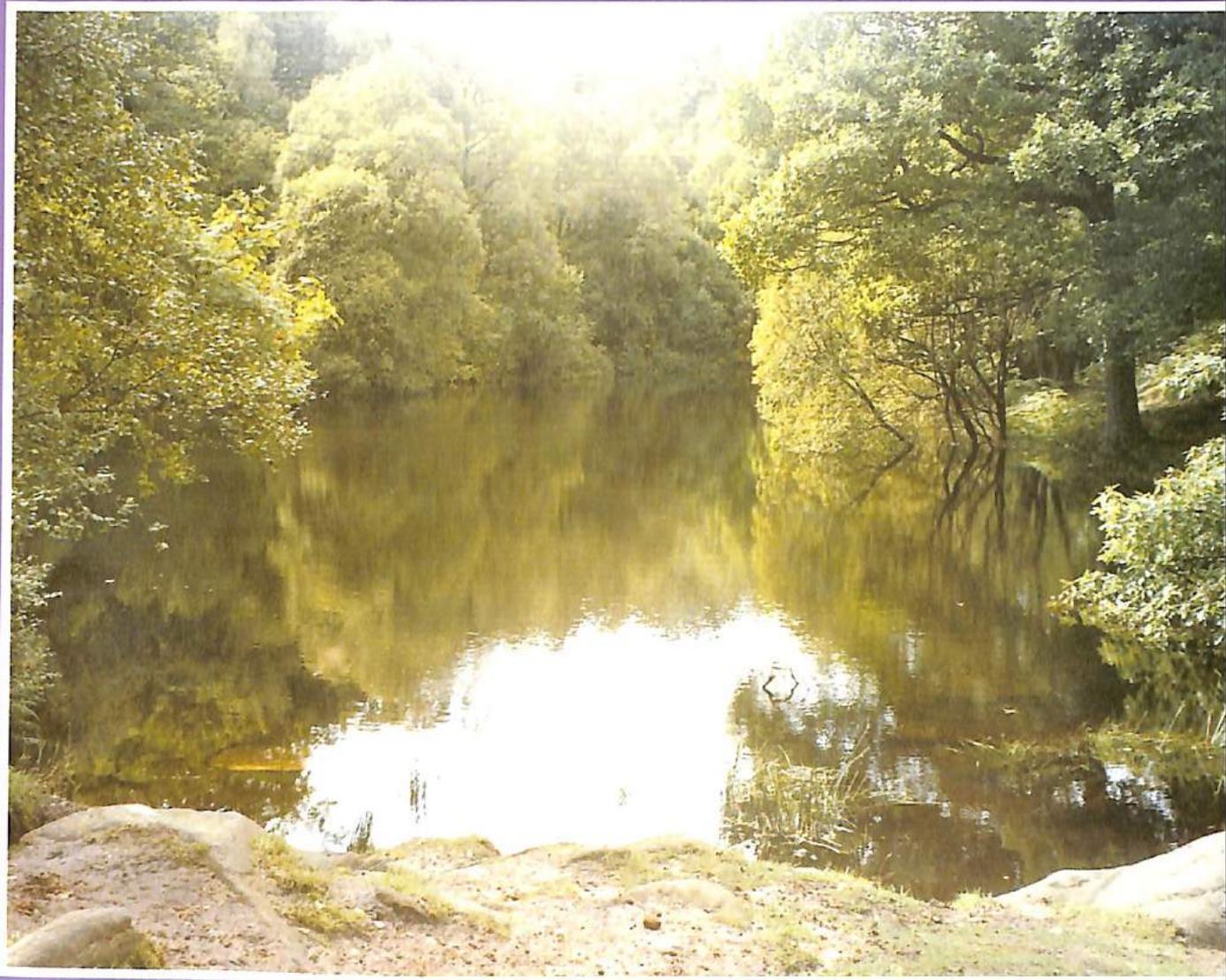


# Yorkshire Dales Review

SILVER  
JUBILEE  
YEAR



- *Coming Home to the Dales*
- *Green Lanes*
- *Major Reforms to the National Park Authority*
- *Introducing our Corporate Members*

Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50

Review Yorkshire Dales Review Yorkshire Dales

No. 96 Autumn 2006

## Coming Home to the Dales

The Yorkshire Dales Society has now moved its office to Settle. In a real sense it's a homecoming. We began in Grassington 25 years ago, and on a cool August day in our Silver Jubilee year, we moved back into the Craven Dales.

Thanks to the support of Craven District Council we have been able to join a small group of other professional and voluntary organisations sharing space with the Council in their historic Town Hall, built in 1832, a few years before Queen Victoria came to the throne.

Our new office overlooks the bustling market place, the handsome three-decker stone Shambles, the Georgian and Victorian shops and houses around the square. To the left, above rooftops, are the grey stone arches of the Settle-Carlisle line as it begins its long climb up Ribblesdale, whilst to the right, a track climbs along Constitution Hill and through the limestone crags towards Attermire and Malham.

There are lots of good reasons for the Society to be in Settle. Communications by road and rail are excellent, and it is far easier for our members from the northern Dales, especially Dentdale, Wensleydale and Swaledale, to reach us. As a small market town it's a focal point, where, for centuries, Dales people have come to shop, meet, be informed, exchange ideas.

We shall be a part of that process. Much as we enjoyed being in Otley – another ancient market town – for many people Otley was seen as being on the edge, close to the spreading city of Leeds, of which it now forms a part, too far from the upper Dales. Returning to the limestone country of the Craven Dales is returning to our roots.

Our former Otley Office, a room up a narrow twisting staircase at the back of the Civic Centre, was far from ideal. The office was cramped, daylight was poor and it barely met basic health and safety or fire standards. Its future was uncertain. Nevertheless we were sorry to leave, having made many friends in Otley, especially the Town Council who have been so very supportive over the 15 important, formative years we have been there. We were also much closer to Nidderdale AONB,

and will be especially saddened to lose some of our long serving Otley volunteers.

But if the Society is to grow and expand, we need to be closer to the heart of the Dales, and have better working conditions for new staff.

For the move to Settle is just part of what we have described as our Succession Strategy for the future of the Society. Another key milestone in August was the appointment of new part-time Administrator, Stuart Willis. Stuart introduces himself to the Society in later pages. Fleur Speakman and Stuart will work in tandem until the end of 2006 to ensure a smooth take-over period and free Fleur to handle the National Park Societies' Conference at Scargill in October, whilst Colin will work over the next two years to seek a successor to deal with the policy side of the Society's work.

These are exciting times for the Society – a period of growth and expansion as we literally reinvent ourselves to meet the challenging decades ahead. With both existing Secretaries now officially "senior citizens" it is time to ensure that the badly needed younger generation take over the running of our affairs if the Society is to have a worthwhile future. But this process would not have been possible without the constant generosity of several older members, with donations and indeed legacies, most especially the late Miss Lucy Sargant of Harrogate, a YDS member whose major legacy in 2004 has given us that degree of financial security, without which our office move would have been impossible.

So maybe some of our valued older members, who sometimes might feel they are no longer able to take an active part in the Society's affairs, might consider just how they can enable and ensure that the process we have started in Settle can continue. This might be through a thoughtful donation, or, in the fullness of time, a legacy, both vitally important ways of ensuring that the Society and the Dales we so love, will be there for generations to come.

*Colin Speakman*

## What does the Yorkshire Dales Society Do?

At the Society's Annual General Meeting in May, the question was asked about the Society's Aims and Objects as an Educational Charity.

We realised, perhaps with a jolt, that though these are clearly set out in the Society's **Memorandum and Articles**, and constantly re-read by officers and by Council members, not every member of the Society has time or patience to acquire and work their way through that somewhat forbidding document.

So it is high time to set out the five key Objects of the Society that inform the Memorandum and Articles in the more readily accessible pages of the Review. These were agreed with the Charity Commission in June 1984 and were adopted by the new Council of Management in October of the same year:

- ii) *To advance the public knowledge and appreciation of the social history and the physical and cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales and to preserve its condition, landscape and natural beauty.*

*Settle Town Hall*



- iii) *To bring together people and organisations with a common interest in and love of the Yorkshire Dales.*

- iiii) *To encourage protection and enhancement of the physical and social heritage of the Yorkshire Dales and embracing a fundamental concern for the well being of the working community within the Dales, to*

*maintain the special character of the area by promoting kindred social and economic development.*

- iv) *To sustain the traditional culture of the area.*

- v) *To promote greater awareness and enjoyment among those who live in, work in or visit the Yorkshire Dales and to seek the highest standards for the interpretation of the area's heritage.*

Hopefully members will agree that almost all the work and activities the Society undertakes is central to these five core objects. Our programme of walks and lectures, visits to places of interest, the publication of the Review, our constant campaigning work with the National Park and other bodies all fit one or more of these categories.

Most recently our work co-ordinating the Dales Heritage Forum, in preparing the Directory of Dales Organisations (soon to be on the web site) and in organising the Dales Heritage Day in Skipton on

September 2nd was undertaken as part of ensuring that Objective iii) was being met. Indeed working closely with other organisations, co-ordinating rather than duplicating, is fundamental to what the Society should be doing. One advantage in moving to Settle is that we shall be physically close to a number of kindred organisations such as the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Friends of Settle Carlisle, the Settle Carlisle Development Company and Craven CPRE with whom we share so much common ground.

Our objects are non negotiable. They are a core part of our Constitution as a Charity and not-for-profit company. But they are also a constant reminder that we do not exist, as a Charity, purely for the pleasure and the benefit of our own members, but literally we must engage with other people outside the Society to "promote greater awareness and enjoyment", including working with people less fortunate than ourselves, an important ethical dimension. Moving to Settle will give us a new opportunity to develop outreach projects in nearby

communities, to work with other community-based organisations, perhaps building on what we have already termed our "Sharing the Dales" project.

Our charitable objects demand nothing less. And that's what the Yorkshire Dales Society is really all about.

# Green Lanes – A Heritage Still under Threat

The 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) has already made a dramatic difference to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB. In the National Park scores of notices have appeared on bridleways and footpaths indicating that action will be taken by the police if off-road vehicles or motor cycles use them.

This reflects a hardening of attitude against law-breaking off-roaders, with persistent offenders facing their machines being confiscated and even crushed.

The NERC Act has also removed the anomaly that because of evidence of horse drawn waggons using a packhorse way or drove road in previous centuries, then vehicle rights for a modern trail bike or Range Rover allegedly exist and therefore such routes could be claimed as Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT). The assumption was that such a claimed route could then be used with impunity, even before the claim was resolved by due legal process. As a result the Dales in recent years have been faced with a flood of applications to convert ancient green lanes to motor sport adventure trails, and a rapid increase in illegal use of bridlepaths by motor cyclists and 4x4 vehicles.

Fortunately, the NERC Act has limited new Byway applications to those received before the cut-off date of January 20th 2006. Nevertheless 13 new Byways claims are in the pipeline, including such fine and much disputed green ways as the path between Street Gate and Arncliffe Cote or Cam High Road between Gearstones and Fleet Moss.

In response to the new legislation, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has prepared a Draft Strategy for the

**Management of the Use of Green Lanes in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.** Whilst not suggesting a blanket ban on the use of all green roads, irrespective of their legal status, the strategy adopts six major criteria for their management – the ecological sensitivity of a route, the heritage of the route and its surroundings, conflicts between recreational user groups, concerns of local residents and land managers and the durability and condition of the route. Solutions can include a range of measures, including repair and restoration work, and voluntary restraint, but also legal and

physical restrictions to deal with the most serious cases.

This is an approach that the Yorkshire Dales Society has long advocated, and represents a major step forward from the laissez-faire attitude of previous years, when

*This and the image at top left on page 5 show the damage caused to the Cam High Road by motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles. Below left – the TRO Notice on Denton Moor.*



the motor sport lobbyists were allowed to dictate their own agenda.

The Yorkshire Dales Society's viewpoint is that any recreational activity with a significant environmental impact in the National Park or AONB, including off-road trail riding by all terrain vehicles and motor bikes, quad biking, hang gliding, large scale mountain biking or challenge walks, must be governed by the Sandford Principle – that is if conservation and recreation are in conflict, then conservation must prevail. Management measures are the means to ensure that this principle is upheld. In every case pre-emptive measures are far more effective than very expensive (and sometimes ecologically damaging) engineered solutions. Prevention is invariably better than cure.

Warm congratulations therefore to Nidderdale AONB JAC, North Yorkshire County Council, and indeed LARA, the motor sport pressure group, who have come to a joint agreement to support a complete ban on all



recreational motor vehicle use on Blubberhouses Moor, an area of magnificent, historic and ecologically rich open moorland in the AONB between Wharfedale and Washburndale that in recent years has been severely damaged by off-road bikers.

We have little doubt that if the motor sport organisations are prepared to work co-operatively with the National Park and AONB, and to encourage responsible behaviour from their own members in terms of speed, noise, consideration for others and avoiding large groups in sensitive locations, then this will support their case to enjoy continued use of some of the more robust unsurfaced highways.

However there are many areas where urgent action is now overdue. Another major achievement of the NERC Act is to give the National Park Authority the powers to use the important Road Traffic Regulation Act to restrict use of some of the more vulnerable, high profile routes such as the Arncliffe Cote track and Cam High Road.

The Cam High Road is the Roman Road over Cam Fell which remained in use until the mid 18th century as the main road for pedestrians, horse riders, packhorse trains, horse-drawn coaches and waggons between Lancaster, Ribblesdale and Wensleydale, until the building of the Lancaster-Richmond turnpike road in 1751. There are still sections of fine cobbled surface, parts of which could conceivably be Roman in origin; beneath the modern surface, there could well be Roman, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon archaeological

material. It also carries sections of two of Britain's most popular long distance walking routes, the Pennine Way and the Dales Way.

Sadly, and soon after North Yorkshire County Council spent a great deal of public money improving the ford at Gearstones in the 1980s, Cam Road became a favourite challenge route for the 4x4 clubs. As a result much of the highway is now trashed beyond repair. Ruts up to a metre deep and up to five vehicle widths have developed as drivers themselves avoid the damage they have caused, by trespassing onto the open moorland, making it an unpleasant route to walk, ride or cycle, creating a deep scar across the landscape which any major repair work could merely intensify and urbanise. This damage is almost entirely recreational in origin - there is in fact very little agricultural use. Worse, in the process, much of the Roman and medieval highway – a major linear archaeological feature in its own right - has been smashed by a tiny, selfish minority whose idea of sport is to see their vehicle wheels spin deep holes through the surface of an ancient highway. There has been more damage to the Cam High Road in the last twenty years than in the previous thousand.

Clearly Cam High Road must be a priority candidate for the National Park's new powers, meeting almost every criteria for action, but YDS members may have additional suggestions to make on routes which are at particular risk.

Interestingly enough, the arrival of the new powers has coincided with a delightful little publication **Ancient Trackways – four walks** exploring historic routes in the National Park, published jointly by the National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust as part of its Dales Living Landscape project. The routes include Mastiles Lane, the Craven Way, the Swaledale Corpse Way and the eastern (less damaged) parts of the Cam High Road. It's free of charge from both YDNPA and Millennium Trust offices but maybe a suggested donation of at least £1 to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Donate to the Dales Fund would not come amiss.



# A Grand re-opening – The Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum

Each day hundreds of vehicles travel along the A56 from Skipton to Colne to join the M65 motorway, or in the opposite direction to join the Aire Valley trunk road. Every one of these vehicles passes through the little town of Earby where, as it is entered from the Skipton direction, there is a sign indicating to the left, "Lead Mine Museum". Maybe some of those drivers have detoured in that direction to see what the museum was like and



maybe this article will encourage greater numbers to visit the museum.

The Earby Mines Research Group was formed in 1945 and since that time has been responsible for a great deal of the construction work on many of the derelict buildings associated with the lead mining industry in the Yorkshire Dales. Probably the most prominent of these in the literal sense, is the tall chimney by the many mine workings on Grassington Moor, whilst close to the entrance to the museum itself is the waterwheel and crusher brought from Providence Mine in Kettlewell and rebuilt at Earby. On its fiftieth anniversary eleven years ago I wrote an article for the YDS Review about the Group's work after interviewing Peter Dawson. He is one of the founder members who continues to take an active part in its activities as does Peter Hart, who is also mentioned in that article. At that time no financial support whatsoever was being received from any outside agency, the museum and active field work being dependent on what funding could be raised by members themselves. So, if nothing much has been heard about the museum and its band of volunteers over the past three years that is certainly not because it no longer

exists, but simply that the Old Grammar School, where the Museum has been based since 1971, has been undergoing a major facelift, necessitating its temporary closure.

The Old Grammar School is a Grade 2 listed building dating back to the 16th century although, of course, a number of alterations have been made since that time. It is owned by the Robert Windle's Foundation and is restricted to uses for educational purposes. From 1971 it has been leased to the Mines Research Group for a peppercorn rent, but in recent years it has become obvious that if the museum was to progress much renovation work was required on both the outside and inside of the building in order to display the many objects in

the Group's possession. Almost certainly these represent the most comprehensive collection of historical mining artefacts in the United Kingdom. Therefore in 1997, in order to establish a more formal basis for their work the group became a charitable trust under the title, the Earby Mines Research Group Museum Trust with twelve trustees, ten appointed through the group itself and one each from Pendle Borough Council and Earby Parish Council. From that stage onwards, research took on a whole new meaning; how to raise the money for the work that had to be done following an independent survey of the premises when it was decided that the interior should be completely gutted down to the original stonework. When first constructed the building had had an upper floor which had been the dwelling of the headmaster and his family, the scholars being taught on the ground floor, but this level had been removed many years ago. Now it was decided that the upper floor should be re-installed to give more floor space for the exhibits. To store these many artefacts two large metal containers were bought for the purpose, the purchasing of these, I was told, being less expensive than paying a monthly rental for hire! So work went ahead stripping the interior, all this being undertaken by voluntary labour

whilst, with some legal guidance, applications for funding went to various bodies, the two most prominent being English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Both of these organisations eventually provided substantial sums following the reams of paper work that had to be submitted. Smaller but none the less welcome grants came from Pendle Borough Council, the West Craven Committee and Earby parish Council. Additional amounts also were raised through efforts by the members, wives and friends of the Research Group, particularly by holding "Trash & Treasure" sales at frequent intervals to which the general public contributed. In all, around £400,000 was obtained through these many channels but the voluntary work itself, if costed, would have come to the value of a further £100,000 thereby approaching a total of half a million pounds.

So, has it been worth it? In earlier years I visited the museum on two or three occasions when it was in its original state, but Saturday June 24th of this year saw the official re-opening by the Mayor of Pendle following a closure of some three years. On going through the entrance it was immediately obvious what a wonderful transformation had been achieved. Even taking into account the small, mullioned windows, the interior was bright and welcoming, with small exhibits mounted on the opposite wall. The upper floor was supported on carefully crafted beams in keeping with the character of the building as a whole, whilst a lift has been installed to help those with difficulties to get to this level not to mention the modern toilet facilities. Light refreshments can also be served. All the exhibits and explanatory boards are professionally displayed and one of the outstanding features is a life size reconstruction of a mine adit, complete with horse and mine wagons to illustrate just what working conditions were like. There is still some work to be done around the exterior with plans also, at some future date, to extend the premises if planning permission can be obtained.

Do go and see for yourself. This year until the last Sunday in October, the Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum



on School Lane, is open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, reopening on the last Saturday in March, 2007. It can be arranged for parties to go at other times by appointment. All enquiries should be made by phoning the museum during opening hours if at all possible, the number being 01282 8411422.

*Dennis Cairns*

*\*The Yorkshire Dales Society hope to arrange a visit to the museum possibly in April in 2007.*

## DALES HERITAGE DIRECTORY IS LAUNCHED

Following the completion of the three year Craven Integrated Rural Development Project in 2005, the Yorkshire Dales Society has agreed to act as facilitator for the former Craven Heritage Forum. Supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Nidderdale JAC, Craven and Richmondshire District Councils and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the Forum was relaunched on September 2nd in Skipton Town Hall as the Dales Heritage Forum, at the first ever Dales Heritage Fair and Workshop. This brought together a wide range of organisations concerned with the interpretation of various aspects of Dales landscape and culture.

The idea of the Forum is for Dales organisations to share ideas, experience and contacts, and to this end a Dales Heritage Directory has been prepared listing around 80 organisations – public, private and voluntary, involved in some way or other with the interpretation of the natural, built or cultural heritage of our region. The full Directory will soon be available on the Yorkshire Dales Society's web site at [www.yds.org.uk](http://www.yds.org.uk).

# Introducing the Yorkshire Dales Society Corporate Members

In 2003 the Yorkshire Dales Society inspired by a Council for National Parks Business in the Dales Seminar at Dalesbridge Lodge, Austwick, decided to turn its attention as part of a wider concern for a healthy local economy in the Yorkshire Dales, to helping and encouraging the role of small and medium sized Dales' business. Since the Dales was still recovering from the ravages of F&M, the Society felt that we could at least help to encourage some of that much-needed recovery by engaging some of the range of businesses in the Dales, their initiatives and vitality, in the work of the Society.

At present we have 18 members in this special Corporate Member category, some sole traders, others with a small work force and one or two employing some larger numbers. As usual there are some other potential members in the pipe-line. In the past on an occasional basis in the Yorkshire Dales Review we have given news about some of our Corporate Members when they have won a special award, or achieved public recognition in some way. We printed a small directory of our Corporate Members for our own YDS members with details of their businesses; however, this is now well out of date, as some of our original members have moved out of the area or information has changed. It is timely to re-introduce our general membership to our current group.

The benefits of modern computer technology have meant that fortunately a Dales' business is not totally dependent on being close to larger population centres, and several of our corporate members are based in some very attractive venues in Malhamdale, Upper Wharfedale, Dentdale, and Wensleydale. When opportunity arises, YDS members might consider calling in and introducing themselves as YDS members to the shop, café, hotel or restaurant where the owners are Corporate Members, or alternatively by perhaps making use of the skills that our other Corporate Members have to offer whether it be in marketing, computers, websites, guided walks, supporting northern artists, teaching fine arts, or dealing in estate management, holiday cottages, or business park. The Society is keen to recruit more Dales businesses who, sharing our own conservation ethic, can contribute so much to a prosperous and sustainable future for the Dales. We look forward to hearing from other Dales businesses or receiving suggestions from members on likely candidates, especially in the northern dales.

**The Centre for Management Creativity** situated at High Trenhouse above Malham for over 20 years has helped many organisations such as major corporates, micro-businesses, charities, communities, local authorities and government departments to achieve leadership and inspired teamwork while making use of Logo Visual

*The Centre for Management Creativity, Malham*



Technology (LVT) thinking methodology, at its residential courses, email: [www.changeandinnovation.com](http://www.changeandinnovation.com)  
**QDK**, based near Rylstone at the Sunhill Centre, are specialists in website construction and also well-known for their innovative thinking, email: [www.daelnet.co.uk](http://www.daelnet.co.uk)  
**Eagle Intermedia Publishing Ltd** is an online promotion and internet marketing consultancy, founded in 1995, and though the company is based in Bradford, it has a special interest in the Yorkshire Dales area through its Yorkshire Dales website at [www.yorkshire-dales.com](http://www.yorkshire-dales.com). Another dales business based in Buckden, Upper Wharfedale, **P. Cannon** specialises in computer and network services, providing a service in and around the Yorkshire Dales National Park from simple repairs to full installations or from new software to new PC systems at [www.Pcannon.com](http://www.Pcannon.com)



Two small-scale marketing consultancies **Manifest Marketing** and **Cipher Marketing Ltd** which specialise in public relations, are both based in Wharfedale and can be contacted by email: [jane@manifestmarketing.co.uk](mailto:jane@manifestmarketing.co.uk) or [www.ciphermarketing.co.uk](http://www.ciphermarketing.co.uk)

**Town End Farm Shop & Tearoom** is a most welcome refreshment point in Airon, where Malhamdale farmers Chris and Jane Hall decided to diversify after the F&M



outbreak with a farm shop and café with a very attractive upstairs gift section. All meat is locally reared and includes Limestone Country Beef, and their own lamb when in season with other fine foods, while light meals with home-made products are on offer in the café, email: [townendfarm@malhamdale.com](mailto:townendfarm@malhamdale.com). The website gives useful information for visitors to Malhamdale.

**Dorothy Ward** is a long-established gift shop housed in a converted barn in Gargrave which sells a selection of high quality products, handcrafted from natural materials, including clothing and household goods, email: [dorothyward@daelnet.co.uk](mailto:dorothyward@daelnet.co.uk).

The well-known **Dalesman** café in Gargrave is a mecca for walkers, cyclists or the casual tourist, and also designs specialist cakes under the label Edible Artwork; our much admired Silver Jubilee cake pictured in the last YDS Review, was produced by Edible Artwork, (phone or fax 01756 749256).

**The Angel**, Hetton, Lower Wharfedale, has a national reputation as a superb, award winning restaurant and hotel but is still a local pub with its own specialist wine shop nearby. The Angel hosted this year's very successful special event for Corporate Members, making everyone most welcome. Its most recent accolade was as winner of the White Rose Awards as Yorkshire Pub of the Year, [www.angelhetton.co.uk](http://www.angelhetton.co.uk)

The Arts are represented in two contrasting ways, **Chrysalis Arts** is a public company, concentrating on arts development and as a training agency, based in Gargrave where the company also manages Art Connections, a development initiative for North Yorkshire artists and makers, and co-ordinates the North Yorkshire Open Studios email: [chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk](mailto:chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk)  
**Overton Fine Arts** is an Ilkley based organisation, run by a professional artist with Dales-based drawing and painting classes, correspondence courses and fine art reproduction, email: [nigel@overtonfinearts.co.uk](mailto:nigel@overtonfinearts.co.uk)

**Innway Publications**, based in Harrogate, publishes a series of walking guides, including several in the Dales, such as the popular Inn way as well as Walking Weekends, all with sustainable tourism in mind, encouraging visitors to walk through the England's northern national parks, staying at B&Bs and local pubs. A percentage of book sales are given to conservation bodies such as the Millennium Trust within the National Park: [www.innway.co.uk](http://www.innway.co.uk)

Accommodation is provided by the spacious **Rendezvous Hotel**, Skipton on the edge of the Dales for families or conferences, [www.rendezvous-skipton.com](http://www.rendezvous-skipton.com) or if you prefer to self-cater, by **Dalegarth & The Ghyll Holiday Cottages** based in Buckden, with a number of properties available and a swimming pool, [www.dalegarth.co.uk](http://www.dalegarth.co.uk)

The **Tempest Estates** at Broughton Hall, Skipton forms a spacious business park with attractive office accommodation in restored historic buildings and with full conferencing facilities available at Broughton Hall



itself. There are excellent rail and motorway links in each direction, [www.broughtonhall.co.uk](http://www.broughtonhall.co.uk)

**Thornton-Berry** specialise in estate management near Leyburn, email: [admin@farmmoorservices.co.uk](mailto:admin@farmmoorservices.co.uk)  
 Finally, **Lyon Equipment Ltd**, a thriving firm in Dentdale, employs 40 full-time staff, and provides specialist outdoor equipment of all kinds for sports, work and rescues, in addition they have a considerable reputation for their training and equipping services for rescue work at height, email: [info@lyon.co.uk](mailto:info@lyon.co.uk)

Strong links have been already fostered with a number of these organisations which reflect our mutual concern not only for a very special environment, but for the longer term social and economic well-being of the Yorkshire Dales.

# Major reforms to the Work of the National Park Authority

Ever since it was established 52 years ago, the Yorkshire Dales National Park has been dominated by one single issue – Development Control. Indeed in its early days, the Park Committee was merely a sub-committee of the two County Councils' Planning Committees.

Development Control – the process of granting licences to developers to build or extend property - continues to dominate the work of the present Authority. Monthly meetings with huge, inch-thick agendas take up hours of officer and member time. In comparison, all other National Park matters are dealt at one bi-monthly full Authority agenda.

A key recommendation of the Peer Group Review of the Authority, which took place in 2005, was for the National Park Planning Committee to be slimmed down to reduce the huge amount of time consumed by officers and members listening to interminable, often acrimonious, debates of why Mrs X's barn conversion was so vital for the local economy.

A much smaller Planning Committee was therefore proposed. Now adopted, this new procedure will not only make the work of officers easier, but will free up Members for more interesting and perhaps ultimately more significant conservation and access tasks, using the very considerable expertise and energy that both elected and appointed Members can bring to the Authority's work.

To this end, Members are being encouraged to become "champions" in what are defined as the seven functional areas of National Park work – Natural Environment, Historic Environment, Recreation Management, Promoting Understanding, Development Control, Forward Planning, Corporate & Democratic Core.

This is a development which the Yorkshire Dales Society warmly welcomes and we look forward to working closely with all the "Champions" to make the Yorkshire Dales an even more beautiful, accessible and prosperous environment.

Naturally most of that minority of locally elected members, whose prime concern within the Park Authority appears to be, whenever possible, to contradict and undermine agreed National Park Local Plan policies by granting planning permissions to well-heeled "local" developers on every possible occasion, will all gravitate to Development Control. It is symptomatic of the attitude of this group that it was erroneously claimed that the recent House of Lords Judicial Review of the disastrous Pembrokeshire National Park Bluestone leisure chalet holiday park

decision was proof that "jobs were more important than the environment". This is of course absolute rubbish, (the decision was about the legal process not the quality of decision), but this indicates the hostility to and misunderstanding of National Park values which still exists within our own National Park Authority. Ironically far from creating "local jobs", Bluestone will have to draw in eastern European labour for the kind of low-paid seasonal jobs on offer, hardly the panacea for local economic regeneration which has been claimed.

However a smaller Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Committee will reduce scope for lobbying, and indeed will, it is hoped, make the planning process more transparent, especially if approved and agreed National Park policies are repeatedly challenged by the same small group of individuals.

## NATIONAL PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006-2011

Together with the Local Plan, guidelines for all the National Park's work are democratically approved and established through the Park's Management Plan. The new Draft Management Plan to cover the next five years 2006-2011 sets out a clear vision of the Park's special qualities (see the Spring Review), and outlines some major issues such as economic change, recreational demands, mobility, new technology, potential increased military use and global warming, all of which may affect the National Park in the decades ahead. It then looks in detail at seven key areas of concern: Landscape, Community & Culture, Access & Recreation, Understanding & Enjoyment, Nature Conservation, Historic Environment, Economy & Employment. These action areas were defined as a result of detailed consultation work by member-officer working groups. They correspond closely, but not exactly, with the Member Champion themes as outlined above.

The Yorkshire Dales Society has warmly welcomed the Draft Plan, though we also made specific detailed comment, generally to strengthen and support the proposals. A full copy of our response is available from the Secretary on request.

The acid test of any Plan is in its effective delivery, and there are two major threats – lack of resources owing to what are already severely damaging Government cut-backs to both the National Park budget and the new Natural England's budget, and the lack of political will to fulfil commitments.

It will be our role over the next five years to ensure that both sufficient resources and sufficient political

commitment are there to achieve what is so eloquently promised.

But the Yorkshire Dales Society also strongly believes that the only way the aims and fine ideals of the Plan will be delivered is through active partnerships with a number of different agencies, including public, private and voluntary bodies. Only by pooling resources - expertise, human and financial resources, enthusiasm and commitment - can our common objectives be achieved. It is primarily for this reason we have chosen

the theme of **Delivering Sustainability Through Partnership** as the guiding principle for the 2006 National Park Societies Conference at Scargill House, Kettlewell on October 13-15th, that the Yorkshire Dales Society is hosting. We hope to have a number of case studies within our own National Park showing how this can be achieved in practice, for our colleagues from other UK National Parks to consider and compare with their own experience, so that we too can learn from best practice – and in some cases perhaps even learn which pitfalls to avoid.

## Subscriptions - New Rates to Cover our Costs

For the last ten years, in spite of increasing costs, the Yorkshire Dales Society has not raised its subscription rates and has preferred to defer any increase. This year rising costs on many fronts have finally forced us to make that decision. Members will be aware that postage has not just gone up once, but actually twice this year, stationery and print costs and other necessities likewise. But our long overdue office move, with its rental increase, some seriously out of date equipment and the necessity to plan for and implement our Succession Strategy (our new Administrator is in post as stage one) means that we have no choice but to increase subscription rates to meet our increased costs. Membership rates were last increased in autumn 1996, so the increases represent no more than our very necessary need to meet inflation.

The following increases will take effect from January 1st 2007. New members who join prior to that date at the new rates, will enjoy full membership benefits until January 1st 2008.

### NEW MEMBERSHIP RATES FROM JANUARY 1ST 2007

SINGLE ADULT	£15
FAMILY COUPLE	£20
RETIRED SINGLE ADULT	£12
RETIRED COUPLE	£16

Affiliated Members will remain at £26, and Corporate Members rate will stay at £26, £52 and £100 according to their particular category.

## GEORGE HALLAS

The Yorkshire Dales Society was saddened to learn of the death, in August, of former National Park Officer George Hallas. He was 65.

George, at that time a young planning officer with North Riding County Council, joined the staff of the newly unified Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee in 1974 and was appointed joint Deputy National Park Officer, in charge of Development Control and Forward Planning at the Bainbridge Office. He succeeded Richard Harvey as National Park Officer in 1996, before taking early retirement in 1998. He was a founder Trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and remained a part-time wildlife inspector until his untimely death on a trip through the North West Passage, Canada to enjoy its wildlife, on a Russian ice breaker; sadly a trip planned with his wife Christine, to celebrate their Ruby Wedding.

George was an excellent National Park Officer, a thoughtful and supportive colleague and a passionate conservationist with a deep love of the Yorkshire Dales and its wildlife in particular. During his long professional career with the Yorkshire Dales National Park he made a major contribution to the work of the Park, and brought sharp insights into the workings of the authority, a steadying influence in even the most difficult of times.

He had a warmth and a typical dry, Dales sense of humour that we shall all miss. He was a good friend of the Yorkshire Dales Society from our very beginnings until his retirement a few years ago. Our only consolation is that he was doing the thing he was most passionate about – discovering the world's most beautiful and wildest places, and most especially experiencing at first hand its wonderful wildlife.

## Introducing your New member of the Administration Team

On 21 August 2006, the administration team of the Yorkshire Dales Society gained a new member. Stuart Willis started work for the Society with the remit of running the new Settle office and eventually taking over the administration from Fleur to allow her to spend time on other projects.

Stuart lives just outside the National Park, in Carleton in Craven, with his wife, Claire, daughter of 5 months, Isobel, and a small ginger dog named Ged. Although not a Yorkshireman by birth (inconsiderately, his parents lived in Maidstone, Kent at the time of his birth and the subsequent three months), he was brought up in Selby just south of York. Through frequent visits to the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors during his childhood and participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, he developed a love for the outdoors at a young age. He particularly enjoys fell walking, photography and watching wildlife.

After school, Stuart went to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne to study for a degree in music. A teacher training qualification from Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education followed and with his desire to leave the lovely but topographically challenged Vale of Evesham to "get back up north and find some hills", he found himself teaching music in a secondary school in Burnley, Lancashire. After four years, Stuart "escaped teaching to find a proper job" (his words, not ours!) and worked for Skipton Building Society at their head office for just under four years. Other jobs he has done have included making farmhouse cheese on a small farm in Worcester, selling musical instruments in Harrogate, writing computer software manuals for a small technical authoring firm in Redditch and various short term administrative positions at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and companies in the north east.

Since living in the Skipton area, Stuart has developed a deep passion for the Dales. He feels that it is vitally important for this rural area to be effectively maintained as a framework of working, living communities. These need to be forward-looking and embrace the challenges of the twenty first century, while continuing to

conserve the history, tradition and heritage of the Dales landscape that makes it such a special part of the world. If this can be done successfully, the local residents can be supported in a range of industries from farming to I.T., while being able to welcome visitors to experience and enjoy the many jewels in the Dales' crown.



Stuart and Isobel

With such a passion, Stuart started his 'dream' job in June 2006, working two days a week for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, providing administrative support for the communications team. With regard to his position with the Society he said that "the opportunity to work an additional day each week is very exciting: I feel that both positions will complement each other and will help foster even better working relations between the two organisations. It is so important to me to give

something back to the area that I love and to help, if even in a small way, to maintain it for the future. I am privileged to work with like-minded people in both the Society and the Authority and I strongly believe in their aims and objectives."

Stuart will work in the Settle Office on Thursdays but will also be monitoring email and telephone messages at other times during the week. He works for the Authority on Mondays and Fridays and will look after Isobel for the rest of the week. To look at Stuart's photography or read more about him, see his rapidly developing website at [www.sillytrouts.co.uk](http://www.sillytrouts.co.uk).



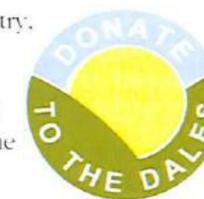
## Bringing our Native Trees back to the Dales

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has received the fantastic news that they have been given up to £270,000 towards the planting of new woodlands in the Dales over the next two years. The grant has come from English Nature's Countdown 2010 fund which supports



projects that help to stop the decline of UK bio-diversity. The Trust has a good track record of planting new native broadleaved woodlands within the Dales, yet woods are still a scarce resource within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. There is only 4% of woodland

cover, one of the lowest in the country, and of this about half is conifer plantations. The Trust is aiming to help restore the ancient semi natural woodland cover that is home to some of the rarest plant species, and planting adjacent to the pockets of woodland that are left is crucial to this process.



Plans are underway to plant some 75 hectares of woodland for the next two years and a number of potential sites have already been identified, however the crucial part of the success of this project is to secure match funding to enable the Trust to claim the full grant. Consequently we are appealing to individuals who care passionately about the future of the Yorkshire Dales to contribute what they can to help achieve this target. If you are able to make a donation please send a cheque payable to "Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust" to Woodland Appeal, Freepost NWW10111, Clapham, LA2 8YY.

*David Baker*, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

## Our Friends in the East – Supporting Nidderdale AONB

Launched in the Spring of last year, the Friends of Nidderdale AONB has grown rapidly and is now playing a prominent role in helping to promote conservation of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Membership is open to anyone who is prepared to

pledge voluntary help or conservation activity that directly benefits the AONB. A wide range of pledges are eligible such as maintaining bird feeders, creating a wildlife pond, buying products from local businesses, joining one of the AONB's volunteer groups or helping to look after the village hall. Financial donations are encouraged, and may be given as an alternative to a pledge, but in fact many members are both actively engaged and make a donation. Distant Friends may also pledge conservation work in their own locality.

Membership benefits include a special newsletter, a series of walks and talks by leading experts, farm visits, and social events. Our events programme is very popular and varied: Friends have seen lambs being born at a local farm, nightjars in flight, bats emerging from a

roost; have had a guided tour of RHS Harlow Carr with our Patron Matthew Wilson, a guided walk on the geology of upper Nidderdale, and a woodland walk exploring the ecology and management of ancient woodland. Our future programme includes a ceilidh, a talk on the Cistercian influences in the AONB, a Quiz Night, tree planting and a winter walk.

Friends are also partnering the Nidderdale Agricultural Society in sponsoring an 'Enterprising Farm Award' for farm-based conservation initiatives or innovative sustainable projects within the AONB. Supported by Carter Jonas, three cash prizes will be awarded annually at the Nidderdale Show.

We are always delighted to welcome new members: please contact Michelle

Pearson on 01423 712950 for details or consult the Nidderdale AONB website – [www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk](http://www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk)

*Barry Slaymaker*, AONB Ranger

# Book Reviews

**INDEPENDENT BURLEY: A Village, its People and its Councils** by Margaret and Dennis Warwick, published by Burley Local History Group (ISBN 0 925242291 3 6) at £10 in local bookshops or by post plus £2.50 postage and packing, from 15, The Copse, Burley-in-Wharfedale, West Yorks, LS29 7QY.

Two academics, Margaret and Dennis Warwick with the help and support of the Burley-in-Wharfedale Local History Group have published this most fascinating 80 page history of their township just at the point when Burley, formerly part of Ilkley in 1937 and part of Bradford Metropolitan District in 1974, has a real chance of becoming once again an "Independent" Burley, with its own Parish Council, a legal entity, in 2006. Hopefully it will be able to build on the strong community spirit it has already shown through its Community Council. As the authors point out, "if central Government confers some autonomy to a community" which can be used to benefit the members, the creation of Burley Parish Council can be a very positive and democratic step.

In the eighteenth century a series of rules was drawn up to guide the Township Officers in their various community tasks, but with the coming of industry, (four mills at Burley Woodhead manufacturing wool and cotton, with larger cotton mills later by the River Wharfe

at Greenholme), sewage disposal and the provision of water supplies were unable to keep pace with the growing population. Disease, especially consumption, was rife. A Board of Health was set up to deal with such issues in the 1850s, replaced by Burley Urban District Council in 1895 which took on increasing responsibilities. William Forster, one of Burley's famous sons, a member of the original Board of Health, when he became an MP also pioneered minimum education standards for all children, in his famous landmark 1870 Forster Education Act.

With the help of numbers of archive photos, and meticulous research, this most lucid and detailed account *Independent Burley: A Village, its People and its Councils* charts a detailed history of the community up to the present day, and convinces us that here is a vibrant society which cares deeply about its citizens and about its area, in recent years creating many attractive features for all to enjoy.

*Fleur Speakman*

**THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY 1981-2006 – THE STORY SO FAR BY A Personal Account** by Colin and Fleur Speakman, published in desk top and available at Society events at £5 (by post please add £1 for postage and packing).

If you have ever wondered how and why the Yorkshire Dales Society came into being, what issues the Society was concerned about even in the beginning of its 25 year history, its various serious crises and triumphs, do read this well illustrated history. It is also the history of the many people who have put in so much support, enthusiasm and dedicated hard work over the years, laying the foundations of what we hope will be an exciting and rewarding future for the Society they created.



*Greenholme Mills, Burley* an illustration from "Independent Burley" by Margaret and Dennis Warwick

## A New Beginning and a Chance to Help

The Yorkshire Dales Society has always been tremendously grateful to all the volunteers who have helped us in whatever capacity, whether on a regular or occasional basis. We are especially grateful to those who until quite recently have helped us to man the Otley YDS office for the last eight nine years and helped with the basic administration of the Yorkshire Dales Society, including our regular mailing out of the YDS Review and Digest. We would like to pay special tribute here to Maurice Denton, Mike Johnson and Margaret Rhodes who have lightened office burdens considerably for many years and given such dedicated service.

Now with our new Settle office on the first floor in the historic Town Hall, a very attractive office which allows for much greater flexibility, we are looking for people prepared to help for an hour or two a week with some basic clerical work or who could help with larger mail-outs or special projects.

If you live in or reasonably near to Settle, and feel you can help as a Society Volunteer, we would be delighted to meet you. Please contact Stuart Willis who will generally be in the YDS office on Thursday either by phone 01729 825600 or email on [stuart@sillytrouts.co.uk](mailto:stuart@sillytrouts.co.uk)

# Autumn/Winter Events 2006/7

*Enjoy the opportunity for a variety of pleasant short morning walks in different parts of the Dales followed by the chance to discover the past, present and future of the Yorkshire Dales Society, some remarkable architectural heritage, changes in gardening styles and the interaction of wildlife and the environment – and a Christmas walk through some dramatic limestone scenery.*

**Please note that there is no charge for YDS walks. Lectures are £2.00 to YDS members and £3 to non members to cover costs unless otherwise stated. Dogs are welcome on walks, but must always be kept under control on a lead. Walks will normally terminate between 12.15 to 12.45pm unless otherwise stated. Please check all bus/train times which are liable to change.**

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th 2006

**WALK: THREE VILLAGES.** Leader Mike Johnson tel: 01943 607566. Meet at the Yorkshire National Park car park in Grassington 10.30am for a moderate walk of about 5 miles via the attractive villages in Linton and Thorpe, returning along the riverside to historic Hebden. One fairly long gradual ascent and a shorter descent is involved, together with a few stiles. Please allow for a 1 pm return (or even a little later depending on pace) when making your lunch arrangements for a café, pub or packed lunch. Bus 72 from Skipton Bus Station d. 1005; 74 from Ilkley d. 0935.

**LECTURE: THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY - OUR FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS - COLIN SPEAKMAN,** author and the Society's Founder Secretary, recalling some of the colourful events in the Society's first quarter century; in the Octagon Room at Grassington Town Hall at 2.15pm.

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 13TH – SUNDAY OCTOBER 15TH NATIONAL PARKS' SOCIETIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT SCARGILL HOUSE.

*The theme is Working Together for a Sustainable Future in our National Parks.* There will be a number of keynote



presentations such as the Limestone Country Project. Protecting the Historic Environment and the Role of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust in helping to deliver Sustainable Development in the Yorkshire Dales, field trips to a variety of venues and Dales' music from Magnetic North. There may still be room for some YDS members to attend with the chance to meet other delegates from our sister organisations from around the country and to enjoy exchanging ideas



in a lovely setting. If you wish to attend either as a day visitor or even stay (if there is space), please ring Fleur Speakman on 01943 607868 as soon as possible.

### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11TH 2006

**WALK: AROUND BOLTON PRIORY'S RIVERSIDE AND WOODS.** Leader Bernard Lynch tel 0113 250 5205. Meet at Bolton Abbey Post Office 10.30am. Parking at the Memorial Hall, Bolton Abbey or nearby Bolton Abbey car park. Bus 74 from Ilkley d. 0935.

**LECTURE: CRUCK BUILDINGS IN THE DALES - DON McCLELLAN,** of the YDNPA, at Bolton Abbey village hall at 2.15pm.

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND 2006

**WALK: ADDINGHAM'S ROMAN ROAD.** Leader Veronica Boulton tel 0113 2672929. Meet at Addingham Memorial Hall, 1035. Bus X84 from Leeds d 0855, Skipton 0935; 762 from Ilkley d 1027. Keighley 0940. **LECTURE: NEW TRENDS IN GARDENING (with a Dales slant) by Matthew Wilson,** Curator and Superintendent at Harlow Carr Gardens at Addingham Memorial hall at 2.15pm.

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH CHRISTMAS WALK - CRUMMACKDALE AND MOUGHTON SCAR

The Society's new Administrator Stuart Willis will lead our annual Christmas walk, from Clapham to Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Catch the Morecambe train at 1019 from Leeds, 1032 from Shipley 1054 from Skipton, 1108 from Hellifield to Clapham (Book Day Return). 7 miles, with two steep climbs. Return from Horton 1556 or 1744. Drivers park at Skipton or Hellifield. Bring packed lunch – pub or café for festive drink at the end of walk.

### SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH 2007

**WALK: OLD TRACKS AND QUARRIES ROUND PATELEY BRIDGE.** Walk Leader John Hone tel: 01423 711471. Meet at Pateley Bridge main car park near the river in front of semi-circular wooded seat at 10.30am. There are some uphill sections on this moderate walk. Packed, pub or café lunch at about 12.30pm. Parking village car park. Bus 24 from Harrogate d.0930 **LECTURE: THE EFFECT OF FARMING AND WILD LIFE ON THE ENVIRONMENT - CLAIRE HARRIS of DEFRA,** in Pateley Bridge in the Bishopside and Bewerley Memorial Hall (**please note that the hall is our usual venue on Park Road, Pateley Bridge**), at 2.15pm.

### The Dales Digest

Our sincere apologies if you were charged extra postage for your last Digest. Wrong information and envelopes prepared ahead of the size changes caused the problem. In future the Digest will be folded and put in smaller envelopes to reduce costs.



*Front Cover picture:* Guise Cliff Tarn, Nidderdale.

*Back Cover picture:* Hazlewood post box, Wharfedale.

*Photos by* Colin Speakman.

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**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 at the Society's new address opposite.*

**Yorkshire Dales Society NEW ADDRESS:**

*The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Town Hall, Cheapside, Settle, BD24 9EJ.*

*Telephone/Answerphone 01729 825600.*

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

*The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.*

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT NEW MEMBERSHIP RATES COME INTO OPERATION ON JANUARY 1ST, 2007**

**Membership Subscription Rates**

*Single Adult £15, Family/Couple £20*

*Single Retired £12, Retired Couple £16, Student/Unwaged £9*

*Affiliated £26, Corporate – category A £26, category B £52, category C £100.*

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