

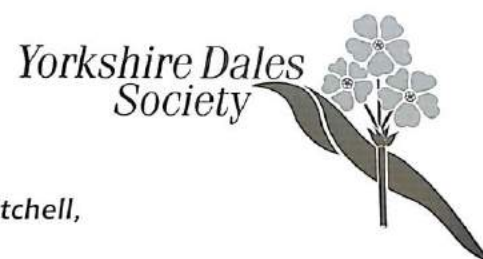
No. 104 Autumn 2008

Yorkshire *Dales* Review



- *Hard Times Ahead*
- *Dales National Park Europarc Award*
- *Arthur Raistrick Archives at Bradford University*
- *Meet the YDS Corporate Members*





Hard Times ahead – but is there a Silver Lining?

It's difficult to avoid gloomy news in the press, radio and television about the UK economy – the "triple whammy" of the credit crunch and declining house prices, high fuel and energy costs, and rising food prices. People living in rural areas, who are heavily dependent on their cars, with a need to travel long distances to access essential services, are especially vulnerable to rising petrol and diesel costs.

Even if the present situation doesn't develop into a full blown recession, what is happening now is not good news for the Dales. There are less visitors around. If people have less disposable income after bills are paid, tourism is always the first to suffer. People don't take holidays when they are unemployed. High petrol prices mean less and shorter journeys, especially to areas remote from larger conurbations such as the northern Dales. People have less cash to spend in shops, bed and breakfasts, pubs, cafes, visitor centres. The knock-on effect means every business in the Dales will suffer. Even charities, such as the Yorkshire Dales Society or the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, will find fund raising more difficult, with costs rising, and volunteers less willing to give their time when they have to pay ever higher petrol or public transport prices.

But is it all bad news? Declining house prices could reduce demand in the Dales for second homes, as well as pressure for constant new development. If prices drop it will eventually help first time buyers and the provision of affordable homes. If foreign travel becomes increasingly unaffordable, then budget holidays in Britain – especially on camp and caravan sites – in areas such as the Yorkshire Dales will become more fashionable. Public transport will be more attractive, especially for the fortunate over-60s who can use networks such as Dalesbus free of charge, but who also bring their spending power to Dales' villages when they do arrive. Dales' farmers might get also get fairer prices for livestock and other produce as worldwide shortage impacts on world food prices – already the price of beef, lamb and wool is reported to be increasing dramatically in world export markets.

Maybe the shock of lower incomes and less spending power may also result in people considering lifestyle changes which, in the long run, could be beneficial. High

gas and oil prices must make energy conservation and domestic insulation a high priority. There will be greater use of renewable energy – water power, ground pumps, micro-turbines, solar panes, photo-voltaic cells. The concept of "Transition Towns" in the Dales encouraging the growing of home-produced food as well as recycling and micro-generation energy schemes will make increasing economic sense.

What better incentive than soaring petrol costs for more walking and cycling for the short journey to work or the shops, going mountain biking or horse riding, taking the Settle-Carlisle line or Dales Bus rather than sitting in the car all day, or even taking a walking holiday on the Dales Way? Active travel is also lower cost travel. But this new car-free activity will also give major health benefits, resulting from regular exercise, helping to reduce the current national epidemic of personal obesity.

If the credit crunch were to result in a greener, healthier Yorkshire Dales, then what at the moment appears to be economic hardship may eventually result in some tangible, longer term benefits.

Yorkshire Dales Society members can help communities in the Dales in the most practical way possible by simply continuing to come to the Dales by whatever form of transport, whenever we can, for day visits, but especially for a short or a longer break holiday, staying in local accommodation, buying local produce whether from a farmers' market or village shop, using local services such as local buses, craft centres, pubs, village post offices. This will all help to inject much needed cash into the local economy, acting as what is defined as an "economic multiplier" to help sustain Dales' businesses and communities through what is certain to be a difficult period ahead.

Colin Speakman

The Yorkshire Dales wins Europarc Sustainable Tourism Charter

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has recently been awarded the Europarc Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected areas, on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Partnership.

The Charter is awarded by the EUROPARC Federation, an umbrella organisation with its headquarters in Germany that brings together the organisations responsible for the management of over 400 protected areas across the continent.

The Charter is a practical tool for ensuring that tourism development in Europe's protected areas are sustainable and aims to encourage good practice by recognising those protected areas, which are meeting agreed standards in the sustainable development and management of tourism.

The aims for the Charter include:

- ◆ Improving the sustainable development and management of tourism in protected areas, which takes account of the needs of the environment, local residents, local businesses and visitors.
- ◆ Increasing the awareness of and support for Europe's protected areas as a fundamental part of our heritage that should be preserved for and enjoyed by current and future generations.

The European Charter Network now numbers 58 protected areas in seven European countries including: Finland, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Austria.

Other United Kingdom Charter Parks include:

The Brecon Beacons, The Broads, Exmoor, Mountains of Mourne, Forest of Bowland, Cairngorms, and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

To obtain the Charter, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Tourism Partnership had to demonstrate to Europarc's verifier that certain bench-marks had been reached in the management of tourism in the Yorkshire Dales. These included:

- Having a permanent forum involving

those involved in tourism in and around the protected area in its development and management.

- Having a strategy and action plan for sustainable tourism addressing key sustainability issues, based on consultation with local stakeholders.
- Showing the external verifier how the National Park Authority and its partners complies with the fundamentals of sustainable tourism management in a protected area. These being:

- Protecting and enhancing the area's natural and cultural heritage, for and through tourism.



The Europarc logo

- to protect it from excessive tourism development
- Providing all visitors with a high quality experience in all aspects of their visit
- Communicating effectively to visitors about the special qualities of the area
- Encouraging specific tourism products which enable discovery and understanding of the area
- Increasing knowledge of the protected area and sustainability issues amongst all those involved in tourism
- Ensuring that tourism supports and does not reduce the quality of life of local residents
- Increasing the benefits from tourism to the local economy.
- Monitoring and influencing visitor flows to reduce negative impacts

The Yorkshire Dales' Application was different from other Areas

Although Europarc acknowledges that each protected area is different, it does

expect that strategies and actions should be developed locally and cover the issues highlighted above.

This situation in the Yorkshire Dales was different in that we were not starting from scratch in the development of a Tourism Partnership or the development of the strategy for the Charter process. For a number of years, the Local Authorities in the Yorkshire Dales and Nidderdale AONB worked together in a partnership, via the 'Dales Tourism Forum', and its marketing arm, the 'Yorkshire Dales Joint Promotions Initiative' (JPI). In 2004 following a regional wide review of tourism, a new tourism delivery structure was created, 'the Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Partnership'. This partnership includes both local authority and commercial members and involves the wider representation of 348 businesses through a business registration scheme.

Because of the strong history of partnership working in this area, it was very important that the Europarc application not only covered the two protected areas, Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but also the whole of Richmondshire, Harrogate, Craven and parts of Eden and Hambleton Districts. This was an unusual approach, but it would have been inappropriate to only submit an application for the National Park and develop a new strategy just for the Europarc process.

The Verification Visit took place in mid April and was conducted by Bettina Kreisel from Aachen in Germany who is one of Europarc Consulting's most experienced verifiers.

Bettina travelled across from Germany by P&O ferry so avoiding air travel and had a very hectic three days in the area visiting projects in Harrogate, Bolton Abbey, Malham, Stainforth, Settle, Ribbleshead, Hawes, Pateley Bridge, Fountains Abbey, Reeth and Aysgarth.

During the visits she met not only staff from the National Park and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but Dales Volunteers, representatives of local businesses, local authorities and

partner organisations such as the National Trust.

Bettina's Verification report highlighted details of projects that she felt had been the strengths of the application as well as making recommendations for the future.

She was very complementary about the Tourism Partnership, the network of visitor centres, the promotional work on public transport, the openness to new media such as Geo-caching and the Aren't birds Brilliant Peregrine



Bettina Kreisler of Europarc visits Bolton Priory

Watch project at Malham Cove. She was particularly complementary about the work of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the management of footpaths, green lanes and bridleways, which she felt were examples of good practice on a European level.

As the Charter aims to raise the standards of Sustainable Tourism in protected areas, she also made

suggestions as to where improvements could be made. This included further developing the Tourism Strategy so that information from various documents is brought together into one document. She also recommended that the Tourism Partnership should be further developed with the greater involvement of local businesses and community and conservation organisations. She was concerned that the National Park and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's special messages as protected areas

could be getting lost in the wider tourism messages and recommended that this should be addressed.

Finally she recommended that tourism packages should be developed which integrates the natural and cultural heritage and tourism businesses.

So What Next ?

The next stage for the Europarc process will be to further encourage the

involvement of local tourism businesses through what is known as Part 2 of the Charter.

This aims to benefit both local businesses and the protected areas through the establishment of charter agreements whereby each partner agrees to support one another. Businesses agree to carry out their work in an environmentally sustainable manner and provide information on the special qualities of the protected area to their guests or clients. The protected area authority would agree to provide promotion advice and networking opportunities to the businesses that would be awarded the status of Europarc Charter Businesses and be allowed to use the Europarc Charter and the protected area Logos in their promotional activities.

Such an approach is already well developed in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where already seventeen businesses have been awarded Europarc Charter Status. These include the Dalesbridge Centre where the last Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Society was held and YDS Corporate member Off the Rails Cycle centre based in Settle.

For further information Europarc Charter for Sustainable Tourism Web Site www.europarc.org/european-charter.org

Andy Ryland

The Yorkshire Dales Society forged the original link with Europarc in October 1991 when Joint Secretaries Fleur and Colin Speakman invited Eva Pongratz, Executive Director of Europarc, to the YDS Tenth Anniversary Seminar at Ilkley College as our keynote speaker.

2014 is currently being devised, and the Heritage Strategy is a key influence in this process.

The Heritage Strategy is now at the internal draft stage and is being considered by project partners. In summary, the draft Strategy has identified five key areas for consideration:

continued at foot of page 7

David Smith - former YDS Treasurer, remarkable Long Distance Walker and true Gentleman

The Yorkshire Dales Society suffered a double blow during the summer with the loss of two former long-serving Council of Management Members, David Smith and Jim Burton who, in different ways, had done a huge amount to help develop the Yorkshire Dales Society into the strong and highly effective organisation we see today. We owe them more than we can ever say. (see also page 7.)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of David Smith, former long serving Honorary Treasurer of the Yorkshire Dales Society who steered the Society through some very critical times for over 15 years. Though almost entirely self-taught in IT matters, David made himself responsible for devising, programming and maintaining the Society's computers over a similar period. Former Joint Secretary Fleur Speakman who worked very closely with David for many years recalls him as someone always ready to help with advice or practical assistance. Behind the scenes he worked tirelessly on all financial and IT matters for the organisation. Clarity in the Society's finances were his keynote, and they were always lucidly delivered. In Council of Management meetings his enthusiastic support was always balanced by some considered and thoughtful statements.

David was in fact the son of a very distinguished father, the celebrated aircraft designer Joseph (Joe) Smith, who with the great RJ Mitchell developed, and after Mitchell's premature death, finalised the iconic World War II Spitfire fighter plane that helped to win the Battle of Britain. David was born in Southampton and evacuated with his school to the New Forest during World War II. After attending the famous Sherbourne School in Dorset, he chose to follow his father into the aircraft industry, rather than pursue an academic career and was apprenticed in his late teens to British Thomson-Houston of Rugby, engineers and pioneer builders of jet engines and a variety of turbines. Soon he became a technical sales engineer involved with specialist components for the rapidly expanding aircraft industry

and moved to Solihull.

Already a keen walker and climber, he became a very active member of the Midlands Association of Mountaineers (MAM), spending every available weekend or holiday in the mountains of North Wales, the Lakes and especially Scotland. Their joint love of mountains enabled him to meet his future wife Judith through the MAM and they married in 1961, spending much of their leisure time climbing in the mountains of Britain and mainland Europe. Their first two children Kate and Richard were born during their time in Coventry and their son Dee after they moved into Hertfordshire.

As David's career flourished, his work in export sales took him all over the world, but whenever possible both boots and rucksack went with him. His chance to take early retirement from his then employers Lucas Aerospace at 58, gave him the opportunity to spend even more time in the hills and in long distance walking.

Classical music was another passion, especially opera in his later years, with photography and cycling as two other highly enjoyable pastimes. David had the distinction of not only climbing all 284 Scottish Peaks over 3,000 feet known as the Munros not only once, but twice - "Double Munros", but he also completed many other peaks as well. A keen walker of many of Britain's famous long distance routes, it was the Dales Way, however, in 1991 which became most important in his life. As the Dales Way Association's first

Secretary/Treasurer till quite recently, he did much to build up the organisation also editing the lively, very informative and entertaining Newsletter; posts he retained till his recent final illness.

Not only did David celebrate his 70th birthday by trekking in the Himalayas, but added cycling from Lands End to John O' Groats to his celebrations. At Yorkshire Dales Society meetings in the Dales, he would effortlessly and punctually appear on his bike from his Ilkley home, usually via various steep inclines, all necessary committee papers in his saddlebags. A great supporter of many other countryside organisations such as the Rambler's Association, the YHA, the British Mountaineering Association, the Cyclists Touring Club



David Smith outside a Highland bothy

and many others, the beauty of the countryside was something David believed in passionately. Modest and self-effacing with a great sense of humour, the warmth of his personality will be greatly missed.

At the end of August we held a memorial walk for David on the Dales Way, attended by DWA members and members of his family. Our sincerest condolences go to his wife Judith, their children, grand daughters and other close family members.

Nidderdale AONB Heritage Strategy

In 1994, the Nidderdale AONB was designated for its 'outstanding natural beauty'. However, it is now widely appreciated that 'natural beauty' does not exist in isolation, and it is in fact the result of millennia of human interaction with the landscape. The conservation of cultural heritage therefore lies at the heart of the AONB team's responsibility to sustain the 'outstanding natural beauty' of the Nidderdale AONB.

The Nidderdale AONB team has underlined its long-term commitment to heritage conservation by developing a partnership with English Heritage to create a Nidderdale AONB Heritage Strategy. The primary purpose of the Heritage Strategy is to inform the development of the AONB's 5-yearly Management Plan; a key document that structures the work of the AONB team. The Management Plan for 2009-

Arthur Raistrick Archives at the University of Bradford

University of Bradford Special Collection Librarian, Alison Cullingford, writes on a celebrated Yorkshire Dales Society Founder Member and Honorary Member.

Yorkshire Dales Society members probably need little introduction to the Yorkshire Dales Review "Man of the Millennium". Dr Arthur Raistrick, who in his career spanning over 60 years studied, taught and wrote about the archaeology, industry, geology and history of the Yorkshire Dales and other areas of Northern England. What many may not know is that, alongside the well-known archives held by Skipton Public Library, there are intriguing resources created by Dr Raistrick at the University of Bradford. Dr Raistrick, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University in 1974, donated his collection of maps and plans, books on Quakers and mining history, and a



Arthur Raistrick Festschrift, 1986
Photo courtesy of University of Bradford.

collection of geological specimens. These tie in well with the University's strengths in archaeology of the Dales, and in peace studies. The minerals are housed in the Archaeology Department, while the maps and books are cared for by Special Collections and are among our most popular collections with visitors.

There are about 1200 items in the map and plan collection, including original and copy 19th century manuscript maps of Dales' estates, mainly by surveyors John Greenwood and Sam Swire. The bulk of the collection consists of Ordnance Survey maps from the 1840s to 1960s, mainly on the Yorkshire Dales, plus some on other parts of Northern England, and on Scotland. Most are one-inch to the mile 1st to 3rd series, and some six-inch to the mile. What makes these particularly interesting is how Dr Raistrick used them in his fieldwork, often cutting them down for convenience and heavily annotating them with his findings. The collections also includes Geological Survey maps, and many

plans and sketches of Yorkshire Dales archaeological features, maps of mines and mineral veins, and local field names.

Some papers with the maps and plans now form a separate mini-archive. It includes typescripts of articles and archaeological and architectural illustrations by Dr Raistrick, scripts by Elizabeth Raistrick, his wife, who wrote on domestic life and education in Yorkshire, and pamphlets and offprint journal articles by other authors on geology and archaeology.

The large collection of published books covers Quaker history, and mining and industrial history. Dr Raistrick joined the Society of Friends after his imprisonment as a conscientious objector during World War I, and Quaker ideas were to remain central to him throughout his life. The books usually bear his bookplate and the numbers he allocated them. Many are also annotated, in his neat and flowing hand. These notes can be personal, e.g. in "A book of Quaker saints" by L.V. Hodgkin, he pays tribute to the help this book gave him during his imprisonment, or factual: he heavily annotated works on lead mining which he believed to be inaccurate.

Members of the public are welcome to visit to consult the Raistrick materials in Special Collections; please note that, as we are a small department, we need you to arrange an appointment in advance. You may also be interested in our other archives relating to the Yorkshire Dales, including the archive of the YDS's new president, former Dalesman editor Bill Mitchell, and that of J.B. Priestley, who wrote so beautifully about his love of the Dales. For more detail, do contact us, or see our web pages. The books, and some of the maps, appear on the Library catalogue <http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/index.php> (use Keyword and Limit to Special Collections to pinpoint titles), and we have created handlists for the papers and maps. We hope to welcome more Raistrick and Dales researchers soon.

Alison Cullingford
Special Collections Librarian

Contact details:
Alison Cullingford, J. B. Priestley Library,
University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP.
Email: special-collections@bradford.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0) 1274 235256.
Web: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/special>



Dr. Jim Burton, MBE 12th August 1930 – 30th July 2008

The Yorkshire Dales Society greatly regrets to announce the death of Jim Burton, former Vice Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society, a National Park Committee Member (Ministerial appointee) and a former Regional Chairman of the Yorkshire and Humber area of CPRE, (Campaign to Protect Rural England). As a meteorologist he was one of a special team of 21 scientists and technicians selected for a Royal Society expedition for International Geophysical Year in 1957/8 to serve at Halley Bay on the shores of the Weddell Sea in Antarctica. Members of the expedition were later awarded a Polar Medal by the Queen for their work. This was followed by work first in a number of centres in Australia, (his wife Dawn's birthplace), and then in England for 14 years at Heathrow Airport in the Flight Crew Licensing Department of the Civil Aviation Authority in London. Jim took a BA honours degree at the Open University (one of the first in the OU) and followed that by a PhD in the 1980s in the History of Science. The opening of the Met Office's Weather Centre in Leeds gave him the opportunity to return to the dales he had loved and explored in boyhood with his bike. He was now able to settle near to his favourite places with Dawn and two sons, Michael and Tony. Jim's love of the environment led him to campaign vigorously for a variety of causes and as a National Park Committee Member 1992-2000, he was not afraid to speak his mind when necessary and also to campaign against the devastation of the Wharfe Valley by



the building of a major bypass in Ilkley. In 2004 Dr Jim Burton was awarded his MBE for services to the countryside. He was also awarded the CPRE's prestigious Countryside Medal.

An excellent sportsman, excelling at cricket and football; Jim retained his great interest in cricket till virtually the end of his life. A keen walker, he achieved his ambition of climbing three of the highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales in his seventies by tackling Scafell, Ben Nevis and Snowdon successfully. Jim was also involved regionally and nationally in orienteering and was master of his local club. As Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society's Daleswatch, an organisation of various local groups who kept a careful watch on developments in their own Dales over a

number of years before reporting back to the Council of Management, Jim was tireless in his efforts. The cause of promoting better access into the countryside by public transport was another cause close to Jim's heart.

Originally from Stockport in Lancashire, Jim moved to Yorkshire at the age of seven when his father was transferred to Leeds, but he always considered himself a Yorkshireman. The subsequent careers of both his sons may also have the imprint of their father's scientific and environmental interests. His elder son Michael with an early interest in astronomy, is currently Professor of Astrophysics in the University of New South Wales. Tony, the younger of the two, worked originally for CPRE at national level and is now the National Trust's Director of Policy and Planning, with a strongly environmental portfolio.

Jim Burton's enthusiastic support and wise words in former Council meetings will be much missed, as will his warm, friendly personality. Sadly his continuing research into the history of the British Meteorological Office was no longer possible when the effects of Alzheimer's disease began to take their toll. We extend our sincerest condolences to Dawn, his widow, also a long serving YDS Council Member and former editor of the **Dales Digest**, who also gave years of unstinting support to the Yorkshire Dales Society, and to his sons and other close family members.

FS

Nidderdale AONB - continued from page 4

- **Working with partners.** The AONB's heritage is managed by a wide variety of partners, ranging from local authorities, to national charities, to local volunteers. The Strategy seeks to support their existing work, and highlight gaps where future work could be focused.
- **Understanding and conserving the AONB's heritage.** The sustainable conservation of the AONB's heritage needs to be founded on a secure

understanding of its significance and conservation needs. Proposed projects range from researching the area's reservoirs and moorlands, to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

- **Supporting the AONB's heritage volunteers.** The AONB is home to a vibrant voluntary sector that delivers essential heritage conservation work. The Strategy needs to ensure that this sector is supported.
- **Spreading the benefits of heritage.** In addition to providing the

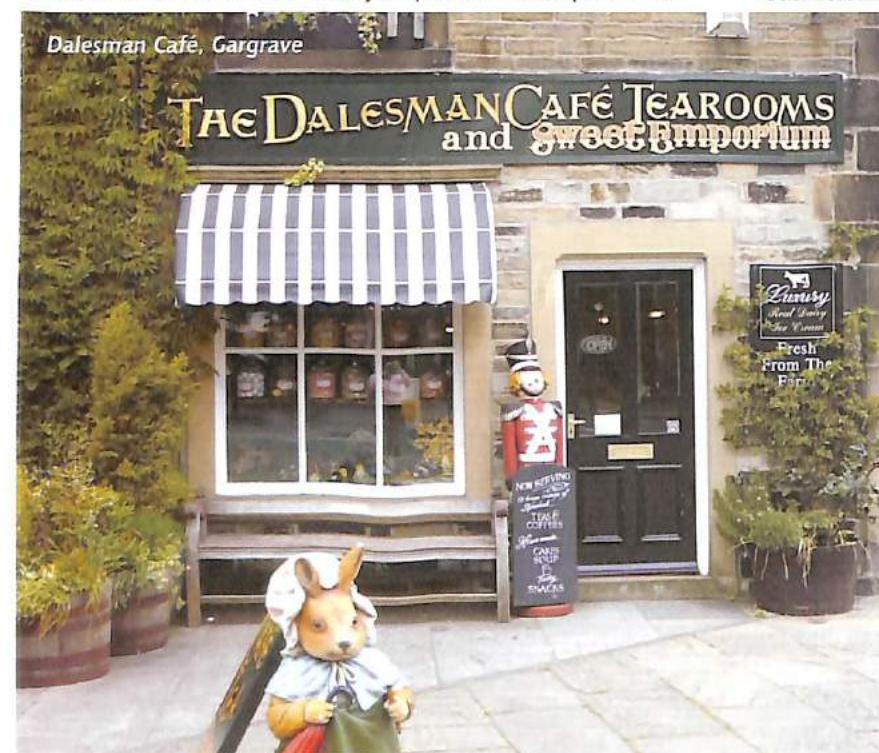
character of the AONB's 'outstanding natural beauty', heritage has widespread benefits for the area, ranging from generating tourism income, to encouraging educational attainment, to enabling physical and mental wellbeing.

- **Delivering the Strategy.** It is important that the Strategy is deliverable, and doesn't simply gather dust on a shelf.

Pippa Pemberton
AONB Historic Environment Officer

Meet our Corporate Members and Supporters

The Yorkshire Dales Society has three kinds of members – Associate Members who have just paid a subscription, Full



Company Members who have also signed the Company Guarantee and therefore have full voting rights, and an important more recent category, Corporate Members – usually small businesses in the Dales who support the Society's conservation work, and educating and campaigning activities by becoming members.

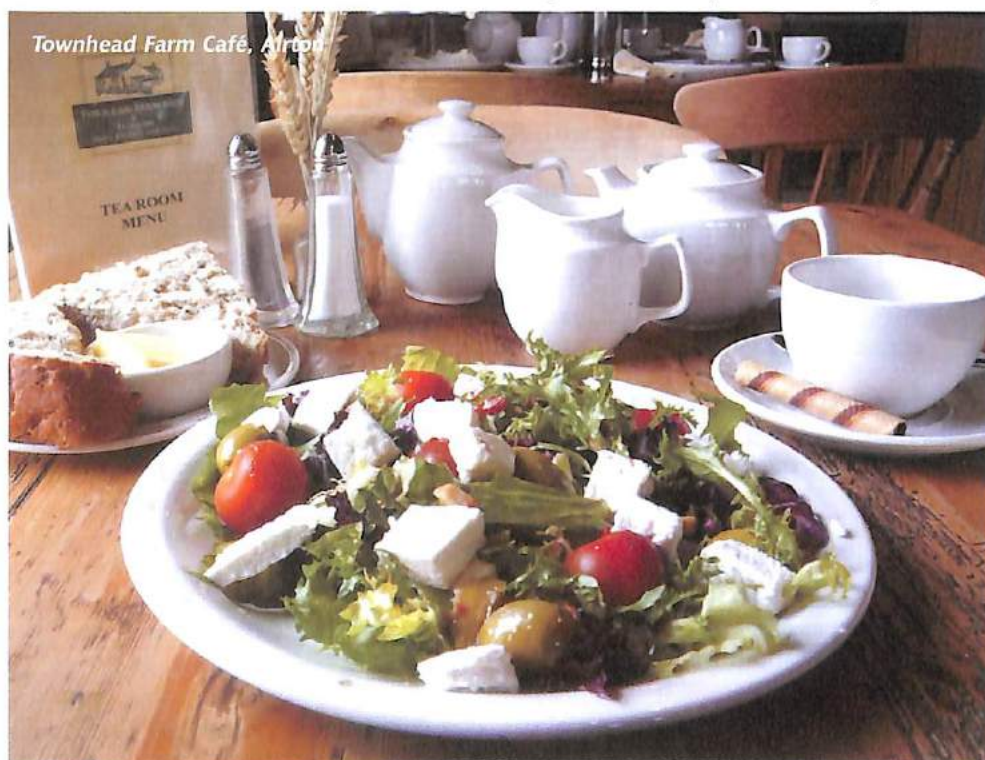
Our Corporate Members are special in that they represent the business community within the Dales. But they also indicate how business can support the work of a charity not just financially, but in a very practical way by publicly indicating their support for the conservation of a very special landscape, and also for the communities that in turn help to sustain that landscape.

YDS members might consider giving their own support to the 20 or so businesses in the Dales who have shown such care and commitment by becoming YDS Corporate Members, by giving them our patronage whenever possible. If you are using their facilities or services, let the owners or managers know you are a member of the Yorkshire Dales Society and you'll enjoy an even warmer welcome.

Sadly, there isn't space to give each of our Corporate members the space they deserve, though we hope to have

regular features on particular businesses and on new businesses in future editions. But what we have done is to list them all, with, where possible, their web site details. So please log on to find out a little more about them, and what they can provide. And if you are aware of other green or caring businesses in the Dales who ought to be members, tell them to get in touch with the YDS Settle office and we'll be delighted to send them full details. Membership is remarkably inexpensive and for small family businesses costs only slightly more than ordinary membership.

Let's start by listing some of the Corporate Members places you can call in for excellent food, drink, or overnight hospitality. Starting in Gargrave there's the popular **Dalesman Café and Sweet Shop** (01756 749250) opposite the Square, whilst in nearby Hetton is the award winning Angel Inn Bar and Restaurant for lunch, dinner or overnight stay (www.angelhetton.co.uk – 01756 730363). Further along the Pennine Way is **Town End Farm**, Airton, with excellent food - lunch or morning coffee, farm shop and accommodation (www.malhamadale.com/townend 01729 830902). If it's Dales lamb and the famous Yorkshire Dales Granola Cereal you're after – plus B&B in a perfect



location – call or ring Stuart and Elizabeth Hird at Yockenwhaite Farm, Langstrothdale (www.yockenthwaitefarm.co.uk – 01756 760835).

Many members at our AGM in May will recall the excellent facilities for outdoor activity and overnight accommodation at **The Dalesbridge Centre** in Austwick (www.dalesbridge.co.uk – 015242 51021), whilst **Dalesgarth Cottages** (www.dalesgarth.co.uk – 01756 760877) offer a high standard of self-catering accommodation in Buckden, at the head of Wharfedale. Lovers of real ale in the Dales will be delighted to learn Skipton's award winning brewery **Copper Dragon** (www.copperdragon.co.uk – 01756 702130) is a Corporate Member, as is **Dorothy Ward** of Gargrave, (www.dorothyward.co.uk – 01756 749275) a shop noted throughout the Dales for high class furnishing and gifts. Green travellers arriving in Settle by train and wanting to hire a cycle to explore the Dales can pre-book their machine at **Off the Rails** by Settle Station (www.offtherails.org.uk – 01729 824419) and either plan their own trip or join a pre-arranged tour. A long standing supporter of the YDS in Dentdale is **Lyon Equipment**, of Dent, internationally renowned manufacturers of specialist caving equipment (www.lyon.co.uk – 015396 25493), but a very new member, both manufacturers and a operators of a major new visitor attraction is **Gayle Mill Trust** at Hawes (www.gaylemill.org.uk – 01969 667320).



Dorothy Ward, Gargrave

Another Gargrave-based business **Chrysalis Arts** (www.chrysalisarts.org.uk – 01756 749222) combines visual arts promotion and development with environmental awareness, whilst educational work of a different kind is



Dalesgarth Cottages, Buckden

pursued at **The Centre for Management Creativity** with a range of specialist courses at High Trenhouse, Malham Moor (www.centreformanagementcreativity.com – 01729 830322). Budding artists can join one of the many fascinating courses in painting and drawing held at local venues in the Dales by **Overton Fine Arts** (www.overtonfinearts.co.uk – 01943 608447). Educational excellence in courses and career development linked to sustainable tourism business development also distinguishes **Craven College Tourism** in Skipton (www.craven-college.ac.uk/travel 01756 794872).

It is also good to note that several specialist businesses offering services to other businesses are also keen supporters of the Yorkshire Dales Society. Wharfedale-based **Manifest Marketing** (www.manifestmarketing.co.uk 01756 720391) has worked with the Society as well as many other local organisations on various projects over the years. Public relations and web site development is available from **Eagle Intermedia**, who also have a web site packed with information about the Dales (www.eagle.co.uk or www.yorkshire-dales.com – 01274 546779), whilst **Ondev** (www.onddev.co.uk – 01625 262404) are specialists in practical web-site development and management for small businesses and charities, and currently manage the superb Yorkshire Dales Heritage Directory site – www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk).

Finally, it is especially pleasing to note two Dales country estates are also YDS Corporate members – **Tempest Estates** at **Broughton Hall** (www.broughtonhall.co.uk – 01756 799608) near Skipton, a major conference and award winning green business centre that hosts a number of important Dales-based business, including the Dalesman. The second is **Home Farm** at **Swinithwaite**, (01969 663096) in Wensleydale, near Swinithwaite Hall, who also offer farming and rural advisory services (Farmoor services).

All photos in this article by Anne Harding.

Afternoon with James Herriot

My telephone rang. A voice, soft, well modulated, with a hint of a Scots burr, identified the caller as Alf Wight, better known as James Herriot. He was replying to a request I made on behalf of *The Dalesman*. I was to visit Thirsk shortly to officially open a new dale-country craft trail. Might I call for a short chat? Said Alf: "I think I owe you a favour."

The year was 1990. Over a cup of tea in a

size. Mentally I pictured Alf in his early days as an author, scribbling down vet stories at the fireside when the day's work was done. Donald Sinclair, who gave him his first job as a vet, became Siegfried Farnon.

Alf occupied a swivel chair with Bodie, his Border terrier, curled up beneath. For the next hour or two, talk was about Dales life that was thoroughly local – and full of characters. I had not

puddle his face would be splashed with muddy water. Frank had a car, though some vets were still going about on motor bikes.

It was while motoring over Bellerby Moor from Leyburn to Grinton that Alf was first struck by the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales. He had stopped the car to let out the dog. He sat down and looked back, along the valley of the Swale towards Richmond. He told me:

"I felt as though I had suddenly been transported into a magical land."

At the topmost dale-country farms he met a kind-hearted people. "They say that a spectator sees most of the game and I, as a young Glaswegian, was looking at them purely from the outside." He recalled chatting with a man aged about sixty. "Just over the fell-top, some five miles away, as the crow flies, was some marvellous countryside. He had never been there. He lived in his own little dale and went

into Leyburn on market day. And that was it..."

With the advent of radio and television, and the development of tourist pursuits, Alf reckoned that farmers had become like farmers in most other places. "But the Dales I first knew," said Alf, "were teeming with rich characters. The higher up the dale you went, the nicer was the type of person you met." After he had done the test on the cattle, a farmer might say: "Come in and have a bit o' dinner." Everyone would down tools, and sit round and look at Alf as he dined.

Huge sides of fatty bacon hung from hooks driven into the ceiling. "You had

to duck your head to avoid brushing against them. Bacon was what they lived on. Every time you went into a kitchen there was this lovely smell of bacon being cooked." It was nearly all fat. This sickened Alf, who could not stand the taste.

The Darrowby of the Herriot books is a thinly-disguised Thirsk. "It has to be. I was married here. My kids were born here. They went to school in Thirsk." Herriot Country, as he had defined it in his book on Yorkshire, is far more than the upper dale-country in which 90 episodes of *All Creatures Great and Small* were shot by BBC Television. To Alf, it is the area between two lines drawn from the heads of Coverdale and Swaledale,

across the Plain of York and over the Hambleton Hills and the North York Moors to the lovely villages of the East Coast.

Swaledale was to Alf the most beautiful place – so beautiful he tried to get a cottage up there but failed. He enjoyed walking in Walden. He described Coverdale as an isolated, lonely dale, with great charm. Wensleydale to Alf is "vast and gracious."

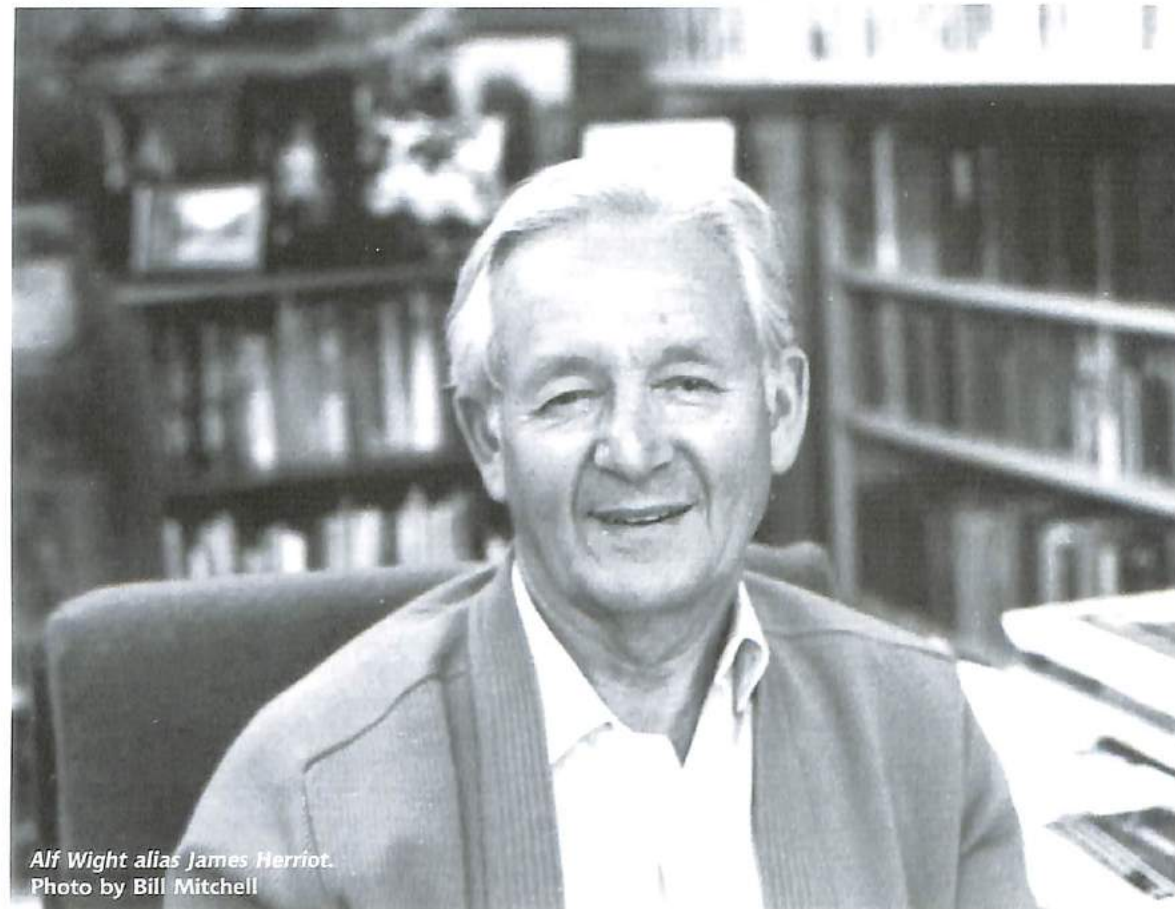
When I met him he had just retired from a vet's life. He had a heap of "back correspondence" to deal with. He was also trying to keep up with his writing. Alf told me he was a vet for 99% of the time. "My writing has been

that much of my life [an inch, indicated by his thumb and forefinger]. I'm not an author at all. If anyone criticises me as an author, I say: 'Well, I'm a vet who scribbled for half an hour after his work at night.'"

At the time I met him, he hadn't a routine. "In the lovely sunshine of last summer I went out gardening and walking." An old friend had moved from Glasgow to Yorkshire. "We just walk and chat and put the world to rights!"

(Alf Wight, alias James Herriot, died in February, 1995).

W.R.Mitchell



Alf Wight alias James Herriot.
Photo by Bill Mitchell

cafe at Thirsk, I pondered on the pre-Herriot story – of how a vet called Donald Sinclair, working for the Ministry of Agriculture in the 1930s, toured the farms of North Craven in a blue Lagonda. He wanted a more settled job and bought a veterinary practice in Thirsk. Work was brisk. He took on an assistant – Alf Wight, who in 1940 had been qualified as a vet for less than a year. He was paid £4 a week.

Now I was in Alf's small village, heading for his home at the end of the street. It proved to be a large bungalow, situated coyly behind a tall hedge. Alf took me to his spacious, upper floor study, a feature of which was a computer of larger-than-average

seen the vet-turned-author since the launch of his book, *James Herriot's Yorkshire*, in Leeds, just ten years before. Also at the launch had been his wife Joan (who became Helen in the Dales stories) and their family, Jimmy and Rosemary.

Alf became familiar with the Dales through a partner, Frank Bingham, a tall, handsome Irishman who operated from premises in Leyburn. A tuberculin-testing scheme had been introduced. Frank, aged 58, couldn't do it so Alf, aged 24, motored from Thirsk three days a week to help out. He travelled about the Dales in "a funny old Austin 10". It had no heater. The floor was broken so that if Alf drove through a

The Dales Heritage Directory

Want to know about limekilns, peregrine falcons, speleology or dialect in the Yorkshire Dales? Odds on you'll find the right specialist organisation with a web site containing (almost) all there is to know in the Yorkshire Dales Heritage Directory. Log onto www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk – it's the perfect tool for anyone – teachers, students, researchers, writers – wanting to discover more about the Yorkshire Dales. There's currently over 80 heritage groups listed under Natural Heritage, Historic Environment or Social Heritage, as well as groups such as the YDS with All Interests. If you know of other groups that should be included, please contact the web master via the web site with details.

Dalesbus Ramblers Autumn Walks

Every Sunday through autumn and winter there's a "green" walk in the Yorkshire Dale minimising travel impacts on the environment by utilising the excellent Dales Bus network. Most walks are easy to moderate, led by experienced Dalesbus guides. Many Sunday Dales Bus services will now run every Sunday through autumn and winter including the popular Cravenlink bus to between Ilkley and Skipton to Bolton Abbey and The Strid, and the 874 from Ilkley to Burnsall, Grassington, Kettlewell and Buckden parallel to the Dales Way. New for 2008/9 will be winter buses on certain Sundays to Malham and to Middlesmoor in Upper Nidderdale. There's also a programme of easy Saturday and mid week walks in the Forest of Bowland led by the Bowland Transit Club. Full details of all the walks plus downloadable Dales Bus timetables for all Dales Bus services are on www.dalesbus.org

Our New President

David Joy writes:

I was delighted to learn of Bill Mitchell's new role with the Yorkshire Dales Society. No one could be more suited as his knowledge of the Dales – and especially Dales people – is unrivalled.

I worked with Bill at the Dalesman for twenty-three years. For most of this period I was coping with a rapidly expanding list of books and he was somehow editing two magazines –

'Dalesman' and 'Cumbria' – virtually single-handed. It was all done to the incessant clatter of manual typewriters, with welcome breaks for visitors who ranged from the humble to the great and the good. Alfred Wainwright called several times, largely because just up the road there was a Little Chef – and these came only second to the Lakeland fells in his estimation!

Timekeeping was always precise and we took coffee breaks at precisely 10.00am and 3.00pm. Bill would then

often relate a favourite Yorkshire story that he had been told in his recent travels. One that still sticks in the mind concerns the dalesman whose close friend had just died. After looking at the body laid out in the parlour, he tried to comfort the widow: "Your Joe looks right peaceful." Back came the response: "Aye, but he always wor slow on t' uptake. He won't yet have tumbled to what's 'appened to 'im!"

Mysterious Ridges

YDS member Dr Malcolm Raven of Bridlington wrote to the Society enclosing some pictures of the familiar narrow ridges that are often seen on the steeper

Littondale and Malhamdale.

But we'd be interested to know if any YDS members have other theories.



Grass ridges above Conistone. Photo: M S Raven

However I have not yet found any research or publications on these particular ridges and like you I wonder if there is another explanation, maybe due to a purely fundamental physical effect. It would therefore be very useful if we obtain a response from YDS members by publishing a short feature about these ridges. As requested, please find attached two pictures of typical ridges which I photographed outside Kettlewell and Conistone.

As I am sure you know, you can also see these ridges in many other parts of England including Derbyshire, The South Downs and Earthworks such as Maiden Castle. However, I have not seen such well-defined wave-like structures in Scotland or anywhere else. I would be very interested to hear from members who have. Surely they cannot just be English!

So we look forward to hearing other members' views!

Malcolm replied:

I was very interested in your comments that they are due to sheep trails. This seems to be the present interpretation.



Grass ridges near Kettlewell. Photo: M S Raven

slopes of hillsides in the Yorkshire Dales.

YDS Vice Chairman Colin Speakman commented:

From your photographs I think what we are looking at are sheep ridges. Grazing animals have created a series of narrow paths along the hillside which have gradually (in the wet climate) been poached, and slipped under the impact of generations of little feet into these characteristic narrow ridges. Nibbling sheep also reduce the ability of the hillside to withstand the pressure of their feet and is an example of erosion caused by grazing. These ridges differ, as you rightly suggest, from the much broader medieval ploughing strips - "lynchets" or "raines" that you see on hillsides in Upper Wharfedale.

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.



Book Reviews

Two contrasting fascinating lives of two Dales' octogenarians impress us by their warmth and spirited stoicism.

TREES AND WILDLIFE IN WENSLEYDALE by **HUGH KEMP** published by Arima at £9.99, available from Waterstones, Leeds or from Arima publishing, Ask House, Northgate Avenue Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6BB at £12.34 (to include postage), or from the author Hugh Kemp, Mirk Pot, Snaizholme, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3NB, at £12.34.

Hugh Kemp, born in York in 1927 and brought up in Birmingham, became an artist, Bevin Boy, forester and



Hugh Kemp, author of *Trees and Wildlife in Wensleydale*. Photo courtesy of Roger Ratcliffe

conservationist. Required to report for National Service in 1945, he was allowed to finish his course at Birmingham Art College. Brought up by Quaker parents, who were against a family member joining the armed forces, Hugh though only 17, decided he was not a pacifist, and questioned the Quaker faith, showing an early strength of character by resolving the problem of not hurting his parents "by volunteering to work as a Bevin Boy down a coal mine."

Long hours, claustrophobic conditions, few safety measures, the ever present possibility of danger are not only powerfully recalled, but a very vivid sense of the actual practicalities of the different jobs Hugh was assigned to down the pit are all recounted with amazing skill. After the completion of his National Service, he was accepted at Ruskin College, Oxford to pursue his studies in Art with some success in his written papers, but unexpectedly failed to get his diploma when his paintings did not make the grade. Undaunted he takes a job initially, as a lock-keeper on the Thames, later looking after goats in Kent and engaging in tree-planting on some available land. Now married with a young son Chris, the Inner Hebrides, was to become his next home where he extended his skills by

renovating a series of derelict crofters' cottages over a period of time. A happier chapter opened in Hugh's personal life after his divorce and a meeting with Jane, an old friend from earlier days who was to become his second wife. Then a move to Yorkshire to Mirk Pot, Snaizholme in Wensleydale with two young sons David and Magnus became the final stage in Hugh's odyssey where again tremendous work was involved in making essential buildings habitable, arranging for the planting of thousands of trees and improving access to the property. Hugh pays great tribute to the organisations such as DEFRA and FWAG and the many people who helped him. Although involved in tree planting for commercial reasons, increasingly Hugh

became interested in conservation issues and in establishing a nature reserve: planting native trees, discussing management plans with the Forestry Commission to bring back the black grouse, constructing the sides of a pond to help wading birds and encouraging more red squirrels on his property by the choice of Scots Pine and Larch.

This is a most rewarding and heartening account of a very full and fulfilling life. Hugh still paints regularly for his own pleasure. One small quibble, slightly more rigorous sub-editing would have been helpful.

FS

HANNAH HAUXWELL – 80 YEARS IN THE DALES by **W.R. (BILL) MITCHELL** published by Great Northern Books, Ilkley, www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk £15.99, and available at local bookshops.

Hannah Hauxwell – 80 Years in the Dales by W.R. Mitchell is a celebration of Hannah Hauxwell's life, published in a stylish hard back edition with a generous selection of photos (though sadly the photo on page 18-19 has a most unfortunate split.) This book reminds us of the gentle dignified yet stoical lady who for many years farmed entirely unaided in an isolated Dales farm with no gas, electricity, or piped water, and who came to public notice originally through an article in the Yorkshire Post, and in 1973 by a memorable Yorkshire Television programme *Too Long a Winter* which emphasised her isolation and endurance.

Low Birk Hatt in Baldersdale, Teesdale was Hannah's hill farm where she looked after a small herd of cattle and

scratched a meagre living with the help of her sheepdog Uffa; her only relaxation reading the Bible and playing hymns on her harmonium. Bill Mitchell who became friendly with Hannah some years ago paints some wonderful pictures of the area's beauty, bleak in the long harsh winters or awakened and enlivened by the suns of summer. He empathises with Hannah's hard life and her wistful remark that the winters can be very long indeed. Fame which follows the public reaction to the programme

Hannah Hauxwell enduring one of many long winters, trudging through snow to feed stock.
Photo courtesy of Yorkshire Post



and a series of books leaves Hannah unchanged, delighting in the opportunities it gave her to travel, to attend a Royal Garden Party, to have the luxury of a real hot bath and a rest from her daily endless chores. About nine years ago a publisher friend brought Hannah to our home on a business call. She delighted us with her charm and poise as she accepted a cup of tea and chatted with the utmost friendliness. Bill Mitchell gives us the essence of this

remarkable lady and much instructive detail of Dales' life. In 1989 aged 62, Hannah with some reluctance moved to a cottage in Cotherstone, saying to a visitor, "I will miss most the moonlight when it touches the water across the dale, with the dark hills behind. Oh that is magnificent." This is a most enjoyable book which makes us appreciate once again the qualities of a really special Dales countrywoman.

FS

GREAT YORKSHIRE - A CELEBRATION OF 150 SHOWS - Edited by DAVID JOY
Foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales,
published by Great Northern Books 126pp
£17.99
Available in local bookshops (ISBN 978-1-905080-44-1)

Published to commemorate the 150th Great Yorkshire Show, this book is a celebration of a unique institution. 'Great' in every sense of the word, the Show captures the essence of Yorkshire by providing the perfect arena for farming and rural life as well as an unforgettable day out for the family. At the same time an agricultural showcase, a national sporting arena and a hive of technology, it manages to educate, entertain, display and demonstrate on a 1001 subjects - and still keep a few surprises round the corner.

This lavishly illustrated book draws on the archives of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society and the Yorkshire Post to portray the Show in all its infinite variety and colour, ranging from sheep shearing to the 'pig of the year' and from heavy horses to champion bulls. A diverse range of other subjects includes show jumping, fashion, cheese making - and even pole climbing! Leading personalities associated with the show describe in their own words what this very special annual event means to them.

The numerous royal visits to the Great Yorkshire Show receive full attention, and appropriately the foreword has been written by the Show's patron, HRH The Prince of Wales.

David Joy MBE is a true Dalesman coming from a farming family who have lived at Hebden in Upper Wharfedale for over 400 years. A founder member of the Yorkshire

Dales Society and a founding trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, he is the author of numerous books on the countryside. His earliest memories of the Great Yorkshire Show go back to the 1950s when his father, Richard Joy, was agricultural correspondent of the Yorkshire Post and thus attended on a regular basis.

AW

Autumn Events 2008/2009

Make the most of cooler shorter days and enjoy our Autumn Programme of walks and talks around the Yorkshire Dales this Autumn. All members, friends and family are warmly welcome.

Please note that due to increased costs of halls and lecturers it is regretted that we have had to increase our charges for lectures to £3 for members and £5 for non members. There is no charge for the morning walks.

Saturday, 04 October: Lob Wood and Haw Pike Ridge
Leader: Colin Speakman, YDS. Walk approx. 4 miles - one steep ascent.

Meet at Bolton Abbey Village Green at 10.30am. Bus 74.

PAUL HUDSON BBC TV WEATHERMAN LECTURE ON "CLIMATE CHANGE"

Saturday, 04 October 2008

Bolton Abbey Village Hall at 2.15pm

Please note that the cost per ticket will be
£10 members and £15 non-members

This includes a "home-baked" afternoon tea

Paul's books will be on sale and he will
personally sign them following the lecture

Please also enclose an sae for your tickets

Enquiries to Anne at the YDS Office

Tel: 01729 825 600 or

Email: events@yds.org.uk

Friday, 17 October: Hellifield Station
Lecture by Francis Shaw of Hellifield Peel
7.30pm - 9.15pm.

£6.50 including refreshments 17.56 train from Leeds
and return 21.23 from Hellifield.

Must book tickets in advance with YDS.

Saturday, 08 November: A walk from Hebden village
Leader: James Ferguson, Conservation Officer, Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust. Walk approx. 5 miles long.

Meet at Hebden Village Institute at 10.30am. Bus 74.

Lecture: Protection of Wildlife in Grass Verges by
James Ferguson.

Meet at Hebden Village Institute for 2.15pm start.



Saturday, 06 December:
Trough of Bowland Walk
Leaders: Ron and Vanessa Stone, YDS.
Walk approx 5 miles long.

Meet at café at Slaidburn at 10.30am. Bus B1, B11.

Please contact Anne at the office (01729 825 600) no later
than Wednesday, 03 December if you wish to car share.

Lecture: Trough of Bowland by Cathy Hopley,
Community and Funding Officer, Forest of Bowland AONB.

Meet at St John's Church Hall, Settle for 2.15pm start.

Saturday, 17 January 2009: A Countryside Walk around Hawes.

Leader: Alan Watkinson, YDS. Walk approx 5 miles long.

Meet at the Dales Countryside Museum at 10.30am Bus
156

Lecture: The History of Swaledale (through objects from
Swaledale Folk Museum)
by Helen Bainbridge, Curator of Swaledale Folk
Museum.

Meet at the Methodist Church Rooms, HAWES for 2.15pm
start.

For the morning walks - please wear suitable clothing
and footwear. Dogs are welcome on our walks but must
be kept under control and on a lead.

Please contact Anne at the office (01729 825 600) if you
require public transport information for any of the
above events or log on to www.dalesbus.org.

Email: events@yds.org.uk



Dry Stone Walling at Gillbeck, Nidderdale AONB
See article on page 4



Front Cover picture: The Howgills from Crook of Lune bridge on the Dales Way. Photo by the late David Smith. .

Back Cover picture: The Launch of the Ingleborough Pony Bus with Tudor Bow, owned by Jill Woods of Selside, and Mintdale Dolly, owned by Rachael Easterby of Greenhill Riding Centre. Photo courtesy of Natural England.

Yorkshire Dales Society:

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

Telephone/Answerphone 01729 825600.

www.yds.org.uk

See also –

www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk

www.dalesandbowland.com

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.

The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Membership Subscription Rates

Single Retired £12, Single Adult £15,

Retired Couple £16, Family/Couple £20

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

Please sign your Gift Aid form if you haven't already done so.