

Yorkshire **DALES** review

Winter 2015 : Issue 129



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**Yorkshire**
DALES SOCIETY

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Editor Fleur Speakman

Yorkshire **DALES** review

OUR PARENT BODY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The National Park Societies' Conference in Conistone Cold in early October came from a very successful partnership between the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Society. The outcome was a well thought-out programme of speakers and events, showcasing the Dales to 70 delegates from around the UK. Eloquent tributes were paid to the National Park for its various achievements, crowned by its diamond jubilee year. Timely concerns were raised as to how to maintain our very special environment in a rather gloomy economic climate, with the very pertinent theme of the various problems facing young people in the Dales: employment, affordable housing and transport. (See pages 10-11 for a fuller account of the Conference.)

An essential presence at all such annual Park Society conferences is our parent body. The Campaign for National Parks (CNP), represents all 13 National Park Authorities in England and Wales, 12 UK National Park Societies, as well as several other national conservation bodies. CNP lobbies central Government tirelessly on behalf of all National Parks over major issues and helps to co-ordinate the work of various organisations. A recent example which helped change government policy over barn development in National Parks can be seen on page 4. Currently, CNP is working with the North York Moors Association and North York Moors National Park Authority over the huge and potentially devastating Whitby Potash Application.

CNP's excellent short document entitled **National Parks in the 21st Century: A Manifesto for the next Westminster Government** is a direct appeal to a future government for properly funded and resourced National Parks that benefits enormous numbers of people and costs remarkably little in a national context.

In the words of CNP: *National Parks are among the most beautiful and valued landscapes in the British Isles, containing some of our most breathtaking scenery, rare wildlife and cultural heritage.*

CNP, as an independent charity, is in a unique position to influence government thinking on the crucial issues which affect our National Parks. Millions of people who visit our Parks benefit from the special qualities of peace and tranquillity that our wilder areas particularly contain. Increasingly the Parks are cherished, not only as an important part of our cultural heritage, but also for providing a wide range of health-giving outdoor recreational activities. Not least the Parks are an incalculable and continuing inspiration for artists, writers, poets and musicians, enabling us to see with fresh eyes their many and sometimes subtle glories.

Excellent UK legislation has helped to enhance and protect those special qualities and this legislation must not be undermined by short term economic considerations. But will the next government continue to ensure that protection, by providing adequate financial resources, ensuring and increasing sustainable access to the Parks and also planning ahead for their long-term future?

How much do the general public really care about our National Parks? Recent data* gives a resoundingly positive response. 96% of the public believe that it is important to protect areas of the countryside from development. Since we all contribute financially, do the Parks in effect, offer value for money? Public expenditure in England is less than £1 per head of population, yet the Parks contribute to the economy with a massive £10.4bn of the annual business turnover. Sustainable tourism is an important factor. 90 million visitors a year to UK National Parks spend over £4 billion in the Park's local economies. The Yorkshire Dales has particular reason to remember 2000-2001, when the collapse in tourism during the Foot

and Mouth outbreak caused serious problems for all local businesses, not just those directly involved in tourism.

Further Measures

To strengthen the protection already enshrined in law, the CNP document suggests some key actions:

- Public bodies need to continue to ensure that the potential effects of their decisions and activities in National Parks will take account of the Parks' extra landscape protection and continuing need to enforce it effectively.
- Further protection against major development should be increased for National Parks to benefit from sources of targeted funding.
- More provision for public transport, walking and cycling to, from and within National Parks, is also part of a greener agenda.
- Funding must be sufficient to support educational visits so that the next generation of young people can become guardians of our unique landscape and culture.
- Finally, CNP suggest that a Commission be set up to consider the potential need for new National Parks.

The benefits to the nation's mental and physical health from experiencing a beautiful environment, are now a given - we hope there is a political will to continue to make this a reality.

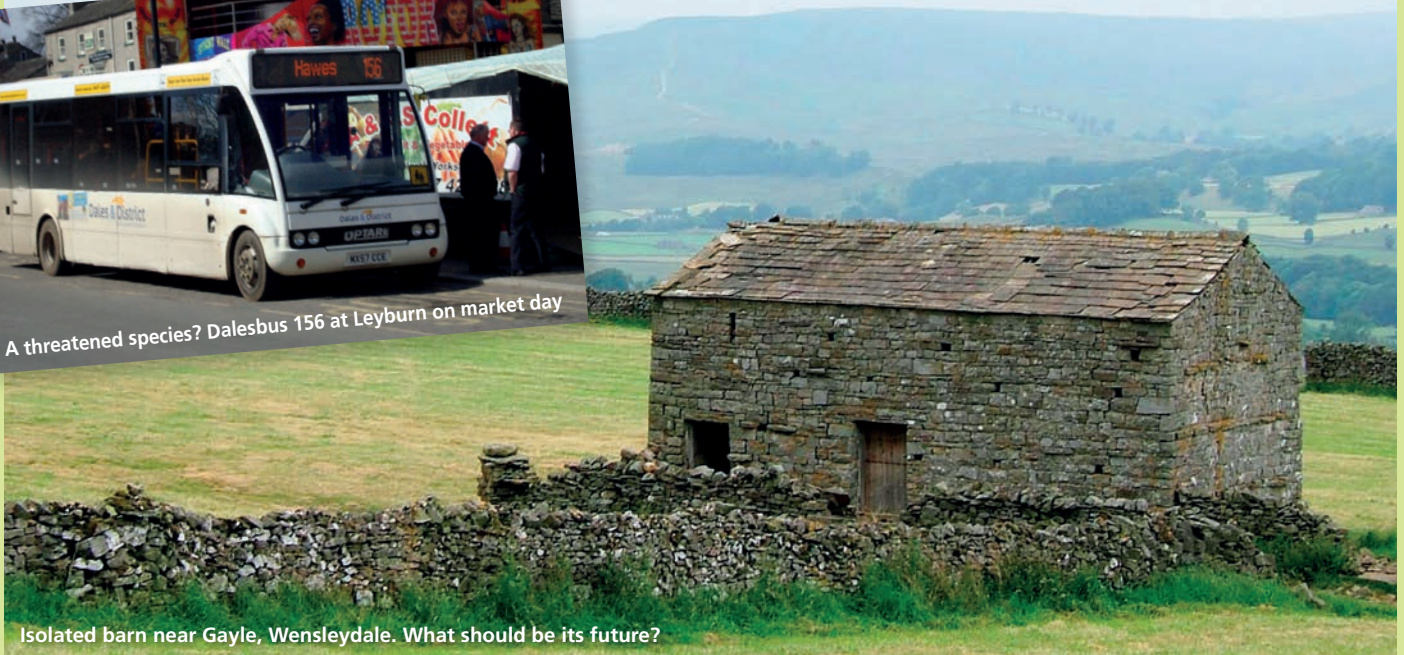
Fleur Speakman

**Valuing England's National Parks 2012 and MG Charity, National Parks Survey 2012*

...OF BARNES, BUSES & HOMES



A threatened species? Dalesbus 156 at Leyburn on market day



Isolated barn near Gayle, Wensleydale. What should be its future?

A BOUQUET FOR MR PICKLES

It is not often that Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles receives praise from the National Park movement, but his dismissal of an appeal by North Yorkshire and Richmond Council against the National Park Authority's decision to refuse a change of use for a rural barn without planning permission, is a strong affirmation of principle in a National Park.

The issue is technically complicated. It involves a Direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995, which effectively retains local planning control over the change of use of premises such as agricultural barns. By supporting the National Parks against developers, Mr Pickles has supported the National Park on a vital matter. Peter Charlesworth, Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, claims this is a true 'victory for localism.'

This isn't an easy or simplistic issue. The future of the 6,000 barns in the Yorkshire Dales National

Park, many of them now surplus to agricultural requirements and in a ruinous state, is something which needs intelligent and informed debate, not knee jerk sound bites from politicians anxious to get an easy local vote. Just such an example is at Thornton Rust, near Aysgarth, where the Harrison family would like to convert a disused barn off the A684 into an ice cream parlour.

In theory this is a superb idea, using a redundant barn to convert their own farm milk to make ice cream for visitors. But the ice cream 'parlour' (curious word), would in effect be a shop and a café, requiring a large, highly visible car park to hold at least 20 cars, power lines, signage, and a new road 60 yards long across the pasture land, and a broad 'safe' entrance onto the A684: meaning the complete transformation of the picturesque barn photographed in the *Yorkshire Post*. It would be a total suburbanisation of a piece of highly visible Dales landscape.

Clearly anything which helps a small farming business to diversify and survive in a difficult financial climate has to be supported and encouraged. But not at the expense of sacrificing the very landscape that brings in the visitors to buy the ice cream in the first place.

What is required is not the abandoning of planning controls for barns, but a willingness of all parties, owners and the Park Authority, to sit around a table and come up with intelligent solutions. Is the business model of an ice cream parlour on the A684 in Wensleydale, a long way from main centres of population the right one, given the long Dales winter with relatively few weekday visitors? Could Wensleydale Ice Cream, as an excellent local product, be better served to visitors at such existing outlets as the cafes and pubs in Hawes, at Aysgarth Falls or even nearby Berry's farm shop which utilises existing buildings away from the main road and with excellent, well screened access and parking facilities?



DALES TRANSPORT THE KEY TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Councillor Gareth Dadd, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Planning, confessed he was 'very disappointed' by Mr Pickles' decision. If he truly believes that in his words *the economic prosperity of the people who live (in National Parks) is as vital to them as it is to those who live in urban areas* - sentiments the Yorkshire Dales Society would totally agree with - he should reflect on the fact, that North Yorkshire County Council's own deeply flawed policies on rural transport will soon be causing economic devastation to Dales communities.

The prime cause is the massive NYCC cuts in funding for rural bus services, slashed from £4.2m in 2013 per annum to £2.4 million in 2014, with even more cuts to come in 2016. To be fair, these cuts have been forced on NYCC by the Government's 'austerity' programme, which takes little account of the special needs of rural areas, but the County Council have not prioritised the safeguarding of local bus services in their programmes. A recent Task Force report by officers and members looked at various sticking-plaster solutions to meet local needs, including more volunteer car schemes, Community Buses and better information systems. Such things only work if there is already a fully co-ordinated network of well-planned and promoted public bus services in place, as indeed is currently provided by the Yorkshire Dales Society's own Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company on Sundays and Bank Holidays. This has seen bus usage in the Dales

soar to over 50,000 passenger journeys in the current financial year – a threefold increase over seven years.

But on weekdays, the opposite is happening. Not only is the County Council slashing core funding, but has cut payments for senior citizens' free travel to the absolute legal minimum, undercutting the pledge from Government, that bus operators: *should be no worse, but no better off as a result of free senior travel*. So meagre have payments for senior citizens become, that one respected operator, Pennine Motors, was forced out of business and others struggle to survive – with one local operator reporting a 25% decline in passenger numbers and income after the cuts in 2014. And now transport chiefs in Northallerton have indicated they intend to refuse senior pass reimbursement payments for Sunday DalesBus services in 2015, on the dubious legal grounds that they are mainly 'tourist' services.

Yet recent independent research shows that for every £1 spend on senior citizen travel, the local economy gains £2.87 in bus user spending. By saving £17,000 in DalesBus ENCT payments, therefore, North Yorkshire will remove at least £48,790 out of the Dales economy, and maybe put the whole DalesBus network at risk, robbing businesses in the Dales of badly needed visitor spend.

The excellent Dales Rural Crisis campaign, spearheaded by Councillor John Blackie,

Richmondshire Council and the Yorkshire Post, rightly highlights the need for a new deal on such issues as affordable rural housing, jobs and services, including transport, to stop the catastrophic loss of young people from the Dales – down from 32.5% or 16% over 30 years, with many Dales schools in danger of closing. Conversion of barns into luxury second homes is irrelevant to this. Rural transport provision, however, is crucial. In the words of local Councillor and National Park Authority Member Robert Heseltine: *Without a reasonable rural transport network, rural isolation and loneliness can only increase – the decline of the rural economy will accelerate and the downward spiral of the rural quality of life will continue unabated*.

DalesBus has proved that far from declining, properly managed and promoted, rural buses have a key role to play in the Yorkshire Dales. Given the continuing failure of North Yorkshire County Council to not only tackle the problem, but to make matters worse by slashing senior pass funding to levels that are forcing struggling local bus companies out of business, it is time for a new regional transport authority to step in, to give the people of the Yorkshire Dales and their visitors the proper, integrated daily transport networks they urgently need.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUTERS

As a result of the 1980s *Right to Buy* strategy of selling off, but not replacing, Council Houses, there is a desperate need for rented and affordable accommodation for local families in the Dales. Mr Pickles has received a letter signed by the Chairmen of all ten English National Parks, asking him to think again about proposals to bring in a threshold below which developers are not required to enter into Section 106 Planning Agreements, to make a proportion of each housing development available for local affordable housing. As the National Park Authorities argue, that with so many smaller scale developments: *any such threshold risks seriously undermining our ability to facilitate*

affordable housing. With such local housing needs, National Park towns and villages risk becoming commuter villages or groups of second homes – not the living working communities the Government and National Parks seek. This point was conceded on November 13th at the AGM of the Campaign for National Parks by Housing Minister Brandon Lewis, MP, who promised to 'look again' at the Government's proposals in National Parks.

If building affordable or rented homes for local people is difficult, when it comes to expensive houses for commuters, or log cabins for weekend retreats, it is a different story. Proposals on fields,

literally along the National Park boundary at Eastby, a village with no shop, weekday bus or other facilities (the local pub closed 3 years ago), for 72 'executive homes' have now been opposed by the Yorkshire Dales Society, Craven CPRE and many local people. Though just outside the National Park, this development will have a major visual impact from such fine viewpoints as Embsay Crag and Barden Moor. The houses will not meet local need, but be mainly for car-based Leeds commuters, and cause yet more congestion on narrow access lanes, the main A65, and commuter parking problems in Ilkley.

Colin Speakman

YORKSHIRE GRANOLA AT YOCKENTHWAITE

Our home, Yockenthwaite farmhouse (on the Dales Way), is quite a substantial building with seven bedrooms and three sitting rooms; a big house to heat and maintain, so an obvious solution was to offer Bed & Breakfast accommodation. We opened for our first guests in the late summer of 1991 and throughout the '90s slowly built the business up developing a following of loyal 'regulars'.



Yockenthwaite farm

In 2001, when foot and mouth raged across the country, like many businesses, for bio-security reasons we were forced to close our doors and so, when the time came to re-open, we felt we needed to offer something that little extra to tempt guests back into our special part of the Dales.

With the help of a re-generation grant, we re-furbished and opened up a separate dining room so that we could also offer evening meals, and given that a great many of our guests were staying with us for the wonderful walking opportunities, evening meals proved to be very popular.

I've always had a great passion for real home cooked food, and our new dinner menu regularly boasted roast Yockenthwaite leg of lamb with seasonal vegetables from the local farmers' market and homemade mint sauce! A variation was my own special recipe, lamb tagine, which we called 'Elizabethan lamb'. The Breakfast menu offered locally cured bacon and sausage, our own eggs, home made bread and cinnamon rolls and preserves; but the star of breakfast time turned out to be our own home made granola!

Made from freshly rolled oats and stone-ground flour, bound together with olive oil and honey, and slowly baked until golden, our crunchy cereal proved to be a real winner, with many guests asking me to make extra so they could take a bag home. We then started to get requests for more and ended up sending bags through the post to people who claimed to be 'addicts'.

When we realised we had something a bit special, we decided to try a couple of local farmers' markets and in January 2006 I took 45 bags to Grassington farmers' market and sold them all by lunchtime. And to this day, I can still remember the thrill and feeling of satisfaction. We didn't know it at the time, but that day was a turning point, the start of a new journey. We didn't have a master-plan, we just catered for the increasing demand and assumed that the 'new diversification' would run quietly alongside our B&B, but it didn't, it had a mind of its own.

We soon ran out of space in our own kitchen, so with the help of a Growing Routes grant from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, we invested in converting one of the old dairies in the house into a dedicated production area – it seemed adequate at the time, but we soon outgrew this as well, needing to convert another room in the house for packing, storage and dispatch.

Juggling B&B guests with granola production soon became our next issue and reluctantly we realised, we had to wind down the B&B as we just couldn't manage both in the same premises.

From that point onwards we knew that we had a serious business on our hands and that called for some serious planning, both short and long term.

Yockenthwaite granola was part of the delegates' packs of our National Park Societies' Conference - a taste of the Dale!

Since then we have moved production to Skipton, where we are utilizing a 1200 sq ft unit that serves as a kitchen, storage area and office. We had to, because weeks before our move we were producing three quarters of a tonne a week in a small back kitchen at home – where it was taking over our lives - we were living with granola – everywhere! It was a big decision to move, but it was the right one. At 23 miles from Yockenthwaite, it is too far away to be handy, but two members of our team live in the Skipton area, so it works well and being more central, it's also better logistically for distributing the product and for local services. Having good internet access is also a huge bonus, even though our network up the Dale is generally very reliable.

We still turn out regularly to farmers' markets, food festivals and local agricultural shows, and have introduced new products, including a range of gluten free cereals and biscuits. Our granola is now widely available in independent farm shops, village shops, delicatessens and health food shops across the north of England. We also supply a growing number of boutique hotels, guest houses and B&Bs.

It has been an exciting journey, often scary, a steep learning curve and very hard work, but it has been worthwhile and rewarding. It is still very much a family business, with family values, working with a small enthusiastic and loyal team. This I think has been the important element as we all work together. Our son David is working full time in the business and husband Stuart and son Edward are running the farm, so it's all hands on deck at busy times, for both businesses!

Liz Hird

Yorkshire Dales Granola



NORMAN WORDSWORTH 1928-2014

It is with great sadness we have to report the death, in October at the age of 86, of Norman Wordsworth, a former long serving and hard-working member of the Society's Council of Management and Policy Committee. Born in Barnsley, Norman enjoyed a lifelong career in the engineering industry, in later years running his own engineering consultancy. Keen walker, climber, skier and even folk singer, active in both the Peak District and Cairngorms, in 1946 Norman helped establish the Barnsley Mountaineering Club. He met his wife Joyce, also a keen walker and skier, in another club, and they were married in 1955. The couple continued their outdoor activities for many decades. Their two sons, John and Peter, were born in Chesterfield before the family moved first to Brighouse and later to Rochdale.

Norman and Joyce came to live in Eastby in the mid 1980s. Norman was soon active in both Craven CPRE and the Yorkshire Dales Society, joining the Policy Committee, initially as a representative of CPRE, before being elected to Council.

Norman was a source of deep knowledge of the Dales, bringing practical experience – for example of the quarrying industry – to many discussions, combined with common sense, ready wit and a sense of humour. When in his early 80s, ill-health and his commitments as Joyce's carer made it impossible for him to attend committees, he still used the Sunday Cravenlink Dalesbus from Eastby to shop in Ilkley. He regularly phoned and emailed his concerns about current Dales' issues; only a few weeks ago he reported the Eastby housing proposals. He was a great friend and ally, and will be much missed. Our deepest condolences to Joyce, Peter and John and other members of the Wordsworth family, for the loss of a truly kind and gentle man.

Colin Speakman



HIGH NATURE VALUE FARMING IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

What is High Nature Value farming?

Sit in a flower-rich hay meadow in the Yorkshire Dales or walk across a moor with the curlews calling and you get a very different picture from the one often associated with modern, intensive farming. High Nature Value (HNV) farming describes low intensity (or 'extensive') farming systems, that are particularly valuable for wildlife, the wider environment and people. This does not mean that HNV farmland is low-maintenance – far from it; managing sheep and cattle, pastures and meadows, and thousands of miles of drystone walls is labour and capital intensive, and requires high levels of skill and knowledge.

Why does HNV farming matter?

HNV farming is an extremely important element to the economic, cultural and community well-being of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP). The highest nature value holdings are found predominantly at catchment heads where terrain, climate and a history of agri-environment schemes, have resulted in the farms being managed less intensively.

These areas are dominated by semi-natural habitats and contain many sites designated as of national and international importance for wildlife' including:

- upland hay meadows, calcareous grassland, upland ash woodland, blanket bog, heath and mire.
- associated plant and animal species – Black Grouse, Red Squirrel, Otter, Yellow Wagtail, breeding waders, rare Orchids, Globe Flower, Northern Brown Argus, Common Rock Rose.

Traditional HNV farming systems use livestock breeds that have adapted over the years to cope with the harsh conditions — Cheviot and Swaledale sheep are the best known local examples. These hill breeds form the backbone of the national sheep industry, accounting for 20% of ewes in Britain.

HNV farming also provides many other benefits. For example, it:

- helps to regulate the flow of many major rivers, minimising flood peaks;
- houses vast areas of peat and other soils that actively store carbon;
- manages over 100,000 hectares of land that is accessible by the public for recreation;
- maintains the cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales;

What challenges does HNV farming face?

A study undertaken in early 2014 by the YDNPA, at Windle, Beech Winthrop and supported by HNV farmers from the Buckden parish, identified a number of challenges these farmers were facing. The main issues related to their location - the area is characterised by long, cold winters, nutrient poor soils, high rainfall and a short growing season. The systems that can make best use of the land are relatively low productivity and labour intensive. In other words, farming here costs more and produces less.

Many of the benefits that HNV farming provides – the beautiful landscape, the wildlife, clean water and so on - are generally not rewarded by the market. As a result, HNV farmers tend to have low incomes and limited returns to invest in either improving farm efficiency or in ways to absorb the management restrictions required by environmental support schemes. These economic issues are felt most acutely by tenant farmers.

In recognition of these difficulties and to support and guide management of key habitats and species, large amounts of public money are channelled to farmers in the Yorkshire Dales through direct payments and agri-environment funding. Without these payments, there is little doubt that these farming systems would have largely disappeared. However, the current system fails to get the best outcomes for either the farmers or the environment.

Helen Keep,
Senior Farm Conservation Officer
YDNPA

What are the opportunities?

The study was part of a larger project shared between the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership, who are collaborating with four groups of HNV farmers to explore ways of securing a long term future for their farming systems.

The Partnership is now calling on the Government, Local Enterprise Partnerships, statutory environmental bodies and the farming community to work together to develop a new approach to supporting HNV farming here, including:

- Design and implement the new environmental land management scheme (NELMS) in a way that targets support to HNV farmers;
- Provide a stronger voice for local HNV farmers in the development of policy;
- Raise awareness and appreciation of HNV farming and the food it produces amongst the public;
- Develop programmes of tailored support, advice and capital investment that are more easily accessible to HNV farm businesses;
- Introduce a more collaborative approach to the delivery of agri-environment schemes, using the skills and knowledge of HNV farmers;
- Develop workable new payment mechanisms to enable the market to reward HNV farmers for providing a range of public benefits, including carbon and biodiversity off-setting; and,
- In the longer term, further reform the Common Agricultural Policy, so that payment rates reflect the real cost to HNV farmers of maintaining some of our most important natural assets.

Cray meadows, John Akrigg ©



Wharfedale Brewery and the Wharfedale Packhorse

Late in 2012 a group of Ilkley business people, friends and real ale enthusiasts who had, in 2008 founded the popular Ilkley Beer Festival, met to discuss the idea of setting up a small brewery in the town. Early in 2013 came the chance to acquire a rundown pub known as *The Albert* (formerly *The Mallard*) on Church Street. This occupied a historic, Grade II listed building, dating back to 1707 which had been a farmhouse. The 16 friends all agreed to invest in a new company to buy and restore the pub, but also to set up a small microbrewery in a disused barn at the back of the building.

It took several months to restore the building, exposing wonderful oak beams long concealed under rotting plaster, and to turn what had been a shabby building into something of a showpiece, now renamed *The Flying Duck*, as perhaps an echo of the old Mallard name. The microbrewery also chose to revive a distinguished name – the Wharfedale Brewery, originally established in Wetherby in 1765, but which had ceased trading in the 1950s. The name Wharfedale Brewery had been formerly revived by David Aynsworth and Steve Blizzard in 2003, selling what were known as Folly Ales, but for personal reasons they had to dissolve the company in 2008.

It was soon realised that Wharfedale is a place as well as a beer, and the company devised an ingenious marketing idea to encourage visitors to enjoy both their ales and the Dale in a responsible way, by launching *The Ales Way* (a subtle tribute to the Dales Way), which encouraged visitors with a variety of incentives, (including T-shirts), if you call at a certain number of pubs, to either walk, cycle or use the *Pride of the Dales* bus services to visit any one of the 15 pubs in Mid and Upper Wharfedale taking part. This would help to bring more trade to Dales businesses in Upper Wharfedale, some of whom had been struggling to survive during the recession.

It has all proved a great success, bringing more paying customers not just to the pubs, but onto *Pride of the Dales* bus services to Grassington and Buckden. The beer has been a success too; the popular Blonde Ale winning a coveted 2014



Bronze Award from the Society of Independent Brewers from the whole of the North of England at a blind tasting.

In another imaginative move, Wharfedale Brewery has joined forces with the Yorkshire Dales Society's Dales & Bowland CIC who manage the Sunday DalesBus network to Upper Wharfedale, not only to help promote the use of DalesBus services in Upper Wharfedale along the Alesway, but to work with the Upper Wharfedale Community Partnership and local organisations in Grassington, including the Upper Wharfedale Cricket Club, on a scheme already branded *The Wharfedale Packhorse*.

This will involve using the new Grassington Hub minibus to collect pre-booked passengers off the last *Pride of the Dales* Buses arriving in Grassington on a Saturday evening, and take them to any one of several inns and restaurants taking part in the scheme for a meal, as far up the Dale as Buckden and Hubberholme or across to Appletreewick, collecting them from the eatery, to bring them back to Skipton or Ilkley, if needed, in time for the late train back to Leeds around 11:15. But the bus would then collect local people who have enjoyed a theatre or concert trip in Leeds or Bradford from late trains at Skipton to bring them back to Upper Wharfedale, thus saving Dales people, younger as well as older people, the need for late night

driving – and allowing them to enjoy a glass of wine or beer after the show without the temptation to drink and drive.

Initially it will be a 10 week experiment, hopefully starting in mid-February, and will depend on having a pool of local volunteer drivers. It is intended that the service will pay its way and any surplus from that and other fund raising schemes (including a proposed Grassington Beer Festival planned for November 2015), will go to help the Grassington mini bus provide daytime services for local people off the conventional bus routes, as well as other local good causes.

Look out for local publicity, or email ann@grassingtonhub.org.uk for details of the service and how to book. *The Wharfedale Packhorse* if it works, could be an outstanding example of how local business and voluntary bodies, including the Yorkshire Dales Society, can work together for the benefit of visitors and the local community alike, to make Upper Wharfedale an even better place to live and work.



NATIONAL PARK SOCIETY

Organised jointly by the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – the whole three day conference (8-10 October) was a remarkable exercise in co-operation and a joint success, as the Yorkshire Dales National Park celebrated its 60th anniversary in the autumn of 2014. Seventy delegates from the UK's English and Welsh National Parks arrived at the Conistone Cold Hotel, ready to listen to and engage with various excellent speakers on a number of key issues. Prominent among their concerns were issues that particularly affected young people in the Dales, and by extension, other areas of the country. Seven special bursaries also enabled young delegates, sponsored by various organisations, to attend the Conference. Additional opportunities to meet other young people working and living in the Dales were provided by a variety of field trips. We pick out some of the many highlights of the Conference.

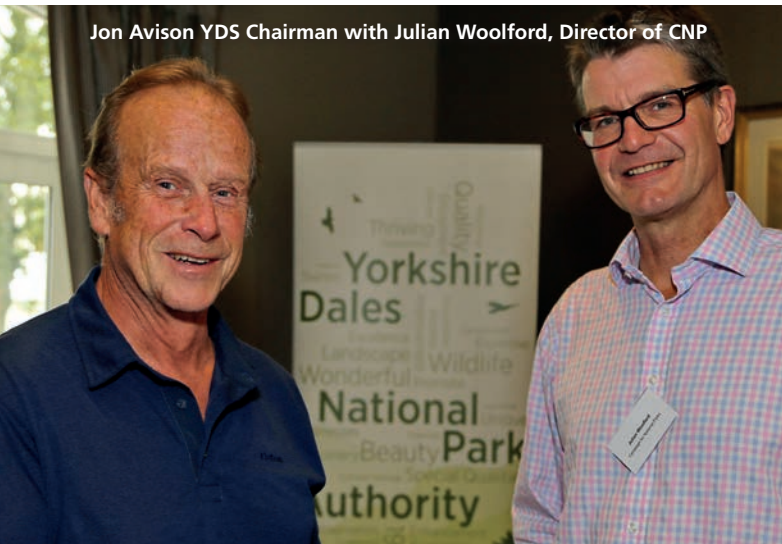
National Park Chief Executive, **David Butterworth**, outlined some of the key issues facing young people and the Parks – lack of affordable housing, changing demographics and commuter pressures, with young people being forced to move away because of high housing costs and lack of jobs: problems exacerbated by successive government policies. He exemplified the loss of 3,500 local authority dwellings sold off in the Dales since the 1980s under the Right to Buy – many now used as second or holiday homes. Despite 1,000 new houses being built between 2001 and 2011, the population of the National Park had only grown by around a 100, yet second homes had grown from 14% to 23% of housing stock. Current targets of 30 new affordable homes per year were tokenism – he believed more drastic policies were required, in order to cause significant change: namely to allow only the building of affordable new housing for rent in the Park, to prevent further conversions to holiday cottages. *He stressed he was speaking personally and not on behalf of his Authority.*

Colin Speakman, a Society Vice President, in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the creation of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, gave a lucid account of the intricacies of the early National Park movement and our own Park's early struggles in a hostile political environment. He suggested that the Park had much to celebrate, outlining ten key achievements, including establishing the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to bring in new funding and to manage key conservation and education projects. **Ann Shadrake**, the Society's Executive Director, spoke about a influential joint project between the National Park and University of East Anglia during the late 1980s which has resonance for the present time - Landscapes of the Future. Using a series of beautiful watercolour paintings by Hannah Chesterman, she suggested that the actual choices society could make in the future depended on the degree of public intervention and the kind of policy implementation affecting land management. Which should dominate - market forces or wilderness, leisure and sporting activities or the retaining of many cultural features?

Transport for the field trips was provided by the Yorkshire Dales Society's very successful Dales & Bowland CIC. Dales Rural Trainees, and young apprentices worked alongside the National Park and Millennium Trust staff to lead the groups and share the experience. Visits ranged from looking at various businesses in Malham, including schemes for disadvantaged youngsters, while another group heard about the Park's Limestone Project from one of the farmers. Yet another looked at the issues of quarrying and challenge walks in the Three Peaks, while the final group concentrated on the Settle area and included a visit to the Dalesbridge Centre near Austwick.

A trailer for the award winning film **Lad: A Yorkshire Story** was presented on the Thursday evening by its two stars, **Bretton Lord** who plays Tom, the disturbed teenager and **Alan Gibson** the Park Ranger who befriends him. The film emphasises the **potential dilemmas faced** by young people in our protected landscapes.

Jon Avison YDS Chairman with Julian Woolford, Director of CNP



David Butterworth Chief Executive YDNPA, Ann Shadrake YDS Executive Director, Tony Smith Chairman ECM



IES' CONFERENCE 2014



Conference delegates

A serious debate with a panel and a variety of questions, ably chaired by YDS Vice Chair **Jon Beavan**, dominated the last morning of the Conference. Among the key issues to emerge was the need to create awareness among people of the training and job opportunities that do exist for youngsters, and the key role of transport for young people to access jobs and education, plus the problems of small businesses who cannot even afford a subsidised apprentice. Local Enterprise Partnerships have major financial resources, but are mainly focused on large capital-intensive projects, not small scale revenue-hungry rural projects. But National Park Authorities and Societies could do much to encourage and support sustainable farming and diversification schemes. Farmers and land managers could be encouraged by the success of such schemes as the Pasture Fed Livestock Project.

Julian Smith, MP for Skipton and Ripon, stressed the importance of the powers in the 1995 Environment Act to foster economic well-being of rural communities. Conservation and economic development were not in conflict – it is also vital to encourage risk-takers to develop business and jobs in National Parks to help retain young people and services. **Professor Chris Baines**, Chair of the Stakeholders of the National Grid's Visual Impact Provision, with a fund of £500 million available for undergrounding of cables and other provisions in National Parks and AONBs, gave more food for thought. National Grid were

key Conference sponsors, with Chris giving great insight into the complexity of underground schemes and other potential solutions to reduce visual impact.

Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, gave a highly entertaining presentation on just how the Tour de France came to Yorkshire, and the way that the French had fallen in love with Yorkshire's landscape, people and food. The Tour had made a huge impact on the people of our region, giving the area new confidence, self belief and drive. It had also delivered huge economic benefit to the region - £100 million was a cautious estimate.

Julian Woolford, Chief Executive Officer of the Campaign for National Parks, expressed CNP's concern about the serious budget cuts inflicted by the Government, and suggested this would make it difficult for National Park Authorities to meet their environmental objectives. CNP had gone through a period of major change and upheaval, but was now delivering on a number of important core projects and campaigns. The new CNP Manifesto for the 2015 Election had also been very well received.

Warmest congratulations and sincere thanks were offered to the various organisations and volunteers who had all helped to make the Conference such an outstanding success.

Photos: Steve Finch Commercial Photography



Edmund Parsons,
Bishop Burton College
(bursary Yorkshire
Agricultural College)
Jenny Cooper,
Craven College
(bursary Skipton
Rotary Club)



Kabeer Bostan, Mosaic Youth Project officer Yorkshire Dales,
Adam Phillip Phillips, Mosaic Young Champion, Lake District,
Tofeeq Ahmed, Mosaic Young Champion, Yorkshire Dales, bursary YDS.
Clare Dyson, Mosaic Project Officer, Lake District.

The Joy of Paragliding - in the Dales

We suspect not many YDS members enjoy the pleasures of paragliding – a relatively new way of experiencing and enjoying the Yorkshire Dales from the air by mixing parachute jumping from ridge tops with gliding. A chance encounter with keen paraglider Peter Balmforth, returning from a glide by means of DalesBus in summer 2014, led to a request for an account from Peter of just what it is all about...

At first I was happy just to be in the air, sailing up and down in the ridge-lift on the windward side of the hill. We usually fly steep, high, long ridges that lie perpendicular to the wind direction.

I probably found my first thermal by accident and maybe gained a 1000ft. (Thermals are rising columns of warm air, which can take you all the way to cloud base and then even further.)

A few years later I decided I wanted to try cross-country paragliding. When you are a couple of thousand feet above the hill, you might turn towards the downwind peaks and wonder how far you might go. I usually made a rush for the next cloud. Invariably I finished

back on the ground in under 7 km and usually 20 minutes from the top of my first climb!

Later attempts were feeble too. I was incapable of finding that second thermal, sometimes not even able to stay in the first one. Eventually my persistence, a useful attribute in paragliding, paid off a little, with 13km in 2009, from Bradwell in the Derbyshire Peak District, then 16km from Wether Fell in the Dales in 2010.

A glider upgrade and a trip to Annecy in France in 2011 delivered a 31km triangle amongst epic scenery. It's easier over there than in the Dales. UK weather has never been generous and a run of very bad summers kept the flying to a minimum. Sometimes, even in sunny weather, persistent high pressure can spoil the thermals.

What was really wanted was a big downwind flight. Modern paragliders can penetrate into wind quite well and can do impressive triangle flights, but for raw distance you need to fly with the wind, not against it. In 2012 I finally got a respectable 34 km flight from Carlton Bank in

the North York Moors and did a distance from Dodd Fell (south of Hawes) last year.

Then, this year, something unusual happened. Good weather in the Dales! On 11th April Dodd Fell drew the sky gods (our term for top pilots). I turned up, not expecting much success so early in the season. 63km and three hours later, I landed near Knaresborough. My enduring memory (courtesy of a video), was my shadow falling on a cloud, surrounded by a halo.

In September a big climb above Litton valley got me over the quarries, while a few of the sky gods were already on the ground. Luck is a big factor on any given flight. It was here that I encountered the raptor, possibly a buzzard, big and grey. It eased past and I followed in towards Cracoe Fell until I found lift. It headed off towards Grassington in search of something better. I wish I had followed in, because that was the last thermal I found. I ended up ridge soaring on Cracoe Fell and landed below the monument - 36km or 30km as the crow flies.

Getting off the fell was another matter. My kit, including the wing, packs down into a very large rucksack of about 18kg. Climbing down through bracken on a steep slope isn't easy. My GPS didn't show a nearby footpath. I fell over twice and waded into boggy ground too. Eventually I reached flat ground and Rylstone. I walked on to Cracoe and waved hopelessly at a bus between bus stops. Unbelievably it stopped. The friendly bus driver took me to Grassington.



and elsewhere...

At Grassington, I bumped into Colin Speakman who told me some pretty impressive facts about Dalesbus. Together we took the 871 through Kettlewell, where he alighted while I went on to Buckden, its last call. I started walking again and accepted a lift towards Hawes. At the end of a two mile walk, I watched the sunset, then drove home. Getting back to my car is half the adventure, and the post flight debrief over a beer with friends even better.

Occasional problems for paragliders are loss of sites due to change of landowners, Civil Aviation Authorities' consultations for transponders and the constant expansion of controlled airspace, where we are prohibited. If you can drive a car or ride a bike competently and are able to walk up a steep hill, you can probably fly a paraglider. The Dales Hanggliding and Paragliding Club (www.dhpc.org.uk) can advise on schools. Training is strongly recommended, risks are ever present. It's as safe as you make it, but sometimes the best decision is to stay on the ground. Yet it's all hugely enjoyable!

Peter Balmforth



Peter in full kit

THE NEW YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY BUSINESS MEMBERS



A warm welcome to all of them!



Berrys Farm Shop & Café - With wonderful views over Wensleydale, over Bolton Castle to the north and Penn Hill to the south, Berrys expanded originally from a home grown meat and game concern, adding other local produce such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, honey and chutneys to their range. An attractive well-lit café serves some delicious local food. Younger members of visiting families will particularly enjoy looking at the rare breed pigs, llamas, cows and sheep on the family farm. The estate also

includes a very attractive walk to some nearby waterfalls. The Summer YDS Review no 127 gives a fuller account of how Berrys Farm Shop & Café came into being.

www.berrysfarmshop.com



Blue Pig Company - Two brothers, Andrew and Anthony Bradley, are fifth generation farmers at Mearbeck Farm, Ribblesdale, in North Yorkshire. They started rearing pigs outdoors from birth a few years ago, preparing all their pork products on the farm. A good example of diversification - and the Blue Pig Company was born. Sales are direct to the public at farmers' markets. Anthony has twice contributed very interesting articles on aspects of farming to the Yorkshire Dales Review and a chapter on farming in Colin

Speakman's recent book on The Yorkshire Dales National Park's 60 years. We are delighted that Anthony has recently joined the Yorkshire Dales Society's Policy committee.

www.bluepigcompany.com



Brigantes - Brigantes is a dedicated luggage carrying service along popular walking routes such as the Dales Way and the Coast to Coast.

The company prides itself on its reliability, with a team of local drivers who really do know their area. The company can also organise accommodation as well as providing their baggage courier service, which ensures that only a minimum need be carried for a day out, while the heavier load arrives punctually at your overnight stay. A minibus is available to return visitors to a particular rail or bus station, or alternatively a free dedicated car park is available in Malham.

www.brigantesenglishwalks.com



Superfast North Yorkshire - As its name suggests, Superfast North Yorkshire uses a different, speedier technology for the twenty first century. It incorporates a fibre optic cable in the link between customer and exchange, rather than through the more traditional Broadband

which utilises copper telephone lines. SFNY is the name of the project bringing Superfast Broadband to North Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Dales, with its particular terrain, can only benefit from such schemes. The project includes a BT partnership which also brings earlier initiatives together.

www.sfnyc.co.uk



Wharfedale Brewery Ltd - Sixteen local businessmen with strong Ilkley connections, all real ale and cider enthusiasts and members of CAMRA, recently set up the Wharfedale Brewery centred on the Flying Duck inn in the centre of Ilkley. The pub in 18th century premises, (Grade II listed) has been attractively restored and renovated from the former Mallard public house. The Flying Duck sells the Wharfedale Brewery's own beers and other local real ales with some good quality local food. Read more about the Brewery's interesting initiatives on page 9. Wharfedale Brewery's Award winning Blonde Ale was also the official beer at the recent National Park Societies' Conference in the Dales.

www.wharfedalebrewery.com

A. J. Brown

Walker, Writer
& Passionate
Dalesman.



AJ Brown in earlier days (Dalesman)

.....

*Between the 1930s and 1950s, A.J. Brown was once one of the most popular and successful authors of walking and outdoor books about the Yorkshire Dales, Moors and Wolds. John A. White has recently completed the definitive account of AJB's life and works. John was born and bred in Bradford, taught in Leeds, and after post-graduate study in the USA, lectured in Colleges and Institutes of Education, as well as Universities in the UK. After early retirement in 2001, he has developed his interest in Yorkshire topographical writers. It is intended that the **AJB biography** will be completed in 2015 – we hope to have further details, including a pre-publication subscription offer, in a future Review.*

.....

Alfred John Brown, or 'AJB' to his readers, was born on 21st August 1894 in Bradford, attended St. Bede's Grammar School, and left at 14 years old to work as a wool trainee in the world renowned 'Worstedopolis' of Bradford, but continued his education at night school. His early working life was interrupted by WW1 service as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery, but ended with a medical discharge in 1916 due to post-diphtheric paralysis, that left him unable to walk. During almost six years of incapacity, he developed an interest in classical literature and poetry, and began to write prose and verse, before returning to work after a self-rehabilitation routine of which he stated: *Rough walking was my cure and my salvation.*

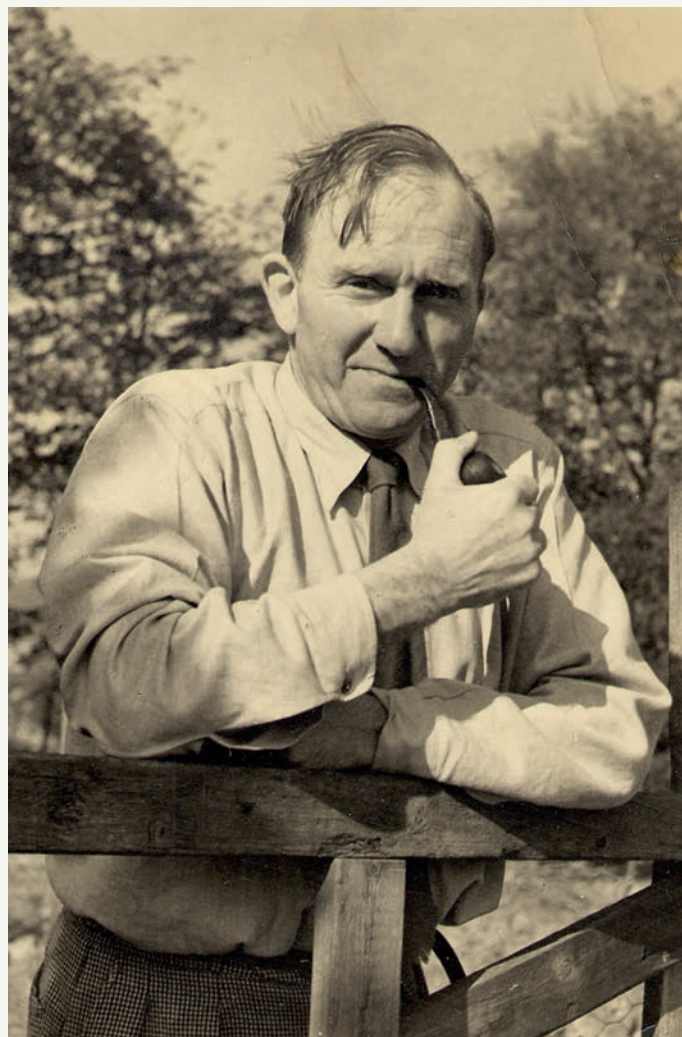
On regaining his health, his career progressed in the 1920s as an overseas sales manager with the Bradford Textile firm of David Hamilton & Co. Ltd, which allowed indulgence in his twin

passions of walking in the Dales and writing about his experiences. This resulted in his first popular Yorkshire book: *Four Boon Fellows – A Yorkshire Tramping Odyssey* (1928), a rollicking extravaganza, written in dialogue form, about a 100 mile weekend tramp with three friends from Barnard Castle to Ilkley.

Alfred married Marie-Eugénie Bull in 1927, and took his new half-French bride on a honeymoon tour to see 'God's own Country', including York and Whitby, before spending time in his favourite hostelrys: the Cat Hole Inn at Keld, Swaledale, and the isolated Tan Hill Inn, high on the moors above Arkengarthdale. They settled in Burley-in Wharfedale, raised five children, Felicity, Barbara, Rosemary, Christopher and Adrian. Alfred commuted by train to work in Bradford, but continued his walking and writing, to produce his famous Yorkshire Tramping Trilogy: *Moorland Tramping in West Yorkshire* (1931), *Tramping in Yorkshire (North*

and East (1932) and combined these works in: *Striding Through Yorkshire* (1938), by far his most popular book with over 20,000 copies sold.

His distinctive writing style was influenced by the early Yorkshire topographical writers such as Edmund Bogg, Harry Speight, Charles Joshua Atkinson and Halliwell Sutcliffe, and he



AJ Brown in relaxed pose (Countryman)

demonstrated the same love and passion for the moors and dales of which he had unique and unrivalled knowledge, that led Harry J. Scott, the founding editor of the Yorkshire Dalesman Magazine, to describe it as 'encyclopaedic'. During the inter-war years, Alfred was president of the West Riding Ramblers' Federation, and appointed first president of the Fellowship of Fell Walkers, and was always striving to encourage others to experience Yorkshire's landscape by exploring: *where the green roads wander, high up the steep fell side, to the far horizons yonder*. He was a great champion of moorland freedom and often took part in the campaigns to preserve lesser known footpaths threatened with extinction by the Public Right of Way Act of 1934, as well as protest walks to maintain access to the popular Ilkley and Rombalds Moors.

Between the wars, as the Sales Director of his company, Alfred traveled extensively in Europe and made full use of his fluency

in German and French, but also used his experiences to draft a series of travel essays and short stories. However when WW2 began, at age 46 and too old to fly, he volunteered for service again, this time as an Intelligence Officer in the RAF. He was based at various Bomber Command Stations around the country, planning and briefing air crews' bombing missions, before he attained the rank of Acting Wing Commander at the Air Ministry in London, and documented his early war experiences in the book: *Ground Staff* (1943).

After the war, instead of returning to the wool trade, Alfred's long-standing love affair with country inns was the inspiration for the purchase of the Whitfield House Hotel in Darnholm, near Goathland, on the North Yorkshire Moors, which he ran as a family business for six years. This experience provided the material for two related books: *I Bought A Hotel* (1948) and *Farewell – High Fell* (1952), and also allowed his one and only foray into verse with the privately-published book: *Poems and Songs* (1949). However as a 'literary innkeeper' Alfred returned to a favourite writing theme, that of Yorkshire, with two further topographical works: *Broad Acres – A Yorkshire Miscellany* (1948) and *Fair North Riding* (1952). The former featured a personal anthology of the County with a miscellany of his own verse, while the latter described the uniqueness of the North Riding by way of an extensive tour of his newly-adopted Riding.

At this time Alfred was also concerned with the development of Yorkshire's two National Parks. He advocated the need for the establishment of the long-delayed Yorkshire Dales National Park in an article published by Country Life Magazine in 1952, and was an expert witness on behalf of the Ramblers' Association in the limitation of the Army usage of the North Yorks Moors to preserve public access in 1948. He subsequently became a member of the North Riding's Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee in 1958, having written the *Official Guide to the North Yorks Moors National Park* (1957).

On the strength of his string of six books published during 1948-1952, Alfred embarked on a brave attempt to become a full-time writer by building on the earlier success of two novels: *The Lean Years* (1926) and *Whitaker* (1946). However his planned new literary career, which involved moves to London and York, was unsuccessful, and he had to abandon his attempt to live by his pen. So he returned to the textile trade, taking a post with a London-based export firm, followed by a directorship that meant a move back to Bradford, where he founded his own Textile Export Agency during the 1960s.

In 1966 Alfred and his wife made their final move to a cottage in the village of Sleights, near Whitby, where he continued with his agency work with his youngest son Adrian, who was expected to take over upon his father's retirement. Unfortunately Alfred became ill on a business trip to Germany just before Christmas 1968, and this passionate moorland walker and author died on 1st March 1969, within sight of the moors he loved to wander. He was buried in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sleights, beneath a headstone with words inscribed from one of his poems, 'Dales in Paradise', that echoed his sentiments as a moorland trampler: *There must be Dales in Paradise, which you and I will find*.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I was elected as Interim Chairman at the AGM in 2013, because the Society had suffered the loss of several key personnel through resignation or retirement or completion of their term of office. My role over the coming year was to keep the Society going while seeking to fill the gaps in the leadership team.

My first action was to set up a Task & Finish Group comprising a few members of Council to undertake this task and then disband. We found that in order to bring in new blood, we needed to be able to tell them just what the Society is for and what were the roles and responsibilities of officers – things we think we know, but which may not have been clearly articulated in recent times. This led us into the deeper waters of a re-examination of the YDS *Articles of Association* and its *Objects* – a job which was overdue anyway, because the Charity Commission has produced new Model Articles for bodies such as ours. The *task* of the Group is complete in all its essentials – so it has *finished* its work.

As the Group worked, it became possible to identify people willing and able to fill the roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and a very suitable Treasurer also came forward. I have myself agreed to serve as Chairman of the Policy Committee. So all the vacancies have been filled with the exception of Company Secretary, a role which can be covered in other ways for the present. These internal concerns have not been allowed to prevent the Society from functioning in its more essential roles.

First and foremost, we are a *campaigning* organisation, working for the good of the Yorkshire Dales and to prevent what we see as harmful changes. We are a critical friend of the National Park Authority, and have regular contacts with them. Usually we will support them, sometimes in the face of opposition from other quarters, because we know they are primarily concerned to protect the Dales. But we will not refrain from criticising if we do not agree with the line they are taking.

Our Policy Committee is the group that examines such issues, and this year it has played an important role. To take just

a few examples. First: the Government proposed to remove the requirement for planning permission if a landowner wished to change a barn to residential use. We appreciate the need for housing, and accept that some such developments can be carried out without damage to the countryside. But the possibility of the iconic 'Walls and Barns' landscape of Swaledale or Littondale being subject to uncontrolled change, was appalling. The Society was among the first to go public with its opposition, and we maintained this, until the Government agreed to exclude National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (which include Nidderdale and Bowland) from the possibility of such development being carried out without the need for planning permission.

Second: the Society is supportive of renewable energy projects – if they are in the right place and avoid major damage to the landscape. But we maintained our opposition to the renewed application for large wind turbines at Brightenber near Gargrave, which would have blighted the views and caused harm to the living conditions of local farmers and to listed buildings. And we played a major role in a group which fought against an even larger wind farm proposal on the edge of the National Park at Killington Lake near

Sedburgh. The possibility of losing a Public Inquiry has led to the developers withdrawing that application, at least for the time being – and the Society has gained valuable first-hand experience in working with others against big businesses of that sort.

But we are not just about objecting. We cannot feel happy about the historic Cam High Road being used by enormous trucks to extract felled timber from Cam and Greenfield Forests, but we supported the National Park Authority in permitting this because it is the least bad option, and we welcomed the compensating advantages the plans offer for encouraging red squirrels in that area, and the new opportunities which will become available for family-friendly walking and cycling routes on tracks in the Forests. We also strongly supported proposals for a new railhead near Helwith Bridge in Ribblesdale, which will enable Dry Rigg and Arcow Quarries to transport material by rail and thus reduce the quarry traffic on roads in Ribblesdale and through Settle. And we made constructive and supportive comments on the National Park's new Draft Local Plan, which sets out its proposals for development policies over the next 15 years.

Sheila Gordon with YDS group at elevenses



We also have an *educational role*: to help people understand the Dales and so increase their enjoyment and wish to protect them. The *Yorkshire Dales Review* has continued to be a quality publication serving this purpose, and we are increasing our work through the website and Facebook. The Events, Communication and Membership Committee has responsibility for these areas, and also for our programmes of lectures and walks. Subjects as diverse as Cave Science, Wainwright's Pennine Journey, Historic Dales Inns, and the work of the National Trust in Upper Wharfedale, have featured among the talks. Walks around Historic Skipton, the Bentham Heritage Trail and Heber Farm in Buckden, have linked to the lectures, and other outings have taken us to Dentdale, the Hoffman Kiln at Langcliffe, the woodland burial site near Rathmell, and on a family bike treasure hunt around Gargrave. We also contributed to this year's "Ride2Stride" Festival of walks and talks based on the Settle-Carlisle Railway.

News on membership is mixed, with an increase in Business and Affiliate Members, but a slow decline in individuals. The Council will seek to address the need for more recruitment. In particular, we have lost through death a number of distinguished and long-standing members, including George Duckworth from Lancashire, who generously left the Society a bequest of £1,000.

A third and very important function of the Society is in *delivering public benefit*, where the work of our subsidiary body, the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company, has been a continuing success. This company runs buses into and through the Dales on Sundays and Bank Holidays, and



Gary Schofield (centre) Heber's Farm & YDS Group, photo Ann Shadrake

the numbers of services and of passengers carried have vastly increased over the years of its operation.

I record my thanks to all who have contributed to the Society's work over the past year. The members of Council and Committees have kept us on track by their advice – and their practical involvement. Our sole paid employee, Ann Shadrake, now with the title of Executive Director, has done a magnificent job – both on her own account and by keeping the rest of us on Council in the picture and doing what we should. She has also continued to build the team of volunteers. Bernard Peel puts in many hours looking after membership administration – and would appreciate

offers of help. Denise O'Hara is very helpful with press releases and events, and James Enever and Barbara Livingston have also done a lot on those occasions – as have Judith and Rod Clough, who serve the tea. I must make special mention of 19-year old Joe Holt who was with us during his gap year after A-levels and before going to Craven College to study Countryside Management. We would love to see other volunteers of his age – but we would be glad to hear from anyone wishing to contribute to the work of your Society.

The Yorkshire Dales Society is in good shape.

Malcolm Petyt

Note from Jon Avison, current Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Society

As I took over from Malcolm as 'Chairman Elect' (and I was never quite sure what that actually meant), in May of this year, I think it is appropriate for me to add a little on the role of Chairman last year and for the support he has given me as I have taken over the reins.

There are a couple of other people I would like to pass on my thanks to as well. Our magnificent quarterly Review appears, as if by magic, through the post each quarter and is so constant in its quality and timeliness, that it is all too easy to take it for granted. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful editor Fleur Speakman, who puts in

so much time and hard work into making sure the Review is produced to such a high standard. Thank you also to Ann Shadrake and her team of volunteers who actually get the Review into the post.

There is another Speakman who also deserves a mention and that of course is Colin. At our fantastic National Park Societies' Conference last month, I introduced Colin as the heart and soul of the YDS, and he has continued tirelessly to promote and represent the Society in so many different ways – so thank you Colin.

farfieldmill

arts and heritage centre

Farfield Mill Arts and Heritage Centre, Sedbergh, opened 12 years ago. A group of local people, with no previous experience of major fund-raising or project management, had raised £1million to rescue what was a semi-derelict woollen mill, which had once made horse blankets for Queen Victoria. They bought it, restored it, created 20 open studios with low rents for designer makers, sold the work of up to 100 others based in the North of England, established a heritage floor which celebrated the mill's history, and opened two galleries exhibiting the work of local artists. Two of the Dobcross looms were retained and used to weave rugs and throws from the wool of local sheep.

Farfield became an example of best practice in terms of community initiative and the imaginative development of a historic building for a contemporary purpose. Tim Smith of the Eden Project, pays tribute to this in his foreword to *The Story of Farfield Mill Restoration* published in 2008:

The heartbeat of any community is, of course, the people that bother, those who care. Small projects or, indeed, big projects rise or fall on the commitment of individuals to do things, to believe in often impossible things...

However, obtaining grants for capital development is one thing, revenue funding is another, particularly in an area like South Lakeland, where there are a number of high profile arts organisations receiving significant funding from the Arts Council. It was clear that Farfield could not continue as a traditional arts centre, with no particular focus, work of varying quality and no grants. What might be its future role? The Trust turned to the Mill's past for inspiration.

After extensive research, the Trustees believed that Farfield had the potential to become a *centre of excellence for textiles and woven art in the broadest sense*. They felt this would fill a gap in the market both regionally and even nationally, complementing existing visual arts provision, not duplicating it. Set in a building with historic links to the woollen industry, with



David Macdowell, weaver

sheep farming continuing as a major source of income in this area, gave the concept an added resonance.

Sheepfest – Brimming with fun and lively ideas in a historic wool town -

In 2013 Farfield Mill initiated and obtained funding via the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, for a very special project involving the town of Sedbergh and the Mill. For one amazing weekend, 13-14 September, the town of Sedbergh, and the Mill were awash with a glorious display of sheep made by local businesses, voluntary organisations, schools and individuals. The heads of two giant rams peered down on Finkle Street and the harpist from the early music group Corn'ewe'copia – her fleece made from music scores - entertained the crowds at the church gates. Outside the vet's, a ewe stood patiently as children queued to deliver her lamb – and put it back. Lamblet, Prince of Denmark, raised the tone, holding aloft a sheep skull. And a dare-devil tup from Bendrigg Lodge, complete with helmet and wheel-chair, abseiled down the church tower to unveil a Technicolour Dreamcoat, woven by more than 600 local children!

For two days Sedbergh became a huge, astonishing art gallery, displaying work of the highest quality. How did estate agents, publicans, butchers and women's institute members turn into sculptors? Nigel of Cobble Country and John from the Red Lion applied the technique of Assemblage – the creation of

Events Strategy and Programme

The successful National Park Societies' Conference hosted by the Society (and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) this October, provided an opportunity for us to look at our events from a different perspective in terms of content, planning and execution. With this in mind, I led a workshop at the next Council Meeting, attended by volunteers involved in events as well as council members, to enable us to come up with a revised strategy to build on the past successful formula and add the lessons learnt from the Conference.

The outcome agreed was that our events programme should be 're-branded' in four categories, making it clear to potential participants, what they might expect from any event: [See facing page >](#)

a sculpture by joining together 'found' objects that originally served another purpose. Likewise Steve Longland, with his sheep that lit up in the dark and growled – and Nick from the vet's with the ewe that constantly gave birth. The 'homeless' sheep and the Technicolour Dreamcoat are now in an exhibition at Farfield Mill – with invitations to appear at Penrith next year and at an International Festival of Wearable Art in New Zealand. The display in the streets of Sedbergh was so successful and gave such pleasure that the Sheepfest is now to become an annual event – always on National Heritage Day weekend – in 2015 12/13 September.

Anne Pierson, Chair Farfield Mill Arts and Heritage Centre

For mill visits and contact details
www.farfieldmill.org



Harpist – sheep's wool made out of rolled up music manuscript paper

Dales Insights

Very similar in format to the traditional 'walk and talk' day event, which has been important to the society over the past 33 years. This would involve a lecture given by an expert on Dales history, life and culture and a short walk in the local area, possibly illustrating the theme of the afternoon.

3 per year (6 events: morning & afternoon)

Vibrant Communities

All day events based on a specific settlement which would focus on aspects of the settlement and its points of interest, using its facilities for lunch (pub or café, especially if a Business Member), and involving local people and organisations in discussions about items of local relevance.

3 or 4 per year.

Classic Countryside

Medium to long, all day walks based on a relevant theme such as geology, heritage, farming, botany or the like.

3 or 4 per year.

Focus on the Dales

An annual all day event, that is in effect a mini conference, focussing on a current issue (for example, Affordable Housing) and involving other relevant organisations, to explore the issues and options surrounding the topic.

It is envisaged that this format will provide a template for future years, so that events can be planned and advertised well in advance. Look out for further details of the 2015 programme of events on the website and in future issues of the Review.

Tony Smith Chairman of the ECM Committee

Ride2Stride 2015



The Yorkshire Dales Society is once again proud to be part of the **Ride2stride** Walking Festival.

The 2015 Festival of walks, talks and music from stations on the spectacular Settle to Carlisle railway line will take place from Tuesday April 28th to Bank Holiday Monday May 4th.

Walk: Hoffman Kiln

Tuesday, 28th April 2015

Colin Speakman will lead a moderately easy walk to the rarely visited Hoffman Kiln to the north of Settle. This is an extraordinary example of a large industrial lime kiln, with echoing tunnels to explore (bring a torch). The 7 mile circular walk will also visit Stainforth and return along the banks of the river Ribble on the route of A Dales High Way.

The walk will leave Settle Station at 11:46 on the arrival of the 10:49 train from Leeds and return in time to catch the 16:35 back to Leeds. Walkers arriving at the station at 09:50 will have the opportunity to join a tour of the converted Water Tower before the walk starts.

Talk: Lady Ann Clifford

Wednesday, 29th April 2015

YDS will host a talk by Settle historian and walker, Sheila Gordon. Sheila will talk about the fascinating Lady Anne Clifford and how she was inspired to create a long distance trail, Lady Anne's Way, that follows the route this 'Great Northern Lady' took as she travelled between her castles in the late 17th century.

The talk will start at 19:30 in the Friends' Meeting House in Settle.

Full details of these and other Ride2stride events can be seen on the website.

www.ride2stride.org.uk

Enjoy an interesting range of walks and other events this winter...

All walks are free of charge and lectures are free to YDS member, but a small charge of £3 for guests.

Walks usually end by 12.30 for packed lunch or light lunch in local pub or cafe 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.**

Full details of the **Yorkshire Dales Society Events** will be found on our website www.yds.org.uk. It was not possible to give further information at the time of going to press. Please note, that the ECM Events team, with Council of Management Members, have formulated a new events strategy with a new-look programme, the new colour coding system should be particularly helpful to members, giving a clearer indication of the type of event.

February 2015 Events

(If no date is specified please check the website for updates)

Sedbergh

A Vibrant Community Event

This event will engage with the community of Sedbergh and with local organisations. Local pubs and cafes available for lunch.

Park at Joss Lane car park. Sedbergh bus 564A.

March 2015 Events

(If no date is specified please check the website for updates)

Bolton Abbey

A Dales Insight Event

An in depth look at Bolton Abbey estate and its history.

Park at the Bolton Abbey village hall. Bolton Abbey bus 747 and X75.

Key

Dales Insights -	Green	
Vibrant Communities -	Red	
Classic Countryside -	Yellow	
Focus on the Dales -	Purple	

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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Farfield Mill, Arts and Heritage Centre

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 (<i>Under 60</i>)	£400
Joint Life membership (<i>Under 60</i>)	£550
Single Life Membership (<i>Over 60</i>)	£300
Joint Life membership (<i>Over 60</i>)	£450

Business Membership	£30
Affiliate Membership (<i>Groups</i>)	£30

www.yds.org.uk

www.facebook.com/YorkshireDalesSociety

