

No. 102 Spring 2008

# Yorkshire *Dales* Review



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Yorkshire Dales  
Society



# Yorkshire Dales Review

## No. 102 • Spring 2008



Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editorial Team: Fleur Speakman with the help of Ann Harding, Bill Mitchell, Colin Speakman, Alan Watkinson, Anne Webster and Chris Wright

## Pushing out the boundaries

Malcolm Petyt, Chairman, Yorkshire Dales Society

The Yorkshire Dales Society is the National Park Society for the Yorkshire Dales, but we are concerned with all of the Yorkshire Dales - not just with the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The boundaries of our National Park are artificial, in that they were drawn in the 1950s taking more notice of political and landowner considerations than of landscape.

That led to at least two major anomalies. First, the boundary to the east was fixed so as to exclude the major dale of Nidderdale. This was at least partly to appease the Water Companies which had developed large reservoirs to serve the industrial towns of the West Riding. 40 years later Nidderdale was designated as an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), which at least gives some recognition of its quality and a degree of protection (and it certainly contains plenty of natural beauty, as well as some that is more than usually man-made!). But one could certainly argue that it should have been in the National Park because it also satisfies the criteria of providing wide opportunities for recreation and of being within easy reach of major centres of population. Our Society certainly regards Nidderdale as part of the Yorkshire Dales.

A second anomaly is due to the fact that the boundary was drawn to follow pre-1974 county lines: the Yorkshire Dales National Park had to be in Yorkshire! So the fells east of the Lune Valley were excluded because they were administratively part of Lancashire or Westmorland; the wonderful country around Mallerstang and Wild Boar Fell, and even more illogically the Northern Howgill Fells (which are indistinguishable in landscape terms from the Southern Howgills within the Park) all lack the protection of designation because they were beyond the old Yorkshire-Westmorland boundary. This situation became even more indefensible when the 1974 county changes resulted in part of the Park being outside Yorkshire, anyway - in Cumbria, and the Park boundary now crosses almost identical landscape within that same county.

In recent years the Yorkshire Dales Society has given both moral and what financial support it could to our sister society, the Friends of the Lake District, in their project to re-examine the boundaries of both national parks with land in Cumbria - the Lake District and the Dales - and if possible to redraw the boundaries to include areas worthy of national park status.

FLD had concentrated at first on land between the A6 and the M6. This included the fine valleys of Borrowdale and Bretherdale and other areas which the Friends had argued since the 1950s should have been included in the Lake District National Park. The great fell walker and writer Alfred Wainwright described Borrowdale as the finest valley in Westmorland not in the national park. Why was this area excluded when the Park was designated? Almost certainly, because at that time it seemed logical to draw the boundary at the notorious A6 Shap Road - the main western route to Scotland. If the M6 had existed then, and the A6 had been the much quieter and more pleasant road it is today, the motorway would have been made the national park boundary.

FLD's research demonstrated that this area amply satisfies the landscape and recreational criteria for national park status. But before publishing their report they were advised by friends eminent in the countryside movement to look at other "forgotten" parts of Cumbria which might be worthy of designation. This led them to examine the areas mentioned above which border the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and also a fine area of limestone country known as the Orton Fells. It was not difficult to demonstrate that these areas met the criteria for inclusion within the adjacent Yorkshire Dales National Park or, in the case of the Orton Fells, as a new Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Even before the FLD research was completed, the Countryside Agency took up the case and commissioned their own consultants to examine those areas which could be brought into the two parks. The process has been slowed down by the infamous Meyrick judgement involving the New Forest National Park, and by consequent further delays in the designation of the South Downs as a National Park.

But the required public consultation process will now soon begin, and we can be hopeful that within a few years the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Parks will be extended to include more of what deserves the protection of National Park status.

Dr Malcolm Petyt  
Chairman YDS

## Gayle Mill: on the eve of a new adventure

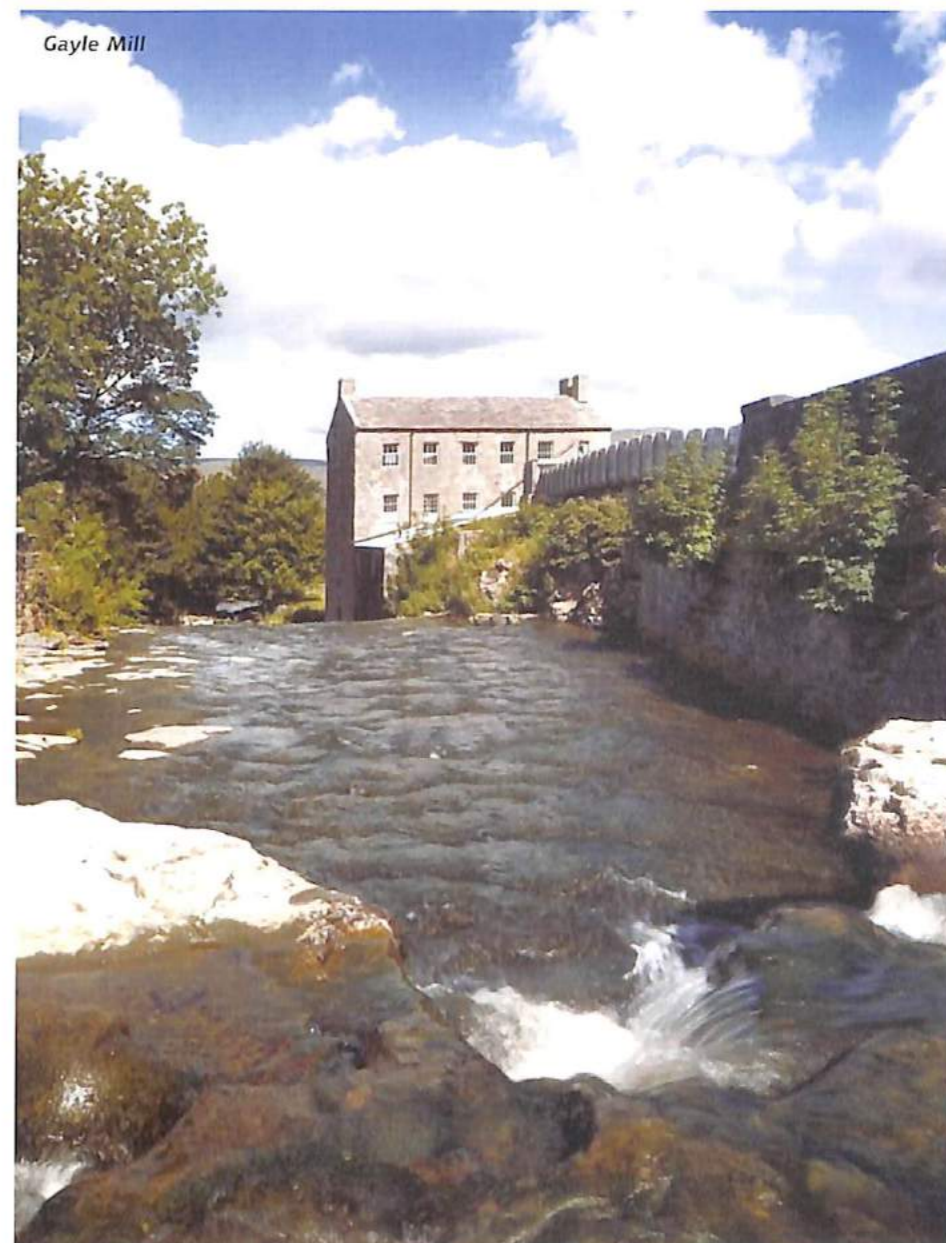
Gayle Mill manager, Paul Bisson, describes the latest developments in this unique project.

February 2008. As I gaze out of my office window at Wether Fell, Gayle Mill seems like an animal beginning to wake after a long hibernation of almost 20 years. As it stretches its limbs in the pale sunshine that heralds a new spring, the jackdaws caw noisily around a building where they have nested since 1784.

It was 1988 when Brian Alderson locked the doors of the Mill and closed down the sawmilling and joinery business that had been operating for 109 years. For years Brian tried to find a buyer that would respect the heritage of the building. It was Brian's passion and dogged determination to realise this dream that made him turn down all offers, as most of them wanted to turn the Mill into apartments, rather than celebrate a history that stretched back to Georgian times when Oswald and Thomas Routh first built a water mill to spin cotton.

Time began to take its toll on the ancient building and for the next 15 years, despite designations as a listed building and scheduled ancient monument, dilapidation turned to dereliction. The weather crept under the battered roof, rotting floors, peeling off plaster and eroding away the mortar holding the building together. The wooden leat collapsed as massive tree roots undermined the structure; the old weir under the bridge began to disintegrate. The only thing that seemed to stand up to the onslaught of decay was the Victorian engineering.

Although at the turn of the millennium plans were being drawn up to rescue the building from total destruction, it wasn't until 2004, when Gayle Mill unexpectedly came third in the national final of the BBC "Restoration" programme, that sufficient funds were raised for a full conservation and restoration project undertaken by the Mill's new owner, the North East Civic Trust (now North of England Civic Trust).



With the major building conservation works almost completed last autumn, it was up to Gayle Mill Trust, as the organisation responsible for running the Mill as a new business, to get everything ready to welcome its first visitors.

I have been privileged to be part of this final stage of work, and I have been amazed by the huge amounts of voluntary time, effort and skill that have been donated by local people over the last six months. In all weathers, volunteers have helped build steps and walls, create safe floors and working areas, and construct safety barriers, all in keeping with the

vernacular style of the Dales architecture. They have sorted and cleaned artefacts, lime-washed interior walls, chopped up tons of firewood (for the biomass boiler), and decorated the new facilities such as the wheelchair-accessible toilet, the kitchen and the office.

Two directors of Gayle Mill Trust in particular, Tony Routh and William Lambert, have spent many days, and any spare evenings and weekends restoring the Victorian line-shafting system (powered by the original 1879 turbine) on the lower floor and the woodworking machinery on the floor above. Meticulously each part of each



Gayle Mill turbine

machine has been removed, cleaned, re-engineered or (where necessary) replaced like with like; sometimes metal framework has had to be made and mounted on new support stonework to ensure a safe and stable foundation for the original machinery.

In the meantime we have been hard at work setting up all the systems any business needs and putting in place all the legal requirements to meet health and safety regulations. We have been recruiting and training volunteer guides, carrying out further historical research, and designing and producing the interpretation displays, a CCTV touch-screen system for disabled visitors, the visitor guidebook and marketing literature. We have also planned a series of special activity weekends at the Mill in the summer in a variety of subjects, from watercolours and stick-carving to working with green timber. Further details are available on our website: [www.gaylemill.org.uk](http://www.gaylemill.org.uk) but places are limited, so early booking is advised.

We have been busy establishing the mobile sawmilling business, and there are some interesting opportunities to work in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The WoodMizer LT40 (generously funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust) was taken out to do a number of demonstrations at fairs and open days last summer and we have also carried out several contracts since we employed a machinist at the end of autumn 2007. If anyone is interested in

contact Andris Bergs on 01969 667320.

There has been one great sadness recently. Diagnosed last year with pancreatic cancer, Brian Alderson died last December, aged only 66. It is a tragedy that the last private owner of Gayle Mill, whose family has been connected with the Mill for over 140 years, was never able to see the project finally completed. Not long before he died, however, the big lathe, which had not worked for over 60 years, was restored to working order. The first object to be turned on it was a candlestick – using an odd piece of ash which had been knocking about in the Mill since at least the 1950s – and this was presented to Brian in November by the Friends of Gayle Mill.

The Mill opens to the public on Tuesday 18th March, with the first tour at 2.30pm. Thereafter until the end of September it is open five days a week

finding out more about having timber growing on their land sawn onsite into planks, posts, beams, etc, please

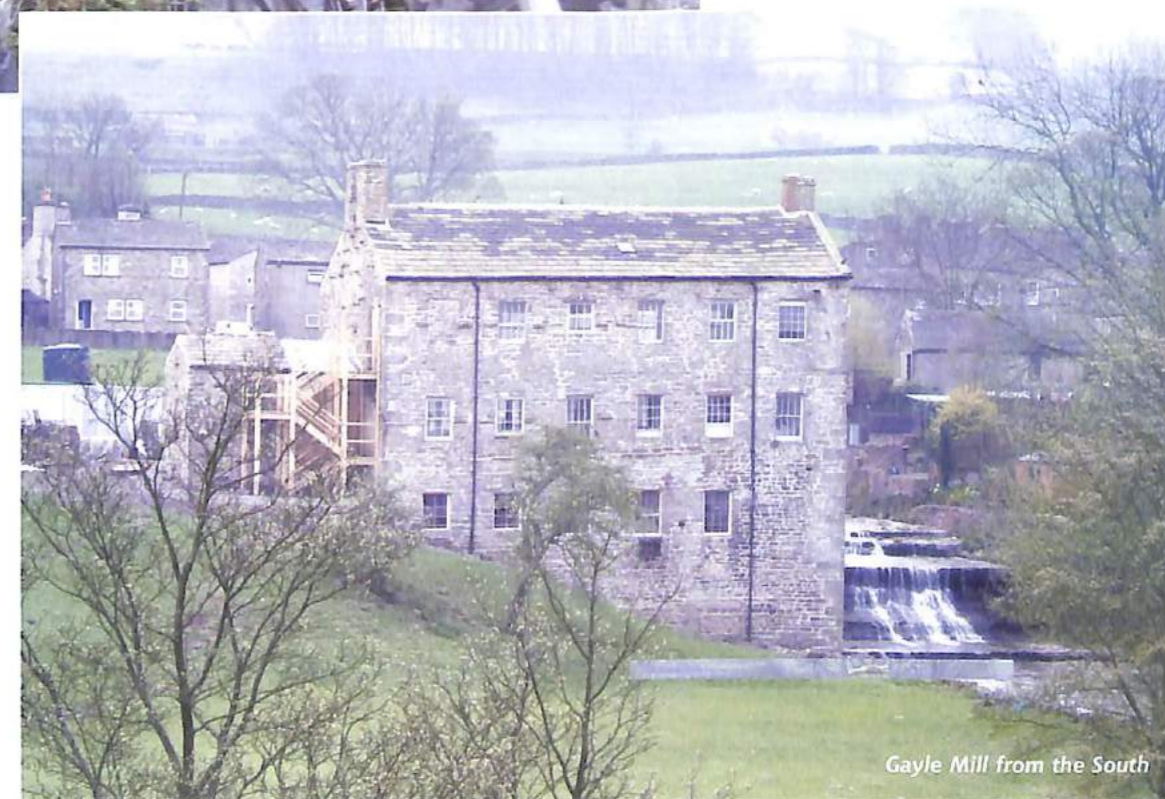


The blue turbine, Gayle Mill



The goyt at Gayle Mill

All the photographs illustrating this article are courtesy of Mark Glynn.



Gayle Mill from the South

(closed Mondays and Fridays, except Bank holidays), then weekend days only in October and November. Visitors must go around the Mill in guided tour groups (there are five tours per day), and tickets must be booked from the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes (tel. 01969 666210). Full details can be obtained from the Gayle Mill website.

As I write Gayle Mill is at last nearly ready to reveal the secrets of its 230-year history to a public still fascinated to find out how such a unique heritage has managed, not just to survive, but to enter a new phase of its extraordinary existence.

With continued help, support and commitment, there is an exciting future ahead for Gayle Mill, clearer now than what Brian's uncle, Rev James Alderson, foresaw in his 1975 poem: T' years rowl by, men come, men go, Aldersons, Metcalfes, wurked here years ago.

What the future holds we cannot know. For Gayle Mill.

*Paul Bisson, Gayle Mill Manager*

# Sheep in the Dales Landscape

The head of a Swaledale tup is the emblem of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

The Dales landscape we see today was largely created by the grazing of sheep – hill sheep, born and bred in the area, subsisting where only the toughest can survive. Swaledale, Dalesbred, Wensleydale and Rough Fell – these are some of the breeds that are the unofficial green-keepers of the dale-country.

By their grazing and browsing, sheep prevent the natural regeneration of timber. During the Second World War, when home-grown food was vital, and there were none of the former restraints on how many sheep could be kept for the good of the land, the sheep population of the Pennines soared. The vegetation was over-grazed. Some heathered acres became tracts of unproductive *Nardus stricta*.

George Murray, an old-time gamekeeper, based in Clapham, remembered when in late summer, Ingleborough had a conspicuous purple hue as the ling blossomed. A Yorkshire squire referred to *Nardus* as “sheep resistant grass”. The “gripping” of the fells lacerated rather than benefited them. Yet sheep farming endured in a modified form.

Sheep have been a major part of our Dales economy since the Cistercians, the first great flockmasters, built up a lively trade in wool. Whenever I climb Fountains Fell I think of shepherds rounding up sheep and driving them to the grange of Kilnsey to be clipped, the wool being transferred over the moors to Fountains Abbey on ox-hauled wains. You cannot walk far in the Dales without hearing the bleating of sheep.

Pennine sheep terms are numerous. Basically, it's a lamb until it has been spained (separated from its mother) when it becomes a hogg – gimmer hogg in the case of ewe lambs. The males are either wether hogs (those castrated for use as stores or fat animals) or tup hogs (keep for breeding purposes). Pronunciation varies from dale to dale.

In Arkengarthdale, I heard a tup referred to as a tweearp!

An old-time shepherd set off for the fells with a crook in one hand, an old mac (with sandwiches in a pocket) and his

A Swardle is a horned sheep, the type being fixed by farmers in the bleak country around Tan Hill. W S Raw, of Muker, who was the secretary of the breeders' association, founded in 1920, told me how the distinctive breed



Photo by Bill Mitchell

dog at foot. Traditionally, it was of hazel, gathered at the “back-end” when “t’sap’s out on t”, and well-seasoned. The crook part was usually tup’s horn picked up on the fells or removed from an animal finding it troublesome. Boiling the horn softened it sufficiently for it to be shaped into the traditional crook pattern. The modern shepherd rides an ATV (all-terrain vehicle). His crook is likely to be of light alloy. He is back at the farm for lunch.

What of the sheep breeds? William Marshall, in his account of the rural economy of Yorkshire, published in 1794, was impressed by the stamina of the moorland breed of sheep, which “has always been different from that of the vale.” The rise and spread of the Swaledale breed has been awesome. Swardles, to use a dale-country term, have been lively colonists, spreading into the herdwick country of Lakeland and taking over the black-faced sheep terrain of the North York Moors. The total population of Swaledales is now about five million.

began. Long years ago, farmers in the upper dales, seeing little of the outside world, had to study and make the best use of what they had. They selected their stock from each other. Through such selective breeding, the distinctive Swaledale type evolved. It has a more primitive appearance than most other breeds, with long body and long legs. The wool is short and tightly-packed. Its head is dark-complexioned on the upper part, grey or mealy lower down.

The Dalesbred, a type of horned sheep fixed by breeders in Upper Wharfedale in 1930, has declined in number, though some farmers consider it is hardier than some other breeds. Dalesbred has a black face, with a distinct white mark on each side of the nostrils and a grey nose. The Dalesbred association was founded by Mr O Robinson, a Bradford wool merchant who also had farming associations with the upper dale, along with Frank Campbell of Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Jim Verity of Kirkby Malham and Joe Close of Starbotton. They bred a good fell sheep. It did well on various kinds of land and produced hardy

lambs. Ewe and Teeswater tup blended well in the production of fat lambs. The Wensleydale ranged from the highlands of its native dale to the edge of the Plain of York. There are some prime flocks in Wensleydale, as was seen in a recent television documentary about life in Wensleydale. Compact and blocky, the Wensleydale has a broad and level back, the hind part being as broad as the shoulders, long strands of

wool are bright and lustrous. Look for the Rough Fell about Sedbergh and especially on the slaty Howgill Fells. A hardy breed, one of the oldest, it has a black face and white on the nostrils.

This breed – like others – is ideal, when its fell days are over, for crossing with mutton-producing strains on lower ground. This is one of several reasons why our fell-going stocks of sheep

should be valued. In recent years, farmers in the High Dale Country – once so proud in their self-sufficiency – have felt helpless against bureaucratic bungling and a terrifying spell when disease not emanating in the region led to restrictions. Hopefully, a thousand-year-old tradition of stock-rearing on the fells will endure.

Bill Mitchell

## Daleswatch Current Issues in the Yorkshire Dales

### Settle Festival - Licence Refused

The Yorkshire Dales Society faced a difficult dilemma when considering its response to the proposed Settle Pop Festival, which was planned to take place over a busy August weekend this year. The Society is not and never has been opposed to young people coming to the Dales to enjoy the kind of pop and rock music and related youth culture activities young people all over the world enjoy, nor does it want to be seen to be an organisation which is a “killjoy”, campaigning against other people’s enjoyment and leisure activities, providing these do not seriously impact on the environment or the local community.

The Festival, which despite its name was to take place not in Settle but between Giggleswick and Rathmell, to the immediate south of the A65 Settle by-pass, had divided the Settle community, with many local residents deeply concerned about the possible noise and unruly behaviour which the event might encourage, but others offering strong and vocal support for an event which would bring more visitors and trade, and appeal to the younger generation and families.

The Society took a careful look at the proposals and whilst being neutral about the event as such, felt that there were several aspects about this particular site to justify concern. This mainly centred on the impact of traffic turning into and from the A65 along the Settle by-pass, attracting thousands of additional cars on one of the busiest weekends of the year (despite the offer of Northern Rail to run extra trains, it was felt that most participants would choose road transport especially if they were camping), the ability and experience of the organisers to handle perhaps very large crowds, and the fact that the event was taking place in the Ribblesdale flood plain which in the event of wet weather could result in chaotic conditions.

Craven District Council’s Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee took an almost identical view, and the application was turned down, but the organisers are likely to appeal.

### Another Major Wind Turbine Development for Craven?

Controversy of a different kind has been raised by an application by Energiekontor UK, wind energy developers, proposing ten 126 metre (390 feet) high turbines to be erected on Brightenber Hill, near Bank Newton. Though this is some 4km (over 2 miles) outside the National Park boundary, there will be a significant visual impact from popular viewpoints in the Dales, which might include Malham Moor, Flasby Fell and Cracoe Fell. After some debate the company is now considering submitting an application for just five turbines, which will, however still make a major visual impact.

Once again this is a difficult debate. The Yorkshire Dales Society fully recognises the need for renewable energy, but not at the cost of sacrificing our finest landscape heritage. Is Brightenber Hill a site of such importance, as indeed was Whinash Fell between the Dales and the Lake District, or is it acceptable? In the longer term, do we have to accept the concept of the Dales and Lake District National Parks being surrounded by a forest of steel visible from every hill top or upland ridge?

### New Planning Bill proposes relaxation of planing controls for renewables even in National Parks and AONBs

The Government is proposing changing planning legislation in the UK to allow small scale renewable energy installations – small turbines, solar panels – to be exempt from planning controls outside Conservation Areas. Again a difficult dilemma – dozens of unsightly panels on every rooftop might well change the character of some of the most beautiful villages of the Yorkshire Dales if not done sensitively and well, for example using photovoltaic cells which are indistinguishable from any natural roofing materials. Once again, however, a focus on renewable energy creation is allowing what perhaps should be the real priority – energy conservation – to be ignored in a “business as usual” agenda, prolonging high energy consuming lifestyles, especially in prosperous rural areas such as the Yorkshire Dales.

# Meet two new Members of Council

Fleur Speakman introduces two important new recent recruits to the Yorkshire Dales Society's Council of Management who we hope will bring, in contrasting ways, the skills, energy and enthusiasm of a younger generation to Council and to the work of the Society

## Judith Lancaster

The Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management has been very fortunate in finding a new Honorary Treasurer in Judith Lancaster. Judith brings a great variety of professional experience to the role, but has her feet also firmly on the soil of the Dales itself as a very active farmer's wife on a hill farm at Bordley, near Malham. Judith is no stranger to mucking out, lambing, haytime or farm paperwork. After spending some of her early life in West Germany in Iserlohne, where her father was serving with the British forces overseas, Judith later moved to the Dales with her parents, while her mother continued her nursing career. After leaving Settle High School and college, Judith started her working life as an HM tax inspector in Skipton and then moved into the private sector working for high street banks in

Bradford and Skipton, followed by some time at H & M chartered accountants once again in Skipton. Invited to teach, she first obtained her teaching qualifications and currently works at Bradford College teaching accountancy, but sees her main role as a farmer's wife and the mother of three lively young children, Charlotte, 8, and Robert, 7, who attend Cracoe and Rylstone primary school, (also attended previously by her husband John at early age), and baby Harry who is only a few months old and is in the throes of teething. Judith loves farming life, but emphasises that John does the lion's share of this demanding job, and she is continually fascinated by his amazing ability to identify non-identical twin lambs among a thousand, working out exactly who the mother is and where she is likely to lamb from the previous year.

Initially Judith found the Dales a

tremendous contrast after some time spent in the granite city of Aberdeen, but now the area means a great deal to her and she fully identifies with its great natural beauty. "I love it when it's windy and all the grass and trees are moving, it just feels like all the cobwebs are blown out of you. I love the farm at the beginning of June when it's so green and at its best. ... I am constantly grateful that my children are being brought up in this wonderful part of the world; they have been feeding lambs since the age of two, my eldest son is already a natural shepherd."

A keen rounders player when she has the chance, and treasurer of the local sports and social committee, Judith is also anxious to bring, "a family element to the Yorkshire Dales Society": to find a way of involving children and initiating some child-centred activities, whilst keeping an eye on the Society's finances. We look forward to her

Bordley Stone Circle



continuing input on both fronts; the Society has been keen for some time to place more emphasis on some family-friendly events, trialling one or two family walks in the past, but was aware that much more could be done in this direction.

## Nurjahan Ali Arobi

We were delighted when Nurjahan Ali Arobi joined the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management in the New Year. Her commitment to the Yorkshire Dales and her valuable professional work as District-wide Coordinator of Walking for Health for Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust will help the Society to form stronger links with particular groups of people and give a better understanding of some important current concerns. Nurjahan born in Bradford, grew up in the Manningham area of the city, apart from a brief spell in London in early childhood. The daughter of Bangladeshi parents, she is proud of her Manningham links and finds its cultural mix developed over a period of at least two centuries endlessly instructive and fascinating. Nurjahan has been married to her husband Sadik for 14 years and has two charming young daughters.

Nurjahan in her work as coordinator of Walking for Health tremendously enjoys helping people to improve their health through gentle activity. As she explains: "My focus in providing group led walks led by trained Walk Leaders is to engage people in preventing, delaying or managing ill health .... or enabling them to enjoy brisk walks with likeminded people in beautiful surroundings whether it is a local park or out in the Yorkshire Dales." Walking can be a real aid to physical health, but pleasant socialisation, having fun as you walk, is an equally important part of the equation. (A number of YDS members who regularly walk and interact with each other as part of the YDS Events' programme, would probably agree with this wholeheartedly.)

Her interest in the Dales grew when she realised its wide green vistas were rather like the Bangladesh her parents described and that she hoped to visit one day. But as one of a family of 8 children, both the Dales and Bangladesh were denied her for some time as even school visits were comparatively costly or there was a need to stay behind and interpret for her parents.

Nurjahan is also a Community

the YDS with a key speaker from Mosaic Project at the YDS AGM a few years ago). Here the focus is on encouraging disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities to visit and enjoy the Dales so that they will feel able to enjoy repeat visits by themselves. The



projects have given her the opportunity to meet like-minded people and to visit other National Parks. Nurjahan has an ongoing mission to introduce groups such as Bangladeshi families to the Dales to enjoy themselves and refresh their spirits, so that they too can absorb its beauty. She herself takes a mental snapshot of special places in the Dales like Janet's Foss and the top view of the Hoffman Kiln from Tom Lord's meadow, to cherish until she can return once again after dealing with her usual daily 100 emails!

In any free time, her other relaxations include reading with Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice as her top favourite, visits to the theatre and looking at vernacular architecture, but she still finds time to be a parent governor at Ajeema's school at Springwood primary and to act as an LEA Governor at Belle Vue Girl's School where she originally studied. We feel that Nurjahan's input, energy, and special skills will be a tremendous asset to the Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management.

Fleur Speakman

Janet's Foss, Malham



Ajeema 10 and a half and Faleeha nearly 4, with the whole family enjoying walking as a regular activity.

Champion with the Council for National Park's Mosaic scheme (a project which is strongly supported by

# When the lights stayed on

Even upland farmhouses could be cosy in winter with the thick walls filled with insulating rubble, small windows and a sausage-like draught excluder at the door. However it could be very gloomy in winter till improvements followed the widespread introduction of electric power. Candles made of beeswax, animal fat, and later tallow may have contemporary charm. The use of paraffin followed its introduction from Germany in 1853. The flickering of candles was lessened by the introduction of the glass chimney, perfected in the hurricane lamp surrounded by a protective wire cage. This probably was adapted from whale oil lamps used in ships. Pressure lamps produced by the Tilley Company were the ultimate in oil lamps working on the same principle as a primus stove. The bright light with up to 500 candlepower is odourless and a full

tank can last up to eight hours.

Gas lighting with a mantle was available even in small towns following the provision of local railways that used gas themselves and could bring the necessary coal. A farm near Otterburn even had its own gas works in an outbuilding using carbide and water to produce acetylene. I am assured it never blew up but does sound rather dangerous. The bright light gave off an onion like odour.

Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light bulb in 1878, with Joseph Swan in England following a year later. Unlike modern gas filled bulbs these had a vacuum but eventually proved very reliable and long lived.

In the Dales you will note many weirs

to hold back the flow of rivers and streams to provide water power usually to drive a local mill. This often involved a diverting stream or goit but sometimes the head of water was used directly. This was the case at Ingleborough Hall at Clapham where the Farrar family installed a turbine and generator in 1893, leading to possibly the country's first street lighting. Dr John Farrar said he could have a small electric fire or a light in his office but not both!

Several village supplies were set up in Wensleydale, such as at West Mill in Askrigg in 1909. A Gilkes Vortex turbine at Bainbridge produced 6kw at 110 volts as did the installation at Yore Mill which YDS members viewed last year.

The first power house at Grassington was built over a sluice belonging to

Linton Mill in 1900. The Grassington Electric Supply Company was established in 1909. This meant that in the following year oil street lamps in Grassington could be replaced with electric ones. The 1920s saw a new power house and generating plant with both a back up steam engine and an oil engine. There would always have to be electricity to start up the mill. The current was supplied at 220 volts DC (direct current). Households paid per outlet so single sockets always had a multitude of various adapters in all directions.

Some farms ran their own generators often utilising ex army equipment with a variety of direct current systems. Glass filled accumulators formed banks to supply between 90 and 110 volts. My uncle used to turn off the engine across the yard with a long piece of string through the bedroom window. Padding down the stairs accompanied by muttering meant the string had broken yet again!

National grid supplied electricity came in 1949 but half of Grassington still had supplies from the mill. In spite of severe post war shortages and restrictions mains electricity from the newly nationalised industry soon spread up the dale to the most isolated of farmhouses. Barry Hodgkinson who has the electrical shop in Grassington Square remembers wiring up farmhouses at Swarthgill and Nethergill at the top of Langstrothdale in 1956.

We have lived comfortably with national grid supplies generated mainly by fossil fuels ever since, but now we are threatened by the consequences of global warming due to carbon dioxide emission as well as the fact of diminishing world supplies of coal and oil. Can we return to hydro electric power? There are a large number of fast flowing streams in the Dales. Is this an easily concealed alternative to wind turbines?

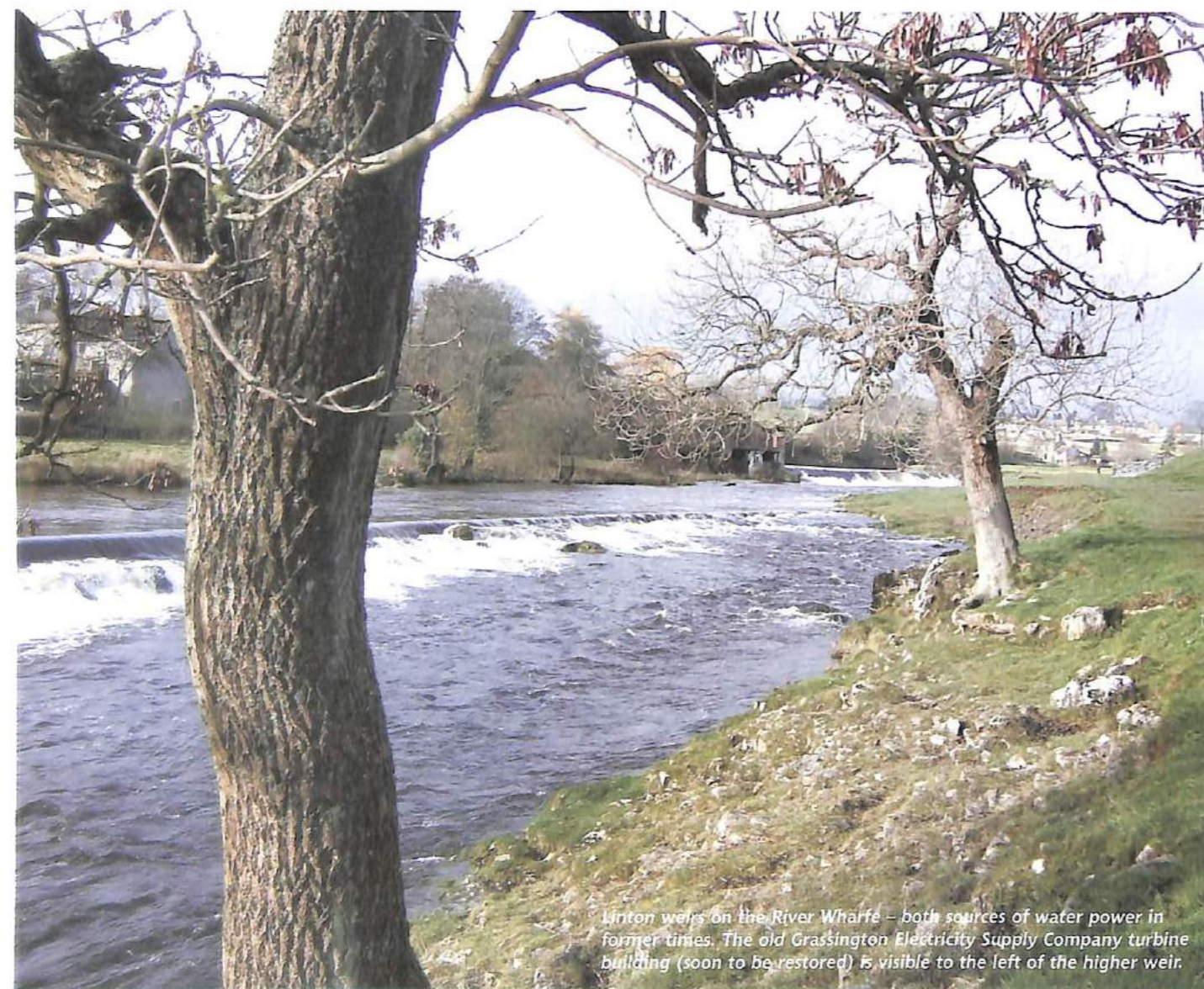
The answer lies in modern technology.

Solid state controls allow electricity produced by alternators instead of old style dynamos to enter local distribution systems and contribute to the national grid supply.

Kilnsey Park had its own hydro electric generator in 1933 commissioned by the father of the present owner. It has recently been replaced by a German model that came from Wales and can return surplus to the grid. There is a viewing area to see the plant in action.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has already identified a large number of other potential sites. Gayle Mill which we visited recently is of course one of these.

Chris Wright



Linton weirs on the River Wharfe – both sources of water power in former times. The old Grassington Electricity Supply Company turbine building (soon to be restored) is visible to the left of the higher weir.

## The Slow Art Trail

chrysalis arts

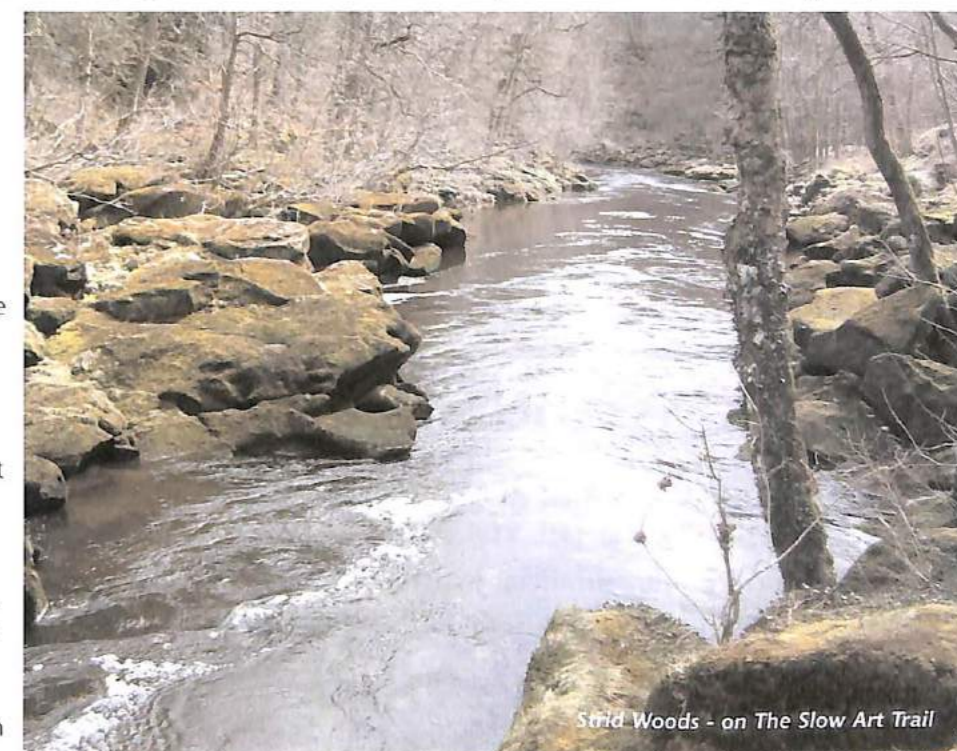
Chrysalis Arts, a Corporate Member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, is an award-winning public art company, training and arts development agency, based in Gargrave, near Skipton. From July to September this year Chrysalis is developing a Slow Art Trail from Skipton to Strid Wood on the Bolton Abbey Estate. Here Chrysalis director Rick Faulkner explains the background to the project and the company's aims in undertaking this unusual project.

Our Slow Art Trail project is a central element in Chrysalis's overall aim of moving its artistic and creative practice towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible way of working.

It connects with the slow food concept of taking more time to appreciate quality, sourcing materials locally where possible and addressing issues of recycling and sustainable transport. All this will help us reduce our overall carbon footprint and help raise awareness of environmental issues, thereby making a positive contribution to addressing climate change.

For the past twelve months Chrysalis has been working with Gaia Research from Edinburgh to develop an environmental

policy. This has radically changed how we operate as a business, and we are also developing sustainability guidelines for the making of artwork. We aim to host a seminar later this year, in order to start raising the profile of



Strid Woods - on The Slow Art Trail

these issues for artists, to help them address sustainability through their practice and to begin dissemination of the findings our research has produced.



Landmark Sculpture Photomontage - "A Change in the Weather"  
Apedale Community Countryside Park, Staffordshire

Chrysalis has a commitment to sharing knowledge and expertise with other artists so as to build capacity in the North Yorkshire arts economy and to expand its artistic, social and economic potential. High quality cultural tourism attractions is another area that Chrysalis is involved in developing. Our aim is to run The Slow Art Trail in autumn 2008 to help extend the tourist season and benefit the local economy.

The Slow Art Trail will be achieved through a series of public art installations, with one installation undertaken by Chrysalis and five complementary installations developed by other artists working with, and managed by, Chrysalis. The Trail will also provide a series of training and mentoring opportunities for a team of new and emerging artists from North Yorkshire. In addition, we will also be developing links with local communities, businesses,

schools and colleges and there will be a complementary programme of community workshops.

The plan is to locate an initial installation at Skipton Auction Mart. This will act as a gateway to the Trail and the publicity material will encourage people to arrive by train, bus and bicycle and to move from the town of Skipton to the Auction Mart through Aireville Park. From the Auction Mart people will make their way to Strid Wood on the Bolton Abbey Estate, where a series of installations will be sited on the Cumberland Trail and in the plantation area. The route from Skipton to Strid Wood will be via Embsay and Eastby, which is also the precise route of the Yorkshire Dales Society's popular Sunday Cravenlink 884 bus service between Skipton and Ilkley.

We plan to lay on a shuttle bus service from the Auction Mart to Strid Wood, offering a park and ride facility, in addition to the regular Sunday Cravenlink 884 bus between Skipton and Ilkley via The Strid. The Slow Art Bus will become part of the Trail with a live performance poet/storyteller on board to entertain and inform the travellers.

The installations will highlight current unsustainable trends, such as resource scarcity, pollution and climate change, and the effects of these trends on places, landscape, agriculture, and human perceptions. The art will make comments on these changes, and effects. We hope the installations will provide opportunities for interaction with the public at certain times and we want to engage with visitors about the themes they explore.

We'll also be encouraging the use of alternative forms of transport to the car and we'll be linking the Trail installations to other current events and initiatives across the region and make synergies between them.

But our overriding aim is to encourage visitors to experience the journey – and the art – at a slow leisurely pace, making minimum environmental impact.

For further information about the Slow Art Trail, contact Chrysalis Arts at The Art Depot, Eshton Road, Gargrave, North Yorkshire BD23 3SE  
Tel 01756 749222  
Email [chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk](mailto:chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk)  
For regular updates visit [www.chrysalisarts.org.uk](http://www.chrysalisarts.org.uk)

## Donations and Legacies

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY DONATED TO THE YDS.**

**We so appreciate your financial assistance which enables us to continue our total commitment to the heritage and future of the Yorkshire Dales.**

Help to keep the Yorkshire Dales exceptional by giving a donation or by leaving a legacy.

A gift in your Will is the way you could enable the Yorkshire Dales Society to achieve something that will forever be your legacy.

For more information call Anne on 01729 825 600.



## Keeping the National Park Authority sustainable

There are lots of excellent reasons why the National Park Authority should be a UK leader, in terms of environmental sustainability, by implementing a range of positive measures to minimise its own impact on the natural and man made environment. After all, if the National Park doesn't practice what it preaches, what chance does it have of persuading local residents and visitors to curb their own carbon emissions and environmental impacts?

It is therefore extremely welcome to read that the Park Authority has set up its own Sustainability Working Group of key officers and members with a view to producing what is in effect an Action Plan to achieve what is so eloquently defined in the Bruntland Report as "sustainable development". This is defined as development that safeguards the needs of future generations by minimising the use of non-renewable resources, but which also recognises such related issues as social justice and cultural diversity.

Some of the "targets" adopted by the Authority to achieve a more sustainable future are external national or international requirements or aspirations for public authorities. These include the Kyoto Protocol, Local Area Agreements, the Nottingham Declaration for local authorities on climate change and a commitment by all National Parks in England to be "carbon neutral" by 2012. But the Authority is also suggesting additional measures of its own.

Key to everything is assessing and then reducing carbon emissions and energy use, in terms of buildings, their heating and insulation, and personal travel. For example it is estimated that in 2006/7 officers, members and volunteers travelled 627,000 miles by car on official business which created 225 Tonnes of Co<sub>2</sub>, out of a total of for the Authority of 591 tonnes. Surprising, perhaps this figure does not include staff journeys to work, which you would expect to find in a Green Travel Plan.

Reducing this amount even by say 10% is no easy task. In order to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint, a detailed Action Plan has been prepared which deals with several different aspects of the Authority's work. Suggested initiatives include installing wood fired stoves for the Dales Countryside Museum and at Colvend, using low energy lighting, showers and cycle shelters to encourage cycling to work, using recycled stationery, developing biodiversity initiatives on the Authority's own property and encouraging sustainable travel. Quite rightly it is recognised that promoting progress and achievement in these fields also makes a valued contribution which encourages further progress and emulation by other bodies and agencies, as well as individuals.

This is all excellent news, and the Park Authority is to be congratulated on these initiatives. Ultimately it may lead to the Authority beginning to ask questions about the wider issues within the National Park itself as a major leisure destination. As the Yorkshire Dales Society has pointed out, with a carbon footprint from visitors' cars of at least 38,000 tonnes of Co<sub>2</sub> per annum, achieving a 10% reduction in such emissions by vigorous sustainable travel policies to reduce car use in favour of walking, cycling and using a good, fully integrated and affordable public transport network, would save 3,800 tonnes - or more than six times the total emissions of the Authority itself.

This makes the act of cutting of the National Park's own financial support for recreational public transport to and within the National Park to virtually zero in 2008/9 even more incomprehensible. The claim that transport is not the Park's responsibility, when visiting the National Park is an activity which is totally transport-based, is both simplistic and naïve, and echoes the equally fatuous claims made by both officers and members a generation ago, (for those of us with longer memories), that footpaths and rights of way, now rightly seen to be central to the Park's work, were not the

Park's responsibility. This was a fallacy overturned by men such as our own Jerry Pearlman, Ken Willson and the late Arthur Gemmell when they fought for real resources for the National Park to take over the management of rights of way in the 1970s and 80s. But the massive 60% cut in Sunday and Bank Holiday local bus provision in the Yorkshire Dales since 2006, on the very days of highest demand, with whole areas of the National Park and Nidderdale AONB such as Swaledale, much of Ribblesdale, Malhamdale, Upper Nidderdale and Wensleydale now totally inaccessible without a car on Sundays even in high summer, ensures that any attempt to reduce our ever growing transport-related emissions is doomed to abject failure in the Dales. Forget the planet – you've no choice. Forget equality of opportunity, another cornerstone of true sustainability. Without a car you are now totally excluded from most of the Yorkshire Dales National Park at weekends and holidays.

Luckily it isn't just the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group that sees these things this way. Chrysalis Arts, a YDS Corporate Member, is leading the way with its Slow Arts Festival, a brilliant Skipton based initiative linking the arts with environmental awareness, in which walking, cycling, park and ride using a dedicated bus as well as local buses, including the Yorkshire Dales Society's own Cravenlink, will feature as an integral part of an imaginative project to raise awareness of both the arts and of environmental issues. Let's hope the Park Authority's own admirable work to get its house in order will eventually extend to a recognition that the National Park needs a Sustainable Visitor Travel Plan, backed by adequate financial resources, as a matter of urgency. It's nothing to do with budgets – it's a matter of political will, something currently sadly lacking.

*Colin Speakman*

# Feedback, Queries and Comment

*In what we hope will be a regular series, we invite members to respond to issues of current interest in the Review or affecting the Yorkshire Dales.*

whenever we meet. I seek the help of readers in finding a satisfactory answer. The river is Ribble, not Ribbles. (One of the principal families was presided over by Lord Ribblesdale).

Steeton, is truly in Airedale and therefore in the Yorkshire Dales. This well researched booklet looks at the Tarn's geology and origins, and its place in the local history of this part of the Airedale going back 900 years. There are also interesting notes on the Tarn's wildlife, and some remarkable historic photographs. Available from Reid's bookshop, Cavendish Street, Keighley, price £3.50 or leave a message for Bernard at the YDS Office.

## Keighley's Tarn - Bernard Peel

YDS office regular volunteer Bernard Peel is a keen local historian and has written this fascinating study of Keighley Tarn which as Bernard claims, being situated between Keighley and

## The Stepping Stones at Bolton Abbey

*John M. Sheard, former Agent to the Chatsworth estate at Bolton Abbey, comments:*

The Stepping Stones "incident" (Winter Review) appears to have been witnessed by many members of the Society as well as the general public. The Wharfe can – and does – rise very swiftly at times, and this is well known to local residents and especially fishermen, due presumably to heavy rainfall higher up the dale. Fishermen always used to be warned that wading in the Wharfe could be very dangerous and should always keep a watch for the sudden increase in water flowing down river.

## Why Ribblesdale?

*Member A.T. from Manchester writes:*

Think of a Yorkshire Dale and its two elements - Dale (from the Norse) preceded by the name of the river that flows down it - hence Wharfedale, Nidderdale, Swaledale, Wensleydale is an exception, taking its name from a settlement, though the old name Yoredale was from the river, which is now the Ure.

But why Ribblesdale, with the letter "s"? This query is put to me by a friend



Ash Tree near Thorpe

# Spring/Summer Events 2008

*Join fellow Yorkshire Dales Society members on what is guaranteed to be an enjoyable and informative full or half day out in the Yorkshire Dales this Spring and Summer.*

## Saturday, 10 May: Austwick Moss

**10.30am:** Dalesbridge Centre (A65) Austwick, near Settle. Short walk led by Dr Paul Evans, Natural England to SSSI Austwick Moss.

## Yorkshire Dales Society

### Annual General Meeting

**2.00pm:** Dalesbridge Centre (A65) Austwick, near Settle. See separate flyer for full details.

## Sunday, 11 May: Oxenber and Wharfe Woods 5 / 6 miles

**10.30am:** Park at Dalesbridge Centre. The walk will go along Wood Lane with a climb through Oxenber Woods looking at numerous wild flowers. Then through Wharfe Wood, down to Feizor and return to Dalesbridge.

## Friday, 13 June: Jazz and Barbeque Evening on the platform at Hellifield Station

**7.30 - 9.15 pm:** £10 including supper. Must book with YDS in advance. 17.56 train from Leeds and return 21.23 from Hellifield.

## Sunday, 15 June: YDNPA Bryson 'Byways' Guided Walk

**11.00am - 3.00pm:** Meet at Malham National Park Centre. Moderate 5.5 mile Pennine Way walk to Airton return via Kirkby Malham.



Swaledale sheep - photo by Dorian Speakman, see article on page 6.



## Saturday, 28 June: Ribblehead to Horton Linear Walk

**10.15am - 3.30pm:** Leader John Osborne, Natural England. Looking at flora, fauna and bird life. 7 miles. Meet at Ribblehead Station. 08.49 train from Leeds and return 15.56 from Horton.

## Monday, 07 to Sunday, 13 July Spotlight on Ingleborough Week

Ingleborough area, Ingleton  
A week of events celebrating this unique area and its wonderful surroundings. Natural England, YD Millennium Trust and YD National Park Authority.  
For further information, Tel: 01904 435500  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

## Sunday, 20 July: National Trust Guided Walk to Buckden Pike and Gavel Lead Mines

**10.30am - 3.00pm:** Meet at Buckden Car Park. 5 mile strenuous high level walk.

## Saturday, 16 August: Geocaching at Ribblehead Viaduct

**10.15am - 03.30pm:** Meet at Ribblehead Station 08.49 train from Leeds and return 15.49 from Ribblehead. Expert tuition by Pam Hickin from 'Yorkshire Dales Guides Company' following her interesting article in January 2008 Review. Including GPS Trail. £15 per person. Limited numbers, please book through YDS.

## Note Your Diary:

### Saturday, 06 September: Nidderdale Walk

**10.30am:** Meet at Riverside Bridge in Pateley. Walk Leader John Hone.

**2.15pm:** Lecture "Bridges in the Yorkshire Dales" by Chris Wright, at Pateley Bridge Memorial Hall.

## COMING SOON:

"Yorkshire Dales Juniors"

Watch out for Competitions,

Events and Articles





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*Front Cover picture:* Summit cairns on Wild Boar Fell. This is part of the magnificent hill-country that it is hoped will soon be included within the boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales National Park – see Leading article. *Photo by Colin Speakman.*

*Back Cover picture:* Bluebell Wood, Aysgarth, Wensleydale. *Photo by Duncan Ward.*

*Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.*

**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 address opposite.*

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*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**

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