Dales 2011

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Autumn 2011

Changing times

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority budget is being cut by a third over the next four years. With less money and fewer resources the organisation must embrace a new spirit of partnership to keep important services going, say Chief Executive David Butterworth and Chairman Carl Lis.

The last year has been extremely difficult for the National Park Authority, certainly the most difficult since it was created in 1997.

The impact of the Government's budget cuts, which took effect this financial year, has been severe. It has resulted in the scrapping of a number of our services and the reduction of many more. Eight work programmes, including education, events and public transport, have been deleted. While there is a commitment to continue some activity in these areas no budget has been allocated.

Consequently, there has been a requirement for a major re-structure and 37 members of staff have left the organisation.

As you will be all too aware, this has taken place within the context of general public service cuts. Our local communities have experienced this with proposals affecting schools, libraries, tourist information centres and public transport.

There is some danger of this doom and gloom becoming endemic. However, if the Authority is to prosper and continue to make a positive contribution to peoples' experience of the National Park, it must meet the future with a bit of backbone and confidence.

Although we took a 'big bang' approach and dealt with many of the cuts we have to make in year one, we still face difficult decisions, including what to do with our National Park Centres and public toilets which we cannot continue to run at the same level. Maintenance of footpaths and bridleways is also likely to be hit.

However, the changes that we have undertaken have put us on a solid footing and should enable us to achieve our target: a reduction in the size of the Authority and its activities by about a third by 2014/15.

This is a significant reduction and will be evident in the number - and, in some cases, the level - of services we provide. But for those activities that we continue to undertake we will need to ensure they are delivered in the best possible way.



David Butterworth, left, and Carl Lis at Dentdale Show in August. The Dentdale Community Initiative is a pilot between the Authority and the local community, working towards shared objectives.

Culturally, this will be quite a shift. `Good enough' will have to do for some services but by paring down we can continue to strive for excellence in others. A smaller, leaner organisation should lead to a more focussed and personal service.

Our centre page feature - 'Meet the team' - outlines that intention.

The Yorkshire Dales has always had a set of resilient communities and many are looking at new and innovative ways of ensuring they continue to receive services, not just public services but those things which are considered important to their long term viability.

Our primary focus will remain on conservation and recreation. Nonetheless, this new spirit of working in partnership is one that we, and many other public bodies, need to embrace on a much greater scale. The skill will be in managing these new relationships, and the expectations they create, during a time of considerably less cash and fewer resources.

Should we be successful, it will mean the continuance of service to some of the most remote communities in the country. We're up for the challenge!

2020 vision builds on conservation success

Populations of many threatened wildlife species are stable or improving in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, thanks to a 10-year biodiversity plan - and in some cases this bucks the trend nationally.

As well as animals, a number of plants and habitats are also doing well, due to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) which has guided the work of local organisations, groups and individuals and lead to some highly effective collaborations over the last decade.

Red squirrels (below) have increased their distribution over a wider area, northern brown argus butterfly (right) populations - which are in decline nationally - have remained stable with no colonies lost, and we have undertaken a programme of juniper bush planting to preserve this nationally threatened species.

Coordinated by conservation experts in the Authority and launched by umbrella body the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum, the first LBAP in 2000 - 'Nature in the Dales' - identified a range of nationally and regionally important habitats and species in the National Park that were at risk, and set out the work needed to protect them.





A trends and status report published this summer showed that over the last decade there has been major progress in bringing some of the most important habitats into positive management and the last full assessment highlighted that 81% of declining species were now stable or increasing. With the next one due in 2013 we hope this trend will continue.

Adrian Shepherd, Head of Land Management, said: "This is great news and highlights how beneficial the LBAP has been to the conservation of biodiversity in the National Park. It is a real testimony to the work done over the last 10 years by landowners, farmers and other agencies in delivering partnership projects."

Despite these successes, there is still much to do and the conservation actions for the next decade are set out in the new LBAP - '2020 Vision'.

And you can play a part. We are asking for volunteers to help with survey and monitoring work. You will receive mentoring and advice on methodologies. Look out for information on our website and in the local press.

View '2020 Vision' and the trends and status report on **www.natureinthedales.org.uk**



KIDS QUIZ

Can you spot how many times Ewe-nice the Sheep appears in this paper?

Answer on back page.

In this edition

Support for tourism businesses - p2

Making a splash: hydro schemes launch - p3

Apprentices bridge gap - p5



A charter for success

Businesses involved in tourism in the Dales will be aware that this year has seen some major changes in the organisations that promote it - including the end of the Yorkshire Dales & Harrogate Tourism Partnership. Recreation and Tourism Manager Mark Allum explains what role the National Park Authority will play.

In 2008, the National Park and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) were jointly awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. This internationally-recognised award is given to protected areas that support tourism that contributes to social and economic development while preserving the area's natural and cultural resources.

As part of this, we are looking to support tourism businesses, particularly around areas such as reducing energy costs, providing information on local walks and cycle rides, how to source local food and making use of those distinctive Dales characteristics that make a visit really memorable.

Working with Susan Briggs of marketing company The Tourism Network, an informal and free-to-join organisation has been established to bring businesses together - the Dales Tourism Business Network.



The Devonshire Arms at Bolton Abbey runs its vehicles on biofuel and produces its own vegetables, and has made savings of nearly £20,000 per year.

Members will receive newsletters and the opportunity to find out what others are doing and take part in training and events. It will be a way to reinforce links between businesses and organisations promoting the area, complementing, rather than duplicating, work being done by Welcome to Yorkshire (the official tourism agency) and business associations in specific dales.

We have started by putting four of our National Park Centres through the Green Tourism Business Award Scheme. They picked up either bronze or silver, which is great news, and the quality of our information provision was described as a strength. We still need to reduce our energy use and look at cleaning products and paper wastage, so the Centres' sustainability will continue to develop and we hope to pass on what we learn to other Dales businesses.

If you are a local tourism business or food producer which has links to or benefits from being in or near the National Park or AONB and you would like to get involved with the Dales Tourism Business Network, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainabletourism**

New accommodation listing

The Authority's annual newspaper for visitors to the National Park will feature an accommodation listing for the first time this year.

With its massive 200,000 circulation, **The Visitor 2012** is an ideal opportunity for accommodation providers to get advertising exposure to visitors and potential visitors to this beautiful area.

And it could prove key in promoting your business - especially in the absence of the Yorkshire Dales Accommodation Guide which the former Yorkshire Dales & Harrogate Tourism Partnership produced.

The look of the new section will be familiar, following that of the Guide.

For an advertising rate card, please contact Sheila Ward at Bow House on 01347 821928. The deadline for booking a spot in the new listing - or placing an ad in the newspaper generally - is the end of October.

Rural transport receives grant

A new grant of £1.1 million will be used to find long-term solutions to rural transport problems, benefitting residents and visitors alike in the Yorkshire Dales.

The Department of Transport award has been made to the Dales Integrated Transport Alliance (DITA), a partnership of over 50 local organisations, including the National Park Authority.

Over the next four years DITA hopes to specify, secure and promote an agreed network of demand-led, public and community transport services in the Dales.

The money will fund packages that address area-specific problems and cut carbon emissions whilst supporting economic growth. It will not be used for subsidising currently funded bus services.

The heart of DITA's approach is to understand needs and facilitate best choices, from cycling and walking to community buses and social car schemes. DITA will begin by working with local communities and visitors to find out their transport requirements based around key 'hubs' in the Dales. It will audit the different ways that transport is currently provided including school and health services.

To find out more, visit **www.dalesconnect.net**



Car parking charges frozen

The National Park Authority has frozen the cost of resident parking in its car parks for the next financial year.

The annual permit - costing £30 - can be obtained from our Grassington and Bainbridge offices or from National Park Centres and is valid from 1 April to 31 March.

Also unchanged are the Business Pass (for businesses without on-site parking) and Accommodation Pass (for accommodation providers that don't have enough parking spaces) which remain at £70 per annum.

There has been a small increase for short-stay drivers, with the two-hour parking fee increasing from £2.20 to £2.50 - the first rise for four years - and the all-day charge rising from £3.50 to £4.00.

The 10-minute, free, quick stop bays in all car parks will remain.

"The Authority has held most of its car park charges over the past four years" says Director of Park Services Kathryn Beardmore, "but, unfortunately, the recent increase in VAT and other financial pressures mean that we have now had to increase some."

Car park revenue contributes to the up-keep of the National Park and our work to conserve and enhance the special qualities of this beautiful area.

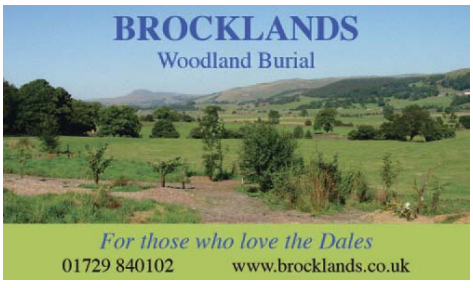
Weekly passes provided in conjunction with Richmondshire District Council (RDC) that can be used in all National Park and RDC car parks have increased from £10 to £12 - the first rise in three years.



Grassington car park







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In a largely rural area such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park, many people struggle with transport problems. If you also have a disability, you will know how much more difficult it is. SCAD Transport was set up to provide an efficient, safe and reasonably priced transport system for people in areas who have a disability and are unable to use public transport. Our minibuses (equipped with wheelchair lifts) collect from door to door. Members use us to travel to visit friends and family, do their shopping, attend college, doctors and hospital appointments etc., or just to get out for the day.
Call us on 01756 701005 for further information
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Renewable energy guide launched

A new guide is described as a 'must' for anyone wanting to install renewable energy equipment in buildings in the National Park.

It contains advice on the kit and installation methods that will have the least impact on the area's special qualities - while helping people produce green energy and reduce their carbon footprint.

'A Developer's and Householder's Guide to Energy Production in the Yorkshire Dales National Park' focuses on the range of technologies available to meet national CO_2 emission targets, from solar panels and double and secondary glazing to hydropower equipment and ground, air and water source heat pumps.

It offers help and encouragement whether people want to adapt existing properties to improve their sustainability, ensure that the sustainability of new buildings is enhanced, or produce renewable energy, both for profit and to help reduce national reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels.



Wind turbine, Birkdale

Richard Graham, Head of Development Management, said: "Small-scale schemes can be of particular benefit to isolated rural communities - especially for properties that don't have a gas supply or connection to the electricity grid.

"The document is adopted supplementary planning guidance, guiding decisions on applications for renewables. We would therefore encourage people to use it to frame their proposals before applying for permission."

More than 25 land managers have already found out more at an event organised by the Authority and Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network at two National Trust farms, and another will be held later this year.

Adrian Shepherd, Head of Land Management, said: "We wanted to show working examples of small-scale wind turbines, micro-hydropower equipment and solar photovoltaic panels installed on farms which are not on the mains grid and therefore need to generate their own electricity.

"We would like to encourage more take-up. It would also allow farmers to take advantage of the Government's Feed-in Tariffs - the financial incentive paid to producers of renewable energy who feed the excess they generate into the National Grid."

Visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/energyproductionguide**

Making a splash in the Dales

Local hydropower schemes are providing a blueprint for energy production in the Dales.

The River Bain Hydro Project is owned and run by members of the Bainbridge community. Its eight-and-a-half tonne Archimedean screw became operational in May. It will provide enough green energy for 50 households, saving 3,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year and raising funds to plough back into community projects which further mitigate the effects of climate change.

The scheme was funded by wide take-up of a share offer, along with grants from CO2Sense and the National Park Authority, plus a bank loan.

It is the culmination of years of work by a team of dedicated environmental entrepreneurs, keen to use the natural resources of a beautiful area of the country.



The River Bain Hydro Project (above) and Halton Gill scheme (below) are helping pioneer hydropower in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

A new 40kw micro scheme at Halton Gill in Littondale, completed by Betsy and Robert Bell of the Langcliffe Hall Estate, provides an alternative source of income that is extremely long-lasting with low maintenance and running costs for this upland farm.



Water from the valley above is captured in an inlet pipe and fed to a small turbine housed in a small traditional stone building 100 metres below. The scheme will generate enough energy for 20-25 households.

The Dales has a long history of harnessing water power for traditional industries and many villages operated their own electricity schemes in the early 1900s.

Electricity production is soon to return to one such site at Linton Falls in Wharfedale.

JN Bentley Ltd has restored the original 100-year old turbine house (a Scheduled Monument) and installed two Archimedean screws on this small weir. The 100kw turbine will generate energy equivalent to that required to power 90 homes for a year.

In 2009 the Authority commissioned a study of 49 possible sites across the National Park. It concluded that the area has huge potential for small-scale hydro schemes which produce an income for the landowner and contribute towards a local supply of energy from renewable sources.

Grants to assist feasibility studies for hydro projects is available from the Authority until 2013 - for details visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/renewables-grants**

Cash help for green ideas

Fantastic green ideas that benefit the National Park and its communities are becoming a reality with Authority funding.

The Sustainable Development Fund - managed on our behalf by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - supports new business ideas, community schemes and environmental projects that demonstrate ways of living and working more sustainably.

Next year will mark its tenth year of operation and, to date, more than £1.7 million has been awarded to 156 projects.

Anyone wanting application forms and further details should contact Gillian Muir on 015242 51002 or gillian.muir@ydmt.org

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25th Anniversary Year 2011/12
Supporting Patients & Carers in South Durham, Teesdale & North Yorkshire.
For information, to donate, or volunteer, please visit: www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk or tel: 01325 254321

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Free travel for disabled and over 60's
01756 753123 for time tables

www.prideofthedales.co.uk

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Classes for Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Goats and Horses, Fur & Feather, Dry Stone Walling, Walking Sticks, Horticulture, Produce & Handicrafts, Dog Show and Sheep Dog Trials, Terrier Racing, Show Jumping, Trade Stands, Food and Craft Marquees, Cricket Match, Brass Bands
YE OLDE REDTAIL FALCONRY DISPLAY
For further details contact the Show Secretary:
Mrs S Monk 01969 650129
www.nidderdaleshow.co.uk
E-mail: info@nidderdaleshow.co.uk
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Meet the team

Government cuts have meant a reduction in the services we can provide, but we will continue to deliver those we do in the best way we can. Our focus will remain on conservation and recreation. Highlighted here are some of the services we offer to residents.

Rangers have an important part to play in looking after the National Park, protecting the environment and maintaining rights of way. Based in the areas for which they are responsible, they are easily available as a point of contact between residents, visitors and the Authority.

To discuss footpath issues, damaged bridges, dangerous animals or community projects, or if you have any questions about our work, see the map for contact details.

Planning ensures that new building developments are well designed and carefully sited, adding to the quality of the natural environment and built heritage.

Our free planning surgeries allow you to get detailed information and help from a qualified planner on everything from making a planning application to installing renewable energy technologies:

Southern Area Team (Craven)
Every Thursday, 10-12pm, Grassington office.
Book an appointment on 01969 652350.

Northern Area Team (Richmondshire & South Lakeland)
Fortnightly on a Wednesday, 2-4pm, Bainbridge office and Sedbergh Community Office.
Fortnightly on a Thursday, 2-4pm,
Hudson House, Reeth.
Book an appointment on 01969 652349.

We have a range of services that will help you manage your land in a way that will benefit the environment and your business.

The **Farm and Countryside Service** provide help and advice on the grants available and how to apply for them. They can assist with all aspects of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme including compiling applications. Their work extends into Catchment Sensitive Farming advice as well as farm-based sustainable energy production. Contact them on 01756 751654 or facs@yorkshiredales.org.uk

New woodlands provide wildlife habitats, shelter for stock and make it easier to manage land - the **Trees and Woodlands Team** is putting a call out to landowners interested in planting trees and substantial grants are available. The team provides planting and management advice, works closely with the Forestry Commission and Yorwoods to access funding, and can help with management plans and finding suitable contractors. Contact them on 0300 456 0030 or trees@yorkshiredales.org.uk

The **Historic Environment Team** can help farmers and landowners deal with archaeology in the planning process, manage historic features on their land, and source grants. They also look after the Historic Environment Record, a database of all recorded archeological sites and historic features, which is available to the public. Contact them on 0300 456 0030 or herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk

What's happening in your area: worki

North West

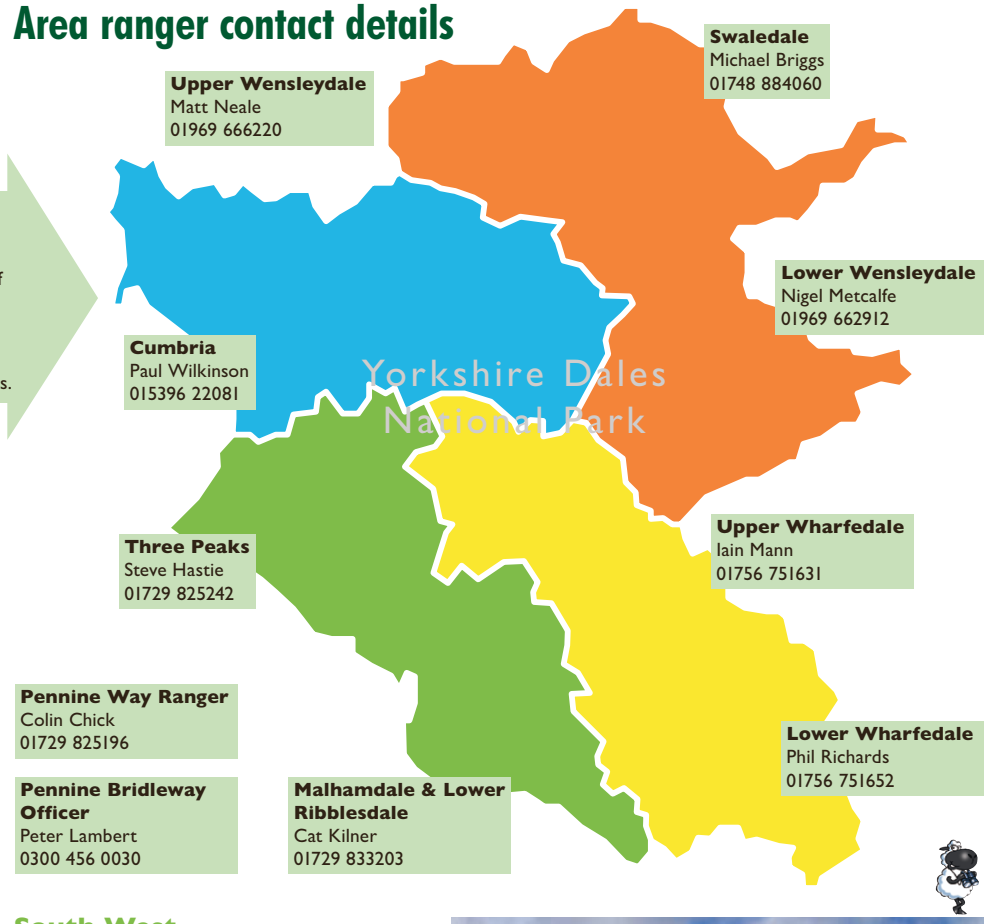
A pilot project in Cumbria is looking at how local communities can help us achieve our statutory purposes - as well as how we could help deliver their aims and aspirations, too.

The Dent Community Initiative began with Authority staff attending parish meetings to discuss common goals, and has generated enthusiasm and a creative approach on both sides.

With the National Park Management Plan as a starting point, we have agreed actions to seek to achieve together. This will be in areas such as climate change and 'green' tourism.

Chief Executive David Butterworth said: "Our relationship with local communities is at the core of much of our work going forward."

Area ranger contact details



South West

A Pen-y-ghent footpath has won €30,000 for vital repairs from an international fund, thanks to a successful bid by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Readers of *Trail and Country Walking* magazines were asked to pick 10 winners from 66 international nominations to share cash from the European Outdoor Conservation Association. And one of the 10 was the Three Peaks bid to help the area's fragile eco-system.

The work will be carried out as part of the Authority's Three Peaks Project which encourages the public's help in conserving an area that receives 250,000 visitors each year.

Much of the route is on a sustainable walking surface but the High Birkwith section had become badly worn, causing significant damage to internationally-important peat habitat.

Steve Hastie, Three Peaks Manager, said: "This welcome funding means we can develop the alternative route over Whitber Hill while the eroded section allowed to revegetate.

"When finished, we will - for the first time - have a sustainable circuit for those wishing to do the classic Three Peaks Challenge - but we are asking visitors to continue to think about how they use the area and the stresses on it."



ng in partnership

North East

Members of the Ragged Robin Conservation Group have built their own 'Great Wall of Swaledale' using 30 tonnes of stone to stop a well-worn path falling into the river.

Michael Briggs, Area Ranger for Swaledale, said: "To lose paths like this one in Healaugh to erosion can have a huge impact on people's enjoyment of the area.

"This type of revetment work was chosen over willow spiling - embedding willow shoots into the river bank to form a natural defence - because of the rabbit population. The young stems would have been devoured before they could establish.

"But it's expensive and takes many hours. In the current economic climate, Authority funding for this work will be difficult so it's important for landowners to keep on top of rabbit problems."

The group works every week with the Area and Access Rangers in Swaledale and Lower Wensleydale, turning their hand to everything from coppicing to path maintenance.



South East

There is still time to have your say on what you believe to be most historically or architecturally important about two Wharfedale villages.

Kettlewell and Starbotton are two of 37 Conservation Areas in the National Park, both created in 1969. A Conservation Area Appraisal highlights what is so special about a place that it deserves this designation. Draft appraisals for Kettlewell (pictured below) and Starbotton have been prepared and we'd like to hear your views because it is the opinions of the residents of these special areas and those that know them best that count.

Log on to www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/conservationarea-appraisals to view a draft appraisal and fill out the feedback form by 2 October 2011.

Paper copies are available at Lychgate House, Kettlewell (home of Craven District Councillor and Authority Member John Roberts) and at our Grassington and Bainbridge offices.



Training the next generation of countryside managers

Two apprentices are learning key countryside management skills while helping to maintain the important landscape and heritage features of the National Park.

Josh Hull and James Firth (both 21) are undertaking a two year internship, at the end of which it is hoped they will be ideally placed for permanent jobs in the sector.

With practical work alongside experienced staff as well as formal training, they are covering everything from drystone walling and plant identification to chainsaw felling and off-road driving. The pair most recently went on a course to identify dangerous and dying trees.

The Dales Countryside Trainee Scheme was launched in 2010 by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and made possible through grants from the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme, Rural Access to Opportunities Programme and the National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund.

Josh (pictured below), who lives in Settle, chose to join the scheme instead of going to university.

"I took a year out as I was considering going into outdoor pursuits, which ties into my mountain biking - I'm a trained instructor. This came up, and I decided it was what I wanted to do, being outdoors and the lifestyle it provides really.



Josh (above, centre) carries out some fencing repairs. James (top right) works on Haylands Footbridge in Hawes (below).



"It's going great - it's good to work with very experienced people and gain qualifications that will help us move on after."

James (pictured right) from Leyburn was studying art but decided it wasn't for him. Glad to return home to the countryside and looking around for a more practical career he could still be creative in, he came across the trainee scheme.

"I've acquired skills like operating chainsaws and driving quad bikes and tractors. I've enjoyed my time here and expect to learn much more in the remainder of my traineeship. I hope to keep working for an organisation like the National Park."

Both were recently filmed for a new BBC series about people who are caring for the country's heritage, due to be broadcast in the New Year.

Jo Boulter, Dales Countryside Trainee Scheme Co-ordinator, said: "It's becoming difficult to find people with the skills necessary for the long term care of our upland environment - and we're seeing a dramatic loss of 16-24 year olds as rural communities try to adapt to rapidly changing economics.

"This scheme aims to meet the urgent needs of young people and to bridge the gap in local skills and knowledge."

The Authority has long pioneered countryside apprenticeships, and Head of Ranger Services Alan Hulme - who played a key role in setting up the current programme - is delighted that the tradition is continuing with our latest trainees, describing Josh and James as "real assets".

Over the next two years, 12 young people are gaining valuable experience with a local employer while studying for a Level 2 Qualification in Environmental Conservation at Craven College.

Other placements have been provided by Natural England, The National Trust, Horton Landscaping, North Yorkshire County Council, Swinton Estate, DTMS Ltd and Dinsdale Moorland Services - which currently employs James Holgate, who was one of our 2007 apprentices.



Communities go green

Communities are taking collective action to reduce their energy use and save money with the help of the Yorkshire Dales 'Green Communities' Project.

"By using less energy, residents reduce their carbon footprint - and their fuel bills - so it's a win-win situation", explains Project Officer, Jill Armstrong, who is based at the National Park Authority's office in Bainbridge.

"These 'green communities' are combating higher fuel costs - which they incur due to being off mains gas - as well as looking at insulation measures for stone-built properties. They are also successfully installing renewable technologies, such as solar panels, onto Dales' homes whilst preserving the character of the area."



What are people doing?

'Greener Together' - Grassington & Threshfield's Green Communities Group - held a Sustainable Energy Day which attracted those with homes with hard to treat unfilled stone cavity walls.

Usually constructed from 1980 to 1990, the walls cannot be filled with conventional insulation.

Yorkshire Energy Partnership has teamed up with Polypearl Ltd to pilot a solution using tiny beads of polystyrene. This will be offered to a limited number of households in Grassington and Threshfield at a significantly reduced price with the hope it can be made more widely available in future.

Interested? Contact the Yorkshire Energy Partnership on 01904 554406.



Oil Clubs are popping up all over the Dales, with residents bulk buying their heating oil in order to get a discounted price from suppliers.

As well as cost savings, householders benefit from fewer tankers squeezing along small rural roads - fewer miles means less carbon emissions too.

For more information, contact Jill on 01969 652391 or jill.armstrong@energypartnership.org.uk

The Green Communities Project is funded by the Yorkshire Dales LEADER programme, made available through the Rural Development Programme for England which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union.

Authority halves emissions

Carbon emissions from buildings and vehicles owned by the National Park Authority have been almost halved over the last five years.



And the Authority has cut its costs by nearly £60,000 a year in the same period.

In 2005/06 our emissions were 701 tonnes of CO_2 and in 2010/11 they stood at 385 tonnes - a reduction of 45%, substantially beating the target we set ourselves of 25% by March 2013.

In 2007 the Authority signed up to the Nottingham Declaration, committing to ensuring that tackling climate change was a cornerstone of its work.

We have installed a ground source heat pump in our Bainbridge office and a biomass (wood-fuelled) heating boiler in Grassington. Other projects include energy saving improvements to buildings and fewer and lower-emission vehicles in the Authority's fleet. Staff mileage has also been cut by a fifth.

As recognition of the Authority's work, the National Park Centres have been accredited by the Green Tourism Business Scheme, and the biomass boiler won first place in the public building installation category of the Yorkshire and Humber Microgeneration Partnership awards in 2010.

Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/climatechange**



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Home energy costs can be significantly reduced by generating your own electricity. Installing solar panels on an unshaded, south-facing, pitched roof means that homeowners can claim the Government's Feed-in Tariff payments - as long as the installer and products have been accredited under The Micro-Generation Certification Scheme.

The National Park Authority has produced a guide which contains helpful advice on renewable technologies (see page 3). Planning permission is often not required but you should always check first.

Local biodiversity ideas take root

If you have a patch of land or the seed of an idea, why not join the Parish Wildlife Project - Mark Hewitt, Wildlife Conservation Officer, tells us more.

This National Park-wide scheme supports residents who want to put together their own projects that benefit local wildlife and habitats.

We can offer specialist advice, help in running activities, and put people and projects in touch with each other.

This spring and summer we have received a good number of enquiries, from Castle Bolton to Linton. Some will probably only require a bit of guidance whereas others will need grants and more in depth assistance - projects are already up and running in Malhamdale, Ribblesdale, Wharfedale and Dentdale.

Summer tends to be the time to get to know what's growing in your local area and on the site you have plans for. The Linton group have carried out surveys of the woodland they are looking after as part of the project, with enthusiastic support from local children.

In Dentdale, the Cowgill Community Orchard group (pictured below) have cleared and prepared their ground and sown a wildflower mix reflecting the local meadows in order to create a rich grassland beneath the hardy trees they've also planted.

If you have the land but lack confidence or equipment, or are keen to get involved but don't have a site, maybe we can help. Email mark.hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call 01756 751627.

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Access all areas



by Meghann Hull, Access Development Officer

Public access is at the very heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park - we believe that everyone should be able to enjoy this beautiful landscape, no matter what their level of ability.

Every summer, members of the Disabled Ramblers visit for an organised roam using all-terrain, electric wheelchairs called 'Trampers' that are capable of travelling over rough ground and steep hills.

These motorised buggies allow people with limited mobility to access parts of the countryside that would normally be inaccessible to them, giving them the independence and freedom to experience the special qualities of the National Park - an ability that non-disabled people can easily take for granted.

This really struck home when I joined a group as they left Kilnsey for Malham Moor in July.

With the support of partners, Authority staff and Dales Volunteers, the 25 took on the notorious challenge of the rocky ascent of Mastiles Lane.

New member Roy told me that the trip had allowed him to reach places where previously a mountain bike would have carried him and said it was "a tremendous feeling".

And, after negotiating a particularly craggy section, one lady turned to me with a look of exhilaration on her face and said: "This tramper has been a lifeline for me."

I was also fortunate enough to spend a day with Robin Helby (pictured front right) - Chair of the Disabled Ramblers and a key figure in the birth of the Tramper - exploring possible routes for next year's visit.

Robin was particularly keen on the 16km Settle Loop, part of the Pennine Bridleway. As a mountain biker I had cycled the route many times and was more than aware of the difficult and steep terrain on Stockdale Lane.

Robin just smiled knowingly and replied: "Let's just go check it out, shall we?"

I didn't take much convincing as this gave me an excuse to get out on my bike, so I kept my doubts to myself as I pedalled alongside Robin on his Tramper. I felt sure we would be returning to the car within the hour. How wrong I was. Before I knew it, we were past the most challenging part of the route and admiring the view across Malham Tarn.

Even when his front wheel fell off half way along the route, it was just a matter of getting out the tools and parts and off we went again.

Robin showed me that, despite the challenges he faces, with a bit of determination there really is no stopping him and others from enjoying the same special places in the National Park that I do.



Go Dales!

An action-packed project that introduced young people to outdoor adventure has been even more successful than we hoped.

For the last three years, the National Park Authority has been running Go Dales!, a programme which aimed to encourage 14-25 year olds into a lifetime of being active and develop the love of the Dales that we all share.

And 537 have taken part in over 1,500 activity sessions since 2009 - far more than expected.

Even more impressive is the fact that over half were young women, whereas most outdoor activities tend not to have high levels of females taking part.



Participants could enjoy a wide range of sports, including geocaching, climbing, canoeing, caving and horse riding. Rather than trying a bit of everything they were asked to pick one activity and stick with it, meaning they had the opportunity to develop their skills and confidence. This helped them take their chosen activity forward on their own beyond the lifespan of the project, an important objective, as was introductions to relevant clubs.

Some have now spread their new-found enthusiasm on to friends and are inspiring others in their local communities.

The project was funded by the National Park Authority and Sport England, and run with the support of Craven and Richmondshire District Councils, North Yorkshire Sport, The British Canoe Union and British Mountaineering Council.





New pocket digital guide to the Dales

A free smartphone app packed full of walking, cycling and mountain biking routes as well as useful information has been created for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Believed to be the first of its kind produced by a UK National Park Authority, it is available for iPhone, Android and Blackberry platforms.

The app has been paid for by the Go Dales! project and can be downloaded at **www.godales.org.uk/go-mobile**

HAMBLETON AND RICHMONDSHIRE COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

We are seeking new volunteer drivers to provide transport to people who are unable to use public transport due to disability, age or where they live.

Volunteers use their own vehicles and are paid a mileage allowance of 45p per mile.

If you have a car, some spare time and a willingness to help others living in rural areas, contact John Atkins at Richmondshire CVS & Volunteer Centre for more information.

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Dry Rigg Quarry – playing its part in the National Park.

As part of its long term commitment to working for people and the environment in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Lafarge is delighted to support the Dales Residents' Newspaper.

We also donate quarried materials to local projects, sponsor local events and contribute financially towards improving local amenities.

Quarry Traffic Hotline:

01729 860411

Staffed by Lafarge from 9am - 5pm weekdays, on behalf of all local quarry operators. If you wish to comment about a particular vehicle, please try to note the time, location, registration number and haulier name.

LAFARGE bringing materials to life

Win a Christmas hamper from Kettlewell Village Store!

What do you think of our website? Complete and return the questionnaire by 30 November 2011 and the first name drawn on 1 December 2011 will win a luxury local hamper worth £50 - it's as simple as that!

Your responses will help us plan, organise and improve the information and services we provide for residents on our website **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk**

1. Thinking about the information and services you access from the National Park Authority, do you (tick all that apply):

❑ Look online to find them in the first instance

❑ Look online if you have a link to follow

❑ Contact someone and maybe look online later

❑ Only look online if there are no alternatives

❑ Prefer to talk to someone

❑ Never look online

❑ Other (please expand): .....
.....

2. What information or services have you accessed online? .....
.....
.....

3. What information or services would you like to access online? .....
.....
.....

4. How often do you use our website?

❑ Never

❑ Once a month

❑ Once a week

❑ Several times a week

❑ Every day

5. What do you think we should do on the website to develop content that supports you or your business?
.....
.....
.....

6. Overall, how satisfied are you with the Yorkshire Dales National Park website?

❑ Very poor

❑ Poor

❑ Quite poor

❑ OK

❑ Excellent

Why? .....
.....

7. Different people may be interested in different online services about the National Park. To help plan these please tell us if you (tick all that apply):

❑ live in the National Park - do you: ❑ own ❑ rent

❑ holiday here

❑ own land here

❑ act as a land agent in the area

❑ farm here

❑ run a business here - is it a tourism business ❑ yes ❑ no

❑ work here

❑ are interested in conservation and biodiversity

❑ are interested in recreational opportunities

8. Please indicate your age group

❑ 16-24 years ❑ 25-34 years

❑ 35-44 years ❑ 45-54 years

❑ 55-64 years ❑ 65-74 years

❑ 75+ years

Please complete and return this form along with the questionnaire so we can enter you into the prize draw.

Name .....

Address .....
.....
.....

Postcode .....

Return to:

Dales autumn 2011 Prize Draw, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, FREEPOST BD 625, Grassington, Skipton BD23 1BR

Further feedback or questions to web@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01756 751640.

Terms & Conditions
No alternative prize is available. Entries to be received by 30 November 2011 for inclusion in the prize draw. The draw will take place on 1 December 2011. Entrants must be 18 or over. Please note that your name and address will not be used for any future mailings by us or any third party.

Plans set Park vision



Keeping the special environment of the National Park special: Barden Moor (above) and stone outbuilding in Muker (below).

Work on preparing two critical plans for the National Park will start this autumn.

The new National Park Management Plan (NPMP) will set out a vision for the National Park over the next 20 to 30 years, as well as more detailed objectives for looking after its special qualities in ways that help to support local communities and the local economy.

The Core Strategy for planning - which replaces the Local Plan - will set out the policies that will guide new building and land development in the National Park to help to achieve the objectives in the NPMP.

The Authority and its partners will be undertaking wide consultation and engagement with local residents and businesses on the content of both plans - look out for more details soon.

The current NPMP can be viewed at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/yorkshire_dales_national_park_management_plan** and the Local Plan at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/localplan**



Ewe-nice appears 10 times in Dales autumn 2011



Housing plan moves forward

The Authority's review of housing policy in the National Park is set to be approved for submission to the Government's Planning Inspector.

The final round of consultation this spring on the new Housing Development Plan drew 200 representations by 100 consultees. Objections to the 32 new suggested housing sites were considered by the Authority's Housing Working Group.

The Group is not recommending any further changes to the list of sites, but is supporting a number of amendments to the proposed new housing policies.

It is anticipated that Members will accept the Group's recommendations at the September Authority meeting and the Plan will be formally submitted to the Inspector for examination by early 2012.

The Inspector will decide whether it has been properly prepared and its policies and proposals are backed by sufficient evidence, and the completed report is expected by next spring.

If the Plan is considered sound it will be adopted and the Authority will then start work on a much wider review of planning policy across the National Park.

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