

DALESMAN'S BOOKSHELF Terry Fletcher

Green Networks of the Dales by Colin Speakman (ISBN 1-905080-15-8, Great Northern, £10.99)

Colin Speakman is a man on a mission. He wants to achieve nothing less than cutting the umbilical cord which connects most modern walkers to their cars.

The result of this attachment, he argues, is to limit many of us to short circular walks which do little to capture the richness, vastness and complexity of the Dales.

Drawing on an almost encyclopaedic knowledge not only of Dales footpaths but bus routes and rail connections as well, he has put together twenty linear walks, many using old trackways and crossing watersheds or linking towns.

Most, however, are not for the faint of heart or weak of limb; none is less than a dozen miles and two are over twenty, though they can be split.

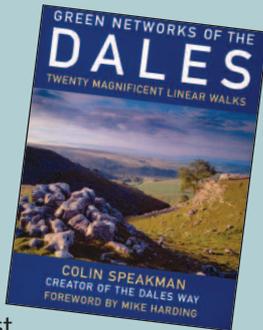
In each case there are not only general directions but also details of the buses which serve them. Remember, however, that timetables change and a wise walker will check them before leaving home.

Nevertheless, the book opens up a new walking experience for those who can bear to be parted from their cars for a day.

Bolton Abbey by John M Sheard (ISBN 978-0-9556633-0-7 (hbk), 978-0-9556633-1-07 (pbk), £16.50 hardback, £11.95 paperback)

Available from John Sheard, Drebley Farmhouse, Drebley, Skipton, BD23 6FAU (add £3 for postage and package)

Bolton Abbey is one of the most popular destinations in Yorkshire for a Sunday afternoon jaunt but few, if any, know it

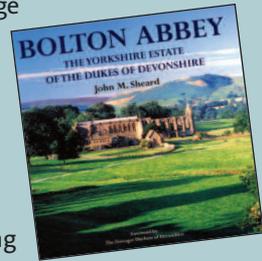


better than John Sheard, who, as resident land agent for more than thirty years, was the man entrusted by the 11th Duke of Devonshire to manage his Yorkshire estate.

It was clearly a labour of love for both of them, involving the maintenance of an ancestral estate while also developing it to ensure it

remained a going financial concern in a changing, sometimes hostile, world.

This book is a fascinating account of how it was done, and a glimpse into the inner workings of the estate and its resident community which many visitors will never see.



Connections: Artists and Writers in North Craven, foreword by W R Mitchell (ISBN 978-0-9504075-1-7, North Craven Building Preservation Trust, £3.99)

This book was born of a remarkable exhibition staged at the Folly in Settle last year. It drew together the disparate threads which had linked generations of artists and writers across Malhamdale, North Ribblesdale, and the valleys of the Greta and the Wenning.

The range of work included is astounding, from sweeping views to intimate glimpses of everyday life, and from fine art to the first cover of this magazine.

It is a rich seam and one which, as the unashamedly contemporary cover painting of Gordale by Katharine Holmes shows, is in no danger of exhaustion. ●

