

Yorkshire *Dales* Review



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Yorkshire Dales Society





Celebrating 60 Years of Countryside Protection

It's almost exactly sixty years since the passing of perhaps the most important piece of environmental legislation in UK history. To give its full title, the **1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act** established far reaching changes to the way we both look after and are able to access the countryside of England and Wales.

Not only did this Act lead to the creation of Britain's still growing family of National Parks, but the establishment of their close, and increasingly important cousins, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This far-reaching, far-seeing Act also established perhaps the world's best protected network of public footpaths and bridleways, requiring every county in England and Wales to prepare and update a detailed record - the Definitive Map of Rights of Way. There were also powers to create long distance footpaths to access this newly protected countryside - now known as National Trails - and even establish accommodation and ferries to serve them. Nature Conservation was also given a huge boost through the establishment of National Nature Reserves. Equally important were the key government agencies to deliver the Act - what started life as the National Parks Commission and Nature Conservancy Council, now Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales.

The creation of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Nidderdale and Forest of Bowland AONBs, the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails, all owe their existence to the 1949 Act. Despite fierce resistance from self-seeking interest groups, including the County Councils who saw their bureaucratic empires threatened by the establishment of National Parks within their territories, Governments of both major political parties have, over three generations, kept faith with the spirit of the great 1949 Act. Much legislation that has passed over the intervening years has been to strengthen and clarify the Act which remains as relevant and as important to the people of Britain as it was in the 1940s.

It is sobering to reflect that when this Act was passed, Britain was suffering economically in ways which make the present so-called "credit crunch" laughable. Emerging from an exhausting war against international fascism which left the nation virtually bankrupt, there were serious shortages of housing food and basic necessities of life beyond the comprehension of the present consumerist generation. Yet it

was in the midst of that horrifying war that John Dower, living in Kirkby Malham in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales,

wrote his visionary report which led, via the Hobhouse Committee, to the passing of the 1949 Act. This set out the concept of the truly accessible, magnificently protected countryside we all enjoy today. The 1949 Act also encapsulates educational principles deep within its core purposes - to allow people mainly from urban Britain to understand and appreciate a natural and cultural heritage which belongs to them every bit as much as it does to privileged rural elites.

It is all too easy for a leisure-rich generation, wealthy and mobile beyond the wildest dreams of those early legislations, to criticise the minor bureaucratic irritations and failures of National Park Authorities, AONB JACs*, Natural England and other agencies in not delivering everything we would like to see, even with budgets which by comparison with the 1950s and 1960s are huge. But all but the most bigoted can only marvel and be grateful for those determined campaigners, voluntary organisations like the Council (now Campaign) for National Parks, Ramblers Association, YHA, CPRE, Naturalists Trusts and other bodies and individuals who not only helped shape that legislation, but worked to create the institutions that have delivered so much of that magnificent vision.

So let's celebrate those magnificent 60 years. But let's also realise that during the months ahead, cutbacks in public spending will be proposed by the very same politicians who did so little, so late, when irresponsible bankers and financial institutions were ruining the public finances. Conservation agencies and even National Park Authorities will be easy targets for mean-minded cost cutters. Sustainability and conservation are about long term, not short term, public benefit. Investment in the future of our environment, in particular our landscape and natural heritage, must not be sacrificed for short term balancing of the books.

Colin Speakman

* Joint Advisory Committees



The Quashing of Traffic Regulation Orders in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

The Yorkshire Dales National Park had suffered badly, in terms of both tranquillity and physical damage in places, from the use of its "Green Lanes" by four-wheeled drive (4X4) vehicles and motorbikes, and the National Park Authority were in the forefront of those who pressed for legislation to enable them to tackle the problem. They were the first National Park to use the new powers granted under 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act.

After the Act and the associated Regulations were published, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority looked into all those routes with proven or possible vehicular rights. It found there were 102 of these, of which 55 actually appeared to be used by motor vehicles. A desktop study was made of the evidence to hand about their sensitivity in terms of ecology, heritage, surface and tranquillity. If a route scored "red" on any of these, then it was judged to be "highly sensitive" and scheduled for fuller study. There were 28 such routes for which a detailed report was compiled.

Each report (produced at a rate of five every three months) contained the following:

- 1 Background information on status, possible origins, and initial consultations with interested parties
- 2 Detailed assessments on ecology, archaeology, landscape and visual aspects, condition & durability, levels of use, how it fits into the Right of Way (RoW) network, and the effects of current vehicular use on others.
- 3 What the route offers in a National Park context and in relation to National Park purposes
- 4 Impact of vehicular use on the route
- 5 Responses from consultees on possible management options

Appendices:

Landscape character areas involved
Condition survey; description &

photos (taken every 200m)
Maps of associated RoWs; landscape areas & designations;
zones of visual influence

Each report was considered at length by a Green Lanes Advisory Group (GLAG). This was chaired by a National Park Authority (NPA) member and included representatives from the Local Access Forum, motor vehicle users and other recreational interests, landowners and Highway Authorities. The Group sought to achieve consensus (and did so in a number of cases) when giving advice to the NPA about future management of

Cam High Road before regulation.



the route. This advice could be: do nothing/ repair/ maintain/ urge voluntary restraint/ impose a full or partial Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

The Access Committee of the NPA considered this advice along with that from the Local Access Forum and a range of other consultees. In most cases they endorsed the advice of the GLAG, but in few cases went further and decided to propose a full-time rather than a partial TRO. (In any case where a TRO is proposed, there has to be two stages of consultation with interested parties: first on the general principle of an order; then on the specific order proposed.)

The outcome of this process was that from the 102 original routes, narrowed

first to the 55 used by Motor Powered Vehicles (MPV), then further narrowed down to 28 "highly sensitive" routes, the NPA imposed 13 TROs on some of the most sensitive routes in the Park.

They were challenged in the High Court by LARA (Land Access & Recreation Association - the MPV lobby organisation) on the first batch of 8 TROs, initially on 8 different grounds. It took almost a year for the case to come to court.

Before the court hearing LARA modified their position and did not press the cases of four TROs where the NPA action had accorded with the

advice of the GLAG. The result of the action was that the judge quashed the TROs on the remaining four routes.

He did so on just two of the eight alleged grounds. The most important of these was that the NPA had failed to pay proper regard to the requirements of the Road Traffic Act s.122. This includes words which impose a duty

"to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians)..." However, this is to be "so far as is practicable having regard to" certain matters... which include "the effect on the amenities of any locality affected... so as to preserve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run..."

Officers of the NPA had been aware of

this Road Traffic Act (RTA) duty, and this is exactly what they had been trying to do: to weigh up all the factors involved before recommending a decision on the appropriate

That is the lesson that has been learned.

The resulting situation is that four TROs have been quashed, but nine remain in

before the deadline imposed by NERC Act, but legal rulings now mean that they cannot qualify through such a claim.)

So: the NPA has taken down TRO signs on the four routes subject to the quashing. But on three of them it has put up a notice warning that there is no through route for vehicles and anyone using it as such may be committing an offence and will be liable to prosecution under the RTA.

The NPA will re-examine the legal position for all four routes as soon as possible. It will repeat the sensitivity assessment process and if appropriate, it may have to go through the TRO procedures again. But for these and for any future routes considered, it will make sure that it acts explicitly in the light of this legal judgement.

This was a defeat for the YDNPA – but lessons have been learned and all NPAs will have benefited from its being the guinea pig in testing their new legal power.

Malcolm Petyt

Cam High Road after action



management option "to preserve the amenity". But the duty under RTA s.122 had not been explicitly part of the decision-making process spelled out to the Access Committee, which made the decision to impose TROs. Essentially then, it was implicit that the NPA had acted in the spirit of the Act, but it had not made it explicit that this was what was done.

force (including those on some of the most iconic routes, such as Mastiles Lane and Foxup Road).

But even on three of the four "quashed" routes, more recent research and legal developments now makes the NPA pretty certain that they do not carry vehicular rights as through routes. (There had been claims for Byway Open To All Traffic (BOAT) status, made

Introducing the YDS Photo-Archivist – Jan Zootjens

Jan Zootjens has been recording the Society's archive photos over the last eighteen months: organising, scanning, adding titles and photographer whenever possible. An arrangement was made to meet in the summer to help with any gaps or problems. A special selection of important archive images will be kept in the Society's office and an edited collection of photographs relevant to much of the earlier history of the Society will be placed on the YDS web-site in due course. The Society additionally hopes to maintain a selection of photos of former Dales' industries, agricultural practices and general way of life.

Jan who was born in Sheffield, moved to South Wales at 6 months where she spent some of her early childhood, then returned to the north of England, attending primary school in Darlington

and completing her secondary education in Hull. The family moved to Australia in 1966, but in 1972 she returned to Guiseley in Yorkshire with her husband. Seven years later the couple, with their two children Glenn and Caroline, were once again in Australia but holidayed frequently in England. In 2004 Jan based herself in Halifax working full-time as a legal secretary for a Halifax firm of solicitors. Originally trained as a primary school teacher, she changed careers to spend more time with her children, returning to university and obtaining the equivalent of a Foundation Degree in Library Technology and Records Management. Her initial work as a records clerk became in time prestigious promotion as Records Coordinator of West Coast College Perth, Australia, with responsibility for archiving administrative and student



records, and for writing policies and procedures for records management. This expertise and specialist knowledge should prove an invaluable asset for the Yorkshire Dales Society in a busy office. Jan has already become a very active volunteer in her specialist areas.

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Discovering the Dales and the peace and beauty they offer either on foot or in the car, one of Jan's favourite walks is from Goredale Scar over the top to her favourite spot, Malham Cove. Other interests include visiting ruined abbeys and churches, and enjoying country museums for their valuable insights into the way people lived. A keen supporter of both football and rugby league, she enjoys a wide range of music from classical to U2 and Bon Jovi, and is currently working on her own family history.

"Archive photos," she says, "can often tell intriguing stories or give an impetus to research something in greater detail." Of the two photos on this page, the first by R. W. Fawcett shows a picture of the murder stone (taken in the 1950s), with a small boy sitting nearby, in the dales village of Constable Burton; the stone giving the date May 19 1826 and the inscription *Do no murder*. Jan's own more recent photo shows a much weathered stone and inscription. She found an account of the story at the Friar's Head pub in the village, which we reproduce as a fascinating piece of local history.

Fleur Speakman

The Murder Stone True tale of murder most foul in the Yorkshire Dales The day MAY 19th – The YEAR 1826 – The Place – township of AKEBAR

William Plews of Crakehall found his friend Nicholas Carter's horse grazing by the lane at Akebar. William found Nicholas in a hedge almost dead from his injuries with a broken fencing rail by his body and with his pockets empty and money gone.

Nicholas Carter had called at Hutton's Bank before he left Leyburn. He had with him a canvas bag with a draft for £26 and three £5 notes. He had called on Mrs Anne Boyce of Constable Burton in the afternoon and collected half a sovereign and two half-crowns, payment for corn. She testified that Carter was sober when he went home. The inquest concluded that none of the money was spent buying drink in Leyburn.

Suspicion turned to Leonard Wilkinson, a 22 year old farm labourer living near

Akebar. He had been seen near the murder scene earlier in the afternoon and had been drinking freely in the village pub that evening. He paid £4 towards the maintenance of an illegitimate child, bought a watch, ring and straw hat, and paid off several old scores. All the notes he spent were from Hutton's Bank in Leyburn. He also gave a bank note to a friend whilst at the Humphries Public House in Akebar and spoke of marrying the mother of the child.

He was apprehended by Marmaduke Wyvill. Wilkinson's left gaiter was found to be defective on the instep. This matched a boot pattern leaving the murder scene. Wilkinson denied the murder. He said he had worked for Carter and they had parted on good terms. He had however told a local highway robber, known as William, the likely whereabouts of Carter on market day, his timing and likely time of arrival at his home in Crakehall. Wilkinson was to wait in the church (sanctuary) for the murder to be committed. It was there that he would meet William after the murder. William paid Wilkinson eleven £1 notes and half a sovereign. They buried the rest of the money in a canvas bag.

His story was not believed at York Assizes. Leonard Wilkinson was tried and found guilty of murder. He was publicly executed at York Castle on 22nd July 1826. The shocked Dales folk perpetuated this sad tale by a cautionary rhyme, sadly no longer remembered, and by erecting a small stone in the hedgerow at Akebar with the grim message:

DO NO MURDER – MAY 19 1826

Footnote:
This information was copied from a



framed page displayed in an alcove at the Friar's Head on the A684 between Constable Burton and Bedale. Recent road alterations have brought the Murder Stone out of the hedgerow and it is now clearly visible on the left hand side of the A684, travelling east towards Bedale and some 200 yards from this point.

Photographs – Above: The Murder Stone with a young boy by R W Fawcett, 1950s. Below: The Murder Stone recently.



Red Alert for some Yorkshire Dales bird species – but some positive news

The new 'Birds of Conservation Concern' list has recently been published following a review undertaken by the main bird conservation organisations in the UK. A number of different criteria are used to determine any recent population changes and to measure how important the UK population of each species is in an international context. A total of 246 species have been assessed and put on one of three lists, with the most threatened species on the red list, with less threatened species on the amber or green. There



Lapwing Photo: Whitfield Benson © YDNPA

are now 52 species on the red list, an increase of 12 since the last review undertaken in 2002. Three species of seabird have been added, there are a number of woodland and farmland birds that are still in serious decline and there are growing concerns about the drastic decline in the populations of some long distance migrants.

A number of these species are found in the Yorkshire Dales National Park including the hen harrier, a species that remains on the list owing to a continued historical population decline as a result of illegal persecution. Although birds attempt to nest in the Dales each year, the breeding success of this species on managed grouse moors remains very poor. In contrast to this, numbers of black grouse in the Dales have increased threefold in the last ten



Yellow Wagtail Photo: Whitfield Benson © YDNPA

years with 144 lekking (displaying) males located during the last full survey in 2007, primarily as a result of positive conservation management along the moorland edge. Grey partridge are also still found in many areas of rough grassland habitat in these moorland fringe areas.

Two 'red listed' species of waders are found in the Dales with the lapwing still relatively widespread in low lying Dale bottoms and hillsides. The other species, the dunlin, is a bird of the high peaks and blanket bogs, with small numbers still nesting on some of the high ground fell tops. The call of the cuckoo is perhaps one of the most well known sounds of spring, but the number of birds that are commonly heard giving their characteristic call in the Dales continues to decline each year. There are other long distance migrants including tree pipit, yellow wagtail, ring ouzel, wood warbler and spotted flycatcher that winter in Africa and return to breed in the Dales that are that are under serious threat. There are some very positive stories, with for example, targeted conservation work, the goodwill of farmers and grant aid from agri-environment schemes leading to an increase in yellow wagtail populations in some areas of the Dales.

Some red listed species seem to be maintaining population levels in the Dales, with many rough grassland and moorland areas still supporting good numbers of skylarks. House sparrows are still found in and around many Dales villages, unlike many urban areas where this species has all but disappeared. Starlings are still widespread, but the large post breeding flocks of birds that used to be seen on high ground in late summer seem to be a thing of the past, indicating that the numbers of breeding birds are in decline. The linnets remain relatively widespread in small numbers in areas of species rich grassland across the National Park whilst the similar, but much rarer twite is now only found at a very small number of sites. Finally, there is the lesser redpoll, a woodland edge species that seems to be increasing in areas of newly planted birch and alder woodland.

Whilst we are fortunate that many of these nationally threatened species are still found in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the challenge for conservationists, landowners and managers is to ensure that these species remain a key part of the Dales landscape.

Ian Court, Wildlife Conservation Officer
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority



Ring Ouzel Photo: Whitfield Benson © YDNPA

Home – on the “Yorkshire” Range

North Country Theatre is North Yorkshire's own professional touring theatre based in the lovely market town of Richmond. It has three main strands to its work:

- small scale touring theatre especially to rural areas and village halls
- site-specific dramas offering interpretation of buildings, landscapes and historical settings
- educational drama in schools supporting national curriculum objectives and creative arts work.

Since it was formed in 1996 the company has built up a reputation for witty and imaginative theatre, exciting site-specific and educational drama all of which is underpinned by quality and accessibility. It is a regularly funded client of Arts Council England, Yorkshire.

The Company tours one or two new productions each year all which are new works devised under the direction of and written by Nobby Dimon the Artistic Director. Productions have included newly created pieces such as 'Home on the Range' about daleswomen on the Oregon Trail and 'Meantime' about Yorkshire Clockmaker John Harrison and adaptations of classics such as – 'Moll Flanders', 'Northanger Abbey', J L Carr's 'A Month in the Country', 'The Lost World', 'The 39 Steps', Kipling's 'The Man Who Would Be King', to name but a few.

These tours are booked mainly by volunteer promoters, in rural communities, many of which have been developed directly by the Company. There are over 70 village halls regularly booking North Country Theatre shows as well as small theatres, arts centres and commercial venues and in the Summer out of doors at historic sites, large private gardens and stately homes. Much of the Company's work takes place in the Yorkshire region but they also travel to the Scottish Borders and Highlands, Lincolnshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire.

In its site specific work North Country Theatre has created projects for the National Trust at Fountains Abbey, in the Water Gardens at Studley Royal and at Fountains Hall, for English Heritage

[Middleham Castle, Brodsworth Hall], for Yorkshire Dales National Park, Settle Carlisle Railway and many others.

Nobby Dimon has also created and directed two large scale community plays using a mix of professional and up to 50 volunteer actors. The first was an adaptation of the Mediaeval Mystery plays – which toured to different Richmondshire churches over Easter – and which was immensely powerful and moving – as well as funny.

The second -*The Last Dance of a Dalesman* in 2005 involved volunteer musicians and actors along with four professional actors rehearsing over several months for the 10 performances. As well as performing, the actors erected the set in stunning outdoor venues such as Hardraw Force, Richmond Castle and Kiplin Hall. The play wove the history of the Corpse Way in Swaledale, emigration and changes in the post war dales, with the humour and frailties of lives in those communities. The Company also devises drama work for schools, often in response to specific requests and commissions.

Nobby Dimon is the one full time employee and Jacqui Wood provides administrative and financial support for two days a week. Performers, designers, makers and actor-teachers are employed on short term contracts to meet the needs of the production. Many of them return to work for North Country on a regular basis. The company has just purchased a new Mercedes van with the assistance private sponsors and fundraising activity, replacing the 12 year old van brought with a Lottery grant from the Arts Council.

The company's adaptation of Buchan's *The 39 Steps* which launched the company in 1996 – has gone on to bigger things. Some of you may have seen it in the West End where it won the Olivier Award for best new comedy, it is still running there as well as on Broadway, and many of the company's supporters send in publicity material they have picked up as far away as

Melbourne or Seoul or Buenos Aires. It is amazing that a play created here in Yorkshire has gone global.

The company opens its next tour '**Home on the Range**' on October 2nd as part of Richmond Walking and Book Festival.

Based on the diaries of women on the famous 2000 mile Oregon trail, this play tells the tale of Daleswomen Annis Hawker, her sister May and daughter



Home on the Range - the three Diarists

Hope, and the incredible journey they make from the lead mining communities of Northern England to the Wild West of America - from Wensleydale to Wyoming! Developed by writer director Nobby Dimon with live music and dance, wit and theatrical invention, the story moves from laughter to tears and back again as it takes the audience on an epic journey of the imagination.

One of the 50 performances has been booked by YDS and will take place at Grassington Town Hall on **Tuesday October 20th 2009 at Grassington Town Hall at 7.30pm.**

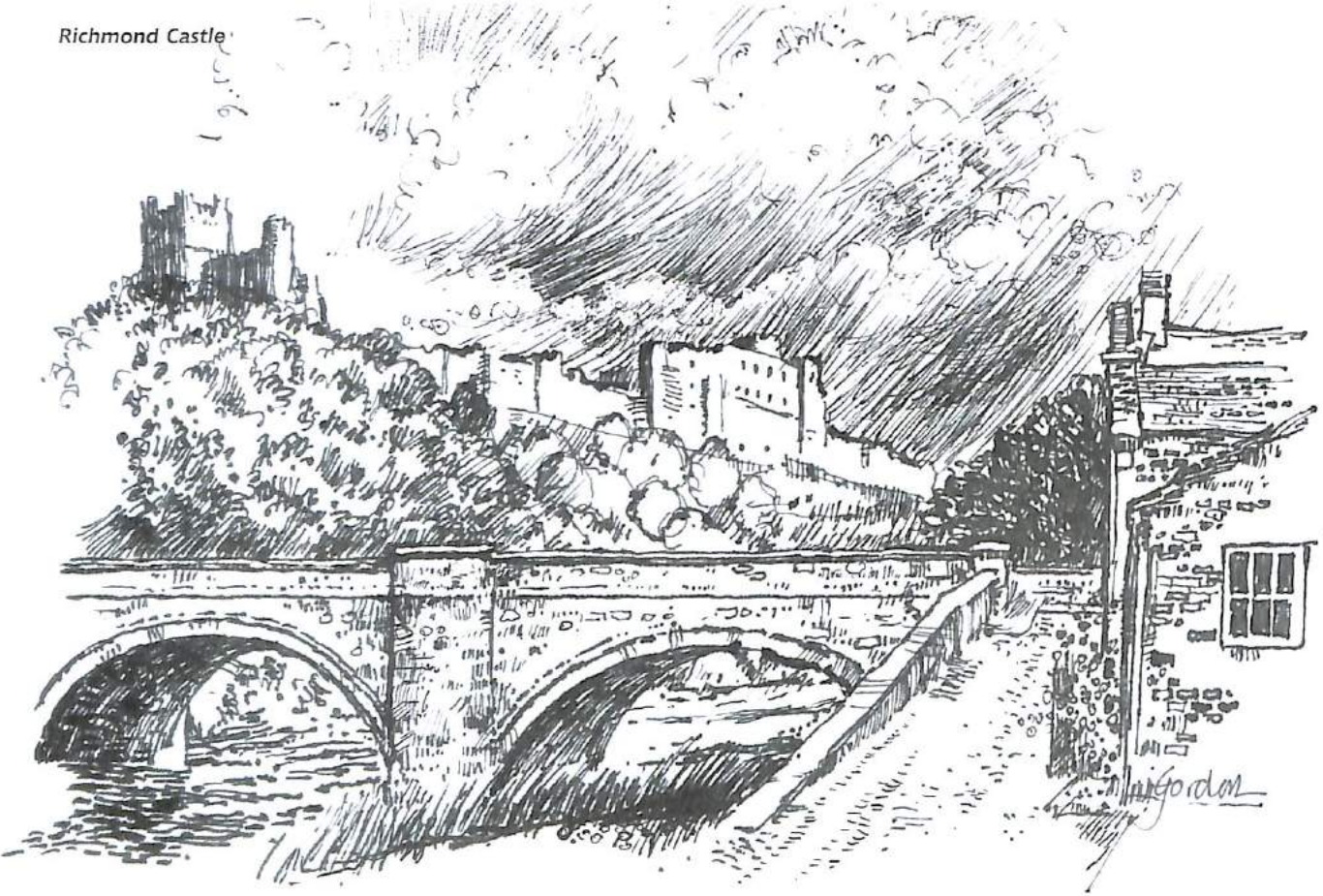
Tickets should be booked in advance via the YDS Office in Settle at £10 per head, to be sure of your seat, so please. They are also available in Grassington from the Dales Book Centre, 33 Main Street. Tickets should also be available at the YDS event on the afternoon of Saturday October 3rd at Grassington Town Hall. Some tickets may also be available on the evening of October 20th.

BOOK NOW! Don't delay!

Swaledale Drawings

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

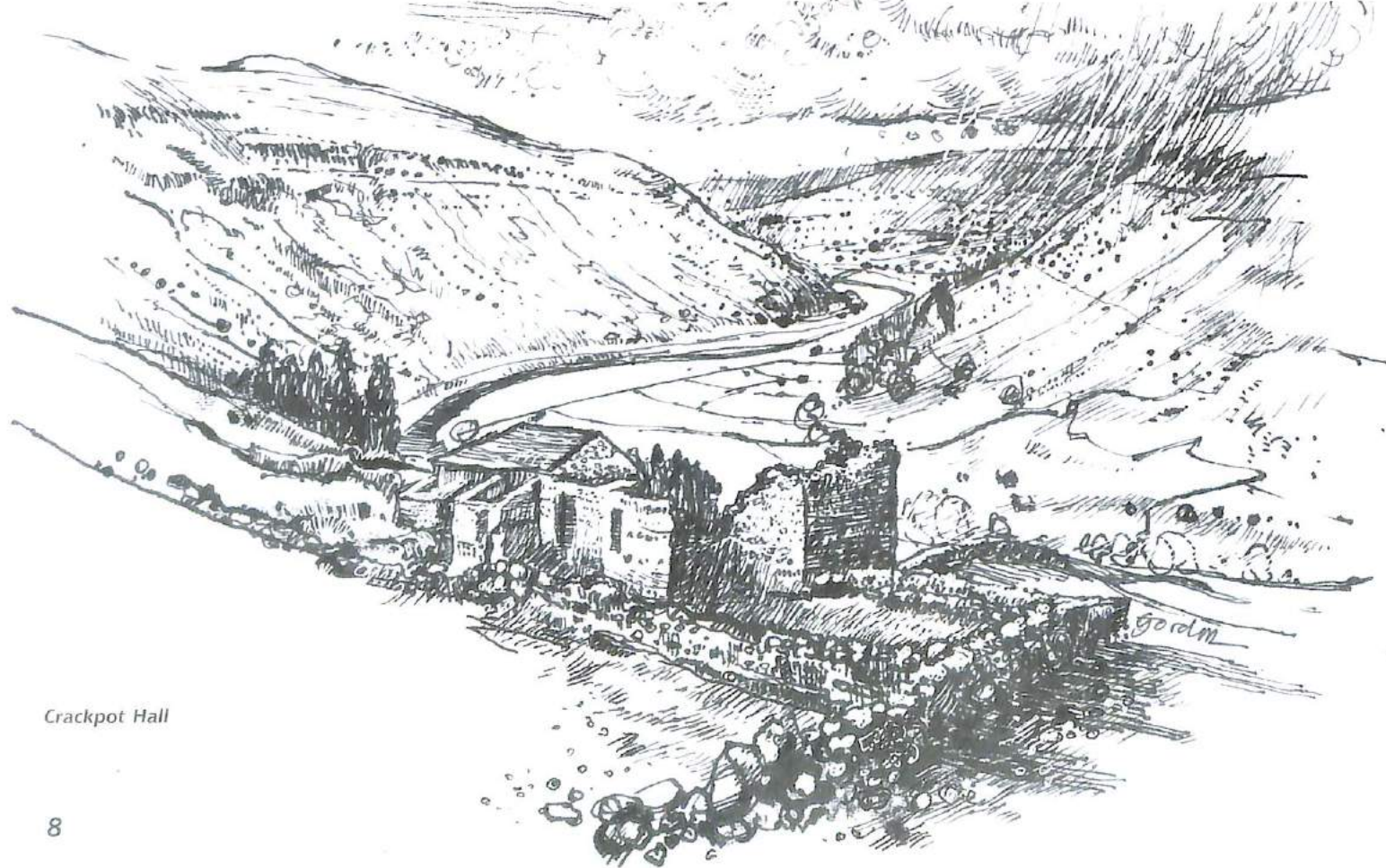
Richmond Castle



Muker



Thwaite



Crackpot Hall

A Special Year in the Yorkshire Dales: 2009 - A Year for Celebrations

The year 2009 is a rather special one for the Yorkshire Dales, as three important anniversaries are being celebrated.

The first is that it is sixty years since the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed in 1949, (see editorial page 2). The Act paved the way for the creation of today's family of 14 UK National Parks. As founder John Dower put it: 'National Parks are not for any privileged or otherwise restricted

Scargill House.



section of the population but for all who come to refresh their minds and spirit and to exercise their bodies in a peaceful setting of natural beauty'. The Yorkshire Dales National Park was amongst the earliest established, joining the family in 1954.

The second is that it is 40 years since the establishment of the Dales Way Footpath, which runs from Ilkley just north of Leeds to Bowness in the Lake District via the Yorkshire Dales. This Anniversary has been celebrated with a series of walks along the length of the route, organised by the Dales Way Association. One of these walks was due to pass through the grounds of Scargill House near Kettlewell, which is where...

the Third comes in. A conversation between Colin Speakman, founder of the Dales Way and Andy Ryland, a Council member of the new Scargill Movement, highlighted the fact that this year also sees the 50th anniversary of the opening of Scargill House as the home of a Christian community and conference/holiday/training centre. So it was arranged that the Dales Way

walkers would call in at Scargill to have lunch in the shelter of the sun lounge, with an opportunity to visit Scargill's famous chapel.

'Scargill Chapel is one of the few 20th century buildings within the National Park to have been listed. It was built in 1958-61. The architect was George G Pace, one of the leading ecclesiastical architects of his day. The unusual steeply pitched roof is visible from the other side of the Dale and the building uses local materials 'to appear

*to grow out of the dale' as Pace intended.**

Having arrived weary and sodden from a wet morning's walking, the group departed having enjoyed a rest, the shelter of Scargill, a hot drink, some excellent cake, plus spiritual refreshment for the journey ahead.

A few days later the House was full with visitors as the Scargill Movement celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of Scargill. The celebrations included a communion service in the Chapel, an open-air service with contributions from four Bishops, an act of re-dedication for the future, music from a brass band and an opportunity to purchase the latest Calendar Girls calendars from the girls themselves!

Scargill 50th Celebration Nearly Didn't Happen

Last year the Trustees of Scargill House Ltd. decided the Charity was not financially viable and had dispersed the community, and put Scargill on the market with an asking price of 2 million pounds. However at a crucial meeting

with the Trustees in November, under the inspiration of the Bishop of Bradford, Scargill was reborn. This rebirth was not just about returning Scargill to its traditional role, but also involved creating a whole new dimension. After the formation of The Scargill Movement, Scargill House was acquired by means of a large donation and an even larger loan from the Lee Abbey Movement. Work has now commenced on detailed business planning, fund raising, refurbishing the buildings and rebuilding the community, with the aim, hopefully, of fully re-opening in the autumn of 2010.

The Future for the Scargill Movement - 'Lives shared, lives transformed'

A new Vision Statement has been produced which builds on the past yet is fit for the 21st century. In particular the Movement aims through hospitality to all, to share lives changed by faith; to send guests home with new vision and purpose to model and promote responsible stewardship of creation; to help guests and community alike to gain and be enriched by a vision for community in an individualistic world.

These aims have a great deal of synergy with National Park purposes by bringing renewal to the church, but also in furthering John Dower's vision. We have already had a taste of this as the first group to stay at the Scargill since the purchase has been a group of young people from the Keighley area, visiting as part of a project in collaboration with the National Park Authority's 'Go Dales' project. The celebrations of 2009 have already made a promising start towards a new beginning.

Andy Ryland, Member of the Scargill Movement Council

* Source: Pace P G (1990) *The Architecture of George Pace*. London: Batsford

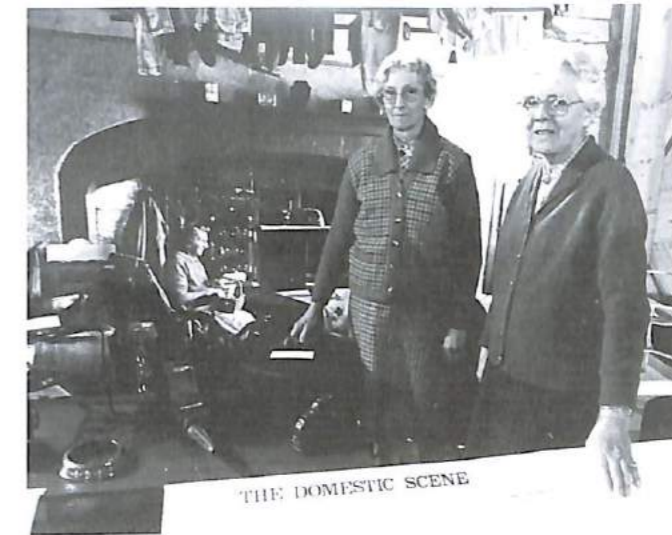
Further details:
www.scargillmovement.org.uk

A Vanishing Heritage: Marie Hartley, Joan Ingilby and Ella Pontefract - their 'lost' work

We are in danger of losing, for ever, a very precious literary and artistic heritage as well as access to a wealth of detailed research into Yorkshire's past. Marie Hartley, Joan Ingilby and Ella Pontefract, who did more than most, out of scholarship and dedication, to record the topographical, social, industrial and cultural life of the county in town, village and country, are now being scandalously neglected by national and local publishers. It is incredible that only one out of more than two-dozen of their major works is still in print: 'Yorkshire Tour' by Marie Hartley and Ella Pontefract originally published in 1939 and reprinted in 1988. Even 'The Yorkshire Dales' by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby, which is still the most comprehensive and authoritative book on the region, has disappeared, leaving a gap which cannot be filled by even the most glossy of recent 'celebrity' coffee-table books by media personalities.

In 2006 'The Harvest of a Quiet Eye' was published by the Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes to coincide with a remarkable exhibition to celebrate Marie Hartley's 100th birthday on 25 September 2005. Sadly 'due to circumstances beyond the control' of the organisers, this did not appear until after her death in 2006. But this survey of her work together with that of her colleagues, Joan Ingilby and Ella Pontefract, provides a vivid record of their literary and artistic creativity which was in so many ways unique. It had a particular resonance for the museum because its establishment in 1979 resulted from the gift of their large collection of craft tools and artefacts. Back in 1994 another celebration of their work appeared, 'A Favoured Land' edited by Hilary Diaper, which was published to accompany another wonderful exhibition held in the art gallery of the University of Leeds. Incidentally the University holds many of the beautiful line drawings and woodcuts made by Marie Hartley to illustrate the books. One hopes that there will be an occasion before too long when the

university can show these again to full advantage in the campus' splendid new Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery. 'Forms and Colours' published in 1992 was Marie Hartley's own selection of her wide range of paintings of the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors scenes in oil and watercolour together with her sketches and woodcuts which are testimony to her rich talent as an artist. She was also a



Joan Ingilby (left) and Marie Hartley in front of a display at the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes, which contains their collection of Dales tools and artefacts. Photo: David Morgan Rees

fine photographer in colour and black and white. Apart from inclusion in books such as the Dales Millennium Book, these have not been shown widely but prove that she led the way and can stand proudly with others who are still published and exhibited.

It is perhaps the detailed scholarship, presented in the easy, readable style of the books which is so sadly missed today. Their method of working was a remarkable literary partnership and the handsome cottage, Coleshouse, at the top of Askrigg in Wensleydale, where they lived for so many years, was a veritable powerhouse of research and writing. Marie Hartley would capture the broad picture, visualise the shape of the book, take the photos and do her exquisite line drawings while Joan Ingilby loved working with details culled from many different sources as well as interviewing older people and winking out and recording their precious memories.

Anyone who has not read their 'Life and Tradition' series has missed something truly remarkable and special. Take 'Life and Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales' - it confirms the completeness of their record of the work and leisure patterns, the natural and man-made features in the landscape. With love and enthusiasm they detail farm architecture, interior furnishings, the distinctive Dales

farming methods, the techniques and traditional wisdom of local craftsmen, events and festivals, sports and games, country recipes and cures, dialect and folk lore. It is remarkable that Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby continued to produce work of such power, quality and vision almost up until they died. But why have their books now disappeared from bookshops? As I

understand it Ken Smith of Smith Settle took over the rights to publish their books from their original publisher, J M Dent. He later sold the rights of their books to Dalesman Books. Since then nothing has appeared. This is ironical because they were very closely associated with the founding of the Dalesman magazine, encouraging the first editor, Harry Scott and later, his successor, Bill Mitchell.

What is so sad is that, if nothing is done to reprint some of their key work, something very precious, remarkable and fascinating will be lost. Their pioneering work of immense value and distinction deserves to be enjoyed by a new generation of those who care for Yorkshire's history, customs and its wonderfully varied environment. Who will take this to heart and help to ensure that Marie Hartley, Joan Ingilby and Ella Pontefract are not forgotten?

David Morgan Rees

Terracettes Revisited

A recent discovery that a detailed letter from John Harrison inspired by our short piece in last Autumn's issue (no 104 in 2008 on page 12 of the YDS Review entitled *Mysterious Ridge*), had never arrived and some renewed interest, caused us to revisit the topic. We also had on file another letter which arrived too late for the relevant edition, with space



Terracettes near Grayrigg, Cumbria

constraints preventing later inclusion, and are delighted to reproduce John Margham's letter below. Additionally we first summarise Colin Speakman's and Dr Malcolm Raven's original comments on these features. Colin believed that the feature was caused by grazing animals such as sheep trails which slipped under the impact of generations of little feet, as the ridges are much broader than medieval ploughing strips or lynchets. Dr Raven responded that he had heard of this interpretation and had noticed similar features in other parts of the country including Derbyshire, the South Downs and Scotland, but wondered if there was another explanation.

John Harrison of Edinburgh writes that he found the two original photographs of

mysterious ridges fascinating in showing details of the ridges in different settings. These ridges are what Dr Arthur Raistrick called terracettes. They are the resultant of two sets of factors not all of which are visible in the photographs. The first set of factors concern the landscape and include the rock type and formation, soil depth, slope angle and aspect. The second set of factors concern the atmosphere and its influence on the land – precipitation, temperature, and vegetation cover both the natural and that modified by man. The terracettes show contrasting patterns as a result of the differences in

emphasis between the factors given above. A more detailed analysis is not appropriate in this short reply, but an example is given of slope angle. In the Conistone location the slopes are much steeper than in the Kettlewell location, but the Kettlewell picture shows a marked contrast in the pattern of terracettes on the gentler upper slope compared with the pattern on the steeper slope down to the stream. This pattern is very different from that of the terraces on the steep slopes of the Conistone picture, an explanation of which involves other factors listed to say nothing of the stream, which has much to answer for!

John Margham from Knaresborough writes that as part of a mid 1970s

Geography A-level project, he went off to study terracettes in the Isle of Wight with two friends, complete with home-made clinometer, ruler and plumb line.

The particular chalk landscape we worked in had plenty of examples of these 'mysterious ridges' We found there was a relationship between the angle of the slope and the frequency of the ridges, the steeper the slope, the closer the ridges. These as we understood at the time, are a natural phenomenon to do with soil creep, but the profile can be accentuated by the passage of sheep along the hillside. Having dusted off my copy of *Principles of Physical Geography*, I read that, "The most common type [of slow mass-movement down slopes] is known as creep, which may be almost indiscernible, especially when it proceeds under a turf mat. Gradually, however, it becomes apparent as posts and fences are first tilted and then displaced downhill; even growing trees may be moved; a ribbed or stepped pattern develops across the slope in the form of terracettes, about the mechanics of whose origin little is known: the turf bulges and even rolls up; and overhanging banks develop above roads and rivers." (Monkhouse 1970, p.103). I have consulted *A Dictionary of Geography: Definitions and Explanations of terms used in Physical Geography* (W.G. Moore, fourth edition 1968) whose short entry also mentions sheep-tracks: "TERRACETTES or Sheep-tracks. The small terraces often seen on steep grassy slopes, probably due to miniature landslips and frequently used as paths by grazing animals" (p.206).

Congratulations...

... to Jerry Pearlman MBE (centre), for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award for his services to the environment [one of the Dalesman's Rural Achievement Awards], given by Matthew Townsend (left) from Country Publications, with host Harry Gratton (right). Jerry is a YDS founder council member. Photo courtesy of Dalesman.



Book Reviews

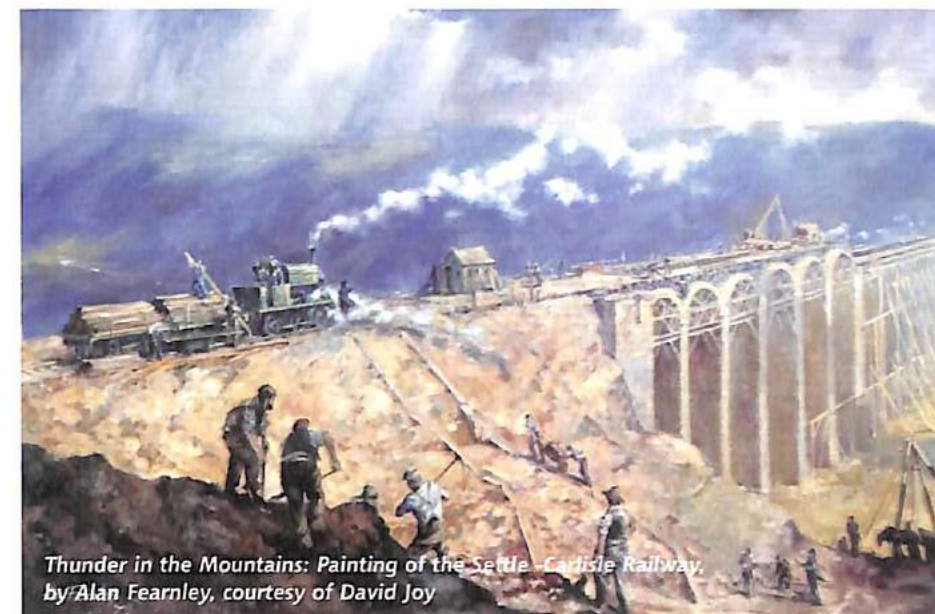
THUNDER IN THE MOUNTAINS – THE MEN WHO BUILT RIBBLEHEAD – W.R.MITCHELL (Great Northern Books £18, 160 pages, hardback-ISBN 978-1-905080-63-2) To order 01274 735056 or visit www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk

As a young journalist, YDS President Bill Mitchell was advised by his boss, Harry Scott, founder of The Dalesman, that good journalism was "about people not things".

With almost 200 books to his credit – surely making Bill the most prolific and successful Dales author ever – Bill has put this simple principle into practice throughout his long and distinguished career. **Thunder in the Mountains** looks at two great engineering feats on the Settle-Carlisle railway, the mighty Ribblehead Viaduct and formidable Blea Moor Tunnel, not just in terms of the building and repair of the great structures of stone and brick, but their human dimension. This is all about the men – and sometimes women – whose lives were dominated by the great structures, initially, in the 1870s, by their construction, but in later years with the maintenance of England's highest main line railway.

His material is "quarried", in Bill's evocative phrase, from two major sources. This first is the archive pages of the Lancaster Guardian where police reports in particular give a graphic account of often wild goings-on in the shanty towns. But he has also delved into his own immense archive of tape recordings of old Dales characters, many of them no longer alive, to connect with their first hand memories of life as it was on the railway, reaching as far back as almost a century ago.

Some key personalities do emerge. These include Job Hirst, supervisor of the line's construction in the 1870s whose grave can still be seen in Chapel-le-Dale churchyard, Harry Cox, railway ganger and bricklayer, George Horner, signalman at Blea Moor in the 1950s, Nancy Edmondsdon who lived in the Blea Moor Cottages as a girl and remembered her sister getting a lift from a passing locomotive to get to her own wedding reception at the Station



Thunder in the Mountains: Painting of the Settle-Carlisle Railway, by Alan Fearnley, courtesy of David Joy

Inn, Ribblehead, and more recently Tony Freschini the BR engineer who supervised the restoration of the Viaduct in the 1980s. Above all are Bill's own experiences, including a trip through the Tunnel with a maintenance gang during the 1950s when he was warned to tuck his trousers into his socks to avoid "smoke from pouring under your collar" as a huge steam locomotive thundered by.

This is a rich collection of history, anecdote and memory, vividly illustrated with drawings, illustrations and historic photographs, some of which inevitably have been reproduced elsewhere, but with much new material. It's a book for anyone with an interest in this extraordinary, living part of our Dales heritage, not just those of us who, like our President, suffer from what he has so accurately dubbed chronic "Settle-Carlislitis". For the Settle-Carlisle is also a key part of our national transport infrastructure which is still a lifeline for local communities, as well as being the most sustainable way of accessing the Three Peaks area of the National Park. The immense cost and effort of its creation and restoration over the last 140 years, so well recorded here, has been magnificently justified.

WALKS AROUND THREE PEAKS by Colin Speakman (ISBN 978-1-85568-261-0) and **WALKS AROUND NIDDERDALE** by Dorian Speakman (ISBN 978-1-85568-260-3). Published by Dalesman at £2.99 and available locally at Tourist Information Centres and Bookshops or from Country Publications Ltd www.countrypublications.co.uk

There is a plethora of guide books on walking in the Dales ranging from the mediocre to sheer excellence so why should you choose these two new titles? Their unique feature is that all of the walks are accessible by public transport including the DalesBus services operated by the YDS's very own Dales & Bowland CIC. Furthermore they are very well written by father and son, Colin and Dorian Speakman, who are both well known to YDS members and lovers of the Dales.

A walker in Nidderdale



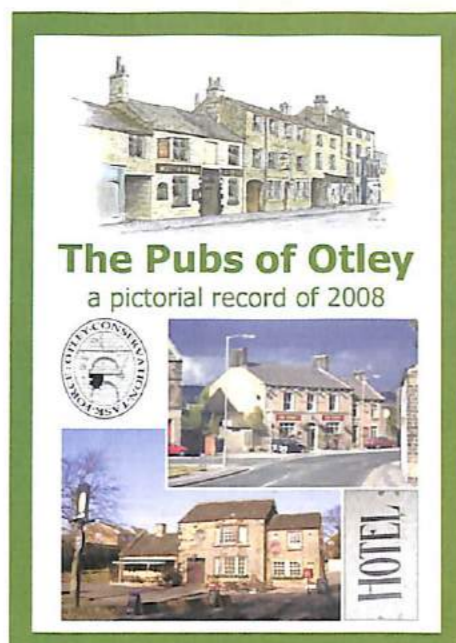
Each pocket sized book contains ten walks under seven miles avoiding high peaks which are suitable for most walkers including families and also ideal for shorter days and inclement

weather. Detailed instructions are given with clear sketch maps together with some botanical line drawings and historical and geological background notes. Details are also given to help you reach the walks by bus or train or where to park your car. Whilst all of Colin's walks are circular, Dorian includes three linear walks to encourage use of "park, stride and ride".

The test of any walking guide book is whether or not the instructions are accurate and clear enough to guide the reader without recourse to map and compass. I attempted Dorian's walk into the Ashfold Valley from Pateley Bridge which is entirely new country to me, without referring to the OS map. All went well until I hit Low Wood Caravan and Camping Site in high summer which had sprawled endlessly down the valley with a tent or caravan obscuring the "indistinct grassy path left" and I ended up on the signposted Nidderdale Way into Heathfield. I did look at the map here for reassurance but otherwise the instructions were impeccable and this was a delightful walk with a smattering of industrial heritage which I may not have discovered without reading this book.

For the price of a pint of the authors' favourite brew, you can't go wrong with these books and you will discover some of the quieter corners of the Dales and hopefully boost patronage on public transport.

Dr John Disney



THE PUBS OF OTLEY: a pictorial record of 2008, introduced and initiated by Phil Greaves and the Otley Conservation Task Force, published by Chippendale Press. The book is available from Phil Greaves, 7 Newall Carr Road, Otley West York, LS21 2AU at £4.99 plus p&p at £1.50, total cost £6.49 or bookshops in Otley and Ilkley.

Researching the pubs in your particular area might seem a most delightful fantasy to many people. In fact this project needed much hard work and genuine research as members of Otley Conservation Task Force (OCTF) were inspired to extend a CAMRA project (Campaign for Real Ale) by identifying their local pub interiors of special

historic or architectural interest, as potential candidates for a Regional CAMRA Inventory. Their pictorial record includes an internal and external record of all the pubs within the Otley locality at the start of 2008 with some very lucid descriptions. Otley is famed as the birthplace of Thomas Chippendale whose exquisite furniture to this day graces so many stately homes. Crowned by the wooded Chevin, a magnet for walkers and climbers, this Lower Wharfedale market town which dates back to Anglo-Saxon times also contains a fascinating industrial heritage and a variety of noteworthy architectural features.

Each pub is given a brief history emphasising its particular character and any important changes. The name and prices of available real ales are recorded, correct at time of survey, and the pub's facilities are also noted. Cromwell's troops reputedly drank **The Black Bull** dry on their way to the battle of Marston Moor, while historic features like vaulted cellars and a cloam oven for baking bread built into the kitchen wall are still visible. Although one or two have already sadly closed since the survey, there are still a large number of thriving pubs in Otley, ranging from the 17th century **Ring o' Bells** to the ultra modern **Rocca**. The book impressively and attractively records part of a particularly English way of life often envied by overseas visitors.

FS

Dr Arnold Kellet

Members will be saddened to learn of the recent death of Dr Arnold Kellett of Knaresborough. Arnold was a good friend of the Society, frequently giving us highly informative talks, usually about, and in sometime even in, his beloved Yorkshire Dialect, as he was also Vice President of the "other" YDS - The Yorkshire Dialect Society. He was formerly Head of Modern Languages at Kings James's School, having joined the school in 1956. The current headmaster, Carl Sugden comments that "Arnold Kellett is woven into the history of the School".

A well remembered highlight of his career were his historical tours around Knaresborough, a town of which he had an encyclopaedic knowledge, being the author of countless local and regional books on a wide range of subjects. He was also a noted Methodist lay preacher.

A lasting tribute will be his recent biography of 'Blind Jack' Metcalf, the legendary 18th century surveyor and builder of many local roads. An oil painting featured on the book cover hangs in Knaresborough Town Council Chamber. In February a life size bronze statue of Blind Jack by local artist Barbara Asquith was unveiled in the town's market place.

Arnold was twice mayor of Knaresborough, becoming their first Honorary citizen in 1996 and a Freeman in 2001. Other distinctions include the Yorkshire History Prize and the Bramley History Prize. He was awarded a Ph. D. in 1986. A family man, he and his wife Pat were married in 1953. They have four children and 15 grandchildren. He will be remembered as a man of quiet dignity, but always with a twinkle in his eye.

Autumn Events 2009-2010

Make the most of cooler shorter days of Autumn and enjoy our Programme of lectures and walks around the Yorkshire Dales. All members, friends and family are warmly welcome. If you are coming on the walk bring strong footwear, waterproofs and water, and either a packed lunch or buy lunch in local pubs and cafes after the end of the walk.

SATURDAY, 03 OCTOBER 2009

The first of our six monthly Winter Walk and Lecture Programme

WALK: GRASS WOOD

Walk Leader: Colin Speakman, YDS. Walk approx. 4 1/2 miles moderate - one steep climb. Meet in Grassington Market Square at 10.30am Bus 72 or 74

LECTURE: 'THE REINTRODUCTION OF DORMICE IN THE DALES'

by Paul Sheehan, YDNPA
Octagon Room, Town Hall, Grassington 2.15pm

THEATRE EVENING : TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2009

GRASSINGTON TOWN HALL, 7.30pm. Home on the Range - production by North Country Theatre on theme of migration from Wensleydale to USA. See page 7 for full details and booking arrangements.

SATURDAY, 07 NOVEMBER 2009

WALK: ROMBALDS MOOR

Walk Leader: Chris Hartley, YDS. Walk approx 4 1/2 miles moderate

From Conservation area to edge of Moor. Meet outside Menston Methodist Church Hall, Main Street. at 10.30am

Trains: Wharfedale line - frequent service from Leeds and Bradford.

LECTURE: 'QUERNS IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES'

by John Cruse, Yorkshire Archaeological Society.
Menston Methodist Church Hall, 2.15pm.

SATURDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2009

WALK: CIRCULAR - UPPER SETTLE TO CLEA TOP WOODS

Walk Leader: Bernard Peel, YDS. Walk approx 5 miles easy. Meet in Settle Market Square at 10.30am. Train: Carlisle train from Leeds Bus 580 from Skipton.

THE LUCY SARGENT LECTURE:

'INGLEBOROUGH - INSIGHTS INTO AN ICONIC MOUNTAIN'

by David Johnson, author and archaeologist. Settle Methodist Church Hall, (beyond railway viaduct), 2.15pm



SATURDAY, 10 JANUARY 2010

WALK: A DIFFERENT CIRCULAR WALK AROUND, HAWES

Walk Leader: Alan Watkinson, YDS. Walk 4-5 miles easy/moderate. Meet outside the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes at 10.30am Bus 113 from Garsdale Rail Station.

LECTURE: 'THE HAYTIME PROJECT IN THE DALES'

by the new YDMT/YDNPA Project Officer. Methodist Church Hall, Hawes 2.15pm

SATURDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 2010

WALK: 'BLIND JACK'S KNARESBOROUGH'

Walk Leader: Andrew Hamilton, YDS. Walk 3 miles moderate plus steps
Meet at Market Cross, Market Square, Knaresborough at 10.45am Trains: Harrogate Line from Leeds direct to Knaresborough Bus frequent service from Harrogate

LECTURE: 'GREEN LANES AND TRACKS OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES'

by Les Barnett. Local historian Gracious Street Methodist Church Hall, Knaresborough 2.15pm.

ESCAPE TO THE DALES WITH WINTER DALESBUS

Thanks to the YDS's Dales & Bowland CIC, winter Dalesbus services start on October 25th, with Sunday buses to Bolton Abbey, Burnsall, Kettlewell and Buckden, plus fortnightly services to Malham or Upper Nidderdale, and special services over Christmas and New Year. Every weekend sees a programme of walks led by Dalesbus Ramblers. For details see the Winter Metro DalesBus timetable, or log onto www.dalesbus.org



NEW THIS YEAR

Yorkshire Dales sketches (as seen in the Review) by well-known artist FRANK GORDON

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Front Cover: Ashfold Valley, old lead mines, Nidderdale, photo by Dorian Speakman. (See book review pages 13 and 14)

Back Cover: Pen-y-Ghent from Giggleswick Scar, photo by Colin Speakman. (See book review pages 13 and 14)

Yorkshire Dales Society:

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

Telephone/Answerphone 01729 825600.

www.yds.org.uk

See also –

www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk

www.dalesandbowland.com

Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.

Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Views expressed in the YDS Review are not necessarily those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Any contributions should be sent to the Editors at the Society's address opposite.

The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Membership Subscription Rates

Single Retired £12, Single Adult £15.

Retired Couple £16, Family/Couple £20

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

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