

Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 91 Summer 2005



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Yorkshire Dales
Society



£1.50

Celebrating Access

28th May, 2005 was a historic day for the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB. On that day, no less than 64% of land within the National Park and 34% of the AONB became open for public access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

On a bleak, cold day at Ribbleshead, with icy wind and rain roaring under the famous viaduct arches, nearly 200 people – walkers, landowners, conservationists, Rangers, Dales Volunteers, officials, politicians, not just from the Dales but from all over the North, gathered in a large marquee to celebrate what the Chairman of English Nature, Sir Martin Doughty, was to describe as the culmination of seventy years of campaigning for access to the mountains and moorland of England and Wales.

Typical among the many guests were Alan and Elsie Gaskell, long standing Yorkshire Dales Society and Ramblers Association members from Calderdale, who have campaigned long and hard for over sixty years to achieve what has come to pass – freedom to walk their native hills.

The Yorkshire Dales Society has played little direct part in the campaign for Access in the Yorkshire Dales. We have always felt that footpath and access matters are the prime concern of those two excellent campaigning organisations, the Ramblers Association and the Open Spaces Society, and it is inappropriate for us to duplicate their work. Moreover we have several Dales farmers and landowners among our own membership and the more emotive elements of “Right of Roam” sloganising are easy to misunderstand and could alienate many people who support the Society and the things we value. In fact it was good to see the Moorland Association present and actively participating at Ribbleshead, partners in ensuring that the CROW Act measures work for everyone’s benefit.

What we have is not “Right to Roam” as such, but managed access on specific areas – over registered

common land, and over specified areas of uncultivated moorland. This access is subject to a variety of restrictions, including the right of landowners to close the moorland on 28 days per year, and ensuring dogs are kept on “short” leads especially during the bird breeding season, or even banning dogs completely on some grouse moors, except where there are public rights of way.

The success of the CROW Act is due to the hard work of many organisations – the Ramblers Association who have fought long and passionately to achieve these important new rights, the Government – represented at Ribbleshead by Jim Knight MP, the new Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity – who have found time to enact this important new legislation, the Countryside Agency who have implemented it on the Government’s behalf, the National Park Authority, the Dales Access Forum and teams of volunteers who have helped to painstakingly map the boundaries of the approved areas, and farmers and landowners who have co-operated to make the new arrangements work over land they own and manage.

But as David Butterworth, National Park Authority Chief Executive, pointed out, the days of warning notices and Keep Out are over in the Yorkshire Dales, the future is about working together, for common benefit and common interest. Everyone – visitors and the local community alike – are stakeholders in keeping the Dales as beautiful and as rich in biodiversity as they are. The economic benefits visitors bring enable local communities to thrive, support jobs and services, and help justify the kind of continuing agri-environmental financial support which upland farming in areas such as the Yorkshire Dales will increasingly need to survive through the 21st century.

So will the new Access make a major difference to the Yorkshire Dales? In practical terms, very little. As we discovered on May 28th, walking away from marked paths can be tough work – ankle deep in sphagnum peat bog, stumbling over tussocks,



Walkers arriving at Ribbleshead station for the YDNPA access celebrations.

struggling waist high through tall heather or bracken are not most ramblers’ idea of fun. Most walkers will keep to recognised path and tracks, even in popular areas such as the Three Peaks. Only a tiny minority will sally forth, map in hand, over the wilderness. The idea that vast “hordes” will be soon trampling their way across the heather moors is absurd. In fact in most of the Yorkshire Dales, over much of the Three Peaks, Howgills and elsewhere, (though far less so in Nidderdale), there has been a long tradition of “de facto” access, the occasional walkers ignored by farmers and gamekeepers as long as they didn’t climb walls or kept their dog under control. It’s more about knowing that you can now walk, legally and without fear, where you choose, without passing bullying notices threatening prosecution if you were bold enough to leave the tarmac road and head for that nearby hill top.

There will be a few areas, popular summits or viewpoints, such as Rogan Seat in Swaledale or Addleborough in Wensleydale, hitherto difficult of access, where new paths to the summit will soon appear, encouraged by guidebooks. The danger is that this will encourage more unsightly roadside parking as people leave their vehicle to walk the quickest way to a new viewpoint. But in most cases, walkers, as on the long-established Barden Moor and Fell Access Area, will keep to the familiar paths and tracks.

The new OS Explorer maps for the Dales, just published to coincide with the new arrangements, now include details of all the CROW Act open

access areas in the Dales.

But with rights also come responsibilities. The Countryside Agency’s new bywords of Respect, Protect, Enjoy, are a useful guide. The biggest concern landowners have is over dogs which, even when well behaved, can innocently scare birds away from ground nests with fatal consequences. An informative new leaflet by the National Park Authority – available at all Park Centres – highlights both where the new Access Areas are and codes of sensible and considerate

behaviour to be followed at all times, by all of us.

An excellent aspect of the major event on May 28th was an awareness that Access is also about Sustainable Access – and Opportunity for all. Ribbleshead was chosen by the National Park Authority and the event timed to coincide with trains arriving at the nearby station on the Settle-Carlisle railway, with huge numbers of walkers taking the train rather than reducing Ribbleshead to traffic chaos and parking blight. There was also a park and ride bus service from Hawes and from Horton.

This made the point – still not fully understood by all members even of the National Park Authority – that developing and heavily promoting sustainable transport networks is every bit as vital as opening up the footpath and access opportunities in delivering fundamental National Park purposes.

But in many ways, as David Butterworth also emphasised, the CROW Act is the most important piece of legislation for the Yorkshire Dales since the historic 1949 Act which established National Parks. The National Park Authority, Nidderdale AONB JAC and their partners deserve our warmest congratulations for an excellent start to the Act’s implementation. But it is up to every one of us to play our part to ensure that the Act achieves its visionary objectives, and that we do indeed Respect, Protect and Enjoy a landscape which is so special to all of us.

Colin Speakman

Change in the Dales - What will CAP Reform mean for the Dales Landscape?

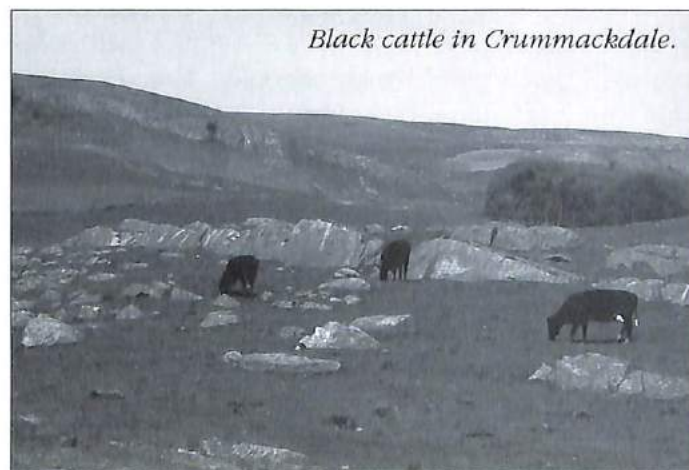
Martin O'Hanlon is a key member of the DEFRA's Rural Development Service in our Region, responsible for working with Dales farmers to implement the new support arrangement for agriculture and rural development. RDS works very closely with English Nature and the Countryside Agency – soon to be one organisation Natural England – and of course the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Anyone who lives in or cares about the British Countryside will surely be aware that the system of support for British farming is undergoing the biggest change for thirty years, and possibly longer. Understandably, many farmers feel threatened by Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). However, these changes are part of a package of measures designed to help the industry recover from years of falling incomes, Foot and Mouth (FMD), BSE, and become more profitable, competitive and environmentally sustainable.

Following FMD, a task force was set up under Sir Don Curry to find ways of addressing the problems of low consumer confidence and dwindling farm incomes that had plagued the industry for years. Curry concluded that, as a consequence of production subsidies under the CAP, farmers had lost touch with their markets. He also recognised that the public get much more from the countryside than just food – they value it for the wildlife and landscape it supports and use it for leisure and recreation. Although tourism and recreation generate more for the economy than farming, they depend on farming to manage the landscapes visitors value. And yet, farmers do not benefit from the income visitors bring. Curry concluded that shifting farm support away from production and towards environmental management would be a sound justification for continued financial support. Furthermore, breaking the link between production and subsidy would allow farmers to be more responsive to market demands and avoid the environmentally damaging consequences of the CAP. These recommendations (and nearly a hundred more) were accepted by government and carried forward in the strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food, launched in December 2002 and incorporated in the CAP reform package agreed last year.

With effect from 1st January 2005, one Single Payment Scheme replaces livestock and crop subsidies. Farmers in the hills will no longer receive payments based on the number of stock they keep. Instead, payments will be for maintaining farmland in good agricultural and environmental condition. Other changes in the CAP help to make the new policy more sustainable – a proportion of payment formerly paid for production subsidy is re-directed into schemes with purely environmental measures. Essentially, SPS provides a baseline level of sound management, which other voluntary 'agri-environmental schemes' build on. Agri-environmental schemes are not a new concept – they have been operating in the UK (including the Dales) since 1987. However, the CAP reform package allowed the Government to access more EU funds (skimmed off the direct farm support pot and matched by the Treasury) to dramatically expand, refine and re-focus them, incorporating a new element that would boost uptake from 10% to over 70%.

The new scheme (Environmental Stewardship) was launched earlier this year, replacing Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship (these are now closed to new applicants but will continue until the last agreements expire in 2014). Environmental Stewardship will operate on two levels: entry and higher, plus a strand for organic farmers. Within the entry level, farmers will be required to identify and retain environmental features on their farm through a simple survey. They will then be able to choose from a wide menu of simple options to benefit habitats and features at a landscape scale. Within



Black cattle in Crummackdale.

the Dales, farmers may choose from over 60 options, such as maintenance of walls, management of hedges, protection of historical features, grassland management with no or very low (fertiliser) inputs, management of rush pastures (to create mosaics of cover for the benefit of waders) and more. Each option has a points score and the farmer chooses options to reach a target score based on farm size.

Higher Level Stewardship will be more sophisticated, allowing tailor made agreements to be drawn up for maintenance and restoration of high value features and habitats, such as heather moorland, wetlands, river banks, species rich grassland (including hay meadows and limestone grassland) and small woodlands. It also includes measures to improve water quality (crucial for aquatic insects and fish) and support the use of local seed sources in habitat restoration projects. Capital grants will be available for a wide range of works, including restoration of traditional buildings and boundaries.

Environmental Stewardship will allow many more farmers to enter an environmental agreement than before and reward them for their role in managing the countryside. It should make a difference at the landscape scale, through the management of boundary features and widespread species such as lapwing, curlew and a range of farmland birds, whilst allowing special areas to be managed more sensitively. This will continue and expand the achievements of ESA and Countryside Stewardship – over 130,000 ha of Dales land is already under agreement in these schemes. They have helped safeguard flower rich meadows and pastures, regenerate heather moorland, restore hundreds of miles of walls and hedges, restore hundreds of barns and helped the recovery of some scarce species (such as black grouse).

At present it remains difficult to predict what impact these changes will have on land management, as many factors are at play. Most farmers should be able to participate in Entry Level Stewardship, perhaps choosing maintenance of walls, management of rushes and low input grassland as options. SPS may well drive an overall reduction in livestock numbers in the hills, but this may mask some variations – some farmers might choose to reduce numbers and specialise in environmental management through Higher Level Stewardship. Others, perhaps with more improved land, might concentrate on sheep production and possibly use their inbye (enclosed low lying land) more intensively. Some marginal land may become very lightly managed at minimal cost, merely to satisfy SPS requirements. In reality, things are likely to be much more complex than that. Changes to the Hill Farming Allowance will also impact on the economics of upland farming.



Tractor and muck-spreader, Walden.

Whilst an overall reduction in sheep numbers might be seen as broadly a good thing (so long as enough hardy breeds remain to maintain mosaics of different habitat on moorland), the same cannot be said for cows. In environmental terms, the Dales need cattle. Hill cows are ideal tools for removing coarse grass left over from light Summer grazing patterns which allow wildflowers to flourish and seed (particularly on limestone grasslands); they are heavy animals and so trample seed from meadow flowers into the ground; their dung is a haven for insects, providing a source of food for birds; they can prevent rush cover becoming too dense for curlew and redshank. If current trends continue, recent declines in cattle numbers could accelerate. Whilst plans to incorporate special measures to support grazing by cattle in Environmental Stewardship were rejected by the EU, it is hoped that new measures can be introduced shortly.

It is unlikely that there will be significant changes in the Dales landscape until SPS has bedded in for a year or two. Livestock farmers cannot react to change overnight, as so much time and money is invested in their stock. Markets may take time to adjust to change and find a new level. Farmers may take time to recognise that their stock numbers will no longer be dictated by the subsidy regime as the changes in payments to individuals will be phased in over a number of years. Many will be taking this time to take stock and judge how best to react.

However, there is a further piece of the jigsaw that would help to secure a bright green future for the Dales. The consumer. The new payment regime and environmental schemes should help farming to be more environmentally sustainable and better attuned to what the public want. But to ensure that farming is economically sustainable, the public needs to want and buy what farming produces – food and the British Countryside.

Martin O'Hanlon

Team Leader Rural Development Service, Craven

The Ken Willson Award

What better way to start a Yorkshire Dales Society AGM, as we did before the formal business on Saturday May 14th, than by presenting two dedicated and charming young people, Chris Bell and Louise Williams, each with a £500 cheque and a beautifully framed certificate as joint winners of the first Ken Willson Award.

Ken, the first YDS President and also a President of Craven CPRE and West Riding Ramblers Association, championed and encouraged many committed young people over the years - in some cases future "stars" as regards environmental concerns. He would have been greatly thrilled at this outcome. The Award jointly sponsored by The Yorkshire Dales Society and Craven CPRE, and supported by many individual YDS members, was in memory of Ken, a tireless and lifelong campaigner for the Dales countryside and environment in its widest sense.

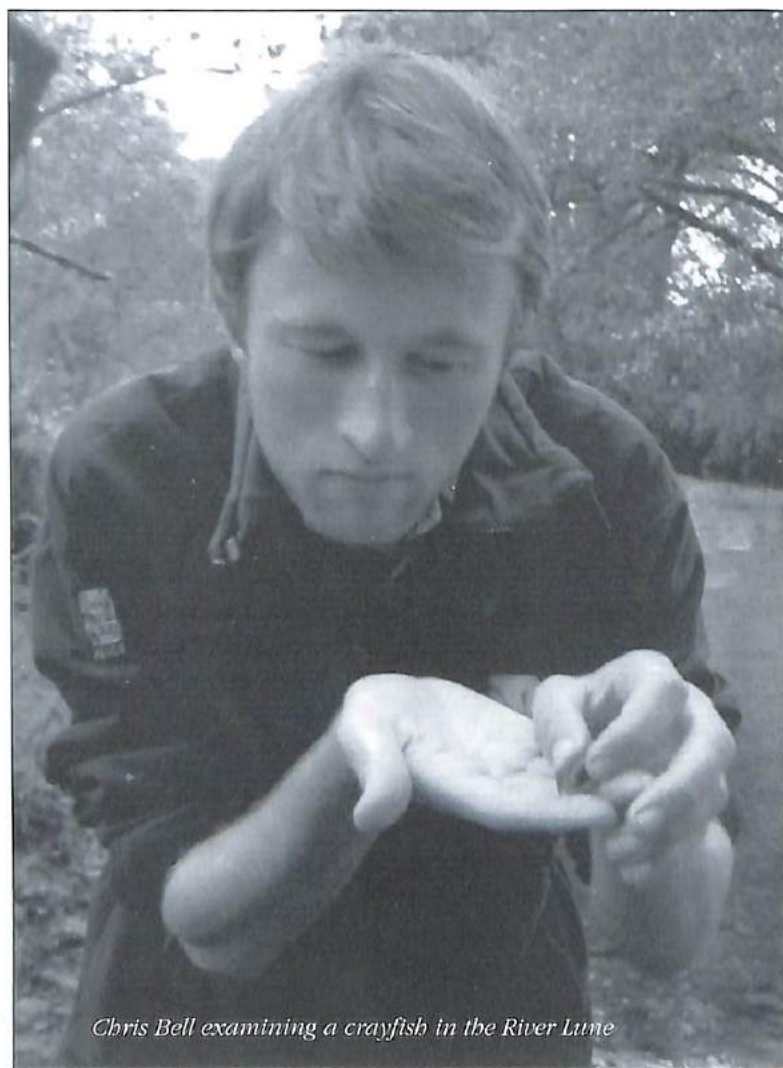
The Award is to be presented annually to a young person under 30 years of age who either lives or works within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nidderdale AONB or adjacent community who has made an important contribution, in the opinion of the judges, in one of several areas: the protection and enhancement of the Dales environment, the understanding and enjoyment of the landscape, natural history or cultural heritage, the cultural life of the Dales through the arts or related cultural activity, the local economy including upland farming and land management or to the care and social well being of Dales Communities.

YDS Chairman and Award Chairman, Malcolm Petyt, introduced the Award and explained that judges had been so impressed by the achievements

of both young people, Chris Bell and Louise Williams, that, after a tied vote, it had been decided to offer a joint prize on this occasion. Dorothy Willson, Ken's widow and YDS Honorary member, and CPRE chairman Hilary Fenton, presented the cheques and framed certificates. Dorothy Willson was then presented with a very attractive bouquet.

The Two Prizewinners

Chris Bell grew up on a Northumberland dairy farm where his father was Head Cowman, and worked part-time on the farm while he studied



Environmental Management at Northumbria University. After working as a volunteer for Durham Wildlife Trust and then participating in a mixture of paid and unpaid projects, including a management plan for Escomb Lake, near Witton-le-Wear, he worked first as a graduate apprentice with English Nature at Leyburn and then as a member of the conservation staff on a temporary post till September, where he was happy on many occasions to cycle through the Yorkshire rain to deal with more mundane botanical chores as well as to survey limestone pavements, high hill pastures or woodland. He covered a wide range of disciplines whether it was working with cattle in the Limestone Country project, monitoring butterflies at Scar Close, surveying crayfish in the Lune, or recording moths in his spare time for the local natural history society or bats round Settle for the Bat Conservation Trust, as well as additional work for



other local groups or even his own research. In September Chris will leave for New Zealand for seven months to work as a conservation volunteer in Tongariro National Park. The financial aspect of the award will be a tremendous help for his airfare. We are delighted to wish him every success.

Louise Williams was born in Staffordshire and studied geography and media at Leeds University. She then worked in Herefordshire and for Defra in Leeds, on country stewardship schemes before being employed by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as Limestone Countryside Project Officer, to work with local farmers to re-introduce traditional hardy breeds of cattle to the limestone uplands round Ingleborough, Malham and Wharfedale and to help restore and enhance an internationally important habitat. The EU LIFE project supported by the National Parks Authority, English Nature and the National Trust, has already proved to be a success; the meat produced selling exceedingly well. The project is a means of giving valuable income to local farmers as well as aiding improvements to the environmental quality of the grazing areas. Louise herself is the first to champion the enthusiasm and hard work of the farmers themselves, essential for the success of the project. However, equally vital has been her passionate commitment, enormous determination to make

things happen, combined with her expertise, negotiating skills and sheer hard work. In the aftermath of Foot and Mouth, as important as the income and environmental improvements for the farmers, has been the positive feelings she has helped to restore in the future of upland farming. We are delighted to wish Louise every future success.

The Yorkshire Dales Society would particularly like to thank all the Award Judges for their warm encouragement and support for the project in its initial year, and to express its gratitude to all our entrants. The photo opportunity at the event was enhanced by two large facsimile cheques provided by YDS Treasurer, David Smith, who was much concerned that his realistic handiwork should not cause the winners to present **both** actual and facsimile cheques to the banks, and also two beautifully crafted certificates which were also David's handiwork.

YDS members will have the opportunity to hear more about the details of the Limestone Country Project at a YDS lecture from Louise Williams on Saturday February 4th 2006 at Addingham Memorial Hall, see Syllabus Card for details.

Chairman's Report to the Yorkshire Dales Society AGM, 2005

Yorkshire Dales Society Chairman, Dr Malcolm Petyt, opened his first Annual Report by paying tribute to Dr Chris Wright, his predecessor for over 10 years, for his dedicated and ongoing service. Chris continues to play a major role in promoting the Society by giving talks, seeking new individual and corporate members, and helping to arrange - and attending - many lectures, walks and other events for members and the public.

The past year had seen important developments in which the YDS had been involved. Firstly was the issue of changes to the National Park boundaries. The Boundaries agreed when the Park was established in 1954 reflected now obsolete local government or other political considerations, rather than landscape criteria. In consequence they are often artificial and illogical. The current exclusion of such magnificent areas as Mallerstang, Wild Boar Fell/Swarth Fell, and the Northern Howgill Fells, (which form an integral part of the Howgills massif) and part of the western fells are major anomalies in landscape terms.

A major project to re-examine the boundaries of both the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks has been carried out by the Frank Lee on behalf of Friends of the Lake District. YDS had given the project both moral and financial support. As a result of this work, the Countryside Agency has commissioned its own research whose recommendations have been accepted by the Agency's Board, enabling the process of amending the boundaries to both National Parks or neighbouring AONBs to begin. There is now a real prospect of those unspoiled areas being protected by being part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park within the next few years.

Secondly there was the threat of a major wind farm development within the proposed extension to the Lake District National Park in the Lune Gorge. The Chairman reminded members that the YDS does not oppose wind farms - *if* they are in appropriate locations, and *if* they are part of a range of measures for renewable energy, energy conservation, and energy efficient transport. However, he believed it was misguided to sacrifice

our finest landscapes for renewable energy schemes which would only have a marginal impact on an ever-growing demand for energy - and whose main advantage in political terms was that they were a very visible but token gesture towards reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. The proposed windfarm at Whinash (for which the public enquiry was still proceeding) would erect 27 giant turbines, each 70 metres (229 feet), each blade 45 metres long, on the hills above Borrowdale - described by Alfred Wainwright as "the finest valley in Westmorland outside the National Park" and Bretherdale, just outside the present eastern boundary of the Lake District.

For the YDS the major problem with the proposed windfarm would be its effect on the Howgill Fells; a very special area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park which provides a unique experience for walkers seeking quiet enjoyment of a "wild" and tranquil countryside. The Howgills are "open country" both in the sense of having no walls or fences, and in offering extensive open views. The Whinash development would have a severe detrimental effect on this experience, both in visual and psychological terms. The wind farm and its related structures, including access roads and transmission lines, would constitute a major man-made industrial intrusion into a largely unspoiled landscape. These impacts would be caused not only by the size and number of the turbines and related structures, but by the movement of the blades. Parts of the development would be visible from as far away as the southernmost Howgills including Winder, above Sedbergh, whilst blade tips would be seen from as far away as Wild Boar Fell. YDS had joined the "Friends of Bretherdale", a consortium of amenity organisations and individuals opposed to the Whinash development. Partners supporting the services of a leading QC include Friends of the Lake District, Council for National Parks, and the Ramblers' Association.

At last year's AGM it was discussed how the Society might appropriately commemorate their late President, Ken Willson, who had done so much for



Presentation to the Winners of the Ken Willson Awards

so many environmental causes over more than half a century. Details of the first Award made at the AGM are outlined elsewhere in this Review.

Once again during the year the Society had arranged an excellent programme of events for its members and the general public. The 2004-5 lecture series ranged from aspects of social history, the 18th century landscape garden, ancient rock art, industrial archaeology, local and landscape history, to significant landscape features. Particularly enjoyable and highly informative was Professor Mike Dixon's lecture on the Ilkley Water Cure, while David Joy's lecture on the mines and miners of Hebden admirably blended the general and the particular. Keith Boughey's lecture demonstrating the quantity and variety of Cup and Ring Stone markings in Yorkshire also aroused much interest in a more specialised area of archaeology. Many of the lectures were preceded by a morning walk in the area, and other walks took place independently of the lectures. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to all walk leaders and speakers.

In 2003 YDS was given a grant of £5,000 by Halifax Bank of Scotland for a Dales project. YDS Council decided to use this money to help people who, for a variety of reasons, including income or disability, were not able to visit the Dales. The scheme, known as "Sharing the Dales" worked with "Outreach" officers of the National Park, and provided money to help with the costs of transport - coaches and minibuses - to bring elderly people and youngsters from deprived areas to the Dales.

The scheme has been a great success, with nearly 500 people from deprived areas of Bradford and Keighley able to enjoy what for many was their first ever visit to the Dales. Letters of thanks and appreciation - and of intentions to return to the Dales - have been received. Not all the money was used last year, so the YDS have been able to continue their assistance to the programme for 2005. The National Park's Project Officer acknowledged that, "without the money from YDS we would not have been able to run a lot of the projects which have brought so much pleasure to

so many people. The Society is helping in a big way to improve the understanding and appreciation of the Yorkshire Dales." One YDS member was so delighted with the children's letters of appreciation published in the YDS Review that she gave a generous donation of £250 to supplement the 2005 programme.

The YDS Review has maintained its high standards, in both its content and the quality of presentation. Various key articles in the Review have been noted and commented on by members and outside bodies, including the Press. Colin and Fleur Speakman were thanked for ensuring that the magazine made its regular appearance and was a main mouthpiece for the Society. The Chairman praised the equally valuable and important, but less well-known *Dales Digest*, which summarises press coverage from local and national sources of issues affecting the Dales. This is now prepared for the Society by Rhona Thornton, who has produced the last four quarterly issues to an undiminished standard.

Many other people work to keep the Society running and effective as a voice for the Dales. The Council of Management has continued to meet every two months to discuss a wide range of issues. A special tribute was made to Dennis Cairns, a long-serving member of the YDS Council for over ten years, and active member of the Events and Membership Committee, who had served the Dales in many capacities, notably as a Voluntary Warden for the National Park. He was very warmly thanked for his years of service and would be much missed. Other members have served the Society in different ways: Rod and Judith Clough, with Hilary Baker as a ready reserve, look after the catering. Mike Johnson, Maurice Denton and Margaret Rhodes give dedicated work at the Office. David Smith, in addition to his contribution as Honorary Treasurer, is involved in the Office in terms of computer and data management, and the Society is very much indebted to him for all the time he gives to YDS.

Finally, the Chairman referred to Colin and Fleur Speakman, the Secretariat, and their unstinting dedicated work for the YDS, and declared that the Society owed them a great deal. As the Society will be celebrating the Silver Jubilee in 2006, Colin and Fleur have suggested that after this watershed, some reduction in their involvement might be appropriate.

In recent months the Society has had the first-ever substantial legacy from a former member. The Council will undoubtedly be considering very carefully how this generous gift will be used to ensure maximum, long term benefit for the Society. The Chairman suggested that this was a very positive note on which to conclude his Report.

YDS Financial Report

The Yorkshire Dales Society Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2005

	2005	2004
Grant from HBOS	-	5000
Subscriptions	12840	13753
Donations	2244	3074
Bank Interest	655	393
Profit on Events	91	457
Sundry Income	79	124
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	3399	3338
	19308	26139
"Review"	5040	5040
Postage	2111	2143
Stationery	660	475
Administration	5990	5915
Office Rent	1440	1397
Telephone	262	264
Subscriptions & Donations made	3453	737
Depreciation	188	588
Travelling Expenses	762	335
Accountancy	455	438
Sundry Expenses	4	73
Bank Charges	230	318
Printing & Publicity	281	451
	20876	18174
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-1568	7965

The Yorkshire Dales Society Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2005

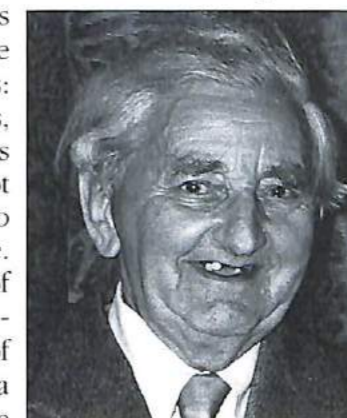
	2005	2004
FIXED ASSETS	1350	748
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	145513	42669
Cash in Hand	600	600
	146113	43269
CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Accruals	435	385
NET CURRENT ASSETS	145678	42884
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	147028	43632
REPRESENTED BY		
Profit & Loss Account	42064	43632
Ken Willson Fund	4805	-
Lucy Sargant Fund	100159	-
	147028	43632

Back to Basics

YDS Honorary Member and well-known Dales landscape historian and author, Dr Richard Muir, in a provocative and lively article, celebrates the role of the amateur naturalist, geologist, botanist and archaeologist and asks - are the professionals always right?

I will have been about seven or eight years old when I discovered that various countrysides had histories. I was at Birstwith School, in Nidderdale, and Miss Stockdale told us about a Dr Raistrick, who had discovered no end of wonderful things about the Dales. Unsullied by any academic experience, I imagined him to be a country doctor who would pause on his rounds to make his discoveries - usually of treasure, rune stones or secret maps. Every so often, he would probably go to the Royal Hall in Harrogate and proclaim his discoveries to a spellbound audience. Doubtless, people would cheer and say: "How does he do it?"

It is only recently that I have fully realised how badly we miss Arthur Raistrick and his peers. They pioneered the understanding of historic landscapes: they introduced us to our homelands, where we had previously walked as strangers. They were people who not only nurtured enthusiasts, but they also possessed immense personal courage. Arthur Raistrick inspired generations of disciples - some who can still be met - progressing on their endless voyages of discovery around the Dales. He was a pacifist and then a Quaker and he suffered wartime internment at



Arthur Raistrick

Wormwood Scrubs and Durham jail for living up to his beliefs. His contemporary, W. G. Hoskins, was a Devon lad who inspired millions to learn about the 'making of the English landscape'. He held sensitive university posts, but this did not prevent him from berating "bowler-hatted" bureaucracy and what he regarded as loathsome warmongers in the most vitriolic of terms. Jacquetta Hawkes, who left her husband for J. B. Priestley, was a flower of the Oxbridge intellectual hothouse. This did not deter her from being a founding member of C.N.D. As an archaeologist, she suffered the contempt of the archaeologically ignorant by endorsing a humane approach to the subject instead of the pseudo-scientific convention then in vogue. She knew that archaeology is about people and she had the courage to be doubly unpopular: firstly for her humanity and secondly for the scholar's 'crime' of writing for amateurs. Her highly successful book, *A Land*, contains some of the most vivid evocations

of our relationship with the setting that can ever be found.

These founders were people who deserved great respect as human beings as well as being professional scholars. However, most of the subjects that converge on the landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales were not pioneered by academics, but developed gradually from the (often obsessive) enquiries of amateurs. The era of the amateur enthusiast was not as long ago as one might imagine - geography, for example, has only featured in our university syllabuses for very little more than a century. The amateurs catalogued plants, snails, moths, mosses and almost every other facet of creation. They studied rocks and stratigraphy. They excavated monuments (often we wish they had left them alone, but the work by enthusiasts created a fundamental chronology for the professionals who followed). Country parsons cobbled together local histories from sources that may since have vanished. Surveyors, like Joseph

Lucas in Nidderdale, recorded the vocabularies of now decayed local dialects. Doctors really did pause on their rounds to record observations of natural history. Geology, natural history, geography, archaeology, cultural studies and all the realms of topography were built on the efforts of amateur enthusiasts.

Today, I greatly fear that the amateur enthusiasts are being marginalised and under-valued. Ironically, this is at a time when the heritage interest, that

they largely created, has become big business and big in government. Countless careers are being built on our heritage. There are managers, focus groups, interminable networking sessions, sponsors and still more managers. Some of the problem, I think, results from the fact that what was once a vocation is now, for thousands, an occupation. Career pressures are strong and time is not available for the years of painstaking and dogged enquiry that produce real expertise. Within the Dales, there are a few people with immense scholarly expertise and long experience in the nuances of landscape history. I cannot see anything wrong with such experts being paid a reasonable rate for the unique help that they give. However, sometimes careerism and commercial motives are too strong, and appear to be more focused on winning the organiser a large grant for some sort of community project work. Sooner or later, the participants are likely to realise what is happening.

and their precious enthusiasm may be extinguished or undermined.

Computer 'G.I.S.' programmes as a means of elucidating countryside or heritage issues can give a guise of sometimes spurious authority to officials who have not yet developed any depth of understanding or experience. I mainly dislike G.I.S. because I regard it as a bureaucratic technique that promotes bureaucratic culture and alienates local enthusiasts. Of course, the National Park and the AONBs are immensely valuable and in many ways their officials in the field should have more power rather than less. This would give them more influence over the other governmental departments, quangos and corporations that impinge upon the landscape. Equally, though, if the government funding to the heritage industry were to be terminated tomorrow, this would not be the end of interest in the landscape. Ordinary people who loved their locality and wanted to learn more would go out once again, probing, puzzling and gradually learning to make sense of what they saw. Individuals would infect one another with their enthusiasm. Field clubs of enthusiasts would form again - and what a progressive step that would be! We must, however, learn to distinguish between what is career-building and what is helping to forge really worthwhile bonds between people and the places they inhabit and care about very deeply. The heritage exists to inspire rather than to employ.

Without the passionate commitment of local enthusiasts, crucial planning inquiries will be lost, episodes of destruction will go unreported and unopposed and, indeed, the whole sense of nationhood will be hugely diminished. For all those earning a living in the heritage areas, talking, sharing, explaining and listening to ordinary people should be more important than networking with co-professionals and bigwigs. Working with these amateurs should be a mission and not something slotted into a gap in the personal organiser. Long ago, I learned the most useful words that any specialist can ever speak are: "I don't know". Once you have said it a few times, it does not hurt at all.

Loose cannon? Maybe, though it is never a role that I have courted. I am truly frightened that control over our wonderful environment has passed to a professional, semi-bureaucratic elite and that if one does not toss some rocks into the pond now, soon, one will not be allowed to stand beside it at all. Meanwhile, we can all live for the day when a new Raistrick, Hoskins or Hawkes bursts on to the scene, casts caution and self-service to the winds, and revitalises all those immense reserves of passion and curiosity that, as Dalesfolk, we have for our homeland. Now that is something worth hanging on for!

Richard Muir

Off-road Drivers Threaten National Parks - The National Perspective

National Parks' watchdog the Council for National Parks (CNP) has called for an immediate Government crackdown on motorbikes, four wheel drives and other "off road" vehicles which are severely damaging National Parks and AONBs - the nation's most precious protected areas. This follows a CNP survey of all National Park Authorities in England and Wales which shows that the increasing use of these types of vehicles for recreation on rights of ways, including ancient unsurfaced byways and over open countryside, is having a serious impact on several National Parks, including the Yorkshire Dales.

Donna O'Brien, CNP Policy Officer, said: "Our report coincides with the 60th anniversary of the groundbreaking report by John Dower which set out the original vision for National Parks. He envisaged them as places where we should all be able to enjoy a sense of wilderness and tranquillity, and escape from the ever present motor car, rather

than as places to drive over challenging terrain in a four wheel drive."

She continued: "Off-road driving is damaging wildlife, landscape, and heritage as well as disturbing people seeking peace and quiet or making a living from the land. Some Parks reported that they have regular convoys of four wheel drives equipped to winch themselves out of ancient green lanes, while others are plagued by scrambler motorbikes using open moorland rich in wildlife."

CNP's survey shows that National Park Authorities do not have the powers or resources to combat the increasing use of historic green lanes for off-road driving within these special landscapes. A new Government Bill may halt some claims for yet further motorised use of green lanes and bridlepaths in the future, but does not help where existing legal use is causing severe problems, conflict and damage, nor in cases where driving is illegal. CNP is calling for the government to



recognise the special purposes of National Parks by:

- Giving National Park Authorities the right tools and enough resources to tackle the problems;
- Ensuring stronger enforcement of existing laws to control off-roading, especially by the police;
- Introducing clarity where there is uncertainty about a route's status.

CNP's research has highlighted the different approaches in the National Parks to combat the damage caused by off-road recreational vehicles. For example, the North York Moors National Park Authority and North Yorkshire and Cleveland Police have targeted "hotspots" of illegal motorcycle use. In the Yorkshire Dales, temporary bans have been

introduced on four ancient green lanes which had been badly damaged. Such initiatives, along with voluntary controls and education in conduct for drivers, can make a difference, but the National Parks need the support of government in achieving a long term solution to the problems.

Call to Arms

CNP's call for effective control of off-road recreational driving in National Parks is strongly endorsed by Michael Dower, son of John Dower, and himself a former National Park Officer of the Peak District and Former Director of the Countryside Commission.

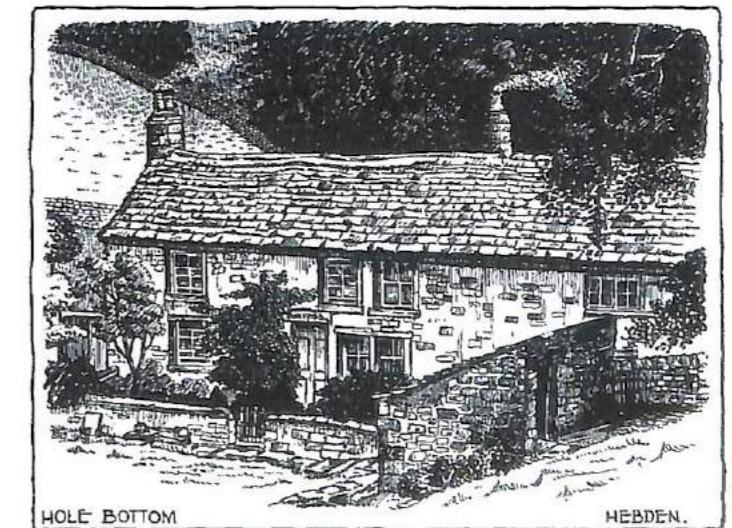
He said: "Sixty years ago, in his seminal report on National Parks, my father recognised the need for a clear national policy of selective restriction of traffic in the Parks, and for the lion's share of routes to be set aside for walkers. The formidable growth in number and use of motor vehicles, including those which can traverse difficult terrain, is threatening the beauty, the eco-systems and the tranquillity of the Parks, and causing growing conflict with other users and severe costs to the Park Authorities. The Government must now act to sort out this mess, in the interests of all users, including the recreational drivers themselves."

Book and Map Reviews

UPHILL TO PARADISE: The story of Hole Bottom hamlet and Jerry and Ben's by David Joy, first published in a private and limited edition by Jerry and Ben's, Hebden, Skipton, BD23 5DL at £8 plus postage and packing £1, and available at the above address.

Impeccably written and researched, *Uphill to Paradise: The Story of Hole Bottom hamlet and Jerry and Ben's* by David Joy, is beautifully produced and supplemented by archive photos, sketch maps, drawings and memorabilia. Opening with Alfred J. Brown's poem "There must be dales in Paradise" and a description of the lovely locally known Paradise Wood, David Joy sets out to answer the many questions visitors to his guest house, Jerry and Ben's, have posed over the years. Attention first focuses on several early eighteenth century yeoman farmers, with their families and properties, who emerge vividly from deeds and old documents, before moving on to increasing development of the local lead mines with their various levels, complex water courses and machinery. The world's first aerial ropeway was constructed over Hebden's crags and rocks to get locally sourced coal to the smelt mill, instead of a more conventional steep road to the Gill bottom.

In 1886 Grass Wood as Lot 10, was nearly sold by the Duke of Devonshire's agents as suitable for "the erection of a Gentleman's Residence, the configuration of the ground offering many eligible and beautiful sites." Today we have to thank a very depressed local economy for the fact that not a single bid for this lot was received!



Hole Bottom, from a scraperboard by W.E. Leadley, an illustration from "Uphill to Paradise" reviewed here.

Jerry and Ben's was to benefit greatly from the popularity of *Windyridge* by W.R. Riley, a best selling novel of the 1920s, based on the area and some of the inhabitants, which became something of a tourist mecca for a time. When David, originally a reporter for the Yorkshire Post who had strong family links with Hebden, became part of The Dalesman publishing team and later its editor, it enabled him to return to Hebden permanently and reawaken his childhood holiday memories and early archival interests.

FS

Adventurous Pub Walks in West Yorkshire and the Dales – Keith Wadd (Countryside Books £7.95 – ISBN 1 85306 842).

You would expect a walking book by Keith Wadd, currently the Chairman, and former Honorary Secretary, of the West Riding Ramblers Association, to be well informed about footpaths. And so it is. By "Adventurous" Keith means decent, full day walks of between 9 to 14 miles ranging from the Colne and Calder Valleys in the South Pennines, to Swaledale, the Three Peaks and Nidderdale.

All walks start from a pub, and the idea, presumably at the end of the walk, is to enjoy a well earned pint and perhaps something to eat so helping the local economy. The walks are also very well written, with informative text, clear directions and decent maps, though as Keith stresses, you need the appropriate OS Outdoor Leisure map with you.

Like almost all current guide books to Dales walks, they are inevitably circular walks, to and from the car and the pub. For the 25% of us living in West Yorkshire who don't have access to a car, that isn't actually a problem, as almost all the walks can be easily accessed by train or bus, some with very good, frequent services. Even the remoter ones have at least a summer Dales Bus service. But it might have been helpful (other authors please take note) to be a little more socially inclusive and mention that fact – it is after all Ramblers Association policy to encourage sustainable travel into the countryside. But there's another very important reason to consider using a bus or train

when your walk ends in a pub. After a good 12 mile walk, a nice meal and a pint of Yorkshire real ale, there's more than a slight risk of feeling drowsy in the warm comfort of a car, and a second's inattention can cost a life. So to take full advantage of both walk and pub, let someone else do the driving, or even better give the car a rest and take the train or bus.

The Settle-Carlisle Way (Harvey Maps £9.95 ASBN 1 85137 416 7)

There is no main line railway in England, perhaps not in Europe, that can compare with the Settle-Carlisle in terms of its ability to access magnificent walking country from local intermediate stations, both in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the beautiful Eden Valley. 30 years ago the Dales Rail project demonstrated just that, and it was the use of these local stations by walkers that was the prime reason why, in 1989, the line was saved from closure and is now one of the top

visitor attractions in the Yorkshire and North West Regions.

The concept of a walking trail linking the stations, but also to offer a continuous walk parallel to the railway between Leeds, Settle and Carlisle is not a new one. It was, in fact pioneered in 1990 in a book **Settle-Carlisle Country**, by Colin Speakman and John Morrison, published by Leading Edge Press in 1990. 15 years later the idea is revived, in the form of an excellent strip map, at 1:40,000 scale, for the Settle-Carlisle sections. Designed to fit in a rucksack pocket, the weatherproof route map (based on recent aerial photography) shows the main S&C Way along the rail corridor, including linking paths, detailed field boundaries as well as facilities such as accommodation, pubs, food, camp sites, youth hostels, and related information, to enable you to walk the 139 kilometres (87 miles) route (somewhat longer than the direct line of the railway) in day or short break stages between Settle and Carlisle. Even if you are not planning to walk the route, it is worth taking this map with you on the train journey to recognise even more detail from the carriage window.

CS



Two Barns, Hebden Gill from a scraperboard by W.E. Leadley, an illustration from "Uphill to Paradise".

Summer Events

This year Society's Summer walks and visits will focus on Wensleydale. The two fascinating Mosaic Walks with their ceramic motifs, are sections of a longer walk, using two different sides of the valley, and form part of our celebration of National Parks week. Our September walk makes use of the celebrated Wensleydale Railway, whilst the first autumn walk and talk event will also be based on Leyburn with a morning walk over Leyburn Shawl.

SUNDAY JULY 24TH MOSAIC WALK I - PART OF NATIONAL PARKS' WEEK CELEBRATIONS, leader Chris Hartley tel: 01943 873197 or mobile: 0787 6343675. Meet at Hawes National Park Centre car park (Countryside Museum) at 1130 for a moderate 6 mile walk, bring packed lunch. Walk ends approximately 4pm in time for return buses. Bus 805 from Leeds 0815, Ilkley 0910 or Bus 807 Skipton Rail Station 0950, Settle 1025 via Ribbleshead d.1100 (connection with S&C train).

SUNDAY AUGUST 7TH MOSAIC WALK II, (in opposite direction). Leader Chris Hartley 01943 873197 or mobile 0787 6343675. Meet as before in Hawes National Park Centre car park (Countryside Museum) at 1130 for a moderate 6 mile walk, bring packed lunch. Walk ends approximately 4pm. Bus services as above.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH LINKING REDMIRE AND LEYBURN BY RAILWAY AND FOOTPATH A chance to visit Leyburn and travel the recently re-opened, highly scenic Wensleydale Railway as well as enjoying a delightful six mile moderate station-to-station linear walk along the



valley. Leader Colin Ginger tel: 01756 752953. Park Leyburn in good time to catch the 1114 Wensleydale Railway train from Leyburn Station (8 mins walk from Market Place) to Redmire (a. 1126). Book single. Walk will take about 3 hours walk back to parked vehicles. Public transport users and those wishing to travel the entire line should catch the 1011 173 bus from Northallerton Station (Trans Pennine rail connections from Leeds, York) to Leeming Bar for 1035 train departure for Redmire – book return. Please bring packed lunch. The walk will end at approximately 3-3.15pm in good time for the 1548 return train to Bedale and Leeming Bar (for Northallerton). For confirmation of train times and fares ring 08454 505474.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH WALK AROUND LEYBURN

Leader Colin Speakman tel: 01943 607868. Meet at Leyburn market place at 10.30am for a 4 mile moderate walk over Leyburn Shawl to finish about 12.30. Packed, pub or café lunch. Park Leyburn Centre. Bus 156 from Northallerton Nags Head (via Station) d. 0931. Bus 159 direct from Ripon Bus Station d. 0930.

LECTURE :THORNBOROUGH HENGES BY KEITH EMMERICK, ENGLISH NATURE at Leyburn Methodist Church Hall at 2.15pm.

Yorkshire Dales Society website:
www.yorkdalessoc.yorks.net

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



Front Cover picture: *A view of Walden. Much of the open land in the foreground is now Access Land, open to walkers;* photo by Colin Speakman.

Back Cover picture: *Celebrations at Ribbleshead on Access Day, May 28th 2005;* photo by permission of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

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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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