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Harrogate BOROUGH COUNCIL

mercer art gallery

TESSA BUNNEY: MOOR AND DALE

Photographs of Rural Life in Nidderdale
31 January – 21 March 2004

TESSA BUNNEY has created an illuminating and colourful photographic portrait of the extraordinary beauty of the Nidderdale landscape and its people, documenting the special relationship that exists between rural communities and the natural world.

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. Paul Burgess, AONB Officer said, 'We asked Tessa Bunney to produce *Moor and Dale* because we believe it is important to acknowledge publicly the contribution made by generations of farmers, gamekeepers and other land managers towards the cause of maintaining these landscapes.'

The photographs and soundtrack in *Moor and Dale* are the artist's personal response to the people and landscape of Nidderdale. Tessa Bunney said, 'I observed a very particular way of life and recorded activities such as moorland management and hill farming, which maintain the landscape as we see it today, providing both a haven for wildlife and a place for recreation for local people and tourists.'

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. Part of the work was first seen at the Nidd Castle Shooting Box during the Nidderdale Festival. Now it all comes together at the Mercer Art Gallery.

An illustrated catalogue has been published to accompany the exhibition, on sale for £6.00. Later in the 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 Mercer Art Gallery is in Swan Road, Harrogate, HG1 2SA tel 01423 556188. The gallery is open Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mondays except Bank Holidays. For further information, contact Jane Sellars, Curator of Art, at the Mercer Art Gallery on 01423 556188

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