Dales

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Summer 2019

WANTED: APPRENTICES FOR THE WESTMORLAND DALES

This summer, the National Park Authority is looking to recruit the first four environmental management apprentices through the new 'Skills for the Future' project.

The project is part of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme, a programme which aims to reveal, conserve and celebrate the hidden heritage of the area that became part of the extended National Park in 2016.

The scheme - led by Friends of the Lake District on behalf of the partners and supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Fund - will provide skills and training for the local community to help bring their heritage into better condition. It will offer resources and encourage tourism businesses to make the most of their 'sense of place', and create opportunities for communities and visitors to celebrate and share in the area's story.

Awarded a National Lottery grant of £2.27 million in January, the scheme will see a total of 21 projects delivered by a range of organisations over the next four years.

The Skills for the Future project is offering nine work-based apprenticeships: eight in environmental management and one in cultural heritage conservation.

The environmental management apprenticeships will run in two blocks of four. Each apprentice will be employed for around 18 months, based at the project's office and workshop in Tebay.

The apprentices will undertake a level 2 vocational qualification on block release at Askham Bryan College near York, with seven residentials of three days each over the course of their contract.

Newly appointed Apprentice Supervisor Belinda Lloyd will be mentoring the new recruits and steering their on-the-job training.

"These apprenticeships offer a truly fantastic opportunity", said Belinda.

"As well as learning a raft of transferable skills as a first step toward a possible career in countryside management or beyond, it's a chance to make a valuable contribution towards looking after the special features of the local area - and to help us deliver substantial heritage and conservation gains during the project lifetime."

The first apprenticeships will be advertised this summer for a start in late August - keep an eye on the National Park Authority website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk** for further details. Find out more about the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme at **www.thewestmorlanddales.org.uk**



Ian recording path condition on Whernside

Ian Colledge has been a ranger apprentice with the National Park Authority since 2018, employed through the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership's Stories in Stone project.

My time as an apprentice with the National Park Authority has been very varied, with me learning a large number of new skills.

A regular part of the role has been helping the Access Rangers with infrastructure repairs across the Rights of Way network, with tasks such as hanging gates and stiles, walling and fencing.

I've been involved in Three Peaks Project maintenance work on Whernside, bagging stone and airlifting it onto site, and landscaping the path afterwards.

As part of my apprenticeship I've been able to go on a number of training courses including chainsaw, quad bike, digger and pesticides. These have allowed me to be more involved at work and make me a better candidate for finding a job afterwards. I've also been attending college to attain a qualification in environmental conservation.

I've really enjoyed my time with the Authority - it's a great place to work and gets you outside all day, no matter the weather!

Not only is an apprenticeship with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority a great experience, it sets you up well for a career in the sector. I would recommend it to anyone wanting a job in conservation.



WESTMORLAND DALES

HERITAGE FUND

Ranger apprentice George Jacobs (right) walling near Keld, with Access Ranger Calum Stott

Peregrine chicks hatch at Malham Cove

By Ian Court, Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer



While we've yet to see them at the time of going to print, it's certain that peregrine falcon chicks have hatched at Malham Cove.

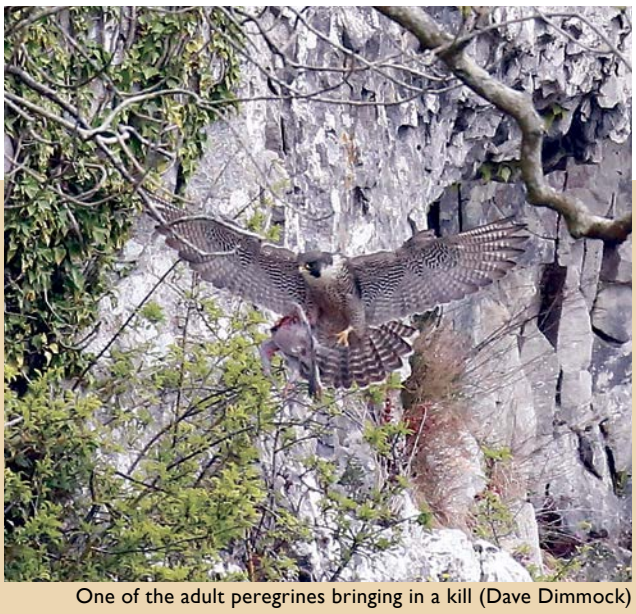
Adult birds have been carrying food to a nest site in the limestone rock, behaviour that suggests they are feeding young. This marks at least the 22nd time that a pair has hatched chicks at Malham since the birds returned there in 1993.

We're expecting lots of exciting activity in the next few weeks as the parents catch food for their hungry offspring, not to mention when the chicks take their first flight at around 5 to 6 weeks old.

The nest site is out of sight, so we don't know how many eggs or chicks there are. But the adults have been seen taking food to the next ledge, which means they are definitely feeding young. The male bird is also keeping particularly careful watch over the nest site.

If you want to witness the world's fastest animal in action, I'd encourage you to come along to the free public viewpoint located at the base of the Cove this summer.

Staff and volunteers from the National Park Authority and the RSPB will be on hand to assist with telescopes and information from 10:30 to 16:30 five days a week from Thursday to Monday until 5 August.



One of the adult peregrines bringing in a kill (Dave Dimmock)

Want to find out more? For regular updates, follow the project on Twitter @malhamperegrine, or join the new Malham Peregrine Project Facebook group.

A warm welcome to the summer edition of *Dales*

We thought we would take this opportunity to comment on a couple of events that have made the news in recent months that have a particular impact on National Parks and how they are managed in the future.

The first concerns the quality and quantity of wildlife and biodiversity in England's National Parks. Questions have been raised in the media about whether the public has a right to expect wildlife and biodiversity to be of a higher standard within National Parks than outside.

Of course, there have been many success stories where individual species are thriving within this National Park – red squirrels, curlew and dormice are all bucking national trends. However, we couldn't claim that the wildlife here is significantly better than elsewhere. An independent review is currently being undertaken of all National Parks in England and the state of our wildlife is going to be at the forefront. This is particularly important because, as a nation, we are also determining what our future approach to farming and land management in the uplands should be.

The second issue that's hit the news is what is now termed the 'climate emergency'. It's been with us for some considerable time and the evidence of the likely problems that we will face throughout the world continue to mount.

We now see some of the impacts of the changing climate in this National Park on a daily basis. One of the most telling is our extraordinary ability to flood so many areas of northern England! Whether that is Carlisle, Lancaster, Leeds, York or Preston - we have the ability to flood them all. It's a good example of why the way in which the land in the National Park is managed is of significant importance to many people who live way beyond its boundaries.

Across the National Park there are now a number of local initiatives aimed at introducing natural flood management measures – woodlands, wetlands, 'leaky dams' and so on – to help to reduce flood peaks downstream. Again, the way in which National Parks are managed for this sort of wider public good – and the way that we properly incentivise the farmers and landowners for doing that - is an increasingly important issue for us all into the future.



David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Carl Lis OBE
Chairman

Woodland creation project reaches milestone

When Government climate advisers are saying almost three billion trees must be planted by 2050 in this country to end Britain's contribution to global warming, it's good to see that a partnership between Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and the National Park Authority is leading the way.

In 1995, the Dales Woodland Strategy aspired to create 2000ha of new woodland by 2020. This milestone will be reached ahead of time as a result of the strong partnership that exists with organisations such as the Clapham-based charity, which, to date, has supported the Authority with the planting of 1.5 million trees, ensuring long term conservation and environment benefits.



TV Presenter and YDMT ambassador Lindsey Chapman (right) and volunteers from Bradford celebrated the Together for Trees milestone by planting 25 trees at Pasture Wood, Grassington

The farmers and landowners on whose land the trees are planted have also played an important role in meeting our collective target.

Last summer, YDMT launched its 'Together for Trees' appeal which aimed to continue the good work by supporting the planting of 100,000 native broadleaved trees over the next two years. Following its first season, the Trust revealed it had seen 30,000 planted already.

Support for the campaign has come from individuals, businesses, and players of People's Postcode Lottery who have raised £50,000.

The Authority's Senior Trees & Woodlands Officer Geoff Garrett said: "The Together for Trees campaign directly impacts on and supports the National Park Authority's delivery of the Dales Woodland Strategy.

"The work that YDMT does is invaluable towards achieving our collective objectives within the overarching National Park Management Plan."

As part of its role, the charity works with young carers, homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom live with social isolation, disabilities or mental health problems, and do not have the means to get out into the countryside.

Several of these groups have been involved in the project this winter, planting trees across the Dales and surrounding areas, alongside Authority staff and volunteers.

YDMT Woodland Officer Carol Douglas said: "Together for Trees is not just about raising money to fund more woodland creation. It is also about providing opportunities for people to get actively involved, bringing them together to enjoy the benefits they offer.

"The value of our woodlands in terms of supporting positive health and well-being is immeasurable and needs more recognition."

Want to get involved? With native broadleaf cover in the Dales at around 2.7%, and many species of native wildlife under threat, it's clear there is still much more to do - and a new woodland grant scheme has been launched to help.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is offering support to help create new native woodland throughout the Yorkshire Dales, including Nidderdale, with grants open to anyone who owns or manages land of any size, including the cost of fencing and access. The deadline for applications is 31 July.

You can also support Together for Trees by donating £6 a month to help protect ancient woodland for wildlife, or dedicate a tree for just £15.

To find out more, visit **www.together-for-trees.org**

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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

National park authorities have two purposes:

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

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

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

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

For general enquiries, please:

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

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'THANK YOU!': THREE PEAKS FOOTPATH RE-BUILT

Bruntscar, the local name for the path off the summit of Yorkshire's highest mountain, has been re-built with locally-quarried stone, following a hugely successful public fundraising campaign.

In November 2017, as part of the British Mountaineering Council's (BMC) Mend Our Mountains appeal, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority launched 'Pitch in for Whernside', an attempt to raise £46,000 to fix the severely eroded path.

Whernside is the first of the 13 projects in the BMC national appeal to be completed.

Hundreds - perhaps thousands - of individuals have pitched in, via collection tins, online donations and crowdfunding, while businesses including HF Holidays, Hanson UK, The Traddock at Austwick and Skyhook Helicopters have also lent support.

Three Peaks Ranger Josh Hull has been at the forefront of the work.

"We officially got underway back in January - as the snow fell thick and fast!" said Josh. "For the first couple of weeks, we worked in Ingleton quarry, sorting and bagging the stone that Hanson kindly donated to the project."



Walkers on the new Bruntscar path

"Airlifts of the stone onto site took place in March, and the pitching work was completed in May, having managed to raise the entire cost of the project. Walls and culverts to deal with drainage have been sorted on either side, too. A massive thank you to all those who donated, spread the word and shared our social media posts - it all helped."

"The work could not have taken place without the generous support of the general public, local businesses and the landowner. The success of the campaign shows just how much people care for the National Park and for good access in the countryside."

Josh reports receiving a lot of positive comments so far, many first-hand from those walking in the Three Peaks area as he and his team have been working.

"The stone pitching on this path is different to the more uniform steps and small stone that existed before", he said. "Much larger, local stone has been placed in a random style, allowing people to pick and choose where they step. Personally, I think it's much nicer to walk, while retaining a nice natural feel. Let us know what you think when you've been out!"

Jonathan Smith of the Yorkshire Dales walking company, Where2Walk, said: "The Bruntscar path is a big improvement on the difficult descent of the past. The groups I have taken this year are much more confident and less worried about the descent. It may not be fully bedded in yet, but it is already much safer. Good job!"

Carey Davies from the BMC said: "Whernside isn't just a mountain. Like Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough, it is a cultural landmark enjoyed by tens of thousands of people every year, often as part of the Three Peaks challenge. Unfortunately, places like this don't look after themselves. Erosion is a serious threat to popular landscapes all across Britain and fixing it requires money, skill and commitment.

"This brilliant new path will help ensure that a new generation of walkers get to enjoy Whernside in a sustainable way. We are thrilled to have played a part in making it happen."

Follow Josh and the Three Peaks Project on Facebook @Three.Peaks.Ranger

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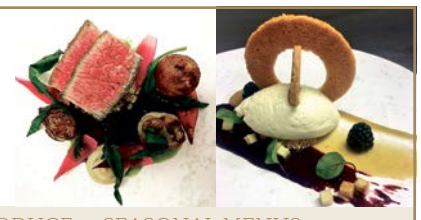
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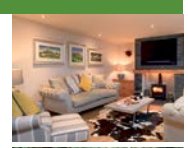


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Small grants make a big difference

Over £156,000 was given out by the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund to 27 deserving local projects in 2018/19 - and applications are welcomed for the £175,000 in this year's pot.

The fund supports schemes that contribute in some way to helping conserve the natural beauty, wildlife or cultural heritage of the National Park, or promote opportunities for people to understand and enjoy those special qualities.

It is open to individuals, community groups, businesses and the voluntary sector, and provides a simple and accessible source of money for a wide range of initiatives.

In the last 12 months, in the west of the National Park, projects included the installation of interactive displays at the National Park Authority's partnership centre Kirkby Lonsdale Tourist Information Centre (SDF grant of £3,044) and promotion of the Westmorland Dales Day (£919).

In the south, projects included a 'virtual tour' telling the story of the archaeology of Victoria Cave near Settle (£4,959) and installation of a new underground electricity cable to serve Long Preston's playing fields pavilion (£5,000).

And in the north, projects included the installation of a new energy efficient heating boiler for Thornton Rust Institute (£3,086).

Member Champion for Sustainable Development Chris Clark said: "We welcome applications that look to provide multiple benefits and a good legacy.

"The five projects we showcase on these pages give an idea of the type of schemes, big and small, that the fund can support."

Read more about the Sustainable Development Fund at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sdf** or contact Andrea Burden to discuss your project on sdf@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Askrigg's loo with a queue

Following months without a public toilet, Askrigg now has a refurbished loo.

People are flocking to use the 24 hour, unisex toilet which reopened in January following closure over winter after Richmondshire District Council could no longer afford to keep it open. Part of the village hall, it is accessible from the pavement.

A grant of £2,193 from the Sustainable Development Fund to the village hall committee has helped to pay towards a new wc disabled kit, washable wall panelling, a baby changing unit and a hand dryer.

Eleanor Scarr, acting chair of the committee, said: "We've had some wonderful comments from both locals and visitors. People have been queueing outside, it's been so popular. Many have expressed their appreciation by putting money in the honesty box to pay towards the running costs."



Authority Chairman Carl Lis presents the SDF 'big cheque' to Eleanor Scarr at the official opening. Left to right: Martin Garside, Carl, Eleanor, Alison Nicklewicz, Bruce Fawcett (Chair, Askrigg Parish Council) and Alan Kirkbride.



Stephen Stubbs (Chair of Arkengarthdale Parish Council), Paul Lundberg (Vice Chair) and Paul Harker install the interpretation panel at High Green.

Interpreting the lead mining industry

People used to stop and look at an old lead mining ore cart at High Green in Langthwaite without ever fully appreciating the story behind it. Now, thanks to a grant of £900 from the Sustainable Development Fund, it has an interpretation board to explain the significance of lead mining in the Dales.

John Watkins, a parish councillor, explained: "The parish council came up with the idea for the board which was installed in March. Not just visitors but local people have said how interesting it is.

"We had assistance from the National Park Authority's Interpretation Officer, Karen Griffiths, who helped with research, writing and supplying an old sketch of an ore truck on rails. The Sustainable Development Officer, Andrea Burden, also made the grant application process very easy."

Top up grant for ambitious plans at Ravenstonedale

A plan to rejuvenate Ravenstonedale's Grade II listed former High Chapel, now the Community and Heritage Centre (pictured), can go ahead following a top-up grant of £10,000 from the Sustainable Development Fund.

The 18 month project, which is funded from several sources, will see the building of a two-storey extension with toilet facilities, and include disability access to the first floor meeting room and history archive. At the moment the only toilet is in an outbuilding and approached by a steep external staircase.

Chris Elphick, parish clerk, said: "The centre is vital to local people because it is the only meeting room in the village. Visitors come to the history archive from all over the world to find out about relatives, so it meets a variety of needs."



Community play makes comeback

Last performed ten years ago, a community play, *Last Dance of a Dalesman*, is returning to the boards.

It was staged at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, on 17 May by Richmondshire Youth Theatre, who will also perform it at Richmond Methodist Church on 15 June.

Co-founder and drama tutor of the youth theatre, Sue Hedges, said: "The play - written by Nobby Dimon, the former Artistic Director of North Country Theatre - is rather like a fairy story that unpacks some of the social history of the Dales. It educates our young people about the place where they live and inspires them to find out more."

There are 60 members in the theatre group, aged from six to 18, several of whom took part in workshops with Nobby. Others carried out the historical research and created audio recordings of local stories and songs.

A Sustainable Development Fund grant of £4,674 has covered half the cost of putting on the play and these other activities. This includes a 'character day event' of live Dales-inspired performances on 6 July at the Dales Countryside Museum, where their recordings will be added to the Museum's lead mining industry display.

Find out more at **richmondshireyouththeatre.wordpress.com**.





Young walkers on the Dales Way between Kettlewell and Starbotton.

Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Dales Way

The iconic 80-mile long distance footpath, the Dales Way, between Ilkley and Bowness, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The Dales Way Association is organising a touring exhibition which will visit Grassington National Park Centre, Sedbergh Tourist Information Centre and other locations, as well as talks, walk and an ultra-run of the entire route. It is also producing 1,000 copies of a commemorative booklet.

A Sustainable Development Fund grant of £2,365 is paying for the cost of the booklets and three promotional banners as part of the publicity campaign to encourage a new generation of people to discover its delights.

National Park review due to report findings

In January 2018, the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan included a commitment to undertake an independent review of Designated Areas - National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty - to make sure that they are fit for the 21st century.

The review is being led by the writer and broadcaster Julian Glover, supported by an experienced advisory group which includes Dame Fiona Reynolds, former Director-General of the National Trust.

As part of its submission to the review in December the National Park Authority argued that National Parks should be 'better places for nature'. It called for a 'more ambitious agenda for wildlife and biodiversity' and a 'radical new approach' to supporting farming in the National Park.

Following a wide-ranging call for evidence last year, the Glover Review panel is expected to publish its recommendations in the autumn.

'PAYMENT BY RESULTS' FARM PILOTS A SUCCESS

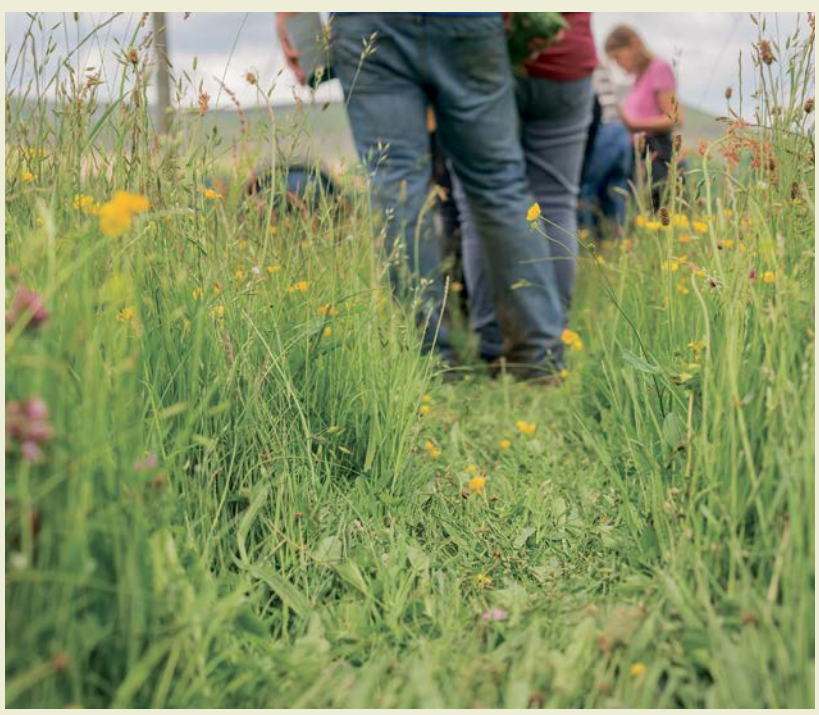


By Helen Keep, Senior Farm Conservation Advisor

Figures revealed at a farming conference hosted by the National Park Authority suggest that a 'payment by results' approach to agri-environment schemes can produce amazing environmental enhancements, and strengthen trust between farmers and government agencies.

The conference held in Middleham last November marked the end of a three year EU-funded project to test the approach in Wensleydale and in Norfolk.

Farmers have been incentivised through a new system of payment by results, rather than being paid to follow detailed management prescriptions. And they were rewarded for producing either species-rich meadows or good habitat for breeding wading birds: the better the habitat, the higher the payment.



The pilot project saw training events held for farmers, such as one on hay meadows at Thornton Rust.

One of the key findings was that hay meadows and wader habitat in the Wensleydale pilot - run by the Authority in partnership with Natural England - had performed better than those in conventional agri-environment schemes.

Two years' worth of data showed there had been a significant increase in species frequency in the meadows. This was reflected in their habitat assessment scores and a shift up the payment tiers, with 63% of the farmers increasing their scores and their payment.

The breeding wader part of the scheme had seen less dramatic results, in the main because of two exceedingly dry Springs which affected part of the scores for the habitat assessment.

However, farmers had done work to block drains, spray rushes to create more ideal cover, create shallow pools, and experiment with different stock types and levels. In the long run, this will definitely improve the condition of the wader habitat.

The project has been a real success, with engaged, enthusiastic farmers, who are gaining confidence and knowledge.

Defra is now directly funding the pilots for a further two and a half years. The findings will contribute to the design of the next national agri-environment scheme ELMS (Environmental Land Management Scheme). This is due to be launched in 2025, with a testing phase from 2021.

All of the farmers have signed up to continue the 'payment by results' scheme and have increased the amount of land that is covered. This will help to show whether the approach is really possible at a farm scale and how the costs compare to a more conventional approach. It's great to know that the expertise of farmers in the Yorkshire Dales is helping to shape future environmental policy.



Richmondshire Youth Theatre in rehearsal.

Family activity days in Yorkshire Dales

If you want to get 'All Wild About!' nature this summer, we've got it covered.

A new leaflet packages together a host of family fun activities run by the National Park Authority and open to everyone - many of them free to attend.

Explore the wildlife hiding in our 'Marvellous Meadows' around Grassington (29 June), learn about 'Breathtaking Birds' in Malham (22 August) and discover the complex mix of animals in Freeholders' Wood, Aysgarth (29 August).

Get 'Down on the Farm' at Gill Garth near Selside ((7 July) or uncover the secret life of owls at Aysgarth Falls while getting crafty (7 August).

Want to give our rangers a helping hand? Then become a 'Ranger for a Day' at Aysgarth Falls (31 July) or Grassington (10 August, 30 October).

Take a walk in the park looking for bats (28 June, Settle), peregrines (9 June, Malham) and squirrels (14 July, 13 August, Hawes).



There's 'Hands on History' at the Dales Countryside Museum every Tuesday from 23 July to 27 August, with drop-in sessions including Roman mosaics and Prehistoric rock art. And on Fun Fridays throughout August you can whittle a stick or get up close to creepy crawlies if you choose!

Want to find out about these and more? Pick up our free family events leaflet at National Park Centres - please note, booking is required for some activities.

For a full range of happenings running throughout the year from a wide range of providers across the National Park, head to our comprehensive 'What's on' calendar at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/events**

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT HOW WE'RE DOING

We often hear that local people think this or local people think that, and sometimes it's difficult to know what to believe. So it's good to hear directly from residents exactly what they think of the National Park and the work of the National Park Authority. That's why, at the end of 2018, we asked 1,000 residents for their views.

It is good to note that the majority of residents are satisfied with the way the Authority does its job (63%); this is slightly higher than in 2014, when the figure was 60%.

It was also reassuring to learn that residents generally felt as informed as they need to be about the work of the Authority, with 65% agreeing that they were. Again, this is an increase since 2014 when 61% agreed.

Chairman of the National Park Authority, Carl Lis, said: "It is good to find that residents think we're doing a good overall job and feel as informed as they need to be about our work. But there is no room for complacency. We will continue to strive to improve these figures further by working closely and communicating openly and honestly with the Park's residents."

Meanwhile, a new question on the survey revealed that there is appetite for change in the way National Park Authority Members are appointed from the constituent local authorities. A majority (73%) said they thought residents should be able to elect Members directly, rather than them being appointed by local councils. This is information we can share in future discussions with the Government on National Park Authority governance.

Other results showed that 84% of residents have used or come into contact with services provided by the National Park Authority. Over 90% of users of the Dales Countryside Museum, National Park Centres and the National Park ranger service, were satisfied, while over 70% of farmers and landowners who had received our advice/support were satisfied. Still with higher satisfaction scores than dis-satisfaction were planning advice and applications (56%), an improvement on 52% in 2014.

The survey also tells us that almost half of residents (46%) think there are significant threats to or pressures on the National Park, down from 60% in 2014.

When asked to spontaneously identify perceived threats and pressures, a lack of housing development was most commonly mentioned (18%), with young people moving out of the area (14%) and the loss of local services (12%) also prominent.

However, when respondents were read a list of threats and pressures, the loss of local services saw the largest proportion (76%) say it was a significant threat. This was followed by young people moving out of the area (74%), the growth in the number of second homes (67%) and an ageing population (66%).

In response, Carl Lis said: "The issues seen by the residents as the most serious for the Park are the same as those identified in the action plan that has recently been developed with other local authorities, to attract working age people (18-44 year olds) to live in the National Park. This has objectives on housing, jobs, broadband and mobile phone coverage and the retention of local services like primary schools and GP surgeries. Although these issues are primarily the responsibility of local councils, the National Park Authority will play its part in trying to find solutions."

Take part in our Wheely Good Competition!

This summer, we're offering the chance to win some fabulous prizes, including two nights' accommodation for a family of up to 5 at Grinton Youth Hostel (courtesy of the Youth Hostel Association) or a fantastic day's electric bike hire for 4 worth £200 (thanks to Dales Bike Centre).

Simply visit our four National Park Centres at Aysgarth Falls, Grassington, Hawes and Malham and our partnership centre at Reeth, pick up a form, answer a question about the special qualities of the area, and receive a stamp.

When you have collected all five stamps, drop off your form at any of the centres to be entered into our prize draw.



Centre Manager Cathy Bergs said: "Our centres offer useful services to residents and visitors alike, from what's on to fabulous 'Distinctly Dales' gifts. There are also great cafes within Aysgarth Falls and Hawes National Park Centres. Do have a look around when you call in."

The Wheely Good Competition runs until 31 October. The full list of prizes and T&Cs can be found at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/competition**

A new Local Plan: 2023-2040



By Chris Clark, Member Champion for Sustainable Development

Since the extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 2016, the Authority has been applying local plan policies inherited from Eden, South Lakeland and Lancaster City councils to development in those areas.

It is now time to review planning policy and investigate the options for influencing new development over the next 20 years as the starting point to preparing a new single Local Plan for the whole National Park.



Improving the range of new housing continues to be an issue to be addressed.

This important document needs everyone to get involved in its creation to make it fit for purpose.

New challenges, such as the retention of community services, are emerging as the population stops growing and becomes older. Land management practices are changing in response to national and international influences. Old issues still need to be addressed, such as widening the National Park economy, improving the range of new housing, and adapting to a changing climate.

At this initial stage we are reviewing evidence and collecting information about the extended National Park area. Studies are being commissioned to investigate the social and economic health of the community, the amount of new housing needed, and the capacity of the landscape to absorb more development.

By spring 2020, we hope that the Authority will have sufficient new evidence to engage in discussion about the likely trends, and the options available to address them.

Look out for communications about the new Local Plan - and opportunities to influence its policies - at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning**

Join the conversation



Stories from the National Park are at the heart of the Authority's blog, which offers an alternative take on our work and people, and a different way to connect with us.

Recent posts have included the creation of 'highways' for dormice (pictured), an 'eel-lusive' project with Sedbergh Primary School, and the 30th anniversary of the reprieve of the Settle-Carlisle line.

We also have two specialist blogs on Dales Archaeology and the Dairy Days project.

Find out more by following the National Park blog at **blog.yorkshiredales.org.uk**

NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN ONLINE

The new National Park Management Plan - the single most important document for the Yorkshire Dales National Park - is now available to view online.

An ambitious five year work programme for a whole range of organisations operating across the area, the Plan sets out a long term vision and 50 measureable objectives to pursue by 2024.

Find out about the organisations that will deliver the objectives and follow progress on them at **www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk**



Panel gives a voice to Dales farmers

The Northern Hill Farming Panel is an initiative created by, and for the benefit of, hill farmers in northern England

A farmer-led alliance, it is supported by the two National Park Authorities and three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership.

The initiative gives a voice to hill farmers from the Yorkshire Dales, Northumberland, North Pennines, Nidderdale, and Forest of Bowland, facilitating the sharing of information and supporting the next generation of hill farmers.

It encourages discussion and seeks agreement between Defra, agency staff and farmers that benefit the farming community and the delivery of public benefits.

Find out more at **www.nuclnp.org.uk/northern-hill-farming-panel**



Farming since he was 18, Richard Betton, 65, is a tenant farmer in Upper Teesdale and Chair of the Northern Hill Farming Panel.

The future for farming in the Dales all depends on what happens with Brexit. There could be some real opportunities, but it also looks like a cliff edge. If it is got wrong by government, it could destroy the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

In some ways the phasing out of direct payments based on land holding will be a good thing. These payments have fuelled rent and land price increases. At the moment prices bear no relation to the earning capacity of the land. The problem is that when we leave the EU, spending on farming will go head-to-head with the NHS, care for the elderly and defence.

It's going to take a very concerted effort by all those interested in the countryside to convince government to allocate sufficient funds to pay for the public goods produced by upland farmers.

The Dales are farmed landscapes. Farmers produce the patchwork of walls, flower-rich meadows, pastures and fells.

Sufficient value must be put on these public goods. Farmers won't keep going at a loss.

Some people seem to want land abandonment, but the people who advocate for re-wilding don't tell the full truth. If we see land abandonment, we'll lose ground nesting birds and will lose some of our more delicate plants.

In urban settings, we don't question using public money to pay for the upkeep of parks. It needs to be the same for rural areas. Part of a farmers' income should be for maintenance of the landscape. Most Dales farmers like to be seen as food producers, but they are also very proud of the environment around them. It's a red letter day when a curlew comes to breed.

There needs to be a culture change, in which Dales farmers think more about the public goods that they produce. It's the job of the Northern Hill Farming Panel to foster that culture change and promote to politicians what hill farmers can deliver for the country.

Farmers can all play their part by talking to their politicians and to the general public. If you're walling a gap and a group of walkers comes by, it's an ideal opportunity to say, 'This doesn't look like this naturally. It looks like it does because of the work that I and my neighbours and my forebears have done. Without farming, the landscape you've come to enjoy would change fast, very fast.'



Richard Betton tends Swaledale sheep on his Upper Teesdale farm

Romance and grit: life of a Yorkshire Dales shepherdess

Forty years ago, redoubtable writer and historian Marie Hartley gifted artefacts from a lifetime of collecting and recording the Dales way of life to create the foundations of the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

Now, the story of third-generation tenant hill farmer and wool fashion designer Alison O'Neill will be told in a special exhibition at the National Park Authority-owned Museum in its anniversary year as a tribute to another inspiring woman.

Shepherdess - one woman farm exhibits the work of photographer Ian Lawson, who has spent eight years documenting Alison's 'disappearing way of life'.

The beautiful pictures show the shepherdess practising high nature value hill farming in one of the country's most stunning landscapes, Shacklabank near the Howgill Fells and Sedbergh - part of the National Park since its boundary was extended in 2016.

Clothing designed by Alison and made from wool clipped from her flock of 150 Rough Fell sheep will also be on display.

Ian said: "Alison is iconic to me. Her traditionalism and devotion to sheep was obvious from the start.

"When I arrived at Shacklabank eight years ago, it was like arriving on a set of *All Creatures Great And Small*. It was as if time had stood still.

"It's a portrait of a disappearing way of life. Many others haven't been able to stick it out. In the time I've been coming here and to the Lake District I've watched farms going out of business, with land taken over by other farms."

Alison said: "The past twenty years at the farm have been the happiest and hardest of my life. I've needed the Daleswoman's grit. I like to say wool is my bread. I turn a product worth nothing to most farmers into that which is sustaining the farm."



One of Ian Lawson's photographs of shepherdess Alison O'Neil featuring in the exhibition

She added: "The pictures are romantic. They had to be, because I'm a romantic."

Museum Manager Fiona Rosher said: "The exhibition and the Museum's 40th birthday make a perfect link. Ian's work, capturing the life and story of Alison and the landscape she lives in, feels like a contemporary reflection of the work of Marie Hartley, who so beautifully recorded the cultural and landscape heritage of the Dales in the last century before it was lost."

Shepherdess - one woman farm runs until 8 September.

The Dales Countryside Museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm. It has a year round programme of events open to all, including school holiday fun, talks and plays, plus a café and bike hire centre. Visit **www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk** to find out more.







...a Columbia Powder Lite™ Hybrid Hooded Jacket!

What do you think about this newspaper? Is the information interesting and relevant to you? Your responses will help us plan and improve future editions and ensure that you are getting the information you want and need.

Complete and return this questionnaire to us by 28 June 2019 and the first name drawn on 1 July 2019 will win our fantastic prize - it's as simple as that!

1. Different people may be interested in different information. To help us learn more, do you: (please tick all that apply)

☐ live in the National Park
☐ run a business here - is it a tourism business?
☐ yes ☐ no
☐ farm here
☐ work here
☐ holiday here

2. Are you interested in articles on (please tick all that apply):

☐ conservation and biodiversity
☐ farming
☐ tourism as a business
☐ events and recreational opportunities
☐ other (please specify)

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3. What did you enjoy most about this edition of *Dales*?

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4. What did you find most useful/relevant?

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5. Was there anything you did not particularly enjoy?

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Columbia Sportswear is the official outdoor apparel partner for the UK's 15 National Parks.

National Parks

6. What would you like to see in future editions of *Dales*?

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7. Were you directly influenced by *Dales* to:

visit our website	☐ Yes	☐ No
get involved in a project	☐ Yes	☐ No
go to an event	☐ Yes	☐ No
contact us	☐ Yes	☐ No
use the services of an advertiser	☐ Yes	☐ No

8. How would you prefer to find out about the National Park and the Authority's work? (please tick all that apply)

☐ *Dales* newspaper delivered through my door
☐ Authority website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk
☐ Authority social media
☐ Authority blog
☐ Authority-run event
☐ Authority e-newsletter
☐ National Park Information Centres
☐ At a meeting or forum with an Authority Member or employee
☐ Stories in local media
☐ Online at other websites
☐ Word of mouth
☐ Other (please specify)

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9. To what extent do you agree with the statement "I generally feel as informed as I need to be about the work of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority"?

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Don't know

10. How would you rate the following aspects of *Dales* (where 6 is excellent and 1 is poor)? Please circle.

Size 1 2 3 4 5 6

Paper quality 1 2 3 4 5 6

Informative and educational value 1 2 3 4 5 6

Balance of advertisements and editorial 1 2 3 4 5 6

Range of articles and features 1 2 3 4 5 6

11. Overall, how satisfied were you with *Dales*? Please circle.

< not at all greatly >

1 2 3 4 5 6

12. Please indicate your age group

☐ 18-24 years ☐ 25-34 years ☐ 35-44 years
☐ 45-54 years ☐ 55-64 years ☐ 65+

Return your completed questionnaire to be entered into our prize draw. Simply write 'Freepost YORKSHIREDALES' on your envelope - no address needed! The first entry drawn on 1 July 2019 will receive the prize.

Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

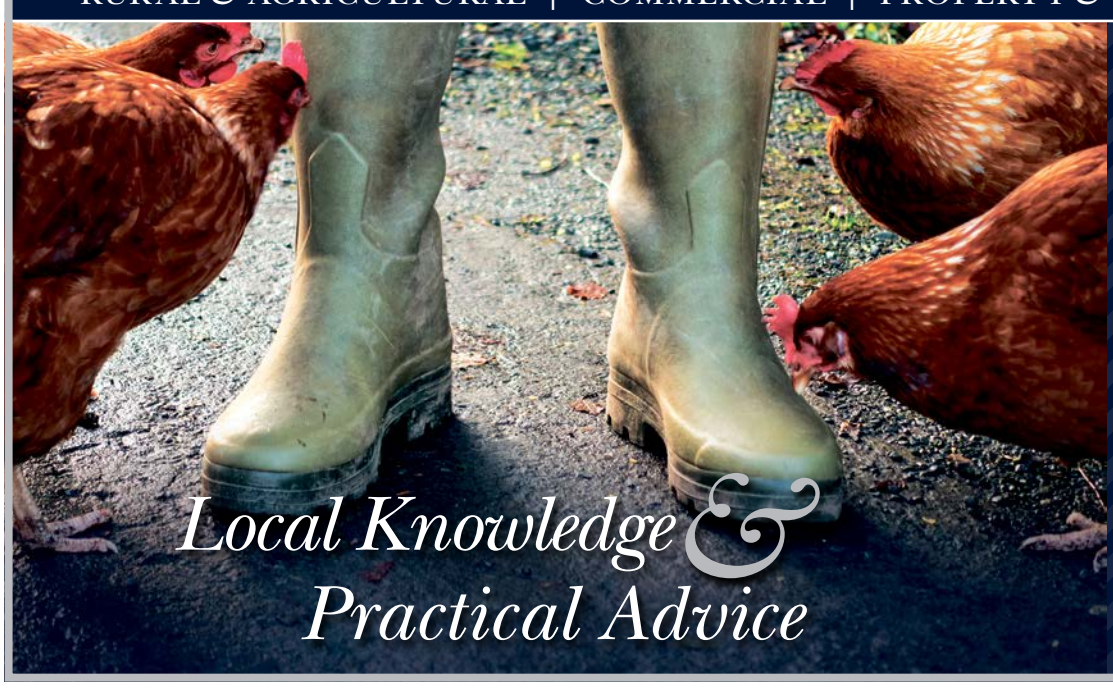
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Terms & conditions: 1. Prize is a Columbia Powder Lite™ Hybrid Hooded Jacket (men's and women's options available). 2. Entries to be received by 28 June 2019; draw will take place on 1 July 2019. 3. Entrants must be aged 18 or over. 4. One entry per person. 5. Conditions apply. For full terms & conditions email info@yorkshiredales.org.uk or call 0300 456 0030. Please note that your name and address will not be used for any future mailings by us or any third party.

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