

# Yorkshire DALES review

Winter 2016 : Issue 133



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**Yorkshire**  
**DALES SOCIETY**

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Editor Fleur Speakman



  
**Yorkshire**  
**DALES SOCIETY**



# Yorkshire DALES review

## AT LAST THE LONG DELAYED EXTENSION OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK

In time for the celebration of the Yorkshire Dales Society's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016, has come the very welcome news on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 of the success that a number of organisations had worked towards for years. From August 2016 the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be increased by nearly a quarter in size. The area covered will expand the Yorkshire Dales National Park (name unchanged), by around 24%, while the Lake District National Park will increase by 3%. The new boundary for the YDNP will now include parts of Orton Fells, the northern Howgill Fells, Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang to the north, and to the west, Barbon, Middleton, Casterton and Leck Fells, the river Lune, and part of Firbank Fell and other fells to the west. This is the exciting news we had hoped for, allowing for the exploration and protection of some outstanding, majestic landscape.

YDNPA Chairman Peter Charlesworth, expressed his pleasure in this positive outcome. *It is marvellous that even at a time of financial austerity, Government have recognised the quality of these landscapes and designated it as a National Park.* Authority Chief Executive David Butterworth said tellingly: *We will be listening to and learning from the local communities, farmers, landowners and businesses to enable us to develop long-term relationships with all these parties.* The Yorkshire Dales Society itself played a major part in the whole process, lending its full support to its sister organisation, Friends of the Lake District, who with the Campaign for National Parks, initiated the long delayed boundary expansion project. It is just one important example of how such organisations can work with each other and with their own National

Parks and CNP, to achieve major change. But will additional funding now be available for the expansion of our Park? The issue of costs of stewardship is a vital one, since the Park Authority has already had to implement a 38% budget cut. It can only be hoped that some additional financial support may soon be forthcoming.

## OUR FIRST 35 YEARS

### A SNAPSHOT

The Yorkshire Dales Society was founded in 1981, as an independent organisation, to support the Yorkshire Dales National Park, but free to criticise the YDNP Committee where appropriate. Relations have strengthened over the years and become increasingly positive. Our joint organisation of the last National Park Societies' Conference, was just one excellent example of this co-operation and support. Over the years the YDS became increasingly professional, able to make full use of modern technology and equipment, including social media. The Society has benefited from the services of part-time paid professional administrators for several days a week, though the major contribution of volunteers, including our officers and Trustees, is still essential for us to function. Our magazine has changed from the original black and white 12 pages, to a full colour issue of 20 pages, using a professional designer. The Society's highly successful public transport project, DalesBus, entirely managed by volunteers, is a model for other National Parks, achieved by the setting up of the Society's own wholly owned social enterprise, the Dales and Bowland CIC. The CIC has worked funding miracles in these very difficult times. The YDS media profile is high at local and regional level, and the Society even had a brief mention in a *Times* leader about a week before the boundary issue was finally resolved.

Particularly successful in recent years has been our still growing list of Society Business Members, mainly small enterprises within the Dales, supporting the Society's work. It is now over 60 businesses strong. A new venture for 2015 as part of the YDS Events programme is proving particularly popular – these are special in-depth visits to particular Dales towns or centres, *Vibrant Communities*, where local experts organise a most interesting and varied day including visits to local businesses.

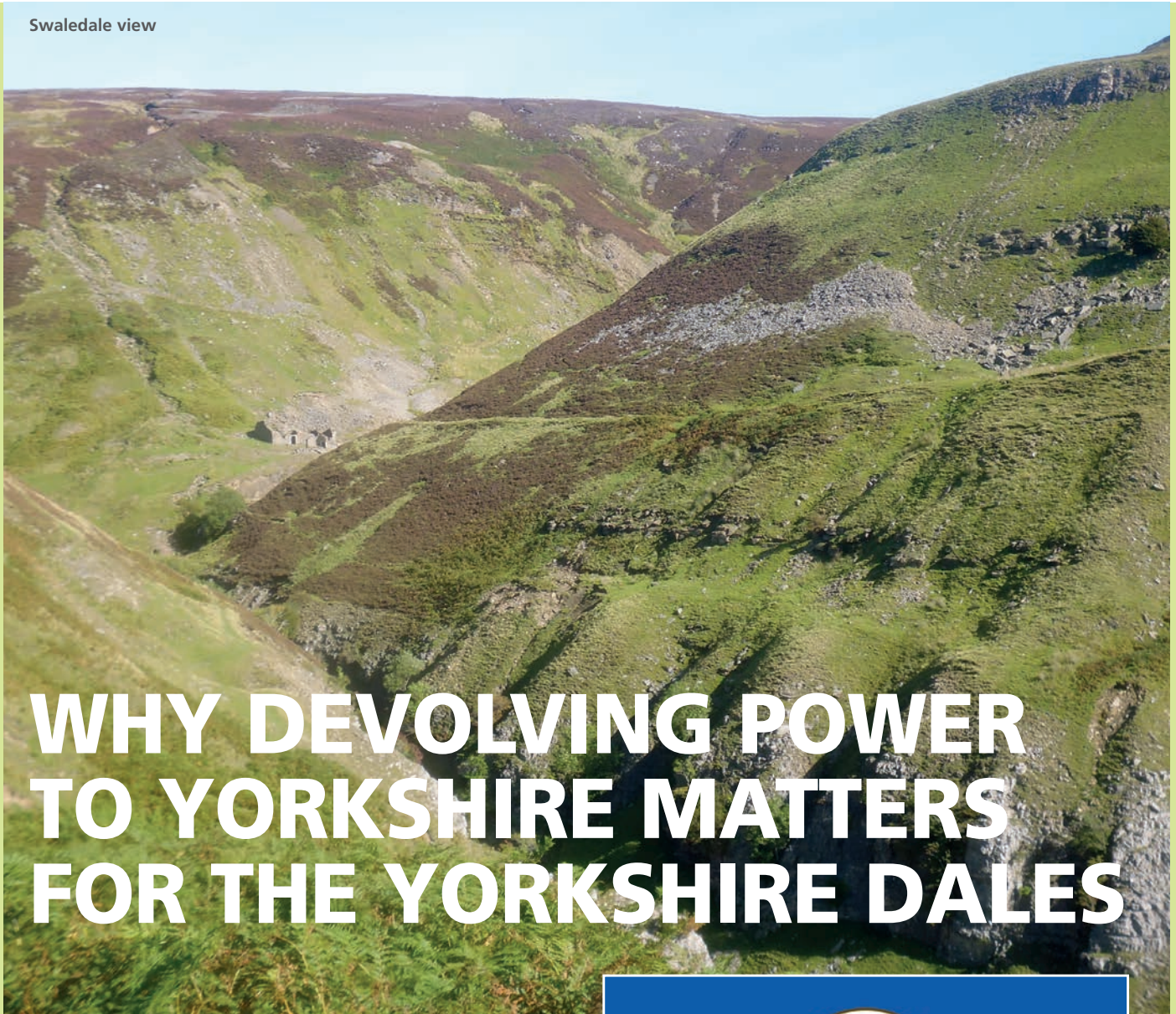
What of the future? The Society's own Council of Management presents an interesting mix of business members, professional people, and those with some specialised knowledge of the Dales, and others primarily sharing a deep love of the area. The YDS has had both detailed internal and appropriate external discussions with sister organisations, examining new ways to attract members and to question what exactly people in the 21st century are looking for in an amenity and campaigning organisation.

Yet there is no room for complacency – the Society is fully aware it must adapt to changing circumstances in the coming years. It will probably need to consider more professional help with IT matters so that its website and its payment possibilities are made easier for existing and potential members to access. It has ongoing concerns over several major issues in the Dales such as National Park budget cuts, affordable housing, green lane protection, public transport cuts, safeguarding historic barns, declining farm incomes, quarry traffic and timber extraction; with a strong team ready to challenge or mount an appropriate response to key issues or campaign for change, and explore new ways of thinking about the many challenges facing the National Park and its communities.

The Yorkshire Dales Society expresses its heartfelt thanks to all our members for their wonderful, loyal support over almost four decades. This is something we never take for granted – without *you*, the Yorkshire Dales Society would simply not exist!

Fleur Speakman

Swaledale view



# WHY DEVOLVING POWER TO YORKSHIRE MATTERS FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES

***T***here is a lot of debate going on in the local and regional press about the kind of devolved powers the Government propose to give to the people of Yorkshire. This all comes from their recent announcement that following Scottish and Welsh devolution, there will be devolution of at least some degree of decision making to the English regions.

Yorkshire is a very special part of England, with a strong sense of its own identity, and is more than just another English region. With a population of over 5 million people – bigger than many small European countries – it even has its own flag, its own symbol – the White Rose – and national Yorkshire day – August 1st. Many people feel themselves to be Yorkshire rather than just English or British. Maybe this is a folk memory which goes back to the Viking era, when it was part of Danelaw, an independent part of east and north England, governed from York.



But there is a real awareness, even in central Government, that Yorkshire not getting its fair share of national investment. Cuts in local Government funding are leaving both District and County Councils starved of cash, with insufficient funding for the kind of infrastructure and service support essential for economic development and the well-being of its people.

So the Government believes that Yorkshire needs a champion, a single body capable of speaking out for Yorkshire, to champion investment,





private and public, for the benefit of its people, on such matters as industrial investment, transport, economic development, and crucially environmental protection.

But to do so, there needs to be agreement on what kind of area should be included in such a new, powerful regional body, and also crucially, agreement to elect a single individual, a Mayor, to represent the region, a Yorkshire equivalent of a Ken Livingstone or Boris Johnson.

What kind of regional body will emerge from this debate, and what impact could it have on the Yorkshire Dales?

At the moment, there are three competing proposals for the new regional body. The first, so-called Greater Yorkshire, combines most of the authorities in the old Yorkshire and Humber Region, to include North Yorkshire, the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Districts, York and East Riding, but excluding South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. A second led (predictably) by North Yorkshire County Council suggests in effect a greater rural North Yorkshire, simply adding East Riding and York to their area.

The third option – which many commentators believe is the most likely – is for a stronger Leeds City Region, which would basically be what is now the area of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority – West Yorkshire itself, plus Craven, Harrogate and York, all part of the main travel-to-work catchment areas into what is the economic heart of the region.

The Yorkshire Devolution Movement, established in 2012 to champion what it describes as genuine devolution of powers to Yorkshire, wants something rather better than this. ***It has suggested devolution to the whole of the traditional county of Yorkshire and the establishment of a directly elected Yorkshire Parliament.***

For whatever option is chosen, what the Government is offering is a compromise - a regional body of elected members, with the directly elected Mayor to spearhead and champion a new Northern Powerhouse.

To those that argue this would simply create another layer of bureaucracy, the answer is quite simple. In 1974 a decision was taken to split the old West Riding County Council – one of the most progressive authorities in Britain - into three - the present densely populated West and South Yorkshire Metropolitan Counties and a totally artificial North Yorkshire County created by adding the old rural West Riding to the North Riding. This was in total contradiction to the much more sensible Redcliffe-Maud proposals, intended to link, not divide, town and countryside. It was largely the result of pressure from well-heeled rural dwellers to avoid having to pay rates to the urban authorities. With its County Hall in Northallerton 50 or more miles away, for many Dales people it is a remote bureaucracy, seemingly existing mainly to cut public services – libraries, police stations or local buses.

Abolishing this unpopular tier of Government, would allow the emergence of a network of smaller, locally controlled unitary authorities, probably based on existing Districts. But major strategic planning, transport and economic decisions would be given to the new regional body.

These changes could be enormously important for the future of the Yorkshire Dales. Visitors to the Dales come predominantly from

the adjacent conurbations, but their spending power supports the businesses on which Dales communities depends. Most Dales residents also regularly travel into the conurbations for work, education, shopping, and leisure. Good two-way transport links - road and rail – are essential for this prosperity. Yet parochial North Yorkshire is currently busily cutting the very bus services that bring the visitors, and which also allows its own residents to access to jobs and education. Latest proposals in Upper Wharfedale are to replace regular bus services with volunteer driven minibuses for locals only, even terminating some services at the county boundary. Thankfully, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority is in charge of regional rail services, otherwise most trains from Leeds would now terminate at Steeton or Horsforth. The WYCA are also strong supporters of DalesBus, and the Yorkshire Dales Society's Dales & Bowland CIC help keep at least some weekend services.

It is wrong that most of the population of Yorkshire, living in our great towns and cities, have no direct democratic voice, not only in deciding transport priorities at the other side of arbitrary boundaries, but in safeguarding the countryside on their borders, which is so vital for health giving recreation. This includes those magnificent, nationally important landscapes, the green lungs of our cities, our two great National Parks – the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. These great national assets currently face catastrophic reductions to their budgets dictated by the cost cutters of Whitehall. Only strong, regional Government can countermand Whitehall and ensure adequate resources are prioritised to protect our countryside, for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike. Footpaths and access areas need to be protected, visitor centres and toilets need to be open and available, public transport and education services need to be provided. Above all, the landscape needs to be safeguarded from unsightly development. This can only be done if our National Parks are properly funded and safeguarded against the Whitehall cost-cutters.

There is no guarantee, of course, that extra funding will follow extra powers. However, if there is a strong regional body, then it is certain that the economic case for investment in the North will be put much more forcefully, as indeed currently only happens in London. Research shows that well managed National Parks bring major economic benefits, not just in terms of visitor spend, but in terms of a high quality environment to attract new business and investment into surrounding towns and even nearby cities such as Leeds, Bradford, York and Lancaster. If you have magnificent, protected, accessible countryside on your doorstep, this will make the towns and cities of the whole of the North highly attractive places for inward investment and activity – true Northern Powerhouses.

Our National Parks, as well as being national assets, are therefore also major regional assets, adding so much to the quality of life for the whole population. Whilst Britain remains an over-centralised country, dominated by the super-city state and international financial centre of London, the neglect of our priceless northern countryside will continue. If having a Ken or Boris to act as a spokesperson, to speak up for our region, is the only way this can be changed, then most of us who care and love the Yorkshire Dales will feel it is a price worth paying.

Colin Speakman

# THE FUTURE OF THE SETTLE

THE SETTLE & CARLISLE RAILWAY LINE IS A MAGNIFICENT EXAMPLE OF

*The Yorkshire Dales, with its high and open striding fells and glorious dale bottoms, with sparkling becks and grey villages, is one of England's delights.*

The railway line and the Dales are two good reasons to enjoy Yorkshire.

This article seeks to update Yorkshire Dales Society members on the future of the Settle and Carlisle line. 2014 saw the 25th anniversary of the saving of the Settle and Carlisle from closure. Whilst this was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the work of the many people who contributed to the saving of the line it was, perhaps, also a time to think of the future. In an ever changing transport environment, some important questions are being asked, including:

- How can passenger numbers be sustained or increased to ensure we keep the line open?
- Can new markets be found to increase passenger numbers?
- How will the line be affected by the planned electrification of the network?

The Friends of the Settle & Carlisle Line (FoSCL) have established two groups to consider the future: a Futures Group made up of members with considerable and widespread industry knowledge and a team who have had the role of talking to the bidders for the next Northern franchise. This article mainly deals with the "Bidders team" and FoSCL's requests for the next rail franchise.

For those younger members of the Yorkshire Dales Society, the following is a brief description and a potted history of the line.

The Settle and Carlisle Line was built as an unnecessary third route from London to Scotland. Covering 72 miles, it plots a route over the northern Pennines and the Dales. It is a magnificent example of Victorian engineering with the construction of 14 tunnels and 22 viaducts required to transverse the challenging topography. The line reaches a height of 1,169 feet with a 16 mile climb from Settle to the summit at Blea Moor almost all of it at a gradient of 1:100. The climb is called the long drag and includes the iconic Ribbleshead viaduct, with the line reaching Dent, the highest station in England.

Construction of the line began in 1869 and lasted for seven years with over 6,000 men employed. Shanty towns developed to accommodate the workforce. Over 100 people died during the construction of the line, from disease caused by the poor living conditions and accidents.

In the 1980s the Government and British Rail, the then nationalised operator of rail services, proposed that the line be closed. With an ever increasing use of cars and declining rail journeys, British Rail was making huge losses which had to be stemmed. Dr Beeching led the plan to reshape the railways; he sought a large number of line and station closures. There were some successful challenges to his proposals. The most notable was the campaign to save the Settle and Carlisle Line. More than 26,000 written objections to the proposed closure were received. In response to this campaign, the minister responsible, Michael Portillo, reprieved the line due to the massive public interest, the increase in passenger numbers using the line and the lower than anticipated cost of repairing the Ribbleshead viaduct. Michael Portillo has many times stated that the reprieve was his best political decision in a long and distinguished career.

November 2015 should see the awarding of the Northern Franchise to a different Train Operating company. The United Kingdom is split into regions and periodically contracts to operate railway services within these areas, which are awarded for typically 5-7 years.

The Northern Franchise is one of the largest to be awarded and has involved a...

Wild Boar Fell. Photo by Pete Shaw.





# & CARLISLE RAILWAY LINE

VICTORIAN ENGINEERING OFFERING PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS TO THE DALES



Ribbleshead. Photo by Pete Shaw

significant subsidy from Government to make it worthwhile for the operator. The process to award these contracts is long and tortuous and potentially wrought with pitfalls as the recent refranchising of the West Coast Line has demonstrated. Setting the level of rail services is part of the contract awarding process and the Department for Transport, with input from rail user groups, are given the opportunity to request improvement and increases in services.

How can passenger numbers be sustained or increased to ensure we keep the line open? Improve services is the very obvious answer! FoSCL bidding group have requested important increases in services which they are very pleased to have embodied in the Contract specification: namely an extra late afternoon service from Leeds to Carlisle, with a return service from Carlisle at around 8:00pm and two extra services on Sunday. The timetable for the Settle and Carlisle Line has seen little change for many years and is a result of small incremental changes, when opportunities have arisen. It is largely a 2 hour service with additional trains in peak times. Changes are difficult to achieve as changes in one service will have large “knock on” impacts on other services, which can make improvements unachievable. Available paths (approvals to use the line) into Leeds and Carlisle are difficult to obtain – the Skipton Leeds service is a very popular and successful route with new stations at Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge due to be opened shortly – paths into Carlisle have to be found within a busy west coast service.

The quality of journey is also important so better rolling stock, appropriate for a scenic railway such as the Settle and Carlisle Line with extra train units, to accommodate more passengers, have been requested.

Are there new markets for the Settle and Carlisle Line? In FoSCL's proposals to the bidders, they have requested services from Manchester to Carlisle allowing passengers from Manchester, where there are 2.6 Million people living, to enjoy easier rail access to the Dales and people from towns in the Dales easier rail access to Manchester and its airport, shops, entertainment, sport and education which includes three major Universities. Rail travel between the Dales and Manchester and

the North West is possible now, but is long and expensive as it entails travelling between Manchester and Leeds and then travel from Leeds to Carlisle. This route follows two sides of a triangle whereas the direct route, the third side, has no services available. The railway infrastructure, however, exists on this third side with the line between Clitheroe and Hellfield operational for both freight and passenger traffic. This can be demonstrated by the following railway map showing the 'Missing Link':



The missing Link

FoSCL has requested the train operating companies to provide a 4 train a day service from Manchester to Carlisle to fill the “missing link”, supported by a business case which shows significant profits for the successful bidder. No capital investment is required. The case has as its foundation a public survey which includes over 3,600 responses and estimates including walker journeys to the Dales, to and from Universities and airport travel. The current railway operator, Northern Rail, has confirmed that there is a good case, but cites shortage of rolling stock as a stumbling block. There is a national shortage of diesel trains until the ongoing electrification of lines releases stock, when new electric trains are brought into service. FoSCL's hope is, that in the next few years rolling stock will be available, with better and longer trains, including those needed for new services. People in the North West will then be able to travel by rail to the Dales and residents in the Settle and Carlisle corridor will be able to travel to Manchester.

What of the long term future of the Settle and Carlisle? Network Rail have confirmed that the line is in their plans until 2043 (they do need to work in long time spans), we may see a Manchester Carlisle service, we should see incremental improvements in the standard service. We may also see electrification of the line which is in the 3rd (long term) phase, but it will be a major project, not perhaps of the magnitude of the original construction, but nonetheless a major and costly engineering challenge.

What is certain is that the Dales are a national treasure as is the Settle and Carlisle, rail route; together they will provide leisure opportunities for many generations to come!

Paul Levet (part of the bidders team from FoSCL)

# YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Society's AGM was held on a sunny day in lovely Leyburn on 19th September.

In the morning, YDS member Sheila Simms, with the help of Leyburn's "Town Team", led around fifty of us on a wonderfully organised tour on foot of this vibrant market town. We visited Emma Sedman Jewellery, where Emma described the challenges of starting up a business and showed us her fantastic craftsmanship. In Milners of Leyburn (established in 1883) we learned how a traditional clothing and interiors business was adjusting successfully to the challenges of the retail sector today, whilst maintaining the values that have served it well throughout its history. We then had the treat of wine tasting and cheese nibbling at Campbells of Leyburn (established in 1868) whilst learning how this business was thriving, by remaining true to its roots and bringing local communities supermarket-style choice and prices for their weekly shop. This was topped off by a short walk to take in Leyburn Shawl with panoramic views of rolling Wensleydale towards Penhill and the Coverdale Fells.

We then used either the local cafes and pubs or Tennants Garden Rooms, the venue of our AGM, for lunch. All were very impressed with the high quality, light and airy Garden Rooms.

The formal business of the day was preceded by a stimulating and interesting talk by David Butterworth, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. David spoke on *"The Challenges facing National Parks in the 21st Century and how to respond to these"*. David highlighted some of the threats to rural areas in general and national parks in particular, where the perception of central government's lack of commitment to the environment has manifested itself in significant reductions in funding to bodies such as the National Park Authorities - the custodians of areas treasured by those who visit or live in them. David explained how his Authority is responding to the funding challenge, including through the careful use of commercial partnerships. We reflected on the role the Society can play in supporting the Park Authority to manage these challenges.

In the AGM proper, chairman Mark Corner thanked 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 which we hosted jointly with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) in October last year. Mark also thanked Jon Beavan who has made a significant contribution to the Society as Vice Chairman.

Mark made a particular point of thanking Dr Bill Mitchell, MBE, our President, who at 87, had decided that the time was right for him to step down after 7 years of service and wise counsel to the Society as President and of course many years before that as an active member and a regular contributor to publications and a giver of stimulating talks. He was made an honorary YDS member in 1996. To honour Bill a new position of Patron to the Society has been created. Patrons will be individuals with a high profile in public life, who are willing to lend support to the Society and its objects. Bill had kindly agreed to be our first Patron. It was with great sadness that we learned of Bill's passing a few weeks later in mid October.

Mark then briefly reviewed the year ending March 2015, the details of which are available in his forward to the annual report which is available on the Society's website.

- As well as the National Park Societies Conference, mentioned above, we organised 10 walks (some with partner organisations), 3 talks, and a family event: "Tour de Gargrave Treasure Trail" to coincide with the Tour de France Grand Depart. We continued our oversight of planning applications to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the submission of objections or supportive comments as appropriate, consistent with our objects and policies. We also pursued the identification of issues requiring a policy position from the Society, using the involvement of subject matter experts in our Policy Committee meetings to

help us develop these policies. Policy position statements were produced for Woodlands and are under development for Farming and Minerals. We responded to the consultation process with regard to the YDNPA Local Plan. Regarding campaigning, we campaigned for the Park extension (still undecided by government), for increased affordable rural housing, for development control over unconstrained barn conversions (successfully) and for the increased use of rail for transporting quarry products (in which some progress is being made). In addition we continued to work closely with Campaign for National Parks (CNP) on national campaigns and statements. The Society voiced its opposition to the proposed Potash mine in the North York Moors National Park.

- As part of our communication activities, four high quality editions of the Yorkshire Dales Review were published and were clearly much appreciated by its readers. Mark expressed his thanks and appreciation to Fleur and Colin Speakman for this work.
- We continued with our oversight of the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company and Chris Wright gave the meeting a short separate update. DalesBus is now a network of 12 integrated bus services, generally acknowledged to be the best such leisure network in any UK National Park. In 2014 a record number of 56,000 passenger journeys were recorded on the network; an increase of over 15% above the previous year.

Regarding our plans for the next 12 months, Mark explained that this will focus on completion of our 3 year plan which will include: retaining and growing our membership; increasing participation in events; effective campaigning (likely to include: quarrying, protecting and promoting the YDNPA, and the Park extension now achieved and preparing for the success case); new policy position papers or updates; effective monitoring of Planning Applications; and identification and delivery of appropriate projects.



Regarding projects, Mark shared the news about the “Capturing the Past” project, described elsewhere in this issue of the Review.

Mark then thanked all those who had contributed to the Society’s activities over the year: officers, Trustees, Ann Shadrake our Executive Director, volunteers and, of course, members.

Mark concluded by noting that 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 we 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.

Graham Yule, Honorary Treasurer, presented the annual accounts, which were subsequently adopted, and gave an excellent overview of the Society’s finances.

In the election or re-election of Trustees, the following were re-elected: Nurjahan Ali Arobi, Hilary Baker, Jon Beavan, Ann Cryer, Rick Faulkner, Chris Hartley, Jerry Pearlman, Dr Malcolm Petyt, Dr Tony Smith, Dr Chris Wright, and Graham Yule. And the following were elected: Antony Bradley, Mark Corner, Bernard Peel, Nancy Stedman, and Mike Stephenson.

Mark Corner was elected as Chairman and Graham Yule was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer.

Chairman Mark Corner (centre), flanked by Chief Executive YDNPA David Butterworth and YDS Executive Director Ann Shadrake, photo by Philip Sedgwick



Ann Cryer, Dr Malcolm Petyt, and Dr Colin Speakman were elected as Vice Presidents.

Under Special Business, a resolution was passed, replacing the Articles of Association of the Society. Our original Articles were adopted in 1984 and updated in a limited way in 1997 and the view of the Trustees was, that it was timely now to update with best governance practice using the latest model Articles of Association as recommended by the Charities Commission, with a few modifications particular to us.

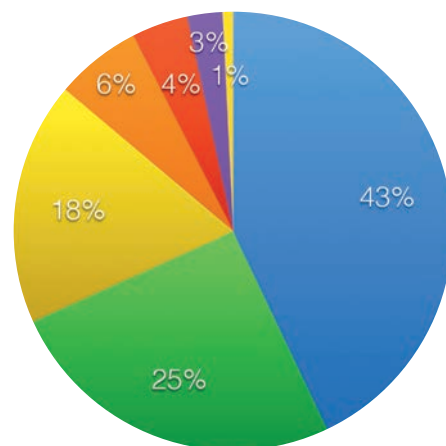
With respect to the *Objects* of the Society, the new version is shorter and refined and aligned more with the National Park purposes. They are:

1. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation of the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and adjacent areas, and the social and economic well-being of its local communities; and to encourage others to engage with, understand, enjoy and protect these areas.
2. In pursuance of the above, to advance the education of the public.

## WHAT DOES THE SOCIETY SPEND ITS FUNDS ON?

- **Employment costs** - inc. salaries & National Insurance
- **Office Costs** - inc. rent, electricity, insurance, phone & broadband, consumables
- **Review** - printing & postage
- **Travel Expenses** - for staff and volunteers
- **Accountancy**
- **Subscriptions & donations to other organisations**
- **Other**

Total operating cost: **£53191**



Pie-chart with financial details, Graham Yule



## THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY HAS GREATLY ENRICHED MY LATER YEARS...

During a long and wonderful life, I have been privileged to see many beautiful places. I have glimpsed the Himalayas, seen the snow-topped ranges of Poland and Austria, the tawny mountains of Greece, so rich in poetic and legendary lore, the flowery hillsides of Crete and Cyprus. For a few moments, one morning in the Drakensburg, in Natal, I thought I had found the loveliest place on earth – but that notion didn't last long! The Yorkshire Dales, for me, is always where my heart is anchored – the long, strong, level profile of its uplands, its stone walls marking out the pattern of ancient field systems, its heather and harebells, its vigorous rivers and its clear, linear beauty in winter.

How splendid, therefore, to find a Society wholly dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of this precious region and also prepared to campaign for its well being when required. Travelling in Italy, I grieved to see how unplanned development has so often disfigured its lovely valleys and I thanked god for our own national parks. How splendid, therefore, to have this Society, which stands, as it were, beside the Yorkshire Dales National Park, to support and observe, sometimes to advise, sometimes to speak out, sometimes to clarify the role of the Park to the public – or even to be the voice of the public to the Park!

Muscular problems have prevented my joining more than maybe one or two walks during my long membership, but what a pleasure it has been to attend the talks, to meet the friendly crowd, invigorated after their walk, and to hear an excellent speaker (I've lost count of all the topics covered!) How interesting too, to visit such a variety of Dales village halls, from the palatial new-build, complete with professional stage equipment and wheelchair access, to the small and homely, with fireplace and improvised kitchen spotlessly clean and lovingly cared for by local people.

The YDS has greatly enriched my later years and I owe much to the indefatigable officers and members for the welcome, the organisation, the fine publications, the sheer quality of this very special Society.

Kate Rhodes



River Swale in Swaledale

## THE YDS HAS OUTPERFORMED OUR EXPECTATIONS

We joined the YDS in its very early days, knowing both Colin and Fleur Speakman, and Keith Lockyer. We were taken with the idea of a Society for the Dales, that fulfilled a similar function to the long standing Friends of the Lake District. However, the YDS was to have a broader remit, being concerned with the social well-being of the Dales' population, whilst providing a counterweight to the siren voices of those that wanted to clothe the Dales in conifers, or holiday parks, or other large-scale developments; making money out of the Dales just for the few. It is clear that the formal bodies, primarily the YDNPA, needed support and a lively critique if the Dales were to be able to provide a necessary socially thriving green lung in a small and overcrowded England long into the future. The YDS was to see beyond the purely parochial.

Given its modest size, the Society has outperformed our expectations in the things it has achieved, for example in the areas of public transport and fighting for our historic green lanes. We are very impressed that it has been able to sustain itself over so long a period and are both disappointed, that it hasn't been able to attract even more supporters and also that it seems now to be even more necessary than ever. By now, we might have expected its major battles to be won.

Here's to the next 35 years.

Chris and Joan Alder



Birkdale - Picture courtesy of the YDNPA





YDS walk in Dentdale

## A MEMORABLE DAY WITH THE YDS

In the more relaxed days of British Rail, there was a Santa Special to Carlisle with office staff decorating the carriages and a snowman to entertain the passengers with Santa at the controls. This coincided with the YDS Christmas event in Dentdale. After a brief delay due to frozen points at Ribbleshead, and the chance to enjoy free coffee, we set off down the valley in glorious winter sunshine to Dent Town, where there was plenty of time to wander round and partake of some seasonal fare.

On our return dusk soon set in, but most of us stuck to the Dalesway route in the dark rather than the easier road option. In those days there was no electricity at the station, so we waited in candlelight whilst Chris Hartley regaled us with a recital of A Yorkshire Christmas - complete with hand actions! One highlight was seeing a steam special hurtling round the head of the dale like a demented dragon in the night. The diesel unit home was a bit of an anticlimax to a perfect day of adventure.

Chris Wright

## THE YORKSHIRE DALES IS AS MUCH ABOUT PEOPLE AS THE COUNTRYSIDE...

Ken Willson (former YDS Chairman and later YDS President) and I, were Executive Committee members of the Friends of the Lake District, and soon after the Yorkshire Dales Society was formed, Ken introduced me to it. The protection of the landscape of the Dales was very important of course, but the feature that especially appealed to me was the emphasis on the lives of the people who lived in the Dales and the need to maintain the infrastructure and services which enabled their way of life to continue. The Yorkshire Dales is as much about the people as about the countryside in which they live and the way in which the Society reacted to the needs of both, provided the principle motivation for me to join. I don't get to all the meetings because of the distance from my home in the Lakes, but I always enjoy meeting up with other members. Being at the time the editor of the Friends magazine *Conserving Lakeland*, I have been interested in the *Yorkshire Dales Review*, which I have to admit, is rather more professional, and every bit as good!

Alan Lord

## THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY – THEN AND NOW

When I joined the Yorkshire Dales Society in 1985, I was a really active walker and was one of five friends, who came together from Leeds, Baildon, Shipley, Haworth and Oxenhope. We all had cars and always arranged to meet at a central location every Thursday - in rain, hail or shine we walked in the lovely Yorkshire Dales. Because I loved the Dales, I joined the YDS, but I admit I was never an active member. However, I did usually join in the Society's walks and went afterwards to the talks that followed; mainly because I was familiar with the areas they dealt with. But I never wanted to get involved with the campaigning, which as the years passed, seemed more prominent in the magazine. However, I enjoyed reading it and thoroughly endorsed many of the issues with which the YDS became involved: namely the quarrying in Wharfedale, the quad bikes which were ruining some of the ancient footpaths, such as Mastiles Lane, and other issues such as the barns and turbines, with which I was personally acquainted. But I was never part of the campaigning groups, preferring to leave it to more vigorous members of the Society. However, as I have always subscribed to the *Dalesman*, I loved the article on Bill Mitchell, and wish there were other similar stories.

Over the years I have seen the Society grow and develop, and whilst I still enjoy the magazine, I find that it has become more concerned with business and affiliate members, and its emphasis is more on campaigning and protecting, rather than enjoying. Now as a disabled very senior citizen, I still enjoy the magazine, but whilst I do see the need for growth and expansion, I wish there were more articles for oldies like me, who can only enjoy the Dales vicariously.

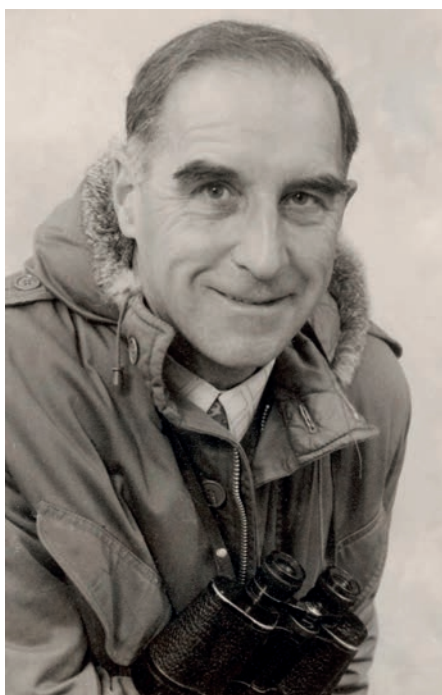
Marie Caltieri

[More YDS memories on page 16...](#)



# WR (Bill) Mitchell MBE 1928-2015

**B**ill Mitchell had a strong personal connection with the Yorkshire Dales Society as its much-loved President for the last seven years, but also for his support and deep interest in the Society in its earlier days through the pages of *Dalesman* magazine, as its editor of many years standing; which pre-dated this more official recognition. As a journalist and writer of over 200 books on the Dales, Bill's work always rested on sound scholarly research, together with a tremendously accessible, readable style. For many years he delighted the Society's membership with a series of articles in the *Yorkshire Dales Review*, usually focusing on many of the Dales personalities he had encountered – often spiced by a delightful wit. It has been justly remarked, that he had a real knack in catching the essence of the Dales character.



Bill Mitchell 1977

His other important legacy lies in the shape of an oral archive (now being digitalised by Sita Brand and Settle Stories), and other archive material, consisting of an enormous wealth of interviews ranging widely across the spectrum of many Dales working folk and even celebrities with a Dales connection. Bill had a wonderful way of relating to whoever he was interviewing and a great gift for friendship, whether it was JB Priestley, Alfred Wainwright, James Herriott (Alfred Wight) or Hannah Hauxwell.

Even though a frailer figure in his later years, he still regularly produced highly readable articles in the *Craven Herald* newspaper and other publications. He had started his career as a journalist initially in that very same newspaper, and, perhaps fittingly, his last article for that newspaper appeared the day before he died. As a raconteur, he kept his audience spell-bound, packing out on

one momentous occasion, a Yorkshire Dales Society AGM, with over a 100 people who arrived to hear him speak.

Born in Skipton, Bill made Giggleswick his home, and with his wife Freda, brought up his family there. The warmth and love he inspired in his own children was very much in evidence when both David and Janet spoke at his funeral in Skipton parish church in mid September. Not only Dales folk and personalities always meant a great deal to him, but also the Dales scenery - its grandeur and variety continually inspired him. In later years, with a few close friends, he founded the Geriatric Blunderers Group, and on one occasion delighted the Yorkshire Dales Society by showing a video film of one their adventures; providing his own inimitable commentary.

Bill's kindness and consideration was also legendary, in tune with his deeply felt Methodist faith; practising for many years as a lay preacher in many places round the Dales. Among the honours he received and

particularly valued, were an MBE in 1996, an Honorary Doctorate from Bradford University and, in a poll organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for its 60th anniversary, he was voted Greatest Living Icon in the Yorkshire Dales. Typically, he was still engaged on his last book, *Lake District Folk*, co-written with his son David and sent to the printers shortly before his demise. Bill was still selecting the book's photos from his hospital bed! His formidable work ethic had enabled him for many years to edit single-handedly *The Dalesman* (later *Dalesman*) and its sister magazine *Cumbria*. Our very sincere condolences go out to his children, grandchildren and other close family members.

For all of us who love the Dales, Bill's departure will leave an enormous hole in our lives, but very many happy memories of a truly remarkable personality, who will live on through his many books and articles for generations to come.

**Fleur Speakman**

Bill Mitchell photo by Paul Jackson





# ALL-TERRAIN WHEELCHAIR ADVENTURES

Following the onset of spinal degeneration in 2008, I became a wheelchair user and had to take early retirement from the job I loved as a headteacher in Primary Education. I was a keen hillwalker and enjoyed the challenge of long distance walks. It felt as though everything I was passionate about was taken away from me.

Whilst my days as a rambler seemed over, I never lost my love of the outdoors and founded 'accessthe dales' in 2011 to raise awareness about access in the countryside.

accessthe dales has come a long way. Last year, supported by the Yorkshire Dales Sustainable Development Fund and other fundraising events, we bought an all-terrain wheelchair for the National Trust, which is housed at Malham Tarn. It's available for hire and allows people to explore around the Tarn.

Though this is a great move forward in making the inaccessible accessible, I wanted more challenge... longer routes... rougher terrain... height gained... and views... wonderful, glorious views that you only get from truly being up in the hills. That was when I came across TerrainHopper. It's a new all-terrain wheelchair that has won awards for innovation. I contacted Debbie and Sam Dantzic, the designer of the TerrainHopper and they were only too pleased to take me out on a test drive.

This was the 'beast' that would help me to do what I want to achieve in the countryside. This could get me to the places I wanted to be, over the terrain I wanted to go and to the heights I wanted to achieve.

With sponsorship from TerrainHopper, myself and Andy, my husband and best friend, set off on our version of Wainwright's Coast to Coast in April 2015. Leaving a rain-lashed St Bees, we made our way across country, arriving thirteen days later at Robin Hoods Bay. It was a life-changing experience. Never did I think I would be in the hills and mountains ever again. I cried secretly more than once.

Since then, we have secured a book publishing deal for those who wish to follow our route. 'In the Spirit of Wainwright' is due July 2016 from Sigma Press.

In July, we attempted Pen y ghent. I was so excited at the thought of being back up the top of my favourite mountain.

Even in the fog and rain it was great to be climbing this iconic peak. We were within spitting distance of the summit when our route was blocked by a rock ledge. With a steep drop at one side and this obstacle in our pathway, we turned back. I was upset! However, safety is always paramount. Always. But we are going back to have another go!

Our adventures in the hills continue, but they're not about being military operations, or going through private lands, or involving huge teams of people. We want routes that will be suitable for people who simply want a day in the hills with minimal fuss, away from the stresses of life so they can enjoy the beauty of the Dales. Currently, we're creating long distance walks, suitable for robust all terrain-wheelchairs, using the network of bridleways and, where necessary, quieter country lanes.

In April 2016, we will be completing our new long distance route, 'Coast to Coast to Coast'. This is a seven day walk starting on the shores of Semer Water through to Bassenthwaite Lake.

My thanks go to Jonathan Smith from Where2walk for his amazing support and to TerrainHopper for their incredible help.

Debbie North



Debbie North



accessthe dales – making the inaccessible accessible  
[www.accessthe dales.com](http://www.accessthe dales.com)  
[www.terrainhopper.com](http://www.terrainhopper.com)  
[www.where2walk.co.uk](http://www.where2walk.co.uk)



# LEYBURN

## A VERY VIBRANT TOWN WITH A GREAT FUTURE

*It gave the Yorkshire Dales Society enormous pleasure to rediscover Leyburn in the twenty first century as a centre buzzing with life and ideas.*

Leyburn, a traditional market town in the heart of Wensleydale, only received its market charter and rose to prominence in the Dale, after Wensley was decimated by the plague.

As a gateway to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and a year round destination – it provides a base for walking, cycling, sight-seeing and exploring the wonderful countryside all around it. In 2014 the Tour de France Grand Depart came through the town, triggering an increased interest in cycling locally. It is also a 'Walkers are Welcome' town and a walking/cycling festival is in the early stages of preparation.

The market place is surrounded by an array of independent shops offering a wide range of goods, and there is no shortage of tea rooms, cafés, pubs and restaurants.

So popular was this visit (one of the Society's 'Vibrant Communities' mini tours), that the large group was split into two. Yorkshire Dales Society members' first stop was a relatively new venture. Emma Sedman (since the event a new YDS Business member), makes impressive high quality silver and enamel jewellery and also showed off her 'bijou' shop and workroom. Members also



YDS group outside Milners - Photo Ann Shadrake

visited Milners, established five generations ago and still run by family members. They heard that the business had needed to adopt a more modern approach. Still specialising in ladies' wear and haberdashery, it now has a substantial range of high quality home interior items on the upper floor. The tour of businesses ended by enjoying a wine tasting in Campbells – another long established family firm. Its small frontage belies not only the size of the shop, but also the enormous range of food and drink for sale in this emporium. (See article on page 15). Suitably refreshed, YDS members walked to the start of Leyburn Shawl, enjoying the wonderful views of Penhill and lower Wensleydale. It is said (and it's a lovely story), that Mary Queen

of Scots escaped from her incarceration in Bolton Castle, but dropped her shawl on the way to Leyburn – hence the name.

A short walk from the market place is the Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, based in what was until recently a Catholic primary school. Run entirely by volunteers, it holds art exhibitions, workshops, dance classes, musical events and on Friday evenings becomes a cinema. It also hosts social events for elderly residents and organises walks for those wanting to get fit. The latest venture is a U3A group.

A little further from the centre is Leyburn Station, largely staffed by volunteers. With its tea room and shop, it is an important stopping point for the Wensleydale Railway, which runs from Redmire to Northallerton. Further along the Bedale Road, there are several visitor attractions in the Business Park – including a chocolate factory specialising in hand-made products, an art gallery, a gluten-free kitchen and a supplier of goods you might need for country life - from outdoor clothing to pet and livestock items. The final business is Tennants' Auction Rooms. In 2014 this site was greatly extended to include an art gallery, restaurant, shop and a garden room for meetings, alongside the regular valuations and sales. It was here on September 19th in 2015, that the Yorkshire Dales Society held their very successful AGM in a very beautiful setting. A Society walk on the following day with some members staying overnight at local bed and breakfast places, all helped to make this a tremendously worthwhile occasion, and warm thanks were extended to the organisers. A more extensive post AGM walk on the Sunday featured the full length of Leyburn Shawl and other attractive sites.

For a more extended stay, other nearby visitor attractions include the White Rose Candles in Wensley, while Middleham, the centre of the horse racing industry, boasts a most impressive Richard III castle. Forbidden Corner – with its secret passages and quirky features is a delight for young children.

Sheila Simms



YDS group outside Campbells - photo Philip Sedgwick



# SERVING WENSLEYDALE SINCE 1868

**W**hen Robert Campbell and his son Alexander opened a modest, single-front store called R Campbell & Son in Leyburn market place in 1868, the 'new-fangled' railway was already bringing tourists to marvel at Wensleydale's spectacular scenery.

Robert was head gardener at the Bolton Estate, so his knowledge of shopkeeping was probably limited. Alexander was an apprentice grocer, with no managerial experience. Not the greatest set of attributes for budding entrepreneurs, but they were to become really successful.

Their legacy is Campbells of Leyburn - a flourishing supermarket and wine and spirit merchant, that is a retail icon of the Dales. Against all national trends, it has remained independent and family-owned for almost 150 years.

In 1868, Leyburn had been linked by rail to the east coast main line at Northallerton for 12 years. By 1878, the line had been extended 22 miles to the west coast main line at Garsdale on the Settle-Carlisle line.

With the Dale now easily accessible from towns and conurbations on both sides of the country, tourism grew apace in Wensleydale. In 1880, the Leyburn terminus alone sold nearly 26,000 tickets.

From the outset, the store was catering for the needs of holidaymakers and day-trippers, as well as the day to day necessities of the Dales people, (which, as the shop's records show, in the mid 19th century, included access to ammunition)!

Customers will also have included the hundreds of navvies who were driving the line westwards. At the other end of the social scale, the store satisfied the more sophisticated tastes of the shooting parties entertained at Bolton Castle.

While the pace of change may have slowed since the railway-led revolution, the needs and tastes of home and visiting customers

Campbells now...



Campbells then...

have continued to become more diverse and sophisticated over the decades. Campbells has survived as a Dales institution because it has always been prepared to invest and innovate to keep pace with these changes. In the 1960s it introduced its customers to a new form of shopping when it ripped out its shelving, re-jigged its internal lay-out and re-opened as the first self-service store in the Yorkshire Dales.

More recently, the vision of the late Doug Campbell made the store a place of pilgrimage for wine connoisseurs. He created a wine department that takes up most of the first floor, and stocks the widest selection of international wines in the region, attracting customers from all parts of the North East. Doug Campbell also founded a wine club that grows in popularity and reputation each year – with a bar and lounge area known as 'Upstairs at Campbells' as a permanent venue for club meetings.

With its roots so deep in the Dales, supporting local producers and food manufacturers is a genuine passion with Campbells. Finally, in recent years as local shops have been replaced by the big supermarket chains and Internet shopping became popular, the store became a member of the Costcutter purchasing group, enabling it to compete on both the price and range of products for its customers' weekly shopping.



...More Members' memories  
of the YDS and the Dales



## A COTTAGE IN THE DALES

I bought my cottage in the Dales in 1988, expecting to have it as a weekend retreat until I retired in about eight years time, (in the event it was only two). I was only around for weekends and holidays initially. Normally clubs and societies meet during the week – no good for me. I wanted something at weekends.

Then I happened to see an advertisement on the front page of the *Craven Herald* (yes, they were on the front page then, just like the *Times*), announcing a walk followed by a talk in Otley, organised by the Yorkshire Dales Society. This was more like it, I'd go along and see if I enjoyed it. I found my way to Otley, and thoroughly enjoyed a walk by the river, meeting some very friendly Yorkshire folk as we walked and chatted (remember I was a Southerner from Essex), and then I went on to the talk in the afternoon given by Peter Brears. He told us how the different dales traditionally had different styles of cooking, depending on which fuel was locally available. I was fascinated and just wished I could have tape-recorded the whole talk.

If this was the calibre of the speakers they had, I must watch out for more talks, and the rest as they say, is history. I joined the YDS and found the walks and talks programme so interesting and it was also the easiest and best way to get to know both the people and the countryside of my adopted home. And here I am 27 years later, still revelling in the camaraderie of the Yorkshire folk – although my walking is now sadly somewhat curtailed.

Hilary Baker

# CAPTURING THE PAST

**We are delighted to have secured funding to sponsor a three year Capturing the Past project to train local heritage groups and others to be able to digitally store and make publically available on-line their archives. A local expert team will deliver this for us and will be funded through a Heritage Lottery Fund grant as part of an exciting series of projects called "Stories in Stone" coordinated by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.**

The total Ingleborough Dales Landscape Project award is worth over £2 million and the 27 individual projects will focus on the Ingleborough area of the Dales, with the aim to conserve and restore some of our most important heritage assets. Other projects include the restoration of traditional farm buildings and dry stone walls, archaeological surveys of deserted settlements, woodland and limestone pavement restoration, and countryside management and heritage skills training for young people in the Ingleborough area.

Regarding the *Capturing the Past* project, many local groups and individuals in the area have archive material relating to the history of local communities and their use and management of the landscape, but the range and content of this archival heritage is only partly understood and it remains an under-used resource - unseen, inaccessible or at risk of deterioration or loss. Based on the principle that a community's sense of place rests on an understanding of its

past, we wish to enable wider, sustained, rigorous and ultimately more useful access to the archival heritage. The aim of the project is to equip volunteers, who are likely to include members of local heritage bodies, with the skills needed to assess and interpret these archives and to make them available through an online databank. A package of digitising equipment will be purchased and made available to our expert team for use within the project. The principal outcomes will be a team of trained volunteers who will have the skills and equipment to continue their work in subsequent years, and a tested online databank to which material can continue to be added. Staff at the North Yorkshire County Records Office will assist in project delivery.

Making the archival heritage available online will benefit all with an interest in the history of the project area, transforming intellectual access to the area's history. Beneficiaries will include professionals involved in landscape interpretation, school teachers developing local history projects, members of local heritage bodies, visitors to the Yorkshire Dales, and a wide public, including those with an interest in local and family history of the project area.

The *Capturing the Past* project fits wonderfully with YDS's purposes of both helping conserve the cultural heritage of the Dales and with our educational role and we are excited about delivering the project!

Mark Corner



Raven Frankland and YDS members visit Wharton Hall in the early 1980s. This area will soon be in the extended National Park.



# LIVING IN FOXUP

**We came to Foxup in 2006 to live in a small cow barn and milking parlour, converted in the 1960s - even so we had to replace every door and window, renew the interior and batten down the garage roof. Moving from a four bedroomed 18th century Cheshire cottage meant discarding one third of our belongings to fit into our new abode.**

There used to be three farms in Foxup with only Bridge Farm remaining today as a working farm occupied by the Lund family. R.G.Lund (known to all as Gar) has farmed here for nearly 50 years, taking over from his father in the 1960s. Gar was the last pupil to attend Halton Gill school, one mile away. The two becks, Foxup and Cosh, fed from the watershed of Foxup moor, converge at Bridge Farm to form the river Skirfare, which flows along Littondale to the Wharfe.

The first morning we awakened in Foxup, snow was piled up two feet against the front door, our car was buried and the gravity water supply from 1500ft on the hillside was intermittent; but the sky was blue, the sun was throwing its first light onto Plover Hill and we knew that we had come to live in the right place.

Gar and Gail were incredibly welcoming and made light of our difficulties: *Don't worry it will soon get fixed*, Gar would say and often did the fixing himself. He had been ill the previous year and his youngest daughter, Rachael, had moved in to assume the main farm duties, especially shepherding a large flock of Swaledales on hill land stretching four miles to the west and north of the farm. Jan and I were keen to lend a hand, especially on gathering days, when the flock was brought home from the high ground and where we could walk on rough terrain, that hitherto might be considered out of bounds. Gar assigned me to the old sheepdog, Sprocket, to gather the northern end of the moor: *Not to worry*, he said, *the dog will show you what to do*. Eventually we got more involved when the Friesian cows came indoors and, of course, at lambing time. The extreme hardship of farming in an isolated hamlet with the flock on elevated ground, where the wind reduces the temperature below zero, was something we had only read about.

After a prolonged downpour, the water in Foxup beck rises with dramatic speed and subsides just as quickly, due to the many subterranean passages in the higher reaches. Thousands of primroses and a few orchids proliferate on the steep sides of Foxup beck in spring and waterfalls cascade musically over the bedrock. The RSPB representative

comes every year to assess the arrival of plovers and curlews. He was excited in 2012 to find a redstart, normally not seen at the head of Littondale. Herons fly between the two becks and we have a woodpecker that, according to BT, eats through the telephone wires!

Above Foxup, two and a half miles away, is the lonely Cosh farmhouse. Eddie Pickard restored it magnificently in 2006/7 including the barn, a sixteenth century grange, once owned by the monks of Fountains Abbey. He and Amy, in their mid twenties, newcomers like ourselves, lived there for a while, but when their two girls were born, they had to vacate the house due to the extreme weather, an impossible track and no telephone or mains electricity supply. They became our young friends and we were inspired by their energy and spirit of adventure.

The Lunds used to do B&B at Bridge Farm, hosting visitors from all corners of the world. I met some of them, who told me of the warm Yorkshire hospitality they had received and how struck they were by the remoteness and beauty of Foxup. Young people on D of E expeditions have always found camping space at the Farm and been given use of the outhouse. When a dejected walking group from Bradford walking the Three Peaks, arrived five and a half miles off course, soaking wet, looking for Whernside, Gar ran them back to Horton, suggesting they start again on another day.

We like to see visitors at Foxup. Many come to walk, or mountain bike, along the Foxup Bridleway, to Horton in Ribblesdale, to climb Pen y ghent via Plover Hill or to walk to Cosh on the Harrop Barns path – all are welcome to this beautiful place. I remember climbing Pen y ghent as a boy, reading the Foxup sign which seemed remote, out of reach. Now, 65 years later, I live at Foxup – a dream come true!

Mike Stephenson



Sheep shearing at Foxup

Foxup in the snow



# A VERY WARM WELCOME TO TWO NEW TRUSTEES OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY COUNCIL



New YDS Council members Nancy Stedman

**Nancy Stedman** originally qualified as a landscape architect, but then became interested in landscape conservation and management, undertaking an MSc in Conservation and Ecology at University College London. She then worked for some years for the Countryside Commission (as it was then), before moving up to Yorkshire in 1968 to lead the Landscape Conservation team at the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Authority. After five years, Nancy decided to go freelance, undertaking a range of landscape consultancies and arts projects. She was later appointed as a Secretary of State Member of the YDNP Authority from 1998 to 2008. Last year she retired from Natural England, having worked for nine years as a landscape specialist, based in Yorkshire. She has had a lifelong interest in all things to do with landscape, with a continuing interest in art, and regularly exhibits drawings, prints and sculptures. The Yorkshire Dales Society is indeed fortunate to have Nancy's specialist expertise at its service.

After his school days in Hunslet, Leeds, and national service in the Coldstream Guards, **Mike Stephenson** attended Fircroft College in Birmingham, and then worked at a boys training school in Oxfordshire. In his post as Director of Youth Work for the Cheshire and Wirral Youth Federation, his pioneering work was recognised with an MBE. Further work with disadvantaged boys followed and he became a founder member of the Princes Trust. In 2001 he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Cheshire. Mike is a most enthusiastic walker and was formerly a keen

member of the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club and a climber. He is President of Zanskar Ski School in the North West Indian Himalaya and a former member of the YDNP Access Panel. He still serves on the Access for All advisory group. Mike feels he has *come home* to the Yorkshire Dales and enjoys helping out at a local farm in Foxup (see page 17), and is keen to support the YDS in any way he can.

New YDS Council Mike Stephenson



## WE WARMLY WELCOME OUR NEWEST BUSINESS MEMBER AND NEWEST AFFILIATE MEMBER

**Emma Sedman Jewellery** - Emma Sedman is a contemporary jewellery designer, based in Leyburn, working in silver and enamel. Her colour designs are composed of variations of enamel with gold and silver leaf. Transparent colours are fused with geometrical shapes, creating striking and distinctive designs. She exhibits in various galleries in the UK and latterly also in New York, and is a member of the Guild of Enamellers. Yorkshire Dales Society Members were able to visit Emma's attractive premises in Leyburn prior to the AGM in September, where Emma was able to demonstrate some of her technique in her small-scale workshop. In the store we were able to admire the beautiful finished products for themselves.

[www.emmasedman.co.uk](http://www.emmasedman.co.uk)

**North Craven Building Preservation Trust** - Our latest Affiliate Member is North Craven Building Preservation Trust, based in Settle, formed originally in 1978. The Building Preservation Trust is a registered charity. It looks after buildings at risk in North Craven with a remit to restore buildings of architectural and historical interest in North Craven. As the owner of a number of properties, the Trust uses the income derived from these to meet its obligations. It is based in the Museum of North Craven Life in the Folly at Settle. It was able to acquire the North Range of the Folly (Grade I listed), which is an ongoing major project.

[www.ncbpt.org.uk](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk)

## LEGACY GIFT

The Yorkshire Dales Society has received a very kind legacy of £1,000 from the late Clifford Barstow, who sadly passed away in February 2015. Mr Barstow and his late wife Mollie had a great love for the Dales, which they passed on to their children, and a keen interest in conservation. They were loyal Members of the Society for many years. Their daughter Hazel kindly gave permission for this acknowledgement of her father's bequest.

An enjoyable mix of events for all members and friends for the winter months. All walks are free of charge and lectures free to YDS members, with a small £3 charge to non-members. Boots required for walks – **Well behaved dogs on leads welcome on most walks; check for brown paw-print symbol** 🐾.

Try to use public transport whenever you can to reduce parking congestion.

[www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org) for up to date transport details, for rail information [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or Traveline 0871 200 2233.

## Saturday, 16 January 2016

**i** Medium 🚶🚶🚶

### Walk & Talk - Skipton

Join Ann Shadrake on a local walk of about 4 miles, near Skipton. If weather is clear we will enjoy a modest but rewarding ascent (c 900 feet) to the trig point on Sharphaw, fine views and varied terrain of fields, moorland and felled forest. If wet/foggy we will instead take a low level walk (similar distance) 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). Well behaved dogs welcome 🐾.

Reconvene in Skipton for the afternoon, the talk will be by Dr George Ingle, 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.

## Saturday, 20 February 2016

**i** Short 🚶🚶

### Walk & Talk - Burnsall

Bernard Peel will lead a leisurely ramble (c 2½ miles) from Burnsall village, following the River Wharfe to Hebden Suspension Bridge, then back up the Fairy Steps and downhill across the fields affording lovely views towards Simon's Seat. Well behaved dogs welcome 🐾. One short uphill on steps and sequence of stiles (gently downhill).

Afternoon talk in the recently renovated village hall is 'Bygone Burnsall', a presentation by Alan Stockdale (3rd generation Burnsall resident) of photographs created from very old glass negatives he discovered in his attic, supplemented by postcards and photographs collected by Alan over the last 40 years.

**11:00 Walk:** Meet outside Red Lion pub opposite the village green. Park with consideration on village roads or use pay & display car park. Time for pub lunch before afternoon talk. Bus 74 from Ilkley d. 1010.

**2:15 Talk:** Burnsall Village Hall, Main Street, Burnsall, BD23 6BP. Parking as above. £3 to guests/non members. Complimentary tea and biscuits. Ends approx 4:00. Return bus 17:32.

### Key

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

## Saturday, 5 March 2016

**v** Short 🚶🚶

### West Burton

This will be the fourth in our successful series of Vibrant Community events visiting Dales towns and villages. Business Member Diane Howarth of Cottage in the Dales has arranged this 'behind the scenes' visit to West Burton, with the help of local people and businesses. This beautiful and thriving village is arranged around a central green, with plenty of historic interest, an award winning village hall, and a range of traditional and artisan shops to explore. On our guided tours (morning and afternoon) we will discover the stunning Cauldron Falls (drawn by Turner), the thriving Village Hall (open for coffee/late breakfast), and hear from local tradespeople and business owners about how they make the most of being located here at the entry to the "secret" valley of Walden. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome 🐾. Short walks with some uneven areas/cobbles and steps into buildings. Be assured it will be an excellent day!

**10:30 Tour:** Meet for village tour at the Village Hall, West Burton, Leyburn, DL8 4JY. Park with consideration on village roads (no parking on the green). Little White Bus 156 from Hawes d. 09:27. Check at [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org) as changes expected in January

**Lunch break 12:30 – 1:30 approx.** Free time to take lunch in village pub or tearoom.

**1:30-3:30** Further short walking tour of village and local area, chance to meet local businesses.

**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](http://www.yds.org.uk)**

## Tuesday, 26th April 2016

**r** Long 🚶🚶🚶

### Ride2Stride Event

#### Opening Walk: Woods and Water

Join Yorkshire Dales Society Chairman Mark Corner on a fascinating walk from Settle along the Pennine Bridleway, up Mitchell Lane and the old road towards Long Preston before heading eastwards towards Langber Lane and New Pasture, visiting Mark's own woodland, before returning to Settle via Scaleber Force. Well behaved dogs welcome 🐾. Distance around 8 miles.

**Meet:** Settle Station 09:50 (Leeds train arrives) – return around 15:00. By 580 bus 15:30 or train 15:45

## Wednesday, 27th April 2016

**r** Long 🚶🚶🚶

### Ride2Stride Event

#### Linear Walk: Clapham, Feizor and Giggleswick Scar

Join YDS Vice President Colin Speakman on an 8 mile linear walk from Clapham to Settle via Austwick, Feizor - lunch stop - and along Giggleswick Scar (spectacular views but some steep sections) back to Settle. Well behaved dogs welcome 🐾.

**Meet:** Clapham Village Shop at 11:55; Catch Morecambe Train d. Leeds 10:17 Skipton 11:00 a. Clapham Station 11:32 then 1¼ mile walk; or Craven Connection bus service 580/1, d. Skipton 10:45, Settle 11:30.

Return to Settle around 16:30. (Bus back to Skipton 17:00, train 16:34, 17:57)

## Monday, 2nd May 2016

**r**

### Ride2Stride Event

#### Evening Talk: The Settle-Carlisle Line and the Three Peaks

**Three Peaks Project Manager and National Park Area Ranger Steve Hastie** will talk about the importance of the Settle-Carlisle Line as a means of access to Yorkshire's famous Three Peaks, and the railway's close links to the Three Peaks Project.

**Meet:** The Friends Meeting House, Settle, 19:00 (7pm). Admission £3. (Last train 21:14)



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Photo: "basket-weave" effect on tree-trunk in Wensleydale

## CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY

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



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

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

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*Please note it would be extremely helpful if you could email [ann.shadrake@yds.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.yds.org.uk)

Information about the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company can be accessed on [www.dalesandbowland.com](http://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](http://www.yds.org.uk)

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