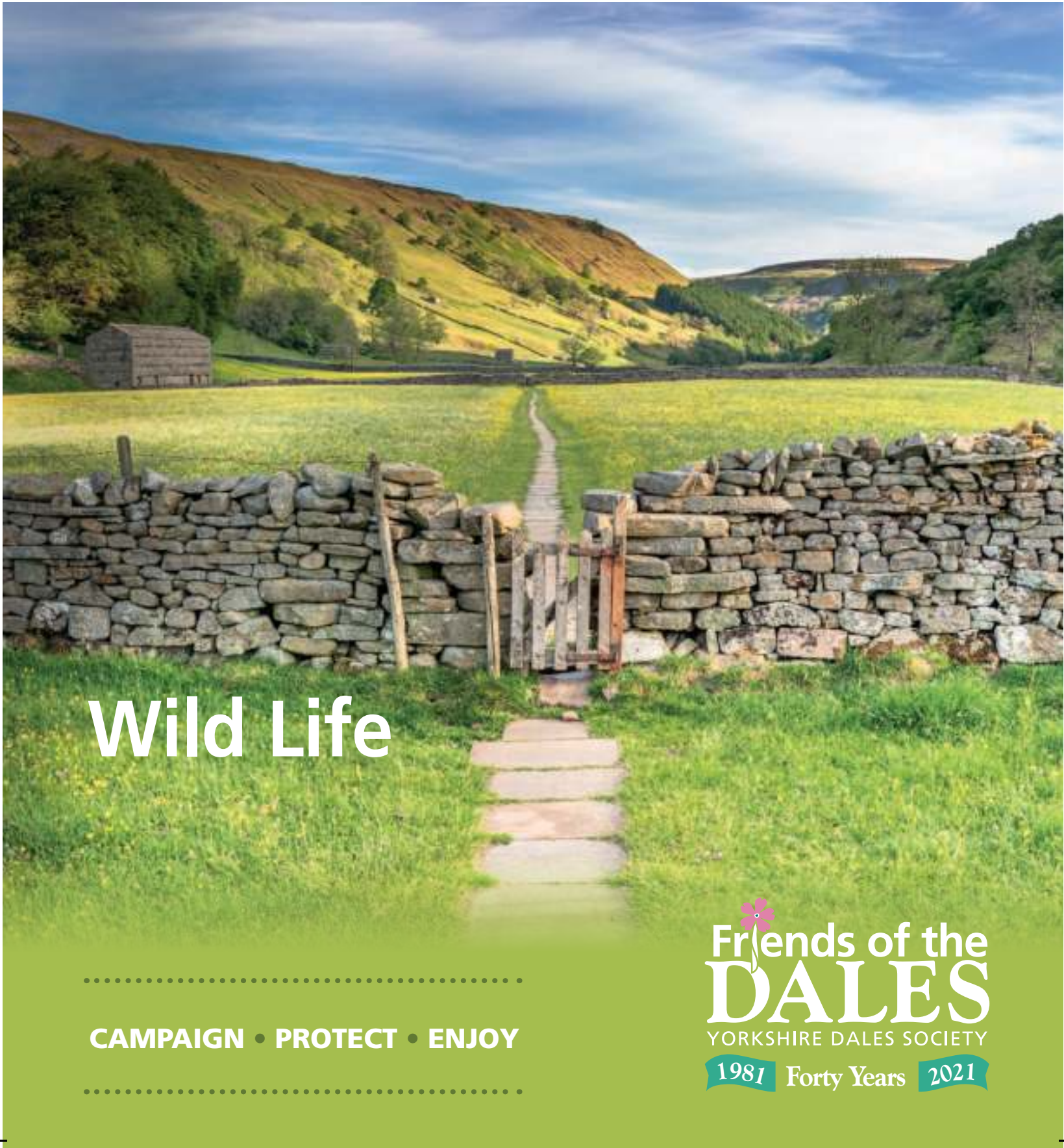


Yorkshire **DALES** review

Summer 2021 : Issue 155



Wild Life

.....
CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY
.....

Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY
1981 Forty Years 2021

Front cover photo:
 Meadows path, Muker, Swaledale.
 Photo courtesy of Richard Walls
 Photography

Views expressed in the *Yorkshire Dales Review* are not necessarily those of Friends of the Dales.

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Joint (Over 60)	£450

Please Gift Aid your membership if you are eligible as we can benefit from additional income.



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David Hill has a strong professional and personal interest in biodiversity conservation. He was deputy chair of Natural England from 2011-16,

is chairman of Plantlife and the Northern Upland Chain Nature Partnership, a board trustee of the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and a commissioner with the RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission. He and his wife have land under conservation in Nidderdale and Swaledale.

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Rewilding: Sensitivity, Seeds & Scythes



Richard Brown is a botanist, ecologist, seedsman and scythesman. A long-time promoter of wild flowers and meadow creation, he discovered the joy

of scything 14 years ago, and is chair of the scythe association. He visits the Dales each year (Dales grassland being the best to mow) and offers scythe and grassland management courses and advice, particularly for wildlife and community groups. He works at Emorsgate Seeds, growing and promoting wildflower seeds.

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Wetland Wonders



Lyndon Marquis is the communications officer for Yorkshire Peat Partnership, an umbrella organisation led by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, restoring peatlands in the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and northern parts of the South Pennines.

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Kevin Armstrong is a Yorkshireman and member of Friends of the Dales who grabs the chance to walk, run and cycle in the national park whenever he can. He works for UnLtd, the foundation for social entrepreneurs.

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Mapping with the App

Whilst out and about this summer you might like to try out the new iNaturalist app promoted by UK National Parks. The app is designed to help anyone map and record plants and animals – but especially in national parks. UK National Parks hopes the growing database of wildlife records will help it in its collective effort to enhance the country's precious landscapes and support strong biodiverse ecosystems. The app is available via Google Play or the Apple App Store, or go to www.nationalparks.uk/look-wild. We've downloaded the app onto our work mobiles so we can test it ourselves.



Emerald Damselfly beside the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, June 2021.
Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake



An early-blooming wildflower verge in Hetton.
Photo courtesy of Rachel Kirwin

Trials for New Verge Cutting Regime

We are starting to see some success with our campaign promoting a 'cut less, cut later' message for roadside verges to encourage wildlife to regenerate.

North Yorkshire County Council has agreed three trial sites – covering eight miles of verges – in Craven, where it will cut only narrow strips this year. We hope it will build on this by reducing the frequency of cuts in 2022.

We have also heard back from several of the parish councils and meetings we contacted. The parishes of Lawkland, Melmerby, Middleton, Hetton-cum-Bordley, Crosby Garrett and Wray already have a biodiverse approach to verge management, which they will promote further. Several other parish councils and meetings have promised to table the initiative for discussion at their next meetings.

Here are some great hashtags to use if you want to spread the word: [#LetitBloomJune](#) and [#KneeHighJuly](#)

No Mow May

Many verges in and around Haworth and Oxenhope were left unmown as part of *No Mow May*.



Photo courtesy of Tony Smith



Red Squirrel.
Photo courtesy of the Woodland Trust


WOODLAND TRUST

Snaizeholme Appeal - Can You Help?

The Woodland Trust is raising funds to help it acquire 550 acres of land at Snaizeholme in Wensleydale, which it will replant with native trees and regenerate. Its overarching aim is to create a vibrant new woodland for wildlife, including red squirrels and rare woodland birds, which will eventually become open to the public. To find out more or to donate visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk.

Strength in Numbers

Renowned ethologist and conservationist Dr Jane Goodall DBE has won the 2021 Templeton Prize for harnessing the powers of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and human existence.

In *The Guardian* (20 May 2021) Dr Goodall said, 'If you feel that you're alone in picking up pieces of plastic trash, or eating less meat, or walking or cycling instead of driving a car, then you might feel it doesn't make any difference. But there's a growing awareness, partly elevated by this pandemic, of the fact that we really need a new relationship with the natural world.'



Our volunteers collecting tree guards in 2020

Woodland Clean-up

As part of our campaign against single-use plastics in the Dales we are supporting the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Plastic Free Woodlands Project by promoting and signposting opportunities for volunteers to help private woodland owners in the Dales collect plastic tree tubes for onward recycling. Its next collection event will be hosted at the iconic Snaizeholme on Thursday July 22. Volunteers will help bag tubes at the site as well as select those that can be re-used. A full briefing will be given on the day. The collection will start at 10am and all are welcome - but due to current restrictions there will be a maximum of 30 people allowed on the site. Any members wanting further details or to book, please email media@ydmtd.org

Tree Guard Campaign Takes Root Beyond Dales

Friends of the South Downs have followed our lead by launching their own campaign against plastic tree guards. We now hope that all the other national park societies are inspired by the work that we have done in the Dales. Together we can help to free some of the country's most iconic landscapes from the blight of polluting microplastics whilst protecting watercourses and reducing carbon emissions.

20
number of firms
producing 50%
of throwaway
plastic

We are particularly grateful to lifetime member Miles Rhodes for spreading the message further afield. As the Friends of the Dales ambassador in Northampton, he has succeeded in persuading the senior ranger at Sywell Country Park in Ecton to switch to using 100% sustainable Ezee tree guards made from recycled moulded fibre. The original plastic tubes will be reused.

Our chair, Bruce McLeod, is very optimistic that another alternative guard will soon be on the market after talking to Gary Hurlstone of Nexgen Tree Shelters. The new design is made mainly of wool and sales will support British sheep farmers. Trials have been promising and pre-orders by major tree planters have gone through the roof. Find out more at www.nexgen-ts.com

Summer Meet & Greet

Another strand of our campaign against single-use plastics is to spread the word about the danger of plastic litter being left in the fields of the Dales – and how dangerous a single item of plastic can be to farm animals, wildlife and river/marine life, either directly or as microplastic pollution. To further spread the word about this we will be trialling a summer 'meet and greet' at local beauty spots and along popular public rights of way.

Cattle at Malham Tarn with chewed plastic bottle.
Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake



Mark and Winston.
Photo courtesy of Mark Corner

Share Your Snaps

A very big thank you to trustee Mark Corner, who has been posting amazing photos from his walks around the Dales on an almost daily basis for the last four years. Now our new Membership & Events Officer, Victoria Benn, is in post, Mark has stepped back from this voluntary role. We would particularly welcome your high-quality Dales photos with a brief caption to use on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Please contact Victoria at victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Cleaning Up Our Act

Chair Bruce McLeod takes a look at how pollution has affected the natural world in the 40 years since the foundation of Friends of the Dales.

In 1970 a Yorkshire poet issued a typically blunt warning. In his essay *The Environmental Revolution* Ted Hughes decries our destructive relationship to nature: if we don't mend our ways, he warns, we're doomed. 'Conservation has become,' writes Hughes, 'the desperate duty of everybody.' Little did he know how comparatively good things were. Between 1970 and the present farmland birds have declined by 56%. It's estimated this represents a loss of at least 44 million birds.

We are all familiar with the mind-numbing statistics tracking the precipitous decline of biodiversity. Here's another one: 97% of species-rich grassland has been destroyed. I write 'destroyed' rather than 'lost' in order to highlight the fact that a good deal of the disappearance of our natural world has been wrought by conscious decisions — not lost in a fit of absent-mindedness.

Collateral Damage

Past government agricultural policies have on the whole led to an unsustainable intensification. Central to those policies is the invisible exterminator that most of us are familiar with, if not accept: the use of highly toxic chemicals to change the natural world to suit our purposes, even if just to attain a slug-free garden. That there are half as many lapwings as there were in 1970 is due to the wanton use of toxic chemicals as well as habitat loss.

Like peat, poisons are ubiquitous in horticulture (and I confess that my last bottle of Roundup® is sitting in my barn!). Ted Hughes was having none of it. The recent discovery of 250,000 barrels of DDT dumped off the coast of California would not have surprised him. Challenging a conservation delimited to the picturesque, he asks: 'What good is 1,000 miles of preserved coastline, when the sea is a stew of poisons and nuclear waste?' He also rails against slug pellets.

On the subject of slugs: when I moved to Otterburn some 25 years ago my garden had a large herd of slugs. Now I rarely see one. And I've never used pellets. I also recall driving from Coniston Cold to my house in midsummer, a route that follows a beck, and the windscreen becoming littered with insects. Where have the insects gone?

A recent study reveals that flying insects surveyed on nature reserves in Germany have declined by 76% in 27 years. Again, loss of habitat and pesticides are to blame.

Bans come and go but the agrochemical industry continues unabated: one of the worst and most widely used weedkillers, banned in Europe since 2007, is made in Yorkshire. It's called paraquat and exported for use around the world. Having been banned, neonicotinoids are back. Josie Cohen (of Pesticide Action Network UK) says that 'Some neonicotinoid insecticides are 10,000 times more toxic than DDT'. It has been recently reported that the toxic impact of pesticides on bees and other pollinators has doubled in a decade despite a fall in the amount of pesticide use.

Detoxifying the Environment

As Craig Bennett, Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trusts, says: 'How did we ever get to a stage where we thought it was a good idea to be using such chemicals? It is unbelievable. We need a real change in mindset.' As Bennett knows, it is not just a mindset that needs changing but the way our economic system works.

Whether we tax polluters under the polluter pays principle or radically reduce our dependence on chemical fixes (I think we should do both), it's clear we cannot keep pumping out pollutants – which must include the methane, silage effluent and ammonia produced by farming – in the quantities we currently are.

Hughes is right when he says that the crisis of a poisoned environment 'could be dealt with, as it should be dealt with, as a war... It would be a national investment on a grand scale. It is well known that if it is not done soon, the consequences will be a disaster worse than anything we suffered in the last war'.

Such a policy would mean radically re-forming the economy so that our designs on the natural world are not antithetical to a healthy planet. But Hughes is a realist: standing against a less exploitive relationship to the environment is the 'Developer' and 'behind him stands the whole army of madmen's ideas, and shareholders, impatient to cash in the world'.

To resist the ethos of cashing in the world is the goal of Friends of the Dales: it is, we recognise, our 'desperate duty'.

Bruce McLeod, Chair

56%
decline in
farmland birds
since 1970

97%
amount of species-
rich grassland
destroyed since
1930s

Natural Capital and the Future

Environment Bank Chair Professor David Hill takes a look at how we can put a value on work to protect habitats and species by seeing it as an economic asset.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are recognised as the two existential threats to our civilisation and the next few years will see a major transformation in how we use land so as to address these crises. The impacts on land use are liable to be even more significant in the uplands of Britain than in the lowlands because of the economic challenges in the former and the lack of scope for diversifying farm products.

In a post-Brexit world, difficulty accessing markets together with the rapid removal of the basic payment scheme (farm subsidy) will place substantial pressure on the farming and landholding sector. These pressures

could be ameliorated as new asset classes are developed to build climate resilience and restore biodiversity. But the farming sector hasn't yet fully responded to the inherent changes that it faces.

Meanwhile, there is an escalation in interest from non-farming external operators, investors and philanthropists looking to develop new asset classes from the land. The key to success for future land managers (and existing farmers) will rely on them having the capacity, knowledge and interest to develop and service new markets and not being tied to current methods of land management. For many, this will be a bitter pill to swallow.

Putting a Financial Value on Nature

Alongside the major changes to the financing of farming and land management is the emphasis now being placed by investors on requiring businesses to reduce their impacts on the planet through corporate *natural capital accounting*. Natural capital, put simply, is the 'stock' of natural resources, the assets – soil, water, arable land, grassland, woodland, hedges, wetland and other habitats as well as the species that deliver economic benefits (ecosystem services) to people. The term has become increasingly important in land use policy, with the aim of making more visible

Photos courtesy of David Hill



Wildflower meadows create pictorial landscapes valued by visitors

of Land Management

the benefits we derive from the natural environment. Essentially, natural capital accounting is about a company's future value being directly linked to how it interacts with and uses the resources that nature provides.

As investors press for transparent disclosure of impacts on natural capital, companies will achieve their investment potentials only if they can demonstrate net zero or a gain in natural capital as part of their normal operations. Their future survival and growth will therefore rely on how they demonstrate to investors and fund managers that their business activities are truly sustainable. Natural capital initiatives on landholdings through which corporates can offset their own impacts represent a new market with which landowners and farmers should engage to generate the revenues of the future.

But to do this the economic value of nature has to be clearly visible.

Opportunities for Yorkshire Dales Farmers

The iconic upland landscapes of the national park provide a number of major opportunities for diversifying income through restoring and protecting natural capital. For example, improving landscape quality by regulating how farms operate, reducing plastic waste and the often damaging visual impact of farming activities, will drive a better tourist experience and higher revenues. Investment funding into landscape improvements at a farm level would provide incentivisation to keep farming 'tidy'.

Interest in peatland restoration using carbon offsetting is growing rapidly and will lock up water on the hill, mitigating flooding lower down the catchment. High nature value farming through the restoration of hay meadows, lower stocking densities and a major shift away from silage making lends itself to corporate natural capital investment through the environmental benefits it

delivers, providing value to low-impact and premium-quality farming. And broad-leaved woodland planting and restoration improves landscape quality, locks up carbon, reduces flood risk and substantially increases biodiversity. Finally, rewilding areas of the uplands will provide new revenue streams from nature-based tourism.

The balance between the lowlands and uplands of Britain, in terms of types of products grown, is going to change. Land managers in the uplands will need to focus on adding value to these iconic landscapes by restoring natural capital at scale and exploiting new markets around climate resilience and biodiversity restoration that society wants to see. It may be a hard transition but a rewarding one for those who come forward to lead a new generation of land managers.

Professor David Hill CBE
Chairman, Environment Bank Ltd



Black grouse are a species of high conservation importance in the Dales



Restoring species-rich meadows in the Dales can attract new revenues



The iconic curlew – the Dales holds a large proportion of the global population of this threatened bird



Rewilding:

Sensitivity, Seeds & Scythes

Scythe in Walden Dale (off Wensleydale). Photo courtesy of Richard Brown

The Dales landscape is the product of an intimate long-standing partnership between nature and rural farming communities. Sadly, in recent times this partnership between humans and nature has been sorely strained by industrial use of fertilisers and chemicals, and through nitrate pollution and climate change. The net result is that only a very few of the flower-rich meadows that were once the crowning jewels of the Dales remain.

For me re-evaluating and rebuilding our historically positive relationship with nature is the key to restoring balance in the countryside. This principle of 'working with the grain' in partnership with the designs of nature has underpinned the work I have done over the last 40 years promoting the use of wildflower seed for habitat creation and

restoration. In recent years this concept of giving back control to nature has become the foundation of the 'rewilding' movement.

Here I will describe three aspects of my approach to practical rewilding in a smaller garden or meadow under the subheadings: sensitivity, seeds and scythes.

Sensitivity

By reading nature in your site and soil you can build an understanding of what you already have before you rush in to make changes. What does nature tell you about your site? What already grows there? Does it already contain a good selection of wild flowers, or is it plagued with vigorous, pernicious weeds that indicate high fertility? What grows in your immediate locality that can suggest plants to try or even be a direct source of seed?

Seeds

Seeds provide the keys to unlocking nature's potential because remnant wildflower communities have become so fragmented and isolated that they cannot find their own way back and need some assistance dispersing to fresh locations. In his trials in the Dales Professor Roger Smith scientifically demonstrated the transformative effect that reintroducing seeds of key meadow flowers like yellow rattle and bird's-foot trefoil can have on grassland diversity and soil health.



Richard Brown. Photo courtesy of Andy Hay

Scythes

Without the invention of the scythe in the late Iron Age, it is thought that there would be no meadow communities as we see them today (Peterken, 2013). Essentially, it is the mowing for hay to feed livestock that shaped the Dales into such a rich patchwork of meadows with their characteristic stone walls and barns intermingled with woodland and moorland. This landscape mosaic is not only wonderful to behold but is rich with closely linked diverse habitats and perfect for wildlife and biodiversity to flourish.

Mowing a meadow with a scythe provides a more intense sensory engagement with grassland and nature than is ever possible with a machine. Every moment you spend mowing you learn more about the character, composition and structure of your meadow community and how this varies across your site, and from season to season.

Working with nature and its natural designs is not only good for biodiversity and the environment: it is good for the soul – and a whole lot easier and more sustainable than the effort required to battle against nature to impose a garden of exotic plants that are out of place.

Richard Brown, Manager, Emorsgate Seeds

Further reading

Hay Time in the Yorkshire Dales Eds. Don Gamble and Tanya St Pierre, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust 2010 (chapter 8 by Roger Smith)

Meadows, Peterken, G, 2013 (pp 93-117)

Emorsgate Seeds www.wildseed.co.uk



Jim McVittie at the northern scythe championships near Settle, held on national meadows day 2019. Photo courtesy of Richard Brown

Our Trustees Go Wild

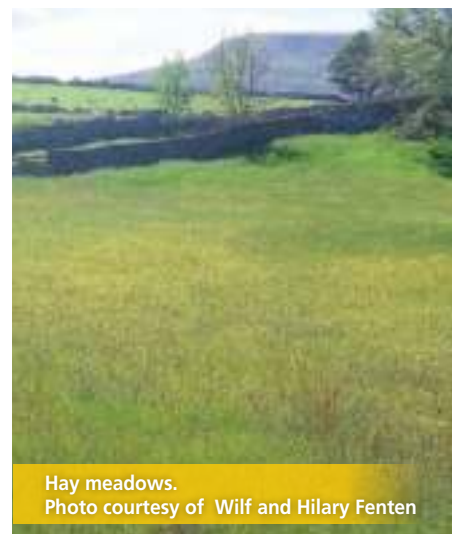
Friends of the Dales trustees believe in practising what they preach. Here Wilf Fenten and his wife Hilary, Mark Corner and Kyle Blue describe how they have done their bit to bring back native flora.



Hay meadows close-up.
Photo courtesy of Wilf and Hilary Fenten

The field behind our house is about 1 hectare and was used for light sheep grazing for decades, without using fertiliser or anything else. Five seasons ago we decided that any sheep should be taken off in May to let the grass grow for hay. Apart from scattering some yellow rattle seeds we just let nature take its course and every year more species appeared. Last year, as if by magic, we noticed the first orchid. We are lucky that our local farmer cuts the grass in late July and takes the hay. A win-win situation for all.

Wilf and Hilary Fenten



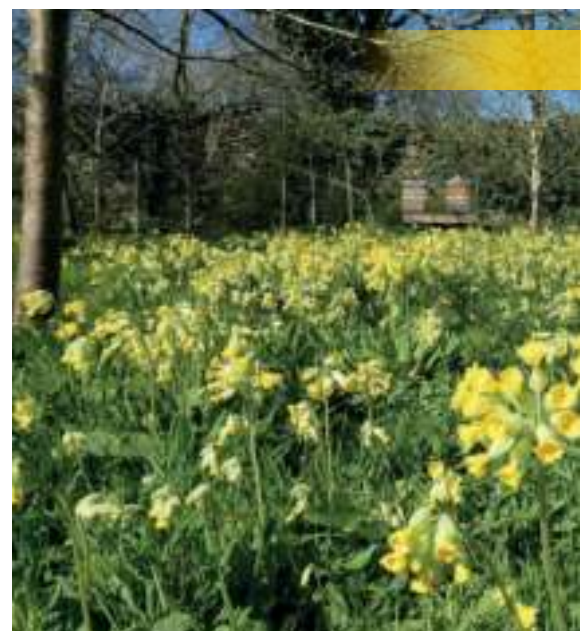
Hay meadows.
Photo courtesy of Wilf and Hilary Fenten



Wildflower meadows at Ghyll Bank Farm.
Photo courtesy of Kyle Blue

In the 1960s the British chemical giant ICI carried out cutting-edge experimental work on my wife's family farm. This involved the application of nitrogen to the land and effectively ended the traditional hay meadow with its enormous diversity of plant life. However, the wheel has now come full circle and the farm has been largely nitrogen-free for a number of years. On the suitable land we have successfully re-established wildflower meadows, creating a wonderful wildlife habitat with vastly increased numbers of insects and ground-nesting birds whilst at the same time giving much pleasure to those visiting the fields.

Kyle Blue



We have two wildflower projects under way, neither of which is going particularly smoothly - I think mainly because nature seems to do her own thing and at her own pace and won't be overly influenced by us.

In our garden we've attempted to establish a wildflower area, partly as forage for the honeybees that we've been keeping for a couple of years. We started by sowing yellow rattle seeds kindly provided by a local donor. Yellow rattle, known as 'the meadow maker', suppresses neighbouring grasses and creates space for other wild flowers, the seeds of which we bought from a commercial supplier (Emorsgate – see manager Richard Brown's approach to rewilding on page 8). For some reason we now have a proliferation of cowslips, which have crowded out other species. They are very attractive and the bees like them too so we don't mind. We're now trying to introduce lavender, another favourite of bees (though also, we've discovered, of the local rabbit population).

Our second project is trying to introduce wild flowers to a wood that we own near home. A few years ago we planted bluebell bulbs from a friend's woodland and wild garlic seeds. There are no signs of bluebells although the garlic is establishing itself, albeit in a very patchy and slow way. We also cleared a couple of patches of grassed land, which doesn't have trees nearby, and tried the yellow rattle and seed mix approach, though the grass seems to be winning that battle.

We'll persevere. It feels like the right thing to do and it is fun to observe the limited progress that we have made.

Mark Corner

Cowslips in the wildflower meadow.
Photo courtesy of Mark Corner



Horsehouse Village Green

From Barry's Dinner to Flowery Meadow

In the tiny village of Horsehouse (in Coverdale), the village green is a pocket-handkerchief-sized triangle of steeply sloping grass in front of the Old School.

Over 25 years ago, the grass was tussocky, covered in divots and grazed by a friendly white horse called Barry. After Barry retired, the green was mowed weekly by well-meaning local volunteers, whose mantra was 'the easiest grass to cut is short grass' and who kept it short and looking very smart for many years.

Latterly, with #NoMowMay and the Friends of the Dales road verge campaign in mind, the green has been maintained on a much more relaxed basis. Swathes of it are left uncut from April to September, to encourage wild plants to grow. This has led to a most spectacular spring display of milkmaids (cuckooflower/ lady's-smock), joined and followed as the season

progresses by pignut, buttercups, sorrel, speedwell and many more. To prevent mutterings about untidiness, we've mowed round the edges and cut wide paths, to make access easy and to maintain the village green appearance. We've actually had no complaints at all – in fact, nothing but compliments.

Most importantly, our green doesn't just look pretty: it's a haven for all manner of wildlife. On a sunny day, it's full of butterflies, bees and other insects, feasting on the flowers. Thrushes like to hop down the paths, seizing snails out of the long grass. A little flock of goldfinches comes and goes, enjoying the dandelion clocks and sorrel seeds.

It's like a relic of meadows in days gone by, and a small island of biodiversity in a sea of increasingly intensively farmed grassland.

Apne Readshaw,
Friends of the Dales volunteer



Photos courtesy of Ann Readshaw

Wetland Wonders

From huge tracts once regarded as wasteland – fit only for drainage to make more profitable through grazing or crops – to an ecological *cause célèbre*, the stock of peatlands is on the rise. Yorkshire Peat Partnership has been restoring one very specific form of peatland since 2009: blanket bog. What is blanket bog and what can you expect to see there?

Sundew and sphagnum in spore. Photo courtesy of Lizzie Shepherd

Blanket bog is peatland habitat that forms in cold, rainy conditions above 200 metres (in England, anyway – there is sea-level blanket bog in northern Scotland). It is an *ombrotrophic* habitat (from Greek *ombros*, a rainstorm, and *trophos*, a feeder), meaning that all of its water and nutrients are derived from precipitation (rain, snow, hail or mist). It is consequently very nutrient-poor; because of that precipitation and sphagnum mosses, it is also very wet. On healthy blanket bog, there are fewer solids in a pint of peat than in a pint of milk.

The Magic of Moss

Sphagnum is the architect of this marvellous, quaking landscape: a primitive, rootless plant that, left to its own devices, is immortal. As sphagnum grows, the lower parts are shaded from the light by the living upper and die off. Spaces between sphagnum cells expand to hold water; through this intercellular magic, sphagnum can hold up to 20 times its own weight in water. The wet, acidic conditions this creates impede decomposition; the bottom of the sphagnum, instead of rotting, becomes peat. In four metres' depth of blanket bog, the foot of the peat column is perhaps 4,000 years old and yet the top is living moss.



Short-eared owl. Photo courtesy of Richard Lee



Sphagnum divinum. Photo courtesy of Jenny Sharman



Golden plover. Photo courtesy of Andrew Parkinson



Common lizard. Photo courtesy of Rosie Snowden

This habitat will support only a certain kind of plant – moisture-tolerant, ericaceous, not too nutrient-needy:

- **cotton grasses: fluffy, white blooms bobbing in the summer breeze**
- **berry-bearing dwarf shrubs: bil-, cloud-, cran-, and crow-, tiny, sweet jewels nestling just above the peat**
- **sundew: sticky fronds trapping and digesting insects to supplement its meagre root uptake**

This vegetation supports a complex web of life. Scurrying through the flora, the tiny furry torpedo that is the field vole is prey for hovering kestrels and short-eared owls, quartering the ground on stiff, rowing wings. Sharing shelter in the moss are the mosaiced common lizard and our only venomous snake, the adder.

In summer, blanket bog is alive to the sound of breeding birds: the curlew’s looping lament; the golden plover’s one-note dirge; the skylark’s ‘jubilant sweet songs of mirth’; the musical *tsee-tsee-tseek* trilling of the meadow pipit; perhaps the throaty *prrrrrrrruk* of the raven or the ring ouzel’s *tac-tac-tac* of alarm. To lie on your back on blanket bog in the summer is to bathe in birdsong as you gradually sink.

There’s a lot we don’t understand about the invertebrate community on peatlands, but we do know that community needs wet conditions to thrive and that impacts on that community can have impacts up the food chain.

If you’re in the Dales, you’re not far from blanket bog. You just need to get uphill and see what’s there – it’s a beautiful habitat that rewards patient exploration.

Lyndon Marquis, Yorkshire Peat Partnership Communications Officer

Friends of the Dales are in favour of banning peat in all horticultural products.

In a recent speech Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustice said: ‘We will also phase out the use of peat in horticulture, publishing a consultation in 2021 on banning the sale of peat and peat-containing products in the amateur sector by the end of this Parliament.’

We find it surprising, and disappointing, that this ban applies only to the ‘amateur sector’.



Fleet Moss Tarn with Ingleborough in the distance. Photo courtesy of Lizzie Shepherd



Sarah Smout performing
Photo courtesy of Film on the Brain

Spotlight on Peat

You can now download a video of singer-songwriter Sarah Smout performing her latest composition *Atlas* in the Yorkshire Dales.

As featured in the spring 2020 issue of the *Review*, the Skipton-based cellist was inspired to write the song as a way of raising awareness of the ecological importance of blanket bogs.

The video highlights the importance of the restoration work carried out by Yorkshire Peat Partnership and can be viewed at www.sarahsmout.co.uk

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE?

"By 2040 the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be home to the finest variety of wildlife in England."



Bird's Eye Primrose above Kettlewell (this flower is our charity's emblem).
Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake



Hart's-tongue fern, wild thyme and herb robert on limestone pavement. Photo courtesy of Paul Harris

It's a bold claim but can it be justified? The ambition is one of six objectives included in an overall 'vision' for the national park set out in the management plan for 2019-24, even though not all the necessary funding was in place.

On 30 March 2021, at the full meeting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority*, members heard about the progress that has been made towards improving priority habitats and supporting populations of key species. There was some good news. Over the last ten years a series of conservation initiatives has thrown a lifeline to much-loved but threatened species such as the red squirrel and dormouse. While populations of wading birds such as the curlew, redshank, lapwing and snipe have plummeted elsewhere in the country, the Dales have bucked the trend thanks in part to pioneering agri-environment schemes offering payment by results. The percentage of Dales rivers with good ecological status increased from 47% to 62% in the three years to 2020, compared to just 14% for England overall. And over 25% of the Yorkshire Dales is designated as nationally

or internationally important for wildlife – more than any other English national park.

Patchy Progress?

But there is still a long way to go to meet some of the targets in the management plan. For example, it aims for all the blanket bog in nationally and internationally important wildlife sites to be 'recovering' by 2024. Ninety-five per cent of that in SSSIs – roughly 60% of the total – is in good condition but that figure falls to 13% elsewhere. In fact, the state of this habitat across the Dales has deteriorated since 2016. The winter 2021 issue of the *Review* highlighted how nature is returning to Oughtershaw following a Yorkshire Peat Partnership project to tackle years of erosion and habitat loss and there is a belated recognition of the important

role that bogs play in carbon storage. Yet the recovery process is slow and moorland burning continues despite the government's introduction of a voluntary ban.

The overall area of upland hay meadows and rock, scree and limestone pavements thought to be in good condition has improved over the last five years, yet – as is the case for most other priority habitats – the situation appears to be far better within the SSSIs than elsewhere. The problem is that even this data may not be all that reliable. Funding cuts over the last decade have forced Natural England to carry out less routine monitoring and some of these sites have not been assessed for six years.

95%
decline in
hedgehogs since
1950s

* <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/meeting-type/full-authority/>

** <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/recover-habitat-network-map/>



Curlew



Red squirrel



Lapwing

Thinking Outside the Box

The apparently large disparity between priority habitats inside and outside SSSIs is hardly surprising but there's a growing awareness of the important role that undesignated areas can play in improving biodiversity. In 2019 the Glover Report called for national parks and AONBs to lead on Nature Recovery Networks extending beyond their boundaries in order to protect wildlife and reintroduce species that have been lost. The Tees-Swale: naturally connected project (featured in the autumn 2020 *Review*) is already breaking new ground by working with farmers and landowners from both the Dales and the north Pennines to restore, expand and link habitats and increase biodiversity.

Developing more such initiatives would mean a shift in focus towards undesignated areas rather than concentrating conservation efforts on SSSIs. Re-cover, an interactive habitat map** launched by YDNPA in December, is just one tool that will help farmers and landowners expand and connect habitats such as native woodlands and hay meadows.

The national park authority is to be applauded for its aim of encouraging an 'exemplary' quality of biodiversity and wildlife but there is only so much it can do. It owns and manages less than 0.001% of land in the Dales. So while its work with farmers and landowners to stabilise or increase the populations of UK red-listed upland birds such as curlew and lapwing has been a success, preventing the illegal persecution of raptors such as the hen harrier has proved to be more difficult.

The national park authority is faced with a difficult balancing act. It exists in part to promote the understanding and enjoyment of the spectacular Dales landscapes by the general public but – along with intensive agriculture and climate change – visitor pressure is a threat to their wildlife and biodiversity. Conservation objectives are dependent on securing funding to bolster increasingly limited budgets.

Yet, as the current pandemic has shown, there is a desperate need for people to connect

68%
decline in
common toad

with the environment on their doorsteps. As we return to normality, perhaps the Glover Report's call for Nature Recovery Networks takes on an added urgency. In May the government announced a 47% increase in its funding for Natural England as part of its pledge to 'build back greener' – yet its budget is still smaller than it was in 2008-9 and, after many years of under-investment, it will have its work cut out to reverse decades of decline in biodiversity.

Lynn Leadbeater, life member



Red squirrel

- The Yorkshire Dales contain 17 nationally important habitats covering 83,000 hectares – more than any other English national park.
- They have over 100 UK priority species, which have been facing decline across the country.
- These include nationally important populations of breeding waders, black grouse, ring ouzel, bird's eye primrose, northern brown argus butterfly and white-clawed crayfish.

North Craven Girl Guides Win with Celebration of Dales

It's great to see young people engaging in a creative project and celebrating the Yorkshire Dales, writes Membership & Events Officer Victoria Benn.

Sixteen girls from Hellifield and Long Preston Guide and Ranger Unit under the guidance of leader Helen Cressey and Hellifield-based textile artist Christine-Ann Lambert have succeeded in becoming the winners of a county-wide art competition for Guides. Their winning composition, a large mixed-media banner incorporating four stunning images of North Craven, took the group six months to make and will be displayed in the new Guide centre at Birk Crag, Harrogate, when it opens.

Worked in watercolours, fabric collage and free machine and hand embroidery, the banner depicts scenes that inspired the girls. Meticulously crafted local wild flowers including buttercups, cow parsley, thistles and poppies alive with bees and butterflies inform one of the quadrants alongside the Settle-Carlisle Railway at Ribbleshead. A view of Penyghent from Horton also dominates, brought to life

through stepping stones over the river made from beads and the mountain's purple heather moorland created from one of Christine-Ann's old tweed skirts.

Christine-Ann said: 'All the girls were very enthusiastic throughout the whole project, bringing in fabrics to use and also excited to learn new skills such as machine embroidery, which is a specialist skill known as "painting the needle".'

Laura, one of the Guides, added: 'Through the tapestry we learned new skills and techniques that we can use in the future and we worked as a team with everyone inputting ideas. This was a very enjoyable experience, developing new skills week after week with everyone getting involved.'

Textile artist Christine-Ann has exhibited her work all over the north of England, including at the Royal Birmingham Society of Arts (RBSA). The very large brocade banner on permanent display in St Peter's, Conistone Cold, is a further example of her work.

Victoria Benn



The winning banner. Photo courtesy of Helen Cressey

AN ENDLESS CYCLE

Summer is a great time for exploring the Dales by bike. New trustee Kevin Armstrong shares one of his favourite rides.

There are so many routes I still want to explore in the Dales, but some I've already done keep getting in the way by luring me back. This is one, so be warned: if you ride it, you may end up with the same addiction.

Starting from Ilkley, ride all the way along what starts as Nesfield Road. You might spot the Brownlee brothers, whom I've seen whizzing along here training for Tokyo, but whoever's there, gold medal-worthy views of the Wharfe valley are guaranteed.

At the end, turn left towards the roundabout and follow the road past Bolton Abbey. When the Duke of Devonshire allows, you can ride over the bridge at Cavendish Pavilion

and above the river again on Storiths Lane. Otherwise, a ride straight on to Barden Tower and over Barden Bridge is a fine alternative. As you rise up the other side of the valley you'll pass bits of the Dales Way, cross Fir Beck and eventually reach Hazler Lane.

Follow the signs for Stump Cross Caverns, taking you up a challenging climb that's well worth the effort. There's a perfectly placed bench on the way up if you want to take in the sight of Simon's Seat, just as my Dad did when he patiently introduced a small, slow version of me to this ride many years ago.

I often struggle to pass Stump Cross Caverns without popping in for a scone but when I eventually go beyond, I take a right turn onto Duck Street Lane at Greenhow Hill. From here you can spin straight down to Blubberhouses, or take an even more picturesque detour via Thruscross Reservoir and the road that

flows down beside the River Washburn. From Blubberhouses, ride beside the church on Shepherd Hill and eventually take a left turn when you see a sign for Snowden, leading you to one final energy-sapping hill.

At the crossroads at the top, go straight over and enjoy the descent down Moor Lane to Askwith, where you can turn right at the T-junction to rejoin the River Wharfe and return to your starting point. If you're as lucky as I've been here, you may even get to ride alongside a flying barn owl.

After 3,000 feet of ascent on 35 miles of meandering roads, my legs long for a rest – and my mind longs to do it all again. Summer is a great season to give this beautiful rollercoaster route a go, provided you're happy to ride it again *ad infinitum*.

Kevin Armstrong



Riding up to Stump Cross. Photo courtesy of Dave Armstrong



Simon's Seat. Photo courtesy of Kevin Armstrong



Brighter Future For Wildlife?

Light pollution is stressful. In humans it has been linked to sleep disturbances, mood disorders and even cancer – but if it's bad for us, the effects on wildlife can be much, much worse.

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Winterburn. Photo courtesy of Matthew Savage

Exposure to artificial light can disrupt animals' feeding patterns, prevent them from breeding successfully and interfere with migration. Some of our nocturnal wildlife is among the most badly affected and it's hoped that last year's designation

of the Yorkshire Dales as the UK's largest International Dark Sky Reserve will go some way to halting the decline in populations of birds, insects and other species.

Now the whole of the national park is being managed to preserve the quality

of its night-time skies, which are most outstanding in a core area comprising the upper ends of Swaledale, the Rawthey valley, Garsdale, Littondale and Wharfedale. Among the beneficiaries will be creatures such as bats and moths.



Little owl. Photo © Simon Philpotts www.wilddales.co.uk

The nocturnal wildlife of the national park also includes hedgehogs, which are in serious decline, and barn, tawny and long-eared owls. Dormice are a European Protected Species and found at only two sites within its boundaries. Work is now being carried out to create dark corridors between these woodlands near Aysgarth.

Ten of the 17 UK species of bats are found in the Yorkshire Dales, where huge swarms come together to court and mate in the limestone cave systems. The river valleys, where human settlement is concentrated, provide important feeding sites and summer roosts. Five species – the brown long-eared, Daubenton’s, Natterer’s, whiskered and Brandt’s bats – are known to be particularly vulnerable to light pollution. And while a few predators may benefit from hunting in artificially lit environments, the impact on prey that depends on a cloak of darkness for its survival can be devastating.

The effects on insects can have particularly far-reaching consequences. Sixty per cent of species are nocturnal and it is estimated that a third of those attracted to artificial light are killed as a result. Moths are often viewed as poor relations to their more flashy relatives, the butterflies, but they are important pollinators and form the basis of many food chains.

The Yorkshire Dales support more than 1,000 species of moths and many of the 45 listed in the Biodiversity Action Plan are in decline. These include the small square-spot, with numbers falling by 65% between 2019 and the previous five-year mean. The corresponding figures for dark spinach and garden tiger moths are 59% and 38%. Although this is largely attributed to habitat loss, artificial light is thought to reduce reproduction by inhibiting sex hormones. Direct contact with hot surfaces can kill the moths or damage their wings and antennae. Light pollution may also put them at the mercy of hunters such as bats.

But it isn’t just nocturnal species that suffer. The lives of many diurnal creatures – including humans – are also governed by 24-hour circadian rhythms induced by hormones in response to the cycle of day and night.

We are fortunate that the Yorkshire Dales are among the few places in the UK where it is still possible to look up and marvel at the wonders of the Milky Way. The main threats to their wildlife come from habitat loss or climate change, rather than light pollution. Friends of the Dales backed the national park authority’s application for International Dark Sky Reserve status* and we will continue to scrutinise planning applications to ensure that they do not impact on the animals that also call our villages and farmsteads home.

Lynn Leadbeatter, life member



Winterburn. Photo courtesy of Matthew Savage

How You Can Help

- ⇒☆ Only use external lighting where and when it is really necessary.
- ⇒☆ Angle lights downwards so they don’t shine near or above the horizon and install them at the lowest possible height.
- ⇒☆ Point them where they are needed – not in a direction that disturbs wild creatures.
- ⇒☆ Fit lamps of 500 lumens or less.
- ⇒☆ Avoid bright white and cooler temperature LEDs, which are harmful to wildlife.
- ⇒☆ Close your curtains at night.

* see <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/looking-after/dark-sky/>

From Government to Grass Roots

Policy and Planning Committee member Rick Cowley takes a look at how new legislation could impact on the communities and landscapes of the Dales.

Previous editions of the *Review* have summarised important planning and environmental policy changes that could affect the national park, as well as the new Local Plan being prepared by the park authority. So what has been happening recently?

First, the highly controversial **Planning White Paper** of 2020 now looks as if it will shortly emerge as a bill, and thereafter as an Act, largely unchanged from what was in the White Paper, despite the critical reception it received from many environmental bodies, including Friends of the Dales. So it looks as if the zoning proposals, the significant increase in housing development (despite the huge number of outstanding planning permissions) and restrictions on public involvement in decision-making on development proposals may all well become law.

There is perhaps better news on the **Environment Bill**, which is still edging its way through parliament and contains many potentially useful and positive proposals to protect and improve the environment, including a general duty to enhance biodiversity and the preparation of 'local nature recovery strategies'.

There is now a new **Agricultural Act** on the statute book following the UK's exit from the EU. One of its key features is a replacement of the former EU Common Agricultural Policy with an Environmental Land Management Scheme to provide financial support for farmers producing environmental benefits such as thriving wildlife, improved animal welfare, better soil health and cleaner water.

More locally, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is currently progressing its preparation of a new **Local Plan** for the park and has recently been concentrating on its housing-led strategy for the national park's future. This is where Friends of the Dales have serious misgivings and have argued for a more balanced and sustainable approach

involving economy/employment matters as well as housing, and doing something about the up to 600 outstanding housing planning permissions currently sitting on the books.

Unfortunately the one area where practical progress has apparently been close to zero is the government's response to the national **Glover Review** of valued and protected landscapes such as the Yorkshire Dales, published in 2019. As reported previously in the *Review* (winter 2020) there were many desirable and practical recommendations in the report but it looks increasingly likely that it is destined for one of Whitehall's infamous dusty shelves – a great missed opportunity to make our national parks and other valued landscapes even better.

More updates in future issues of the *Review*.

Rick Cowley, Policy Committee volunteer

Planning Bill Alert!

In the aftermath of the recent Queen's Speech, the trustees of North Craven Heritage Trust are keeping a watchful eye on developments over the summer months. Whilst making a few minor concessions to public opinion, the government is still intent on reducing local democracy by giving the green light to building new homes in areas earmarked for growth, without any further input from district planning authorities and the general public.

Rural areas such as ours are ignored and we are doubly vulnerable here in North Yorkshire as we await the outcome of local government reorganisation. As the CPRE Policy Director puts it, 'The government must urgently rethink the Planning Bill. If not, we're facing an open season for developers on large parts of the countryside and a fatal weakening of local communities' right to be heard on the future of their areas'.

We must all join forces, stay vigilant and be prepared to act quickly.

Pam Jordan, Chair
Anne Read, President
North Craven Heritage Trust



Malham Cove. Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake



Expanded DalesBus Network for Summer 2021

The DalesBus network is once again running a full timetable for the summer 2021 season, following a lengthy period of reduced services due to the pandemic.

The network provides sustainable access into and around the Yorkshire Dales National Park and neighbouring Nidderdale and Forest of Bowland Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Most of the buses on Sundays and bank holidays are managed by Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company, a subsidiary of Friends of the Dales.

This year double-deckers are being used on DalesBus 822 from York and Ripon to Fountains Abbey, Pateley Bridge and Grassington, and on DalesBus 875 between Leeds, Ilkley, Grassington, Kettlewell, Aysgarth and Hawes. These provide extra space for passengers as well as great views of the Dales countryside.

DalesBus 825 has been extended for the 2021 season to run between York and Richmond, providing access to the lesser-known eastern section of Nidderdale AONB. Dales and Bowland CIC has also stepped in to support service 24 between Harrogate and Pateley Bridge on Sundays during the summer.

In response to many requests, a Saturday service has been reintroduced between Skipton, Bolton Bridge, Blubberhouses and Harrogate on a trial basis. There are four return journeys every Saturday, which are served by double-deckers.

Most other services are similar to those that ran in summer 2019, and the buses are already proving popular with people keen to get out into the countryside again following the long periods of lockdown restrictions.

Full details of the DalesBus network are online at www.dalesbus.org and in timetable booklets available throughout the area.

It now costs over £100,000 per year to run the network, so Dales and Bowland CIC is grateful to the many organisations, businesses and individuals providing financial support, including an increased grant from Friends of the Dales starting this year. Fundraising is an ongoing challenge, but it is hoped that more support will be forthcoming from local authorities from April 2022 under the government's recently announced National Bus Strategy.

Paul Chattwood, Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company

The Railway Navvies of Settle: The End of the Line

Sarah Lister

Price £4 including p&p

I was given a copy of *The Railway Navvies of Settle* to read, and I must admit that this is not the sort of book that I would normally have thought to pick up. Despite my normal appreciation of local history, railways have not been an area that I had read about before. However, this little gem of a book well and truly scratched that history itch of mine, and may well have opened up a new line of interest for me.



The book shines a light on the fallen navvies of the Settle to Carlisle line who are buried in Settle and Giggleswick, providing an insight into personal stories that would otherwise have remained untold. Sarah Lister uncovers the lives and deaths of 22 men in a caring and insightful way, ensuring that stories of ordinary, everyday people are not lost to history, and bringing a human element to that engineering spectacle. The manner of their deaths is examined, often with comparisons to modern-day safety and living standards, alongside a personal history of each navvy and his family. The amount of information uncovered is impressive, especially considering how difficult it must have been to find out about these people, who moved around so often in search of work.

The book is filled with atmospheric artwork by Teresa Gordon and the text is supported by contemporary newspaper cuttings throughout. These help to create a sense of the period through the tone and language, giving the impression of a very different time. All of this provides a fascinating insight into the history of Settle and how much it changed when the railway came to town, and how much of what we see now can be traced to that point.

I found this book to be very accessible - easy to read and hard to put down. It is written in a conversational style, so you could imagine the author telling you these stories over a brew, and with my own cup in hand I breezed through it and enjoyed every page. There is obvious care given to these unexpected residents of Settle, and it is nice to see a voice given to those who died building the railway.

The book is available to purchase online at www.foscl.org.uk

Matt Brown, Project Leader, Capturing the Past

Note: To read more about Sarah Lister's work on the Settle Graveyard Project see Yorkshire Dales Review Winter 2021: Issue 153

ALPINES OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES



Publisher Assembly Marketing Ltd

Price £7.50

They say you don't appreciate what you have until it's gone – but a new book by Peter and Ruth Kerr is a timely wake-up call for those of us who might otherwise take the unique flora of the national park for granted.

The authors have used an article written in 1970 by Chris Haes as their starting point. In *Alpines of the Yorkshire Dales* they follow in the botanist's footsteps, seeking out the wild plants that he described and exploring the threats faced by particular species and the efforts being made to conserve them.

The beautifully illustrated book covers a wide range of flowers growing in the Yorkshire Dales today – not just those found at higher altitudes but also species that favour hay meadows and woodland and even native trees. It gives an overview of both the environmental pressures impacting on them and some of the initiatives that have

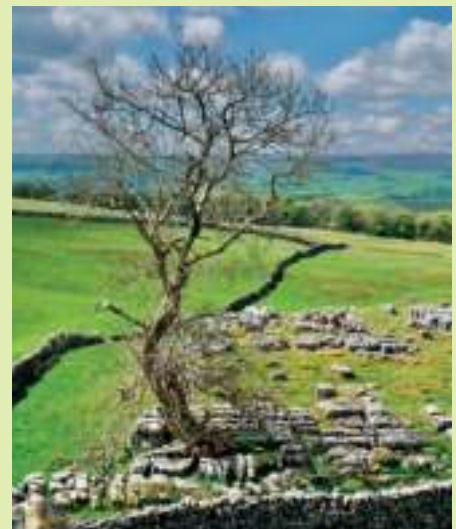
been taken to preserve them, such as the establishment of new nature reserves at Malham Tarn, New House Farm and Ling Gill.

Much has been lost over the last 50 years. Wild daphne has now almost disappeared from the Dales. The marsh gentian is very difficult to find. Ash dieback threatens our most iconic native tree.

But there have also been some remarkable success stories. The rare lady's slipper orchid is being actively conserved at protected sites and is making a comeback. Hay meadows have declined by 97% in the last 100 years but are now being re-established. The English or Yorkshire sandwort, which grows only on the limestone plateaus between Ingleborough and Horton-in-Ribblesdale, is still found in good numbers. And the many striking photographs are a reminder of the wealth of wild flowers that we can still enjoy.

You can obtain a copy of *Alpines of the Yorkshire Dales* from the Stripey Badger Bookshop in Grassington and The Folly museum in Settle.

Lynn Leadbeatter, life member



Lady's-Slipper Orchid

In the late eighteenth century the lady's-slipper orchid was once so common across the limestone areas of the Yorkshire Dales that bundles of the flowers were sold on Settle market. Today it is one of the rarest species in the UK, and the only wild site in the country is a secret location in the national park, which is guarded to ensure that specimens are not taken illegally.

The orchid is notoriously difficult to conserve. It can take up to ten years before flowering and, even then, it produces a single bloom. It can germinate only by forming a symbiotic relationship with specific species of fungi that live among its roots. And its beauty means that it is extremely popular with collectors.

But there are signs that the lady's-slipper orchid could be back from the brink. Seeds have been successfully propagated at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew and the flower has been reintroduced to a number of sites including Kilnsey Trout Farm, where it can be viewed by the public.



Ash Dieback

Yorkshire Dales landscapes are likely to be particularly badly affected by ash dieback, the fungal disease that was first recorded in 2012 and is now widespread across the UK. Many of the trees infected will be veteran or ancient and are irreplaceable.

The national park authority is future-proofing the landscape by planting a diverse range of species in anticipation of the loss so that woodlands are more resilient to climate change and future and current pests and diseases. It is also raising awareness of the importance of biosecurity.

It is expected that a small proportion of ash trees will have greater genetic tolerance to the fungal pathogen. If these are spared from felling, they could form the basis of the next generation.

Photos courtesy of Peter and Ruth Kerr



Membership News

We'd like to extend a thank you to all our members who stayed with us during this difficult year. We are also delighted to report that we secured a modest increase in membership numbers by the year end, largely thanks to a recruitment campaign we placed in *The Dalesman* whilst staff were working from home. We also offered a deferral to our business and group members for their membership fees in recognition of trading conditions being so difficult, yet 20 were able to make a voluntary payment of their subscriptions, for which we are very grateful.

Finally, as we continue to celebrate the charity's 40th year, we have a challenge: it would be amazing if 40 current members could recruit at least one new member each. Penny Lowe, Administration Assistant, is on hand to post you our leaflets or email you a membership 'plug', which you can adapt and send to friends or family if you wish.

Please contact Penny on penny.lowe@friendsofthedales.org.uk



Two new members joining up 'pre-Covid'.
Photo courtesy of Mark Corner



Jim Crossley

Jim Crossley – Condolences

We were very sorry to hear of the unexpected death of long-standing member Jim Crossley, who passed away in April. Jim was a great supporter of our charity and led a very well-attended 'walk & talk' day in autumn 2019 on the topic of Skipton's water supply. He was also a well-regarded local author, most recently on the development of Grimwith Reservoir, drawing on his professional background as a chartered civil engineer for that project. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

Friends of the Dales Welcomes Victoria Benn

We are delighted to welcome a new, third member of staff to our small team at our Gargrave head office. Victoria Benn, an author and writer, joins us as our part-time Membership & Events Officer. The aim of the new post is to have one person committed to promoting Friends of the Dales to different audiences so that the charity and the strength of its voice can continue to grow. It's early days for Victoria, but moving forward she will be taking over the management of our talks, walks, social media and publicity.

Victoria said: 'My childhood provided a fantastic immersion in the people, land and traditions of the Dales. These formative insights and experiences came from my maternal grandmother who'd grown up on the land in some of the remotest parts of the Dales and from my parents, especially my father, who was – and still is – passionately involved in the traditional sport of fell running.

'As an adult, I've taken great pride and pleasure in uncovering and celebrating the stories and characters of the Dales through my writing, so this role feels absolutely perfect for me. I look forward to meeting current members and volunteers over the coming months as well as spreading the word to potential new members about the charity's important work.'



Victoria Benn

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Support us, support the Dales

Friends of the Dales is the leading voice campaigning for a sustainable future for the Dales.

Our charity needs your support to help us protect this amazing, inspiring but fragile place - for years to come.

➔ JOIN US

- More members means more clout when we campaign. Members receive this quarterly magazine and first news of our events programme.

➔ DONATE

- Our charity's running costs are funded entirely by your voluntary subscriptions, donations and legacy gifts.

➔ VOLUNTEER

- Help with our walks and other events
- Shape our charity's future: become a trustee
- Put out our leaflets on your home patch

➔ LEGACY

- Please consider making a gift in your will to **Friends of the Dales**.

➔ BE 'DALES-FRIENDLY'

- Try out our sociable walks and events (*most are free*)
- Support Dales businesses and communities
- Look for sustainable ways to visit, like **DalesBus**

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk



Please visit our website and follow us on social media. Full contact details and membership rates are on page 2

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When you've read and enjoyed this magazine please pass it on with our regards.