Dales 2016

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Spring 2016

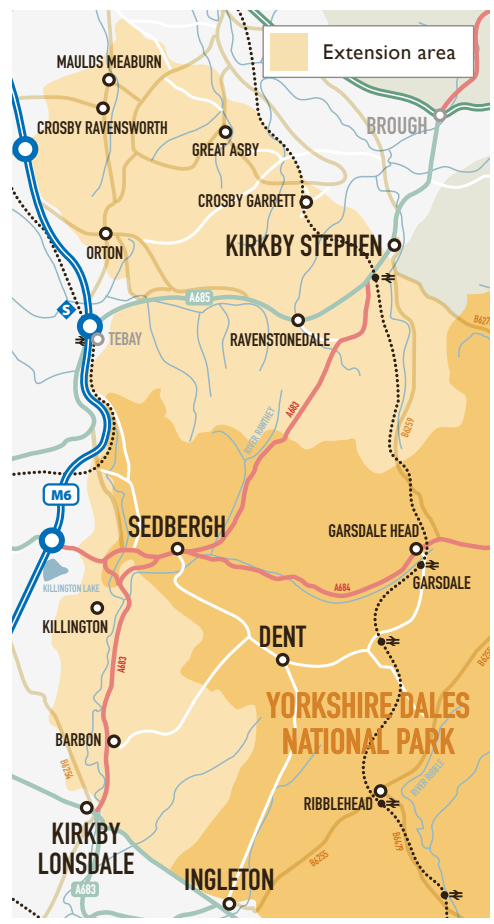
NATIONAL PARK TO GROW BY NEARLY A QUARTER

From 1 August the Yorkshire Dales National Park will increase by 24% when the long-awaited boundary extension comes into effect.

It will include new areas in Cumbria and Lancashire, adding on an extra 417 square kilometres (161 square miles) - making the National Park total 2,179 square kilometres (841 square miles).



Wild Boar Fell from Outhgill



Parts of the Orton Fells, the northern Howgill Fells, Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang will now be included to the north, and, to the west, Barbon, Middleton, Casterton and Leck Fells, and part of Firbank Fell and other fells to the west of the River Lune.

Twelve per cent of the Yorkshire Dales National Park is already in Cumbria. That will increase to 28%, while for the first time 1% of it will be in Lancashire, too. The current population is around 20,000 and this will rise to 24,000.

Following its extension, the Yorkshire Dales National Park will become the third largest of the UK's 15 National Parks, after the Cairngorms and the Lake District.

In the 2015 Spending Review, we received the welcome news from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that funding for National Parks would be protected and that additional monies had been made available so that the Authority can carry out its responsibilities in the extension area.

A Government consultation has taken place on future governance arrangements. The Government's proposal that the Authority's Board would increase from 22 to 25, with the three additional Members coming from the three new constituent authorities - Eden District Council, City of Lancaster and Lancashire County Council - was confirmed on 15 April.

We will be listening to and learning from local people, interest groups and businesses to enable us to develop productive, long-term relationships and make the most of the wonderful opportunities the extension presents - for its landscape, communities and economy.

A series of meetings has taken place with those who live and work within the new area, including the county and district councils, Country Landowners Association, farmers and landowners and Friends of the Lake District, as well as the Chairs and Clerks of the 26 parish councils who were invited to a meeting to discuss how we might work together in the future.

Public 'drop in' events are giving local people the chance to talk about the extension and what being in a National Park will mean for them - two more are planned for 11 May at Killington and 17 May at Barbon.

From 1 August, the National Park Authority will become the planning authority for the new area, and discussions have taken place with all the local planning authorities to ensure minimum impact and effective handover of caseloads.

While not a statutory requirement, the Authority took on delegated functions from the county councils for path maintenance in the existing National Park in recognition of the importance of well-maintained rights of way. Arrangements for the extension area are being discussed with Cumbria and Lancashire County Councils.

As consultees, the Authority supported designation on the quality of the landscape and recreational opportunities it presents and we are thrilled that these stunning landscapes have been recognised as worthy of national park status.

The addition of a further 417 sq km does present challenges. However, extending the boundaries of such beautiful and internationally iconic areas should provide a boost to tourism, supporting rural businesses and potentially adding millions more to the £4 billion already generated by visitors to the UK's National Parks each year.

Visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/boundary-extension** to find out more about what the boundary extension will mean for you, including a planning Q&A.

YOUNG RANGERS GO NORTH

Young people are being given the chance to learn about and look after the natural environment as part of two new Young Rangers groups being set up in the north of the National Park.

Open to 11 to 16 year olds, the groups will be based around Aysgarth and Sedbergh and will meet one Saturday a month to carry out practical conservation tasks.

The project builds on the success of the existing Young Rangers scheme in Settle which was set up three years ago by the National Park Authority to encourage young people who have an interest in the outdoors by teaching them new skills.

Rachel Alderson has been appointed as Young Rangers Officer. Rachel has worked for the Authority for 7 years and has a background in youth work. She is currently taking time out volunteering on projects abroad and will start her new role in May.

Over the past year the young volunteers at Settle have contributed more than 535 hours of their time to plant 650 trees and maintain over 5km of footpath. Activities include rebuilding a drystone wall, helping control Himalayan Balsam and making a film about their work.



The two new groups are being funded through the Green Futures programme, which aims to develop environmental opportunities for young people across the region and is led by local charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - read more on page 7.

Catherine Kemp, who organises the Settle Young Rangers and is the Authority's Learning & Engagement Officer, said: 'The amount of effort they put into their volunteering with us is inspirational. This opportunity to help more young people get stuck in to helping look after their local environment is fantastic'

Anyone interested in joining the Young Rangers should contact Catherine Kemp on 01756 751623 or catherine.kemp@yorkshiredales.org.uk

To see the Young Rangers talk about the drystone wall they reconstructed, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/young-rangers-video**

A warm welcome to the spring edition of *Dales*

This is the last time this publication will go out just to the 12,000 households in the current National Park area. Our next edition, which will be brought forward to August to coincide with the extension of the National Park boundary, will be distributed to another 4,000 people - new communities that are coming into the National Park.

Not surprisingly, the boundary extension, and the preparation for it, is dominating much of our work. It's an exciting time and gives us the opportunity to learn from how things are done in the new extension area as much as it does to applying some of our learning from our work in the existing National Park.

Since we last communicated, things have turned round to some extent for the future and well being of all England's National Parks. The decision by the Government to extend the Dales and Lakes National Park boundaries was followed by the announcement that additional monies will come to the Authority in order to start our work in the new area. This came at the same time that the Government announced a good financial settlement for the 10 National Park Authorities.

The Environment Secretary, Liz Truss, has recently launched the Government's 8-Point Plan for National Parks and this will be followed in the summer by the 25 year plan for the environment. There is a lot happening!

Hopefully, we will be in a position to tell you a little more about this in the next edition. In the meantime, enjoy the (hopefully) good summer.



David Butterworth
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Peter Charlesworth
CHAIRMAN

Introducing…Graham Pye, Access Ranger (Cumbria)



Favourite part of the job?

Just being outside in the countryside with some decent weather. I enjoy the practical work on the rights of way, often ably assisted by one of our Dales Volunteers.

What did you do before joining the Authority?

I've been here 17 years now, so not much! After leaving college I worked in the Lake District, leading groups of volunteers doing jobs around the National Park. After that, I spent a few years working for various contractors and as a groundsman before getting the job here.

Favourite spot in the National Park?

I've always enjoyed the views from the Coal Road linking Garsdale Head with Dentdale. I often drive this at the start and end of the day when the light is at its best. It doesn't matter which direction you're going, the views are great. On a good day you can see the Three Peaks to the south, Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang Edge to the north and the Howgills and Lakeland Fells to the West.

I also like The Spout in the Howgills. It's a peaceful spot and, as it's a bit off the beaten track, you've usually got the place to yourself.

Favourite thing to do in the National Park?

A day out walking with my camera, trying to take pictures of anything that will let me. I can spend hours down by the river below where I live waiting for the birds to venture close enough. I'm bound to take a decent picture one day.

LINTON'S HISTORIC BRIDGE REPAIRED

A Grade II listed clapper bridge - an ancient form of bridge building which consists of piers of rubble masonry supporting flat stone slabs - has been restored in Linton Conservation Area.

Dating from at least the seventeenth century, the bridge, which takes pedestrians across Linton Beck, was possibly erected to allow the parish poor living at the former Fountaine's Hospital access to the villages of Thorpe and Burnsall and beyond.

A nineteenth century photo suggests that it has been significantly altered over time.

The black and white image shows a clapper bridge located on the site of the current road bridge, which was built in 1892. It is longer, but of similar enough structure to the present clapper bridge to suggest it was relocated to its current site. It would have replaced the stepping stones which are shown on a late nineteenth century map.

In the mid-twentieth century the bridge was modified further to add a concrete surface and chunky handrail.

Dales Volunteer Hazel Goulden first flagged up concerns about the condition of the bridge when she carried out a Listed Buildings Condition Survey.



Careful removal of vegetation growing on and near the structure and repairs to eroded and washed-out mortar joints and voids in the masonry was carried out by Foster's Building Contractors.

The work was funded by Linton Parish Council, which owns the bridge, and the National Park Authority.

The repaired clapper bridge over Linton Beck

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APPRENTICESHIPS ARE JUST THE JOB

When you think of apprenticeships you might think along the lines of factories or offices in urban areas.

But for a lucky few their workplace is the beautiful landscape of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Dales Rural Trainee Scheme matches young people with local businesses to learn new skills that will benefit them and the countryside. It was launched in 2013 by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust with the aim of providing 10 people with a life-changing opportunity.

Arkady Bogg-Hargroves and Suzannah Barningham took up placements specialising in environmental conservation with the National Park Authority.

The two-year programme combined hands-on work placements with achieving an NVQ Level 2 Diploma through part-time attendance at Craven College, Askham Bryan or Newton Rigg - and was extended slightly so that both could also achieve Level 3.

This March, the apprentices successfully finished their training and are settling into new jobs.

Arkady - who joined the scheme after completing a BTEC in joinery at Craven College in Skipton - has now started work with a local forestry business, honing the many skills he learned during his time with the Authority.

"It has definitely been worth it - I wouldn't be where I am now," he said.

"The National Park Authority has given me skills that have made me valuable to people. I know you aren't guaranteed to get a job at the end but it has opened doors and given me ideas that I wouldn't have had before I started - like working with children on outward bound activities and setting up my own business.



Arkady (left) with a young group working on footpath repairs at Cotter Force



Suzannah helps Cumbria Area Ranger Paul Wilkinson repair a bridge.

"When you leave school you don't have any idea really so you have to try different things to know what you want to do. The apprenticeship is a perfect way of finding out what your strengths are."

The 21-year-old, who lives in Skipton, learned to use machinery like chainsaws and strimmers, carried out footpath maintenance and helped supervise the Authority's Young Rangers.

"The job has helped me with things like speaking to people - it's a big thing that sometimes people don't think about. I have had to think on the spot and make decisions to solve work problems. It's given me a lot of confidence"

"I would love to come back to the National Park Authority at some point."

Suzannah, aged 27, who lives in Low Row in Swaledale, joined the scheme after working for North Yorkshire County Council.

"I have had a fantastic two and a half years," she said, "gaining the skills and experience I needed to start a career in environmental conservation.

"I have completed NPTC-accredited courses covering the safe use of chainsaws, brushcutters, all-terrain vehicles, pesticide application and even a 360 digger, and gained valuable practical skills under the guidance of rangers and alongside Dales Volunteers - building gates, repairing and maintaining rights of way and leading work groups.

"I've now been fortunate enough to secure a maternity cover position working with the Woodland and Wildlife teams as a Conservation Support Officer, which is giving me the chance to see another aspect of the National Park Authority's work.

"It's difficult to say what I've enjoyed most because it's been so varied. But it's been a great success and I would recommend this to any young person trying to get into a similar line of work."

Alan Hulme, Head of Ranger Services, said: "We have had apprentices for over 10 years now and the scheme keeps going from strength to strength.

"The Authority is a significant employer in the area and it is fantastic that we can help young people develop the skills and confidence to find jobs locally".

"The great thing we have learnt is that this is not a one way process. Apprentices in the workplace like Suzannah and Arkady bring a vitality and a new way of looking at things, which is refreshing for everyone.

"It is a win-win situation and I would ask everyone out there to consider if there is an opportunity to give a young person a chance within your business. How else are we going to create the sustainable and vibrant communities we all want to see?"

New trainee opportunities

New environmental apprenticeships for 16 to 24 year olds are being advertised following the launch of two exciting programmes.

Currently, there are five two-year vacancies with local employers - including two with the National Park Authority based at Hawes and Grassington - and two 18 month vacancies, both with the Authority at Stainforth. And there are will be more opportunities available in the coming months.

The apprentices will study part-time at Craven College, Skipton, while receiving on-the-job training to gain a range of certified skills in countryside management.

The new positions are being funded through the Green Futures and Stories in Stone programmes - read more about these projects on pages 1 and 8.

For information on the new apprenticeships, visit **www.ydmt.org/about-us/work-for-us**

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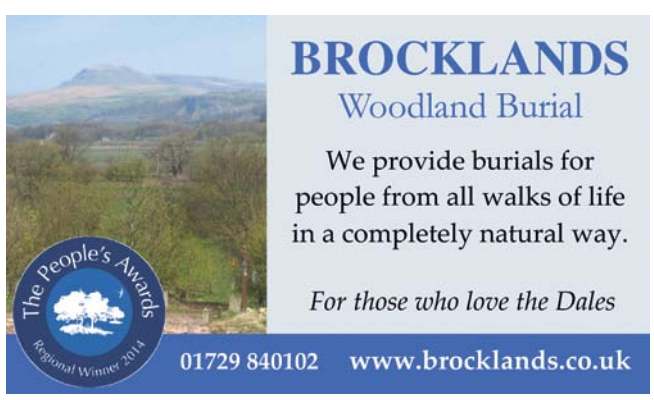
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ALL PROJECTS GREAT AN

Grants totalling £140,000 are on offer to help individuals, businesses, community groups or voluntary-sector bodies get their projects off the ground in the National Park.

The Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) supports schemes - no matter how big or small - that contribute in some way to looking after the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife or cultural heritage or that promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy those things - while at the same time providing some local economic or community benefit.

Now in its 15th year of operation, SDF has given out £2.3m to 272 projects to date, from community composting and village enhancement to educational programmes and eco-tourism. Here, we showcase five recent schemes.

If you would like to find out how the Fund could help you, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf**

Historic roads signs on the outskirts of a village in Swaledale have been given a facelift.

A sign at one of the three approaches to the village of Downholme, a rare survivor from the golden age of motoring, had disappeared after falling from its stone plinth, while the equally historically important signs at the other two approaches were deteriorating.

The signs were made from aluminium with clear projecting lettering and glass ball reflectors, set down low to the road, and could date from the 1930s. They continued to be made into the 1950s.

Hudswell and District Parish Council led a project to replace the missing sign and restore the other two, using David Gosling from Brampton, near Carlisle, who specialises in signpost, milestone and milepost restoration.

"I ordered more than 300 glass ball reflectors from a company that was founded by Percy Shaw, the inventor of 'cat's eyes', and they arrived wrapped in a 1950s edition of the Yorkshire Post," said David.

Claire Swainston, clerk to the parish council, said: "David has done a fantastic job in casting new plates using the original as a template and replacing the reflectors. They look really good and local people are very pleased with them."

SDF grant £1,682 Project cost £2,242



Claire Swainston and Authority Chairman Peter Charlesworth with one of Downholme's restored historic road signs.

Under-represented groups - including a number of asylum seekers from Blackburn - have been helping to install a narrow-gauge tramway at the former Threshfield Quarry, near Grassington.

An SDF grant helped Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust buy track and sleepers from a peat works near Carlisle and pay for an interpretation panel that explains the history of the tramway and quarry, which opened in 1902 and closed in 1998.



One of the conserved V skips on the tramway at Threshfeld Quarry

The sleepers and tracks have been laid along an incline from the quarry and its sidings. Three wagons - known as V skips and repainted by volunteers - are on long term loan from Leeds Industrial Museum. Two are shown going up the incline carrying raw limestone to the kilns and one is shown empty coming down.

The Trust organised 11 volunteer days for people to work on the project doing jobs such as painting, laying track and clearing scrubland.

Three more interpretation panels and a heritage trail are being provided by partner organisation, Threshfield Quarry Development Trust, which has secured additional funding to help create an attraction for both visitors and residents to enjoy.

SDF grant £3,567 Project cost £6,777

Work has been carried out to lo
Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Kn

The Lune Rivers Trust galvanised
groups, and Young Farmers' grou
'balsam bashing' sessions, particul

The grant paid for their training and special safety equipment while a local supermarket provided bottled water and bananas for the volunteers.

The grant also financed a mapping of Japanese Knotweed and paid for the purchase and spraying of pesticides. Further funding, won on the back of the SDF grant, extended the professional spraying of this invasive species.

Information panels, also paid for by SDF, will be put up in Dent and Sedbergh to explain the dangers to the countryside posed by INNS.

SDF grant £8,000
Project cost £16,980

Four specially commissioned short films are encouraging disabled visitors to explore the Yorkshire Dales. They were made by Experience Community, a community interest company that promotes access to the countryside for people with disabilities.

Craig Grimes, Managing Director, said: "We wanted to illustrate different types of terrain from the relatively easy to those of greater difficulty.

"The easiest route we filmed was Strid Wood at Bolton Abbey, followed by a circular route at Malham Tarn. This featured one of our members, Marie Harrison, riding an off-road electric scooter which can be booked in advance and hired from the National Trust office near the Tarn.

"The circular route at Aysgarth Falls covers rougher terrain, while the fourth film around Old Gang Smelt Mill in Arkengarthdale shows how with a mountain trike you can cover five-and-a-half miles of difficult ground with significant climbs."

Community Experience, which also makes films for organisations such as Yorkshire Water, Natural England and the RSPB, says it could never have afforded to make the Yorkshire Dales films without the SDF grant.

The films can be viewed on the Authority's website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/miles-without-stiles**

SDF grant £5,000 Project cost £10,300

An SDF grant is helping to protect Garsdale's red squirrels. It has contributed towards the cost of trail cameras, feeders, food and tubes to collect hair samples as part of a project to monitor where the squirrels are living and where they go if their habitat is disturbed.

The project is led by the Garsdale Red Squirrel Group, chaired by Sue Ryall.

"We have about 40 members and the grant is essential for our work," said Sue.

"The three-year project involves monitoring the squirrels' habitat every quarter. Results from the first survey this spring will be fed into the Red Squirrels Northern England annual survey.

"We are also raising awareness among landowners and forestry operatives about the most sensitive way to manage woodland, particularly conifer plantations, which is where the squirrels tend to live.

"One landowner we approached responded to the points we made by saying he has no plans to fell any trees. Others have responded positively to our suggestions that when they do fell, they should leave some trees behind to preserve squirrel habitat."

SDF grant £4,850 Project cost £5,808



The project is monitoring and protecting Garsdale's red squirrels

D SMALL

cate and remove invasive non-native species (INNS) such as otweed in the River Lune catchment area, thanks to an SDF grant.

volunteers from local communities including schools, youth ps in the Sedbergh, Dent and Austwick areas, to get involved in larly along the River Rawthey in the Sedbergh area.



Not the easiest terrain to work in: Sarah Littlefield of the Lune Rivers Trust goes balsam bashing

PEREGRINES GET READY FOR THEIR CLOSE UP

An extra treat is in store for lovers of the annual peregrine watch at Malham Cove this year as the falcons and their chicks can now be followed via video diary.

The RSPB and National Park Authority have been running the free viewpoint - at which visitors can study the spectacular birds through high-powered telescopes - since 2003, as part of our work to make rare and exciting animals and birds accessible for everyone to see.



A peregrine falcon at Malham Cove (above) and the free public viewpoint

The peregrines - the fastest animals on the planet with recorded speeds of more than 200 miles an hour - have once again settled on the Cove and are incubating a clutch of eggs.

We will be filming regular video diaries to show the birds' progress, hoping to catch such thrilling displays as the parents teaching their young to hunt.

The Malham Cove viewpoint will be open Saturday to Wednesday between 10.30am and 4.30pm (weather permitting) until 31 July.



The films, alongside facts, tips and photos, can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/peregrines**

SPEND A DAY IN THE DALES AND GET INTO THE PEAK OF HEALTH

Horton-in-Ribblesdale will be a hive of activity on 18 June with a charity fundraising event for all ages and levels of fitness.

Heart Research UK's flagship annual sponsored event is 20 and as a celebration of this milestone it is being held this year in partnership with the National Park Authority's Three Peaks Project. Together, we will be raising money to help people live healthier, happier and longer lives, as well as improving and maintaining the much-loved - and much-used - Three Peaks footpaths.

There are three routes to choose from: the full 25-mile Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, a less strenuous 15-mile route which meanders around the valleys, or a flat but equally scenic 5k nature walk in and around the village of Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

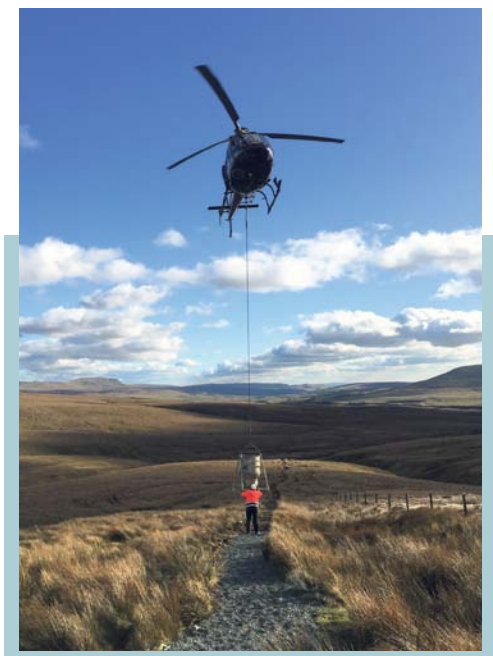
Add to that a fun-filled family day at the hub site with sports, produce stalls and games and you have the perfect experience that will not only improve your heart health but also help care for one of the UK's most epic locations.

Whichever route you decide to take, your support will make all the difference.

An entry fee (Three Peaks individual £25, group £15pp; Valleys £15; Nature Trail £5; under 12s free) covers costs and ensures we can put on a safe, enjoyable event - we'll even give you a lift if you need to drop out. Anything left over and all money participants raise through sponsorship will be split between the two projects.

In 2015, over 50 National Park staff, rangers and friends took up the Three Peaks challenge to raise money for a project close to our hearts - join us to do the same again on 18 June.

Find out how to take part at **www.heartresearch.org.uk/events/join-our-family-day-dales**



Airlifting gritstone aggregate, donated by Hanson, to repair footpaths on the Craven Way at Whernside, part of the Three Peaks Challenge route.

Yorkshire's famous Three Peaks attract up to 250,000 visitors a year. But the fragile landscape around Ingleborough, Whernside and Pen-y-ghent has been struggling to cope with its popularity.

In fact, in 1986 the area had the sad distinction to be judged to have the most severely eroded footpath network in the UK.

A lot of work has been carried out since and seven years ago a new Three Peaks Project was launched. Its aim was to raise money each year to fund a ranger to work solely on the area's heavily used footpaths and produce sustainable routes that can cope with the number of walkers coming to experience its fantastic scenery.

Working with charities, user organisations, businesses and individuals, we have raised more than £90,000 to support footpath maintenance. And the really good news is that for the last three years our efforts have fully funded our Three Peaks Ranger, Josh Hull.

Smithy's work on show in Malham



Visitors to Malham National Park Centre are being given the chance to catch a glimpse into the life of a blacksmith.

A free exhibition is being staged until 31 July featuring work by Annabelle Bradley (pictured), who took over Malham Smithy in 2007 after re-training following a career as an accountant.

Her work includes functional ironwork ornamented with hand forged rams and sculptures inspired by the surrounding streams and woodland. Annabelle also runs blacksmithing beginners' courses.

The exhibition includes images of her at work by Blackburn University photography student Shaun Richardson.

Centre Manager Chris Lancaster said: "We are pleased to promote work by local craftspeople and we hope to have more displays in the future as they add interest for our visitors".

Anyone interested in showing their crafts at Malham National Park Centre is invited to contact Chris at chris.lancaster@yorkshiredales.org.uk

If you love the area why not become a Friend of the Three Peaks? Benefits include regular newsletters and access to unique volunteering opportunities and events, all in the knowledge that your membership fee is going towards vital upkeep.

Join online at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/threepeaks** where you can also find out about our exclusive branded merchandise and the Three Peaks app.

CREATING BLOOM TO GROW FOR RARE ORCHID

Riddings Field at Aysgarth is undergoing restoration management work, with the aim of providing the right conditions for burnt orchid - which used to grow here - to return.

The rare species is the main reason that the Local Nature Reserve - owned by the National Park Authority - was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), being one of the few places where the orchid can be found in the National Park.



The tiny burnt orchid (pictured above) flowers in May and into June and typically only grows to approximately 15cm (6 inches) high.

It has not been seen at Riddings Field for at least 10 years. This is probably due to a number of factors, including lack of grassland management, rabbit grazing, scrub encroachment and the unpredictable nature of flowering in orchids.

If you would like to get involved in looking after the amazingly diverse wildlife around you then maybe we can help.

Our **Parish Wildlife Project** is a community-based scheme that supports local people in developing their own biodiversity projects throughout the National Park. Over the last seven years it has worked with allotment groups, parishes, charities and small groups of friends on over 35 projects offering specialist advice and training, as well as putting people and projects in touch with each other and administering a small grant fund.

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

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

Earlier this year, the Authority's Wildlife Team and the Area Ranger for Wensleydale met with Natural England to agree a site recovery plan. This will introduce grassland management in the form of scything, mechanical cutting and autumn/winter grazing with sheep, and scrub removal to open up the south-facing slopes of the calcareous knolls.

Rabbit fencing, carried out three years ago, has already dramatically reduced their number.

Volunteers drawn from the Authority's successful Parish Wildlife Project undertook the first work on site this March. Scything a knoll which we know historically had burnt orchid allowed the team to remove grass and thatch and open up the ground to sunlight without damaging other features such as ant hills.

Over the next two years the Authority will undertake a thorough restoration of the grasslands - which we hope, ultimately, will see the return of burnt orchid to this site.

Wanted: your tree sparrow sightings



Wildlife Conservation Officer Mark Hewitt puts a call out.

In the Yorkshire Dales National Park we are lucky to still have some good populations of house sparrows, especially around our farms and in our villages - but what we don't have are many tree sparrows.

The tree sparrow is slightly sleeker and brighter-looking than its cousin. Its defining features are a chestnut coloured crown, white neck collar with black cheek patches, and a black throat.

We know we have tree sparrows down the west side of the National Park, but what we would like to know is if you have seen them elsewhere in the Park, as well as just outside its boundary and in the new extension area.

We are interested in sightings past or present, so please email mark.hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk with where and approximately when, and how confident you are in your identification - that is, very, reasonably or not very.

The tree sparrow is on the UK Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern and your support could aid species recovery.



INTRODUCING… MILES JOHNSON, SENIOR HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER



What did you do before joining the Authority?

I worked in historic environment roles in Cumbria, including the Lake District National Park, and in the Peak District National Park - there's a bit of a National Park theme there.

Favourite spot in the National Park?

Difficult question. Depending on the weather, it might be Crummackdale - or underground. Most people don't think of the landscape beneath our feet, but the vast number of caves and mines are an amazing part of the Dales. If you ask me this question next week you might get a different answer, mind...

Favourite thing to do in the National Park?

To go somewhere or see something that I haven't seen before. One of the great things about working for the Authority is that this happens quite regularly with nearly 700 square miles to discover - and more to come.

Favourite part of the job?

What I love doing, and have always enjoyed, is helping people to engage with their landscape. The physical cultural heritage of the Dales - whether that is hyena bones in caves, medieval earthworks or seventeenth century buildings - has fascinated me for years and I am fortunate to be involved with an amazing and well-preserved environment.

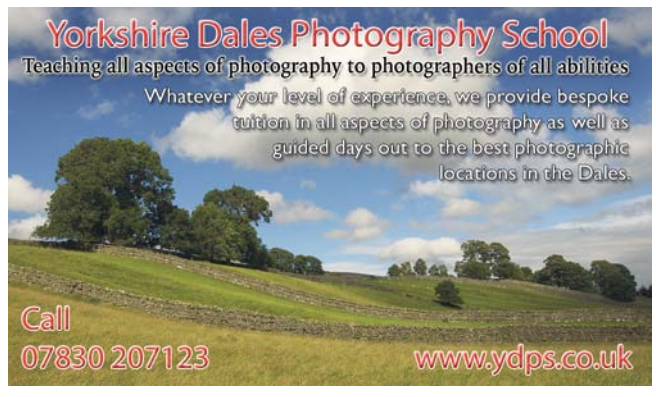
I am finding my way into a whole range of new work areas and responsibilities, having recently taking over this senior role following the retirement of my colleague - so I'm yet to find out my favourite part of my new job!

NEW MINING APP

A new app launched by the Authority is a must for history buffs wanting to learn more about lead mining in the National Park.

Fun and easy to use, it includes walking routes around former mining sites, descriptions, archive images, audio trails and children's activities.

The app is free and can be found in the iTunes and Google Play stores.



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LOCAL PLAN GOES UNDER MICROSCOPE

New guidelines that will affect future planning decisions in the National Park moved a step closer this February when they were formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The Local Plan is a 15-year strategy for sustainable development in the National Park that will respond positively to some of the challenges being faced by communities in remote rural areas.

An independent inspector will now examine whether it is justified by the evidence, conforms to national policy and is otherwise effective and fit for purpose.

Carl Lis, the Authority's Member Champion for Sustainable Development, said:

"The new Local Plan is an important part of the Authority's response to the issues that have been raised by our local communities about the long-term social and economic challenges facing the area.

"It contains a positive strategy for new housing, stronger businesses and support for local services, all of which are vital for sustainable communities.

"At this final stage we have received a relatively small number of formal objections, which should mean a quicker examination. Predictably, most concern our new housing target, our new policy on crushed rock quarrying and some of our new flexibilities for visitor accommodation.

"In undertaking such a comprehensive review of policy and changing our direction in some key areas, we will face some new risks. The purpose of the examination, however, is to explore these, and I am confident we are heading in the right direction and can show that our plan is backed by evidence.

"In fact, we are confident enough to have already started using the new Local Plan to permit roadside barn conversions and support other forms of beneficial development."

As part of the examination, the inspector will chair a series of public round-table hearings with objectors and officers of the Authority this summer.

His report will be published by the Authority later this year.

Archaeologists dig deep for anniversary



The Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists' Club is having its 10th birthday

Young history detectives will be examining fossils, studying prehistoric art and trying flint knapping as part of the tenth anniversary of the Young Archaeologists' Club, based at the Dales Countryside Museum.

The Yorkshire Dales branch of the national scheme will also enjoy days out to Thornborough Henge and an Iron Age experience day at Murton Park near York, as well as a birthday bash as part of their pre-Christmas meeting.

The club is open to everyone aged 8 to 16 and usually meets once a month. The young archaeologists get involved in all sorts of activities, including investigating archaeological sites and historic places, trying out traditional crafts and taking part in excavations.

As one young member said, "It's like a history lesson, only better!"

The Young Archaeologists' Club is always glad to take on new members - and leaders who are suitably qualified. Call 01969 666210 or visit **www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk/yac**

Artist's visit to Yorkshire recalled in exhibition

The bicentenary of celebrated eighteenth century landscape artist J M W Turner's visit to the Yorkshire Dales is being celebrated in an exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum this summer.

In the Footsteps of Turner features the work of Jo Hume and Debbie Loane, created as a response to the artist's trip two hundred years ago.

Turner first visited Yorkshire aged 22 and returned many times throughout his life. His extensive tour in 1816 resulted in some of his most famous paintings of Aysgarth Falls, Malham Cove and Bolton Abbey.

The exhibition runs from 5 July to 28 September.

Visitors to the Museum can now refuel, recharge and relax at its new Firebox Café, which opened this Easter. The cafe is run by Stage 1 Cycles, who also offer a cycle hire and repair shop on site

The café's name is a reference to the firebox on a steam train, which not only fuelled the engine but was where the crew prepared their bacon and eggs on a clinker shovel. It pays homage to the fact that the Museum is housed in Hawes' former Victorian railway station.

Dales Countryside Museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm. Visit **www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk** to find out more.

The future is bright green

This spring, an exciting five-year programme creating a range of environmental opportunities for young people is being launched in the Yorkshire Dales.

Green Futures aims to inspire 11 to 24-year-olds to explore environmental issues, develop their knowledge and skills, and provide hands-on opportunities to make positive environmental change.

There are many fantastic ways to get involved.

Apprenticeships in countryside management with local employers are on offer for school leavers aged 16 to 24 [read more on page 3] and two new Young Rangers groups for 11 to 16-year-olds are being set up in the north of the National Park [see page 1].

A 'Green Guardians' scheme aims to connect young people with the natural environment through environmental activities and conservation work, while Eco-Schools Awards schemes will be created in secondary schools.

Green Futures will also help young people develop their own practical or environmental awareness-raising project and apply for funding to support it through a Youth Environmental Action Fund.

The programme is being led by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, working with Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Field Studies Council at Malham Tarn, City of Bradford YMCA, Barnardo's Leeds and Craven Development Education Centre.

Green Futures is part of Our Bright Future, a movement of 31 youth-led projects across the UK each receiving around £1m of funding from the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund.

To find out more, visit **www.ydmt.org**

LITTLE WHITE BUS

Getting Around the Glorious Yorkshire Dales using our Community Transport.

Scheduled services from:
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- Catterick, Bedale and Leyburn from Monday to Saturday

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END TO MISSING LINK AT GRIMWITH RESERVOIR

People with limited mobility can now enjoy a hike round the whole of Grimwith Reservoir near Grassington, thanks to recent path improvements.

A 700m section of the footpath has been given a new lease of life - which means the entire 7km walk is now accessible to far more people.

The work was carried out by the National Park Authority in partnership with Yorkshire Water, which funded the project, with additional money from the British Mountaineering Council's Access and Conservation Trust.



Craig Grimes tests the newly improved section of path at Grimwith Reservoir using his all-terrain mountain trike.

Phil Richards, Area Ranger for Wharfedale & Littondale, said: "The route around the reservoir is all on good paths and tracks apart from this 'missing link'.

"This section was often wet and muddy, with steep areas that were difficult to use. The good news is that it's now been completely transformed, with a new path that is wide and with a firm surface."

The walk around the reservoir provides lots of interest as well as great views. There is an ancient cruck barn, which was preserved when the reservoir expanded, Grimwith House, and the remains of Gate Up - a hamlet which was sacrificed for the reservoir. The shoreline is also home to a large number of migrating birds, with waders, geese and ducks to be seen.

The new section has been given a thumbs up by wheelchair user Craig Grimes, who is director of Huddersfield-based Experience Community, which provides films and information about leisure activities for people with disabilities [read more on page 4].

"I acted as 'guinea pig' for the new section of path and it's superb", he said." This will never be an easy wheelchair walk, but using my mountain trike I could get all the way round."

The National Park Authority is working to improve access for all to the countryside and has been steadily opening up more of the rights of way network so that it is easier to use for people who are less mobile.

Join us for a walk around Grimwith Reservoir last year with a mixed ability group - **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/grimwith-video**

STORIES IN STONE

The communities and landscape of the Ingleborough area are set to benefit from an ambitious four year programme of conservation projects, thanks to a £2 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Over the next four years *Stories in Stone* will enable people from all backgrounds and of all ages to learn about and help manage this fascinating limestone landscape with its rich archaeology, iconic farming pattern of stone-built barns and walls, and hidden subterranean world.

It is also a landscape under stress, with three large active quarries, intensive farming, and millions of visitors every year.

The scheme will deliver around 90 individual projects, from restoring field barns and wildlife habitats to physical and intellectual access improvements to involving people in archaeological digs, collecting oral histories and providing skills training.

It has been developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, which is led by local charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and includes the National Park Authority, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust, Natural England, Hanson UK and Tarmac Ltd.

For more information, visit **www.ydmt.org/programme-details-stories-in-stone-16115**. Alternatively, contact Hannah Rose, Stories in Stone Administrator, on hannah.rose@ydmt.org or 015242 51002.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two new Secretary of State appointees have joined the Authority's Board.

Jim Munday, who lives in Bentham, has been appointed as replacement for Chris Armitage and Neil Swain, from Upper Dunsford near Boroughbridge, takes up his appointment on 1 July to replace Peter Charlesworth.

To learn more about the Authority's 22 Members and their roles, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/members**

Residents and visitors can now save time and money by buying car park passes online to use in the National Park.

These include £15 weekly parking passes for any of the 10 Authority car parks and for Richmondshire District Council car parks, £40 annual parking passes, and passes for accommodation providers who do not have enough guest parking spaces at their premises.

The new facility is available via the Authority's online shop at **retail.yorkshiredales.org.uk**.

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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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