

Yorkshire **DALES** review

Autumn 2015 : Issue 132




Yorkshire
DALES SOCIETY

CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY

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Yorkshire DALES review

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO MEMBERS



It is a privilege to take on the role of Chairman and I look forward to helping take the Society forward in these interesting times of opportunity and challenge. I'd like to thank Jon Avison for his time as Chair, in which he helped increase the relevance and profile of the Society, particularly within the Dales' communities, and energised its activities; as admirably demonstrated in the very successful National Park Societies' conference last October which Jon took the lead on – including securing substantial support of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) as conference partner. Thanks also to Jon Beavan who has made a significant contribution to the Society as Vice Chairman.

I firmly believe that the need for a Society like ours has never been greater. The benefits of National Parks are well recognised and appreciated by those who live and work in them or are fortunate enough to visit them. It is not so clear that government feels the same way and this is manifested in: the severe budget cuts being experienced by the National Park Authorities (custodians of our National

Parks) and service providers (for transport for example); the increasing pressure to permit developments which are inconsistent with the statutory purposes of National Parks; and increasing political apathy towards environmental issues.

We, of course, recognise the pressure that the public finances are under and the need for all to share the pain, but if you consider that the English taxpayer pays less than £1 per person per year for the administration of our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty, it does beg the question if further reduction to the Park Authorities' budgets is wise. The living, working landscapes of these areas underpin the economy and the health and well-being of society and these benefits are surely worth this modest cost.

With regard to the development challenge, we also recognise the potential tension between the need for economic growth and the need to: *Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks* as specified in their statutory purposes. Conservation means, to me, *wise use* of resources, and this can go hand in hand with the economic well-being of our local communities. The sympathetic conversion, for example, of a derelict roadside barn to a residence conserves it, whilst benefiting local builders and suppliers. We, however, need to speak out when we see this economic/conservation balance going awry which we feel it has done in the Potash Mine decision in the North York Moors National Park, (see pages 6-7 in the Review). The Society, together with partner organisations, objected to this development.

We are a campaigning organisation and the need for support for the YDNPA in the face of funding cuts and the striking of an appropriate balance between conservation and the economy in potential major developments

(quarrying is an example in the Dales), are areas I would like us to focus on. We will continue to develop policy positions on significant issues in the Dales and to monitor Planning Applications with a view not only to object to those we have concerns with, but also to be supportive of those we believe merit it.

As well as *Campaign* and *Protect*, our other core purpose is *Enjoy*. We are blessed with having so much in the Dales to enjoy - the interaction of people with nature has produced a landscape of remarkable beauty and distinctive character - and I hope we can entice more members to join us in the events we organise. Our rebranded *Dales Insights*, *Vibrant Communities*, *Classic Countryside* and *Focus on the Dales* events offer wonderful opportunities to learn more about our landscape, communities, cultural heritage, and wildlife as well as spending time with like-minded people. To get to them, use can be made of our very own DalesBus service, operated by our subsidiary the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company. You can read all about the events, before and after, in the Review, which I'm sure you'll agree with me, is a fantastic journal and window on the Society.

Believe it or not, next year is the Society's 35th birthday and as well as using the anniversary to reflect on what the Society has achieved so far and to chart our way forward for the next few years - which I hope will include attracting more Trustees, volunteers and members to join us - we need to find an appropriate way to celebrate and mark the event. Ideas welcome and please do contact me directly on mark.r.corner@hotmail.com on this or any other YDS matter.

Mark Corner

FORESTRY AND WOODLAND

An excellent Policy Statement has been produced by the Yorkshire Dales Society's Policy Committee (formerly the Environmental, Social and Economic Policy Committee) which sets out, with great clarity, the Society's position on forestry and woodland issues in the Yorkshire Dales, including the National Park, Nidderdale AONB and surrounding areas within the Dales.

It might be asked, that as the Society does not have any woodland of its own, nor, unlike our sister charity, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, if it is not directly involved with tree planting projects or woodland management, why does it need to have a policy on woodland?

But as a campaigning body, it is important for us to have clear, well thought-through ideas on every aspect which affects the special environment of the Dales. This has to include the wider social and economic issues, the well-being of local communities, that underpin the safeguarding of that environment. The landscape we enjoy today is a direct reflection of both the historic and the living culture of an area. As the Society has always suggested, *a landscape is a people*.

The purpose of the Policy Statement is simple. When the Society is commenting on the activities of other bodies, be it Government bodies such as the Forestry Commission, the National Park Authority or Nidderdale JAC, or even our partner organisations such as the National Trust, Woodland Trust or Millennium Trust, as well as private landowners, farmers and other individuals, we can do so from a perspective of a body which has taken time and effort to read the research, listen through the often complex and sometimes contradictory arguments, and often come up with ideas of our own to take the debate, and eventually the action, forward. This reduces the risk of our officers making comments that otherwise could be seen to be subjective and personal, but in fact reflect a robust case. As an educational charity, it is also our core purpose to help maintain the special qualities of the Dales by persuading other organisations and individuals to share our ideas and values. This is the most effective way of seeing positive change, by a process of consent and shared values. That is what the Yorkshire Dales Society was set up to achieve.

The Policy Statement is readily accessible to all members via the YDS's website (www.yds.org.uk). It sets out the YDS's position in ten clear stages, beginning with the simple fact that native woods are an essential component of the beauty of the landscape, and the natural and cultural history of our area. The Society wants to see active management of all such woodland, especially the few remaining ancient and semi-natural woods, because of the multiple benefits such tree cover brings – biodiversity, carbon capture, enhancement of water quality through reduced run-off, as well as their economic value to landowners and local communities. Biosecurity in woodland is seen as a high priority, with saplings and young trees being sourced from verifiable local provenance with a history of being grown in mainland Britain. This is a major issue, given the increase in diseases affecting individual tree species, most alarming chalara, ash die-back, which tragically has been diagnosed in the southern Dales this spring.



Ancient Woodland in Colsterdale

Research is cited that indicates that mixed woodland and hedges can have real benefits for upland farming, including shelter belt provision, flood-risk management as well as timber production, for example for coppicing. The YDS wants to see more funding for such schemes, including non-commercial plantings, likewise measures to encourage native species such as red squirrels, dormice, and deer management. Public access to woodland is also cherished by the Society. Not only are Forestry Commission policies on open public access fully supported, but the YDS would like to see all public and private woodland available for public access – walking, riding, cycling, and non-motorised recreation. Similarly any woodland planted on what is now public access land under the CROW Act should have that access protected in perpetuity. Access to woodland, rich in wildlife interest, makes the Dales far more attractive to visitors for sustainable forms of tourism, and therefore supports the local economy.

However, when it comes to large scale commercial plantations of unsightly, monoculture conifer forests, as occurred in the Dales in the 1960 and 70s (thanks to generous tax breaks), the Society not only wishes to see no more mass plantings of this nature, but also wishes to see existing coniferous forests managed in ways that capture the many benefits of biodiversity and access. A major recent concern arises from the problems caused by extraction of timber from existing commercial plantations that was simply not planned for in the 1970s. In the case of Cam Forest, between Langstrothdale and Ribblesdale, controversial use of the historic Roman Cam High Road, which also carries the Dales Way and Pennine Way, for timber waggons, has transformed this ancient green way into a wide, stone-chipped forest access track along the length of Cam Fell, now an intrusive scar on the landscape, and visible for miles. Exactly as the YDS predicted, the decision to use Cam



A WAY TO TRANSFORM THE DALES?



Commercial Woodland, Snaizeholme

High Way to harvest the Cam Forest trees, was rapidly followed by a decision to take the trees from the nearby, far larger Greenfield Forest along this same historic route. A part of our Dales heritage has been compromised, though, as consolation, additional access by foot into the replanted forest by a new network of permissive footpaths, has been promised by the owners.

Ironically, this low-value timber only recently became commercially viable to extract because of the new demand for wood pellets for heavily subsidised *renewable* bio-mass fuel for domestic or office wood burning stoves. This is an example of the concealed costs for what in one context appears as an environmental benefit. But if the environmental costs and carbon footprint of felling and hauling out the trees up steep gradients by huge timber waggons is included in the equation, there could be an overall environmental loss. For this reason, the YDS has urged that rail transport be used whenever possible, for example from Ribblesdale quarry siding, rather than road haulage. When such forests are re-planted, the YDS wishes to see Replanting Plans which take into account biodiversity, public access, and water quality, utilising a variety of different native species of trees, of different ages, with wide glades to encourage such increased biodiversity and access opportunities. This both reflects and supports both the YDNPA's Woodland Siting and Design Guide and the Nidderdale AONB Woodland Opportunities Plan. Surely, in a National Park or AONB, landscape protection should be the prime aim of any woodland planting, not the mass production of fuel?

Underpinning the Policy Statement is an awareness that the Yorkshire Dales is an area which, compared with other upland areas in Europe, lacks tree cover. The great natural forests that once covered the Pennines, through centuries of human occupation, constant clearance, burning and animal grazing, and in more recent times, heather

management, have been almost entirely lost. Even though the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust recently planted its millionth tree in the Dales, this has only scratched the surface of the denudation of the landscape by human activity and lack of replanting or natural regeneration.

Whilst no one wishes to see the distinctive summits of the Three Peaks and other familiar fells covered by trees, there are some areas of the Dales, even within the National Park, that consist of pretty uninspiring, featureless, rush infested hillsides, with crumbling walls and ruined barns that can never be restored. Many such areas have been blighted by centuries of lead mining, stone quarrying and exploitation. Steep, denuded and overgrazed hillsides are, in some places, for example in Upper Swaledale, now highly unstable with land slip risks. As the Policy Statement suggests, more native woodland cover in many areas of the National Park would encourage more wildlife; more eco-diversity helps to stabilise slopes, and ultimately creates greater economic value for that land.

There are several places in the Dales where you can enjoy the beauty of natural or semi-natural woodland, and experience for yourself just how such woodland increases biodiversity in terms of not only the trees themselves, but wildflowers, birdlife, small mammals and insect life – areas such as Freeholders Wood near Aysgarth Falls in Wensleydale, Grass Wood or Strid Woods in Upper Wharfedale, Cleatop in Ribblesdale, Scoska Wood in Littondale and parts of the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, for example around Colt Park, where natural woodland regeneration is being encouraged across areas of the limestone pavement.

Colin Speakman



Westerdale drilling site, photo NYMA

The Background

York Potash Ltd was acquired by the AIM listed company Sirius Minerals in January 2011. A planning application for a £2 billion polyhalite mining project was produced, which required permissions from five consenting authorities and dealing with this application has cost the National Park around £1million. Since 2012 when the company confirmed that the mine head location would be in the National Park, there have been a bewildering number of changes of direction. These have included the abandonment of an earlier mine head design and the transfer of the mineral to Teesside in the form of slurry using buried pipelines. A planning application submitted in 2013, which included this method of mineral transport was withdrawn by the applicant only 24 hours before the determining planning meeting in July 2013. This year another application was submitted including a mine head at Doves Nest Farm, south of Whitby and well within the National Park. A Mineral Transport System consisting of a 37.7 kilometre tunnel running approx 1000 foot underground and containing a series of conveyor belts, will connect the mine head to a Handling Facility at Teesside. The tunnel requires three access shafts, one of these is within the National Park and another is a matter of metres outside. The Handling Facility is linked by an overhead conveyor to a proposed new Harbour Facility on the Tees, from where bulk cargo vessels will take the mineral polyhalite to its destinations.

Doves Nest Farm Mine Head

Doves Nest Farm is a traditional North Yorkshire Farm set on the edge of moorland and consisting of mixed farm land, both agricultural and grazing, areas of woodland and a mature conifer plantation. It lies within 500 metres of the Wainwright Coast to Coast walk and is within sight of the heritage coast at Robin Hoods Bay and Ravenscar. The shaft sinking and excavations

required to partly conceal the head gear will generate 1.9 million cubic metres of spoil at Doves Nest Farm. The spoil will be used to create an artificial landscape of mounds and bunds extending across 150 acres. The spoil includes pyritic mudstone and will have to be contained in engineered areas with impermeable membranes because of the problem of acid leeching into the surrounding areas. Measures to mitigate the effects of this engineered landscape with tree planting may not be successful because of the nature of the spoil. The tunnel and access shafts will also generate over a quarter of a million cubic metres of spoil at each of these sites, which again will be used to create engineered landscapes of mounds and bunds with the same problems as the mine head site.

Construction of the mine head and tunnel access shafts

During the construction period of five years, possibly longer, there will be an enormous increase in heavy goods traffic which will travel along a 30 mile route from the north using the A171 Moors road through Whitby. It then travels 7 miles towards Scarborough before turning into the minor B 1416 to the mine head site. During construction this HGV traffic will be required to service three tunnel access shafts which lie along the route of the A171 and the mine head. This is the main tourist route from the north into the National Park and Whitby. During this five year period of construction, there will be one heavy goods vehicle every three to four minutes travelling along this route between the hours of 7.00 am and 7.00 pm. The harm to tourism will be significant. Reports submitted suggest a loss of £40 million per year, during the five years of the construction and continuing losses during operation of the mine.

The National Park Special Planning Meeting

The National Park Committee met for a special planning meeting on June 30th to determine the application submitted by York Potash Ltd. The Committee, voted by a margin of one (8-7) to approve the planning application for the largest polyhalite mine in the world, to be built in the National Park. It is the largest planning application for major industrial development in any National Park in the UK.

The decision reached by the committee was contrary to the conclusion reached in the planning officer’s report to the committee. Despite there being an open recommendation by the officer, it was patently clear in his report that the steer was for refusal.

Officers conclude that the policy conflicts with the Development Plan and national policy is such, that the proposal does not represent Exceptional Circumstances, which is the highest bar that planning policy requires. It is therefore considered that the economic benefits and extent of the mitigation/compensation offered through planning obligations do not outweigh the extent of the harm and clear conflict with the development plan. The greater public interest is considered to be that of the statutory National Park purposes, which protects the North York Moors for the benefit of the nation. In reaching this view, officers acknowledge the unique role of the National Park Authority, which does not have a direct economic development purpose, but which has at the core of its planning role, the statutory responsibility to conserve and enhance the North York Moors for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Officers report to the planning committee 19.45

The Conduct of the Meeting

It was apparent from the meeting that some committee members may have appeared with a predetermined position, which was a quasi-political view of wider economic issues outside of the National Park. It was also



Gormire Lake, photo NYMA

apparent that from much of the questioning, and quite understandably, many aspects of the technical complexity of the application were beyond the grasp of some members.

A week before the special planning meeting, each member of the committee was sent an open letter organised by CNP and signed by 29 national organisations which concluded with the following request:

We urge you to fulfil National Park purposes, refuse this application and demonstrate that the principle and integrity of National Parks remain something of over-riding national value.

Organisations signing up to the letter included all 12 of the National Park Societies as well as the National Trust, RSPB, Open Spaces Society, The Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust, Scottish Campaign for National Parks, Caravan Club, Youth Hostels Association and others.

Where we are now

A decision notice which must be issued by the National Park before final approval is granted, is not expected until the end of September when all the conditional agreements and compensation payments for harm to the park have been agreed - this is called the 106 agreement.

On July 14th the Secretary of State's decision was announced, rejecting the five call-in requests for a public inquiry which were submitted in April. These were from The North York Moors Association (NYMA), The Campaign for National Parks (CNP), The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE coastal) The National Trust (NT) and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT).

The call-in criteria set out in a House of Commons briefing paper in June 2015 includes cases which:

- **May conflict with national policies on important matters;**
- **Could have significant effects beyond their immediate locality;**
- **Give rise to substantial cross boundary or national controversy;**

It is difficult to understand why the request for a call-in was rejected, given the criteria which clearly fitted this application. However, the bottom line is that the Secretary of State can just please himself, there is no legal obligation for him to call in any application. It seems that public inquiries for major development in National Parks are unlikely to happen, even though they may conflict with national policies and have significant effects beyond the immediate locality, or indeed give rise to national controversy.

The last opportunity to stop the development is through a legal challenge, which can only be made after the issue of a decision notice. This is clearly a route which will require legal advice and is undoubtedly a very costly course of action. It will require a combined effort by a number of organisations to raise funding if a strong case can be established. Finally, Sirius Minerals plc. has to raise at least £2 billion to finance this development and that is a tall order for such a high risk venture from a company valued around £350 million. A definitive feasibility study has yet to emerge and so have details of financing and these are not expected until 2016.

Although the polyhalite mine is by far the biggest industrial intrusion in the Park, the North York Moors is also threatened with further gas exploration and potential production. For the first time in fifty years the North York Moors National Park faces creeping industrialisation. This raises important questions about adequate protection for the landscape of these beautiful designated areas.

Tom Chadwick, Chairman North York Moors Association



Heather clad moors, photo NYMA

IONAL PARK

REWILDING:

RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

Farmers in the Yorkshire Dales are fully aware of the various ecological and environmental issues of their own landscape and the world at large, generally maintaining a successful equilibrium between commercial imperatives and care for the environment. But factors like climate change, reductions in EU farming subsidies and the increasing austerity cuts suffered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park, might make it even more difficult to look after this very special area in future. This summer on July 14th, a new charitable organisation was created, entitled *Rewilding Britain*, inspired by George Monbiot's book, *Feral: Rewilding the Land, Sea and Human Life*, which suggests a particular approach to nature conservation. Can the concept of rewilding or certain aspects of it, in some upland marginal areas, be part of the solution?



The John Muir Trust which has given its backing to Rewilding Britain, states that the rewilding concept is to: inspire people to restore natural processes as regards nature conservation, repair damaged ecosystems and reintroduce lost species, in order to create a richer environment for the benefit of nature and people. The approach can cover non-intervention management in urban green spaces to the reintroduction of keystone species, including carnivores, in remote wild places.

Re-wilding recognises, that nature consists not just of a collection of species, but also their ever-shifting relationships with each other and with the physical environment. The term was originally used in the mid 1990s, to describe the scientific argument for restoring the wilderness and reintroducing large missing carnivores to control herbivore numbers. In counties like the USA and parts of Europe, in wilder unproductive areas, there was tremendous scope for such schemes. Nowadays the concept includes: the whole process of returning ecosystems to a state of biological health and dynamic balance, making them self-sustaining, without the need for ongoing human management. Today in Scotland, for example, long term deforestation and overgrazing by excessive numbers of deer and sheep, have left the land denuded and eroded. But critically, any reintroduction of species must strike a

balance between control and depleting the "over-grazers" to an unsustainable level.

Simon Fairlie, a farmer and ecologist, living in Dorset, who has written on rewilding, comments:

What worries me is that some rewilding is on prime agricultural land... land drained in the Fens to grow food, is now being undrained, at great expense. He believes that there is a need for more biodiversity, but suggests that we might be going too far in our enthusiasm for past landscapes. A recent article in the Independent newspaper went further and suggested there was a danger of rewilding turning Britain into a theme park, and not returning it to nature.

Yet Britain's most endangered animals and plants have declined since the 1970s by 58% and one in ten is threatened with extinction, according to a recent report. The UK has lost 44 million birds since 1996 and historically, more large mammals including wolves, lynx, bears, boars, moose, bison and wolverines – more than any other country except Ireland. Some ecologists look to rewilding as bringing back a range of animals, which are appropriate in certain regions and under certain conditions.

In Pickering in North Yorkshire, which flooded on four occasions since 1959, government agencies are now putting woody debris back into the stream feeding Pickering

in order to stop the flow – an expensive and labour intensive task. Monbiot suggests using beavers instead. They build their dams by dragging branches into the water to use as their winter food supply, and at the same time slow down rivers and reduce erosion. In Scotland, the Scottish Parliament sanctioned a trial, set to report back this year, after beavers were introduced in Knapdale in the Highlands, and beavers are also now part of the scene on the River Otter in the south of England; part of a five year trial.

Improving tree cover by leaving nature to do the work - an experiment in the 1960s by a forester who had the idea of fencing 800 hectares of land so that trees could regenerate without being planted, proved to be an unqualified success and led to the formation of *Trees for Life*. The organisation has now been restoring native forests in key landscapes for decades. Monoculture, in the shape of coniferous forests, formerly encouraged as a useful cash crop, strips the land of diversity and can bring its own problems of disease and vulnerability to high winds.

The Wilderness Foundation adds its voice to the rewilding concept and sees it as particularly appropriate for economically marginal agriculture and forestry. It emphasises that the natural processes of rewilding can cause a variety of positive



Beaver at Knapdale, Scotland

benefits: carbon sequestration, flood water retention, groundwater storage of clean water, nutrient stripping, protection of biodiversity, better resilience to climate change and substantial potential for tourism and recreation. Generally, most authorities agree on a need to control deer who can damage tree growth with their grazing habits and though it has been suggested, that the UK contains adequate habitat for many lost species, and wild boar have already been successfully bred and dispersed, many land managers and others remain unconvinced that the reintroduction of larger predators should be encouraged.

Fleur Speakman

We live in a post wild world and there is no going back, but a plant design revolution will lead to a new relationship of man and nature.

Thomas Rainer, American landscape architect.



European Beaver

Lawrence



The passing of Lawrence Barker (1927-2015) in June marked the end of an era. Originally appointed by the old North Riding County Council, in 1974 Lawrence became one of the first employees of the newly unified North Yorkshire Committee of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the precursor of the present National Park Authority. His job was Area Warden for Swaledale.

What made Lawrence different from most other employees of the National Park at that time was that he was not only born in the Dale he was given the job of looking after, but a descendent of two brothers, Adam and Robert Barker, who in the 17th century had originally come to Swaledale as lead miners from Derbyshire, and settled in Swaledale, in Healaugh, where Lawrence was born several generations later.

Lawrence always regretted that he was not also named either Adam or Robert, but made up for that omission by giving his two sons the family names. Aged 14, young Lawrence left school and was apprenticed as a mechanic at a local garage, eventually becoming a partner in Reeth Garage, at the time of his marriage to Sheila. But he also had a passion for classical music, playing both cornet and euphonium in the Reeth Brass Band.

His other passion was Swaledale's lead mining heritage. He spent much of his spare time collecting abandoned artefacts from spoil tips, barns or farmyards, tools, bits of machinery. He walked the nearby hills to explore old shafts and smelt mill remains. A largely self-taught historian, he became a disciple of the great Dales historian and industrial archaeologist Arthur Raistrick.

Appointing this enthusiastic walker and local historian as the first National Park Warden for Swaledale was a stroke of genius by the old North Riding Committee. As a local lad, he literally spoke the language of the community. His hands-on skills as a mechanic meant he could tackle a range of stile building and practical conservation tasks; work over many years shared with his appropriately named friend and Field Assistant Parkin Waller.

His deep roots in Swaledale and knowledge of its communities, history and lead mining heritage, as well as a typically Dales dry sense of humour, proved invaluable when dealing with farmers and landowners as part of his job as Area Warden (as Rangers were then known). When a local farmer boasted that his family had been in the Dales since the 1740s, Lawrence immediately retorted, *I kenn'd thee for an off-cum'don. My folk have been here since 1674.* On another occasion visiting an isolated farmstead in Birkdale at the head of Swaledale, which he was amazed to find still inhabited by a farming family, he quipped: *I thowt that they'd be wearing hats with horns on.*

But underneath the modest, even gentle manner, was a real Dales scholar who found time to write a number of still authoritative papers for the Northern Mines Research Society. He also shared his love of the Dale and its mining inheritance with other researchers, making his collection of manuscripts and photographs available to other workers in the field. Many of his finds are now in local museums – in the Swaledale Museum, the Dales Countryside Museum, Richmond Museum and the Earby Mines Museum, soon to move to Hawes. The present generation of Dales experts such as Robert White, Senior Historic Environment Officer with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority or Helen Bainbridge, Curator of the Swaledale Museum at Reeth, are among many people to acknowledge a debt of gratitude to Lawrence for his generous support and lifetime's work. I too was privileged to work with him at the Yorkshire Dales National Park; a warm and supportive colleague.

Lawrence represented what National Parks are - or should be - all about: knowledge, enthusiasm and love of and commitment to the Dales. Lawrence had all these qualities in abundance.

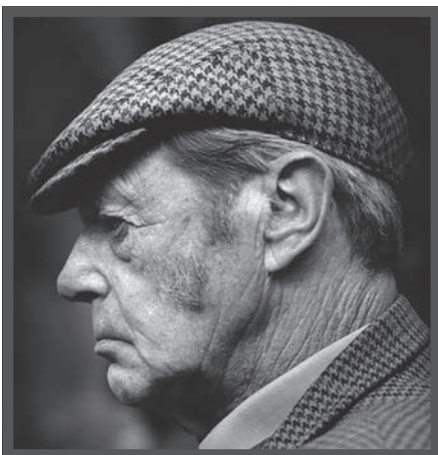
Colin Speakman



Beyond into unknown - © Emma Amsden

emma amsden

Checkmate - © Emma Amsden



Emma Amsden, based in the Leyburn area, is particularly known for her moody, monochrome landscapes and intense studies of people.

Emma Amsden has triumphed as an award winning professional photographer, with her images of the Yorkshire Dales, which emphasise the isolation she feels in a world without sound as she is profoundly deaf, leaving her with some communication problems. Her original inspiration for her work was her father, who took photos as a hobby and her artistic mother, who painted.

My pictures speak eloquently of the countryside I love with a passion. When the weather changes, it inspires me from within, I have an empathy with it.

I can't hear anything, but I feel that I grew up with a relationship with the environment. Using my strong visual sense, I see texture - taking photographs, I feel the pressure of the oppressive atmosphere of black heavy clouds in contrast to the landscape.

I use the medium of black and white film photography to the full. Preferring to use a natural light only; a major element of my work is the imaginative world of light and contrast. I have a keen eye, especially when I capture many facial expressions on people's faces... My pictures of sweeping, empty landscapes with their haunting atmosphere and beautiful monochrome imagery, seem to share with the viewer a sense of silence and isolation.



Good Companions at Semerwater - © Emma Amsden

photographer

Two Boys - © Emma Amsden

I use digital photography and sometimes the Instagram app off my mobile to use colour prints. These are specially printed in the laboratory on Kodak Pro Endura premium quality photo paper with a 100 year fastness.

An example of this technique is our cover picture *Follow Me, Girls!* in this issue of the Review.

Emma's enthusiasm, and passion for life and outstanding work are truly inspirational.

Emma Amsden photos are available for sale and details can be found on her website: emmaamsdenphotography.co.uk



FISHPOND WOOD

- Miniature lake ✓
- Waterfalls ✓
- Wooded glens ✓



Victorian visitors had firm ideas about what a scenic landscape should look like and Fishpond Wood met all the criteria on their checklist. The pool that formed its focal point even had its own boathouse and jetty... not surprisingly, because it wasn't there by accident. Like the tiny island at its centre and the wooded walks around it, the pond had been created to meet romantic eighteenth-century ideas of the 'picturesque'. No wonder that when the railway network reached Pateley Bridge in the 1860s, tourists were prepared to pay the steward of nearby Bewerley 3d each, to promenade around this early pleasure park.

What makes Fishpond Wood unusual is its location, in a part of the world not known for designed landscapes. Now, after centuries of oblivion, its historic features are being restored - and this former tourist attraction will become a peaceful haven where local residents can unwind, appreciate nature and find out more about past times in the dale.

It's such a beautiful, tranquil place, says project officer Louise Brown. *It's a treasure because of its wildlife and its heritage. It would be a great shame if people were to come to Pateley Bridge and not be able to see it.*

Louise works for Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership, which has joined up with the wood's owner, Dr Peter Brambley, and a dedicated team of volunteers to return it to its former glory. A former director of public health for York and North Yorkshire, Peter went into semi-retirement after a period of illness followed by a motorbike accident.

I wanted to stay active and do something useful so I started looking around for a piece of woodland

all over the country - and then I found it on my doorstep, he says. My first priority is children, and introducing them to a love of the outdoors. The second is wildlife, particularly birds.

Volunteers have already removed the blanket of rhododendrons that smothered much of the woodland floor and prevented regeneration. Trees bearing fruit and nuts, such as wild cherry, silver birch, beech, oak, conifers and mountain ash will be planted to encourage birdlife. And an area of mainly sycamore, which was coppiced in the past, will be replaced by a range of native broad-leaved species to increase biodiversity. Elsewhere a beech hanger will be preserved to act as a 'natural health service' for people recovering from illness. And Peter has invested in a ring kiln, which can be used to convert some of the felled timber to charcoal.

But there's also the challenge of restoring the historic landscaping and architectural features. Most of these were the work of John Yorke of Bewerley Hall, who owned the wood in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The pool's origins may go back even further. In the thirteenth century all Yorkshire monasteries had fish ponds, not only as a source of water but also to enable the monks to comply with the Rule of St Benedict by offering an alternative protein source to the flesh of four-footed animals. It is possible that the pool was built by Fountains Abbey to supply its grange (or farm) at Bewerley. The original chapel, built in 1494, still stands a stone's throw away and was restored in 1965. Yet, attractive though this theory is, the pond is a long way from the nearest river and would have entailed a great deal of work to supply a relatively small number of people. Preferred sites tended to be in open

fields and the area was probably already wooded in medieval times.

In keeping with the fashion for creating 'picturesque' pleasure grounds by giving nature a helping hand, John Yorke dammed a small stream to create a large pool, before creating a network of walks and footpaths around it. In the 1800s, his nephew added the boathouse, island and jetty.

Early writers loved it. *The pond, a fine sheet of clear water, is a cool and delightful spot on a summer's day,* enthused William Grainge in 1863. And in 1893 Edmund Bogg praised *the delightful retreat... shaded by fine beeches, which at places overhang the road and dipping their branches in the water, form natural arches.*

But silting up has reduced the pond to a large puddle with a muddy promontory extending into the middle. Dredging could not take place over the summer to protect the frogs, toads, newts and small numbers of perch and dace that still inhabit it, but it will soon be possible to row a boat around the island once more. As well as creating a safe haven for ducks and wildlife in the centre of the pond, removing the silt will create a sloping end with a variety of depths attracting different freshwater species. Finally the boathouse will be reinstated, complete with rowing boat.

Considerable work has gone into restoring the ice house, with its domed roof and deep pit. Such buildings were commonly used by country house kitchens before refrigeration and the structure in Fishpond Wood is thought to have supplied Bewerley Hall. It is now home to some rare cave spiders and a safety grille has been installed so visitors can peer down into the pit...

...As well as pathway restoration, work to provide an interpretation board and audio trail, exploring the significance of the site, is expected to be complete in autumn 2015. But, because of the tension between wildlife conservation and public access, Fishpond Wood will not be promoted as a tourist destination in the twenty-first century. The main aim is to provide an outdoor and heritage resource for nearby residents, including secondary school pupils from Nidderdale High School, who have helped with clearance work and building log sheds. Parking is limited at Bewerley and visitors are encouraged to leave their cars at Pateley Bridge, ten minutes' walk away.

Fishpond Wood is just one of four Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership flagship projects - including work at Scar House navy camp and Lodge village, Wath Mill and Ashfoldside Mine - supported by a £1.2m Heritage Lottery Fund grant. But its story of luxury, privilege and pleasure in times past could not be further away from the everyday lives of labourers, farmers, miners and textile workers that will be revealed at the other three sites.

For more information on Fishpond Wood or to find out how you can be involved as a volunteer, visit www.uppernidderdale.org.uk, contact Louise Brown on 01423 712950 or email louise.brown@harrogate.gov.uk. For details of a book tracing the history of the Yorkes and the gardens they created at Richmond and in Nidderdale, contact Margaret Waterson, Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group, at mhadleyw@btinternet.com.

Lynn Leadbeatter

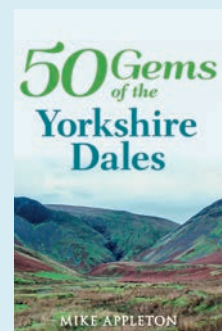
50 Gems of the Yorkshire Dales

by Mike Appleton, published by Amberley at £14.99, ISBN 978 1 4456 4560 5.

50 Gems of the Yorkshire Dales by Mike Appleton will be particularly attractive to those who know little of the Dales: its diverse scenery, natural formations, architecture, industrial heritage, and history. Although Mike Appleton has done his best to give a flavour of as many of the different Dales as possible, inevitably some areas are more strongly represented than others, and some people may wonder at the omission of a particular favourite. The style is lively, with the author eager to share his delight with his readers, though with plenty of instructive historical and geological detail where appropriate. Some pleasing photographs

help to make this guide, just short of 100 pages, an attractive gift for the visitor and a pleasant read for those who enjoy reminiscing about the Dales.

Almost inevitably, though there is some encouragement to use the Settle Carlisle railway, there does seem to be a lot more emphasis on how to arrive at your destination by private car and where to park than by other means of transport.



SMOKE OVER HORTON

This amazing photograph taken in Upper Ribblesdale by YDS life member Alan Butterfield shows what could be mistaken for a "nuclear cloud" over Horton Quarry. The picture dates from the 1960s when the Stainforth by-pass was under construction. The smoke came from the old lime kilns; despite continuing problems of heavy waggons on Dales roads and through Settle town centre, limestone quarries are a lot cleaner and less polluting than they were in the recent past.



INGLETON QUARRY EXTENSION OPPOSED...

New proposals to extend the large limestone quarry above Ingleton have been strongly opposed by the Yorkshire Dales Society. Our concern stems from the fact that these proposals totally contradict national and local planning policies. The National Planning Policy framework clearly states that: *non-energy materials should be provided from outside National Parks*. The proposals are also totally contrary to the National Park Authority's own Minerals Plan and Local Plan, undermining the core purposes of the National Park. Despite the claim by the applicants that: *the scheme fully complies in all aspects with the relevant*

saved policies of the YDLP and section D8 of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan, the proposals actually do nothing to minimise road haulage nor to meet the YDNPA target of a 50% reduction of road haulage from quarries by the end of 2015. Despite the welcome new rail sidings now being constructed at Helwith Bridge, there is no commitment to maximise rail haulage, even from the existing sidings at nearby Ribbleshead.

The YDS also point out that Hanson are supposedly committed to a nationally agreed plan by the Mineral Products Association for quarrying in National Parks that includes the statement, that the industry will: *only propose extension of existing sites in National Parks where there is a national need in terms of mineral supply or where the proposal has benefits for the environment, landscape and well-being of the*

Park. As the YDS points out, there is no national need and other rail-served quarries in the National Park at Dry Rigg/Arcow could supply the minerals, or even at Horton, by deepening the existing quarry at Horton and constructing a badly needed new rail siding there. And there are certainly no landscape, environmental or well-being benefits from yet more quarry traffic.

The YDS comments: *As we are told that the approved resources are now exhausted, we should be celebrating the early closure of the quarry (in 2018). This would still give workers plenty of time to seek alternative employment in the area. In a strongly worded message to the National Park Planning Committee, the YDS suggests that: Surely the time has come to say no to quarry extension in the National Park, particularly if no commitment to rail is forthcoming.*

APPROACHING OUR 35th ANNIVERSARY

Mark Corner, the Society's Chairman, has set out his thoughts (on page 3) on areas the Society should address as we move into our 35th Anniversary next year. Future issues of the Review will explore the story of how the Society was set up and its key achievements over the last three and half decades.

Here, I would like to pay tribute to the contribution of those very long standing Members who have decades of membership to their credit and have in some cases played [and still play] very active roles in the Society. These "Founding Members" [if I may use the term in a broad sense] joined the Society in its first two decades, as membership reached a peak of just over 2,000 [1990]. We are privileged to have retained the support of over 500 people [2015] who joined the Society in the 1980s and 90s. Our membership has gradually fallen over the last 25 years and now stands a smidgen over 1,000 people - excluding businesses and clubs. So we desperately need to attract more members! Not only will this give us a stronger voice as a campaigning body protecting the Dales, but also for the income from subscriptions, additional donations, legacies and Gift Aid - which fund our charitable endeavours.

As we plan our membership campaign for next year's celebrations, I would very much like to hear from you, whether you are a long standing Member or have more recently joined. *Why did you join the Society, what has membership meant to you, and what should we be doing to attract new Members?* Please do ring, email or write to me with your thoughts. And don't forget that you can help by buying a Gift Membership for a friend or family member - just contact me direct or use the form on the opposite page.

Using your thoughts as inspiration, I hope we can attract a new cohort of Members to join us when we celebrate the 35th anniversary next year!



A new farming initiative? – Alpacas in Wensleydale

DALES FARMING RESEARCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Do you, or someone you know, own, rent or work on a farm inside or within three miles of the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park? If so, Stephen Whitfield from the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds, would like to hear from you! Stephen is working on an exciting one year research project looking at how the Dales farming landscape has changed over many decades and what the Dales could look like in the future. Stephen needs to find about 15 more Dales farmers/farm workers willing to sit down with him (at the farm kitchen table!) and create a *timeline* of the factors they identify as critical in their farm's development over the years. The discussion takes about two hours, at a time to suit you. Stephen hails from Ingleton and has recently moved back to the area with his young family. If you would like to find out more either contact me in the usual way or Stephen direct on 07980 536252 or s.whitfield@leeds.ac.uk

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY THROUGH A BEQUEST

Formally recognising bequests to the Society is a sad duty of mine but also a privilege – these legacies are from people who believe in the work we do and have honoured us by remembering the Society in their will.

In July this year I heard of the death of Miss JHF (Hilary) Green who joined the Society in 1984 as the Society's 314th Member. Miss Green died unexpectedly, but peacefully at home on 16 April 2015 at the age of 96 years. When her charitable trust was wound up, we received a final distribution of £8,125. During her lifetime Miss Green made two donations of £10,000 to the Society, one of which funded development work including the re-launch of the Review magazine into the beautiful new format which continues to receive so many compliments. In recognition of that generous support, Miss Green was made an Honorary Member of the Society in 2011. Miss Green sent me a lovely typewritten letter following that award, from her home in Sussex, noting that *I was born at Settle (at Townhead) which had been in the family for a good many years*

and my heart is in the Dales. Miss Green's nephew Mr Robert Munday has kindly given permission for this reference to his aunt.

If you would like to support the Society's work by mentioning us in your will, you might want to take advantage of the two annual will writing campaigns running again this autumn. *Free Wills Month* starts on 1st October 2015 and is for people over 55 years old, on a first come/first served basis with participating solicitors – see www.freewillsmoth.org.uk *Will Aid Month* runs during November 2015 and is open to anyone – you can find a participating solicitor via a postcode search on their website at www.willaid.org.uk Both schemes encourage a modest charitable donation in place of the legal fee. You can of course mention ANY charity in your will, but we hope you will consider the Yorkshire Dales Society! If you don't have access to the internet, just ring me on **01756 749400** and I can send you information in the post.

Ann Shadrake

GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS

As Christmas approaches, you may be wondering what on earth to give those friends and relations who already have everything they need. For something they will really value and appreciate, you could choose to give a Gift Membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society. The recipient will receive all the benefits of Membership. Gift Membership is at normal subscription rates, but runs for 15 months as a special offer. When renewal is due, we hope Gift Members will consider joining the Society in their own right. Please photocopy or cut out the form below, or download it from the website or phone me for a form. Thank you to Members who have bought Gift Membership over the last year.



CHRISTMAS MEMBERSHIP

A Special Gift for Christmas

Annual Membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society at a Gift rate of 15 months for the price of 12 months: a gift card with your personal message and the current Review.

Forms can be photocopied as many times as you wish.

Type of Gift Membership:

Single: £20

Joint/Family: £28

Please tick appropriate box

I/We enclose a cheque made payable to

Yorkshire Dales Society:

Please post to:

**Yorkshire Dales Society
Canal Wharf, Eshton Road
Gargrave, North Yorkshire BD23 3PN**

Name of Gift Member(s):

Your Name(s):

Their Address:

Your Address:

Their Postcode:

Your Postcode:

Message for Card:

Please send your completed form and cheque at least 2 weeks before the last Christmas posting date (2nd class).

TO FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK

.....

Although fracking operations to extract shale gas have not actually yet reached the Yorkshire Dales, there is already great concern at a possible attempt. A newly established Frack Free Craven group believes, that the Dales too could be under threat. Recently they joined a mass rally and presented a petition to councillors in Preston, ahead of Lancashire's decision not to go ahead with a potentially massive fracking scheme on the Fylde coast near Blackpool. The Craven Group believe that Dales tourism and farming could be ruined and massive pollution caused for generations to come if fracking was given the green light.

According to a Defra government report, (high-lighted in the Craven Herald), Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts, now published in its full form, on July 1st of this year, showed, that it is believed that house prices could fall by up to 7% and there was also a risk of great environmental damage. Leakage of waste fluids could affect human health through polluted water or the consumption

of contaminated food products. The full facts were only revealed after the government was accused of censorship, and the Information Commissioner's office ruled that Defra must release the Report in full.

Omitted from the Report's first issue last year, were the following points which are of concern: Properties within a mile and a half of the fracking sites could incur additional insurance costs. Leakage from waste fluids from fracking has already resulted in environmental damage in the US. Even if contaminated surface water does not directly affect drinking water supplies, fracking can affect human health indirectly through contaminated wildlife, livestock or agricultural products.

On the positive side, the Report itemises that fracking could create jobs and stimulate economic growth. Though it adds, that rents may rise as workers from the fracking industry compete for accommodation with local people. There is also a suggestion that communities could benefit from investment in local services and infrastructure from the fracking companies.

As the article on potash extraction on page 6-7 makes clear, National Parks themselves will not be immune to pressures to allow fracking within their boundaries and totally powerless about attempts within their vicinity.

Most recent press reports have high-lighted the government's new initiative, that local communities will only be given 16 weeks in which to present their opposition to fracking in a particular area.

WIND FARMS

.....

A recent hearing to decide whether wind turbines can be built near Gargrave, ended before a change in Government policy was announced. The announcement stated that future wind farms would only go ahead with the support of local communities, but it also announced that no subsidies would be paid to renewable energy companies from next April. The Planning Inspector spent a day of the two day hearing on an extensive site visit. Craven District Council, Friends of Craven Landscape and EnergieKontor (who had successfully challenged the second appeal decision), were all invited to comment on policy change. A number of additional local pressure groups also sent in their comments. Skipton MP Julian Smith said: *I am delighted the Government has listened to the concerns of communities.* As yet, no date has been set for a final decision.

FRACKING FRUSTRATION VERSUS COMMUNITY RENEWABLES – A DALES RESPONSE

Glyn Turton and James (Sandy)Tod as leading members of Community Energy in Gargrave and Malhamdale (CEGAM) have pointed out in a recent article on the Yorkshire Times on-line website, from which we quote key extracts: *The government's support for shale gas extraction is clearly working against the wishes of communities whatever the arguments in favour - mainly the potential to replace expensive imports. Opponents to fracking are joined by supporters of renewable energy, who see government support for onshore wind waning, despite it being competitive with fossil fuel burning generators. Opponents have a valid argument that shale gas will continue to contribute rather than reduce green-house gas emissions. Government's response is to encourage gas exploitation with tax breaks and to buy off communities with cash handouts. Any potential gains from a shale gas boom will be squandered on handouts, leaving little or no reserve for developing renewable technologies when the boom, if it happens, expires.*

As the authors also point out, communities can still make a choice, *hence the opposition to large wind farms and fracking has shown that there is increasing demand for community consultation on how our energy supplies are provided.*

See YDS Review Summer 2015 Issue 131 for Sandy Tod's article The Southern Dales In Transition.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Show casing Yorkshire food and drink is an excellent idea. In late June, the Yorkshire Dales National Park launched two new projects which aimed to promote businesses in the Dales and encourage visitors who appreciate good quality, appetisingly served food and drink. The Yorkshire Dales Food Network draws attention to the wonderful array on offer, while The Ales Way project encourages people to visit pubs in Upper Wharfedale, where they can eat and drink the local produce. An SDF grant of £10,000 from the YDNPA backed these schemes, and also helped with the setting up of a new website. The food network aims to improve trade by connecting members with retailers, restaurants, accommodation providers and consumers - aided by specialists in marketing, production and hospitality.



Already a number of businesses are enthusiastic. Jamie Roberts of Kilnsey Park Estate who includes a farm shop, trout farm and cafe among his interests, (and whose estate was featured in the last YDS Review), organised *Dales on a Plate* on his premises, in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in late July as part of the annual celebration of National Parks Week 2015, illustrating this year's theme - *Landscapes of Plenty*. The event offered food and drink tastings, barbecues, a tour of the smoke-house and the chance to talk to a number of other specialist local producers. Jamie Roberts commented: *It's a really great chance for people to meet local producers, learn about their businesses - from Yorkshire chorizo to Viking Skyr yoghurt and our own award winning trout... It's important that people understand and appreciate just how valuable our national parks are - not just as productive landscapes, but also as a safe haven for endangered animals and plant life.*



DalesBus 874 approaching the "squeeze" at Bolton Abbey - a sign of austerity cuts to come?
Photo: John Carey. For details of all winter DalesBus services including Sunday buses to Bolton Abbey, Grassington and Buckden plus new Saturday services between York, Harrogate Skipton and Malham, log onto www.dalesbus.org.

A TOTAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES?

With yet more savage cuts to public sector funding planned for 2016, the Yorkshire Dales is facing even more draconian cuts to its local bus network, reducing weekday bus services to mere skeletal provision, available for many communities only two or three days a week. Even the highly successful Sunday DalesBus network is likely to be hacked back to core routes from next April as funds run out.

Lack of access to jobs, schools, shops, health centres, and leisure activities is a major cause of rural isolation and hardship. It is a prime cause of out-migration of younger people, the elderly who no longer drive, those with disabilities and those on limited budgets. Britain, one of the richest countries in the world, (North Yorkshire is actually one of its most prosperous areas), can well afford to maintain decent levels of transport for rural communities if only priorities were different. Rural transport poverty is a symptom of a failure of imagination by local authorities and Government alike to understand how rural economies and communities work. Cut bus services, and social care and other costs rise elsewhere.

Timely, therefore, an important and critical new report from the influential Institute of Public Policy Research. IPPR argues that public transport is far too important to leave to cash starved County Councils. What is suggested is a network of what are called **Total Transport Authorities**. These would operate on a regional or sub-regional basis, across county boundaries, within travel to work areas, linking urban and rural communities as in the new City Regions. They would bring together different agencies and stakeholders to meet actual travel needs, not narrow budget targets. Innovative new approaches such as the YDS's own Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company DalesBus success (cited in the report) are also seen as a key way forward.

With a new Government Buses Bill now planned for the autumn, the IPPR report **Total Transport Authorities** (to read on line see www.ippr.org) makes a compelling case for a regional approach. Perhaps the first steps have already been taken with the informal Yorkshire Dales Transport Partnership of bus users, stakeholders and operators linked to the five new local Transport Action Groups in the Dales. The basis of a new, more powerful Dales TTA organisation is already in being.

High Trenhouse

Malham Moor

John Varney, together with his partner Bernadette Schutte, were founder members of the Yorkshire Dales Society's Business Membership scheme and are still involved in promoting many of the key ideas and values that the Society supports to different audiences. Lynn Leadbeatter outlines the concept behind High Trenhouse.

Room to grow!

It's hard to feel creative when you're hemmed in with filing cabinets, photocopiers and serried ranks of computer screens.

But High Trenhouse in Malhamdale gives harassed office workers space to think - and miles of it. This ground-breaking residential retreat overlooking Malham Tarn uses the natural resources of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to help managers from blue-chip companies to see the wood from the trees.

High Trenhouse is the brainchild of mountaineer and psychological group leader John Varney, who bought the original derelict farmhouse at auction in 1976. His vision has developed it into a unique training complex that harnesses the power of the great outdoors to unleash participants' inner creativity.

Today the facilities include two self-contained buildings, each with a conference and syndicate rooms, bar and dining facilities and comfortable en-suite bedrooms. Guests can even unwind in a sauna. But what sets High Trenhouse apart are its open-air rooms: five acres of grounds including ponds, woods, open spaces, gardens and secluded corners, where people can work outside, seek solitude, tune into nature

or just have a quiet chat. Visitors are also encouraged to wander further afield and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding countryside. Team-building challenges on offer include orienteering, the Three Peaks Challenge, archery, falconry, mountain biking, climbing and caving. Other activities are more reflective and guests can even choose to sit on their own in a field for six hours.

These days society sees itself as something other than nature, says John. Everything about our modern lifestyle alienates us from our relationship with life on earth. It is quite something to rediscover our oneness with nature. As the artificiality of daily activity falls away, as inner turmoil stills, as perceptions open up, you eventually meet yourself.

But creating an environment conducive to thought also involves stripping away many of the trappings of modern-day life. Although High Trenhouse has wifi facilities, there is no phone signal and there are no televisions in the bedrooms. Meals are cooked on the Aga in open-plan kitchens next to the dining rooms, helping visitors to interact with the small, friendly staff team. Groups have exclusive use of the facilities and the use of first-name terms and lack of uniforms helps to make guests feel as if they are staying with *friends in the country*.

High Trenhouse is also home to the Centre for Management Creativity, which provides facilitation and coaching to individuals, small businesses, community groups and global organisations. Clients have included HBOS, Halifax, the National Trust, GlaxoSmithKline and GNER and the practice works closely with Lancaster University Management School. The facilities are also popular with recreational groups that make the most of the ambience and surroundings for activities like rambling and yoga, and there is a programme of open-access events offering leisure pursuits such as photography, painting and quilting.

Over four decades High Trenhouse has built up a national reputation for its innovative approach to personal and organisational development - and the centre still practises what it preaches. In keeping with its recognition of the interaction between the environment and individual well-being, every effort is made to minimise energy consumption, recycle, be as economical as possible and eat wholesomely. Visitors are invited to sponsor a tree to improve the landscape and reduce their carbon footprints. And that small action sums up the High Trenhouse philosophy: that it's only when we appreciate our place in the natural world that we can unleash our latent creativity.

For more information visit www.high-trenhouse.co.uk or call 01729 830322.



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

- i Dales Insights
- v Vibrant Communities
- c Classic Countryside
- f Focus on the Dales
- y Yorkshire Dales Society
- r Ride 2 Stride

Saturday, 3 October 2015

c 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 kindly 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.



View of Richmond and its Castle

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

Saturday, 14 November 2015

v Short  

Richmond

Richmond past, present and future will come under the spotlight on a visit to this vibrant Dales town which benefits from a stunning landscape setting, many historic buildings and heritage-inspired regeneration. The morning walking tour will feature views of the town's most impressive sites such as the Georgian Theatre, Friary Gardens and Norman Castle, in the company of knowledgeable local people. In addition to learning about the town's rich architectural and cultural history, we plan to see community wildlife projects. After lunch we will visit *The Station*. This former Victorian railway station has been transformed into an incredible arts and community venue with artisan shops featuring an award-winning bakery, a micro-brewery and ice cream maker! The facility is run by our Business Members *The Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust*. We'll hear the story of how lottery funding and community drive has created this thriving centre and has inspired other grant-led projects in the town.

11:00 Walk: Meet outside the Town Hall, Market Square, Richmond: Walking tour includes some steep and cobbled paths. Approx 2 miles.

Lunch break 12:30 – 1:30 approx. Free time to one of the town's great cafes or pubs

2:00 Visit: Meet at The Station for in-depth tour. Ends approx 3:30.

Please wear sturdy footwear and warm waterproof clothing. No dogs except RAD. **Frequent bus service (X26) from Darlington Rail Station.** Organised by the Yorkshire Dales Society with the kind help of local people.



Through the Archway, Richmond

Saturday, 5 December 2015

i Short  

Walk & Talk - Gargrave

Join us for an easy morning walk around Gargrave, using the towpath alongside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and local footpaths. Along the way we will enjoy views of the canal, narrow-boats and historic buildings in the village. Bring packed lunch or enjoy one of the village's fine pubs or cafes. The afternoon talk is by Dr Chris Wright, Trustee and former Chairman of the Society, who will speak about "Kit Calvert – The Cheese Man". Kit was a true Dales character, saviour of Wensleydale Cheese in the 1930s and champion of Yorkshire dialect. Chris's presentation will include a recording of Kit speaking about an old fashioned Dales Christmas.

10:30 Walk: Meet outside Gargrave Village Hall, West Street, Gargrave. Ample free parking. Two minutes' walk from the bus stop, (**Dalesbus 75 d. Skipton 0945**) and about 10 minutes walk from the Railway Station. 🐾

2:15 Talk: Gargrave Village Hall – details as above. Complimentary Christmas cake and Wensleydale cheese will be served. Talk ends approx 4:00.

Saturday, 16 January 2016

i Medium  

Walk & Talk - Skipton

Join Ann Shadrake on a favourite local walk of about 4 miles, near her home town of Skipton. If the weather is clear, we will enjoy a modest but rewarding ascent to the trig point on Sharpshaw (a "Marilyn" at just over 900 feet of ascent) with fine views and varied terrain of fields, moorland and felled forest. Alternatively we will take a low level walk on easy tracks through Skipton Woods to enjoy sights of the old mill ponds, weirs and historic Skipton Castle. Come prepared for some mud (waterproof trousers/boots essential). We will reconvene in Skipton for the afternoon talk, which will be by Dr George Ingle, noted historian and author, speaking on "Yorkshire Dales Textile Mills".

10:30 Walk: Meet at Craven Heifer Inn on the B6265 about ½ mile north of Skipton on the Grassington Road, BD23 3LA. Ample free parking. Good spot for pub lunch if wished. 🐾

2:15 Talk: St Andrew's Church Hall, Newmarket Street. Limited free parking or use main P&D car parks. Five minutes walk from the bus station, a bit further from the Railway Station. Complimentary tea and biscuits. Talk ends approx 4:00.

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A Kettlewell Scarecrow protests against bus cuts - photo Howard Handley

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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Please sign your Gift Aid Form if you haven't already done so.

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

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

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

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

Information about the Society can be found on www.yds.org.uk
Information about the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company can be accessed on www.dalesandbowland.com

Membership and Subscription...

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

Business Membership	£30
Affiliate Membership (Groups)	£30

www.yds.org.uk

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