

No. 99 Summer 2007

# Yorkshire Dales Review



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Yorkshire Dales  
Society



£1.50



## Restoring Historic Buildings and Walls – and the Rural Economy

A new joint report in the series **Valuing the Historic Environment** commissioned by DEFRA and English Heritage, (available from English Heritage on 0970 333 1181 or e-mail [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk) – product code 51309) will gladden the heart of everyone who cares of the Yorkshire Dales.

Six major schemes helping landowners and farmers in the Yorkshire Dales were examined in detail – DEFRA's Pennine Dales, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Rural Enterprise schemes, Countryside Stewardship, the YDNPA's Barns and Walls project and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Environet and subsequent projects.

In total between 1998 and 2004 grants of over £6.71 million were paid out – a lot of public money.

But the results have been spectacular – direct benefit in sustaining and indeed improving a nationally important landscape, the creation of local employment, support for traditional craft skills, advantages to farm businesses, and benefits to tourism as people come to enjoy the magnificent cultural landscapes of the Dales. Over the six year period, no less than 517 traditional buildings and 191 kilometres of drystone wall were restored, without which over three quarters would now be derelict, unsightly ruins. 95% of the buildings repaired are now in productive farming use, mainly housing livestock and fodder. The work has created 74 jobs in and around the National Park – 41 by building schemes, 33 through walling projects, of which 23 are actual walling. Between £7.08 million and £9.058 million has been generated in the local economy, with every £1 spent on repair work creating another £2.48 (£1.92 for walling). Around £2.5 million may have been added annually to the Dales tourist economy by the benefits of landscape conservation.

That is an impressive achievement, and much of that success has been due to the hard work of bodies such as English Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency (now Natural England), the National Park

Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

However, there is a serious downside which doesn't find its way into the report. In 2005 major upheavals took place in the countryside which included the abolition of the Countryside Agency and English Nature, at the very time there was a huge overspend in EU Farm Single Payments schemes and DEFRA's budget. Massive problems with computer systems, have not only led to huge payments delays, but serious problems for upland farmers so eloquently described by Dales farmer Martin Coates on pages 10 and 11. The cost of this mismanagement has been paid not by extra money from Government, but by slashing budgets for precisely the schemes that are described here. The new Natural England began life in 2005 with budgets decimated, which together with the massive bureaucratic costs of yet another reorganisation (a constant British disease) have meant almost all new project funding being slashed. Key areas of work in the countryside, on footpaths, access, rural transport, conservation, have been trimmed to the bone or cut completely. Excellent projects are now on hold, postponed or cancelled. Disillusioned staff leave, precious experience and expertise are squandered.

Critics of government have said that the countryside is being short changed. There is a real feeling that rural England is paying dearly for the London Olympics and military activities abroad.

Perhaps things will improve in the two years ahead prior to the next General Election when a new Prime Minister may realise the price the Government will pay if it loses both the rural and the environmental vote. What is clear for all funding agencies – and DEFRA, Yorkshire Forward and Natural England please note – targeted spending on conserving the historic and natural environment creates new jobs, new skills, and invests in one of our greatest assets, our magnificent landscape heritage.

*Colin Speakman*

## The Ken Willson Award 2007 – “Making Hay while the Sun Shines”

Congratulations to Pippa Rayner, Project Officer for the Hay Time Project for the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, winner of this year's Ken Willson Award. The Award is given annually by the Yorkshire Dales Society and Craven CPRE in memory of Ken Willson, a former President of both bodies, to a young person in the Dales who by their work and initiative has made a real difference to some essential aspect of Dales' life.

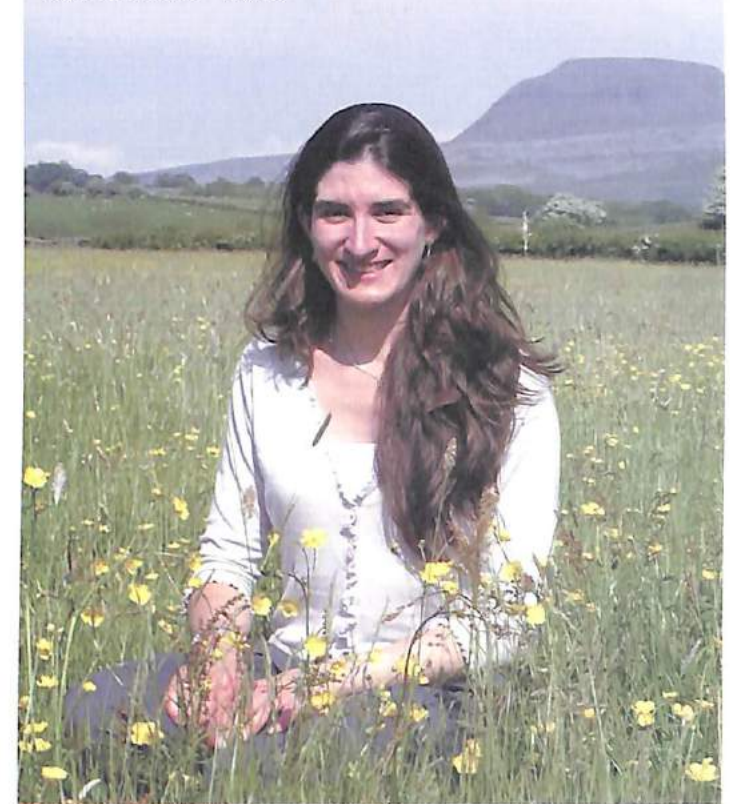
On Wednesday June 6th, Pippa who has a doctorate in the Management of Created, Species-rich Grasslands, was awarded her cheque and certificate by CPRE Craven Chairman Hilary Fenten and YDS Chairman Malcolm Petyt at a ceremony in the YDS Settle office attended by YDS, CPRE and YDMT officers.

Pippa, working for the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, provides specialist advice to land managers, and identified both suitable farm-rich meadows which would donate seed as well as the nearby farms which would receive them. She has become involved in all aspects of co-ordination, site preparation and sowing, and has spent considerable time liaising with the farming community at all levels, also providing training opportunities, support and education networks. Furthermore, she is able to raise the profile of the project through articles, talks and presentations, additionally proving herself to be an excellent communicator with a wide range of people.

Changes in farming practice over the years have meant that the UK has lost more than 95% of its flower-rich meadows since 1945 “with a detrimental effect on the lush countryside”. However, Swaledale still has one of the largest concentrations of species-rich meadows in the National Park and is therefore especially valuable. This diversity is further enhanced by the markedly different mix of species to be found in upland meadows in contrast to those in the lowland.

Pros and cons of the use of silage as opposed to traditional haymaking can be summarised as follows: silage is easier to harvest as it does not need prolonged periods of dry weather; a serious consideration in an uncertain climate. But the considerable amounts of chemicals thought necessary to cut down on weeds for this particular farming practice is causing potential damage to the environment and to wild life, insects, birds and small animals, resulting in several traditional birds such as skylarks and plovers becoming rarer (and it is feared that the yellow wagtail which feeds its newly hatched chicks on insects in the hay, may already be extinct). There is also habitat loss among the smaller

*Ken Willson Prize winner, Pippa Rayner, enjoying a Dales hay meadow. Photo - YDMT.*



mammals such as voles and field mice that provide food for foxes, stoats, weasels and also for birds of prey such as owls and kestrels. A further danger is that some of those dangerous chemicals can leach into nearby streams again with detrimental effect.

The Hay Time project which will run for three and a half years, aims to enhance and restore 80 hectares of upland meadows and 60 hectares of lowland meadows throughout the Yorkshire Dales, by providing advice on meadow management and by actively restoring meadows using seed harvested from donor meadows to increase plant diversity in suitable sites. By persuading farmers and landowners to return to traditional haymaking, there is the added bonus of cash incentives.

The project provides the machinery, contractors and expertise to enable meadow restoration. Experts collected seeds during the summer of 2006 from farmers with species rich flowery meadows, and a seed bank was established. Two different methods can be used to harvest the flowery meadow crops. In the first, the whole hay crop is taken and strewn on to the destination site when it is fresh and the seed is viable. Alternatively a special machine cuts the top third of the hay, where most of the seeds are sited. This can be dried if necessary but, ideally, it is strewn on the same day. The aim is to reinstate traditional management by

Specialised hay-cutting machinery. Photo - YDMT.



cutting the hay in late July, followed by autumn grazing with sheep or cattle through the winter. During late spring the stock are removed from the meadows and the crops are allowed to grow. Inorganic fertilisers are not used, but some farmyard manure is allowed.

The Hay Time Project encourages silage users to return to traditional haymaking, with extra subsidy grants from Defra's Agri-environmental budget. Working closely with farmers and other land managers is an integral part of the project. Meadow restoration and management provides additional income for farmers: donor farmers are paid for the seed harvested from their meadows, and farmers who change over to the Hay Time scheme qualify for higher management payments under agri-environment schemes, as well as being reimbursed up to 100% of the restoration costs. Pippa emphasises that bought-in mixes do not necessarily mean local seed, hence her insistence on using donor seed from nearby areas so that the "unique genetic make-up" of the Yorkshire Dales continues. She is keen to stress too that

the beauty of the colours in a species rich meadow in the Dales is something very special indeed.

On receiving her cheque and certificate, Pippa stated, "I am delighted to have won the Award as I already feel that I'm very lucky to have such a fantastic job in a beautiful area. I've had a great year meeting Dales' farmers who are keen to increase the wildlife value of their meadows and I've been impressed with their interest in the project. Winning this award reflects the importance of the Project in working with farmers to maintain the beautiful meadows that contribute so much to the Dales' landscape."

The Hay Time scheme is being run jointly by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority throughout the National Park and its immediate neighbourhood. A sister project is being run in the North Pennines by the North Pennines AONB Partnership.

## Dorothy Willson July 1923 – May 2007

It is with some sadness that we record the recent death of Yorkshire Dales Society founder and Honorary Member Dorothy (Dot) Willson at a Silsden nursing home. Dorothy was educated at Lawnswood High School and later worked at the Ministry of Food in Leeds. She met her husband Ken (former YDS President who predeceased her 3 years ago) on a Rambler's Association walk, and their shared delight in nature and the outdoors led to their marriage in 1947. Dot became a keen naturalist with a particular interest in flowering plants. She was always immensely supportive of the Yorkshire Dales Society, quietly encouraging of any initiatives and with a most sympathetic kindly personality. She became involved in work for the Addingham Millennium Tapestry in the village which was her main home, and enjoyed activities at a local music society and Scottish dancing. The couple's additional home at High House near Sedbergh became a centre of warm hospitality, and the vicinity of both Dales and Lakes made it an ideal spot for their walking interests. A regular and devout church goer at All Saints parish church, Ilkley. Dot's religion meant a great deal to her. The couple's love of travel made them adventurous even in their senior years with white water rafting forming a particular highlight. Though childless, Dot was warmly interested in her nephews and nieces, and we extend our sincere condolences to all remaining family members.

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## David Smith

David Smith, the Yorkshire Dales Society's long serving Treasurer, retired at the AGM from over-seeing the Society's finances for sixteen years. The Society is also deeply indebted to him for devising our original

computer programmes which served us so well for much of that period.

David's style in both capacities was very "hands on": always ready to trouble-shoot when necessary and assist with any problems of increasingly aging equipment. In the Yorkshire Dales Society Council, his was frequently a highly supportive voice, yet at the same time, he would at times quite rightly urge financial caution. He has said that he greatly enjoyed the friendly atmosphere in both the office and YDS Council. We send our very good wishes to David for the increased opportunities he will have for relaxing in his favourite leisure pursuits of walking, climbing and cycling, listening to classical music, and travelling with his wife Judith.

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David Smith enjoying one of his favourite activities. Photo - Judith Smith.



## Colin Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

We warmly congratulate Colin Speakman, Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, for scooping the Lifetime Achievement Award at a Gala Dinner given by the Dalesman magazine on Thursday May 10th at the Pavilions, Harrogate. As well as singling out Colin's work for the Society, Alan Titchmarsh who hosted the event, cited Colin's long record of environmental and transport campaigning in the Dales and elsewhere, including the Dales Rail service on the Settle-Carlisle line, his many walking guides and creation of the Dales Way, the popular long distance footpath, and in a different vein, his role as one of the initiators of the Grassington Festival.

The award was one of a series of new annual Dalesman Yorkshire Rural Awards, to be given annually. Other categories include Entrepreneur of the Year, won by Michael and Tom Bannister of Coniston Hall for their work in transforming Coniston Cold Estate from traditional agriculture to a hotel and leisure centre; Environmental Project of the Year goes to Elvington Parish Council for what is believed to be the first self-help flood defence scheme by a parish council; Farm Business of the Year winners were Paul and Kate Langthorne for their imaginative diversification into such subsidiaries as buffalo, yak and emus; Food & Drink Producer of the Year went to Raydale Preserves which from modest beginnings has become a major employer in the area; the Restoration of the Year goes to Hellifield Peel, a 14th century fortified tower saved from the brink



Colin Speakman (centre) flanked by Alan Titchmarsh (right) being presented with his award by sponsor Yorkshire Investment Group's Peter Jones. Photo - Dalesman.

of collapse by Francis and Karen Shaw, while Young Achiever of the Year went to Louise Williams, organiser of the Limestone Beef Project which returns hardy cattle to the Dales. Louise was also one of our own first Ken Willson Award winners three years ago and it is very appropriate for the Society to congratulate her on her latest achievement. Finally Yorkshireman of the Year was awarded, to his unfeigned surprise, to the host himself, Alan Titchmarsh, who received his trophy from Bernard Ingham. Our warmest congratulations are extended to all of them.

# Bolton Abbey Sculpture Trail

A special attraction for summer 2007 at Bolton Abbey is a Sculpture Trail with seventeen splendid outdoor sculptures by seven Yorkshire artists imaginatively set along a woodland nature trail by the river Wharfe.

woven twigs to great tactile effect in her Goat at Hawser and Rocky, the working gun dog, while her Centaur, a mythical female hunting, is especially arresting for its pose with strung bow. Jennifer Tetlow's sandstone sculptures are exquisitely set in soft folds such as her Eve, and Lady with the flowers.

Obtain your leaflet at the Bolton Abbey estate or even in advance on one of the Cravenlink 884 Dalesbus which makes regular trips to the



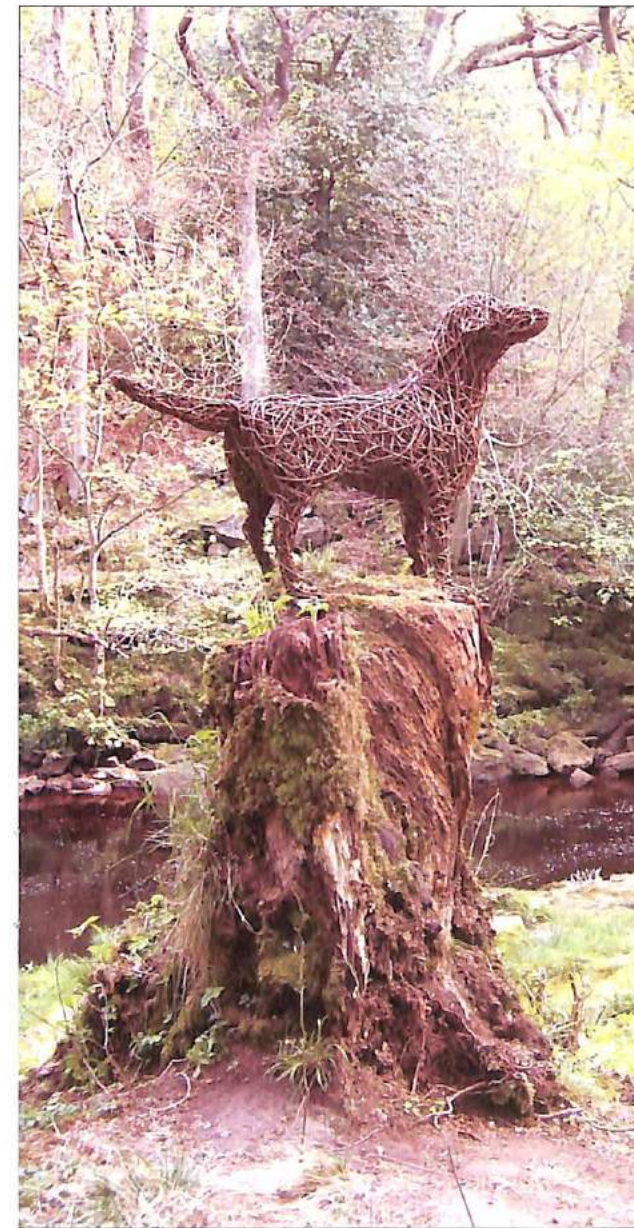
Forming a delightful quest on an easy walk, these various structures in stone, wood, and metal can be viewed in either spectacular or unexpected places (such as in the river or even high above in a tree), with the natural backdrop of river and woodland proving a particular delight to the eye. The 5.7km or 3½ mile walk along surfaced paths takes approximately 2½ hours at a leisurely pace. It starts from the Cavendish Pavilion and finishes on the opposite side of the river.



Michael Kusz who moved to Swaledale 24 years ago from Nottingham shows a delightful sense of humour in his highly covetable metal Rooks perched on some huge rocks, while his Bats are wittily strung out over the river on a rope, with an extra "bat" hiding in the stone shelter nearby. His spectacular awe-inspiring heron with delicate copper wings is also the key motif on the Sculpture Trail brochure. Emma Stothard has used

Abbey from Ilkley and Skipton on Sundays and Bank Holidays. The Sculpture Trail will display the works till October 26th of this year, but it is hoped that the Bolton Abbey Estate might repeat the exhibition in future years.

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*Bolton Abbey Sculpture Trail:*  
Left, top: "Centaur: mythical female centaur hunting" by Emma Stothard.  
Left, centre: "Balance" by Stephen Bailey.  
Left, bottom: "Unfurl III" by Sarah Smith.  
Below: "Rocky, working gun dog" by Emma Stothard.  
Right: "Seventh Heron" by Michael Kusz.  
Below right: "Lady with Flowers" by Jennifer Tetlow.



# Yorkshire Dales Society – Chairman's Annual Report 2007

This has been a significant year for the Yorkshire Dales Society.

It began with a most enjoyable dinner for members to celebrate our 25th Anniversary after the last AGM. The Society celebrated more publicly by hosting the annual National Park Societies' conference at Scargill House, Kettlewell. This was judged by all to be a most worthwhile and enjoyable experience. The YDS are particularly indebted to Fleur Speakman and her team of helpers for ensuring that the programme ran smoothly – and especially to the highly supportive National Park Authority plus the presence of the Chairman of the Authority, Carl Lis. Our conference theme "Working in Partnership for Sustainable Development", had speakers from a number of our "partners" involved in working for the Yorkshire Dales such as the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust with its splendid track record of conservation projects.



Pippa Rayner receiving her award recently from CPRE Chairman Hilary Fenton and YDS Chairman Malcolm Petyt. Photo: YDMT.

Delegates were so impressed that we now know of several similar schemes in consideration in other National Parks. Our congratulations are extended to one of our own Council Members, Peter Charlesworth, who has recently become the Millennium Trust's new Chairman.

Another 25th Anniversary item *The Story So Far*, a history of the Society by Colin and Fleur Speakman, is a "warts and all" account of the achievements and frustrations of the Yorkshire Dales Society in its first 25 years. It stimulated David Butterworth, the Chief Executive of the National Park Authority, to organise a similar record of the Park's early years.

Last August the Society office moved from Otley in West Yorkshire to Settle in North Yorkshire, into a pair of well-equipped offices (with the use of an adjacent meeting room) in a lively Dales market town, close to several organisations with related aims.

Colin and Fleur Speakman who had run YDS since its foundation had both reached retirement age and wished to reduce their level of involvement. Fleur gave notice that she wished to relinquish her administrative role at the end of December and during the summer Stuart Willis was appointed as part-time administrator. Unfortunately he then suffered a recurrence of health

problems, and had to resign.

Anne Webster, his replacement, who lives in Settle, has settled in well and has begun to build a new team of volunteers.

Colin too wanted to reduce his previous level of involvement as our "Secretary/Policy Officer", but was willing to phase this out over a longer period. We have made an initial appointment for six months on a one-day-a-week basis, of a Chief Executive, Helen Noble who has previously worked for three National Parks.

Honorary Treasurer, David Smith, after serving the YDS for over 15 years, retired as Treasurer and Council Member, after keeping the Society on an even keel in financial terms, and acting as unpaid IT consultant and trouble-shooter. The YDS would like to thank him for his enormous contribution to our work over such a long period. We have been able to do much of our work to date with the help of two substantial legacies, but they will not last unless we can build on our regular income.

The Society has continued to liaise with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty JAC. Involvement with the Council for National Parks continues, The "parent" body for National Park Societies, and the Society's spokesman in Westminster and Whitehall, and gives tremendous value for the proportion of subscriptions passed to it. A recent CNP research project concerned with the National Parks in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region showed conclusive evidence that designation as a National Park actually stimulated economic activity.

Relations with the National Park Authority have been increasingly good over recent years, with six-monthly meetings between the Society, the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Park. But YDS does not hesitate to say so if it feels that it cannot agree with the Park's approach or priorities.

A very positive move was the proposal that the YDS should be added to the Steering Group responsible for monitoring The National Park Plan implementation in the light of YDS's extremely helpful comments during the

preparatory stages. The Society has been instrumental in the setting up of more specialised groups. The first, the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance, drew attention to damage caused to unsurfaced routes in the Dales by recreational motor vehicles. This helped to produce those parts of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act which address this growing problem. It will also give National Park Authorities powers by imposing Traffic Regulation Orders. When North Yorkshire County Council issued orders to close Mastiles Lane and three other routes to vehicular traffic for an experimental period, the subsequent improvement was dramatic.

The second body initiated by the YDS was the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group, which campaigns for improvements in public transport to and within the Dales. The YDPTUG has saved several bus services, and now the Society has spear-headed an imaginative project with funds from the Park's Sustainable Development Fund to develop a project called "Sharing the Dales", centring round two new weekend bus services into the Dales, linked to a programme of guided walks and visits, which are targeted at urban communities.

A wholly-owned subsidiary company was set up this year (limited by guarantee so there is no financial risk to YDS) called the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company. This will help to carry out our charitable objects by delivering environmental or social projects as and when funding is available.

A project to safeguard the Bowland Transit bus network which operates out of Settle also became part of the scheme; with the Company known as the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company Ltd. Colin Speakman and our Vice-Chairman Chris Wright were the founding Directors, and they have appointed a team of fellow-Directors and Advisors (or "Shadow Directors").

We have set up a splendid new source of information about bodies and organisations with interests in the Dales. This Directory of Dales Organisations has been developed as an interactive website, [www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk) Work has been done to a high professional standard by our former administrator Stuart Willis and Dr Ron Rennell: an impressive and growing resource for information on many member organisations in the Yorkshire Dales Heritage Forum. As co-ordinators of that Forum, we also organised a well-attended open day at Skipton Town Hall last September when a large range of organisations

set up displays and members of the public and interested bodies attended.

An excellent programme of events for our members and the general public was arranged - the 2006/7 lecture series - on a wide range of subjects plus morning walks. Other walks and visits took place especially during the summer months and we are very grateful to all walk leaders and speakers.

Our *Yorkshire Dales Review* has maintained its high standards, in both its content and quality of its presentation. The articles have been the usual mixture of reporting and campaigning about local and national issues, and educating our readers while we celebrate our Dales heritage. As usual, it is Colin and Fleur we have to thank for ensuring that the magazine has continued to appear and to be a main mouthpiece for the Society. The lesser known but equally valuable quarterly issues of the *DalesWatch Digest*, which gathers together press clippings from local and wider sources on matters affecting the Dales, is produced by Rhona Thornton, who



Fleur Speakman presented with a bouquet at the YDS AGM. Photo: Anne Webster.

is to be warmly congratulated. Many other people work to keep the Society effective as a voice for the Dales. The Council of Management meet regularly to help us decide our position on a wide range of issues. We welcomed a number of new Council members: Ruth Evans (who has taken on the role of events' organiser), Jane Roberts, Hugh Thornton and Paul Evans.

Other members have served us well in various ways: Rod and Judith Clough, with Hilary Baker as a ready reserve, look after the catering for our meetings. Mike Johnson, Maurice Denton and Margaret Rhodes worked faithfully in the Office at Otley

until the move to Settle. We are also grateful to the new volunteers at the Settle office.

Finally, I must of course pay tribute to Colin and Fleur. Though their role in YDS has now changed, 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. Three days before the AGM, at a Yorkshire Rural Awards ceremony in Harrogate, Colin received an Award for Lifetime Achievement, when his work for The Yorkshire Dales Society was specifically mentioned.

In conclusion, it is good to report that the YDS had had a very good year, and that we can look forward to the future with confidence.

*Dr Malcolm Petyt, Chairman*

# The Giant Paper Trail – Life as a Hill Farmer

*This article by farmer Martin Coates, the third of his generation to farm at Redshaw Farm Widdale, was first published in the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter and is reproduced by kind permission of the Editor.*

The stress of living under the new Single Farm Payment regime has been akin to the onset of foot and mouth. Commonsense seemed to prevail in the outer regions of the United Kingdom, but the English Regions became a concoction from every interested stakeholder other than farmers themselves. The 'hybrid' system adopted for England could be described as nothing other than a total fiasco. According to DEFRA there have numerous unforeseen difficulties. They had constantly been warned of problems but ploughed on regardless.

**The greatest mistake made** was to try and do too much in a short time to establish the 'hybrid' Single Farm Payment regime. This scheme which only applies to England is made up from the historical value of each farm (that is the combination of sheep premium, suckler cow premium, beef special premium, slaughter premium and arable area payments which were allocated to each holding in the financial year 2001/2002) plus a value for each hectare farmed by each farmer. On top of this the farms were then split into three categories: English Moorland, English Severely Disadvantaged Area, and English Non-Severely Disadvantaged Area. To make matters worse, a mapping scheme was embarked on to measure the size of every single field in England, from the smallest pony paddock to the largest open fell.

The human resources Department of DEFRA were then advised to reduce staff by 1,000 at a time of change unprecedented within the agricultural and environmental departments. While this upheaval was going on, two new schemes were introduced to try and encourage a more environmental approach to farming. **The Entry-Level Environmental Scheme and High-Level Stewardship scheme** were introduced by the Rural Development Service. In the midst of this turmoil, the



Yorkshire Dales Hill Farm

management at DEFRA decided to scrap the Rural Development Service, English Nature and the Countryside Agency and form a new agency called Natural England, now in place.

**Now for the practical implementation** – every field on my farm has changed size during the mapping exercise. Some of my fields disappeared and I gained some of my neighbour's fields. I also gained fields around North Yorkshire which would have been very nice if it were true, but I suspect some farmer somewhere will be disappointed that half of his fields were missing from the mapping process. One of my fields appeared to be six small paddocks from the mapping satellite so I received six 10 digit field numbers for one small parcel of land; one field was split down the middle and it took me 18 months of haggling to show that the other half was mine.

Because my farm lies between two different categories of English Moorland and English Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA), I had a further problem. Someone with a red pen in Reading decided he could tell the difference between the two from an Ordnance Survey map. I had then to employ an ecologist to do a thorough survey in order to convince our man in Reading that indeed some of my land was SDA and not Moorland. It is important to have your land categorised correctly as the payments per hectare vary wildly from £22 per hectare for Moorland and £160 per hectare for SDA. If I had had land that was non SDA, I could have claimed up to £190 per hectare.

**I decided to apply to put the whole farm into the Stewardship scheme;** it is the type of farm that the Rural Development Service were interested in, as it has been relatively untouched by fertilisers and chemicals for generations. I had to have all my maps in place and correct before an application could be made. This took 18 months, and the map chase took me from Northallerton to Newcastle, back down to Leeds and eventually to our friends in Reading. Reading then told me that the mapping process had been contracted out to a private firm and I was not allowed to contact them, but to wait patiently for the mapping process to take its course. We were then later informed that the High-Level Stewardship scheme was short funded and a successful application would be at best a long shot.

**My 2005 single farm payment finally came through in December 2006!** The full amount of the 2006 payment might arrive by June 2007. My HEA payment (I've not even explained this scheme to you) for 2005 which was meant to be paid in March 2006, has still not arrived. The entry-level scheme which was promoted widely at great expense has now run out of money, and new applications will be filed pending further funding.

I have to say that though RPA personnel have been very polite, and as helpful as they can be, however, when 2,000 new recruits have been taken on, on a temporary basis with very little knowledge of past or present schemes, it is incredibly difficult for them to understand what is going on. There is also the little matter of the farm having to be *cross-compliant* before I can even claim my single farm payment. This particular idea was introduced by DEFRA to catch hard-working farmers out by sending lots of little booklets, with lots of small print to try and confuse them even further.

I am still sane, *just*, and you have here only an abbreviated version of the last 18 months of the trials

and tribulations of a hill farmer.

*Martin Coates*

*The excellent Upper Wensleydale Newsletter is produced monthly, costs only 20p, and is great value. Copies can be obtained locally in Upper Wensleydale, from the Old Station House, Hawes, DL8 3NL. (please add 25p for postage and packing), or can be viewed on the web if you enter Upper Wensleydale Newsletter on your computer via your search engine. Please mark your envelope To the Editor of the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter, if you send for your copy.*

## Let FWAG Take the Strain - the FWAG Environmental Health Check

The mountain of paperwork which seems an inevitable part of modern farming may well become less of a chore. FWAG (The Farming and Wildlife Group) aims to help farmers prioritise essential paperwork and offers up-to-date information and advice on environmental opportunities. The FWAG Environmental Health Check is tailored to the needs of an individual farm focusing

on the priorities, based on a half day farm visit when a local Farm Conservation Adviser will run through any necessary issues with any FWAG member. FWAG's Regional office can be contacted on 01405 839 247 or by email: alan.dodsworth@fwag.org.uk where details can be obtained of the appropriate local FWAG Farm Conservation Adviser.

## Discovering Hebden

In his massive tome on Upper Wharfedale the writer Harry Speight wrote there was little to say about Hebden. Fortunately later inhabitants of this township had better ideas. In early June, David Joy, a descendant of a family who has lived there since 1540, took Society members on an amazing journey of discovery, along with local members of the CPRE.

Hebden lies on a once busy trade route between Wharfedale and Nidderdale and the east - a vital link for travellers from the days of the Romans and monks and traders from Fountains Abbey to modern tourists. We looked at traditional dales farms and buildings which have changed little over generations and David recounted local tales and gossip. Did you know there is a connection at Hebden between James Bond, Star Trek and the Wal-Mart Corporation in America? Enjoying a day of summer sunshine in Hebden, it was difficult to imagine how hard life had been for people dependent on farming and lead mining, particularly with the large families sharing rooms which are now holiday cottages. The Devonshire Estate has kept all the records during their ownership, so it is possible to work out modern equivalent costs (and profits!) in terms of inflation. There was real



David Joy

wealth in the area, but the economy still suffered periods of boom and bust. The sudden collapse of the lead mining industry leading to mass emigration and depopulation, has echoes in the recent coal industry.

We were able to still see clearly the wall boundaries of the nineteenth century, many the subjects of local disputes, the consequences still with us as farmers share grazing land between them. There is still evidence of the arable crops grown to sustain the community in the winter months.

During the afternoon in the cool of the Village Institute we were able to find out more of the history of the buildings and trades. It is difficult to imagine a pub called The Jolly Miners when you think of the conditions under which they worked. Many other buildings have changed or been lost such as the school, temperance hotel and a more modern

deletion - the public toilets. Those who missed this fascinating day of discovery can still read an absorbing illustrated account in 'Hebden - The History of a Dales Township' obtainable from David Joy, Hole Bottom, Hebden, Skipton BD23 5DL, cost £7.50 plus 75p p&p.

*Chris Wright*

# Cravenlink Helps to Share the Dales

The first major project to be developed by the new Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company, on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Group, has been the launch of the Sunday Cravenlink 784 and 884 bus services. Operating between Skipton bus and rail station and Ilkley Station, this bus replaces the X84 Leeds-Ilkley-Skipton Sunday service which was withdrawn beyond Ilkley, despite many protests, in July 2006. The new service is potentially even more useful, with several of the mid day services operating via Embsay and Bolton Abbey.



Colin Speakman introduces Ann Cryer MP as she launches the Cravenlink bus service. Photo: Paul Chattwood.

Ann Cryer, MP for Keighley and Ilkley, with many ethnic minority and low income households in her constituency, launched the bus and led the first walk around Bolton Abbey on April 22nd.

Mrs Cryer drew a parallel between the campaign for access to open countryside and the campaign to keep and improve Dales bus services: "Seventy five years ago this weekend the mass trespass on Kinder Scout in the Peak District took place. This event led to the setting up of our National Parks. But it is vital for the health and well being of people in our towns and cities that good, affordable weekend public transport is available to enable city dwellers to reach the National Park without a car.

"Cars are now a major source of pollution and congestion in the Yorkshire Dales. We must ensure alternative ways of reaching the Dales are made available and that people are encouraged to use them."

Mrs Cryer travelled herself from her home in Shipley by train and the new 884 Cravenlink bus.

To date use of the new Cravenlink services has exceeded all expectations with over 80 passenger journeys being recorded on some days of operation (compared with an anticipated 40), mostly by people without access to a car. As expected lots of people are using the service to get to Bolton Abbey and Embsay to visit or walk in the National park, or to be able to link with onward train and bus services including the Settle-Carlisle line. But what has surprised the sponsors is that there are some people using the service regularly to get to work, as well as to church, proving that the Cravenlink is truly meeting many different community needs. A research project by the University of Central Lancashire is also examining just what additional community benefits are being secured by the existence of the new service.

The YDS and YDPTUG have arranged an excellent programme of guided walks and events to tie in with the new bus services, and a second service, the monthly 814, which now gives Malham a direct Sunday bus service – incredibly, though one of the most popular visitor destinations any UK National Park, Malham has no regular direct Sunday bus service from Skipton.



Cravenlink bus at Bolton Abbey

One elderly man on one of the walks who has lived in Leeds all his life and has no access to a car, confessed he had never before been to Bolton Abbey and was delighted to join the walk. If you want to join us on a walk, and would also like to help us with Sharing the Dales Events, or have family, neighbours or friends who perhaps don't come to the Dales as often as they would like to because of transport or other difficulties, contact the YDS office for a copy of the current Sharing the Dales programme (which continues until November) as well as Cravenlink 784-884 and Malham Explorer 814 bus timetables. You can also download both bus timetables from the excellent Dalesbus web site – [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org)

# Weatherman Paul Opens Buckden Garth



Paul Hudson opens Buckden Garth from the Dalesbus 72 bus stop and provides a welcome shelter) arrive in Buckden Car Park.

A scruffy piece of land at the side of Buckden Car Park in Upper Wharfedale has been transformed into a delightful picnic area, information point and public shelter. Many groups coming to Upper Wharfedale by car, coach or service bus (the Garth is about 50 metres

undertaken by contractors, much of the clearance and construction work including scrub clearance and drystone walling, was achieved through the hard work of a small team – the Magnificent Seven.

Appropriately enough for a weather shelter, on April 18th BBC television weatherman, meteorologist, noted conservationist and Dales lover Paul Hudson, now a Vice President of the Yorkshire Dales Society, officially opened Buckden Garth. It's a welcome facility, available to everyone, visitors and locals alike, and proves how a small group of dedicated individuals really can make a difference.



Buckden Garth weather shelter

The transformation of what had hitherto just been a piece of redundant land has been achieved thanks to the initiative of a small team belonging to the Upper Wharfedale Volunteer Group with support from the National Trust, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. Whilst much of the skilled construction work of the shelter had to be

# Book Review – A LIFE AND A LANDSCAPE

**Yorkshire lives and Landscapes: Ian M. Emberson 128pp (ISBN 0-7509-4466-8) Sutton Publishing £12.99, available in local bookshops.**

Ian Emberson is a poet, artist, writer and playwright, former Music Librarian of Huddersfield Library who has lived all his adult life in the Yorkshire Pennines. This fascinating autobiography follows themes rather than chronology, with much about the way a sense of place interlinks with one's personal life, and emotional and even spiritual development. The main focus of the book is of course the South Pennines, Thurstonland where Ian lived for many years and Todmorden with its backcloth of the Brontë moors where he still lives. But there are powerful, brief interludes into the higher Yorkshire Dales, most notably a bucolic description of a walking trip along the Pennine Way in the Spring of 1975, with a lost sweetheart at Janet's Foss, and a

blizzard in Teesdale. Another memorable moment on one of his many hikes in the Dales, this time coming off Great Whernside and heading wearily for the hostel, is captured in a poem **Homeward to Kettlewell:**

- westward and straight to the rays of the yellow sun,  
Sinking and Slipping,  
On the sweeping curve of the hillside's spur,  
Where the grassy path is broad and soft  
And the mind is a wilting dusk of weariness"

It is the kind of relationship with the evocative landscapes of the Dales which will be familiar to many members of the Yorkshire Dales Society, even those of us who live well outside the area, a landscape which is part of our lives, part of our mental being, even when we are hardly aware of it.

## PLEASE NOTE:

We regret that with effect from 31 December 2007 we will be unable to process your membership fees paid by Banker's Order Standing Order. A direct debit mandate form is included with this Review and we would be grateful if you could complete it and return to the office at Settle. Alternatively, you could continue to pay by cheque - direct to YDS Office, Town Hall, Cheapside, Settle North Yorkshire BD24 9EJ.

# Dales Society Volunteers – We Need You, Now

Following the setting up of the new YDS Settle office and various administrative changes, the Yorkshire Dales Society is now in a position to develop a range of exciting new ideas and projects. We need to widen our appeal, increase our membership and get involved in an even greater way with Dales communities, without for one moment diluting our objects or watering down our vision of caring for a very special landscape.

The only way this is going to happen in the future is for us to build up a strong team of active and committed Volunteers to help take the Society forward.

We need people with office, administrative and IT skills, people who can lead walks, help us to organise events, work with young people; people who have editorial, IT, web and communication skills, as well as people interested in research, archive, heritage and in policy matters – looking at plans, development control, dealing with social issues, and local and visitor transport. We also urgently need people prepared to help with events, including guided walks and maybe helping to develop different kinds of events to interest younger people. With the new Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company up and running as a means to deliver projects such as Sharing the Dales, we have the means to really make things happen.

Sadly what we can't offer are professional fees or salaries, but if you have some time to give – perhaps just an afternoon a week or even a month, or a few days during part of the year, we'd love to hear from you, especially if you have a special interest in or passion for the Dales and a wish to make a difference, and believe that the Society, with your input and enthusiasm, could help make that difference.

Naturally if you live near to our Settle office, travel will be less of a problem, but road access is easy from almost all parts of the Dales and there is a good train service from Skipton and West Yorkshire and even a bus service from Lancashire! E-mail contact also makes it possible to have a significant input without literally sitting in the Settle office.

If you'd like to join our team of Dales Society Volunteers, either write to us or send us an e-mail at [info@yds.org.uk](mailto:info@yds.org.uk) (brief CVs always appreciated) or call Anne on 01729 825600. There's usually someone in the office between 9am and 3pm on Mondays, Wednesday and most Tuesdays. We really would appreciate your help.

## YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT 2007/8

**CHAIRMAN** MALCOLM PETYT  
**VICE-CHAIRMAN** CHRIS WRIGHT  
**COMPANY SECRETARY** ALAN PEASE  
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\* Not related

# Summer Events 2007



*Join fellow Yorkshire Dales Society members on a full or half day in the Yorkshire Dales this Summer – longer, lighter days, wild flowers and warm weather. Several of these walks also form part of the YDS Sharing the Dales Project, easier walks designed to welcome people with less experience of the countryside, with or without their own transport to the Dales, so all friends and families warmly welcome!*

### Saturday, 07 July - Malham Peregrine Walk

Ian Court of the YDNPA will lead a 6 mile walk to Malham Cove to meet RSPB officers to look at peregrines in the Cove and the habitats of this astonishing bird. Further walking in the area to look at more birdlife. Meet Malham National Park Centre 11.00. Bus 210 d, Skipton Bus Station at 10.00. Return bus 16.45pm to Skipton. Bring packed lunch.

### Sunday, 08 July – Along the Pennine Way Malham (Sharing the Dales)

Meet Chris Wright, Vice-Chairman of the YDS for this lovely easy walk along Britain's first Long Distance Trail from Gargrave to Malham in its magnificent setting of limestone crags. Walk starts from Gargrave (junction with Eshton Road, opp. Petrol Station) at 10:45. Drivers park Skipton and catch Dales Experience 814 bus from Skipton Bus Station at 10:30. You can also join the Experience 814 bus at Huddersfield Bus Station at 08:25, Bradford Interchange 09:10 or Ilkley 09:55. Buy return to Malham. Return from Malham Buck Inn at 16:45. Bring packed lunch.

### Sunday, 15 July – Valley of Desolation, (Sharing the Dales)

Join Phil Richards, Area Ranger, YDNPA, for an 8 mile moderate walk from Priory Bridge to the Valley of Desolation and back via Bolton Park Farm. Meet at Bolton Abbey village car park at 11:00. Catch the 10:25 884 bus from Skipton Bus Station to Bolton Abbey. Return to Skipton 16:35. Bring packed lunch.

### Sunday, 22 July - Celebrating 60 years of Malham Tarn Field Centre

Adrian Pickles of Malham Tarn Field Centre will lead a walk around the Estate. Meet at National Trust Car Park 11:00 - bus 809 d, Ilkley 09:25, Skipton Railway Station at 09:55 and Settle 10:30 to Malham Tarn. Return bus 15:10 or 16:10. Bring packed lunch.

### Sunday, 29 July – Around Settle (Sharing the Dales)

Join Steve Hastie, Area Ranger (Ribblesdale) NYNPA who will lead this walk from Settle along Watery Lane to Cleatop Wood and back to Settle via the River Ribble, 5 miles, easy. Catch the CravenLink Bus 784 d Ilkley 09:10 to Skipton Rail Station, for 09:43 train from Skipton to Settle. Meet Settle Market Place 10.15. Return on 15:15 or 18.18 train to Skipton. Bring packed lunch.

### Saturday 04 August – Open Access to Buckden Pike Ridge

YDNPA Upper Wharfedale Ranger Ian Mann will lead a walk over new public access areas to explain how access paths are used – a steep climb involved. Meet

Buckden Car Park  
11:00. Bus 72 d Skipton Rail Station  
10:00, bus station 10.05 Grassington 10.30am, (Ilkley bus 74 09.35) to Buckden. Return bus d, Buckden 17.00. Bring packed lunch.  
NUMBERS LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE. To book phone 01729 825 600.

### Sunday, 05 August – Slow Motion at Malham – Sharing the Dales

Join volunteers from the YDNPA on a very easy route accessible to people with physical disabilities, to enable people who may not be confident or unable to access the countryside on their own or without support. Bring packed lunch. Meet 12 noon at Malham Visitor Centre. Dales Experience Bus 814 leaves Huddersfield Bus Station 08:35, Brighthouse Ritz 08:50, Bradford Interchange 09:10, Shipley Market Place 09:25, Ilkley 09:55, Skipton Bus Station 10:30. Return from Malham at 16:45.

### Sunday, 19 August – Gargrave Meander – Sharing the Dales

Join Chris Wright on an easy 7 mile walk from Gargrave to Coniston Cold, Bank Newton and back along the canal to Gargrave. Train d, Leeds 10.54, Skipton 11.34 to Gargrave a 11.40. Meet outside the Dalesman Café 11:45. Bring packed lunch.

### Sunday, 19 August – Visit to Hazel Brow Farm, Swaledale

Cath Calvert will introduce you to Hazel Brow Organic Farm – a typical Dales hill farm combining both dairy and sheep, with visitor centre with a real taste of rural life in Low Row – on B6270, three miles west of Reeth. No direct Sunday public transport due to Dalesbus cuts, but it may be possible to arrange lifts – please phone YDS 01729 825 600 no later than 15th August. Meet Hazel Brow 11:00. Discount admission charge £3.75

### Sunday, 09 September – The Wonders of Malham – Sharing the Dales

An introduction to what makes Malham so special with YDPTUG Chairman Howard Handley – an easy paced walk of 6 miles but with one steep climb. Bring packed lunch. Meet Kirby Malham 11.00 (restricted parking – drivers park Skipton) Dales Experience Bus 814 leaves Huddersfield Bus Station 08:35, Brighthouse Ritz 08:50, Bradford Interchange 09:10, Shipley Market Place 09:25, Ilkley 09:55, Skipton Bus Station 10:30. Return from Malham on 814 at 16:45.

### Sunday, 16 September – Geology Walk, Greenhow Hill, Pateley Bridge

Adrian Kidd will lead a 6 mile moderate walk to Greenhow Hill Top Quarry, Goldstones and Cockhill, looking at lead mines in this area. Meet at 11:5 at Duck Street Lane, Greenhow Hill (GR 114 637). Bus 812 d, York Railway Station 09:20, Ripon 10:15, Pateley Bridge 11.00 to Greenhow – a 11.10. Bus 21 d, 10:05 connects at Pateley Bridge.

Please note that events from October 2007 to March 2008 are on the Society's Programme enclosed.





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*Front Cover picture: Swaledale Meadow – Photo by YDMT.*

*Back Cover picture: 'Bats' by Michael Kusz – Photo by Colin Speakman.*

**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)**

**See also –**

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

**[www.dalesandbowland.com](http://www.dalesandbowland.com)**

*The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.*

**Membership Subscription Rates**

*Single Adult £15, Family/Couple £20*

*Single Retired £12, Retired Couple £16.*

*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.*

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

*Any contributions should be sent to the Editors at the Society's new address opposite.*