# Dales 2012

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

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

*Spring 2012*


# Yourkshire Dales National Park

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is an ever-changing, living landscape. In 2012, the National Park Authority will be working with a wide range of organisations and the public to set out what kind of place we'd like it to be in years to come.

This vision of the future - and the steps towards achieving it - will be detailed in a document called the National Park Management Plan.

Authority Chairman Carl Lis explains: "This is the single most important document for the National Park, as it is used to shape the policies and work of all the organisations operating within it.

"As such, it's crucial that a wide range of views and interests are represented in creating it. One of the ways we're doing this is through a public consultation called 'Your Yorkshire Dales National Park'.



Sedbergh and the Howgill Fells from Combe Scar

"We want to know what people really love about the National Park - what makes it special to residents and visitors. But we also want to know what people don't like or are worried about, and what changes they'd like to see. That might mean more or different employment opportunities, action to tackle flooding, getting salmon back into some of our rivers, or trying to reduce noise and light pollution.

"We've tried to make it is as easy as possible for as many people as possible to let us know what they think. Even if you can only spare five minutes, we'd really like to hear from you.

**Take part in the consultation and find out more**
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/your
0300 456 0030

"I'd encourage everyone to take part as the results will affect your future."

Comments can be sent in until 30 April via our online questionnaire at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/your** or in writing using special postcards which can be picked up from our offices and National Park Centres.

There is also a child-friendly questionnaire, as well as a photo competition in which entries submitted by the same date will form part of the consultation.

The different views collected through the consultation, together with up-to-date evidence about different aspects of the National Park, will be used to produce a new National Park Management Plan.

It is hoped that a full draft will be completed by September when we will again be inviting the public to share their views with us.

The Your Yorkshire Dales National Park consultation also marks the starting point for producing a new Local Plan. This is the main planning policy document for the National Park. Its purpose is to provide a clear local framework to guide and promote new development where it is needed while protecting the quality of the area's unique historic, natural and built environment.

The Local Plan will be based on the same shared vision as the National Park Management Plan and further research and consultations on its detailed content will be undertaken, starting late summer 2012.

Find out more about the current National Park Management Plan and what's been achieved at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/yorkshire_dales_national_park_management_plan**

# Easy going Yorkshire Dales

Public access is at the very heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

National Parks were founded sixty years ago on the principle that everyone should have some access to the clean air and spiritual refreshment the countryside provided, and we believe that all should be able to enjoy this beautiful landscape, no matter what their level of ability.



Barrier reduction has been carried out all over the National Park: on this footpath near Hawes by the River Ure, three ladder stiles have been replaced with gates

Reducing physical barriers - such as improving damaged or uneven paths and replacing difficult stiles with gates - can benefit everyone.

Whether you are a young family with pushchairs, have limited mobility or are a wheelchair user, or have a dog who just isn't that keen on stiles, we have been working hard to ensure that you can share in this special place, too.

A good example is the barrier reduction work carried out over the last few years by our Ranger Service and Dales Volunteers in the Cumbrian part of the National Park.

The aim was to improve access wherever possible, removing any obstacle that would make difficult, impede or otherwise deter use of the route, but carrying out any changes carefully and sensitively to maintain character.

This type of work has to be done in close negotiation with the landowner. All gates and stiles are their ownership and responsibility and their needs must be carefully considered, too, as the boundary crossing has to remain livestock proof.

Walls, fences and hedges can be more secure with a stile set within them, but many landowners have agreed to gates, so it is essential that we help them by ensuring they are closed to avoid sheep and cattle escaping or becoming mixed with neighbours' livestock.

Cumbria Area Ranger Paul Wilkinson has put together two great trails packed with interest on improved routes around Sedbergh.

Find them on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/accessibletrails**

# Planting the trees of change

New woodlands provide wildlife habitats, shelter for stock and make it easier to manage land.



The Trees and Woodlands Team is putting a call out to landowners interested in planting trees as substantial grants are available - sometimes up to 100% of the cost.

We can offer help and advice about what tree goes where and do the majority of the paper work, as well as organise people to plant.

In the last few years we have mapped a Forest Habitat Network which shows where the densest areas of woodland are and where new woodland creation is most likely to form links between them.

The aim is to mitigate against the long-term effect of climate change by creating a robust network of woodland 'corridors' joined to each other and to other habitats like grassland and meadows. This will provide a natural way for wildlife to move around in the future to find better conditions.

Since the Authority launched its Dales Woodland Strategy in 1995, we have helped landowners plant over 920 hectares of native woodland trees.

If you would like to plant a woodland - or just want to have a chat about what is involved - please contact Geoff Garrett, Senior Trees and Woodlands Officer, on 01756 751600 or trees@yorkshiredales.org.uk

# In this edition


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# A warm welcome to the spring edition of 'Dales'

Since the last edition, the National Park Authority has been moving on from its major restructuring which came as a result of financial cutbacks.

That means concentrating our efforts back on those things that really are important to us - the conservation and enhancement of the National Park, ensuring it is a welcoming and enjoyable place to visit, and working with our partners to promote the sustainability of our communities. This edition highlights some of that work.

Of course, the current economic climate remains an extremely difficult one. We know that local businesses are feeling the pinch and that local services are being squeezed but, frankly, there is no point in sitting around feeling sorry for ourselves.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park remains a source of inspiration for what it can offer in terms of both conservation and recreation.

Importantly, it also offers many opportunities to support and promote the economy of the area. In the past year we have met many people working really hard to exploit those opportunities; people trying to make a real difference to their communities and their futures.

We need to find and develop further opportunities to continue this work whilst recognising that, at the end of the day, we are all simply tenants of this wonderful landscape. We have the privilege, for a relatively short time, in ensuring we leave a worthy legacy for the generations to come.



David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Carl Lis
Chairman

# You said, we did!

In the last edition of Dales we asked you what you thought of our website - **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk** - with a view to improving the pages of interest to National Park residents and businesses.

We found out that the website is really important to you, with 42.9% accessing services and information on it before any other method and 63.2% of you looking at it at least once a month.

As a result of more specific feedback through the survey, in 2012 we hope to add more walking routes, improve the information we provide about dales, towns and villages, add more links to community websites, and promote businesses that supply and use local produce.

If you have any further suggestions, please email us at yourthoughts@yorkshiredales.org.uk

# New consultation begins on National Park housing plan

*With the latest round of public consultation underway on a plan which aims to increase the amount of affordable housing in the National Park, Head of Sustainable Development Peter Stockton explains what happens next.*



Authority Members voted to accept a number of changes to the Housing Development Plan following its examination in public by planning inspector David Vickery in January.

It's pleasing to see that, after five years of hard work, we are moving to the last stages of a sound plan that will achieve most of our objectives for new housing.

Members expressed "strong disappointment" at the proposed rejection of four sites that would have provided 10 new homes for local people in Aysgarth, Low Row, Muker and Thornton Rust, but at this stage the final decision rests with the Inspector. The Authority will be making representations asking him to reconsider.

Originally, the plan identified 34 sites for development - ranging in size from two houses to 30 - potentially providing up to 246 new homes. Half would be affordable homes to rent or buy, probably through the involvement of a local housing association. The rest would be open market housing with a legal agreement restricting their occupancy to people who need to live or work in the National Park.

The public have until 10 April to comment on the changes to the plan that emerged from the public hearings, and these will be passed to the Inspector to finalise his report. We expect to publish that in May and take it to Members with a view, hopefully, to adopting and implementing it this summer.

The changes to the plan can be viewed at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/hdp-examination**, or in our Grassington and Bainbridge offices and local libraries.

Comments on the changes should be addressed to Claire Hodgson, Programme Officer, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3EL or emailed to claire.hodgson@yorkshiredales.org.uk by the 10 April deadline.

# National Park in running for green award

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has been shortlisted for a national award for its work in reducing its carbon footprint.

The Local Government Chronicle (LGC) - the 'national' local government newspaper - holds annual awards for local authorities covering 17 categories, from Innovation to Community Involvement. We have been shortlisted in the Low Carbon Council category along with six city and county councils - the first time for a national park authority.

Climate change will have the biggest single impact on the special qualities of the National Park in coming years and for that reason we have made carbon reduction an integral part of our day-to-day work.

Our overall objective was to reduce our $CO_2$ emissions by 25% by March 2013. We have introduced measures ranging from using low energy light bulbs and reducing staff mileage to supporting small-scale renewable energy developments and the Yorkshire Peat Partnership to restore 2,500 hectares of degraded peatland.

So far, carbon emissions from our buildings and vehicles have been cut by nearly half over the last five years. In 2005/6, 701 tonnes of $CO_2$ were produced, while in 2010/11 this had fallen to 385 tonnes. At the same time, we have cut our costs by nearly £60,000 a year.



Volunteers have played a significant part in this success.

Over 5,000 volunteer work days took place last year, but, by recruiting local volunteers and promoting car sharing, mileage had been reduced by 21% at March 2011.

And that's not to mention the practical work undertaken by Dales Volunteers, such as assisting in the planting of 80 hectares of new native woodland to sequester $CO_2$ from the atmosphere (above).

This January we gave a presentation to the LGC judging panel about our work and we will find out if we have won at a ceremony on 14 March at London's Grosvenor House Hotel.

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

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# 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 designed specifically for horseriders, mountain bikers and walkers - will open this June.

When finished, the full trail will run for 200 miles from Derbyshire to Cumbria, and the 52 miles which cross this National Park are nearly complete.



The route - which is on public rights of way and minor roads so is completely free to use - enters at Long Preston and weaves its way via Settle, Malham Moor, Feizor, Austwick, Selside, Newby Head and the Moorcock Inn, before exiting near Mallerstang in Cumbria.

A huge amount of work has been carried out over the last eight years to link and improve existing rights of way with the agreement of landowners, as well as to create eight miles of brand new bridleway - a mammoth undertaking.




The route of the new Pennine Bridleway through the National Park, which will be completed this summer

Care has been taken to select the best route from a safety, wildlife, landscape and local community point of view, as well as to incorporate interesting features such as old packhorse trails and droving routes.

Just the Network Rail legal agreements remain to be finalised for the three locations where the route crosses the Settle to Carlisle railway line, plus the final section where the route leaves the National Park south of the A65 at Long Preston, and then it will be time to saddle up!

Do you have a B&B or could you offer horse or bike livery to Pennine Bridleway visitors?

Natural England is looking for existing and new businesses which could provide accommodation, refreshments, stabling, luggage transport and more for a free listing on its National Trail website.

If you live on the route or close by, six information sheets can help answer all your questions - find them at www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway under 'About this Trail' choosing 'Management Information'.

The route is bringing considerable economic benefits to local areas with 36 new businesses already started up and 117 supported by the 130 miles currently open.



The timber Far Moor Bridge - which crosses the River Ribble near Selside and is part of a new link section on the Pennine Bridleway - is believed to be the longest of its kind in the world.

In recognition of its outstanding design and craftsmanship, it won the Judges Special Award at the British Construction Industry Awards 2011 and was also highly commended at the Wood Awards 2011.

### What are National Trails?

National Trails are long distance routes for walking, cycling and horse riding and there are 15 in England and Wales - 2,500 miles (4,000km) in length.

### How did National Trails come about?

The popularity of walking in the wild and beautiful parts of Britain and the desire to protect our most special landscapes from development after the Second World War led to the creation of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Long Distance Routes (now called National Trails in England and Wales). The first such route, the Pennine Way, opened right here in the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 1965.

In England, funding for National Trails is provided by the Government through Natural England.

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# Cash help for green ideas

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

The Sustainable Development Fund - managed on our behalf by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - supports new business ideas, community schemes and environmental projects to find sustainable ways of living and working, whilst enhancing and conserving the local culture, wildlife and landscape.

The fund has been running since 2002 and, to date, more than £1.7 million has been awarded to 170 projects.

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




An SDF grant helped joinery business Wonder of Wood Ltd in Stainforth to expand through the purchase of a machine that manufactures briquettes from waste sawdust and wood chip. The briquettes are sold locally for use in open fires and stoves.

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# Tourism is just good business

Tourism is clearly vital to the economy of the Yorkshire Dales, and the businesses which support it are a major source of employment.

The National Park Authority and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty look to support tourism businesses in a number of ways through our work as a holder of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

This includes setting up the Dales Tourism Business Network, spreading good practice through our promotion of 'Brilliant Businesses', and helping with marketing through the new Distinctly Dales project - you can find out more about all of these schemes on these pages.

We are always looking for new ways to help businesses involved in tourism in the National Park, particularly in areas such as reducing energy costs, sourcing local food and products, and improving their offer to customers, such as providing local information with a personal touch.

We can't run major advertising campaigns or produce glossy publications but we have a number of existing promotional tools at our disposal. Our website is visited by over a quarter of a million people annually, 200,000 copies of The Visitor newspaper are distributed nationally, we have a network of 10 car parks and toilets, and over 400,000 people come to our National Park Centres each year.

Any tourism business - whether accommodation, attraction, retailer or food producer - who wants to work with us to develop tourism in the Yorkshire Dales is welcome to join the free **Dales Tourism Business Network**.

It has an informal structure with a programme of meetings and opportunities to share ideas. You can dip in and out as you wish, so there really is no reason not to join.

The Network aims to increase collaboration between businesses, developing ways to encourage visitors to stay longer, spend more, spread their visits throughout the seasons and have a greater awareness of what makes the area special, as well as helping the businesses themselves boost their bottom line by adopting sustainable tourism practices.

It is coordinated by Susan Briggs, who runs a local tourism business, on behalf of the Authority and Nidderdale AONB - find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dtbn**




The Authority's annual newspaper for visitors to the National Park, The Visitor, features an accommodation listing for the first time this year - and we hope it will grow and grow.

Readers have long requested that the publication highlights accommodation in the area and are delighted it has become a one stop shop, providing them with all they need to know to plan their trip.

With its massive 200,000 circulation, it is an ideal opportunity for accommodation providers to advertise to visitors to this beautiful area, and could prove key - especially in the absence of the Yorkshire Dales Accommodation Guide which is no longer published.

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

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

# Brilliant Businesses

If you need inspiration as to how you might improve your business, or you're just interested in what others have achieved, read about some great examples here.

All have sustainability as a common theme - caring for the environment as well as providing a strong economic future for their business - and there are plenty of diverse ideas for saving money or enhancing your offer. Discover how sometimes small changes can make a big difference.

There are more Brilliant Businesses - which are all part of the Dales Tourism Business Network (see green box left) - showcased on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/brilliantbusinesses**

## Why farmer Chris is a rare breed

Some people might say that farmer Chris Wildman - rather like the Oxford, Sandy and Blacks pigs that he keeps on his 420 acres at Kirkby Malham - is a rare breed.

He butchers his own meat, sells it online, and is passionate about being green, from the packaging he uses to the construction methods for his latest building.

He also helped set up a website for Malhamdale and was named by Yorkshire Life magazine as its Local Food Producer of the Year in 2011.

Chris set up his online meat business, Paganum - Latin for 'rural tradition' - four years ago.

He sells beef from the Belted Galloways his neighbour grazes on his limestone pastures, as well as other cattle breeds and lamb from Yorkshire farmers.

"The way I see it", says Chris, "is that Yorkshire farmers have a fantastic product but they don't always appreciate how to market it. That's where Paganum can help."

Sustainability - with an entrepreneur's eye on its commercial benefits - is what Chris is all about. Orders are dispatched in boxes made from recycled cardboard that use sheep's wool as packaging - and he incentivises customers to send it back by offering £1 off their next order.

Chris is also following a green approach in constructing a butchery and curing rooms for bacon, gammon, not to mention his famous Yorkshire chorizo sausage.

The building has photovoltaic panels to provide power, uses earthwool insulation made from recycled bottles, and grey water collected from the roof will supply the toilet cisterns.

Keen to capitalise on new opportunities, Chris will also use the building to run courses in butchery, curing and charcuterie.

Contact Chris on 01729 830 727 or visit **www.paganum.co.uk**



## A bike centre full of wheely good ideas

From humble beginnings - a derelict stone barn a stone's throw away from Reeth - Stuart and Brenda Price have achieved an amazing amount since their decision to turn their passion for the outdoors, and biking in particular, into providing a dedicated cycling centre with accommodation in the National Park.

"Back in the early nineties I came to Swaledale for a weekend's mountain biking and I never went home", says Stu. First he bought a fleet of bikes and simply offered his guiding services to clients. When he met Brenda, who already managed an outdoor centre, a dream started to form.

Many years and much hard work later, they have a business to be proud of: bunk accommodation for fourteen in two and four bedded rooms; a great café serving homemade produce; a dedicated bike shop and workshop; a bike wash; secure bike storage and a drying room - all making the perfect base for both road cyclists and mountain bikers.




The centre is designed with low impact in mind. The building itself is heated by a ground source heating system, and the innovative heat exchange kitchen ventilation system helps to improve energy efficiency. The bike wash makes use of an advanced water recycling system and all the centre's waste is treated on site in a mini plant.

It's details like this that won them the 2010 Best Building Design Award for Energy Sustainability from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

It doesn't stop there. Stu and Brenda support the local economy by sourcing their ingredients for the café inside the National Park, with fruit, vegetables and cheese from Reeth Market, meat from Bainbridge and free range eggs from Wensleydale. All the cakes, soups, jams and pickles are hand made on site.

The self-catering facilities in their four star bunkbarn get little use as the couple also promote the local pubs and facilities in Reeth and Grinton.

Many of the centre's visitors arrive on bike, but equipment hire is available for those who don't own their own. Route maps printed on waterproof paper are on sale and staff are always willing to advise on the best trails to ride.

A small on site bike shop and resident mechanic completes the centre's offer.

Contact Stu or Brenda on 01748 884908 or visit **www.dalesbikecentre.co.uk**

# Building a way to stand out

When Graham Redhead went to a seminar in Grassington about building stronger businesses in the Yorkshire Dales, one key message made a deep impression on him.

It was the importance of finding innovative ways to differentiate your business from the competition.

Graham, who runs a self-catering business with his wife Pam, recalls that they talked it over and came up with a novel idea - to offer optional courses in drystone walling.

"It's such a distinctive and much-loved feature of the Dales that we thought guests staying at our two cottages in West Burton and Askrigg might enjoy it," he says.

"We knew that Tim Peacock, who lives in our village of Carperby, was a drystone waller so we approached him as it was a business opportunity for both of us".

Tim, who works with Stewart Hunter, a waller from Hardraw, said they would both be delighted to get involved as holidaymakers often stop when they are working, intrigued and fascinated by what they are doing. Pam said she would offer packed lunches, adding further value to this unusual business idea.

Graham, Pam, Tim and Stewart launched the course with three options - full day, half day and a few hours for a more relaxed introduction - in the late summer of 2011.

"We were pleased to discover that the first person to sign up for it, a hobby farmer and his wife from Shropshire, enjoyed it very much," says Graham.

Graham cannot claim to be an expert in walling but he does have relevant - if brief - experience. Earlier in 2011 he was involved in a community project to build a new football pavilion in Carperby.

You could even say it has given Graham and Pam the foundation for building a sustainable business which really does offer something different.

Contact Graham on 01969 663500 or visit **www.wensleydalecottages.co.uk**



# Why repeat visitors lay their heads at Layhead Cottages

Rosemary Hyslop is a quietly spoken woman, but what she has to say is well worth listening to.

A former farmer with her late husband Tim, she has almost 20 years' experience of running self-catering cottages at Layhead Farm and now has eight with 20 bedrooms.

Rosemary is also a strong voice in Farm Stay UK, a co-operative with around 1,000 members who provide quality-inspected, bed-and-breakfast and self-catering cottage accommodation throughout the UK. In 2010 she became its Vice Chairman. Given her experience - and her commitment to sharing her knowledge with others - it's no surprise that she is also a member of Welcome to Yorkshire's Advisory Board.



One of the many things she has learned is that visitors like local produce which is why Rosemary set up an armchair shopping service - The Trading Post.

Visitors are given a list of tempting, locally-sourced produce to choose from. Hand it to Rosemary by 8pm and the following morning, it's delivered to your door.

In this case, local really does mean local. There's jam made from the plum tree in Rosemary's garden, Yorkshire butter made at a creamery in Settle and meat from the Blue Pig Company three miles down the road at Long Preston.

For returning guests, it gets even better - they receive a delightful hamper. Whether this is the lure or not, repeat business at 62 per cent of bookings is very healthy.

Being green is important to Rosemary. There are polite but encouraging notices in each cottage urging guests to recycle. Again, she makes it easy for them, with bins for general waste, glass bottles and plastics. She has installed double glazing and is introducing low energy lightbulbs.

Rosemary has also devised three short walks around the farm and leaves information about them in the cottages.

In 2011 an average of over 30 weeks was booked in each of the eight cottages, not including short breaks which suggests Rosemary's green approach is the right one.

Contact Rosemary on 01729 840 234 or visit **www.layhead.co.uk**

# Distinctly Dales

The local legends, traditional food and special artefacts that make each of our villages and dales unique are being revealed in an exciting new project.

And Distinctly Dales aims to help tourism businesses develop new ways of attracting visitors based on this very local distinctiveness.

Using the special qualities of the National Park as a unique selling point, we want to provide the insider knowledge and individual experiences that tourists are increasingly looking for.

The project will work with local people and businesses to draw out those qualities and show how they can be used for more effective marketing.

The first stage pulled together information on cultural and heritage features, local stories, natural attractions and local products. A library of images, videos and anecdotes has been gathered and the project is now looking at how tourism businesses can use that information to reap business benefits, developing a toolkit for general use.

Stuart Parsons, Member Champion for Promoting Understanding, said: "Tourism is a vital part of our local economy and the National Park Authority is committed to supporting initiatives that assist its development.

"Welcome to Yorkshire does an excellent job of promoting the region, but it is now up to local businesses to ensure they capitalise on this. Distinctly Dales will be part of closing this gap between the regional and the local, and delivering real benefits for tourism businesses."

Anyone wanting to find out more about the Distinctly Dales project can visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainabletourism**, or contact local marketing consultant Susan Briggs who is coordinating the project on susan@tourismnetwork.co.uk

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

If you would like more information please:

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

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.

# Parish Council nominations invited

Are you interested in conservation issues, opportunities for recreation in the National Park, and the future well-being of the area?

Becoming a Board Member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority will take you right to the heart of the area's biggest challenges and 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 local residents, but for the nation.

Four of the twenty-two seats on the Board are for a parish council representative and this spring one of these seats will become vacant. We are looking for a Member to represent the parishes in the south-east (Craven) part of the National Park.

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

For a full list of parishes covered by this election go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members** or call Richard Parkin on 0300 456 0030 to find out more.



*From a farming family, Nick Thwaite (pictured) was born in Coniston Cold, near Skipton. Educated locally, he decided that the family farms there and in Long Preston were not for him and went into the transport industry. He is now a self-employed contractor, working in haulage, driving instruction and general maintenance.*

*Nick's hobbies include clay pigeon shooting and he is a qualified instructor and member of APSI (the clay pigeon shooting association). In his public life, he is a trustee of the Hartley Trust (Hartley School, Long Preston) and has been chairman of Long Preston Parish Council since 2008. He lives in Long Preston with his partner Clare.*

"I'd wondered about becoming a National Park Authority Member for some time. Growing up in this fantastic location I'd always been aware of the National Park and the Authority's work and I thought I might have something to contribute, particularly in ensuring that the local community voice was better heard.

"The Authority has just two purposes: the conservation and enhancement of the National Park and the promotion of the understanding and enjoyment of it to the public. These are important, but it is also important to ensure local views are listened to when discussing how best these purposes might be delivered.

"I have really enjoyed my time as a Member and I have been surprised at just how extensive the work is. It involves farming, woodland management, ecology, footpath maintenance, visitor facilities, tourist information centres and much more.

"As a local parish council member I feel that I have really had the opportunity to contribute to debates, not least on planning, and I have always felt my voice is respected and listened to.

"If you're interested in getting involved and contributing to the achievement of the National Park's purposes then serving on the Board is an excellent way to do it."

# What do you think of us and the actions we take?

*This is the burning question on Chief Executive David Butterworth's mind, and he is keen to get more people involved - particularly National Park residents - in the work undertaken by the Authority.*

The impact of what we do often reaches National Park residents first. There are 20,000 people living in the National Park but we only tend to hear from a small minority of them.

For people who work or have children to look after it can be very difficult to find the time to attend public meetings or get involved with their local parish council.

Using new technology makes it much easier for people to let us know what they think - at a time that's convenient for them.

What I'd like to do is to develop a regular dialogue with a much broader cross-section of local people - giving them the chance to tell us directly what they think about some of this issues affecting the National Park, and about how the National Park Authority can best help to look after this amazing place.

One way to share your views is to sign up to receive email alerts. When opportunities arise to give feedback or to shape our work you will be the first to know - we will email you with the details of how to participate and keep you informed of the results.

## Listen to me!

If you would like to sign-up to share your voice, go to **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/listen**

# When was the last time you visited a National Park Centre?



Our four centres at Malham, Aysgarth Falls, Grassington and Hawes are not just there for visitors. Knowledgeable staff can offer advice on footpaths (including restrictions and closures), travel, family and dog friendly days out, and accommodation - plus notice boards detail local events and services.

Each has a shop selling clothing, maps, books and gifts, including locally-made products, and Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre hosts a lovely café.

And the centres are in beautiful settings so you'll find plenty to do close by to make a real day of it when you call in.

Through partnership arrangements we also support the provision of visitor information in Sedbergh, Settle and Hudson House in Reeth, and the latter also offers a range of local council services.

For more information, visit our website **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/nationalparkcentres**

2012 is not only the Olympic year but the year of 'winning landscapes'.

If you are a professional sports person or high performing amateur living or training in the National Park, get in touch and help us celebrate the sporting value of national parks.

We are hoping to develop pages on our website that acknowledge the value of outdoor spaces for fitness and fun. We think profiles of sports people that love the Yorkshire Dales will inspire a new generation. Contact Kate Green on 01756 751617 or email kate.green@yorkshiredales.org.uk






# Making a splash in the Dales

Local hydropower schemes have been providing a model for energy production in the National Park.

The Dales has a history of harnessing water power for traditional industries, with many villages operated their own electricity schemes in the early 1900s, and electricity production has now returned to one such site at Linton Falls in Wharfedale (pictured below).

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



Other water power projects that became operational in 2011 include the community owned and run River Bain Hydro Project in Wensleydale and a micro scheme at Halton Gill in Littondale which is providing an alternative, long lasting source of income for an upland farm.

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

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

# It's all go at the Museum

*Two exciting new projects are underway at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes - celebrating Yorkshire food with tasting and making sessions, and exploring the Dales landscape and its people through the creation of an outdoor art trail. Meanwhile, Young Archaeologists' Club members are marking their sixth birthday this year.*

## Food, glorious Yorkshire food

Visitors are being given the chance to taste local food, understand how it was produced, and explore food traditions and related objects from the Museum collection as part of Yorkshire Dales food - a Celebration!

They will also be able to find out about ingredients from the wider world and their influence on the Dales food culture.

Museum Project Officer Jane Sammels said: "We want to inspire people with forgotten skills linked to growing, gathering, storing and cooking. We will show how we used to cook and how we cook now, and reconnect with local seasonal food suppliers and 'real cooking'."

Free drop-in and taste demonstrations this year include sourdough friendship cakes (5 April), cooking with wild garlic (18 May) and using elderflowers (12 June). There will also be 'making and baking' sessions covering everything from bread baking and butter making to using up leftovers and wild foraging.

"We hope people will have fun and spread the word about the great food available within the area, encouraging others to buy locally and in season," Jane said.

"And we are keen for local food suppliers to get involved, too, so please get in touch."

The project runs until September 2013 and hopefully beyond. If you are interested in taking part - whether as a local food business or if you have a family recipe to share - contact Jane on 01969 666210 or jane.sammells@yorkshiredales.org.uk

## Dales secrets revealed on new trail

An outdoor sculpture trail exploring the cultural, built and natural wonders of the Dales will open at the Museum site in time for the summer holidays.

Showcasing the work of Yorkshire craftspeople, the new attraction for all ages will reveal the 'Hidden Secrets' of the landscape and people of the area since prehistoric times.

It will also highlight the contemporary trades and businesses that link with those from the past.

Local, award winning writer Char March has been leading creative writing sessions with children from Hawes Primary school and residents and day centre visitors at Sycamore Hall in Bainbridge. The ideas and poems produced will be included in the artists' brief to ensure a thread links the sculptures.

Museum Manager Fiona Rosher said: "The new outdoor space, which is buggy and wheelchair friendly, gives the Museum the opportunity to increasingly act as a focus for artistic and creative activity, and for people to explore heritage in new ways through art."

"Char is a very experienced tutor, helping people make their words dance!"

The projects have been funded by Friends of the Dales Countryside Museum, the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund and LEADER.

Dales Countryside Museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm and is free for children - find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/DCM**

Aimed at 8 to 16 year olds and based at the Dales Countryside Museum, the Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club has been meeting monthly on Saturday mornings since 2006.

Supported by the Council for British Archaeology, the young enthusiasts have visited historic sites all over Yorkshire, including the Roman fort at Vindolanda and a Viking longhouse on the flanks of Ingleborough - they have even taken part in filming for Channel 4's Time Team.

A pike drill led by a Mediaeval soldier (pictured) was just one of the activities that took place to celebrate the club's fifth birthday last June. Membership was recently increased to 30 and two places are currently available - find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/yac**



## Getting social

*Online social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter have become an increasingly important tool for the National Park Authority in reaching both new and existing audiences. Communications Manager Kate Green explains why:*

The Yorkshire Dales is being mentioned on social networks by a wide range of people at least once every five minutes on any given day.

There's clearly a lot of online interest in the area and over the last few years we've established our own presence amongst these 'conversations' to help positively promote the National Park as a destination and as a protected area.

We now have over 10,000 followers across our official pages on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and Instagram.

We've found these sites to be a very effective and inexpensive way to reach out to interested parties across the world to tell them about the National Park, what's going on in it, and the unique and special experiences it offers.

The social networks also offer us a great opportunity to learn more about the National Park's audience. We love seeing people's photos, hearing about their adventures and getting feedback. We're keen to interact with local businesses and interest groups online, too.

There's a real hunger for news from the National Park and I'd encourage everyone to use the hashtag '#yorkshiredales' in their posts so together we can all shout really loudly about the area and encourage even more good conversation.

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





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.

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# Honour for National Park stalwart

Former Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority officer Rae Lonsdale has received an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for his voluntary service in North Yorkshire.



Rae received his award from the Queen in February and says the last few weeks have been "a bit unreal":

"My immediate thought when they told me was that things like this don't happen to people like me. It's just a shame that there are so many others volunteering in the Dales who only get local recognition."

Rae first joined the Authority in March 1975 as supervisor for Malham Information Centre and had been Volunteers Co-ordinator for twelve years when he took early retirement in 2011.

Before becoming a paid employee, Rae was in the National Park's Voluntary Warden Service from 1967.

A long-standing volunteer with the Cave Rescue Organisation based at Clapham, Rae was also on the Yorkshire Dales Duke of Edinburgh's Award Panel from 1976 to 1979, qualifying as an Accredited Assessor in 1996.

He raised the profile of the John Muir Trust in the Yorkshire Dales and has been instrumental in running its Award with the Authority's ranger service in conjunction with local schools, linking this to a Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Residential run every August.

"I want to use my active retirement to encourage and enable young people to appreciate what's special about the Dales" Rae said, "then to get stuck in and enjoy caring for them. Everyone should have the opportunity and the John Muir Award offers that opportunity."

Chief Executive David Butterworth said: "We are thrilled and delighted at the recognition of Rae's enormous contribution to so many different organisations but, obviously, particularly his work for so many years with the National Park Authority. It is recognition thoroughly deserved."

The John Muir Award encourages people to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. It's the main educational initiative of the John Muir Trust, the wild land conservation charity - find out more at **www.jmt.org**

# A decade of volunteering in the Dales

Members and friends of the John Muir Trust's Yorkshire Members' Group have celebrated the 10th anniversary of their conservation activities in the National Park.

Last year, the group revisited the first task they ever undertook - removing overgrown turf on a flagged path in Upper Wensleydale.

They were even led by the same National Park rangers - Matt Neale and Michael Briggs.

"The weather was good," said organiser John Page, "however, the passage of time has clearly had an effect and we struggled to finish the length of path that we cleared back in 2001, with the final field defeating us.

"Nevertheless, everyone had a great time and vowed to return in 2021 to do it all again."

The path has a long history, first appearing on the 1851 OS map. Originally built of locally-quarried flagstone almost a metre wide, it enabled people from Burtersett - the industrial centre of Wensleydale in the nineteenth century - to reach nearby Hawes.

The group organises at least two volunteer weekends each year and are always on the lookout for new volunteers. For details, contact John on 01904 425175 or john.page31@btinternet.com.



Then (left) and now: Trust volunteers revisit the same path in Burtersett ten years on.

## Boundary changes move forward

Plans to extend the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park are taking another step forward.

Following two public consultations, Natural England confirmed last September that it would be recommending extensions to the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Park boundaries to Defra.

Under the proposals the area covered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park would increase from 680 to 842 square miles. The area of the National Park within Cumbria would increase and it would also include a small part of Lancashire north of the A65.

In January, the Natural England Board submitted the relevant Variation Orders to the Secretary of State for consideration. These can be viewed at **www.naturalengland.org.uk/lakestodales**

Defra's formal period of consultation will finish on 16 March. Any boundary changes can only take effect once they have received confirmation from the Secretary of State. If any local authority - that is county or district council - affected by the proposal objects, there will need to be a public inquiry before she can decide whether to confirm the Orders.

## National Park hits the big - and small - screen

The people and the stunning landscape of the Yorkshire Dales National Park are being featured on our screens this year.

The second series of the ITV programme The Dales started on 27 February and will run for 12 weeks, taking a look at different aspects of rural life over another summer.

The National Park is also showcased the film 'Lad: A Yorkshire Story', which is about a National Park Ranger who mentors a teenager whose dad has died.

Producer Dan Hartley said: "I'm expecting to complete post-production by around May and intending to host the premiere in the Yorkshire Dales and then tour the film throughout the 15 British national parks."

Over the last 60 years, the National Park has played host to a string of film and TV production companies wanting to use the special qualities of the beautiful landscape as a backdrop, the most recent being Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Part 1), the ghost story The Woman in Black, and the latest version of Wuthering Heights.

And Authority trainees Josh Hull (23) and 22-year-old James Firth - who are undertaking a two-year internship through the Dales Countryside Trainee Scheme learning key countryside management skills - were filmed for BBC2's recent Britain's Heritage Heroes building a stone stile on Pen-y-ghent.

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