



18 February 2004

## A Closer Look.....

The **Mercer Art Gallery** in **Harrogate** is currently hosting the exhibition **Moor and Dale**, an illuminating and colourful photographic portrait of the **Nidderdale landscape** and its people. The exhibition of photographs by **Tessa Bunney** shows the extraordinary beauty of Nidderdale, and documents the special relationship that exists between rural communities and the natural world.

Tessa will be in the gallery in March to **talk about her work** on show in the exhibition. The talk will include a **slide show** of Tessa's work and a **guided tour** of the exhibition. Refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity to **ask questions**.

Janine Taylor, Audience Development Officer with Harrogate Museums and Arts said 'We are delighted that we are able to give visitors the opportunity to hear Tessa speak about her work. The photographs and soundtrack in *Moor and Dale* are her personal response to the people and landscape of Nidderdale, and the stories behind them are fascinating'.

The talk will take place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm** in the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate. The talk will be repeated on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm**. The talk is **free**, but must be **pre-booked** on 01423 556 188.

The exhibition continues at the Mercer Art Gallery until 21 March. An **illustrated catalogue** has been published to accompany the exhibition, on sale for £6.00.

The Mercer Art Gallery is in Swan Road, Harrogate. The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 5pm, and closed Mondays except Bank Holidays. Admission to the Mercer Art Gallery is free. For more information call 01423 556 188.

### Ends

For further information, contact Jane Sellars or Janine Taylor at the Mercer Art Gallery on 01423 556188

*Tessa Bunney lives on the edge of the North York Moors, and works as a photographer and community artist. This show was commissioned by the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Part of the work was first seen at the Nidd Castle Shooting Box during the Nidderdale Festival. Later this year the Moor and Dale exhibition goes on tour, appearing first at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, North Yorkshire, from 17 June until 2 August 2004.*

*The Moor and Dale project involved: the Nidderdale AONB; Arts Council England, Yorkshire; The Countryside Agency; Harrogate Borough Council and the Friends of the Mercer Art Gallery. None of it would have been possible without the generous help and involvement of the local community.*