# Dales 2011

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

*A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park*

*Spring 2011*


# Water way to go!



The River Bain community hydro scheme at Bainbridge in Wensleydale under construction

Across the National Park local people are leading the way in showing how renewable energy technology can be used to provide heat and light, save money and create environmental benefits, too.

The Dales has a history of harnessing waterpower for its traditional industries - several villages had their own electricity schemes in the early 1900s - and two exciting new hydropower schemes at Halton Gill and Bainbridge are set for completion this spring.

A 40kW 'high head' scheme (using water from a small stream falling from a great height) is being installed at Manor Farm, Halton Gill on the Langcliffe Hall Estate. This farm diversification project will provide an upland farm with an alternative source of long-lasting income with low maintenance and running costs.

It is also important in terms of carbon reduction - the projected energy generation will be equivalent to the consumption of 20-25 households.

The 45kW plant owned by the local community on the River Bain is a 'low head' scheme, using a small fall on a main river and centuries' old technology in the Archimedes screw. It will generate enough electricity to power 40 houses, saving 80 tonnes of $CO_2$ per year.

As with Halton Gill, the electricity will be sold through the national grid. Profits will be re-invested in the community, funding local environmental work through the Raydale Project.

Yorkshire-based social enterprise company h2oPE is project managing the scheme, which has been part-funded by a very successful community share issue.

Energy created from replenishable natural resources - which don't generally produce $CO_2$ emissions - is becoming increasingly important in the fight against climate change. The National Park Authority is particularly keen to see small-scale hydropower sites developed.

The restoration of former mill sites also offers an opportunity to conserve some important local buildings by returning them to economic use.

As well as providing funding to support the Halton Gill and Bainbridge projects, the Authority has helped get schemes off the ground at Gayle Mill and Yore Mill, and assisted Farfield Mill at the design stage. This year we've funded feasibility studies for community projects at Clapham, Ingleton and West Burton, as well as several schemes put forward by private landowners.

It is hoped that the projects will demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of water power to other communities and to landowners considering it as a form of farm diversification.

A grant from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund - which is managed by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - has also been given to a new renewable energy training business in Hawes. GTEC will offer apprenticeships in renewable technologies, and the building itself will be an exemplar, being powered by them and with an internal plant room laid out for demonstration purposes.

In 2010 the Authority launched a new grant scheme to assist further feasibility studies at the most promising hydro sites in the National Park. The funding will be available up to 2013.

Although public funding for capital works is diminishing, CO2Sense has just launched its new grant scheme for 2011/12 which can offer assistance for projects generating over 45kW of electricity in Yorkshire.

Information about our Small-Scale Hydro Power Feasibility Fund and links to other funding sources can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/renewables-grants**



Betsy Bell of Langcliffe Hall Estate beside the Halton Gill intake site

# The peak of school dinners

Emma Dunkley (pictured below left) and Katie Gudgeon from Horton-in-Ribblesdale Primary School joined 40 other 8 to 10 year olds from Horton, Clapham and Austwick Primary Schools for lunch at the top of Ingleborough in October.

The group included teachers and parents and was led by the Authority's Outreach and Education Manager Bill Wood and Three Peaks Project Manager Steve Hastie.

Bill said: "The outing made up part of the schools' curriculum projects about expeditions and we think it's an important part of appreciating and accessing the local environment on their door step.

"We hope it was a great day out for them all."

Steve, who is also the Ribblesdale Area Ranger, presented aluminium Three Peaks: Ingleborough medals to the children to celebrate their achievement.

He will also be visiting the schools to tell the children more about the Three Peaks Project, which aims to try to protect and conserve the area. Read more about it on the centre pages.



The new climate change section of our website considers the impact of a changing climate on our environment, looks at what we are doing to mitigate and adapt to its effects in the National Park, and how we can all take action - even in small ways - to combat it.

Visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/climatechange** to find out more.

## In this edition


**Local people for local wildlife - P3**

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**Save our precious peatlands - P5**




# Keeping your feet dry

The National Park Authority manages over 2,000km of rights of way on behalf of North Yorkshire and Cumbria County Councils. This includes maintaining 14,000 pieces of furniture, such as the National Park's 800 bridges.

As part of our role we help farmers and landowners look after 3,000 stiles and 4,000 gates which they have a legal responsibility to keep in good order.

Some date back centuries and are heritage features in their own right, as well as providing good access to the 1,762 square kilometres of the National Park. Our rangers and volunteers work hard to keep them in a good state of repair, maintaining the vast majority themselves, free of charge.

**Footpath facelift**

Two footpaths that will lead to a new development in Sedbergh were given a facelift last year.

Developers aim to build a Spar shop and doctors' surgery on the site of the disused Sedbergh Auction Market and provided £20,000 to improve the paths as part of a planning agreement.

The work was carried out by local contractors and National Park Authority rangers.

On the Main Road to Howgill Lane path - which had deteriorated and was proving difficult to walk on - a new aggregate path surface, steps, handrails and gateways were constructed.

The footpath from Loftus Hill to March Hill, known as Church Walk, was resurfaced in two areas in Tarmac and aggregate, and a section of railings refurbished.

**Bridgework**

Heavy rain last year virtually demolished one support of the bridge which takes the Langthwaite-Reeth footpath across Slei Gill in Arkengarthdale

It was left in such a dangerous state we had to close the path either side, but it has now been rebuilt and is being used by walkers once again.



Members of the Otley & Yorkshire Dales branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association constructed the arched bridge over Eller Beck at Ballowfield in 2010 (pictured).

The bridge is on a well-walked footpath through an area rich in wildflowers and grasses in a prominent position alongside the Askrigg-Carperby road.

The Wensleydale branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England funded the project at a cost of £2,500.

Until the bridge was built, the beck was crossed on a clapper bridge - a series of stones in the water with slabs across the top - but it often became submerged during heavy rain, making it dangerous to use and causing river water to back up and flood the nearby car park.

Built using reclaimed sandstone and newly-quarried Wensleydale limestone, the new bridge is an excellent showcasing of the traditional skill of dry stone walling being used for a long-standing practical purpose.

The work was filmed by Shiver Productions for the new ITV series *The Dales*, which will be screened this year.

# 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
- 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 Dale 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...

Open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

- Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3EL
- Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5LB

### telephone...

0300 456 0030

### email...

info@yorkshiredales.org.uk

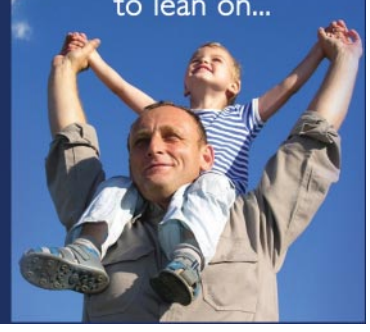
### or visit

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.

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Call us on **01756 701005** for further information
Charity No. 01092511

# Housing plan progresses

Public consultation on the draft Housing Development Plan - the National Park Authority's newest review of planning policy - drew a good response last summer with 690 comments received.

Many were objections to sites proposed for affordable housing and we have now made changes to the Plan, notably by deleting sites in Bainbridge, Embsay, Grassington, Hebden, Long Preston, Kettlewell, Reeth and Threshfield. Some new sites have, however, been added following the consultation.

A final version of the Plan will be published in March, marking the end of the consultation process and the beginning of submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Formal public representations will be invited but passed on to an independent Planning Inspector who will hold an 'Examination in Public' to determine whether the Plan is fit for purpose or not.

If it is, the Plan will be adopted and implemented.



Affordable housing in Bainbridge

For further details, please visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/hdp**

For property requirements in the National Park or further afield, contact
Dacre, Son & Hartley
www.dacres.co.uk
Settle: (01729) 823921
Skipton: (01756) 701010
Pateley Bridge: (01423) 711010
• Chartered Surveyors • Land & Estate Agents • Auctioneers •
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# Foreword

We are sure it won't have escaped your notice that there are big cuts in local services taking place at the moment.

We are still not certain whether the public generally appreciate the fact that the planned cuts are not just a one-off. In fact, services will have to be cut even more next year, and the year after, and again the year after that.

The National Park Authority is not immune to these cuts. We are expecting our budget to fall by almost £2 million (31%) by 2014/15. As you can imagine, this will be extremely challenging.

Of course, what matters is the impact that these cuts will have on the services we provide, and on the National Park and its communities.

At the time of going to press, the Authority is carrying out a public consultation on its budget plans for the next four years. The choices are looking pretty stark. The levels of savings needed are not going to be made by using less paper clips or buying a few less pens. The Authority already has an enviable record of cutting costs in what are loosely called its `back office' services. So, the cuts we need to make now will have to come mostly from `front line' services.

That is likely to mean reductions in many of those we currently provide and the scrapping of a number of others.

These cuts will hurt, and all will be unpopular with someone. In making its final decisions, the Authority will seek to minimise the overall impact on the National Park, its communities and the millions of people that visit it



David Butterworth (left) and Carl Lis

Of course, there is no point whingeing about it; the National Park Authority is not the only body facing such cuts, and life must go on.

Although it is disappointing to be facing cuts of this severity - and the consequent reductions in the work that we do and the money and support we provide to local people - we are determined that the Authority will continue to do its very best for the National Park, those who live here and those who come to enjoy this wonderful place.

Carl Lis
Chairman

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

# Renewable energy guide coming soon

New guidance for people wanting to install renewable energy equipment in the National Park will be published this spring.

The 'Guide to Development for Sustainable Energy Production in the Yorkshire Dales National Park' is intended to be a useful reference document for people interested in sustainable energy production, helping them decide if their idea is the best one for them and for this sensitive environment.

It will offer help and encouragement to people wanting to improve the sustainability of existing properties or carry out new development as sustainably as possible, and for those wanting to produce sustainable energy - both for profit (including through farm diversification) or for their own use.

The document outlines the Authority's views on the use of various renewable technologies in the National Park and contains details of options from solar panels to biomass boilers.

Signposts to websites and support organisations who may be able to help further are also included.

The draft version of the guide can be viewed at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainableenergyproduction



Dales Bike Centre in Swaledale uses renewable technologies in its design

# Local people for local wildlife

**by Mark Hewitt, Wildlife Conservation Officer**



Chris Darling of Conservation: Scalegill carries out woodland thinning

There is amazingly diverse wildlife around us in the National Park - and we will soon be seeing it in all its spring glory.

Having made it through the winter, the plants and animals - and ourselves! - seem to swell with life and enthusiasm as the days lengthen and warm.

And if you start to wonder, as buds begin to open in the sun, whether you can do something to help the wildlife in your area, then maybe we can help.

The Parish Wildlife Project is a community-based scheme to support residents in developing their own biodiversity projects throughout the National Park.

If you have the land but perhaps not the confidence or equipment to tackle a project, or alternatively are keen to get involved in conservation work but don't have a site of your own, maybe we can help.

We can offer specialist advice, ideas and help in developing and running activities, as well as putting people and projects in touch with each other.

The Project operates a small grant fund to enable people to bring schemes to fruition and maintain them long term.

Last year, for example, we helped get two successful projects in Malhamdale underway. The many activities included planting hedges, creating orchards, building nest boxes and managing habitats for bumblebees.

Our aim is to see long term, sustainable schemes managed by local people for local wildlife. We want them to be your projects, allowing you to contribute to the biodiversity of the place where you live and work.

To explore your ideas further, please contact Mark on 01756 751627 or mark.hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk

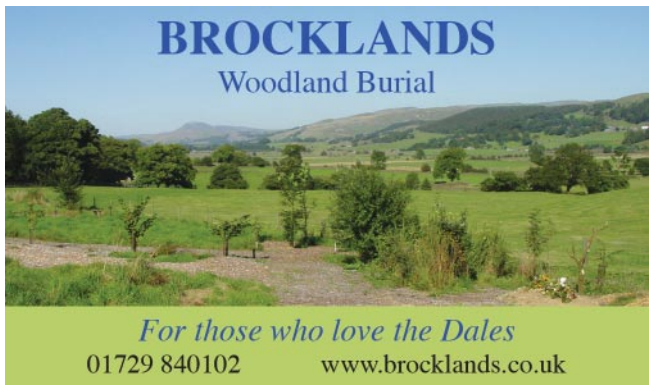


A newly planted native wildlife hedge at Eshton Grange










# Milestone for Friends of the Three Peaks

The Friends of the Three Peaks - set up to help protect the iconic mountains of Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough - has now topped 250 individual and 70 corporate members.

The organisation is the latest phase in a three-year project to conserve an area which, in 1986, was judged to have the most severely eroded footpath network in the UK.

Three Peaks Project Manager Steve Hastie said: "The area needs extra help because of its enormous popularity. When you think that 250,000 people walk in the area each year, you realise the scale of work needed to keep the path network in top condition."

The Friends provides a way for individuals or organisations who love the area to put something back and commit to longer-term support, with annual donations ring-fenced for work around the Three Peaks area.



A Friends of the Three Peaks walk on Ingleborough last year

In November, The Traddock in Austwick kindly hosted a free-of-charge event for 50 business people to learn about the project and how they could benefit from corporate membership.

"Our business and charity supporters are key to telling the story of the Three Peaks to their customers and clients and they came up with some very innovative ideas to promote the project through their individual organisations" said Steve.

The Friends has an annual membership fee of £10. Subscribers receive regular newsletters, and are able to go on Friends walks and become involved in practical path maintenance work.

If you would like to become a Friend, log on to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/threepeaks**. Return your completed form to Friends of the Three Peaks c/o Josie Simpson, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5LB, along with a cheque made payable to 'Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority' and marked on the reverse 'Friends of the Three Peaks'.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Hastie on 01729 825242 or email threepeaksproject@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

# 2011 CENSUS

## The 2011 Census - have you received your questionnaire?

This is a major public event and will be the biggest in the UK this side of the royal wedding in April and the 2012 Olympics. Many of the services we take for granted every day depend on it. That is why we all have to play our part in making it successful.

Government, local authorities, healthcare, education, commercial business and professional organisations need to understand the make-up of the population so that they can plan services that reflect the needs of local communities and the nation as a whole.

## Isn't the census simply a matter of filling in a questionnaire?

That is exactly how we hope you will feel about it.



Behind that simple idea, is a vast and complex operation, underlined by strict legislative and quality assurance procedures. The planning of this Census started right after the last one, in 2001.

The 2011 Census will be the most automated, accessible and promoted Census ever.

## Would you prefer to complete your Census online?

Completing the Census online is straightforward, convenient and secure. You may find it quicker than doing it on paper.

In March you will get a census questionnaire in the post. On the front will be your personal Internet access code which you will need to sign in and complete your online Census questionnaire. This will act like a password and you will need to use it every time you access your online questionnaire.

Simply go to www.census.gov.uk and follow the on-screen instructions. Remember that the information you give will need to be about the people living or staying in your household on the Census Day which is 27 March 2011.

It should take about ten minutes for each person to complete the census online, plus another ten minutes or so for the Household and Visitor questions. Should you need to take a break, you will be able to save what you've done so far and come back to finish it later.

## Before you start.

It's a good idea to read through the paper questionnaire first, in case you need to check any details, such as a post code for home or for where you work. If you're unsure about how to answer any of the questions, simply browse the online help pages.

## What if you get stuck?

The questions are straightforward with plenty of prompts along the way. Everything will be there, right in front of you. The 2011 Census website meets current accessibility standards. There will be extra help available to make sure as many people as possible are able to complete their questionnaire independently.

## Is it secure?

Yes it is. Personal Census information is never shared with any other government department, nationally, regionally, or locally. The information collected is kept confidential by ONS and protected by law.

Help tomorrow take shape

# Easy steps

Climbers and walkers winding their way up the steep slopes of Ingleborough will now find the trek a little easier thanks to a grant from the British Mountaineering Council.

The National Park Authority and the Council's Access and Conservation Trust teamed up to carry out repairs to the steep stone steps at High Lot on the path up to the summit from Chapel-le-Dale.

The slope is very steep and the path gets tremendous levels of use. This combination resulted in the steps slumping over, meaning a section was becoming difficult to use.

The path is within the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, managed by Natural England, so it is important to provide a good walking surface and therefore protect surrounding habitats.

# The Three Peaks need your vote!

The Three Peaks Project is one of four UK projects that have been shortlisted in an exciting competition to win a vital €30,000 funding boost from the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA).

The winner will be decided by a public online vote - just one click is all it takes to support the bid to help maintain this iconic route, and really make a difference. Go to **www.lfto.com/conservation** and vote for the 'Yorkshire Three Peaks Route'. Voting is only open until 23 March, so don't delay - and please tell your family and friends!

Local charity the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust made the funding bid on behalf of the Three Peaks Project to create a drier route between Pen-y-ghent and Birkwith and to repair the old one. The existing much tramped path is on a bog and the plan is to divert to part of the Pennine Way, requiring just 2km rather than 4km of footpath to be engineered.

Founded in 2006, the EOCA is an initiative from the European outdoor industry with the objective of protecting wild areas. Applicants for grant-aid must be referred to the Association by an existing member of a charitable or non-profit making organisation.

# Yorkshire peatlands: a landscape under threat





Sphagnum moss (Tessa Levens)

Blocked moorland 'grips' or drainage channels (on the left) above Grimwith Reservoir (Tessa Levens)

**By Dr Tim Thom, Yorkshire Peat Partnership Project Officer**

The changing seasons in Dales moorland create a range of colours that would grace any artist's palette.

A stunning display of cottongrass flowers in the spring, with a background of subtle greens and golds from grasses, sedges and rushes, gives way to blazing purple heather in late summer, through to reds, russets and browns in winter.

A closer look reveals the more unusual and easily overlooked red, gold and green of vegetation growing in wet heath and blanket bog - like sphagnum mosses, cranberry, crowberry, cloudberry, sundews and bog asphodel.

These upland wet heaths and bogs lie on top of a deep blanket of peat, and are some of the UK's most valuable habitats - not only for the unique species they support but for cultural, historic and economic reasons, too.

And peat is also one of the greatest weapons that we have in the arsenal needed to combat climate change.

UK peatlands are in fact the largest so-called 'carbon sinks' in the country. Healthy peat is a major absorber of carbon - hence its historical use as fuel - locking it away rather than sending it into the atmosphere, a process that may contribute to climate change.



Eroded gullies on Stags Fell above Sedbusk (Ceri Katz)

Unfortunately, the beautiful Dales landscape is marred by large brown scars and deep gashes from patches of bare peat and eroding gullies. These are caused mainly by the combined human activities of moorland drainage, inappropriate grazing and accidental wildfires. This has left them to dry out and strip the surface vegetation, exposing the peat to wind, frost, rain and drought.

Erosion gradually wears the peatland away and sends its stores of carbon back into the atmosphere.

## Yorkshire Peat Partnership

Thankfully, the importance of peat is now recognised and restoration and conservation is being undertaken throughout the UK.

The Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) - funded and led by staff from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, National Trust, Environment Agency and North York Moors National Park Authority - has been formed to work with moorland owners to reverse the damage done so far.

Over the next three to five years, funds from the Government's Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme in the Yorkshire Dales, Nidderdale, South Pennines and North York Moors will be used to restore around 34,000 hectares by:

- blocking over 3,000km of the estimated 5,000km of drainage ditches using a combination of machine-built peat dams and hand-built timber dams.
- restoring nearly 1,500km of eroding gullies using machines to reprofile their sides and hand-built timber dams to trap eroding peat.
- returning vegetation cover to nearly 190ha of bare peat using moss-rich cut heather brash.

By April 2011 the YPP will have already blocked 225km of grips, restored 39km of eroding gullies, and begun the process of re-establishing vegetation on 17ha.

## What can you do to help?

The YPP shows how local organisations can do their bit to conserve the global peatland resource. But peatlands around the world are still under huge pressure, and in some areas of the UK, they are still being ripped up for horticultural use.

This is unsustainable and with widely available good alternatives there is no longer any excuse for using peat in garden compost.

Please do your bit to help us protect our precious peatlands by always using peat-free compost and only buying plants that are not grown in peat.






# Saddle up for the new Pennine Bridleway

The Yorkshire Dales National Park section of the Pennine Bridleway - the UK's newest National Trail and the first purpose-built route designed specifically for horseriders, mountain bikers and walkers - is getting close to opening.

The finished route will run for 200 miles from Derbyshire to Cumbria, and the 52 miles which cross the National Park are nearly complete.

The trail - which is on public rights of way and minor roads so is completely free to use - weaves via Long Preston, Settle, Malham Moor, Feizor, Austwick, Selside, Newby Head, and the Moorcock Inn, leaving the National Park near Mallerstang in Cumbria.

For the last eight years, with 100% funding from Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency), a huge amount of work has been carried out to link and improve existing public rights of way as well as to create brand new ones with the agreement of landowners.

Care has been taken to select the best route through the Dales from a safety, wildlife, landscape and local community point of view.

The surface is a combination of natural limestone grassland (where it can sustain use as a National Trail) and new 'grass gravel' tracks over peaty areas. The materials - such as native grass seed, and stone walls rather than fences where appropriate - should ensure that these new 'engineered' sections blend well into the landscape over time.

A good example is the new walled lane which has been created near Stainforth parallel to the Settle-Carlisle railway line. This part of the route can be accessed from the National Park car park and picnic area at Stainforth where there is parking for horse boxes. From here the popular 16km-long Settle Loop can be followed or users can head westwards towards Austwick and the stunning limestone scenery of Crummackdale.

A massive amount of work has led to the creation of a number of other new rights of way sections including:



Bridge created as part of the new bridleway at Far Moor

- The new 2.8km Selside link at Far Moor - there is still an access track to landscape and the legal agreement with Network Rail to be finalised before it is fully open.
- A new 3.8km bridleway from the Cam High Road at Cold Keld Gate to Newby Head on the Ingleton to Hawes road. This is fully open.
- Near Garsdale station, a 1.1km section of new bridleway goes under Dandry Mire viaduct to reach the Moorcock Inn. Again a legal agreement with Network Rail is being finalised before this section is fully open.
- From the Moorcock Inn, there is also a1.8km new bridleway section which links to the High Way byway at Johnston Gill now fully open.

It has been a busy time for the Pennine Bridleway team, putting the final missing links onto the route. Nearly all the physical works are complete - including the creation of over 10km of brand new fit-for-purpose bridleway, a mammoth undertaking.

Just the legal agreements with Network Rail, plus the final section through Long Preston before the route leaves the National Park, remain to be finalised.

Further information - including where to stay and horse and bike liveries en route - is available from **www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway**

# Parish council nominations invited

Are you interested in becoming a Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority?

Four of the 22 seats on the board are for a parish council representative and this summer one of these seats will become vacant.

Whenever a term of appointment ends, parish councils and parish 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.

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.

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

This year there will be a vacancy for a Member from the Wensleydale and Swaledale parts of the National Park.

For a full list of the parishes concerned go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members**, or phone Richard Parkin on 0300 456 0030 to find out more.



*Andrew Colley (pictured) joined the National Park Authority as a Member in June 2008. He has lived in Grassington since 1989 and been a parish councillor for three years.*

*In the latter part of his working life, Andrew ran the four-wheel drive auction mart in Skipton. He and his wife have run a part time B&B since moving to the village and for many years kept rare breed sheep.*

My term of office began with an induction by the Chief Executive, including a background in National Park purposes. It is Members' duty to ensure that the Authority fulfils these purposes.

Although my first meeting was daunting, I was given a lot of support from the Parish and District Council Members and quickly formed friendships and associations with the Secretary of State appointees.

There is a large amount of work involved. Apart from normal Authority tasks you are expected to sit on at least one other committee. It's advisable to choose something which takes your interest because it can become involved. I chose Finance and Resources and also sit on the Local Access Forum.

Member Champions are involved with the different departments and work closely with officers. I was invited to be Member Champion for the Natural Environment and being a fisherman and countryside lover I jumped at the chance. This introduced me to projects like the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (read more on page 4) and the reintroduction of dormice to the Dales. I have been out with officers looking at the work the Authority supports, including the Road Verges Project Officer who helps communities manage their local verges for plants and wildlife.

I have a meeting every month and many papers to read, but it is extremely fulfilling work. I feel I am giving something back and helping to keep our countryside - and the National Park in particular - the place it is.

# Clearing the clutter of road signs

**By Andy Ryland, Transport and Visitor Management Officer**

Dales roads are special. As they meander along valleys bordered by dry stone walls, hedgerows and flower-rich verges they add to our sense of this wonderful place.

The view from a motor vehicle is how many people first see the National Park so how our roads look is intrinsic to their experience.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England has long been concerned with rural road signs and an audit in the National Park a couple of years ago found the number of A and B roads had grown and were often confusing: they directed traffic to inappropriate routes, were in poor condition and 'in many cases' were oversized.

We are now working with county and parish councils to see where routes can be de-cluttered.

We are finding that some signs can be removed completely, others are unnecessarily illuminated and that several can be mounted on walls, doing away with the need for poles.

Property owners have been supportive, giving permission for signs to be fixed to their buildings for the wider benefit of the local area.

In the National Park there are also some much older road signs, such as the cast metal finger posts. Many are cherished by the local community and, with the help of local craftsmen and our Dales Volunteers, they are being returned to mint condition so they can continue to direct residents and visitors alike who travel round our beautiful National Park every year.






# New community initiative paves the way

A pilot project in Dent is looking at how local communities might help us achieve National Park Authority statutory purposes - as well as how we could help deliver the community's aims and aspirations, too.

As a National Park Authority we have always worked hard to involve communities in our decision-making, as well as on the ground with things like practical conservation work and village interpretation panels.

The new Dent Community Initiative has formalised this approach. It began as an 18-month pilot last year with officers regularly meeting members of the parish council and local community to discuss projects we could work on together.

It has generated enthusiasm at the way the initiative could allow both bodies to work towards common goals in areas such as climate change, conservation and sustainable tourism.

Dent Parish Council Chair Jock Cairns said: "Dent is a very active community already and contains a number of innovative organisations and individuals but we also recognise we can't do everything on our own… we are pleased Dent has been chosen for this pilot."

Chief Executive David Butterworth said: "The National Park Authority's relationship with our local communities is one that is at the core of much of our work.

"There is a widespread recognition, that the Authority alone cannot successfully achieve its purposes and objectives."

Dent was chosen, as, like most parishes, the Authority is already actively involved in projects there but also recognised that there are still problems in the relationship between parts of the community and the organisation. These surfaced within Dent's own Parish Plan which showed the need for a closer and better working relationship between the two parties.

So far, officers have carried out a desk-based exercise, taking the National Park Management Plan as a guide in identifying those objectives that are, and could be delivered, in the Dent area.

Local representatives have also picked out community objectives and aspirations that relate to the work of the National Park Authority, or where we could use our influence to assist in delivering the local community's own aspirations, such as help with marketing events.

This has resulted in an agreed plan of actions and targets for us to seek to achieve together.


**30 Apr to 1 May** — *Wainwright, Whernside & Watercolours*
Dentdale walking festival & open studio weekend. Over 20 guided walks, open studio & workshops with local artists, meditation & live entertainment.

**24-26 June** — DENTDALE MUSIC & BEER FESTIVAL
A free event staged by the local community with over 25 real ales and 25 artists on 2 stages with home cooked food.

**27-28 Aug Bank Hol.** — DENTDALE SHOW
A family weekend of free fun, including fell race, sheep show, stage entertainment, craft tents, competitions, real ale & home cooked food.

**24 Sept.** — WHERNSIDE FELL RACE - (12 miles)
Starts in the centre of Dent, this popular fell race attracts over 100 runners and certainly takes you up hill and down dale.

www.discoverdentdale.co.uk


# Museum visits go virtual

Museums traditionally explore the past, but the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes has fast forwarded to the future thanks to the introduction of super-modern learning techniques.

Working with the Yorkshire and Humber Grid for Learning (YHGL), the Museum - which is owned by the National Park Authority - has been piloting the use of Sony Play Station Portable 2 (PSP2) machines, with local primary school children creating their own unique and fun educational experience.

When walking around the Museum, the PSP2's camera is used to scan barcodes placed near objects which are linked to information that then automatically appears onscreen.

This means that film and sound, as well as pictures and photos, can be used to reveal more of the stories behind the artefacts.

Museum Manager Fiona Rosher explains: "The seven to eleven year olds from Hawes Primary School have been creating their own fantastic content for the PSP2s.

"They researched objects and then created stories, drawings and films about their favourite thing at the Museum, as well as their most treasured possession at home.

"The project has been a fabulous way of introducing them to the Museum, giving them ownership in, and instilling an enthusiasm for, investigating their heritage."

The project is part of a pilot initiative, with 15 PSP2s currently on loan from YHGL, and Sony keeping a watchful eye on this pioneering work.



# Best Buildings

The winners of the Authority's Best Building Design Awards 2010 competition have been showcased in a new brochure.

Nominations were invited in six categories - innovation, energy sustainability, conversion, new building, extension or alteration, and restoration - and had to have been completed in the last seven years.

The competition aimed to demonstrate that the Authority is open to good new design and that we are particularly happy to encourage innovative approaches, provided the setting is respected.

The judges were impressed with the very high standard and decided that in some categories this should be reflected with more than one winner. Buildings entered for the award ranged from private houses and pubs to a domestic weaving studio and a barn.

The brochure complements the Authority's Design Guide (published in 2002) by illustrating how the principles it set out can be followed to produce interesting and exciting buildings which can breathe new life into the existing built environment of the National Park.



Hawes Junction Chapel - winner: extension



Craven Cruck Barn, Appletreewick - highly commended: new build

The brochure is available online at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/bbda**


**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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# Win £50!

**Complete the questionnaire below and return it to us by 29 April 2011. The first name drawn on 3 May 2011 will win £50 - it's as simple as that! The information provided will help us plan and improve future editions and ensure that you are getting the information you want and need.**

1. What prompted you to read this newspaper?

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2. Did you find this newspaper interesting and relevant to you?

❑ Yes ❑ No

Please tell us why.....

.....

.....

3. What future items would you like to read about relating to the work of the National Park Authority and its partners?

.....

.....

.....

4. Do you feel that the Authority lets people know what's going on? (Please circle)

< not at all greatly >

1 2 3 4 5 6

5. Do you feel it is important that you know about the Authority's work? (Please circle)

< not at all greatly >

1 2 3 4 5 6

Please tell us why.....

.....

.....

6. How would you prefer to find out about the National Park and the Authority's work?

(tick all that apply)

❑ An Authority newspaper:

- ❑ delivered through my door
- ❑ available from a leaflet stand
- ❑ viewable online

❑ Stories in local newspapers

❑ Online at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

❑ Online at various websites

❑ Emails from the Authority

❑ Word of mouth

❑ At a meeting, talk or event with an Authority employee

7. Overall, how satisfied were you with this publication? (please circle)

< not at all greatly >

1 2 3 4 5 6

8. Please indicate your age group

❑ 16-24 years ❑ 25-34 years

❑ 35-44 years ❑ 45-54 years

❑ 55-64 years ❑ 65-74 years

❑ 75+ years

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Please return to:

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

**Terms & Conditions**
No alternative prize is available. Entries to be received by 29 April 2011 for inclusion in the prize draw. The draw will take place on 3 May 2011. Entrants must be 18 or over. Please note that your name and address will not be used for any future mailings by us or any third party.

# Get going with Go Dales!

An action-packed scheme that introduces young people to outdoor adventure reached a major milestone last year.

Go Dales! filled its 1,000th place on one of its taster sessions designed for 14 to 25 year olds.

Launched in 2009, the project aims to show groups and individuals the huge range of activities they can take part in the beautiful landscape of the National Park and encourages them to care for this unique area. It also links participants with the relevant club so they can continue their chosen sport.

Activities include everything from climbing and kayaking to caving and sailing - and even the chance to work with rangers.

Go Dales! has been particularly keen to hear from groups of young women aged between 18 and 25 who live in the project area - Keighley, Bradford, Craven and Richmond - and funding is still available for activities between now and May.

Places are also up for grabs on the Go Dales! Adventure Day on 2 May at Low Mill Outdoor Centre in Askrigg. Participants will be able to try caving, canoeing, cycling, gorge walking and a high ropes course, all for free, from 9am to 4pm - pre-booking essential.

To find out more, visit **www.godales.org.uk** or **www.facebook.com/godales**




Enjoying Adventure Day 2010 at Thruscross Reservoir

# Water project cleans up

Semerwater - the largest natural lake in North Yorkshire - is one of the jewels in the National Park's crown.

It is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, noted for its fresh water ecology.

The lake and the River Bain, however, have higher than normal levels of nutrients and sediment, affecting aquatic wildlife and fish in particular

To address the poor water quality, a Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) project began in July 2009 with funding from Natural England. The National Park Authority was designated project manager and worked jointly with the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.

The project worked with farmers within the catchment to look at ways to reduce the nutrients from manures and fertilisers entering the water and built on the work started by the community-led Raydale Project.

The CSF has been able to show farmers new ways to apply manures and get the best out of their grassland in order to improve the farming system and water quality, as well as saving them money.

A number have committed to fencing off woodland and streams to stop farm animals trampling mud and nutrients into the water, planting trees on steep banks to stop soil erosion and reducing fertilizer applications to lakeside meadows. Some are restoring moorland to help stop peat being washed down into the lake. All this work has been funded by Natural England through their Environmental Stewardship Scheme.



Semerwater in Wensleydale

It is hoped that the Yorkshire Peat Partnership will also be able to help with future moorland restoration work (read more on page 5).

A very similar project has been going on within the River Lune catchment in the west of the National Park. Nearly £80,000 has been spent over 21 months supporting farmers within the two catchments.

Both projects end in March. However, Natural England is currently reviewing the projects and hopes that further advice and support will be available in the future to as many farmers as possible.

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