Dales 2012

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Autumn 2012

Your National Park, Your views

When you think about the Yorkshire Dales National Park, what do you love, what is it that annoys you and what do you wish for?

These were the questions we asked through our 'Your National Park' campaign this year to gather people's views on what is important for the future of this beautiful yet fragile landscape.

We received a huge number of responses - 750, online and in writing - with residents and visitors giving us their wide-ranging, and often passionate, opinions.

These comments, alongside up-to-date specialist evidence, are being used to prepare a new five-year National Park Management Plan, detailing how the National Park should be cared for and the steps towards achieving it.

Vital interaction

Together, people and nature have created a landscape of great natural beauty, rich in wildlife and with a strong cultural heritage. We want to put this interaction at the centre of the new Plan - so the opinions of the public are crucial.

Overall, you stated the landscape and beauty of the National Park as being most important, along with pleas for it to be looked after in the future. You loved its variety and distinctiveness and the numerous opportunities for outdoor activities.

There was plenty of comment too on the design of new buildings, affordable housing for local people, provision of public transport and maintenance of footpaths.

The feedback is being taken into account by the groups that are drafting initial ideas for the new Plan, people just like you who represent your interests, from the tourism, estates and farming sectors, as well as from government organisations, local councils and the National Park Authority.

These drafting groups then pass their ideas to the Management Plan Steering Group. Made up of 15 members from local organisations and statutory environmental agencies, these are the people who ultimately decide what the Plan will be.

The previous Plan in 2007 set out 70 objectives to help a wide range of organisations, businesses, landowners, farmers, community groups and volunteers work together for the benefit of the area.



Wharfedale above Starbotton

More than 90 per cent of the objectives - ranging from restoring more than 4,000 hectares of upland heath and blanket bog, to the installation of three local hydropower schemes, to ensuring 90% of public rights of way are 'easy to use' - have either been achieved or are well on the way to being met.

Authority Chairman Carl Lis said the next Plan must build on the work done so far.

"None of those involved should become complacent - the National Park is facing many challenges in the future, not least from the impact of climate change and the current economic recession," he said.

A draft will be available for public comment this autumn.

A report, giving details of progress on objectives in the 2007 Plan, is available at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/managementplan**

Hearing the views of people who live in, work in and visit the National Park helps us to put the important issues into focus. If you're interested in contributing, look out for further consultations at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/telluswhatyouthink**

While there, you can sign up to email alerts so you are the first to hear about new opportunities to share your thoughts - such as the future of planning policy in the National Park which we will be asking you about in the autumn.

Still time to get in the frame for our photo competition

Fantastic photos are pouring in for our competition - and there is still plenty of time to submit that potentially prize-winning image.

'Your Yorkshire Dales National Park: a snapshot' runs until 9 November and the images can be of any subject in the categories wildlife and habitats, people and places, fun and adventure, and farming, tourism and other employment.

They must have been taken within the National Park boundary and should be supported by a brief written summary of your thoughts on what the area should offer for residents and visitors in years to come.

Winners will receive a framed copy of their image and a backpack filled with delicious local produce, as well as see their picture featuring in an exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes in February and in The Visitor 2013 newspaper.

The top 20 photos will appear in the new National Park Management Plan to be published in 2013.

Find out how to enter at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/your**

Saddle up and hit the trail

After more than seven years and thousands of hours of hard work, the 52-mile Yorkshire Dales National Park section of the new Pennine Bridleway was officially opened in June.

Actor and President of the British Horse Society Martin Clunes did the honours on this newest National Trail, the first designed specifically for cyclists, horseriders and walkers.

It travels along ancient packhorse trade routes and drove roads plus newly-engineered linking sections, and stretches 200 miles from Derbyshire to Cumbria

The new National Trail has been made possible through Natural England, with financial support from a Sport England award of £1.8 million.

Pennine Bridleway Officer Peter Lambert said: "It's fantastic that, after so many years of work, the route is now open.

"It has been a long process involving a huge amount of planning, discussion and meetings with farmers, landowners and all the other organisations whose support has been vital.

"I would just like to say a massive 'thank you' to everyone who has helped."

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



Actor Martin Clunes helps launch the Pennine Bridleway

In this edition

Three Peaks path complete - p3

Housing plan adopted - p6

Support for tourism businesses - p7



Village gives clapper bridge a hand

Malham has a stylish - and practical - new look, thanks to the enhancement works carried out by its local community over the last two years.

The village now has a new clapper bridge and a traditional signpost (pictured below, and right) that are more in keeping with its surroundings - and a new interpretation panel and improved recycling facilities are also on the agenda.



Having run the public toilets and managed a Lengthsman for Malhamdale for a number of years, Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council looked to make further improvements and applied for a grant through the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme in 2010.

Strong financial and practical support from the National Park Authority in the creation of the bridge - which is to be dedicated as a public right of way - acted as leverage in the successful matchfunding bid to LEADER.

Parish Council Chairman Chris Wildman said: "Post Office Bridge has been providing a shortcut for locals and visitors for decades but it was no more than a few railway sleepers - a more fitting and appropriate replacement was needed."

The sturdy new bridge was designed and built by local firm Dinsdale Moorland Services and the intricate 'Sheep Dip Railings' were created by Malham's own blacksmith, Annabelle Bradley.

Area Ranger Cat Kilner has also been working with the community to remove unnecessary signs. They were 'everywhere' - many of them superfluous and some not too subtle for a picturesque Dales village, according to Chris.



"In recent years, we've tried to reduce the impact of garish road signs - the latest development being the replacement of the so-called 'motorway sign' in the middle of the village with a traditional finger post," he said.

Using old photographs and postcards of the village, a new sign was designed, and approval sought for the removal of the old one.

"Our wonderful new signpost was built and installed by Settle blacksmith David Clements with help from Cat and North Yorkshire County Council Highways department," Chris said.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the improvements to our jewel in the Dales crown!"

Free insulation offer

Residents are being encouraged to take up free and subsidised insulation by Hambleton & Richmondshire District Councils working with Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP).

Cavity wall and loft insulation is available to all owner-occupiers or private tenants in the district until October (or possibly December) 2012.

YEP is a local not-for-profit energy saving organisation owned by the North Yorkshire local authorities.

Email advice@energypartnership.org.uk or call 01904 554406 for more information and to organise a free no-obligation survey.

Twit-to-you

Did you know that the Yorkshire Dales National Park has more followers on social networks than there are households?

A massive 15,000 people follow posts across a wide range of social media platforms, from Facebook and Twitter to Instagram and Youtube.

But are you one of them?

These sites offer a simple and convenient way to stay up to date with news from the Authority, as well as finding out what's going on in the National Park and what others are saying about the area.

We welcome anyone - including businesses and organisations - to join the conversations and ask questions. At this time we'd love to hear from anyone interested in becoming a guest blogger. If you would like to share your passion about this special place from a more personal perspective contact sarah.nicholson@yorkshiredales.org.uk, or have a look at our blog - **www.yorkshiredalesnationalpark.blogspot.com**

Growing an online audience is part of the Authority's commitment to offering customers an excellent level of service. The world is becoming increasingly digital and extending our work online keeps us connected with people who live in, work in or visit the National Park. It gives us an inexpensive and effective way to promote the area, support economic well-being, and make sure residents know how we can help them.

Visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/social** to find out all the ways you can connect.

Peregrine partnership soars

Visitors have been flocking to Malham Cove again this summer to see the resident peregrine falcons raise their young - while the partnership that created this fantastic public viewpoint celebrates its tenth year of activity.

The free peregrine watch observation point has been run jointly by the RSPB and National Park Authority at the awe-inspiring natural limestone amphitheatre since 2003.

This year, the adult birds nesting on the rock face have produced two chicks and the family has been a real crowd puller. Members of the public have been able to watch their airborne antics through the high-powered telescopes provided while tapping into the wardens' wealth of knowledge.

Carolyn Jarvis, the RSPB's People Engagement Manager for Northern England, said: "Peregrines started nesting at the Cove 19 years ago and since then 42 young have been raised here.

"But it isn't only the falcons that have attracted 160,000 people over the last decade - there are green woodpeckers, tawny owls, little owls and redstarts, too.

"And they can all be seen against the backdrop of the Cove - what a fantastic day out for the family."

Many are repeat visitors, keen to return to Malham to see how the peregrines have done.

The Authority's Wildlife Conservation Officer Ian Court said: "The presence of the viewpoint really seems to add value to people's visit and pulls them back to the area time and time again.



One of this year's juvenile peregrines (Phil Smith)

"It shows that nature conservation has a commercial value, drawing people to the village to spend the day - and some pounds - and helping to boost the local economy."

The Malham project is run in partnership with the Authority as part of the RSPB's Date with Nature event programme, which makes rare and spectacular birds accessible for everyone to see.

Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/peregrines**. You can also follow the peregrines' progress on Twitter (#malhamperegrines) and through the Malham Peregrine Watch Facebook group.

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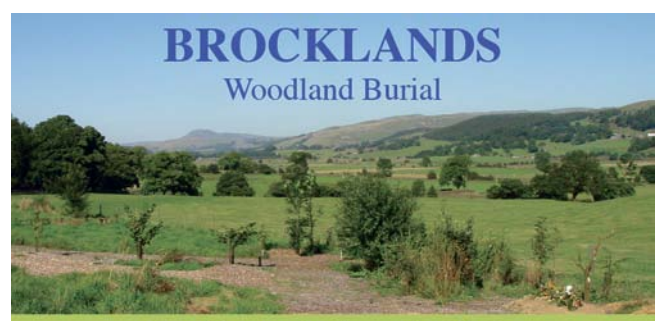
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Welcome to the autumn edition of Dales

Well, what to make of this summer! The worst in living memory weather-wise? Pretty dreadful, and it's certainly had an impact on the number of visitors to the area and, as a result, to the local economic situation. Credit to those businesses that have really put the time and effort in to ensuring the area remains vibrant, interesting and `must see' for so many people. Here's hoping for an Indian summer!

On a more positive note, much of our attention is being focussed on listening to people's views about the National Park: what they love, what annoys them and what they wish would happen in the future.

This is all as part of preparing the National Park Management Plan, a five-year plan that sets out what needs to be done to secure the future of the Yorkshire Dales National Park - read more about it on page 1.

As this is a plan for the Park - not the Authority - it is being produced by a partnership of organisations who have responsibilities for this fantastic area, including the district and county councils, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and groups representing local farmers, landowners and businesses.

We would like to thank the hundreds of people who have gone to the trouble to give us their detailed views. We have both certainly gained new insights into many of the issues that really do provoke people's passions.

The feedback is being considered and the partnership hopes to publish a detailed draft Plan in the autumn.

When you get the opportunity to comment on this, we hope you will do so. It's in all our interests to maintain and enhance this beautiful place.



David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Carl Lis
Chairman

Work completed on Three Peaks replacement path

by Three Peaks Project Manager Steve Hastie



This summer work started on the creation of an alternative section of the National Park's famous Three Peaks walking route.

Years of use had badly eroded a length running from Pen-y-ghent over Horton Moor and Black Dubb Moss to Ribblehead via High Birkwith. Vegetation had been damaged and topsoil washed away, causing serious harm to internationally-important peat habitat.

An alternative route over Whitber Hill passes over drier ground and uses mainly existing paths, but it needed engineering and, with the landowners' agreement, it has been developed as a second option that walkers will be encouraged to use. And the new path is already proving popular.

Last year, readers of *Trail* and *Country Walking* magazines were asked to select 10 winners from 66 international nominations to share a grant being offered by the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) - a group of businesses in the European outdoor industry that raises funds to put directly into conservation projects worldwide.



The creation of the alternative route is part of the Three Peaks Project, launched in 2009, which aims to create a sustainable source of both practical and financial support to help protect and enhance the area into the future.

The Three Peaks challenge is an incredibly popular 24-mile walk over Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough, and the project aims to encourage charities, organisations and individuals to help in the maintenance and conservation of the network of paths crossing a fragile area of land that has to cope with 100,000 visitors each year.

Since the project's launch, many of the charities that regularly use the route for sponsored events have donated money towards its upkeep.

The Authority has also produced merchandise and launched the Friends of the Three Peaks for those who love the area. This year it aims to hold Friend events such as ranger-guided walks and the chance to get involved in some of the lighter landscaping work on the new Whitber alternative.

To find out more and how to join, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/threepeaks**

We were delighted that the Whitber bid - which was submitted on our behalf by local charity the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - was one of those they voted for, receiving €30,000.

There were a lot of logistics to sort, with 650 tonnes of materials to move around, as well as various interesting items of machinery to dig, grab, lift and move people, earth and stone.



The damaged vegetation on the Black Dubb Moss route

Rangers and Dales Volunteers have now linked up two existing stone tracks that are part of the Pennine Way National Trail, including three sections of stepped stone flags and a small footbridge across Sell Gill.

Over the winter we will install waymarker posts and produce maps and publicity advocating the use of the new route ready for use next spring.

Diverting walkers away from Black Dubb Moss will give the sensitive peatland habitats and the damaged vegetation time to recover. It will mean that, for the first time, we will have a sustainable circuit for those wishing to do Yorkshire's Three Peaks challenge.

This is a great example of organisations working in partnership to help protect and restore this special area and enhance visitors' experience.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Steve on 01729 825242 or email him at threepeaksproject@yorkshiredales.org.uk

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All projects great and small

New business ideas, community schemes and environmental projects in the National Park are being invited to bid for a pot of cash.

Now in its eleventh year of operation, the National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) has already given £1.75m to some 175 truly fantastic and innovative projects that benefit the local environment, local economy and local people.

The fund aims to consider new ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living and working in the National Park, while enhancing and conserving our local culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and communities.

Managed by Clapham-based charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust on our behalf, it is open to everyone - community groups, businesses, and individuals - and this year we have £160,000 to allocate.

Applications are accepted all year round and the latest window closes on Friday 5 October.

In the last year, the fund has helped all sorts of different projects to get started, ranging from the installation of a weather station at Kirkby Malham Primary School to improving the energy efficiency of village halls.

It can provide money either to kickstart a scheme, or to develop it. Applicants often bid for funding from a number of sources, and a grant from SDF can make a project happen that just wouldn't otherwise.

Some of the great projects that have received SDF funding in the last twelve months are showcased on these pages.

Find out more about the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund and how to apply at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/applyingtothesdf**. You can also contact SDF Project Coordinator Gillian Muir on 015242 51002 or gillian.muir@ydmt.org to discuss your ideas.

How does it work?

The applicant will be asked to provide an overview of the project and how it meets SDF criteria, demonstrating how they can help us achieve National Park purposes by developing practical, sustainable solutions to manage their activities. An estimate of the total cost is also required, broken down into areas like project management and promotion. We'll ask about the minimum amount needed to make the project happen - SDF grants cover between 30% to 75% of the cost, depending on the type of project.

Applicants are also asked to detail how they aim to cover the rest of the cost, stating who the funders will be and if the additional funding has been secured. Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust can help applicants apply for grants from other organisations.

The SDF grant doesn't have to cover a project in its entirety. Very often it is used as a 'top up' to fund part of a larger project for feasibility studies, practical work, equipment, marketing, staff costs, training and initiatives aimed at raising awareness about sustainability. Applicants can also make up the difference by contributing their own volunteer time or professional services.

Weaving business looms large

Laura's Loom is a small business creating bespoke woven products that has expanded over the last five years, in part thanks to SDF cash totalling £4k.

The first grant in 2007 funded a pilot in which owner Laura Rosenzweig sourced a small quantity of Bluefaced Leicester fleece from six local farmers in Garsdale, Dentdale and Deepdale and sent it to a commercial spinner in Wales. It was turned into a fine weight weaving yarn and made into limited edition throws on the heritage looms at Farfield Mill in Sedbergh.

Laura hoped that visitors to the western Dales would associate her products with quality and value for money, and not least with the landscape they had been to visit.

Based on the success of the pilot, she applied to SDF again a year later in order to develop her website to promote and sell products from her new Howgill Range online, and to experiment with small runs of new items such as baby blankets and yoga shawls.

Laura applied for her latest grant to help raise the profile of her products further, add images to her website, attend a major trade fair and extend her range to include wools for knitting as well as weaving, using different breeds of sheep from within the National Park.

Today, with the help of spinning and weaving companies throughout Yorkshire, Cumbria and the Scottish borders, Laura produces a new range of throws and scarves each year, all woven from locally sourced and processed Dales hill farm wool.

When not gathering in the fleece she continues a tradition of handweaving at her purpose-built private studio in High Brigflatts in Sedbergh, which won a Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Best Building Design Award in 2010.

Read more about the Howgill Range and Laura's journey on her website at **www.laurasloom.co.uk**

Project cost £3,150 SDF grant £1,575



A farming education

Chris and Fiona Clark have ideas in abundance for Nethergill Farm in Langstrothdale.

Their long-term aim for this upland sheep farm is to create a wildlife haven combined with a sustainable farming practice, that can financially support them and be enjoyed by other like-minded countryside enthusiasts.

The Clarks aim to demonstrate to their guests and visitors how food, farming and the environment can all work together and, with this in mind, they applied to SDF to turn a former agricultural building into a field study centre.

The grant funded the refurbishment of the barn, a wildlife camera observation system, tree hide/platform, walkways, observation hides, feeding stations, nest boxes and trail signage, and the new centre will be opening soon.

As well as having planted a mixed species woodland of 18,000 trees across 30 acres, ongoing projects include working with Natural England on tree-planting schemes up the gill sides to enrich wildlife habitats, and with Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust to reduce river erosion along Oughtershaw Beck.

The farm is in both an Environmentally Sensitive Agreement and a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme and has a green footprint, right through to the 75kW log boiler which provides all the heating and hot water for the farmhouse, B&B, holiday lets and the new centre. The firewood is sourced from nearby Greenfields Forest and logged on the farm by the Gayle Mill firewood processor.

Find out more by visiting the Nethergill Farm website at **www.nethergill.co.uk**

Project cost £44,250 SDF grant £22,125

Pupils exercise their green fingers

Children in Hawes have been reaping and eating the rewards of their hard work on a special school allotment partly funded by SDF.

The young members of the Hawes Community Primary School Gardening Club have been busy producing a fantastic variety of goodies including potatoes, beetroot, onions and strawberries - and they showed off their achievements at an open day in August.

The fund paid for the purchase of fruit trees, a water butt, a composter and mini poly-tunnel, seed trays and other gardening equipment.

The project is run by the Gardening Club, which is headed by a teacher, and the aim was to fill a kitchen garden with fruits and vegetables grown from seed.

The pupils have undertaken much of the work themselves, although parents, teachers and volunteers were also involved in weeding overgrown areas of the school grounds.

In the long term, it is hoped that the pupils will be more environmentally aware of managing a garden by collecting and recycling water and creating compost areas. It will also enable them to experience and develop basic knowledge that they can transfer to their own gardens. The project has been a great opportunity to promote local foods and healthy eating.

Project cost £500
SDF grant £375



Things are buzzing at Parcevall Hall

Honey bees are making a beeline once again to Parcevall Hall, thanks to a unique reintroduction project by the Wharfedale Beekeepers' Association.

The hall has a long history of beekeeping dating back several centuries, but with a notable absence over the past 40 years. SDF has helped the project restore that legacy, support a declining bee population and help visitors learn more about this fascinating species.

Observation hives and a wooden summer house with educational displays are being installed for local schools and visitors to the hall gardens to enjoy, complemented by free talks and demonstrations from Association members.

The work is being carried out by local offenders on probation. They are being trained in basic construction skills to gain accredited qualifications through Craven College and will then be supported into work placements or employment to aid their rehabilitation.

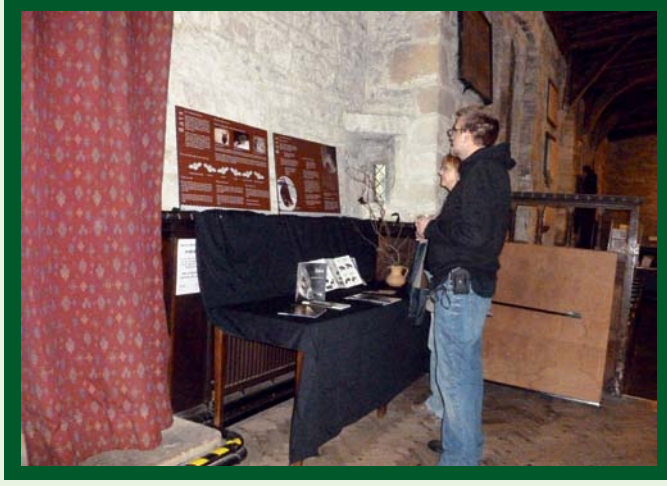
www.wharfedalebka.org.uk

Project cost: £9,414
SDF grant: £3,900

Going batty

Beautiful St Andrews Church in Grinton is a Grade I listed building dating back to Norman times - and also home to several species of bat.

The church has worked closely with John Drewett, a volunteer specialist from North Yorkshire Bat group, to identify the species present, and colonies of Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats have been confirmed.



Local fundraising, led by the Reverend Caroline Hewlett, and an SDF grant have paid for an interpretation panel, leader fees for bat walks and a detector that will be used to illustrate the sound and location of bats.

It is hoped that the displays will encourage visitors to learn more about this fascinating protected species, as well as about how the National Park provides a great habitat for them.

The project was launched on a balmy September evening with a talk by bat expert Digby Angus and a short walk around the graveyard to try out the new bat detectors. As dusk fell, at least a dozen Pipistrelles appeared from above a stone mullion window at the front of the church and could be heard on the detectors as they passed overhead.

Project cost £659 SDF grant £400

Dig this

An archaeological group has been getting its hands dirty on a new project to investigate a Scheduled Monument in Swaledale.



Part funded by a grant from SDF, the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG) has been studying Grinton-Fremington Dykes, a series of banks and ditches, clearly visible to the naked eye, running on both sides of the Swale valley.

The aim is to date the system and assess the environment at the time it was constructed in order to increase academic and popular understanding.

The section being investigated had been severely eroded by a washout largely originating from the practice of moorland gripping - drainage ditches intended to dry out wet moorland tops. It provided a good opportunity to survey and excavate the site while causing minimum damage to unthreatened areas.

Samples were taken for environmental analysis and carbon dating by Durham University's archaeological services. Staff supervised and trained SWAAG members during the excavation work and a final report will follow for the National Park Authority's Historic Environment Record.

There will also be a series of schools talks, lectures and organised walks about the excavation, with brochures and trail guides produced.

www.swaag.org

Project cost £7,270 SDF grant £2,500



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

National park authorities have two purposes:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the parks by the public.

In carrying out these purposes, national park authorities also have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.

To fulfill these purposes, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority offers services that provide help and advice on a wide range of issues, including environmental conservation and enhancement, planning, historic buildings and sites, tourist information and footpath and bridleway management.

If you would like more information please:

write to, or call in at, our offices...

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or visit

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority aims to be widely recognised as a centre of expertise and excellence in environmental and conservation policy and practice, and in the quality of the services we deliver and in the quality of the landscape - we welcome your comments and suggestions about our work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Museum wins national recognition as visitor top spot

The Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes has been given a top national award for the fantastic service it offers to visitors.

The Authority-owned Museum has been officially recognised as a tourist top spot by VisitEngland, and is now the proud owner of a Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme mark.

Open daily from 10am to 5pm, it is housed in the converted Victorian railway station buildings and is free for children.

Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dcm** - and, to stay up to date with what's happening, follow 'Dales Museum' on Twitter and Facebook.

National role for chairman

Authority Chairman Carl Lis has been elected to head a national organisation for a third time.

He will continue his role as Chairman of the UK Association of National Park Authorities - the body that pulls together the interests of national parks across Great Britain - for another year.

Mr Lis was also re-elected as Chairman of the Authority in June for the fourth year running.

Dales in spotlight again

ITV1's hit series The Dales is to return for a third run, once again with comedian and actor Adrian Edmondson presenting.

The 12-part series, which tells the story of a summer in the lives of a number of Dales residents - including shepherdess Amanda Owen and her family of six on their remote farm - averaged over 4m viewers during its second series, shown earlier this year.

Now Adrian, who was brought up in Yorkshire, will catch up with some old faces and meet some new characters, too.

The Dales is a Shiver production for ITV1 and will be shown in 2013.

New project to draw young people into National Park

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are being given the chance to boost their skills and confidence and get active.

More than £250,000 will be ploughed into a new project to encourage more 16-25 year olds to learn new skills here and in four of England's other national parks.

The cash from the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme will allow the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) - which works to protect and promote the national parks of England and Wales - to help at least 150 young people who are facing economic or social exclusion to develop leadership and confidence as they help to build a national network of Young Champions for national parks.

They will then be responsible for organising events and activities in the national parks for around 6,000 of their peers.

The new project follows a hugely successful three-year partnership with CNP, aimed at older people from Black and Asian Minority Ethnic communities in Keighley and Bradford. It resulted in 14 being trained as Community Champions to promote the Yorkshire Dales to others. Between them they organised and led 34 group visits involving 482 people.

Housing plan adopted



by Peter Stockton, Head of Sustainable Development

Five years after first publishing a discussion paper on housing in the National Park, the Authority has a new Housing Development Plan (HDP).

Adopted in June, it identifies 29 sites with capacity for up to 230 new houses, in effect granting outline planning permission and establishing the principle of house building there.

Half are intended to be affordable housing for local people, probably through management by a local housing association. The other half are intended to be 'local market' housing where price is not restricted but occupancy is targeted at various categories of local need.

This is the first time the Authority has prepared a plan that identifies new sites for affordable housing. Previously, it has relied on landowners releasing 'exceptions sites' on the edge of villages, but that proved a rather unpredictable way to plug the shortfall where it was needed.

The new HDP is rather more proactive. It deliberately allocates a range of sites in towns and villages across the National Park with the intention of helping people to stay in the area, closer to their work or families.

Officers are working with landowners, housing associations, parish councils and district housing authorities to try to deliver this as quickly as possible, although the current economic downturn is making it more difficult.

As a team, we are now helping with the creation of the new National Park Management Plan (see page 1).

We have also begun to prepare a new Local Plan - the key planning policy document for the National Park - which will guide decisions on development such as in business, tourism and farming up to 2030.

The first stage will be to invite discussion with all stakeholders on the issues they would like to see tackled. This will be prompted by the publication of an Issues report, probably alongside consultation on the draft National Park Management Plan, hopefully during November.

Consultation will involve a series of open days across the National Park, with residents invited to come along and talk to planning officers informally. Details will be circulated to parish councils and published locally, as well as being available on our website.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is one of the first in England to adopt a new plan specifically to allocate land for the housing needs of local communities. View our Housing Development Plan and identified sites at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/hdp**

Quarry reopens to public and wildlife

As part of the regeneration plan for Threshfield quarry, the National Park Authority has been working with Tarmac and the adjacent landowner/tenant to create 3.8km of new footpaths, that will link into the existing rights of way network.

In 2010, Tarmac was granted planning permission to extend the working life of Swinden quarry in exchange for a permanent closure of Threshfield. A management plan was put in place to return the site to nature and public access, while the lower quarry was allocated for employment uses.

The public will now be able to explore the disused quarry and its wildlife by following paths across the quarry floor and along its eastern edge. Fantastic panoramas across to Grass Woods and up Wharfedale provide a new point of view on these familiar sights.

Upper Wharfedale Area Ranger Iain Mann said: "It's a really interesting place for a walk - you can see the landscape you're used to and something different.

"People can choose to follow a circular loop through the quarry for a shorter walk, or carry on westwards to link with the Malham Moor bridleway and then either north towards Mastiles Lane or south towards Threshfield Moor."

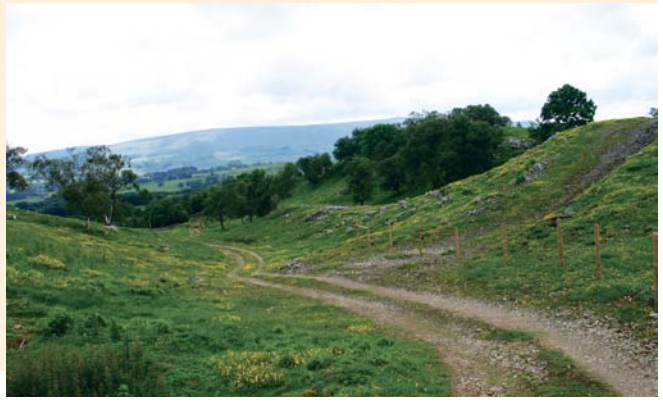
The trails make use of old quarry tracks, with additional infrastructure - such as new steps - put in place by Tarmac.

Swinden Zone Manager Steve Curtin said: "Tarmac is very proud of all the restoration work that we have completed at Threshfield quarry and the areas that have been left for natural regeneration.

"We hope that everyone enjoys the new footpaths for many years to come."

The quarry has steep cliff faces, so walkers should keep a close eye on children in their party and are also advised to keep their dogs on a lead.

The footpaths will be officially opened at a fun free public event on Saturday 29 September - look out for details in local press.



Part of the new public footpath through Threshfield Quarry (Tarmac)



The Authority's annual and very popular newspaper for visitors to the National Park now features a dedicated accommodation section, making it truly a one stop shop of information.

With its massive 200,000 circulation, **The Visitor 2013** will be an ideal opportunity for accommodation providers to get advertising exposure to visitors and potential visitors to this beautiful area, and could prove key in promoting their business.

For an advertising rate card, please contact Sheila Ward at Bow House on 01347 821928 or sheila@bowhouse.co.uk

To find out more, contact editor Sarah Nicholson on 01756 751618 or sarah.nicholson@yorkshiredales.org.uk



Help search for the Ents of the Yorkshire Dales

by Phill Hibbs, Trees and Woodland Officer

The National Park is full of historic features, from Iron Age hill forts to Medieval date stones - but not everyone is aware of its amazing old trees.

Over the last two years we've been putting them under the spotlight in a new conservation survey.

More than 800 have now been recorded in a bid to identify their condition and location in our landscape and to get a clearer picture of numbers and distribution.

Dales Volunteers and others such as the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeological Group have spent more than two years roaming the 680 square miles (1,088sq kms) of the National Park listing the trees in three categories - ancient, veteran and notable.

Some are very old indeed - possibly over 800 years - and look just like the Ents in Lord of the Rings, gnarled and marked by time and the environment.

The information has been uploaded to a national database set up under the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt project, a partnership with the Ancient Tree Forum and the Tree Register of the British Isles.



Dales Volunteers survey the Laund Oak at Bolton Abbey, which is around 700 years old.

The UK has an estimated 80 per cent of all northern Europe's ancient trees. However, many of them are under threat from illegal felling, inappropriate management and development.

They play a vital role in the ecology of the National Park and in helping to maintain the balance of nature by providing shelter and food for all sorts of native wildlife as well as a refuge for rare niche fungi and plants.

Without help this survey would have been an almost impossible task so we would like to say a big 'thank you' - and appeal to landowners and visitors to join in to ensure that none is missed out.

If a tree has that 'wow' factor then it's probably special - it could have local historical or cultural significance or be notable because it is rare or magnificent in stature.

So when you are out and about and spot what you consider to be an interesting old tree with some unusual features, please let us know.

Contact Phill on 01756 751607 or email phill.hibbs@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Tree fact file

An **ancient tree** is one of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its great age; it will be very old compared to others of the same species.

A **veteran tree** is usually in the mature stage of its life and has important wildlife and habitat features including hollowing or associated decay, fungi, wounds and deadwood within the canopy.

A **notable tree** may be of local importance or perhaps personal significance to an individual. They can be rare species, exceptional specimens or those considered to be potential next generation veteran trees.

Tourism is good for business: how we can support you



By Mark Allum, Recreation and Tourism Manager

This year we surveyed 130 tourism businesses in and around the National Park, asking what they considered to be their key challenges and opportunities, and where they wanted to see action taken.

Some of the issues faced are tricky to address - such as the economic downturn, the price of fuel and the weather - but others we can take forward, working alongside Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), partners such as Welcome to Yorkshire, The National Trust and district councils, and the businesses themselves.

Between us, we can make real progress on increasing awareness of the Dales as an environmentally-friendly destination and extending the length of time people stay in the area, encouraging them to spend money while here and to visit in the autumn, winter and early spring, too.

We will continue to improve business networking, and we will also be looking at the development and promotion of public and community transport - see more on both on these pages.

For the full results of the business survey, see **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainabletourism**

A sustainable charter for success

The ways we address these issues over the next five years will help form the action plan for sustainable tourism for the Dales that is currently being developed for EUROPARC - the federation which represents Europe's designated areas.

The National Park and Nidderdale AONB jointly received the EUROPARC charter for sustainable tourism back in 2008, and next year we will be seeking the award again.

The charter provides a means to pull organisations and businesses together to focus on how tourism can grow in the area without damaging its natural beauty and historic features. This is a difficult balance to strike, so having 'a fresh pair of eyes' come in to look at what we do well and what can be improved is always useful.

Also, the Yorkshire Dales is a stunning area with some brilliant businesses and superb local produce and we are always happy to have an opportunity to showcase this.

More about the EUROPARC strategy and action plan can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dalestourismstrategy**



Any business that wants to work with us to develop tourism in the Dales is welcome to join the Dales Tourism Business Network – it's free, its structure is informal, and you can dip in and out as you wish. DTBN is coordinated on a voluntary basis by Susan Briggs.

Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dtbn** and join in at networking events on 3 October (Grassington) and 4 October (Hawes).

There was a fantastic response to the Distinctly Dales project this year, with over 200 attendees at a series of workshops.

Quirky legends, traditional food and unusual artefacts - all the special qualities that are the Dales' unique selling points - were revealed at the events, with the aim of helping businesses develop new ways to attract tourists based on local distinctiveness.

The project went on to show how this information could be used for more effective marketing, providing the insider knowledge and individual experiences that visitors are increasingly looking for.

The data has been developed into a toolkit that is available on our website for anyone to use at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainabletourism**. A handbook on how to use it to market your business and promote the area is available to members of the Dales Tourism Business Network.

While we cannot run major marketing campaigns, we do have a range of services to support tourism businesses:

- You can link to, and source information from, our extensive website
- Your local National Park Centre is a key source of visitor information both through our counter staff and leaflets - they have over 400,000 people through the door each year
- Free copies of the much-loved newspaper, ***The Visitor,*** and other information can be provided for your customers
- We can advise on how to improve the sustainability of your business
- Funding is available for green accreditation
- There are also many opportunities for you to get your business - and your visitors - involved with helping conserve the National Park.

If you would like to find out about these and other ways we can help, please get in touch on 01756 751650. We are also keen to hear from individual businesses or business associations about what else we can do.



Chris Lancaster assists Australian visitor Sylvia Roberts at Grassington National Park Centre

Transport hubs providing information on trains and buses, as well as useful local knowledge such as doctors and schools, are now open in Grassington and Leyburn.

And others, all staffed by volunteers, will be coming soon to Sedbergh, Pateley Bridge, Hawes and Settle.

For more information on the Dales Integrated Transport Alliance network, please go to **www.dalesconnect.net**



New code of ethics for Authority

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has adopted a new code of conduct to guide the Members of its governing board as to their behaviour.

This is in response to new legislation which requires standards of conduct to be established locally and complaints to be investigated locally in a simpler and less bureaucratic way than in the past.

The code contains fundamental requirements for our 22 Members, such as treating people with courtesy, not using their official position for personal gain, and registering and declaring personal interests. A full copy of the code, as well as information on how to make a complaint if you believe a Member has failed to abide by it, can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/complimentscomplaints**

The Authority has also appointed two independent people, one of whom will be assigned to every complaint made about the conduct of an Authority Member, in order to advise us with an impartial voice. So, although we have had very few complaints in the past, you can now be doubly sure that we will take seriously any that we do receive.

Members have now registered their personal interests under the code and these can be viewed, alongside their profiles, at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members**

All of the above documents are also available in hard copy by contacting our Bainbridge office (see centre pages).

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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.

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Historic buildings at risk surveyed

By Gaby Rose, Building Conservation Officer



Every year the Authority surveys a fifth of the over 1,800 listed buildings in the National Park with the help of Dales Volunteers.

This annual condition study has the primary purpose of flagging up those important buildings that are in poor repair - in other words, that are 'at risk' - so we can work with owners to try to ensure that they maintain their property's special qualities and so that it does not deteriorate further. You'll receive a letter about the survey as an owner of an affected property.

There are currently 77 listed buildings known to be in danger in the National Park. Last year we helped take 14 off the list by providing some funding and carrying out repair work.

Despite the successes, every year the survey identifies yet further buildings at risk so that the number of endangered properties has fluctuated around the 70-80 mark for quite some time. Our aim is to bring down this number to 65 by 2014.

Read more about we help look after the historic buildings of the National Park - and dip into our 'feature of the season' - at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/historicfeaturesbuildings**

This year, our popular day school 'Caring for Your Historic Building' will be held on Saturday 13 October at Dent Memorial Hall.

Aimed at homeowners, building managers and anyone who just wishes to learn more, illustrated talks by leading specialists will cover the characteristics of local historic buildings, how they have developed over the years, how they perform and how they are best cared for.

As well as practical presentations on repair and maintenance, modern design and sustainability, the programme includes talks on bats and historic structures, and the buildings of Dentdale. You can take part in a fascinating guided walk through Dent Conservation Area, or a practical slaking lime and mortar mixing demonstration, as well as finding out about the innovative Limecrete - an eco-friendly alternative to cement.

Sessions are interactive and participants will have the opportunity to have their specific questions discussed.

The £15 fee includes refreshments and a buffet lunch. For more information and to book, please email herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call Gaby on 01969 652354.



The cobbled streets of Dent (Ben Barden)

Going for Yorkshire Gold

Eight thousand torchbearers carried the Olympic Torch the length and breadth of the UK this summer - including to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

It arrived at Aysgarth Falls on 20 June at 11.40am to a deafening welcome from the schoolchildren and many spectators who had gathered to join in the fun

The flame was then escorted down to Aysgarth Falls middle viewing platform to capture what will remain an iconic image of it in the National Park (pictured below).

To celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event, the National Park Authority and local communities came together to put on a fantastic, free, Olympic-themed day.

Activities such as mini-beast hunts and badge-making were inspired by the seven Olympic values - inspiration, friendship, respect, excellence, determination, courage and equality - which National Park Rangers had explored with pupils in class a few weeks before when they decorated flags and bunting for the day itself.



At the Upper Falls, Swaledale Mountain Rescue carried their home-made Olympic torch to safety across the water as part of an exciting river rescue demonstration, while Wensleydale Railway volunteers held a special open day at the station yard.

The Coppice Café provided brightly coloured Games-themed refreshments and Southpaw Jazz Quartet added the icing on the cake to the atmosphere, playing live music all afternoon for the entertainment of the crowds. Even the sunshine blessed us with an appearance - a rare treat this year!

Local communities all round the country pulled out all the stops to see the Torch on its way, and Wensleydale and Swaledale played their part with gusto, coming together in the spirit of the Games to deliver great memories for all involved.

Magic moments from the Olympic Torch at Aysgarth Falls are captured on video at **www.youtube.com/theyorkshiredales**

Repairs to winter flood damage

It was all about teamwork this spring in order to carry out repairs on footpaths in Swaledale badly affected by last December's floods.

Heavy rain and snow melt saw rivers bursting their banks, causing widespread damage to sections of the 2,100km-plus network of public rights of way in the National Park.

But thanks to the Authority's Dales Volunteers working alongside landowners and farmers - as well as local police officers and students - the Swaledale stretches were restored in time for summer.

Area Ranger for Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Michael Briggs said: "As the delegated highway authority for public rights of way, we have responsibilities for the surface condition of footpaths so, where they are damaged, we are able through our rights of way budget to offer help and advice on restoration".

A temporary closure order was placed on the path from Isles Bridge to Feetham Wood after the flood bank was washed away in several places. This route on the Coast to Coast trail is popular with locals and walkers alike so it was a priority to repair it as soon as possible.



Access Ranger Ian Broadwith welcomed the opportunity to work with different volunteers and groups to carry out the repairs. "Much of the damage was actually the result of a heavy rabbit population infesting the riverbank and destabilising it, so landowners are being encouraged to control them to help prevent a recurrence on such a scale", he said.

Local police officers and members of the Swaledale Outdoor Club kindly volunteered some of their spare time to help repair drystone walls damaged by floods near Low Row. They were given a crash course by our volunteers and spent three days working together to rebuild walls between two farms in time for lambing.

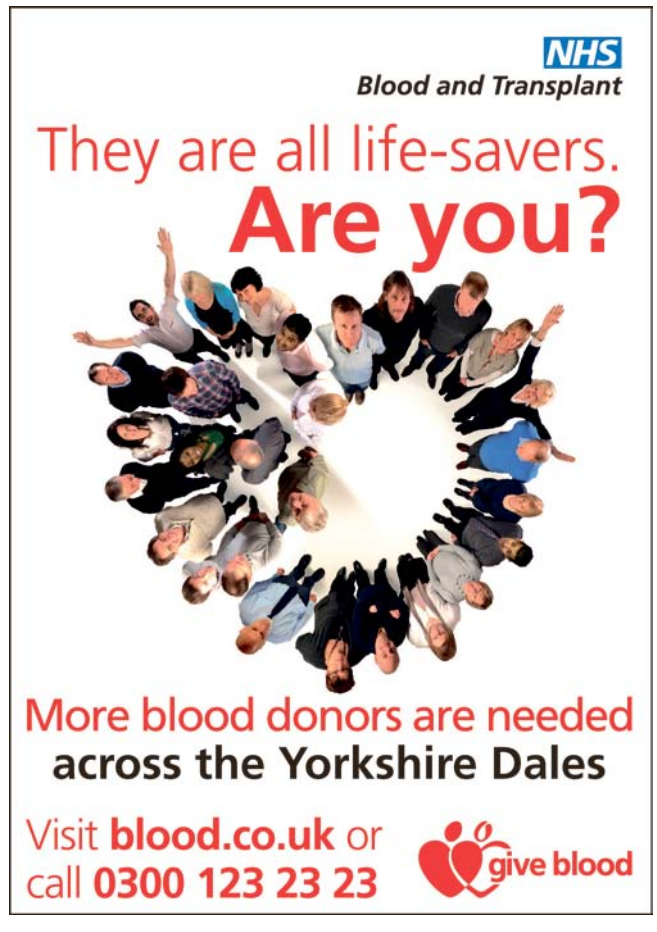
And a group studying countryside management and agriculture at Harper Adams University College in Shropshire spent two days in Wensleydale in April learning drystone walling and helping us out at the same time.

Student Anne Walker said: "It is very special to be able to learn a traditional skill that is in danger of dying out and the bonus of the training was that we were able to help fix some of this year's extensive winter flood damage."

Authority Member Harold Brown, who lives in the affected area, said: "Farmers have created and care for the distinctive landscape that we see in Swaledale and, although the Authority can offer only a limited amount of help at this financially challenging time, we are pleased to do so through our Dales Volunteers."



Riverbank flood damage, left, and Dales Volunteers rebuilding dry stone walls in Swaledale, above.



Find out more about the work of the Authority at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk