YOTKSNITE DALES review



- IMPLICATIONS OF DEARTH OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE DALES
 - DALESWATCH: BACK ON THE RAILS AND FAREWELL PENNINE
 - BARN CONVERSION & LOW COST HOUSING
 - NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES CONFERENCE
- THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK: A CELEBRATION OF 60 YEARS •

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Editor Fleur Speakman



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Yorkshire Dales review

IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEARTH OF AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING IN THE DALES

The many advantages of living in a very beautiful area such as the Yorkshire Dales are obvious. However, there are a number of negatives, particularly in terms of affordable housing for local people on modest incomes. The English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) has shown their concern by putting out a Position Statement on Affordable Housing and a detailed report: Within national parks, many communities are no longer working communities. This creates wider social, economic and environmental problems. Costs of housing make it difficult to live within national parks for the land managers of tomorrow. There is also a worrying imbalance in age and social structure in many communities.

Affordable housing in the Yorkshire Dales is an issue which the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has been trying to address over a number of years. Dales' properties cost on average £240,000, though in Leeds they average only £153,000, according to the Guardian's Northern Blog. Eager to try to address this problem in a more positive way and give a lead, the National Park's own Report identified 29 sites which could accommodate 236 homes to be built over the next 15 years. Half of the properties would be affordable homes to rent or to buy, probably through the involvement of a local housing association; the remainder would be available on the open market, with a legal clause restricting their occupancy to people who need to live or work in the Park. Councillor Carl Lis made some telling points: - without homes, communities will die, it is as simple as that. People are the lifeblood of the Dales. Yet he fully realised, that the authorities were faced with a very difficult task, because the primary role of the National Park Authority was to protect a unique landscape. Equally, there was a duty to support communities within the Dales. The final decision, to be taken by the Park in late June, will be some time after we have gone to press.

The strong link between rural housing and rural transport is also pointed out by Penny Brown, the CEO of Humber and the Wolds Rural Community Council: The need for transport is an inevitable consequence of living in rural areas if people are to access a wide range of services in the neighbouring towns and further afield. On average, people living in the most rural areas travel 45% further each year than those in England as a whole, and 53% further than in urban areas.

It is just at this point that some key services in the Yorkshire Dales have been further endangered as Pennine Motors, established 1925, and notable for its characteristic buses in orange and black livery in the Craven area, folded in May this year. See DalesWatch page X. Negotiations are still taking place for a permanent replacement bus service between Skipton and Settle - for latest news and information log onto *www.dalesbus.org*.

The problems which relate to affordable housing and adequate public transport provision in the Dales are various: jobs in the farming and tourism sector are often in the lower income bracket, and there is frequently insufficient scope for other work. Cuts to local authority budgets inevitably affect essential services, while above all, there are soaring house prices, with a quarter of the Park's 10,000 households averaging an annual income of only £16,264. The exodus of young people and the influx of maturer residents with a more comfortable standard of living, has had a profound effect on the demographic. Gunnerside, in Swaledale, is an example of just one charming Dales village now without post office, village shop or pub - closed for 18 months, though it has recently found a buyer which will help to give the village a focal point. However NYCCs latest cuts have removed the regular local bus service, to be replaced by a demand responsive service that has be booked 24 hours ahead. Its school still has a handful of pupils, but access to a doctor is likely to be under threat. With about half the properties either second homes or holiday 'lets', increasingly there is insufficient mix of the different generations. Second and holiday home ownership across the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a whole has been estimated at 15%. Councillor Robert Heseltine feels strongly, that modern technology could help with some of the issues. He has been eloquent about the need for fast Broadband in rural areas, both to help people feel connected and to access particular services. Furthermore is agreed Broadband is now critical for small business and economic development.

Meanwhile planning permission has been granted to the Affordable Housing Provider Home Group for seven new affordable homes to rent in Grassington, and a number of new affordable homes to rent or share will be constructed in Giggleswick, by Jephson Housing Association. It's a promising start!

Fleur Speakman

BACK ON THE RAILS

Quarrying, a vital national industry, fits uneasily in a National Park. But the high quality Carboniferous Limestone that creates such magnificent scenery, is also a vital ingredient for the building and chemical industries; and the Dales and the Peak District National Park are prime sources of this essential material. The Dales also has some small but vital exposures of ancient Silurian gritstones and slates, known as Greywacke, that provide some of the finest material available in the UK for road surface asphalt.

Ironically it was the railways, such as the Settle-Carlisle line, which allowed what until Victorian times had been small, localised quarries, to expand in the 20th century to meet the growing needs of a heavily industrialised society, requiring huge quantities of cement, concrete for roads and buildings as well as for a wide range of industrial processes, as well as for road construction and maintenance. In Ribblesdale, sidings off the Settle Carlisle line at Langcliffe, Helwith Bridge and Horton, served quarries and lime kilns which grew in size and output as the century progressed; allowing Dales stone to be transported by heavy freight trains to reach their national and regional markets.

Immediately before the Yorkshire National Park was designated in 1954, plans were rushed through to expand several of the Dales quarries, and for years there were battles between local residents, conservationists and quarry companies over the visual blight, dust, noise and traffic generated by the huge quarries in Ribblesdale and Upper Wharfedale.

By the 1960s, road haulage had almost totally replaced rail as the main form of quarry transport with large numbers of quarry waggons using the B6479 and B6265 roads, which required constant unsightly widening and urbanisation to cope with the heavy traffic.

Thankfully these battles are now largely in the past, thanks to a growing recognition by the quarry industry that they had a duty to local communities, and to protect the environment, especially in a National Park. The National Park Authority has worked over many years to impose restrictions on existing quarries and only agreed to the extension of quarries with tough new conditions. Several once contentious quarries such as Coolscar and Theshfield in Upper



Wharfedale, and Ribblehead – now a Nature Reserve - have now closed and been carefully restored and landscaped. The four surviving quarries in the Dales - Swinden and Horton (limestone), Arcow and Dry Rigg (road stone) now have a limited active life, and within the next 30 years, large scale quarrying will have ceased within the National Park. The quarry companies have all co-operated closely with the National Park to reduce dust and noise both in quarrying and transportation, (Swinden has been rail served for many years), to landscape existing quarries and wherever possible, conceal unsightly workings.

But quarry traffic along Dales roads remains a major issue, especially in Ribblesdale, where huge waggons go through the centre of Settle. A local environmental group, the Friends of Ribblesdale, has been set up with the prime aim of reducing the damage and blight caused by the huge number of heavy waggons along the B6479 through Upper Ribblesdale and Settle's main street.

In a bold move, the National Park Authority has negotiated a major deal with Lafarge Tarmac at Arcow and Dry Rigg quarries. Arcow is due to close in 2015, but Dry Rigg still has significant reserves. The planning application now before the Planning Committee is for an extension to the life of Dry Rigg until 2021, with restoration of the quarry to be completed by 2022, but on condition that the bulk of the extracted stone is transported by rail.

So a new rail siding, to be open in 2015, is to be built to the south of the quarry to transport most of the remaining quarried stone out of both Arcow and Dry Rigg by rail. The Company are working closely with the National Park Authority to safeguard and even improve the environment around the new siding, including the alteration of a right of way. 250,000 tonnes will leave Dry Rigg annually by Rail between 2015 and 2021 though 150,000 tonnes will still have to travel by road. This will eliminate an estimated 42 Heavy Goods Movement per day from the Helwith quarries, and though 21 HGVs will still have to rumble through Settle each day, it is a reduction by two thirds. Trains heading south will have to travel north to Ribblehead to be able to reverse, not an ideal arrangement, but this is a major step forward and puts a huge number of heavy vehicles back where they belong – on the railway.

Colin Speakman



FAREWELL PENNINE

For almost 90 years, orange and black Pennine buses were a familiar sight in Skipton, Settle and surrounding villages - a much loved feature of the Dales. True the buses were a little elderly, even old fashioned, but this was one of the last surviving medium sized family bus companies, run by three generations of the Simpson family.

But a combination of competition on the key Burnley route, high cash fares as a result of a high percentage of free travel by pensioners, and the final straw, North Yorkshire's low level of senior pass reimbursement, finally pushed the company to a point when losses could no longer be sustained. On May 17th, a black day for the people of Craven, Pennine Motors, plus 18 driving and maintenance jobs, disappeared. Ruth Evans, a YDS member living in Settle, has suggested that businesses in Settle may have to close and even the Tuesday market - which many locals can only get to on the hourly Pennine bus – could fold. Traders will see their margins slashed, as many people who are no longer able to travel into Settle or Skipton, have to rely on lifts to out of town supermarkets; a cruel loss of freedom and independence.

At time of writing, North Yorkshire County Council's idea of a replacement is just three mini buses a day between Skipton and Settle, plus two more to Hellifield. The last bus leaves Skipton for Settle at 12:45, the last back from Settle at 13:30. Nothing on a Saturday. Embsay, Carleton will have similar token services. Even Malham, a nationally important visitor focus, will only be accessible on three weekdays, with the last bus back at 13:35 - no use whatsoever for a day out in the National Park. Thankfully the Yorkshire Dales Society's Dales & Bowland CIC has come to the rescue at weekends, with the new 75 Saturday service from Harrogate and Skipton, now doing well, as is the Sunday 875 also from York.

The collapse of Pennine, in essence because of public funding cuts, underlines the growing crisis in the Dales, as result of a slash and burn policy towards public sector funding which hits poor and rural areas disproportionately. Is it so necessary to have people in rural communities desperately isolated in order to placate international creditors? If the

economy, as the Government is claiming, is in rapid recovery, why on earth are further draconian cuts to be imposed on rural areas in 2015?

Transport, like education and health services, is vital to human well-being and a healthy local economy.

To give due credit, North Yorkshire County Council officers have worked hard to retain a core network of weekday services in the Yorkshire Dales. Upper Swaledale may no longer have service buses beyond Reeth, but Reeth Community Transport's volunteers will take you to or from Keld, Muker or Gunnerside, whilst Little White Bus volunteers will fill in between Askrigg and Leyburn on the old 157 route. Details are on the DalesBus website – www.dalesbus.org but these demand responsive services must be booked the day before through Little White Bus on 01969 667400.

Thankfully, the Dales & Bowland CIC has managed to retain and even expand the popular Sunday DalesBus network, which in 2013/4 enjoyed 5% growth in usage. DalesBus is vital to allow people without their own transport, including many younger and older people, to enjoy and experience

the National Park, paid for by everyone's taxes, yet otherwise exclusively available to car owners and groups able to hire a coach. But funding for this much praised network, which only continues in 2014 to Swaledale and the Three Peaks area, thanks to funding from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Sustainable Development Fund, is due to be further cut in 2015. A similar fate awaits even the already severely truncated weekday services. The official view is, that unless DalesBus and other local bus services make a profit, they are no longer 'affordable'.

There is serious hypocrisy at work here. Bus travellers in London are heavily subsidised for social and environmental reasons, as is the Underground, and most of the National Rail network. Whether for visitors or locals, bus services help sustain the rural economy. The loss of Pennine Motors is not just a disaster for the people of Craven, it illustrates the glaring inequality of treatment, between that offered people living in rural areas of England like the Yorkshire Dales, and those living where the decision takers live, in the Golden Metropolis.

Colin Speakman



JON AVISON A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Over the years the Yorkshire Dales Society has been very fortunate in the choice of its chairmen, generally drawn from the professions (including a former Field Services Officer from the Yorkshire Dales National Park itself). All were deeply committed to and involved in the concerns of the Yorkshire Dales and its National Park. Our current Chairman Designate, Jon Avison, was not only the Park's Deputy Chief Executive in the early years of 2000, but also has a strong farming background – something that will particularly resonate with our members. Jon was born in Harrogate and brought up on family farms in Nidderdale at Hampsthwaite and Padside near Thornthwaite. After Agricultural college in Cirencester, he travelled extensively with his young wife Julie and baby Rachel in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia; working on farms in New Zealand and truck driving in Perth Australia.

On his return to Yorkshire, Jon worked as a Farm Manager near Harewood for six years before joining the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as Area Warden for the Malhamdale area of the Park. As Jon states: the transition from farming to local government bureaucracy was quite a culture shock. In farming you are generally in control of a piece of land and don't have to go through committees. He achieved steady promotion as Area Management Officer, responsible for ranger and area manager teams across the Park, then becoming Head of Park Management and finally Deputy Chief Executive. Jon initiated the Park Ranger service (a change from the old style wardens of former years), seeing them as ambassadors for the Park as they interacted with visitors and the general public. He is also particularly proud of having set up a well used Farm and Countryside Service which helps the farmers and landowners with conservation and grant schemes. His 30 years service with the Park allows him to reflect on the boost its image has received over the years as farmers, residents and visitors welcome better signs, stiles and footpaths created by the Park. While the Park itself, in its earlier days somewhat suspicious of visitors and possible damage to vulnerable areas, has found that welcoming visitors, but managing their movements, can bring real economic benefit to an area. As Jon says: Planning matters are a tricky area. There are always some aggrieved individuals and controversial decisions. Yet there has been much which has benefited the Dales.

After his retirement, Jon decided to join the Yorkshire Dales Society, and more recently became more involved. As a YDS Council Member, he has been particularly helpful to the Society, looking at the Society's Constitution, now over thirty years old, where some necessary adjustments may have to be made, owing to changes in the law. I see the Yorkshire Dales Society both as a critical friend of the National Park and as a channel of communication. In my view, the Council of Management needs to continue to build up its expertise and to be ready to engage with business, local authorities, the Park and others in managing the area. The Society already provides a watching brief over important issues which arise in the Dales and needs to respond in a really informed way.

Jon is passionate about the Dales area, its people and culture, crediting his parents as his main influences, especially his mother who introduced him to the work of Dales'



historians Ella Pontefract, Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby. Jon lists his main interests as family, sustainable farming and music; and with three grown up children and several grandchildren, he and his wife have a lively time. Music is a strong and constant thread in John's life, as a guitarist, song writer and leader of the Moonbeams, a folk music group, together with a music studio in his cellar where he writes and records. John's practical skills in his earlier days as a Warden/Ranger were again to the fore quite recently when he constructed an elegant yet substantial wooden bridge which allows access to his property after the old one had decayed. Characteristically, after being interviewed on a beautiful Spring day, he was off to plant his potatoes.

The Yorkshire Dales Society is indeed most fortunate to have a chairman of Jon Avison's calibre and experience.

Fleur Speakman



AGRAMMAR SCHOOL AT WAR

by **Steve Howarth**, available at **Skipton's Craven Museum** priced **£10**. Alternatively e-mail **showath@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk**

Dramatic stories of heroic deeds in the Great War are still waiting to be researched. For this centenary year of the outbreak of the World War I which had a major impact on life in the Dales, Steve Howarth has extracted two particular stories from his own book which details over fifty personal histories connected with the boys of Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton.

When Second Lieutenant Harold Colley of the 18th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment – or the 2nd Bradford Pals – led his men out of the trenches in front of the French village of Serre, he was about to play a part in one of history's most memorable and tragic battles. The place was the Somme in Northern France, the date was 1st July 1916.

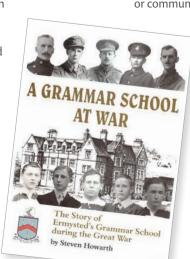
Little over a year before, Colley, a native of Bradford, had worked as a languages teacher at Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton.

Abandoning the classroom for the battlefield, Colley had quickly gained a reputation as a cool head, leading night-time reconnaissance missions into no-man's-land on the Western Front trenches. On the fateful day itself Colley's courage didn't desert him. A surviving witness wrote: [he] was next to me when he gave the command. 'Ready, boys: up the ladder and over the trench like one man.' We all had eyes on him, for he was our leader. We got about 200 or 300 yards when, I am sorry to say, he fell only a yard from me, and the last I saw and heard of him was while he lay on the ground. He shouted in the midst of hellish fire, 'Onward McLaughlin! Good-bye and good luck!' My God! These words spurred us on...

Like nearly 20,000 of his compatriots on that day, Colley was killed in the maelstrom of bullets, shrapnel and explosions. Declared missing,

presumed killed, Colley's name was recorded on the Thiepval Memorial which has overlooked the battlefields since 1924. Colley also features on an altogether more modest memorial found in a small schoolroom in the Yorkshire town of Skipton. 54 other names of old boys and teachers are cast into the impressive bronze plaque, each one carrying its own unique story of the Great War.

The sum of these stories is a microcosm of the War as a whole, encompassing the different years, theatres, armed services and ranks. For this cohort of soldiers, death came in a variety of forms, from falling in the thick of battle, to succumbing to wounds, freak accidents and even influenza.





Naturally some of the most dramatic stories to emerge are where individuals won gallantry medals. One such was Bert Rodwell, Head Boy of Ermysted's in 1915, who served in the Royal Engineers as an officer and was the recipient of the Military Cross. The young second lieutenant was assigned to a tunnelling company whose secretive purpose was to mine under enemy positions and destroy them with massive explosive charges. The role was a dangerous one, with constant threats of tunnel collapse, gas leaks, counter explosions and even combat with the enemy. The culmination of the British tunnellers' work was the colossal earth-shattering explosion of 19 mines under the German-held Messines Ridge in Belgium on 7th June 1917. The subsequent capture made it one of the greatest military successes of the War and an Ermysted's man played his part. Unfortunately Rodwell was killed by a shell explosion whilst working above ground in November 1917.

The centenary anniversary of the Great War is likely to spur many people on to research the part played by their ancestors or local group or community. For those with roots in the Craven area of Yorkshire,

distinct advantages exist. The local newspapers – the Craven Herald and West Yorkshire Pioneer – included extensive coverage including photographs, letters and obituaries. Following the War, the editor of Craven Herald compiled a remarkable memorial book of the local war dead, Craven's Part in Great War, with one being issued to every local serving man or his family. In 2006 a website: www.cpgw.org.uk was launched, that digitised the content and began to add further names that were originally overlooked; this currently stands at 2,655. For each individual entered in the database, links can be made to local newspaper articles, local memorials and photographs, as well as other national databases.

Steve Howarth

BARN CONVERSION AND LOW-COST

YDS Business Member, Mark Thompson of Askrigg in Wensleydale, asks if there is not scope for mutual benefit as the barn conversion debate continues. His views are based on an updated version of his letter to the Craven Herald published in Spring. He makes some constructive suggestions.

Blanket acceptance of and approval for the complete demolition, rebuilding and urbanisation of our field barns is complete madness and must be rightly resisted by the National Park Authority. Fortunately, after some pressure, there has been a change of tack by the government – National Parks and AONBs are to be exempt from any new proposals to relax controls on barn conversions.

But the National Park Authority, in its duty towards us, the Park's residents, as well as our world famous landscape, has to move forward, grasp and deal with this issue and not consign the Yorkshire Dales to a future of museum culture and nimbyism.

To all who love and travel the Yorkshire Dales, it is sadly obvious many of our barns are in or nearing a ruinous state - a simple, but common factor, given their age, are the small wooden pegs that hold slates of often considerable weight to their laths. The peg gives, slates slide, water penetrates, the roof goes - game over! Time is running out, so has money and usage in most cases. I have long been a keen advocate of the positive restoration and reuse of these fine and individual structures. Indeed in partnership

with the Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement, I developed and opened one of Britain's very first bunk barns at Barden (in Wharfedale) in 1981. Happily it is still a thriving business, however there is a limit to the number and sustainability of units needed for this purpose!

The challenge is to encourage new usage within, but not at the expense of our precious landscape. This must mean a presumption in favour of development in some cases, with probable refusal for other more sensitive locations. Imagine the river valley barns at Gunnerside (Swaledale), linked by roadways, with a plethora of brightly coloured vehicles and washing dancing in the breeze!

Richmondshire Council has tackled this issue in the Middleham/Leyburn area with some considerable success. They have overseen a sensitive series of conversions to dwellings. Careful study shows an actual benefit to both community and landscape value, providing a kick-start to local and hopefully, young owner-occupiers. Our planners are able to control the spread of 'Dream Homes' by a 106 Agreement, restricting occupancy to local people.

Clearly serious thought has to be given to this heritage resource. Might I suggest the YDNPA seeks finance through the Heritage Lottery, Millennium Trust or other like-minded organisations, and offers a couple of bursaries to young and newly qualified architectural students, to undertake a *Dales Barn Doomsday Survey*. With detailed information to hand, the Authority can then begin the arduous task of assessing what building *is* and

what is not fit for purpose.

If a presumption in favour of conversion to local low cost housing is eventually granted, this could be the basis of a one-off, with a significant planning fee, to be used solely for the restoration of endangered barns outside the planning remit. Sadly had this approach been adopted (with the sale price returned to a new housing pot), when the original sale of our stock of council houses was offered to their tenants, we might not have experienced the severe shortage of low cost housing we now face.

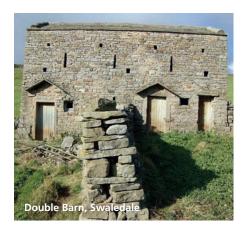
YDS Wensleydale member, Alan Watkinson, editor of the monthly Upper Wensleydale Newsletter, states in his March editorial, that when thinking about the issue of barn conversions, we need first to consider the whole housing stock available. How many houses and cottages are actually occupied and how many are temporarily or permanently empty?

Since tourism is a vital industry in Wensleydale, it is not unreasonable to have a number of holiday cottages or second homes available, but in some villages the proportions are unacceptable. Here are real possibilities for owners to offer long term local lettings.

The idea that the conversion of barns would do anything to ease a perceived local need, rather than simply further increase the number of second homes, seems fanciful. It isn't a cheap exercise and would be more for the benefit of well-heeled people from afar. >



HOUSING...



Now consider the effect on the environment. To convert an unused barn for a local need. which is within a group of farm buildings where the services are already close by, seems perfectly reasonable, given the sensible restrictions on maintaining the general outward appearance within its context. However, the majority of our barns (about 4000 in the Dales), are scattered about in meadows and hillsides. To convert these would mean provision of water supply, sewerage and electricity facilities, as well as a surfaced track for access. Additionally there could be outside lights, waste bins, clothes lines, TV dishes, a small garden and cars. These dwellings could, in all probability, be unoccupied for a considerable part of the year. Does this really help?

The effect on the local community could well be negative; the occupiers are less likely to be young with families to sustain our local schools, but more likely to be older, putting even more pressure on

our health and emergency services, in an area already skewed to the elderly.

From time to time it is necessary to stress again the value of and need for our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with their special qualities of landscape and wildlife. While gradual change is inevitable and necessary, the nation needs such areas for physical, mental and spiritual refreshment. Sometimes we locals are the last to appreciate this. With one or two notable contentious barn/housing exceptions, we believe the National Park as planning authority serves us well and should not be stripped of controls allowing a free-for-all without planning permission.

NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES' CONFERENCE 2014

Did you know that each National Park (apart from Northumberland) has a society or friends charity similar to the Yorkshire Dales Society? Each year, trustees, staff and volunteers from each Park them get together to share ideas and keep updated on issues of common interest. The Yorkshire Dales Society has taken up the baton to host this year's conference which will take place from Wednesday 8 - Friday 10 October at the Coniston Hotel & Country Estate. The hotel offers truly superb residential and conference facilities. Making it even more special is the partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The Conference will be a key event in their programme of celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the designation of the National Park in 1954. We are very grateful, that David Butterworth (CEO of the Authority) and Chairman Peter Charlesworth have offered staff time and resources to the Conference. Alan Hulme, Head of Ranger Services, is planning the study tours to Malhamdale and Ribblesdale, Sam Parfitt, PA to David Butterworth, is handling bookings. The Society's new Chairman Jon Avison is taking the lead on organising the Conference, with support from key Trustees and volunteers (with a bit of help from me too!). Uniquely we will be involving young business people, young volunteers, young apprentices and young entrepreneurs at the Conference, as co-leaders of the study tours and presenters. I do hope you can join us at the Conference - it's going to be amazing!

Ann Shadrake

Special rates for Members of the Yorkshire Dales Society (subject to availability)

Full Conference Delegate: £160pp twin en-suite or £230 for single occupancy. Includes two nights' bed & breakfast, 3 course Conference Dinner on Wednesday & Thursday nights, full Conference programme and packed lunch/refreshments.

Thursday Day Delegate: £100pp. Includes Thursday programme of talks, study tours, walks, packed lunch, 3 course Conference Dinner on Thursday night.

Contact Ann at the office for more information by email or telephone - details on back page.



A DOUBLE C

THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK A CELEBRATION OF 60 YEARS

by Colin Speakman, published by Great Northern Books at £17.99 (hardback), available locally. ISBN: 978-0-9928193-0-9.

A s someone who worked for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for over 30 years, this is definitely a book that I was going to have firm opinions on.

For all of us involved in the Yorkshire Dales Society and for anybody with an interest in the Dales, this book provides a detailed insight into how the Dales have faired as a National Park over the last 60 years and how the National Park Authority has grown and adapted over those years. It is beautifully illustrated with atmospheric black and white photographs of the 1950s and 60s, taking me straight back to the hay times of my youth, and glorious colour shots of more recent times. It is the first time that I have seen the history of the National Park set out so clearly all in one place. It is a unique record of the

Long-handled scythe used on meadowland at Keld, photo Tom Parker

impact of national park designation on the area, how society's attitudes to conservation, recreation and agriculture have changed over the years and the effects these changes have had on the National Park, its residents and visitors.

Colin eloquently describes the war years, when National Parks were little more than an idea, and the characters that were involved in bringing these ideas to life. He describes in fascinating detail how and why the area was chosen for designation as a National Park with all the political machinations and compromises that took place along the way. The book goes on to highlight how the National Park Committee eventually became a stand alone Authority and how the organisation developed from very humble and small beginnings into an effective and modern National Park Authority.

Colin identifies some of the major achievements of the National Park Committee/Authority over the years; ground-breaking projects such as the establishment of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust charity, the Limestone Country Beef Project and the conservation of the iconic Dales field barns and hay meadows. The chapter on agriculture written by farmer Anthony Bradley reminds us of the limitations that the landscape and climate put on agriculture in the area, of how the demographics of farming have changed over the years and how farming is not so much influenced by National Park designation, but by UK and European policy decisions. He also reminds us of something that it is all too easy to forget in our world of supermarkets and 24 hour





openings, where we expect to have green beans and peppers on our plates all year round rather than when they are in season; that the primary objective of farmers is to produce food. He describes how EU environmental policy and the National Park Authority objectives have become more aligned and have led to diversification into other businesses such as tourism and specialist food production; but as Antony says: all such visitor friendly developments stand on the shoulders of pastoral farming – our core business.

Colin finishes with a look to the future and the possible increase in size of the Dales National Park, and an impassioned plea for adequate funding for National Parks, and most particularly and sensibly, for a new look at regional funding and government, which could help National Parks to continue to adapt and meet the new challenges of the future.

Colin's zeal and enthusiasm for all things to do with National Parks comes shining through, and I will conclude with a short quote from the beginning of the book when he is describing the establishment of National Parks in the UK: It could only happen with a remarkable idealism. Let us remember and salute those idealists and learn from their example.

Jon Avison

ELEBRATION

SETTLE-CARLISLE

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAVING OF THE LINE

A pril 2014 marked the 25th anniversary of the saving of the Settle Carlisle railway, commemorated by no less than three special charter trains to Carlisle, the first on April 10th, attended by the great and the good, including former MP, Government Minister and now television presenter, Michael Portillo, who claimed in his talk to the distinguished audience at the Hallmark Hotel in Carlisle, that his most important act as a politician, was to decide that the line should not be closed.

Many individuals and organisations contributed to the saving of the line, not least of which was the Yorkshire Dales Society; a role that is often overlooked. Not only did we give crucially important evidence at the Public Inquiry, but we helped organise a rally attended by Tom Stephenson and Mike Harding in Settle in 1894, and were active members of the Joint Action Committee which co-ordinated and led the campaign with FOSCL, Transport 2000, The Ramblers and others, during the period leading up to the Public Inquiries.

But what has been forgotten is, that as long ago as 1982, the YDS ran an important one day seminar in Bolton Abbey on the *Future of Rural Transport in the Dales*, which focused on the Settle-Carlisle line, and which helped to set an agenda, which was to roll forward for another seven years.

James Towler was the charismatic Chair of the Yorkshire Transport Users Consultative Committee who conducted the Inquiry. In his account of the line *The Battle for the Settle & Carlisle* (*Platform 5 Books*, 1990) he writes:

10th September, there was the Rural Transport in the Yorkshire Dales seminar at Bolton Abbey. It was staged by the Yorkshire



Dales Society, an independent voluntary organisation, designated among other things to 'work with existing statutory and voluntary bodies to achieve common objectives' in order to project its 'fundamental concerns for the well-being of the working community within the Dales.' The driving force behind the organisation was Colin Speakman, the founding father of Dales Rail.

Colin is a born enthusiast. Anything he becomes involved in, he undertakes with the zeal of an evangelist; hence the success of Dales Rail. Therefore, it had come as no surprise, that he had been amongst the first to come to the aid of the Settle-Carlisle line. Moreover he had contacts too.

The seminar attracted some 50 participants, including Paul Watkinson, British Rail's Divisional Manager at Leeds, and David Burton of FoSCL. Even more significant was the fact that the session entitled **The Settle-Carlisle line in Crisis**, was chaired by John Watson MP. My role was to provide what Colin described as 'the keynote talk' and I took the theme that the line was 'perhaps the finest scenic railway' and 'the most spectacular main line in England' – quoting freely from British Rail's own leaflet **The Highlights of the Settle & Carlisle line** - which appeared to have been withdrawn from the travel centres and information offices.

Photo Pete Shaw, S&C Anniversary First Day Covers, laminated, cost £20 (inc. p&p), see **www.foscl.org.uk** or from Settle station shop (open 10:00 -3:00 Monday – Saturday).

Spirit of the Line

Appropriately, a beautifully produced book **Spirit of the Line** by Simon Whalley, was published in time for the 2014 Settle Carlisle celebrations. This hard backed book is composed entirely of atmospheric photographs, featuring the Settle Carlisle line, but more unusually, its passengers, particular stations along the route, close-ups of individual station features and of key individuals who helped to save this famous line. Containing over a 100 photographs, sized at 28x21cm – which allow the photos to speak for themselves, Spirit of the Line by Simon Whalley, published by Skirwit, costs £20 and is available from Settle & Appleby stations and Kirkby Stephen bookshop or via the website: www.simonwhalley.org or email simon@simonwhalley.org

(see back cover of the Review for photo of sculpture, Ruswarp, the dog, at Garsdale station.)





FROM THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY OFFICE

PARTNERSHIPS

Reaching out to other organisations, individuals and businesses is an essential ingredient for a small but active charity like the Yorkshire Dales Society, and indeed has always been a feature of our work. Recently we have benefited from fantastic partnerships with two organisations – one operating on a local level and the other nationally. And later this year we are co-hosting a national conference with a very special partner - see page X and Events page.

SKIPTON CRAVEN ROTARY CLUB

As Members will be aware, the Society has been honoured by being a charity beneficiary of Skipton Craven Rotary over the last year, thanks to a nomination by their President, Bob Marchant. Bob originally got to know the Society through his involvement with us as a Business Member and later as host (with his wife Sheila), of a very successful walk from Bell Busk to Malham in June 2013. This partnership was developed over the autumn of 2013, as Rotary members geared up for their annual fund-raising events - the Skipton Santa Fun Run and Santa Sleigh. We helped promote these events on our website and Facebook page and of course in the Yorkshire Dales Society Review. Then in March 2014, Hon Treasurer Graham Yule and I attended the presentation evening at Skipton Golf Club and accepted a cheque on behalf of the Society for a very generous £2,500. We have invited Bob Marchant to speak at our November meeting at Coniston Cold (Saturday 8 November), to tell us more about the link with Rotary. If any Members are involved in community service organisations which would consider supporting the Society's vital work to protect and raise awareness about the Dales, please contact me at any time by phone or email.



GIFT YOUR GEAR/ROHAN



Way back on Wednesday 27 March, we hosted a special Donation Day with a difference at the Rohan shop in Long Preston. Rather than donating cash, we wanted used or unwanted, but serviceable outdoor clothing, boots and gear. This was all part of our involvement with Gift Your Gear, a national initiative to encourage people to donate their unwanted outdoor gear to benefit groups of young people. Sarah Howcroft, founder of Gift Your Gear and co-founder of Rohan, heard about our own work in the Dales from staff at the Long Preston shop, which is a Business Member of the Society. She asked us to help publicise the scheme. We were thrilled with the turn-out by Members and locals on the special donation day. Sarah personally sorts donated items in a massive warehouse near Manchester Airport, then distributes tailor-made packs to local charities and youth groups running outdoor activities. We are honoured, that Sarah will be our guest speaker at the AGM on Saturday 27 September. So if you have any unwanted waterproofs, fleeces, outdoor trousers, insulated jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, walking boots and shoes (of ANY brand), just bring them to the AGM and pass them to Sarah for the Gift Your Gear scheme!

NOTE TO MEMBERS PAYING BY DIRECT DEBIT AND RENEWING THIS OUARTER

Barclays are changing the software that we use to authorise Direct Debits. Although we hope all will be complete by July, it is a big process and it may over-run. Some Direct Debits may have to be collected on a later date to that shown on the green renewal form enclosed with this issue of the Review.

Ann Shadrake, Administrator

Berry's Farmshop & Cafe, Swinithwaite

A sustainable haven...

Bridget and Adrian Thornton-Berry have had strong links with Swinithwaite near Leyburn in Wensleydale for many years. Bridget explains how as owners of Swinithwaite Hall and estate, they decided to diversify.

My husband must have had the idea of a farm at the back of his mind for some years, so when the moment came and a grant was on offer from the Rural Development Programme in Autumn 201, he grasped the opportunity with enthusiasm. The estate had produced beech and sycamore that had been drying out for 12 years, farming income had plummeted in the Dales and the barns at Swinithwaite were standing idle. The idea suddenly became a reality – there had been a farm here from medieval times.

The barn, which was used for my farrowing pigs, was transformed into a shop and butchery. A kitchen was created from the old wheel house and the gap in between the two barns is now a lovely airy café, of beech timber construction. The tables are also made from Swinithwaite estate wood. We even have 'clouds' in the café made from wool hanging from the ceiling, they look rustic and do a terrific job of absorbing the laughter level!

The name Swinithwaite or Synnygthwaite in 15th century spelling, is thought to be derived from the words swine and thwaite, the latter a Saxon word for a clearing or stopping place. It is believed that Swinithwaite was part of the route used by the farmers walking their swine to the Dales market village of Wensley.

Since pigs have always been my favourite farm animals, it wasn't difficult to decide on the traditional Gloucester Old Spot pig which became our logo. Archie, our son, thought up the name Berry's — it all seemed so obvious when he suggested it.

The creation of a shop and café for people to come and enjoy, led to us to encourage the visiting public to be aware of the activities of a working farm. The message we want to bring home to everyone is, that for everyone to enjoy the beautiful Dales as they are, with stock in fields, walls and barns in good repair, we must support the farmers, whether it is eating local produce or having holidays in the Dales - hopefully both.

Also for the many walkers who pass through Swinithwaite, we have opened up a Meadow Walk from the café to the Redmire Waterfalls, and we can even boast of a sighting of a rare orchid.

Since animals are my first love, we have tame animals for people to get close to and on our Family Days/Children's Days, the visitors can help with looking after the animals: feeding, grooming and exercising them. For many children just touching an animal is a rare experience.

Facing the café on three sides, we have a courtyard where animals can be viewed in the barns looking into the courtyard. There is also an oval barn originally used for housing cattle in the 17th century, now filled with wood carvings, plants and flowers. The educational theme continues with story boards which explain how farms in this area have evolved since the Middle Ages. We also have a small display of Saxon and Viking artefacts found nearby.

One of the grant's guiding principles was that we had to sell predominantly local produce – which wasn't difficult, given all the local talent. We have producers of everything: from soap and handbags to cheese and salami!

Swinithwaite Farm produces all the lambs for the butchery and 85% of the beef. We specialise in Old British Breeds and insist on





grass fed animals only so they mature slowly and naturally. The old game larder is now a state of the art chiller room to hang all the carcases in.

Making everything as accessible as possible was also important to us. Our own wood supplies made it both economical and sustainable to install a wood burning boiler, which supplies the café with under floor heating and hot water. The laboratories and cloakrooms are all supplied with harvested rain water.

It has been exciting to see our idea come into being – and we have enjoyed tremendous support along the way from both the local population and the people visiting the Dales.

Bridget Thornton-Rust





YORKSHIRE'S THREE PEAKS THE INSIDE STORY OF THE DALES

by Mike Appleton, published by Amberley at £16.99, available locally. ISBN 978-1-4456-0487-9.





In a poll run by the **Dalesman** magazine to celebrate its 75 years of publication, the Three Peaks are rightly regarded as a Yorkshire icon. Many books have been written about the area, usually with regard to walking, geology or history, the benchmark being that of Harry Rée in 1983. What extra does this new book **Yorkshire's Three Peaks: The Inside Story of the Dales** contribute?

Like many of us, the author has visited the area over many years, since first being taken caving as a child by his father. In spite of often being wet and cold, he developed a lifelong love of the area, which forms the basis of this book.

Starting at Horton, he has followed the accepted route of the Three Peaks Walk, making a detailed study of changes and pressures on the area. This is much more than a colourful souvenir of a visit. As well as profuse illustrations, there are several hours of reading here. Generous space is given to interviews with local farmers, landowners, including the late John Farrar, café owners, school teachers, Steve Hastie, the Park Area Ranger, and many others living and working in the area. Most of the names will be familiar; however some maps would have been helpful.

The book touches on many Dales' concerns such as the lack of affordable housing and recovery from foot and mouth disease, but there is also much discussion of the effect of the pressure of walkers, in particular from charity events, which can mean thousands of people arriving in the

area in all weathers. Has the Three Peaks Project started down an irreversible path, that will see the whole route block paved? Why does the village shop in Horton close down, when over a thousand people walk past it on a summer Saturday? Reference is given to possible solutions, including Colin Speakman's *Visitor and Traffic Management Plan* for Horton. After the inevitable eulogy for the Settle Carlisle rail route, more emphasis could have been placed on its potential role in helping to relieve car congestion and likewise the role of bus services in view of DalesBus initiatives. Yet sadly, these initiatives are not mentioned.

Yorkshire's Three Peaks gives a very useful insight into the current position of life and work for those who live in the area today and is a welcome addition to add to our knowledge of a special area of the Dales. However, this well-illustrated paperback book, in landscape format, deserves a more substantial binding to merit its cover price.

Chris Wright

	Forms can be photocopied as many times as you wish. Type of Gift Membership: Single Adult: £20 Couple/Family: £28 Please tick appropriate box	I/We enclose a cheque made payable to Yorkshire Dales Society: Please post to: Yorkshire Dales Society Canal Wharf, Eshton Road Gargrave, North Yorkshire BD23 3PN
CELEBRATION GIFT MEMBERSHIP	Name of Gift Member(s): Their Address:	Your Name(s): Your Address:
Perfect for those celebrating "big" birthdays, getting married or marking a special anniversary! Annual Membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society at a Gift rate of 15 months for the price of 12 months: a gift card with your personal message and the current Review. Forms can be photocopied as many times as you wish.	Their Postcode: Message for Card: Please send your completed form and cheque at least 2 weeks before	Your Postcode:

SWALEDALE & RICHMOND

the story of a Dale

by **Chris Park**, published by **Carnegie** at £14.99. ISBN: 978-1-8741-95-8, available in local bookshops.

The impressive front and back covers of **Swaledale & Richmond: the story of a Dale** by Chris Park, promise much. But will there be more than just attractive pictures? Fortunately, the answer is in the affirmative. I was delighted by the first archive black and white photo, with the wooden wheeled coup cart, shafts in the air in the snow, and the ex-US army jeep. A coup or coop cart with closed sides and ends was used by farmers for carting dung, lime and other loads of this kind. Here the milk churns have arrived in Grinton by cart and are then transferred to the vehicle, while the two men gossip.

Coup cart in the snow with jeep at Grinton

The colour photos are well balanced by the selection of archive black and white photos, but the meat of the book is in the text and the way it has been structured. It is a good book to pick up, leaf through and read at any point throughout its 218 pages. The headings instantly make you feel you want to find out more.

Chris Park has obviously spent a lot of time researching his background material. The early history of the dale is a particularly rewarding read. As someone who thought he knew the area, it was a little disconcerting to discover how much more there was to learn.

The second half of the book describes the Dale from the source of the river to just below Richmond. Apparently this is only about twenty miles, but it seems much further as almost all the little villages are mentioned, and the town of Richmond is covered in detail. What a fascinating place it is!

More space could have been devoted to the post war farming scene, as the demands of the Ministry of Agriculture during the Second

World War gave way to the modernisation of the 1960s and the demise of the small scale dairy farms in the 1990s. Basic sheep farming was dealt with quite well, but the Dale is also a very important supplier of the lowland farmers' breeding ewes and this was hardly mentioned.

The book could make a very welcome present and provide all ages with interest, and a wish to go and see this very beautiful area for themselves.

John Gill



CHIEFS COMPETE TO CHECK OUT THE GRAND DÉPART

It is not every CEO of a National Park who would personally check the whole route of the Grand Départ on his bike, but that is precisely what David Butterworth, Chief Executive Officer of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, who was joined by Tony Clark, Managing Director of Richmondshire District Council and Paul Shevlin, Chief Executive of Craven District Council, had decided to do. After some hard training for their own Tour de France Grand Départ route, they were ready to try out the 73 miles Dales section of the route before July 5th. David explained, that it started out as something of a joke, because of the competitive nature of fellow CEOs. It then became a bit more serious: I'm up to 250 miles a week training and feeling well up to the challenge, he had declared.

Tony Clark, head of Richmondshire District Council, added: This cycle ride is the perfect starting block for what promises to be a momentous occasion for Yorkshire.

The Grand Départ will leave Leeds on July 5 for Stage 1, a highly



scenic ride through the National Park to Harrogate. The route will go along Wharfedale, Bishopdale, Wensleydale and Swaledale, with climbs over Kidstones from Wharfedale into Bishopdale, Buttertubs Pass from Wensleydale to Swaledale, and then out of Grinton towards Leyburn.

On the following day, for Stage 2, the cyclists will skirt through the southern edge of the National Park as they ride past Bolton Abbey on their way from York to Sheffield.

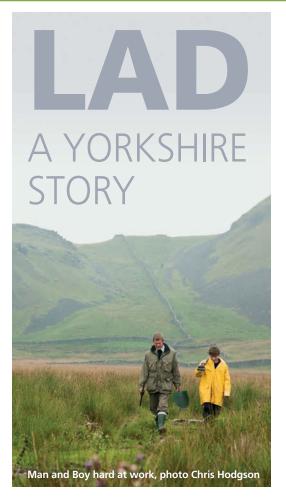
Perhaps, as David claimed, tongue in cheek: The bike ride is a really good way of promoting the Grand Départ because there's hardly been any publicity about it!

Their successful bike ride in early June was a wonderful example how much the Grand Départ had fired people's imaginations.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Yorkshire
Dales Society
would formally
like to offer warm
congratulations
to the Yorkshire
Dales National
Park Authority
for 60 successful
years and very
good wishes for
the future.





In a year of tributes to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Dan Hartley's multi-award winning film, Lad: A Yorkshire Story is now available in DVD. At the heart of it is a national park warden (nowadays re-styled as rangers). Al Thorpe is not only totally committed to his work in the countryside, but empathises with a young teenage boy, Tom Proctor, who commits criminal damage in frustration about the way his family is treated. Tom is given community service with Al. This fatherly figure helps to imbue the youngster with what become deep feelings for the environment, after a good deal of initial resentment and hostility. Director, Dan Hartley, a native of Austwick, conceived his film as his own tribute to an actual warden/field assistant, a neighbour whom, as a youngster, he accompanied at weekends, as he went about his professional duties.

Related themes show the close bonds of family life in spite of severe stresses and strains - the difficulties experienced by older youngsters like Tom's brother

to find work in the Dales who joins the army and enjoys the initial training, discovering some structure to his life. But jobs at a reasonable pay level, are not that easy for women either. Tom's mother, unexpectedly widowed, shows enormous initiative (with Tom's help), in obtaining a better income as a quarry lorry driver so that the family home is once more secure. But the qualities which are outstanding in the film, are the strong characterisation, the abundant humour, the sensitivity with which emotional scenes are handled, and the superb photography and camera angles which evoke the beauty of the Dales, but also its bleakness and isolation.

The National Park Societies Conference in the Dales in early October will take as a major theme -opportunities for young people, locals as much as visitors, in a National Park, and Dan Hartley's Lad will be used as an illustration.

Lad is a thoughtful and enriching experience to watch, unsentimental and strongly recommended.

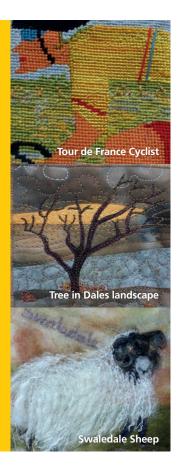
The DVD is available at Harewood House from July 5th and other retail outlets in the Dales at £9.99.

TEXTILE IMPRESSIONS OF THE DALES CELEBRATING THE ARRIVAL OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE

StArt (Stitched Art) in the Dales is a community art project led by the Embroiders' Guilds of Skipton and Grassington under the creative direction of textile artist, Jackie Lunn. The work celebrates the arrival of Le Grand Départ and life in the Yorkshire Dales. 26 members of Grassington and Skipton Guilds and a number of children from Christ Church School, have contributed. In total over 400 hours has been devoted to this most original design. Claire Ketteman, one of the participants, gives her account.

We have created a 3-D map of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (with the route of the Grand Départ represented), all in felted wool and guilted onto a hand-painted cotton background, reflecting our textile heritage. The map is surrounded by a border of small 10x10 cm squares, each depicting something that makes the Yorkshire Dales special to us and showcasing the many talents of guild members, as well as our love for the place we call home. Everybody enjoyed taking part in the project, and even those who could not attend regularly were able to involve themselves by making a small square. Each of these squares are a highly individual response to some aspect of the Dales or their lives, using techniques which varied from traditional cross-stitch to contemporary free embroidery. The small scale has also allowed people to sample new techniques they have learned at the Embroiderers' Guild workshops.

The Hanging has been on public view at Ingleton and Grassington, and can also be seen at the Fat Face shop in Skipton in July, and later at the Yarndale Festival at Skipton Auction Mart 27-28th September. Details including Yarndale ticket prices www.yarndale.co.uk







PHOENIX CONSULTANCY DELIVERS

You may remember that we reported last Autumn (Issue 125) that four students from Leeds Metropolitan University had chosen the Society as the case study for their final year MA Marketing degree project. The 90 page academic report has been presented to the Society and has a wealth of ideas on how we could appeal to younger people, particularly in the 18-30 age group.

Some of their recommendations are about using our Facebook page more effectively, as this is a key resource for that age group.

They recommend posting stories of 80 characters or less, and videos lasting just a few seconds, as young people literally devote only seconds to view photos and stories on their smart phones and tablets, before moving on to the next item! They also recognise that updating Facebook is highly time consuming, as it requires a great deal of care and attention, which is a good reminder that our page represents a public face of the charity and so we need to manage it carefully. Two of the students, Alice Gill and Rachel Hobson, are previous volunteers with the Society and they endorsed the value of volunteering with a charity for experience to put on their CVs. Other key recommendations were - offering more adventurous events such as hikes, bike rides, canal trips and geo-caching. The students emphasised that there wasn't much point in offering walks that started in the morning if we want to appeal to their age group (for obvious reasons); 1pm would be much better. They highlighted that we should be offering youth-friendly food like snacks and juice, as well as the usual tea/coffee, or even a BBQ. They also recommended finishing all events beside a pub or cafe, an idea that must suit many Members as well!

The Events, Communication and Membership Committee will look in detail at the recommendations and see which ideas can be built into future events programmes. If any Members would like to help organise events specifically for a younger audience, or help in any other way at events, just contact Ann at the office.

Ann Shadrake, Aministrator

Yorkshire Dales Society, Canal Wharf, Eshton Road, Gargrave, BD23 3PN. Telephone: 01756 749400, Mondays – Thursdays.





Sedbergh School Founded in 1525, this boarding school with its traditional public school house system, is at the same time very much of the 21st century, with its watchwords:

Inspiring. Challenging. Always Learning. It balances academic success with sporting prowess, and a wide range of outdoor pursuits and interest in the arts: all in a very attractive setting, poised between the Yorkshire Dales

National Park and the Lake District National Park. In recent years Sebergh School has become co-educational. It boasts among its former alumni, the father of modern geology, Adam Sedgwick, (when the school was an early grammar school).

www.sedberghschool.org



The Three Peaks Challenge Ltd For those who are keen to test themselves against challenging terrain and conditions, The Three Peaks Challenge Ltd can provide full organisation, complete with mountain guide and driver to tackle the three highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales in 24 hours. Another version

of the challenge includes sailing, running and cycling – for the super-fit! It will also advise or organise attempts on Yorkshire's Three Peaks, the Welsh 3000s and the gruelling Three Peaks Cyclo Cross. Advice and useful information are available on the website.

www.thethreepeakschallenge.co.uk

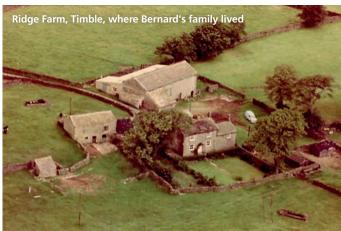
Gargrave Auto Services Ltd The

Asquith Business Estate is home to a recently opened business, a family concern, run by Simon and Lisa Villarubbia, who live in Skipton. They offer a range of services, including repairs and general servicing, MOTs, computer diagnostics, four wheel alignment, summer and winter checks, plus a collection and delivery service. All car makes are dealt with as well as light commercial vehicles and 4x4s. Simon and Lisa are keen runners and mountain bikers - the Dales give them ample opportunity.

www.gargraveautoservices.com







THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK

60 Years In The Future

A personal view by Honorary YDS Member Bernard Peel.

2014 is the year that the Yorkshire Dales National Park celebrates its 60th anniversary. But what will the Park be like in 60 years' time? Firstly, population and housing; the current population of 20,000 might be expected to grow to 30,000. Current plans are for 20 houses per year in the Craven area of the National Park alone; over 60 years that is 1,200 homes and in excess of 3,000 people. Most of the growth will be in existing towns and villages. But new hamlets will be formed, perhaps where new industries and services are established or where buildings no longer required for their original purposes become available. For instance, the farm on which I lived 50 years ago, is now four separate houses. Much as some may regret it, many of the field barns will become houses or small industrial units. Converted field barns will need mains electricity, water and sewerage piping. However, this potential disruption can be lessened by under-grounding.

Food production will have to be increased, despite losses of land for building. Science will help with the development of faster growing, heavier cropping varieties more suited to our particular environment. Thus the Dales will be required to produce more food, with marginal land, returned to greater fertility and use. Sheep and cattle can still be expected to predominate, but there could be more cereal production, in particular oats, more oil seed rape (useful for renewable energy purposes too) and maybe crops or animals new to the Dales.

Among other Renewable Energy Sources - there will be greater use of hydroelectric power and wind turbines, but sites for the former are restricted and unreliable, while the latter is known to be a sporadic source. Gas from fracking may become a major energy source in the future, but should not be too significant in the Dales where shales are comparatively thin.

Forestry will become much more important, in particular for fuel, with a greater acreage of faster growing trees, especially on higher slopes. So the likelihood is for *more* conifers, despite current intentions to reintroduce mixed broadleaf woodlands. We can expect the current 5,000 or so acres to double.

The need for resources for roads and buildings will put more demand on quarrying of all kinds, especially for highways and buildings: hard basement rock, roadstone, limestone, sandstones, gritstones, as well as sand and gravels. We hope that the sites will be well screened to make minimal impact on the landscape and living conditions, so that the most scenic areas are avoided.

Changes in transport can be predicted, as petrol and diesel become more expensive. Together with an increased local population and continued increases in visitor numbers, we can expect to see more bus services operating once again; also the reopening of railways or development of new lines, particularly for quarrying and forestry. There may be little change to existing roads, since traffic levels are not expected to increase. Many more minor and unclassified roads can be expected to access the field barn conversions and new hamlets. A reduction in commuter traffic can be expected with more home working or working from local units.

The increasing demands of tourism will aggravate the negative effects of global warming. Though growing costs of overseas holidays could stimulate the home industry: more caravan and camping sites, holiday lets, holiday parks, bunk barns, trekking, cycling, walking trails and adventure facilities.

With a larger local population and some reduction in travel, we can expect more local shops, with the likelihood of more on line ordering from these sources and perhaps more super market convenience stores.

Personally, I would like the Dales to stay much as they are today. But while initially filled with dismay at the changes I anticipate, they will, in the main, occur gradually. The Dales can cope and while they will be *busier* than today, I think I would still be happy to live there or visit. Looking ahead a further 60 years to 2034 - prospects do not look quite so rosy!

Bernard Peel

SUMMER EVENTS 2014



Enjoy a range of wonderful walks and talks with the Yorkshire Dales Society this summer.

All walks are free of charge and lectures are free to YDS members, but a small charge (£3) for guests. Walks usually end by 12:30 for packed lunch or light lunch in local pub/café, and talks by 16:00. Almost all YDS events are easily accessible by public transport – bus or train. Help save the environment and use public transport when you can. For details of up to date bus times, log onto **www.dalesbus.org** for information www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times or ring Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

Saturday 13 September Annual Big Walk

Choose between two walks on the same day, both offering a sociable day out in the company of friends old and new, with time for picnics/ refreshment stops. The longer route (14 miles) is a full day out walking from Settle to Ingleton (strenuous, steep climbs) and is a great way to tackle Ingleborough in a friendly group. Alternatively, join the 7 mile moderate walk from Settle to Clapham along tracks/paths (more level walking but some steeper sections and stiles). Both walks start in Settle and finish in time for return transport to Settle or points beyond and enjoy beautiful scenery/views.

Meet: 10:00 at bus stop in the Market Square, **Settle** for departure at 10:15 for start of walks to Clapham or Ingleton - return bus at 1710 from Ingleton, 1719 from Clapham or train from Clapham at 1716. Sponsorship forms are available from YDS, but this is entirely optional.

Boots and warm waterproof outdoor clothing essential. Bring drink and refreshments. For full details and last minute updates, please check YDS website. www.yds.org.uk

Saturday 27 September AGM Chairman's Walk

Meet 11:00 outside Cracoe & District Village Hall. Short walk (approx 3 miles) around Cracoe and the local countryside. Back for 12:30/12:45 for lunch locally (picnic, pub, café) before afternoon meeting. Registration from 13:30.

Yorkshire Dales Society AGM 14:00 prompt at Cracoe & District Village Hall, off the B6265 north of Skipton. Key achievements and presentation of the accounts. Presentation of the updated charitable objects and Articles of Association for Members' consideration and Elections. Followed by guest speaker Sarah Howcroft, who will tell us about her life and work as Co-Founder and Managing Director of Rohan Designs (19 years). Sarah is described as a maverick entrepreneur and is also founder of sustainable outdoor initiatives including Gift Your Gear. Read more about this scheme on page 12. Members can bring donations of unwanted outdoor gear of ANY brand to the AGM, for Sarah to collect on behalf of Gift Your Gear. Tea/biscuits. Meeting closes approx 16:15.

Free parking at the Village Hall. Bus service 72 from Skipton stops outside. If you are able to offer a lift to another Member, please contact Ann at the office.

Wednesday 8 -Friday 10 October:

National Park Societies Annual Conference

The Yorkshire Dales Society and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority are joining together to host the Annual National Conference of National Park Societies and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park - see page 9 for details.

Saturday 18 October Walk: **Diamond Jubilee Walk**

Join Vice President Colin Speakman on a walk around Grassington and the local area to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Colin has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share on the achievements of national park designation, informed by his personal memories and insights. Approx 4 miles some steeper sections and stiles. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome.

Meet 10:30 YDNPA visitor centre, Grassington. Pay & Display Parking.

Future events for your Diary:

• Wednesday 3rd September: The Yorkshire Dales Under Threat:

Ilkley & District U3A Study Day at St Margaret's Hall, Queens Road, Ilkley, 9:30-400.

Speakers include: David Butterworth (Chief Executive, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority). David Tayler (Deputy Director, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust). Colin Speakman (Co-Founder, Yorkshire Dales Society)

For further info see http://ilkleyu3a.org

- Saturday 8 November: Coniston Cold: Walk with James Enever, YDS volunteer. Talk by Bob Marchant of Skipton Craven Rotary.
- Saturday 13 December: Long Preston. Walk with YDS volunteer. Seasonal music, songs and celebration with YDS Life Member and musicologist Dr Judy Blezzard.

Saturday 18 October

Talk: The Development of Grimwith Reservoir

Yorkshire Dales Society Member Jim Crossley will talk about the development of Grimwith Reservoir, a project he worked on during the 1970s and 1980s. With his background in Water and Environmental Management, and career as a Chartered Civil Engineer, Jim will be able to share his insight into this well known reservoir and visitor attraction in the Yorkshire Dales.

Meet at 14:15 at the Octagon Room, Devonshire Institute, Grassington, BD23 5BA (top of village). Limited parking or use Pay & Display parking at YDNPA Centre.



Yorkshire Dales review

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Sculpture of Ruswarp at Garsdale station. His paw-print was included in signatures to save the Settle-Carlisle line, see page 11, photo Simon Whalley

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Brief up-to-date-news stories from all our Members are always welcome via the website or Facebook. Please contact the YDS Editor for longer articles.



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Any contributions should be sent to the Society's address, see below.

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Please note it would be extremely helpful if you could email ann.shadrake@yds.org.uk when possible rather than telephone, to facilitate the smooth-running of the YDS office. Phone 01756 749 400. Information about the Society can be found on www.yds.org.uk Information about the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company can be accessed on

www.dalesandbowland.com

Membership and Subscription...

Single	£20
Joint/Family	£28
Single Life membership (Under 60)	£400
Joint Life membership (Under 60)	£550
Single Life Membership (Over 60)	£300
Joint Life membership (Over 60)	£450

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