

Yorkshire Dales Review



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Yorkshire Dales
Society



Yorkshire Dales Review

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Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editor: Fleur Speakman with the help of Bill Mitchell, Colin Speakman, Alan Watkinson, Anne Webster and Chris Wright

Encouraging the Green Shoots

It's difficult to turn on the television or open a newsletter without being faced with a deluge of grim news - failing banks, economic collapse, unemployment, global warming, even our elected MPs losing our trust with dubious expense claims. Not even the Yorkshire Dales can be immune from endless negative stories filling the media.

And yet the Yorkshire Dales remains as beautiful as it ever was: wild flowers have been spectacular in the woods and meadows of the higher Dales this Spring. For many people, losing their jobs or seeing their savings diminish as interest rates are slashed, the landscape offers emotional and spiritual alternative to a lifestyle dominated by consumerism and gadgetry. After all a walk in the hills can cost little more than a bus fare or a gallon of petrol if, like many YDS members, you are lucky to live close to the Dales, perhaps not even a bus fare if you have a Senior Concession pass. The eternal beauty of the hills is, for many of us, a spiritual experience that can more than compensate for the loss of luxuries such as expensive trips to far flung countries abroad.

But there are other aspects of a protected landscape that we need to appreciate and value. In our recent representation to the recently established Commission for Rural Communities, the Yorkshire Dales Society has suggested that as well as fully supporting the Commission's advocacy for rural jobs (specially upland farming), housing and services, landscape conservation is itself a valuable economic activity. Safeguarding the landscape, whether this is achieved by moorland managers, foresters, upland farmers in stewardship schemes, agencies such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority or Natural England, or conservation charities such as the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, is as much a wealth creating activity as food or timber production. As the 2007 Campaign for National Park's study of National Parks in our Region, **Prosperity and Protection**, proved, far from stricter planning controls restricting business, many rural enterprises actually flourish better in protected landscapes, with more business success and more jobs being created. Sustainable forms of tourism, that is tourism which respects the local environment, character and culture, also

contribute significantly to the maintenance of a healthy rural economy.

So perhaps a key way for national, regional and local Government to safeguard the rural economy is to help, support and encourage local conservation activity. The hugely successful and cost effective Sustainable Development Fund has encouraged many excellent, economically successful projects in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and both Nidderdale and Forest of Bowland AONBs. Other grant schemes for sustainable development have also helped create wealth and supported local businesses in the rural community - an example is how our own Dales & Bowland CIC has used Nidderdale SDF funding to support the Nidderdale Rambler bus in Upper Nidderdale, which directly helps two Nidderdale farming businesses (who own and drive the buses as a sideline) as well as bringing visitors and their cash into Upper Nidderdale communities in a more sustainable way.

There's another aspect too. Environmental charities also use volunteer help. Many people now facing early retirement or redundancy through financial cuts are a human resource too important to be squandered. Organisations such as the YDS, YDMT, Friends of Nidderdale or the wildlife charities can help give people suffering the personal tragedies of curtailed careers or job losses new hope and purpose. Voluntary effort can also make a huge contribution to both economic growth and personal well being, and can offer an important way out of the gloom and defeatism of the Recession.

The challenge for the Yorkshire Dales Society and its partners in the months and years ahead will be to seize new opportunities to work together in the Dales on a wide range of environmental projects - whether in sustainable transport, tourism or green energy - that can help create a more sustainable future in a world increasingly threatened by global warming, over population and perhaps future energy and food shortages. It's in everyone's interest to encourage new green shoots of recovery at local community level. The Yorkshire Dales Society can and must be a catalyst to help this bring this process about.

Colin Speakman

Yorkshire Dales Society Chairman's Report for the year 2009

At our Annual General Meeting in Dent, on May 9th, YDS Chairman, Dr Malcolm Petyt, reported on another very successful year for the Society, though there were still some after-effects of the retirement of founder-Secretaries Colin and Fleur Speakman and also of the long-serving Honorary Treasurer David Smith. Sadly shortly after last year's AGM, David died after a relatively short illness. The Society wishes to record again its gratitude for all that he did for the Yorkshire Dales Society and to express its condolences to Judith, his widow.

During the last year, the YDS elected Honorary Treasurer Judith Lancaster had found that the increased demands of her job at Bradford College, an active role as farmer's wife and the demands of her three young children, made it impossible for her to continue. The Society is very grateful to current Council member Rhona Thornton for agreeing to be Acting Treasurer over the last year and overseeing many crucial investment and financial matters. In his overview, the Chairman focused on the work of the three main YDS Committees, and its subsidiary Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company.

As a **campaigning organisation**, the Environment, Social and Economic Policy Committee under the Chairmanship of Hugh Thornton, had debated the major issue of "green energy", while supporting a number of water generated hydro-electricity initiatives in the Dales. A very popular visit was to Gayle Mill, where the old water leat and turbine system had been revived to provide the power for the timber-working operations now reintroduced, with Council member John Cumberland very involved in the Gayle Mill project. Though the Society could not always support a number of recent applications to build turbines using wind-power, it recognises there was a need for developments providing renewable energy, and supports some small-scale proposals. But it was felt

that applications to build tall wind turbines at Brightenber (near Gargrave), Chelker (above Draughton) and Armistead (on the ridge between the Lune and Kent Valleys), would result in a highly intrusive visual impact on the National Park and the wider Dales landscape, and could affect the contribution which tourism makes to the economy of the area.

After debates about these issues, a paper on the Society's position on renewable energy was drafted by former National Park Officer Richard Harvey, currently a Council member. Other key topics included affordable housing, upland farming and the future support schemes (where a most useful briefing by farmer and archaeologist Tom Lord was given), and the new Three Peaks Project of the National Park Authority (as outlined by Area Ranger Steve Hastie).*

The **Events, Communication and Membership Committee** continued under the Chairmanship of Chris Wright, reflecting the YDS role as an **educational charity**, serving both the membership and the wider public. One of the best-attended events in the history of YDS was held at Bolton Abbey Village Hall in October when one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, TV Weatherman and climatologist Paul Hudson, gave an excellent lecture on Climate Change. The Hellifield Peel visit proved so popular that three visits had to be organised. Most lectures were preceded by a walk in the locality, and other walks were organised especially during the summer months. All had an educational element, such as looking at the flora around Ingleborough Site of Special Scientific Interest or lead mining remains at Buckden Gavel Mines. All speakers and walks leaders were warmly thanked.

The editorial working group (under the leadership of Fleur Speakman) were responsible for four excellent editions of the *Yorkshire Dales Review*, which as

usual has included a range of interesting and thought-provoking articles and some fine illustrations. President Bill Mitchell, a long-time editor of the *Dalesman* and a prolific author, had himself contributed a number of pieces. The equally valuable *DalesWatch Digest*, gathering together press clippings from local and wider sources on matters affecting the Dales, was produced quarterly by Rhona Thornton. In addition the Society maintains two fine websites: the Society's own constantly updated site, is complemented by the *Dales Heritage* website containing details of over 80 organisations representing a wide range of aspects of Dales heritage; reflecting one of the YDS main objectives: to bring together organisations with a love of and interest in the Dales.

Membership matters have had a prominent profile at stands at several major shows in the Dales, including Kilnsey, Burnsall and Pateley Bridge. Recently a postal survey of members, compiled and analysed by Karen Cowley,** enabled us to learn more about YDS members and what they feel about the Society, in order to use this information for future planning and recruiting.

The third Committee concerning **Finance and Governance**, chaired by Malcolm Petyt does essential work to ensure that the Society continues to satisfy the requirements of the Charities Commission and also those of Companies House. As interest rates have changed constantly, and much of our investment is relatively short-term, we are greatly indebted to regular advice from Rhona Thornton about how to achieve the best returns.

Recently we have developed a function of **public benefit delivery**, achieved through our social enterprise company, the **Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company**. This provides YDS with a mechanism to work with other partner organisations to develop



Northern Dalesman and Ingleborough Pony buses meet at Ribbleshead Station – part of the Dales & Bowland CIC's integrated Dalesbus network.

projects to benefit both local communities and visitors. In view of Colin Speakman's experience and expertise, the main focus has continued to be on the provision and promotion of public transport to enable local people to get around the Dales or Forest of Bowland, and for those without cars who live outside these areas to access the countryside, as well as reducing the impact of cars on the environment by offering a greener travel option.

After a successful year in 2008, funding has now been achieved from a range of other organisations that will enable the company to run a network of Sunday and Bank Holiday Dalesbus services in 2009 that will be the one of the most fully integrated networks the Dales has ever enjoyed. Bus services in the Dales will connect with those from West Yorkshire and with trains on the Settle-Carlisle and Wensleydale Railways, with walks by Dalesbus Ramblers offered in connection with many services. The Yorkshire Dales Society can feel justly proud with an initiative fully in line with our charitable object of enabling and encouraging "the advancing of public knowledge and appreciation of the special qualities of the Dales".

The Society had supported a number of initiatives to limit the use of "green lanes" by recreational motor vehicles (trail bikes and "4 x 4"s) because of the damage caused both to the surface of the routes and disturbance to the natural world and other users. The

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is in the forefront of implementing the new legislation to regulate this activity. It is necessarily a lengthy process, involving several stages of investigation and consultation for each particular route, but last year Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) were placed on 13 of the most sensitive "green lanes", including such iconic routes as Mastiles Lane, Foxup Road and Lady Anne's Highway. These TROs have led to a dramatic reduction in the damage of these routes by motor vehicles, and damaged sections have been repaired or are spontaneously recovering. Moreover, there is no evidence of "displacement" onto other routes in the Dales; in fact, the overall use of the area by off-road motor vehicles is decreasing.

There has been a recent welcome announcement that the South Downs is to be designated as a new National Park next year. Some years ago our sister organisation the Friends of the Lake District engaged in a project to press for the extension of the Lake District National Park into areas bordering the Park that fully merited National Park status. They were encouraged to extend their study to other parts of Cumbria, leading them to examine parts of the county on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, including Mallerstang and Wild Boar Fell, the Northern Howgill Fells, and the fells to the east of the Lune Valley. The Society gave moral and some financial support to this part of the project. Even before it

was complete, the then Countryside Agency took it up and started to work on possible boundary extensions to the two Parks. Unfortunately, a legal question about the definition of "natural beauty" in an estate within the New Forest National Park put matters elsewhere in the UK on hold, including the other promised new Park, the South Downs, and also the possible boundary extensions to the Lake District and the Dales. There is now progress once again and a positive outcome in the near future seems likely.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Council of Management, its Committees and Chairmen who had given valuable guidance, and to all who helped to ensure that meetings were well arranged with refreshments available. Administrator Anne Webster had proved to be a tremendous asset and had ensured the smooth running of the Society at several levels. He extended the Society's gratitude to the volunteer helpers at the YDS office, especially Simon Houston and Bernard Peel who had both put in many hours of unpaid work. He noted that the Vice-Chairman, Colin Speakman continued to work as hard as ever for the Society, also as the Managing Director of the Dales & Bowland CIC and as Anne's line-manager.

Sadly two current Council Members who have served for many years were now retiring, John Cumberland, a former member of the National Park Authority who has also been the Society's link with Gayle Mill, and John Hone, our representative from Nidderdale. The Society is grateful to both of them for the major contributions they have made over the years to many aspects of the work of the YDS. Finally the Chairman thanked the Society's ordinary members for their continuing excellent support for what is a very active and influential environmental organisation and campaigning body within the Yorkshire Dales.

* See Steve Hastie's article page 10
** See Karen Cowley's report on the membership questionnaire on page 6

Rupert Hart-Davis: At Home in Swaledale

If I had written to Sir Rupert Hart-Davis for an interview, it would not have been granted. That's what he told me in 1984, at the end of our conversation at the Old Rectory, Marske, near Richmond. He was determined to enjoy his retirement from the London literary scene; he didn't want too many visitors to spoil it.

Most of his daytimes were being spent at the fireside in his study, book in one hand, tobacco pipe in the other. He had written 23 books in his 21 years of "retirement". His Dales library, with its 16,000 books, seemed to lag the room. His wife, who answered my knock on the door, made no promises as she went off to consult him. I had a warm feeling that as an emissary of *The Dalesman* my calling "on spec" might pay off. It did – on the promise I would not stay too long!

He had found Marske a quiet area, well suited to contemplation. "We are on a sort of slip-road. The main dale road from Richmond to Reeth goes along the bottom. And the coaches are also there. They don't come this way." A friend had remarked: "You know, if you are living in this beautiful place and doing the things you want to do, you are half-way to heaven."

Sir Rupert, for 35 years a much-respected London publisher, had first set eyes on the Dales in 1947 when his old friend and colleague – the writer David Gamett – lent him his cottage at Butt's Intake on Whitaside, from which there were splendid views of Swaledale. The cottage had been advertised in *The Lady* and was rented from an old lady for £5 a year. It was David's holiday home for years. "He thought that Swaledale was the most beautiful place he had ever seen; so did I, the moment I got there."

The cottage on Whitaside had two names – Butt's Intake and Duke Mary's, the latter after a former resident. Reaching the cottage from London demanded an eight-hour drive. "There

were no motorways then; you used to go through all those frightful towns – Leicester, Northampton, Doncaster. Now my daughter gets here in four hours and a bit."

Just after a war in which he saw military service, the holidays in Swaledale were a tonic for mind and body. The war had little effect on Dales life. "Most of the people had not been disturbed much.



Rupert Hart-Davis.
Photo: W. R. Mitchell Collection

No bombs had fallen anywhere near. The only complaints I heard in the late 1940s was of a shortage of cigarettes." The notion that strangers were not readily accepted in the Dales was a fallacy. "We were accepted at once. Rationing was still officially in force, but the local grocer always gave us a little extra butter and sugar. We were incomers and strangers, but he was extremely good to us."

For a time, the Hart-Davis's rented a cottage at Thwaite for holidays. They then discovered a ruined cottage high on Kisdon, overlooking Keld. "It had one room up, one room down, and a sort of hutch off it. And it had been empty for fifty years. There were about 18 inches of sheep-droppings upstairs and downstairs. I got Percy Calvert, the builder from Gunnerside, to come up." Percy went round, tapping the floor,

walls and roof. Then he said: "It's all sound. I'll fettle it up for you." Two poor old ladies from Keld came up and cleared all the mess away.

The hillside cottage had no electricity, no water and no drainage. "I managed to buy it after a tremendous tussle with Willie Whitehead, who lived at Pry House. The main snag was that two fields went with it, and I didn't want the two fields. Eventually, I bought it from him for £250, which then was quite a lot of money." It was used for holidays from 1955 until 1964, "when we moved to Marske." Looking from the cottage on a dark night, the only sign of electricity was a patch of light from the telephone kiosk at the Keld road end.

The Old Rectory at Marske was built in 1753; a taller bit at the end was added about 1850 when the parson took in pupils." The house and garden were in a shocking state. Restoring the 23 rooms was costly. Rupert had purchased a mini-estate. "We have a garden in front, a rose garden down the road, an acre by the beck at the bottom."

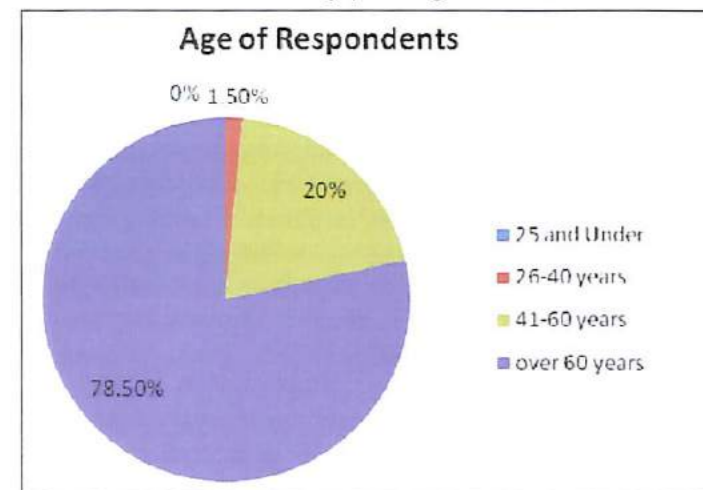
The field at the back was purchased from the Church authority. It took him six months to get them to sell it. He eventually signed an enormous document. One clause said that no chickens would be allowed to run in the field. He told the Church authority he had no intention of running chickens, but why not? Oh, was the reply, they might fly into the churchyard and dig up the graves.

In my relatively short stay, literature was mentioned once. At the time of my visit, a chunky paperback, *The Lytton Hart-Davis Letters*, Volumes 1 and 2 (1955-57) had just been published by John Murray, at £7.93. So, reading it, I caught up-to-date with the affairs of Sir Rupert Hart-Davis without wasting his time for reading, contemplation - and smoking.

Bill Mitchell

Members' Questionnaire Survey – What we Discovered

Thank you once again to all the members who completed and sent in the questionnaire surveys in January. 20% of the membership responded. All your comments, suggestions and additional personal notes have been seriously considered by Council of Management and the relevant committees. It is immensely pleasing



that the overwhelming majority of members believe they get very good value from their subscriptions to the Society. However the Society has not become successful by being complacent. We intend to learn from the many constructive comments sent in and some changes are already under way.

Membership

The results confirmed that we have an extremely loyal membership. Over half of you have been members for over 10 years.

Membership numbers are buoyant at present, but we know we must work hard to maintain this position in the current economic climate. Since many members admitted in the Survey that they could not remember how they first heard of YDS, it has been decided to alter the membership application form by adding that question. From now on we shall be able to target our recruitment publicity more effectively, and raise the Society's profile by a

presence at several country shows. The new members' information packs will be available there – your suggestions were invaluable. YDS merchandise also helps to raise awareness of the Society with the general public. In response to the preferences you expressed, we have commissioned new sets of greetings cards from YDS artist Frank Gordon,

which will be on sale soon. We regret that a few new members felt daunted when they first attending a Society event. One of our volunteers is now contacting all new members by telephone, offering to meet them when they join us at future YDS events.

A large proportion of our membership is in the upper age range, since retired people often have more time to give to worthwhile causes. Many respondents nevertheless recognised the need to attract younger people – a useful suggestion was the revamping of the website. Discussions had already started within the Society about its re-launching with 2010 as a realistic date. The new website, hopefully, will prove an attractive facility for all age groups.

12% of questionnaire respondents had been or are volunteering in some capacity. Another 8% would like to do so either now or in the future. Volunteers who can offer specialist or practical help to the Society will be made particularly welcome. Distance is no handicap – one

Yorkshire Dales Society



of our most stalwart volunteers lives in Kent!

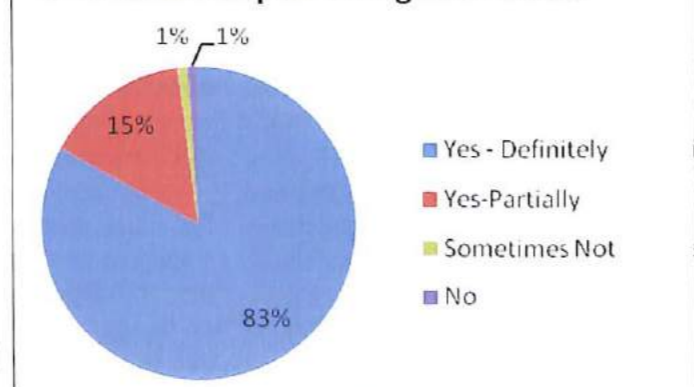
Events

Over half of the membership can never attend events. Members live all over the UK and overseas. Amongst those who do attend regularly, there was a high degree of satisfaction with the variety of topics covered and areas visited within the Dales. Similarly a few wanted longer walks and some shorter walks. The Events Committee decided to continue the format of a morning walk, followed by a related talk, and when possible, finish with tea in a village hall. A variety of geographical locations will be chosen. The unique walk and talk YDS formula is a means by which the Society can fulfill its aim to increase knowledge and understanding about the Dales. Since potential difficulties on a walking route may only become apparent shortly before the date of the event, it may be that this type of information can best be posted on the website.

Review

The highest praise from members was reserved for the Review. 83% said that no improvement was necessary. It was recognized that articles are always well-written and give a perceptive and

Is Membership of YDS good value?



balanced analysis of current issues. The main reasons for joining the YDS were

"love of the Dales" and to support YDS campaigns", the content of the Review naturally reflecting this. New developments in the National Park are brought to members' attention via the Review. There was particular interest in learning about current issues facing people on a daily basis in the Dales (the Dales Digest could probably answer some questions, see Rhona

Thornton's article on the Digest 11) Queries arose about retaining the A4 format and postal costs of the Review - postal charges are affected by the thickness of the package, so an A5 format could actually increase costs. There is also greater picture space under the present format. Re-cycled copies of the Review find their way to

many different outlets, giving us potential new members.

Karen Cowley

Editor: Karen Cowley is to be warmly congratulated on a detailed, very professional questionnaire which analyses some key issues facing the YDS.

What is the furthest a recycled Review has travelled?
One member used to pass on his used copies to the Portsmouth Society of Yorkshiremen

Ken Willson Award 2009: Winner – Steve Marsden

Steve, aged 26, from Long Preston, Skipton has his own business - Marsden Agricultural and Environmental Services Ltd. He was nominated by Don Gamble, Project Officer / Hay Time Project Manager at the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust; Tom Lord, Lower Winskill Visitor Centre, Langcliffe and Honorary Member of the YDS; and Adrian Shepherd of the Yorkshire Dale National Park Authority, Grassington.

Steve was nominated for his contributions to the protection and enhancement of the Dales' natural and built environment, and the local economy through his services to upland farming and forestry.

In 2006 Steve successfully tendered for a contract to operate the seed harvesting and spreading machinery owned by YDMT for use in meadow restoration schemes in the YDNP as part of the Hay Time Project. He (and his employees) were found to be extremely hard working, enthusiastic and conscientious.

His willingness to structure his summer schedule around the Hay Time's meadow restoration programme – which is subject to many factors outside direct control, such as the weather – is a critical factor in enabling the project to successfully carry out so many individual schemes in such a tight 'window of opportunity'.

Steve has a genuine understanding of the need to protect the Dales' landscape. As well as meadow restoration, he is involved in a wide range of conservation work including: heather regeneration, grip blocking, wetland



Ken Willson Award winner receiving cheque at YDS AGM in May from YDS Vice President Ann Cryer MP. Photo: Chris Wright

creation/restoration, tree planting, and footpath maintenance. He also does drystone walling to a very high standard – as part of the Pennine Bridleway he built a 225m stretch which won him the prestigious CLA Yorkshire Drystone Walling Competition in 2008. He also provides a range of agricultural services to the farming community.

Steve employs several young men, providing much needed employment during the current economic downturn and slowing down the loss of rural skills from the countryside. His employees are all trained to understand the need to carry out their work in a sympathetic and careful manner so as to minimise any negative impact on sensitive sites and the wider environment.

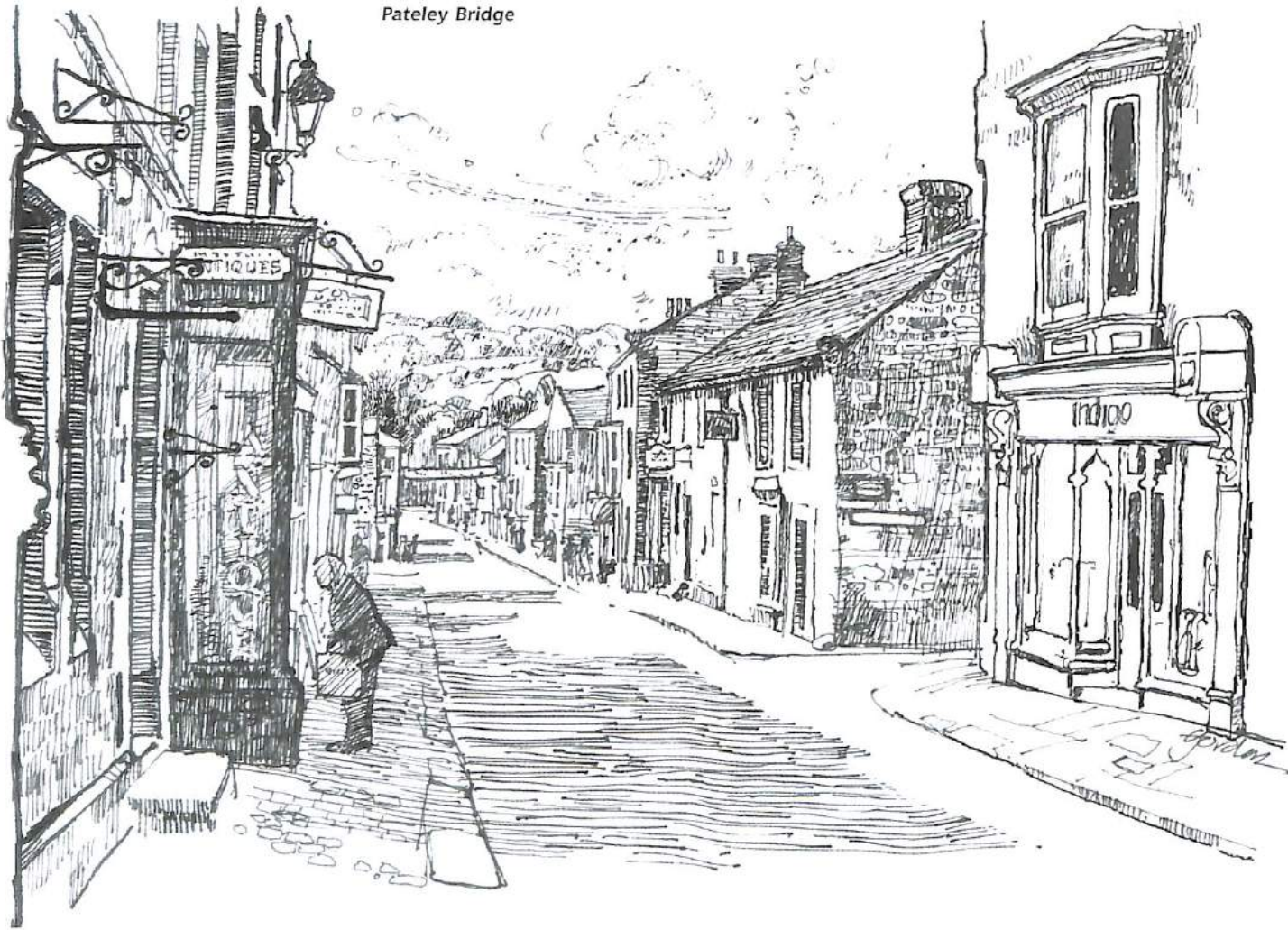
AW

53% Members have belonged to YDS for over 10 years and 22% between 6 and 10 years.

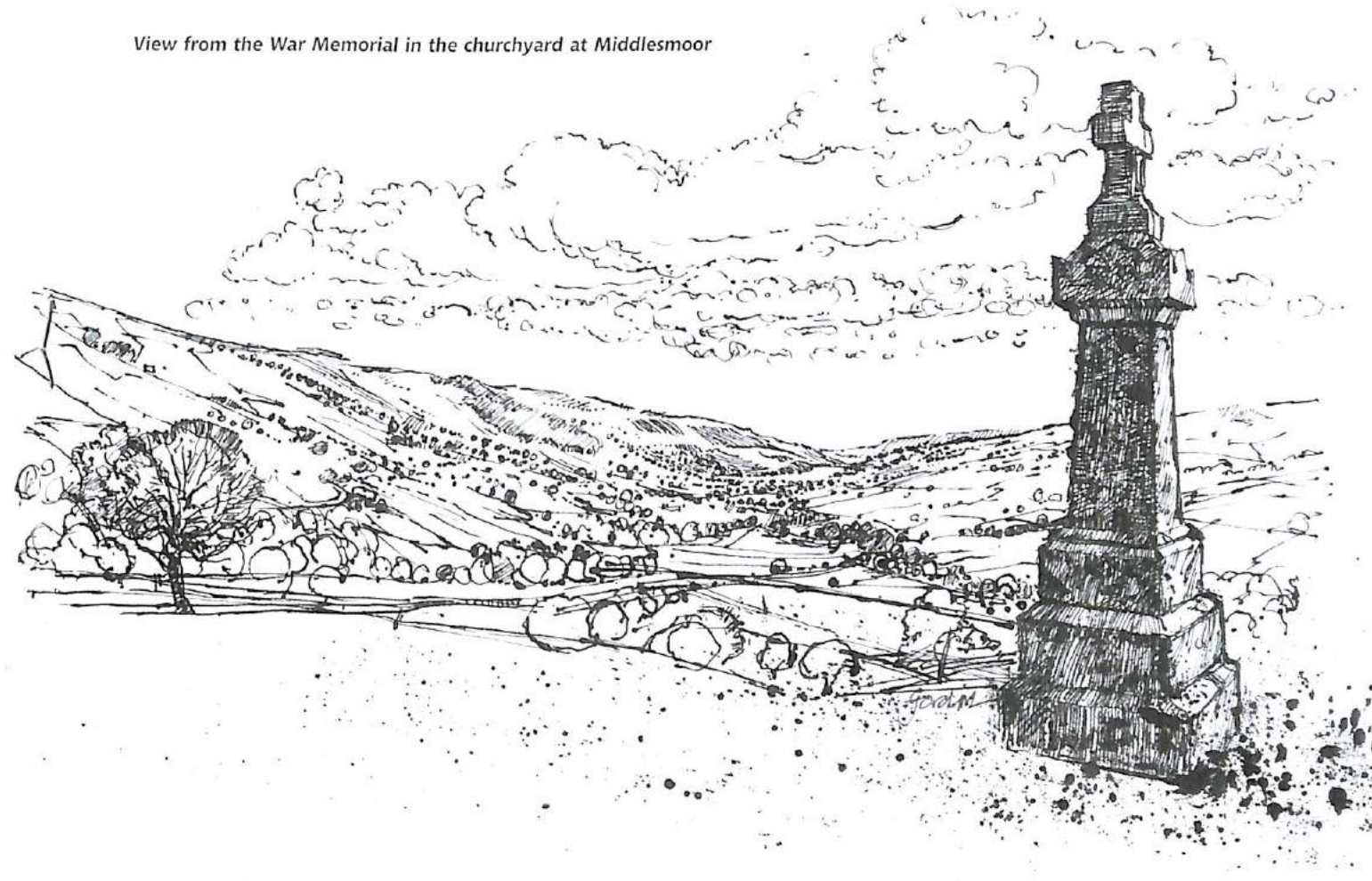
Nidderdale Drawings

Once again **Frank Gordon** introduces us to one of Yorkshire's beautiful Dales with which you may or may not already be familiar.

Pateley Bridge



View from the War Memorial in the churchyard at Middlesmoor



Fountains Abbey



Lofthouse





THE THREE PEAKS PROJECT

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Project Manager and Area Ranger, Steve Hastie, outlines the launch of an important new initiative for the Three Peaks area

A new project was launched in April of this year to give more protection to the beautiful Three Peaks area of the

Walkers on the footpath near to Wherside summit.



Yorkshire Dales National Park. Ingleborough, Pen-y-gent and Wherside have attracted walkers for decades and more recently they have become a gruelling challenge for people wanting to cover all three within 12 hours. But all the attention has taken its toll on the area.

About 250,000 people annually use the routes at all times of year. Some of them take part in large-scale sponsored or organised events that raise significant sums of money for local and national charities. The result is that the area needs maintenance more frequently than many others in the National Park – and this can be very costly.

In 1986 the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology carried out a study of the condition of the path network in the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and concluded that the region had the sad distinction of possessing the most severely eroded network in the UK. The following year the first Three Peaks Project was established with a staff of 13. Its remit included trialling new path engineering and re-vegetating techniques to provide sustainable routes and to allow

damaged surrounding land to recover. The mid-90s and early 2000s saw a number of externally-funded projects completed, each with one or two extra staff appointed.

However, since 2004, the management and maintenance of the Three Peaks network has reverted to the Rangers – a

team of just two officers covering the whole of the wider Ribblesdale area. Many of the charities that regularly use the Three Peaks for sponsored events have volunteered to donate money towards the upkeep of the area – and the YDNPA is hoping more will follow, helping with the maintenance and conservation of the network of paths crossing such a fragile area of land.

I believe that the majority of the routes and their use would be sustainable with a regular, funded maintenance programme in place. The difficulty is that, with current staffing levels, we are gradually falling behind with maintenance, resulting in the reduced lifespan of previous projects and a corresponding increase in the frequency of repairs. The new initiative aims to enlist the help of the people who visit the Three Peaks, as well as those who live or work in the area. In addition, it will be developing merchandise to celebrate walking one, two or all the peaks and building business and community interest in the Three Peaks. We would like to create a sustainable source of both practical and financial support that will help protect and enhance the area and the rights of way network into the future. This means giving users of the network the opportunity to support the area and the work of the Authority.

The National Park Authority has already

Caring for Yorkshire's Three Peaks – How Charity Events can help

enlisted the support of major sponsored-event organisers like the NSPCC and Heart Research UK – who are using the gruelling Three Peaks area for their fund-raising activity this year. Denise Armstrong, Lifestyle Manager Heart Research UK, which held its walk on June 20th, said earlier: "This is our main fund-raising event of the year and we are more than happy to support the National Park Authority in its important work. Walking regularly is great exercise to keep your heart healthy. It helps tone your muscles, improve your circulation and make you feel happier and more relaxed. Taking part in an established event like this is a fantastic way to raise money for heart research and to find the motivation to get into an exercise routine and stick to it.

The UK's leading children's charity, the NSPCC, has chosen the Ingleborough area for its fifth, 25-mile circular North Can You HACK it? (Hike Against Cruelty to Children). 2009 Challenge Walk on September 5th. Since 2005, over 1,200 walkers have donned their walking boots to raise over £225,000 for the NSPCC to help stop cruelty to children. For details please log on to www.nspcc.org.uk/hack. Spokesman Helen Verity said, "We are really pleased to be able to help the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority by donating £1 of the HACK registration fee for each walker to assist in its work to maintain the paths in this stunning part of the country. We hope others will lend their support as well."

More information from Steve 01729 825242, mobile 07818 048767 or email at threepeaksproject@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Ed. While recognising that charitable events like sponsored walks can contribute much needed income to very reputable charitable causes, some people feel that this is outweighed by potential destruction to vulnerable and fragile areas. Do let us know your views.

The Dales Digest – the other YDS publication

All members will know of the *Yorkshire Dales Review*, the quarterly magazine of the society, but how many are aware of the *Dales Digest*?

The *Dales Digest*, which is also produced quarterly, is a collection of cuttings about matters and issues which affect the dales and the neighbouring areas, taken mainly from local newspapers. It consists of between 12 and 16 typed pages, the exact number depending on the number of relevant cuttings for that issue. The cuttings are shown under one of nine headings: Planning and Property, Transport and Roads, Housing, Leisure and the Arts, Footpaths and Access, The Social

Fabric, Local Government, The Local Economy, and Conservation, Preservation and Wildlife.

The content is always very wide – ranging from planning applications to swimming, birdwatching, the health service, Skipton bus station etc. The *Dales Digest* goes some way to meet the requests for "more about daily life/current issues" expressed by some members in our January Survey.

The editor depends on a number of members who supply the newspaper cuttings from which the selection for each edition is made. Currently the north-west of our area is under-

represented as we do not have anyone to supply cuttings from the *Westmorland Gazette*. If any member would like to take on this role, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The *Digest* is distributed to members of the Society's Council, National Park Authority members and other interested parties, and to anyone else who would like to receive it. It is free if sent by email; the annual subscription for paper copies sent by post is £6.

Please contact Anne Webster at the office if you would like to receive the *Digest*.

Rhona Thornton

Life Membership

There is a new way of helping to support the Yorkshire Dales and strengthening the voice of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

The Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management approved the decision to offer Life Membership, which was also unanimously accepted at the Yorkshire Dales Society AGM on May 9th as follows:

	Single	Joint
Up to and including 59 years	£300.00	£500.00
60 years and over	£200.00	£300.00

As well as personal Life Membership applications, it has also been suggested that the "gift" of Life Membership could be offered to a relative or friend as a lasting and worthwhile present and way of securing the long-term future of the Society.

Did you know that there are now YDS members as far away as South Australia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Zhejian, China?

YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT 2009/10

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COMPANY SECRETARY: ALAN PEASE
HON TREASURER: RHONA THORNTON

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Harrogate Rambling Club help the YDS to deliver our Charitable Purposes

Harrogate Rambling Club has made a generous donation of £1,000 to the Yorkshire Dales Society to support our project work.

In presenting the cheque to the Society, HRC President Andrew Batcup, said that he wanted to share one thought, as an outsider, about the YDS. Having looked on our website, he was struck



by the Society's progressive, outward-looking approach. Not a "resist all change", "repel all boarders" Society at all. He also said he liked the fact that the YDS acted as a bridge between

those without and those within the National Park and that the Yorkshire Dales is a cultural and not purely a natural landscape. He mentioned that the "Sharing the Dales" project and the annual "Ken Willson Award" were very impressive.

Buck White, the HRC Treasurer, then presented the cheque to Dr Malcolm Petyt, the YDS Chairman, and finished by saying that the Harrogate Rambling Club shares the YDS's love of this beautiful area and are delighted to support the Society's well directed good work with the donation of £1,000.

The YDS's Council of Management, having considered options carefully, has decided to use the donation for a specific project which closely reflects the spirit of the gift. This is to use the money, in partnership with the Mosaic Partnership and YDNPA's outreach officer, to help finance days out for the

less affluent, including single parent families from Bradford and Airedale who will come to the Dales in July and August using the special 899 Wednesday Dales Experience buses from Bradford and Keighley, funded through the Dales & Bowland CIC. The money will be used in a special fund to help the most needy with actual bus fares and even to help provide refreshments on events and guided walks in the National Park, for children who rarely get a day out in the countryside – truly Sharing the Dales with those who otherwise would not have a chance to enjoy this special landscape.

YDS Council Member Nurjahan Ali Arobi will be liaising with local community groups in the area to ensure that the Harrogate Rambling Club's most generous gift is targeted at people for whom such help really will make a difference.

YDS corporate member West Winds launches 'ultimate Dales teatime experience'

West Winds Tea-rooms and Bed and Breakfast accommodation at Buckden near Skipton in the Yorkshire Dales (and a YDS Corporate Member), has launched a special Luxury Afternoon Tea for those who enjoy a taste of Yorkshire tradition, using mainly local Yorkshire produce and recipes.

The beautifully presented luxury afternoon tea offers a variety of succulent sandwiches using organic brown bread specially made for West Winds by a local farm baker, with pieces of four traditional Yorkshire cakes: Yorkshire curd tart, Yorkshire ginger parkin, Dales cut-and-come again cake and sticky brandy fruitcake, the last two served with a wedge of Wensleydale cheese. Buttered scones with dishes of whipped cream and home-made jams complete your tea. A special "extra" is a presentation box of Whitaker's chocolates, made in Skipton.

West Winds Yorkshire Tea-rooms are run by Lynn Thornborrow and Stephen Hounsham. Stephen explained: "We wanted to come up with the ultimate teatime experience to reflect the very best of Yorkshire, something that people would want to savour and linger over."

Originally set up by Lynn who is from a local farming family in 1982, the tea-rooms are open from late March to November 1st for a full summer season, and then on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, from 12.30 - 6pm.

West Winds offer traditional Yorkshire food in an authentic old fashioned atmosphere, but in a way that recognises today's priorities, including helping to keep the environment healthy. As well as using local, organic, in-season and Fairtrade produce wherever feasible, Lynn and Stephen have focused on running West Winds as sustainably as possible.

Further information is available at www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk or on 01756 760883. West Winds is easily reached by public transport by the nearest railway station at Skipton from Leeds, and there are regular weekday and Sunday Dalesbus services from Skipton (72) and Ilkley (74, 800, 874) to Buckden (www.dalesbus.org). Buses stop just 200 metres from the tearooms.

The Embarrassment Continues ...

Our leading article in the Spring YDS Review on the subject of public toilet closures in Craven produced a vigorous and heartfelt response from members. We reproduce some of the comments made to us.

Mrs Rotherham from Wetherby writes that simple economics dictate keeping toilets open; copies of her letter were later sent to Craven District Council and the Craven Herald:

When my Yorkshire Dales Review arrived, I was appalled to read your Editorial concerning Craven Council's decision to close some public conveniences in the Ingleton/ Bentham/ Skipton area.

Do they not realise that although they may save £70,000 the region will lose far more than that in tourist revenue? Having brought up my children, and later cared for an elderly increasingly infirm relative, I can say quite categorically that any village known – or even rumoured – to lack the necessary conveniences would be immediately struck off my list of places to visit.

The provision of conveniences is not just an indicator of the quality of tourism enterprises, but surely of the level of civilisation itself.

Recently there was a report on Look North TV that the Yorkshire Tourist Board is to spend thirty million pounds to promote tourist spending in Yorkshire, perhaps someone could introduce the YTB to Craven Council?

Ray Potter from Grassington also sent this letter to various councillor, his MP and the Craven Herald:

Instead of dodging this rather unsavoury issue, could someone, be it Councillors, our MP etc, please explain without reverting to "gobble-de-gook" just where exactly the thousands of tourists, walkers and cyclists will be expected to go (other than behind a bush or over someone's wall) to answer the call of nature when all the Dales' toilets are finally closed.

Are they expecting local café owners, publicans and the like to take on the Council's responsibilities? These people have enough work looking after their

The loos at Ashfield, Settle and, below, the notice of closure.



own customers' requirements. Burnshall and Hebden which are only two of the popular stopping off points will be particularly affected.

Janet Ulliott from Scarborough gives some examples from her own area when public toilets were closed and the village fought back:

Several years ago Scarborough Council in their "wisdom" decided to close the majority of public toilets in the district. (Scarborough, Whitby, Filey). Amid a



huge outcry they went ahead saying that the money saved would be used to upgrade the few remaining. They charge 40p to "go". Needless to say most don't use them. They are

mostly used by the elderly, disabled and children. I think this could be called hitting the most vulnerable. The receipts at the toilets are down and they now say they have no money to update the remainder. Surprise, surprise! The local paper is full of disgruntled holiday makers who have come to the seaside for many generations who say they are not coming any more because of the toilet situation. Even the coach park toilets were closed down, meaning at least a ten minute walk for a fit person, longer for a disabled, to the nearest toilets. After a long journey on a coach, this is the last thing one wants.

The businesses do not want their facilities used by everyone, so big notices appeared on windows "Washroom only for the use of customers". Scalby Village Trust protested at their conveniences being closed. They held potty marches, which were very well supported by older people on their mobility scooters and younger people waving potties, bed pans and placards. They were even featured on TV a few times during their fight. Eventually the local residents have won their battle and have now set up a charitable fund to keep the toilets open with voluntary contributions made into a collecting box. They already have enough for a couple of years for repairs etc. Coaches that stopped coming into the village are returning so the Church, shops and café are gaining business once again. For the residents it is a very short-sighted step to close one facility we all need. My husband read your magazine before me and just announced "We won't be able to go to the Dales any more, they're closing the toilets." Fortunately we have a van and can carry a porta potty in the back if needs must, but not very hygienic. He has irritable bowel syndrome - no one thinks about this group of people.

Eric Taylor of Harrogate mentions the people who have particular medical conditions:

I read with dismay the proposals by Craven Council to close various public toilets. In addition to the excellent points made in last issue's editorial, I

would like to add that of those unfortunate people who have had bowel surgery. Unless one has had the removal of a bowel or part thereof one cannot imagine the discomfort, embarrassment and urgency that can occur when the need for a public toilet becomes essential. Prostate or weak bladder sufferers can relatively easily relieve their discomfort, but more discrete and comfortable facilities are required for those with no or small bowels.

In the past, the length of my walks have only been restricted by my fitness, but now after bowel surgery, time becomes of the essence. My walks are planned around villages or towns where I know public toilets are available and the closure of Hellifield public toilet two years ago has stopped me walking in that area. Its closure has had an effect on walks organized by two walking clubs of which I am a member as leaders endeavour to start walks where there are car parks with attendant facilities and many ladies will not join walks where such facilities are not available at start and finish.

The proposal made by Craven Council beggars belief in the present climate of promoting tourism, especially when it is linked to the acknowledged benefits of walking. Unfortunately as we live longer, the problems linked with advancing age increase and the consequent need for facilities designed for comfort. Let us hope Craven Council thinks again.

Vanessa Stone from Settle is another concerned reader:

I would like to endorse the stance taken

in the Spring editorial in regard to the closure of public toilets in Craven. Living in the Settle area, I am particularly concerned about the closure of toilets in the Ashfield car park right in the middle of Settle. The town needs visitors more than ever before and we need to ensure basic facilities are available for them and for residents. I am well aware of the financial difficulties Craven District Council is in, but closing toilets is not the way to get out of them. We need visitors to come, to feel welcome and provided for, hopefully spending money to help businesses to thrive and keep being able to pay their council taxes.

Mrs Wilson of Harrogate emphasises the value of walkers to the economy in the Dales:

I do feel strongly about councils closing public toilets and your article highlighted the main points. Can we do anything to change their minds?

I lead walks for the Ramblers Association and bring about 24 people into the Dales (our group walks every week winter and summer). Have they already forgotten how much we were missed during the foot and mouth epidemic? We usually call at a café or local hostelry at the end of the walk, but really appreciate clean local toilets at the start of our journey. We cannot go into a pub or café at 9am as they are not open, nor would a small local shop have facilities for a large group. We would willingly pay for the facility - 10p is cheaper than a cup of coffee.

All the villages you mentioned are ones we use regularly. Craven Council have

already closed Hebden toilets (a well used facility); we understand that this was because they did not have room for a disabled toilet. It seems ridiculous to me that all the able-bodied walkers should be made to urinate in a field because there is a chance that a disabled visitor might complain that there were no disabled toilet facilities. In Burnsall they have recently converted several toilets into a single disabled one, this in a very busy car park visited by lots of families. Once again a government initiative to help disabled people is being used by councils as an excuse not to fulfil their obligations to the general public, which then causes resentment of the group it should be helping. The availability and cleanliness of our public toilets has always been highly valued by residents and tourists. As the government is supposed to be encouraging us to take more exercise, this once again seems as if the actions of those in authority do not reflect their words.

Ed. YDS members should take heart from the fact that in most other Districts in the Yorkshire Dales, for example Richmondshire, South Lakeland and Harrogate, well maintained public toilets are widely available as they are at National Park Authority car parks. On a recent walk in Swaledale, we were pleasantly surprised by good, clean toilet accommodation in the small village of Gunnerside. It's only Craven Council that seems to be failing in this most important public responsibility. At time of going to press, some sites, notably Burnsall, Gargave and Ingleton, remain open.

Malham women painters' new Exhibition

Three generations of women artists based in Malham, Yorkshire Dales will be celebrated in a forthcoming exhibition entitled 'A Malham Family of Painters: Constance Pearson, Philippa and Katherine Holmes.' The exhibition runs from 30 June until 4 September 2009 at the Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery, Leeds University. The Gallery is open Tues-Fri, 10-5pm, special openings Saturday, admission is free.

The exhibition has a strong regional theme, tracing the careers of the three women artists, who have all lived in the same family cottage in Malham. Constance Pearson is particularly beloved in the region for her illustrations in Arthur Rastrick's 1947 book *Malham and Malham Moor*. Philippa Holmes is lesser known, as her painting treated mainly domestic scenes of her life in post-war Malham.

The exhibition will focus on granddaughter Katharine Holmes, a nationally-recognised contemporary landscape painter. Katharine continues to paint her grandmother's beloved Yorkshire Dales landscapes, but with an abstract sensibility informed by current artistic practice. Her works have featured in several notable exhibitions in the Yorkshire region. The artwork by this unique family of painters tells a compelling story about rural life in Yorkshire from the 1930s to the present, especially that of women's experiences and its particular artistic situation during this time. Exhibitions Officer Layla Bloom says, 'Katharine Holmes is already a beloved figure in Yorkshire for her own special take on the Yorkshire Dales - mixing its very earth, grass and debris into her paintings.'

Full details: www.leeds.ac.uk/gallery/events.htm

Summer Events 2009



Join fellow Yorkshire Dales Society members on a full or half day in the Yorkshire Dales this Summer - longer, lighter days, wild flowers and warmer weather. All members, friends and family are warmly welcome.

Wednesday, 08 July 2009

An evening walk around Otley town

View the wonderful architectural features of this historic market town.

Meet at the Jubilee Clock, Market Square

7.00pm. X84 bus from Leeds or Skipton.

Cost: £2 per person

Sunday, 26 July 2009

The Ribblesdale Viaduct Walk

A further and perhaps last chance to walk over this famous viaduct.

To book on line: [www/settle-carlisle.co.uk](http://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk) or send a sae to YDS office for booking form.

Choice of times from 9.30am to 2.30pm

£15 pp

Saturday, 01 August 2009

YORKSHIRE DAY NATIONAL PARK WALK

25 July - 02 August is National Park Week and 01 August is Yorkshire Day

Join Yorkshire Dales Society members on a full or half day walk in Ribblesdale to look at contrasting aspects of the Yorkshire Dales as a National Park - geology, biodiversity, farming, industrial history, and sustainable tourism in a magnificent landscape setting.

Meet YDS Vice Chairman Colin Speakman in Settle Market Place at 10.30am (0849 train from Leeds via Skipton) for the full day walk via the Hoffman Kiln, (packed lunch or pub).

Or join the walk at Stainforth Car Park at 1330 (1310 B1 bus from Settle) for steep ascent along Goat Scar Lane via Catrigger Foss to Lower Winskill Farm to meet Dales farmer, archaeologist and YDS Council Member Tom Lord at Lower Winskill Farm.

Limited parking at Winskill for those who are less physically able. Walk will end around 1730 in Stainforth or Settle.

Saturday, 08 August 2009

Walk a Section of Lady Anne Clifford's Way

From Kirkby Stephen via Nateby

6 miles Moderate. Packed lunch.

Meet 10.45 Kirkby Station

Walk Leader - Sheila Gordon

Train: Outbound - Skipton 09.26,

Settle 09.50, Kirkby Stephen 10.34

Inbound - Kirkby Stephen 15.22, Settle 16.04,

Skipton 16.28

Saturday, 12 September

**Walk and/or Dinner Appletreewick
The Craven Arms and Cruck Barn**

Enjoy a pleasant day or afternoon walk -
or just come to dine.

**Dinner in the delightful Cruck Barn
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm Dress informal**

Contact Anne at the YDS office for menu
and further details.

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Saturday, 03 October 2009

The first of our six monthly

Winter Walk and Lecture Programme

Grassington - Ever Popular

Circular Walk around Grass Wood

Meet in Market Square, Grassington at 10.30am

Walk Leader - Colin Speakman. Bus 74 from Ilkley, 72 from Skipton

Lecture: "The Reintroduction of Dormice in the Dales"

2.15pm prompt in The Octagon Room, Town Hall, Grassington. Lecturer - Paul Sheehan YDNPA

DIARY DATE

The Second of our six monthly

Winter Walk and Lecture Programme

Saturday, 07 November 2009 - Menston

Walk the Moors above Menston

Walk Leader - Chris Hartley

Lecture: "Querns in the Yorkshire Dales"

Lecturer - John Cruse

Further information in next Review

SAY HELLO AT THE SHOWS

Come and meet us at the Country Shows this summer. The YDS will have a stand at:

● The Ribblesdale Viaduct Walk - Sunday, 26 July

● Kilnsey Country Show - Tuesday, 01 September

● Malham Country Show - Saturday, 29 August

● Nidderdale Country Show - Monday, 21 September

'Make a Date'



Front Cover: Moughton, late summer. Painting by Frank Gordon. Some of you may recognise this picture from the brochure you were sent about exhibitions by North Yorkshire Open Studios; Frank's picture had already been chosen some six months previously for the current summer Review.

Back Cover: Wild flowers, photo by A J Mason.

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*Views expressed in the YDS Review are not necessarily those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.
Any contributions should be sent to the Editors at the Society's address opposite.*

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www.yds.org.uk

See also –

www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk

www.dalesandbowland.com

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

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