Dales

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

A newspaper for the residents of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Winter 2021

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK: a place for everyone



'Meet and greet' volunteers have been on hand to help at visitor hubs this summer (Image: Paul Harris)

We are delighted that visitors new and old have returned to the Dales this year.

Through the pandemic there has been an increased awareness of the health and wellbeing benefits we all derive through connecting with nature. We have access, on our doorstep, to the stunning landscape of the National Park. Others living in urban areas aren't so lucky, and they have told us how much they have enjoyed their visit to the Dales, particularly the opportunities it offers for walking, cycling and horse riding, marvelling at our waterfalls, splashing in rivers, eating local produce, and just taking time to relax in the healing landscape.

While just over a quarter of visitors have come for the first time during the pandemic, 2020 saw mainly day visitors from the surrounding urban conurbations. But 2021 has definitely been the year of the 'staycation'. Visitors from all over the UK have flocked to the Dales, with the highest proportion of new visitors this year from the South East.

It's certainly been a busy year, the likes of which haven't been seen since the late 80s and early 90s - before cheap flights abroad became the norm.

This year's 'peak' started early, with June hitting the numbers of visitors usually seen only in August, and these numbers continued throughout, well into the Autumn.

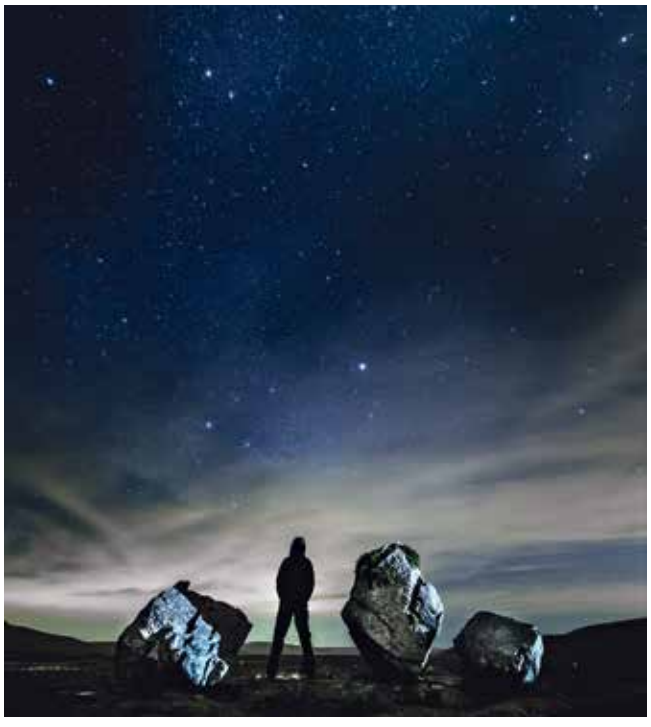
It's too early to say if this year's visitor numbers have translated into visitor spend and make up for the losses sustained in 2020, when the Dales visitor economy was 50% down on the previous year with hospitality businesses unable to open.

Summer 2021 has brought a wonderfully diverse range of happy visitors to the area. It's also been challenging, particularly as nearly 30% of visitors to the National Park don't plan their visit and simply turn up at their chosen destination. National Park Authority staff and volunteers have been on hand at sites to meet and greet visitors, helping them navigate popular walking routes, understand the Countryside Code, and encouraging them to take their litter home.

As the weather changes, and winter sets in, the National Park takes a gentle rest from a successful season. We know many visitors will return; the warm Dales hospitality, its stunning landscape and opportunities for outdoor recreation leave an indelible mark, and satisfaction ratings are outstanding.

We hope some of these visitors will come back in February to join local businesses across the National Park in celebrating our Dark Skies Festival. The Yorkshire Dales National Park is special whatever the time of year.

Celebrate our Dark Skies



The National Park's stunning night sky seen from Twistleton Scar (Image: Danny Lawson)

A star-filled sky is one of the most magical sights of the natural world.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is now one of 18 International Dark Sky Reserves, meaning we officially have some of the darkest skies in the world - perfect for stargazing. And those living in the Dales are part of just 25% of UK residents who are lucky enough to see truly dark skies, free from light pollution.

To share and celebrate this very special quality, we host an annual Dark Skies Festival each February in partnership with the North York Moors National Park, with events for families, first-time stargazers, and those wishing to expand their knowledge or astrophotography skills. In 2021, the festival went virtual, reaching over 4 million people across the world.

Raising awareness of our dark skies to a wider audience and helping local tourism businesses make the most of this special quality is something we are keen to build on in 2022. Promotion of our dark skies and festival helps attract visitors during some of the traditionally quieter times of the year, thereby helping the local economy by extending the season and encouraging longer stays.

There is now a growing network signed up to be a Dark Sky Friendly Business, making it easier for visitors to find places that have gone the extra mile to offer stargazing opportunities during their stay. It's a self-certified scheme for tourism businesses who understand and appreciate the importance of our dark skies and want to attract the stargazing market.

With the growing awareness of the negative effect of light pollution on the environment, wildlife and the human population, an increasing number of businesses in the National Park have also taken action to reduce light pollution on their property.

The good news is that, by applying some basic principles, we can all play a part in minimising the harmful effects of light pollution, and help the climate at the same time. Lighting should only be on when needed, no brighter than necessary, and be full shielded (pointing downwards); only light the area that needs it and minimise blue light emissions.

Whether involved in the Dark Skies Festival as a business, taking part as a participant, or even reducing the impact of lighting around your own home, everyone is helping to create awareness of our majestic dark skies.

To find out how to become a Dark Sky Friendly Business, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dark-sky-friendly-businesses**. Discover more about our annual Dark Skies Festival at **www.darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk**

WELCOME TO THE WINTER 2021 EDITION OF *DALES*

As we move towards the end of another year, we edge ever so slowly into what we hope will be the post-Covid era - although it seems increasingly likely that it will be more like a 'living with Covid' future that we have to come to terms with.

The past year has been an interesting one in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The fortunes of many local businesses appear to have improved, whether they are in farming - with higher lamb and beef prices - or in the visitor economy, where the area has continued to attract new visitors, as well as welcoming back many who until recently had, unsurprisingly, been reluctant to venture out.

However, in spite of this return to something a bit more like 'business as usual', it does feel as if real change is in the air.

Farming and land management in the National Park is about to enter a critical phase: one that is likely to have climate change and nature recovery at its heart.

There is no doubt in our minds that these two issues are the most critical facing the National Park and its communities. The hope is that - with the right support - our farmers and land managers will be able to use the area's special qualities to help meet these twin challenges and continue to produce sustainable, high-quality food.

Let's hope that our generation has the courage to rise to that challenge.

Neil Heseltine
Chair

David Butterworth
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Apprentices take on fresh challenges



By Belinda Lloyd, Apprentice Supervisor (Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)

Four new young people began apprenticeships with the National Park Authority this summer - while the first four who completed their 18-month apprenticeships in April have all moved on to jobs or further learning in the land-based sector.

The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership (WDLP) is half way through its 'Skills for the Future' project. The apprenticeships are helping to provide young people with the training needed to address skills shortages.

Former apprentices Abbi Woof, Rebekah Alison, Billy Capstick and Sarah Clarke are busy putting their new skills to good use.

Abbi works on a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust project, Wild Ingleborough, using her agricultural knowledge alongside her conservation skills to help re-wild this area of the National Park.

Rebekah is studying Environmental Conservation at Newcastle University to increase her knowledge of conservation issues learnt at apprenticeship level.

Billy worked as a landscaper for a while and is now trying his hand at stone masonry.

And Sarah is halfway through her traineeship with West Cumbria Rivers Trust, using her people skills to lead volunteers helping to restore the River Cocker.



James Renwick-Smith (left) and Jim Taylor stand by two gates the four new apprentices made and hung on the Pennine Bridleway in Mallerstang.

Meanwhile the four new apprentices have made great strides in gaining skills for their own futures, already having achieved qualifications using tools of the trade Brushcutter and Abrasive Wheels, alongside First Aid and Mental Health Awareness.

In the first two months, they have carried out a wide variety of tasks, working with partners and volunteers. They have gained woodworking skills, learning how to build tree cages on a Woodland Trust project, then how to make gates, hanging them along part of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. They have helped Cumbria Wildlife Trust with planting wildflower plugs and sphagnum transplantation, North Pennines AONB with tree seed collecting, and Friends of the Lake District with tree maintenance.

The apprentices have worked on WDLP archaeological dig 'Little Asby Through the Keyhole', they have been taught navigation skills, and are currently learning the traditional countryside skill of drystone walling.

Sam Barden is 18 and loves the landscape and conservation value of the National Park. He has volunteered on Foxglove Covert nature reserve since he was 16. Asked why he had applied, Sam said: "I wanted to do something different, to help the countryside and help with climate change."

Twenty-six-year-old James Renwick-Smith lives in the Westmorland Dales. He is interested in history and heritage and has volunteered on archaeology digs and surveys for the WDLP. James wants "to gain new skills, to broaden my knowledge."

Libby Firby-Fisk, 24, is from Teesdale and has previously worked for English Heritage. She has a passion for plants and is enjoying the botanical interest of the Westmorland Dales, learning to identify species on each work site.

Libby said: "I want to build a career working in practical conservation and this apprenticeship teaches such a wide range of skills that we will have the option of going in multiple directions afterwards."

Jim Taylor, aged 17, lives in the Lake District National Park and is from a farming background. He enjoys the practical element of the apprenticeship, being outdoors and working in a team, and says he's enjoying learning "how to do jobs the right way, the safe way."

'Skills for the Future' is part of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme - a programme grant-funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which aims to reveal, conserve and celebrate the hidden heritage of the area that became part of the extended National Park in 2016.

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SHARING THE LANGUAGE OF THE DALES



By Poppy Oldham, Engagement Officer: Dialect & Heritage Project

An archive of dialect and culture in rural England from the late 19th to 20th century is offering fascinating insights into how our ancestors lived, worked and spoke.

For the first time, the Leeds Archive of Vernacular Culture (LAVC) is being made accessible to all, and the Dales Countryside Museum, based in Hawes, is at the heart of helping communities connect with it.

The Survey of English Dialects was undertaken after the Second World War between 1951 and 1961. It marked the beginning of the archive and became one of the most extensive and detailed dialect studies ever undertaken.



Mrs Mary E Scott [left] - identified by her great niece Helen Guy, Director of Keld Resource Centre - was well known for her cheesemaking, but was also an avid maker who crocheted beautiful pieces in which she took immense care and pride (LAVC/PHO/P412277)

Fieldworkers travelled to 313 localities across the UK, speaking to hundreds of people and recording their responses to over a thousand questions. Over 300 English dialects were documented, and the Dales Countryside Museum is busy tracing some of these back to the communities of Muker, Askrigg, Dent, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Grassington, Pateley Bridge, Gargrave, Burton-in-Lonsdale and Soulby.

Eleanor Scarr [pictured right] is one of the museum's current research volunteers and has fond memories of photographer Werner Kissling visiting Wensleydale in 1962, on behalf of the Institute of Dialect and Folk Life Studies. Dressed in her grandmother's clogs and clothes, she demonstrates the use of a wooden yoke for carrying milk from hill pastures to the farm house. The photographs and records sit alongside the LAVC material at Leeds University.

This October, the exhibition *Love Tokens, Sittings and Songs* opened at the museum. This showcases a private collection of over 400 knitting sticks, alongside photographs and sketches from the Leeds archive that detail the handiwork of many local figures, including a hand-knitted mitten and glove made by Marie Hartley, the founder of the museum. The exhibition runs until March 2022.

We need your help to continue to bring these archives alive. We are looking for descendants of those who took part in the original Survey of English Dialects or individuals with connections to the Institute of Dialect and Folk Life Studies - please get in touch.



Eleanor Scarr demonstrates use of a wooden yoke (LAVC/PHO/P412507).

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Follow the project and find out how to take part via Twitter @DalesMuseum and Instagram @dialectandheritage or by emailing Engagement Officer Poppy Oldham at p.oldham@leeds.ac.uk

Discover the archive at **library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections/collection/2571**

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TRUE OR FALSE? PLANNING MYTHBUSTERS

Planning is vital to ensure new developments are well designed, carefully sited, and contribute to the quality of the natural environment and built heritage of the National Park. They also need to provide homes and work places to sustain our rural communities and local economy.

The planning process can seem complicated, and sometimes policies - and decisions - can be hard to understand, with so many factors needing to be taken into consideration.

Here, our planning team correct some common misconceptions.

You can't get permission for changes to a listed building.

False. Decisions on works to listed buildings are carefully balanced between the needs of the owner and the historical or architectural significance of the building. Well designed and sensitive changes can and do make it through, and may even add value to a property.

Every application has to be decided at Planning Committee.

False. Normally, only around 10% of decisions are made at Committee. The rest are delegated to planning officers to determine, using the policies that the Members have set out in the Local Plan. Although it might not always feel like it, delegation means a much faster decision-making process!

Permitted development rights don't apply in the National Park.

False. Permitted development (PD) means work that can be carried out without applying for planning permission. While it is true that several types of PD don't apply in the Yorkshire Dales National Park because of landscape sensitivity, certain extensions, alterations to houses or small-scale farm developments still qualify as PD. To find out if your minor development qualifies, contact our Planning Advice Service.

Planners refuse all barn conversions.

False. Since the revised barns policy came into effect in October 2015, the Authority has given planning permission for almost 200 barn conversions, an average of 33 per year. That means 94% of all barn conversion applications have been approved. But actual completions always lag behind and, on the surface, some sites may look pretty dormant. However, by March this year, 42 of these planning permissions issued had reached completion, with a further 58 underway.



You can't get permission for new farm buildings.

False. While it's true that planners want to see existing buildings adapted and used to their full capacity, the National Park Authority will work with farmers to find the most appropriate sites for new farm buildings in our protected landscape. We'll consider things like site context, size, landscaping and light pollution to ensure that the best solution is reached.

The Local Occupancy policy doesn't let any new blood into the Dales.

False. As well as supporting existing residents to find a property, this policy also encourages people to move to the area to take up work, start a business or to enrol their children in one of the Yorkshire Dales National Park's schools. It's a criteria-based policy designed to make sure that a proportion of the National Park's newest houses are home to people prepared to put down strong roots in the Dales.

You can't install renewable energy technology.

False. In fact, the National Park Authority fully supports the installation of small-scale renewable and low carbon technologies. We just ask that installations are of a high quality and don't have a negative impact on your neighbours or on the National Park's special qualities. Depending on where you live or work, solar panels, ground and air source heat pumps and microgeneration wind turbines could even be covered by permitted development. Contact our Planning Advice Service to find out more.

Seeking advice before you submit a planning application allows planning officers to talk through any potential problems and even add value to proposals. It also allows applications to be dealt with more quickly and reduces the likelihood of permission being refused.

Our free planning surgeries allow members of the public to get verbal planning advice on householder or small-scale development proposals.

For details, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/planning-advice-service**

Local Plan takes shape

The Authority is hard at work on the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan.

In December, Members will be deciding how the new policies should respond to the latest round of public consultation on housing occupancy and barn conversions.

Meanwhile, we are carefully scrutinising all of the sites submitted through the 'Call for Sites' to assess their potential to provide locations for sustainable housing development.

A 'Preferred Options' document will be published in Spring 2022, giving a firm direction of travel for the new Local Plan.

Find out more at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/local-plan**

STEP OUT WITH OUR NEW APP

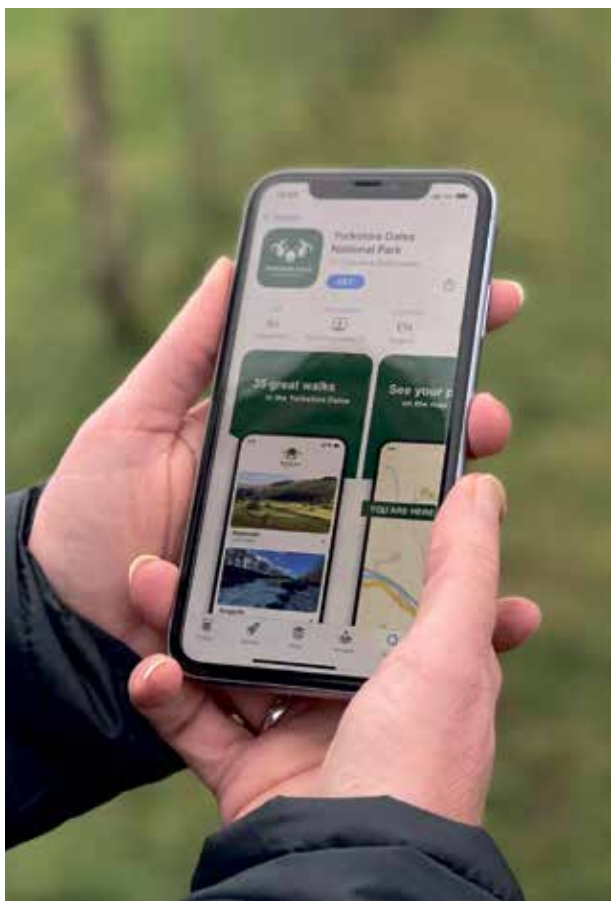
A free GPS-enabled walking app offering 35 fantastic trails throughout the National Park has been launched for Apple and Android smartphones.

The easy-to-use app - created by the National Park Authority - is designed to appeal to walkers of all ages and abilities. The mix of linear and circular routes are graded to help you make an informed choice, and you can make your selection from either a list or map view.

The app's key feature is an offline mapping tool which allows users to track their walk, regardless of whether there's a mobile phone signal or not.

It also contains essential information such as the Countryside Code, what kit to take, and safety tips, and provides links throughout to more detailed information on the Authority's mobile-friendly website.

Download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play.



Our newly-launched, free, GPS-enabled app offers 35 fantastic National Park walks.

THE CHANGING FACE OF VOLUNTEERING

> "Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world"
>
> *John Muir, 19th century naturalist, described as the 'Father of National Parks*

You may have noticed that the friendly faces of some of our volunteers repairing the National Park's drystone walls are looking a bit younger these days. That's because our youth volunteering programmes are booming. More and more young people are being inspired to come and help us conserve and protect the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and we're delighted to have them.

Motivations voiced by these young people to get involved include a passion to conserve and protect the environment, a desire to make a difference, to exercise in the fresh air, to discover new places, and to make new friends. Overwhelmingly, all our youngest recruits are enjoying the benefits of being outside in nature, almost as much as we're enjoying the benefits of their hard work.

Supported by Authority staff and Dales Volunteers, our Dales Young Rangers and Generation Green volunteers have given 348 volunteering days between them this year.

They've undertaken tasks essential to the maintenance and conservation of the National Park, including tree planting, collecting used tree guards, increasing accessibility through footpath repairs, sphagnum moss planting, Himalayan Balsam plant eradication, hedgerow creation and wildlife surveying.

Our *Up Skill, Down Dale* programme has given opportunities for young people aged 18-26 to volunteer in an office setting too. Laura Day supported the Dales Countryside Museum's dialect project [read more on the project on page 3] and Alice Rich spent time with the Trees & Woodlands Team carrying out research to improve our data on wood pasture and parkland trees.

As well as helping the natural environment, these volunteering opportunities support young people to find a route to employment in the 'green economy'.

Three former Young Rangers have gone on to paid apprenticeships with the Authority: Sam Barden became a Westmorland Dales countryside trainee this summer [read more on our apprentices on page 2], Benji Grundy joined the ranger team based at Stonedykes Barn in Ribblesdale, and Abbi Woof completed her apprenticeship with us this March and now works for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

If you're aged 11-26 and want to get involved, please visit our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/generation-green** or contact learning@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Generation Green is an Access Unlimited coalition project, led by YHA (England & Wales) and involving all 10 English National Parks as well as The Outward Bound Trust, Scouts, Girlguiding and Field Studies Council.

Funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, Generation Green is creating jobs, volunteering and training opportunities, and offering outdoor and online learning experiences. It aims to provide more than 100,000 opportunities to connect young people to nature - many for the first time - and to cultivate a sense of care for the natural environment.



Generation Green volunteers enjoy the chance to connect with nature while carrying out conservation tasks at Freeholders' Wood, Aysgarth

Summit for nothing

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is a landscape for everyone - but sometimes the hills can be a little daunting. So, new for Autumn 2021, the National Park Authority has commissioned outdoor adventure provider Due North Events to offer groups the chance to go on a free, fully guided hill walk.

There will be walks for all abilities, each one aimed at connecting participants with nature - learning outdoor skills and enjoying time for peace and reflection.

If you are part of a group who would like to get involved, please contact info@duenorthevents.com to get booked on.



Groups can now take advantage of a free, fully-guided hill walk

Exciting opportunities for woodland in the Dales

There has never been a better time to plant trees, with generous grants available and our skilled woodland officers on hand to organise funding and provide expert advice.

As well as providing valuable wildlife habitat, storing carbon, and helping to reduce down-stream flooding, woodlands can provide a valuable source of income to support more resilient farm businesses

If you own or manage land in the area, providing that it is considered suitable, you can apply for up to 100% of the real costs of woodland creation, as well as receiving ongoing maintenance payments to look after your new woodland and ensuring it successfully establishes. You could also receive additional money based on what the new woodland can offer.

We would particularly like to hear from landowners and land managers with woodland aspirations which would buffer or connect riparian woodland or ancient woodland, are adjacent to water courses supporting increased water quality and reduced flooding risk, support improved access to woodlands, and support woodland creation through natural regeneration.

Our new woodland opportunity mapping tool can give an initial indication of whether land may be suitable to planting - see **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/woodland-opportunities-map**

To register your interest in woodland creation, please contact us at trees@yorkshiredales.org.uk and send us a map of the proposed area.



Woodland planting can create important wildlife habitats, help store carbon, and provide a valuable source of farm income

ALL PROJECTS GREAT AND SMALL

The National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) provides a simple and accessible source of money for a wide range of initiatives. It is open to individuals, community groups, businesses and the voluntary sector.

This year we have a budget of £80,000 to allocate to worthy projects that contribute to the National Park. We encourage funding applications for schemes that will have multiple benefits and a long-term outcome.

The 2020/21 grants ranged in size from £917 for fencing around open mine shafts on Grassington Moor (Craven) to £20,000 for hyperfast 'fibre to the premises' broadband connections for residents and businesses in Mallerstang (Eden District) and Cotterdale (Richmondshire).

The four case studies highlighted on this page show a range of community-led projects that the SDF has recently supported.



Volunteers carry out repairs on the old footbridge over the Eden Valley Railway line (Image: David Rayner)

Big step forward for historical footbridge

Work is due to be completed by Christmas on the first phase of restoring an old footbridge over the Eden Valley Railway at Kirkby Stephen East Station.

The bridge was built in 1861 and carries a footpath from the town to Ash Fell.

Partly funded by a grant of £3,350, volunteers from the Stainmore Railway Company - part of a larger project ultimately aiming to reinstate the line to Appleby East - are rebuilding two wing walls and two parapets pushed out of alignment by a large tree.

Project Manager Mike Thompson said: "The structure is one of the few surviving bridges designed by the famous railway engineer Sir Thomas Bouch. We aim to raise funds to complete its restoration by repairing and repainting its metalwork and replacing its crumbling concrete deck with long-life timber."

Shedloads of space at Sedbergh allotments

Since the foundation of the Sedbergh Allotments Association in 2008, its members had to manage with a dilapidated, insecure shed clad with rusty corrugated iron, rotting floor, and walls close to collapse.

Thanks to a grant of £1,000, the members who tend the 26 plots now have a spacious, new shed, half as big again as the old one, built from forestry-accredited timber with better headroom, a notice-board, shelves and hooks for tools.

The shed easily houses the communal lawnmower, wheelbarrows and watering cans and can shelter up to ten people from the rain.

In keeping with its members' organic principles, it collects up to 2,000 litres of rainwater in storage tanks and has a solar-powered light.



Cutting the ribbon on the new Sedbergh allotments shed are (from left) treasurer Nigel Whiting, landlord Tony Reed-Screen and plotholder John Haygarth (Image: Sedbergh Community Allotments Association)

Jubilee jubilation for Kilnsey Show's new website

Kilnsey Show will be back with a publicity bang next August with a shiny new website, due to be unveiled in November this year.

A grant of £2,250 has seen the website given a complete makeover by DJD Design of Burnsall with new content and new photography, plus the ability to submit entries and apply for advance tickets online.

Chris Windle, who chairs the show, said:" There has been a show every year since Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, apart from the war years and during the Covid and foot-and mouth outbreaks, so the next one in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be very special.

"We have tentatively trialled online entries and ticketing before, but next year everyone will really see the benefits."

The Kilnsey Show website can be found at **www.kilnseyshow.co.uk**



Young competitors at Kilnsey Show (Image: Stephen Garnett)



A Rural Watch volunteer on look-out (Image: Upper Wharfedale Rural Watch)

Sharper vision for Rural Watch

Thieves beware: you could be spotted even in the dark thanks to a grant of £2,137 which has paid for a thermal imaging night vision camera, binoculars and torches for Upper Wharfedale Rural Watch.

The group of around 20 vetted volunteers helps to monitor and prevent rural crime and has notched up several successes since it was founded in 2019. It has recovered stolen quad bikes and liaised with the police about more than 20 incidents involving poachers in the last 18 months.

The group's undercover work sitting and observing, often through the night, looking out and reporting suspicious activity to the police, has resulted in successful prosecutions. They share information with a WhatsApp group of around 160 volunteers and liaise closely with other Rural Watch groups based in Settle and in Wensleydale.

Want to find out more? Contact us on 01969 652337 or visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/sustainable-development-fund**

Grants programme for farmers underway

Swaledale farmer Martin Calvert has become one of the first people to be awarded a grant from the new Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

He will use the grant to restore a prominent field barn and to conserve and enhance hay meadows and wading bird habitat.

Farming in Protected Landscapes is being administered by the National Park Authority and will run for three years. It is expected that around £3 million will be available over that period. Since the programme started in June 2021, the Authority has received more than 150 enquiries and 17 applications, with many more in the pipeline.

Speaking on a bright early November morning, having just put the tup to his flock of Swaledales at Hazel Brow Farm in Low Row, Mr Calvert said he was looking to change with the times.

"We need to make the business more resilient and prepare for the Environmental Land Management schemes that are going to come. Farming in Protected Landscapes has given us the opportunity to look at other streams of income because we all know that the Basic Payment Scheme is being phased out, which will affect all hill farmers.

"We are wanting to restore the barn because of its natural beauty. If nothing is done, the roof will fall in, like many others in the area, which we don't want to see happen.

"Also there is wildlife, which has been diminishing, and we want to play our part in restoring the habitat. We join three Sites of Special Scientific Interest in this block of land here."

He said he could recommend the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme to other farmers, as it could be more straightforward than the national Countryside Stewardship scheme.

"We found there was a bit more flexibility with the programme team. Pippa Merricks [the programme officer in the north of the National Park] and Helen Keep [Senior Farm Conservation Officer] have been a great help in guiding us through the process. We did look at putting scrapes in through the mid-tier Countryside Stewardship process, but unfortunately the field sizes were too small so the computer said no, whereas with Farming in Protected Landscapes they came out and saw that the area was suitable and there were birds here.



Martin Calvert, pictured on his Swaledale farm, is one of the first people to receive a grant from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

"I would say get in touch [with a programme officer] as soon as you can with any ideas. The programme is flexible and the team will guide you through, come out and say whether your ideas are eligible or not. It's a very straightforward application form, just get in touch and make an application - you've got nothing to lose."

Asked to contemplate the future, he said family and landscape were important to him and that he hoped to be farming for many years to come.

"I like working outside and with nature and animals. It's great to be working in such a beautiful landscape, which we need to protect. I'm a third generation farmer on this farm with a young son who might potentially follow in my footsteps, who knows."

Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer, northern area, Pippa Merricks said: "It has been great working with Martin to develop his application as he appreciates where future farming policy is going, and what it means to farm in a National Park, where access for recreation and enjoyment is very important. Managing grazing to maximise animal and soil health makes good business sense through reducing the need for inputs and livestock treatments, as well as helping the environment through storing more carbon."

Want to find out more? Contact one of our Farming in Protected Landscapes officers - Tarja Wilson (South) on 07970 873314 or Pippa Merricks (North) on 07812 773751, email fipl@yorkshiredales.org.uk, or visit our website at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes**

Brie-lliant year for Cheese Festival



By Katy Foxford, Tourism Support Officer

In the Yorkshire Dales we are lucky to have an abundance of businesses producing, supplying and selling fresh, local produce on our doorstep. This, combined with a strong dairying heritage (of which cheese is at the centre) is why local produce is one of the National Park's special qualities.

To celebrate this, in October we held our fourth 'Yorkshire Dales Cheese Festival, Celebrating Local Produce'; our vision - to make the Yorkshire Dales National Park a destination to visit because of the reputation it has for cheese, local produce and local ingredients, and to encourage visitors to come, explore and stay longer whilst discovering some of the best local produce we have to offer.

Each year, food and drink producers, restaurants, pubs, cafés and shops across the Yorkshire Dales unite for the festival to share their unique offerings and tell their stories, all in the name of championing local produce.

This year, we were keen to welcome visitors back to the Dales after a turbulent time and share again what is so special about the food and drink inspired by and produced from our stunning, unique landscape. To help with this we created an alternative way of promoting local businesses participating in this event by producing a map.

The map presented the locations of all the best places to experience and buy the best local produce, and – by highlighting them - was a way to try and share information about as many businesses as possible with residents and visitors.

Some businesses created fantastic events, including A Cheesy Twist, Truly Local Ice-cream, cookery courses, tasting demonstrations and special menus. Others were happy for us just to mention them.



Say cheese! Enjoying the best of the Dales' local produce

So much care and attention goes into producing our local food - growing the crops, producing the milk, and making the cheese we love to eat. Supporting local systems of production and understanding the origins of where our food comes from is better for you, the community and the planet!

Our Cheese Festival will return next year from 7-10 October, so if you know of, or are, a business who would like to host an event and be on the map, please email us on tourism@yorkshiredales.org.uk.



NEW PENNINE BRIDLEWAY MAP PUBLISHED

By Jo McAllister, Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager

The first map to show the entire route of the Pennine Bridleway from the Peak District in Derbyshire to Ravenstonedale in Cumbria has been published.

Produced by Harvey Maps with support from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, the aim of the map is to encourage more people to discover and enjoy this beautiful and diverse trail.

The Pennine Bridleway was the first National Trail designed specifically for cyclists and horse riders, as well as for walkers. It is a linear route, but it also has two loop sections: the 10-mile Settle Loop - the first section of the trail to be opened in the National Park in 2005 - and the Mary Towneley Loop in the South Pennines.

The trail provides a fantastic opportunity to explore the countryside, secure in the knowledge that it is designed with miles of well signed off-road tracks, safe river crossings, and no steps or pedestrian stiles to negotiate.

The new waterproof map includes information on planning your trip, accommodation, food and drink, horsebox parking and bike hire. We hope it will enable confident navigation and open up more opportunities for use of this multi-purpose trail, whether exploring a section on a day trip or embarking on a longer adventure.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is the lead partner of the Pennine National Trails Partnership.

The Partnership brings together more than a dozen local authority and other partners to maintain the full 205 miles. It also works with businesses who operate along its path, whether they offer services to trail users or wish to use the appeal of a National Trail in their marketing.

We are always looking for more providers who can accommodate bikes and/or horses with secure storage, stables or grazing. Accommodation, services and attractions near the Pennine Bridleway can be listed free on the National Trails website **www.nationaltrail.co.uk**

The 55 miles of the Pennine Bridleway in the Yorkshire Dales National Park starts at Long Preston and finishes in Street just outside Ravenstonedale.



Cyclist Phil Atherton from Kendal receives the new Pennine Bridleway National Trail map from Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager Jo McAllister.

Visit **www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway** to find out more and see the new Pennine Bridleway promotional film. The new map will be available to purchase from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's online shop at **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/shop**

National Park Visitor Centres - they're not just for visitors!

Have you taken a look inside our National Park Visitor Centres lately?

These hub sites provide useful services for visitors and residents alike, with knowledgeable local staff who can tell you what's on in your area and help everyone discover what's special about it.

Each is in a stunning setting so there is plenty to do nearby when you call in, and our centres at Aysgarth Falls and Hawes have fantastic cafés too.

Hawes and Malham are official Dark Sky Discovery Sites - a great place to begin your stargazing adventure - with parking and other facilities.

"We've put a lot of thought into our retail offer", said Centre & Retail Manager Kathryn Coldicott.

"We continue to stock essential items for your day out on the hills, including OS maps and guidebooks.

"Our products follow seasonal changes and reflect what's around us, such as the National Park's very special dark skies, and we have a range of souvenirs which make a contribution to the Yorkshire Three Peaks project.

"You will also find beautiful Distinctly Dales products - locally inspired and sourced - such as gloves and hats crafted by Angela Bradley at Farfield Mill."

For opening times and more information on our Visitor Centres at Malham, Grassington, Hawes and Aysgarth Falls and our partnership centre at Reeth, visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/national-park-centres**



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