

Yorkshire Dales Review



- A Time to Take Stock
- Peatlands Project
- New YDS Chairman Colin Speakman
- Elizabeth Hartley, a Dales Handknitter



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

A Time to Take Stock

The Yorkshire Dales Society will be 30 next year. As it goes into its fourth decade, it is time to take stock, and to look forward. There is much to be positive about. Over these 30 years the Society has changed in many respects, but, inevitably, in some respects the Dales too have changed. People are perhaps now better informed (aided by the wealth and accessibility of modern technology), but at the same time much remains constant, and above all this includes the love of and deep concern for the Yorkshire Dales which we all share. But care for the environment is not set in stone – the Dales are a living, evolving landscape where people live, work and also come to spend their leisure. It is a priceless asset which the Yorkshire Dales Society, as well as our sister organisations, help to protect, but the Society is also keen to promote innovative constructive ideas and respond to new initiatives. Above all the Society is a facilitator, often punching above its weight, consulted by a variety of other bodies, its opinions sought after and respected both by the media and other key organisations. Its Policy Committee goes from strength to strength, raising concerns about key planning matters both within the Council of Management and replying in detail where appropriate to National Park and other consultations, or assisting at public inquiries.

The Society is uniquely privileged in that it has a Council of Management whose members can offer a number of key skills which are at the service of the Society, including (legal, financial, environmental, farming, educational, and outdoor pursuits), and we are delighted that recently our more senior Council members with their gravitas and wealth of experience, are complemented by a number of younger Council members, often at a high point in their own careers, some with young families too, who are generous with their ideas and initiatives. We are proud that two of our Council members are also Corporate Members of the Society, representing the smaller business community in the Dales. Our 24 Corporate Members help to keep us in touch with a vital part of the local economy.

Over the years the Society has encouraged the formation of such organisations as the Green Lanes Alliance, which monitors green lane usage by inappropriate vehicles, and the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group which encourages the use of public transport in the Dales. More recently the setting up of the Dales and Bowland CIC, a not for profit company, has been tremendously successful in

encouraging many more walkers, visitors and local people to access and enjoy the Dales by public transport at weekends, taking the Society's initial ideas to a new level. The quarterly YDS Review, currently issue 112, helps to keep members in touch with the Society and often highlights some key issues, while the Dales Digest provides much valuable information on current issues affecting the Dales, principally from the local and regional press. Our annual autumn/winter Walks and Lectures Programmes are ever-popular, while a number of varied additional events occur throughout the year. The Yorkshire Dales Society's thirtieth anniversary might well be an occasion for some special landmark events – ideas are welcome.

But there are major challenges ahead of all kinds, affecting the Dales, and beyond, and indeed the Yorkshire Dales Society itself. Draconian cuts will directly affect the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's budgets, causing concern that perhaps some key environmental and educational projects can no longer be sustained. There are fears that nature conservation on a national scale could be set back many years with rumours of the possible sale of nature reserves and even privatisation of parts of the Forestry Commission. The Secretary General of this October's UN Convention on Biological Diversity, has already hailed the cutting of bio-diversity spending as "short-sighted". In this general climate of "slash and burn", it is feared that concerns for the environment might be seen as a luxury, with the rural economy and tourism also suffering in their turn as various vital services are scaled down. The YDS will have to work really hard in both attracting new members and retaining our current membership, and think very carefully over how best to appeal to rising generations.

But fortunately the Yorkshire Dales Society is nothing if not resilient. In its earlier days, it survived two damaging major crises, either of which could have easily closed the Society down. But with our present strong team, under a new Chairman, and some inevitable stresses and strains behind us, we believe that the Yorkshire Dales Society has much to offer, and may even take some new directions. As our thirtieth anniversary approaches, we can have every confidence that the Yorkshire Dales Society will go from strength to strength for many decades to come.

Fleur Speakman

Conserving Yorkshire Bogs - introducing the Yorkshire Peat Partnership

The evocative setting of Yorkshire's moorlands is a perfect place to enjoy a peaceful walk, perhaps it is the one of the only habitats left in the UK that imparts a real sense of wilderness and isolation; a rare experience in the crowded and hectic lives that we all tend to lead today. Moorlands offer the opportunity to escape, often conjuring up feelings of solitude and in possession of a melancholic beauty that few other landscapes in the UK rival. Apart from inherent beauty there are many other environmental, social and economic reasons why moorlands are such an important habitat, one major reason is that they play host to peat!

Peat bogs are important because they support a unique array of flora and fauna such as specialist Sphagnum species, sundews, short-eared owls, golden plovers and common lizards. Sphagnum is a vital peatland species as it can hold water. It is composed of two

kinds of cells, small green living cells and large, clear, dead cells. Water is stored in the dead cells and following death, Sphagnum forms peat which in turn captures carbon. Alongside supporting nationally important biodiversity, peatlands are also economically important as they play a role in water filtration and potentially, in flood risk management. Finally and maybe less well known, peatlands are essential for a vital commodity and that is carbon.

Sadly and predictably, these habitats are under threat; industrial pollution, afforestation, fires, peat cutting and over grazing have all served to damage the moorland environment. In the Yorkshire uplands, one particular practice, moorland drainage (gripping) has compounded the problem of erosion. During the Second World War, propelled by government grants, there was a dramatic increase in the number

of drainage channel cut into the upland environment. The rationale behind the work

was to increase food production in the uplands. However, a vast amount of carbon is now lost via the drainage networks. Thankfully, since the 1980s, work has been carried out to block the upland drains, in fact, it has been estimated that to date, up to £200 million has been spent on blocking drainage channels in the UK and there are still vast tracks of open drains yet to be blocked.

Historically, another major impact on our peat bog resources, particularly in the lowlands, has been the use of peat as a growing media in horticulture. During the 1980s the exploitation of peat for horticulture reached such high levels that conservationists predicted



that our peat resource would be gone by 2020! Thankfully, peat extraction in the UK is now regulated but it hasn't stopped the use of peat as a growing medium, in fact, demand has increased, we just import peat from abroad. Thankfully, the government has recently pledged to phase out the use of peat in horticulture by 2020. Measures such as these will go some way to preserve the carbon locked up in existing peat bogs, but we also need to rehabilitate our damaged and eroding peat bogs in order to turn them into sinks for carbon rather than sources. Carbon storage is a crucial component in our battle against climate change and peatland conservation may be a key ally in increasing carbon storage and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Amazingly, the amount of carbon stored in the peatlands of the UK is equivalent to the amount of carbon stored in the forests of Britain and France combined. The Yorkshire uplands alone are home to a third of

much better; most of British peat bogs are so damaged that it is thought they emit as much carbon as the entire British transport system!

Now that the unequivocal importance of peat bogs for biodiversity, social, economic and climatic reasons has been established, conserving and rehabilitating Yorkshire's peat bogs is more important than ever and scientists, government organisations and NGOs are doing just that. One such organisation that is working towards peatland conservation is the Yorkshire Peat Partnership.

The Yorkshire Peat Partnership is a peatland restoration project that aims to substantially increase the amount of peatland restoration activity in the Yorkshire uplands by blocking drains and revegetating areas of bare peat. The potential project area is vast; it encompasses the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the North York Moors National Park and areas of the south Pennines.



Cotton Grass. Photo by Wildstock.

the UK's peat carbon stores. Staggeringly, on a global scale, peatland carbon stores are equivalent to 35 years of greenhouse gas emissions, yet half the world's peat bogs are thought to be damaged so are releasing carbon rather than storing it. It has been estimated that total carbon emissions from degraded peatlands may amount to as much as 15% of total global anthropogenic carbon emissions. Britain itself is not faring

The working partnership consists of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England who provide funding for the restoration works, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North York Moors National Park Authority with further support secured from the Environment Agency. The wider steering group consists of Moors for the Future, Pennine Prospects, National Trust, Nidderdale AONB, Yorkshire

Dales Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Water, National Farmers union, rural advisors and landowners.

The Yorkshire Peat Partnership is currently surveying a number of sites in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North York Moors National Park. We have undertaken drain blocking on sites in the Yorkshire Dales and have trialled revegetation techniques in the North York Moors using different combinations of grass seeds, heather brash, fertiliser and lime on bare peat. Considering the relative youth of the Partnership, we are delighted that we have progressed to the practical delivery stage so rapidly.

The ultimate goal of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership is to contribute to the restoration of degraded peatland habitats to help to re-instate functioning, peat forming habitats. In turn, this will help increase biodiversity and reduce the amount of carbon being released into the atmosphere. Along with research, education and community engagement, careful restoration of our peatland habitats may ensure that they can be enjoyed by future generations to come.

We are at a critical juncture in our fight against climate change and yet simple solutions are lying right on our doorstep. By supporting the work of peatland restoration projects such as the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, we will be helping to contribute to the global fight not only to save our precious biodiversity, but also to help prevent the catastrophic outcomes that rates of current climate may bring about.

With long-term management, the involvement of local communities, hard work and commitment, the Partnership hopes that we may yet be able to return Yorkshire's upland peat bogs to near pristine habitats once again.

Astrid Hanlon, Research Coordinator,
Yorkshire Peat Partnership

For further information contact the Yorkshire Peat Partnership as follows:
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Colin Speakman: Our New Chairman

Colin Speakman is the inspiration behind the Yorkshire Dales Society. Initially approached by the Countryside Commission, who was concerned that the Yorkshire Dales National Park was having severe image problems in its early days, he, with a few like-minded people, developed the concept of the Society as independent from the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and with a larger remit than the Park boundaries.

As a teenager in the Manchester area, Colin enjoyed long cycle rides into the Yorkshire Dales, and later was to develop a passion for walking through its varied landscape; a knowledge that he then shared with many others through his numerous walking guides.

Educated at Salford Grammar School and then an honours graduate of Leeds University, Colin initially took up a career in teaching and lecturing, developing his environmental interests by becoming a young and energetic Secretary of the West Riding Ramblers. He wrote his first walking guide to the region *Walking in the Yorkshire Dales*, in 1967; at the time the first of its kind. He was to publish many more walking and regional guides, a Dales literary anthology and a biography of the geologist Adam Sedgwick and even Dales folk tales and some poetry. He remains particularly dedicated to the concept of using public transport whenever possible. A career change in 1975 led to his appointment as Principal Officer for Access and Interpretation at the Yorkshire Dales National Park for a number of years, where he was largely instrumental in the formation of Dales Rail. In 1981 he left the Park to run the three year Wayfarer Project for the Countryside Commission with West Yorkshire PTE. After a further year as Tourism Officer for West Yorkshire, Colin set up his own company Transport for Leisure Ltd in 1986 which specialised in environmentally sensitive transport and tourism. As Secretary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, he was the driving force behind many initiatives including the Yorkshire Dales



Colin Speakman

Transport Users Group, The Green Lanes Alliance and more recently the highly successful Dales and Bowland CIC, a not for profit Community Interest Company. In 1969 he created the Dales Way long distance footpath which was voted one of the top favourites among long distance walkers.

Bradford University conferred an Honorary Degree on Colin in 1997 for his services to literature and to the environment. The West Riding Ramblers elected him as one of their Vice-Presidents, and in 2007 he was awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Rural Award by Dalesman magazine. In addition Colin has been an active founder-member of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and is

Chairman of the Dales Way Association, and President of the Northern Region of the YHA.

Colin, with his wife Fleur, as Chairman and Secretary, set up the first Grassington Festival which still takes place every year in June and is a very flourishing concern. Classical music and opera are Colin's great loves as well as travel to some of the great European cities, and naturally walking not only in the uniquely special Yorkshire Dales, but among some splendid countryside elsewhere. Their two children, Lydia and Dorian, are both keen walkers and cyclists, and both have professional expertise in the field of climate change. While Colin's two teenage grandchildren help to keep him in touch with the various issues and concerns of the younger generation.

Having spent many years helping to shape YDS policy as its Secretary, Colin became Vice-chairman in 2008 and in 2010 the Society's fifth Chairman. His shrewd judgment, lucid writing and speeches, and persuasive powers at the service of the YDS, have helped the organisation to obtain a highly respected place in the wider world.

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Photo Competition

Members are reminded that they have still time to enter the Yorkshire Dales Society digital photographic competition – **closing date October 31st**. The special email address for competition entries is: ydscompetition@yahoo.co.uk. All entry requirement details are in the last two issues of the YDS Review, but if you have joined recently or mislaid them, please send an s.a.e. to the YDS office, or contact the YDS office for a photo copy or email (contact details on back cover). We look forward to your entries.

New Honorary Members and New Council Members

Malcolm Petyt

Vice-President and Council Member

Malcolm Petyt, Yorkshire Dales Society Chairman for 6 years till July 2010, had previously served as Vice-chairman



and a member of the YDS Council. Educated at Bradford Grammar School, he had an outstanding academic record at Cambridge, later achieving his doctorate in Linguistic Science at Reading University. After a series of academic posts, Malcolm's youth work and strong interests in serving the community were also important features in his life. An early love and enjoyment of the Dales and hills, meant, after early retirement, he chose to live part-way between the Dales and his equally beloved Lake District, and was soon very actively involved in key issues. In 2002 he was appointed a Member of the National Park Committee by the Secretary of State and took on further environmental responsibilities as Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee for the YDNPA. Malcolm has been an outstanding countryside campaigner for most of his adult life, serving as a Trustee for the Friends of the Lake District, and the Ramblers Association, and for many years on the Council of the National Trust, as well as many other local and national amenity organisations.

As our Chairman, Malcolm helped the Council to focus on key issues and meetings invariably ran to schedule. He is prepared to take an uncompromising stand on major issues that affect the special qualities of our National Parks on such matters as our Green Lanes or

the major campaign to ensure the northern Howgills and other parts of the Dales become part of our National Park. As Vice-President, who will also remain a Member of Council, Malcolm will continue to make a major contribution to the work of the Society and our continuing campaign for the Yorkshire Dales.

Dennis Cairns

Honorary Member

Dennis Cairns, one of our two new Honorary Members, was a long serving member of the Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management, who gave unswerving and enthusiastic support to the Society over many years. Denis was also as a very active member for a considerable period on the YDS Events Sub-Committee. Recently he confessed that he was slowing down a little at 84! Originally a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy, he retrained as a teacher, with a series of headmasterships in Lancashire schools. On retirement in 1984, Dennis moved back to Barnoldswick with his wife Grace, and became a Voluntary Warden for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, leading numerous walking groups, and



patrolling paths and footpaths; his 24 year stint was rewarded by an Honorary Membership for the SW team.

Dennis has published six books including *When Grandad was a Lad* and the *Dales Odyssey*, all with a strong local flavour, and has been much in demand as a speaker on a number of topics in his local area. Deeply involved with his local History Society, having chaired it for many years, Dennis also

attends meetings of the Helvetia Philatelic Society regularly, and is now an Honorary Member. His gardening efforts still produce an enviable range of vegetables and he looks forward to some local walks.

David Morgan Rees

Honorary Member

David Morgan Rees, a past Vice-chairman of the Society, is a free-lance writer and photographer concentrating on rural subjects following a career in industry in Wales and Yorkshire. He has written for a variety of publications, including the Dalesman, Yorkshire Journal and Yorkshire Life. As well as having worked as a radio freelance in the past for BBC Wales, he has



published three books *Yorkshire Craftsman at Work*, a survey in his words and photographs of traditional Yorkshire craftsmen, *In the Palm of a Dale*, a detailed portrait of Marske-in-Swaledale in North Yorkshire at the Millennium, where he bought a small cottage in 1973. Until this was sold in 2005, he divided his time between Marske and Ilkley where he now lives. His most recent book *Our Small Dale World*, is a valediction and celebration in words and images of the time he spent at Marske with his late partner, Roy Allen, which so enriched his life. In March 2010 he had an exhibition of his photographs and watercolours of Marske and its environment at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes and in July at the Clarke Foley Centre in Ilkley. He is particularly remembered by Council Member colleagues for his measured judicious supportive remarks

and for his great enthusiasm for every aspect of the Society's work. The Yorkshire Dales Society is also indebted to him for his generous support of a number of YDS projects.

Chris Grogan

New Council Member

Chris grew up on a hill farm at the top of Dentedale. Her father's sheep grazed on Whenside and the railway ran through the farm. This may account for her lifelong passion for the Dales and her support for the Settle-Carlisle line. A mixed career followed with periods spent as a teacher, shoemaker, business advisor and council officer. She is a keen walker and with her husband Tony, an author of walk guides. Together they devised *A Dales High Way*, a 90 mile walk across the dales from their home in Saltaire to Appleby-in-Westmorland.

Chris is a Corporate Member of the YDS. The Grogan's company Skyware Press, publishes *A Dales High Way Route Guide* and *A Dales High Way Companion*, and they are currently working on other publications to promote and celebrate walking in the Dales. Her membership of other organisations



includes Saltaire Village Society, the Dales Way Association and FoSCL, the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle. Her ambition is to be a volunteer guide for FoSCL and travel the line talking to passengers and pointing out Dentedale – her number one favourite place. [Members can read Chris's evocative memories of her Dentedale childhood The Changing Dales – Dentedale, in the last YDS Review no 111 Summer 2010.]

Jon Beavan

New Council member

Jon Beavan, born in the Wirral, had a

very keen interest in the outdoors, conservation, natural history and the environment from an early age. A visit to the Yorkshire Dales as part of a Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition was a formative experience. Jon's main passion for caving and potholing lead



to regular visits to the Dales and to many other caving sites round the world. Trained initially as an outdoor instructor, he became a Countryside Ranger in the Wirral, managing a 500 acre county park, followed by work on a Sport Council's "Countryside and Outdoor Recreation" demonstration project. He retrained as a Youth Worker to use his specialist outdoor education skills with inner city young people.

Jon's move to Austwick and his setting up Dalesbridge as a complex of campsite, bunkhouses, guesthouse, function and event rooms, finally enabled him to have a dales base. He is a founder member of the Bowland Sustainable Tourism network, also a director of Bowland Experience Ltd, a not for profit tourism enterprise. A former chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, he now chairs the Caves and Crag Access Advisory group. In addition Jon is Duty Controller and Council Member of the Cave Rescue Organisation; the team is also on call to deal with mountain rescues within the Three Peaks and Malham areas. Jon is passionate about the Yorkshire Dales, and believes that the Dales must have a sustainable thriving business community as the key to success; with conservation, farming, the community, tourism and business working together for a truly vibrant way of life.

Ann Cryer

Vice-President and Council Member

The Yorkshire Dales Society gives a particularly warm welcome to Ann

Cryer already a Vice-President of the Society, and now elected to also serve on the Yorkshire Dales Council of Management, after her retirement as MP for Keighley, in recent government elections. Ann was and is held in enormous respect not only by her own party, but also across party lines. Politics have long been part of Ann's life starting with a suffragette grandmother who was also an Independent Labour Party member. At 22 Ann became the youngest serving councillor in the country at Darwen Council, in Lancashire, her home town. After the tragic death of her first husband Bob Cryer, the former Keighley MP, in a road accident in 1994, Ann was approached by the Keighley Labour Party to become the local candidate and won the seat in 1997.

But tragedy was to strike again with the death of her second husband John from cancer in 2004. Despite these setbacks,



Ann is deeply committed to pursuing her campaign to improve human rights for women, and was elected to represent Yorkshire MPs on the Council of Europe in 1997, and as Rapporteur regarding 'Crimes of Honour' in 2002; her subsequent report being adopted by 42 states, and was used by Turkey to assist in drafting new legislation. Ann's portfolio of appointments and interests is formidable, and included serving as a JP on the Bradford Bench, and as an Honorary Lay Canon and Member of Bradford Cathedral Council. She has always responded deeply to the beauty of the Dales landscape, is actively interested in promoting better public transport to the area, (she is President of the Keighley Worth Valley Railway Preservation Society), and is keen to assist the Society in helping to campaign for its environmental and sustainable objectives.

Chairman's Overview of the Year, 2010

Retiring chairman Malcolm Petyt reported another productive year for the Yorkshire Dales Society. First and foremost the Yorkshire Dales Society as a **conservation organisation**, with a Policy Committee, is very ably served by its Chairman Hugh Thornton and Secretary Rick Cowley, who meet regularly to consider the YDS position and to decide on its actions relating to matters affecting the landscape and culture of the Dales.

The Society has commented on, and in some cases objected to, a number of applications to erect wind turbines in areas outside the National Park but so close as to affect the experience of being in the Dales. The YDS was pleased that proposals at Brightenber (near Gargrave), Chelker (visible from Bolton Abbey) and Sillfield (on the ridge between the Lune and the Kent Valleys) all fell through. A further application close to Sillfield had been heavily rejected by the Planning Authority, but was allowed on appeal. However, this has since been taken by objectors to the High Court.

But the YDS stance on individual cases does not mean opposition to wind power generation in general. The Society has produced a reasoned policy on renewable energy, and indeed has expressed its support for small-scale wind schemes which can be accommodated without harm to the landscape. Additionally the YDS is particularly supportive of schemes seeking to use water-power, which played a major role in the Dales in past centuries.

The landscape of the Dales was largely created by farming practices, and is dependent on the continuing health of farming. Council member Tom Lord has given guidance which enabled the YDS to make positive comments on government proposals for changes to the support schemes for upland farming.

The Dales landscape was affected very noticeably about 40 years ago by large-scale conifer planting. Those plantations are now reaching maturity, with such related problems as the extraction of felled timber where the

road network is inadequate, and decisions will be imminent about replanting. Once again the Society has carefully considered the position it should adopt.

Planning matters have been examined at various levels, and the YDS is fortunate in having professionals in this field on the Committee. Comments were made on both the higher-level Regional Strategy and on individual cases such as those affecting quarries. And the National Park Authority's draft Local Plan is being studied, especially the sites where it is proposed to allow the building of much-needed affordable housing for local people.

Other areas of concern have ranged from the local (such as the continuing saga of the use by motorised traffic of our Green Lanes) to the national. The Society has discussed and commented on the government's revised Circular about how National Parks should work, and how their purposes and priorities should be supported by a wide range of public and private bodies.

The Yorkshire Dales Society is also of course an educational charity, and here the lead is given by our Events, Communication and Membership Committee.

YDS provides a larger number of events for its members and the public generally than many much bigger organisations. Many of these involve a walk in the countryside of the Dales, and nearby areas. A most successful venture this year was to sponsor a performance in Grassington of an excellent drama by North Country Theatre called "Home on the Range", which movingly told the story of three Daleswomen who had left for America following the collapse of lead-mining and later had to take the Oregon Trail to the West.

Communications have continued with both newer and traditional forms. The Society maintains two fine websites: in addition to our own constantly updated site, we also operate the Dales Heritage website containing details of over 80 organisations representing a wide range of aspects of Dales heritage. This

reflects one of the YDS main objectives: to bring together organisations with a love of and interest in the Dales. Under the editorship of Fleur Speakman, we have been responsible for four excellent editions of Yorkshire Dales Review, which as usual has included a range of interesting and thought-provoking articles and some fine illustrations. The articles have ranged widely both in subject matter and in style. And the illustrations this year have been superb: besides the splendid photographs, each issue has had a centre spread of drawings by Frank Gordon. The magazine is not only read by members, but many others are aware of it, not least the local press, which often follows up its lead articles. The equally valuable DalesWatch Digest, gathers together press clippings from local and wider sources on matters affecting the Dales which Rhona Thornton has continued to produce on a quarterly basis.

Our contribution to public benefit delivery has been largely through a subsidiary company, the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company. Despite a poor summer in 2009 and the worst winter for many years (with some services cancelled because of snow), the company's network of Sunday and Bank Holiday services in the Dales has beaten all targets for 2009/10 with an increase in passenger numbers of over 50%. Much of this success is due to the efforts of a team of volunteers who, uniquely in the UK, plan and promote a fully integrated network of bus services, co-ordinated with trains at Skipton, Ilkley and Ribbleshead – and organise guided walks as well. Whilst the main aim has been to promote social inclusion by enabling people without their own cars to enjoy the Dales, there are major environmental benefits as other people are persuaded to leave their cars behind, or to park and ride for their walk. There are significant economic benefits too, as walkers and other bus users support local cafes, shops and pubs in the Dales. In 2010 the company has launched new services to Nidderdale and Wharfedale from York, links to the Wensleydale Railway, more

summer holiday "Dales Experience" services from Bradford and an experimental service to Scar House in Upper Nidderdale.

We are grateful to the many dedicated volunteers, some of them with considerable professional expertise in this area, who give their time to make this all work, and to the various bodies which have grant-aided the project.

In 2002, the YDS joined the Friends of the Lake District, in a research project which sought to put right some long-standing anomalies where the boundaries of our two National Parks were fixed when they were first designated in the 1950s. The then Countryside Agency took it up even before the report was published, setting up their own project to consider extending the boundaries. We were delighted when in due course, Natural England, (the successor body to the Countryside Agency) published proposals for new national park

boundaries based on landscape rather than outdated county boundaries. After a wide-ranging consultation, Natural England will consider its recommendation to Government, probably in September. But in the present economic climate, there could be another substantial delay before the designation process really commences.

The Chairman also offered his gratitude and appreciation to some of the many people who helped the Society over the past year, including Vice Chairman, Colin Speakman, Treasurer, Rhona Thornton, and the Council of Management, with its Committees, chairmen and secretaries who had all given valuable guidance. Thanks were given to those who organised the meetings and appropriate refreshments. Office Volunteers were thanked, especially Bernard Peel who handles membership matters on a regular basis. The Society's hard-working Administrator Anne Webster

had provided stability in the office and efficient running of the Society's affairs for several years, but she will be retiring at the end of the year, and she was warmly thanked for her professionalism and excellent work throughout the year.

The Chairman reminded the membership that his six years in office had co-incided with a number of difficulties and changes, but he was confident that he was handing over a Society in good heart to the new chairman, Colin Speakman.

Malcolm Petyt

Colin Speakman, the newly elected Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society, paid a warm tribute to Malcolm Petyt after the Report, thanking him for the major contribution he had made to the work and development of the Society over the last six years.

Managing our finances prudently – Some Comments from our Treasurer Rhona Thornton

The Yorkshire Dales Society's move in 2006 to an office in Settle, manned by a paid Administrator was made possible by the receipt of two substantial legacies. The establishment of the office, which is usually open four days a week, and the employment of an Administrator has given a focal point for members and lightened the administrative load on the members of Council, who are all volunteers.

As a registered charity, the Yorkshire Dales Society has a duty to prove to the Charity Commissioners that it is using part of its resources for Public Benefit and would be penalised if it failed to do this. However, for several years, our income, excluding legacies, has failed to keep pace with our expenditure. The situation has been exacerbated by the steep drop in interest rates over the past two years. The accounts show a deficit running at around £20,000 per annum. What the accounts do not show, however, is the hundreds of hours of unpaid work given by the Society's volunteers, in a variety of areas such as responding to Natural England's consultation on the expansion of the National Park, which involved attending several meetings with other interested parties (including one meeting in Kendal), and writing detailed comments on the proposals for submission to Natural England. The YDS Review and the Dales Digest are both prepared solely by volunteers, and

the Review could not be dispatched without the help of a dedicated band of members who attend the office quarterly to stuff envelopes. Much of the work in maintaining the membership records has been done in recent years by one volunteer, Bernard Peel, who has given a day a week of his time to the Society.

The Council is aware that the current level of deficit is financially unsustainable in the long-term, though we do have still some substantial reserves. As a result it has been decided that when our Administrator retires at the end of the year, her replacement will be a part-time appointment. This will inevitably mean some changes. The office may be open for shorter hours and undoubtedly more routine work will have to be done by volunteers. We are reviewing all items of expenditure, including the cost of the Review, which is the second highest item of expenditure. We know, however, that members regard the Review, produced to a high standard, as one of the benefits of membership. We aim to give value for money and hope that members will feel able to give an occasional donation or remember the Society in their Will. Donations in time are equally valuable. Please contact the office (contact details on back cover) if you think you can help, either in the Settle office or elsewhere.

Elizabeth Hartley - A Dent Hand-Knitter

Adam Sedgwick, who is commemorated by a slab of Shap granite beside the cobbled main street of Dent, wrote in 1868 of distant times when a little local wool was retained and spun into a coarse and clumsy thread, supplying the material "for a

me how the knitters of old plied the needles on winter evenings long ago. One of the needles reposed in a knitting-stick, like a dagger but of carved wood. It was tucked in a leathern belt. Wearing old-time garb and sitting down, Mrs Hartley rocked

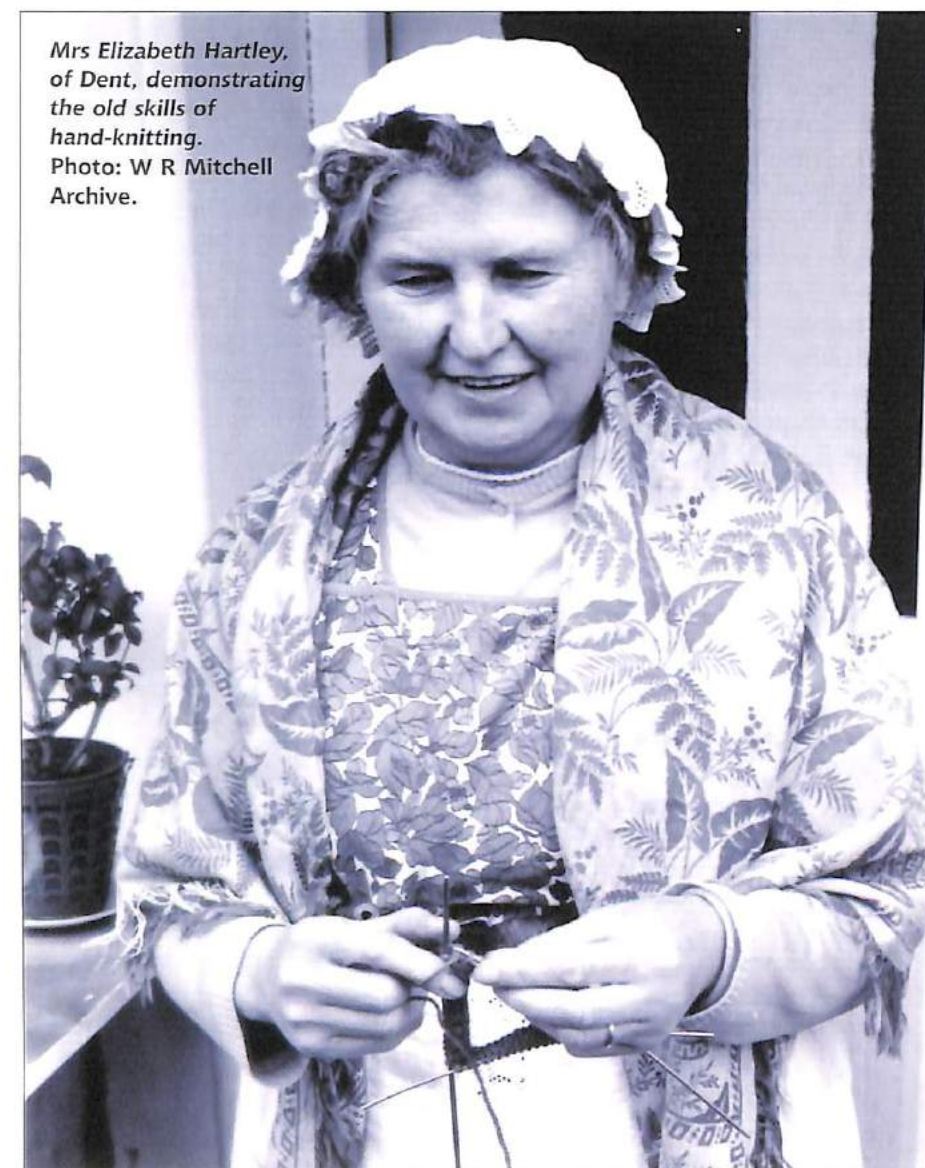
the play was a cottage interior with a peat fire simulated and an old lantern gleaming. Mrs Hartley, sitting on a rocking chair, had knitted part of a stocking as the play proceeded. "When we were rehearsing for that sketch, we met in a cottage near here that had been a Dame School where children had been taught knitting and writing."

Mrs Hartley employed Aran wool, the type nearest to that used by the dalesfolk of old. Her leather belt with a buckle had been used by her grandmother. The knitting-stick, fashioned from ash, was a gift to her grandmother, from her husband, on her wedding day. He was a joiner who, among other things, made knitting-sticks. Two special sticks had been made from box wood, the rings on the handle being inlaid with brass and bone.

It was fascinating for me to have a first-hand account of a hand-knitter at work – as she knitted! Dressed for the part, and sitting down, she rocked backwards and forwards, rhythmically, as she added more stitches to a partly completed stocking. Grandmother had been a fast knitter and was recalled as sitting in her rocking chair. "As she leaned forward, she neatly 'struck the loop'."

Miss Middleton told me: "Knitting was really part of their living. In those days, there were many small-time farmers. A man might have a bit of land and work at the quarry. The women knitted...In earlier times, everybody knitted." The aforementioned Adam Sedgwick, a native of the dale who became an illustrious geologist, recalled when Dent had knitting schools "where the children first learnt the art many of them were to follow through life." To William and Mary Howitt, who wrote about Dentsdale life in the 1840s, a group of Dent knitters at work beside a peat fire looked like "weird witches",

W R Mitchell



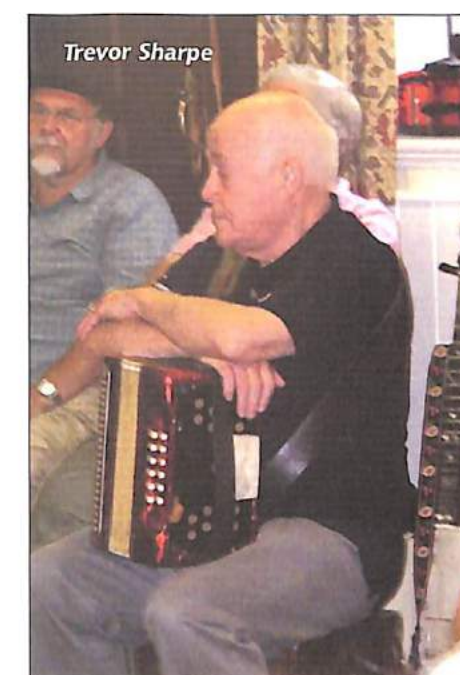
kind of rude manufacture that went, I think, under the elegant name of Bumf." The dalesfolk subsequently used finer material prepared by the woolcomber. Hand-knitting became an important domestic industry.

Mrs Elizabeth Hartley, the fourth generation of her family to live at Cage Farm, updale from Dent Town, was among the last of the local hand-knitters. In 1976, she demonstrated to

backwards and forwards, rhythmically, as she added more stitches to a partly completed stocking.

She had a knitting friend, Miss Elizabeth Middleton, and the two ladies – in Victorian garb – demonstrated hand-knitting to interested groups such as Women's Institutes. When Dent WI had contributed a dialect sketch to a drama festival held at Kendal, the setting of

Music of the Dales – Keeping the Spark Alive



One aspect of the distinctive culture of the Yorkshire Dales which the Society has constantly tried to celebrate is its music and dance.

It would be hard to argue that there was ever a "pure" Dales music tradition – rather a mixture of popular 18th and 19th century songs and dances, some even older in origin, adapted by individual musicians, most of whom learned the tunes by ear not sheet music. It flourished in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries in the agricultural, mill and mining communities of the higher Dales, before the advent of radio and television or mass mobility, when people had no option but to create their own entertainment. Fiddlers, accordion players, singers who knew the old songs, dancers who could step to the old tunes, were in constant demand, to provide music at weekends in the village hall or pub.

In later years the radio brought Country & Western influences to enrich and cross-fertilise ideas. By the 1960s the popularity of "Folk Music" brought many younger musicians and song writers such as Bob Pegg to revive the old songs but add their own individual words or tunes, in similar but evolving styles. Many of the traditional tunes

and dances were collected by scholars in the early 20th century, a rich treasure house for later musicians to explore.

But amazingly, the old oral tradition continues in the Dales. As recently as the 1950s and 60s such figures as "Banjo Willi" and the legendary Jackie Beresford of Buckden filled pubs and village halls in Upper Wharfedale. Their heirs, in more ways than one, are Tim and Rosie Boothman, of Threshfield. Rosie, Jackie's daughter, is now the leading teacher of traditional Dales dances in the Dales, whilst Tim



plays the Dales fiddle and accordion, having learned many old tunes from Jackie and friends.

The Yorkshire Dales Society was privileged to be entertained by Tim and Rosie in Buckden Institute on July 11th, supported by several Dales and northern musicians and renegade 1960s folk music heroes. These included our Master of Ceremonies, Trevor Sharpe of Bradford who did superb research work in the 1970s on the social background of the celebrated Song of Upper Wharfedale by William Foster of Beckermunds, and singer/writer Jim Jarratt with new versions of old songs, including a splendid setting of Pateley Races, by

Tommy Blackah the Nidderdale dialect poet.

Under Rosie's direction, we were able to take part in such classic Dales dances as Buttered Peas and Huntsman's Chorus, whilst Trevor reminded us of what it meant to get a pension from "Lord George" and Jim gave us a version of the Pam the Fiddler legend that still makes the flesh creep, plus much more besides from other group members.

These songs, dances and poems are an integral part of Dales culture, a response to the often harsh living conditions in the uplands endured by previous generations. They deserve to be more widely known and celebrated as an integral part of every Dales child's school curriculum, their living heritage. As it happens, Tim and Rosie, the Boothman Band, will be giving classes in Traditional Dales Dances in Upper Wharfedale this autumn. If you'd like details, or to book the Band, give them a ring on 01756 752869 or email timboothman@yahoo.co.uk. We are hoping to support regular "Dales Neets" this autumn and winter – look out for details on the website. But for a real treat for all lovers of old Dales (and





Rosie Boothman instructing the dancers.

some newer) Dales songs and dances, Jim Jarratt's splendid CD **Jannock! Romances and Dances of the Striding Dales** has many of the classic

songs and dances, and is available for just £5 (please add £2 post and packing) from Jim Jarratt, 10 Myrtle Grove, Scout Lane, Mytholmroyd,

Hebden Bridge, HX7 5JD or order via www.jimjarratt.co.uk

Event photos by Maureen Sharpe.

Daleswatch

Affordable Housing in the Park

There is both good news and bad news on this front. In June and July, we were able to take part in the public consultation process on the Park Authority's Draft Housing Development Plan (DHDP). The good news is that the Park's call for sites for affordable and local needs housing has identified land that we feel might accommodate up to about 180 houses. The bad news is that some of the policies set out in the DHDP are – in our view – not soundly based, and that we feel that the consultation process itself has been less than ideal. The Draft Plan proposes to change the settlement hierarchy to widen the scope for affordable and local needs housing. However, the proposals are based on a set of criteria that are not clearly defined or properly justified. Site development briefs that should have been made available for public consultation to give a clear idea of the proposals have not, in fact, been provided.

Members of the Authority should have been given the Draft Plan's Sustainability Appraisal before their meeting on 30th March when they gave their approval to the public consultation exercise, but they did not receive it. We understand that there are proposals for a major survey of housing need (down to parish level) across the whole of

North Yorkshire at the end of 2010, and we also know that looming public sector cuts will affect public transport in the Dales. We have suggested that the Authority should wait a little before proceeding with the Plan, so that it can review housing policies on the comments received and on up to date information on housing need and public transport. It will then be in a much better position to link housing issues to jobs and transport within its overall Development Plan. In the meantime, individual sites could come forward through the planning application process.

Environmental Stewardship

Take up of the new Uplands Entry Level stewardship Scheme by Dales' farmers does not appear to be as high as expected, partly because of the timing of the spring deadline for applications and the complexity of the forms. The National Park Authority's Advisory Service has an important role to play in helping farmers who are custodians of the environment that makes the Park special, make the most of the support that is available. We trust that the Park Authority will do everything it can to safeguard that service in face of the coming budget cuts.

Hugh Thornton, Chairman Policy Committee

Outreach work earns Dales award

The 2010 Ken Willson award was presented in Kettlewell on Saturday (10th July) to Nurjahan Ali Arobi at the AGM of the Yorkshire Dales Society. The annual award, which was created by the Yorkshire Dales Society and CPRE in 2005, is designed to commemorate the life and work of Ken Willson (1914-2003), a lifelong campaigner for the Yorkshire Dales, the first President of the Yorkshire Dales Society and a President of Craven CPRE.

The Award is presented to a young person who must live or work either within the Yorkshire Dales National Park or Nidderdale AONB, or in an adjacent community, and have made an important contribution to protecting, sustaining or enhancing the unique Yorkshire Dales landscape, natural history or cultural heritage. Bradford born and bred with Bangladeshi parentage, Nurjahan Ali Arobi from Shipley is this year's outright winner of the award.

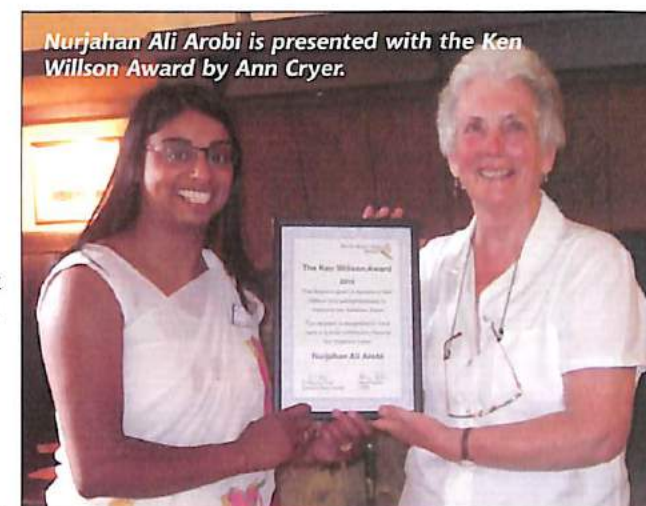
Nurjahan, aged 36, was nominated by the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Authority for her involvement in the Dales over the past six years in her role as the Walking for Health coordinator

National Parks.

An accomplished public speaker, she has spoken on behalf of her local community, the National Park Authority and for the Council for National Parks, to many different groups ranging from YDNPA staff to government ministers and the media. A spokesman from the YDNPA said, "Nurjahan has an infectious enthusiasm for the Yorkshire Dales and everyone who hears her speak, praises her warmth and ability to put forward her message about the Dales and its links with neighbouring communities concisely and clearly. In organising visits to the National Park by BAME groups, offering support and advice to YDNPA staff on communicating with BAME groups in encouraging visitors from those groups, Nurjahan is invaluable to the outreach work of both the YDNPA and, in turn, the Yorkshire Dales Society." (She is also a hard-working YDS Council member).

Jane Ellison-Bates



Nurjahan Ali Arobi is presented with the Ken Willson Award by Ann Cryer.

for the NHS. The nomination explained that since her initial involvement through her job, Nurjahan has subsequently become increasingly committed as a volunteer to getting more people from black and Asian minority ethnic (BAME) groups to visit the National Park. She is now a Community Champion for the YDNPA as part of the Mosaic project, a national campaign which aims to build sustainable links between black and minority ethnic communities and the

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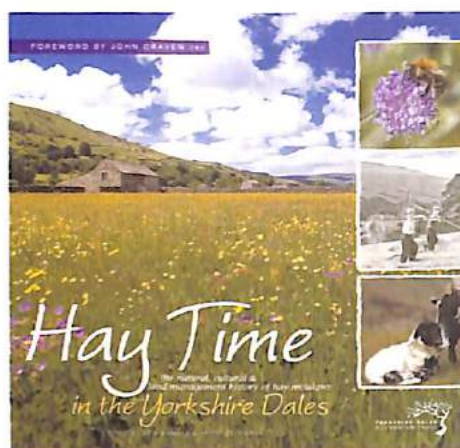
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Book Review

HAY TIME IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES EDITED BY DON GAMBLE AND TANYA ST PIERRE, published by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. ISBN no 13:978-1-909244-59-2 The book can be ordered from the YDMT costing £12 (plus £2 p&p) from the YDMT website at www.ydmt.org or by phone on 01542 51002.

Hay Time in the Dales is a very special book which deals in great detail with the natural, cultural and management history of hay meadows. With a forward by Yorkshire born John Craven CBE, it has some splendid contributions from farmers, academics and a number of experts. There is also a strong link with the Yorkshire Dales Society. YDS President Bill Mitchell and YDS Honorary Member David Joy have both contributed some evocative pieces on some earlier farming memories, enhanced by some splendid archive photos from the WR Mitchell archive. Two previous winners of the YDS Ken Willson Award who have contributed some outstanding services to the environment, are featured, particularly Dr Pippa Rayner, our winner in 2007 who was the first Hay Time Project Officer at the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and in 2009 Steve Marsden, last year's YDS winner, for his services to upland farming and forestry, and whose business is able to provide specialist farm machinery for the Hay Time project.



Flower-filled meadows are an iconic part of the Dales landscape, giving enormous pleasure with their lush beauty: however species-rich grasslands were not of course originally established as an attractive feature, but a by-product of the farming year, part of the continual cycle to provide animal fodder. Modern technology has in part helped to cut down on a percentage of the highly labour intensive work of getting in the hay, though it has often been at the cost of the flower-rich grasslands and the habitats of particular birds and mammals. What the Hay Time project demonstrated, is that a "Dales-wide network of good meadows, traditionally managed, but using modern farm machinery," can perhaps achieve better ecological equilibrium. In the words of one Swaledale farmer: "I don't think that a museum approach is acceptable or desirable. We need working landscapes... We can only guess as to

what climate change will actually mean in the future. But I want to see these meadows and all others like them maintained as a really important feature for the long term, because I think they're just so amazing."

There is a fascinating section on various common meadow plants, clearly illustrated, which additionally gives full details of their traditional uses as well as their flowering time and vital statistics. As the book makes clear, the diversity of plant species in unimproved grasslands such as hay meadows allows for a wide variety of plant-feeding animals to thrive – butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, beetles, smaller mammals, bats and birds. Meadow cutting dates of course can be crucial to the survival of any birds that actually nest in the meadows themselves. A useful section on agri-environment schemes explains current and past schemes and their benefits, and there is some compelling scientific evidence in chapter 8 for conservation management of plant diversity.

A beautifully produced and well-illustrated book, which gives verbatim accounts of individual farmer's hay-time experiences in a variety of dales, and finally there is a delightful section by local primary schoolchildren on their hopes for the future.

FS

Cover photo by David Raw.

Foxup to Cosh Knott

YDS member Margaret King describes the pleasures to be shared with members on a typical YDS summer event Our Walk Leaders were Mike and Jan Stephenson who also shared their local knowledge of the area with us. The weather was a bit unsettled for the start of our circular walk with eight people (another two members did a shorter walk), but it turned out to be warm and sunny with a welcome breeze on the tops. A short, steep climb on access land, out of Foxup from the bridge was the start of this spectacular walk onto the ridge looking down on the isolated valley of Cosh and Cosh Beck. It was a bit boggy in places but looking across to Plover Hill the views were stunning. Nearer to the trig point and Cosh Knoll, they became more and more spectacular. We had panoramic views of Buckden Pike, in the far distance the fells of the Lake District, the Nebb of Wild Boar Fell, the road to Oughtershaw, the Howgills and the fells of Dentdale.

Proudly standing out amongst all these fells were Park Fell, Simon Fell and Ingleborough. We took time to walk over to a cairn erected by friends of a walker who had lost his life walking in these hills some time ago. In places it was difficult underfoot but we took our time.

After descending into the valley, we made our way back alongside the Beck, stopping to observe the renovation of Cosh Farm and Grange, and then passing through a meadow of purple, blue and yellow wild flowers to Rock Cottage. Jan had gone ahead of us to prepare refreshments including a variety of home baked cakes, and we were able to sit outside, relax and enjoy this kind hospitality. It was a truly wonderful and interesting walk. We saw a few birds including kestrels, wheatears and some people heard skylarks. However, unfortunately no one saw the kingfishers that visit Mike's garden!

Margaret King

Autumn/Winter Events 2010

October 2010 - First Winter Walk / Lecture
Saturday, 02 October 2010 - Dent

Walk: Dent Circular – 4 - 5 miles easy/moderate
Walk Leader: Dr Malcolm Petyt, YDS
Meet: 10.45am at the Memorial Hall, Dent

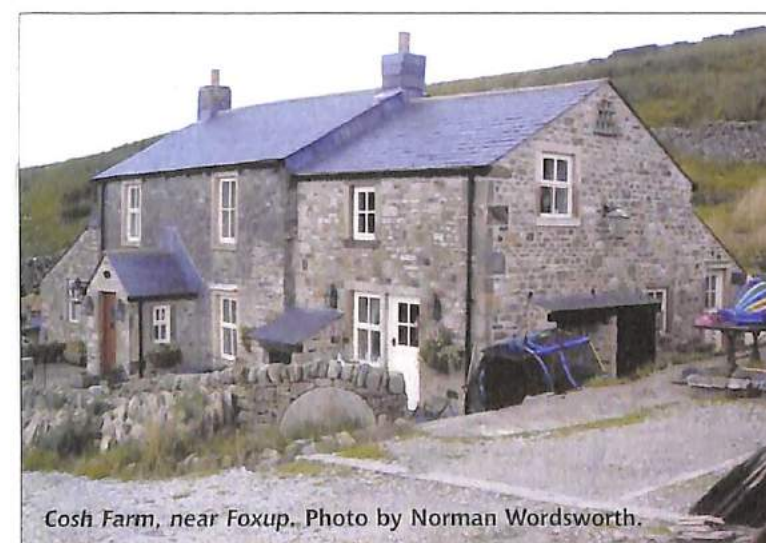
Lecture: The Howgills Shepherdess
Lecturer: Alison O'Neill, farmer, author and writer. Featured on Dales Diary, leads 'Free Range Walking' over the Howgills
Where: Memorial Hall, Dent
Time: 2.15pm prompt
Bus/Train: 564A leaves Dent Station for Dent at 10.20am, meets Leeds (d.0849) train. Return bus leaves Dent village for Station at 5.00pm

Saturday, 09 October 2010
CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINAR
10.00am - 4.30pm
Grassington Town Hall
by Tom Lord and Peter Wilson

Nine guest speakers on topics from The Little Ice Age and Upland Farming, Victoria Cave, Settle and Evidence for Multiple Glacial/Interglacial Cycles in the Yorkshire Dales, Abrupt Climate Change: Paleocological Records from Tarn Moss, Malham to the Hydrology of the River Wharfe and Climate Change - School Log Books as Evidence for Extreme Weather Events - a Case Study from Arkengarthdale.

Tickets £8.00 (inc. Buffet Lunch)
from The Yorkshire Dales Society
Town Hall, Settle, BD24 9EJ

Further information - tel: 01729 825 600



November 2010 - Second Walk / Lecture
Saturday, 06 November 2010 - Pateley Bridge

Walk: Pateley Bridge Circular Walk to Yorke's Folly – 4-5 miles moderate
Walk Leader: David Portlock YDS
Meet: 10.30am at Pateley River Bridge (Bus 24 d.Harrogate 0930)

Lecture: Restoration and Conservation of Black Grouse Population in the Yorkshire Dales
Lecturer: Phil Warren, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Where: Pateley Bridge Memorial Hall
Time: 2.15pm prompt

December 2010 - Third Walk / Lecture
Saturday, 04 December 2010 - Stainforth to Settle

Walk: Stainforth to Settle along the river, 4 miles easy
Also to view the Settle Hydro Archimedes Screw with short talk by Anne Harding, board director of the Settle Hydro.
Walk Leaders: Ron and Vanessa Stone
Meet: 11.00am Stainforth Car Park
Train: Catch the train to Settle, d. Leeds 0849, Keighley 0912, Skipton 0926, a. Settle 0948
Bus: Catch the B10 bus d. Settle Market Place 1045, a. Stainforth 10.53

Lecture: Lucy Sargent Lecture "Ingleborough: insights into an iconic mountain"
Lecturer: David Johnson
Where: Settle Methodist Church Hall
Time: 2.15pm prompt

January 2011 - Fourth Walk / Lecture
Saturday, 08 January 2011

Walk: Gargrave, Bell Busk, Bank Newton, along canal back to Gargrave, 5 miles easy
Walk Leader: Dr Chris Wright YDS Member
Meet: 10.30am Sweet Shop and Café, Gargrave (Train d. Leeds 0849, Keighley 0912, Skipton 0926)

Lecture: Bats in the Yorkshire Dales
Lecturer: Prof J.D Altringham (Nation's leading expert on Bats. Autumn Watch, Life on Earth, advises Natural England on Bat conservation and lifestyle)
Where: Gargrave Village Hall
Time: 2.15pm prompt

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



Front Cover: Grip Mapping. (See article 'Conserving Yorkshire's Bogs' on pages 3 and 4). Photo by Tessa Levens.

Back Cover: Bilberry Flowers. (See article above). Photo by Richard Burkmar.

Yorkshire Dales Society:

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

Telephone/Answerphone 01729 825600.

www.yds.org.uk

See also –

www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk

www.dalesandbowland.com

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