

Yorkshire *Dales* Review



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The Great Wind Turbine Debate

Few issues have created more passion and divided the conservation movement – even within the Yorkshire Dales Society – more unequivocally than wind turbines.

On one side are what might be described as the green conservationists, organisations such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth who argue, with some justification, that as human-induced global warming is now perhaps the greatest single threat to mankind, top priority now must be to take every conceivable measure to switch from burning carbon from oil and coal, to using renewable energy, of which wind power, in a country like our own exposed to constant westerly airstreams, is seen to be the prime source of such benign power.

On the other side are what might be termed the landscape conservationists, including such august bodies as CPRE, Campaign for National Parks, the Ramblers' Association and most National Park Societies. For them, large wind turbines are a major urban intrusion in protected landscapes, whose benefits are not always as straightforward as they seem. For example it is suggested that the carbon demands of smelting the aluminium, transporting and erecting the turbines could take years to recover from carbon savings. It is also suggested that because wind farms can't operate in either calm or stormy conditions and lose energy through transmission, their claimed energy outputs are questionable. And because they are so unreliable, conventional power stations must continue to operate on standby.

Opinion is polarised, with either side prepared to select statistics to support their case and ignore contrary information. Local protesters suggest danger to birdlife, noise and even risk to life from fracturing blades. The green energy lobby label local protesters as mere Nimby's opposing change, despite growing national and international imperative to reduce our carbon emissions. Far from being ugly, many people claim, wind turbines are things of beauty, elegant, clean-limbed structures which can enhance a landscape.

So where should the Yorkshire Dales Society stand on this?

Turning to our core object to preserve the "condition, landscape and natural beauty" of the Yorkshire Dales, it is clear our priority is to safeguard that landscape, whilst at the same time recognising the bigger picture, the fact that global warming is a very real threat to the "natural beauty" of the Dales however so defined. So no simple choices.

What is clear is that first and foremost we totally support the Government's clear stand on new major wind turbines in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. But this position could itself be undermined by the new Planning Bill now going through the House of Lords which can allow development which reflects "National Policy" on issues such as energy generation. A new Infrastructure Planning Commission will be set up to determine major infrastructure planning decisions in line with these so-called national policies – including decisions about building new "generating stations" and pylons. There is little doubt that such a Commission will be dominated by a strong pro-business, pro-development membership. Already, even before the new Commission is set up, a huge new wind turbine near Glyndebourne in East Sussex has been approved by a Planning Inspector in what is hoped will soon be the new South Downs National Park. Though the government has assured protesters that the Glyndebourne decision is a "Special Case", how many more "Special Cases" will be approved by the new Commission?

But even if major new turbines are not to be built within the National Parks or AONB boundaries, what happens in the many areas of fine countryside around the edge of National Parks, in what in many other European countries would be called "buffer zones"?

Proposals for five 100 metres (328 feet) high wind turbines to be constructed on the hitherto unspoiled, unique Craven drumlin landscape, at Brightenber, near Bank Newton were turned down in November by Craven Council after unprecedented public protests and a highly effective campaign organised by the Friends of Craven Landscape – supported by the YDS. The turbines were to have been sited 4km (2½ miles) from the National Park boundary, but as the National Park Authority pointed out, they would have dominated the magnificent views across the rolling drumlins of the Aire Gap from the fellsides above Gargrave and Malhamdale as well as from the Forest of Bowland AONB. But there are several similar schemes close to the Park boundary still in the pipeline. Over in Wharfedale the four familiar "small" 42 metres high wind turbines alongside the A65 by Chelker Reservoir, after a mere 17 years of (intermittent) active life, could be replaced by two 125 metres (400 foot) giants – three times as high – with 90 metre blades which would be a dominant feature on the horizon above the famous view from Bolton Priory down Wharfedale, painted by Turner and Landseer.

In Cumbria, at Armistead between the Kent and Lune Valleys, a proposal for six 100 metre turbines clearly visible from both the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, and close to areas which might in future years be included in the Lake District National Park, was turned down by members of South Lakeland Planning Committee – against officers' recommendations. Doubtless there will be an appeal.

These applications are not isolated phenomena, but are driven by a Government commitment to meet specific EU agreed renewable energy targets and, it is claimed, supported by very significant financial subsidies for energy companies and cash-hungry landowners.

But are those who see the landscape of the Dales as something inviolate merely selfishly protecting an outdated and perhaps romantic view of a landscape despite overwhelming national need for clean energy?



Photomontage of what the turbines at Brightenber would have looked at – photo courtesy of the Friends of Craven Landscape

The Yorkshire Dales Society has argued that in the broader terms of climate change mitigation and alternative energy generation, wind power has been allowed to dominate the debate. Yet, in an area like the Yorkshire Dales, intersected by scores of fast flowing rivers and streams, there are many alternative sources of green energy. Water power has a real future, and several hydro schemes are now under consideration – all will make little visual impact. Ground heat pumps can provide domestic heating for isolated buildings at low cost. Biomass can provide carbon neutral energy for domestic use and even power stations. Solar energy, even in cloudy Yorkshire, can make a massive contribution, with new photo-voltaic cell technology able to blend in with traditional building styles so as to be virtually undetectable. Micro-generation – including smaller less intrusive turbines and solar panels – can contribute energy back to the national grid. Off our coasts, wave and tidal power technology offer massive new opportunities with low visual impact.

But above all there is little doubt that the real priority, and best value pound for pound, is energy conservation – insulating our homes, turning down the heat, developing lean burn engines, driving and flying less, car sharing,

cycling, walking and using public transport, reducing food miles by using more local produce, goods and services. It has been calculated that we could save up to 40% of our energy consumption by conservation measures, equalling the production of tens of thousands of wind turbines. Over the last two decades Britain has enjoyed a massive cheap energy consuming bonanza. We drive huge distances for work and leisure in ever larger and faster cars, fly around the world with ease and at prices previous generations would find unimaginable, buy countless energy-profligate gadgets we don't really need.

We either change our hyper-mobile, energy hungry lifestyles willingly, or they will be changed for us, brutally, in decades ahead. The current international financial catastrophe is a mere foretaste of what could lie ahead as the impacts of climate change devastate the world and its fossil fuel dependent economy. Oil prices, now wildly fluctuating, could triple again within the next decade as "peak oil" production is passed and world demand soars.

Huge, highly visible wind farms on every hilltop could allow us to pretend that the future can mean business as usual. It won't be. But even in the short term, objective research by Visit England – the new name for the English Tourist Board – shows that visitors are deterred by large wind turbines, preferring to go to places where landscapes remain unspoiled. Hilltop turbines are therefore a direct threat to the economy of the Yorkshire Dales.

So why sacrifice some of our greatest landscapes for a mere short term palliative, a solution which, by itself, is an irrelevance and could harm the local tourist economy at a time when it needs all the support it can get?

This does not mean that wind turbines should not have a major role in meeting Britain's renewable energy needs. But their siting needs to reflect the need to safeguard our unique landscape heritage. There is huge scope for off-shore wind turbines in the wild and windy North and Irish seas, and, on shore, in some of the many featureless and windswept lowland prairies of eastern Britain and heavily industrialised estuaries, where a long line of giant turbines might even add a gaunt beauty to an already despoiled and featureless landscape. But not in the priceless setting of the Yorkshire Dales and our other National Parks.

Ultimately it is all about values, about quality of life, and the kind of inheritance we wish to give to our children and grandchildren. Green energy policies should not and must not require the sacrifice of our finest landscape heritage. New technology can create wealth and new jobs without compromising our diminishing areas of unspoiled countryside. There are more intelligent, ultimately more sustainable ways to save the planet as part of coherent national, regional and local energy conservation and creation policies.

Colin Speakman

Yorkshire Dales Road Verge Project



YORKSHIRE

For many years it has been recognised that some of our local road verges harbour some fantastic semi-natural wildlife. There is now a new project within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB to get some of these special verges into beneficial management.

This does not mean more daffodils and crocuses! Far from it, we will be aiming to increase the amount of native flora and fauna already found within these superb narrow 'nature reserves'. These are often the only links for wildlife where they form 'natural corridors'.

We intend to manage these verges by a combination of community / volunteer led activities, by talking to local

over 1000 miles of road verge within the area), so we have our work cut out!

The idea is to make the project self-running, by helping local people who value their local areas to learn how to manage these areas themselves, and then how to continue to do so with minimal help from us in the future. We will equip them with knowledge of how to manage these areas (with simple map-based management plans), provide some simple tools if necessary, and we will keep in touch to make sure all is well with their project.

There are many aspects of road verge management. The most obvious part is the management of the vegetation. We will be aiming to manage these verges as little linear hay meadows - cutting at the right time/s of year, and then removing the arisings shortly



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

these arisings on their muck heaps. Another solution is to take the material away to be composted, using existing schemes such as the Growing with Grace project near Clapham.

Of course good road verge management does not only concern managing the vegetation. It also concerns ditch management, salt/grit bins, boundary management, passing places, poaching where vehicles drive over them, contractors digging them up for services, and so on.

So, how can you help us? If you already mow or otherwise manage the verge near where you live - maybe you have a farm, pub, hotel, stables, or other roadside business - please consider the ways you manage the vegetation for conservation. Close-mown grass may be pleasing in one way, but so is a verge of native flowers and grasses!

Daffodils and crocuses do not help as they only flower for a short period of time and are becoming an ever increasing feature of the countryside. Parish councils are often under pressure to increase the amount of planting of these and as a rough rule of thumb, they should only be planted within a village boundary - within the 30mph zone. Verges outside this area are deemed as open highways and so should not be planted up. Of course, the planters are putting themselves and other road users at risk when doing this work too!

Please don't apply herbicides - regular cutting of problem species will soon eliminate them. Maybe you have a farm/land-holding and could offer us some space for the arisings we will be collecting. These would constitute what you see growing on the roadside, minus any litter of course. I am also looking for volunteers to work the verges in and around the Dales, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you live here.

Don't worry if you live outside the

Yorkshire Dales! We need to map all interesting road verges within Yorkshire, so if you know of an interesting verge near where you live, please drop me an email and I will forward the information to the relevant data record centre or Highways Dept. - and there are other verge management schemes elsewhere within Yorkshire. I can put

you in contact with one of those organisers if you would like to become more directly involved.

The Yorkshire Dales Road Verge Project is a joint initiative between Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT), Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and North Yorkshire County Council. I will be

leading the project over the next few years. Please contact me if you feel you can help with this project, or would like to know how to better manage the verges near where you live.

James Ferguson: Conservation Officer;
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: 01756 751603
james.ferguson@ywt.org.uk

Wanted - A Volunteer Press Officer

Are you an experienced journalist or IT specialist who would be prepared to give a couple of hours a week to help the Yorkshire Dales Society raise its local and regional profile, and to promote all that we are doing to a wider audience? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Whilst a Dales base would be useful, with modern technology, you could live some distance from our offices at Settle. We need someone with the right enthusiasm and skills who could help make a real difference.

Contact Anne at the YDS office (01279 825 600) or anne@yds.org.uk if you think you might be able to help.



Otley - the Dales' First "Walkers Are Welcome" Town

Walkers are Welcome is a scheme by which people in a particular town form themselves into an Action Committee to make their town and neighbouring countryside a more attractive and more welcoming place for walkers to visit. This has several aspects. It involves working with local authorities to ensure that footpaths are open and well maintained for the benefit of local people and visitors alike, creating new waymarked walking routes from the town centre to show off the area's countryside and heritage whilst avoiding traffic, promoting public transport links, and working with shopkeepers, publicans, café owners and accommodation providers to offer walkers a friendly welcome, perhaps even offering discounts or special deals. The official Walkers are Welcome Logo can be displayed to get the message across.

The Walkers are Welcome movement started in Hebden Bridge, but is now spreading to other areas. A town or

village wishing to join has to set up a steering committee from the community and work together to fulfil six important criteria to be able to apply for Walkers are Welcome status.

As walkers are a vital part of the leisure market and good spenders, their presence is perhaps doubly welcome in a time of economic recession. If walkers stay overnight, their contributions to the local economy increases at least sevenfold in terms of the purchase of accommodation, meals, refreshments and souvenirs.

Otley, lying in at an ancient crossing of the River Wharfe on the edge of Nidderdale AONB, and former home of the Yorkshire Dales Society, has long been a strategic start or finishing point for walkers. The town has good parking and excellent public transport links, and as a medieval market town is rich in historic character. Only a short walk out of the town you are on thickly wooded Otley Chevin, or you can

follow riverside paths to Gallows Hill and Knotford Nook Nature Reserves, whilst keen walkers can quickly head off into beautiful Washburndale.

As part of their Walkers are Welcome project, the Otley Walkers are Welcome group have published a leaflet of four ideal introductory walks from Otley town centre, all with detailed maps based on the work of gifted Otley cartographer and architect the late Arthur Gemmell. Copies are available locally in Otley priced just £1, or by post from WAW, 9 Fern Bank, Otley, LS21 1HG - please send a cheque for £1 payable to Walkers are Welcome (Otley) with a stamped, third A4 sized envelope. Rumour has it that both Ilkley and Settle are planning to be Walkers are Welcome towns soon. If you'd like your town or village to be considered for the national scheme, log onto www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk for more information of how to do it.



Red campion in a Dales roadside verge

landowners who already look after the verges where they live, and by liaising with the North Yorkshire County Council who look after the main roads within the project area. After the pilot 3 years are completed, we will be using the knowledge gained to inform the better management of road verges throughout North Yorkshire.

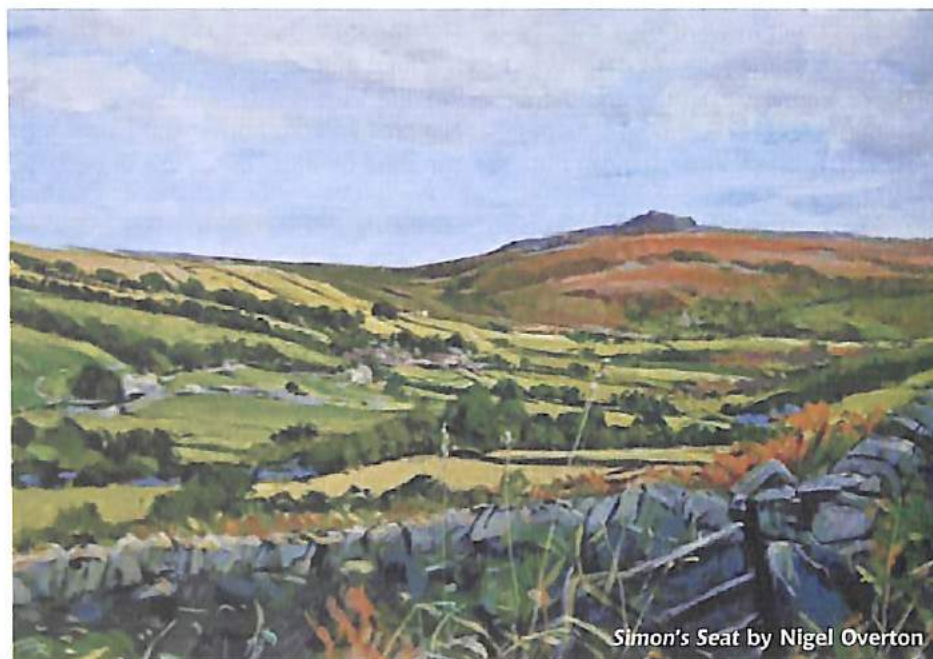
There are over 250 miles of road verges within the Yorkshire Dales National Park deemed worthy of special management (out of a total of

afterwards. The latter point is really important because if the cuttings are left on the ground they swamp new growth by acting as a mulch, and by taking them away you also reduce the levels of nutrients in that area - and delicate native wild flowers are better able to exist in nutrient-poor soils than the coarser grasses and plants.

Dealing with the cuttings (or arisings as they are properly called) is a thorny problem for the project. We normally persuade local landowners to accept

Landscape and Architecture

Corporate Yorkshire Dales Society Member Nigel Overton has this winter been exhibiting a series of paintings on the Dales entitled *Landscape and Architecture*, in the Exhibition Centre at Strid Wood, Bolton Abbey, from November 2008 till February 20th 2009, in his chosen mediums of acrylic paints and pencil. Dales views can show dramatic use of foreground trees, others focus on swathes of trampled hay or grasses, suggesting movement in the wind or wide panoramic scenes of fields bordered by hedges and walls crowned for example with the swell of Simon's Seat. Autumnal colours framing Barden Bridge with its play of light and shadow is particularly successful. The Cavendish Memorial Fountain is done full justice in a pencil sketch. Pictures and prints are on sale at the exhibition, also calendars and cards. Nigel handles his own printing and frames his own paintings.



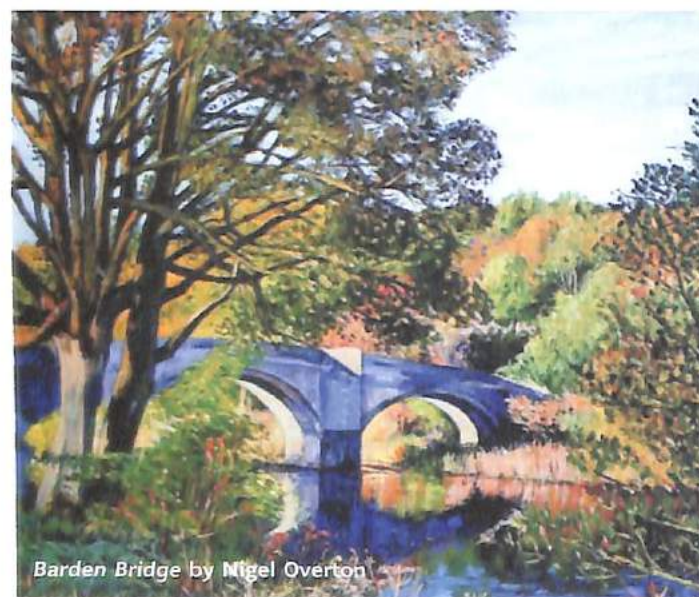
Simon's Seat by Nigel Overton

simply and effectively in either matt black or pale wooden frames.

Formerly a Head of Art and Design in a large Leeds comprehensive school, Nigel Overton paints professionally and has a studio base in Ilkley. He has exhibited in numerous galleries in the north of England and in southern Ireland. Nigel also teaches on a regular basis, offering a variety of one and two day drawing and painting courses including mixed media, oil painting, pastels and acrylics at the Tea Cottage, Bolton Abbey. Tuition makes reference to natural objects and the nearby scenic setting.

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Nigel Overton's website is www.overtonfinearts.co.uk or he can be reached by email at nigel@overtonfinearts.co.uk



Barden Bridge by Nigel Overton

Glusburn Institute - A Part of Our Heritage, by Bernard Peel

On sale (price £4) at Reid's Bookshop in Keighley, shops in Cross Hills or direct from YDS (p & p extra). Profits to the Institute.

This booklet (40 pages with colour and blank and white photographs) has been written by Bernard Peel, YDS Member and Volunteer. It describes the development of the Institute as part of

a "model" village on the lines of Saltaire, inspired by the local mill owner Sir John Cousin Horsfall. The architectural features of a quite outstanding building are described, illustrated by past and present photographs and plans. The Institute's use for religious, educational and recreational purposes are also described, until recently it incorporated

a Baptist chapel and a swimming bath where many locals learned to swim. Some of the issues faced by the General Council in the early years are outlined as are current uses and aspirations for the future.

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The Raydale Project

The Raydale Project is a whole river catchment project initiated jointly by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT) and Carnegie UKTrust. It is a multi-faceted, community lead scheme which seeks to cope with issues of climate change and manage the considerable assets of Raydale in a sustainable manner. The 50² km river catchment includes Semerwater with all its feeder streams and of course the River Bain which flows out of the lake and into the River Ure. Raydale was chosen by YDRT not just because of its undoubted beauty but because of the diverse land use. Beef, sheep and dairy farms, a shooting estate, an equestrian centre, a nature reserve and a large conifer plantation make Raydale a microcosm of the uplands. But it is the people of Bainbridge, Countersett, Marsett and Stalling Busk who will make this project work.

There is a steering group of local people who meet regularly to take forward the various strands of work which all fall within the general

remit of maintaining livelihoods, clean water, wildlife and scenery in a warmer world without fossil fuels. From the start it was recognised that Semerwater itself was very vulnerable to climate change. Predicted wetter winters would increase the silting up of this shallow lake and prolonged summer drought could spark a toxic algal bloom. Using local knowledge and scientific research the project is drawing together a scheme of environment work which aims to slow down the rain run-off from the hills by blocking moorland grips and planting linear woods. Reducing silt production by fencing out

gills, and reducing diffuse pollution by restricting livestock access to riverbanks, should both reduce the risk of algal bloom. All these activities will also benefit black grouse, red squirrel, native crayfish, otter and bullheads, each of which is a United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Programme (UKBAP) priority species. Evening out the peaks and troughs of water flow, benefits farm livestock and any budding hydro-electricity proposal.

This leads on very neatly to a second aspect the project has taken forward. In

The group recognises that tourism as well as farming is an important part of Raydale's economy and plans to improve the visitor experience are in hand. Ironically, given climate predictions, excessive summer rain has delayed river restoration work that would greatly improve the route across Marsett Bottom wetlands. Cragdale Water currently flows over part of this beautifully cobbled track forcing walkers and cyclists to scramble through adjacent marsh. Returning the beck to the normal course, by removing 300 tons of rock debris,



Semerwater. Photo by Sylvia Crookes

partnership with the National Park Authority the group commissioned a feasibility study into the potential for producing hydro-electricity. Forty three sites throughout the park were researched by consultants, including six within Raydale. These have been whittled down to fifteen sites where the pay-back period is less than 25 years, and two of these are in Raydale. It is still early days and there is a lot of work to be done, but at least we now know that resource is there to be tapped. Other sources of renewable energy, especially on farms, will be researched in due course.

should have taken place in August but water levels have been too high. Native crayfish in the beck prevent just moving in with a digger, the area has to be de-watered with heavy pumps so a licensed crayfish handler can remove them to a safer place downstream. A contractor is lined up and funding in place, all that is needed is two rain-free weeks. In the meantime a working group is looking at other ways of enhancing visits to this secret and beautiful dale.

Deborah Millward
Project Leader

Ribblesdale

Introducing the first of a new series of original drawings on the Dales, by artist Frank Gordon, from Giggleswick, who has exhibited widely in the North.

Penyghent and Horton-in-Ribblesdale



Talbot Yard, Settle – i.e. yard behind the 'Talbot' pub.

Crina Bottom and Ingleborough



Stainforth

Harry Harrison – Cave Guide

When, in 1950, I joined Harry Scott on *The Dalesman* at Clapham, my exploration of the area took me to Ingleborough Cave, a celebrated natural feature on the estate of the Farrer family, who have owned the area since the 18th century. An editorial task was to produce a small picture-guide to the cave. I ventured underground with the local man, an estate employee we all knew as Cave Guide Brown.



Harry Harrison
Photo: Bill Mitchell Collection

We trudged along the old carriageway through the woods, with the lake glinting to our right. Thence into a dry valley, with the sound of a ram pump at the beck seeming to match my heartbeats. At the base of a limestone cliff was the deep gash of Ingleborough Cave, also known as Clapham Cave, where one might safely and comfortably emulate Orpheus and venture into the underworld.

Arnold (Cave Guide) Brown, an estate employee, was small, moustached, tweedy and booted. At the cave mouth, he lit his storm lantern and then applied a match to the candles on the curious three-pronged wooden

candlestick that was my personal light source. There followed a succession of natural wonders created by the drip, drip of lime laden water. At the furthest point of the expedition, Arnold Brown stood before a row of stalactites, rapping them with the big key that gave access to the cave door.

He had by no means been the first man to penetrate the recesses of Ingleborough Cave. The honour of first entry went to Josiah Harrison, an estate gardener, under whose supervision, in the autumn of 1837, and after a serious flood, supervised the breach of a calcite barrier at the back of what had been known as the Old Cave. This drained pent-up water and gave access to a spacious natural passage. Among the most curious limestone formations was a huge stalactite known as the Sword of Damocles. Happily for Josiah and the many other visitors to Ingleborough Cave, a lively stream from Gaping Gill had found another course.

Harry Harrison, Josiah's grandson, born in 1865,

was cave guide for half a century. A bright lad, Harry worked in a bank for a short time until a spell of ill-health caused him to retire. He decided to take up schoolteaching. The cave guide job sufficed until a suitable teaching post became vacant. Harry never entered a classroom: he was to give unstinting service as cave guide under three generations of the Farrer family.

A versatile composer and musician, Harry was organist at Clapham Church, playing for the services on Sunday morning and evening for no less than 20 years. In the afternoon, he strode two miles, mostly uphill, to perform similar duties at Keasden Church. He

composed anthems and songs, one of which was grandly named *Pax Triumphans*. During the First World War, copies of this patriotic song were sold to cave visitors after Harry had spoken movingly about our debt to soldiers blinded while fighting for their country. The proceeds of the sale went to St Dunstan's. During the 1914-18 war he sent copies of his poems to the heads of Allied States. On relinquishing a long-held association with the village Institute, he wrote a prologue and an epilogue.

His verses, penned between 1889 and 1938, the year of his death, were of the type to make a sensitive reader wince. Naturally, Harry paid tribute to his ancestor, Josiah, describing him as "pioneer explorer of Clapham Cave on the 13 September, 1837":

*Accompanying his will with modesty,
Without a tinge to make it travesty,
Laid siege upon portcullis'd, moated halls!
And by a bloodless effort to his calls
At last broke through the barr'd,
unlighted walls.*

And

*God's revelation of Cave's glorious might,
Gave gift to Harrison's first mortal sight!*

Here is an impression of Gaping Gill and Ingleborough Cave:

*Nature's carvings, mural,
Upon their wondrous walls,
Different, where plural,
In passage, arch or halls!*

When Harry was old and creaky, he shortened the journeys he led into Ingleborough Cave by claiming that the furthestmost stretches were flooded and therefore impassable. Harry's manuscript verse, much of which was penned on his retirement after fifty years of cave guiding, will join my archive in the Special Collections at the University of Bradford.

Bill Mitchell

Green Energy

Historic Hydroelectric Plant

Highlighted in Heritage Counts 2008, a new study published by English Heritage for Yorkshire and Humber Historic Environment Forum, calls for more urgent research to assess the impact of climate change on historic buildings and landscapes, and their potential role in contributing towards lower carbon emissions. Maddy Jago, Chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Historic Environment Forum, declared, "We are extremely enthusiastic about this scheme. Climate change is a major challenge for everyone and that includes the heritage sector. We need to re-learn the old wisdom of self-sufficiency and sustainability, which includes imaginatively re-using our historic buildings and finding local solutions to global problems."

An example is a pioneering project at Linton Falls, Grassington, which will breathe fresh life into its century old derelict power house, by generating green energy using new turbines. The plant will generate about 510,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year, saving round 216 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, compared with fossil fuel generation. This historic scheduled monument was originally built in 1909 when oil lamps were being slowly superseded by light bulbs in rural areas.

Centuries old technology will be used for the scheme involving the installation of two Archimedean screws powered by the River Wharfe. The device was invented more than 2,000 years ago by Archimedes to carry water upwards as it rotates, but the project at Linton Falls has reversed this principle. Here the

River Wharfe will flow down through two screws, spinning them fast enough to generate enough renewable and clean energy to power 100 homes. The Skipton civil engineering company JN Bentley, owners of the site, have worked with English Heritage and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in delivering this green energy plan. In addition the National Park Authority has also commissioned a survey of up to 50 former river and streamside mill sites to assess their potential for other small hydroelectric schemes. Roger Harrison-Topham, heritage champion with the National Park Authority said, "Linton Falls brought electric light to Grassington and now it's set to resume service."

Settle Hydro scheme stalled: disappointment but future hopes

Planning Officers however have refused permission for Settle Hydro Ltd to build a new power house at the site of the weir at Bridge End on the River Ribble at Settle because of fears that any alterations to the water course will have a detrimental effect on migratory fish.

Settle Hydro Ltd, instigators of the scheme with Settle Regeneration team StART, will continue to look at ways towards a solution acceptable to all parties. The originators of the scheme Water Power Enterprises (H2oPE) are based in Grassington, and would like to use (see above) a modernised version of the Archimedean screw to generate electricity for 50 homes. The original scheme was supported by David Curry Skipton MP and would cost around £300,000 with £100,000 coming from

the community through a share scheme. £25,000 in shares has already been raised. Funding of £75,000 has been promised by Yorkshire Forward and £50,000 from Future Energy Yorkshire.

However, anglers were concerned that diverting the water through the screw would at times cause navigation difficulties for fish such as salmon and sea trout, due to a shortfall of water. The chairman of the Ribble Fisheries Consultative Association stressed that they were not opposed to the hydro plant, and only wanted, "enough water...left to go over the fish pass," then all would be well. Craven District Council rejected the scheme as the project would not meet the requirements of biodiversity and geological conservation as the impact on migratory fish using the River Ribble had not been adequately identified. A consultation with the Environment Agency strongly suggested that the full impact of the alterations to migratory fish will need further research. Suitable safeguards must be in place before the development could be permitted.

Steve Amphlett, the Director of Settle Hydro Ltd, saw the decision as a temporary setback stating: "We are continuing to work with the Environment Agency and will look at getting all the information they say they need to prove there will be minimum impact on the fish." Shares are still on offer to the community including any interested YDS members (for details see www.greensettle.org.uk) and a new application will be lodged as soon as possible.

Fleur Speakman

Corporate Members

The Yorkshire Dales Society is delighted to welcome West Winds Tea Room and Bed & Breakfast, Buckden, (www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk - tel 01756 760883) as a new Corporate Member. More information to follow.

Please note changes to contact information for the following Corporate Members:

Eagle Intermedia: up-to-date telephone numbers 01274 480853 or 0845 674084.

Manifest Marketing: up-to-date telephone number 01756 751975. Post code BD23 5BE.

Dalegarth Holiday Cottages has no "s" in Dalegarth (not as in last YDS Review).

Yockenthwaite Farm is no longer able to offer bed and breakfast.

National Parks Societies' Conference 2008 - New Forest

Hosted by the New Forest Association at the Girl Guide Centre at Foxlease, just south of Lyndhurst, 60 delegates from UK National Park Societies convened for the National Park Societies' Annual Conference in October. The 2008 theme was 'Adapting to Change', and the event was jointly sponsored by INEOS, and by RWE Npower from nearby Fawley Power Station.

Designated in 2005, and achieving full status in April 2006, the New Forest is the first new National Park to be designated for nearly 50 years. The



Rhona and Hugh Thornton, Anne Webster and Hilary Baker at the Conference

New Forest is a totally different environment to the Dales, a lowland Park comprising a mixture of heathland, ancient woodland and more recent forests, with shallow valleys containing spring-fed 'mires' (lowland bogs) which are found nowhere else in Europe.

Challenges Facing the New Forest

The unique character of the Forest reflects the impact of three important groups of people:

Commoners, who own or rent land which benefits from common rights within the Forest. Crucially, it is the grazing of animals associated with these rights which maintain the traditional distinctive landscape of the Forest on which the National Park designation is based. **Verderers**, responsible for overseeing and regulating Commoning, and for regulating development in the Forest, focus in particular on recreation activities. **Agisters** are employed by the Verderers to ride the Forest and supervise the day-to-day welfare of the Commoners' stock.

Without a stock of affordable housing suitable for the Commoners, there will be no long-term future for Commoning. House prices in the New Forest as elsewhere are generally well beyond the reach of local people.

However, the National Park Authority, working with the New Forest District Council and the Community Trust, has developed a scheme whereby suitable housing, with outbuildings for ponies and other stock, can be made available for Commoners on a basis that ensures that it will be retained for use exclusively by Commoners.

As well as patterns of grazing, the New Forest landscape is vulnerable to the effects of coastal erosion, and the impact of drainage. Forestry practices in many of the plantations, the cutting of straight ditches, have led to erosion. A pilot scheme to restore traditional patterns of drainage, in order to maintain the lowland 'mires' which are such a distinctive part of the landscape, has been successful.

Recreation Strategy

Unlike the Dales, where people from West Yorkshire and Lancashire have to travel to visit, there are major urban areas, Southampton and Bournemouth, immediately adjacent to the Forest. The overriding issue is how to manage the demands for recreation so as to avoid adverse effects on the Forest economy and landscape.

National Park staff identified a number of issues: the impact of traffic - there are acute problems in Lyndhurst itself, particularly in the main summer holiday period. The others are biodiversity, and tranquillity - the 'noise footprint' of road traffic alongside the M27/A31 covers a large area, while recent permissions given for flight corridors over parts of the Forest have added significantly to aircraft noise. Yet the biggest, and most difficult issue is impact on wildlife, especially ground-nesting birds.

One proposal seeks to control the subdivision of ancient fields with new fencing in order to accommodate

horses used for 'leisure' activities. This latter measure is aimed at preserving traditional field patterns - an important part of the landscape.

National Issues

Ruth Chambers, Deputy Chief Executive of CNP, summarised the current situation as:

- the economic climate is gloomy in the short term, and uncertain in the longer term;
- while there is some political support for National Parks, we need more - particularly in seeking amendments to the current Planning Bill to protect the position of National Parks (Note: - since successfully achieved by Lord Judd); and - there is a whole range of planning issues (not least on wind farms)* where National Park Societies need to make their voice heard. Current legislative changes may mean that National Parks may not be as sacrosanct as in the past.

Throughout the Conference, in addition to the fundamental issues of the economy, politics and planning policies, the issue of farming subsidies and their impact on Park management was never far away.

At the 2007 Conference, it became clear that the future of hill farming in the Lake District was under threat. Many of the farms owned by the National Trust in the Lake District are likely to be running at a loss in a few years' time. In 2008 similar concerns were raised over the viability of hill farming in all the upland parks, particularly in Dartmoor and Exmoor, as well as the Dales. It is clear that the farming regimes on which the landscapes of our National Parks depend (one of the key reasons for their existence) are under continuing threat.

Hugh Thornton

* see Colin Speakman's lead article pages 2-3.

Book Reviews

INGLEBOROUGH LANDSCAPE AND HISTORY - David Johnson Carnegie Press 288 pp Hardback £25 (ISBN: 978-1-85936-187-0) Softback £14.95 (ISBN: 978-1-85936-188-7)

David Johnson is well known to members of the Yorkshire Society as a Settle based archaeologist and industrial historian, whose scholarly and illuminating lectures to the Society have been an inspiration on more than one occasion in the recent past.

It is therefore with a special sense of anticipation that his



Boundary Stone at Grey Scars; "N" refers to the former village of Newby. From "Ingleborough Landscape and History".

new book on **Ingleborough Landscape and History** has appeared. Published in close association with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (with sales benefiting the Trust) as a part of its highly successful Learning in Limestone project, and supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Natural England, this book is a tour de force. It combines scholarship and extensive original research with a highly readable narrative style, as accessible to the general reader as the specialist geologist or landscape historian. It explores several overlapping aspects of this iconic Dales mountain, which was once believed to be England's highest peak, even if it is actually just a few metres lower than its near neighbour Whernside.

David deals with the geology, geomorphology, archaeology, early settlement, land use, farming, transport, early tourism, industrial archaeology, legends, ecology and current conservation of the mountain - much of it now a National Nature Reserve - in an authoritative and highly readable way. Was Ingleborough summit truly an Iron Age hill fort or perhaps ancient ritual site? Did the Vikings actually settle above Ribbleshead and what took place in the railway shanty towns?

This book offers remarkable insight into the rich landscape and culture not only of Ingleborough, but of the whole of the Yorkshire Dales and wider Pennine region. To quote television's Time Watch presenter Tony Robinson in his

excellent Foreword, Ingleborough is "a place of mystery and wonder where we can confront our innermost demons and angels".

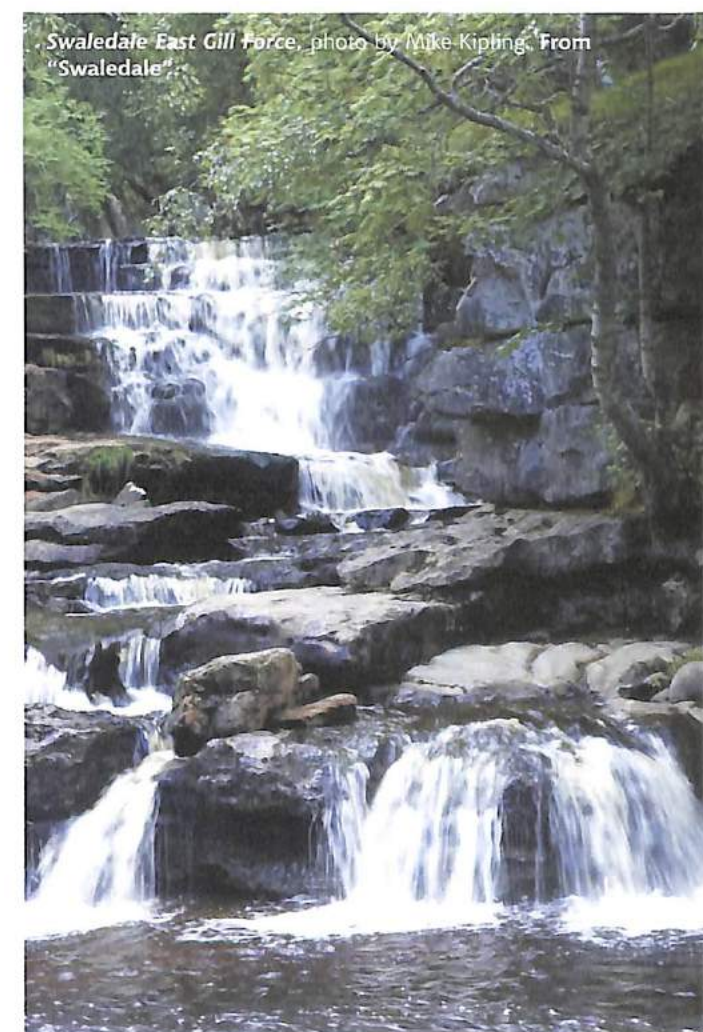
Profusely illustrated with superb photographs, maps and diagrams, this is a book that no lover of the Yorkshire Dales and its magnificent Three Peaks country can afford to be without.

To order your copy of the book and help support the work of Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust in the Dales, order direct from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, The Old Post Office, Main Street, Clapham, LA2 8DP or by phone on 01542 51004.

CS

SWALEDALE - Roly Smith, with photographs by Mike Kipling, published by Frances Lincoln 128 pp £14.99 (ISBN 13: 978-0-7112-2636-4; 10: 0-7112-2636) Please add £2.95 p & p

Swaledale is a beautifully produced hardback book, a celebration of a very special dale, with its stunning landscape, fascinating history and delightful views of such Swaledale traditions as the Muker Show. The early section is a brief introduction to the region with its rich heritage of



Swaledale East Gill Force, photo by Mike Kipling. From "Swaledale".

Norse, Viking, Danish and Anglian place names. An overview follows of its geology and rich lead mining history which helped to shape the landscape. The principal town of Richmond, given its charter in medieval times, is still an important regional centre, flanked by its castle, charming Georgian theatre, town hall originally the assembly

rooms, and riverside views. Most notably Joseph Mallord Turner was to paint an atmospheric picture of Richmond Castle and town overlooking the River Swale. Roly Smith fell in love with Swaledale as an impressionable schoolboy, while Scarborough-born Mike Kipling became similarly entranced in his first post as Assistant Planning Officer based at Richmond; when Swaledale was part of his professional concerns. A career change as a professional photographer enabled Mike to convey many of Swaledale's distinctive qualities, demonstrating particularly in a number of glorious large-format double-page spreads, the sweep and breadth of the landscape, the detail of its famous wild flower meadows guarded by dry stone walls and occasional weathered barn, spectacular waterfalls, and even its snowbound solitary landscapes.

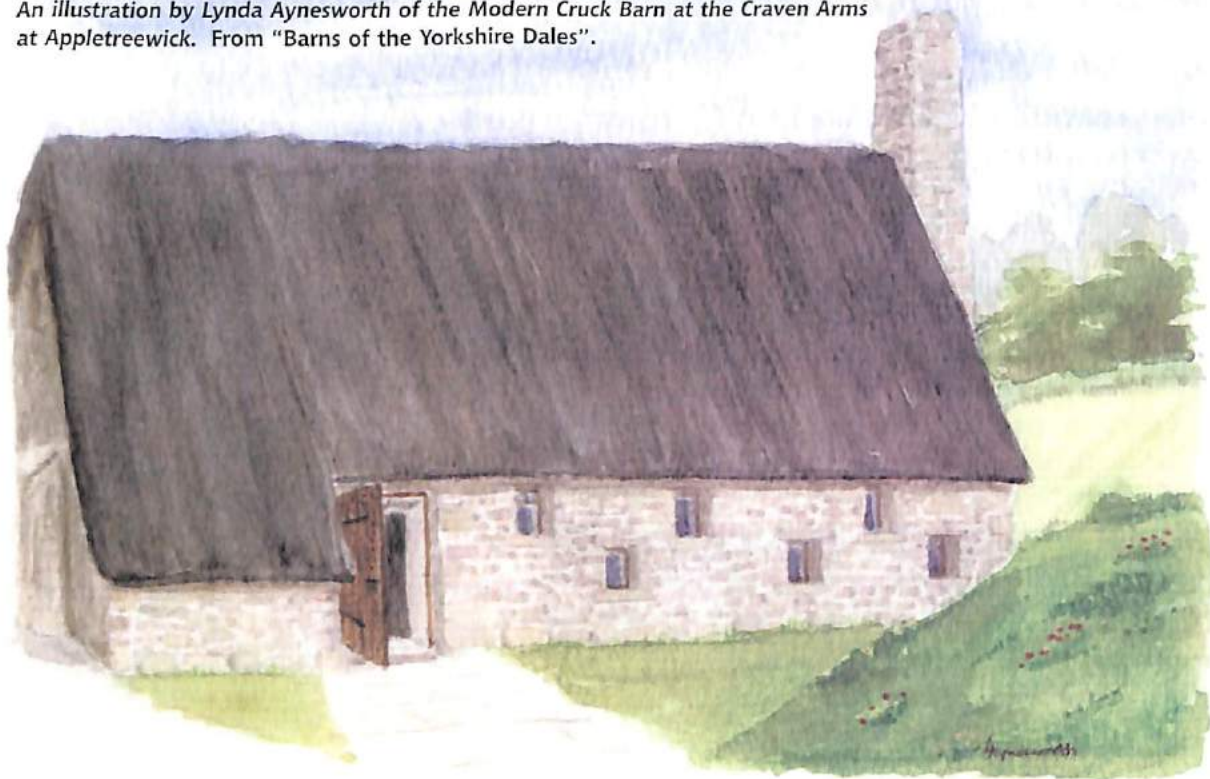
It is perhaps a pity that a good sketch map was not considered necessary in order to pin-point some of the key places and areas mentioned. Nevertheless, this book would make a splendid present whether Swaledale is familiar or not. Sadly the constraints of the YDS Review cannot truly convey the quality of those photographic images.

* Our cover shot is Mike Kipling's Buttertubs see www.mikekipling.com for further information.

BARNs OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES
- HISTORY, PRESERVATION AND GRAND DESIGNS - ANDY SINGLETON AND DAVID JOY
Photography by Christopher Walker
Foreword by Bill Bryson, President of CPRE

Published by Great Northern Books 159pp £16.99
Available in local bookshops (ISBN: 978-1-905080-19-9)

An illustration by Lynda Aynesworth of the Modern Cruck Barn at the Craven Arms at Appletreewick. From "Barns of the Yorkshire Dales".



To quote Bill Bryson "It is wonderful to see a book celebrating, with wit and affection and penetrating historical insight, the Dales barn in all its undersung glory. This truly is a delightful and valuable book - almost as good, in fact, as the barns themselves."

This is the first book to look at the barns of the Yorkshire Dales in depth. It falls into two distinct halves, representing the diverse interests of its authors.

David Joy comes from Upper Wharfedale farming stock and knows many individual barns at first hand. He writes about their rise and decline and portrays a year in the life of a typical barn before farming practices changed out of all recognition. He also puts the subject in perspective with a profile of each barn on the Wharfedale farm that he owns.

Andy Singleton has been a builder in the Dales for more than twenty five years and has worked on many barns, including several that have been converted into houses of great individuality. He takes up the story by covering the construction methods and materials that were used to build barns and then explains in detail how they can be converted into dwellings. This practical information is complemented by case studies of some of the most successful conversions, which make the book essential reading for anyone contemplating this adventurous but rewarding exercise.

A superb book with many delightful photographs; it can be thoroughly recommended.

AW

Winter and Early Spring Events 2009

Enjoy some varied winter and spring events in a number of different locations, including Hawes, Brimham Rocks and part of the Dales Way from Ilkley to Bolton Abbey.

Our season concludes with an ever popular visit to the Hellifield Peel Tower. All members, friends and family are warmly welcome. All walks (except Hellifield Peel) will finish around 12.30pm. Lecture admission for members is £3.00 and £5.00 for non-members.

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 or 113 (for lecture only) from Garsdale Station

Lecture: The History of Swaledale (through objects from the Swaledale Folk Museum)

by Helen Bainbridge, Curator of Swaledale Folk Museum

Meet at the Methodist Church Rooms, HAWES, 2.15pm

Sunday, 08 February: By Popular Demand WALK TO, AND TOUR OF HELLIFIELD PEEL

Meet at the Black Horse Car Park, Hellifield, at 2.00pm
Tickets - £8.00 per person. Please book through Anne Webster at the office. Train d. Leeds 1249. Skipton 1326

Sunday, 01 March: Brimham Rocks Walk Brimham Rocks, Smelthouses, Braisty Woods, Edge Nook, Brimham Hall and Lodge

Leader: Chris Hartley, YDS. Walk approx 7 miles moderate
Meet at Brimham Rocks National Trust Car Park 10.40am - 3.30pm. A chance to travel on the YDS's popular Nidderdale Rambler 26 bus d. Harrogate 1010



Barn in snow by River Ribble. Photo by Anne Webster



Saturday, 25 April: Dales Way Celebration - 40th Anniversary. From Ilkley to Bolton Abbey along the River Wharfe with the Dales Way Association

Leaders: Colin and Fleur Speakman. Walk 7 miles easy. Meet at the Old Bridge, Ilkley at 9.30am. Special Transport available for return journey. Buffet lunch in village hall - must be pre-booked. Details from Steve Taylor, Dalesway Association - e-mail to themillwallfan@aol.com

YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, 09 MAY 2009

at

THE MEMORIAL HALL, DENT

Guest Speaker:

Andrew R. Forsyth

Executive Director, Friends of the Lake District

"60 years On - and Unfinished Business"

PLEASE NOTE: Rainwear, walking boots, rucksack and packed lunches are usually essential on all YDS walks. Dogs are welcome on our walks but must be kept under control and on a lead.

WINTER WONDERLAND IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

Sundays: 11 January, 08 February and 08 March 2009

Visit Malham Cove, Gordale Scar, Janet's Foss and Malham Tarn, or how about a day in the glorious romantic woods and riverside at Bolton Abbey?

Dalesbus Ramblers in partnership with YDS are organising a **special family day out to Malhamdale** - with an optional, easy family walk through spectacular limestone scenery using the special 814 Dales Experience bus leaving Bradford Interchange 0930, Shipley Market Place 0940, Bingley Main Street Stop D 0945, Skipton High Street 1030. Special family fare £10 for 2 adults and up to 3 children. Return 1445 or 1645.



Front Cover picture: *Buttertubs* by Mike Kipling.
See Book Review, page 13 and www.mikekipling.com

Back Cover picture: *Heron* by Chris Wright.

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

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