Dales

National Park of the Year 2017

BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards 2017

YORKSHIRE DALES National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Autumn/Winter 2017

YOUR DALES, YOUR VIEWS: THE RESULTS



Consultation results: you would like to see more developments like Aynham Close in Grassington, which included 22 affordable homes

The future of upland farming after Brexit, protecting and enhancing wildlife, and 'community sustainability' have emerged as the three biggest issues in the Yorkshire Dales National Park that people would like to see addressed.

We asked for your views and received 623 submissions during a public consultation between 22 May and 3 July this year.

Residents, visitors and a wide range of stakeholder organisations were asked what they loved about the National Park, how it could be improved, and the most important issues it faced.

The responses will help the Authority and its local partners to create a new five year National Park Management Plan - the single most important strategy document for the National Park.

"I'd like to thank everyone who took part," said Carl Lis, chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan steering group, which carried out the consultation.

"We've gained a very useful insight into the issues that both residents and visitors care most about. All the views and suggestions will be considered and, where possible, built into the next Management Plan, which in effect will provide a work programme for a whole range of organisations operating in the National Park."

On the first question - about what people loved about the Yorkshire Dales National Park - one in three respondents cited the landscape and scenery. Wildlife, beauty and open spaces were also often mentioned.

On the second question - about areas for improvement - there was a wide range of views. Among residents - who provided around six out of ten of all responses - local community sustainability was mentioned the most. There was great concern that the communities in the National Park were struggling as younger people continue to leave without being replaced.

A lack of affordable housing and insufficiently well-paid or secure employment were raised, as well as concern about increasingly distant healthcare services, a lack of public transport and the loss of banks and schools.

The second most cited area for improvement, among both residents and visitors, regarded access to the countryside. Many respondents wanted better access for walking, cycling and horse riding, as well as improved access to caves.

On the third question - about the most important issues for the Management Plan to tackle - residents said maintaining local services should be the top priority. Protecting the viability of upland farming after Brexit and tackling the shortage of affordable housing were the other suggested top priorities.

For visitors, wildlife protection and enhancement was the most important area for the Plan to look at. But they also thought more local housing and jobs were very important, as well as improved access opportunities in the National Park.

Seven groups of local organisations and businesses are now using the results of the consultation to prepare some specific objectives for the new Plan.

To help guide them, six 'evidence papers' - containing the latest facts, figures and trends about the National Park - have been published. The papers cover everything from the number of businesses in the Park to average household incomes to the amount of land covered by trees. They also highlight the key issues that the Plan might tackle.

One of the groups is looking specifically at community and economy issues, including how to make the area more attractive to families and people of working age.

Other groups are creating objectives around wildlife, tourism, access and the historic environment.

The initial ideas were scrutinised at a forum on 23 November to which around 70 organisations active in the National Park and all parish councils and parish meetings were invited.

The steering group will have the final say on what goes into the draft Plan, which will then be put out to public consultation in the spring. Following any final revisions or additions, it will be adopted formally in June 2018.

The Management Plan is produced by a partnership of 13 local organisations and representatives of local landowners, farmers and tourism businesses, alongside the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

A report summarising the Your Dales, Your Views consultation responses, plus the six evidence papers, can be viewed at **www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk/management-plan-review**

There is a statutory duty to review the Management Plan every five years. The current plan runs until 2018. Read about the vision at its heart and the specific objectives which aim to achieve that vision at **www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk**

Find out how we are progressing on some of those objectives throughout this edition of *Dales*.

A TOURISM PROJECT TO GET YOUR TEETH INTO

This September, the Yorkshire Dales National Park held its first ever week-long Cheese Festival - and it was a cracker.

A mouth-watering array of locally-produced cheese was on offer, as well as bread, foraged food, preserves, beer and gin. There were events up and down the Dales, and farm shops and cafés pulling out the stops to lay on special cheese celebration menus.

During our opening weekend hub event at the Wensleydale Creamery, Hawes, we were delighted to be able to provide free marquee space for 23 local food and drink suppliers.

The festival is part of a new two-year tourism project focussing on local food and heritage and working with businesses across the National Park - and beyond.

A partnership between Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Park Authorities, and Howardian Hills and Nidderdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and funded by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, it will develop a range of initiatives in these special areas.

The aim is to attract people to visit at different times of the year and stay longer. It is also to encourage businesses to make the most of the area's special qualities in their promotion, including dark skies and nature tourism, as well as local food.

The project will provide networking opportunities for local producers, accommodation providers, eateries and retail businesses. We will be developing a Food Tourism Toolkit, walking trails and a destination management plan, and translating part of the Authority's website into other languages.

Local B&B owner, Helen Dalton - who has a background in food promotion and development - took up her role as the project's Destination Coordinator in April.

Helen got straight to work with local businesses, including the Creamery, to create the Yorkshire Dales' first cheese festival and work is already underway for the second in September 2018 - keep an eye out for details at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/cheese-festival**



Cheese grading at the Wensleydale Creamery, one of the events at our first Yorkshire Dales Cheese Festival this September

For more information about the project, please contact Helen Dalton on 01969 652368.

A warm welcome to this edition of *Dales*

Well, it has been quite a year! At a local level, the extension of the National Park's boundary has provided a new and rewarding challenge. It has been a delight to work with, and get to know, so many positive communities, businesses and individuals in the new area. Over the coming months and years we expect to really demonstrate the positives of National Park designation to them.

Nationally, conversations have been dominated by Brexit. It can't be overstated how important this is to the National Park, because of the likely impacts on the future of upland farming.

We are working hard to get across to government the wider public benefits that can be delivered by hill farming - such as natural flood management (see page 7) - and the need to support those farmers in any new national arrangements.

On a more downbeat note, problems with access to local services continue.

It has been inspiring to see some local communities taking matters into their own hands in relation to retaining and delivering local services but, collectively, we will need to be much more radical if we are going to reverse the decline in the number of families and people of working age in the National Park. The 'Great Place' project (see page 6) will be an excellent opportunity to try out - and learn from - some very different approaches.

These are just some of the issues that are also being debated and discussed as part of the preparation of a new National Park Management Plan. We don't have all the answers but many different organisations are working together to develop ideas for the new Plan, which will be published for consultation next year. Please let us know what you think.



Carl Lis OBE
Chairman

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

TURN THE LIGHTS OFF... AND SEE MORE



By Mark Allum, Head of Access & Engagement

As a resident, it is easy to take the dark skies of the National Park for granted. But 85% of people in the UK cannot see a truly dark sky from where they live - few stars and certainly not the majestic sweep of the Milky Way.

This is why our dark skies are one of our special qualities and the reason our existing National Park Management Plan committed us to enhancing our sky at night and promoting its enjoyment.

This February, in partnership with North York Moors National Park Authority, we are holding our third Dark Skies Festival, with activities from rocket making to a multimedia planetarium experience.

We have nominated three of our sites as Dark Sky Discovery locations and worked with tourism businesses who want to benefit from being in a dark skies area.

We have also supported the Campaign to Protect Rural England to monitor how we are doing. We are the third darkest National Park after Northumberland and Exmoor - but have some of the most light-polluted areas in the country just to the south of us.

We are now looking at becoming a designated Dark Sky Reserve because of the benefit it will bring to tourism businesses at what is otherwise the quietest time of year. We often miss out when the media cover dark skies stories because we are not designated and the focus turns to other locations.

What would this mean for residents? Well, it doesn't mean that we will look to turn off street lights or insist people remove external lighting.

However, small changes over time can make a big difference - such as directing lights to shine where they are needed, or being on only when required.

Businesses and communities also have the opportunity to apply to our Sustainable Development Fund for more significant projects.

A vital part of an application to become a Dark Sky Reserve is the support of local people - without this it will not achieve anything.

A number of residents who are passionate about this subject are already involved and the designation plans were discussed at Parish Forums this autumn, where a lot of support was shown for the idea..

It will take time to complete the process, but we are hoping to become a recognised area in 2019.

Anyone wanting to find out more or get involved should contact Tourism Officers Tracey Lambert or Kathryn Storey on tourism@yorkshiredales.org.uk



Lanternmaking at last year's Dark Skies Festival

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Dales is published twice a year by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. It reports on our work and is delivered to over 15,000 households in the National Park.

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.

For specific enquiries about *Dales*, contact the editor, Sarah Nicholson, on 01756 751618 or sarah.nicholson@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

For general enquiries, please:

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The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority strives to be widely recognised as a centre of expertise and excellence in conservation and recreation policy and practice, and in the quality of the landscape, and to deliver efficient and welcoming services. We aim to inspire local communities and businesses to ensure it is a thriving area, one that is treasured by those who live here and those who visit. We welcome your comments and suggestions about our work.

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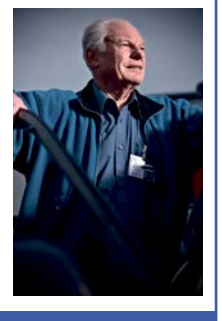
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DIGGING UP THE PAST



This summer, the Lords Trustees of the Manor of Bainbridge gave permission for an archaeological dig on the village green. The Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists Club, local schools and community groups were involved in the three-month long project, which has shed fresh light on the period of Roman occupation of Britain. Community Heritage Officer and project manager Rebecca Cadbury-Simmons tells us more.

This year, with the help of dozens of volunteers, we excavated 30 archaeological test pits across Bainbridge in Wensleydale as part of the 'We Dig Community' project.

there was little activity in the area between the end of the Roman occupation and the late medieval to early post-medieval period.

In the garden of the one of the earliest houses in the village - thought to date to the sixteenth century - we found a coin that is believed to be Elizabethan (1558-1603). We are waiting on the expert's verification with interest.

Thousands of post-medieval finds were discovered throughout the village, indicating that, from the seventeenth century onwards, the land was being used much more regularly. The variety of pottery sherds,





A fragment of Roman pottery is discovered in test pit no. 1 on Bainbridge village green (left), and Young Archaeologists Club members excavate test pit no. 16 at Brough Hill Farm (right).

The test pits were located in private gardens and on the village green, as well as two very carefully placed in the cemetery.

Each one metre square pit was excavated by a team of six people to a maximum depth of 1.2 metres. Earth was sieved, photographs taken and finds recorded, and these are now being examined by specialists.

Local volunteers, children from Hawes, Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton primary schools, Dales Volunteers and Dales Young Rangers all came together to help. In total, 272 volunteer days were contributed to the project, with over 150 children learning first-hand about the archaeology right on their doorstep.

Bainbridge Fort is one of the few definitively Roman sites within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. One hypothesis is that the Romans occupied this part of the Dales in order to mine lead for their plumbing systems.

The Roman fort of *Virosidium* lies immediately to the east of Bainbridge and while that has been excavated in the past, the village itself has not.

Within our test pits we found evidence of occupation of the land during the Roman period, the majority of which was found on the eastern side of the River Bain. This suggests that the Romans were not living on the land that is now known as Bainbridge village and that, mostly, they remained within the fort on the edge of the village and the area immediately surrounding it, as some of our best Romano-British finds were discovered in the test pits in the cemetery that lies next to the fort.

As well as evidence of the Roman occupation, we found sherds of late medieval pottery, dating to the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries. This is consistent with our previous understanding of the history of Bainbridge, that animal bones and clay pipe fragments shows that this area has always been in domestic use.

One of the test pits in a field in the village owned by the Quaker Trust suggested what looked like a wall, and a geophysical survey of the area confirmed the remains of a building.

Post-excavation analysis of finds is now being carried out, an archaeological report is being put together, and an interpretive booklet will be produced and made available to the residents of Bainbridge and all contributors to the project. We will also be holding a free public exhibition at the Authority's Bainbridge office during January and February 2018.

The project helps us meet National Park Management Plan objectives to support local people in looking after and making use of locally-important heritage features, and to use educational and skill-based activities to inspire young people to discover the environment around them.

'We Dig Community' was kindly supported by a £9,000 grant from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, and by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust with a grant of £1,296 from the Roger Stott Community Grants programme.

To learn about the fascinating archaeology of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, visit our website **www.outofoblivion.org.uk** and follow our blog at **blog.yorkshiredales.org.uk/historic-environment**

To find out more about the Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists Club, based at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes, please email dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk

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Looking after public rights of way

Over the summer our Dales Volunteers carried out the mammoth annual task of surveying the condition of every public path, stile, signpost, gate and bridge in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

All 1,628 miles (2,620km) of public rights of way were surveyed, including those in Cumbria and Lancashire which became part of the National Park after last year's boundary extension.

The infrastructure in the new area was understandably found in a poorer state than in the established area.

A total of more than 380 signposts, gates or stiles were marked up by our clipboard-carrying volunteers as needing repair or replacement in the new Cumbrian part of the National Park, alongside 31 of the 179 foot or bridleway bridges.

This represents a hefty 'to do' list for the ranger service's newly created Western Area team, managed by Steve Hastie.

"Cumbria County Council did as much as it could to maintain and improve the rights of way network," Steve said. "It typically offered farmers and landowners 25 per cent towards the cost of, say, renewing a stile. But as a National Park Authority which exists in part to help people enjoy the special qualities of the area and get out into the landscape, we can in many cases offer 100 per cent of the costs - in the sense that we can do the work for the landowners and farmers."

Steve and his team have an ambitious target of bringing the paths in the new Cumbrian part up to the same standard as those in the rest of the National Park within five years. That means getting 95% of the infrastructure into good condition to meet National Park Management Plan objectives.

He said: "From experience we've learned that we have to repair or replace 5% of rights of way infrastructure each year to meet our '95% good' target. So in the new Cumbrian parts of the Park we are going to have to repair over and above that. It's a challenge we are looking forward to and we've been encouraged by the welcome and assistance we've received from the community and volunteers."

Cumbria County Council made a one-off payment of £150,000 to the Authority when it handed over responsibility for maintenance of rights of way, through a delegation agreement, in April.

The Authority has opened an office in Orton to provide a base for the Western Ranger team - and also has a meeting room in Kirkby Lonsdale. The main point of contact for local communities will be Area Ranger Paul Wilkinson, while one part-time and two full-time access rangers will concentrate on the rights of way maintenance work. They will be assisted by about two dozen regular volunteers.

Access Ranger Suzannah Barningham carries out repairs in an area including Orton, Crosby Ravensworth, the northern Howgill Fells, Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang, while Access Ranger Graham Pye does the same for Barbon, Middleton, Casterton, the Lune Valley, Southern Howgills, Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent.



Some of the projects that they have finished include replacing two bridges swept away by Storm Desmond - Mill House Beck footbridge in Middleton parish (pictured bottom left) and Shackla Bank footbridge in Firbank parish. Another worthwhile project was creating a new section of boardwalk on the popular footpath to Green Bell in the Howgills from Ravenstonedale village (pictured below).

The Southern and Northern ranger teams have been just as busy as those in the Western team (there is no Eastern team, in case you were wondering). The Southern team covers the Craven and Lancashire parts of the Park and the Northern team Richmondshire.

In the south, rangers and volunteers have laid more than 200 locally-quarried stone flags on Pen-y-ghent, one of England's most visited mountains.



An annual footfall of about 80,000 people had led to a scar the size of a football pitch opening up on the north side of the fell. The two-month, £58,000 repair project saw the massive flags, each weighing more than half a tonne, being lifted to the summit by helicopter and being put into place by rangers operating diggers.

In the north of the park, a 220-metre-long flagged path has been laid across a badly eroded section of the world famous Coast to Coast trail. Volunteers did much of the work, which took place at Swinner Gill east of Keld in Swaledale.

The steepness of the gill and its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest meant that access to the path was difficult and any work needed to be time-limited.

"Following the cuts to our Government Funding, we now have less money to employ contractors on these type of projects," said Area Ranger Michael Briggs. "Step forward our Dales Volunteers, including a group known as the Ragged Robins. We couldn't have done it without them."

Hundreds of smaller projects have also been completed, from the installation of new signposts to the resurfacing of sections of green lanes.

Who can you call

Our ranger teams are based in the area for which they are responsible and are a key point of contact between residents, visitors and the Authority. They can offer advice and support on many different types of project and provide a link to other Authority services.

To get in touch, please contact one of the three Area Managers.

Western Dales: Steve Hastie, 01539 626104, steve.hastie@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Northern Dales: Matt Neale, 01969 652387, matt.neale@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Southern Dales: Kate Hilditch, 01756 751631, kate.hilditch@yorkshiredales.org.uk

PROJECTS W

Nearly £97,000 is still up for grabs for communities, individuals, businesses and organisations needing help with projects in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

So far this financial year, £78,000 has been given out by the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) to 17 worthwhile schemes - and there is still a chunk of money left, which will be available until 31 March 2018.

Andrea Burden, the Authority's Sustainable Development Officer, said: "This financial year we have £175k available. We would like to hear from new, innovative projects that need funding to get off the ground.

"The projects should contribute in some way to looking after the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife or cultural heritage, or promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy those things - while at the same time providing some local economic or community benefit."

Enquirers are recommended to get in touch with Andrea before they submit an application on sdf@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01969 652337. Prospective applicants can also download an electronic application form and guidance notes via the website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf**

Artists create fresh attractions at Kilnsey Park

A sculpture trail and a series of interpretation panels have been unveiled at Kilnsey Park Estate near Grassington, made possible in part by an SDF grant of £9,882.

One of the sculptures is a giant Lady's Slipper Orchid woven out of willow by Wetherby-based artist, Leilah Vyner - Kilnsey is one of only a handful of places within the National Park where the flower can be seen. Another is a leaping fish, by Wensleydale chainsaw sculptor, Andris Bergs.

Ten interpretation signs, designed by illustrator Gary Davies, give insights into the history of the park and its wildlife, while a new geocache trail uses linocut prints by Hester Cox from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. The project has also included the creation of a new map for visitors.

Kilnsey Park currently attracts 45,000 visitors each year, and offers a range of activities including fishing, walking routes, pony trekking and cycling.

Authority Chairman Carl Lis (pictured with estate owner Jamie Roberts) said: "An important part of our work is to promote the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a leading sustainable tourism destination. These new artworks and interpretation make Kilnsey Park an even more distinctive place to visit. I salute Jamie and his team for their imagination and investment."



ITH BIG IDEAS WANTED

Over the past few years, the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund has given grants to a number of initiatives that have supported opportunities for outdoor recreation, learning and understanding. The following projects are helping people of all ages and abilities enjoy the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park:

New kit for life savers

The Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association has become the latest local organisation to benefit from SDF funding, receiving a grant of £4,200 to provide newer team members with waterproof jackets and overtrousers for surface rescues.

"We are so fortunate to have rescue teams in the Dales," said Mark Allum, Head of Access & Engagement (pictured centre, with UWFRA volunteers).



"These highly professional volunteers are on call every day of the year and go to the aid of people and animals in all weather conditions. They make a huge contribution to keep visitors and local communities safe. We salute the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association and it gives us great pleasure being able to give some financial support."

The Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association Chairman, Peter Huff, said: "We have always had a splendid working relationship with the Authority and we are most grateful for their generous support.

"We have taken the opportunity with the new jackets to have 'Mountain Rescue' printed on the back to ensure members are readily identifiable by other members of the emergency services at incidents."

'Peak-bagging' book published

An SDF grant of £7,000 has helped an author from Long Preston develop a new walking challenge and publish an accompanying book, *Dales 30*.

Jonathan Smith of Where2walk provides a guide to the 30 mountains in the Yorkshire and Cumbrian Dales. Five per cent of any book sales will go to the Three Peaks Project, which supports footpath and access work on Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough.

The concept is similar to that of the 'Wainwrights' in the Lake District and the 'Munros' in Scotland. It's hoped that the walks will encourage frequent visits to the Dales, as people 'bag' or tick-off each fell.

Jonathan used the grant to pay for compiling information, consultancy on legalities and distribution, design, production, printing, copyright and launch events.

The highest fell in the National Park is Whernside at 2,415 feet, followed by Ingleborough, then Great Shunner Fell. Several of the Dales 30 are in the new area of the Park, such as Wild Boar Fell, which comes in at number 5 on the list at 2,323 feet. Calf Top, south of Sedbergh, is at number 30, being exactly 2,000 feet high (610 metres). It was classed as a mountain only last year.

For more information about the book, please see **http://where2walk.co.uk/walking_blog/the-dales-30-now-a-book/**

New agricultural building for Malham Show

The annual Malham Show attracts up to 4,000 visitors each August - and now the show committee plan to enhance the experience with a new undercover building for demonstrations.

The showground will also incorporate a new educational area, which aims to showcase local crafts and other traditional rural pursuits and raise the public's understanding of the special qualities of the area.

A series of interpretation panels will focus on the show's cultural history, farming practices, and drystone walling.

The project is being made possible with an SDF grant of £9,407. To find out more about the show, visit **www.malhamdale.com.**



Tea time at Keld

A new energy-saving multi-fuel stove at Keld Public Hall is improving its heating system and making the hall more useable, safeguarding the existing community meeting space.

A warmer welcome should lead to an increase in room bookings and footfall from locals and visitors alike.

The hall – which received £1,638 from SDF - is open during the winter months when the main tea room at nearby Rukins campsite is closed. Refreshments, including homemade cakes, are provided by volunteers as a token of hospitality on a self-service basis with an honesty box for donations.

Walkers tackling the Pennine Way or Coast to Coast trails and overnighting in Keld will be able to take advantage of the winter tea room facility. As will visitors to the recently refurbished Keld Resource Centre, which has events and exhibitions, and a permanent display telling the story of the local area. The Centre has itself benefitted from two SDF grants totalling almost £19k.

The Keld Public Hall grant has paid for the multi-fuel stove, chimney and floor improvements, new hearth and a fuel bunker.



NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW FACES WANTED

We will be looking for two new rural trainees in early 2018 to work within our ranger service.

Based at the Authority's Stonedykes Barn workshop near Stainforth, the successful 16-24 year olds will combine workplace learning with practical on-the-job training. The apprenticeships are part-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through local charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Stories in Stone scheme.

Keep an eye on our website in the coming months to find out more about this exciting opportunity **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/apprenticeships**

BECOME A FRIEND

A recruitment drive has been launched by an independent local charity to step up its efforts to protect one of Britain's most inspiring but fragile landscapes.

The Yorkshire Dales Society has been campaigning to protect the landscape, wildlife, culture, historical features and communities of the National Park for 36 years, and encouraging people to value and enjoy this special area.

And it is now changing its name to 'Friends of the Dales' to help raise awareness of what it does and to attract more members and supporters.

To find out about how you can become a Friend, visit **www.friendsofthedales.org.uk**

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

The Authority's free online events calendar - seen by an average of more than a thousand people a week - has been redesigned and made easier to use.

People looking to get the word out about their event can now create an account and publish details within minutes - and, importantly, edit their entry at any time should those details change.

And any events uploaded by 11 December will also be considered for inclusion in our much-loved annual printed guide to the National Park, *The Visitor 2018* - now in handy magazine format.

Go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/events** for details.



Using cultural assets to create sustainable communities

A ground-breaking project - funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England - aims to explore how the great natural heritage and cultural assets of the Yorkshire Dales can be used to not only retain, but also attract, younger, economically active people to the area.

Earlier this year, Craven District Council led a successful bid to the national 'Great Place' scheme in partnership with South Lakeland District Council and the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Park Authorities.

The scheme's vision is to create sustainable, resilient and creative communities by celebrating the cultural heritage of the area, the skill and experience of creative people, and a good quality of life. It is hoped that this in turn will attract younger people to influence and support the area's future economy.

The 'Great Place: Lakes and Dales' project area covers the rural corridor linking Skipton (Craven) in the south and Grasmere (South Lakeland) in the north, including the market towns and rural hinterlands and extending into both the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks.

There is a sense of urgency. The area's population of 16 to 34 year olds needs to increase by 44% just to reach the national average. The significant number of second homes in the area means affordable housing is difficult for young people to come by. Without more young people and young families there will be fewer village schools at the heart of communities and a lack of employees for local businesses. The ageing population needs to be addressed or these communities will soon become unviable.

The programme will be delivered by defining and promoting the area's culture offer and placing culture, arts and heritage at the core of local strategies, plans and policies. It will develop new relationships across business sectors using opportunities inspired by Great Place and take advantage of digital opportunities to grow the rural economy.

Its success requires partners within and beyond Craven and South Lakeland committing to join together in action. The Great Place project will be working with organisations and individuals in the public, private and voluntary sectors, across education, business, tourism, creative industries, environment, housing and local government.

Using funds raised by the National Lottery, the scheme will initially be piloted in 16 locations across England. The Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England are each contributing £10m for projects lasting up to three years. There will be complementary support from other organisations where relevant, such as Historic England through its Heritage Action Zone initiative.

If you would like to be kept informed or become involved in the Great Place: Lakes and Dales project, please email greatplace@cravendc

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LOTTERY FUNDED

great place LAKES AND DALES

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS INVITED

Do you care about the future of the Yorkshire Dales National Park?

Would you like to help conserve its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and promote opportunities for people to share in it?

Could you effectively and energetically steer its future, balancing environmental, social and economic considerations?

If your answer is "Yes", then read on.

Next May, two of the four seats for parish council representatives on the National Park Authority's committee will become vacant following local government elections. We will be looking for Members to represent the Craven West (Airedale) and the South Lakeland, Cumbria & Lancashire areas of the National Park.

Joining our board will take you right to the heart of the area's biggest challenges. It will give you a chance to make a positive contribution to the ways in which one of Britain's most unique and fragile breathing spaces is managed, not only for its local communities, but for the nation.

To be eligible you must first be either a parish council member or chair of a parish meeting. Parish council elections are held every four years, normally at the same time as district council elections for the area.

Whenever a parish vacancy arises, parish councils and meetings are invited to put forward a candidate. If there is more than one nominee, there will be an election amongst the parish councils and meetings before the name of the successful candidate is submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

You can also take part in the selection process by lobbying your parish council to support or oppose candidates who have been nominated.

For details, please contact Committees Officer Julie Payne on 01969 652364 or julie.payne@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

For more information about all of our 25 Members, their role and the Committees they sit on, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members**

The parishes involved are:



Craven West (Airedale) - currently represented by Neil Heseltine

Airton
Austwick
Calton
Clapham
Eshton
Flasby-with-Winterburn
Gargrave
Giggleswick
Hanlith
Hellifield
Horton-in-Ribblesdale
Ingleton
Kirkby Malhamdale*
Langcliffe
Long Preston
Otterburn
Scosthrop
Settle
Stainforth
Stirton-with-Thorlby
Thornton-in-Lonsdale



South Lakeland, Cumbria & Lancashire - currently represented by Ian McPherson

Dent
Garsdale
Sedbergh
Asby
Bandleyside (Hoff & Ormside)
Barbon
Casterton
Crosby Garrett
Crosby Ravensworth
Firbank
Grayrigg
Killington
King's Meaburn
Kirkby Lonsdale
Kirkby Stephen
Mallerstang
Mansergh
Middleton
Musgrave
Nateby
Orton
Ravenstonedale
Shap
Soulby
Tebay
Waitby
Wharton
Ireby & Leck
Burrow with Burrow



Chris Clark (pictured) became a Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in June 2016.

Along with his wife, Chris established a 170 hectare hill farming enterprise at Nethergill Farm in Langstrothdale, which includes rare breed beef and sheep, self-catering, and an educational and field study facility.

Prior to this, Chris was a tenant farmer and also set up a successful meat marketing business, which evolved into a partnership in a marketing consultancy.

Chris is a Buckden Parish Councillor and a founder member and past Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network. He is the Authority's Member Champion for Sustainable Development. He said:

"Apparently, Napoleon Bonaparte said "in politics, stupidity is not a handicap" and Plato (2,000 years before that) "one of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors".

Are you a parish councillor or chair of a parish meeting in the Yorkshire Dales? Do you sympathise with either or both statements? Then I would like to suggest that you start influencing by getting involved.

The UK is leaving Europe, the National Park has recently been extended, and local communities are likely to have to take more ownership, control and responsibility for the services that have traditionally been provided by national, regional and local government.

The likelihood is that at least one of these will have an effect on the community you represent.

So, instead of venting your National Park frustrations in parish council meetings, or bemoaning the planning authority's decisions whilst in the pub, or worrying about the future of Dales farming, start influencing! Put yourself forward as a parish representative and become a Member of the National Park Authority."

Farmers help to 'slow the flow'



By Helen Keep, Senior Farm Conservation Officer

Farmers are increasingly working together for the good of the wider community as well for as their businesses. In the north of England, an outstanding example is the work taking place on flood risk management.

The idea is simple: hill farmers can take measures to slow down flood waters, both benefitting their business and lowering the risk of homes being flooded downstream.

Natural flood management (NFM) has been around for a very long time, but the fresh, collaborative efforts that are taking shape now have their roots in very recent disasters. The winter 2015 and 2016 floods caused much anguish in Carlisle, Leeds and York, as well as many millions of pounds worth of damage.

At the time, Leeds University were conducting research on our behalf, looking into the potential impact of implementing NFM measures in Coverdale.

This suggested that increasing the 'roughness' of vegetation over 10% of the dale - for example, by introducing more tree cover - or inserting 'leaky dams', or setting aside rough grass margins, would reduce peak flood levels in the river by 12%.

We shared this evidence, along with examples of practical flood management, with farmers and landowners. As a result, each main dale of the National Park now has a formally-constituted group of farmers and landowners, who are sharing ideas on reducing flood risk, applying for funding, and beginning to put in natural flood measures. In total, over 100 farmers are taking part. The ambition is to achieve a landscape-scale solution.

The groups are facilitated by the National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the Farmer Network or the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT), which includes secretariat support and arranging events.

The initial focus is soil and grassland health. Soil compaction is a serious problem as it reduces its natural ability to absorb water and nutrients, affecting grass growth. Where the soil is compacted during heavy rainfall, the water is more likely to flow across the surface rather than soaking in. This 'overland flow' can add to surface water flooding of roads and transport pollutants into rivers. It is important for farmers to ensure their soils are in a good state as it will provide multiple benefits not only to the farm's income, but also to the wider environment and community.

YDRT have set up demonstration sites in Oughtershaw and Bishopdale to showcase how NFM can fit on the farm holding, the costs involved and the impact it has on water levels and farm production. Events will be held here over the coming years.

Alongside this, we have worked with partners, including YDRT and the Environment Agency, to publish a first-of-its-kind practical NFM guidebook for farmers. The free guide describes the various measures that can be installed, costs, benefits, grants, and planning and consent requirements, to aid decision-making.

Natural flood management isn't a 'silver bullet' which will solve flooding downstream. But it has multiple benefits to the farm business, to water quality and to reducing flood risk. It can be a genuine win-win, for farmers and for the wider community.



Severe flooding at Haylands Bridge, Hawes, in October

If you are interested in joining a farmer group or would like a copy of the guide, please contact the Farm Conservation team on 01756 751600 or farming@yorkshiredales.org.uk

SUP FOR THE PENNINE WAY

The first 'official' Pennine Way beers have been brewed and supped, resulting in donations of nearly £3,000 being collected for the upkeep of the National Trail.

This innovative fundraising project began in February, when trail managers put out a public notice entitled, "Wanted: Brewery to make official Pennine Way beer".

The idea was for a brewery to profit from association with Britain's oldest and toughest National Trail, while donating a portion of those profits to its maintenance.



Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery's Stuart Taylor brews a batch of 'Pennine Ambler'

Three breweries took up the challenge. Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery created a thirst quencher by the name of 'Pennine Ambler', which was first served at the Crown Hotel in Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

The Nook Brewhouse in Holmfirth came up with 'Pennine Light', which went on tap at the Old Nag's Head in Edale, the village at the start of the Pennine Way. The brewery described the ale as "a low gravity beer" with a balance of sweetness and bitter hop character that made it "exceptionally quaffable".

And Hadrian Border Brewery made 'Pennine Walker', which has been refreshing people at the end of the trail in the Border Hotel in Kirk Yetholm. All three beers have appeared in other pubs, too, this summer.

For every pint or bottle sold, ten pence has been donated to the Pennine National Trails Partnership for spending on footpath and bridleway maintenance.

Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery donated £1,550 after the first three months of sales, covering the period July to September. The Nook Brewhouse donated £809 and Hadrian Border Brewery contributed a further £554.

"To receive just short of £3,000 in the first three months is amazing," said Heather Procter, Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager.

"I'd like to thank the breweries and also all the thirsty walkers who saw the iconic Pennine Way logo on the pump clips and gave the new ales a go.

"By buying a pint or bottle of Pennine Way beer, you are doing your bit to protect and restore this classic long distance trail. Cheers!"

Further information about the breweries and the beers - and where to find them and buy them online - can be found at **www.penninewaybeer.co.uk**



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PITCH IN FOR WHERNSIDE

The National Park Authority is once again teaming up with the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) to raise money to repair a severely eroded footpath on the famous and very popular Yorkshire Three Peaks route.

Last year we raised £17,042 as part of the 'Mend our Mountains' campaign to rebuild Ingleborough's Swine Tail route.

Now the ambition is even greater – our target is £46,000 as part of the national 'Make One Million' campaign to help us repair Bruntscar, the main descent off Yorkshire's highest mountain, Whernside.

The 'Pitch in for Whernside' project will create a new 200 metre section of stone-pitched path, and landscape adjacent eroded areas. The route will be sensitively designed to ensure the least possible impact on the landscape and provide a path that can stand up to the thousands of walkers that use it every year.



Walker on the worn-out Bruntscar path on Whernside

Area Manager Kate Hilditch, who is responsible for the Three Peaks area, said: "The scale of the task is huge given Bruntscar's remote location and steep conditions, but we feel that Whernside's worth it!

"We are always very grateful for the fantastic support we get to keep the Three Peaks paths network in as good condition as possible. We hope that, once again, people will be happy to 'Pitch in for Whernside'."

The BMC's 'Make One Million' campaign launched in November. It will target corporate and other potential major funding sources initially, with a public crowd-funding campaign following in 2018. Read more at **www.mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk**

WILD ABOUT LOCAL CONSERVATION



By Mark Hewitt, Wildlife Conservation Officer

Forty-five groups of local wildlife enthusiasts of all ages are now undertaking conservation projects across the National Park, with the Authority's Parish Wildlife Project going from strength to strength over the last eight years.

It was established to support local people who want to get involved in managing their areas for wildlife. The groups receive advice and guidance from our Wildlife Conservation Officers, as well as having access to funding for equipment, tools and wildlife enhancements.

More and more joint working has resulted in a fantastic network of people organising tasks and providing support and advice to each other.

Residents and communities have created, restored and managed many habitats including grasslands, meadows and ponds, and made a valuable contribution to species conservation in the Dales.

A natural follow-on came last year in the form of the Tree Sparrow Project. We received a grant of £9,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to engage local communities in discovering more about and safeguarding their populations. Key conservation elements include the provision of nest boxes, bird feeding, and managing their habitats.

The two projects show that conservation action is not just confined to large organisations and landowners. It is accessible to all and it is possible for a number of small actions to have a significant impact.



Planting yew on limestone scar: a Parish Wildlife Project at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserve at Newbiggin, Bishopdale

If you would like to know more about these or other projects that the Wildlife Conservation team are involved in, please go to **www.natureinthedales.org.uk**

Be a Young Ranger!

Love the outdoors? Why not give our Dales Young Rangers a go. Our North and West groups are welcoming new members now.

Open to 11 to 16 year olds, the three groups – based around Aysgarth, Sedbergh and Settle – meet one Saturday a month to carry out practical conservation tasks in and around the National Park.

Learn new skills, discover new places, make new friends, explore job and work experience opportunities, and make a big difference to your local environment at the same time.

Can't make it on a weekend? Try out a Dales Young Ranger experience task day with your group or club.

Find out more on the 'Dales Young Rangers' Facebook page or contact Rachael Alderson on 01969 652366.



West Young Ranger Rosemary Kelly, 15, from Ravenstonedale (pictured above, far left, at Pine Lake, Carnforth) tells us more:

"I am a regular attender of the West Young Rangers, one of the three groups that meets monthly to do numerous projects across the National Park. Our tasks are always interesting, varied, and above all rewarding.

There is never an average day in the Young Rangers. From helping repair an ancient lime kiln in Dentdale to building an otter holt along the Ure's riverbank, our activities are always different and take us to all corners of the National Park.

One of my most memorable days was when we helped the Lune Rivers Trust lay a path at Pine Lake, Carnforth. We started the day with 16 tonnes of aggregate to shift and a really muddy track - due to the previous night's rainfall - to wheel the heavy aggregate-filled wheelbarrows over. Despite this, by the end of the day, after lots of shovelling, wheel-barrowing and raking, the group - along with other volunteers from the Trust - had shifted well over half the pile. And we were rewarded with free soup and sandwiches from the nearby resort restaurant!"



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