

Yorkshire DALES review

Autumn 2014 : Issue 128



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Yorkshire
DALES SOCIETY

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Editor Fleur Speakman




Yorkshire
DALES SOCIETY

Yorkshire **DALES** review

LIFELINE TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Our leading article in the Summer issue no 127 of the *Yorkshire Dales Review* on the paucity of affordable housing in the Dales, especially for young families - and associated employment and transport problems for young people, have found further resonance. Richmondshire District Council (as reported in *The Yorkshire Post* August 7th), is master-minding a year-long campaign, Rural Action Yorkshire, to provide more affordable housing and job opportunities across the Dales, and to improve some key public services.

Council Leader, John Blackie, emphasises the often insurmountable difficulties young families have to overcome, causing many to move away from the area. *Children ...are the lifeline to a vibrant sustainable future for their local communities. Storm clouds are gathering ... and unless we act quickly and together ... young families will become an endangered species.* Rural Action Yorkshire has pledged to work with Richmondshire District Council and draw up an action plan. House prices in the countryside have risen by 82 per cent in the last decade. Child care costs are 6.3 per cent higher than in towns and cities.

During 8 - 10 October, the Yorkshire Dales Society and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority are jointly holding a conference for all the UK National Park Societies, focusing on the theme of **Young People in the Dales**, and how to ensure a more sustainable future for them.

SLOW DALES AND SMALL SCALE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUCCESS

As the euphoria of Yorkshire's highly successful Grand Départ begins to fade a little, at the opposite end of the spectrum, Yorkshire Dales Society Business Member, Chrysalis Arts, together, with the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes and Growing with Grace at Clapham, began in 2013 to explore the challenges of sustainability facing local communities in the Yorkshire Dales. The result was the *Slow Dales* concept - the emphasis on the small scale and the contribution of environmental, economic and social factors to make the Dales truly sustainable.

Chrysalis Arts collaborated with film maker's, One-to-One Development-Trust of Wakefield, to create a web-based digital video which reflected the views of local individuals and businesses in the Dales, who were engaged in a variety of activities. *Slow Dales* celebrates a more considered pace to life rather than dwelling on short-term benefit, and suggests how a certain life style can integrate with daily life, enhancing its quality.

Growing with Grace, in Clapham, focuses on the impact on the palate of the flavour and taste of locally and organically grown fruit and vegetables, with an emphasis on distinct regional varieties. Organic waste provided by locals is made into compost, which the business utilises to grow their fruit and vegetables, then sells on to the locals - a continuous cycle. Waste fat from local restaurants becomes fuel for their business transport vehicle - a saving both economically and a form of green energy. A vegetable box scheme with deliveries over a considerable area, and a farm shop on site are also part of its facilities.

In Reeth, The Garden House Pottery owns an orchard of damsons in what was originally a medieval lynchet strip, its soil and sloping position ideal for such fruit trees. The

quantities of damson cheese which result are sold in its own local village shop. The sale of the jam is complemented by the owners' own attractive hand-thrown pottery, achieving better sales when sold on site than through a more traditional manufacturing outlet. Making full use of available resources, and cutting down on potential commuting time by working from home, can be a highly beneficial life-style.

Tom Lord, who farms at Lower Winskill, took over a run-down upland farm which had a number of challenges, but found that High Level Stewardship gave him the necessary income support and enabled him to enhance and protect the environment - his hay meadows, in season, have become a rich area for wild flowers. Tom believes we really need to consider our relationship with the natural world, and strengthen our links with the urban environment. Visiting groups are encouraged by arrangement.

Small businesses need good integrated transport especially in the northern Dales. The DalesBus network helps to promote walking for both health and enjoyment, and gives better opportunities to appreciate a beautiful environment in a relaxed way; cutting down on clogged roads, pollution, and the poorer visibility usually available from the family car. It also encourages Dales' residents to enjoy the contrasting pleasures of urban life or increases the choices of those without their own transport.

The hope is that some of these businesses and individuals might become a model for some like-minded movements in other regions.

Fleur Speakman

The Slow Dales CD is available from Chrysalis Arts, Asquith Industrial Estate, Gargrave, BD23 3SE, and costs £5.

GREENFIELD FOREST COMPROMISE BUT OPPORTUNITY?



Gearstones. New Bridge. Photo YDNPA

When permission was given for the extraction of timber from Cam Forest using the Cam High Road – an ancient unsurfaced route which now forms parts of the Dales Way, the Pennine Way and the Pennine Bridleway – it seemed likely that a proposal would follow to use the same route to clear the adjacent Greenfield Forest, which is nearly four times as large. That has now happened.

Cam and Greenfield Forests were two large conifer plantings carried out in the 1970s by private companies, encouraged by Government policies which favoured such enterprises. They straddle the area between the heads of Ribblesdale and Langstrothdale, and were a major alien intrusion into a landscape of rough fell. This objection was over-ruled – and, more significantly, little thought appears to have been given to the difficulty of extracting the timber once the forests had reached maturity in some 40 years' time.

When the time came in 2013 to start extraction of mature and windblown timber from Cam Forest, it was clear that there are four ways out of the area. The narrow road down Langstrothdale is clearly unsuitable for large wagons. The way to Horton down the eastern side of Ribblesdale was found to cause damage in the hamlet of New Houses and would add to the quarry traffic through the dale. Using the surfaced part of Cam High Road to Fleet Moss, and then going down to Gayle and Hawes, would cause unacceptable disruption to those settlements. So the use of Cam High Road to Far Gearstones, which would require a new bridge and a strengthened surface which is very obtrusive in the landscape, was reluctantly accepted as the least bad option. It does have the advantage that it avoids all settlements and allows some timber to be taken by train from Ribbleshead Station. Permission to use this route includes conditions on the numbers of wagons using it and the times of day they can do so.

Greenfield and Cam now belong to the same company, whose purpose is the continuing production of timber through future replanting. They intend to use the same extraction route, which will mean an increased number of vehicle movements, lasting well into

the future – and work will be accelerated in the early years to deal with trees already affected by windblow.

This increased and extended use of Cam High Road is to be regretted, but sadly it is still the least bad option. And there should be some benefits from the proposals. First, Greenfield has been recognised as an important area for our native red squirrels. Ownership of both forests will allow the whole area to be managed so as to encourage the reds and to eradicate and prevent incursion by the grey squirrels, which could otherwise eventually lead to the loss of the reds through the disease carried by the greys.

Second, there are forest tracks which will be brought into public use. One such track will become a public bridleway which will provide a family-friendly walking and cycling route of several kilometres. Another bridleway will link to the Cam High Road, offering routes to Fleet Moss or Gearstones. And an anomalous gap in the public footpath network will be filled by a newly dedicated section.

The YDS was consulted by the Planning Authority on the proposal to use Cam High Road for the extraction of timber from Greenfields and the options were discussed at length at its Policy Committee meeting in June. We subsequently wrote to the Planning Authority agreeing to the proposed extraction route for the timber from the forests, provided that the increased vehicle movements are regulated so as to avoid conflict with other users, and that as much material as possible is taken by rail from Ribbleshead, rather than by road through Ingleton or Horton. We support the proposals for the control of grey squirrels and encouragement of the native reds. We urge that replanting is with an appropriate range of species so as to improve the appearance and biodiversity of the forest. And we strongly support the creation and upgrading of rights of way, and hope that more extensive appropriate recreational access to the forest can be developed.

Dr Malcolm Petyt, Chairman, Policy Committee.



KILLINGTON WIND FARM

A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR YDS

The Society does not oppose wind turbines if they are of modest size and in appropriate locations. But we do not support schemes which will sacrifice fine landscapes in what may simply be a very visible political gesture towards reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

The stretch of high fell country between the two National Parks of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales has been a target for numerous wind farm proposals over the past two decades. The latest was for three gigantic turbines (with a blade-tip height equivalent to the platform of Blackpool Tower) close to Killington Lake. This site is just outside the proposed new boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and adjacent to the A684 gateway to the Dales.

The turbines would have a visual impact over a wide area. They would be seen from far inside the National Park and from areas likely to be designated in the near future. The experience of the Dales does not depend only on views within the area: it is greatly affected by its setting and by views both outward and inwards.

Many potential visitors pass along the M6 close to the site. Their dramatic views to the magnificent Howgill Fells and into the Western Dales of Garsdale, Dentdale and the Lune and Rawthey Valleys would be blighted, and they could be discouraged from exploring the area, leading to an adverse impact on the local economy.

For these reasons, the Yorkshire Dales Society joined with a large number of organisations and individuals in objecting to the proposal. These included both statutory bodies such as the National Park and Natural England, voluntary societies including Friends of the Lake District and the Open Spaces Society, and nearly all the nearby parishes.



Killington Lake from Fairthorns Road

The application was referred to the Planning Committee of the District Council. A very full assessment by the Planning Officer concluded with a recommendation for refusal. But to the amazement of nearly all present, the councillors did not discuss the relevant evidence, but listened to arguments about climate change and voted to approve.

Such approval is usually the final word. But there was such a storm of protest that FELLs (Friends of Eden, Lakeland and Lunesdale Scenery) with the support of YDS and Friends of the Lake District acted swiftly, before the decision notice could be issued. We asked for the case to be called in for decision by the Secretary of State. Such requests are rarely successful, but after a Ministerial Direction holding things for a couple of months, the application was indeed called in by Eric Pickles.

This meant that the case would be examined by an Inspector at a Public Inquiry later in 2014. YDS gained new experience as it became a Rule 6 party, as

part of a group of objecting bodies, which had to raise considerable funds to employ a QC and other experts who could take on the applicants with their significant resources. But we felt it was important, that all the facts were fully examined. We believed we had a strong case and pressed ahead with our preparations.

Unexpectedly the applicants suddenly withdrew! Their public statements made it clear that they believed the political climate had changed and they were less confident of success. Privately they hinted, that they might be back if there was a change of government. So while we are relieved that the threat of such a damaging development has gone for the time being, if the Public Inquiry had gone ahead and concluded that the proposal was to be rejected, that would have been a more permanent conclusion.

Dr Malcolm Petyt,
Chairman, Policy Committee.



Killington Wind Farm site

TOUR DE FRANCE

In early July the Tour de France Grand Départ attracted millions to line the route of the two Yorkshire stages, bringing an estimated £100m to the county's economy. I was lucky to be one the 10,000 official Tour Maker volunteers (over the three Stages of the Tour). We attended intensive training and were given a smart uniform to wear (and keep). My role as a Wayfarer had me posted on Rectory Lane, Skipton, directing people to the Hub in the car park and advising on where to stand to see the cyclists go through the town.

Ann Shadrake

Mark Williams (formerly senior planner with YDNPA and now with the RSPB) also volunteered as a Tour Maker, and was put in the same team as me! Here he is helping early in the day, greeting a group from Lytham St Annes.



I spotted Business Members Chris and Julia Weston from Brocklands Woodland Burial arriving to view the Tour in Skipton. We had a really successful visit to their farm and business in May 2014.



The Grand Départ has had an undoubted positive impact on perceptions of the Yorkshire Dales. Kathryn Beardmore, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Director of Park Services, said of the Tour: *For many it was their very first visit to the Yorkshire Dales, and most couldn't believe how beautiful it is and said they would be back. I'd particularly like to thank all the people who came to watch the race for leaving the National Park in such good condition. I drove up Buttermere immediately after the race finished and it was wonderful to see so very little rubbish – which showed just how much they respect our special environment. The Grand Départ really has put this National Park on the global map.*

Photo credit: Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.



ENORMOUS ENTHUSIASM



Public services and community organisations were out in force to make sure everyone had a safe and enjoyable day. Skipton Baptist Church even handed out free drinks and bacon sandwiches!

All photos by Ann except where separately credited.



With an estimated 35,000 watching in and around Skipton on Saturday 5 July, the day had an incredible atmosphere.

The Yorkshire Dales were showcased to the world as never before. Here the lead riders reach Buckden.

Photo credit: Sara Spillett.



PACIFISM AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IN THE GREAT WAR

In September 1916, an 18 year old farm labourer stood in front of a panel of three local dignitaries and an army officer. He tried to explain why his Christian conscience would not allow him to kill people. He was not prepared to go to war. His Military Tribunal said that at eighteen, he was not old enough to have a conscience. His choice was to kill in battle, or to go to prison with the possibility of being executed as a traitor to his country.



Conscientious Objectors at Dyce Quarry

The Military Service Act of 1916, which brought in conscription to military service for all eligible males, allowed for conscientious objection to combatant service. Hearing those objections were part of the work of the Military Tribunals. Most Tribunal members were wholly unsympathetic to pacifism, difficult to convince, and usually granted exemption only on condition, that the objector undertook some other form of war service. Amongst the pacifists and war resisters who applied for exemption from military service, there was a huge range of belief, opinion and ideology, but most fell into two groups. The religious pacifists believed that it was wrong to kill in any circumstances. Of the politically inspired, many were members of the International Labour Party, international socialists and trades unionists, unprepared to fight in a war they saw as being not in the interests of the ordinary working people.

At the beginning of the war, the civilian Friends' Ambulance Unit (FAU) and its associated hospitals had been set up by a group of pacifists to provide a service opportunity for those who felt unable to fight. The Tribunals were sometimes prepared to order service with the FAU as a condition of exemption, to those who could not accept non-combatant service in the military. Because the FAU worked very closely with the military, some Conscientious Objectors believed that this was still an unacceptable contribution to the war effort. Some were prepared to undertake work of national importance, such as farming, forestry, quarrying etc. Still others, the absolutists, were unprepared to be involved in any activity which could contribute to the war in any way. This last group were the ones who were imprisoned, fined, and some were sentenced to death.

The most famous of this last group were the Richmond 16, so called after Richmond Castle,

where Objectors from the north of England were held awaiting dispersal. Sixteen Objectors were sent to France, where they came under military jurisdiction and therefore could be sentenced to death. This extraordinary rendition, as we would now call it, caused some outrage even amongst non-pacifists. After intervention from the prime minister, the charges were eventually commuted to 10 years hard labour. The holding cells at Richmond Castle can be viewed along with the exhibition giving the full story of the Conscientious Objectors there.

Objectors and their families were persecuted and rejected by many, and Objectors in prison were often treated abominably. It must have taken great courage to stand out against the mainstream in this way, so it is perhaps not surprising that some communities produced...



Memorial Plaque listing Conscientious Objectors known to have died as a result of ill treatment



FAU section sanitaire anglais at Dunkirk in 1916

...more resistance than others. The area around Bentham had one of the highest proportions of Objectors per head of population in the country. This was largely due to the efforts of the local Quakers and an active branch of the No Conscription Fellowship. The most prominent member was John Rawlinson Ford, owner of the mill at Low Bentham and therefore an important local employer. The Fellowship ran meetings and classes, encouraging young men to think about their options and alternatives to fighting, helped objectors prepare for their tribunals, and supported the Objectors and their families in all kinds of ways. One local family had four of its members in prison for a large part of the war!

The 16,000 or so Objectors were of course only the most well known of the many pacifists and war resisters during World War One. Women and men over the age of recruitment supported the objectors, risking their own lives and livelihoods to help the millions of civilians both at home and abroad in terrible situations due to the war, campaigned against the continuation of the war and lobbied for a just peace after the war. All of this work was vilified and suppressed at the time, but hopefully will become better known as part of the current commemoration of World War One.

A small group currently looking at ways of using the commemoration as a way of furthering peace education can be contacted via Grassington Peace Group and Skipton and Airedale Quakers.

Floe Shakespeare



Volunteers with Friends War Victims Relief Committee

SAVE OUR STORIES

For over sixty years, journalist W.R. Mitchell collected the stories and recollections of people from all backgrounds throughout the Yorkshire Dales, Cumbria and Lancashire (see p.14-15). This unique archive - the work of one of Yorkshire's most respected commentators - captured the essence of the communities. This collection of hundreds of audio recordings, videos and slides/photos, with contributions from Hannah Hauxwell and James Herriot, is now dispersed across several institutions and private collections. This unpublished material is currently degrading physically and is at risk of being lost forever.

Settle Stories received money to undertake a pilot project to establish the archive. You can find it at www.wrmitchellarchive.org.uk We would now like to add more material to the site, but this requires resources we don't have. HLF who funded the pilot turned us down because of "lack of funds" on their part.

If the collection is not digitised, then these interviews and related materials that offer such invaluable insights into times gone by, will not be available to either current or future generations.

Settle Stories is now establishing a fundraising campaign – Save Our Stories, to raise the money to digitise this material to make it available. It costs approximately £500 per audio tape. There are approximately 600 tapes in the collection. Whilst some of this work can be done by volunteers, we still need to have professional staff and overheads to manage the process.

Some of the work involved in digitising a tape includes:

- **Digitising the tape**
- **Cleaning the digital recording**
- **Creating digital files in high resolution and mp3 formats**
- **Backing up the recording on hard disk drives and cloud storage**
- **Transcribing the material**
- **Researching and finding the descendants of those interviewed and obtaining copyright**
- **Copyright checked by a copyright lawyer**
- **Choosing clips and uploading them to the website**
- **Input the key-wording and meta data so that the material is fully researchable**
- **Increasing bandwidth available on the website to access the material**
- **Storing the original material in optimum conditions**
- **Writing biographies and articles of those interviewed**
- **Key-wording and uploading biographical details to the website**
- **Maintaining the website including security updates etc.**



Haymaking at Clapham – photo WR Mitchell archive

To find out how you can get involved and help us raise the money required please contact Sita Brand (Founder & Director), on info@settlestories.org.uk or 01729 822 292.



Katharine Holmes

Major Artist Powerfully Conveys the Essence of the Dales

There was a great opportunity in recent months to see some of the work of the renowned Yorkshire artist, Katharine Holmes, at the Mercer Gallery in Harrogate as part of the *From Turner to Hockney* exhibition, which celebrated not only regional artists, but also others who had been much influenced by Yorkshire and its landscape. An exhibition of Katharine's paintings could also be viewed as part of the *North Yorkshire Open Studios* annual event in June, where a range of local artists presented their work either in their studios or in their homes, and within the Dales landscape that so often inspired them.

Our cover image is one of Katharine's superb interpretations in oil on canvas, entitled *Malham, Limestone - the original a work*

of considerable scale in abstract style, and instantly and powerfully recognisable. It uses one of Katharine's favourite themes, which vary in season with dramatic effects of light and mood.

Katharine is the third member in a generation of painters, who all lived at times at High Bank Cottage in Malham. Her grandmother, Constance Pearson, born in Leeds, attended Leeds School of Art and later moved to the cottage at Malham with her art teacher husband, Sidney Pearson. Katharine remembers as a young child being allowed to squeeze tubes of paint for her grandmother, who used her upstairs bedroom as her studio. Constance had a professional reputation for her views of Dales' life pre- mechanisation.

Katharine reports, that she liked and appreciated her grandmother's paintings for the *life going on in the Dales, the people, and the animals, and the houses I knew*. Katharine's mother, Philippa Pearson, also painted regularly, but other professional work and family concerns took up much of her time. In 2009, the Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery at Leeds University held a very successful exhibition on *A Malham Family of Painters*, which clearly demonstrated the contrasting styles of each artist.

Katharine Holmes studied fine art at Newcastle University and then worked as a curatorial assistant at Abbot Hall Museum & Art Gallery, Kendal, specialising in eighteenth and nineteenth century water colours of...



Autumn sunshine over farms and hills - watercolour, ink and pastel on paper



Malhamdale - watercolour, ink, pastel and collage on paper



...the Lake District. Clearly this expertise has helped to shape some of her own highly individual style. A move to Glasgow came in 1987 and a solo exhibition in Edinburgh at the Collective Gallery; various shows in London Galleries were to follow.

Katharine chooses to paint outside in all weathers, sometimes using grasses, gravel or sand in the foreground of her paintings – incorporating materials from the landscape she is actually painting. This tactile effect gives a real sense of immediacy to her work. She enjoys working in a range of media from oil on canvas to watercolour on paper, with pen and Indian ink forming a basis in her sketch books to capture that essential essence of the scene. Katharine's work is much sought after and has been bought by many private and corporate collections. Norman Adams, the artist, who taught Katharine at Newcastle University, declared that she does not so much make statements about her native landscape as that: *she is*

constantly questioning and trying to discover its essence. Her paintings generally show wilder countryside – nature in its many moods and elements. Though, a more recent theme focuses on the pattern of barns, fields and walls – the Indian ink on white paper making a stark and very emphatic contrast.

Fleur Speakman



In Butra Meadow - ink on paper

A Grass Rope to Catch a Unicorn

By Janet Rawlins, York Publishing Services, at £20 (with £3 donated to the YDMT Haytime Project to restore wild flowers) + p&p £3.75. Forward by John Craven. ISBN 978-0-9928660-0-6.

Janet was born in Leeds, studied illustration at Leeds College of Art, and has exhibited regularly at the RA and in northern exhibitions. Teaching and then working as a professional illustrator, she has received commissions for panels and hangings from ICI, the National Coal Board, the International Wool Secretariat and the Royal Armouries. She also has a special link with the Yorkshire Dales Society when she was one of the three judges in our 10th anniversary competition in 1991 – an interpretation of the Dales through textiles *Through Stitch and Thread*. Here her expertise in collage was especially to the fore.

This hard back book of 190 pages, on fine quality paper, generously sized, does full justice to the delicacy of Janet's exquisite painting, while later pages feature embroidered panels, watercolour Dales landscapes and line drawings of a later date.

The book's title refers to the unicorn, the name of Janet's House and the legend of the maiden who needs a grass rope in order to catch a unicorn. This is a book to treasure and above all enjoy – all the flowers are instantly recognizable. Although Janet herself says, she is not a botanist, and Latin flower names are not used, she conveys with extreme clarity the beauty that we can all marvel at and perhaps all help to ensure will survive.

(*garden escape) FS



Elderberry, Thyme-leaved Sandwort, Blackberry, Foxglove (Swaledale) 24th September.

Many years ago, Janet Rawlins sent a friend who lived in Australia a letter decorated with a border of wild flowers she had painted. This souvenir of Wensleydale was the start of what became a project to celebrate the cornucopia of wild flowers to be found throughout the seasons in the Dales, where she lives – *A Grass Rope to Catch a Unicorn*. Those often unobtrusive blooms in all their variety can give enormous pleasure, but many have already disappeared since they were originally painted in the seventies. How appropriate that the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust will benefit by £3 from every copy, aiming to restore the wild flower meadows, using specialised equipment to aid them, as reported in earlier Yorkshire Dales Society Reviews.



Fritillary



Blotched Monkey Flower*, (Raydaleside), Yorkshire Fog, Yellow Flag, Water Horsetail, Marsh Cinquefoil, Lesser Spearwort, Marsh Ragwort, Mint. (Semerwater) 6th July.

NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES' CONFERENCE October 8th -10th

There has been an excellent take-up for the National Park Societies' Conference in October, but there are still a few places available for YDS members at preferential rates.

Contact Ann at the YDS office if you are interested.

Single Occupancy -	£230
Twin /Double Occupancy -	£160pp (also a shared room list available).
Day Delegate - Thursday only -	£100



Isabel with her sheep

ISABEL DAVIES

INTREPID ENTREPRENEUR

Isabel Davies talks to the editor about her diverse businesses.

It's a story of a Yorkshire lass who went off to see the bright lights of London and involved herself in the music and song writing scene, but gave it all up to run not one, but two successful pioneering businesses, finally returning to her roots. It sounds almost like the plot of a traditional musical – though it's all actually true - and Isabel Davies herself is a tremendous personality, brimming with ideas and creativity.

While she was still in London, Isabel, the former 'wild child' as she called herself, began to have concerns about various toxic chemicals used to produce fruit and vegetables. She also worried about other aspects of the ecosystem, but particularly about the difficulty of obtaining a variety of organic produce. After her investigations into

a number of small farms in Kent and Sussex, accessible from London, she came up with the idea of bringing totally fresh organic produce the same day to the customer, in the form of a box system in 1994, which she named Farmaround. Having pioneered a highly successful network of organic farms, with a substantial customer base in London, inevitably many others followed her lead, some proving to be major competitors. But just two years later, when she was only 33, this successful entrepreneur suffered severe traumatic depression after the death of her mother to whom she was very close, and increasingly found it difficult to take a real interest in life.

Throughout the years she had always kept up her links with the Yorkshire countryside, which she missed more and more, returning north for visits and finally basing herself in Richmond in 2003. Here she continued her vegetable box scheme with a new northern base. Even in her London days she had been concerned to hear from some of the farmers she dealt with, that the price for fleeces was so derisory, that fleeces were often burnt rather than sold. Passionate also about animal welfare in all its aspects, including traceability, she started to look at ways of rescuing rare breeds and making use of special types of wool. Isabel's first venture was to rescue four Wensleydale sheep. With help from a shepherd, as the flock expanded, she started buying



Izzy Fashions – the finished products



Black Wensleydale sheep

sheep, usually the young males, who would have been sent to slaughter. Research led her to Wensleydale sheep and the Rare Breed Shetland sheep, with their fine quality fleece. The last worsted spinning mill in Calderdale at the time was able to process such fleeces for her, weaving followed, while young graduate designers produced some very desirable garments from the finished cloth. The whole process from start to finish, including the manufacture of the cloth, sales and exhibition at London Fashion week, was a steep learning curve. Some excellent press publicity in major newspapers and the high quality of both garments and knitwear, meant that Izzy Fashions became a highly marketable commodity. Fortunately the garments arrived just at the time that ethical fashion was beginning to be very much in vogue.

Isabel is now still balancing her various businesses, but after many years respite from her music, would like to return to her song writing past. Her energy is prodigious. What really interests her are creative ideas and concepts – she describes each of her businesses as 'living sculpture' - the financial aspect is of secondary interest. One of her latest concerns is

about the conditions endured by the live export of very young lambs and calves to Europe, and how this could be mitigated.

For Isabel, the Dales remain a haven where the drama of the landscape, the silence of the moors apart from an occasional curlew's cry, and the changing moods of light and sky, reflect for her the human soul.

75th Anniversary of a Yorkshire Legend

Adrian Braddy, current editor of Dalesman, looks back over the years, acknowledging his indebtedness to Bill Mitchell's book A Dalesman's Diary.

Harry Scott with birthday cake



Harry Scott, the Dalesman's first editor, was born into a Quaker family in Plymouth in 1903, but moved to Leeds as a young boy. Following a spell as an accountant, the young Scott began a career in journalism, becoming a reporter with the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, then the *Yorkshire Post*. After marriage to Dorothy and with a young family, the couple became great lovers of the Yorkshire Dales, renting part of a farm in the Washburn Valley every summer. During this time, Scott began collecting article ideas, taking notes of Dales' life that he came across, storing them away in a shoebox. Before long the germ of an idea began to develop in Scott's mind. He decided he wanted to leave the city for good, and in 1935 the family moved into a large double-fronted house in Clapham, in an idyllic setting overlooking Clapham Beck. Scott took a job as sub-editor at the local newspaper, the *Craven Herald* in Skipton.

At the opposite end of the country, a namesake – the unrelated Robinson Scott – had established a magazine dedicated to the British countryside.

The Countryman was published in a small format, containing articles of interest about life in rural Britain, but had a southern focus. Scott spent a weekend with Robinson Scott, who offered him a job on *The Countryman*, but Harry declined, as Scott was a bit of an autocrat and he also didn't fancy moving his family to the 'softer south'. While at the *Craven Herald*, Harry met a wide-eyed young trainee reporter called Bill Mitchell. At that point neither could have imagined that they would both go on to own and edit one of the country's most successful magazines.

In late 1938/early 1939, Scott showed a few journalist friends his shoebox full

of Dales stories. He persuaded half a dozen or so of them to loan him £50 apiece and so *The Yorkshire Dalesman* was born. In the front parlour of Fellside, his Clapham house, Scott set about hand-setting the twenty-eight pages of the first edition. Lamberts of Settle printed three thousand copies of issue one, at a cost of £25. Just like *The Countryman*, Scott opted for a small pocket-sized format. Because it was long before the establishment of the National Park, Scott drew an *arbitrary line round what is generally accepted as the Dales*. A map was drawn up which was printed on the back page of the first issue, and took in a large area including Clitheroe, Harrogate, Northallerton, Darlington, Barnard Castle, Kirkby Stephen and Sedburgh.

In that first edition J. B. Priestley wrote to wish the venture success, describing his love of Yorkshire's: *high hills and grey-green valleys and lovely peace...So please see that your new magazine fights to keep them all unspoilt.*

Of course Britain went to war not long after that first edition went on sale – not ideal circumstances for a fledgling publication. Within six months, wartime paper control was introduced - supplies of paper were cut in half. Harry Scott reduced the weight and quality of paper to ensure he could maintain a circulation of 4,000. Times were hard, but subscribers appreciated the new magazine, and some even sent extra money when renewing their subscriptions. All costs were covered by the 10 shilling and sixpence postal orders as they arrived from subscribers, and Scott would stuff several in his wallet before he headed outdoors for one of his occasional excursions. He also returned to the *Craven Herald* on a part-time basis to make ends meet.

When the war ended, and paper restrictions were lifted, the magazine's circulation leaped up. By 1946, 10,000 copies were being sold every month and in another few years, that figure had doubled. But the magazine was in those early days essentially a one-man concern, and its



75th anniversary edition with Alan Titchmarsh

office was one room at Fellside. When bundles of thousands of magazines arrived back from the printers, they filled the house. Scott's wife, Dorothy, who also worked on the magazine, would convert piles of them into coffee tables and other pieces of furniture, by disguising them with floral tablecloths!

Because the magazine grew so fast, it became a cottage industry in Clapham, and villagers would pop into Fellside to help stuff the magazines into envelopes. In the early days, the envelopes were addressed by hand. To build up the subscriber numbers, for the first hour of the day, addresses would be copied from the telephone directory onto envelopes, and free copies mailed out. Telephones were still pretty rare and Scott believed anyone listed in the directory must be pretty well off. In this way the subscription numbers slowly increased.

As the magazine expanded after the war, Harry decided to extend the area of circulation to include all of Yorkshire – plus a bit of border country. Around the same time he changed the name, shortening it to *The Dalesman*, acknowledging that this was the name it had been referred to by readers almost from its first appearance. Scott decided he also needed to expand his staff, and asked his *Craven Herald* colleague, Bill Mitchell, to join him at the magazine. Mitchell, who had just returned from two years of National Service, to an office full of new faces at the *Herald*, jumped at the chance. For many years, he was to come to work in his boss's front room, doing everything from writing the articles, to stuffing envelopes and collecting advertisements.

However, much of his time was taken up by traveling around Yorkshire to meet and interview local characters. In the early days, he traveled by bus, train or on foot. On odd occasions he would hitch a lift on the back of a wagon, often arriving back smelling strongly of the countryside. He met and recorded the thoughts of hundreds of Yorkshire folk, providing - among other things - a valuable historical record for future generations. In those early days at the *Dalesman*, he worked furiously, conscious that the world around him was changing fast, and that long traditions were coming to an end.

As *Dalesman* grew, it was decided to move from Fellside into offices in a former stable block, up the ginnel in Clapham. Other members of staff joined the team, including David Joy, who handled the flourishing book publishing side of the business and a new financial man, Dennis Bullock, who knocked the business into shape.



Bill Mitchell with *Dalesman* magazine first edition and Countryfile presenter, Matt Baker

By 1950, the *Dalesman* sold almost 20,000 copies, and by the time of its twenty-fifth anniversary, it was selling upwards of 60,000 copies. Yet it remained unashamedly old fashioned - just as it does to this day. One reader loftily called it a *magazine for amateurs produced by amateurs*, and while meant as an insult, was taken by Harry Scott as a compliment.

In 1954, the *Dalesman* bought *Cumbria*, a regional magazine for the Lake District. It soon became a Cumbrian version of the *Dalesman*. Harry Scott retired from the *Dalesman* in 1968, and he and his wife moved to Grange-over Sands. Bill officially took over as editor. Four of the team, including Bill Mitchell and David Joy, bought shares in the business to ensure it carried on.

David Joy took over the reins of the *Dalesman* in 1988, followed by Terry Fletcher and Paul Jackson. I became only the sixth editor of the *Dalesman* in 2012, and like Harry Scott and Bill Mitchell, I came to the magazine via the *Craven Herald*.

While not based in Clapham any longer, the *Dalesman* remains independently owned, and it is still written, edited, and printed in Yorkshire. These days the company publishes five different magazines from a converted watermill at Broughton Hall, including *The Countryman* - the national magazine that was the inspiration for the *Dalesman* when it began seventy-five years ago!

Adrian Braddy

Back cover photo:
Dalesman Gate

AYSGARTH EDWARDIAN ROCK GARDEN

By **Dr Rosemary Anderson**, available from **York Publishing Services**, £8.99 plus p&p £2.75, and also locally available. ISBN 978-0-9928577-0-7



Rock garden with boundary fence. Photo Adrian Anderson



Pathway through garden. Photo Adrian Anderson

A measure of the craze for rock gardens in Edwardian England can be gleaned from the rather caustic warning against indiscriminate placing of rocks in a new rock garden, (complete with graphic illustrations), by Reginald Farrer, the celebrated alpine plants enthusiast, (who lived in Clapham near Ingleborough), in his 1912 book *The Rock Garden*; calling some attempts no better than an *almond pudding building system or plum bun*.

Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden by Dr Rosemary Anderson is an absorbing account of the history of this relatively small scale Grade II listed Edwardian rock garden; a rather unexpected and delightful find in the small Wensleydale village of Aysgarth. Consisting of huge limestone blocks, a cascade, and a number of paths and *lintels*, crowned by a grassy area at its apex, the garden plays host to a great variety of rock plants and ferns which repay much closer inspection. The Edwardian fashion for rock gardens seemed to have been partly inspired by the grandeur of alpine scenery and partly by the fashion for collecting more unusual plants which would grow happily in the nooks and crevices between the rocks.

Dr Rosemary Anderson's book gives a short survey of the history of rock gardening, and the importance of the celebrated nurseries of James Backhouse, a highly successful Victorian and Edwardian family firm (still trading till 1955). The Backhouse two acre rock garden in their show

grounds was a particular glory. Unsurprisingly, Frank Sayer Graham, the originator of the garden, employed the Backhouse firm for his own project; though scarce documentation makes the actual time scale difficult to verify accurately. Fascinatingly, a young child's postcard to his father from 1906, which came recently to light, appears to confirm a year when construction of the garden was actually taking place. After a series of owners, the garden declined over the years and was nearly dismantled in the late 1980s, till given its Grade II listing in 1988: but remaining neglected until Angela Janueika, who came to live in the area, was able to persuade the YDMT, complete with an estimate for the cost of restoration work, to fund a restoration project via the Heritage Lottery Fund, in 2002. After several successful years, the garden was sold to current owners Rosemary and Adrian Anderson in 2012. Adrian has contributed a guide to visiting the garden in an appendix, and also provided most of the excellent photos, being likewise responsible for maintaining the garden throughout the year.

This is a most fascinating account of how one individual's original inspiration created the rock garden, and many years later another individual's vision ensured that that inspiration endured. Visitors to the garden are very welcome to visit this private domain. Do read the book which tells its story and makes it all so much more meaningful. **FS**

KIRKBY LONSDALE TO THE RESCUE!



KLCH bus 580 in Settle

Thanks to several local organisations and individuals working together, including: bus operators Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire, the Friends of DalesBus, the Yorkshire Dales Society's Dales & Bowland CIC, Settle Town Council, local MP Julian Smith, North Yorkshire Councillors Robert Heseltine and Richard Welch, and Officers Richard Owens and Mary Welch, and above all, lots of individual bus users living along the key Skipton to Settle bus route, the former Pennine 580 bus route has been restored.

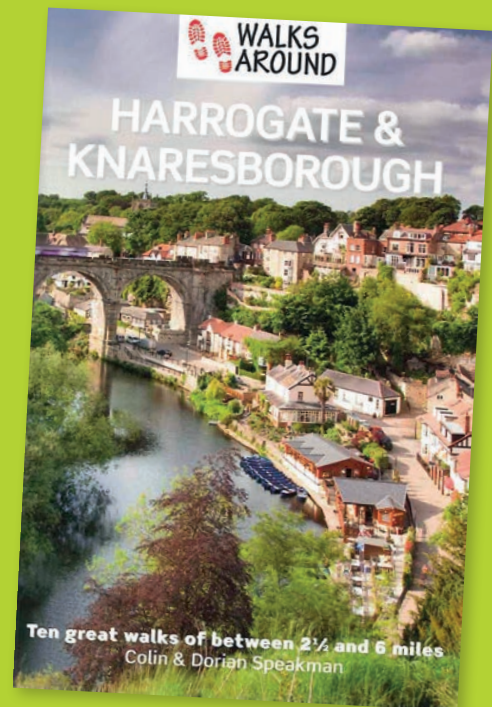
Of course it is not quite the much loved hourly Pennine 580 bus, but it now provides a direct, through service to several destinations beyond Settle without having to change buses - to and from Austwick, Clapham, Ingleton or Kirkby Lonsdale. The new service **The Craven Connection** 580/581 runs approximately every two hours, six days a week. Key departures from Skipton at 08:45 (connects with the first Leeds-Morecambe train at Giggleswick Station at 09:35), the 1045 allows walkers a great choice of routes into the National Park or Forest of Bowland. New cheaper through fares apply and ENCT senior passes can be used - though if you are able to pay at least one way, it will help us keep the service.

Full timetables can be downloaded from www.dalesbus.org or look out for local publicity. This service is being run commercially between Skipton and Settle, so it will only keep going if enough people use it – and pay fares. So get out there whenever you can this autumn and winter to make full use of a super new weekday bus service to the Dales!

Colin Speakman

WALKS AROUND HARROGATE & KNARESBOROUGH

By Colin and Dorian Speakman, Countryside Publications Ltd,
2014, locally available at £2.99.



This is a nice little book, and a welcome addition to the *Walks Around* series. The Harrogate/Knaresborough area is where the Pennine hills begin to merge into the Vale of York, and it is an attractive and well-wooded countryside with fine viewpoints. The ten half-day walks described in the book, some circular, some linear, wend their way through the local countryside, and there is also some interesting urban walking as the routes explore Harrogate, Knaresborough and Boroughbridge. The walk around Boroughbridge and adjacent Aldborough is a particularly welcome inclusion, as it is a locality often overlooked but steeped in history, literally from time immemorial. In fact, history is a strong theme in the book, and there is a two castles walk from Spofforth to Knaresborough, a walk along the old Roman Road between Hampsthwaite and Ripley, a circular walk that takes in many historic places of interest in Harrogate, and visits to some splendid early nineteenth century railway viaducts. This is also an area of interesting geological features, and the walks take in Almscliffe Crag, the Nidd Gorge and Plumpton Rocks. All the walks have detailed descriptions with clear and attractively produced maps, and there are some delightful wildlife drawings by Christine Isherwood. The book slides comfortably into and out of a walker's pocket, and at a mere £2.99 is excellent value.

Keith Wadd

CLAPHAM COMMUNITY SHOP STEERING GROUP



Clapham Community Shop.

Following the closure of the village store and post office in May 2014, residents of Clapham, a quintessential Dales village, have been looking into the feasibility of re-opening it as a community-owned and managed business. The number of community shops in the UK has grown from 27 in 1994 to 309 in 2014, with around 170 new ones opening in the last six years. Since 1992 only 13 community shops have closed – a 96% long-term survival rate – while independent village shops are struggling to survive, with around 400 closing every year.

With strong support from the community and the Ingleborough Estate, which owns the building, and advice from the Plunkett Foundation, a charity that supports rural community enterprises, a steering group was formed to carry out the feasibility study. This has now been completed and the results presented at a public meeting on 6 September. The community was virtually unanimous in favour of the proposal, which means that fundraising to cover start-up costs can begin.

An important part of our fundraising will be a share issue. Shareholders will have a say in the management of the enterprise, and the ownership structure is completely democratic – one vote per shareholder, as opposed to one vote per share. As the new business will be owned by the community for the benefit of the community, it will be in the interest of everyone in the community to help make it a success.

We think a community-run village shop and post office would provide wider social, environmental and economic benefits than a commercial shop, and help Clapham to be a thriving and sustainable community. For further information or to find out how you can support us, please contact:

**Don Gamble, Chairman of
Clapham Community Shop Steering Group**

Email: claphamshop@btinternet.com Phone: 015242 51775

Share details & prospectus: www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk

18 Email: ann.shadrake@yds.org.uk



DALESWATCH *Continued...*

BRIGHTENBER HILL WIND TURBINES

Members may remember that the Society has also consistently opposed the development of wind turbines at Brightenber Hill near Skipton. In her report of 3 July 2014, Planning Inspectorate, Mrs Zoë Hill, dismissed the appeal by Energiekontor UK Ltd against Craven District Council for refusal to grant planning permission for three wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 100m (and associated developments). Her report is detailed and based on several site visits as well as reports and submissions. She considered how the development would adversely impact on local residents and the setting of nearby listed buildings and on landscape both locally and from nearby vantage points.

For residents at Ash Tree Farm, Mrs Hill identified that the impact of the turbines would be oppressive. She considered that another local property, Haugh Field Farm, would become one: *at which the overbearing nature of the wind turbines would make it a difficult place to reside and work without feeling constantly oppressed.* Mrs Hill shared the concerns of the Lutyens Trust that the scheme would detract from the wider setting of the Grade II listed Gledstone Hall, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Mrs Hill also viewed the development from inside the National Park on land above Malham, as well as from Sharp Haw hill near Skipton. She identified that: *from these vantage points the development would appear as a discordant vertical group on the distinctive drumlin topography.*

In conclusion, Mrs Hill found that the need for the proposed renewable energy development was not outweighed in the **planning balance** by the harms she identified and so dismissed the appeal. Many of the Society's objections to the planning application are endorsed by evidence in her report. If you have a particular interest in wind turbine developments and would like to see the Planning Inspectorate's report, just contact Ann at the Society's office.

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director

From Brightenber towards Malham Cove, photo Ann Shadrake



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 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. Bus 72 d. Skipton 09:00.

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.

Saturday 8 November

Walk: Bank Newton & Gargrave Drumlins

James Enever will lead a walk around the Gargrave drumlins, Bank Newton with its impressive Newton Hall and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. The drumlins are small rounded hills of boulder clay created when the Salterforth glacial lake melted at the end of the ice age.

Car arrivals meet 10:30 at Richard Tottie Memorial Hall, Bell Busk Road, Coniston Cold, BD23 5HS, or bus 580 d. Skipton 10:45 a. Coniston Cold c11:05. Park with consideration at Hall and on road up to church further up lane. Please car share if possible. Members arriving by car will then walk with James to meet people arriving by bus (A65). Packed lunch essential if staying on for talk.

Talk: Skipton Craven Rotary – a personal view

Bob Marchant is a Business Member of the Yorkshire Dales Society (Tudor House B&B, Bell Busk) and recent President (2013-14) of Skipton Craven Rotary Club. Rotary members carry out a range of exciting fundraising events and last year the Society was fortunate to be a beneficiary of a substantial donation. Bob will tell us more about this partnership, and other important projects that the Club supports in Yorkshire and around the world.

Meet at 14:15 at Richard Tottie Memorial Hall, Coniston Cold, Bell Busk Road, BD23 5HS. Bus d.Skipton 12:45, arrives Coniston Cold c13:05. Parking arrangements see morning walk. Return buses 15:50 or 18:00.

Saturday 13 December

Walk: Along Long Preston Beck

Join YDS Volunteers for a moderately easy 3.5 mile walk above Long Preston Deeps up to New Pasture, then along picturesque Long Preston Beck. Tracks, field paths and lanes, one moderate ascent and one or two steep stiles.

Meet outside Long Preston Village Hall 10:30. Park considerately in the village. Bus 580 d. Skipton at 08:45 or train d. Leeds 08:49.

Talk: Carols and Cribbs - and Kersmas

YDS Member and distinguished musicologist Dr Judy Blezzard will provide an entertaining examination of what we think of as Christmas Carols, and show how many of the 'old favourites' aren't really that old at all. What did we learn as children? What do children learn now? How did some of our Christmas Carols originate? Were things a bit different in Yorkshire? There will be singing, whistling, recitations, an ancient pagan round-dance, anecdotes and prizes - with lots of audience participation. A Christmas event with a difference...

Meet Long Preston Village Hall 14:15. Parking see morning information.

Saturday 10 January

Walk – Into Crummackdale

Join YDS Council member and Mosaic Champion Nurjahan Ali Arobi on a 4 mile easy walk along ancient enclosed packhorse ways from Austwick to the pretty hamlet of Wharfe, then up to picturesque Wash Dub pool. Moderately easy, but one steep section and a few stiles.

Meet outside Austwick Village Hall at 10:30. Park with consideration in the village. Bus 580/581 d. Skipton 08:45.

Talk: People and the Dales

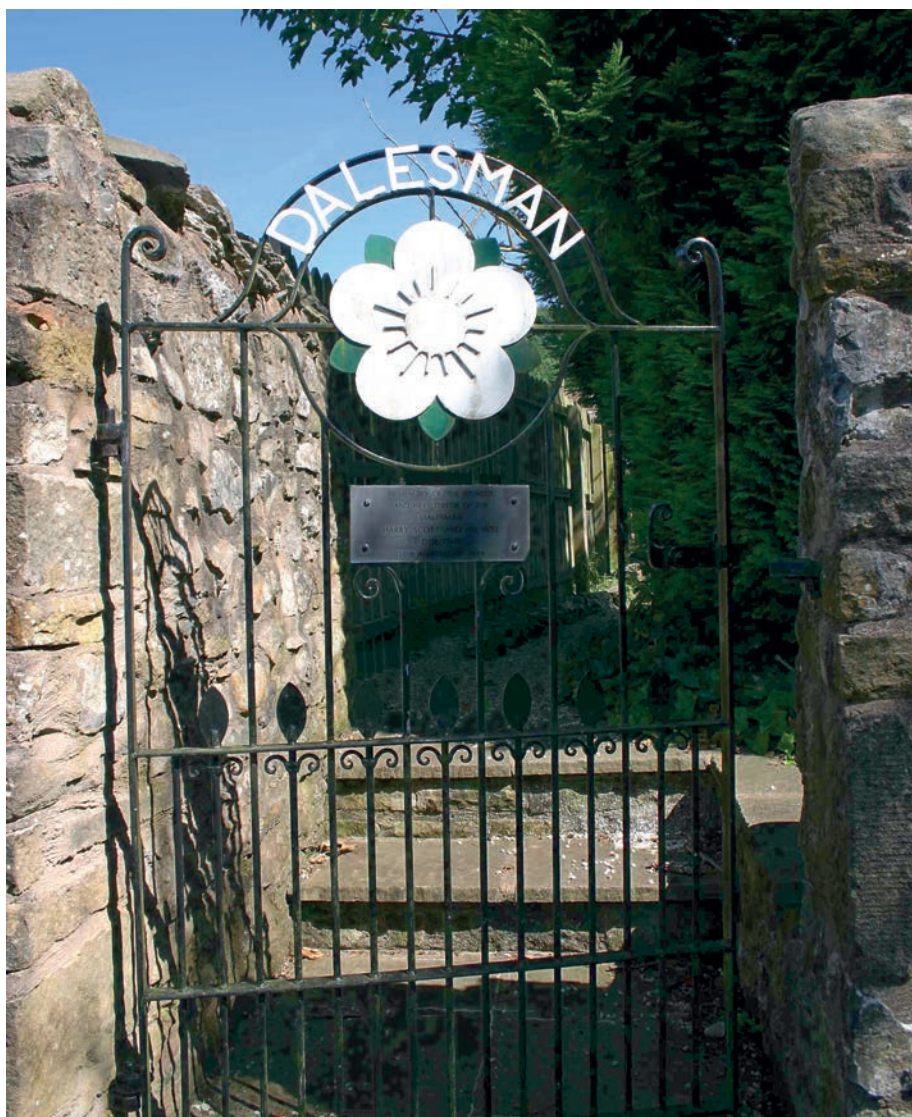
Gail Smith and Judy Rogers of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust will introduce one of the Trust's most remarkable achievements - People and the DALES – Diversity, Access, Learning, Environment and Sustainability – a nationally recognised community outreach project run by YDMT (www.ydmt.org). The project works with disadvantaged groups, most of whom have little or no previous experience of the countryside. To date over 4,750 people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities, people with disabilities, elderly people, people experiencing mental health problems, refugees and asylum seekers and others experiencing disadvantage, have taken part in a range of fun, active and thought provoking activities in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales.

Meet in Austwick Village Hall, 14:15. Parking as for morning walk, bus 580/581 d. Skipton 12:45.

For all walks, 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

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Dalesman Gate, Clapham

CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY

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

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

**Ann Shadrake – Executive Director
The Yorkshire Dales Society
Canal Wharf
Eshton Road
Gargrave
North Yorkshire
BD23 3PN**

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

Business Membership	£30
Affiliate Membership (Groups)	£30

www.yds.org.uk

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