Both Bedale and Leyburn are popular market towns, whilst Redmire is less than half an hour's walk along fieldpaths from the splendid attractions of Castle Bolton, where there is discounted entrance on production of your railway ticket. (there are other excellent discount offers in Leyburn, Bedale and Northallerton).

The ticket to Redmire is only the beginning of the

story. The next stage is to link the Wensleydale Railway with the other Trans Pennine trains from Leeds, Newcastle, Darlington and York at Northallerton, and then westwards to the scenic beauty of Aysgarth Falls. Eventually it is hoped

tracks will be re-laid to Askrigg, Hawes and finally to Garsdale to rejoin the Settle-Carlisle line and recreate one of the most wonderful rail journeys in England.

It might seem like a far off dream, but when worldwide oil supplies begin to run out, investment in rural railways will have ever greater economic significance. But even just with the line as far as Aysgarth, there will be considerable potential for the railway in terms of traffic management for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, with a real chance to develop park and ride services from Northallerton

and Leeming Bar, (close to the A1), as well as linking buses through both Wensleydale and Swaledale.

A distant dream? Not if sufficient people begin to share the vision and determination of the Wensleydale Railway Company. You can help realise the dream by travelling on the line, already a magnificent way of experiencing this part of Wensleydale. Trains run approximately two hourly in each direction from 1035 from Leeming, or 0935 from Redmire – please check times. Try, for example, the superb walk from Leyburn station via Leyburn Shawl, Preston-under-Scar, Bolton Park



Cab view

and the riverside to Redmire, with plenty of time to return by train to Leyburn or Leeming. Or from Redmire to Castle Bolton and on to Aysgarth – another lovely circular walk of about 6 miles.

You could also help by becoming a rail shareholder or volunteer. For timetable and further information try the excellent Wensleydale Rail website on [www.wensleydalerailway.com](http://www.wensleydalerailway.com) (which has details of linking main line trains and buses) or telephone 08454 505474.



Finghall Station

## Affordable Housing – A New Deal in the Yorkshire Dales?

Recent reports in the media have focused on the boost given to priorities for local housing in the National Park by William Carlow, the Government Planning Inspector appointed to review the Dales Local Plan. His recommendations, if adopted, will give new hope to local people who wish to buy their own new home in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Inspector has received backing from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority with a new restricted occupancy policy that will prevent new housing from being bought by people from outside the area as retirement homes, second homes or holiday lets.

Nearly all new homes, including barn conversions, will now be built to meet demand from local people and will be at more affordable prices. This could be up to a third less than the market price. The new policy is linked to local employment measures to ensure that new housing would be available only for people who work in the Park. The Inspector further strengthens the Plan by stating that any houses to be built within the National Park in the future should be smaller and therefore less costly and be located in villages with services, and be sold with restricted occupancy clauses.

Peter Watson, the YDNPA's Head of Planning, stated that since the policy would only apply to new homes, there would still be about 10,000 houses in the Park with virtually no occupancy restriction. He stressed that it was the intention to give local people who might be forced to move out of the Park, the opportunity to climb on the housing ladder. In the open market in order to supply the demand, it would be impossible to bring down prices to affordable levels for local

people without building on such a scale that development would destroy the character of the landscape.

The 2001 census highlights further some aspects of the affordable housing problem: in the average Dales village there are 15% of second homes and holiday cottages while in hotspots such as parts of Upper Wharfedale, it can be as high as 65%. But the Plan does allow limited new development for the open market in the four main Dales centres of Grassington, Reeth, Sedburgh and Hawes. Builders there will be allowed one open market home for every new one they build for "local need" – which will be decided by an independent arbiter.

Concern on these issues is not confined to the Yorkshire Dales National Park alone, as the Lake District National Park Authority is looking at a similar policy. In the Lakes there is perhaps an even more acute property boom, while the North York Moors National Park Authority, with generally smaller settlements, is working on a similar version to the Dales' initiative. The Inspector has even hinted that the housing problem was not unique to the countryside, and that it was possible that additional experiments would also be made in towns such as Ilkley or Otley where local people are also being priced out of the housing market. The Plan has recently been brought to the attention of the Scottish Executive's Communities Minister Malcolm Chisholm who has been asked to investigate the possibility of introducing a similar plan in Scotland, which suffers similar problems in keeping rural communities local.

The above measures have won all-party support on the National Park Authority, and strong backing



from parish councils. The key issue is seen as an overwhelming need for housing for young families. According to Martin Wainwright writing in the Guardian on December 13th 2004, ("New Dales homes: only Locals need apply") the cost of the average Dales house was £178,000 in 2002, compared to £95,000 nationally, and £70,000 in Yorkshire and Humberside. The gap has since grown even more sharply. Data in the Local Plan has shown that the steady erosion of young workers and their families from the area affects schools, health provision and other services which have obvious implications for the communities concerned, with many key workers having to be bussed in or make long, unsustainable and expensive car journeys.

The new Local Housing policy has been strengthened by the announcement of a unique partnership between the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Skipton Building Society and Craven District Council. This aims to provide affordable, rented housing for key workers to encourage them to live in the Dales' towns and villages where they work.

It is hoped that the scheme will start with a pilot project in the Craven area of the National Park and will gather momentum over a number of years at a capital cost of £10 million. Research is at present under way to identify the kind of key workers needed in the different communities in the Dales. Once a need has been identified in an area of the National Park, the Authority will identify suitable sites. This will be followed by the Skipton Building

Society funding the construction of two and three bedroom homes that would be let to the key workers at below average rents. John Goodfellow, Chief Executive of Skipton Building Society, said that his Board members were well aware of the housing problems and felt that the company should do something about it. "The proposal is that in each village or community in the National Park we will build between two and four houses. They will be aimed at people who we either want to import into the National Park, such as teachers, plumbers, electricians or people in the National Park who we want to keep because of the skills they have."

National Park Chief Executive, David Butterworth has declared, "Our overriding interest in the project is to try to secure the long-term future of our local communities. The scheme is unique and, as a result, raises many questions. There is no guarantee of success, but we are involved in and committed to it because, at the end of the day, public organisations sometimes have to go out on a limb to try to address some fundamental issues facing rural communities."

Carl Lis, Chairman of the National Park Authority and Leader of Craven District confirmed that Craven District Council sees the provision of affordable housing as a key priority and that they were very aware of the difficulties faced by many young people and families across the District. "The partnership would potentially be a nationally ground-breaking initiative for the provision of affordable housing of this type in rural areas."

highly readable, with his own superb photographs, and that haunting title poem reproduced above, this is a pocket size classic, a perfect bedside book. Look out for it in National Trust shops. **A Little Book of the Green Man**, by Mike Harding, Arum Press, (ISBN1 85410 563 9) £5.99.



*The Green Man in the Tower, Fountains Abbey*

## A Little Book of the Green Man

I am the face in the leaves  
I am the laughter in the forest,  
I am the king in the wood.  
And I am the blade of grass  
That thrusts through the stone-cold clay  
At the death of winter.  
I am before and I am after,  
I am always until the end  
I am the face in the forest,  
I am the laughter in the leaves

The Green Man, the pagan mythical figure of renewal and rebirth, survives into Christian times in many great churches and cathedrals all over the world as an enigmatic roof boss, or corbel. Mike Harding's evocative monograph finds examples from as far away as Nepal, and as close as our own Fountains Abbey and Bolton Priory. Scholarly, yet

## A Great Day Out at Malham Cove

A group of primary school children from Holy Cross School, Keighley, were able to enjoy a great day out last autumn thanks to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's outreach programme and the Yorkshire Dales Society's HBOS-funded "Sharing the Dales" project which helped with costs of transport. As reported in the recent winter issue No 89 of the YDS Review, funds to cover the transport costs of 200 children from the Keighley area were part of a wider initiative through which the Society is encouraging the use of public transport for leisure visits to the Dales. An additional feature of the trips is to encourage repeat visits by presenting the children's parents with a free travel voucher valid on Dales Bus services. A number of children indicated that the Malham trip was indeed their first ever visit to the Dales.

It is hoped to support more visits for people from deprived communities to the Dales, with the residue of project funds in 2005. Here are some extracts from the letters of appreciation the children wrote in spite of some difficult conditions and inclement weather. Climbing all the steps up to the Malham Cove obviously made an immense impression. Several children hoped to persuade their parents to take them for a return visit.

*Fatima wrote:*

"The Malham trip was the best trip I've ever been to. It was like a dream. ....I did have fun, but I also learned lots of things about water. I could not believe that I climbed 417 steps all by myself.....I hope that I can persuade my mum and dad to take me there again."

*Elize was delighted with the open landscape:*

The best part was all the fresh air I got! No cars, no chimneys or smoke, just fresh air. It felt great! The limestone steps were hard work. I couldn't do it, but my friends helped me. I also helped them..... Everything else was great apart from when my

friends fell over four times. It was funny. I'm so proud of myself."

*Sameena was also "on a high":*

"I enjoyed my trip to Malham even though I kept slipping. On the way, when we were coming, I enjoyed the bumps.....My favourite part was climbing the ladders. And I can't believe I walked up 417 steps! When we were at the top, I couldn't even breathe."

*Kerrie agrees:*

I am writing to you to say a big thank you for paying for us to visit Malham. ...I love slipping and getting muddy and collecting conkers. There are beautiful views and the waterfalls are beautiful. It would have been lovely if it was sunny.....I have had a new experience. I can't get my head over it all and was really tired. But I bet most of the children saw the dead sheep."

*Rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm as Raveena's letter makes plain:*

"Although it was cold and rainy, the two guides made sure it was fantastic....I really wanted to see the waterfall, but we saw where it was from far away. I found it tough when I climbed 417 limestone steps. I think it would have been better in good weather. I really liked it yesterday, it was a very nice new experience for me... I collected 26 conkers even though they were mucky."

*Jack is obviously keen on bird life:*

Even though we were all really muddy, we all enjoyed it. Another thing is we were all drenched, soaking wet through! I'm not sure whether we saw a kestrel, crow or a peregrine falcon due to the rain beating on my face, but thank you for all the laughs we had watching everyone slip in the mud!"

*Finally Shomayla promises:*

"I'm going to come back another day with my family (when it is a sunnier day.)"

### THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES

A Day School organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in association with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society on **Saturday April 16th** from **10am - 4.30pm** at **Grassington Town Hall**, looks at the historic environment of the Yorkshire Dales. The Yorkshire Dales National Park has some of the best preserved and extensive historic landscapes in the country. The day school will discuss some of the results of archaeological and historical survey and research in and around the National Park. Fee £10 including refreshments, but not lunch. For further information tel: 01756 752774 or email [herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk)



# Dalesbus - The Dawn of a New Era?

During 2004, the fiftieth Anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, many welcoming statements were made by the National Park Authority encouraging visitors to travel by rail and bus rather than by car and reduce ever growing congestion and pollution in the National Park. But at the same time funding constraints, mainly arising from cessation of the Countryside Agency's "Wider Welcome" rural transport fund, led to a reduction in the level of weekend bus services in the Dales.

This was a matter of great concern to the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group, who have worked hard for some time to achieve a sustainable network of services. The Group were also concerned that funding constraints could have led to the loss of the three Winter DalesBus services which have been introduced in the last few years.

Fortunately, however, North Yorkshire County Council were keen to maintain the extension of Keighley & District service 67A Keighley-Skipton to Grassington, operating hourly during the daytime on Sundays throughout the year. After protracted discussions with the YDNPA, funding was provided by the Authority with a contribution from Metro to enable service 805 to run to Upper Wharfedale and Hawes on Sundays throughout the Winter. 805 was operated by Reliance Motor Services from York via Leeds to the Dales and has been very well supported.

For the Summer of 2005 further discussions with NYCC and the YDNPA have enabled some welcome improvements to be made on last Summer's level of service. Amongst these are revisions of services through Wharfedale to provide two Sunday morning journeys from West Yorkshire to Hawes, leaving Leeds at 0815 and 0915, and returning from Hawes at 1525 and 1625, whilst the Bike Bus will run again to Kettlewell.

Service 807 to Hawes and Richmond will now start at Skipton, with a slight reduction in dates of

operation, in line with those of the Lancashire DalesRail train with which it connects at Ribbleshead. Service 803 Wakefield-Hawes via Leyburn and Swaledale, which ran on only five Sundays in 2004 with support from YDTUG, will run eight Sundays and the May Day, Spring and Late Summer Bank Holiday Mondays this year, again with support from YDPTUG. Service 830 Darlington-Richmond-Reeth-Hawes, newly introduced in 2004 on Sundays and Bank Holidays from the Spring Bank to late Summer Bank Holiday, will be extended to run on the same dates as the 807 with which it connects at Hawes. Full details are in the Metro Dalesbus pocket timetables available at TICs, National Parks Centres and bus and rail station in West Yorkshire on the YDPTUG web site at [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org) or on [www.traveldales.org.uk](http://www.traveldales.org.uk) which also has details of the excellent new Dales Bus discount scheme with local businesses and the new 113 Garsdale Station - Hawes bus service

Looking ahead, YDPTUG has been invited to join the newly formed Yorkshire Dales Sustainable Travel Partnership, which includes representatives from YDNPA, NYCC, the Y&H Government Office, Metro, Northern Trains and several others. The main purpose of the Partnership is to develop and promote integrated transport both within the Dales and to and from the urban areas of West Yorkshire, Lancashire, North Yorkshire, Cumbria and the North-East. Meanwhile thanks are due to NYCC and the YDNPA for the improvements in service achieved this year. For full details of the YDPTUG and its programme of walks and weekend YHA breaks from Summer 2005 Dales Bus services write to the Hon Treasurer, YDPTUG, 29 Somerville, Peterborough, PE4 5BB - individual membership is £5 per annum, households £8.

*Alan Sutcliffe*

## Diversification in Action

Members will recall our meeting in Settle after the foot and mouth disease epidemic when we heard from Chris Hall, from Airton, of the terrible loss of their beef herd and over 500 ewes which had taken over 50 years to establish. Chris and Jane decided to transform the working farm into a place to taste and buy fine, mainly local, foods and gifts.

The shop and tea-room at Townhead Farm opened in April 2003. This was followed by the development of the adjoining barn to form three beautiful holiday apartments to sleep from four to six people.

Chris still maintains 150 breeding ewes to produce



their own "Town End Lamb" in season along with other locally reared pork, lamb and beef. This is supplied through CCM Quality Foods Ltd providing

full traceability. Also stocked are a range of fresh organic fruit and vegetables, frozen fruit and vegetables, and ice creams, along with a range of preserves and chutneys, and delicious flavoured breads baked on Malham Moor. The tea-room and shop are open everyday except Monday (not including bank holiday Mondays) and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Chris and Jane are corporate members of the YDS and winners of the YIGA Farm Shop of the Year and Entrepreneur of the year 2004 awards. Members will be able to sample the fare and browse in the gift shop on their own and saunter up Malhamdale in June. Meanwhile Chris and Jane can be contacted on 01729 830902 or e-mail [townendfarm@malhamdale.com](mailto:townendfarm@malhamdale.com)

## Donate to the Dales

The Yorkshire Dales welcomes over 9 million visitors every year and through "Donate to the Dales" visitors can play an active part in the conservation of the Dales by contributing to projects across the Dales. From a donation of £1 for a badge and entry in a prize draw, to a larger donation for a project of your choice, these are just two ways that you can become involved.

Following, a two year trial period, the Donate to the Dales badge box scheme is to be officially launched in March. The scheme run jointly by the Yorkshire Dales Tourism Partnership and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust offers a number of ways for businesses and visitors to become involved.

Initially badge boxes were available at Yorkshire Dales National Park Visitor Centres, and Tourist Information Centres. Building on the success of the scheme, it is planned to expand the scheme to include tourist attractions and accommodation providers.

There are a number of different ways for people and businesses to be involved:-

- Host a "Donate to the Dales" box
- Operate an opt in or opt out scheme
- Fundraise as a business with either staff or customers
- Become a "Donate to the Dales" Member - there are three levels of membership for those

businesses who choose this route to support Donate to the Dales.

Money raised from the badge boxes and through membership will be spent on conservation projects in the Dales. Businesses raising over £500 in any one year will be allocated a project of their choice. Current projects include planting new woodlands, repairs to access routes, restoring walls and barns, protecting wildlife habitats and repairing buildings at risk. £2,000 was raised during the pilot scheme and this money will help vital conservation work keeping the beautiful Dales landscape for future generations to enjoy.

A Donate to the Dales website [www.donatetothedales.org](http://www.donatetothedales.org) is being

launched in March and will enable locals, visitors and businesses to follow the progress of the scheme and relevant projects. The site will list those businesses who are helping fund our conservation projects through their fundraising efforts. A donation page is available for those who wish to donate online.

If you would like further information about "Donate to the Dales", to host a badge box or would like to join our membership scheme, please contact Margaret Harrison at the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust on 015242 51004 or email [margaret.harrison@ydmtr.org](mailto:margaret.harrison@ydmtr.org)



# Daleswatch

## Tree-planting and Time Capsule

In early December children from Burnsall Primary School in the Dales and Stanbury Primary School in Keighley, helped the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) with the start of a massive tree-planting scheme in a field outside Hebden, in Upper Wharfedale, in a project which will eventually see 3,400 new native trees growing there. The scheme was organised by the YDNPA as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations in conjunction with the Yorkshire Post newspaper which is celebrating its 250th anniversary, and Dales' farmer Robin Gamble.

A time capsule containing a variety of information about the Dales was buried first at the site, in front of a commemorative plaque celebrating the occasion. Mr Gamble, whose family has run the farm for 100 years, and the owner of the 3.6 acre site formerly grazed by sheep, lost his livestock during the foot-and-mouth outbreak, and was forced to find other ways of using the land. After consultations with the Park, since the field was already under protection as an Environmentally Sensitive Area, the Anniversary Wood scheme was launched in March 2004. More than 600 people have pledged £12,500 plus to the project to cover the costs of planting, maintaining and protecting the 3,400 new trees. In exchange for a contribution of at least £10, individuals were able to buy a tree and have their name included in the time capsule.

Half the field will be planted with native ash, cherry, rowan, hazel, sessile oaks and downy birches. The new wood will link two other copses to create a two-hectare area and an ideal habitat for wildlife. In five years the trees will become visible and in 50 years develop into a mature woodland.

## If You Go Down To The Woods Today....

An experiment by the YDNPA's Trees and Woodland Officer Geoff Garrett, could prove to be a money-spinner for local landowners. Geoff is using freshly-cut logs to grow mushrooms. But these are not the usual fungi, but Shiitake, Yorkshire Oyster and Chicken of the Woods, that more usually appear in gourmet dishes on the tables of upmarket restaurants around the country. He is hoping that the success of the experiment may make a big difference to the way areas of broadleaf woodland in the National Park are looked after. Geoff explained that the Park has many small areas of woodland made up of broadleaf trees that help to create the distinctive Dales landscape, but are difficult to manage partly

because of their size. They are also uneconomical for their owners as they do not produce enough timber and are often left unmanaged and unfenced. Sheep tend to nibble new growth as the old trees fall which means that the woodland declines.

The experiment aims to see whether mushroom growth could provide more income for landowners and encourage them to manage broad-leaf areas better. Felled trees are cut up, holes drilled in the logs and plugged with pieces of silver birch impregnated with different types of mycelium – which produces mushrooms. Costs of tree thinning and planting have been met by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. One year later the logs should be covered in mushrooms, some like Shiitake can sell in the shops for £15 a kilo or more. And that can work out at between five and ten times the amount of money the landowner would get for selling the trees as timber. Initially Yorkshire Oyster Mushrooms native to the area will be used in the experiment and hopefully they will be seen as a truly Yorkshire product!

## Extra Cash for the Yorkshire Dales

Rural Affairs Minister Alun Michael announced that the YDNPA will receive an increase of £320,000 on their grant compared with the previous year. The Minister stated that as well as ensuring that each National Park Authority would receive an inflationary increase on their core grant, he was providing £200,000 per authority to continue the very successful Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). In addition there was funding for Parks to help them prepare land to be opened for public access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Richard Burnett, YDNPA Head of Finance and Resources, welcomed the increase which would enable the Authority to meet its responsibilities in carrying out the requirements of legislation. The grant for the SDF would also enable the Park to continue to find new ways to support local communities, jobs and the environment.

## Thornborough Henges

The Friends of Thornborough Henges have organised a free open meeting on the theme, "A Future for the Yorkshire plain" because the archaeology at risk spreads over such a wide area. Guest speakers will be featured from English Heritage, Newcastle University and North Yorkshire County Council. The meeting will start at 1.30pm on **Saturday 30th April**, at Masham Town Hall, with plenty of parking available. A bus service is available from Ripon.

# Spring Events

*Yorkshire Dales Society events for this spring include a variety of walks including one led by the new Society President Mike Harding in the Settle area, Part I and Part II of the Mosaic Walk with plenty to look at and admire on route, a more traditional walk round the Grassington area with an extra lecture as a bonus. Finally a walk with the chance to call in and see corporate member Chris Hall who has managed to diversify successfully after the depredations suffered by the farming community and many others in the wake of foot and mouth outbreak a few years ago.*

**PLEASE NOTE THE COST OF LECTURE ADMISSION IS £2 PER HEAD FOR YDS MEMBERS AND £3 A HEAD FOR NON MEMBERS.**

*(Please consider using a walking stick for any walks with steep sections or any walks that are likely to be muddy or slippery.)*

**SATURDAY APRIL 9TH WALK IN THE GRASSINGTON AREA** led by Norman Wordsworth (tel: 01756 792431) - 3-4 miles with one or two uphill sections. Meet Grassington outside the National Park Centre (car park) for 10.30 am. Dales Bus 74 from Ilkley d. 0935 or 72 from Skipton rail station 10.00, bus station d. 1005. Pub, café or packed lunch.

**LECTURE: MINES AND MINERS OF HEBDEN** - a talk by David Joy in the Octagon Room at Grassington Town Hall at 2.15pm.

**SATURDAY APRIL 30TH SETTLE IN THE VIKING AGE**, a talk by Alan King as part of the Yorkshire Dales Workshops' Scandinavian Festival, (see article on festival on p.6 in the YDS Review). The lecture takes place at the C of E Primary School, Band Street, near Booths' Supermarket, Settle, at 2pm and will finish around 3pm. By arrangement, YDS members' admission charge will be £2 as usual and £3 to non members, **but you must show evidence of YDS membership at this event.** (Note the concession applies **only** to this event in the Festival).

**SATURDAY MAY 7th THIRTY YEARS OF DALES RAIL.** A 7 mile walk with Colin Speakman (tel: 01943 607868) to retrace one of the first walks from the pioneering Dales Rail Train on May 3rd 1975 between Dent Station and Ribbleshead. This walk will join celebrations at Ribbleshead to mark the 30th anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park project that gave a whole new reason to save



and restore the magnificent Settle-Carlisle line. Train from Leeds 0849, Skipton 0926, Settle 0950 for Dent Station (a.1016) – book Dent Day Return.

**SATURDAY MAY 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, at 2pm prompt at Dacre Banks Village Hall. After the AGM there will be a short tea interval. At about 3.20pm, Paul Burgess, Director of Nidderdale AONB will speak on "Nidderdale AONB in perspective." Bus 24 from Harrogate Bus Station at 1230 arrives Dacre Banks 1302 (pub in village for lunch).

**SUNDAY MAY 15TH THE PRESIDENT'S WALK** - An eight mile walk, (some steep sections) with Yorkshire Dales Society President Mike Harding, writer, broadcaster and musician. Meet in Settle Market Place by stone column at 1030. Train to Settle leaves Leeds 0902, Skipton 0943. Bring packed lunch.

**SATURDAY JUNE 18TH SUMMER STROLL IN MALHAMDALE** led by Chris Wright tel: 01756 749699. A 5 mile walk from Gargrave via Bell Busk to Airton for a visit to Corporate Members Chris and Jane Hall's Townend Farm Shop and Tea-room. We will arrive in time for lunch. This will be followed by a three mile walk to Malham with return to Gargrave or Skipton by bus. Members may like to take an earlier bus direct to Airton. Meet at Gargrave Summer Seat at 1030. Bus 804 leaves Skipton rail station at 1000, Skipton bus station 1005 or park in Gargrave.

**SUNDAY JULY 24TH MOSAIC TRAIL PART I** an event specially for National Parks' Week, led by Chris Hartley, tel: 01943 873197 or 0787 6343675. Meet outside the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes at 11.30am for a moderate 7 mile walk up to Burtsett, Gayle and return to Hawes. Take a packed lunch. Walk should finish about 3.30 – 4pm. Park at Hawes or Dalesbus 800 Wakefield 9740, Leeds Bus Station 0815, Otley 0850 Ilkley 0910 a, Hawes Dales CM 1120 or 807 from Skipton Station 0950, Skipton Bus Station, Settle 1025 Ribbleshead (for train link) 1100. a. Hawes 1125.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 7TH MOSAIC TRAIL PART II**, led by Chris Hartley, tel: 01943 873197 or 0787 6343675, a moderate 7 mile walk on the other side of the valley via Hardraw and back to Hawes. Meet again at the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes at 1130. Return at 3.30-4pm. Packed lunch needed. Bus times as July 24th.





Front Cover picture: *Fountains Abbey on an early spring day.*  
Photo by Colin Speakman.

Back Cover picture: *Debbie Moxon's Jewellery* – see page 7.

### ***Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.***

*Views expressed in the YDS Review are not necessarily those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.*

*Any contributions should be sent to the Editors,  
The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Civic Centre, Cross Green,  
Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1HD.  
Telephone/Answerphone 01943 461938.*

*The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.*

### ***Membership Subscription Rates***

*Single Adult £11, Family/Couple £15  
Single Retired £9, Retired Couple £12, Student/Unwaged £6  
Affiliated £26, Corporate from £26.*

*Change to Direct Debit if you haven't already done so; write or call the YDS office. Your reminder contains your membership card and details of your membership. Please return the relevant tear-off slip with your cash payments to the YDS office. Please sign your Gift Aid form if you haven't already done so.*

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