

Summer 2015 : Issue 131

Yorkshire **DALES** review



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Yorkshire
DALES SOCIETY

- ALTRUISM AND VOLUNTEERING • CAN NATIONAL PARKS SURVIVE AUSTERITY? •
- THE SOUTHERN DALES IN TRANSITION • THE WORKHOUSE IN YORKSHIRE AND ELSEWHERE •
- INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES AND THE YORKSHIRE DALES •

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Editor Fleur Speakman



Yorkshire DALES review

ALTRUISM AND VOLUNTEERING

Someone assured me recently: I am not an altruist. They were probably a bit harder on themselves than they needed to be, as there was at least one organisation that this person unselfishly regularly devoted his time to. This concern for the welfare for others, whatever the cause, underpins that great British tradition of volunteering, of giving help and support, often on a regular basis to some particular organisation. 19.8 million adults in the UK volunteer for some cause at least once a year, with 12.7 million volunteering at least once a month. The National Trust and similar bodies are heavily dependent on volunteers to help with additional tasks which are otherwise unaffordable. On a smaller scale, often unheralded, many other people are volunteering for their local organisations, like the University of the Third Age (U3A) which is entirely staffed by volunteers, often retired teachers or academics or other very knowledgeable people with some particular skill or interest, who run courses in subjects ranging from modern languages to sports, the creative arts and a wide variety of other topics. It is a highly successful form of self-help and compensates to some extent for the extra-mural courses that were lost, formerly run by the universities or many adult evening classes previously run by local authorities.

But much nearer home, we have a group of dedicated volunteers whose work is not fully acknowledged and whose hours of work for the Dales & Bowland CIC, a subsidiary and highly successful off-shoot of the Yorkshire Dales Society, with its Sunday DalesBus network of buses, in 2014 carried a record numbers of passengers. The D&BCIC, entirely staffed by volunteers, is a year-round commitment, perhaps taken for granted by many. A small team of unpaid Directors discuss and implement strategy, spend hours of time negotiating deals with bus companies, ensuring that thousands of leaflets and fliers go out to appropriate points, and up-to-date time-tables are available in their transparent cases at the correct stopping places. The team also has to field various queries and possible complaints, and constantly raise funds as cash-strapped authorities are forced to withdraw financial support. The CIC designs much of its own very attractive literature, working with

printers, proofing quite complex texts and timetable information. Great support is also given by Friends of DalesBus, Affiliate Members of the YDS, whose tireless volunteers often travel considerable distances at their own expense in order to distribute literature, lead guided walks and help passengers on and off the bus network.

The Yorkshire Dales Society itself depends for many of its functions on volunteers at all levels. The Yorkshire Dales Review itself does take considerable time to plan, commission articles with suitable photos, write, edit, arrange lay-out, proof and mail out (this last overseen by Ann, our part time Executive Director). But without a pool of potential contributors who are volunteers, providing their work freely, the magazine would not exist. The magazine itself is of course designed and printed by skilled professionals.

A vital part of the Society, also volunteers, is the Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management which tries to reflect in its composition a range of specialisms such as farming, business interests and the environment. Many of the current Trustees have served the Society for many years very responsibly and well, but there is a shortage of younger people to take over the responsibility for running the Charity. Council also recognise the need to ensure its membership should, if at all possible, have representation from the whole of the Yorkshire Dales. If you feel that you have some time available to take on the responsibility of being a Trustee for the Society – (there are only a few Council meetings a year and there is also the option of taking part in the work of two sub-committees which best reflect your interests), do contact Ann Shadrake at the YDS office either by email or by phone well before the September AGM, if you would like to know more.

At present the Gargrave office has a number of volunteers who give Ann much-needed regular help with office related tasks, including the website. Other volunteers have been very helpful in various ways at outdoor and indoor events, though our core team of walk leaders really does need expanding. Again, if you feel that you are able to lead an occasional guided walk for a YDS group in the Dales, or would like to help with events, contact Ann for the necessary details.

We all value so much the support and encouragement of our very loyal Yorkshire Dales Society members – and its excellent volunteers.

Fleur Speakman

CAN NATIONAL PARKS SURVIVE AUSTERITY?

The creation of National Parks in England and Wales grew out of what is now loosely termed The Post War Settlement. This was a recognition that after two horrendous and punishing World Wars, during which for the first time in history, with aerial bombing of cities, and ordinary citizens dying in their homes, schools and factories, the British people deserved something better.

Military service had itself revealed huge inequalities within Society itself, as evidenced by conscripts suffering from diseases resulting from malnutrition, or from poor standards of literacy. The 1942 Beveridge Report that identified the five *Great Evils* of society – squalor, ignorance, want, idleness and disease – created the Post War concept of the Welfare State. Patrick Abercrombie's Plan for the rebuilding of post-Blitz London paved the way for the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 and with it the notion of development control to protect our towns and open spaces. And of course John Dower's great report of 1944 led, via the Hobhouse Committee in 1947, to the National Parks and Countryside Act of 1949. Among the many great achievements of this remarkable piece of legislation was not only the setting up of our National Parks, but also the Pennine Way, England's first great long distance walking trail, in 1965, opened just over 50 years ago, at a celebration on Malham Moor attended by an estimated 2,000 walkers.

But 50 years later, National Parks are in trouble. During recent election debates, rarely was the word environment mentioned by the major parties, let alone National Parks.

Yet we constantly hear claims and counter claims about which party was going to spend most money on the National Health Service, with billions of extra cash being promised. Few politicians asked how much of existing budgets, let alone new money, finds its way to multi-national corporations and international pharmaceutical companies now enjoying astronomical profits, or for that matter Accident and Emergency wards being



Mountain bikers above Arncliffe Cote, Littondale on a green lane, safeguarded from motor vehicle abuse by the National Park Authority. Will such protection survive austerity cuts?

crowded out because of lack of social care or irresponsible use of alcohol.

One huge justification for investment in National Parks is that they have the potential to deal with the root cause of much mental and physical health breakdown. By encouraging people to enjoy magnificent natural surroundings, be it mountain, moorland, forest, coastline, to take exercise whether a gentle ramble, a hike or run across the fells, a rock climb, a mountain bike ride or a kayak trip, overwhelming evidence indicates the massive physical and mental health benefits of such exercise in green spaces. This in turn reduces dependency on drugs, and medical care and prolongs active life. It is the finest form of preventive medicine. It saves the NHS huge amounts of money.

Yet compared with the billions spent on the NHS, National Parks only receive a pittance, and that pittance is under threat. In 2013/14 the 13 National Parks of England and Wales had a budget of around £56 million of which the Yorkshire Dales received £4.5 million, but this was a cut of around 20% compared with 2010/11. 2014/15 was even tougher, but far worse lies ahead in 2015/16 and beyond.

Our new Government has indicated that deficit reduction is a priority in the next Parliament, with further cuts predicted to be between £12 and £30 billion from all areas of public sector expenditure, apart from protected areas of health, education and overseas aid. No one would oppose the need to control the National Debt – even if direct taxes have to rise. But in 1947, at a time when the country was emerging from the devastating economic consequences of War, the National Debt was 2.47 times the nation's GDP, twice the present level, yet Government was building thousands of new homes, creating the health and social services, revolutionising town and country planning and setting up National Parks. But Britain survived – and on these excellent foundations flourished in the decades that followed. This was the true period of austerity with rationing of food, clothing and many other items, but unlike the present time, hardship was suffered by all members of the Society. Yet there was optimism and vision for the future.



Dr Tim Thom, YDNPA Ecologist, explains limestone pavements to National Park Conference delegates. Will such expertise be available in the future?

No one is suggesting that there should be massive budget increases at the present time, but there is a recognition that any further cuts to hard pressed National Park Authorities must mean a loss of key services – the closure of information centres and toilets, cut-backs on education and interpretive activity and projects, lack of maintenance for footpath and access areas, loss of key staff, reduced help for farmers and landowners for conservation schemes. Ironically the least popular (though essential) part of the National Park's work, development control, will continue as a legal requirement. Whilst the National Park Authority is already coming up with some highly imaginative ways of raising income from its own activities, including project management work such as the maintenance deal with Natural England to look after the Pennine Way. There is a worry this will divert scarce human resource from other, vital areas of work. Many National Park campaigners suspect that the lack of action on the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Park extensions into the eastern fells, Howgills and Orton Fells is primarily in order to save money. Landscape protection has become secondary to a penny pinching meanness.

But other people suggest that the real reason for underinvestment in National Parks is one of geography as much as politics. They are not situated in the area of England that most matters, inside the M25. Massive public and private investment in infrastructure and transport is now increasingly concentrated within Greater London, an international city state within a state. Yet in terms of regional economic regeneration, National Parks offer huge opportunity for sustainable forms of land management and tourism, the green lungs of England, places where cutting edge, IT-savvy small and medium sized businesses, including farming-based enterprises, can develop and flourish, attracted by spectacular surroundings. National Parks are places where investment in environmental protection and visitor management, coupled with sustainable forms of transport and progressive policies on social housing, education and jobs, can create strong economic development.

But if things do not change within the lifetime of this new Parliament, National Parks will be reduced to where they were in the 1950s, mere lines on a map, lacking resources for effective landscape protection and visitor management. Austerity cuts will see them

wither away. Despite nearly 200,000 signatures on a 38 Degree e-petition to stop funding cuts to National Parks, Westminster politicians continue to believe that, for most people, National Parks are of marginal interest, a concern of only a minority of generally middle aged people who join National Park Societies, CPRE or The Ramblers.

The time has come for the National Park movement to recognise a need to widen our appeal to younger audiences and wider social groups, including under-represented ethnic minorities, who also have a much younger age-profile. Another solution must be regional devolution of decision making and expenditure priorities away from Whitehall and the ever more cash-starved DEFRA towards whatever new regional development bodies that may emerge in the next decade. The alternative – Whitehall-led austerity – will see the Yorkshire Dales National Park dwindle away, suffer death by a thousand cuts, marginalised, irrelevant, a push-over for the developers of leisure centres, theme parks, or large new mansions in walled estates for the super-rich, for whom badly maintained, and even closed footpaths and loss of public access, will be a positive advantage.

Colin Speakman

THE SOUTHERN DALES IN TRANSITION

A strategy for the future for the Southern Dales

The Yorkshire Dales faces a number of demanding challenges and difficult choices in the decades ahead. The previous Government's commitment to reducing public sector expenditure in all but essential fields, a process more than likely to be continued by the newly elected Government in 2015, will cause as many problems to communities in rural as in inner urban areas, in terms of reduced public support for services such as housing, transport and social services.

The area already suffers a net out-migration of young people owing to lack of jobs, severe cuts to public transport provision, and high cost of housing. The Dales could face a demographic time bomb in the near future as elderly people who have moved to the Dales for leisured retirement require, as they age, services such as transport and social care which are being remorselessly cut back, whilst younger people required to provide adequate levels of care that this ageing population need, can no longer afford to live in or travel to the area.

At the same time, traditional local occupations such as quarrying and farming are in decline, with many hill farmers, on the one hand, facing economic hardship in terms of inadequate returns for dairy and other produce; and on the other, with Environmental Stewardship schemes and changes to the Common Agricultural Policy offering less support for landscape management, even in the National Park. Further draconian cuts to National Park and Natural England budgets in 2015 and onwards also mean less project funding with consequent impact on skilled rural jobs. Tourism, while supporting many worthwhile small businesses, tends to support jobs on little more than the minimum wage or seasonal in nature, is unattractive to career seeking young local people, but offering an opportunity for students and young migrant workers to survive in live-in accommodation whilst improving their English. The result of these trends is a loss of the essential character of Dales communities. While ongoing conservation work, such as restoring the traditional barns and walls of the Dales, planting new woodland or maintaining the rights of way network is important in preserving traditional skills, what is now also needed is a radical new approach to the key issues of employment, housing, and transport. Protecting the landscape heritage benefits visitors and hence, indirectly, tourism. Is it not appropriate that these activities should increasingly be taken on by working holidays, giving students and office workers the opportunity to enjoy the rural life as participants rather than onlookers?

Resolving the twin issues of climate change and national energy security, could offer a huge new opportunity for areas like the Yorkshire Dales to take a lead in developing new renewable energy technologies to reverse the decline in our rural working communities. Just as the industrial revolution had its birth in areas like the Pennines



Solar Panels in Malham garden

– partly because of the availability of cheap energy derived from fast flowing streams – so a new **Green Transition** based in the Pennines could bring about the resilience and economic sustainability enjoyed by previous generations while making a significant contribution to Britain's economic success in the 21st century.

In November 2014 World Bank President Jim Yong Kim warned, that some future impacts of climate change, such as more extremes of heat and sea level rise, are unavoidable. Past and predicted emissions from power plants, factories and cars have locked the globe on a path towards an average temperature rise of almost 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times by 2050. Calling these findings 'alarming', the President said in a news conference: *This means that climate change impacts such as extreme heat events may now be simply unavoidable.*

Recent floods in Cumbria and the south of England, though small in impact compared to typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, or Hurricane Sandy in the US, back up Kim's warning. The Met Office has confirmed that 2014 was a record-breaking year in the UK – the warmest yet recorded on data going back to 1659. All three of the warmest years on record in the UK have been in the last eight years: 2006, 2011 and 2014.

Climate change deniers are beginning to realise that something is happening and maybe we should do something about it. In the UK we face depletion of North Sea oil and gas reserves, increasing competition for fossil fuels and insecurity of supply routes. Closure of out-dated coal fired power stations and lack of investment in the National Grid have left our electricity supplies vulnerable to shut down, due to overload or terrorist attack. Much of our building stock is old and hard to insulate - today almost entirely reliant on imported oil and gas for heating. Fracking for shale gas is unproven in this country and highly unpopular. At best it can only provide a few decades of relief, while secure nuclear power is expensive and a long way off. Making the transition to a secure low carbon economy is a short, medium and long-term priority we must address. However, the transition to low carbon sustainable energy cannot be addressed in isolation.

In 2003 the government's Energy White Paper presented a vision of a future electricity distribution network adapting to more decentralised renewable energy, more micro generation in medium to small community power plants feeding local distribution networks, selling excess capacity to the national grid, while also relying on the grid for backup. Local heat generation would supply district heating networks using local renewable sources, such as biomass or biofuels produced from agricultural and other waste. More than a decade on, this vision has still to be realised. More people than ever are in fuel poverty, while Feed-in Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentives have led to some domestic micro generation benefiting relatively few, while huge, heavily subsidised offshore wind farms are less than adequate replacements for centralised fossil fuel plants. Tinkering with the market will not provide the whole answer, nor will it bring about the resilient society we will need in the coming decades.

The disruption to our climate, forecast by the world's scientific community, has to be addressed along with the transition to alternative sources of energy. Related measures can include developing cost effective ways of insulating new and existing properties (there is scope for making use of that most important local product, treated wool, for building insulation), exploiting photovoltaic cells in building and property improvement, and developing the concept of the low energy, low cost 'passive house' in suitable locations to both meet the desperate need for affordable housing in the Dales and reduce energy consumption for home heating. The Dales could take a lead in developing a new affordable architectural vernacular, adapted to a low carbon lifestyle and in harmony with the countryside.

Locally, severe weather events disrupt communications and power supplies and create flash floods, resulting in damage to property, loss of livestock, erosion and wasted water resources as well as hardship and loss of income for residents. An engineered transition to a wide range of renewable energy resources, combined with better river catchment management, would conserve water supplies, prevent flooding, benefit farmers and make communities more self-reliant and resilient.



Installing Sheep Wool insulation

Transport is another area where heavy reliance on the private car in the Yorkshire Dales by local residents and visitors produces a massive carbon footprint which can and should be reduced by offering genuine travel choice for at least some journeys (such as the ferrying of children), which a public service could provide. Well planned and marketed public transport does not have to depend on heavy public subsidy and can even make a profit.

The southern Dales enjoy an abundance of renewable energy resources. Community responsibility for developing these would diversify the local economy in a manner sensitive to the wishes of residents. It would provide quality jobs for local young people, while making optimum use of available assets. Communities working together can implement change far more quickly than unpopular and costly solutions imposed by central government.

It would also provide education and training opportunities, a chance to develop apprenticeships and vocational education opportunities in the new technologies, which, once pioneered through schemes in the Yorkshire Dales, could develop skills and new business opportunities for young people and business entrepreneurs, transferable to other parts of the UK and abroad. Working with academic and vocational training institutes such as local universities and colleges (Craven College would be a key player) and with the support of organisations such as the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the Dales could be a centre of excellence in this area.

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Community ownership of the means of energy production increases awareness of the need to use energy wisely. Likewise, transport networks which are managed by stakeholders inevitably increase participation and support. To a considerable degree this Green Transition represents a different kind of lifestyle choice, away from high, self-destructive consumerism, towards ways of life which respect the need to conserve and protect the planet's finite resources, including the bio-systems and wildlife habitats currently under threat from climate change.

Such a transition will make the Yorkshire Dales not only an attractive, but a practical lifestyle choice for young families, presently only able to consider migration to the cities.



Installing the Settle Hydro

This vision presents a challenge. It will not come about by relying on ad hoc development, spurred on by subsidies and resisted by nimbyism. It will require concerted effort, teamwork and commitment to develop a holistic engineering and technology-led strategy, developed and delivered in consultation and in partnership with local people, local businesses and local authorities. The development of new technologies, which would aim to be self-funding from income generated by reducing energy consumption and transmission costs, could also encourage new manufacturing and installation industries in or near the Dales, working with specialist suppliers, to help bring about the Green Transition. Such a grass-roots led transition is not fantasy; it is already happening in other European countries such as Germany, where renewable energy now forms a high percentage of the nation's energy consumption, with consequent reduced emissions and massive impact on local economies. The North of England could, like Germany, become a world leader in this kind of cutting edge, clean technology, reducing dependence on imported and ultimately uncertain fossil fuels.

In our area a recently formed group, Community Energy in Gargrave and Malhamdale CEGAM, has as its stated mission the



Wood Fuel being delivered in Malhamdale

promotion of a sustainable and energy efficient future through education, energy efficiency and the delivery of sustainable green energy projects. The group currently has 30 volunteers and are planning an energy usage survey to determine the need for measures such as insulation, double glazing, draft proofing and low energy lighting. Straddling the National Park boundary, the area includes a high proportion of very old properties, many of which are Grade 2 listed and therefore in need of specialist treatment. Efforts to improve performance and reduce energy usage will consider opportunities to encourage environmental efforts in other fields such as recycling and avoidance of waste. The potential for manufacturing insulation from sheep's wool will be considered. Concurrently a series of articles on renewable energy technologies is being published in parish magazines to raise awareness of local renewable energy resources and the technologies to exploit them. While the emphasis here will be on the generation of clean low carbon energy at point of use, consideration will be given to investing in technologies that support other rural initiatives such as the establishment locally of a wood fuel supply industry. Small scale renewable energy projects will be developed by a Community Benefit Society with profits from generation being shared between community and shareholders. Some of the group's volunteers will need to acquire new skills by attendance at courses, adding to the knowledge and skills resources of the community and supporting local adult learning centres.

In the past the Dales was a living, working landscape supporting thriving communities. Rising to the challenge to confront the *new climate normal* in this way, has a chance of securing these qualities for our descendants, and future prosperity in the Yorkshire Dales.

Such initiatives could be supported by a wider transition movement in the southern Yorkshire Dales, where already a number of other initiatives are taking place, along both the A65 and the Settle-Carlisle railway corridors. By strengthening existing and fostering new initiatives, such a movement would develop a strategy to maximise potential benefits to our rural communities and market towns, of the transition to a low carbon economy.

Sandy Tod

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MONKS THE KILNSEY ESTATE

Owner and manager Jamie Roberts of the Kilnsey estate explains some of its history and present-day attractions.



Lady's Slipper Orchid – Stephen Morley

A drive through Upper Wharfedale takes you through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Yorkshire Dales. Amidst this striking landscape of rolling meadows, stone walls and wild moorland lies the Kilnsey Estate, nestled in the shadow of the towering Kilnsey Crag. Dating back to the 1100s, the estate has been in the care of the Roberts family for over a hundred years.

History of Kilnsey

Kilnsey has had a long and fascinating history since the area was first settled. First recorded in the Domesday Book, Kilnsey was part of a vast tract of the Dales that was gifted to the monks of Fountains Abbey in 1155. The monks controlled and farmed the Estate for nearly 400 years.

With the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Fountains estate was seized and redistributed by Henry VIII. The Tennant family purchased the land and remained for almost 350 years until 1911 when the Kilnsey Estate was purchased by Bertram Roberts, great grandfather of the current owners.

The Kilnsey Estate today

Four generations of the Roberts family have lived and worked on the Kilnsey Estate. Under the family's stewardship, the estate has diversified from traditional hill-farming and a number of new attractions have been developed, including fishing lakes, a pony trekking centre and a popular café. Today Kilnsey Park welcomes almost 50,000 visitors a year and is a popular destination for those seeking a 'back to nature' family experience away from the stresses of modern life.

It was recently discovered that the monks farmed their own fish at Kilnsey in the 1200s, a tradition that continues to the current day – the Estate has its own trout farm producing 35 tons of premium fish a year in crystal clear spring water. A traditional smokehouse supplies artisan smoked rainbow trout and the estate will soon be relaunching with a new website, offering an expanded range of smoked foods sourced from the local area.

The Kilnsey Estate prides itself on being one of the most sustainable in the UK. As well as generating all its electricity from hydro-power, the shop and café are heated using water source heat pumps and solar panels have been installed. A new initiative is a biomass boiler that uses wood-chip to heat three holiday cottages.

The Estate is still farmed for sheep, as it was by the monks, but there is also a strong emphasis on conservation. Much of the land has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, meaning it is nationally important and must be managed to protect its wildlife. In 2007 the Estate was chosen as a reintroduction site for the UK's rarest wild flower, the Lady's Slipper Orchid. There are now ten of these beautiful plants growing, and each year their flowering in late May is celebrated at a special Wild About Orchids festival. Kilnsey Park is also now part of the national red squirrel conservation programme, and visitors are able to view the squirrels.

Ensuring that the business takes care of the Dales is a priority for current owner Jamie Roberts, who worked for the National Trust overseas before returning home: *We want to be recognised as a centre of excellence in conserving and telling the story of the Dales.* Each year Kilnsey Park welcomes many school groups who come to learn about its green energy and conservation work. *Hopefully we can help to inspire the next generation to take care of this magnificent landscape,* says Roberts.

The Kilnsey Estate will no doubt continue to add new chapters to its story in future. For all the change it has seen over the past thousand years, its essence remains the same: tranquillity, natural beauty and old world charm.

To find out more visit www.kilnseypark.co.uk



Barbecue – Kilnsey Park Estate

THE WORKHOUSE IN YORKSHIRE

YOU'LL END UP IN THE WORKHOUSE! & FURTHER AFIELD

This threat from the older generation was still potent enough to strike a chill even as late as the 1950s and 60s. Although officially abolished in 1930, many workhouses continued to operate, renamed as Public Assistance Institutions till at least 1948. Why were workhouses originally established? And how did they get their reputation?

Originally the Church cared for the poor, but after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, this became less feasible. A Poor Law Act of 1601 allowed parishes to levy a poor rate in a particular parish on wealthier householders, which could be distributed by an overseer to those in need. Rising costs by the eighteenth century caused several parishes to work together, (hence the use of the term "Union"), sometimes even sharing a building as they gave food and shelter to the indigent. By 1723 the *Workhouse Test* was introduced so that relief could be withheld from those who asked for help, but refused to enter the workhouse. Some politicians believed that paying outdoor relief to the poor merely encouraged idleness, while other politicians felt that making such payments allowed employers to abuse the system and pay low wages, knowing that the parish would subsidise the poor rather than let them starve. (There is something familiar about these arguments.) A series of bad harvests, the need for fewer agricultural workers, owing to new technology and returning soldiers from the Napoleonic wars in 1815 with little chance of work, began to stretch the system to breaking point.

Further economies were introduced by the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834, which compelled parishes to amalgamate into Unions, each with its Board of Guardians.



Regular chores in the Workhouse

These Unions had to build workhouses sufficient for the able bodied so that outdoor relief could be withdrawn, apart from the old, sick or widows with dependent children. There was now a strong emphasis on discouraging idleness rather than relieving destitution. A network of Yorkshire Unions was set up in the Dales and surrounding areas from 1834 onwards at: Pateley Bridge, Ripon, Skipton, Settle, Wharfedale, Knaresborough, Aysgarth, Bedale, Leyburn, Reeth and Richmond. Conditions there, as in other areas of the country, varied widely. Some workhouses in fact were more like prisons, and there was a tendency to put ex-military men in charge. Most notorious is Charles Dickens' account in *Oliver Twist* of the parish workhouse with young Oliver pleading for more food and being punished for his temerity. However, real-life conditions

as in one workhouse, could be particularly scandalous, with starving grown men reduced to gnawing horse's bones they were required to break up for fertiliser. Another real life scandal occurred in Huddersfield, the result of a typhoid outbreak, where conditions became so bad, that inmates had to share beds at times with the dead and the dying.

The world outside too could often be a very harsh place, with the workhouse as the only refuge, with its strict regime. In Ripon Workhouse & Garden, now a splendid Museum, you climb up some narrow well-worn stairs to a large grand room with an imposing table and chairs, to be inspected by the Guardians, who would decide if you were worthy of admission. When you formally entered the institution, you were stripped of your clothes, bathed and given a uniform. Your own clothes were washed

and disinfected, and possessions put into safe keeping until you were discharged. There was an emphasis on hygiene, religion and to some extent, training people for certain tasks. Punishment for bad behaviour was a reduction in the food ration or solitary confinement.

With costs ever on the increase, a Parliamentary report in 1861 revealed that throughout the country, there were 14,000 long term inmates of workhouses, with more than 40% infirm, 35% mentally impaired and in general, the remainder had a physical disease or infirmity. Increasingly an infirmary was to become an important part of such institutions. In 1853 a Compulsory Vaccination Act was passed for children in workhouses, and strengthened by later measures. Although it had not been originally intended to split up families, in practice after 1834, workhouse inmates were segregated by age and sex, and could only see each other if a weekly meeting was granted. Laurie Lee movingly describes in his autobiography *Cider with Rosie*, a frail elderly couple whom the authorities deemed unable to look after themselves. In spite of their protests, they are taken to the workhouse, and not allowed to stay together. Sadly, in spite of quite good conditions, they are both dead within a week.

However, in a well run institution, and there were quite a number of these, the inmates often had a better diet than those of the labourers outside. Details are given of the quantities of food and the daily diet, which was reasonably varied for that period – and which are also shown in convincing facsimile

in the Ripon Workhouse Museum. Staff were increasingly trained to prepare and weigh the food. A complaints book was kept and every fortnight there was an inspection by some of the Guardians. From the Ripon Workhouse records it becomes clear, that the feckless work-shy individual who brought his poverty on himself, is often far from the truth. Inmates were not only ordinary unfortunate labourers, but could also be skilled craftsmen or a well-trained upper servant, as well as other elderly folk, widows and young children or babies. The workhouse was usually the only resort too for stigmatised unmarried mothers. Fanny Robin, a young maidservant, heavily pregnant, in Thomas Hardy's novel *Far from the Madding Crowd*, struggles to reach the Casterbridge union some miles away. Close to collapse, she is taken into the union with some compassion, but much enfeebled, she is unequal to her ordeal. She and her baby both lose their lives.

Able bodied men were required to spend eight hours a day breaking stones into small pieces to mend roads, though in practice much of the stone was unusable. They also could be required to chop wood for firewood which could then be sold by the workhouse, though it was more often bought by the charitably inclined. A more popular job was working in the workhouse garden which grew vegetables for the workhouse, which could then sell any surplus. The women had to do laborious laundry work by hand, while older women would look after the children.

The number of parish workhouses by 1776 in England and Wales was more than 1800, with

a total capacity of more than 90,000 places. Although there had been a workhouse on the site in Ripon since 1776, a fine new building was completed in 1855, which had its own teacher, chaplain, doctors and infirmary. It is a splendid impressive complex, complete with furnished schoolroom, vagrants' cells, where the unfortunates were locked in for the night in a narrow space furnished with a bed, and given food in the morning if they agreed to complete a particular task. The baths used when all inmates first arrived and an area for fumigating the newcomers' clothes still exists. But at least a principle was established that free medical care was available in the institution and young children also received free basic schooling and some training for their future – something not available to the poor on the outside who had to pay for such services. As time passed, paid trained staff were increasingly used and the more punitive elements of the regime softened, with outings and special entertainment arranged; always highly popular occasions.

In 1929 legislation was passed to allow local authorities to take over the workhouse infirmaries as municipal hospitals. Nowadays St James Hospital in Leeds and St Luke's in Bradford are housed in original workhouse buildings, a tribute to the substantial style in which they were built; with many other similar buildings in other areas used for the same purpose.

George Orwell's *Down and Out Paris and London*, gives an absorbing insider account of how vagrants or tramps were treated in the various casual wards or *spikes*. Generally allowed only to stay one night, this forced them to keep tramping round the countryside. It is thought that the origin of the nickname spike referred to the metal *spike* used for picking oakum; a task for inmates in some workhouses and particularly used in the prisons. The technique involved untwisting old rope which would be re-used to caulk ship's seams.

Ripon Workhouse & Garden museum gives some excellent insights into an institution now long gone, but which in some ways, was actually the real beginning of the state undertaking some responsibility for some of its more unfortunate citizens.

For details of opening times and access see www.riponmuseums.co.uk

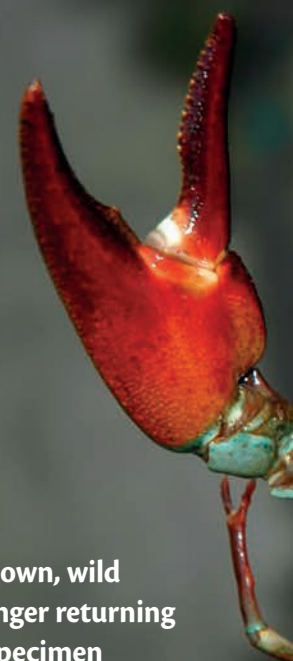
Fleur Speakman



Ripon Workhouse & Garden, (museum)

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

AND THE YORKSHIRE DALES



As the world becomes ever more connected, and barriers to free trade between countries come down, wild species are increasingly being spread beyond their natural range. Whether as an accidental passenger returning home on a landing net from an overseas fishing trip, or as a deliberate purchase of an aquarium specimen online, non-native species and wildlife diseases are a rapidly growing concern across the Yorkshire Dales.

Once introduced, non-native species may be separated from natural predators, parasites and diseases that kept them in balance in their native environments. A small but hugely significant proportion of introduced non-native species become invasive pests, with potentially devastating consequences. The problem can be especially acute in aquatic environments, where impacts can be especially severe, and where prospects for any effective control are very limited. Invasive non-native species (INNS) are increasingly regarded as a form of biological pollution, which can result in the permanent loss of 'naturalness'. INNS can also bring significant economic consequences, and have now been estimated to cost the UK economy £1,700,000,000 per year.

At present, much of the Yorkshire Dales (along with Scotland) currently remains INNS-free. However, INNS are increasingly widespread elsewhere in England, and new invasive species are being discovered with increasing frequency. The threat to the surviving 'naturalness' of the Yorkshire Dales is growing with each year. For example Demon Shrimp (a small freshwater crustacean native to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea region) was first discovered in the UK in the River Severn in October 2012. Only two years later (Nov 2014), Demon Shrimp were found to have been introduced to the Leeds Liverpool Canal, on the very edge of the Yorkshire Dales. Although individuals are physically small, such species can rapidly achieve very high biomass, and may exert huge pressure on indigenous ecological systems. And as a result of improved shipping connections across the European continent, the UK is predicted to face a succession of further aquatic invaders from the Ponto-Caspian region around Turkey and Ukraine – with unknown consequences for our native wildlife, native fisheries and the natural functioning of our rivers, lakes and ponds.



At present, the most problematic INNS in the Yorkshire Dales is a North American species. First introduced to the Dales 40 years ago, American signal crayfish are now widespread in one river system. The unwelcome consequences of this invasive non-native species are now becoming increasingly apparent. Not only does this species aggressively out-compete our only native crayfish species, it also potentially carries 'crayfish plague', which can rapidly remove entire populations of white-clawed crayfish. There is also increasing evidence of adverse impact on native fish species of headwater becks, and there are increasing concerns that further spread of American signal crayfish would increasingly impact on salmon and trout fishing in the Dales. Recent research has also started to reveal the impact of this high-density species on the geomorphology of our rivers – burrowing into banks and increasing sediment loads. Fortunately however, most Dales watercourses currently remain free of American signal crayfish, and the region still supports significant populations of native white-clawed crayfish - now an internationally endangered species.

Once INNS are introduced to freshwater systems, it is usually impossible to eradicate them. For example, it has been conclusively demonstrated, elsewhere in the country, that no amount of trapping of American signal crayfish has ANY prospect of controlling them. On the contrary, trapping activity elsewhere in the country has been found to be associated with increasing risk of the further spreading of American signal crayfish and 'crayfish plague' to new areas. For these reasons, the Environment Agency does not normally consent to any trapping of American signal crayfish in this region, and will prosecute anyone found illegally setting crayfish traps in the Yorkshire Dales. Left alone, the species spreads quite slowly, and we might have many decades to find a biological solution to the problem.

Further details and learning resources are available at the website of the GB Non-native Species Secretariat at www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm if you suspect INNS.



The best way to control the problem of invasive non-native species is to prevent them from being introduced in the first place. This often entails education campaigns to increase public awareness, by organisations such as the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust. For our part, as a Dales-based ecology practice, PBA has appeared on a number of high profile media features over the last three years, including two appearances on BBC1 *Countryfile*, an episode of Ray Mears' *Wild Britain*, and on BBC2 *Winterwatch* with Chris Packham in January 2015.

So what can you do? Biosecurity is about reducing the risk of introducing or spreading invasive non-native species (and other harmful organisms such as diseases) in the wild. When we visit other island states, such as Australia and New Zealand, we are well-used to biosecurity precautions. And many of us still very clearly remember the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001, and some of the biosecurity provisions that were put in place at that time. We now need to apply similar levels of public awareness to help protect the surviving 'naturalness' of the Yorkshire Dales. The risk is especially high in aquatic systems, and DEFRA has launched the Check-Clean-Dry campaign to help control the risk of introducing or spreading INNS.

Over recent years, a number of national parks have introduced additional biosecurity policies and procedures. I would suggest that now is the time for a Biosecurity Action Plan for the Yorkshire Dales. The Plan needs to map those parts of the Dales of greatest 'naturalness', and natural features need to be classified according to their vulnerability to INNS invasion. Policies and procedures can then be put in place to most effectively and cost-efficiently protect this very special place from such unwelcome consequences of our ever more connected World.

Paul Bradley, Director of PBA, Applied Ecology Ltd.

email: p.bradley@pba-ecology.co.uk

Saving Open Spaces

Kate Ashbrook (Pitkin Press) at £5, includes p&p
ISBN 978-1-84165-617-5

2015 is another anniversary – that of the Open Spaces Society which celebrates the 150th year of its foundation as the Commons Preservation Society, by George Shaw-Lefevre, at a meeting on 19th July 1965 in London. Within a year the new Society was involved in an epic battle to save Berkhamstead Common, its supporters tearing down the illegal fences erected by Lord Brownlow to keep the public off his land.

The magnificent story of the Society and its many major political and legal victories to safeguard many of Britain's most treasured open spaces, including Burnham Beeches, Epping Forest, and countless village greens and areas of open common, is recalled in a beautifully written and illustrated booklet by one of Britain's most distinguished countryside campaigners, Kate Ashbrook. The Open Spaces Society, as it became known in 1982, played a leading role in the creation of the National Trust, in securing the great 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, in advising Parish Councils and local amenity groups following the 1965 Commons Registration Act to save thousands of local commons and village greens, and in more recent times, getting the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 onto the statute book. This has opened up huge areas of open, unenclosed moorlands and fells in the Yorkshire Dales National Park to full public access.

Kate is herself a long standing member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, and she notes the major contributions made by three other YDS members to commons and open space protection – Alan Mattingly, the former Secretary of the Ramblers Association, our own Jerry Pearlman who did much fine work on the CROW Act, and perhaps most important of all, an unsung hero, the late Richard Harland of Grassington, who in the 1960s and 70s masterminded the painstaking recording and safeguarding of so many commons, greens and open spaces in the Dales. Few people enjoying the many opportunities in the Yorkshire Dales for informal outdoor recreation appreciate the debt we owe to people like Kate Ashbrook herself, and to her many other Open Spaces Society colleagues. This booklet rightly celebrates that achievement. But it ends with a warning – the threats to our open spaces and our footpaths by developers and their friends in Government remain as real as they ever did, and *the Society has not, unfortunately, done itself out of a job.*

CS



The Heart of the Pennine Way

Skyware Press, at £9.99 (ISBN 978-0-9559987-9-9) www.skyware.co.uk or local bookshops.



Tom Stephenson and Fred Willey MP at opening of the Pennine Way.

50 years ago, in Spring 1965, I was part of a group of West Riding Ramblers on Malham Moor taking part in the opening ceremony, with the then Minister for Land and Natural Resources, Fred Willey. But the real star of the show was that remarkable visionary and outdoor campaigner Tom Stephenson, whose concept and passion the Pennine Way had been for over 30 years. Tom, who never lost the soft Lancashire burr of his home town Burnley, was one of the true founding fathers of the National Park movement in Britain, a hero of the fight for access to our hills and mountains. The 268 mile Pennine Way National Trail is his true and lasting memorial. A great lover of the Yorkshire Dales, Tom once told me that his favourite section of the Pennine Way was in Swaledale, recalling that magnificent view down the dale from Kisdon hill. He climbed Pen y Ghent on his 80th birthday and remained a keen fell walker until his nineties.

He would have warmly welcomed this timely and celebratory publication from the excellent Saltaire-based Skyware Press - Yorkshire Dales Society Business Members. Written, illustrated and published by Tony and Chris Grogan, the new guide highlights the central 165 mile section of the Pennine Way between the UK's first Walkers are Welcome town of Hebden Bridge in Calderdale, and Housesteads Fort on Hadrian's Wall, and Bardon Mill.

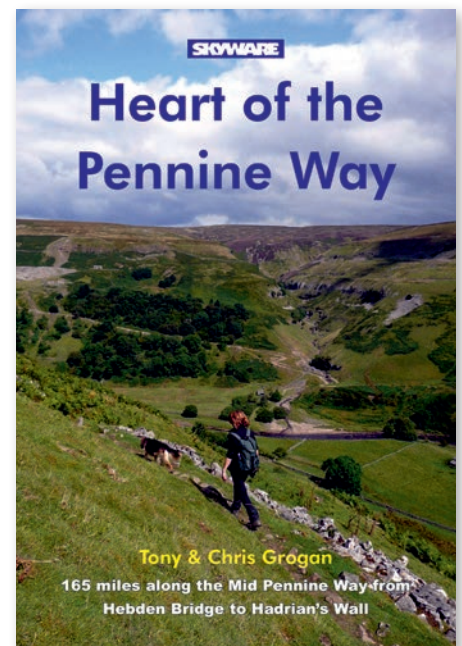
OK, the Pennine Way for softies perhaps, but arguably by cutting out some of the tough and for many people, tedious moorland boggy stretches over Bleaklow and Black Hill, and by dividing the Way into reasonably accessible day stages, (with the exception of Tan Hill, all served by public transport), many more people will be encouraged to tackle the route. Cleverly they make use of the new Hebden Bridge Loop developed by local walkers, as the original Pennine Way by-passed what was in the 1960s an industrial town, but is now a welcoming tourist centre. And for purists, the missing links from Edale and through the Cheviots to Kirk Yetholm are described and mapped in the appendix.

As always in Skyware guides, Tony Grogan's detailed, beautifully drawn maps over an OS base are supported by clear and informative text by both authors, enriched with thumb nail photographs. The A5 size enables the book to fit into a rucksack pocket and be easy to handle even in rain (a transparent plastic

bag will be an essential accessory), yet is large enough to read maps easily.

This guide will encourage and enable many more people to walk at least parts and perhaps the whole of the Pennine Way. Tom Stephenson, a generous man with a passion to encourage everyone to enjoy the open spaces and footpaths of his beloved Pennines, would have been truly delighted.

Colin Speakman



Watching Wildlife – The Moonbeams

This latest CD from Long Preston based folk group Moonbeams, (lead singer our own Jon Avison) must be the best so far. The music is a mixture of traditional and contemporary folk and Country and Western, but the lyrics are haunting, and at times poetic, strongly influenced by the Dales landscape and communities, and the collection, has already been cited as one of the best folk albums of 2015. I especially liked *Watching Wildlife* with its birdlife, *Boots* that evokes so well the joys of walking the high fells, the melancholy of *I Walked Out*, the mystery and love of *Hefted (Kirkby Fell)*, and the evocative imagery of *I am October* – "I am October I'm russet and golden, I'm the morning fog, I'm the evening haze". For details of how to purchase the new collection log onto www.themoonbeams.co.uk £1 from every £10 sale goes to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and also to the Yorkshire Dales Society.

REDUNDANT RAILWAY STATION TO TOWN'S TOP VISITOR ATTRACTION

THE STATION

Richmond

The Station Richmond was an important redundant building that was turned into a vibrant community centre. Richmond Preservation Building Trust (The Station) is also one of our newest Business Members see page 17.

Still instantly recognisable as a substantial piece of Victorian industrial architecture, step inside this honey coloured building by the River Swale, and you'll be transported into a busy business and leisure hub.

With a three screen cinema, café restaurant, bakery, brewery, fudge, cheese and ice cream maker, and an estate agent, as tenants within the building, The Station, in the market town of Richmond is popular with visitors and locals alike, drawing more than 350,000 people every year through its doors, straight onto the original railway platform.

Run by the Richmondshire Buildings Preservation Trust (RBPT), the charity set up in 2003 to devise a new use for the Old Station, the venue has become a much-loved arts venue, with gallery space for established and emerging professional and amateur artists booked more than a year ahead. It operates a vintage inspired lifestyle store, Lost & Found, which raises vital funds for the continuing development and upkeep of the building.

Richmond Railway Station was built in 1846 and closed in 1969. It was initially converted for use as a garden centre, but then, in 2002, the Grade II listed building, became redundant and the District Council planned to sell it to developers.

"The ideas put forward by developers were not generally welcomed by local people", explains current RBPT Chairman, James Gravenor. "With a modest source of funds from local people and help from the Architectural Heritage Fund, we were able to produce good quality literature with some of our possible ideas. We consulted across the locality and sent



Richmond Station brought back to life: Now a thriving centre since renovation

every household in Richmond a questionnaire. This consultation established a desire for a cinema, meeting rooms, café – restaurant and an arts display space".

The Trustees sold this vision to Yorkshire Forward and Richmondshire District Council, and networked to locate all possible funding options. The resulting grant applications and private fundraising was undertaken almost entirely by the Trustees or by supporters who all gave their time for nothing. £2.75m was raised and The Station opened in November 2007 as a venue for Film, Food and Art. The funding came from the European Community, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Yorkshire Forward, various Government Grants and private sector sponsorship. A significant part of the total was raised by supporters holding events in the empty building and at other venues throughout the town.

Two Little girls in costume



Whilst the railway line itself is long gone, many visitors enjoy walking down the old trackbed, crossing the river and visiting the ruins of Easby Abbey as part of their visit to The Station. Coffee and cakes, or an ice cream as a reward for a circular stroll are frequently enjoyed!

Items from The Station's past are preserved and displayed on a regular basis throughout the building, with comprehensive interpretation panels explaining the history of the building and its social and historic context. The Station is part of the Richmond Cultural Education Partnership and works alongside The Georgian Theatre Royal and The Green Howards Museum to offer an exciting range of sessions for school groups.

"We need to manage constant change and respond to the ever-changing market place, such as the Catterick Town Centre development and designer retail development at Scotch Corner", says James. "We now control the car park, and will have some additional space to utilise within the building due to the relocation of an electricity substation from inside to outside. The process of attracting new Friends, volunteers and Trustees to support the charity is an ongoing one. The Trust is also looking at taking on new projects to preserve other buildings and land in Richmond".

www.thestation.co.uk

Fiona Hall

NEWS, 'VIEWS' AND BEQUESTS

Successful Sedbergh!

We were delighted by the response to our first Vibrant Communities event at Sedbergh on Saturday 21 February. Local YDS Member Ian McPherson (who is also a Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), organised an excellent programme with input from many local organisations. More than 25 people attended the day with 10 arriving by train into Dent Station, then boarding the community service run by Western Dales Bus. In fact the bus was so full that Jock Cairns, Chair of Western Dales Bus, turned out in his landrover to carry the surplus passengers! We received record feedback into the office from Members and others – I think these quotes speak for themselves:



Sedbergh Day – photo Ian Macpherson

“Congratulations and many thanks to Ian McPherson and his team for a very interesting day out in Sedbergh... I'm sure many of us who attended will be returning in order to explore in more depth some of the points raised.”

“A fascinating visit to [Sedbergh] school ... was a lovely example of YDS members enjoying privileged access to places they could not [otherwise] get to with a local expert - the beautiful 18th century library, the school chapel, main buildings, theatre/concert hall!”

“We went to the excellently organised and well led YDS outing yesterday to Sedbergh. We did not just see the town, but learned about its soul.”

Our next Vibrant Community event is a mini tour of Leyburn, as part of the AGM visit day on 19 September (see Events page for full details). We've had lots of suggestions for future visits - Richmond, Clapham and Ilkley for example – so if you would like to help organise one of those just let me know!



YDS Walk at Bolton Abbey March 2015 – Ann Shadrake

Beautiful Bolton Abbey

The traditional walks and talks event (Dales Insights) is a key part of our annual events programme. We had a great day out with volunteer Bernard Peel at Bolton Abbey on 21 March 2015, exploring the less visited southern stretch of the estate, before going *off piste* to cross to Lud Island and its secret views down the Wharfe. After lunch, YDS Member John Sheard gave an excellent talk about the area, drawing on his personal experience as a retired Estate Manager. We know that some Members may struggle to attend the longer or more active walks. Bernard has offered to put on a couple of short walks for Members on Wednesday 12 August and Wednesday 9 September (see events pages). The location and routes will be devised in consultation with those who would like to attend, so do contact Bernard at the office if you are interested.

LEGACIES & 'IN MEMORIAM' DONATIONS

Recently the Society received a very kind bequest of £5,000 from the estate of the late Dr Thomas George Palferman, who sadly passed away in April 2014. Dr Palferman had a great love of the Dales and a passion for fell walking; he and his wife joined the Society more than 25 years ago*.

Funeral collections are sometimes arranged by families to mark their loved one's association with the Yorkshire Dales. We recently received a total of £785 from friends and relatives of the late Mr Surr Carl Newton, a Member of the Society who passed away early in 2015. These are always acknowledged and sincere condolences sent.

AGM 2015

We are trying a new format for the AGM this year – and it promises to be a really stimulating day out in Leyburn on 19 September. Following an offer from local Member Sheila Simms, a mini Vibrant Community event will be offered in the morning. This will showcase much of what the local community and independent traders are doing to enhance Leyburn to benefit local people and visitors. If you don't want to join this walking tour, then relaxing at the venue (the Garden Rooms at Tennants) would be a great option – there is a lovely cafe with comfy sofas and free newspapers, a Sensory Garden to look round and fascinating display cabinets. There's a big free car park and the venue is a few hundred yards from the nearest bus stop, along a pavement, so it's really accessible too. We're delighted to have David Butterworth, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, as our guest speaker at 2:00 p.m. You are very welcome to bring guests to the morning event, or to David's presentation.

The formal business meeting will commence at 3:15 p.m. As well as the normal business, Trustees will put forward a special resolution concerning the updated Articles of Association. These are based on the modern template provided by the Charity Commission and have been approved by Trustees. Trustees had hoped to present the new Articles at last year's AGM, but the Charity Commission asked for a few minor changes which took a while to sort out. The Charity Commission have now approved the new Objects and the other regulated Articles. I will put the new draft Articles up on the website, and I can send out postal copies to any Member who would like one in advance of the AGM.

Ann Shadrake

**Mrs Palferman has kindly given us permission to note this legacy in the Review.*



YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to each of them!



grounds, complete with outdoor seating and sunny patio. All guest rooms are en suite. Locally sourced food is served at breakfast and with packed lunches. Within easy reach are a good choice of walks to Linton Falls and Grassington and much more.

www.lintonlaithe.co.uk



courses in a variety of subjects, and as a useful meeting place for the community. The Station is managed by the Richmond Building Preservation Trust and is a registered charity (1099607). The charity's main object is to preserve for the people of Richmondshire and the nation, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage in and around Richmondshire (see article page 15).

www.richmondstation.com



organisations. It is using its Beer Festival in November in Grassington to promote and fund its ideas. Jonathan Shepherd and Dave Eggleton see it all as a way of putting something back into the community.

www.upperwharfedalecic.com



Classic Car Hire North

the recipient can choose their own special day. The cars can also be hired for photo shoots, film, TV and corporate events. Services are within easy reach of all the major cities in the area.

www.classiccarsinthenorth.co.uk



Cum-Bye Arts - Bev Parker is a landscape and agrarian artist based in Gargrave. Following her first solo exhibition "Making a Mark" held at Yorkshire Dales National Park HQ in Bainbridge in 2013, Bev Parker was selected to show at Skipton's Art in the Pen in 2014 and again in 2015. Bev continues to expand her artistic styles, depicting landscape features and farm animals, especially sheep of the Northern Dales. Bev worked for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for 23 years and in retirement is now studying for a B. A.(Hons) Fine Art degree at Craven College.

Telephone: 01756 749910 Email: cumbye.arts@gmail.com

GREAT SUCCESS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECT



An asset which could act as a model elsewhere

Clapham Village Store is a community managed business that provides groceries, fresh bread, newspapers and other products on a daily basis. Later in the summer it will also provide post office services. 165 people are shareholders in this co-operative. How did this all come about? As we reported in an earlier issue of the YDS Review, in 2014 a few residents, concerned that they would lose their local village shop, began to look at the feasibility of community ownership. After the formation of a steering group, nearly £50,000 was raised, including over £30,000 through a community share offer. Grants from the Yorkshire Dales Sustainable Development Fund, the Plunkett Foundation, the Craven Trust, Craven District Council and a local charity were able to cover the rest. But it was local enthusiasm that ensured that the scheme would undoubtedly reach a highly successful conclusion.

The new shop opened in March 2015, with Helen Rollinson, as full-time shop manager. Helen had already had a great deal of experience in finance management and had also worked previously on a similar successful project. In addition, a number of volunteers give their services in order to ensure the continued success of the scheme. Call in as a customer if you are in the area and see for yourselves the attractive range of goods on offer.

The shop is open Monday - Wednesday 8am - 5pm, Thursday - and Friday 8am - 7pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am - 2pm. For further details see www.claphamvillage.co.uk



SWALEDALE MUSEUM

Tucked away just off the square in Reeth, and entered via an attractive cottage garden full of flowers and herbs, the Swaledale Museum has much to offer the visitor: evidence of the life of the earliest settlers, lead mining tools, archive photos and posters, some splendid Dales kitchen utensils and much more. DalesBus users and/or YDS members are offered a discount of 10% off the admission price. It is well worth visiting this Dales folk museum, which varies its exhibits from time to time. See the back page photo for a sample of some of the smaller items.

Opening times in 2015 are from May 23rd to October 31st Monday - Saturday 10am - 5 pm. You will be warmly welcome.

Website details: www.swaledalemuseum.org

KETTLEWELL YHA & POST OFFICE

A YOUNG COUPLE WITH FAMILY TAKE OVER

Kettlewell YHA bought by Saul and Floss Ward in January 2015, continues to warmly welcome walkers -part of a 70 year-old tradition. The village Post Office now housed in the Hostel Hallway, offers a range of services. As Saul says: *The nearest branch of most banks is a 30 mile round trip from Kettlewell. Here you can pay in cheques and cash into most banks, top up your mobile, pick up your Euros or dollars, obtain cash, and pay the bills.* They believe that keeping a rural post office is not just about selling stamps, but offering more, such as some very attractive craft items *Handmade in Kettlewell, like the Sockmonsters (see photo).*



Saul adds: *We have plans to introduce some second hand books into the dining room, and a small craft shop and gallery, and perhaps sell cups of coffee.* The Ward family have already begun to play an important part in a vibrant community.









The Kettlewell Post Office is open 10.30 to 1.00 weekdays, telephone: 01765 760232 or contact saulward@hotmail.com

An enjoyable mix of events for the active and those who prefer to take life at a slower pace.

All walks free of charge and lectures free to YDS members, with small £3 charge to non-members. Try to use public transport when you can.

Check www.dalesbus.org for up to date transport details, for rail information www.nationalrail.co.uk or *Traveline* 0871 200 2233.

Key

-  Dales Insights
-  Vibrant Communities
-  Classic Countryside
-  Focus on the Dales
-  Yorkshire Dales Society
-  Ride 2 Stride

Saturday, 18 July 2015

 **Long** 

Wharfedale Cliffs and Crags

A full day out on a 10 mile walk from Grassington exploring the award winning restored Threshfield Quarry with its amazing vistas of disused quarry cliffs, then across the moor dropping back to Kilnsey with views of the famous crag. A further climb up the dramatic mini gorge towards Coniston Dib, then onwards across the limestone moor past old settlements and a lime kiln to return to Grassington. Plenty of time along the way to enjoy picnic stops and views. Please ensure you pack sufficient refreshment for the day. Well behaved dogs on leads allowed (update from previous entry). Walk finishes approx 4:00 with time to explore Grassington's tea shops, pubs and interesting shops. Why not make your visit even more sustainable by booking local accommodation?

Meet 09:45 outside the National Park Centre, Grassington.

Bus 72 d. Skipton Bus Station 0900

Wednesday, 12 August & Wednesday, 9 September 2015

 **Short** 

Short Walks for Members

Bernard Peel, regular office and events volunteer, is offering two opportunities to join him on easy short walks in lovely locations in the Dales, of no more than 4 miles and with gentle ascents. He hopes these will be of interest to less active Members for example. The locations and meeting points will be arranged depending on Members' interests, but typically would be a path following the contour at the head of a valley or a level walk around a Dales reservoir/lake.

Please email Bernard on office@yds.org.uk or ring him on 01746 749400 (leave message if necessary) so he can discuss with you personally. Bernard is normally in the office on Thursdays.

Saturday, 19 September 2015

 **Short** 

Leyburn Vibrant Community walking tour followed by AGM

As reported in the Spring Review, the AGM will be held at a fantastic venue, the newly opened Garden Rooms at Tennants, Leyburn. Meet here for the morning mini "Vibrant Community" walking tour of Leyburn Town including a short walk along local landmark "The Shawl" with stunning views. Local YDS Member Sheila Simms is arranging the programme, working with the very active Town Team who care passionately about Leyburn and want locals and visitors to enjoy and appreciate what the town has to offer – and to improve that experience with new signs, festivals and facilities. If you aren't able to participate in the town walk, then you are very welcome to spend the morning at Tennants and enjoy the lovely facilities (café, Sensory Garden, sale display cabinets, toilets).

After time for lunch locally, we will convene at 2:00 p.m. at Tennants to welcome our guest speaker David Butterworth, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, who we know will offer a thought provoking and topical presentation! Following a short tea break, the formal business meeting of the AGM will start at 3:15 p.m. to conclude by 4:15 p.m.

Ample free parking and public transport friendly. No dogs except RAD inside the Garden Rooms. We are very grateful to Tennants for hosting and sponsoring this event.

Meet at The Garden Rooms, Tennants for walking tour of Leyburn departing 10:30 a.m. prompt. Lunch break 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Afternoon registration at 1:45 p.m. for our speaker at 2:00 p.m. prompt. Short tea break before AGM at 3:15 p.m. Day ends approx 4:15 p.m. For public transport times to Leyburn log onto www.dalesbus.org

Why not make your visit even more sustainable by booking local accommodation? There is a special Sunday morning walk you could join as well - see next event entry. Accommodation list available from Ann at the office.

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

Sunday, 20 September 2015

 **Medium** 

Walking with the Wensleydale Railway

Join Colin Speakman, Vice President of the Society, on a combined railway journey/walk with a trip on the historic Wensleydale Railway.

Meet in Leyburn Market Place (by shelter) 1030 for a seven mile moderate walk on field paths and tracks via Leyburn Shawl, Preston under Scar and Bolton Park to Redmire – for late lunch stop, (bring mid morning snack) before catching an afternoon train to Leyburn. Return times from Redmire to be confirmed - special train service that day as part of the Wensleydale Railway Beer Festival (chance to visit Festival).

DalesBus 856 Northallerton Buck Inn d. 0930 for Leyburn (a.1010) via Bedale.

Saturday, 3 October 2015

 **Long** 

Foxup Trek: Walking where few have gone before!

Courtesy of YDS Members Mike and Jan Stephenson, a challenging circular trek from Foxup to Cosh Knott Trig Point and Memorial (599m), returning on the high level moorland arc to the path across Eller Carr and back to Foxup. Approx 8 miles over unfrequented (often wet in parts) rough ground to the source of Cosh and Foxup becks, affording spectacular views on a clear day of Foxup Moor (a water shed, draining to west and east coasts of England); and of all the high ground of Craven, the Three Peaks and beyond. Approx 300m of rising ground throughout the day.

Meet at 10:30 at Bridge Farm, Foxup (head of Littondale). Parking (about 10 spaces so please car share if possible) and toilet available. Ends approx 4:30 with tea and cakes provided by Mike and Jan. Bring packed lunch. No dogs. Foxup is approached either by the minor moorland road from Stainforth or from the B6160 from Kilnsey and minor road through Littondale.

Nearer the time please contact Ann at the office to offer car share/reserve your parking space, or offer/request a lift from Settle for those using public transport.

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



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

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Please note it would be extremely helpful if you could email ann.shadrake@yds.org.uk when possible rather than telephone, to facilitate the smooth-running of the YDS office. Phone 01756 749 400.

Information about the Society can be found on www.yds.org.uk

Information about the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company can be accessed on www.dalesandbowland.com

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