

# Yorkshire Dales Review

SILVER  
JUBILEE  
YEAR

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Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50

## Have We Made a Difference?

During this 25th Anniversary year, there have been many things for the Yorkshire Dales Society to celebrate.

First the fact that the Society is still around after 25 years in an uncertain world is no small achievement, with over 1,600 members and for the first time in our existence, a little more money in the bank.

Secondly some convivial events such as a very splendid Silver Jubilee cake cut by the second Ken Willson Award winner Joanne Middleton at the AGM, and a completely sold out Jubilee dinner. More than anything these events and the walk that followed next day emphasised to us the most important asset of the Society – you, the members. It was good to be able to meet and greet so many old friends and supporters of the Society, many going back two decades and more to our earliest days. Such loyalty, friendship and commitment to that “shared love of the Yorkshire Dales” that we all value so highly is really what it is all about. This is what gives us the Society its legitimacy and its authority, a collective wish and responsibility which the Council of Management so ably carries out and the officers are tasked to deliver. But without that rock-solid support from all our members, all our campaigning work would be in vain.

But what have we achieved? There have been many changes in the Dales over the last quarter century, many for the better, some perhaps for the worse, which we have witnessed and to some extent have predicted and chronicled in the pages of the Review and elsewhere. To what extent we have influenced that process is difficult to determine. We like to imagine that the Yorkshire National Park Authority and Nidderdale JAC are stronger, more effective organisations because of our work. More than a decade before the 1995 Environment Act became law, we were campaigning for social and economic factors to be part of National Parks’ work. We believe that conservation and landscape cannot not be divorced from local communities, because in a very real sense, “a landscape is a people”. We have been able to support our sister organisation, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, a brilliant and innovative mechanism to deliver sustainable development in the Yorkshire Dales. By awareness raising – a prime part of our

charitable function – we help official bodies and agencies to deliver their responsibilities, helping to counter-balance the often venomous and ignorant propaganda that in the past has been used to undermine their work. Working with the Council for National Parks to influence Government is part of that process, as recent major legislative changes prove.

To find out what some of our friends think about us, we circulated a request to a number of individuals and organisations we have worked with over the last 25 years, and the comments received are included in this celebration issue of the Review. They provide a heartening, often warm recognition of the Society’s role and achievement. So at least some people believe we have indeed made a difference.

Much more remains to be done. We hope soon be able to move our office closer to the heart of the Yorkshire Dales, and to begin to deliver that important “Succession Strategy” to ensure that a younger generation is there to carry that vision forward. We hope to be working ever more closely with other Dales’ organisations to act as a focal point for so much excellent environmental and heritage work taking place in the Dales. We hope to become an even more effective voice both for people who live in the Dales and those who live outside its boundaries, but who care just as passionately for its magnificent landscapes and special culture.

In the meantime we can only thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for that wonderful support you have given us during our first quarter of a century.

*Colin Speakman*

## Warmest Congratulations! – a selection of good wishes on our Silver Jubilee

**Rt Hon, David Curry, MP for Skipton and Ripon**

Warmest Congratulations on the Yorkshire Dales Society’s Silver Jubilee!

The Dales have retained an identity, coherence, a sense of community and a strong feeling of custodianship for the countryside which has been lost in many places in Britain. Those of us whose lives are involved with the Dales and its people are conscious of how lucky we are and how precious the Dales are. We all aim to provide that special care to protect and promote the unique character of this small part of England.

**Ann Cryer, MP for Keighley & Ilkley**

I am so very pleased to be invited to scribble a few lines for the Silver Jubilee of the Yorkshire Dales Society and the special edition of the YDS Review about my connections with and affection for the National Park. My very first “date” with my first late husband Bob, was to spend an afternoon, including tea in Grassington. A combination of Bob’s ability to entertain plus the



magnificent back-drop must have done the trick as were married a year later!

From then on the Dales have played an important role in my life: providing me with some of my happiest memories, including picnics prepared by my mother-in-law Gladys Cryer and enjoyed by our children John and Jane by the river at Linton.

Three years ago Anchal, my only granddaughter, then 5, slipped on the stepping stones at Bolton Abbey. She was so brave, soaked to the skin but not a tear. My second late husband John was with us, and walks above and around the Abbey, were an extremely happy feature of our nine years together. Our last walk was 2 years ago just down from the Pavilion to the bank across from the Abbey, a short walk, but John needed his walking

stick and several rests. One day I’ll do that brief walk again, but not just yet.

**Jerry Pearlman, YDS founder member, Council member, YDS Solicitor & Chairman of the West Riding Ramblers**

I cannot imagine the Yorkshire Dales without the Yorkshire Dales Society. In fact I sometimes feel as though the Yorkshire Dales have never existed without the Yorkshire Dales Society!

It manages to be both the conscience of the Dales and also a font of knowledge about them.

I rarely attend a meeting of the Authority without finding a penetrating and informed view coming from YDS. I rarely attend a meeting of YDS without learning a great deal about the Dales.

I am proud to have been associated with the YDS since its inception and grateful to it and the members and particularly ‘the Speakmans’ for all that they have done and achieved in the last twenty five years.

I also bring fraternal greetings from the Ramblers Association. I know that I will never measure up to the standards of my predecessor as President of the West Riding Area, but I feel a real sense of continuity that I, like Ken Willson, am one of the founders of YDS. More strength to your elbow!

**Bill Mitchell, author, former Dalesman editor and YDS Hon. Member**

Congratulations and good wishes to the Yorkshire Dales Society on completing a quarter of a century of purposeful life. During a time of great social and technological change, its members have been sensitive to the classic Dales scenery, to the lives of

Dales folk and to the Dales culture and pastimes that appeal to many visitors. I have a daily reminder of this worthy Society and its aims in my framed certificate of honorary membership.

**Dr Richard Muir, author and YDS Hon. Member**

Enthusiastic congratulations to the YDS! We cannot value too highly the existence of a mouthpiece, forum and journal for our Dales that is independent of institutional and commercial vested interests. The work involved over the years must have been quite phenomenal. How very lucky the region has been to have Colin and Fleur as its apostles and promoters. We may never really know how many unsuitable and

destructive developments might have taken place if we were without this focus for debate and the exchange of information. Also, the journal has published a wealth of information about the communities and landscapes of the region, helping all of us to become better informed. I do believe that the love of a place grows with an understanding of the origins of its character and community. This being so, the Review has greatly magnified the public affection for the Dales. I am delighted to have a set of the YDS Reviews placed within easy reach as I write. The journals perfectly mirror the love and concern that we feel for our region, whether we are Dales folk born and bred or newcomers. I hope that the collection or journals on the shelves will continue to lengthen and lengthen long after I have gone. What a fantastic achievement!



*The Yorkshire Dales Silver Jubilee Dinner at Falcon Manor Hotel, Settle was fully booked, an excellent venue and it proved to be a very convivial evening.*

**Kathy Moore, Director, Council for National Parks**

A hearty happy birthday to the Society from everyone at the Council for National Parks! The Yorkshire Dales Society has always been an important friend to CNP, helping us to understand and to work on issues that are important to people in the Dales. You make your voice heard and are not afraid to speak out for the National Park, and your expertise locally helps us to do a similar job at national level. Well done for 25 busy years – and we look forward to working with you over the next quarter century.

**Friends of the Lake District Ian Brodie, former Director of FLD**

I have been privileged to work along side the YDS for nearly fifteen years, not only in respect of our common interest in the parishes of Dent, Garsdale and Sedbergh, but for two other significant reasons. The first is our shared concerns for landscapes that should be part of the YDS NP, and are not yet so designated. Our future co-operation will be vital to the success of this campaign. But it is also essential to work with an organisation that is authoritative and well respected

locally and nationally. I and all connected with FLD wish you well and for your continued successes over the next twenty-five years.

**David Morgan Rees (a past YDS vice-chairman)**

Joining the Yorkshire Dales Society has been both a personal revelation and also a passport. I had moved to Yorkshire from Wales in 1965 and had tried to discover my adopted county for myself. But it was only after joining the YDS, when I had settled in Ilkley, that I realised what a remarkable organisation it was in its mission to open people's eyes to the incredibly beautiful, fascinating and complex world of the Yorkshire Dales as well as alerting them to the vital issues and threats affecting the long-term future. I have learnt so much from being a member.

I felt very privileged to get to know Ken Willson and admired his quiet, determined grasp of what was really important. I am immensely grateful to both Colin and Fleur Speakman both for their friendship and their inspiration of the small team dedicated to dealing, on a very tight budget, with so many vital matters - often taken for granted - which affect us all in the Dales. I am impressed, too, with how the YDS also manages to come up with interesting ways of lobbying support for what is significant for the Dales' natural environment and the viability of the many small rural communities now having to face up to change as never before.

We have so much to be grateful for as members. My biggest hope is that the importance of the unique role, work and contribution of the YDS can be communicated to a younger generation who will be encouraged to join and ensure continuity of inspiration and effort for the next twenty-five years.

**David Butterworth, Chief Executive, YDNPA**

Mrs Thatcher once famously said of Lord Whitelaw, "every Prime Minister needs a Willie!" I could similarly add "every National Park needs a society as committed and as effective as the Yorkshire Dales Society". Can I wish the society, and its members all the very best for the future after 25 years of superb work in conserving and enhancing what is England's finest landscape (no matter what the Lake District say!).

**Terry Fletcher, Editor, Dalesman Magazine**

Congratulations to the YDS on its 25th anniversary. There is no shortage of people who love the Dales, but those who are willing to do something to protect and enhance the area have always been in much shorter supply. For a quarter of a century the society has been working, usually without fuss, frequently behind the scenes and often without much recognition, to make the



*Joanne Middleton, our Ken Willson Award prize winner, cutting the first slice of the Silver Jubilee cake at the Society's AGM, watched by Chairman Malcolm Petyt.*

area a better place for all of us who live and work here and for those millions more who visit every year. I wish you a very happy and successful anniversary celebration and hope that the

Society will continue to thrive and, indeed grow, over the next quarter of a century when the pressures on the Dales and those who live there can only become greater. The Dales needs friends like you.

**Sir Chris Bonington, author, mountaineer and YDS Hon. Member**

I have many good memories of visits to the Yorkshire Dales when I was president of the Council for National Parks - the warm hospitality of members of the Society, their dedication and enthusiasm and the beauty of the Dales, which you all have done so much to help preserve. Congratulations on everything you have done in the last twenty five years and may you continue in your invaluable work into the future for the pressure on all our Parks is going to get even more extreme.

**Laurie Fallows, founder member and YDS Council member**

I send to all members of the Yorkshire Dales Society my best wishes, my thanks for all their efforts in the past and present, and hopes that they will continue all their good work under the benevolent guidance of the present secretariat.

**Cllr. Car Lis, Chairman, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**

Partnership working is extremely important to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and the Yorkshire Dales Society is one of our extremely valuable partners. The dialogue we enjoy has always stimulated thought and deep debate which, without exception, has been to the benefit of the Dales.

**Mrs V.H. Youell, YDS member and keen supporter**

I congratulate the Society as a whole for all their good work this year and especially their campaign relating to the DalesBus project. Every good wish to all who make the YDS Society a supportive voice in the (and for the)

Dales – it is much appreciated by this "exile in an alien country". – Coventry!

**Dennis Cairns, former YDS Council member and National Park Voluntary Ranger**

When my late wife, Grace and I returned to Barnoldswick in 1984 after an absence of almost thirty years, it was with the intention of spending more time walking the Yorkshire Dales, an area we had known and loved since childhood. Two years must have elapsed before we were introduced to the Yorkshire Dales Society which was still in its infancy. Today, I cannot recall how the invitation to join the Society came about, but it was a fact that neither of us ever regretted accepting. Participating in the varied and numerous activities that are arranged, helped us to make new friends and gave us a deeper understanding of the natural history of the Dales and their beauty. However, on a more serious note, I believe the Society has a growing influence through media coverage in highlighting the many problems now facing those who live in the villages of the Yorkshire Dales. That initiative is to be commended and its officers and committee sincerely thanked.

I surely will not be around in the year 2031, but I sincerely hope that the Golden Jubilee of the Yorkshire Dales Society will be celebrated in that year!

**David Joy, author and publisher, former Dalesman editor**

The car headlights pick up something large lumbering along in the middle of the lane – and then something else. Too small for sheep, too large for hares, what

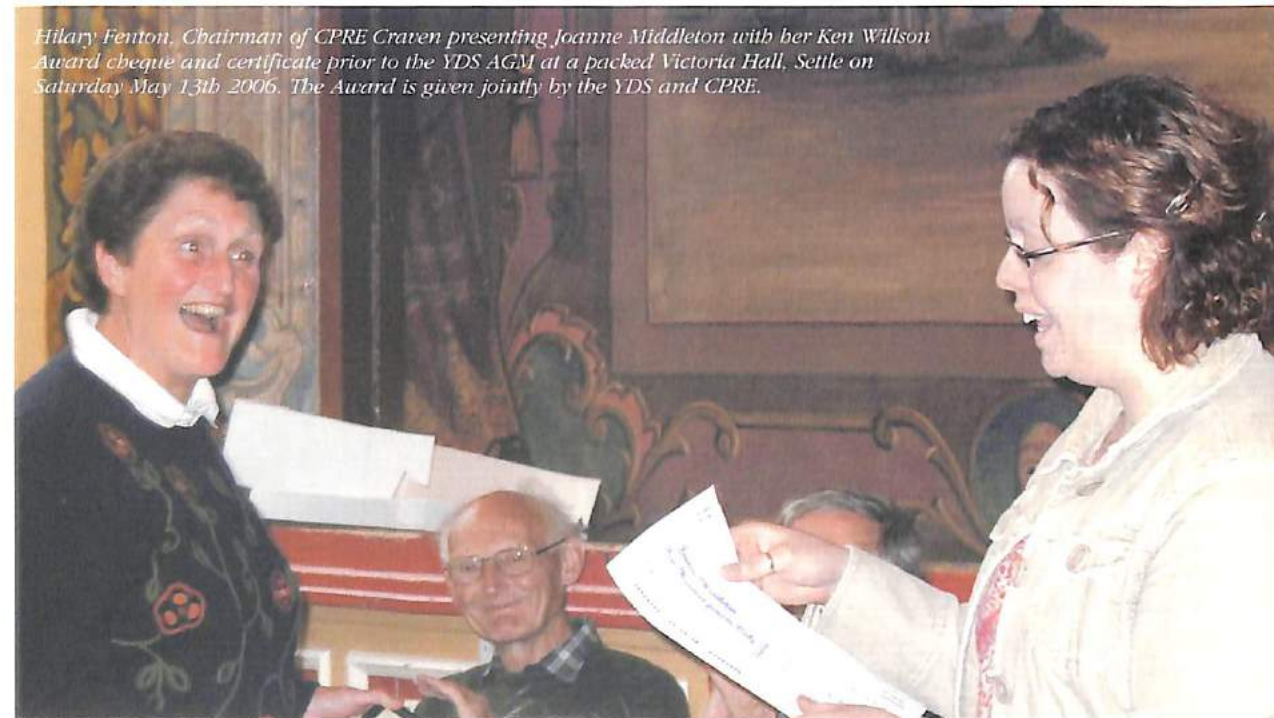


*YDS members enjoying a splendid walk on Sunday 14th May, led by Rhona Thornton, YDS Council member, with some slightly mixed weather.*

could they be? It soon becomes clear that this is a rare sight indeed – a pair of badgers cavorting in the May moonlight. They lollop along in front of us for a good half-mile before disappearing into the night. What has this to do with the Silver Jubilee of the Yorkshire Dales Society? Simply that it happened on the way home from the anniversary dinner, forming a wonderful end to a splendid evening. It provided reassurance that precious things still endure in the Dales and a timely reminder that without the Society so much of life and landscape that we cherish could now have been lost. Here's to the next twenty-five years!

# Wensleydale Winner at the Ken Willson Award

What better way to preface the Yorkshire Dales Society's AGM at Settle's Victoria Hall on Saturday May 13th than to present our latest Ken Willson Award with its accent on youth. The annual award is in memory of the



Hilary Fenton, Chairman of CPRE Craven presenting Joanne Middleton with her Ken Willson Award cheque and certificate prior to the YDS AGM at a packed Victoria Hall, Settle on Saturday May 13th 2006. The Award is given jointly by the YDS and CPRE.

Society's first President and is given jointly by the Yorkshire Dales Society and CPRE, for young people who have made a difference to their community or environment. Joanne Middleton's exceptional qualities made her the judges' choice in the Society's Silver Jubilee year.

Joanne received her cheque and certificate from Hilary Fenton, Chairman of CPRE Craven, who commented on Joanne's outstanding work for local families and added, "In caring for the children of the Dales, Joanne is caring for the future of the Dales and there is no more important task than this in safeguarding the Dales we love."

Joanne whose professional work with children has earned her high praise both from friends and clients alike, is noted as being caring, conscientious, kind, thorough, reliable and helpful. A Yorkshire lass, Joanne attended local schools in the Horton and Settle area before taking a training course at Lancaster and Morecambe College, followed by a BTec National Diploma when she then moved on to her first job as a nanny to a local family.

Head-hunted by a local playgroup which was originally threatened with closure because of failure to comply with Ofsted requirements, Joanne built it up to a flourishing group of 2-4 year olds, with a waiting list,

and also became a registered child-minder in preparation for the next stage of her career. After initial "affordable housing" problems were finally resolved, Joanne and her partner Mike, a Leyburn builder, moved to Hawes where the time-consuming process of having their property inspected, approved and registered for child-minding was eventually successful.

One mother commented that she

chose Joanne over other available child-care as she trusted her 101% and that she was particularly impressed by the way she took the time to spend with each child. Another stated that she was struck both by her professional attitude and by her warmth towards the parents she encountered, and that the children saw her as a positive role model.

Although suffering the tragic loss of her own baby in her first pregnancy, her care and concern for other people's children was undiminished. Through her work she is making an effective and valuable contribution to both the present and the future of the local community, through the lives of the children she cares for.

When Joanne first received the news of her success, she exclaimed, "I was in total shock," and then commented, "You don't often get someone in my line of work getting recognition like this." However her immediate thought was that she would like to spend some of the £500 award money on additional play equipment for the children in her care. She is also expecting her own baby once again, and we wish her a most successful outcome and much happiness, as well as the greatest success in her future professional work with children.

Joanne's final important task at the ceremony was to cut the special YDS Silver Jubilee cake.

# Marie Hartley – The End of an Era 1905 - 2006

After the inspired writings of the great geologist, historian and archaeologist Arthur Raistrick, it is especially Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby, with their classic work on the Dales' communities and crafts, meticulous research and formidable archives, that have helped to deepen our understanding of the essential spirit of the Yorkshire Dales.

Strongly characteristic of the Yorkshire Dales Society's Honorary Member Marie Hartley and her abiding interest in Dales' matters, was her habit of sending occasional interesting snippets of information to the YDS Review editors in her beautiful elegant hand writing, "gently putting us right when necessary." The last time we heard from her was earlier in the year when she sent us warm good wishes on the Society's Silver Jubilee, and then referred to a YDS forthcoming visit to historic Yore Mills in Aysgarth, Wensleydale, when she told us about some crucial papers on the history of the mill, that had been unwittingly destroyed.

*"Long ago when we were writing 'The Old Hand-Knitters of the Dales' we went to Yore Mill (where yarn was once spun for the knitters) and finding the owner manager asked him if he had any old documents connected with the mill. His face fell and he said that he had sent off a cartload of papers from the mill for the waste paper drive then being promoted for the war. So the full story of the mill was lost. He was so sorry."*

The Old Hand-Knitters of Dent (1951) is only one of the major works from a classic writing partnership with Joan Ingilby who died in 2000, while Life and Traditions in the Yorkshire Dales (1968) is often seen as their masterpiece. Marie's first six books were written earlier with her friend Ella Pontefract who died in 1945. Originally trained at Leeds College of Art, Marie later won a place at the prestigious Slade Art School in London, becoming an accomplished wood engraver; her profound interest in art mattered to her as much as her writing. Joan and Marie originally ran the Askrigg Art Club for many years and even in her final weeks Marie was concerned to explain to her vicar the finer points of art and painting. Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby were above all known for their unique pioneering long-lived writing partnership, splendid photography and drawings and passionate commitment to recording Dales' life of the recent past. What is

perhaps less well known is their generosity to other writers in related fields, often sharing their expertise and forming enduring friendships with them. The warmth and respect they inspired are demonstrated by tributes paid to them by many professional writers (who are also YDS members) landscape historian Dr Richard Muir, historian and lecturer Peter Brears, and writer David Morgan Rees who all saw the Hartley-Ingilby writings on the Dales as a formative influence on their work.

Some years ago, a group of Yorkshire Dales Society members were guided round the collection of Dales' artefacts at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes by the two indomitable ladies, whose own collection formed the museum's basis – from knitting sheaths to domestic utensils and agricultural equipment; a warm welcome and many illuminating and instructive comments on the exhibits, made this a memorable occasion. Although loaded with honours such as their MBEs, honorary degrees from the Open University, and gold medals from the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, the two ladies were still proud to be Honorary members of the Yorkshire Dales Society and involve themselves in its affairs.

Marie Hartley's Eulogy given by the Reverend Ann Chapman of St Oswald's C of E Church in Askrigg, on



Marie Hartley at work (right) with Joan Ingilby. Photo by David Morgan Rees

Friday May 19th, was a celebration of a life that had helped to create a particular writing genre, and of a particular personality whose winning smile, liveliness and interest in life and "people's minds" remained undimmed till the end. Marie Hartley with her writing partner and friend Joan Ingilby, have left their unique stamp on the Dales – there is no better epitaph!

Fleur Speakman

# Chairman's Report to the Yorkshire Dales Society AGM, 2006

In his annual report to the Yorkshire Dales Society at the Society's AGM in May, Chairman Dr Malcolm Petyt, noted that the year that had just passed had brought some welcome developments.

Firstly, together with the Friends of the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales Society joined the "Friends of Bretherdale", to counter the threat to our Dales landscape posed by the proposal to erect a group of 27 115 metre high turbines on the summit of Whinash Fell, to the north-west of the Howgill Fells. Ministers endorsed the Inspector's decision that "the environmental harm to this particular landscape outweighs the benefits of securing renewable energy at the Whinash site", thus safeguarding this special landscape for future generations.

Secondly, for over 50 years the Friends of the Lake District (FLD) had argued that much of the area between the Shap Road (the A6) and the later-built M6 (an area which included the Whinash site) was of equal quality to land within the National Park and that the boundary of the Park should be redrawn to include this. In addition FLD, then joined by the YDS looked into the possible extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in two areas of South Cumbria: the Mallerstang Valley, Wild Boar Fell and the Northern Howgills, and the Middleton and Barbon Fells east of the River Lune. This concept received strong support from the Countryside Agency even before the publication of the FLD/YDS report "Cumbria's Forgotten Landscapes". Whilst many details of the new boundaries still have to be determined, there is every hope in 2007 Natural England, the successor to the Countryside Agency, will give the proposals high priority.

Perhaps the most significant event during the year however was the commencement of Access to Open Countryside in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB. On 28 May 2005, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, the amount of land within the Dales National Park where there is a legal *right* to walk increased from 4% to 62% - a greater increase in area than in any other UK National Park. This was marked by a celebration at Ribbleshead, attended by several members of YDS, which was superbly organised by the National Park Authority and was a fitting event to mark this historic occasion.

Our relations with the National Park Authority have been fostered during the past year by meetings with their Chairman and Chief Executive, and other senior officers when appropriate, where we have shown our support of the Authority in many areas. But the Society has not hesitated to adopt the role of "critical friend"

when we disagreed with their policies or priorities. Two Council members, Norman Wordsworth and Hilary Baker, frequently attend meetings of the Authority and its Planning Committee as interested members of the public, with Norman invited to represent us during the assessment of the Authority's work by "Peer Review". There were a number of concerns referred to in the Assessment Report, but generally the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority received one of the highest ratings of English National Parks, and the Authority is addressing the relatively few criticisms in the report.

Four Youth Hostels within or close to the Dales announced for closure because they do not cover costs is a concern to the Society. Many people have learned to know and love the Dales by exploring the countryside when cycling or walking between hostels; cheap and simple accommodation. Now a demand for higher standards means that several Dales' hostels have to close because of costs of refurbishment. It is sad that the YHA, an organisation founded to encourage a knowledge and love of the countryside especially among the young now finds itself having to put more of its resources into higher-class hostels in tourist towns if it is to continue to attract sufficient business to survive.

The Council for National Parks (CNP) is a small body which supports and co-ordinates at a national level the work of individual National Park Societies such as YDS. With a small staff and limited resources, it keeps the Society up-to-date on a large range of issues relevant to all National Parks, and acts as a spokesman at the centres of power. It commands great respect at Westminster and Whitehall - for example, its report last year on the problems of vehicles on green lanes was very influential in bringing about recent changes in the law which will greatly benefit the Dales. The Society receives far more value from CNP than we contribute in terms of a small part of subscriptions. Such subscriptions from member societies are insufficient to run CNP, and because other sources of income have ceased to be available recently, there is real financial difficulty. Support for CNP can increase if members join the national "Friends of National Parks". If YDS subscriptions have to increase to contribute more to CNP, this will still represent very good value for money.

It is with the co-operation and support of CNP that, as part of the celebrations for the Society's 25th Anniversary, the YDS will be organising the annual conference of National Park Societies to be held at Scargill House, Kettlewell, and an excellent programme of talks, discussions and outings is planned. Hopefully there will be room for YDS members to stay over the weekend, or as day visitors. The YDS Office will be

happy to help arrange this.

The Silver Jubilee, a significant milestone in the history of the Society, has concentrated Council's minds on the future. Two other considerations have also promoted thinking. First is the need to find new office accommodation, since changes will be taking place in the building at Otley where we have been based since the early 1990s. Second, is the fact that Colin and Fleur have said that they believe now is the time for them to hand over the day-to-day running of the Society, for which they have been responsible since its beginning.

Happily, this potential crisis has coincided with the first two substantial legacies ever to come to YDS. When these are received, they should enable the Society to move forward on three fronts.

First, we have engaged a former member of Council, Jane Ellison-Bates, to develop our marketing and our website. The website is now greatly improved, and should help us to attract interest and new members. And thanks to Jane's efforts, YDS has had considerable media exposure in recent months including local radio stations and in a large range of newspapers around the region. This higher profile should help build up both individual and corporate membership.

Secondly, we have almost reached agreement with Craven District Council to rent offices in Settle Town Hall - overlooking the market place. This will offer far better accommodation than our present office and gives the Society a location closer to the higher Dales, in a lively market town near to kindred organisations with whom we share mutual interests.

Third, we are starting the process of finding a part-time paid administrator for the Society. There will still need to be volunteers helping to run the Society, and Colin and Fleur will continue to be committed to and involved with YDS in many ways, but we must recognise that they have earned the right to have a life a bit freer from deadlines.

As usual, during the last year the Society has arranged an excellent programme of events for members and the general public. The 2005-6 lecture series had a strong component of archaeology, with excellent and well-attended talks on Thornborough Henges and on what we are now less sure in calling the Iron Age Fort on Ingleborough. Limestone is one of the "special qualities" of the Dales, and we had lectures on Lime Kilns and also on the outstandingly-successful Limestone Country Project, which is improving the biodiversity of the Dales and also contributing to farming and the economy by reintroducing traditional hardy breeds of cattle - which graze the limestone areas more sustainably and also produce excellent beef. The human side of Dales life featured in a lecture at Clapham on Communities and the Environment, and the Society had its first visit to Cowan Bridge (which will be on the edge

of the National Park if boundary changes go through) to learn about the Brontë sisters who were at school there.

All the lectures were preceded by a morning walk in the area, and other walks took place independently of the lecture programme. The Society is especially grateful to all the walks' leaders and the speakers.

The *Yorkshire Dales Review* publication has maintained its high standards, both in content and the quality of presentation and judging by comments, several outside contacts clearly value it too. As usual, it is Colin and Fleur we have to thank for ensuring that the magazine continues to appear and to be a main mouthpiece for the Society. It is also important to mention the less well-known but equally valuable *Dales Watch Digest*, which gathers and edits press news and comment from local and national sources on matters affecting the Dales. Rhona Thornton has produced, with great skill, four quarterly issues of this important publication.

Of course, I have also to thank the many other people who work on our behalf to keep the Society running and effective as a voice for the Dales. The Council of Management have continued to meet regularly to help us decide our position on a wide range of issues. Sadly, we are this year losing the services of Charles Hepworth, who has been active for us in Swaledale for a number of years and was particularly helpful recently in our work with FLD on the possible boundary extensions to the National Park. We were also sorry to lose Julie Bradwell who has given ten years valuable services to Council. Our good wishes and thanks are given to both for the future.

Other members have served the Society in various ways: Rod and Judith Clough, with Hilary Baker as a ready reserve, look after the catering for meetings. Mike Johnson, Maurice Denton and Margaret Rhodes work faithfully in the Office at Otley. David Smith, in addition to his work as our Treasurer, is also very much involved in the Office, particularly on the computer and IT management, and we are very much indebted to him for all the time he gives to YDS.

Finally, I must of course pay tribute to Colin and Fleur. Though their role in YDS may be about to change, we know that it is largely thanks to them that the Society is the respected and successful body it is today. We are enormously grateful to them. The Yorkshire Dales Society is in good heart, and looks forward to the future with confidence.

# Early Memories of the Yorkshire Dales Society

*Chris Hartley, one of our longest serving Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management members, and of the YDS Events sub-committee - a regular walk leader, he has a number of memories of the Society's earlier days and how he came to join the organisation.*

*Chris first heard of the Yorkshire Dales Society when he overheard Geoffrey Wright's conversation in 1983 on a walk near Grassington, but could not discover further details. About a year later an advertisement in the Dalesman magazine complete with the bird's eye primrose gave him the necessary information.*

I remember I once led a short morning walk in October in 1995 near Addingham before a lecture, when we chanced upon a small patch of Lawyers' Wig toadstools so called because of their resemblance to judge's wigs on thin strands, which then turn "gooey" and drip black inky stuff, hence their other name Shaggy Ink Caps. This was a chance for me to "show off", so I pompously stated that, "when fresh, they are supposed to go down very well with eggs and bacon." At which another member interjected, "I reckon nowt to these chaps that recommend summat they haven't tried themselves." I was of course very firmly put in my place.

Another incident occurred during the late eighties in spring when the Society visited an Eco friendly farm on the edge of the Howgills, where we saw among other



things, a badger's sett, a fox's earth and a perfect bunch of primroses growing quite happily in a cradle of tree branches hanging over a stream. They must have been washed down from the river bank higher up when the river was in flood and deposited there when the water level fell, leaving them with sufficient nutrients to survive there. The family at the farm did not charge a fee

for the visit, but requested a donation, which I collected in my Sherlock-Holmes-style deerstalker hat. As I went round from person to person, the hat began to get alarmingly heavy and I was just thinking, "this lot's a really generous bunch," when someone shouted, "Chris, the goat's chewing your hat!" I looked down and with the help of one or two friends, managed to get my hat away from the voracious animal in the nick of time, and without losing a single coin.

Rod and Judith Clough were usually in charge of the refreshments at our lecture events, but on one particular occasion I volunteered to take their place at Grassington Town Hall where Dr Richard Muir, writer and YDS Honorary member, was due to give a lecture. Having observed the tea-making process elsewhere, I was confident I knew what to do. After filling up the Burco boiler prior to the lecture, I duly plugged it in, and switched it on so that the water would be heated as the lecture finished. At first things went well. The water started to heat up, but for some reason did not progress beyond lukewarm. Panicking that we would not have any hot tea, I raced around consulting anyone I could find. No one seemed to know what to do. Eventually a very large and dour-looking lady made her appearance and as my instinct told me she seemed to belong to the place, I stammered out my troubles. Fixing me with the sort of withering stare that would have done Norah Batty proud, she ejaculated, "Nay, tha's not put any brass in't meter, hes thee?" Relieved, but surprised, I soon found some brass and the meter slot, and we were on course for piping hot tea.

So what do I find special about the Dales? Well! we might not have real mountain peaks or many photogenic lakes, but we do have something special: we have the rugged grandeur of the fells, dry stone walls and barns, the Three Peaks, villages that nestle in complete harmony with their surroundings and each dale has its own character, so that you can feel many, many miles away from the next one even though it is just over the brow. I hope that the Yorkshire Dales Society in its Silver Jubilee year, with a possible move to new premises, a good working relationship with the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Nidderdale AONB, will go from strength to strength helping to preserve and enhance the Yorkshire Dales for the generations which follow us.

*Chris Hartley*

# YDS Financial Statement

## Yorkshire Dales Society Income & Expenditure Account for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006

	2006	2005
Subscriptions	13,032	12,840
Donations	4,645	2,244
Bank Interest	960	655
Profit on Events	347	91
Sundry Income	53	79
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	3,214	3,399
	<u>22,251</u>	<u>19,308</u>
"Review"	4,990	5,040
Postage	2,147	2,111
Stationery	988	660
Administration	6,030	5,990
Office Rent	1,480	1,440
Telephone	280	262
Subscriptions & Donations Made	3,110	3,453
Depreciation	345	188
Travelling Expenses	380	762
Accountancy	435	455
Sundry Expenses	96	4
Bank Charges	240	230
Printing & Publicity	7,501	281
	<u>28,022</u>	<u>20,876</u>
<b>Excess (Shortfall) of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(5,771)</u>	<u>(1,568)</u>

The very considerable increase for Printing & Publicity is due to expenditure incurred in Publicity for the Society as part of the ongoing reorganisation. This expenditure will not continue; the payments to Manifest Marketing will cease after June 2006 and the Web Site is now up and running. It is made up as follows.

Regular monthly payments to Manifest Marketing	4,759
Creation & Hosting the new Web Site	1,785
Adverts in local Press	957
	<u>7,501</u>

# Outward Bound with Outreach

*Bernard Lynch is the Voluntary Outreach Support Co-ordinator for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and a newly elected YDS Council Member.*

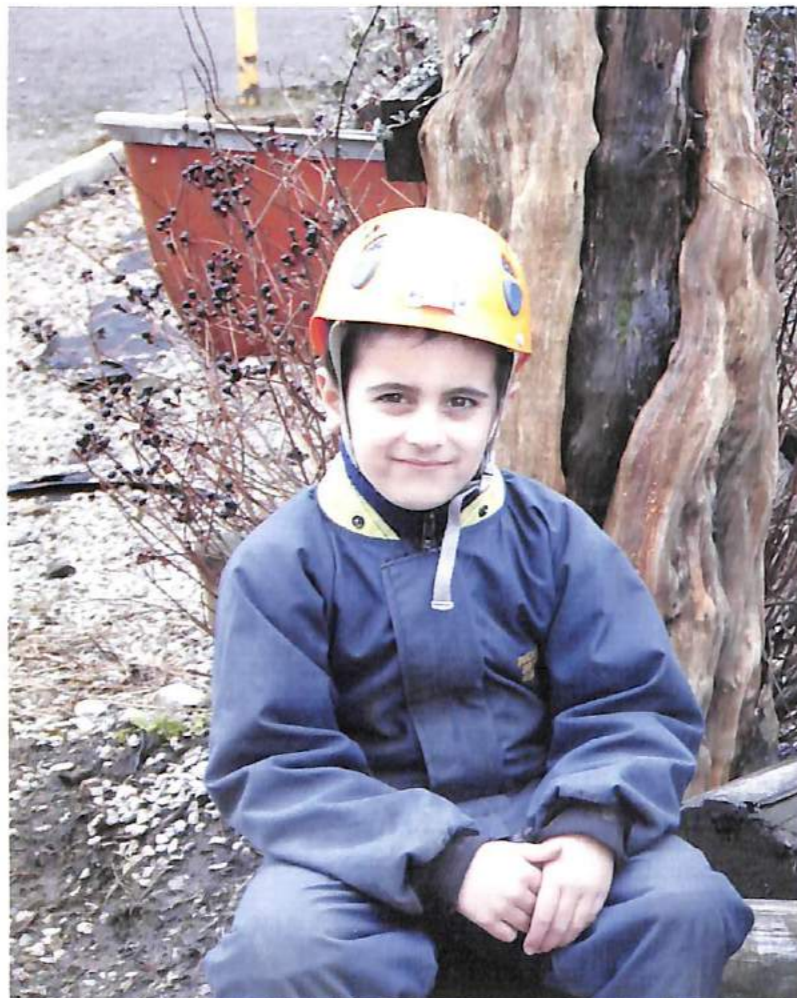
I would like to introduce you to a very brave young man Amar. He is seven years old and is the youngest of seven young people from Keighley who spent two nights at Buckden House Residential Centre with their fathers, or in one case their uncle, in April this year on a visit supported by The Yorkshire Dales Society and organised as part of the National Park Authority's Outreach programme.

On their arrival at Buckden House they spent some time on a specially constructed climbing wall in the grounds of the house before being taken on a 'gruelling', (their dads' description), walk onto Stake Pass to learn some basic navigations skills.

I joined them for breakfast on the second day of their visit and within minutes of arriving was sitting with a cup of tea and a plate piled high with hot toast in front of me. The entire group chatted excitedly about the climbing the day before, but were all a bit nervous about the activities due that day, gill scrambling and caving.

When the instructors arrived, we split into two small groups and I joined Amar and his dad and two other couples to kit up for gill scrambling. A short mini bus ride to Hubberholme and then a short walk beside the River Wharfe brought us to the foot of Strans Gill and the climb began. Not far up the Gill we encountered the first vertical pitch and each in turn climbed it with the security of a top rope. The limestone in the Gill was wet and very slippery and all of us slipped at one time or another. Eventually we reached an old concrete bridge that crosses the upper reaches of the gill and joined a footpath past Scar House back to Hubberholme. As we walked back Amar turned to his father and said, "Dad, this is the best day of my life".

A more serious activity faced us after lunch as we kitted up in waterproof suits and wellington boots then donned helmets and headlamps and made our way to Langstroth Cave. The entrance to the cave is a manhole cover in the ground and is not exactly inviting. Amar looked a little fearful, but one by one we lowered ourselves through the manhole and slid down a short muddy slope to reach a stream. We then walked upstream along a substantial passage admiring the various cave features as we went. Our instructor, Chris, asked us to sit and listen to the cave and produced a candle and lit it before inviting us to turn off our headlamps. By this point Amar was visibly scared and huddled up to his dad. Chris then blew out the candle and we sat in the total darkness. After a few moments we turned our headlights back on and I could see tears on Amar's cheeks. We then retraced our steps to the entrance and climbed out onto a sun lit hillside. I will never



*Amar experiencing his first expedition*

forget the look on Amar's face. It showed a mixture of relief and pride at his achievement.

Dinner that evening was followed by a very competitive game of football in the grounds of the house, in which the two teams of constantly changing players used some very dubious tactics to gain possession of the ball. The score soon became irrelevant.

The following morning the whole group was taken by mini bus up the valley to Deepdale Bridge where we were dropped off for a walk back to Buckden. The idea was that the dads would take it in turns to lead the walk and that Chris and myself would follow them to make sure they did not get lost.

"Got any useful tips?" asked one of the dads. "Keep the river on your right and follow the signposts", I replied.

In practice they had no problems following the route

and we all walked together chatting, the children running ahead through the pastures.

The Authority's Outreach work continues to try to involve people from all communities, ages and abilities. Our aim is to create opportunities to enjoy the Dales Experience for those who have little or no previous experience of it. We hope to break down the barriers that stop them visiting the Dales and to encourage them to come back again with their friends and families.

As well as the traditional guided walks, the events programme contains many activities aimed at the younger or more sedate visitor. These include a series of talks and workshops, at the Dales Countryside Museum, on subjects as varied as watercolours and rug making. For the young at heart there is a Teddy Bears Picnic and 'Art in the Park' days, which involve plenty of painting and sticking, as well as Roman and Viking themed days. There are also a series of events designed with the less able in mind, aimed at giving the widest possible range of visitors a chance to enjoy the Dales.

The cricket goes on! The 'Beyond the Boundary' project continues for the third year with another summer of cricket matches between youth teams from Bradford and the Dales; Googlies and Yorkers abound in spirited competition.

Work with the urban communities around the Park's boundaries continues. Community groups are offered the chance to sample the 'Dales Experience' in the company of Dales Volunteers who act as their guides and give them information to help them plan their own visits. These days are proving very popular. During the summer of 2005, 74% of those taking part were first time visitors and many have returned on their own.

A new initiative this year is the 'Dales Experience Bus' which will offer a direct bus service from Bradford to the National Park on five Sundays during the summer. A Dales Volunteer will ride on each bus to welcome the passengers and help their day out begin at the bus stop. We are also offering groups not used to travelling by public transport 'Bus Buddies' to travel with them to hopefully give them the confidence to make subsequent journeys on their own.

The Outreach team will continue its work to increase awareness of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in all the communities around its borders, ensuring that all get a chance to understand and enjoy this special environment.

**Bernard Lynch**

# Book Reviews

**POINTERS TO THE PAST: THE HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE OF HEBDEN TOWNSHIP, UPPER WHARFEDALE BY HEATHER M. BEAUMONT WITH MEMBERS OF THE HEBDEN HISTORY GROUP.** published by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society Occasional Paper no5, ISBN 1 9035 64557, available from Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ at £10 plus £1.75 postage, email secretary@yas.org.uk

This book proves to be a fascinating study of an attempt to find earlier patterns of organisation in the agricultural and built environment, using field studies and documentary evidence of various kinds. Under the joint leadership of Dr Heather Beaumont and David Joy, the project was carried out by Hebden residents with the addition of a number of specialist advisors. A quotation from the noted landscape historian Dr Richard Muir, recommends the "total landscape approach" for such a survey including the survey of transport networks which "provide the skeletons of cultural landscapes." Reading the landscape thus becomes an exciting multi-disciplinary task: the environment, geology and ecology are enhanced by social and economic factors with local, regional and national dimensions.

Five sections divide into a comprehensive view of the Agricultural Landscape, Routeways, Manorial Hebden, Management Strategies and Evolution of the Agricultural Landscape and finally, Landscape and the Community. Hebden's history is an ancient one. Pre-Conquest it appears to have been part of an Anglo Saxon estate centred on Burnsall, passing on to the large Honour of Mowbray. The manor of Hebden was then granted by Roger de Mowbray to "Ucred, son of Dolphin" in the 12th century and owned by a succession of manorial lords till the number of free holders increased over the centuries. Industrial archaeological traces later add to the picture, with remains of lead-mining and textile manufacture still visible.

The classification and recording of field boundaries and enclosures with the wide variation in boulder walls, hedgerows, trees, and regular walls and their stylistic variations (researched by the celebrated Arthur Raistrick and more recently by Tom Lord who recently enthralled a large YDS group with his lecture on dry stone wall building) and by Heather Beaumont herself, are a key to much more. Prehistoric and medieval boundaries were part of early stock management and routes were often created in order to facilitate the transport of stock from winter to summer pastures or in one example, to collect the clipped Fountain Abbey fleeces at Kilnsey grange which would then be carted in wagons to Fountains. Flocks in excess of 15,000 could be on the move in the area in the 13th century; a formidable trade which reached overseas.

Today Hebden, an attractive village, gives superficially

little inkling of the many activities concentrated in the township or its hinterland. This book is an admirable study of how intensive and enlightened research into a relatively small part of the Yorkshire Dales, with its detailed excellent maps, drawings, photos and appendices, can illuminate so much of the historical and even contemporary scene.

*Fleur Speakman*

**OUR SMALL DALES WORLD BY DAVID MORGAN REES**

A reminder that we have a few copies left of this charming personal account of a cottage in Marske owned by David for over 30 years, illustrated by the author's own photos, drawings and paintings. Please send for *Our Small Dale World* directly to the Yorkshire Dales Society, the Civic Centre, Cross Green, Otley, LS21 1 HD, with a cheque for £10 (made out to the Yorkshire Dales Society) to cover the cost of the book and postage and packing. All profits go to the YDS.



*Mossy Track, Kisdon - an illustration from 'Green Networks of the Dales' by Colin Speakman*

**GREEN NETWORKS OF THE DALES BY COLIN SPEAKMAN**

published by Great Northern Books at special price of £10.99, including postage and packing, to YDS members see special leaflet in spring issue of the YDS Review. Normal price, with postage and packing, £14.98. Phone: Fax 01274 735056 or email: greatnorthernbooks@btconnect.com

From the originator of the Dales Way, Colin Speakman's Green Networks of the Dales, is a beautifully written book about the Dales, which convinces us that even when the car is left behind, we can have even greater freedom to enjoy some of the best walking in the Dales and the English countryside. The guide contains enough information to plan 20 of the finest Dales' walks, and an abundance of explanation and interpretation of the history, natural beauty and cultural heritage enhanced by about 50 stunning photographs showing the Dales at their best. A further delight is the insights into many hidden treasures and unexpected aspects.

The result is a high quality book: a distillation of Colin's passion for and knowledge of the Dales built on many years experience of exploring and writing about the area. (Colin's original guide to the Dales Way and his more recent Official National Park Guide are only two of his more important publications.) Colin weaves history and interpretation together in a way many guidebook writers fail to achieve as we get off the beaten track immersing ourselves in the many facets of this exceptional landscape. The photographs wet our appetites for a day's tramping, and Harveys' clear full-colour maps are a boon for route-finding.

Linear walks are increasing in popularity as motorists realise the advantages of leaving their vehicles behind and Green Networks of the Dales could well prove a model for other National Parks to follow suit with books in a similar format. Truly promoting the enjoyment of the special qualities of the Dales in a

sustainable and inclusive manner, I am sure the great John Dower\* would have been proud to place it on his bookshelf if he had been alive to day!

*Andy Ryland*

*Transport & Visitor Management Officer YDNPA*

*\*John Dower author of the seminal 1944 report on National Parks*

# Summer Events 2006



*Make good use of the longer days by going further to Swaledale for the evocative-sounding Nuns' Steps Walk in Swaledale or perhaps a slightly more challenging walk on Kisdon Hill, or simply enjoy The Three Villages Walk from Grassington which starts our latest Walk and Lecture Programme in October. Walks are free to members but please remember admission at lecture events for YDS members is £2 per person and £3 for non members.*

**SUNDAY AUGUST 6TH 2006**

**THE NUNS' STEPS** Leader Chris Hartley tel: 01943 873197. A walk in Swaledale, meeting at Reeth on the Green at 11am for a moderate 8 mile walk, with one steep descent. The route from Reeth goes to Grinton and along the river to Marrick Priory, then the Nuns' Steps (please take care as you climb up) and on to Fremington Edge (early lead mine traces), with a sharp descent and return to Reeth about 4pm. Café available for cups of tea etc at end of walk. Dales Bus 830 Darlington (Station) d 0930, Richmond d. 1005.

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH**

**CIRCULAR WALK AROUND KISDON HILL IN SWALEDALE.** Leader Colin Ginger tel: 01756 752953. Meet in Muker, outside the Literary Institute at 1pm for a 6 1/2 mile walk around Kisdon Hill. This is a riverside walk along the River Swale to old lead mining sites at Swinner Gill and Crackpot Hall, before entering Keld. The return is via the old Corpse Way to Muker over Kisdon Hill and the walk takes about 4 hours and is noted as "strenuous" in parts, requiring good boots! Please have lunch before the start of the walk. Car parking is available in Muker. Bus service 30 leaves Richmond Market Place at 1140 a. Muker 1240 (returns 1655). Connection X27 from Darlington Station leaves at 1040.

**SOCIETY NEWS**

As we go to press, progress has been made regarding our new office premises in Settle. However, a number of details still remain to be clarified. At present, it is planned to run the two offices in tandem for a while in the autumn to make the change-over as smooth as possible. We will let members know when any changes will begin to affect them, but ask that you bear with us till all the details are finalised. See the YDS website for full details and all latest news event information – [www.yds.org.uk](http://www.yds.org.uk).

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH THREE**

**VILLAGES WALK**

Please meet at the YDNP Centre at Grassington at 10.30am for a moderate 5 mile walk via the attractive villages of Linton and Thorpe, returning along the riverside via Hebden. There is one fairly long, but gradual ascent and a shorter descent involved, with a few stiles. The walk will finish about 1pm if we proceed at a steady pace. Leader Mike Johnson tel: 01943 607566. Café, packed or pub lunch. Bus 72 d. Skipton Rail station 1000, Bus station 1005; Bus 74 d. Ilkley 0935 for Grassington.

**LECTURE: THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY - OUR FIRST 25 YEARS BY COLIN SPEAKMAN**, writer and YDS Secretary, in the Octagon Room at Grassington Town Hall at 2.15pm.

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 13TH – SUNDAY OCTOBER 15TH THE NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

(from Friday till Sunday) will be hosted by the Yorkshire Dales Society at Scargill House, Kettlewell. Delegates will be expected from each of the national parks in the UK, but we hope if there are any spare places, that we will be able to offer them to some of our own members. This may be for either the whole of the conference or for part of it, but we will not know till early September the number of spare places. Please let us know quite soon if you are interested, by sending us an sae with full contact details. We will operate on a first come first served basis, for those who would like to come.

**YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT 2006/7**

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 NORMAN WORDSWORTH.

**SECRETARIAT:** COLIN AND FLEUR SPEAKMAN





Front Cover picture: Members of the Yorkshire Dales Society at Stainforth Force enjoying their 7 mile post-AGM walk on Sunday May 14th led by Rhona Thornton, YDS Council member and compiler of the YDS Digest. *Photo by Council member Peter Sharp.*

*Back Cover picture: Reflection on the Surface of a Tuba, Tan Hill Sheep Show. Photo by Hilary Fenton who had a recent photographic exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.*

**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.*

**[www.yds.org.uk](http://www.yds.org.uk)**

*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.*

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