

# Yorkshire DALES review



**CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY**



- 
- RISING WATERS • WILD BOAR FELL AND MALLERSTANG – SAFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS •
  - RE-WILDING; CONTINUING THE DEBATE • NAVVIES, SHANTY TOWNS AND 'JERICHO' •
  - MEN OF LEAD • NEW YDS COUNCIL MEMBERS •
-



## CONTENTS Spring 2016 : Issue 134

<b>RISING WATERS</b>	Page 3	<b>DALESWATCH NEWS</b>	Page 15
<b>WILDBOAR FELL &amp; MALLERSTANG:</b> Safe for future generations	Page 4-5	<b>CAPTURING MEMORIES OF NIDDERDALE</b>	Page 16
<b>RE-WILDING:</b> The debate continues	Page 6-7	<b>OUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP...</b> ...in finding new members and supporters	Page 17
<b>NAVVIES, SHANTY TOWNS &amp; 'JERICHO'</b>	Page 8-9	<b>HALF A LIFETIME</b>	Page 17
<b>MEN OF LEAD</b>	Page 10-11	<b>NEW YDS BUSINESS MEMBERS &amp; AFFILIATE MEMBER</b>	Page 18
<b>TRANSPORT REVOLUTION IN THE DALES:</b> Local communities take charge	Page 12	<b>YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY EVENTS</b>	Page 19
<b>NEW YDS COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	Page 13	<b>WHAT IS THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY?</b>	Page 20
<b>STOP PRESS:</b> Two extra walks in Lower Wharfedale	Page 13		
<b>FRIENDS FOR LIFE</b>	Page 14	Editor Fleur Speakman	

# Yorkshire DALES review

## RISING WATERS

Our spectacular cover picture by Jim Bunting, showing Malham Cove Waterfall as a great rush of water falling over the Cove, caused by Storm Desmond - is likely to be a once in a lifetime experience. Authorities, including the Yorkshire Dales National Park seem to be unclear when a similar dramatic event occurred, suggesting either the nineteenth century, or around 1720 and even the last Ice Age. Exciting as this Cove waterfall was, nevertheless, recent storms and heavy rainfall have caused very serious flooding issues, which have affected numerous areas and communities all over the United Kingdom. Some of them have undergone repeated water borne invasion, with huge damage to property, businesses, livestock and crops, with livelihoods affected and transport links at least temporarily curtailed. York, Leeds, Calderdale, South Yorkshire and Cumbria have had a most testing time. Though certainly not quite so dramatic, some Dales' communities and those on the edge of the Dales, have also been directly and indirectly affected - needing rescue from vehicles, or

from landslips blocking their routes or even simply finding visits at the festive season impossible. Even parts of the Dales Way in Cumbria has had problems, with sections of path and even bridges being swept away or declared unsafe, though the YDNPA has taken some enormously helpful remedial measures to keep the Way open for walkers.

Rivers which have their sources in the uplands, when swollen by continuous heavy rain, may produce their most catastrophic effects in the larger centres of population further down a valley, sometimes aggravated by property built on flood plains or flash flooding. In a crisis situation, there is simply nowhere for the water to go, so levels rise at alarming rates, with the results we have all seen and strongly sympathised with. Perhaps, as has been suggested recently on the BBC TV *Countryfile*, it's not just a matter of continuing to improve some vital flood defences, with the corollary of steeply rising costs, but also of learning to adapt to an increasingly difficult and changing situation. Measures being suggested and tried include 'catch pools' in the upper reaches of the rivers, streams and other catchment areas, which

could have a very beneficial effect on the lower lying areas, coupled with additional tree cover – all ways of slowing down a potential torrent. At present, farming subsidies do not reward attempts to leave some scrub land or the planting of small areas of woodland, which could also help. A subsidy for such efforts would cost society less in the long run. Critically, there is an emphasis on a need for all authorities to work together along the full course of a river. The National Trust have recently announced a major scheme on their estates in Langstrothdale and the Malham Moor plateau to create a mixture of blanket bog, heath and grassland to help to reduce downstream flooding and create a more diverse habitat.

The Devon Okehampton project showed how beaver dams increase water storage capacity, even the flow of water and improve its quality, with the variety of wild life increasing enormously. Beaver activity here has helped to avoid flooding and dramatically lessened the deposits of nitrogen and phosphate in the remaining water.

Fleur Speakman

---

## OUR DALES INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE – LEAD MINES, TEXTILE MILLS AND RAILWAY BUILDING

Dales farming has contributed so much to our landscape, and still continues to play a hugely significant part in the Dales economy and protection. However, some significant industries linked to early industrialisation have also left a distinctive mark on the landscape, in the shape of actual industrial remains. A talk on the Yorkshire Dales Textile Mills by George Ingle in January this year, hugely impressed his listeners as they realised the sheer quantity of these often quite small-scale and sometimes considerable textile mills throughout the Dales, and how vital these industries were in giving employment in areas, where it was often a struggle to wring subsistence from the land or find other work. A far older industry is focused on by David Joy's *Men of Lead* (pages 10-11), as an accompanying article to his utterly fascinating new book with the same title, tracing the rise of lead mining in the Dales and the different techniques which were

used at various periods to extract the ore. The book focuses on the lead miners themselves and the main Dales' centres of the industry, particularly Grassington, Hebden, and Swaledale. The coming of the railways and some of the extraordinary efforts that were made to build the Ribbleshead Viaduct as part of the new Settle-Carlisle rail route to the Scottish border, are described on pages 8-9 *Navvies, Shanty Towns and 'Jericho'* - the recent TV series *'Jericho'* helped us to appreciate the various aspects of that considerable achievement.

And whilst no one would wish to see the revival of huge, potentially environmentally damaging industries such as mines, quarries, mills or even huge new railway viaducts, local employment, especially for young people, remains a key issue in the Yorkshire Dales.

Fleur Speakman



# WILD BOAR FELL & MALLERSTANG

## SAFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**If, like many Yorkshire Dales Society members, you are also a regular traveller on the Settle-Carlisle line, you will know, as you travel north, that there are three especially memorable scenic highlights along the line – the long ascent of Ribblesdale between the Three Peaks, culminating at Ribblesdale Viaduct itself; that heart-stopping moment when you emerge from Blea Moor tunnel to gaze down into the fertile pastures of Dentdale - but maybe most dramatic of all, the views that appear to your right during that amazing journey through Mallerstang as the train eases over Ais Gill summit and starts the long descent through the Eden Valley.**

With the great, distinctively stepped outline of Wild Boar Fell to your left and the huge green slope of Mallerstang Edge to your right, this is a truly epic landscape; the superbly engineered railway line carving its way along the mountainside as you head towards Kirkby Stephen.

It seems inconceivable that this amazing landscape was not always part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park; a decision based not on landscape quality, but bureaucratic convenience and artificial local authority boundaries. But from August 1st this year, everything will change. Mallerstang, Wild Boar Fell and the Upper Eden form part of the iconic area now included and protected within the newly extended Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary.

The only way to really get to know this area is on foot, and the railway holds the key. One of the great classic walks of the North of England is to escape from the railway carriage by alighting at Garsdale Station – in reality over two miles from the scattered village it is supposed to serve. You follow footpaths through Grisedale onto Grisedale Common and then head over rough pasture, now access land, ascending to your first peak, Swarth Fell. From here you are now into the new area of the National Park. You follow the great ridge above Mallerstang, with superb views of the Howgills to the west, up onto the high level summit plateau of Wild Boar Fell itself, where the Trig point (708 metres) is a welcome way-mark - especially in misty conditions. As well as spectacular views down into the Mallerstang valley with what appears to be a miniature railway below, if you are lucky enough to enjoy a clear day, you can see across the Solway Firth to the summit of Criffel in Dumfriesshire. The descent is due north, still on the ridge, over the third round summit of Little Fell, then heading down to Wharton, Nateby and Kirkby Stephen Station.

Mallerstang can also be accessed from Garsdale or by strong walkers even from Hawes via Cotterdale, Cotter End, using the ancient green road known as The High Way, now part of the Pennine Bridleway. This leads past the evocatively named Hell Gill, source of the Eden, before descending into the hamlet of Mallerstang itself. Riverside paths lead along the valley past the ruins of Pendragon Castle, according to local legend, birthplace of a Celtic prince, Uther Pendragon, father of the legendary King Arthur.







Wharton Hall



Stenkrith Gorge

Keen fell walkers can also leave The Highway, north of Hell Gill to ascend and follow the long line of high crags that forms Mallerstang Edge up to High Seat (709 metres), from where, in contrast to Wild Boar Fell, on clear days you can almost make out the glint of sunlight on the North Sea beyond Teesside. This is literally the roof and the watershed of England. Fell walkers can either head over Great Bell to pick up rights of way down to Nateby and Kirkby Stephen, or for the really energetic, cross Nateby Fell towards Nine Standards Rigg, a landmark now on Wainwright's Coast to Coast Path, leading into Upper Swaledale.

But you don't have to be a super fit fell walker to discover landscape beauty and rich historic interest in this part of the Dales. The area around Birkett Common, south of Kirkby Stephen, is especially interesting, with areas of exposed limestone and the line of the Great Pennine Fault, basically the geological divide between the Carboniferous rocks of the Yorkshire Dales, and the characteristic newer red sandstones of the Eden Valley.

The ruins of Lammerside Castle and heavily fortified Wharton Hall are reminders of the area's romantic, if stormy past, of constant Scottish borderland raids and lawless Reivers. Attractive villages such as Ravenstonedale, Nateby and Newbiggin are now protected by the National Park.

But the National Park now has a new northern gateway – Kirkby Stephen, in the Upper Eden valley, a busy former coaching town on the trans-Pennine A685 road, noted for its fine parish church, with its distinctive red sandstone "cloisters" and, inside the church, the remarkable Loki Stone - an Anglo-Danish cross shaft with a carving of a chained devil, representing the old Norse god Loki. With a choice of cafés, shops, inns, overnight accommodation, and some delightful, easy local walks, for example along the dramatic Stenkrith gorge, and good rail access (there is a direct new footpath to the town from the station); Kirkby is the perfect base from which to explore the area.

The photograph in the winter YDS Review (page 16), showed a Yorkshire Dales Society visit to Wharton Hall during the 1980s, in the company of the late Raven Frankland. Raven was a highly respected local landowner, farmer, conservationist, champion of the Settle-Carlisle railway, appointed and later elected Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee. He was also a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society, passionate about this part of the Dales which he desperately wanted to see given National Park protection. Had Raven been alive today, he would have been overjoyed to discover that his beloved Mallerstang and Wild Boar Fell are now indeed about to become an integral part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Colin Speakman



**The topic of re-wilding continues to arouse plenty of impassioned debate. This was evident at the conference 'Wild thing? managing landscape change and future ecologies; cultural severance and continuity' held in Sheffield in September 2015. Organised by Sheffield Hallam University and South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group through UK Econet, it brought together 17 speakers and 21 seminar sessions over 3 days, with over 100 participants engaging in lively discussions.**

Re-wilding can mean many things. In her article in the Yorkshire Dales Review issue no 132, Fleur Speakman quotes the John Muir Trust thus: *the re-wilding concept is about restoring natural processes in nature conservation, repairing damaged ecosystems and reintroducing lost species, in order to create a richer environment for the benefit of nature and people.* So the approach ranges from non-intervention to managed reintroduction. The concept can also be seen to include the process of returning ecosystems to: 'a state of biological health and dynamic balance, making them self-sustaining, without the need for ongoing human management'.

So what is it that we are considering - abandonment? Letting natural processes take over? Or managing natural processes? Giving priority to biodiversity? Introducing top predators? Removing all boundaries? What about cultural aspects, historic evidence, the interests of local communities?...

Steve Carver (Wildland Research Institute, University of Leeds) was clear,

stating that 'Things change, get over it' and that we shouldn't confuse biodiversity and culturally mediated landscapes with wildness and naturalness - but of course in this country they overlap... Mauro Agnoletti (Landscape and cultural heritage, University of Florence), stressed that the European landscape is predominantly a bio-cultural, multi-functional landscape, but that we lacked a dynamic view of biodiversity. This view was supported by Nick McGregor (Natural England), who reminded us of the Lawton principles - bigger, better, more and more connected - which are sound, but we need to go further than just re-arranging habitat patches; somehow we need to accommodate change and acknowledge that ecosystems are dynamic.

So is re-wilding about allowing natural processes to dominate? Alistair Driver, of the Environment Agency, provided evidence that allowing rivers to follow more natural courses can achieve many benefits, for example, reducing the speed and energy of flood waters, increasing holding capacity, enhancing biodiversity. But the removal of all management - and the discussion was often around the uplands - could result in effect in a period of de-population, and may not achieve the desired effects. And there is a danger that the notion of 'abandonment', or of letting things run free, may get caught up in 'neo-liberal' policy, suggesting that no funding is needed...

In many instances, after centuries of particular management, soils have changed and seed banks have deteriorated, thus the conditions are not conducive to the development of a rich biodiversity.

George Peterken provided interesting evidence from Lady Park Wood in Wye, which has been left unmanaged since 1945, with regular monitoring. Significant events can be identified - Dutch elm disease, drought of 1976 - and overall there has been a decline in ground flora, arising from deer grazing, prolonged shade, more leaf litter, increased nitrogen, decline in diversity of seed bank... although fungi, slugs and snails were thriving. Re-wilding of small woodlands within agricultural land showed massive losses and few gains. His conclusion was that 'Re-wilding of woodlands is beneficial in some circumstances, but damaging or even disastrous in others'. He recommended devoting more energy to 'wilder', to establishing large scale links, especially along river valleys, on riparian land.

A more extreme example was presented by Jim McAdam (Queens University Belfast). His research was based in the Falklands, a place with a very strong sense of wildness, wilderness - it's remote, with a low population, biodiversity interest, with low key management and where natural processes are dominant. But the seed bank is poor and lacks any tree species. But some natural 're-wilding' of the ground flora and fauna is occurring in the minefields...

So do natural processes need some management to be effective? How much should be 'hands-off'? What about rhododendron control, ash-dieback? Peter Bridgewater (Centre for Museums and Heritage, Australian National University), talked about needing to find ourselves



# RE-WILDING CONTINUING THE DEBATE

Since the regeneration of Birches on Farnhill Moor, and since the cessation of grazing after World War II





Bog land and Birch, Farnhill Moor

somewhere along the spectrum between 'gardening' and 'abandonment', and the need to take into account the role of people in the creation and perception of landscape.

An example of the effects of the removal of management on limestone pavements at Scar Close, on the side slopes of Ingleborough, was cited by Steve Carver. This had allowed scrub and ground flora, including mosses, to develop, and was presented as a success in comparison to the adjacent site, Southerscales, where grazing continues. However, it had resulted in the loss of the experience of this extraordinary geological formation, as well as obscuring evidence of early settlements, and information about the processes of creation of this iconic feature. That people respond passionately to open limestone pavement formations is clear from the responses to the public consultation about designating the Orton Fells as part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (now achieved).

Removal of all management of course ignores the social aspects, the long history that has created the landscapes that we see today. And indeed, some of our most valued habitats arise from man's intervention, the species rich hay meadows being just one example. Tom Williamson (University of East Anglia) noted how heaths had been created by the constant removal of nutrients, and hedges had been regularly coppiced for fuel; it is the intensity of management that matters.

Lois Manfield (University of Cumbria) pointed out the essential role that upland agriculture

plays in providing hardy stock to cross-breed with lowland species. Even the removal of production support in 2000 resulted in a form of abandonment, of hefts, thus destabilising adjacent hefts. She concluded that 'wilding' and upland farming could not be mutually exclusive in this country, due to the broader agendas of food security, sustainable rural communities, ecosystem services and cultural heritage.

The possibility of introducing top predators is attractive, but almost immediately comes up against vested interests, such as grouse and pheasant shooting. Chris Spray (UNESCO Water Science & Policy Centre, University of Dundee) presented evidence from the trials with re-introducing beavers, which very effectively fell small trees across streams and thus slow river flows and increase wetland habitats, but this clashes with the interests of salmon fishing. The Forestry Commission and other woodland managers constantly struggle to deal with deer damage, so could lynx be the answer?

There was plenty of debate about primeval forest, the notion that open forest, with grasslands and glades, was more likely the norm, rather than closed canopy. From his research into peat deposits and saproxylic beetles, Keith Alexander (consultant) concluded that the 'former wild Britain' was an open wood-pasture landscape. Jill Butler (The Woodland Trust) described a landscape rich in open grown trees, where grazing was maintained at levels sufficient to control scrub, but allowing trees

to establish, mature and decline within the protection of different scrub species.

Frans Vera raised the issue of language, telling us that 'you can't read the landscape with the wrong dictionary'. The meanings of words have changed; 'desert' simply meant uninhabited, while 'forestis' meant the land outside, or without. Branches were cut from trees for fodder, oak forests were pastures for pigs - thus trees were not distinguished from grass, herbs or other fodder. Cattle kept the 'forest' open and grassy, for bison to utilise. The regeneration of trees within a stand or canopy is not 'natural' as young trees need light. Dr Tomasz Samojlik (Polish Mammal Research Institute, Bialowieza) gave a summary of the historic role of grazing, along with timber extraction and forest fires, over the last 400 years, in creating the landscapes of Bialowieza Forest.

The language we use is significant, and the terms we use are often negative, such as reserve, set-aside. Resilience has recently become a popular term, but what do we actually mean by it? It sounds positive, reassuring, not critical or scary. Adrian Newton (Centre for Ecology, Environment and Sustainability, Bournemouth University) defined it as the ability of ecosystems to persist/absorb disturbance/continue in the face of new disruptions. He cited the example of the New Forest, which has experienced many 'shocks' over past centuries, but has survived, with spatial heterogeneity, size and scale contributing.

The term 're-wilding' implies looking back to some golden age, restoring something that we have lost, but when was this, and what state are we wanting to achieve? The term 'wilding' would be more precise as well as positive, and suggesting that some sort of action is required. It also allows for the achievement of multi-functioning landscapes, that contribute towards flood management, food production, water quality, carbon sequestration, recreation, rural support as well as biodiversity - a necessity with the population pressure here.

I will give the final word to Chris Spray: there isn't a right answer, things are constantly changing. 'The desired end state is a social construct that varies across time and space.'

The debates will go on - but thanks are due to the organisers, Professor Ian Rotherham and Christine Handley, for providing such a stimulating forum for exchange of information, ideas and opportunities for discussion.

**Nancy Stedman**

[nancy.stedman65@icloud.com](mailto:nancy.stedman65@icloud.com)



# NAVVIES, SHANTY TOWNS AND 'JERICHO'



Modern re-creation see ITV Jericho serial with two characters from the drama, holding a pick and shovel



The original stone put up by workmen on the line, courtesy of National Railway Museum

**"Certainly no men in all the world improve the country as navvies do England. Their work will last for ages, and if the world remain so long, people will come hundreds of years hence to look at and wonder at what they have done".**

This fine tribute made in 1879 by Elizabeth Garnett, Secretary of the Navvies Mission, which embraced among many others, the over 6,000 skilled workers and labouring men who constructed such icons as the Settle- Carlisle railway in the Yorkshire Dales and North Pennines, does not of course include the engineering skills of those responsible for its concept and design, such as veteran engineer John Sydney Crossley. Yet without the large group of labouring men known as navvies, these superb structures would not exist. The Settle-Carlisle was the last main line railway to be constructed by traditional "navy methods", according to Terry Coleman in his book *The Railway Navvies*. The men's own first task was to build their accommodation, a series of wooden huts which would provide temporary homes or lodgings for the duration of the project as there was a shortage in an area known for its bleakness and wildness. These shanty towns were often impressively named, Inkerman or

Sebastopol after Crimean battles or had Biblical names like Jericho or Jerusalem, while the splendidly named Batty Green, situated on boggy ground, the largest of these settlements, was home to 2,000 workers and their families. Many skilled trades were represented in the work force: carpenters, masons, tunnel miners, blacksmiths, quarrymen, brick-makers and bricklayers, wheelwrights, millwrights and engine men, in conjunction with those who brought the necessary brawn and muscular strength to the work. A good navvy could lift 20 tonnes of earth a day, though safety features were minimal. An example of the day rate paid to Settle-Carlisle navvies in 1871 was 4 shillings, and for skilled men like blacksmiths 5 shillings and sixpence, while the miners earned the higher rate of 6 shillings and sixpence. The chief "tools" used were horse power, shovels, pick axes and gunpowder, with the addition of wooden cranes and sometimes a wooden cart with a large roller instead of wheels (a great help over boggy ground). Tramways were installed, with heavy loads pulled by horses, but as work progressed, by a small locomotive with wagons. A bitterly cold January with hard frost in 1871 was followed by snow, causing most of the work to be at a standstill. Only at Blea Moor in the lower levels were the men still working in long shifts, hacking their way through, with relays relieving one another at 6am in the morning and 6pm at night.

On this particular occasion, the wage rate rose to 10 shillings. After the great thaw, the next challenge all the workforce had to negotiate, was the seas of mud which surrounded them.

The Midland Railway Company, after a dispute with a rival company LNWR, decided it needed its own route to Scotland, and took the decision, after initial investigations in 1869, to forge ahead. By the 1870s over 40 huts had been erected at Batty Green, with many in three sections: the first the main family's sleeping area, the second reserved for lodgers and the third became a combined kitchen and dining area. Some huts had pigs, ducks and hens wandering around on the area between Batty Green and Denthead, helping out with local supplies. Shops in Batty Green, with an array of smaller shops at Sebastopol, Jericho, Tunnel Huts and Denthead, increased the appearance of the shanties as actual settlements, with larger shops available in Settle. Burgoyne and Cocks, provision merchants, based in Settle, produced 4,000 loaves of bread daily from two large ovens for the work force, while at their large butchering shop, pigs, cows and sheep were slaughtered daily for the shanty towns. The firm also supplied newspapers and periodicals weekly.



A newspaper writer of 1871 commented on the appetising food available in these isolated spots:

*Though the but villages of Batty Green, Sebastopol and Jericho are upon a dreary moor far away from the busy marts of commercial men, still there is no lack of roast beef, savoury pastry, luscious fruits and beverages of pleasant flavour to lovers of the bottle.*

The demanding hours of hard physical labour in all weathers meant that good substantial meals were especially needed, though not all navvies were of course so fortunate. Poor quality drinking water too caused health problems, which meant that beer was relied on as the main drink. In some of the shanty town huts, space between the sleepers could be quite restricted, helping to promote infections. In 1871 there was an outbreak of small pox at Sebastopol and Jericho, and also among the railway workers at Blea Moor. Some huts were set aside for patients and these with the addition of an extension, became a makeshift isolation hospital. Sadly a number of deaths were recorded, and the graveyard at Chapel-le-Dale had to be extended. But there also were a number of recoveries, due to some good nursing.

For the popular ITV television series, *Jericho*, which ran in eight parts throughout January and February this year, the programme renamed Ribbleshead Viaduct as Culverdale Viaduct, and the *Jericho* of the title was actually closer to the real shanty town of Batty Green. Ribbleshead Viaduct, nowadays in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, was naturally off limits. Though inspired by the building of Ribbleshead, the series was filmed in a suitably isolated moorland area between Sheffield and Huddersfield, with some clever technology super-imposing convincingly any necessary views. *Jericho* does give a rather good impression of some of the magnitude of the task and an insight into the organisation of the camps. It makes us appreciate the endurance of the workers and their families, and the logistics the “bosses” had to deal with in directing a huge disparate workforce, in very difficult conditions, with weather and terrain causing particular problems, and rising costs.

The Settle-Carlisle workforce came from various parts of the country, as well as a proportion from the surrounding areas, but there is insufficient agreement as regards those proportions and even of the various regions they came from. It has been suggested that only 15% of the men were reasonably local. Others followed the contractors – a nomadic work-force, while still others were agricultural labourers attracted by better wages. But the long hard days, apart from the usual drinking in the pubs on site, were sometimes lightened by other more sociable occasions: penny readings, songs, dances, concerts and bare-knuckle fights were all popular. There was even a Home Missionary in one area. But there could be drunkenness, petty pilfering, scores to be settled with violence and the like, so unsurprisingly

a law officer or policeman, based in Batty Green, was appointed. He could make any necessary arrests and deliver culprits to the appropriate justice in the nearest town. By 1871 a day school was opened for the children in Batty Green, which proved to be a great success. A library and post office also appeared on site.

It has been calculated that for each mile of rail laid in various railway schemes dating from the early 1840s, there was an average of three work-related deaths, which were even higher when there were tunnels. The high death rate for Woodhead Tunnel, for example, caused an Enquiry which led to the creation of a Select Committee on Railway Labourers in 1848. Building the tunnels could be particularly dangerous as supports could collapse and explosives could be unpredictable. In the period 1870-75, over 100 men lost their lives in the construction of Ribbleshead Viaduct – a highly daunting figure. There is a touching memorial to the workforce at the church in Chapel-le-Dale.

Navvies have often had a rather bad press in the past, notorious for drunkenness and violence, but put into the context of their period, perhaps not so very different

from their fellows. In more recent times, it has been suggested, that some of their exploits were often much exaggerated as they were seen generally as outsiders. Though other writers comment that there was some integration with the nearby rural population as the two sides became accustomed to each other. Above all, we should celebrate all those who helped to build those magnificent constructions, such as the spectacular Ribbleshead Viaduct, and we owe a debt to the *Jericho* television series for reminding us of those great achievements.

### Fleur Speakman

#### Further reading:

*Shanty Life on the Settle-Carlisle Railway*  
by W.R. Mitchell

*Selected chapters from The Midland Railway North of Leeds* by Peter E. Baughan

*The Railway Navvies* by Terry Coleman

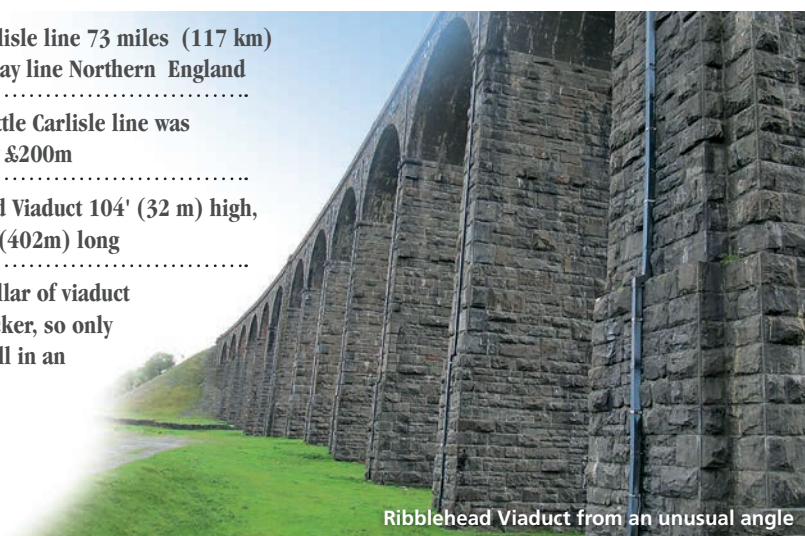
Dalesman February 2016 *The real Jericho*  
(reprint, edited version) Eyewitness Account from Chambers Journal 1873

**Settle- Carlisle line 73 miles (117 km)  
main railway line Northern England**

**Costs if Settle Carlisle line was  
built today £200m**

**Ribbleshead Viaduct 104' (32 m) high,  
440 yards (402m) long**

**Each 6<sup>th</sup> pillar of viaduct  
arches thicker, so only  
5 would fall in an  
accident**



Ribbleshead Viaduct from an unusual angle



Chapel le Dale churchyard



# MEN OF LEAD

**There have been many books on lead mining in the Yorkshire Dales, but the miners themselves have received scant attention. David Joy has redressed the balance with a newly published work on the subject. In this feature he explains its fascination, with special reference to Swaledale – largest of all mining areas in the Dales.**

It was Arthur Raistrick, leading authority on lead mining, who sowed the seed for **Men of Lead**. Back in the 1970s when I was books editor of the *Dalesman*, I held him in awe and approached our meetings with trepidation. Often I would receive a dressing down for works we had published that did not meet his high academic standards, but he could also be a stimulating source of more worldly ideas. On one occasion he pronounced with characteristic forthrightness, that more should be recorded on the human aspects of lead miners, the conditions in which they worked and the consequent effect on their health and life. This was a seed that stayed with me, although the germination period has been excessive. Having finally brought together information collected over the last 40 years, the overwhelming regret is that it has taken so long, as this is a subject that could scarcely be more fascinating. It has everything to excite the imagination.

Men versus danger has always been an enduring theme. It could have no better setting than deep underground, with miners toiling in dank air by the dim light of flickering candles. The constant search for a rich vein of lead was so often an elusive dream, akin to finding a needle in an underground haystack. Adding to the high drama was the fact that many mines were on wild and windswept moorland miles from anywhere. Average life expectancy of miners in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century was a mere 45 years, in large measure due to chest diseases brought on by appalling conditions underground. One doctor noted, but did not condemn the constant smoking of clay pipes, in the belief that this would bring up phlegm and relieve breathing difficulties!

The relentless quest by men who risked so much for so little might seem sufficient for any saga. Yet like so many of the best dramas, there was also a sudden ending – and in this case it was not a happy one. With lead being so challenging to find, it was necessary to spend ever more in going deeper in search of new reserves. All might have been well had not the advent of steamships enabled ore to be brought in from Spain at a lower cost.

The resulting collapse soon after the high noon of the Victorian age was sudden and there was little alternative employment for miners in remote parts of the Yorkshire Dales. With much sorrow and suffering, they and their families had to leave an area that would never be quite the same again. Industry was replaced by silence and dereliction, and only a tiny part of its physical heritage now remains as a reminder of what was achieved against overwhelming odds.

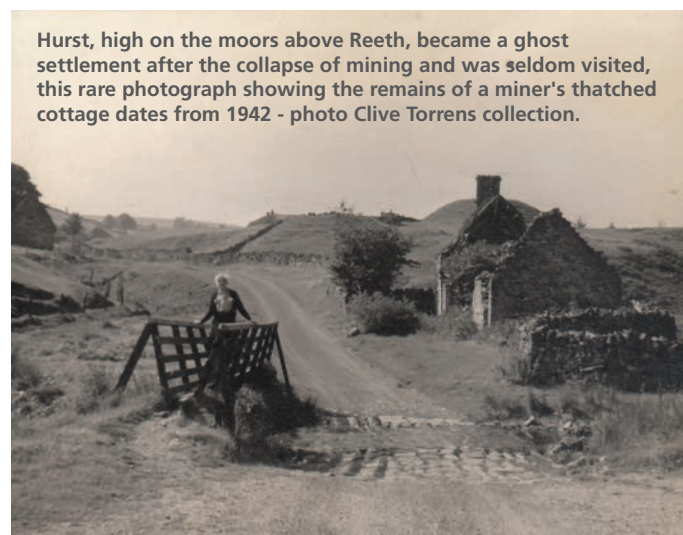
**Men of Lead** looks in detail at villages especially associated with mining such as Grassington, Hebden and Greenhow, but pride of place is inevitably given to Swaledale.

Well over a thousand miners – almost a quarter of the total population – lived there at the industry's peak, in a dramatic landscape that has few equals. From the higher reaches of the dale above Keld all the way down to below Reeth, they toiled in quest of a mineral that may have been grey, but had all the allure of glistening gold. Typifying the overcrowded villages was Healaugh, which in 1851 had 48 miners among its population of 251 and, most striking of all, 112 children under the age of 15. Some homes had 12 occupants and only one bedroom.

It was a situation seized on by the Reverend Thomas Dunham Whitaker, pioneer of scholarly histories of the Dales, who regarded miners as 'the mere trash of the churchyard'. He noted that in Swaledale's mining villages were to be found 'appearances of squalid neglect about the persons of the inhabitants, and those external accumulations of domestic filth about their dwellings'. It is scarcely surprising that such bigoted views contributed to the spread of Methodism, which appealed to miners and their independent spirit. Chapels were built in large numbers; a trend seen at its finest in Gunnerside where there is seating for as many as 700.

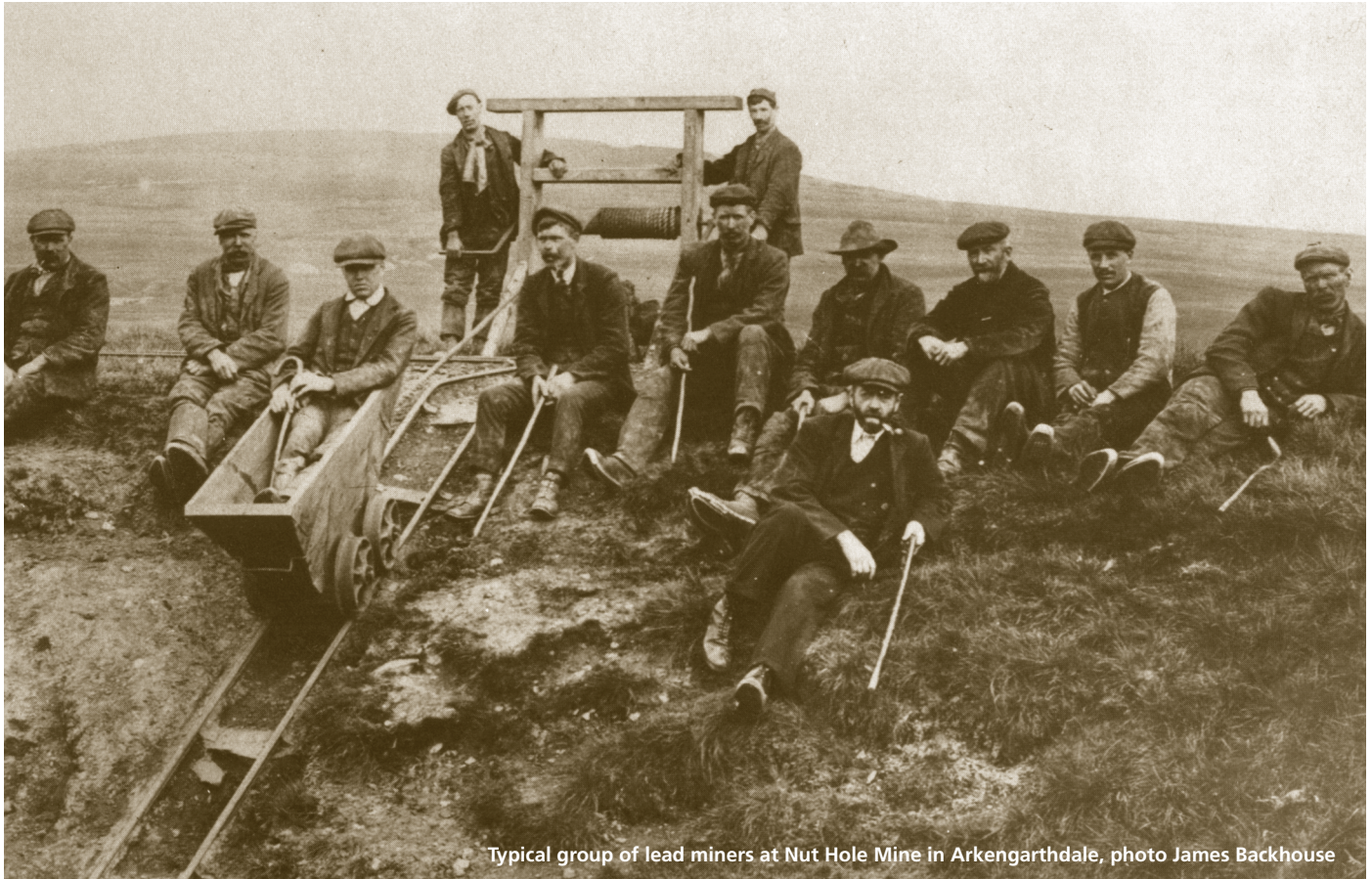
Strife was an almost inevitable result of the pursuit of wealth. As early as the 1770s, there was what famously became known as the Battle of Beldi Hill, a rich mine near Keld. A bitter dispute over ownership of the mineral rights led to savage fighting between miners and culminated in ruinously expensive trials in York and London. As was so often the case, the only real winners were the lawyers.

One of the litigants was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Pomfret, who typified aristocratic but often eccentric mine owners. A courtier and gambler with a great fondness for dueling, he was described as 'disordered in his mind'. Similarly, one Charles Bathurst, owner of the Arkengarthdale mines, killed his butler with a sword during a drunken brawl. These mines later had as their agent Frederick Hall, who intriguingly was seen as 'a dynamic figure with some



**Hurst, high on the moors above Reeth, became a ghost settlement after the collapse of mining and was seldom visited, this rare photograph showing the remains of a miner's thatched cottage dates from 1942 - photo Clive Torrens collection.**





Typical group of lead miners at Nut Hole Mine in Arkengarthdale, photo James Backhouse

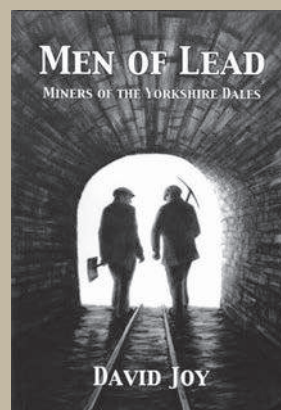
reverse traits'. At least he completed the massive Octagon Smelt Mill in Langthwaite, which survived until 1944. Had it lasted a little longer, it would surely have been revered as the finest example of industrial architecture in the Dales.

Another noted stalwart was Sir George Denys, who by 1877 had invested today's equivalent of over £500,000 in an abortive attempt to reach new reserves of lead in Gunnerside Gill by driving a deep drainage adit. His name is commemorated in Sir George Level, which formed the first stage of an extraordinary four-mile underground chain of workings stretching all the way to Arkengarthdale. A further link is provided by Draycott Hall in Fremington, bought by his grandfather to provide a base from which to administer the mines. Enlarged into a grand residence, it came to be seen as symbolic of the stark difference between the living standards of mine owners and the men they employed.

Traditional miners' cottages were too fragile to have endured to the present day. The last survivors with their thatched roofs were at Hurst, the most remote of all of Swaledale's mining settlements, some 1,200 feet above sea level on the moors east of Reeth. Owing its existence solely to the mines, it was a place that faded into virtual oblivion when the industry collapsed. The end seemed not far off in 1972, when the population once numbered in hundreds was down to a mere 18. The Methodist chapel, built to hold some 300 worshippers, was seeing services once a month in the summer and most of the building had become a hostel. The Green Dragon, the only survivor of three pubs, had a certain appeal to the dedicated by its claim to be England's loneliest inn. Yet by the mid-1980s it had become a private house and a large part of the settlement was a sea of nettles. Much property has since been restored, but it is still possible to sense that few mining communities have met such a sorry end in quite the same way

as Hurst. In its total isolation, it is in every sense on a road to nowhere, undisturbed by through traffic and with just the bleating of sheep and calls of moorland birds breaking the silence. For those who believe in seeking a ghostly past, there can be no better place to experience the final chapter in Swaledale lead mining and its miners.

#### David Joy



**Men of Lead** is available from the author at Scale Haw, Hole Bottom, Hebden, Skipton BD23 5DL, price **£12.50** including postage (remittances payable to Paradise Press Ltd). It can also be obtained online at: [retail@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:retail@yorkshiredales.org.uk) £1 from the sale of each copy is being donated to the **Yorkshire Dales Society**.

The book will form part of a double launch on lead mining at the Swaledale Museum, Reeth, at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 1st June. The author will be signing copies and Roger Preston will be discussing the background to his new exhibition of lead mining photographs at the Museum. Prior booking will guarantee a seat – email [museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto:museum.swaledale@btinternet.com) or phone **079698 23232**.



# TRANSPORT REVOLUTION IN THE DALES

## LOCAL COMMUNITIES TAKE CHARGE



**Over the last decade there has been a failure by Government, both locally and nationally, to understand that transport is about more than roads and railways. Transport –connectivity – is what makes the countryside function.**

No one denies the need for decent, well maintained rural roads. In recent years there has been a massive change in attitudes to railways, with huge public and private investment in our railways and record numbers of passengers travelling. But since 2010 the humble country bus has suffered what is being described as Beeching-style cuts, especially savage in 2016.

What politicians have failed to realise is that a bus route is part of the transport infrastructure of the countryside. Even in rural areas around 15-18% of people live in households without cars and they can feel cruelly isolated. Growing numbers of older people can no longer run a car, and less young people, because of high rents and student debts, are taking driving tests.

Take away a bus route and a community suffers. People cannot get to jobs, services, or have a social life. The costs of providing a rural bus service is a fraction of the costs imposed on that community and on other service providers, when that bus is withdrawn.

It was in response to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's withdrawal of funding for DalesBus, followed by North Yorkshire's draconian decision to cut support for all Sunday

and Bank Holiday bus services (despite the huge economic dependency of the area on tourism), that led to the Yorkshire Dales Society's decision in 2007 to set up a pioneering Community Interest Company, one of the first of its kind in the UK, to manage and promote a bus service. The model of a charity owning a social enterprise has been a huge success, despite some initial hostility to what was a radical new role for a National Park Society. Almost all the CIC Directors and volunteers are also Yorkshire Dales Society members, so the relationship is both close and cordial.

The Dales & Bowland CICs initial two services have now grown to a sophisticated network of 14 integrated bus services, and DalesBus is now regarded as a UK showcase, featured on BBC's TV Countryfile in January. Observant viewers may have seen YDS's Ann Shadrake being interviewed, as well as Trustees Chris Wright and Graham Yule on the bus.

With essential weekday, not just weekend, bus services in the Dales now facing yet more austerity cuts, the D&BCIC has had a leading role in supporting several similar grass roots initiatives in the Dales. It was the YDS that in 1986 first sponsored the Garsdale Station-Hawes minibus service, which eventually became the inspiration for the very successful Little White Bus Community Transport network, now the main weekday bus operators in Wensleydale and Swaledale, and close partners of the D&BCIC. Likewise the Western Dales Bus Company, another CIC set up to save the threatened 564A

between Dent Station, the village and Sedbergh, now operates the main Kendal to Sedbergh bus on Saturdays, market day buses to Hawes, and a Sunday service in Dentedale. And in 2016, there are exciting developments in Upper Wharfedale with the new Upper Wharfedale Bus Company, another CIC run by local people in Kettlewell and Buckden, taking over their local services. Also featured on national TV, the UWBC has saved threatened service 72 between Grassington and Buckden, thanks to a grant and minibus offered by North Yorkshire County Council. Existing bus operator Pride of the Dales, also working closely with NYCC, has now agreed to run service 72 between Skipton and Grassington commercially, whilst a more limited service – Mondays, Wednesday and Friday - will operate on popular service 74 between Ilkley and Grassington. But a much improved Saturday 74 service, sponsored by D&BCIC, has also been launched.

None of this would have happened without these local initiatives and the active involvement of the voluntary sector in the Dales. But the Yorkshire Dales Society led the way!

Please support these local services as much as possible this summer. Details of all weekday services and the comprehensive summer Sunday DalesBus networks (starting May 1st) are in the free Metro DalesBus timetable, available throughout West Yorkshire and the Dales, or can be downloaded at [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org)



## NEW YDS COUNCIL MEMBERS

*(Our two newest YDS Council Members bring The Yorkshire Dales Society expertise in environmental planning, and in farming and successful diversification).*

It is particularly timely to welcome planning consultant **Julie Martin** to the YDS Council as she has been closely involved in work on the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Park extensions over the last ten years. Julie lives in Richmond with her husband Dave Dalton, where she has a smallholding with sheep and hens. A geographer, landscape architect and town planner, Julie specialises in providing environmental consultancy on national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

In a career that has focused mainly on countryside issues, she has worked in many parts of the UK and Ireland. This has given her a broad perspective on the environmental and socio-economic issues affecting rural areas and how they can be tackled.

Julie has been a Secretary of State appointee to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority since 2014. She sits on the finance and resources and planning committees. She is also the Member Champion for cultural heritage, a role that includes representing the service to a wider audience and acting as a sounding board for senior officers regarding new ideas and initiatives. Julie is a keen gardener and hill walker and would like to see YDS become more active in the northern part of the Dales.

**Anthony Bradley's** Dales farming roots go back ten generations - his family has worked Mearbeck near Long Preston since his great-great-grandfather's time. After graduating from Newcastle University with a BSc Honours in Agriculture, he returned to what was then a dairy farm with Dalesbred and Mule sheep for breeding fat lambs. It ceased production in 2000, having survived quotas and the disbanding of the Milk Marketing Board. After an enforced pause caused by the 2001 foot and mouth disease epidemic, the farm restarted with a few sheep and store cattle in 2002. In the meantime, the Bradleys had branched out into dry stone walling, but the 2008 recession started to limit the amount of work needed on civil engineering projects.

However, the intervening period had enabled them to build up the farm business sufficiently to spend more time on it, including launching The Blue Pig Company, which provides free range pork from a cross between Gloucester Old Spots and Saddlebacks. The Bradleys now have their own processing facility and produce and pack sausages, dry cured and smoked bacon, pancetta and gammon. In future, Anthony plans to continue to farm and also keep on drystone walling, helping a local builder, when time permits. Meanwhile, his brother Andrew will take over the running of The Blue Pig Company. Anthony is a qualified cricket coach and makes visits to local schools to introduce the sport to pupils, as well as helping to run the Settle CC Junior team.

New YDS Council member Anthony Bradley



New YDS Council member Julie Martin




## STOP PRESS:.....

### TWO EXTRA WALKS IN LOWER WHARFEDALE

**Friday, 29 April 2016**



#### Hebden Gill to Yarnbury

1030 Meet for bacon sandwiches at the Fountaine Inn Linton, then drive to Hebden, and walk via Hebden Gill to Yarnbury, returning by field paths.  Well behaved dogs on short leads welcome.

Mid afternoon, two course meal afterwards at Fountaine Inn, price £15.


Bookings through Fountaine Inn  
01756 752210

£1 donation per person for YDS collected on the day event.

**Friday, 24 June 2016**



#### Linton Moor & Cracoe

As part of Grassington Festival, walk from Fountaine Inn over Linton Moor beyond Swinden Quarry to Cracoe and return by field paths through former Linton Tarn.  Well behaved dogs on short leads welcome.

Other details as for 29 April. Cost £17.

Bookings through Fountaine Inn  
01756 752210 or Grassington Festival  
01756 752691

£1 donation per person for YDS collected on the day event.



Linton Bridge near Fountaine Inn



# FRIENDS FOR LIFE

**It's not unusual for our members to have a lifelong love of the Dales. A large number have been with the Society for many years. But a few take that commitment a step further. Take Sylvia Saddleton. She's one of 46 life members who have decided to make a real investment in the landscape that means so much to her.**

*I first came to the Dales back in 1989, she says. My late sister Doreen took me on a long weekend to Malham and introduced me to all the wonderful countryside there and at Bolton Abbey. I fell in love with the Dales too on that first visit and we came back on holiday, exploring more and more of the area with the help of the Settle-Carlisle line. I still try to come to Skipton a couple of times a year and, despite turning 70, am still fortunate enough to be able to do a lot of walking.*

*I wanted to upgrade to life membership in the hope of helping the Society - and therefore the Dales - financially and, more selfishly, to simplify my finances by shedding one more direct debit.*

Retired teacher Sheila Simms was the chief organiser of our Vibrant Communities event in Leyburn last September and has played an active role in the Society for many years.

*I was very impressed by the first Review I received, with its varied overall content and the quality of the photographs, she says. I continue to look forward to receiving my copy as you cover not only interesting topics, but ones which should be of concern to all of us in the Dales. Those three words - 'campaign', 'protect', 'enjoy' - really do sum it up.*

*'Having been involved in your successful visit to Leyburn for the 2015 AGM, which enabled me to meet some of you for the first time, I have resolved to play a bigger part in attending some of your events this year. Long may you continue to keep us informed, challenge us and help us to enjoy the Dales.*

## So what are the benefits of life membership?

Well, switching from direct debit to a one-off payment doesn't just save you the hassle of renewing your subscription. It also protects you against any future price increases and could allow you to make an investment in the area you love, at a time in your life when you might have a larger disposable income or have just inherited a legacy. It's a great way of donating to a worthy cause, while receiving all the benefits of membership, such as four issues a year of the Yorkshire Dales Review and free entry to all our events including the AGM. And it's an ideal opportunity to show your commitment to the Society.

Since we launched our life membership scheme in 2009, we've been delighted with the uptake – and the welcome boost to the charity's finances from the “lump-sum” payments, often with Gift Aid in addition. As a small charity that receives no general grants, government funding or other income apart from subscriptions, donations and legacies, receiving a one-off contribution also makes our financial planning much easier.

We are able to collect Gift Aid of 25% on all individual membership fees, providing you sign a declaration form or have told us that you are eligible over the phone. This means that when someone under the age of 60 takes out a single lifetime subscription of £400, we can claim an additional £100 as Gift Aid tax credit. People over 60 years of age pay only £300 for single life membership. Joint life membership is available at £550 (under 60) and £450 (over 60) respectively. These rates are due to go up later in 2016, so now is a really good time to take out life membership if you can!

We really do appreciate the contributions of all our life and honorary members. As part of our 35th anniversary celebrations, their names will be included on a “roll of honour” that will also recognise those that have left us legacies and members who joined the Society in its earliest years. But the main reason for becoming a life member is, that it's a great way of helping to protect a part of the world that is dear to your heart.

Colin and Susan Surrey joined as life members at the beginning of 2016. *Over the last 40 or so years, my wife Susan and I have cycled and camped all over Britain, says Colin. In doing this, we have found some very special places. With the benefit of age, I have come to realise that there is not an unending supply and over the years some have gone forever, often lost to development.*

*The Yorkshire Dales is one such very special area and it's right on our doorstep. The UK's national parks are a wonderful idea, but they don't have the protection from development that many people believe they have. Anything as good as the Dales is worth protecting and an organisation that campaigns for this has my support.*



Sheila Simms cyclist – photo by Hilary Jones





## COUNTRYFILE TAKES THE BUS

*On a Monday morning we received a call from the BBC.*

*We are filming local transport on Thursday, can we use the DalesBus?* Though many of us were not at home and there are no Thursday DalesBus services, it seemed too good an opportunity to miss. A phone call to our friends at Transdev Blazefield produced a bus and driver to meet the Countryfile team, led by presenter, a jovial Tom Heap.

Apart from arrangements to meet at Bolton Abbey, plans were rather vague. A break in the day's torrential rain allowed us with our six *passengers* to get under-way, with interviews conducted on the journey three times between Burnsall and the Devonshire Arms. This included six transits under the aqueduct at Bolton Abbey with about two inches to clear, even with mirrors folded back!

A further challenge for Keith, our driver, was the cameraman's insistence on using Burnsall bridge, which required some skilful manoeuvring, turning the bus round in the narrow roadway. By the time we had finished, it was dark and still raining, so the team had to return the following day. We pointed out that the service to Ilkley to Grassington was to be withdrawn, so they added Pride of the Dales to their schedule. This was a useful opportunity to make public both the achievements and threats to our DalesBus network, which was well reflected in the transmitted programme.

Chris Wright



Tom Heap of Countryfile reading the YDS Review, Hon Treasurer Graham Yule as a passenger, photo Ann Shadrake

## A CONSTANT SOURCE OF INSPIRATION



Robert White

The Yorkshire Dales Society would like to add its warm congratulations to an outstanding member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Robert White, Senior Historic Environment Officer, who is retiring after 32 years of service. Chief Executive David

Butterworth paid particular tribute to Robert's work as: 'the driving force behind the Authority's work' to conserve and enhance the Dales National Park, focusing too on Robert's 'championing new ways of working' and concluding by calling him 'a constant source of inspiration'. Robert's book, *A Landscape through Time*, is highly readable yet a real work of scholarship, that has done much to promote true understanding of the Dales' many archaeological treasures. He has further shared his expertise with the Yorkshire Dales Society by writing articles for the Yorkshire Dales Review and giving an excellent lecture to the Society on Archaeology in the Dales. Robert is now looking forward to spending part of the spring and early summer in Chile and Argentina - quite a contrast to the Dales landscape. In December Robert White and the Head of Ranger Services, Alan Hulme, (who also has close links with the Yorkshire Dales Society, as a key organiser of the field trips for our very successful National Park Societies Conference in 2014), were jointly awarded an Order of the National Parks, (voted on by all 15 UK National Parks), for their outstanding contribution to National Park purposes.



Arcow stone carrying train – Tarmac's railhead at Helwith Bridge nears completion and quarry stone from Dry Rigg and Arcow quarry now moves by rail rather than road. The Yorkshire Dales Society has been campaigning to reduce the impact of quarry road traffic in the National Park and this investment in rail is very welcome, Mark Corner.

Hikvision at Ribbleshead, courtesy Railcam and FoSCL



# CAPTURING MEMORIES OF NIDDERDALE



Bird watching event by Harvey Jones

## LYNN LEADBEATER DESCRIBES AN EXCITING NEW PROJECT



Middlesmoor Dale View by Ian Whittaker

The landscape of upper Nidderdale has been a work in progress for more than 4,000 years. As long ago as the late Neolithic and early Bronze Ages, settlers left cup and ring markings on rock outcrops and the remains of hut circles and ancient trackways are still visible. The dale has been mined for lead and iron ore since Roman times, divided between the great monastic estates of Fountains and Bylands abbeys in the Middle Ages, and parcelled up again following the Enclosure Acts of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. More recently great swathes of the valley floor have been submerged under three reservoirs.

But what about the changes that have taken place within living memory? Volunteers on a new oral history project are set to find out. Moorlands: People, Places, Stories will explore man's changing relationship with Nidderdale's uplands. The aim is to capture the views of a wide range of people, including those that earn their living from the land, such as current and retired gamekeepers and beaters on the private shooting estates and practising and former farmers. The project may also tell the story of the dale from the perspectives of those who have been involved in restoration of the peat resources, artists and writers, or villagers and visitors who engage in outdoor recreational activities such as walking and birdwatching. The valley already has several established heritage groups, but Historic Nidderdale project officer, Louise Brown, is keen to hear from anyone else who would like to be involved.

*Volunteers are absolutely essential if we want to look after our heritage and they share their enthusiasm, she says. People in Upper Nidderdale are very passionate about this fantastic landscape, but I would like more people to come on board. In 2018, when the project has finished, I hope that they will carry on doing this work.*

Helping with the research is an ideal opportunity to learn new skills such as interviewing techniques and recording and making transcriptions. Training will be backed up by support sessions and resources. Moorlands: People, Places, Stories will be delivered in partnership with the University of York and make use of archive material held by Nidderdale Museum and North Yorkshire County Council. As well as making edited recordings available online, highlights from the interviews and associated research will be published in a booklet, possibly with documents and old photographs provided by participants. The findings may also be available on CD or shared on social media such as Historypin and they will be showcased at a Moorlands Festival in summer 2017.

The project is one of several organised by the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership, a four-year programme supported by a £1.2m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by the AONB. A team of volunteers is exploring the more distant past by using hand-held GPS units to record landscape features and researching aerial photographs, old maps and documents. Participating farmers receive a report showing the historical features on their land, which could help with applications for environmental stewardship schemes.

There are also opportunities to explore the heritage of a number of flagship sites including Fishpond Wood near Beverley, Wath mill, Prosperous Lead Mine near Pateley Bridge and the sites of the medieval grange at Lodge and Scar village, which once housed the navvies engaged in reservoir construction. And with a series of open courses covering traditional skills such as lime pointing, dry-stone walling and stone-masonry, people can also leave their mark on the dale for future generations.

*For more information contact Louise Brown on 01423 712950, email [louise.brown@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:louise.brown@harrogate.gov.uk) or visit [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk)*



## OUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP IN FINDING NEW MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!

**D**espite being, I believe, a vibrant Society doing great things for the Dales and for our members, in common with many membership organisations we are struggling to reverse the steady decline in our membership numbers and we would welcome your help in addressing this. Don't worry - we still have over one thousand members, more than twentyfive regular volunteers, a dynamic Executive Director (Ann Shadrake) and committed Trustees - so this is far from a crisis, but we do need to grow to ensure our long term financial sustainability and to have the impact we want to make in the Dales we all love.



The Yorkshire Dales Society is the only membership charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Yorkshire Dales National Park and encouraging people to value and enjoy this special area. We have a good track record in campaigning, in monitoring and intervening on planning matters, and in facilitating awareness and enjoyment of the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales. We are in essence *the* "Friends of the dales".

Our Trustees have discussed the membership challenge and feel that who we are and what we do is basically "right" and the challenge is how to make more people aware of us. To do this we intend to improve our internet and social media presence to promote ourselves and to engage more effectively with members and supporters. We want to develop the concept of supporters; people who would like to engage with us and support our campaigns, but who do not have the benefits of membership - the Review, free events etc. We will also produce an attractive membership recruitment leaflet.

In thinking about finding new members, we concluded that one of the best places to start was with existing members! If each member, including Trustees, could find one friend to join the Society, we would be in a much healthier position. A step up in membership numbers would be a great way to mark our 35th birthday and the extension to the National Park, which in itself should present membership opportunities.

So, you can help in two ways. Firstly, please share with me any ideas you have on how to make the Society more attractive and more visible to prospective members or supporters and, secondly, please find a friend and convince them to join us! Please contact me directly at [mark.r.corner@hotmail.com](mailto:mark.r.corner@hotmail.com)

## THE YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY HALF A LIFETIME

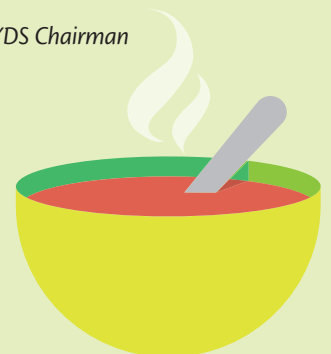
*Taking a lifetime as the traditional three score years and ten - the Yorkshire Dales Society has been around for half a lifetime.*

I'm not sure why I was invited to attend the early meetings in Grassington to help set up the organisation for the Yorkshire Dales Society - perhaps because Colin Speakman had been involved in a planning application for our business, the Ropeworks in Hawes? Or was it after a conference on the local economy held in Bainbridge? The first meeting I attended was memorable. Arriving in Grassington in the dark, on a night of wild rain, at the home of Keith Lockyer\* (whom I hadn't met before), he greeted me briskly with the words: *The kitchen's through there and there's a pan of soup on the stove. Can you finish it off and bring it through for everyone.* After this unusual start to the evening, we all sat round a roaring fire - with bowls of soup balanced precariously on our knees - and introduced ourselves. It was an unexpected 'bonding' experience that soon had everyone warmed up and participating in a lively discussion.

What of the Yorkshire Dales Society over the years? Certainly its members' interests and activities draw deeply on the varied heritage of the past, with a strong balancing interest in the future life and well-being of the Dales. Much of this is recorded in the pages of the Review, with a commendably strong voice for public transport, walking and access to the countryside. YDS has been a vigorous forum for debate on multi-faceted issues facing rural areas - and no doubt a considerable influence, whether directly or indirectly, on the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Perhaps a civilised, articulate and supportive 'thorn in the side' would sum it up?

Ruth Annison

\*Keith Lockyer became the first YDS Chairman





# A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS AND OUR NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER



## NEW YDS BUSINESS MEMBERS



Campbells of Leyburn

**R Campbell & Sons Leyburn** - A family firm with an award winning supermarket and extensive wine and spirit section, situated on the High Street In Leyburn and a focal point for shopping in the Wensleydale area. The shop's deceptive frontage belies the great array of produce within. On the upper floor, the Wine and Spirit section holds regular popular wine tastings. In September 2015, prior to the Yorkshire Dales Society's AGM, the Society paid a visit to the premises and learned at first hand, how Campbell's were able to adapt and innovate over the years. A more detailed article of the firm's history appeared in the Winter Review in January of this year. Campbell's are also strong supporters of the Wensleydale Railway which helps to bring visitors and walkers into the area.

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

**Cottontail  
Crafts**

*"a paradise for crafters"*

**Cottontail Crafts** - Sited in Settle, features an Aladdin's cave of knitting yarns, fabrics, needlecraft and other craft items. Owner, Sue Amphlett, has had a great interest in craft from her earliest years and has studied a wide range of techniques. She is retained by a leading wholesaler for her specialist advice, and demonstrates at trade shows and exhibitions. Sue has also appeared on television, encouraging the viewer to try out various skills such as embroidery, tapestry and more recently knitting and haberdashery. This fifty-year old family shop family shop is also well stocked with a great array of additional attractive craft products of all kinds.

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



**Yorkshire Trike Tours, Horsforth** - Yorkshire Trike Tours has already received an award for excellence this year, presented by VisitEngland.com Yorkshire Trike Tours offer an unusual and exciting way of touring the Dales, Lake District and Cumbria as well as other selected day tours, with up to 100 different tours available. Judith and Jason Richards run this family business, with Judith as managing director and Jason acting as 'chauffeur' as he drives the trike, while the two passengers have the comfort and safety of a car, with some splendid live commentary available, describing some famous features through headsets in their helmets. A variety of trikes are available including the Bron Mustang Trike, RangeRover Sport or a VW Campervan. The firm also offers quirky wedding vehicles.

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



**Nethergill Farm, Oughtershaw** - Situated on the Dales Way and in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, is an eco farm that offers self-catering accommodation on three levels in two comfortably converted haylofts. Each of them, Hay New and Byre, sleeps four people, and all bedrooms are en suite. Hot water is by courtesy of Bertha, the Biomass Boiler, fed with local timber. In this peaceful area, there is a every chance to enjoy fly fishing in the becks, walking, sketching, bird watching from hides, or observing wild life, walking the farm trail or indulging in more challenging cycling. It is a great opportunity to enjoy breath-taking views and learn more about Chris and Fiona Clark's passion for sustainable farming. The Yorkshire Dales Society has been invited to spend the day at the farm on Saturday July 16th in order to absorb its special atmosphere and hear more.

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

## NEW YDS AFFILIATE MEMBER



**Farnley Estate WI** - Became our newest Affiliate Member and meets regularly at the newly refurbished Leathley Village hall, which was established in 1922 as Leathley Parish Room, and can be hired for outside events, with its attractive walled garden adding to the facilities. Farnley Estate WI, in common with other Women's Institutes throughout the country, has broadened its appeal as regards its activities and interests and campaigns. Last year was the centenary of the WI movement, which was originally begun as a war effort in World War I to encourage the country to grow more food. The movement grew into a highly impressive country-wide organisation, with a strong 'educational' element, allowing the opportunity for new skills and socialising.

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



An enjoyable mix of events for all members and friends for the spring and early summer 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.

## 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)

## Saturday, 14 May 2016

**C** Medium 

### Spring Flowers of Oxenber Wood

This lovely circular walk will be led by Trustee Dr Tony Smith, who will take us to Oxenber Woods for a chance to see a wide range of Dales wild flowers and plenty of photo opportunities! This 4 mile walk includes moderate climbs and paths may be rocky, muddy or slippery with one or two stiles. Regret no dogs except RAD. Bring packed lunch. Part of the Flowers of the Dales Festival 2016.

**11:00. Meet at Austwick Bridge, just south of Austwick on Graystonber Lane (LA2 8BY). Please park responsibly and considerately on village roads. Bus 580/581 d. Skipton Bus Station d.0850. Walk ends approx 2:30.**

**Why not stay on into the evening to enjoy the local pub or shop featuring local products?**

## Saturday, 18 June 2016

**C** Long 

### In search of the Bird's Eye Primrose

Join the Society's Chairman Mark Corner for a circular walk of about 8 miles, in search of the Society's emblem the tiny Bird's Eye Primrose flower. We will walk up the Dalesway alongside the River Wharfe, crossing at Buckden, with a steepish climb out of the village through woods and pastures before descending to Starbotton and back to Kettlewell. Expect lovely views and an abundance of wildflowers with lots of photo opportunities. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome 🐾. Bring packed lunch. Part of the Flowers of the Dales Festival 2016.



**10:30 Meet outside the Blue Bell inn, Kettlewell. P&D parking in YDNPA car park. Bus 74 from Ilkley d. 09:40, bus 72 from Skipton station d. 09:45, both connect to "UWB" bus to Kettlewell from Grassington. Arrive 10:50 to catch up with volunteer. Finishes around 15:00**

**Why not stay on into the evening to enjoy the village pubs, shops and cafes?**

**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)**

### Key

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

## Saturday, 16 July 2016

**f** Short 

### Nethergill Eco-Farm, Oughtershaw

Chris and Fiona Clark, Business Members of the Society, are kindly hosting a full day visit to their eco-farm where their philosophy of "nature taking the lead" has resulted in a huge diversity of wildlife and habitats, as well as prime livestock. After a welcome in the Field Centre (with a cuppa and flapjack) our guided tour of the farm will explore the range of farming and environmental practices – "Bertha the Biomass Boiler" and solar panels; rare breeds of White Shorthorn cattle, White-Faced Woodland and Dalesbred sheep; a hay meadow in full flower with yellow rattle and orchids; willow bundles to protect the beck edge; the bird hide and feeders and the self catering cottages. Expect an informed discussion on all matters farming and conservation!

Max 2 miles, some rough/uneven ground. Option to remain at the farm base and enjoy the bird hide/views. Wellies essential (wet ground and stream crossing). Bring packed lunch and binoculars/cameras. No dogs except RAD.

**10:00. Meet NT car park (P&D) at Buckden for onwards car sharing. Bus 72 d. 08:35 Skipton arrives Buckden 09:45. Full day at farm concluding 3:30. but option remain into early evening if wished. Return bus at 16:50 Buckden arrives Skipton 18:00.**

## Saturday, 24 September 2016

**y** 

### Advance Notification: AGM

To be held at the Devonshire Institute, Grassington.

Full details in the Summer Review or check the website nearer the time.



Yorkshire Dales Society logo and Yorkshire Dales Review. Copyright 2016.  
The Review is published by the Yorkshire Dales Society. All content is protected.

## CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY



Photo: Spring in Nidderdale, Dorian Speakman

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

Please contact the Editor, Fleur Speakman c/o the address below for any contributions or comments concerning this publication.

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

Email: [ann.shadrake@yds.org.uk](mailto:ann.shadrake@yds.org.uk)

Office: **01756 749 400.**

Events

Hotline: **07497 256763** (text or call)

Information about the Society can be found on:



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



[www.facebook.com  
/YorkshireDalesSociety](https://www.facebook.com/YorkshireDalesSociety)

Dales & Bowland  
Community Interest Company:  
[www.dalesandbowland.com](http://www.dalesandbowland.com)

### Annual Membership

Single	£20
Joint/Family	£28
Business Members	£30
Affiliate Members (Group)	£30

### Life Membership

Individual (Under 60)	£400
Joint (Under 60)	£550
Individual (Over 60)	£300
Joint (Over 60)	£450

Please Gift Aid your membership if you are eligible as we can benefit from additional income.

