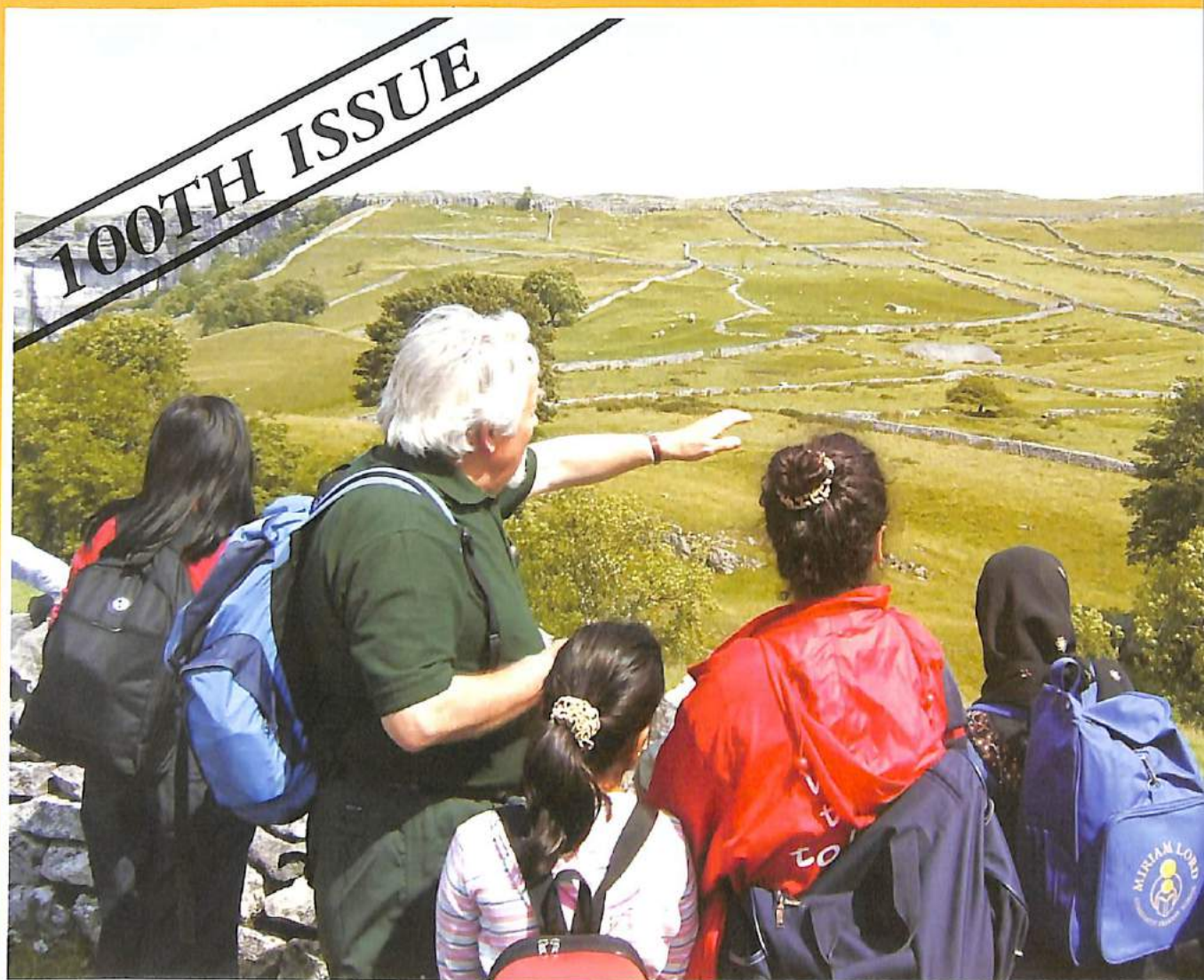


# Yorkshire Dales Review



- *Housing – at the Heart of a National Park*
- *Planning for Affordable Housing in the Dales: Problems and Innovative Solutions*
- *Where Giants Strode*
- *“Community” in the Dales*



£1.50





## Housing – at the Heart of a National Park

Housing Policies may not seem the most exciting topic of conversation in a National Park. But how the National Park Authority deals with the constant demand for new housing lies at the very heart of what a British National Park is all about.

Demand for housing in a National Park, such as the Yorkshire Dales, is almost infinite. In a densely populated island of around 60 million people, for many thousands of people the dream of escaping, usually in retirement, to the spectacular landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales is understandable.

Left to the free market, there is little doubt that speculative builders would soon be developing huge estates of “executive” homes and dream retirement retreats around every hamlet and village in the Dales to meet this demand. Moreover building and acquiring houses for second homes or cottages for holiday “lets” as an investment is an extremely attractive proposition. You only have to look at what is happening in southern Spain to see how quickly an otherwise unspoiled natural environment can be totally urbanised and over-run. Equally, in open countryside outside the settlements, a converted barn can command half a million or more on the open market. However the barn will also need a new access road, external lighting, phone and power lines, parking bays for at least two large vehicles, and all the trimmings of suburbia.

Thankfully the National Park has tough planning policies, most clearly represented by its Local Plan Housing Policies that restricts development, including essential affordable social housing, to larger settlements, apart from the most exceptional circumstances of local need. With high levels of car ownership, even among the less affluent, there is in fact less need than in the past to put housing in the smallest, most fragile communities. In environmental terms it increasingly makes sense to develop such housing in larger settlements, or even peripheral market towns, where facilities such as shops, doctors, surgeries, social centres and good public transport exists, either within walking distance or at least without the need to drive long distances.

Sadly, some of these very policies – democratically agreed after a full Public Inquiry into the Park Local Plan and an Inspector’s clear decision – face continued attack from property development interests who have their powerful spokesmen even within the Park Authority itself. The truth is that a Planning Permission or Licence to develop is, in a protected landscape such as a National Park, a valuable commodity worth up to hundreds of thousands of pounds. The pretence therefore that deliberately weakening the Park’s key Policy H3 to prevent sporadic outer-suburbia style development in remote areas of the National Park is somehow in the “local interest” is a convenient political pretence to allow more luxury barn conversions, mainly to benefit wealthy developers and outsiders.

But as Hugh Thornton’s thoughtful article on Social Housing on pages 3-5 suggests, making better use of the existing housing stock to meet genuine local need, even if it means acquiring what are now second or holiday homes on the open market, can reduce demand for constant new development. Meeting proven local need does not mean unrestricted new house building, which within a nationally protected landscape, much of which sooner or later will find its way into the second or holiday home market.

The Yorkshire Dales Society believes that the majority of people living in the Dales, as well as of us who live outside its boundaries, fully support the National Park’s strong stance against speculative development. The National Park Authority must remain open in its decision-making, free from pressures from developers and their spokesmen. It must continue to respect the democratic decisions of Parliament and the wishes of all the community, which as Tom Lord so eloquently reminds us in this centenary issue of the YDS Review, includes visitors as well as local people. This is far more important than the financial aspirations of the privileged few, fortunate enough to own land and property within the Dales.

*Colin Speakman*

## Planning for Affordable Housing in the Dales: Problems and Innovative Solutions

*Hugh Thornton is the Convenor of the Yorkshire Dales Society Environment and Policy Committee. He is a Chartered Town Planner, and former Chair of Leeds Federated Housing Association. The views expressed in this article in relation to the funding of affordable housing are his own, and not those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.*

### The present Problem

At present, only 6% of the housing stock in the Dales is affordable social housing in the ownership of local authorities or housing associations – less than one third of the national average of 19%. In contrast, some 20% of the stock is privately rented, much of it in the form of holiday cottages.

This lack of affordable housing is one of the most important issues we face at present. This is a national problem, but is made more acute by the fact that within the National Park, overriding emphasis must be placed on the need to conserve its unique environment and landscape. The situation is made worse by the fact that house prices in rural areas – especially in areas such as the National Park – tend to be high in relation to earnings from local jobs.

This article argues that planning policies on their own will not be enough to provide a solution to the shortage

*An attractive housing mix at Askrigg.*

of affordable housing. More direct action is needed, by pooling the resources that could be available from local councils, housing associations, private developers and the local community.

### The National Park’s Consultation Paper

Although the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan was only recently adopted – in 2006 – work began almost immediately to make sure that it was kept up to date.

The National Park Authority issued a Consultation paper on planning policies for housing in November 2006, seeking views on how many affordable homes should be planned for and where development should be allowed. Extensive consultations have followed. The final deadline for comments was mid-August, and the Society’s response is set out below.

### Existing Planning Policies

Existing National Park policies restrict new development either to affordable housing, or housing for local needs. Given the overriding purpose of the National Park, we believe that the existing strategy of relying on exception sites for delivering affordable housing should be maintained.

The Park Authority’s intention is clearly to use the planning policy framework to increase the amount of





social housing - within the Park boundaries. We strongly support this objective.

The Housing Consultation paper estimates that there will be a shortfall of 88 affordable dwellings each year over the next five years. However, we are not convinced that 88 affordable dwellings a year is an appropriate target figure. The target adopted should be more realistic – hence our suggested target of 22 affordable dwellings a year. This figure should be reviewed on a bi-annual basis, rather than five-yearly.

#### Planning Policies for New Development

A careful balance must be struck between the provision of new housing, and the need to have regard to the overriding purpose for the existence of the Park – to conserve and protect the unique environment and landscape of the Dales. In this context, the location of any new housing development (including conversions) will be critical.

The YDS has suggested that such development is concentrated within the main centres of population, in accordance with the housing development boundaries set out in the 2006 Local Plan. This would minimise the impact of new housing development. The current local plan housing density minimum of 35 dwellings per hectare should be maintained across all sites. A wider range of densities should be permitted on sites of 5 or more units.

#### Design and Sustainability

Housing developments smaller than the regional threshold of 10 units should be required to generate 10% of their own energy requirements. Most developments in the Dales are likely to be small, and there appears to be no practical reason why this requirement should not apply to all developments.

Contemporary design solutions and construction methods should not be permitted in the National Park. Such developments are likely to conflict with the Park's basic purpose of conserving the physical infrastructure and landscape.

#### Settlements Where Development Might Be Allowed

We believe that the list of settlements for new housing (new build and conversion) should remain the same as that currently set out in the 2006 Local Plan, and that housing development boundaries should be kept predominantly the same. Brownfield development on infill sites should be used before resorting to Greenfield sites.

The Park Authority has received a number of representations suggesting that the list of settlements in which housing development could be allowed should be extended beyond that included in the adopted 2006 Local Plan. However, extending this list will lead to new developments being dispersed among smaller settlements, where they could have a disproportionate impact both on the individual settlements, and on the environment and landscape generally.

The households that could occupy affordable housing in those developments would also suffer from relatively poor access to service centres and elsewhere by public transport. It seems much more sensible for this kind of housing to be concentrated in the main service centres within the Dales.

#### Planning Policies are not a Complete Solution

It is very unlikely that relying on new developments alone will be an effective way of redressing the balance of the housing stock. We have advocated the purchase of existing properties as a way of increasing the provision of affordable housing, to complement new developments and conversions. Rebalancing the tenure of the existing housing stock would be a more sustainable solution than relying solely on new development. If the acquisition of existing properties can contribute to the target for the provision of affordable housing, as we suggest, then this will also help to minimise any adverse impact on the Park environment and landscape. However, at the moment it appears to be cheaper to build new houses than to buy existing ones. We need to find as many sources of funding as possible.

#### Where Could The Money Come From?

In the recent Government Green Paper on Housing, the Government has announced a major increase – in the order of 30% - in the money that will be made available for affordable housing, either through local Councils or through Housing Associations. Government Departments are also looking at new ways of financing housing development. The current rules restricting local authorities from developing social housing will be changed to allow them to keep the money from the sale of council houses under 'right-to-buy' legislation. This could allow them to reinvest the proceeds in new housing to replace that lost.

It used to be the case that local councils, in addition to developing their own housing, gave grants to contribute to Housing Association developments. It may well be that the proposals outlined in the Housing Green Paper may allow this to happen in future. There are a number of other possibilities. Some councils use council tax revenue from second homes to boost their resources for affordable housing.

Other councils – including Goole, the Isle of Wight and Pembrokeshire - use local lotteries to generate cash that can be invested in the local community. In the case of Pembrokeshire, the money has been channelled into loans for small businesses. In principle, the funds raised by local lotteries could be used for affordable housing.

The National Park Authority itself is not allowed to use its funds for housing developments. Under the Green Paper proposals, this power would lie with the local authorities that fall within the Park boundary – primarily Craven, South Lakeland and Richmondshire.

#### How Could We Pool Resources?

Given the high prices of existing property, no one source of money is going to be enough if existing

properties are to be purchased, and improved or converted as necessary – we need to look at ways of pooling resources.

We need a mechanism that allows funding from local authorities, housing associations and other sources to be brought together.

The Local Government Act 2000 gives all local authorities the power to 'do anything which they consider is likely to achieve any one or more of the following objects – 'the promotion or improvement of the economic ... social and ... environmental well-being of their area' – having regard to the objectives set out in their Community Strategies. This could include channelling some of their resources through an 'arms-length' organisation.

One model for this kind of organisation already exists – the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. At present, the Trust manages a Sustainable Development Fund on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. It is able to receive donations, and equally apply for and provide grants to support specific projects. The Fund's remit covers projects that significantly conserve, enhance or add to the understanding of the area's natural, built and cultural heritage and support its economic and social well-being.

Is there scope for a similar Fund that could bring together donations, grants and (perhaps) the proceeds from a local lottery in order to provide a community contribution to the provision of affordable housing within the Park?

In theory, such a Fund could make a community contribution that on its own might not be large enough to fund whole developments, but could make all the

difference at the margin – for example, contributing to the cost of conversion works after a property has been acquired, or to the cost of design work.

Another option might be the creation of a Community Land Trust which could bid for money from the Housing Corporation, the aim being to make locally controlled affordable homes available in perpetuity by 'locking in' the land value. This is a concept that is being actively promoted by the Government.

#### Conclusions

Given the degree of imbalance in the existing housing stock, it is unrealistic to expect new development (including conversions) to be a complete solution to the shortage of affordable housing within the Park.

Rebalancing the tenure of the existing housing stock would be a more sustainable solution than relying solely on new development. Existing properties should be acquired in order to help to increase the provision of affordable housing. If this can contribute to the target for the provision of affordable housing, then it will also help to minimise any adverse impact on the Park environment and landscape.

Although at the moment it appears to be cheaper to build new houses than to buy existing ones, this is not a reason to rule out acquisitions. In the long term this will be the most sustainable way of achieving a better balance in the housing stock. We need to find as many sources of funding - public, private and community sources - as possible, and to look for innovative ways of bringing those funds together.

*Hugh Thornton*



*The Malham Bus.* The painting by Constance Pearson is reproduced from "Connections" - see Book Reviews on page 13.



# Seeing the Dales from a Bus

*Improving the poor quality of public transport should be the Government's top priority. Such was the desire of rural folk in a national survey made region-specific by the research agency Yorkshire Futures. Bus travel had its entertaining moments... YDS Honorary Member Bill Mitchell and long-time supporter of the Society, author, public speaker and former editor of Dalesman magazine, gives us a lively account of rural bus services.*

The bus is by no means extinct in the dale-country. It was not until after the Great War that well organised motor bus services provided the villages of Craven with reliable daily links with the large towns. They were introduced by enterprising local men rather than by large companies. In the 1920s, those who had walked from the railway station at Bell Busk to Malham for a day out in limestone country were provided with a bus service by Messrs Parker Bros. of Airedale. On the first journey from Skipton to Malham, the driver made an unexpected stop and went into a cottage to have "a bit o' breakfast."

Sixty and more years ago, the rural bus, operating to a daily timetable, was an indispensable part of Dales transport. Not many farmers were prosperous enough to own a car. They travelled by bike or bus. On market days, bus users included farmers' wives, with baskets containing home-made butter and eggs for sale. Medicines and pills were conveyed by bus from a doctor's surgery in town to dalehead villages, as in Swaledale. Potions were regularly left for collection at the home of Gurt Bill up t'Steps, namely William Anderson, of Angram.

There were irregular passengers on some Dales buses. I travelled from Austwick to Skipton with a farmer – and his goat. It was not unusual, in the 1920s, for a sheep to be handed over to be tethered to one of the legs of the back seat of a bus. The sheep was left at a specified roadside farm. On the same bus as the aforementioned goat was a frail old lady who was travelling to Skipton hospital. She implored the driver to "go carefully", which he did. As she dismounted, he hoped she had not been shaken up during the journey. She thanked him, explaining that "when I left home this jelly hadn't quite set."

Germs were uninvited guests. Dr Will Pickles, an Aysgarth medical practitioner for over fifty years, deduced from research that one way in which infectious diseases spread in the dale was along the bus route. He kept a detailed record of local infections but escaped the most serious germs for 86 years. Will, a native of Leeds but a dalesman by adoption and desire, died in 1969.

Early and late buses made elaborate plans possible. As a Methodist local preacher with appointments in Malhamdale, I would catch an early morning *Pennine* bus from Skipton to Airedale, take the morning service, walk up to Calton for lunch with Aunt Janet, then bestride the footpath to Malham, for the afternoon service, followed by tea with the Geldards, a walk to Malham Cove and an evening service, which ended just in time to catch the last bus back to Skipton.

When, about 1950, I joined *The Dalesman*, an early morning bus from Skipton ensured I would be in the office well before the deadline. Tickets were issued by a conductress. An empty seat was a rarity. Latecomers had to stand. Characters abounded. I asked Old Ben of Clapham for a weather forecast. He pondered over the question for ten minutes, looking up, down and around, then replied: "It could do owt."

My first car, a 1939 Ford suffering from tappet rattle and piston slap, was an unreliable form of transport so bus travel remained part of my life. One bus driver, while descending Cave Ha' on the north side of Buckhaw Brow, many moons ago, had one hand on the steering wheel, the other hand transferring the remains of his breakfast from bag to mouth. I have a soft spot for the *Pennine* service. It was on a late bus into Skipton that I chatted with the young lady who, in due and proper course, became my wife. I had been working late at *The Dalesman*. Freda had left the office of Johnson and Johnson too late to catch her usual bus home. She lived at a farm several miles from Skipton. A spell of courtship was cut short because the last *Ribble* bus to Skipton reached her isolated farm at nine o'clock.

Today, the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users' Group campaigns for accessible and affordable public transport for visitors. There are special summertime services, such as the Bolton Abbey Heritage Bus Shuttle from railway station to village or Bowland Transit B10, operating from Settle into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Look up the Dales Buses web-site for details. In days of yore, the *Pennine* timetable was based on times most convenient to a Gargrave schoolmistress who taught at Conistone Cold. That was the accepted Dales way of doing things.

**W.R. (Bill) Mitchell**

*Do have another look at Constance Pearson's painting "The Malham Bus" on page 5 – it makes a delightful pairing with this article.*

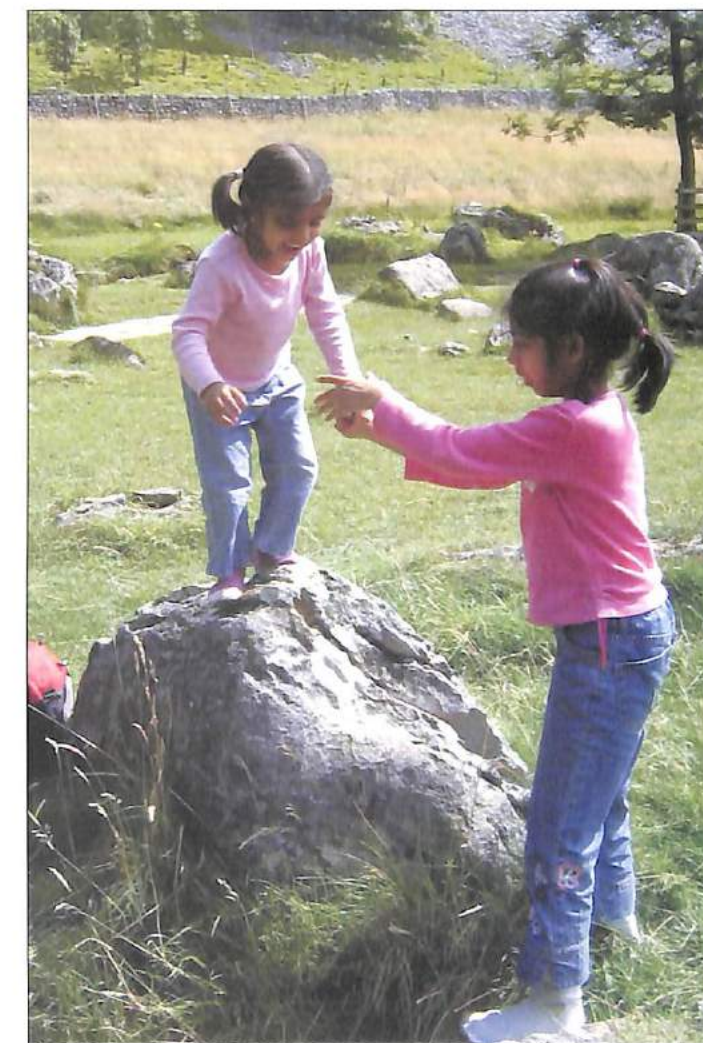
# Enjoying Malham

The Yorkshire Dales Society's **Sharing the Dales** project, funded by the Yorkshire Dales National Park's Sustainable Development Fund, has sought to enable individuals and groups from Skipton, Ilkley and the Aire Valley towns of West Yorkshire, to enjoy days out in the National Park by providing special public transport services and guided walks and events. Despite the wettest summer in the Dales for over 50 years, which caused some events to be cancelled and others to have only minimal numbers, when the sun did shine there were some memorable days out, for example on August 5th when a Mosaic Group from Bradford joined Yorkshire Dales Society members on Explorer Bus 814, to meet National Park Volunteer Clive Bell for a memorable visit to Malham Cove – looking at Peregrines, counting the steps, relaxing on the stones and by the stream on a rare day of warm sunshine in a special landscape.

The Cravenlink 784/884 bus service and Sharing the Dales project events will continue until December – for



full details of events and linked bus service from Skipton and Ilkley, contact the YDS office on 01729 825600.



Photos at foot of page by: Nurjahan Ali Arobi



# Our Hundredth Issue – The Yorkshire Dales Review

The centenary issue of the YDS Review is perhaps the time for an overview of what we have tried to do over a 25 year period in establishing an image of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a forum for the sort of issues which we felt were of great concern to the Dales. Our aim has always been to balance more weighty issues with some more light-hearted pieces, and for opinions to be expressed and exchanged in courteous style.

Our first issue in 1982 used a "daisy wheel" electric typewriter with chunks of text typed out and physically pasted around pictures or drawings, the finished copy being reproduced by offset litho, really a superior form of photocopy. Typos abounded as correction methods were cumbersome, but in the later 1980s, help from a professional designer dramatically improved the process. Colin and Fleur Speakman have been the Review's editors throughout the whole period.

In 1991-2 a new A5 format was tried, which featured an attractive cover, editorial control being shared for a time with a professional publisher who was keen to introduce advertisements and sell the magazine elsewhere. Sadly neither sufficient advertising nor external sales revenue was generated, and the publisher withdrew. Not without some relief we returned to the tried and tested format.

Initially and for many years our cover shot was a striking black and white photo, featuring in turn a number of prominent Dales' photographers such as Geoffrey Wright, Simon Warner, Eliza and John Forder, John Fawcett and many others. From the year 2000 to celebrate the Millennium, a colour cover photo and later additionally on the back cover, gave greater range and choice of material - our winter 2000 edition focused principally on Arthur Raistrick as Man of the Millennium. Again the idea of a topic led issue would be used from time to time such as when we focused on aspects of farming and agriculture in issue 99 quite recently. Full colour for the magazine was first used in summer 2006, our Silver Jubilee year, and was warmly received; the

cover featuring a very happy group of rather damp but undaunted YDS members enjoying a splendid walk. The cover picture was always a vitally important element of the Review and we feel our latest picture of a group of Asian ladies and children enjoying a Dales outing with YDNPA Volunteer Clive Bell, crossing a stone bridge explains better than any words their interest, delight and joy of discovery. The magazine's editorial by Colin Speakman invariably focuses on a key issue and is signed by him to give a little more flexibility to ensure that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Our very first eight-page issue in offset litho featured a black and white photo of Ivy Bentham in front of her farm, on cream paper with a green masthead, photographed by the award winning husband and wife team Liza and John Forder, and included a splendid article by Tom Lord on Victoria Cave near Settle. Issue number two was double in size and 16 pages became our standard format. Each issue would also list available events for members and incorporate appropriate photos and drawings.

Often the Review is the only way that YDS members can keep in touch if they live outside the region and the editors have always been conscious of the need to inform and shape opinion, and influence decision making at a variety of levels. The Review goes out regularly to the media and key opinion formers, and the media have responded frequently by quoting extensively from the magazine in major articles in the press or asking for additional information.

The Review has also benefited over the years from a number of important articles from leading experts, while others members and non-members have generously sent us a variety of welcome contributions. We are indebted to them all.

From its earliest days key Dales' concerns have been reflected in the YDS Review: farming, quarrying, transport, housing, conservation and the environment, planning issues, local business, cultural issues and much

more. Campaigns have been mounted for such issues as the protection of Green Lanes and for improved rural transport among others.

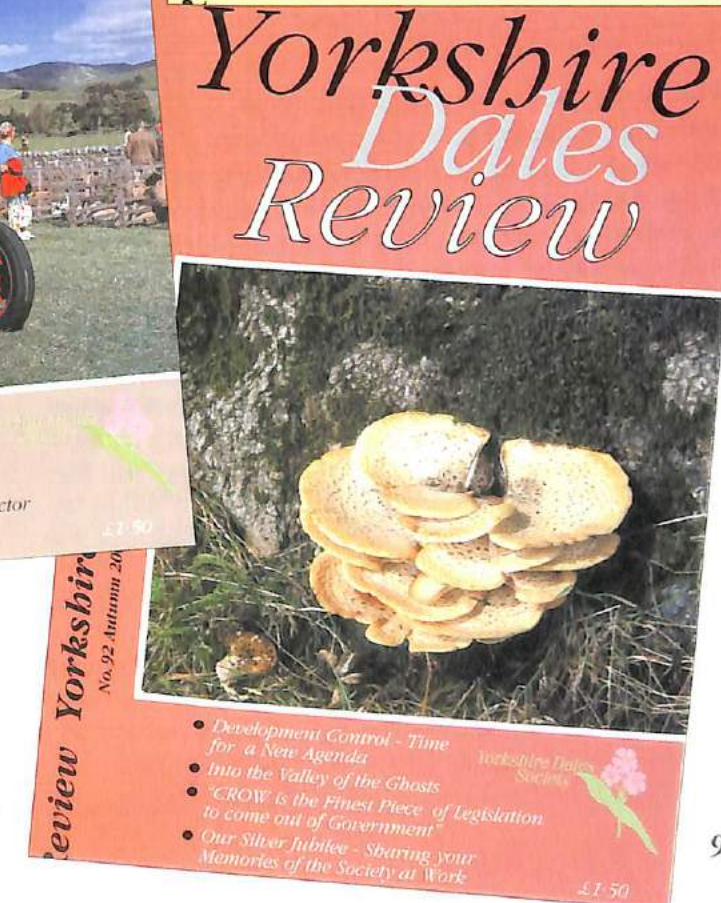
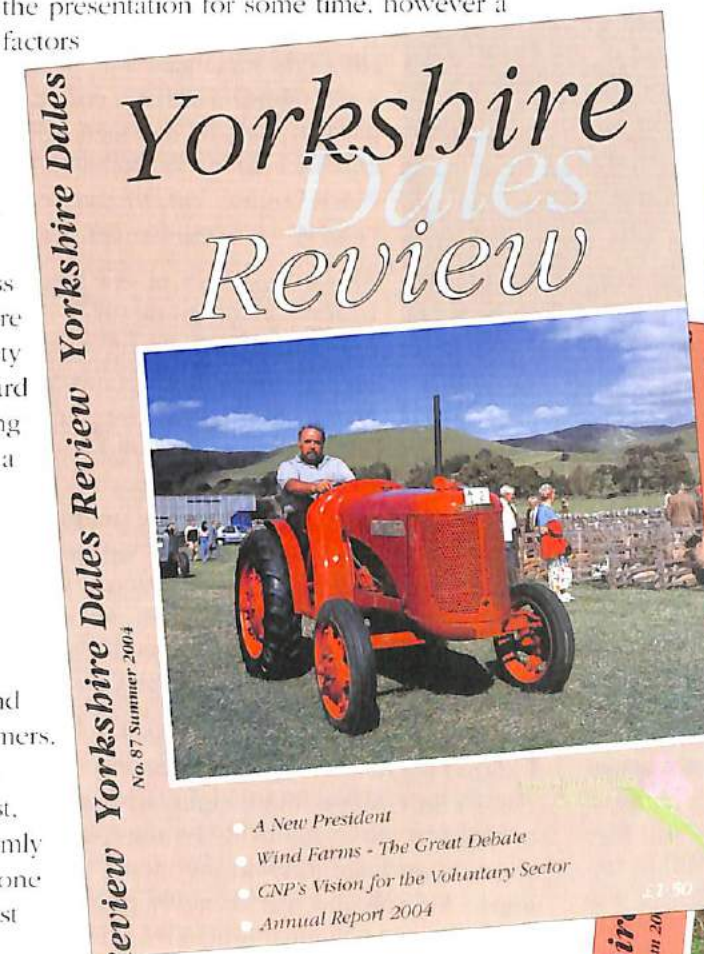
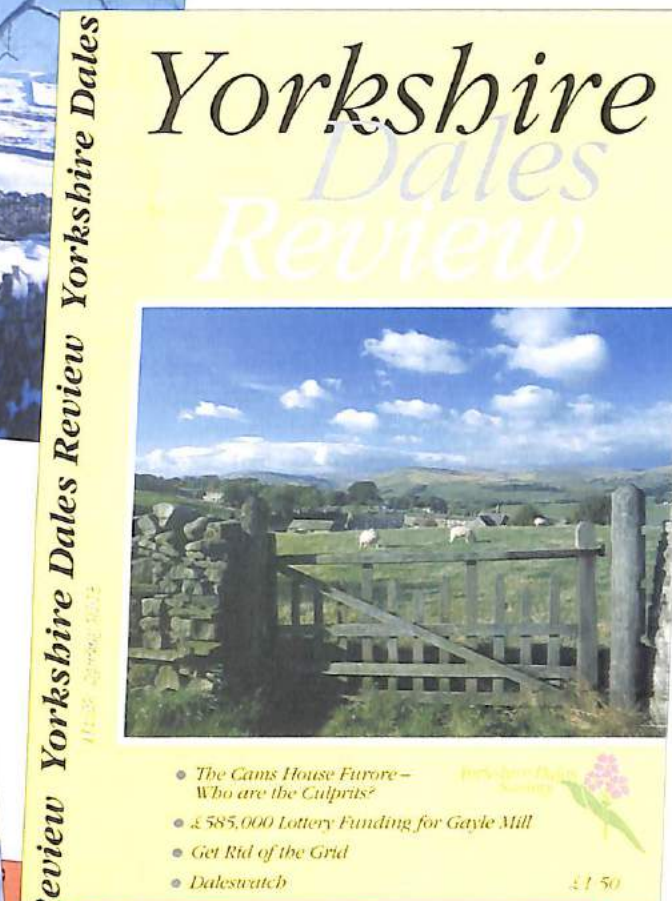
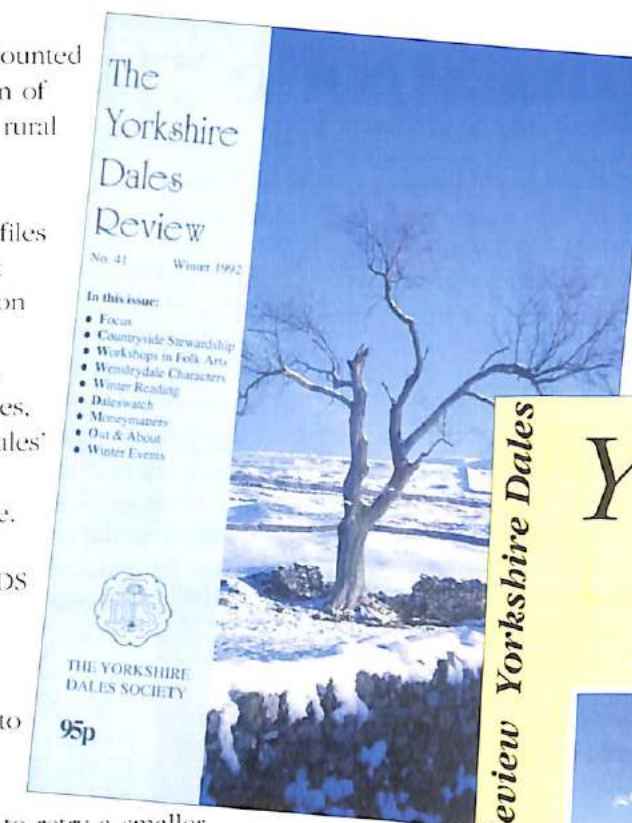
Other topics have included profiles of YDS Council of Management members, an occasional series on other UK national parks, local history, wild life, book reviews, occasional European perspectives, traffic congestion, prominent Dales' personalities and even poetry inspired by the Dales' landscape.

But what of the future of the YDS Review?

A 100th issue is a watershed; a time to take stock and perhaps to re-think the format. There are pros and cons as regards size, whether to continue with A4 or to retry a smaller format. There are issues with content, layout, costs and postage which need to be resolved. We have wanted to modernise the presentation for some time, however a number of factors

made a delay till after the current 100th issue inevitable. Nevertheless the Yorkshire Dales Society looks forward to continuing to produce a quarterly magazine which, we have been assured by many YDS members and opinion formers, is read with great interest, and we warmly thank everyone for their most helpful and constructive comments, and very kind words.

FS





# Where Giants Strode

*Dr Richard Muir is a consummate landscape historian with many seminal books to his credit, also a long time YDS member, and most notably one of our Honorary Members. Most fittingly for our 100th edition he writes about some celebrated writers who have inspired his work.*

Just a couple of Christmases ago, Professor Maurice Beresford died. He will be remembered as a skilled and gifted landscape historian. Most particularly, he will be remembered as the founding father of the remarkable excavations, spanning more than 40 years, of the deserted medieval village of Wharham Percy in the Yorkshire Wolds. As time goes on, we tend to look back as well as forward. When I do so, I am reminded that Maurice was the last of my 'Giants'.

The others were Arthur Raistrick, W.G. Hoskins, and Jacquetta Hawkes. I first discovered that there were people who studied the landscape when Raistrick's name was mentioned to my class at infant school. I am too young to have heard him speak but a friend, George Campbell, recalls:

*He took our bolshevik group of ex-servicemen on some eye-opening and mind-blowing field trips in about 1950. We took to him because he was on our side of the cultural divide in spite of the fact that (we believed!) he'd been a 'conshie', which really takes long-term guts. What we found so admirable was his transparently high-principled nature, committed to the cause of the underdog, plus his enthusiasm and great teaching ability.*

While Raistrick was translating the historic landscape of the Dales, Hoskins was doing the same for England as a whole, particularly as a result of the popularity of his *Making of the English Landscape* of 1955. This book was preceded and anticipated by Jacquetta Hawkes in *A Land*. It appeared in 1951, and nobody subsequently has equalled it as a vivid evocation of the bond between people and the landscape that they inhabit. How strange that Hawkes, a hot-house flower of the Oxbridge intelligentsia, could write with such searing passion.

But let me tell you that my Giants were not colossi merely because of the impact of their scholarship and of their writing. Their bigness reflected their character and principles. Raistrick was, indeed, a 'conshie' and suffered internment for his beliefs in the 1914-18 War. William Hoskins was a provincial grammar school boy and a scholar without private means - but this did not intimidate him. He wrote about medieval life from the standpoint of the feudal tenant. His tirades against bureaucracy and war-mongering in the Cold War era

were both brave and scathing. He cannot have been thinking of his career prospects when he wrote them.

Jacquetta Hawkes incurred the wrath of archaeologists - followers of that most faddish of subjects - for suggesting that archaeology was about *people* rather than dry science. To make things far worse, she wrote about archaeology for ordinary people! And if all that was not bad enough, she did so with spectacular success. Then, when she left her husband for J.B. Priestley, she was quite beyond archaeology's pale. A professor of archaeology in the Cambridge firmament quite recently banned his students from reading *A Land*. Of course, they could have found no greater incentive to dash out and do just that. I am told that several found much that was thought-provoking there. A woman of many talents, Hawkes was not lacking in courage and was a founder of CND.

Although I knew Maurice Beresford, his personal beliefs were rather a mystery to me. Then, the invitation to give the tribute lecture when Leeds awarded him his Honorary Ph.D gave me an excuse to ask some questions. "I'm a socialist and a pacifist," he said - though he seemed equally anxious to establish that he, a Black Country lad, should not be thought to pose as a countryman.

All were pacifists of one shade or another. I cannot claim an elevated status among my Giants but I did recently join CND and may, perhaps, understand their thinking. Maybe, a long and close acquaintanceship with our wonderful old countryside helps us to wonder at the achievements of

successive generations of ordinary people and their miraculous survival in the face of violence and injustice. When we see the traces of generations of cottage life stratified one upon the other, then, just possibly, we gain a special glimpse of the sanctity of life.

If I could add a couple of Giants from outside my specialist field I would include Dr David Bellamy, (who I know) for his intoxicating drive and optimism. I would also include Alfred Wainwright (whom I did not know) because he stood staunchly by the quality of his work and saw no need to court the media or sponsors. His impact is profound, yet he never promoted anything but his fells and his animal sanctuary, and never used rambles as bait to snare heritage grants.

Where are the Giants of the next generation? How many academics and environmental bureaucrats have been arrested in defence of the environment since David Bellamy was imprisoned in Tasmania at the end of 1982? How many principled stands do we see being made by

the professionals in this, the most environmentally threatening of times?

Wherever I go today, I see 'institutionalised' countryside complete with the paraphernalia of notice boards, disclaimers, logos and all the rest of it. And all the time I wonder: "What is being promoted? The heritage? The quango? Or the career prospects of heritage industry employees?" Do we really want to be merely 'clients' shuttled about at the whims of the heritage industry? I

think we need to nurture that vibrant stream of initiative and enthusiasm represented by amateur enthusiasts. I doubt my Giants would agree with me about too many things, but I have a strong feeling they are with me on this.

So here's to the *YDS Review* and the next 100 editions! Hopefully unornamented with any business logo!

**Richard Muir**

## "Community" in the Dales

*Tom Lord, YDS Honorary Member, farmer, archaeologist and keen conservationist, makes a strong plea for safeguarding the Dales in a constructive way.*

A centenary of the YDS Review is to be celebrated and I'm sure all of us who care for the Yorkshire Dales value this achievement and thank the Yorkshire Dales Society for their dedication and hard work in making it happen. In providing an independent voice the Society is uniquely placed to inform and help meet the challenges affecting the Yorkshire Dales today. We live in a time of great change, changes on a global scale as well as more locally, and nowhere is immune. The communities and landscape of the Yorkshire Dales are facing changes at almost every level.

What do we mean by "community" in the Yorkshire Dales? Like the question "are you local?" in the comedy *League of Gentlemen*, it's becoming a joke. It's about time to admit to things as they really are, and recognise that the Yorkshire Dales is rapidly becoming a rural suburbia, and an increasingly exclusive one at that. People living here have very different lifestyles to their predecessors of only a few decades ago. My grandfather born in Stainforth in Ribblesdale before the First World War said that once you thought you were one of the better sort in the village if you had a bicycle! Now the approaches to the village green are jammed with residents' parked cars and the humblest cottage fetches over £200,000. In the 1960s seven farmers and their families lived and worked in Stainforth. Today there is scarcely one.

Tourism has now overtaken farming as the major economic activity in the Yorkshire Dales. The average age of hill farmers is well over fifty. Over the next few years many Dales' farmers will be approaching retirement. Medium sized family-owned farms now struggle to support two generations. Farmer's children no longer see a viable future for themselves to work at home on the family farm. Once the cycle of passing skills and understanding from one generation to the next is broken, so much is put at risk. Experience acquired over lifetimes might be lost forever.

People make landscapes, and like people, landscapes

change over time. A bit of cosmetic surgery might work for a while, but keeping things as they are is not a viable option in the long run. The economic and social conditions that created the Yorkshire Dales landscape are now mostly history. Features we value today such as flower rich hay meadows result from an obsolete pastoral farming system only made possible by seasonal, migrant Irish farm workers, and unrelenting year round female family labour. This was never a rural idyll. Heriot country is not a model for the future.

The landscape of the Yorkshire Dales in the future should serve the needs of the community who uses it. For with use comes value and when something is valued it will be better looked after. The Yorkshire Dales landscape could and should be looked after better. Up till now the large

sums of public money spent on support to the farming sector have singularly failed to deliver much in the way of conservation outcomes, either in landscape or wildlife terms. To go on pretending otherwise is foolish. For to continue with things as they are means it becomes ever more likely that public funded farming in the uplands will come to an end.

In the future we need to recognise and sustain a much wider notion of "community" for the Yorkshire Dales. A community that is inclusive and not exclusive. In essence a community made up of everyone enriching and enriched by the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales. Farmers must realise that if they are to survive and continue to receive public funding they must meet the needs of this wider community: a community consisting of the people who make up the eight million or so visits to the National Park each year as well as the people living in the nearby urban areas who as yet hardly ever visit the National Park. These include people young and old in the ethnic minority communities of West Yorkshire and East Lancashire, many of whom spent their childhood in the countryside of India and Pakistan. Very often they know more about the realities of rural life and working the land than many of the people now living in the villages of the Yorkshire Dales. A major challenge for the future is to make the Yorkshire Dales a place where barriers are broken down and not put up.

**Tom Lord**



# Global Warming – the Green Hoax Effect

*Martin Vallance, a Yorkshire Dales Society member from Brompton-on-Swale, challenges the YDS's view that climate change is actually happening and is caused by human activity.*

The High Priests of Orthodoxy are often proven wrong over time. In the 60s I recall we were threatened with an Ice Age – and one hears nothing any more about that, nor the hole in the ozone layer which until recently was another scare. BSE is yet another (albeit unrelated) unfounded scare story.

What is the cause of Climate Change? Is it natural or man-made? I confess to a natural suspicion about bandwagons of this kind but I steered myself and have now watched Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" three times. In my view an "Inconvenient Truth" is long on effects and short on causes. Also Gore is misleading when he says or strongly implies that all scientists agree with his assertions - they most definitely do not.

Gore's thesis is also bad science as is demonstrated by the Channel 4 programme "The Great Global Warming Swindle", which is a devastating critique of Al Gore's theories. The programme explains that Gore's most important mistake is that yes, there is a link to CO<sup>2</sup> revealed by the ice cores but that he's got cause and effect the wrong way round! CO<sup>2</sup> increases after the climate gets warmer. And in any case man-made CO<sup>2</sup> is trivial compared to what is naturally produced from humans and animals, volcanoes and especially from the oceans. (And CO<sup>2</sup> is not a pollutant, it is a natural element essential for all life.) One activist on the "Swindle" programme referred to coal industry managers as climate criminals (!) whose enterprises should be nationalised and the managers sent for "rehabilitation"! (Soviet Style?).

If CO<sup>2</sup> isn't the driver of climate change, what is? Well, basically to cut a long story short, it's that huge orange thing in the sky, i.e. the sun, the effect of which dwarfs human activity into insignificance. Solar activity, e.g. sunspots is closely related to climate change and is used also to forecast weather with considerable success.

How did the bandwagon start rolling? Unbelievably almost, Mrs Thatcher was the first to spend government money when she wanted to demonstrate that nuclear fuel was the best way forward for energy, thus freeing us from coal (and the miners) and from foreign fuel, e.g. gas and oil. Since then scientists have obliged by coming up with the desired results so that the research budget in the US has risen from \$1.6m under Bush I to \$2bn+ now! Jobs depend on this industry big time, including those of environmental journalists!

Many consider that this sort of environmentalism is a substitute for religion in a godless age. It is also a refuge for disappointed communists and socialists and those who hope for the overthrow of industrial society - many of them having a romantic view of primitive man.

The co-founder of Greenpeace (Patrick Moore) now regards extreme environmentalists as "in-human" (his word) preferring as they do wildlife to humanity and having little regard for poverty in the third world. If climate is changing albeit mainly for natural reasons, the best course may be to identify the most harmful possible consequences and take action to counter them. The following steps, for example, would cost far less than the damage that environmentalists aim to inflict on the world's economies.

1. Coastal flooding - consult the Dutch! And provide assistance where necessary to poor countries.
2. Damage to agricultural productivity - the "dumb farmer" theory postulated by the IPCC doubtless exaggerates the danger and hopefully farmers would adapt to changing conditions without much assistance; maybe we can look forward to profitable vineyards in Yorkshire as in Roman times.
3. Water shortage. There is massive waste of water and lots of scope for reducing it including by universal water pricing. Free goods are always wasted.

## Colin Speakman responds:

How I hope that Martin is indeed right, that the tiny minority of reputable scientists (i.e. those whose scientific research stands up to "peer-review" scrutiny) who do not accept either that global change is happening or that man's industrial activities are a prime cause, are correct, and what we are seeing is merely a temporary blip before more normal weather and climate patterns return at some foreseeable time in the future.

Science is about probability not certainty, and no-one can assert with 100% certainty that the massive worldwide increase in the burning of fossil fuels is the prime cause of the observable attributes of global warming – the remarkable parallel patterns of industrialisation and world temperature increases may indeed be purely a coincidence.

But as the admittedly left wing environmentalist George Monbiot in his recent book **Heat** (Allen Lane 2007) demonstrates with forensic accuracy "Climate Change Deniers" as he describes them, far from being a tiny minority, form a massive world-wide pressure group largely funded by the oil industry. Some of the so-called research they produce is, to say the least, dubious, much of it is downright dishonest. For example when Monbiot questioned the otherwise much respected David Bellamy's figures suggesting that glaciers worldwide were in fact growing not retreating, the highly respected World Glacier Monitoring Service, when contacted by Monbiot, suggested that Bellamy's quoted data was "complete bullshit"(sic). Monbiot discovered that the actual source of this "information" was a pseudo-scientific journal belonging to an American millionaire Lyndon Larouche who also asserts that Henry Kissinger is a communist agent, the British Government is

controlled by Jewish bankers and modern science is a conspiracy. In 1989 he was gaoled for 15 years for conspiracy and fraud – so he's hardly a reliable source.

Sadly there are ominous parallels with the pro-smoking lobbyists in the 1990s, the tobacco companies who constantly promoted "evidence" to undermine anti-smoking legislation even at the cost of tens of thousands of human lives.

Again it is worth noting that one of the leading campaigners for action on climate change is Zak Goldsmith who is David Cameron's advisor on environmental matters - indeed the Conservative Party has a range of quite radical policies on taxation and the environment well ahead of current Government thinking. This rather undermines the notion that this is all some kind of crazy left wing conspiracy.

Where Martin and I believe most Yorkshire Dales Society members would agree, is that attempts to blame every hot day or heavy rainstorm on global warming are naïve. Equally, wildly radical and seriously economically damaging solutions to the problems are both unrealistic and, in a modern democracy, impossible to either

## Book Reviews

**CONNECTIONS: ARTISTS AND WRITERS IN NORTH CRAVEN published by the North Craven Building Trust, with a foreword by Bill Mitchell and photos by MC Brown. Locally available at The Folly Museum, Settle at £3.99 and at Tourist Information Centres in Settle, Skipton, Grassington and Malham, and at Archway Books, Settle. It is also available by post via The Folly website - [www.ncbt.org.uk/folly](http://www.ncbt.org.uk/folly) - where postage and packing costs are detailed.**

Inspired by an imaginative exhibition held in Settle at the Folly in 2006, entitled *Connections*, which brought together the work of artists and writers fired by the beauty of the Craven Dales, this generously illustrated book enables the reader to explore in greater depth the connections between people and places and their interpersonal links. Four trails through Malhamdale, North Ribblesdale, a Turnpike Trail and a trail in the Ingleborough, Greta and Wenning area have also been devised, together with a biographical section which gives additional information about the people in the trails and helps to give a meaningful perspective.

In a role call of celebrated artists, poets, writers, engravers, designers, archaeologists, antiquarians, local historians and botanists, such as Turner, Ruskin, Charles Kingsley and William Wordsworth, the Craven Dales have triggered some memorable works of art, but there are surprises as well - Charles FAnson's modern Yakshi or Indian Tree Sprite was placed in its present position to underline its mythological similarities with the legendary Dales "boggart" or evil sprite who lived in nearby Hurtle Pot. This modern metal sculpture blends in well in its atmospheric setting among the trees, yet conveys an intriguing and mysterious presence. The cover picture of *Connections* has a splendidly evocative picture of Gordale Scar shimmering with light by

implement or enforce, and are therefore simply unachievable. Like it or not we will continue to drive cars, fly to sunnier countries and heat our homes, at least whilst there is cheap energy available for us to do so. What has to happen is a mixture of educational measures and – as David Cameron and others are now increasingly arguing - fiscal measures to encourage and finally force us to change our behaviour. By driving less, using smaller, more fuel efficient cars, flying only when there is no alternative, having decent, properly integrated and affordable public transport, encouraging walking and cycling, buying more local goods and services to reduce "food miles", insulating our homes properly, designing new homes to be energy efficient, and banning irresponsible idiocies such as gas-powered "outdoor" heaters, massive reductions in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions can be achieved without going back to the Stone Age. New technologies to develop solar power, low impact wind and wave technology, far from being a threat to our economy, offer huge new investment and job opportunities. A low carbon Yorkshire Dales could also be a highly prosperous one.



*Primula species illustration by Reginald Farrer*

Katherine Holmes who was born in Malhamdale and returned to the Dales in 1990 after living in various other areas. Her local landscapes often contain natural materials such as grass, sands and gravel. In the Turnpike Trail section of the book is a beautiful example of an illustration of the Primula species by the great botanist, Reginald Farrer, a talented artist and

writer as well as a famous plant-collector and "father of rock gardening". The charm of Constance Pearson's style is immediately apparent in her portrait of The Malham Bus and unsurprisingly her illustrations were much in demand for the Dalesman magazine, providing an excellent period piece for Bill Mitchell's "Seeing the Dales from a Bus", page 5 and 6.

*Connections: Artists and Writers in North Craven* was funded by Allan Gould and Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund which is provided to local authorities to compensate communities affected by aggregates extraction. This fund is managed by The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council. The book is a most attractive and stylish



presentation of the many talents that the Craven Dales have inspired and is also excellent value in a most attractive format.

**BOLTON ABBEY: THE YORKSHIRE ESTATE OF THE DUKES OF DEVONSHIRE BY JOHN M. SHEARD**, with a foreword by the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, produced by Amadeus Press, Cleckheaton. The book can be obtained from Drebley Farmhouse, Drebley, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 6AU and costs £16.50 hard back or £11.95 softback, **BUT please add £3 in each case for p&p**. The book is also available at Bolton Abbey outlets. All income from the sale is being donated to Sedbergh School Foundation, Cumbria.

This book is doubly impressive – as a detailed and highly readable work about the Bolton Abbey estate and its owners by John Sheard, its Senior Land Agent for 28 years, and deputy land agent for five years previously;

and as a labour of love after John suffered a devastating stroke in his retirement. After a year's nursing John decided, "I needed a challenge, so this became *THE BOOK*. Reading and writing that I had always enjoyed became a real struggle. I found it difficult to remember words, people's names and stories got lost in the telling. Having to work to a framework and think about the past in a constructive way helped me to get back memories I had lost and use words I had forgotten about." We warmly congratulate John on this exceedingly informative and beautifully illustrated account, and on rising to his "challenge" so magnificently.

A land agent on a country estate needs to be trained in all the rural country pursuits, as well as agriculture, forestry, building construction, mining, country laws, access, planning, finance, employment, statutory controls and much more that is acquired after years of experience. The privilege we all have in accessing the beautiful Bolton Abbey estate is in no small measure due to the wisdom with which the estate has been managed by its owners and their professional team guided by their land agents.

For over 250 years the Bolton Abbey estate has been owned by the Dukes of Devonshire (whose main seat is at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire), and this much visited area by the River Wharfe, depends partly for its income on its farms and forestry interests, but also on its income from visitors. When the railway reached Bolton Abbey in 1888, special trains from as far afield as Sheffield brought hundreds of day trippers to the estate.



John Sheard

By 1901 the original Cavendish Pavilion had been built near what is today's Sandholme car park to provide refreshment for steadily increasing visitor numbers. Today everyone can still enjoy some superb riverside walks, plenty of more challenging routes over the moors as well as the picturesque ruins of Bolton Priory itself. The three stone arch on the B6160, formerly an aqueduct, now acts as a 20th century "traffic calmer" as traffic is forced to slow down when negotiating the larger central arch. The grouse moor attracts annual shooting parties including the heir to the throne, but this more public face hides a more complex undertaking in which forest and farming interests are balanced with nature conservation and wild life concerns. In the late 1960s and 1970s priority was given to the renovation of all farm and residential property as some of the houses still had no indoor toilets or bathrooms. As modernisation continued, it was part of the land agent's job to oversee that the new buildings harmonised with the old, and improved access for visitors was also planned, later fully implemented by the 11th Duke who was passionate on such matters and overseen by John himself.

In 120 pages, John has succeeded in encapsulating not just the history of the estate and its owners, but its economy, buildings, wild life and its varied interests and concerns. Typically, John, who warmly remembers his education at Sedbergh School in Cumbria, is donating all monies to Charities of Sedbergh School Foundation, Cumbria to assist students to develop or extend their education. Readers of this book will concur that there is an outstanding example of a most impressive alumnus from that establishment before us.

FS

The Cavendish Memorial, Bolton Abbey



## Autumn Events 2007/8



*Make the most of cooler, shorter days by enjoying our contrasting Autumn Events – walks and talks around the Dales, ranging from wildlife and archaeology to climate change, with the opportunity of some convivial social evenings in the Hellifield area. There's also the chance to join our sister organisation Craven CPRE for an additional special midweek evening lecture on historic landscapes of the Dales.*

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 6: WALK AROUND HAWES**, led by Malcolm Petyt. Meet at the Dales Countryside Museum at 10.30am. Circular walk round Hawes; approximately 4 miles long, to include Hardraw, Simonstone and Sedbusk. tel: the YDS 01729 825 600 no later than Wednesday October 3rd for public transport access/lifts.

**LECTURE: RED SQUIRRELS IN THE DALES - IAN COURT**, Species Officer, YDNPA, in the Market Hall, Hawes at 2.15pm.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 7: A WALK IN THE MALHAM AREA**, Malham to Nappa Cross full day, 5 miles steady walk with 1 steep climb. Join Simon Houstoun to walk up the side of the Cove and the Watlowes to Nappa Cross and back via Pike Daw Hill and Long Lane. Bring packed lunch. Meet 1115 at Malham Visitor Centre. Dales Experience bus 814 leaves Huddersfield bus station 0835, Ilkley 0955, Skipton bus station 1030. Return from Malham at 1645.

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7: JOINT EVENT WITH CPRE. HISTORIC LANDSCAPES OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES. LECTURE: - YVONNE LUKE** at Swadford Centre, Skipton at 7.30pm. £2 YDS and CPRE members, £3 non members.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10: A GHAISTRILL AND GRASS WOOD WALK**. Led by Colin Speakman. Meet at Grassington Village Square at 10.30am for 4 1/2 miles of riverside and woodland with one steep climb. Bus 74, 9.35 Ilkley to Grassington, Bus 72, 1005 Skipton Bus Station to Grassington.

**LECTURE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES - GARY SMITH**, Head of Conservation and Policy, YDNPA, in Grassington Town Hall, Octagon Room at 2.15pm.

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16: FOLK EVENING – LISTEN TO KELLY ARKLE**, singing some old traditional dales folk songs on some original Dales instruments at Hellifield Tea Rooms at Hellifield Station, 7.15-9.15pm. Kelly Arkle will then describe the background to these folk songs and translate some of the dialect. Supper included in the price £8.50. Train times 1756 from Leeds arrives Hellifield 1854, returns 2123 from Hellifield. For further details and booking, please phone Anne Webster, tel: 01729 825 600.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 1: A CIRCULAR WALK AROUND SETTLE**, leaders Ron and Vanessa Stone. Meet

at Settle Market Square at 1030am. Train 0849 from Leeds, 0926 from Skipton to Settle, return 1635 (please check times pending possible weekend bus replacements). Bus 580, 0835 Skipton to Settle (time for coffee on arrival), return 1730.

**LECTURE: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INGLEBOROUGH - DAVID JOHNSON**, at St John's Church Hall, Settle at 1415.

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 14: CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE AT HELLIFIELD STATION** (hopefully on the platform) at 7.30-9.15p. Bring your lanterns, sing traditional Christmas carols and listen to festive readings. YDS welcome. £5 to include a light supper of Christmas delights. Train times: 1756 from Leeds arrives Hellifield 1854, return 2123 from Hellifield. For further details please phone Ruth Evans 01729 825 454. Book on the website [www.kingfisherrailtours.co.uk/Hellifield](http://www.kingfisherrailtours.co.uk/Hellifield) or pay at the door.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 19: WALK ROUND RIPON**, leader Mr Hamilton. Meet at Ripon Market Place at 1030am. Bus 36 from Leeds 0855, Harrogate 0950. Frequent return buses.

**LECTURE: THE RIPON CARVERS - MAURICE TAYLOR** at Thorpe Craven House, Ripon at 2.15 pm.

**PLEASE NOTE that in the Annual Walks and Lecture programme 2007/8, the walk and lecture listed for Sunday February 3 is incorrectly dated and will take place on Saturday February 2 2008. It may be helpful to alter the date on your green card listing details of the Annual Walks and Lecture Programme.**

### ESSENTIAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please note: We much regret that with effect from 31 December 2007, we will be unable to process your membership fees paid by **Bankers' Order/Standing Order**. A direct debit mandate form is included with this Review for those who would like to pay by this method. We would be grateful if you could complete it and return it to the office at Settle. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can pay by cheque direct to YDS Office, Town Hall, Cheapside, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9EJ.

**Gift Aid Request** We express our great gratitude to all those members (76%) who have signed up to our Gift Aid scheme. This enables us to receive additional financial benefit from the Government which is extremely helpful for the Society as a registered charity. To the remaining 24%, should you feel that you are in a position to sign – please do consider joining our Gift Aid Scheme by contacting Anne at the office – tel: 01729 825 600.





*Front Cover picture:* Clive Bell, YDNPA Volunteer, explains Malham's historic landscape to a Mosaic Group from Bradford, who have come to Malham on the 814 Experience Bus as part of the YDS Sharing the Dales Project. *Photo by Colin Speakman.*

*Back Cover picture:* 'Ingleborough', a painting by Margaret Blackburne who was born in North Craven and has exhibited in Settle, Giggleswick and the Kendal Arts Centre. *Illustration reproduced from "Connections" - see Book Reviews on pages 13-14.*

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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)***

***See also –***

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

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

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*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.*