

Yorkshire *Dales* Review



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Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 114 • Spring 2011

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editor: Fleur Speakman with the help of
Bill Mitchell, Colin Speakman and Chris Wright



Don't You Know There's a War On?

In the Yorkshire Dales children's and youth services, social care for older people, leisure centres, public toilets, policing, medical care, bus services, tourist information centres, even some schools could soon be the victims of some fairly savage local authority financial savings, with further cuts and job losses a certain corollary. Such cuts are without precedent in peace time Britain.

Across North Yorkshire many public libraries such as Bentham, Ingleton, Clapham, Gargrave, Embsay, Pateley Bridge and Leyburn are threatened with closure – causing concern for their residents who see such centres as not only a valuable resource, but often a lively focus of village life. Moreover as various residents have pointed out, there is a definite knock-on effect as regards shops and other facilities once their library goes. Six years ago Gargrave residents raised the considerable sum of £32,000 to secure their library's future, now to be told that this is no longer the case. The village primary school at Kettlewell appears to have won a temporary reprieve, thanks to some splendid campaigning by the locals, but as the Chairman of Kettlewell Parish Council Chris Beazley, warned, more needs to be done to attract business to the area and land for affordable housing must be utilised.

The news for the Yorkshire Dales National Park is also gloomy. The reduced grant the Park faces, a loss of over 25% over the next four years, is even greater. Once inflation is added into these figures, the actual cut is nearer £1.9 million (or 31 %), with 18 jobs axed. The Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Carl Lis, explained that since the Park recognises its statutory duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the National Park, and to promote the area's special qualities to the public, and is also fully aware of the substantial economic impact the Park has locally and regionally; he has called on members of the public, local communities and organisations to comment on the Park's Draft Budget to help to make some difficult decisions. The Aggregate Levy Fund contribution to many local community and environmental projects in the Dales, has also been cancelled by government without prior consultation.

An overwhelming groundswell of opinion recently, rallied successfully to the cause of opposing the privatisation of the Forestry Commission and the selling off of half its land by 2020, and hopefully ensuring that this great natural

resource will be there for future generations to enjoy. But there is still a threat, according to the Woodland Trust, hanging over our ancient woodlands, where felling could still go ahead.

Yet an enormous amount of energy is being expended to save what can be considered as many essential services in the Dales and elsewhere, vital to our existence – but how long can the fight continue on so many different fronts?

Councillor John Blackie has proposed to set up the Upper Dales Councillors' Network to share information as he fears the Upper Dales could suffer worse treatment in the round of budget cuts as grant settlements to the NYCC and Richmondshire DC are more swinging than expected. Concerns are very real as sparse population in a deeply rural area inevitably means that public services are more costly to provide per head.

Public Transport, an intrinsic part of local and regional economies, is often seen as expendable to a greater or lesser degree in time of economic squeeze. It is heartening to report that the Local Sustainable Transport Fund is available for councils to apply to. A diverse group of bus and rail operators, the National Park and voluntary groups including the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Dales & Bowland CIC, have formed the Dales Integrated Transport Alliance (DITA), with a view to obtaining a grant with North Yorkshire County Council. DITA hopes to improve access for local communities to key employment and service centres in neighbouring towns and cities whilst enabling visitors to access the Dales more easily. It also hopes to bring "a truly integrated model of transport to the region," combining different transport areas such as social services, school, health etc. and to bring about efficiencies in service to a very rural area. "Community input and support is vital," stressed Helen Flynn, co-ordinator. Contact the Yorkshire Dales Society (details on back page), for further information.

Such positive initiatives as those indicated above show that the fighting spirit of Dales communities is undimmed, and that there is deep public concern to safeguard both our vital public services and our countryside.

Fleur Speakman

National Park Governance – a Time for Change?

In the autumn of 2010, DEFRA carried out a consultation on the governance of National Parks, seeking views on how many members should be on a National Park Authority; the balance of local and national representatives; how members should be selected, and how long they should serve.

After a detailed debate, the Society's Policy Committee drafted a response at their meeting on 13th January 2011, and this was reviewed (and slightly amended) at the Council meeting on 22nd January. The views submitted by the YDS are set out below:

Size and Composition of National Park Authorities

A National Park Authority with 22 members (or more) is felt to be too big and unwieldy. An ideal size would be 12 members – 15 as a maximum.

Reducing the size of an Authority would avoid the need to consider how Authority Committees dealing with planning applications should be made up.

It would also lead to financial savings that could be redeployed to support front line services.

Balance of Local and National Representation

At present, up to half of the members of National Park Authorities are local authority representatives, and the rest are either national appointees or members of parish councils. In practice, both local authority and parish council representatives provide local input to Park decisions.

At the moment, with the exception of Northumberland, national appointees typically make up about 25% of National Park Authority membership. Given that the prime reason for the existence of a National Park Authority is its national significance, this seems too small a proportion.

We believe that one third of the membership of National Park Authorities should be national appointees. This still gives locally elected members a strong majority.

Selection Process for National Park Authority Members

The selection process/criteria for national and local representatives should be changed, in order to maximise the effectiveness of both groups.

National Appointees

All national appointees should ideally have extensive experience of their own National Park, and preferably reside in the Park or close to it (i.e. within the catchment area).

National appointees should have expertise to offer that is directly relevant to the statutory purposes of National Parks – i.e. conservation of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and promotion of and enjoyment of their special qualities.

Given their importance in achieving those purposes, land management and planning issues should be included in the range of expertise possessed by national appointees. Where this expertise is not present, appropriate (and thorough) training should be given.

Local Representatives

Local representatives (i.e. those from Counties/Districts/Parishes) should be directly elected from within Park communities. Within the Yorkshire Dales, provision should be made to ensure that there is a reasonable geographic spread – e.g. from groups of parishes within each key Dale area of Wharfe, Aire, Ribbles, Ure, Swale, Dee and Lune.

If it is decided that a proportion of members should be appointed by County and/or District Councils within the Park, those members should be selected on the basis of their commitment to National Park purposes (and not, as at present, on that of party political proportionality).

Time Limits on Membership

Elections/appointments should be for a 4 or 5 year period. All Park Authority members should serve a maximum of two terms.

Conclusion

These measures would allow National Parks to focus on their long-term statutory purposes, ensuring a good mix of national and local expertise, with a reasonable balance between national and local interests.

Concern Over The Impact of the Localism and Public Bodies Bills

The YDS believes that the Government's wish to increase the extent to which power is devolved to a local level needs, in the case of the National Parks and the Broads, should be properly balanced with the need to protect the special qualities of these key national assets.

In particular, the Yorkshire Dales Society is concerned that measures proposed in the Localism and Public Bodies Bills could potentially severely weaken the ability of National Park Authorities to achieve the statutory purposes for which they were created.

Examples include the power envisaged for Ministers to redefine the purposes of bodies which fall within the scope of the Public Bodies Bill, and the provision for National Parks and the Broads Authority to delegate their responsibilities.

Subsequent Discussion with National Park Representatives

The YDS has had regular liaison meetings with National Park representatives in recent years, to review areas of common interest and concern. At our latest meeting in early February, the DEFRA consultation was one of the topics covered.

The National Park's representatives explained that their members' concerns included the fear that a reduction in the size of the Authority might adversely affect the ability of members to reflect local interests, and would also increase their workload.

We acknowledged that these were legitimate concerns, and explained that our view was partly based on practical experience of the effects of the size of a meeting on the effectiveness of

participation and debate, and partly on the need for National Parks to focus very clearly on their two statutory purposes. We also floated the suggestion that all members of a

National Park Authority should be asked to sign a declaration of support and commitment for those statutory purposes.

We shall await DEFRA's proposals with great interest.

Hugh Thornton,
Vice Chairman YDS

The Cave Spiders of Malham – an imaginative project



Spider fabrication in the workshop. Photo by Kate Maddison.

A group of cave spiders in Malhamdale have generated a highly imaginative project which brought together a number of Dales based organisations, including Malham Tarn Field Centre, YDS Corporate Member Chrysalis Arts, the National Trust and the Field Studies Council. The spider sculpture (see cover picture) was commissioned by the National Trust through a company called Buffalo Designs for the roof of a small building colonised by cave spiders. The work was part of the refurbishment of the Orchid House, which will extend study facilities at the Centre. The Sculpture was designed by Kate Maddison and Van Nong of Chrysalis Arts and made by Van Nong, working with Reliant Engineering in Gargrave, in Malhamdale.

The actual cave spiders, Meta Menardi, were discovered in an outhouse, a former orchid house, on the estate at Malham Tarn; its Georgian house and grounds are owned by the National Trust and leased to the Field Studies Council. It was thought that the spiders had hitched a ride on the clothing of staff who had been exploring some of the nearby caves.

The spiders are common to many caves across the Dales and live off other insects, but are also cannibalistic, causing the collectors some problems. When two large females attacked each other, the winner then carefully wrapped the victim up in silk, presumably to be consumed later. The spiders lay their eggs in big egg sacks which they suspend from the ceiling of the cave or in this case, the orchid house. Most of the spiders and their sacks have now been removed to a suitable habitat: some caves nearby already inhabited by some cave spiders. The refurbished orchid house will house an upstairs meeting room, arts workshop and class room, while



Cave spider on top of orchid house. Photo by Kate Maddison.

downstairs a small walk-in exhibition will explain about Malham Tarn National Nature Reserve. Work will be also done in conjunction with students from Craven College Media unit at Skipton, who are producing a short film for the exhibition area - A Year in the life of Malham Tarn. The Trust have also commissioned a stained glass window of a Lady's Slipper Orchid for the downstairs exhibition area (to reflect the building's former use). Anyone on the Pennine Way will be able to view a special group of lady slipper orchids as part of Natural England's re-introduction programme, and a small colony of cave spiders in the small building with the red door, which is topped by the cave spider sculpture.

The creative partnership between Chrysalis Arts and local agricultural engineers Reliant Installations, who are also based in Gargrave, is typical of the good working relationship established over many years which supports the economy and skills of all parties. The sculpture itself is made from mild steel, with a 'spun' steel body (appropriately enough), with the steelwork by Matt Stockdale, and the spider's body, made from two spun hemispheres, supplied by AD Metal Spinning of Elland, (the work of Aiden Douglas), which utilises the traditional technique of hand metal spinning, that is rarely found these days.

The Field Studies Council is a limited company, and registered charity no 313364, with its head office in Preston Montford, Shrewsbury. Malham Field Studies runs a full programme of courses throughout the year, reflecting the fauna and flora of the dales, and a variety of skills and creative crafts.

Fleur Speakman

Connecting a Dales Heritage Railway Line to the Main Line

Transport planners JMP have concluded that reinstatement of 20 yards of rail track with associated signalling would pave the way for a financially viable reconnection of the heritage Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway to the main line network at Skipton in the Yorkshire Dales. Achieving this reconnection could create between nine and 23 additional jobs, generate between £1.9 million and £2.9 million of employment benefits during the

use the disused platform at the south of Skipton station. The link would allow connections with Northern Rail's Airedale Line, which operates at a high frequency and provides good connections to the Leeds and Bradford conurbations of West Yorkshire, as well as other rail services to Lancaster and Carlisle, the latter via the famous Settle & Carlisle Line. It would also address issues of social inclusion by improving public transport access to the National Park

for those without access to a car.

The study considered two service options, each assumed to be operated by a two-car DMU because of the requirement for modern safety equipment.

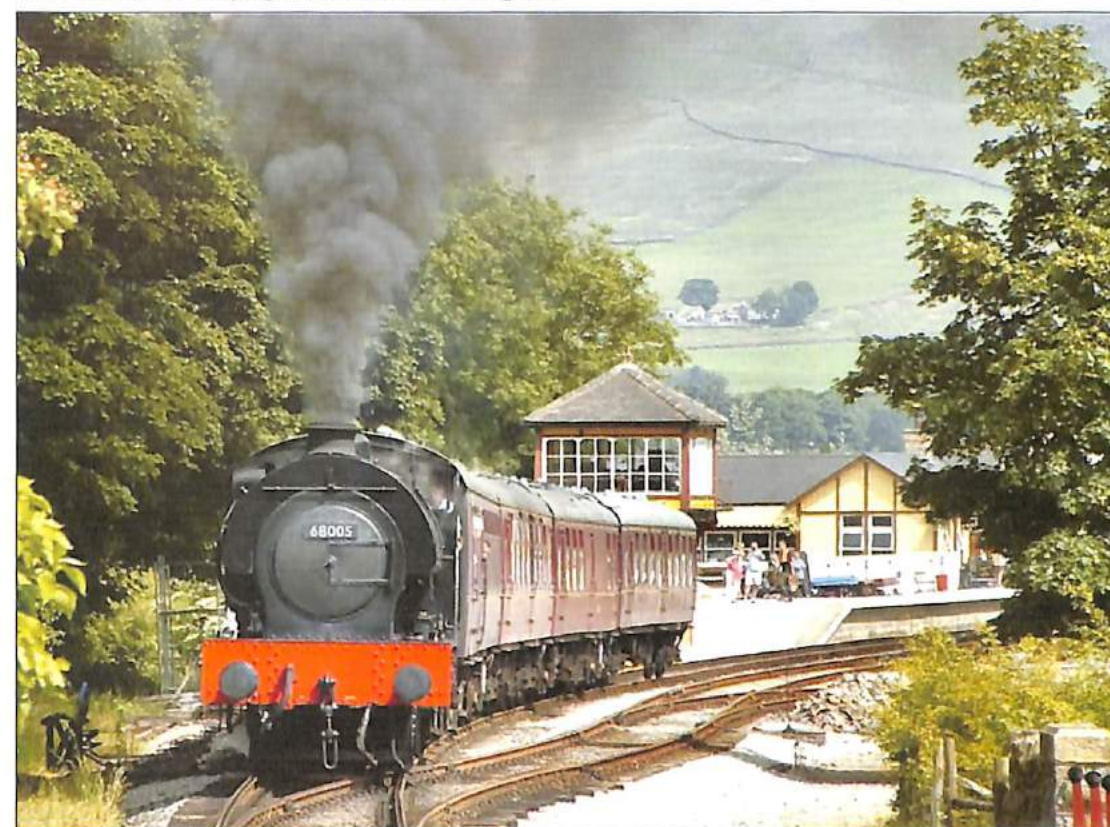
The first option is to operate a through service from Bolton Abbey to Skipton with an additional stop at Embsay. This service would operate over and above the existing steam (and other special) services currently timetabled and incur additional operating costs of £192,000 per annum.

The other option, at an additional operating cost of £188,000 per annum, is for a shuttle service between Embsay and Skipton only, allowing connection with the existing steam services at Embsay.

In concluding that a case exists for reinstatement of the rail link, JMP says that the project could be realised for a relatively limited capital cost (£2.6 million for the preferred option) compared to other similar schemes and has the potential to provide a useful transport link between two tourist destinations, the heritage railway itself and Skipton.

The improved public transport links would also allow existing and new visitors to the railway to use more sustainable modes to access the National Park, offsetting the effect of the increase in visitors created by the new service.

A heritage steam train leaves Bolton Abbey along the Embsay-Bolton Abbey Railway (photo EBAR). Trains (with real ale buffet car) operate every Tuesday, Saturday and Sundays between Embsay and Bolton Abbey until the end of October, and daily during school summer holidays. For full details log onto www.embsayboltonabbeyrailway.org.uk or for Talking Timetable ring 01756 795189.



construction and operation of the service, and add between £3.5 million and £8.9 million of visitor spend into the local economy over a 10 year period.

In a review of the case for the Yorkshire Dales Railway Museum Trust, owner and operator of the steam railway, JMP considered four scenarios using diesel multiple units (DMUs). It was found that even with a 50 per cent increase in estimated costs or a 50 per cent reduction in additional demand, each of the scenarios would still cover the operating costs.

The heritage railway currently operates steam services for more than 100,000 visitors and tourists a year to Bolton Abbey, a popular visitor attraction and a gateway to the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The study has been funded by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund.

The planned development is to achieve through-running of trains to and from Skipton station, providing a cross-platform link to National Rail services. This would be via a reinstated 20 yards connection with the Swinden Quarry freight branch line at Embsay and would bring back into

Snippets from the Office

Life Membership

Following on from Treasurer Rhona Thornton's piece on our new subscription rates, in the last issue of the Review, I had a lovely phone call from a long standing YDS member asking me how to become a Life Member. This lady explained that she hoped that by switching to a "one-off" payment of £200, she would ease the administration burden of collecting her subscription every year, and make best possible use of her support to the Society. We now have just over 20 Life Members, contributing £200 or £300 if over 60 (Single or Joint Life Membership), and slightly more for younger Life Members (respectively £300 and £500). Where members have signed up to Gift Aid as well, the value to the Society is even more important. Please do consider becoming a Life

Member. Perhaps you are currently planning a celebration for a "significant" birthday or anniversary - your friends or family could club together to mark the occasion with a Life Membership for you. How much more meaningful than yet another ornament or gift voucher!

Bequests

We also had a very thoughtful bequest to the Society, received in February after some rather circuitous correspondence. Another long standing member, who sadly passed away last year, had remembered us in his Will, and his executors had done their best to send this legacy on to us. However, because the Will was written some years ago, our address was still recorded as Otley Civic Centre,

somewhere the Society moved from around five years ago. After hearing nothing from us, the executor "Googled" our new address and wrote in asking if we had received the cheque. Sadly it was never forwarded from Otley, due to building works at the Centre, and had apparently "gone astray". So we wrote back explaining the situation, and suggesting the cheque was cancelled, just in case. We were delighted to receive a new cheque for the bequest a few days later. If you have been generous enough to remember the Society in your Will, it might be worth checking to see if this contains our current address - The Town Hall, Cheapside, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9EJ.

Ann Shadrake,
Administrator

(Membership details on back cover)



The Yorkshire Dalesman 800 bus leaves Bainbridge (photo Paul Chattwood). This popular DalesBus service from Leeds and York to Grassington, Aysgarth and Hawes operates every Sunday and Bank Holiday until October - for details of this and other DalesBus services log onto www.dalesbus.org.uk or look out for the Metro Dalesbus timetable booklet at bus stations and Tourist Information Centres throughout the area.

Art Project seeks walkers to film the Yorkshire Dales...

Walkers of all ages and abilities are wanted to take part in a quirky outdoor arts project, Meander, in the Yorkshire Dales up until summer 2011. The project has been developed by Chrysalis Arts who are a pioneer of the Slow Art movement and a leader in addressing environmental and sustainability issues through art.

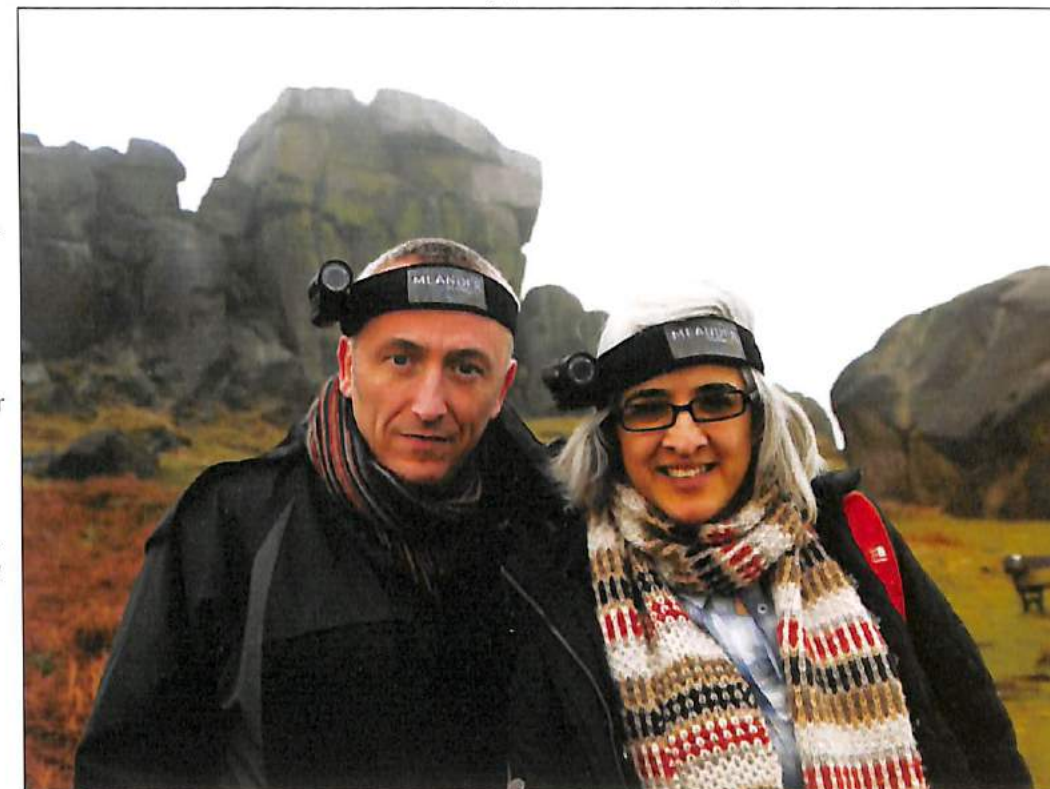
Chrysalis are collaborating with artist duo Shanaz Gulzar and Steve Manthorp, who work together as ADEPT and are recruiting volunteers to walk in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, recording their progress on tiny head-mounted cameras. Participants can just chat, discuss local history, geology, wildlife or anything else they feel may be of interest to others. If they feel inspired they can be creative - recite poetry, tell a story or even sing a song while walking! Artist Shanaz Gulzar comments: "We hope that our artwork will encourage its audience to abandon the gallery and enjoy the landscape for themselves. You don't even have to walk: we'll happily consider any other non-powered form of transportation you wish to propose, whether mountain bikes, horseback or anything else you can come up with that has minimum environmental impact".

At least two volunteers are needed for each walk, and each pair of recordings will be edited together into a synchronised, split-screen film showing where the wearers were looking and what engaged their interest at every moment.

All films will be made available online so that anyone can enjoy any part of the walk from the participants' perspective, building up an online video archive of creative walks and interesting places.

Meander is a project by ADEPT (artists Shanaz Gulzar and Steve Manthorp) commissioned by Gargrave based, Chrysalis Arts, who are pioneering the Slow Art movement. Meander will concentrate on upper

Or if you run a business or own a home anywhere in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and could support the project by being a 'Welcome point' (ie: a pick up spot for the small video cameras) please contact us.



Wharfedale throughout the first quarter of 2011. We hope to focus on Bishopdale, Coverdale, Wensleydale & Swaledale in the second quarter, Cotterdale, Garsdale and Dentdale in the third and Ribblesdale in the fourth quarter.

To select your walk visit the Meander website www.adeptprojects.co.uk. We have tried to keep each walk to about 2 1/2 hours—the life of the rechargeable batteries - but some walks may take longer.

If you and your partner, family or friends would like to be part of this amazing project - and preserve your favourite walk, your knowledge, creativity or banter on the worldwide web for all to enjoy - please contact the artists directly at info@adeptprojects.co.uk, or phone Shanaz Gulzar on 07816 526121 or Steve Manthorp on 07507 400489.

Editors' Notes

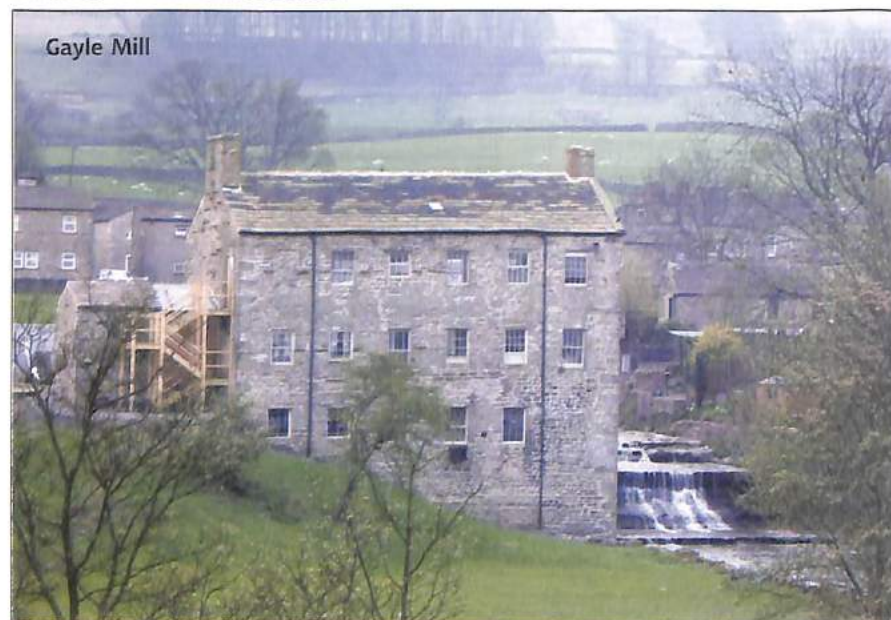
Chrysalis Arts (YDS Corporate member), is a public art company, training and arts development agency based in the North Yorkshire village of Gargrave, whose activities are based on a commitment to environmentally responsible arts practice and a belief that artists can transform places and regenerate communities. Chrysalis Arts is a pioneer of the Slow Art movement and a leader in addressing environmental and sustainability issues through art. ADEPT, artists Shanaz Gulzar and Steve Manthorp, have worked together on media arts projects since 2004. Rick Faulkner, Director of Chrysalis Arts, has recently joined the YDS Council of Management.

Recent YDS Corporate Members

We are presenting our newer YDS Corporate Members who form important links with the Yorkshire Dales Society and the business world. We hope you will be able to support their work where appropriate.

GAYLE MILL

Historic Gayle mill, originally built as a water powered cotton mill in the eighteenth century, was one of the earliest spinning mills in Wensleydale, later spinning flax, and wool for the local knitting industry. It was then used as a saw mill in the 1870s and finally in the early twentieth century, a turbine for electricity was installed, which provided hydroelectricity till 1948, and continued to operate till 1988. It was later bought by the North East Civic Trust who are restoring it as a working mill and traditional craft skills centre. Fund raising continues. The mill has featured in a BBC Restoration



programme, and there are a number of special events throughout the year. Contact: www.gaylemill.org.uk for a guided 1 hour tour, but please check times and days.

THE BLUE BELL INN, Kettlewell

As Kettlewell's oldest hostelry, and convenient for the Dales Way Long Distance route, the Blue Bell Inn offers a warm and friendly welcome. Traditional home cooked food, using local ingredients, locally brewed ales,



Bluebell Pub, Kettlewell

and comfortable accommodation in en suite rooms in an attractive Wharfedale village set in some beautiful scenery, are equally inviting whether you are an active walker or enjoy a more gentle stroll. Relax by a comforting log fire setting or at the outdoor tables in warmer weather. The Blue Bell's restaurant is also available for functions.

Contact: tel 01756 760230 or email: info@bluebellkettlewell.co.uk or www.bluebellkettlewell.co.uk

SHACKLABANK Free Range Walking Holidays

Alison O'Neill, the Barefoot Shepherdess, offers walking holidays, using the family farm as a base, which overlooks the Howgills Fells and Sedbergh in Cumbria. Guests have the opportunity to walk in a magnificent landscape and also sample working life

on a farm. Home-made traditional food and warm hospitality are combined with walks tailored to individual interests and abilities. Accommodation is available in two well-appointed caravans. Free Range Walking Holidays won an award given by

Cumbria Tourism in 2008. Alison herself gives inspirational talks on her activities (she spoke to the YDS to great acclaim in October 2010 in Dentdale), and we are delighted she

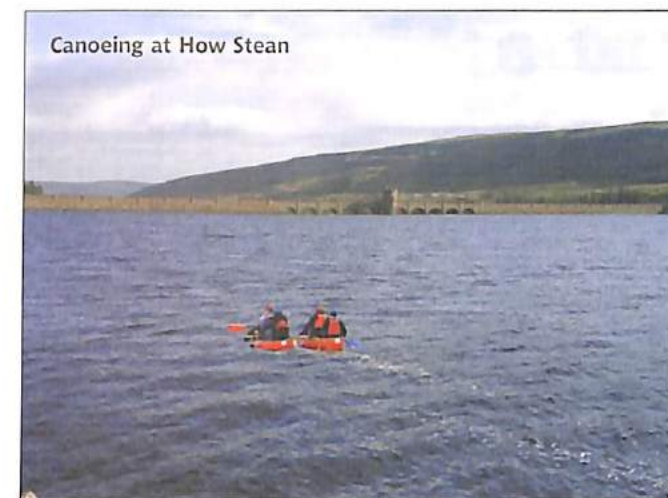


Alison O'Neill, Shacklabank

has agreed to speak at the Yorkshire Dales Society AGM in July. Contact: tel 015396 20134 or mobile 0776 5963 857 or Alison@shacklabank.f9.co.uk

HOW STEAN GORGE

How Stean Gorge Outdoor Centre offers some really adventurous challenges in its spectacular setting in a rocky gorge, giving the opportunity to explore its caves, tunnels and walkways, or try some rock climbing or even the new Via Terrata - a course of beams, ladders and cables. There are fully qualified experienced instructors available for the various levels of activity. Also on offer is the chance for small groups to learn



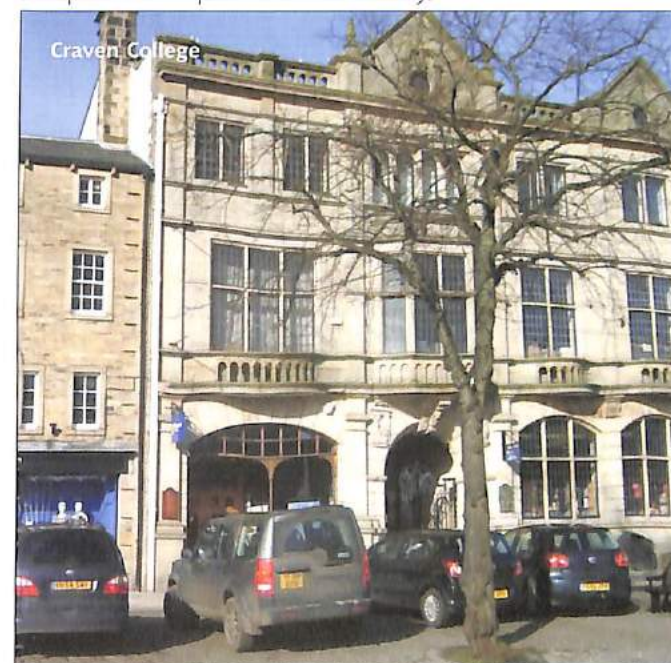
Canoeing at How Stean

to paddle Canadian birch bark canoes on the reservoir, with an instructor in each boat. (The YDS hope to arrange an outing in the summer using this facility at How Stean). In contrast there is plenty to attract the visitor who may prefer a gentle stroll and some freshly home-made Yorkshire food. How Stean is family friendly, and with a hard hat and torch, children too can explore the caves and paddle in the water. Upper Nidderdale is also a haven for bird life and nearby Gouthwaite Reservoir (SSSI), is a renowned bird watching area. You can enjoy the facilities as well of the market towns of Pateley Bridge and Masham with their Yorkshire specialities.

Contact: www.howstean.co.uk or info@howstean.co.uk or tel: 01423 755666

CRAVEN COLLEGE, Skipton

Craven College, has a variety of campuses in Skipton and the vicinity.



Craven College

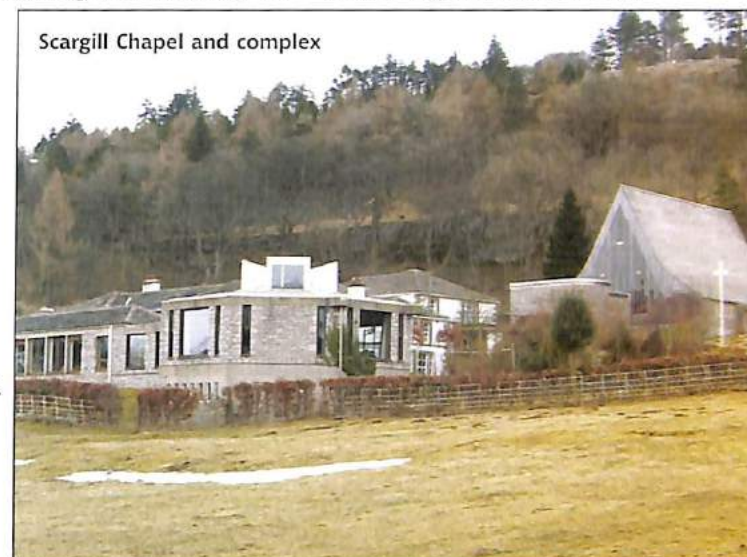
Academy of Hair and Beauty and a Work Based Learning Unit. Recently the college was awarded a Centre of Vocational Excellence status in Tourism, Aviation and Business Leadership and Management. Courses are available for full or part time study and distance learning. The college awards the HND, Foundation degrees and prepares for BA Honours courses.

Contact: 01756 791411 or email: enquiries@craven-college.ac.uk

SCARGILL MOVEMENT

The Scargill Movement purchased Scargill House in 2009, and recently planning permission has been granted to upgrade the living accommodation. The Church which is grade II listed, is sited in Wharfedale as part of a complex amid some wonderful scenery, and induces contemplation. Scargill was

originally set up to provide Christian holidays and vacations. (In 2006 The Yorkshire Dales Society made use of the premises for a very successful National Park Societies Conference.) Soon afterwards financial problems caused the closure of premises till the Scargill Movement took the decision to reopen the building. To date, they have undertaken a successful fund-raising programme which still continues. Under the new director Phil Stone, hospitality in a religious context is available to both individuals and groups, and a challenging programme of activities can be provided, particularly for young people. www.scargillmovement.com



Scargill Chapel and complex

TOUJOURS BEBE

Toujours Bebe specialises in beautifully crafted baby wear, small toys and memorabilia, echoing the traditions of local landscapes and supporting home-based suppliers and industries. Toujours Bebe explained that their inspiration came from making things for their own children which they thought others would also find desirable. They use both contemporary and traditional methods in their production of the various items. Contact: 0161 7614479. www.toujoursbebe.com



Toujours Bébé - Wensleydale hand-spun yarn

Sward! – the Story of a Meadow

The Yorkshire Dales will play host in June at various Dales' venues to Sward! The Story of a Meadow. (Sward is the old name for a stretch of turf or grass). It's a magical tale, a love story with roots in ancient myth, and makes use of oral records and modern science. Through its telling, the complex web of life and history woven into the very fabric (the sward) of an upland hay meadow is revealed, along with its extremely fragile nature.

Young farmer Jason Dyrsdale is out on his quad bike spraying thistles, when he spots botany student Jemima Foxley crawling through the grass verge at the side of a minor road in 'Leedale'. With

Sward! is an entertaining romp that nevertheless delivers some powerful messages about the environment and our responsibilities towards it. Audiences should emerge both "humming" the issues and "debating" the tunes. Or even vice-versa.

The play commissioned by Blaize in collaboration with Highlights Rural Touring Scheme and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT), is directed by Mike Bettison and the set designed by Simon Pell. Target audience - adults, young people and families (children 8+). The production is accompanied by a wonderful photographic exhibition by Neville Turner, following the



Dates and Venues

Tuesday 7 June, Dent Memorial Hall, 07531 143762, 015396 25022
Wednesday 8 June, Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, 01524 251004
Thursday 9 June, Darley Memorial Hall, 01524 251004
Friday 10 June, Reeth memorial Hall (as part of the Swaledale Festival), start time 2pm. Tickets £7/£3, 01748 880019

Flower-rich Meadow at Bridge End Farm, Walden. Photo: Colin Speakman.



his interest aroused on many levels, he makes the first move. Mysteriously, fate then intervenes to take them both on a most fabulous journey – way beyond even their wildest dreams.

The writer is Simon Corble, (co-creator of award-winning 39 Steps, which originated in village halls and became a long-running West End and Broadway hit). Inevitably there are more than a few laughs along the way, plus songs co-written with Jim Woodland.

changing face of flower-rich hay meadows through the seasons, and YDMT is running educational activities for local schools.

In the Yorkshire Dales the play will be performed at the following venues. All shows start at 7pm and are £7/£4, unless stated otherwise. Tickets can be pre-purchased (phone numbers next column) or bought at the door, subject to availability.

Tuesday 14 June, Amerdale Hall, Arndcliffe, 01524 251004
Wednesday 15 June, West Burton Village Hall, 01524 251004
Thursday 16 June, Victoria Hall, Settle, (ticket prices tbc), 01729 825718
Friday 17 June, Lofthouse Memorial Hall, 01524 251004
Saturday 18 June, Burnsall Village Hall (as part of Grassington Festival Fringe) 01756 752691
For further details contact YDMT on 01524 251004 or info@ydm.org

Daleswatch – Spring 2011

The fragility of the Dales communities, and the threats that they face, have been well illustrated in the issues that the Society's Policy Committee has been focusing on in recent months.

Biodiversity

At our January meeting, Paul Evans of Natural England (speaking in a personal capacity), set out the importance of the Dales in terms of biodiversity. The National Park contains five National Nature Reserves, and 30% of its area is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The National Park Authority faces 25% cuts in its budgets and activities (before taking inflation into account), caused by the planned reduction in Government Grant between 2011 and 2015. Cuts in the budgets of other organisations, such as Natural England, will further reduce the resources available to support the Authority's activities.

In this context, Paul felt that new partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors need to be developed; that different funding mechanisms must be identified; and that a more integrated and sustainable approach to biodiversity must be developed.

Kettlewell School

It is pleasing to report that the campaign to save Kettlewell Primary School from closure by North Yorkshire County Council, led by the Parish Council and supported by the Society and many others, has been successful. It is clear, however, that the County Council will be keeping the school roll under close review, and that the threat – both to the school, and to the local economy and community in Upper Wharfedale – has not gone away completely.

Scargill House Planning Application

Much concern has been expressed over the possible impact of the proposals to refurbish, upgrade and extend the Scargill Movement's accommodation near Kettlewell on local accommodation providers, on the

viability of existing facilities at Kettlewell Village Hall and Upper Wharfedale School, and on levels of traffic on the local minor roads. This is probably the biggest development ever to come before the Park Planning Committee.

In the background has been the objectors' fear that the site might at some stage be sold on to a private developer, who would want to squeeze the maximum possible financial return from it.

While granting planning permission in principle at its meeting on 8th February, the Committee has tried to meet those concerns by instructing that the number of bedrooms permitted should be clearly stated in the decision notice; that there should be a condition limiting the use of sports hall facilities to Scargill residents; and that the detailed planning conditions and the full Travel Plan should be subject to further detailed scrutiny at its April meeting before a decision notice is issued.

Bid to Local Sustainable Transport Fund

If nothing is done, the effect of the looming budget cuts on all public transport services in the Dales could be disastrous. Without the work of the Yorkshire Dales Society there would now be no buses on Sundays and Bank Holidays to such key visitor destinations as Bolton Abbey, Grassington, Kettlewell, Malham or Hawes, with serious impacts on the local economy.

The Society, together with its wholly-owned Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company which currently runs the popular Sunday and Bank Holiday DalesBus services, has been helping to develop a bid with other partners to the Government's new Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

The bid is aimed at protecting and improving all the bus services within the Dales, including weekday services, vital for local communities. Its key elements include improved links between core main line train and bus services to 'sustainable local transport

hubs' such as Grassington, Settle, Pateley Bridge and Hawes, with local feeder services from those centres into the hinterland of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB. Vital would be improved marketing of those services (learning from the success of DalesBus), and better integration between public transport services, school buses, health transport and dial-a ride services, linked to walking and cycling opportunities.

Strong support is being given by the National Park Authority, and the bid has a lengthening list of partners/supporters including the Yorkshire Dales Passenger Transport User Group (YDPTUG), bus operators such as Transdev, Metro and Little Red Bus, Northern Rail, Nidderdale AONB, Harrogate Friends of the Earth, Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line and Nidderdale Chamber of Trade. These organisations have come together in a formal group known as the Dales Integrated Transport Alliance or DITA. Already the proposals have won support from Dales MPs and have been featured in the Yorkshire Post, on the BBC TV Politics Show and on BBC Radio Four.

However, before this imaginative project can go ahead, the Bid will have to be endorsed and formally submitted to the Department of Transport by North Yorkshire County Council, with whom discussions are continuing. If successful it could transform sustainable travel within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB, but if the Bid is unable to proceed or fails, wholesale withdrawal of local bus services not just on Sundays could leave whole areas of the Dales inaccessible to anyone without a car, and many people in Dales' communities seriously isolated.

Hugh Thornton,
Chair of YDS Policy Committee

Many thanks to YDS member Alan Sutcliffe for his generous gift of £400 from the residue of the Railway Club, to support DalesBus in 2011.

George Horner

When my old friend George Horner, signalman at Blea Moor box, on the Settle-Carlisle railway, went to work, he parked his van under one of the arches of Ribbleshead viaduct and walked the remaining mile or so, often in wet and windy weather. The signal box had a left-hand frame, which meant that when operating the levers, he must face the back wall instead of looking directly through the front windows.

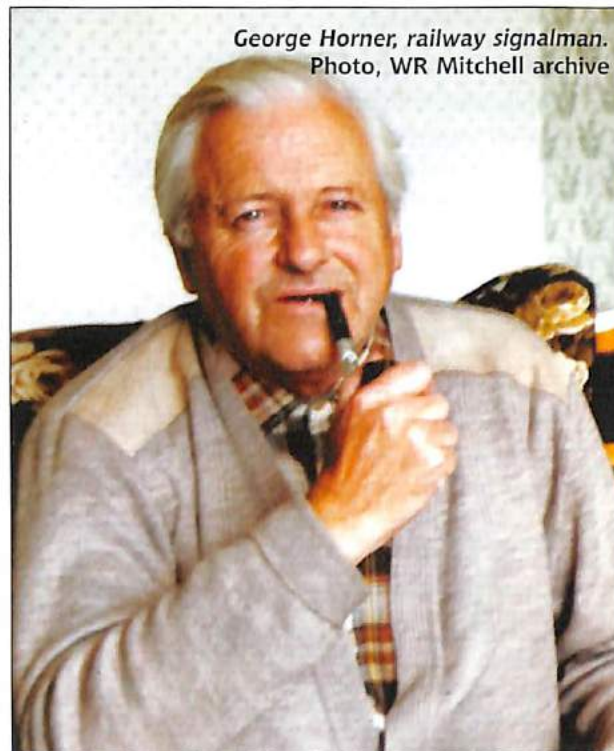
The signal box, on its brick base, stood by the up-line. The box was a haven for the local ganger and his merry men. One of them, arriving in the late morning, handed over tins of food with the request that they might be warmed up on the stove for collection at noon. All the tins were heaped on the stove, regardless of the labels – and so a permanent way man had to eat pears that were piping hot.

The signalman was instructed to “carefully to watch the weather during the winter months.”

George had a splendid view of rail traffic and of those sheep that, having been born between the tracks at a time when walls were in a bad state, regarded the railway as home.

A platelayer from Hawes was heard putting a sheep off the railway line

when he was half a mile from the box. The sheep had been on the engineer’s siding all morning. Said the platelayer: “There, you owd begger, that’s you finished.” He returned to the middle of the track with his spanner to tighten a



George Horner, railway signalman. Photo, WR Mitchell archive

inspector arrived at the box and suggested to the signalmen he might get her off, for she was in danger. Said the signalman: “It’s her blooming look-out if she gets run over.” The night express was offered and accepted. “In a bit there was a rumbling and t’big yellow nose of t’express could be seen as it came under t’bridge.”

The sheep was still there. The inspector said he couldn’t bear to watch it. Then he couldn’t resist doing so. He turned to look at the sheep and “just as t’express was coming, yon sheep got up and stretched and walked out of t’way. The express shot by at about sixty miles an hour. Yon sheep got back into t’four foot and lay down again.”

A toilet of the Elsan type was set in a compartment at the top of the signal box steps. “You just went out of the door and turned to t’reet – and there it was.” A former signalman was fond of smoking his pipe. One day, sitting

on the toilet, he lit his pipe and dropped the match between his open legs, where it fired the chemicals. What he said should be left to the imagination.

W R Mitchell

Volunteering with the Yorkshire Dales Society

It was my failure to read the green reminder letter carefully that lead to my undoing. After joining the Society in 2007, I paid the next year’s subscription both by cheque and direct debit. Anne (W) phoned to tell me of my error and misguidedly I mentioned that the Society was looking for volunteers. Three years later I am still on the treadmill. I look after, or try to, the subscription records. It keeps me busy on one day a week, usually Thursdays. I have also helped with Review distributions, walks and afternoon talks, once even making the tea. I have acquired a good general knowledge of the Society through my time in the office.

Being a volunteer entails, in my view, commitment, dedication and conscientiousness, team membership – keeping the team informed and knowing that they can rely

on you. Qualities that I am sure members have in spades. So come on please volunteer your services. There is lots to do, organizing events and helping run them, improving on our publicity and displays, getting involved and using your expertise on various projects, distributions and help in the office. Our new Ann (S) is employed only on a part time basis and needs more support. You can also help by recruiting new members. Just let us know if you require application forms.

After all if the work was not enjoyable amid good company, I would not still be here.

Bernard Peel

The Dale that isn’t a Dale – Grizedales

In a previous article about Rye Loaf Hill I mentioned an unnamed higher hill, less than a mile to the north east, in an area called Grizedales. This led me to thinking further about that name.

The hill at Grizedales at 1,815 feet (553 metres) is the highest on the Malham Moors, Fountains Fell excepted. It is some 20 feet higher than Rye Loaf Hill and indeed is only 16 feet lower than the magnificent Pendle Hill which lies 15 miles to the south. But there is little to commend it (see photograph). From the north and east it is no more than a gentle swelling of the rising moor. Only to the south and west does a steeper face, with broken crags and scree, present itself, as viewed from the Stockdale path over to Malham. Even then we are talking about an ascent of little more than 100 feet from the path.

The hill is situated in the north west corner of Malham Parish. Only a few hundred yards to the north a wall marks the boundary with Malham Moor Parish. A wall running north below the craggy western slope marks the boundary with Langcliffe Parish.

I was intrigued by the name of a hill or area apparently named as the valleys of the pigs when there are no valleys in the vicinity. I then thought maybe the area had once been owned by a farmer of that name. Eventually after some research and a large element of luck

the true picture emerged.

Grizedales had been a large enclosure – almost 400 acres – shared as common pasture by a number of farmers and landowners in Malham. The enclosure to the east is called Ewe Moor, so perhaps there had been an earlier distinction with one enclosure favouring pigs and the other sheep.

In the Malham Enclosure Awards of 1850, the enclosure was called Grisedale. It was allotted, but not in equal portions, between the five users with common pasture rights, William Atkinson, Thomas Clapham, Lord Ribblesdale, The Kirkby Malham School Trustees and the Kirkby Malham Overseers of the Poor. They were required to build and maintain walls round the land allotted to them. These walls are still standing and appear on the larger scale ordnance survey maps.

It was Raistrick’s book on Malham that provided me with the surprising answer to the name. We know that “dale” is a Scandinavian name for a valley; however “dole” or “dale” was also an Anglo Saxon word meaning a share. So now the obscure meaning became clear. Grizedales was a common where pigs were kept and which was shared by a number of farmers.

So has the hill at ‘Grizedales’ anything to offer? On a gentle ascent of more than one mile from the Gorbeck Road

to the north, there are fine views of the Three Peaks and Fountains Fell. Over to the east Malham Tarn is laid out before you. Then to the south from the summit there is a fine view of the shapely Rye Loaf Hill with the Stockdale path below you. The climb from the south from the Stockdale path is an easy ten minutes. So an easy hill to climb with quite good views. Of course there is quite a walk to get to a starting point. From the south there are no barriers to gaining the summit. From the north there is at least one substantial wall.

I can recommend a most enjoyable walk starting from Settle or Malham with “Grizedales” as the goal, maybe including Rye Loaf Hill and Kirby Fell in the itinerary.

By chance I was driving recently on the road over from Stainforth to Malham Tarn (The Henside Road) when off to the south east appeared a mini version of Pen-y-ghent. So Grizedales has one pleasing aspect after all.

I am grateful to Phil Hudson of the North Craven Historical Research Group for helpful advice, to the Kirkby Malham website and to Arthur Raistrick’s book “Malham and Malham Moor” published in 1947.

Bernard Peel

Grizedales. Photo by: Bernard Peel



Book Review

LIMESTONE INDUSTRIES OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES (second edition), BY DAVID JOHNSON, published by Amberley, at £18.99, available at local bookshops. ISBN 978-1-4456-0090-4. 10% discount if ordered via website, £17.90 www.amberley-books.com also available on Amazon, or by email orders@amberley-books.com (ask for assistant).

David Johnson's Limestone Industries of the Yorkshire Dales, is a more amplified version, with the addition of much new material, of his original work on the same subject, published in 2002 by Tempus. It bears the hallmarks once again of meticulous research, a very readable style and an enthusiasm which immediately engages us with the subject. Limestone has had numerous uses throughout the centuries, ranging from an aid to help improve poor soil to present day aggregates for roadstone and construction, as well as many other important industrial uses. The industry has also left an indelible mark on the



Mechanised quarry face, Coldstones Quarry

Dales through its quarrying and the remains of its numerous lime kilns - an essential part of our heritage.

Although the use of lime as a soil improver in the Dales has a long history, it took some considerable time before it was realised that the lime acted as a catalyst, neutralising other chemicals for it to be effective. Since any substantial building with a heavy

roof needed the addition of lime mortar for any sort of permanence, unsurprisingly, the huge demand was met by a variety of lime kilns whose design and types of combustible fuel were to change very significantly over the centuries. PM Spencer's hourglass shaped kiln with its flues, designed in the 1900 was, however, so efficient, it was still in use in the 1960s.

Today the Hoffmann Kiln, a jewel in the crown, with its continuous archways, (which no photo does real justice to), is available to be viewed as part of our industrial heritage under the protection of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, while the surrounding land has a rich botanical habitat with 82 plant species, five species of bats, one rare species of cave spider, and nesting peregrine falcons on the scar.

This 320 page book has a great variety of excellent photographs and diagrams, and gives a wonderful comprehensive view of a key dales industry and some prominent local figures in that industry.

FS

David Johnson will be lecturing to the YDS in December this year (postponed from previous date), as part of our winter 2011/12 Walks and Lecture programme.

Coke Oven on top of Fountains Fell



Letters

YDS member Martin Vallance, from Brompton-on-Swale near Richmond in North Yorkshire, writes about his concerns over the YDS Climate Change Conference in October 2010.

YDS Conference and Climate Change

One of the many interesting articles in the Winter issue (no. 113) of the YDS Dales Review, is the review on page 5 of your Conference on Climate Change on 9th October. However, what I find rather disappointing is that the sceptical point of view seems to be under represented. Climate science is NOT settled and this new conventional wisdom may well not be correct. There are plenty of eminent scientists who dispute it.

One understands more clearly than ever how Galileo must have felt when he challenged the conventional wisdom of his day!

Whatever else you do, do keep up the fight against these ridiculous windmills which one notes delivered hardly any power at astronomic cost during the recent cold but still weather. (I understand that they have to be kept moving from time to time so were then actually using, as opposed to delivering power!) Never has so much been wasted on so many useless structures for such few results!

/ continued opposite

Spring Events 2011



Saturday 7 May 2011 - DISCOVERING A TRADITIONAL GROUSE MOORLAND

Join Adrian Blackmore, Moorlands Director of the Countryside Alliance, and Phil Warren of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, for an insight into managing a heather moorland to benefit both sporting interests and wildlife. Easy and short circular walk across moorland, with several stopping points to learn about how the moor is managed e.g. predator control, heather burning, grouse management. The moorland visited is one site in the North Pennines Black Grouse Recovery Project. With luck, not only Black Grouse but a wide variety of breeding waders (curlew, snipe, golden plover, lapwing) may be seen, in this stunning part of Arkengarthdale. Wear boots and suitable warm outdoor clothing, including wet weather gear, bring snack/drink. **No dogs.**

Meet at the Charles Bathurst (CB) Inn, Arkengarthdale, 2:00 p.m. FREE transport will be provided to and from the moorland site, which is a short distance away but does not have parking. Visit ends around 4:00 p.m. To help with planning transport, please ring the Settle office on 01729 825600 or email ann.shadrake@yds.org.uk if you would like to come on this walk.

Sunday 8 May 2011 - FAMILY WALK: OXENBER WOODS, AUSTWICK

A family walk, particularly designed for those with children/grandchildren, but open to all. Enjoy seeing the wonderful wild flowers in this beautiful limestone wood, and learn tips on flower identification. Approximately 4 - 5 miles in length, easy walking, taking about 4 hours. Boots or strong trainers essential as well as outdoor clothing/wet weather gear. Bring a packed lunch. **No dogs.** This walk is part of the **Flowers of the Dales Festival 2011** led by Dr Judith Allinson and YDS members.

Meet at River Bridge/Wood Lane, Austwick at 10:30 a.m. Please park with care. Walk finishes approximately 2:30 p.m.

Saturday 4 June 2011 - FAMILY WALK: HAYMEADOWS AT WINSKILL

A family walk, particularly designed for those with children/grandchildren, but open to all. Join Chair Colin

Speakman on a visit to Winskill Farm. There we will meet renowned Dales farmer, archaeologist, naturalist and YDS Honorary Member Tom Lord and hear about the traditional management of the beautiful flower rich meadows. One steep ascent. **No dogs.** Suitable outdoor clothing and boots. Snack/drink. This walk is part of the **Flowers of the Dales Festival 2011.**

Meet at Stainforth Car Park at 1 p.m. and walk to Winskill Farm (return visit of approximately 3 miles). Bus B11 leaves Settle Market Place at 11:43 to arrive at Stainforth in time for the walk, or you can walk all the way (accompanied) from Settle Market Place, meeting at 11:00 a.m. (0947 train from Leeds).

Saturday 9 July 2011 - YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10.30 The Chairman's AGM Walk - a 3.5 mile circular walk from Bolton Abbey, via Lob Wood and Ward Hill. One steep section. Meet outside Village Hall entrance, Bolton Abbey. Bring packed lunch or lunch in café. (Bus 74 d. Ilkley 0935). Leader Colin Speakman.

2pm Yorkshire Dales Society AGM - Bolton Abbey Village Hall (free parking at Village Hall car park for members attending the AGM). See separate leaflet for Agenda.

3.30pm The Barefoot Shepherdess - Alison O'Neill, of Shacklabank, Sedburgh, television star and mountain guide, will talk to the Society about her experiences as a shepherd, farmer and inspiring leader of guided walks in the Howgills and other parts of the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria.

Saturday 6 August 2011 - CELEBRATING THE YDS THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY - IN A DIFFERENT WAY

Join Society members in a novel outdoor activity day for young and old at How Stean, Upper Nidderdale which will include (accompanied) Canadian Canoeing for absolute beginners, anyone from 8 to 80 - at Scar House Reservoir. Special prices for YDS members that day only. Limited places available on a first come basis - advance booking essential. Send SAE to YDS office for details.

Hugh Thornton Vice Chair of the YDS and Climate Conference Chair responds.

Many thanks Martin for your letter of 25th January. Because I chaired the Conference, I was asked to respond to the points you have made. Had you been able to come to the event, you would have noted that many of the conference presentations traced the evidence which shows a pattern of climate change over time - both geological and recent - and were based on factual research.

You will note that at one point, specific reference was made to "the evidence is inconclusive" (Ian Whyte and Helen Shaw's presentation), and at the end Dorian Speakman

stated that "there is considerable uncertainty as to exactly what will happen." I do take your point that we did not have a speaker who was a convinced sceptic - but we did have speakers who acknowledged, and in fact drew attention to the lack of certainty in drawing conclusions.

At the end of the Conference, in his summing-up (which we did not report for reasons of space), Colin Speakman expressed his hope that the YDS might organise a similar event in the near future, to catch up on the latest evidence. If we are able to do that, then we will bear your comments in mind when seeking speakers, and you yourself would be warmly welcome.



Front Cover: Cave Spider Sculpture by Kate Maddison.
Photo by Kate Maddison.

Back Cover: Meta Menardi (actual cave spider).
Photo by Martin Davies, Countryside Property Officer, National Trust.
(See article on Dales Cave Spiders, p.4)

Ann Shadrake - Administrator

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Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.

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

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

Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.

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