Dales 2015

YORKSHIRE DALES National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Spring 2015

A LONG GREEN TRAIL: Pennine Way under new stewardship on its 50th birthday

This year sees the 50th anniversary of one of the most famous long distance trails - and this month the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority takes over stewardship of its 268 mile length.

The Pennine Way runs from Edale in Derbyshire to Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. It passes through some of the most beautiful upland walking in England including three National Parks, the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, two National Nature Reserves and 20 Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Now the National Park Authority is taking on a major role in developing a partnership to manage the entire length of both the Pennine Way and the 205-mile Pennine Bridleway to help secure the future of these great trails.

Natural England - the current managers of the 15 national trails in England and Wales - has provided a £350,000 annual grant to bring together the individual organisations that have an interest along the two routes. The new partnership will be led by the National Park Authority and managed locally with support from Natural England. A new project officer has been appointed to oversee budgets, route maintenance and improvement works.

Chief Executive, David Butterworth, said: "The move represents a unique opportunity to bring together for the first time all 18 organisations which have rights of way over the Pennine Trails and currently share responsibility for maintenance and control.

"It is a big undertaking, but after a year of shadow-managing in partnership with local authorities, other national parks, charitable trusts and areas of outstanding natural beauty, we are confident we can not only manage this great national asset successfully, but enhance and improve it for everyone."

The Pennine Way route was the inspiration of walker and writer Tom Stephenson. Fascinated by tales of the Appalachian Way in America, he published an article in 1935 entitled 'Wanted: A Long Green Trail' in which he suggested a path running along the Pennines that would cross hills from south to north, taking in dramatic scenery, changing landscapes and the challenges presented by each.

It took another 30 years - by which time Stephenson had become secretary of the Ramblers' Association - but England's first national trail was officially opened here in the Yorkshire Dales National Park on 24 April 1965.

Once having a reputation for being one long peat bog - when Alfred Wainwright walked it for his 1968 pictorial guide the fact that it rained incessantly was much ruminated upon by the great writer - careful footpath improvement has been carried out since to maintain the route with waymarking, habitat regeneration and flagstones over the boggiest bits.



A fingerpost on the 268 mile Pennine Way points the way to Pen-y-ghent

Highlights in the Yorkshire Dales National Park include the 80 metre high limestone amphitheatre of Malham Cove, the iconic peak of Pen-y-ghent, the Roman road Cam High Road and the wilds of Great Shunner Fell, before the Trail leaves the National Park at Tan Hill, the highest pub in England.

Group plans big boost to Dales tourism

Tourism in the Yorkshire Dales is set for a boost this year following the creation of a new group.

Destination Dales is an advisory body of local businesses and key organisations that have come together to work collaboratively to guide the development of tourism in the area.

Many businesses and organisations have a big part to play in developing tourism in the Dales. Their dedication and hard work in many different ways is essential to the visitor economy of the area. Destination Dales aims to add value to rather than duplicate the work of others.

The Group - established by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority - will meet twice a year to share ideas and provide a forum for guidance and support based around product, promotion and people development.

The Group's Executive - the eight members and chair of which are mostly from the tourism industry - will meet more frequently and each adopt a champion role for specific activity. A simple tourism delivery plan, focused on business-to-business support, has been developed to steer the Group's work over the coming year.

The Destination Dales Group chair is Yorkshire businesswoman Judith Donovan (CBE), who is the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Member Champion for Promoting Understanding.

The Executive, supported by officers from the National Park Authority and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, will use their contacts and networks to ensure that the benefits tourism can bring to the area are optimised - at the same time safeguarding the special qualities of the Dales.

The Group hosted an initial business-to-business event on 25 February at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes when new ideas were revealed to encourage visitors to stay longer at times beyond the traditional tourist season and to help businesses promote what is special and distinctive in their area.

Sixty one people representing 50 different businesses took part, with over 95% saying they would attend a similar event in future.

The National Park Authority will provide the secretariat for the Group, and its tourism officers will be the first point of contact.

For more information, please call Kathryn Storey or Tracey Lambert on 01756 751650 or email tourism@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Destination Dales Group
Bringing Business to Business

Getting stuck in!



Our Young Rangers did a sterling day's work clearing drains on the Pennine Way near Ingleborough in February, under the watchful guidance of Pennine Way Ranger Colin Chick and countryside apprentice Arkady Bogg-Hargroves (pictured, centre).

Over the last year the young volunteers have contributed over 400 hours of their time to plant more than 200 trees and maintain over 1km of footpath. They have built and put up bird boxes at Cleatop Wood, helped re-lay iron rails and sleepers for wagons at Threshfield Quarry and taken part in an archaeological dig at Giggleswick.

The group was formed by the National Park Authority to encourage young people who have an interest in the outdoors by teaching them new skills.

They meet every month on the second Saturday to carry out practical conservation tasks and the group is open to anyone aged 11 to 16 who lives in the Settle area.

Contact Catherine Kemp, Learning & Engagement Officer, on 01756 751623 or catherine.kemp@yorkshiredales.org.uk for information.

In this edition

Dales dark skies project p2
Rural broadband success p3
Hats the way to do it p4
Monuments restored p5
Parish Member election p6
Family cycling at Malham Tarn p8

Dales sky at night

With extensive areas offering total tranquillity and freedom from light pollution, the National Park is a fantastic place to enjoy the sky at night.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan aims to maintain the area as somewhere a true sense of remoteness and solitude can be found and to implement a range of measures to enhance and promote its dark skies.

In addition, the new draft Local Plan requires new development not to have an adverse environmental impact on the darkness of the night sky and to incorporate measures to minimise light pollution.

The quality of our night sky is a wonderful asset for local businesses to promote as another reason for people to visit and stay in the area.

At a recent tourism event in Hawes (read more on page 1) Richard Darn - who has appeared on the BBC's Sky at Night and Stargazing Live programmes, helped launch the Kielder Observatory and sat on the working group that led to the designation of the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park - spoke inspirationally to local businesses about linking dark skies with tourism.

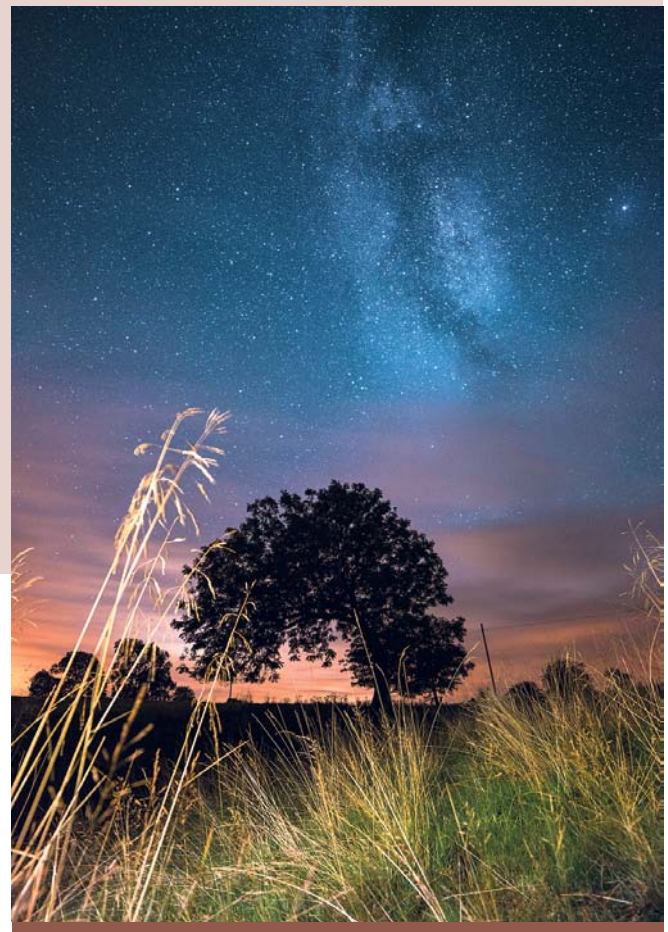
Part-funded by the National Park Authority, Richard is running a 'Star Tips' workshop for businesses in the area at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes on 7 May at 6.30pm. There are 30 places available at £10 per person.

We have also been building up a library of promotional dark sky images which we are making available to businesses to use without charge and copyright-free.

This year we have been asking residents to help us nominate high quality sites to view the stars across the National Park and working with landowners to agree suitable locations.

This will feed into a national network of best sites around the country - read more at **www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk/dark-sky-discovery-sites/map.html**

As well as being away from the worst of any light pollution, the criteria for a Dark Sky Discovery Site is that it provides good sightlines of the sky and has good public access, including firm ground for wheelchairs.



Contact our tourism officers on 01756 751650 or tourism@yorkshiredales.org.uk to find out more about the workshop or the images for business use.

Visitors expected to flock to peregrine viewpoint

Visitors to Malham Cove this summer will have an extra treat - the chance to watch two peregrine falcons in action.

A pair of the beautiful birds - the fastest animals on the planet - have built a nest on the cliff face and it is hoped they will produce young.

RSPB and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority officers and volunteers are again staffing a special, free viewing point where visitors to the Cove can watch the spectacular birds through high-powered telescopes.

It is open from Saturday to Wednesday between 10.30am and 4.30pm (weather permitting) until 2 August.

National Park Authority Wildlife Conservation Officer, Ian Court, said: "The birds have recorded speeds of more than 200 miles an hour, which makes them a fantastic crowd-puller for the village of Malham and they certainly help boost the local economy."



One of last summer's peregrine chicks taking flight at Malham Cove

Jon Carter, RSPB Face to Face Area Manager, said: "Last year the peregrines raised four chicks, so fingers crossed they will be successful again - providing us with another season of exciting activity to follow.

As in previous years, visitors are being asked to stay away from the nest site and the British Mountaineering Council has once again agreed to impose temporary, voluntary rock climbing restrictions around it. An area at the top of the cliff has also been sealed off and visitors are asked to follow any on-site signage.

Since it started in 2003, more than 200,000 people have visited the viewpoint.

As well as the peregrines, green and great spotted woodpeckers are frequent visitors along with swallows and little owls.

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

Volunteers at the viewpoint will be providing weekly updates on the Authority website **www.malhamperegrines.org.uk** and you can follow the birds on Twitter at **@malhamperegrine** and the RSPB's Facebook page.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

National park authorities have two purposes:

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

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

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

If you would like more information please:

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

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

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Rural Cumbria where the Fibre GarDen network will be built

RURAL BROADBAND: local communities show the way

Internet coverage - or the lack of it - has been a talking point in the Yorkshire Dales National Park for years.

Until recently, many communities have had little or no access to broadband because low population numbers and the isolated location made it uneconomic for the telecommunications companies.

But all that is changing thanks to public investment and local groups determined not to be left out.

In the last three years, hundreds of homes in the National Park have been able to log on for the first time - and superfast broadband, which offers download speeds in excess of 24 Mbps, has begun to reach the larger settlements.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has been working with and supporting schemes where it can, and is committed to helping the rollout of a decent broadband service to remote communities as quickly as possible.

Gary Smith, the Authority's Director of Conservation and Community, said: "Superfast broadband is a vital tool for businesses in the National Park, as well as an important link to services. It's great to see the work that has been done by Superfast North Yorkshire, but also the way in which some of our communities have taken matters into their own hands to make sure they get connected."

The Authority provided advice, support and extra funding to a community scheme in Upper Wharfedale and Littondale that resulted in hundreds of people having access to the internet for the first time.

And in Garsdale and Dentdale, the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) gave a £44,900 grant to the community Fibre GarDen project, which will soon be providing a 60-kilometre, superfast broadband network connecting more than 580 homes and businesses in the two dales.

Tony Roberts, Financial Director and Secretary for Fibre GarDen said: "It hasn't been an easy journey to reach the point where all the funding and technical requirements were in place. Now that they are, we are delighted that ITS Technology Group, Fibre GarDen's technical partner, can start the important business of building the network. The superfast capabilities of this infrastructure will quite literally transform our community's digital capabilities having been overlooked for so long.

"The SDF grant has been invaluable, both to the project and the community. It has been used to help fund a new full-time Community Project Co-ordinator that has made a significant difference to the project and in securing the support of the communities."

In March this year, the Authority approved an application from Airwave for the erection of four new masts to bring superfast broadband to West Witton as part of a national trial of different technologies.

Gary said: "This is a scheme that is not only important to the residents in West Witton but is also an opportunity to trial what may be a solution for other areas. We look forward to contributing to a full and open assessment of its efficacy, cost-effectiveness and suitability for providing a broadband solution in places like the National Park."

A warm welcome to the spring edition of *Dales*

This is a wonderful time of the year for the National Park as we shake off the final ravages of winter and the landscape comes into its own with spring flowers and the inspiring sight of newborn lambs in the fields.

It is important to remember and appreciate how lucky we are to live and work in such a lovely part of the world. More so when so much that has impacted on our communities in recent years has been unremittingly bleak.

It seems that the message from all political parties is that the austerity regime is going to continue. No doubt that will mean even more cuts to some of the services that are so important to rural and deeply rural communities. To be frank, this point in time feels like the 'lull before the (next) storm' - we look with interest to see what a new Government will mean for the National Park and its communities.

Travelling around the area this last year we have been increasingly taken with just how resilient Dales communities are. Sometimes this is mistaken for acquiescence and an acceptance that living in a rural environment means that we should have a poorer quality of public services. We don't accept that for one minute and are sure that those with a good heart who are genuinely working for the good of this area, now and in the future, will ultimately prevail.

All the very best.



David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Peter Charlesworth
Chairman

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Cash helps all projects great and small

This year, over £150,000 in grants has helped kick-start or develop 26 worthwhile environmental projects, community schemes and business ideas.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund aims to support projects that result in positive benefits for the National Park - not just its environment, but also its economy and communities. It is open to any individual, business, group or voluntary sector body and, since it began in 2002, has given out £2.1 million to over 250 projects.



A grant from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund helped with the set up costs for a new community-owned and operated village store in Clapham © Don Gamble, Clapham Community Shop Ltd.

In the last twelve months, grants went to initiatives that aim to:

Improve community facilities:

- The Fund contributed £8,602 to the set-up costs of a new community-owned and operated shop and post office in Clapham.
- The upper floor of Malham village hall was refurbished with a grant of £5,000 to provide a more usable space for young people.

Improve the appearance of towns and villages:

- A grant of £781 saw parking areas on Beech Hill in Dent re-surfaced with cobbles.

Promote access and recreation opportunities for all:

- £9,900 will subsidise the continued operation of weekend and bank holiday bus services from urban areas this summer.
- Grants totalling £10,000 helped create films, buy equipment and host events promoting disabled access routes.

Celebrate and raise awareness of land management:

- Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust received £15,262 for practical support to help farmers provide educational access to their farms.
- £10,000 will help to create a touring exhibition of photographs and writing which capture the stories of the land and the people who work on it.

Better understand and manage important wildlife habitats and species:

- The Lune Rivers Trust received £8,000 for practical invasive species control days and awareness-raising events.
- A grant of £2,100 to Wensleydale Red Squirrel Group allowed for the installation of a camera at Appersett Ghyll to record video footage from a red squirrel feeder and transmit live to the Dales Countryside Museum onto a public display screen.

Conserve and raise awareness of important heritage:

- £4,975 is helping to bring Sedbergh School's derelict 'Pepperpot' folly back into use and provide public access through interpretation and events.
- An interpretative display forming part of a heritage trail about the former narrow gauge railway at Threshfield Quarry was created thanks to a grant of £6,777.

Promote thriving food and tourism businesses:

- The Yorkshire Dales Food Network is creating a website - connecting retailers, restaurants, hospitality and consumers - to boost awareness and trade with £10,000 from the Fund.

More detail about the projects approved, the amount received and what it paid for can be found on our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf** You can also see the key dates for grant submissions in 2015/16.

Hats the way to do it for Yorkshire's Three Peaks

Walkers are being challenged to reach the peak of silliness by climbing Pen-y-ghent, Whernside or Ingleborough wearing an off-the-wall hat.

We've thrown down the gauntlet to raise funds for vital path maintenance around the Three Peaks area.

Steve Hastie, the Authority's Three Peaks Project Manager said: "To take part, all you need to do is to donate £5 to the project, take a 'selfie' at the top in your hat - the sillier the better - share it on the National Park Authority's Twitter or Facebook pages and challenge three friends to do the same.

"Taking on one of the Three Peaks is an achievable challenge that can be done on your own, as a family or with a group of friends and it's easy to join in. All you need is a sense of fun and - to 'cap' it off - there is the reward of a great day out.

"There are many circular walking routes in the Three Peaks area to choose from and our website features three - one for each peak - to help get you on your way.

"There is a six-mile loop taking in Pen-y-ghent, a 7.5-mile circuit past Ribblehead Viaduct and to the top of Whernside, and a nine miler that includes the summit of Ingleborough."

The website also gives more information about our conservation work and the challenges of looking after a very popular area that sees 250,000 visitors every year enjoying its network of footpaths.

Nick Cotton, the Authority's Member Champion for Recreation Management, said: "Walking is a great way to improve your health and well-being - while experiencing the beautiful countryside of the National Park at the same time.

"So dig out your Easter bonnet, boater or beanie and help us raise money towards our work caring for Yorkshire's beautiful Three Peaks."

Anyone wishing to post their selfie on Twitter should use the hashtag **#sillyhatselfie**

THE THREE PEAKS
YORKSHIRE DALES

Three Peaks Manager Steve Hastie takes a 'beret' good silly hat selfie and (above) the Three Peaks logo gets a new look for our 'Hats On' challenge



Full details about the 'Hats On' challenge, Project and how to become a Friend can visiting **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk**

Get even more 'appy

Businesses in the Three Peaks area are being invited to sponsor pages on the popular Yorkshire Three Peaks app - or become Corporate Friends in order to get their existing entry upgraded.

Retailing at £1.99 and contributing an important steady income to the Three Peaks Project, the app has received nearly 2,000 downloads so far.

Using 1:50,000 OS maps (included in the app) as a base, places of interest, the Three Peaks Challenge, cycle routes and relevant tourist businesses all feature and users can rate them and leave comments for others to see.

Walker, Daniel, said: "Used this today for the 3 peaks and left my map in my bag all the way round as the app was faultless", while for David "the app is perfect and although the visibility and weather were shocking and I did it on my own for the first time I didn't make one wrong turn".

We are now looking at ways to develop the app and use it to raise even more funds, so we have put together some new offers and sponsorship opportunities.

The section of the app devoted to visitor information includes basic contact details and websites of relevant businesses - with Corporate Friends listed first - but you can now enhance you further information.

An annual fee of just £10 will secure additional listing, plus two free upda And if you become a 'Whernside' C then you will receive the enhanced l contact us with your information.

The app also has the capability of se push notifications direct to people's Whernside Corporate Friends will b three free push notifications a year v special offers, meal deals; events or

Finally, you can sponsor one of the p and get your name and website on t The costs are £100pa for the Three Route or £50pa for one of the three routes or cycle route pages.

If you are interested in discussing an options, please contact Karen Griffi 01756 751619.

The app is available for iPho Android - download it from **yorkshiredales.org.uk/**

New lease of life for scheduled monuments

By Robert White, Senior Historic Environment Officer



Few people would associate coal mining and textile manufacturing with the Yorkshire Dales but two hundred years ago these, together with other industries such as lead mining and lime burning, played an important part in the economic life of the area.

The remains of these industries, many of which were thought eyesores when the National Park was designated in 1954, are now considered part of the cultural heritage of the area. Some have been recognised as being of national importance: 27 of the 199 scheduled monuments in the National Park are industrial monuments, the largest of which is the extensive lead mining and processing works centred on Grassington Moor.

Other scheduled sites range from caves which show evidence of human activity over 12,000 years ago, such as Victoria Cave, to medieval field systems. Not all nationally important sites are scheduled, however - prehistoric field systems and settlements which have survived particularly well in the Yorkshire Dales are very badly represented in the schedule for the area.

Scheduled monuments and other archaeological sites provide historical depth to the landscape, but are often fragile and, once damaged, cannot be replaced.

Nationally, over 15% of scheduled monuments are considered by Historic England to be 'At Risk' but in the Yorkshire Dales the figure is only 3%. This is largely as a result of the work of the National Park Authority alongside organisations such as Historic England (formerly part of English Heritage) and Natural England to try and ensure that the cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales is conserved for future generations to enjoy.

Recent work with the Yorkshire Dales Industrial Monuments Management Scheme - a partnership with Historic England - has concentrated on remains of the lead industry, particularly those in Gunnerside Gill, the Hungry Hushes and New Mill in Arkengarthdale and the Grassington Moor complex.

Activities have ranged from site survey - which provides a detailed record of monuments where preservation in-situ is not practicable - through rabbit and vegetation control, to full-scale consolidation of ruined buildings. This work has been carried out by local contractors, National Park Authority staff and Dales Volunteers.



The remains of a cast iron pipe which took water to an underground hydraulic engine in Gunnerside Gill. The open shaft was capped through the YDIMMS scheme.

The industrial heritage of the Yorkshire Dales still plays an important role in the economic life of the area as one of the special qualities of the National Park.



A soil blanket was installed to encourage a protective turf cover over the ground level flue at Grassington Moor smelt mill.

With support from Historic England, this year we are working to improve access to information about the former lead industry. This includes the development of a lead mining app which will provide new site information, walking routes and audio trails.

Aiming for the peak of health

In 1986 a study by the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology concluded that the Three Peaks region had the sad distinction of possessing the most severely eroded path network in the UK.

The first Three Peaks Project was established the following year with a staff of 13. Its remit included trialling new path-engineering and re-vegetating techniques to allow damaged land to recover and to create long-lasting routes.

However, since 2004, the management and maintenance of the Three Peaks network has reverted back to the Authority's Rangers - a team of just two officers covering the whole of the wider Ribblesdale area.

The current project is focussed on creating a sustainable source of both practical and financial support that will help protect and enhance the area and the rights of way network into the future.

Since its launch, many of the charities that regularly use the area for sponsored events have donated money towards its upkeep and become Corporate Friends.



And the Authority has produced a unique range of merchandise to celebrate walking the peaks, and launched the Friends of the Three Peaks membership scheme for those who love the area and want to give something back.

Mothing else matters!

By Meghann Hull, Conservation Support Officer (Wildlife, Trees and Woodlands)



A couple of years ago I was introduced to the exciting world of moth trapping.

The stories I heard of catching bat-sized moths, luminous pink moths and other spectaculars inspired me to volunteer for the National Park Authority's moth monitoring programme. This aims to record species present in the National Park and help identify any species listed in our Biodiversity Action Plan for future protection.

I found that as I set more traps and discovered more moths, I started to become a little hooked - there is a kind of child-like excitement on returning to see what you have caught.

One of these moments was catching my first Poplar Hawk Moth (pictured). The Hawk Moth family includes some of the biggest. The Poplar is surprisingly docile and will sit quite happily on your hand to have its photo taken - as it has no mouth parts, it can't bite! However, I'm still waiting in anticipation to catch the stunning Elephant Hawk Moth.

But it's not just the bigger moths which are the most stunning - some of the smallest have the most intricate patterns and vivid colours, and the variety between the sizes, shapes and colours of this species is astonishing. The Buff Tip Moth has to be one of my favourites, and demonstrates the brilliance of Mother Nature in the way it disguises itself from predators by taking the form of a broken twig.

We are working with a number of other organisations to try and increase the amount of moth trapping in the National Park. As many hands make light work we are looking for volunteers willing to help out.



If you think you might like to get involved, please get in touch with the Wildlife Conservation team at wildlife@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

We can provide equipment and advice to help get you started. It's a great activity to do with the family or on your own, and you will be amazed at the variety of moths out there, right in your very own garden.

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/y3peaksapp

Parish council nominations invited

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

Joining our board 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 22 seats are for parish council representatives and this spring one of these will become vacant. We are looking for a Member to represent the parishes in the Richmondshire 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 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.

For details, please contact Julie Payne on 01969 752364.

Parishes of Richmondshire

Arkengarthdale
Askrigg
Aysgarth
Bainbridge
Burton-cum-Walden
Caldbergh with East Scrafton
Carlton Highdale
Carlton Town
Carperby
Castle Bolton with East & West Coverham-with-Agglethorpe
East Witton
Ellerton Abbey
Grinton
Hawes & High Abbotside
Hudswell
Marrick
Marske & New Forest
Melbecks
Melmerby
Muker
Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh
West Scrafton
West Witton

For further information about all our 22 Members, their role and the committees they sit on, please visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members**



Neil Heseltine (pictured) joined the National Park Authority in 2014 as a Member for Craven covering the western 'Airedale' group of parishes.

Neil is a fourth generation farmer from Malham and was educated at Ermysteds Grammar School in Skipton and Seale Hayne Agricultural College. He spent time travelling and working on farms in New Zealand and Scotland before returning to the Dales.

A keen rugby player and cricketer, Neil is a Member of Malham Parish Council and a former chairman of Malham Show.

Have you ever been in the pub and heard someone say, "B****y National Parks, they know nowt!" or at a parish council meeting when someone has said "It's a disgrace, the National Park needs to use some common sense!"

It's easy to nod in agreement. As local people, we've all heard it. We live within the National Park, a place of exceptional beauty, and full of, I believe, people whose approach has been shaped and created by living and working in these beautiful, but at times challenging, surroundings. Yet we seem reluctant to get involved, still holding the National Park Authority at arm's length.

An opportunity has now arisen for a parish representative in the North East of the Park to become a Member of the Authority and I urge you to consider getting involved.

I neither know 'owt' nor necessarily have any more common sense than the next person, but I became a Member because I felt it important for local people to be represented and to have our say. Now you can do the same. Then you can help the pub talk and parish discussions to really start to influence how we live and work in our Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Local Plan moves forward

By Peter Stockton, Head of Sustainable Development

The new Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan - which will set out planning policy between 2015 and 2030 - is on track for publication in July.

The new Local Plan will help to deliver many of the local objectives set out by the Authority and its partners in the National Park Management Plan in 2013, as well as national objectives set by the Government.

The Plan was paused last autumn following public consultation and discussions with the district and county councils. There was a common concern that in the wake of restricted mortgage lending, lower than expected rates of house building, evidence of a declining population and changes to national planning policy that we needed to rethink some specific aspects of our housing policy as a key part of the new Local Plan.

As a consequence, we have just consulted on proposals that we believe will make new housing development more economically attractive to developers and lenders, while still delivering the sort of housing that we really need in the National Park.

We are now looking closely at the responses we have had from local people, parish councils and developers before deciding which changes will go into the publication version of the Local Plan in July. Once the Plan has been published, the Authority will be able to start to give it some weight in reaching decisions on planning applications, although it can only come into full effect after it has been submitted to the Government for independent examination. This will be in early 2016.



In addition to improving housing delivery, the new Local Plan will also extend opportunities for the re-use of traditional buildings such as barns, the development of more contemporary visitor facilities in the National Park and new flexibility for business and employment development.

The Local Plan will not, however, lose sight of the need to protect the qualities that are key to the place of the National Park in the nation and its local economy, such as its attractive farmed landscapes and its wealth of wildlife and history.

Find out more about what is planned for the National Park at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning**

Two new parish forums launched

Engagement with parish councils in the Yorkshire Dales National Park is a critical element in ensuring that the National Park Authority takes account of local opinion and to achieving many of the shared objectives in the National Park Management Plan.

Many of the Authority's Members and officers attend parish council meetings each year.

To try to take this further, the Authority is setting up two new 'Parish Forums' - one for the parishes in Richmondshire and South Lakeland, and one for the parishes in Craven.

Each Forum would meet twice a year. It is hoped that they will be an opportunity for a two-way discussion about any and all National Park issues that are relevant to parish councils.

The Authority recently asked all parish councils for their views about the best way of organising and running the Forums, the first of which will take place later this year.

Authority Chairman, Peter Charlesworth said: "The success of this initiative will be down to whether it is of benefit to the parish councils and to the Authority.

"For our part, we are keen to try to engage as best as possible with the parish councils, so that we can jointly deliver for the area and its communities".

For more information, please contact Lesley Knevitt on 01969 652326 or lesley.knevitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Been there, zine that

Young people are being invited to make their own magazine or 'zine' about the National Park and win some brilliant prizes.

Pick up a free zine template from one of our National Park Centres and cut, stick, sketch and scribble your story your way.



Natural treasures

Printmaker and National Park Authority ecologist Fran Graham is showing a collection of her linocuts inspired by local upland flora (pictured) at our Bainbridge office until 28 May.

The office is open Mondays to Fridays between 8.30am and 4.30pm.

Fran's work can be viewed on Facebook under Hidden Gem Prints.

More ways to connect

Did you know that the National Park has more followers on social networks than there are households - in fact more than triple.

A massive 40,000 people follow our posts on a range of social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and You Tube - but are you one of them?

Stay up to date with news from the Authority and what's going on in the National Park.

Like our Facebook page or follow @Yorkshire_dales on Twitter.

Launch of drive to make greener farming more profitable

Upland farmers, environmental bodies and agencies have joined together to call for action to support the economic viability of low-intensity farming methods that are more environmentally friendly.

And they have produced a leaflet detailing the benefits of 'high nature value' (HNV) farming - looking at ways in which traditional farming systems can deliver environmental benefits more effectively while at the same time making the farm business more economically viable.

The leaflet - which has been sent to local MPs, Local Enterprise Partnerships, and other organisations - has been produced by the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (LNP), which was set up in 2012 and now includes more than 50 organisations. It stretches from Otley in West Yorkshire to the Scottish border, and covers two National Parks (Northumberland and the Yorkshire Dales) and three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Forest of Bowland, Nidderdale and the North Pennines).

David Hill, LNP chairman, said: "High nature value farming systems not only produce fantastic food but also support high levels of biodiversity and produce important public benefits like carbon and water storage. Unfortunately, our upland farmers don't get rewarded for these benefits at the moment - and we want that to change.

"The documents will be used to lobby Government for policy changes that help HNV farming and to obtain additional funding to sustain it."

Richard Betton, a farmer from Upper Teesdale and an LNP Board Member, said: "The farming of the most remote parts of the country can often get overlooked - but it's critically important to our future.

"This leaflet explains some of the benefits that hill farming can bring to society and to the environment. Importantly, it also identifies some of the things that we want to see Government, local enterprise partnerships, environmental agencies and the farming community working together to achieve."



The leaflet and the full report can be viewed on the LNP website at **www.nuclnp.org.uk**

Practical advice for farm businesses

As part of wider action to support HNV farmers, the National Park Authority is currently working with the Dales Farmer Network and Askham Bryan College in a pilot initiative to provide local farmers with skills training, farm business development and environmental management advice.

The Dales & Moors Farm Innovation Project aims to identify practical ways in which each farm holding could support a more resilient and robust farm business - and provide greater environmental benefits.

The project - which is funded by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership - is providing tailored advice and training to 20 farms in the National Park.

Each farm will get an integrated business and environmental plan. It will help farmers who are thinking about using new technology such as renewable energy or electronic identification for sheep (EID), diversifying into a new business enterprise on the farm, or entering into environmental schemes to boost their business.

If successful, it is hoped that the initiative can be rolled out across the whole of the National Park, together with a long-term programme of funding - from LEADER, Defra and the Local Enterprise Partnership - to support the identified business opportunities.

For more information, contact Helen Keep, Senior Farm Conservation Officer, on 01756 751611 or helen.keep@yorkshiredales.org.uk

GEOLOGY ROCKS!

By Catherine Kemp, Learning & Engagement Officer



With the help of an Arts Council grant we are making our geology rock.

'The Song of the Sea that was' is a project celebrating our rich geology formed millions of years ago under a warm tropical sea.

This summer, Quarry Arts will be installing a giant lithophone made from stones in the garden at Malham National Park Centre. Visitors will be able to play tunes on the rocks which will come from local quarries.

With the support of Skipton Camerata and Purple Patch Arts, a group of adults who have learning disabilities will be composing six short tunes and creating artwork to help visitors to the lithophone understand how our geology was formed and the impact it has had on the people living and working in the area.

The compositions will be used as the themes for a short orchestral piece celebrating our amazing geology. 'The 'Song of the Sea that was' will be premiered on Monday 22 June at the Grassington Festival when Skipton Camerata will play an early evening concert which will also include Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf'.

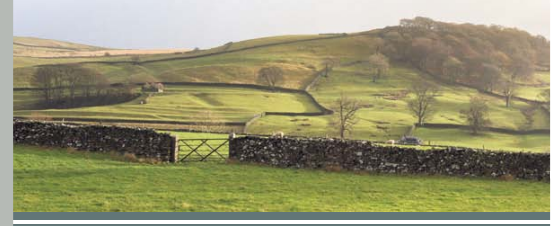
Family workshops using the lithophone will be organised for the summer holidays.

For more information on the project, contact Catherine Kemp on 01756 751623 or catherine.kemp@yorkshiredales.org.uk. For Grassington Festival tickets, contact the Box Office on 01756 752691.



The Purple Patch Arts group on a day out at Gordale Scar near Malham last summer.

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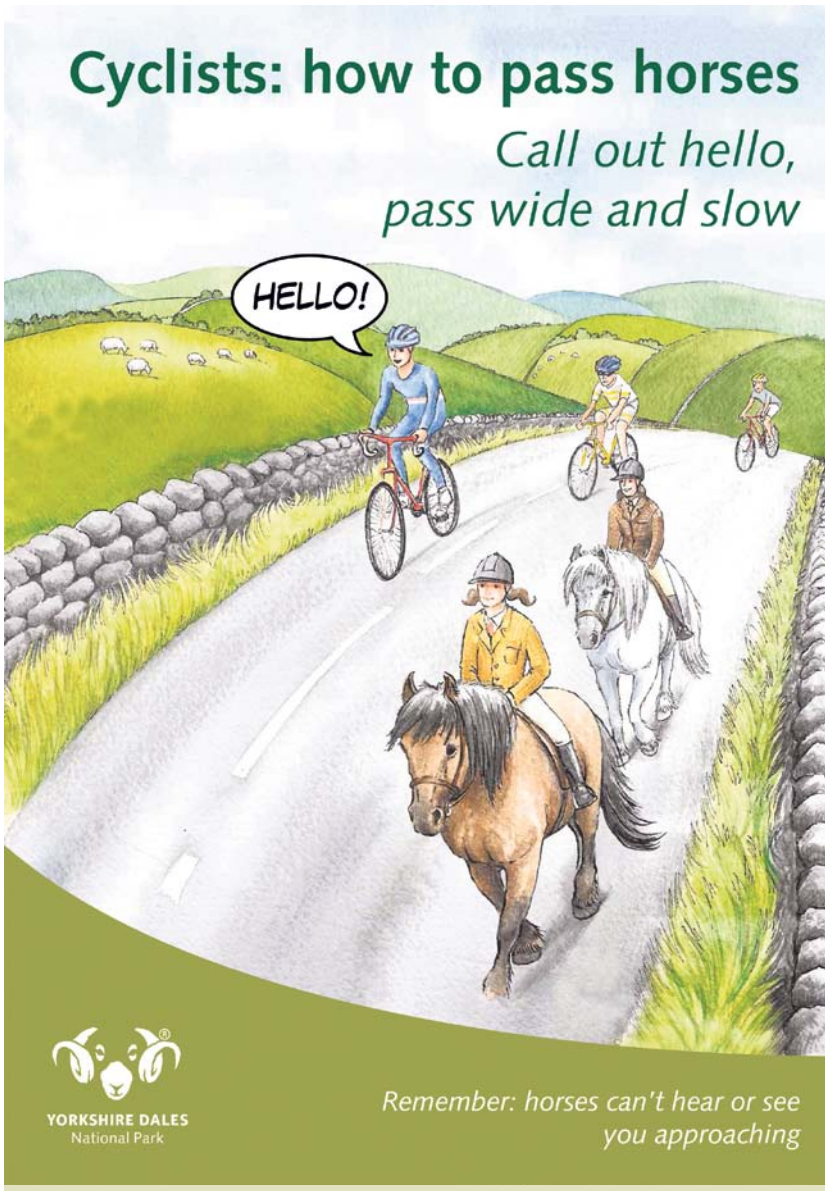
As part of its long term commitment to working for people and the environment in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Lafarge Tarmac is delighted to support the Dales Residents Newspaper.

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

LAFARGE TARMAC
It's what Britain's built on.



Alongside working with Ride Yorkshire to provide advice and create some great circular horse-riding routes in the National Park, we recently published a poster (pictured) reminding cyclists and riders how to share the roads - a topic raised as a big concern by residents. The poster has been publicised widely through cycling clubs, bike shops, our National Park Centres and local press. Visit **rideyorkshire.org** for ideas on enjoying the Dales on horseback.

Family-friendly cycling comes to Malham Tarn



By Cat Kilner, Area Ranger (Malhamdale and Lower Ribblesdale)

Families can enjoy a great bike ride through Malham Tarn National Nature Reserve this summer, thanks to track improvement works.



Young family mountain biking at Malham Tarn © National Trust Images/Ben Selway.

The 3km linear route starts from Watersinks car park - with the option to extend into a circular loop along a road section. Allow plenty of time to explore with stunning limestone scenery, the highest limestone lake in the country, the Orchid House and National Trust bird hide all to be discovered along the way.

The project came about because there is a lack of cycling routes in the Yorkshire Dales National Park that are truly 'family friendly'. We have many bridleways but because of gradients and other constraints it is difficult to really class them as suitable for parents with young children and we wanted to change this.

The route chosen at Malham Tarn was part bridleway and part private track on open access land. This meant that people could already walk along it, but it did not have any other public rights.

The project - which was carried out in partnership with the National Trust who own the site and funded by the Dales Integrated Transport Alliance- will promote the route as a waymarked cycle track. This means that it can now be used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and trampers - all terrain mobility scooters, one of which is available to hire from the National Trust at the Malham Tarn Estate Office.

The physical work involved re-surfacing and improving the 3km track, removing potholes and creating a smooth surface for all bikes and abilities. And the lack of vehicles means it is suitable for children.

We've put in a new interpretation board at Watersinks car park - which offers free parking - and published a leaflet showing the route which is available from Malham National Park Centre.

For more information about cycling routes through the National Park, visit **www.cyclethedales.org.uk**
To enquire about the tramper, contact the Malham Tarn Estate Office on 01729 830416.

Go nuts for red squirrels

Businesses in the Yorkshire Dales National Park are being given the chance to help look after endangered red squirrels.

Local entrepreneurs are being invited to sponsor a feeder set up at a special red squirrel viewpoint at Snaizeholme, near Hawes.

The viewing area lies in the heart of the Widdale Red Squirrel Reserve and was created by the National Park Authority and the local landowner to allow people to watch the animals as they feed in their natural habitat. Although the site is remote, the Little White Bus offers visitors an 'on-demand' transport service, picking up passengers from the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

The first business people to take up the offer were Neil and Jane McNair, who run Low Mill Guest House in Bainbridge.

Neil said: "We loved being able to see the red squirrels at the special viewing area and we know it's something many of our guests will enjoy having the chance to do too.

We think it's a great opportunity to be able to support this project, along with other businesses in Hawes."

Kathryn Storey, the Authority's Tourism Officer, said: "We're hoping a business will cover every month of the year. A £50 donation will pay for food for a month and, in return, the sponsors will be listed on our 'Nature in the Dales' website at **www.natureinthedales.org.uk** and they will receive a certificate they can display."

The Yorkshire Dales is widely recognised as an important habitat for red squirrels - the only native species of squirrel. Not only do grey squirrels out-compete red squirrels for food, but they also carry a pox virus which can be fatal to reds.

It is estimated there are fewer than 140,000 red squirrels left in Britain compared with an estimated 2.5 million greys.



Local business owners Neil and Jane Mc Nair, the first squirrel feeder sponsors

For more details, contact Kathryn Storey on tourism@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01756 751650.

Would you like to be a Rotter?

Volunteers are being sought to join the North Yorkshire Rotters to advise people how to reduce waste, save money and be more environmentally friendly.

The Rotters are volunteers that attend community events and talks to promote home composting and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

The Rotters are looking for people who are interested in recycling, waste prevention and the environment and want to help others to learn more.

Full training is provided for the volunteering roles.



Anyone interested in volunteering with the Rotters can find out how to get involved by contacting Jeff Coates, volunteer coordinator, on 01609 797212

Information can also be found online at:
www.letstalklessrubbish.com

