



Friends' events reviewed

The Monk's March - in the footsteps of history

On a cold but sunny Saturday in October a group of 13 intrepid Friends assembled at Pateley Bridge showground where we boarded the magic bus, ably driven by Barry Slaymaker, to take us to Conistone village in Wharfedale where our great trek was to commence. Setting off about 9.45 we headed up Conistone Moor eventually reaching the summit at Sandygate (540 metres). Brian Wood, our walk leader, explained the marked differences in the geological make up of Wharfedale (limestone compared with Nidderdale's gritstone) and the completely different species of flora that abound in Wharfedale as a result. The valley sides and hilltops in Wharfedale are mostly grassy with herbs such as wild thyme and black knapweed, which contrast with Nidderdale where bilberry, heather and cotton grass predominate. Tree species also vary - the predominant tree on the limestone is ash, whilst sessile oak is often considered to be the characteristic tree of the valley sides in Nidderdale. Our route followed the original Monk's pack horse trail used for transporting wool fleeces from Conistone Grange, (now a ruin, but in monastic times an important farm belonging to Fountains Abbey), back into Nidderdale. After about 9 miles plus detours to avoid swollen streams our journey ended at How Stean Gorge where we had a welcome cuppa and consumed delicious cakes!

Afterwards, we were treated to an unscheduled visit down into the bowels of the gorge by owner and guide Stan

Beer, which was a hair raising and fascinating visit, particularly as it was by then getting dark. Many thanks go to Stan for this unexpected treat - if you have not been it is to be recommended but it is not for the faint hearted!

Water water everywhere

After several days of soaking downpours, a large number of friends gathered at Dacre & Hartwith Village Hall on November 10th to learn where all this water was going to go.

Neil Dewis of Yorkshire Water talked to us about how the grid worked so that water collected at Angram and Scar House traveled down the Victorian aqueduct, which had side pipelines off to Skipton and Ilkley, to Bradford, while we used water that came from Haverah. via Harlow Hill in Harrogate, back up to Nidderdale. His illustrations showed how the system set up by those brilliant engineers at the turn of the 20th century was still the basis of today's supply - with the difference that the grid was now connected throughout Yorkshire so that a shortfall in one area could be quickly supplied from another.

We already knew about Yorkshire Water as an enlightened landlord of some of our best recreational areas, but these insights into how the system works, and future plans for leak repair, wind turbines to power treatment plants and the possibility of hydro-electric schemes, added up to a fascinating evening.

A quiz too challenging?

Our annual quiz night in early December was, as always, well attended despite ferociously cold and snowy conditions

and the back room at the Royal Oak at Dacre Banks was packed with competitive quiz goers. This year's question setters were new and some of the questions had everyone stumped including the question master, Douglas Adamson! It was a closely fought challenge with two teams tying and sudden death finish questions required - the winning team, the 'Still Hopefuls' were first to identify a picture of a male Wheatear. Runner up wine prizes were awarded to the 'Stean Steamers'. The five-member 'Diverse' team had to be penalised with an 'extra brain' handicap which despite a good points tally put them out of the running. Strong scores in the music round put the 'Outstanding Natural Beauties' and the 'Blubberhouses Free Range Egg Heads' into contention, but not quite enough to oust the 'Hopefuls' whose privilege it is to set next time's Quiz questions.

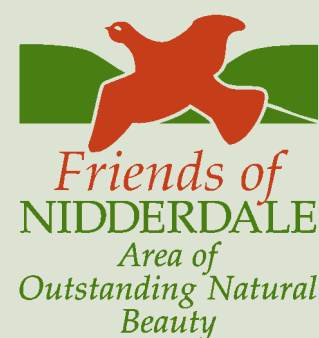
Snow, sunshine, cold, navigational uncertainty & history - the winter walk!

Unbelievably, once again Douglas Adamson's winter walk stole some sunshine in a freak 6 hour break from what had been a torrid week of rain, sleet, wind and the rest.

The largest ever assembly for one of our walks, 28 well shod walkers, set out across Pott Moor towards Dale Edge at the head of Nidderdale. Soon the party was assaulted by rain turning to snow that was over as quickly as it started. The weather from then on slowly improved, eventually bathing us in afternoon sunshine for a final trot down the Coal Road in Colsterdale, passing the old mine workings started by the monks of Jervaulx in the 14th century.

Our ascent to South (or Little) Haw at 500m with its 'Forest of Netherdale' ancient marker stone involved a heavy trudge through heather but was rewarded with spectacular 360 degree panoramic views. The wind was biting cold and as the party descended towards Colsterdale we took an unscheduled, 'off piste' downhill scramble in search of a suitable, sheltered lunching spot. We finally landed, fortunately without mishap, by the banks of a bubbling tributary of the river Burn where everyone had a welcome, if still chilly, fuel stop!

Our final homeward stride took in views of the wonderful natural woodland of Birk Gill and the attractive, rolling farmland of Colsterdale - a grand day out.

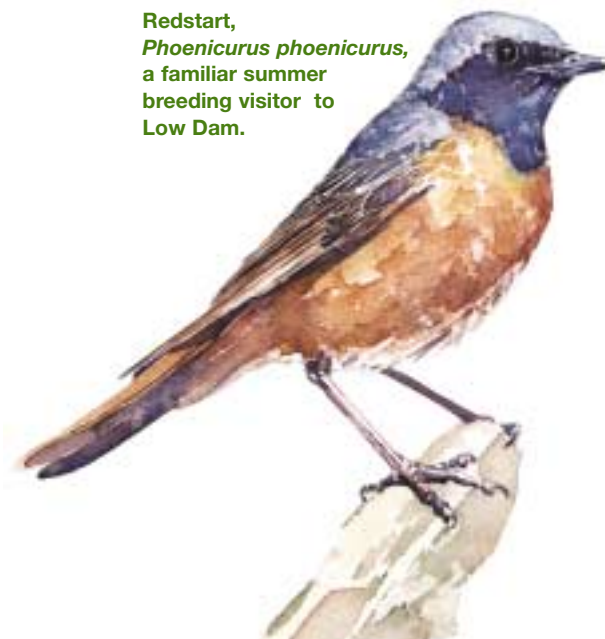


Looking ahead positively



As I write this column in mid-January one could be forgiven for thinking that 2009 is beckoning us into a doomsday world as retailers go broke, there is little hope of a permanent end to the conflicts

Redstart, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, a familiar summer breeding visitor to Low Dam.



in the Middle East and unemployment rises inexorably! With these inescapable truths to hand it is good to read the draft of Nidderdale AONB's positive and ambitious new management plan that sets out the organisation's objectives for the next 5 years.

Both the Friends Committee and all Friends are currently being consulted about its contents and wholeheartedly support its central focus on supporting farmers and landowners to meet environmental goals, promotion of native tree planting, biodiversity enhancement and improvements of Rights of Way. The plan is detailed and broad reaching and requires the support of many partners to enable the thrust of its contents to be delivered. The Friends is one such partner organisation and we have plans to provide practical help in mapping and monitoring our many rights of way; these plans will be detailed to Friends later

once they are fully formulated together with how you may be able to help us.

For those of you that have not seen the AONB plan I would urge that you visit www.nidderdaleaonb.gov.uk and go to Management Plan. I hope you have all received my letter which includes a short summary of the key issues which is a more digestible document than the complete tome!

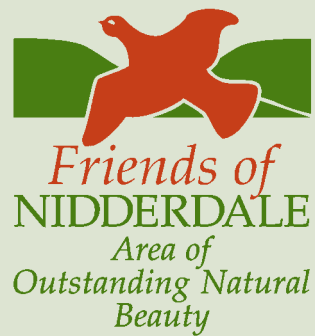
Spring hopes are eternal in an Englishman's heart!

Excusing my bastardisation of the famous poetical quote but at this time of year body and soul are willing the hastening of spring with warmer weather, renewing plant life and the return of our many migratory birds!

On this theme of renewal you will see more space devoted in this issue to the Friends' exciting and important Low Dam project in the Washburn Valley. The Friends were able to support this worthy environmental task as a direct result of our charitable status; the successful bid for the funds from Yorventure (the distributor of funds from landfill taxes for community and environmental projects) netted some £13,000 in direct grant. We hope that this will be the first of other funding bids in the years ahead.

Working with Friends volunteers, Wharfedale Naturalists and the Washburn Wildlife Advisory Group, the work to restore this treasured and very special wetland habitat and the improvements to access should be nearly completed by the time spring does arrive. I would urge Friends to take a stroll down to see the improvements first hand and enjoy this tranquil and important environment that you are supporting.

Best wishes, **Douglas Adamson**



Friends Committee

Friends of Nidderdale AONB is a charity and a limited company and is managed by a committee chaired by Douglas Adamson. The committee members are all directors of the company and all are trustees:

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We are always pleased to have feedback on *News & Views*. Please contact Barry Slaymaker, Secretary, Friends of Nidderdale AONB, King Street, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LE Tel: 01423 712950.

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Natural England supports the organisation costs of the Friends of Nidderdale AONB so that donations can be allocated to conservation projects. We are indebted to this agency for the continued support.

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With thanks to Yorkshire Water for their support in producing this newsletter.

A sign too far!

A rash of 'safety' signs informing hapless fishermen that they can be killed by casting their lines onto overhead electricity cables has suddenly broken out unannounced on the banks of the river Nidd. Three of them spied near Lofthouse (all within a 100 yards of one another) appear to serve no logical purpose where they have been located. They succeed only in polluting the landscape!

I understand the sound health and safety reasons for informing fishermen that they should not cast their lines on to live electricity cables. However the logic of locating them on stretches of the river where it is physically impossible to strike an overhead cable (even with a 16 foot salmon rod and 100 yards of line) escapes me! By all means place them if you must where there is real danger. Fishermen are in more danger from being killed by fishing in thunderstorms - are we to see signs about these placed at every 100 yards around all the reservoirs in Nidderdale AONB?

Can common sense prevail? Proper consultation beforehand would prevent these eight foot metal monstrosities being inflicted upon our area of outstanding natural beauty and no doubt save whoever placed them there a lot of money into the bargain!



Friends of Nidderdale AONB Programme of Events 2009

It helps if you can let us know if you intend to come to any of these events, as some have a limited attendance. So please book early on 01423 712950.

6am Saturday 25th April

Early Birds

Venue: Hackfall Wood

Early morning in springtime in woodland like Hackfall can be magical, with birds in full song and new life burgeoning all around. Under Sheila Nash's expert guidance we will spend the morning looking & listening for woodland species of both resident and summer migrant birds in this ancient semi-natural woodland bordering the River Ure. Bring binoculars & scopes and a flask, dress appropriately for a cool and early start. Meet at the Museum car park, Pateley Bridge at 6am, or at Hackfall car park on the Grewelthorpe-Masham road at 6.30am. We will return by lunchtime.

7.30pm Monday 27th April

Friends Annual Meeting

Venue: Kettleing Millennium Village Hall

We report back to Friends on our achievements and listen to what you may have to say on our future plans.

7pm Monday 29th June

Farm Walk

Venue: Scaife Hall Farm, Blubberhouses

Chris and Christine Ryder, winners of the Friends Enterprising Farm Award last year, will show us round their farm and explain their work in developing a successful farm business in a fine location.

July TBA

Harlow Carr Event

10.30am Saturday 12th September

Woodland Walk

Venue: Summerbridge

Join Brian Wood on a walk through the woods near to Brimham as the leaves begin to turn and the autumn fruits appear, and learn a little of how our woodlands have been managed and of the wildlife that they support.

It seemed an opportune moment to ask, as my wife prepared for bed: "Would you mind doing something, er, special for me tonight darling?" The pause, the raised eyebrow and rather blunt 'what?' didn't give me too much hope, but I ploughed on.

"Please will you sleep with this fishing fly in your armpit? Don't worry, I'll wrap it in tissue paper and selotape it into position so it won't come adrift."

My wife had long since given up enquiring as to the reason for some of my bizarre requests over matters piscatorial. In fact, she hadn't done so since the day she found me cutting up a pair of her tights. The mesh is an excellent way to keep a big lump of cheese on your hook if you're fishing for barbel in fast water, but it does little for marital relations.

Women make superb fishers. To this day, the record for a rod-caught salmon is held by Georgina Ballantyne, who landed a 64lb fish in Scotland in 1922. The story goes that it took her 10 hours to land and her father popped off home to get her some food, which he fed to her as she played the monster.

I'd read somewhere that the fairer sex's success as anglers can be partly attributed to their pheromones, the chemical compounds that influence animal, and indeed our own, behaviours. Just by touching a fishing fly a woman can, supposedly, make it much more attractive to fish.

In a scientific experiment conducted a few years ago, when a lady put her hand in the water at the top of a salmon ladder, a much larger than normal number of fish was monitored running up the ladder. When a bloke did the same, it made no difference whatsoever.

The point of all this is that, until about 5 years ago, I was a very, very competitive fly fisherman, and would resort to any secret weapon or underhand tactic that might account for more fish at the end of the day than were caught by my fishing mate Andy. And so a pheromone-drenched fly, that might drive rainbow trout into a feeding frenzy, just had to be tried.

Unfortunately it didn't work, and Andy as usual ended the day with a full complement of fish in his basket, whereas I had but one.

In those days, we were so hell bent on outdoing each other regarding fish caught that we were virtually oblivious to our surroundings. You could liken it to asking a Formula 1 driver as he approached Turn 3 at 216mph if he'd noticed that pretty cloud formation above the race track.

As we have grown older, Andy and I have become more contemplative, and tend to spend as much time sitting down chatting and just watching the water as we do fishing. And we're the richer for it. Instead of fussing and fretting about what tackle to take, preparations the night before an outing tend to go something like this: "There's going to be a cool easterly tomorrow, so I think we should adopt cold weather tactics; perhaps a pheasant terrine and a robust pinot noir." Or, "It's forecast to be sunny and warm all day, so let's go for the smoked salmon on rye and a frivolous, steely-dry little Chablis."

Today, it's more a case of relishing the joys of just being there; of watching the mayfly's dance, of listening to birdsong; of simply being beside the water. Violins

salmon). My tactics are always the same, if I see someone further up the bank who is catching lots, and I've not caught any, I just wander over and quiz them. There's none of the secretiveness I used to associate with coarse fishing, most folk on these waters will happily tell you what fly they're using, at what depth, and all the rest. To date, none has volunteered that their success was founded on a fly that had overnighted in their partner's armpit, but I'm sure the time will come.

If you'd like to know more about fishing in the local Yorkshire Water reservoirs (Swinsty & Fewston are in the Washburn Valley section) please visit www.yorkshirewater.com/recreation or phone the fishing office on 01943 880658.

Good luck with your angling, and if you see a couple of blokes dozing on the bank with fishing baskets that are as empty as the bottle of burgundy beside them, please walk quietly by.

Tim Gill

Tim Gill is a commercial writer and volunteer dry stone waller with Nidderdale AONB.

Of fly fishing, fine wines and pheromones

away, it has to be said that in this region there are many, many pleasant waters to be beside.

Much of Andy's and my fishing - or more correctly, picnicking - is at Swinsty and Fewston reservoirs. Both are excellent for encouraging an hour's snooze after a particularly good lunch. Here you can choose between long, open stretches of water to sleep by, or opt for a quiet little bay where nobody will appear all day to overhear your snores.

Both of these reservoirs can be very productive in terms of fish, and even a duffer like myself has on many occasions gone home with a full bag of rainbow trout (I've always upheld that, served cold with a nice hollandaise sauce, a rainbow is as tasty as a



Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis*.

Portrait of a Conservation Volunteer

Releasing your inner 13 year old

When Will Rich retired from teaching, he looked for a hobby which combined his interest in nature and enjoyment of action. Colin Slator, AONB Ranger, invited him to join the Conservation Volunteers Tuesday Group and this was the contrast he wanted - no more responsibility for youngsters but lots of activity.

"I like anything involving destruction" he says. "Clearing scrub, felling trees, lighting fires, damming streams - anything that takes me back to being 13 years old." Ragwort pulling and balsam bashing are not so enjoyable, but necessary chores in enhancing at risk habitats. Other tasks undertaken by the group include hedge laying and footpath maintenance.



He has worked at Cow Myers, where alder and willow are being kept in check so this triple SSSI can be preserved as a marsh, and is now enjoying the Low Dam project. "That is a really muddy place to work" he reports with satisfaction, although as a member of the Harrogate Naturalists, he is glad to see the dragonflies' habitat restored.

The group's camaraderie adds to the pleasure of his Tuesdays. "I have met some great people and can recommend Conservation Volunteering to anyone."

If you would be interested in joining the Conservation Volunteers, contact Colin Slator at the AONB office, King Street, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LE. Tel: 01423 712950.



An award winning welcome to the Washburn Valley

The Ryders of Scaife Hall Farm, Blubberhouses, were the winners of our Enterprising Farm Award at the Nidderdale Show in 2008. This was the culmination of a busy year for them; they had taken over another 100 acres across the A59 at Fewston to add to their existing 500 acre holding; they had moved into the Higher Level Stewardship scheme with all the commitments that involves; they had opened a permissive footpath across the farm in connection with the AONB Tree Trail, and they had continued to run their sheep enterprise, their free range egg production and their thriving Bed & Breakfast operation.

Then every year has been a busy year since this energetic couple (confusingly, they are called Chris and Christine) took over their Yorkshire Water owned farm in 1987 and have run it together with no other staff ever since. Sheep have always been their main enterprise. This year they will lamb 700 ewes in March and April, and they expect rather too many triplets for comfort. The ewes are mainly Swaledale and thrive on the permanent grassland on the edge of Thruscross moor.

They have 400 free range laying hens "and we never have too many

eggs" says Christine. In line with their policy of supporting other small businesses, they sell to local village shops and restaurants. They used to market the sheep meat direct, delivering with a refrigerated van, but since they took on their extra land have decided to let others handle this. Some is taken by Christine's brother's farm shop business at Menwith Hill, and surplus lambs go to market at Pateley Bridge. They do keep some freezer packs for old friends and for the B&B customers to take home.

The bed and breakfast business has been Christine's passion for 19 years. As a committed member, and past national chairman, of Farmstay UK, she believes that nothing beats Yorkshire farmhouse hospitality. "We want to make our guests feel really welcome, and many come back again and again." Not only are they entertained in this typical stone built house with its views across the Washburn Valley to the reservoirs at Thruscross and Fewston, they are also told about the attractions of the area, guided to the best local dining places, and recommended to other Farmstay addresses if they are touring. Christine has hosted the farm Big Breakfast (170 people over three mornings) and now is also involved in the Real Food & Farming organization whose showcase at Kilsney Show last autumn featured all aspects of rural hill farming community life, including a section on the role of the farmer's wife.

Higher Stewardship has meant planting 2.5 hectares of native woodlands, fencing the woodlands to preserve habitats, and managing the grassland for conservation - a process started when the Ryders went into Entry level of the stewardship scheme. Contrary to expectations, they have found lapwings preferred short-cropped grass, but there are signs of a wider variety of birds returning to the woodlands.

For the coming summer, they plan to welcome educational visits. Not only can schoolchildren and other groups see the farm at work, they can use the AONB Tree Trail and also study the industrial heritage - the remains of the old textile mill and its water works that run through the farm. As a member of the Fewston Church Heritage Centre, Chris is finding out more about this unique history to add to the information packs he is preparing. It is all part of the welcoming attitude the Ryders have towards others who want to share their farm.

Supporting local businesses

Supporting local businesses is easy if you live in Kirkby Malzeard, a thriving village in the north of the AONB. It has always been the centre of the area between Masham, Pateley Bridge and Ripon. As villages like Grantley, Galphay and Grewelthorpe have lost shops and even pubs, the business people of Kirkby have pulled out all the stops to attract country dwellers to come to them instead of driving into town.

"One of the hardest working men in the village" is how one inhabitant describes Hamer Lombardi, who runs the Kirkby Stores. It's only a small shop, but it opens at 6am selling a good range of dry goods, excellent bread, papers and magazines, and beer. On several evenings, he is to be found working the fish and chip shop down the street, which also attracts hungry people from a wide area. Hamer is a Yorkshireman by adoption, coming from Northern Italy when his English wife became homesick, but in 9 years he has made himself a pillar of the community.

Always busy, recently refurbished and expanded, is the long-established business, the Highside Butchers. 'Butchers' is an understatement - the Stothard family and helpers sell beautifully prepared cuts of meat and game, but also dressed and marinated meat and poultry, cold meat, pies and home-made meat meals, plus a great selection of vegetables and fruit, and cheses from the local creamery. Customers come from miles - even making a special detour when driving to and from Scotland.

Add to this a pub with an Indian restaurant and takeaway, a charming tea room which also sells home baking, a hairdresser, a pre-school and a garage; the local business people have upped their game to make their enterprises a pleasure to use.



Vernacular styles



In our increasingly globalised world there is something reassuring about the presence of landscape features that are undeniably and quintessentially 'of the place'. In recent months I have spent a lot

of time travelling around the country, something that I always try to do by train as it gives one the luxury of being able to take in the countryside as it whizzes by, rather than staring fixedly ahead through a car windscreen. At least, that's the theory - all too often I get trapped by the gaping jaws of my laptop. But I digress. Our countryside has always been marked by the work of the craftspeople who worked it; hedges laid in a particular style for that county or the stock to be kept penned, walls built in a way that often varied from dale to dale, hay ricks stacked, withies bundled and tied, roofs thatched and so on.

An old countryman would have known whether he was in his part of the world or not by the presence of these features. The gradual deterioration and dissolution of these locally significant craft styles isn't just a loss for the countryside, but a diminishment in our collective skills base too. This is just as significant as the loss of a dialect or language, something the few resurrected Cornish speakers have been fighting ever since the death of Dolly Pentreath in 1777, reputedly the last person to speak Cornish as a first and only language - although from my limited research it would appear she used her native tongue mainly for fearsome swearing.

I remember in my early teens visiting Wastwater in the Lake District and marvelling at the dry stone walls extending like arterial veins at vertiginous angles up the hillsides. The knowledge that these walls had stood for centuries - and possibly much, much longer - was as astounding as the sheer effort required to construct them in such challenging terrain. In the West Country the dry stone wall becomes the Devon or Cornish bank; filled and topped with earth and then either planted, or simply left to be colonised, by native shrubs, bramble and wildflower. I've always been struck by the variation in the stone walls in the dales. In upper Wensleydale the through stones project out of the wall in a way quite unlike those in other parts of North Yorkshire, and I would love to know why. Is it merely a stylistic device, or is there a practical element?

The presence of local vernacular styles is something we should all cherish. When present it gives our environs a distinctive sense of place, which we relate to in just the same way as the old countryman would have. The walls of Nidderdale give shelter for stock but also homes for plants, birds and mammals too. Take the vernacular away and we are left with the worst kind of aberration; a homogenised countryside that is no more distinctive than an out of town superstore. It's what makes Nidderdale so obviously and recognisably the very special place that it is, and we should fight hard not just to preserve it, but to keep it being cared for using local skills and crafts, especially in such troubled times as these.

Matthew Wilson Patron

Matthew Wilson, recently Curator at RHS Harlow Carr, is now RHS Head of Gardens Creative Development. He is a regular contributor to the gardening media.



and the stone used in the construction of Fewston reservoir. Its site is now the Blubberhouses cricket field. Thruscross reservoir was not built until the 1960s, when the top of the valley was changed for ever and the village of West End was flooded.

The site of the Low Dam project covers four hectares, parts of which are wetland habitat of such high biodiversity quality that they have SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) status. It has long been famous for its dragonflies; other species of national importance include the Common Toad and the Little Grebe. Among birds, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler use the site, while Ragged Robin, Spotted Orchid, Helleborine and



Black darter dragonfly, *Sympetrum danae*, male top, female below.



This project is supported by Yorventure and Wharfedale Naturalists.



Yorventure supported by Yorwaste Ltd.

Map and wildlife illustrations: Stephen Huxley

Bellflower are some of the many plants that are found there.

Watercourses and weirs are among the remains of the mill workings that can be seen throughout the area. It lies off a Yorkshire Water permissive footpath and is also part of an AONB Tree Trail.

Some of the grant money will be spent on the hire of equipment and outside contractors for specialist jobs. Specifically, there is a leak in the pond, which has caused water to drain into the river and the wetlands to dry out, impoverishing unique habitat (which has particularly affected dragonfly numbers). The bridge over the dam needs widening and there are some dangerous places on the unofficial path round it. Our volunteers will be clearing scrub, cleaning ditches, and restoring wetland habitat. They will also be hardening the muddiest parts of the footpath to improve access. The Nidderdale Walling Group of AONB volunteers will also be helping with the restoration of a boundary feature.

By providing interpretation boards, leaflets and guided walks, it is hoped that school groups will be encouraged to come for study visits and that the general public will get greater enjoyment from exploring the area.

Low Dam is easily accessible. Parking is provided at two Yorkshire Water sites - at Fewston car park just across the A59 at Blubberhouses, and at Thruscross Dam set high above the north end of the footpath.

The X59 Harrogate - Skipton bus service runs on weekdays and stops at Blubberhouses.

Copies of the Tree Trail leaflet are available from the AONB office.

The Low Dam Project

Low Dam lies in the beautiful stretch of the Washburn Valley between Blubberhouses and Thruscross. This is an area already popular with walkers, canoeists and naturalists. It also bears witness to the industrial past of the valley.

The need for conservation work on the area, in view of increased recreational activity, has long been recognized. The Washburn Wildlife Advisory Group was set up about 8 years ago to help look after it, so that all interested parties, including Yorkshire Water and the British Canoe Union, could co-operate to guard the habitat.

This year, a great team effort is under way to achieve:

- better protection for the scarce species that inhabit the site
- restoration of some of the historic built works
- better access and information for all visitors

Yorkshire Water, who own the site, the Wharfedale Naturalists who have been monitoring the biodiversity, the AONB who have drawn up the management plan and whose volunteers are working hard already, students from Craven College, Yorventure who have given a generous grant, Mr Chris Ryder whose farm at Scaife Hall includes parts of the

site, are all contributing time, equipment and money. Young volunteers from the Army Foundation College are also giving welcome help as part of their community programme. The British Canoe Union did ground works last summer in full consultation with the other partners.

This dam was one of two serving Westhouse Mill, which was built as a flax mill in the 1790s on the site of an even older textile mill. It was one of the largest mills in the AONB area, six stories high. At its peak in the 1830s it employed nearly 200 people, many of them small children who worked 70 hours a week for a wage of 2 shillings. However it did not survive later depressions in the textile trade and was bought by Leeds Corporation in the 1870s, pulled down,



Common toad



Little grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.