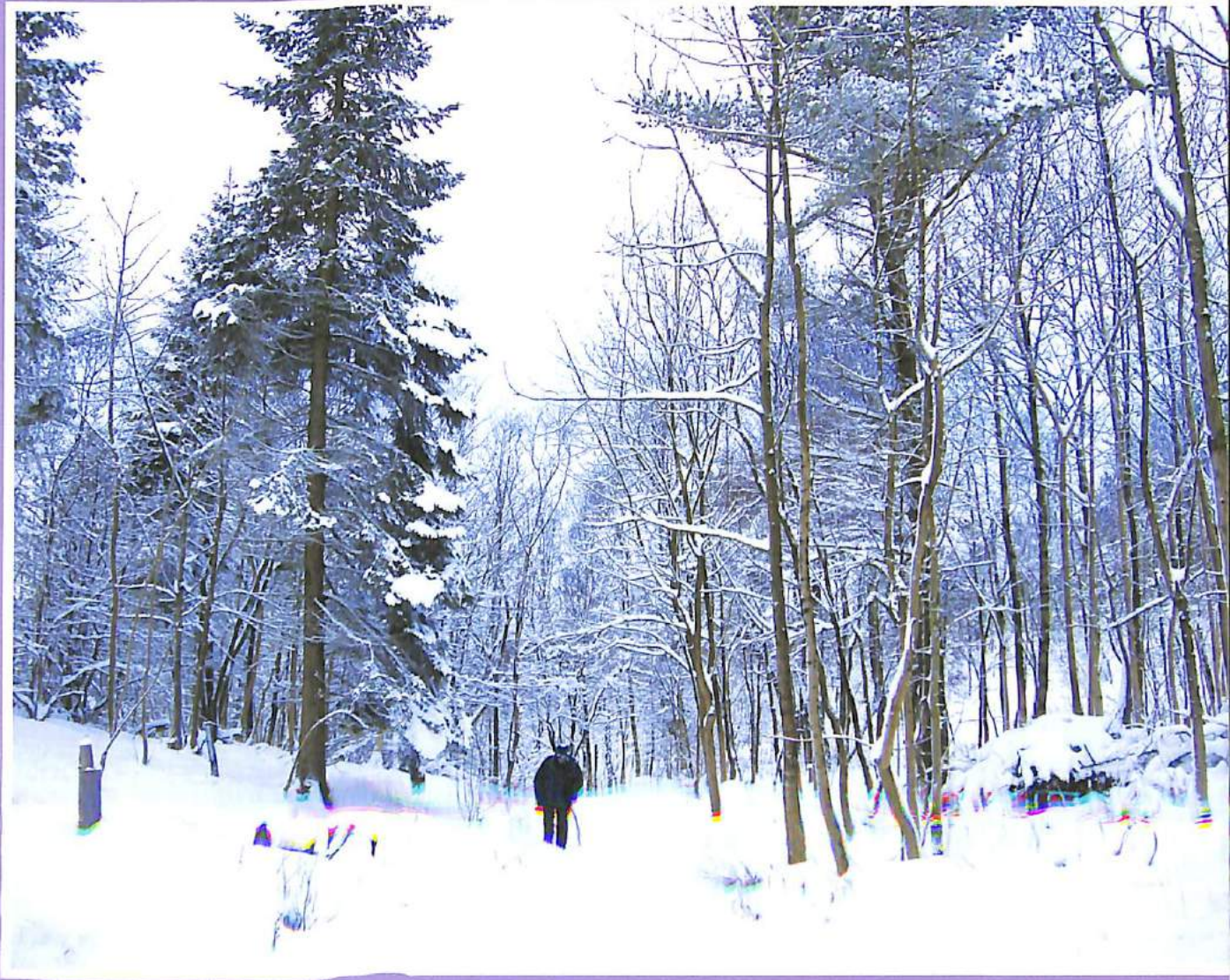


# Yorkshire Dales Review



- *Walking, Landscape and Health*
- *Future of the Field Barn*
- *The Coldstones Cut Quarry Sculpture*
- *Climate Change Seminar*

*Yorkshire Dales  
Society*



# Yorkshire Dales Review

## No. 113 · Winter 2011

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

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



## Walking, Landscape, Health

At the very time when the medical profession are urging people to take more active exercise in iconic landscapes such as the Yorkshire Dales, for example by exploring the newly created public access areas across the fells, or by discovering its great footpath heritage in the valleys, these access opportunities could be under a particularly insidious threat. Potentially massive cuts to the operational budgets of all our National Parks will leave each National Park to make their own often reluctant decisions which may conflict with their long term goals or ideas of best practice. Sadly, many of the services the public most value in terms of visitor management, interpretation, and the Park's wider educational role, could be most at risk. Yet the actual savings that will be secured in terms of the need to appease international bond markets, are minute, compared with huge areas of public expenditure elsewhere. Even these savings will almost certainly be counter-productive.

Carl Lis, the highly-respected Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and recently appointed Chair of UKANPA, the organisation that represents all of the UK's National Parks, is greatly concerned about the damage these cuts will do to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and its landscape and communities. Tough budget decisions will inevitably affect both staffing and many specialist areas of the Park's work such as biodiversity, archaeology, educational work and footpath maintenance. Although footpaths are technically the responsibility of North Yorkshire County and Cumbria Council as highway authorities, their role was taken over by the YDNPA in the 1970s, but with a grant from North Yorkshire County Council. Not only is the Park's own budget to be cut, but the £50,000 annual contribution from NYCC is to be withdrawn. Poor footpath maintenance will in time add to further deterioration of the surrounding area to quote Carl, as walkers try to avoid the mud and sludge, and what was once an attractive path over a popular fell can become a real eyesore and cost far more to put right than continuous maintenance.

Yet walking is an inexpensive, vital preventive medicine, which can save lives and the National Health Service millions. Medical opinion suggests even a short walk of 30 minutes can help with depressive illnesses, perhaps also with adult obesity, while there appears to be some evidence that walking several miles a week can help to stave off diseases like Alzheimer's. Long before the recent Walking for Health campaign, individual doctors who had treated patients in continental and UK spas, had been aware of the benefits of short walks for their patients' convalescence. In 1995,

William Bird, an Oxfordshire GP, started the concept of health walks for his patients, and recommended regular brisk walks, leading to the formation of the Way to Health Initiative by Natural England and the British Heart Foundation, now known as Walking for Health. Volunteer leaders are selected and trained by the WfH to lead free health walks from community places such as libraries and GP surgeries. With over 600 Walking for Health schemes across the UK and thousands of people walking every week with such groups, the initiative has achieved recognition and success. In 2008 Walk England was formed with help from the National Lottery and Department of Transport, to provide support to health, transport and environmental professionals who were working to encourage walking.

But walking in fine areas of countryside such as National Parks can have even greater value for physical and mental health and well being. This is something fully understood by the National Trust, who manage some key areas of land in the Yorkshire Dales, in Upper Wharfedale and Malhamdale. The Trust has started a new, six month campaign called Outdoor Nation, a project to find out why young people are losing touch with the outdoors, some appearing to be "terrified of the countryside" as the Trust's Director General, Dame Fiona Reynolds, herself a life-long walker, claimed. Youngsters in an inner city who are perhaps more used to a greater choice of activities, lots of bright lights and more contained built-up areas, are then confronted with something dark, mysterious, and in their eyes, alienating. "We are breeding a society that's less confident about exploring, less confident about going to places we haven't been to before," adds Fiona. Research appears to show "a growing disconnection between people and the natural environment." But this, according to the Trust, could perhaps be taken as an opportunity for partnerships between voluntary bodies and local community groups to help provide greater access and green space.

Such projects prove how National Parks, far from being a "luxury" to be cut at the stroke of a politician's pen, are vital to the physical and mental well being of the nation, even ignoring the massive contribution they make to the rural economy through the tourism industry, now the second biggest industry in North Yorkshire and a major earner of overseas currency. Short term savings to National Park budgets will cost the nation dearly in the longer term. It is time Government, locally and nationally, got its real priorities right.

Fleur and Colin Speakman

## Is it Time for a Fresh Look at the Future for the Yorkshire Dales Field Barn?

Andy Singleton is a skilled Dales builder and award-winning restorer of historic buildings, co-author of *Barns of the Yorkshire Dales* (Great Northern Books). In this thought provoking article, he questions whether or not National Park policies relating to the conversion of outlying derelict barns can always achieve what the policies intend. The views expressed by Andy in this article are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

No public body, civic organization, government or individual would be happy whilst several thousand decaying and abandoned shops, factories, houses or flats in a town or city slowly fell apart. It would be a national scandal, if in every town you found street after street of unused and crumbling buildings. There are times when it happens to a particular area during a recession, or in isolated incidents of planning blight and urban decay. There

are scandalous examples of empty and neglected buildings dotted around most thriving towns, but before long someone will come along with a plan to redevelop, restore or convert.

In the dales however, in a landscape protected, loved and enjoyed by all, it seems acceptable to leave field barns empty and expect them to remain so for ever to enhance the view. Unfortunately, although they are built to last and have few moving parts requiring maintenance, they will not last forever. In fact recent surveys have shown that 40% may be in urgent need of repair to reverse the inevitable decline, which begins with an odd stone or slate slipping out and often leads to complete collapse. Many have already been lost. Why do we expect farmers to look after buildings, which they are not permitted to convert to new uses? 'That might create a precedent,' you often hear. Barns owe

their existence to age-old farming methods: part of the evolution in animal husbandry which lead from hunter gathering to modern mechanized farming. The fact that they are now a valuable and cherished part of a protected landscape is a happy coincidence, but without a practical use, they would not be there at all. We could pay farmers to restore and maintain them and keep them empty. Not a sensible option, particularly when we, as a nation owe almost a trillion pounds; a sum still rising alarmingly despite recent cuts. Or we could perhaps return to traditional pre-mechanised farming methods: milking and haymaking by hand, butchering animals on the farm and selling the produce locally, thus returning farms to their intended use. There are now some moves in that direction, but the demand for cheap food, suggests we are not yet ready to return to expensive labour intensive farming methods. We could knock down all the barns, clear them away and use the stone for house building elsewhere. Perhaps convert them into houses or holiday lets? Or find other commercial uses for them. Since each barn is unique and uniquely situated, they need to be surveyed individually, and in consultation with national park planners, farmers, landowners and other local interested parties, for most a positive solution could be found.



Langstrothdale near the source of the River Wharfe. Photo by Christopher Walker.

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Farming methods

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New technology, sustainable building methods and open minded thinking

could secure the future of almost every one. This could be done with little cost to the beleaguered British taxpayer. Some may not be easily converted, yet still form a vital part of the landscape, and so could be retained and maintained as part of an overall scheme with tourism as the justification. The majority could and should in my view be restored sensitively and become living buildings again. It would require a new way of thinking for all involved. If we allow people to use them, they will have an incentive to look after them. There are dozens of examples where this has been done without damaging the landscape. Some examples can be found in the book, *Barns of the Yorkshire Dales\**, by David Joy and Andy Singleton.

Global warming and climate change is driving new thinking in construction methods and materials. It is now possible to create off-grid, carbon neutral sustainable homes without despoiling the environment. Any necessary pylons, overhead cables and tarmac access roads can be sensitively sited and designed. In Coverdale one scheme hopes to

provide an affordable off-grid carbon neutral home for a key worker without harming the landscape in any way. This is a proposal to restore a small derelict stone barn, which has lain unused for over fifty years. If successful, the building will appear from any vantage point to be almost unchanged. Fielden Clegg Bradley, award winning London architects, are attempting to create a small temporary dwelling inside a field barn by constructing an 'eco pod' shell within the walls of an otherwise untouched field barn near Appletreewick. They have yet to convince that their proposed service trailer parked next to the building will

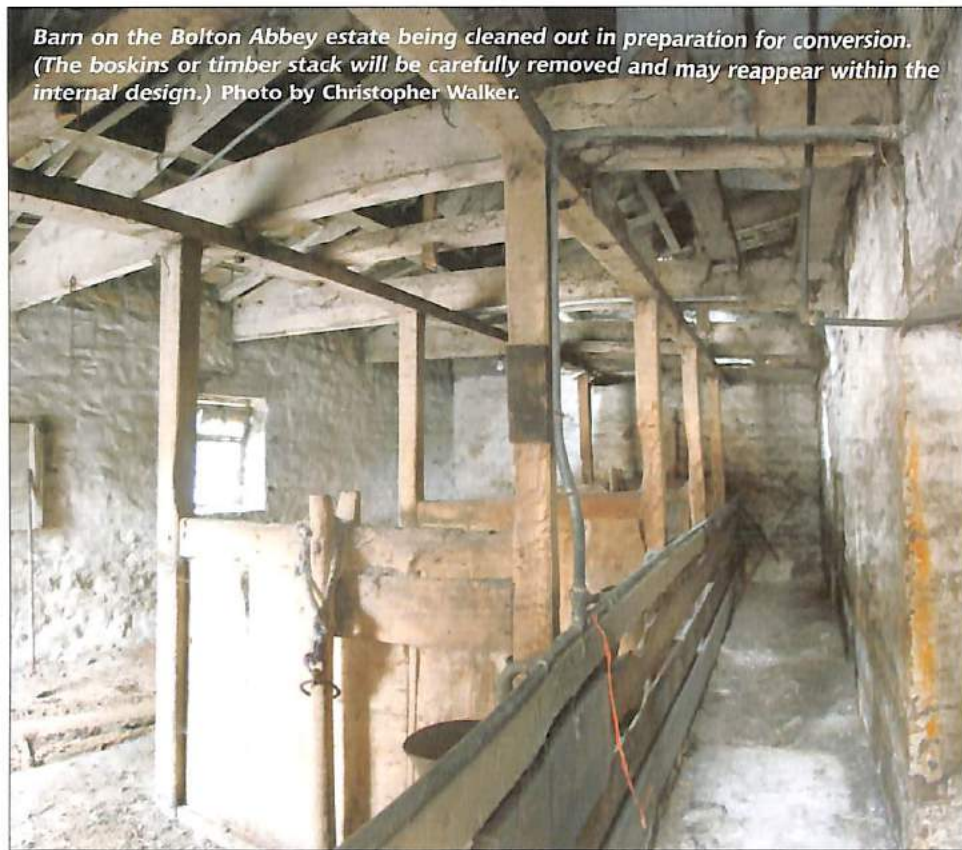
be capable of producing the necessary power for heat and light whilst dealing with fresh water and sewage. However, they do deserve credit for trying to deal with the problem. We now know that by including in a domestic barn conversion, the very highest standards of insulation and power creation, by introducing ground source heat pumps, rainwater harvesting, triple glazing, bio mass heating, solar hydro and wind power and storage batteries, it is possible to create a home with an electrical power requirement of no more than 2 kilowatt. Many of these measures can be sited discretely away from the host building leaving it apparently untouched. Heating for four

structural integrity whilst solving the problem of headroom beneath the truss tie beams. Conversion for domestic use involves securing the structure, sometimes underpinning the foundations, damp proofing the walls and carefully introducing new structural openings where possible without altering the appearance. It is of the utmost importance that the external stonework and roof is restored carefully by someone experienced in local stonemasonry. If done correctly, it should be almost impossible to notice where changes to the existing shell have been carried out. Gentrification of the surrounding landscape should be avoided at all costs. Porches,

conservatories, garden paving and walls can do more to disturb the landscape than conversion of the building itself.

Two years ago a government advisor persuaded those in power at the time that the UK urgently required an unbelievable three million new homes to be built in the next twenty years. If this had happened, a great deal of the Green Belt, areas of natural beauty and national

parks would have come under threat. Luckily the recession and the change of government put paid to this scheme. In the following year, thanks to the financial crisis, in fact we built fewer new homes than at any time since the war. Yet it is undeniable that there is huge pressure to find space for new housing. Whilst this national pressure is very real, particularly in the south of England, the housing shortage in the dales continues to be a specific problem. The few available homes are simply too expensive for ordinary local youngsters. It is virtually impossible for a manual worker to fund the purchase or construction of a home in the dales.



**Barn on the Bolton Abbey estate being cleaned out in preparation for conversion. (The boskins or timber stack will be carefully removed and may reappear within the internal design.) Photo by Christopher Walker.**

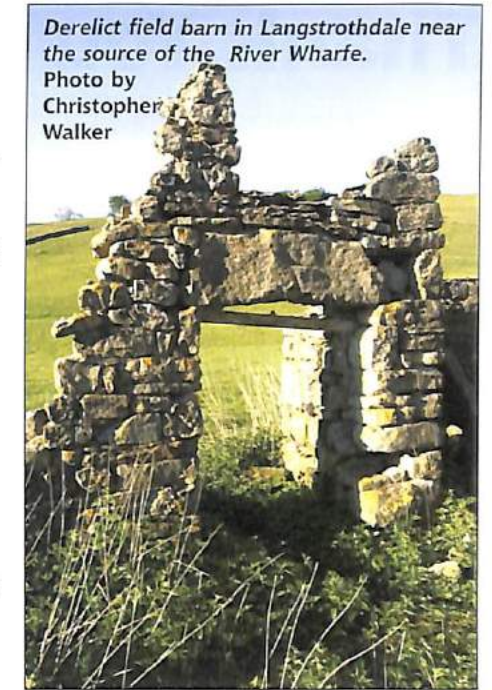
The creation of new affordable housing is not considered enough of a priority. It is not surprising that there are problems in the local economy, leading to an exodus of the young and influx of the comfortably off retired. So often policy makes a nod in the right direction, but the planning process is often difficult and expensive, often beyond the reach of the average working man or woman. Plans which reach submission have gone through months of gestation and the process has swallowed thousands of pounds spent on reports, surveys and investigations into the right of the applicant to live and work where he does.

I recently stayed with friends in

Beckermonds and travelled from there very early in the morning over the top of the dale and down through Gayle, Hawes, Bainbridge and into Coverdale. It was 8am on a wet and cold morning, but I passed a surprising number of people out working on the fells, in the villages and on the farms. These are the people who make the dales what it is. Their ancestors built the barns and the walls, and they work the land and maintain the landscape we all find so beautiful. Why should they not be allowed the opportunity to build or buy affordable homes or use their stone buildings for other commercial purposes?

**Andy Singleton**

\* Further details:  
[www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk](http://www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk)



**Derelict field barn in Langstrothdale near the source of the River Wharfe. Photo by Christopher Walker**

## YDS Climate Change Seminar – The Past, The Present, The Future ...

On Saturday 9th October, at Grassington Town Hall, the Yorkshire Dales Society – with support from the National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust through the National Park's Sustainable Development Fund, held a conference on the impact of climate change on the Yorkshire Dales in front of a substantial audience. Introduced by our President Bill Mitchell, a series of speakers described the pattern of climate change since the last Ice Age, and what may happen in the future. Interest was high in a highly topical and well-attended event.

Tom Lord, a YDS Council member, local farmer and also a lecturer at Lancaster University, set out the evidence of changes in the local climate obtained from archaeological investigations at Victoria Cave above Settle and described the (awesome!) personality clashes between some of those involved.

Wishart Mitchell from Durham University showed how the glaciers covering the Dales reached a maximum extent about 20,000 years ago and then retreated in a series of stages, leaving behind the low rounded hills ('drumlins') so characteristic of Ribblesdale and elsewhere.

Peter Wilson, of the University of Ulster, focused on one particular phase of climate deterioration about 8,200 years ago, when the limestone pavements of the Dales emerged. He also made a rather chilling connection between climate change and the collapse of historic civilizations.

Ian Whyte and Helen Shaw from the Lancaster Environment Centre described their work looking at variations in livestock farming and grazing management from the 14th century onwards. So far, the evidence is inconclusive. Although the start of a 'Little Ice Age' in the Middle Ages coincided with a

shift from arable to pastoral farming, this could well have been caused by economic factors – for example rising wool prices and consequent changes in land management.

Adrian Pickles, head of the Malham Tarn Field Studies Centre, reviewed evidence from the weather records at Malham Tarn from 1959 to date. He concluded that there is consistent evidence, locally and nationally, that there has been a sharp increase in temperature since about 1980, and that this can only be explained by human factors.

Robert White, from the National Park, indicated that the Park Authority is currently reviewing the potential impact of climate change on arable agriculture, biomass energy sources, solar energy, drainage and flooding.

Dorian Speakman, an expert on climate change, reviewed the possible trends during the 21st century. While there was considerable uncertainty as to exactly what will happen, he expected drier summers to lead to more oxidation of peat and a greater risk of moorland fires; and more intense rainfall to lead to greater erosion – all reducing the ability of peatlands to store carbon.

He foresaw both a longer growing season, and an extended tourist season, with an increased risk of both water shortages and increased flooding, and a need to adapt buildings, drainage systems and agricultural practices.

The speakers concluded by joining together in a forum of expertise, fielding a number of pertinent and detailed questions from the audience, bringing a most successful occasion to a close.

**Hugh Thornton**

# Thank You Anne

Anne Webster, who has been the Society's full time Administrator since June 2008, but has worked part time for the Society since the beginning of 2007, retired at the end of December.

Anne came on board at a time of crisis, soon after the YDS office moved from Otley to Settle. Problems of staffing, equipment and software need someone of energy and experience to resolve, and Anne, who had both run her own secretarial business and was a former Town Clerk, came to the Society's help. Within weeks she had helped to re-equip the office, set up new data bases and filing systems, and organised the office in a professional way so that Council and Committee Members had all the support they needed.

Anne also proved adept at organising a wide range of events, from Walks and Talks to Conferences and Shows, and she has been a familiar figure at Society events over the last four years. Despite her ill health last year which restricted her mobility, Anne put the Society first by coming into the office even when she could have stayed at

home, working with her dedicated volunteers to ensure deadlines were all met, the magazines went out on time, and web sites were updated.

We shall all miss her attention to detail, her sharp sense of humour and her enthusiasm for the Dales which imbued all her work for the Society. But retirement also means she will have more time to actually enjoy the Dales she so loves, to get out walking once again with Molly her dog, to spend weekend and holiday quality time with her children and her grandchildren



without having to rush back to the office to deal with urgent letters and e-mails, and, yes, enjoy some well earned relaxation.

Thank you Anne for all you have contributed to the Society over the last four years, a legacy which will remain with us for many years to come. But we are hoping, after a little rest, Anne will continue to join us at YDS events, and who knows, perhaps help just very occasionally in the office she has so much made her own.

The more difficult economic circumstances which Rhona Thornton refers to elsewhere in the Review, have sadly made it impossible for us to replace Anne with a full time Administrator, so a new part time (2½ days per week) post has been created. The person appointed, by coincidence, is also called Ann (without an "e"). She is Ann Shadrake, from Skipton, someone who also has many previous close links with the Dales. Ann will take over from January 4th and is looking forward to meeting YDS members.

Colin Speakman

## YDS - Adjusting our Membership Subscriptions in a New Era

Members join the Yorkshire Dales Society to support its work in protecting the special area which constitutes the Yorkshire Dales, both inside and outside the boundaries of the National Park, and not for "what they can get out" of their membership. In this we differ from some other charities which can offer substantial benefits to their members, for instance the National Trust. Many of their members may perhaps be somewhat less interested in the Trust's work in protecting the landscape, than in using their membership to obtain free entry to a large number of fine properties.

Nevertheless, the Society does offer a number of benefits to members, for example, the quarterly Review and a programme of walks and talks. However, the cost of the Review takes a large proportion of the annual membership income, leaving considerably less to cover the cost of running and staffing the office.

It is four years since the subscription was last reviewed. A number of other National Park societies have recently increased their subscriptions. The subscriptions now being charged in other Societies for single membership range from £27 to £10 and for a couple from £42 to £15, so our subscription is set in about the middle of the range. It is striking, however, that no other society has a reduced subscription for retired members (apart from a discretionary rate offered by the Dartmoor Society.)

Over half of our members pay the retired rate subscription. I feel that the time has come to do away with this category of membership. While I acknowledge that many older members do not have adequate pensions, others have quite a high disposable income, being by that time in life mortgage-free and their children now financially independent.

Council has therefore agreed to increase the retired rate of subscription over two years until it is the same as the ordinary rate (current rates on back cover). The single and couple retired rates will rise by £2 from April 2011, and by a further £1 and £2 respectively in April 2012. As a safeguard, pensioners who cannot afford to pay the few extra pounds can ask to remain on the current rate. Life membership rates remain the same: for those over 60 it is £200 for a single person and £300 for a couple.

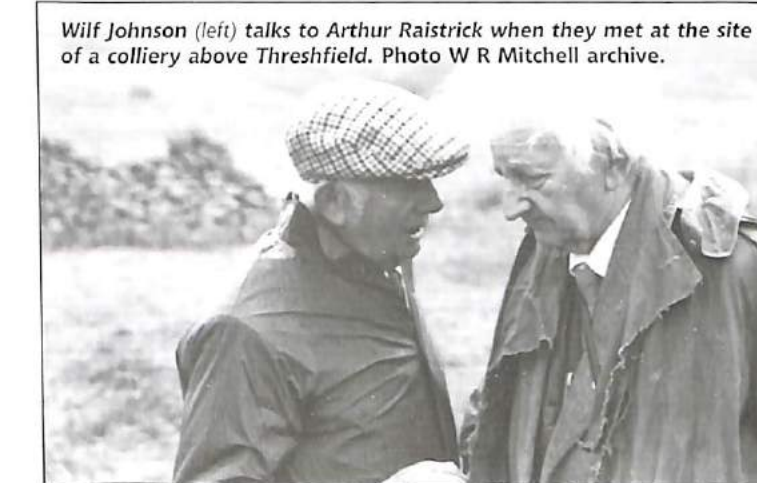
We will all be affected by the recent national financial situation and measures that have to be taken. The Society will have to bear the cost of the increased VAT rate. It is never a good time to increase the subscription, but I hope that by protecting younger members who may be affected by the cuts in jobs we can retain most of our membership while raising more essential income for the Society.

Rhona Thornton, Treasurer

# Arthur Raistrick

I had the enjoyable task, over several years, of sub-editing articles that Arthur Raistrick submitted to *The Dalesman*. He who would later be dubbed Man of the Millennium by the Yorkshire Dales Society wrote at length. I dared not alter a single word and – to his annoyance – I broke up his text to form shorter paragraphs. I was keen to let more light into pages of solid type.

Arthur mistrusted tape-recordings. On



Wilf Johnson (left) talks to Arthur Raistrick when they met at the site of a colliery above Threshfield. Photo W R Mitchell archive.

visits to his home at Linton-in-Wharfedale, I had to resort to shorthand notes. Tape-recordings, he claimed, were of little value and should be read with suspicion. "Questions are sprung on the victim and he has no time for thought, but will use fleeting memories and spur-of-the-moment

answers that rate very low for accuracy."

I carried camera and a notebook on my last outing with Arthur on an autumn day in 1984. A few of his friends were visiting the site of a short-lived colliery at an elevation of 890-ft on Threshfield Moor. I recall Arthur standing at the edge of a man-made declivity. A sneaky wind ran a comb through his mass of

white hair and ruffled his baggy suit of Quaker grey. He looked like a prophet in the wilderness.

Arthur discussed the colliery's short history with Griff Hollingshead, Frank Woodall, Kathleen

Harrison and Wilf Johnson (the figure on the left in my photograph). The colliery had been one of the less-rewarding ventures of the tycoon John Delaney. A shaft was sunk to a depth of 65 feet. A gravity, steam rope-hauled tramway connected it with limestone quarries far below. Being prone to

flooding, the colliery lasted a mere ten years, suffering a loss of £30,000.

Arthur had an unvarying routine, based on the old maxim "early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." He was never wealthy. His first impulse each morning was to play classical music – Bach, Mozart – on his gramophone before settling down to work in a study that was about 10-ft square, with a three-light window on the south and a brick fireplace. Bookshelves and cupboards occupied the remaining wall space. If he felt the need for privacy, or an escape from draughts, he drew a curtain across the void.

Arthur was a pioneer of what later became known as industrial archaeology. On one visit, I saw an array of old lead-mining photographs he had spread across his living room while undertaking, on behalf of Beamish Open Air Museum, and with the collaboration of Arthur Roberts, a large tome on the life and work of the northern lead miner. Letters and booklets written by Arthur Raistrick during my *Dalesman* years have been lodged with the J B Priestley Library at the University of Bradford.

W R Mitchell

## Obituary: John Ward 1927–2010

It was sincere regret that we heard of the death in September 2010 of former YDS Council Member John Ward, aged 83, from a muscle wasting disease. John born in Skipton, was educated at Ermysted's Grammar School and later read mathematics at Christ College, Cambridge. After war-service in the RAF, he became a senior civil servant in London, then Chairman of the Board for Graduate Entry to the Inland Revenue. On his retirement, he returned to Yorkshire, making his home in Ilkley with his wife Shirley. He became an active member of YDS, was elected to Council where his wise comments as a senior member of the YDS Council of Management were always welcome. He gave his time as a regular volunteer at the YDS office in Addingham, before initiating the Society's quarterly Dales Digest which summarises and quotes key dales' issues, culled mainly from the local and regional press, in an accessible format. His help to Ilkley U3A in its early years and his persuasive powers were also particularly appreciated.

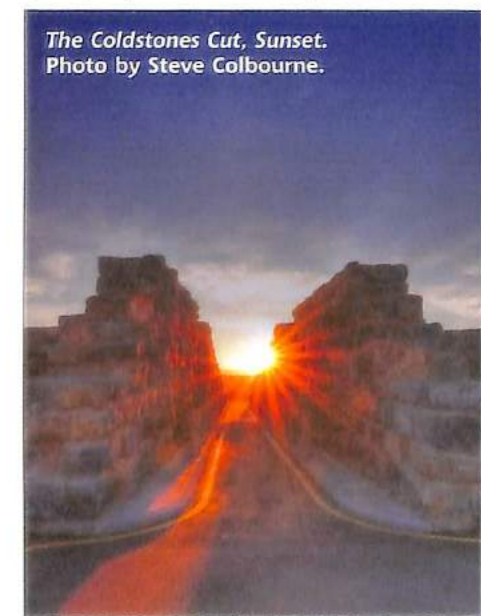
John used his increased leisure to produce a very readable biography of his father entitled *Dales Blacksmith: Jack Ward of Skipton*, together with some shorter pieces for *Dalesman* magazine and the YDS Review. Regular walks in the dales and skilled wood-carving were additional interests. Our sincere condolences go to Shirley his widow, his children, grandchildren and other family members.



# The Coldstones Cut – The Nidderdale “Angel of the North”

The Coldstones Cut above Greenhow village, in Nidderdale AONB is public art on a monumental scale. Andrew Sabin, internationally renowned for his sculptures, was commissioned to build a sculpture which would act as a viewing platform for the nearby Coldstones Quarry. The sculpture, made of limestone blocks, has been erected at 398 metres (1375 feet) above sea level. From the high viewing platforms, with orientation and interpretation panels, there are panoramic views across much of Nidderdale and across to York Minster, the Yorkshire Wolds and South Pennines. The castle-like structure is 245 feet long and 16 feet high, with the entrance through a walled “street”, and the option to climb up on either side of the structure by an easy gradient to one of two spirals, or just view the quarry face comfortably from the central area: it is a highly dramatic statement which is best appreciated actually on site and then again on the return journey.

All sculpture materials came from the quarry itself, owned and operated by Hanson UK, who together with Nidderdale Plus Partnership, (a local voluntary community regeneration agency), commissioned the work. Financial support came from the Aggregate Levy Fund (paid by the quarry operators and ring-fenced for



*The Coldstones Cut, Sunset.*  
Photo by Steve Colbourne.



*The Coldstones Cut, Circles.*  
Photo by Paul Harris.

art and landscape projects), Arts Council of England –Yorkshire, Yorkshire Forward, and the Yorkshire LEADER Project among others.

There has already been much public interest and it is possible to visit the site quite easily and get a spectacular view of the last working quarry in the Nidderdale area, as well as enjoying

some great landscape views. Visitors can make use of a small nearby car park at Toft Gate on the B6265 (Grid ref 644130), but the local network of well waymarked footpaths makes it an ideal destination for a very enjoyable walk, for example from Pateley Bridge on the 24 bus route from Harrogate.

*Fleur Speakman*

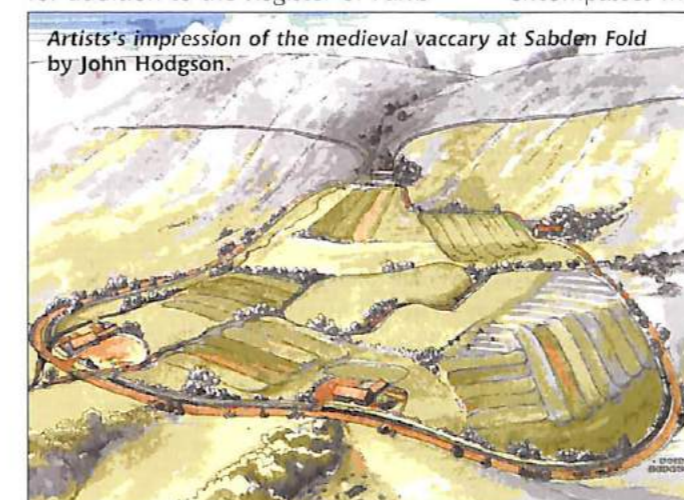
# Historic Designed Landscapes on the Lancashire / Yorkshire border: new initiatives, volunteers wanted

Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Lancashire Gardens Trust (LGT) would like to attract volunteers from the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas to participate in two projects in the adjacent Forest of Bowland AONB – one ongoing, and another awaiting Heritage Lottery Fund approval at time of writing.

In December 2008, a team of around a dozen LGT volunteers embarked on the Historic Designed Landscapes of Lancashire: Phase 2 project ('HDL') – an LCC Environment Directorate initiative to enhance a database of parks and gardens of all periods in the post-1974 county, first compiled as a desk-based exercise funded by English Heritage in 1998. The volunteers receive training in many disciplines, including the use of documentary and aerial photographic sources, and meet regularly to problem-solve. The 1998 report targeted sites of national significance for addition to the Register of Parks

late Spring 2011, if HLF funding is agreed - will focus exclusively on the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (and a c. 2 km 'buffer' zone). The project intends to help the public to access, enjoy, and understand Historic Designed Landscapes, through researching and preparing online resources, walks and talks, and on-site signage. The HDL project has identified over 30 parks within the AONB, and earlier work by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust suggests that this total could easily be doubled by sites in the Yorkshire part of the study area.

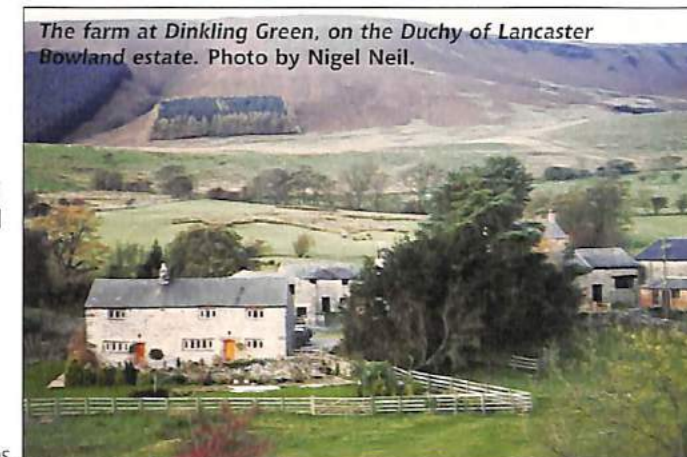
'Historic Designed Landscapes' encompasses medieval deer parks and related entities such as vaccaries (dairy farms), post-medieval country estate parks and their walled kitchen gardens, villa landscapes, public parks and allotments, institutional landscapes, planned communities, Landscapes of Remembrance, and more recent private gardens and 'hard landscaping'.



*Artists' impression of the medieval vaccary at Sabden Fold*  
by John Hodgson.

and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. In contrast, the 2008 HDL project seeks to create Local Lists of regionally significant sites, for the district and county Local Authorities. Project volunteers have visited and 'validated' around 300 sites county-wide, and are now identifying omissions, and piloting methods of judging numerically "scoring" relative significance.

The proposed Landscape Stories, part 2 project - which should commence in



*The farm at Dinkling Green, on the Duchy of Lancaster Bowland estate.* Photo by Nigel Neil.

transcribing farm and field-names from 1830s tithe schedules, and earlier estate maps and deeds. The project philologist/author is Dr John Insley of the University of Heidelberg. Landscape Stories 2 hopes to access newly-extracted data, including place-names relating to parks, pales (park boundary fences), deer leaps, vaccaries, and conneries (rabbit warrens). Countrywide research into royal forests, and their lay counterpart 'chases', from their medieval origins to the mid-nineteenth century, is being coordinated by the Forests and Chases of England and Wales project, based at St John's College, Oxford.

*If you would like to take part in the Landscape Stories, and/or the HDL Project, please contact any of those named below.*

Nigel R. J. Neil  
**Neil Archaeological Services,**  
5 Hillside, Lancaster, LA1 1YH,  
01524 844 728 or 07968 621 530  
nigelrjneil@googlemail.com

Other Contacts

**Landscape Stories 2:** Cathy Hopley, Development & Funding Officer, Forest of Bowland AONB, The Stables, 4 Root Hill Estate Yard, Whitewell Road, Dunsop Bridge, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 3AY, 01200 448000, 07891 537835, Cathy.Hopley@lancashire.gov.uk  
**Lancashire Gardens Trust:** Ms Susan Barker (Secretary), s.barker62@btinternet.com

# DalesBus Smashes All Records

The Sunday and Bank Holiday DalesBus network, now co-ordinated and managed by the Yorkshire Dales Society's Dales & Bowland CIC, has achieved record levels of growth of what is increasingly recognised perhaps as the best, fully integrated network of bus services the Yorkshire Dales has ever enjoyed. Following massive increases in patronage in 2009/10, with an amazing 56% growth in passenger journeys to over 20,000 in total, in 2010/11 there has been further growth which if current trends continue will indicate a further 25% or more growth above this figure to around 25,000 – a virtual doubling of people using buses, with some buses running at capacity, where elsewhere in North Yorkshire numbers have been static or even declined.

There is a good network of services between West Yorkshire and Upper Wharfedale right through the winter and early spring months, with guided walks led by DalesBus Ramblers every Sunday. Once a month, an additional Cravenlink service will run from York and Harrogate (connections from Leeds) to Malham, and in between the popular Nidderdale Rambler 825 service will

link Harrogate Pateley Bridge and Middlesmoor in Upper Nidderdale.

Fares are kept to a minimum with senior concession holders travelling free as are children accompanied by fare paying passengers. Details of all Sunday and weekday bus services in the southern Dales are in the excellent Metro Winter DalesBus pocket timetable (copies can be sent to members on request) or by logging onto [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org). Surveys on DalesBus in 2010 have shown that around about a third of users are motorists who are prepared to leave their cars at home, but two thirds without their own transport could not otherwise have visited the National Park or Nidderdale AONB. Equally interesting is the fact that on average DalesBus users spend £13 per head on goods and services in the Dales, a major contribution to the economy of the Dales.



Dalesbus 874 at Kettlewell.

However massive financial cuts threaten to end this "green travel" success story from summer 2011 onwards, with blanket proposals within North Yorkshire to cut all Sunday and Bank Holiday bus services, even very well used services, despite the vital importance of tourism in rural North Yorkshire. The D&B CIC is working with partners at every level of local and national Government to find a way of ensuring that DalesBus survives and is even allowed to grow. We will keep YDS members informed. In the meantime please make every effort to use our unique and friendly DalesBus network this winter – you'll be amazed how much flexibility and freedom you can enjoy if you are walker by making use of a bus.

## WANTED – More Yorkshire Dales Society Volunteers

The difficult economic times we are in can't be total bad news. People in the Dales will need to revive a spirit of self reliance, and the Yorkshire Dales Society, a voluntary, third-sector body, can help in so many ways.

But with the replacement of our full time with a part time Administrator, the challenge for the YDS is to be able to tap into the energy and enthusiasm of our members, but above all to attract new people, especially younger people not yet involved with the Society, to see the Society as a means of making a difference to their own and other peoples' lives, and to help Dales' communities at perhaps a difficult time.

If you are one of those people who has retired but still has time and energy to use for a worthwhile cause, or whose career has come to a premature conclusion because of financial cuts, or maybe you or a friend or relative have got that hard earned university degree but not yet found that job, then perhaps becoming a Yorkshire Dales Society Volunteer could help you make a difference.

We need volunteers:

- to help us in our Settle Office to complete key office

tasks

- to help out at YDS events, including guided walks and helping at summer shows
- to help support local business activities in the Dales to strengthen green tourism opportunities
- to help the Dales & Bowland CIC's pioneering green transport network including important new research we hope to be pioneering into rural travel needs
- to help develop the YDS's website and IT work, perhaps taking over as webmaster

If you'd like to help, and to join our small and enthusiastic team based in our Settle office, prepared to work with the Society to start making a difference to what happens in the Dales, and to peoples' lives, we'd love to hear from you.

Send us an e-mail (or write) in the first instances to [info@yds.org.uk](mailto:info@yds.org.uk). Tell us a bit about yourself and which of these areas or other areas you'd be interested in getting involved in as a YDS Volunteer. We'll get in touch with you and hopefully see how best we can work together.

# Daleswatch

## Scargill House, Wharfedale

The Scargill Movement has submitted a planning application to refurbish/extend their development near Kettlewell, increasing the number of bed spaces to at least 210 bed spaces (from about 140). Accommodation for visitors would rise from about 90 to at least 160 bed spaces.

Whilst we believe that the kind of activities undertaken by the Scargill Movement are wholly appropriate within the Dales, we do have some serious concerns about the present proposals, including the fact that the description of the proposals is misleading, that the actual number of bed spaces proposed is unclear, that the proposal for a new Sports Hall would be contrary to existing planning policies; and that the current Travel Plan is inadequate, and runs the risk of putting too much traffic on the narrow Kettlewell-Conistone road running past the site.

## UK Landscape Alliance

Research carried out by Scottish Natural Heritage has disclosed that between 2002 and 2008, the extent of Scotland unaffected by any form of visual influence from roads and access tracks, power lines, wind power developments and forestry declined from 41% to 31%. The majority of this decline is due to wind farm developments, which have strong political support in Scotland. The subsidy regime for renewable energy,

which is a key factor, is UK-wide. The issue therefore needs to be tackled on a UK-wide basis.

The Yorkshire Dales Society has agreed to join a 'UK Landscape Alliance' with the John Muir Trust and other organisations including the Campaign for National Parks, Friends of the Lake District, and (hopefully) the Councils for the Preservation of Rural England and Rural Wales, to stress the importance of landscape issues in developing the strategy for renewable energy.

## Barn Conversions

Barn conversions are an important issue within the Dales, and may become even more so in the near future. The YDS Policy Committee has received a briefing on some of the issues involved from Andy Singleton, the builder who, together with YDS founder-member David Joy, co-authored 'Barns of the Yorkshire Dales'. See Andy's article (pages 3-5), in this issue of the YDS Review.

## Affordable Housing in the National Park

At their meeting on 30th November, members of the National Park Authority are due to receive their officers' report on the consultation process carried out earlier in 2010 on their Draft Housing Development Plan. We shall be very interested to see what conclusions they have reached.

## PROPOSED SCHOOL CLOSURES AT ARNCLIFFE AND KETTLEWELL

Primary schools are the heartbeat of Dales' communities. When they close, part of the community dies forever. The current proposals to close Arncliffe and Kettlewell schools would have a devastating effect on the Upper Wharfedale community. People with families choose not to buy homes where there are no schools, and this has a knock-on effect both on social networks, and on the local economy. It may not be possible to save Arncliffe, given that the number of pupils has fallen so low, but this simply means that the role of Kettlewell becomes even more important. County Councillors should not simply be looking at the education budget, but also at wider issues including the additional costs of school transport, the scope for adjusting school catchment areas, and the wider implications for the community. They desperately need to make sure that officers do some 'joined-up thinking' in looking at all the options – and also engage in some serious discussions with local people. There have to be other options than closure: other options than the numbers game. The YDS has pledged its full support to the people of Upper Wharfedale to help retain at least one of these two vital focal points of their communities.

**Hugh Thornton,**

*Chairman, YDS Policy Committee*



Cliff Beck, Thwaite, Swaledale.  
Photo by Steve Thorp.

A waterfall on Cliff Beck, in Upper Swaledale, about one mile before the water enters the river Swale at Muker. This was taken on a DalesBus Ramblers' Walk and is one of the attractive YDS photo competition entries.

# Langstrothdale and Mallerstang

Frank Gordon's drawings feature dales in the central western reaches of the Yorkshire Dales.

Yockenthwaite, Langstrothdale



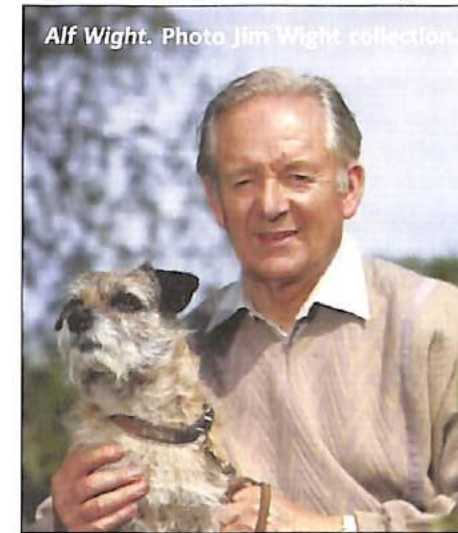
Pendragon Castle, Mallerstang



# Book Reviews

**HERRIOTT: A VET'S LIFE BY WR MITCHELL**, forewords by **Christopher Timothy and Jim Wight**, published by Great Northern Books September 16th 2010, at £15.99, 160 pages, hardback. ISBN: 978 1 905080 77 9. To order a signed copy phone 01724 735056 or visit [www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk](http://www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk)

Two iconic Yorkshire personalities, who have received top accolades, come together in a book which will delight all



James Herriott fans: *Herriott. A Vet's Life* by WR Mitchell. Alf Wight (James Herriott was of course his fictional counterpart) wrote the celebrated books about the Dales' vet and the various characters he came across, raising the profile and landscape of the Yorkshire Dales' to new heights at home and many countries abroad (50 million copies of his books were sold in 20 countries), while our own Yorkshire Dales Society's President, Bill Mitchell, whose knowledge of all things Yorkshire and as the author of nearly 200 books, led to him topping a recent poll as the Yorkshire Dales National Park's greatest living cultural icon.

A forward by Christopher Timothy who so memorably played James Herriott in the long-running TV series and so clearly enjoyed his role, and one by Alf's son Jim Wight who contributed a number of telling anecdotes and some splendid photographs, again gives us double value. Additional insights into Alf and his family, are contributed by Bill Mitchell who also broadens the appeal of the book by adding much

information about life in the Dales in the forties and fifties, and the ensuing changes in farming practice and growing mechanisation that helped to make a life little easier for the farming community. [Bill tells of a custom of using of a penny (the older heavier pre-decimalisation coin) which was placed on the cream in the farm dairy to test whether it had set.] But it is abundantly clear that the reality of a vet's life too was often hard, unglamorous and poorly paid. The snug-looking surgery, famed from the TV series, was indeed far from reality as Jim Wight makes clear, where real-life conditions were initially much more basic: use being made of the family dining table and living quarters as a make-shift surgery.

For anyone who enjoyed the original James Herriott books, (nine in all), the various TV series and the films, this generously illustrated hardback book will give much pleasure, but also help to further enormous respect for the people of the Dales, with their stoical endurance, wit, depth of religious feeling and tremendous personalities.

*Fleur Speakman*

**THE GREAT BOOK OF YORKSHIRE PUDDING** by **Elaine Lemm**, published by Great Northern Books at £7.99. ISBN: 978 1 905080 80 9. To order phone 01274 735056 or visit [www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk](http://www.greatnorthernbooks.co.uk)

This little book deals with another

Robin Hood's Bay, North Yorkshire Moors National Park. Illustration for *An Eye to Perceive*.



Yorkshire icon, the Yorkshire pudding, also celebrated overseas. A short history complete with 18th and 19th century recipes, which tells us the pudding's actual origin is yet unknown, leads on to information about how to cook the perfect Yorkshire pudding, with many useful tips, often contradicting each other, but that is all part of the fun. There are enticing photographs to whet the appetite and numerous recipe variations for the most fastidious palate. I can remember being asked once for the Yorkshire pudding recipe in the Black Forest by a friendly farmer's wife. She looked delighted afterwards and told me they make a similar batter pudding and combine it with jam as a dessert. In fact there is also an older English recipe which used the pudding as a sweet course with the addition of jam, though purists will probably shudder with horror at the fate of this very traditional and much-loved savoury dish.

*Fleur Speakman*

**AN EYE TO PERCEIVE** by **Derek Statham** is available by post from the North York Moors Association, 2 High Street, Castleton, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 2DA, price £6. Please add £1 for postage and packing.

Derek Statham was the first National Park Officer for the North York Moors National Park, for over 20 years, between 1974 and 1994; crucial years when Parks were still struggling to find their independence, culminating, after

the passing of the 1995 Environment Act, in the creation of independent National Park Authorities in England and Wales.

Derek, now the President of our sister National Park Society the North York Moors Association, was in a unique position both to contribute to and closely observe the evolution of National Parks in this critical stage of their development. Of special interest was how they dealt with some of the major problems of land and visitor management, for example with the need to protect the North York Moors National Park's magnificent moorland heritage from threats of agricultural improvement and footpath erosion, in what we can now see were still pioneering years. This is documented in his Memoirs, *An Eye to Perceive* which start from 1965 and conclude at his retirement in 1994.

They were also years of huge achievement. In his unassuming, but highly professional way, Derek

demonstrates how an approach based on facts, not prejudice, can balance the need for access with the need for conservation. But he is outspoken about how "weak, even naïve" national politicians bear a considerable degree of blame for the deterioration of the natural environment by not linking the system of agricultural subsidies and grants to environmentally friendly land management and farming. But he and his colleagues proved how it could be different by engaging local landowners in a series of farm conservation schemes in the National Park that benefitted farmers and landowner financially, but also conserved a unique environment. Such pioneering schemes in the Moors attracted widespread national and international attention, and laid the foundations for current environmental management and High Level Stewardship schemes.

This is a beautifully written book, well illustrated, full of insights and anecdotes such as the UDI declaration in 1976, by members of Yorkshire

Dales National Park Committee against their political masters in North Yorkshire County Council County Hall. But the issues Derek Statham raises are relevant to all UK National Parks, most especially the difficulties of ensuring that national and local needs are met in harmonious not conflicting ways, that short term political expedience is not allowed to overrule long term environmental goals. It is a tribute to Derek and his colleagues that they have succeeded so superbly well. The book's title, as some YDS members might recognise, is a quotation from the poet William Wordsworth's 1835 edition of his *Guide to the Lakes* when he suggests that the Lake District should be regarded as a "sort of national property" that everyone "with an eye to perceive, a heart to behold" should be able to appreciate and enjoy. For Lake District read also the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales – we now call them National Parks.

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## The Nidderdale Rambler becomes a YDS Corporate Member

A&S Coaches, of Fellbeck, Pateley Bridge, has become the newest Yorkshire Dales Corporate Member. A&S stands for Amanda and Steve Burton, who combine running a Nidderdale hill farm with a local bus and coach service, mainly school services in Upper Nidderdale. But A&S also operate the extremely popular Dalesbus 825 Nidderdale Rambler bus between Harrogate, Pateley Bridge and

Middlesmoor on Sundays - sometimes referred to by locals and regular DalesBus users as "Charlie's Bus" because of its popular regular driver, local farmer Charlie Swale. Despite her busy life running a farm, a bus company and her family, Amanda, a keen walker, also leads regular, well patronised walks in Upper Nidderdale for DalesBus Ramblers.

The Nidderdale Rambler will be running once a month during the winter of 2010. In addition, A&S Coaches has a range of different sized minibuses and coaches available to provide a tailor-made coach service to meet the special needs of walking clubs or groups, including small groups. Plans for 2011 include a Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. Full details on [www.ascoaches.co.uk](http://www.ascoaches.co.uk) or ring 01423 711252.

*Nidderdale Rambler bus at Brimham Rocks.*



## Winter Events 2011



**Saturday 2 April 2011**

**WALK: INGLEBROUGH FROM THE NORTH**

A full day's hill walk up an iconic mountain with Steve Hastie, YDNPA Area Ranger/ Project Manager Three Peaks. Walk will start and finish at Ribbleshead, about 7 miles in distance - but 400 metres of ascent, including a very steep ascent and descent. Wear suitable clothing and footwear (boots essential), and carry wet weather gear, food and water.

Meet at Ribbleshead Quarry entrance, 10.30am. Train d. Leeds 0849, Skipton 0926, Settle 0950, a. Horton in Ribblesdale 0958. Walk will finish at Ribbleshead (Station/Station Inn) in time for return trains. Make a trip on the Settle-Carlisle part of your day out and reduce your carbon footprint!

**DATE FOR DIARY – May 7th – a visit to a Grouse Moor in Arkengarthdale, with the possibility of seeing Black Grouse. Details in Spring Review.**

**Apology**

As a result of severe weather, Ron & Vanessa Stone's Stainforth walk and David Johnson's Ingleborough Lecture on December 4th had to be cancelled, but will be rearranged on a suitable date in Spring. See the Spring YDS Review or the YDS website for details.

*Yorkshire Dales Society Photo Competition – Our most sincere thanks to our entrants for the YDS Photo Competition and to our judges. However, since there was such a low response to the competition, it was decided not make any awards on this occasion.*

*Kingsdale Farm, Kingsdale. Drawing by Frank Gordon.*



Join us on a wide variety of YDS events over winter and into early Spring. Enjoy the first lecture of the season by a well-known expert on bats, learn about the latest plans for the Wensleydale railway and take a humorous look at the trials and tribulations of Wainwright's Coast-to Coast Walk, concluding with a longer ramble round the Ingleborough area. Lecture admission for members £3, and non-members £5 unless otherwise stated.

**Saturday, 8 January 2011**

**WALK: BELL BUSK AND BANK NEWTON,**

Walk Leader: Chris Wright 4 miles, easy walking throughout.

Meet outside Dalesman Café, Gargrave 10.30am.

Train d. Leeds 0949. Skipton 0926

a. Gargrave 0932

**LECTURE: BATS IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES** Prof JD

Altringham, leading national expert on Bats, adviser to Natural England  
Gargrave Village Hall, 2.15pm

**Saturday February 5 2011**

**WALK: LEYBURN SHAWL – a walk to a famous**

Wensleydale viewpoint

Walk Leader: Chris Hartley approx 4 miles,

moderate, slight ascent; Meet Leyburn Market

Square, 10.30 am. Bus 73/157 d. Northallerton

Buck Inn 0838. For Wensleydale Railway times log

onto [www.wensleydalerrailway.com](http://www.wensleydalerrailway.com)

**LECTURE: THE NEW WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY** Ruth

Annison, Wensleydale Railway plc. Ruth, a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, is a lifelong campaigner on green transport issues in Wensleydale and one of the moving spirits behind the Wensleydale Railway. Methodist Church Hall, Leyburn, 2.15pm.

**Saturday March 5 2011**

**WALK: INTO ADDINGHAM'S COUNTRYSIDE.**

Walk Leader: Hugh Thornton. A 4 mile circular

walk, moderate – some stiles. Meet outside

Addingham Memorial Hall, 10.30am. Bus X84

(d. Leeds 0910) or 762 (d. Ikley 0957)

**LECTURE: AFTER WAINWRIGHT, A COAST TO COAST**

WALK In the footsteps of Wainwright, the celebrated fell walker, featuring the Geriatric Blunderers Club (or how to get lost without really trying) Bob Swallow and Bill Mitchell. Addingham Memorial Hall. 2.15pm.





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Front Cover: Grass Woods in Snow.

Back Cover: The Ghaistrills Strid, Grassington.

Photos by Colin Speakman.

**Yorkshire Dales Society:**

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**[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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