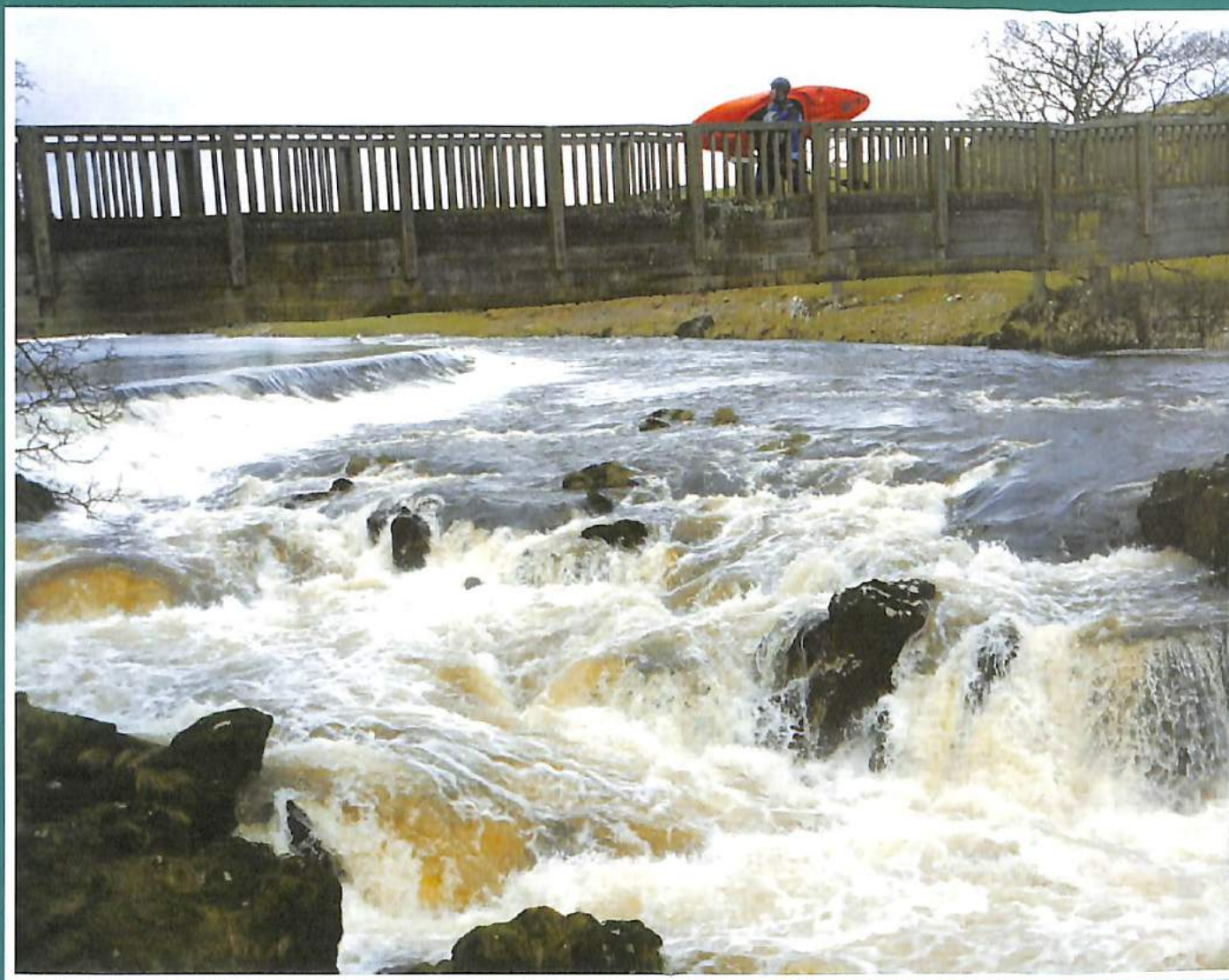


# Yorkshire Dales Review



- *Us Locals*
- *The Yorkshire Dales Grouse Moors and their Management*
- *Beehive Querns: Investigating Regional Identity in the Dales Pre-history*
- *Helping Farmers to Protect the Dales Landscape*





# Yorkshire Dales Review

## No. 109 • Autumn 2010

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

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



## Us Locals

How can you resist an invitation from Fleur Speakman that reads: "As a recently elected honorary member of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a very early member of the Society, we would like to invite you very warmly to write the next editorial for the Yorkshire Dales Review." Knowing that I was unlikely to refuse, she tactfully pointed me in the right direction – "Some aspect of the importance of the local community in the dales with a possible link to farming might be an interesting topic" – and then removed any lingering doubts by pleading, "The piece only needs to be about 600 words." There was no escape!

So, how important is the local community and how has its status changed? The term seems to have acquired an aura all of its own. Whether through envy or genuine curiosity, folk encountering me on my Upper Wharfedale farmstead often ask, "How long have you lived here?" "All my life," I reply, and then, pausing as if doing a complex calculation, hesitatingly add, "My family are in the parish registers back to 1600 and thus are almost local."

It is not meant to be a put-down, but rather to stress that it once took more than a year or three in this part of the world to gain the coveted status of 'a local'. The families whose forefathers had lived in the same village or on the same farm for generations were a race apart. They worked hard in harsh conditions according to the rhythm of the seasons and suffered little interference from outside.

Above all they were proud and independent dalesmen. Once unkindly described as the product of centuries of interbreeding, this derogatory statement ignored the reality that they could hardly be otherwise in an age when it was far easier to stay put than venture forth. It may have been such comments that led us locals to come up with that wonderful dialect word 'offcumden', implying that those who came from away were beneath notice.

It was an attitude still prevalent in the 1950s. Strangers walking into a Dales village might notice net curtains twitching as those within took a guarded peep at the visitor in their midst, but that was as near as it got to any form of welcome.

Change when it finally came was swift. Mains electricity took away much of the hardship, mass motoring broke down the barriers, and within a few years the traditional dalesman of old was heading towards extinction. Farmers' sons increasingly married women from away who were not prepared to tolerate the ceaseless toil that had been unquestioned by a previous generation.

The word 'offcumden' is now rarely heard and even 'dalesman' is becoming less common, but 'local' has acquired a new status far removed from the term 'yokel' once favoured by townsfolk to disparage their country cousins. We now have local plans, local needs, local initiatives, local network meetings, local strategic partnerships – and so on ad infinitum.

A new breed of local serves on parish councils and struggles to cope with health and safety issues, risk assessments, overlong questionnaires and the like dreamed up by those with job titles such as 'Interim Strategic Director (Corporate Services)'. Rather like emails, the amount of paper that comes our way has reached such overwhelming proportions that it becomes self-defeating and is increasingly ignored.

Sustainability appraisals from self-perpetuating sub-committees leave us cold. Perhaps surprisingly we don't even worry too much about the National Park's statutory duty 'to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities'. Nor do we normally get exercised over exactly what constitutes 'a local', other than when a runner from five miles away was allowed to enter the local children's race at the village sports. Fortunately he didn't win, otherwise it really would have been a crisis for us locals.

David Joy

David Joy MBE is a former editor of the Dalesman and a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

# The Yorkshire Dales' Grouse Moors and their Management

Ian Court's article in the Society's October 2009 issue of its Review highlights the challenge that conservationists, landowners and managers have in ensuring that endangered birds species remain a key part of the Yorkshire Dales. Whilst the positive stories for some of those species is excellent news, his understandable concern for those that are doing less well is hopefully something that is shared by many others.

As an integral feature of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, grouse moors and their management have played a large part in producing a landscape that is both rich in wildlife and biodiversity. Home to the red grouse, this is a species that is only found in those areas that are dominated by heather moorland, and it is unique to the United Kingdom. Many people do not realise that grouse are truly wild, and that unlike pheasant and partridge their population is not maintained or increased by the release of birds which have been hatched or reared in captivity. Living on the moor all year round, red grouse travel very little during their lives, and their particular vulnerability to predation, disease, weather and loss of suitable habitat makes the preservation of this species both demanding and important.

Nesting on the ground, the eggs and chicks of red grouse are prone to predation by a range of avian and mammalian predators, and these, along with poor weather during the nesting season, often result in broods being much reduced or even completely lost. The legal control of predators such as foxes, carrion crows, stoats and weasels, is therefore essential, and this benefits not just the red grouse, but also other species of threatened

ground nesting birds such as black grouse, dunlin, lapwing, skylark, curlew and grey partridge, all of which use either the moors or moorland edge to nest and rear their young. Heather also needs to be managed, as when left it grows into a dense mass of long woody stems that support very little wildlife, has no grazing or economic value, and is a serious fire risk. When managed, the result is the mosaic of different aged heather that

we have become used to seeing, with the oldest providing cover from predators and the new shoots providing food both for birds and sheep. This management has shaped the heather moorlands as we know them today, and our grouse moors form one of the largest protected and special kinds of habitats in England, benefiting many forms of wildlife.

It is because of this habitat that has





been produced by past management that almost half of all grouse moors are designated as EU Special Protection Areas for the rare birds that they support, and as Special Areas of Conservation due to the variety of plant species. Nationally, 66% of grouse moors are protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and 45% of grouse moors carry all three of the designations.

Traditional moorland management therefore benefits not just grouse, but many other threatened ground nesting birds, and in those areas where it is not carried out the assemblage of bird species can be adversely affected. Recent research commissioned by Natural England into the status of breeding birds in the North Pennine Special Protection Area revealed that one moor, where only a token attempt at such management takes place, had some of the lowest densities of birds found anywhere in the region, most of the remainder of which is managed for grouse shooting. It had below average densities of all important moorland birds, and in the case of dunlin, grey partridge and linnet, none at all. Lapwing density was lowest of all in seventeen SSSIs surveyed, and for golden plover, curlew, black grouse, snipe and redshank, it was only just above last place.

Birds of prey also predate our moorland birds. With the exception of the sparrowhawk, which has been protected since 1963, there has been full legal protection for all 15 species of bird of prey since 1954, and the populations of all but one are now at their highest levels since records began, in some cases to the maximum that the habitat can support. The only species in decline is the Kestrel, which is still the third most common bird of prey in the UK, and that decline is thought to be due to a decrease in the availability of rodent prey following agricultural intensification, and intraguild predation, where one bird of prey kills or chases off another.

Even the hen harrier has become more abundant. The latest figures available reveal that in 2004 there were 806

pairs in the United Kingdom, which showed a 30% increase over the previous 15 years. Like many of its prey, the hen harrier also nests on the ground, and is equally susceptible to predation, weather, disturbance and lack of available food. But on grouse moors, its lack of breeding success has invariably been put down to illegal persecution by land managers; whether or not that is indeed the case.

A problem is that hen harriers can have a devastating impact on red grouse populations, as was shown during the Joint Raptor Study at Langholm Moor between 1992 and 1999. That Study measured the impact of uncontrolled hen harriers breeding on what had been a productive grouse moor. Unfortunately the predation by harriers limited grouse productivity to such an extent that grouse shooting became impossible, with the result that traditional moorland management became economically unviable. At the end of the Study in 1999, gamekeeping stopped on Langholm Moor, and the decline of not only waders, but also hen harriers, started.

A subsequent study carried out at Langholm between 1999 and 2006 by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust found that the numbers of golden plover, curlew, red grouse, and skylark were two to three times lower than when the moor had been managed for grouse shooting, and that lapwings had been virtually lost since keeping stopped. Hen harrier numbers also went from a high of 20 in 1997, when the moor had been kept, to only 4 in 2006, due to increasing fox predation, and dwindling food supply. In contrast, the number of carrion crow, a species that is legally culled on grouse moors because of the eggs and chicks that they take, increased four-fold.

These results not only show the importance of legal predator control and habitat management, but also the resultant impact on threatened species when this no longer happens. The ability of grouse to coexist with hen harriers sufficiently well to permit economically viable grouse shooting to take place is now the subject of a

further joint scientific research project at Langholm which is being conducted by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, in partnership with Scottish National Heritage, Natural England, Buccleuch Estates and the RSPB. The Environment Council is also facilitating the Hen Harrier Dispute Resolution Process. This initiative, which again includes Natural England, the RSPB, and Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, and has the Countryside Alliance, Moorland Association and National Gamekeepers Organisation amongst its members, is looking at management solutions to improve the conservation status of hen harriers whilst recognising the need to protect grouse shooting.

Unlike grouse, the hen harrier's survival is not dependent on heather moorland. In Continental Europe, birds breed in a variety of other habitats including agricultural crops and pasture, and there is evidence that hen harriers also bred in similar habitats within the United Kingdom in the past. Indeed, since 2002, there have been 2 successful breeding attempts on arable land in the South of England. One of the management solutions that has been proposed is therefore a re-introduction scheme that would cultivate breeding populations of hen harriers away from the heather moorlands of our uplands.

Paradoxically, it is due to shooting that the red grouse is not on the endangered species list, and that the numbers of many of the birds which share its habitat during the breeding season remain at the high levels that they do. On grouse moors, the management continues whether there is a sufficient surplus of grouse to shoot in a season, or not, and with all the factors that can adversely affect their population, there can be some years when no shooting can take place. The income from shooting is used by landowners to help offset the cost of that management, which benefits not just shooters, but also birdwatchers and all those that love the Yorkshire Dales.

**Adrian Blackmore**  
Moorlands Director,  
Countryside Alliance

# Home Thoughts from Abroad

We invited contributions from some of our overseas YDS members, asking them to share their thoughts about the Dales, and we were delighted with the response. We publish two short articles below, and hope

to include another in our Spring issue.

## Photo Poem

**Carol and Jim McCord** live in New York and have spent some happy holidays

touring the Yorkshire Dales renting various holiday cottages. Carol is the photographer and Jim the poet for their joint original piece of work Photo Poem.

## Yorkshire Dales

are my kind of poetry, an ancient landscape  
worked and tooled with clear eye, strong back,  
by farming generations for living's sake.  
Only the ridges--- coarse coats of moorland  
bracken flecked with heather--- stay free  
of human touch. Upland fields spread  
shaggy as sheep, midland fields gentle  
as pampered cattle. Woodlands swell,  
stone walls wind down to rivers that twist  
like jungle vines or sweet pea coils.

Despite abrasive centuries there's grace  
between man and land, animal and rock,  
present and past. At Conistone gray wall  
handset stone by stone mirrors gray sky.  
Blackbirds hardy as flint in Littondale  
nest in rotted post holes of derelict barns.  
In Dentedale a gray heron drifts above late  
summer shallows, glides beneath a pack-  
horse bridge, lands soft as down on sandy  
banks cleared with care by farmer's hands.





## Los Campellos

Originally from Harrogate, **Diane Nicholson** and her husband now live in southern Spain, where they moved on her husband's retirement and where she works as a teacher, interpreter and translator.

Yorkshire born and bred, my husband and I decided in 2004 to buy a retirement property in Spain, and we moved out here in January 2008. We love our new life in the mountainous region inland of Alicante, but there are a lot of things about Yorkshire that we miss, and which we look forward to seeing when we make our regular visits to family and friends. We live in Los Campellos, in the Valencia region. Our nearest town is Castalla, where the locals have made us extremely welcome. Our house, although only a half hour inland, is at a height of over 2,200 feet above sea level and so we have rather more extreme weather than that which is enjoyed by the people who live on the 'Costas'. Summer daytime temperatures are usually around 35°-40°C, but in winter they regularly drop at night to – or below – freezing.

We are at too high an altitude to grow oranges, although our (one!) lemon tree is thriving. Mostly, the smallholdings around us grow olives and almonds. One of the things I miss about being in Yorkshire at this time of year is seeing the beautiful colours of autumn. The seasonal changes aren't as dramatically marked here in Los Campellos, where it seems to be either summer or winter. The lower slopes of the mountains that surround the valley in which we live are covered in

evergreens, and so not only do we miss the wonderful autumnal shades, but also the green shoots of spring which, following a long Yorkshire winter, were always a welcome sign! During our visit to Yorkshire in July, I was reminded of the long, slow, sunrise which seemed to start before 4 a.m., and which was accompanied by the beautiful sound of the dawn chorus. Sunrise here, in Spain, happens more quickly and much later than it did in England and, although we have a wide variety of birds in our garden, they don't herald the dawning of a new day in the same melodious way as do their English cousins. To photograph the sun rising over the mountains, I have to have my camera ready and waiting as it happens so very quickly. One moment the sky is inky black and then, within minutes, it is daylight! The transition through navy blue to the cloudless sky blue of the summer day allows no time for the viewer to appreciate the subtle tones of its change. The same happens in the evening; the sun disappears before you've had time to think to yourself 'What a beautiful sky. I'll just get my camera . . .'

The predictability of the summer weather here is a joy. It's good to be able to make plans several days (or even weeks) in advance, and know that the picnic you plan to enjoy won't end up, unwrapped and uneaten, back at home when the weather, once again, confounds those who plan to spend a day in the country. However, once started, it certainly knows how to rain here! In the late and early year we can often get sudden, and very dramatic, storms. These sometimes result in

quite serious flooding (especially in the coastal areas) and can cause terrible damage to land and property.

Coming from landlocked Harrogate, having the beautiful little coastal town of El Campello only a half an hour away by car is a real luxury. El Campello is a delightful place to visit, either to escape from the extreme summer heat in the mountains, or to enjoy a few hours of warmth during the cold (although largely dry) winter days. It still feels odd to be able to go out in cropped trousers and tee-shirt and to be able sit at a bar and sip a cool drink, whilst contemplating the calm, blue, Mediterranean waters, in the middle of December!

This part of Spain is undoubtedly picturesque, and as we explore the region that we now call 'home' we are often taken aback by the spectacularly dramatic mountain scenery in which our neighbouring villages are set. Hilltop castles protect the small towns, including our own. Many seem to be perilously positioned on the mountain tops but, bearing in mind that they've been clinging there for hundreds of years, then their precariousness is clearly illusory. I still wonder, though, at the skill required by those who built them, and at the countless numbers of those who must have perished in the attempt.

There are a lot of things we love about our life here and, as pensioners, I doubt we could ever afford to return to the higher cost of living in England. However, I'll always be a Yorkshire lass at heart and, in my quiet moments, my thoughts often take me back to the Dales.

## Godfrey Wilson, North Ribblesdale Artist

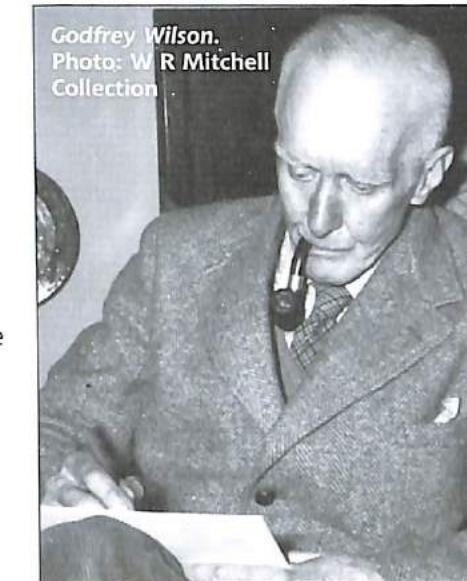
Kern Knotts at Stainforth, the home of the artist Godfrey Wilson, and his wife Margaret, had rooms named after Craven caves and potholes. There were humorous aspects. A toilet - The Long Drop - had a cautionary notice, filched I believe from a railway compartment: "Mind your head when leaving your seat." Being a tall man, Godfrey had to bend his head - or bump - when passing through any of the doorways.

Born in Bradford, of middle-class parents, Godfrey was schooled at Sedburgh, which gave him opportunities to enjoy the grandeur of Lakeland fells and, in limestone country, the exciting underworld of caves and potholes. (He would become one of the first wardens of the Cave Rescue Organisation). A soldier during the First World War, he served on the Western Front. He moved to Stainforth in the early 1920s.

Godfrey derived income from art work and was for some years the art master at Giggleswick School. His closest friend - William Watson, of Heaton Bradford - had a major stake in Lister's Mill at Manningham. In the 1920s, Godfrey was persuaded to illustrate the firm's calendar in full colour. It featured Indian braves and wigwams!

His drawings of life in an imaginary valley began to appear in *Dalesman* from its first appearance as *The Yorkshire Dalesman* in the springtime

of 1939. In my time, post-1950, Godfrey regularly cycled from Stainforth to the office at Clapham for further commissions for the magazine. He also illustrated a Saturday series called *In My Yorkshire Valley* that appeared in the (long defunct) *Yorkshire Evening News*.



At Clapham, Godfrey didn't like to be rushed. He slumped in his favourite chair. We gave him a cup of tea and allowed him time to fill and light his pipe. He would then produce a piece of cardboard - possibly from a corn flake packet - and the stub-end of a pencil, ready to list our requirements. Each drawing would be pasted down on cardboard, which made his file bulge enormously.

The Dales life he recorded in line and

wash was stylised, fixed in the inter-war years. Every pipe-smoking Dales farmer had a broad-brimmed hat, patterned shirt or baggy jacket, "breeks", leggings and boots. Muck was scaled by hand. In the hayfield, swathes were turned by hand. There wasn't a tractor in sight.

At Kern Knotts, he worked in the middle room, using a big white table and sitting on a wooden chair. The table itself had black areas where he sharpened pencils. The undisturbed side was as good as new. Godfrey rarely coloured in his sketches, but when this was done, the colours were muted. The work was never brash. His lithographic work and drypoints represented the peak of his artistic work. He made many studies of the big barn at Wigglesworth, a building that was subsequently burnt down.

I saw Godfrey's photographic record of climbing Lake District rock faces. The climbers wore everyday clothes and hob-nailed boots. A climber was portrayed on Catterick Foss when it was a solid block of ice. Photographs recorded summer days spent swimming in the Ribble, with Margaret almost smothered in an old-fashioned costume. On another occasion, she was pictured as she fired a pistol, one of a brace that Godfrey brought back from service in the 1914-18 war. Godfrey died in 1967 and was interred in Stainforth churchyard.

Bill Mitchell

## Notes, Queries

Richard Harrison from Bournemouth is concerned about the failure to re-publish key works by Marie Hartley, Ella Pontefract and Joan Ingilby, see YDS Autumn Review 2009.

I read the article by David Morgan Rees in the autumn issue with some dismay. I share his concern that this invaluable resource recording life in the Dales is no longer available and there appears to be little interest in doing anything about it.

As a young teenager during the War I was introduced to some

of Marie Hartley's and Ella Pontefract's books by my father whilst on wartime holidays and attending Yorebridge Grammar School for 18 months following the 1942 raid on York. They helped me to understand much about life in the Dales and fostered my later decision to make Museums a career with a particular interest in Folk Life Studies.

One of my early posts was as Curator of Bolling Hall Museum in Bradford where I organised a couple of exhibitions focussing on our then growing collections of material reflecting everyday

life in and around Bradford. Marie Hartley, in particular, gave me a great deal of help and provided supporting material, photographs etc. One of my particular interests at the time was recording the game of Knur and Spell where again she was very helpful.

Even if their former publishers are not prepared or able to re-publish these works, surely there are other organisations that even in these difficult times could generate support and finance. The Yorkshire Museum and the North Yorkshire

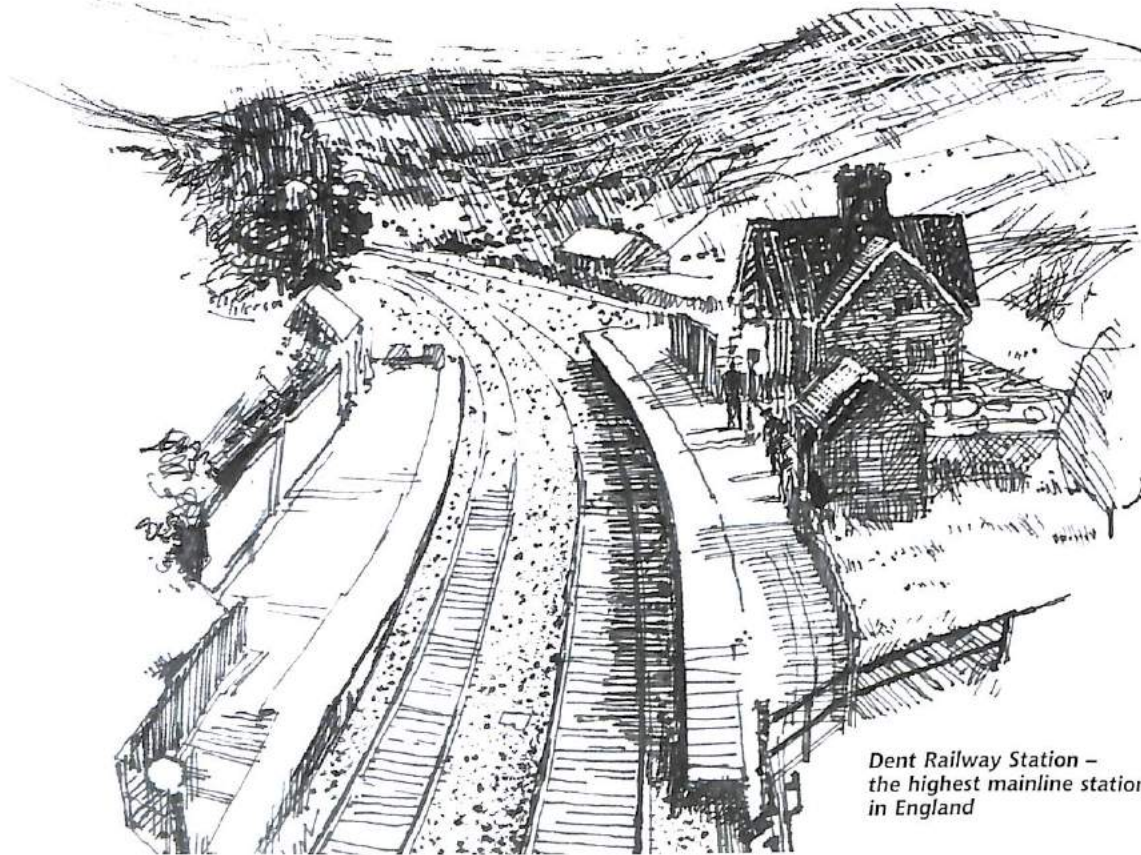
County Council and Leeds University come particularly to mind.

When I recall the risk there was at one time that their collections would move to Co. Durham and the subsequent success of the Countryside Museum in Hawes, surely it should be possible to engender support for re-publishing these works and their irreplaceable evidence of life in the Dales as it used to be. In some ways the collections at Hawes lose something of their value without this material being readily available.



# Dentdale and the Howgills

Introducing Frank Gordon's Dentdale and the Howgills: Dent station is the highest main line railway station in England. Dent town has its memorial to the celebrated geologist Adam Sedgwick with many associations with the early Quakers nearby, and the National Park boundary may soon be extended to include the whole of the Howgill Fells.



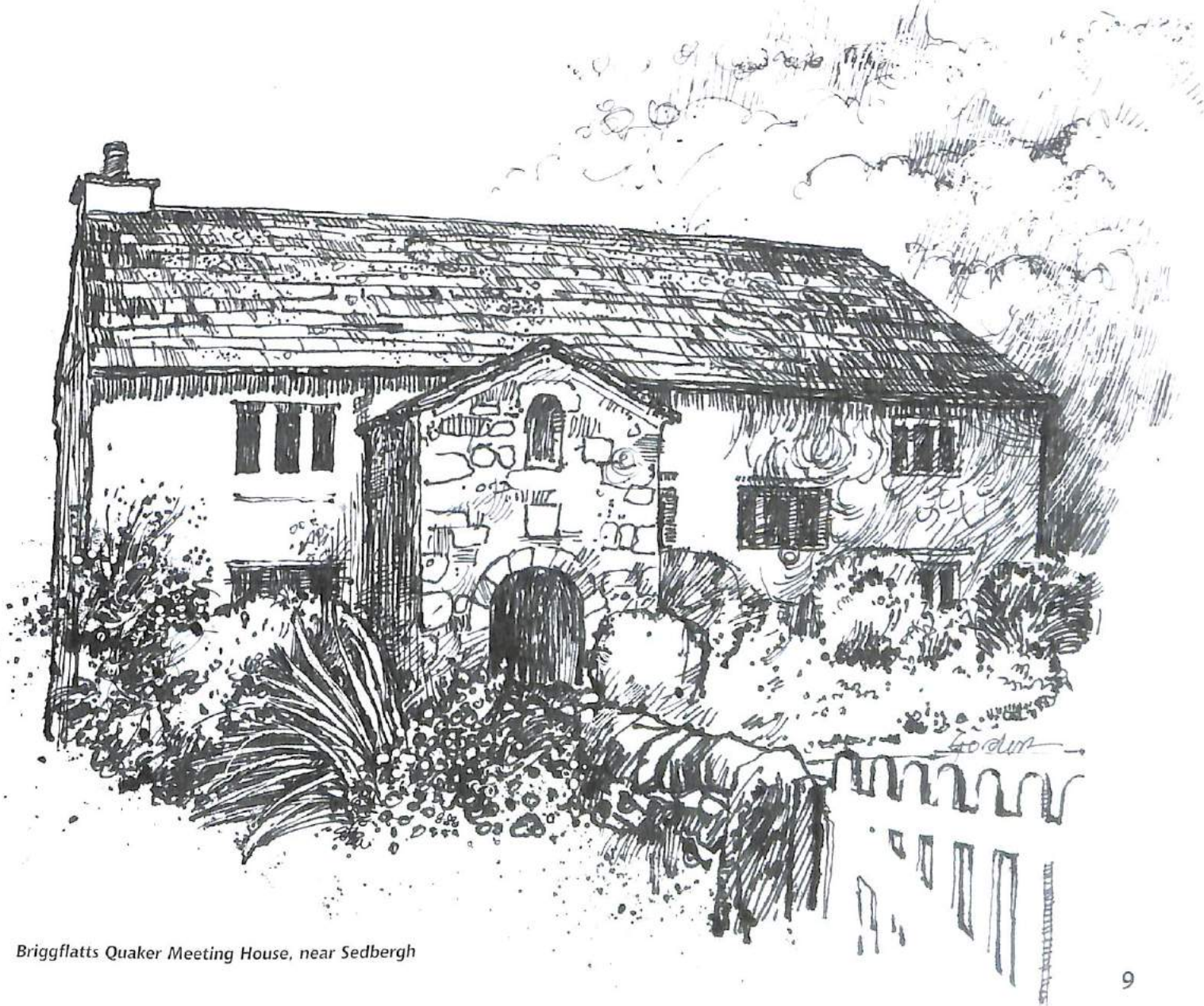
Dent Railway Station –  
the highest mainline station  
in England



The Howgills from Fox's Pulpit



Dent Main Street and the  
Adam Sedgwick Memorial



Briggflatts Quaker Meeting House, near Sedbergh



# 'Beehive' Querns: Investigating Regional Identity in the Dales in Prehistory

Over the last two decades, volunteers from the Yorkshire Archaeological Society have recorded information on quern-stones, used for grinding corn by our later Iron Age and Romano-British ancestors. One such volunteer, Margaret Jackson, managed to discover 60 of them from the area around Spofforth (see photo). Whether the querns were found in old field walls, collected from the fields into farm-yards and gardens, or actually excavated from dated contexts on archaeological sites, these grinding stones have the capability to tell us something new about their users.

In a recently published book (details on page 11), David Heslop has pulled together records of 562 querns found from Teesdale, Cleveland, Richmondshire, Hambleton, Craven and Harrogate, an area spanning the Western Dales from the Tees to the Wharfe. In a short article such as this, we can only briefly summarise a few of his findings. However, I've selected a few key areas to help us to understand regional differences across the Dales at this time (ca 200BC-200AD).

The process of quern manufacture is starting to be better understood. Suitable stone from surface exposures seems to be worked up into 'rough-outs' and transported to users. These rough-outs were then turned, either into upper stones (by adding their local types of central hopper, feed-pipe and side handle holes), or into lower stones (by chiselling out the central hole to attach a spindle).



Study of the stone sources has shown that Jurassic rocks, coming from the

high moors of the North York Moors, have generally only travelled up to 20km, with their discovery being focused on lower Teesdale and west of the Swale. Whilst this distribution presumably reflects a limited demand for their relatively poor grinding performance, it may also hint that some local people couldn't access better quality stones. In comparison, the superior qualities of the Millstone Grit ('MSG') were clearly widely appreciated, with querns of this stone being used throughout the study area, some travelling over 50km from likely sources.

When he analysed the shapes of the stones, Heslop noticed a marked contrast in the distribution of the MSG upper stones with a lower profile, 'hemispherical' shape (which is widely found over the study area), with that of the much taller 'upright' querns (which have a more concentrated focus around Harrogate, in the lower valleys of the Nidd and the Wharfe). As the upper stones don't need to be that tall to work effectively, this local tradition does seem to indicate that such people felt the need to mark themselves out by demonstrating that "our querns are bigger than yours!"

Having recognised a concentration of this particular quern type, we can then start to ask ourselves new questions, such as, "is it entirely coincidental that, some time before the early third century AD, when the Romans wanted to create an administrative centre for the Brigantes, they chose a site at Aldborough (*Isurium Brigantum*), where the main Roman road from York to the Wall passes through this very region? – was it because such inhabitants who were or had been sufficiently prosperous to use these conspicuous querns which provided an attractive taxation base?"



A limited number of base stones have been found with a pronounced protruding 'flange' around the upper part of the body (which could mark the depth to which these stones were earth-set). These types are largely localised to the Craven area (see the illustrative map), an area which remained locally distinctive well into post-Roman times.

Although space does not permit me to describe how these querns were used and the often interesting ways that they ended their active life, Heslop's study provides highlights how recording these almost indestructible artefacts can inform us about the differing traditions of people living in the Dales some 2,000 years ago. We are continuing to record querns throughout Yorkshire, with a view to our next publication being based upon West and East Yorkshire, so feedback from Yorkshire Dales Society members on any further examples of beehive or other querns would be much appreciated.

**John Cruse:** YAS Quern Co-ordinator:  
c/o YAS (address below) or  
john.cruse1@btinternet.com

(details continued at the foot of page 11)

# A Million Trees for the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust



Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, a sister charity to YDS well known for planting trees in the Dales, is on track to reach a million trees after more new woodland planting schemes get the go-ahead this winter.

As part of their ongoing woodland restoration programme, the Trust along with its partners including the Forestry Commission and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, approved 25 new woodland schemes which will see the plantation of 90,000 new native broadleaf trees. After 12 years of woodland creation in the Dales, the Trust is on track to plant their '1 millionth' tree in 2010.

David Sharrod, Director of YDMT, says, "this is a classic example of how, as a 'doing' organisation, the Trust complements the excellent work of the Yorkshire Dales Society. We are a practical organisation, making happen on the ground what YDS are so effective in campaigning about."

Half of the funding for the woodland programme comes from individuals and businesses who donate to the Trust. The Trust also receives vital support from the People's Postcode Lottery, who contributed over £53,000 in 2009. Together with financial backing from their partners, this money is used to plant traditional species such as ash, rowan, birch, hawthorn and holly, to create hundreds of new mixed woods. The programme aims to address changes in land use in North Yorkshire which have led to tree coverage of only 3.5%, compared with a national average of 9%.

Although Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is perhaps most well known in the Dales for tree-planting, the charity is actually involved in over 700 diverse projects worth over £17million.

Many of its projects help to conserve the unique natural heritage features of the Dales landscape and protect its biodiversity. The Hay Time scheme has already helped to regenerate over 140 hectares of rare hay meadows, a more recent project

a project which is enabling disabled and disadvantaged groups from inner city areas to come to the Dales and enjoy activities in the countryside. As part of the project, the Trust provides training to community group members to lead their own walks and visits, so potentially bringing benefits to 3,000 people from hard-to-reach communities in and around the Dales.

On top of this, the charity administers several grant schemes which fund hundreds of varied community projects and support sustainable development initiatives across the region.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust relies on the support of donors to help carry out its vital work in the Dales. The Trust urgently needs individual donations and support from businesses to help continue its work, and reach that 1 millionth tree! There are many ways that individuals can support the Trust, by dedicating a tree, making a donation or leaving a legacy. The Trust also works in partnership with many businesses to support corporate



launched last year will help protect and enhance wet grassland habitats in Long Preston.

The Trust also aims to promote opportunities for all to enjoy the Dales and understand the landscape. 2009 saw the launch of 'People in the DALES'

schemes, like carbon offsetting. It would urge businesses who want to reduce their environmental impact to get in touch. To find out more about how you can get involved please contact the fundraising team on 015242 51004 or visit [www.ydmt.org](http://www.ydmt.org)

(continued from page 10)

Heslop DH. 2008. *Patterns of Quern Production, Acquisition and Deposition: A Corpus of Beehive Querns from Northern Yorkshire and Southern Durham*.

Occasional Paper No5. 175p; obtainable, inc P+P, for £24 (for YAS members £22) from Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ (0113-245-7910).

**Illustrations:**

Opposite page, upper right: **Mrs Margaret Jackson with hemispherical (left) and the taller 'upright' (centre and right) beehive querns.**

Opposite page, lower left: **Stone quern.**



# Helping Farmers to Protect the Dales Landscape

Hugh Thornton, Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society's Environment, Economic and Social Policy Committee, examines Natural England's increasing role in supporting Dales farmers through a variety of Stewardship schemes.



Barn near Sedbusk, Wensleydale

The beauty of the Dales landscape depends to a large extent on the stewardship of farmers. Their success rests substantially on the support of agri-environment schemes via Natural England – and in particular on the farmers' understanding of the schemes, and their ability to make maximum use of the grant aid available.

The system of financial support for upland farmers is changing. The old system of subsidies based on the number of animals (which sometimes resulted in overstocking) is now being replaced over several years with a single payment scheme, with different rates according to the quality of the land.

There are three main kinds of Stewardship Scheme, each with different obligations and levels of support - Entry Level, Upland Entry level, and High Level.

Upland Entry Level is a 'bolt on' to Entry Level stewardship, and replaces the Hill Farming allowance. It is the last part of the new systems to be put into place, and is due to be introduced in 2010 with the first agreements starting from July.

The Stewardship Schemes are voluntary and reward farmers for 'doing their bit' for the countryside. They do involve a fair bit of form-filling and bureaucracy but it's not a tick box exercise and advice is available. However, if farmers do not apply for entry they will see their income support reduced with the loss of Hill Farm Allowance.

In the Yorkshire Dales there are three land categories – Disadvantaged Land (such as the valley floors); Severely Disadvantaged land (such as the upper dales and valley side land); and Moorland (the moor tops).

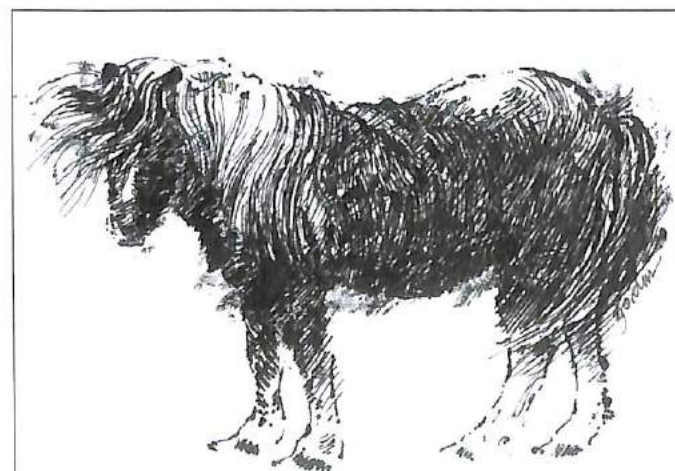
The most vulnerable farmers are those on 'Severely Disadvantaged' land, including moorland and land in the valley floors and valley sides, who often have a high density of stone walls to maintain and a varied, valued and complicated landscape to care for. For stone walls in particular, this could directly prejudice the scope for maintaining a crucial, iconic element in the unique Dales landscape.

There is a particular need to raise awareness of the new Uplands Entry Level stewardship scheme, if Dales farmers are not to lose out financially.

Peter Welsh of Natural England says 'in the development of Upland Entry Level Stewardship, DEFRA and Natural England have carried out consultations with a number of farmers' organisations, and are confident that the scheme will work for Dales farmers as well as the Dales environment'.

However, he is concerned that some farmers may have worries about their ability to get into the schemes and is keen that they should contact Natural England or another adviser if that is the case.

Natural England has already started a series of talks to farmers' groups, and intends to make sure that advice is available to farmers from specialist advisers, either in group discussions or on a one-to-one basis. The end result should be more financial support and practical advice to help Dales farmers to become ever more effective guardians of the countryside. To contact Natural England Yorkshire & Humber Office for further information on these schemes in our Region, call 0113 230 3750.



Pony seen in the Howgills. Drawing by Frank Gibson

# The Three Peaks Project - Why Friends are Friends Indeed

You may have picked up in the local press that we launched the support group 'Friends of the Three Peaks' this August. The group has been established to give individuals or organisations the chance to commit to longer-term support for the National Park Authority's work in the area.

Angela Baker - Calendar Girl, retired Registrar and former member of the National Park Authority staff - became the first 'Friend' at our launch event at

paths in good order. The National Park Authority appointed Ian Middleton to this post earlier in the year. Ian, whose family farm in Dentdale, is a very practical path worker who has an excellent understanding of the problems caused by wear and water. He is already making a difference by putting the time in to routine maintenance - desperately needed to prolong the life of the engineered

routes in the Three Peaks. Ian's post will only be secured long-term if the project income, including Friends membership, increasingly meets all the costs.

For me, the Friends group is the key part of the project. It's becoming apparent that there are many people who love the Three



The Three Peaks walk route over Wharfedale

the Station Inn, Ribbleshead. The Yorkshire Dales Society was well represented at the launch by Hugh and Rhona Thornton, with Dr Malcolm Pety also in attendance in his capacity as Authority Member Champion for Recreation Management.

Joining the Friends requires a minimum annual financial commitment of £10, all of which will be ring-fenced for work in the Three Peaks area. The priority for any income raised is to fund an extra ranger, whose main job is to be out on the fells keeping the busy

Peaks area for a whole host of reasons. It could be the iconic landscape, the variety of walking, the amazing views, the welcoming hostelry... Whatever the reason, there is a lot of goodwill and good intent, and that's what we would like to tap into.

The Friends will hopefully provide the mechanism for people to put something back directly into the path network in the area. The growth in membership is steady, but it's very early days. Benefits of being a member include: regular newsletters



(first edition out now!); invitations to organised events, including guided walks; access to unique volunteering opportunities and the chance to meet like-minded people. Most of all, I think there is the satisfaction of contributing directly to an area of immense value and interest, but I am biased! Joining the Friends is a great way of demonstrating long-term commitment and support for our work in the Three Peaks.

We've tried to make joining the Friends as easy as possible. There is a leaflet available to send in by post, and you can sign up online via [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/threepk](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/threepk) which is proving a popular and flexible way of joining! If anyone is interested or would like to find out more, don't hesitate to contact me or visit the website.

Tel 01729 825242 Email [threepkproject@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:threepkproject@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

**Steve Hastie,**  
Three Peaks Project Manager

YDS Members are warmly invited to meet Steve and colleagues on Saturday April 17th to enjoy a choice of two walks in the Three Peaks area to learn more about the Project - full details in Events on page 15.

## Book Reviews

**FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT – THE EARLY YEARS** – John Cousins (Centre for North West Regional Studies Lancaster £12.95.) (ISBN 987-1-86220-223-8) Available post free from the Friends of the Lake District, Murley Moss, Kendal, LA9 7SS.

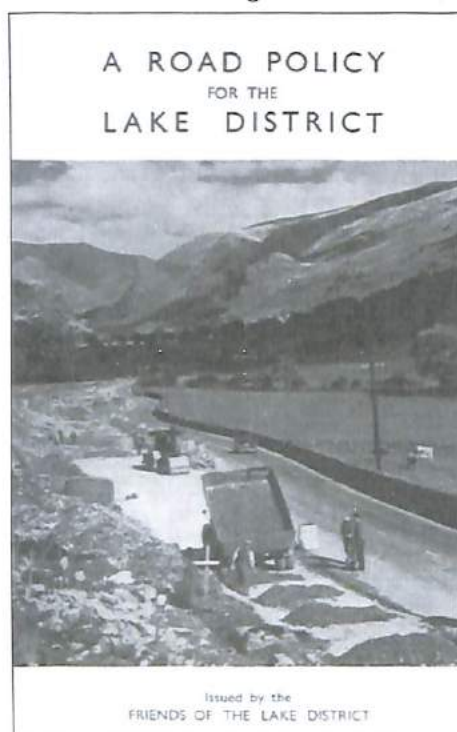
This excellent, authoritative study of one of Britain's leading amenity societies begins long before the official foundation of the Friends in 1934, as far back as the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when the early topographers, painters and poets, and above all that

eloquent champion of northern fell country William Wordsworth, helped shape our attitudes towards the craggy landscapes of Cumbria.

How love of this special landscape, so brilliantly nurtured by the Lakeland



poets, became threatened by its very success as a tourist destination, with constant threats of development - first residential villas along the Lake shores,



*'A Road Policy for the Lake District' - the cover of a booklet published by The Friends of the Lake District.*

then railways, quarries, new roads, reservoirs and mass conifer afforestation, is brilliantly related in John Cousins' highly readable account. But this is not just a Lake District story. The founding fathers of the National Trust and the whole National Park movement were deeply involved in battles to save the Lake District - people like John Ruskin, Canon Hardwick Rawnsley, FLD's founder Secretary Kenneth Spence, Patrick Abercrombie (who helped establish CPRE), Norman Birkett, H.H. "Hal" Symonds and John Dower. Born in Ilkley, Dower became the first Drafting Secretary of the Standing Committee on National Parks and later author of the famous report that bears his name which helped establish the principle of National Parks in England and Wales. Given the central role of the Friends in the National Parks campaign, it was no surprise when the Lake District was one of the first UK National Parks to be created in 1951.

The Yorkshire Dales Society has long owed a special debt of gratitude to the Friends. Several of our own founder members such as Arthur Dower

(brother of John), Graham Watson, Roland Wade and our late President Ken Willson were also high profile members of the Friends, and indeed our present Chairman, Dr Malcolm Petyt is currently a Trustee of the Friends. Since our beginnings a mere 28 years ago, the YDS has received constant support and advice from our sister organisation west of the Lune, most notably in the current very active campaign to extend the boundaries of the two National Parks. This beautifully illustrated history, written to commemorate FLD's 75th anniversary, is also the story of the birth of the conservation and National Park movement in Britain, with its roots in the Romantic Revolution, which in turn owed so much to the spectacular landscapes of the Lake District.

CS

#### A DALES HIGH WAY COMPANION

Tony and Chris Grogan (Skyware £9.99) (ISBN 978-0-9559967-1-3); **A DALES HIGH WAY ROUTE GUIDE:** (Skyware £6.99) (ISBN 978-0-9559987-0-6)

Available locally or via Skyware Ltd - [www.skyware.co.uk](http://www.skyware.co.uk)

Since the launch and subsequent success of the Dales Way 40 years ago, there have been several more author-inspired long distance trails in the Yorkshire Dales, some of them very good routes indeed, including such classic walks as Wainwright's Coast to Coast or Sheila Gordon's Lady Anne's Way.



Long distance walking is one of the purest, most sustainable ways of experiencing the countryside; the walker fully appreciates the enormous scale and subtle beauty of the landscape. Staying overnight also means contributing more to the local economy. More routes mean more choice, less erosion than if all such walks were focused on just one or two big name routes.

So a warm welcome to Tony and Chris Grogan's Dales High Way, a new 90 mile route which roughly parallels the Dales Way over generally higher land to the west. It starts from Saltaire crossing Rombalds Moor to Ilkley and Skipton, passing Weets Cross above Malham, over Ingleborough and the Howgills, then heading north to Appleby. The High Way's green credentials are further enhanced by integrating the route with the Settle Carlisle Railway, with useful break points at Skipton, Settle and Ribbleshead, though some of the day stages look tough especially if you need to extend them to access transport.

Promoted through a superbly illustrated Companion booklet, rich in local geology, history and wildlife, with detailed OS-based maps in an excellent Route Guide, the Dales High Way is a sure-fire winner for all keen Dales' walkers.

CS

*Rutter Force and Rutter Mill - an illustration from 'A Dales High Way Companion'.*

## Winter and Early Spring Events 2010

*Enjoy some varied winter and spring days out with the Society in a number of different and contrasting Dales locations, including Hawes, Knaresborough, Pen-y-Ghent and the Long Preston Deeps.*

*All members, friends and family are warmly welcome. All walks will finish around 12.30pm. Walks are free; lecture admission for members is £3.00 and £5.00 for non-members.*

**Please note: Errata** The January 2010 walk / lecture is to be held on Saturday, 09 January and **not** Saturday, 10 January as shown in your Programme Card.

#### Saturday, 09 January 2010

##### Walk: 'A Different Circular Walk, Hawes'

Leader: Alan Watkinson, YDS. Walk 4 - 5 miles, easy, moderate

Meet outside the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes at 10.30am Bus 157 Bedale d. 0905, Leyburn 0940

##### Lecture: 'The Haytime Project in the Dales'

- Christa Perry (Project Officer) & Don Gamble (Project Manager)

Meet in the Methodist Church, Hawes for 2.15pm start

#### Saturday, 06 February

##### Walk: 'Blind Jack's Knaresborough'

Leader: Andrew Hamilton, YDS. Walk 3 miles, moderate (plus steps). Meet at Market Cross, Market Square, Knaresborough at **10.45am** Train: Leeds d. 0929, Horsforth d. 0941

##### Lecture: 'Green Lanes and Tracks of the Yorkshire Dales' - Les Barnett

Meet in the Gracious Street Methodist Church Hall, Knaresborough for 2.15pm start

#### Saturday, 06 March

##### Walk: 'Long Preston Deeps'

Leader: Adrian Shepherd, YDNPA. Walk 3 miles **MUST WEAR WELLINGTON BOOTS OR OTHER WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR**

Meet at Long Preston Railway Station Car Park at 10.30am; Trains Leeds d. 0849, Skipton 0926

##### Lecture: 'The Long Preston Deeps Wet Grasslands Project'

- Dave Tayler, Deputy Director YDMT

Meet in the Village Hall, Long Preston for 2.15pm start

#### Saturday, 17 April

##### Pen-y-Ghent Walks

See part of the **Three Peaks Project** with Steve Hastie, Area Ranger / Project Manager, Three Peaks, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Option 1 - circular up Pen y Ghent via Brackenbottom and returning down Horton Scar Lane. Lunch at the

summit, weather permitting!

Approximately 5 miles in length with a strenuous short climb to the summit cap. We will talk about the Three Peaks Project, path maintenance issues, the summit shelter and challenge events.

Option 2 - circular up Brackenbottom then down to Churn Milk Hole, and back via Dub Cote. This would be the preferred option if the weather is bad or for those who don't wish to tackle the steep climb to the summit. There is still moderate uphill walking, and this option is also about 5 miles.

Meet at the YDNP car park, Horton in Ribblesdale at 10.30am. Wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring wet weather options.

Train: d Leeds 08.49am, Skipton 09.26am, Settle 09.50am, a Horton in Ribblesdale 09.58am

#### Sunday, 09 May

##### 'Annual Wild Flower Walk, Oxenber Woods, Austwick'

Walk: 6 miles easy, approx 4.5 hours

Joint Walk as part of YDMT Festival of Flowers 2010.

Walk through Oxenber Woods to Feizor (with refreshments at Home Barn if desired) and back to the Dalesbridge Centre. A fabulous riot of wild flowers will be seen on this truly superb walk

Leader: Dr Chris Wright

Wild Flower and Plant Expert: Dr Judith Allinson

Meet and Park: Dalesbridge Outdoor Centre Car Park (on A65), Austwick, Settle

Lifts: Can be arranged from Settle Station (train from Leeds a 1006 - contact YDS office)

Cost: Free

Contract: Anne Webster, Yorkshire Dales Society 01729 825 600



## YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 10 July 2010**  
at  
**2.00pm prompt**

**THE RACEHORSES HOTEL,  
KETTLEWELL**





Front Cover: A lone kayaker calls it a day as the November light fades over Linton Weir and Rocks, photo by Barry Wilkinson/Picture House.

Back Cover: Curlew, photo by Adrian Blackmore. See article on Grouse Moors and their Management on pages 3 and 4.

**Yorkshire Dales Society:**

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

Telephone/Answerphone 01729 825600.

**[www.yds.org.uk](http://www.yds.org.uk)**

See also –

**[www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk)**

**[www.dalesandbowland.com](http://www.dalesandbowland.com)**

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

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