

Spring 2022 : Issue 158

Yorkshire **DALES** review



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Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

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Pen-y-ghent.
Photo courtesy of Hilary Fenten

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Greenwashing. Pavel Constantin

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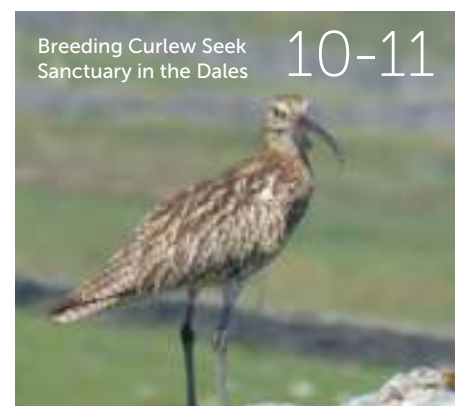
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Fighting for the Right to Roam

Friends of the Dales President Amy-Jane Beer is also an active campaigner for universal access to nature. She explains why she has joined forces with other environmentalists to lobby for greater social inclusivity.

The *People's Manifesto for Wildlife* (PMW) was an independent report prepared by 20 environmental thinkers at the invitation of Chris Packham, himself a vocal advocate for nature, in 2018. It was launched at the People's Walk for Wildlife, when some 10,000 activists marched from Hyde Park to Downing Street on 22 September 2018.

While the march engaged the support of over 70 NGOs, from the 1,000,000-member RSPB and Wildlife Trusts to the Hunt Saboteurs Association, the British Bryological Society and the British Beekeepers Association, all 20 manifesto contributors were independent and thus able to collaborate with a level of flexibility that is almost impossible for membership organisations or political parties to achieve. A fully referenced version of the manifesto is available online at <http://www.chrispackham.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Manifesto-long-version-2.pdf>

Our aims were unequivocally political, but with no party-political bias, and our policy ideas ranged from common sense to controversial and were offered freely to government, to all political parties, communities, NGOs and business organisations in the hope that they would be borrowed, added to and expanded on. The manifesto 'ministries' covered

broad themes of farming, rewilding, marine conservation, education and culture, urban spaces, uplands, trees, social inclusivity, young people, diversity, overseas conservation and the law and narrower ones such as pesticides, lead ammunition, hedgerows, wildlife crime and welfare.

My contribution, as Minister for Social Inclusivity and Access to Nature, asserted first and foremost that access to diverse nature should be recognised as a human right. Allied to this right, I believe, is a right to fight for nature and to express an opinion about it, and if the naturally diverse opinions of a society are to be considered, representation matters.

I made a number of further proposals including subsidised (preferably renationalised) public transport links to areas of natural wonder across the UK; supplementary nature health prescriptions for conditions as diverse as anxiety, depression, obesity, heart disease and diabetes; voluntary full- or part-time eco-community service for all; and the creation of a network of neighbourhood nature ambassadors to inform, inspire and encourage social integration in their communities and connect local initiatives with nationwide conservation networks.

The reaction to the manifesto was predictably positive from the environmental lobby and cautious from government. There was some hostility from farming and Highland interests, not least because Chris Packham is a controversial figure in some circles. This was a shame because most conservationists recognise farmers are an essential part of

the solutions the whole planet needs. The dichotomy between 'town vs country' is one of the most damaging in society, and nowhere more so than in debates over conservation and access to nature. Farming and conservation sectors both need public support – but people will not support what they do not understand or care for, and they will not understand or care for what they don't know.

Four years on, some of our proposals have become mainstream. Social justice has taken rightful place in some of the largest movements of our time. A proposal for a GCSE in Natural History is awaiting final approval from the Department for Education. The youth climate movement has achieved astonishing global engagement and, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has given millions opportunity to experience the solace and health benefits of time spent in green and blue spaces. In England specifically, it has also highlighted the absurd inequality of land rights and seen the emergence of a major new land rights and access campaign, with which I began working in 2021.

Right to Roam (www.righttoroam.org.uk) was founded by Nick Hayes (author of *The Book of Trespass* and *The Trespasser's Companion*, out in April) and Guy Shrubsole (author of *Who Owns England?*), with an ambition to reconnect people to nature and challenge the laws that exclude us from 92% of land area and 97% of rivers. Vast areas of this land were once common, and perhaps the most remarkable achievement of the landed classes is the spell their enclosures have cast over our collective mindset so that we accept exclusion as normal. I'd heartily recommend reading Nick's and Guy's books for an insight into how we were robbed, and maybe even joining one of the trespass events lined up for 2022. We are focussing particularly on rivers, woods, downland and green belt – places close to centres of population.

National parks are a national resource, but no one should have to travel in order to walk among trees, listen to birdsong, or sit by or swim in a river. Wider access across the land will educate and inform a population, take pressure off honeypot sites and ensure receptive audiences when organisations like Friends of the Dales call for action.

Amy-Jane Beer



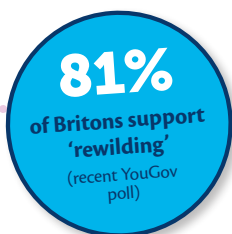
An impromptu trespass. Photo courtesy of Amy-Jane Beer

Access For Sale

Britain is undergoing a property boom. On a recent walk through the 'hidden village' of Thorpe, I discovered that an ancient section of enclosed lane, now blocked with building material, was not a registered right of way. It could soon be incorporated into a new barn conversion scheme.

In Thorpe most barns and outbuildings have been converted for retiree or weekend use or luxury holiday lets. Roadside verges and greens become lawns or parking places for BMWs. Gentrified villages not only make walkers feel unwelcome but many footpaths, village greens and public access areas could soon be under serious threat.

Colin Speakman, Vice President



Protecting Wildlife Corridors

Spring will soon be upon us, and with it renewed focus on our Roadside Verges Campaign ('Living Verges'). As the growing season gets underway, we'll be watching to see whether there have been any noticeable changes in the verge cutting regime as a result of our conversations with North Yorkshire County Council. Encouragingly, NYCC is now working on these issues with its own ecology team.

Last year, we gathered baseline data on the plant life of three 'trial' lengths of verge. We also made observations about when and how the verges were cut, and if there were any effects on the plants. We'll be doing the same this season, so that we can follow any changes over time. We'd welcome any photos of verges in the Dales, or any other information that could supplement our evidence.

Our campaign covers not just verges but any piece of village grassland, such as churchyards and village greens. There is potential to have a significant positive effect on biodiversity by making relatively small changes to the way these areas are managed, and the results don't have to look untidy.

Our trial verges (both sides of road) are Grassington to Hebden B6265 (1.7 miles); Horton to Selside B6479 (2 miles) and Ingleton to Ribbleshead B6255 (3.7 miles).

Visit www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/campaigns/verges for downloadable guidelines to make your village more wildlife-friendly.

Anne Readshaw, volunteer

Advance Notice

We intend to hold the Friends of the Dales 2022 AGM at the Devonshire Institute, Grassington, on the morning of Saturday 24 September, followed by *From Peat to Paddling*, a conference looking at the journey of water from the moorlands and peatlands of the Yorkshire Dales to the country's first designated 'safe' river bathing site at Illkley. Further information and details will be confirmed in the summer *Review*.

Changing Visitor Profile

In 2021 just over a quarter of visitors had never been to the Dales before, or had come for the first time earlier that year or in 2020.

- 14% were aged 25 to 34.
- Most (21%) of people surveyed came from West Yorkshire...
...but 37% of those on a first visit had travelled from London and the South East.
- One third did not use any information to plan their visit.
- 69% said that they had come to walk...
...and 48% said that being by water was one of the things they enjoyed.

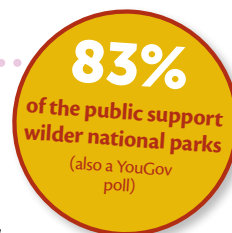
Source: YDNPA snapshot visitor survey 2021

Where2Walk in a Wheelchair

Friends of the Dales business member Jonathan White is one of the driving forces behind a new charity helping disabled people enjoy the national park.

The Where2Walk owner initially joined forces with campaigner Debbie North and her late husband Andy to create a series of stile-free routes. Now Access the Dales, which was launched this month, provides all-terrain mobility vehicles for hire at outdoor locations.

For details of accessible walks, accommodation, pubs, places to eat and things to do visit www.access-the-dales.com



New Approaches to Tree Planting

This winter the Sustainable Swaledale community group has planted over 2,500 trees at 12 different sites.

One landowner asked to trial a 'Miyawaki' or 'mini-forest', which encourages significantly faster growth, leading to greater biodiversity and carbon capture. Four hundred and fifty saplings were planted very densely at three trees per square metre. At another site they had symbiotic root fungi, which may allow them to share nutrients and information.

Although most trees were protected by standard Tubex guards, the group has also tried out two prototype Swaledale wool alternatives. Canes and biodegradable spirals were used where less protection was needed. One site relied only on rabbit-proof fencing. A trial of cactus tree guards, suitable for use with browsing cattle, is planned for an area of woodland pasture.

The group has also planted hedges and an outdoor classroom.

Margaret Feetham, Sustainable Swaledale



Protecting our Peatlands



Yorkshire Peat Partnership and Friends of the Dales volunteers.
Photo courtesy of Yorkshire Peat Partnership

The Dales have extensive areas of blanket bog, and peat underlies most of the upland moorland - that's 42% of the area of the national park. These peatlands are formed from natural accumulations of decaying plant material under waterlogged conditions. They create distinctive landscapes and support abundant wildlife of national and international importance like curlew and golden plover. Peatlands are multi-functioning, offering grazing and shooting along with open-air recreation - walking, riding, birdwatching.

We are now also more aware of how important they are for the quantities of carbon that a well-managed moorland can capture and store - it is estimated that a 30cm layer of peat stores at least the same amount of carbon as a tropical rainforest over the same area. But peatlands have suffered from decades of drainage, over-grazing, burning and air pollution.

We have recently published our policy on peatlands, which you can see at <https://friendsofthedales.org.uk/policies/peatlands>

We want to see peatlands better protected, with degraded areas restored as a matter of urgency, so that they absorb rainwater and build up yet more peat – making them even more boggy. In this way they will capture more carbon, as well as slow down the flow of water off the moors, thus reducing flood risks downstream. We want to see significant reductions in moorland burning and, where tree cover is being considered, this should be done by natural regeneration, thus avoiding cultivation, which opens the peat up to oxidation and run-off.

There is a need for a wide and open discussion about these issues. To start this, we are holding a walk on Ilkley Moor on Saturday, 21 May to view the works being done by Moors of the Future to address peat protection. We will be looking at the installation of 'leaky dams', which slow run-off and enable vegetation, especially sphagnum, the main component of peat, to re-establish.

We are also in discussion with the Yorkshire Peat Partnership about its 'Eyes on the Bog' citizen science project, which will involve volunteers making regular visits to selected bogs to monitor their restoration. We will shortly be asking for volunteers to help with this - more details will come soon.

Then keep your eyes open for features in future issues of the *Review*, where we will highlight the many fascinating features of bogs - the flowers, the birds, the insects, the archaeology - and update you on progress with their restoration.

Nancy Stedman, volunteer member of policy and planning committee

Letters to the Editor



Looking at Landscape with Fresh Eyes

I was sorry to learn that there are some who regard the Howgill Fells as a desert (winter *Review* p16). Presumably they have similar regard for the moors and mountains of the rest of the Dales, the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands, or do all of the latter have redeeming features absent in the Howgills?

I would love, old bones permitting, to take them to the Howgills so that they can benefit from a road to Damascus experience. The view of the Howgills is splendid from all points of the compass: the way the M6 heading north burrows into Fell Head; the long fingers of the northern valleys and ridges; the short, steep valleys and ridges of the south-east; the dark and mysterious Carlin Gill; the 650-foot cascade of Cautley Spout; Cautley Crag, the finest corrie in Yorkshire, active only 12,500 years ago.

Well, it takes all sorts. Drop me in central London: now *there* is a desert.

Bernard Peel, Friends of the Dales volunteer

Drastic Action Needed

For years members have lamented two problems that I believe should now be addressed with urgency.

I call on Friends of the Dales to campaign in every way possible for a reduction in the number of second homes. We can live in only one home at a time. The Dales are becoming a collection of pleasantly antique buildings rather than a community of permanent residents. Every house that is not lived in by its owners for more than half of the year should bear a substantial levy of £10,000 or more per year payable to the national park authority. If this did not rapidly reduce the number of second homes, it could gradually be increased. At the very least the levy would provide much-needed income to cater for visitors.

The second necessity is to stop tourists coming by car, spending little money and causing congestion. The national park levy should be used to help build substantial park-and-ride facilities at the edges of the park and run electric buses frequently to many places within the park. No car or motorbike should be allowed beyond the park-and-ride facility unless it displays a resident's pass or a valid disabled person's permit. This would immediately increase the dwell-time of visitors and the amount of money they spend. There would be more healthy walking and cycling. It would enhance the beauty and peace of the countryside.

Only radical actions such as these will have any substantial effect on conserving our Dales for the future and on reducing global warming.

John D Anderson, Friends of the Dales member

This letter is the writer's personal view, and is not necessarily reflective of the views of Friends of the Dales.

See also articles on pp 18 and 19.

White Open Spaces?



A walk organised by Mosaic Outdoors and supported by The Great Outdoors on Kinder Scout. Photo courtesy of Rachel Sarah

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority volunteer and Churchill Fellow Mohammed Dhalech says we need to do more to make sure people of all ethnicities feel at home in the countryside.



When I began my outdoors journey working for the Youth Service in Gloucestershire back in the '80s, I noticed the limited engagement from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, either as users or working in the sector. This was when I started talking about underrepresentation. Work on inclusivity in the outdoors has been on the agenda since the '80s and a number of us, like Judy Ling Wong of Black Environment Network, have been active in this field since then.

In 2019 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published the *Landscapes Review* led by Julian Glover, which highlights:

'Many communities in modern Britain feel that these landscapes hold no relevance for them. The countryside is seen by both black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and white people as very much a "white" environment. If that is true today,

then the divide is only going to widen as society changes. Our countryside will end up being irrelevant to the country that actually exists.'

I believe that the three biggest challenges to the environmental and outdoor sectors from an inclusivity perspective are organisational culture, representation and racism. Unless we address these, we will not move forward.

Organisational Culture

Organisations need to start the journey to inclusivity, from governance and senior leadership through to volunteers. Inclusivity should be a core business activity, not a time-limited initiative based on short-term funding.

Glover points out the reluctance by landscape bodies to talk about diversity:

'And we have found interest, rather than a burning desire to change, when we have discussed diversity. It was rarely raised by those we met. This is unsurprising;...the lack of diversity among those governing the bodies looking after our national landscapes is extremely narrow. They are almost all white, almost all male and many are retired. It is not surprising their priorities can seem alien to many.'

Representation

Many organisations in the sector look at representation only from the user/visitor perspective - 'access' in its narrowest definition - and place very little emphasis on inclusivity. Communities need to see themselves represented at all levels within the sector.

As Glover highlights in the *Landscapes Review*: 'National Park Authorities... shockingly, ... have only 0.9% representation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic members.' From my own research, carried out in March 2021, I noticed that there is a very similar picture of underrepresentation in the national outdoor and environmental not-for-profit sector.

Racism

Individuals and organisations all have a responsibility to tackle racism in the sector and to call it out and act proactively to address it. Over the years many have not been proactive and have stayed silent.

To advance this work we all need to collaborate and work in equal partnership between communities and groups. Mosaic Outdoors and partners, including University of Cumbria, Outward Bound Trust, Institute for Outdoor Learning and Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres, delivered a series of ten webinars on INclusivity in the OUTdoors during the 2021 lockdown. The report recommends a number of actions and a framework, and partners are looking at a follow-up for the sector. Recordings of the sessions and reports can be

Friends of the Dales want everyone from all backgrounds to value and enjoy the Dales. To succeed at this, it is imperative that the charity benefits from the lived experience of people in every community in every aspect of its work. Our 40th anniversary walk, which involved the Broughton Road Women's Group, is just one example of how inclusivity can widen enjoyment of the Dales, and we must take further strides to make the next chapter in our history the most impactful yet. The board is currently reviewing its rules in line with the latest recommended practice, which will catalyse greater inclusivity throughout the charity in the future.



Dales Bus Visitors, Malham.
Photo courtesy of Stephen Garnett Photography

found at www.outdoor-learning.org/Good-Practice/Good-Practice/Equality-Diversity-and-Inclusion/INclusivity-in-the-OUTdoors

A young person whom I invited to speak at one of the webinars said: 'It made me feel heard and the feedback was beautiful and made me feel as if there was hope for the future of representation because people were actually listening and having important and useful conversations around the topic.'

The sector must be more inclusive so that all communities can enjoy the landscapes peacefully and without experiencing racism. The sector needs to demonstrate leadership and commitment and work on this as part of its core business and not just as 'diversity washing' initiatives (*A Challenging Environment: Experiences of Ethnic Minority Environmental Professionals*, Institution of Environmental Sciences, February 2022). There has been more than enough research over the years: it is now time for real and demonstrable action and change. Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities need to

be round those tables where decisions are made and where our contributions and lived experiences are respected and valued. The journey really needed to start many years ago.

What I don't touch upon in this piece is the need to look at other specific areas such as volunteering, employment, conservation and climate change. These are all areas the sector needs to review and develop an inclusive approach in. This year we will be engaging with communities and promoting the message of enjoying the outdoors safely.

My vision for the future is of the sector at the forefront of inclusivity. This is an aspiration and may take many years but the pandemic has provided an opportunity to reset the way we think and do things. Let us take this opportunity and make a difference for future generations and the landscapes, which belong to us all.

Mohammed Dhalech

Where next for the Glover Review?
See Rick Cowley's update on page 19.

It's Time to Drive Change,

'A special area: drive with care' say the signs as you enter the national park, but is it really possible to care for the Dales with a car?

Last August saw the highest demand for car parking tickets in the Dales in over half a decade. With electric vehicle charging devices still largely absent in Yorkshire compared to other parts of the UK, we can legitimately fear that car pollution has been soaring in the national park too.

Swapping to alternative transport such as buses is a greener option that's regrettably there only for some, but where it's possible, it's worth it. According to the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT), 2,000,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions could be avoided if everyone in the UK simply swapped one monthly journey by car to one by bus instead. And the environmental benefit of bussing is just the start.

The CPT says one coach could take up to a mile of cars off the road, reducing congestion for emergency services and those who genuinely need to drive. What's more, every fare helps to keep bus routes viable, enabling providers to be there for people who may not otherwise get to enjoy the benefits of nature at all.

The country's poorest communities are twice as likely to live in a neighbourhood without nature-rich spaces, which have been shown to boost mental and physical wellbeing and reduce mortality rates. White people are statistically more likely than some other ethnicities to have a car owner in their households. The evidence is clear: supporting public transport is a supremely effective way to help address social and health inequalities.

The Dales can be a special area for so many more people, boosting wellbeing, community cohesion and business too, but only if

the national park is sustainably accessible throughout. Right now it isn't – as the record car parking demand painfully shows – despite real progress in some parts.

Several words in the government's Levelling Up White Paper, Bus Back Better strategy and response to the Glover Review gave hope that public transport could get the investment it needs, but adequate funding and action has yet to follow despite requests from DalesBus, Friends of the Dales and many other influential associations. We still feel miles away from a future where swathes of the Dales are no longer mostly accessed by polluting private vehicles.

With dependable timetabled public transport provision under threat, it is necessary for us to review our transport policy and consider what more we can do to make the Dales sustainably accessible to all. Please take a look at the transport policy on our website and let

The Little White Bus, a community service covering upper Wensleydale and Swaledale. Photo courtesy of Ian Harrison



Not Cars

me know what changes you think Friends of the Dales should be driving forwards. For a bit of inspiration, consider a day out on DalesBus too. After all, bus drivers are the only people who can truly 'drive with care' in the Dales.

Kevin Armstrong, trustee for Friends of the Dales and Board Director for DalesBus (aka Dales and Bowland CIC).

Our transport policy is available at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/policies Information about bus and train services into and around the Dales is available at www.dalesbus.org Timetable leaflets are also available in many libraries, visitor information centres and businesses in the Dales.

If you know anyone who might be willing to sponsor a DalesBus service to help keep it running, or if you would like to input into the charity's transport policy, email Kevin at k.h.armstrong@gmail.com



Greenwashing. Pavel Constantin

Who Pays?

The Yorkshire Dales could soon have access to a major new source of finance – but there may be some drawbacks. Sometimes specialist terminology can limit our understanding of environmental issues and make it difficult for us to decide where we stand on controversial subjects. Richard Boothman explores the concepts behind private sector finance for national parks and looks at the benefits – and possible difficulties.

In common with all the other national parks in the UK, the Yorkshire Dales are facing a funding gap as central government grants are reduced and costs increase. This funding gap may be as high as £300 million per year across all the national parks.

To help bridge the gap, National Parks Partnerships LLP (the arm of National Parks UK that allows it to work at a national level with a range of commercial, sustainability and philanthropic partners) has entered a joint venture with Palladium.

Palladium identifies itself as a worldwide company that 'mobilises private capital to address social issues, while generating a financial return for investors'. The joint venture is called Revere and its target is to raise £240 million by 2030 through the sale of ecosystem services.

Ecosystem services are the multitude of benefits that nature provides to society. Four major benefits have been identified:

Provisioning services - the material benefits we get from ecosystems such as the supply of food, water, fibres, wood and fuels.

Regulating services - the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes. These include the regulation of air quality and soil fertility, control of floods or crop pollination.

Cultural services - the non-material benefits we gain from ecosystems. Examples include aesthetic and engineering inspiration, cultural identity and spiritual wellbeing.

Supporting services - necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. For example, providing plants and animals with living spaces, allowing for diversity of species and maintaining genetic diversity.

Ecosystem services are provided by the natural world but in our managed landscapes, the degree to which nature can provide them depends on what we do with the land. The money raised by Revere will be used to pay landowners and land managers within the national parks to provide ecosystem services.

Contributions will come mainly from larger private sector organisations. Revere has secured funding from several companies including Estée Lauder Corporation and Gatwick Airport. They will pay for ecosystem services to help them reach their targets for minimising carbon dioxide emissions by **carbon offsetting** - a way of paying for others to reduce emissions or absorb carbon dioxide to compensate for your own emissions. This is done by planting trees to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, or by enhancing peatlands or soils, which can capture large quantities of carbon dioxide.

If managed in the right way, this additional funding coming into the national park **could** be a good thing. But we need to be aware of where the money is coming from. Institutions such as the National Gallery have been criticised for taking money from oil companies and it would be difficult for a national park to defend these organisations as a source of finance.

There are many potential issues that arise from this type of funding of our public bodies. Friends of the Dales are taking a lead in monitoring developments in relation to Revere and other similar funding streams. We will report further as the issue crystallises but meanwhile if you have any views, please get in touch.

Richard Boothman, volunteer member of policy & planning committee and business member (Ideostone)



Photo courtesy of DalesBus



Breeding Curlew Seek Sanctuary in the Dales



Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

The first sighting of spring is as eagerly awaited as early snowdrops or newborn lambs. The curlew is one of the Dales' most iconic species but when it returns after overwintering on the coast, it exchanges one set of environmental pressures for another. Ann Shadrake takes a look at why this much-loved bird is under threat and what can be done to help.

Is there still time to save curlew from extinction in Britain?

On a stormy day in mid-February this year, I got my first sight of returning curlew. About 100 were feeding and resting on a sodden field (aka the natural floodplain) beside the River Aire at Skipton. Gentle contact calls between female and male curlew could just be heard over the bypass traffic. Such calls help re-establish vital bonds, essential as curlew can live in faithful pairs for 20 years or more. I logged the sighting on a fantastic online map (Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership), which records curlew returning to the North to breed. But where have these curlew been all winter?

Coasts and estuaries provide winter refuges

Like many waders, curlew use our coasts for feeding and roosting through the winter, building up condition for the summer breeding season. The British wintering population is drawn from a vast area, with birds arriving from as far as Russia and Finland. Climate breakdown, coastal development, pollution and shooting disturbance contribute to a major decline in wintering curlew numbers. Recent research and ample anecdotal evidence is highlighting a very worrying increase in people flouting protections (signage and fencing) designed to leave birds in peace. Unfortunately some people even seem to encourage their dogs



Image courtesy of US Fish & Wildlife Service @ USFWS Twitter 17.12.21



Even where you have a 'legal right to roam' please choose to put nature first. Stick to the obvious paths rather than following trods. Walkers, dogs and cyclists can scare adult birds off the nest, wasting hard-won energy and leaving eggs and chicks vulnerable.

Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

to run at resting waders, for 'exercise and fun'. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) reports that the number of curlew wintering in Britain has dropped by a shocking 14% in just eight years.





Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

Best practice is to always keep your dog under very close control (eg on a short lead) especially between March and August (open countryside) and September to March (shores and coasts). Extra rules apply in open access areas.

Why do curlew come to the Dales in spring?

Curlew leave the coasts and arrive in the Dales in very early spring, ready to set up breeding territories on our grasslands and moorlands. Curlew nest on the ground, so eggs and chicks are very vulnerable to predation by foxes, crows and gulls. Tussocky grassland with clumps of reeds or taller vegetation hides the nests and provides cover for the chicks. Almost immediately after hatching curlew chicks feed themselves; they need nearby open, soggy areas or wet 'scrapes' full of worms and small insects. Females gradually depart for the winter feeding grounds, leaving the males to guard the chicks until they fledge at around five weeks old. Teenage birds and their 'dads' then need quiet and open, damp grassland to continue feeding through the summer.

How threatened are curlew?

The NUCLNP, which covers the Dales and large areas of the Pennines, makes the concern crystal clear.

'...the curlew is one of the most pressing bird conservation priorities in the UK. The breeding population has nearly halved since the mid-1990s. In some places, there is a real possibility that they could disappear altogether in the next twenty years. The UK also has a global responsibility to take action as it is the third most important country in the world for breeding curlew. We are home to up to a quarter of the breeding population but numbers are dropping here faster than anywhere else in the world.'

Research by the BTO, quoted by Graham Appleton, shows that currently it takes four breeding pairs of curlew to produce just one surviving chick between them. In other words, the estimated 58,000 breeding pairs of curlew in Britain are producing only 14,500 chicks per year. That's 10,000 chicks too few every year – just to arrest the British decline in curlew numbers.

Why have breeding curlew numbers declined in the UK?

In Britain, we used to have a lot of the low-intensive grassland that curlews need to breed and feed on: like meadows and naturally wet pastures, with soggy or rough bits left uncut for months (due to poor growth) until a late cut maybe in August. But for a long time now, we have farmed very differently. We have switched to more arable farming and grassland managed more intensively, and more land has been lost to development. Early silage or hay cuts, often understandably preferred by upland farmers to 'get the crop in', can destroy nests. Poorly managed cutting risks cutting chicks to pieces - their natural instinct is to sit tight, not run away. Add high levels of natural predators and disturbance to the mix, and increased use and potency of agricultural chemicals, and the outcome for curlew is dire. A ray of hope is Farming in Protected Landscapes (to March 2024) which can offer funding to farmers for recording breeding success and improving habitat for curlew.

Space for Shorebirds offers an innovative Dog Ranger pledge – sign up and your dog becomes a wildlife ranger! Could Friends of the Dales take inspiration from this?

<http://spaceforshorebirds.co.uk>



How to help curlew

At a Curlew Action webinar, chaired by Mary Colwell, I heard the comment: 'We must intervene, or watch curlew go extinct in lowland England'. The same can be said for our uplands. We can all learn more about curlew, support those actively protecting curlew, change our own behaviour and raise awareness where we live or visit. Plenty of curlew (and other birds) is a good sign of a healthier, more biodiverse environment.

Enjoy the sight and sounds of curlew this year, summer or winter, and do send me your suggestions for helping their conservation.

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director



Curlew Action offers a huge range of resources and runs World Curlew Day on 21 April each year www.curlewaction.org. Could you put this poster up near where you live?

Further reading

Graham Appleton's *Wader Tales* – evidence-based blogs on curlew/waders - <https://wadertales.wordpress.com>

Mary Colwell (2018) *Curlew Moon*

A New People's Charter

The Open Spaces Society defends people's rights to enjoy village greens, commons and footpaths. General Secretary – and Friends of the Dales member – Kate Ashbrook gives her personal opinions on what needs to be done to make the national park more accessible.

On 29 May 2004 land with a right of public access on foot in the Yorkshire Dales increased from four per cent to 62 per cent of the national park – probably the biggest gain of any national park in England and Wales. This was thanks to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), which gave the public the right to walk on specially mapped mountain, moor, heath and down, and on registered common land. It was a great start but 20 years on there has been little progress in winning more access, and most of England remains out of bounds.

The Glover Report on national parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) rightly deplored the fact that many of our most beautiful places were off limits to horse riders, water users, cavers, wild campers etc. It expressed a hope that the government would look seriously at whether the levels of open access were adequate.

The government's response is well meaning but inadequate, referring to the forthcoming review of the open-access maps (which, if we are not astute, could lead to losses rather than gains in access).

The government places much weight on the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme to increase access. But this is limited, running only to March 2024, mostly for small projects and unlikely to provide permanent new access. We had hoped that the wider agricultural funding schemes would pay for new and better access, as promised repeatedly by ministers, but the reality is different with no assurance of new access land or paths being opened.



Alongside more and better access for a wider range of activities, there must be a warmer welcome to the countryside for all sectors of society – integrated public transport, more rangers, improved routes and much more. This needs resources but the government, in its response to Glover, admits that ‘the core grant [for protected landscapes] does not provide the opportunity to increase funding to the scale needed to deliver our vision’. Instead, it advocates the use of private finance, a repulsive solution for our national treasures, our natural health service.

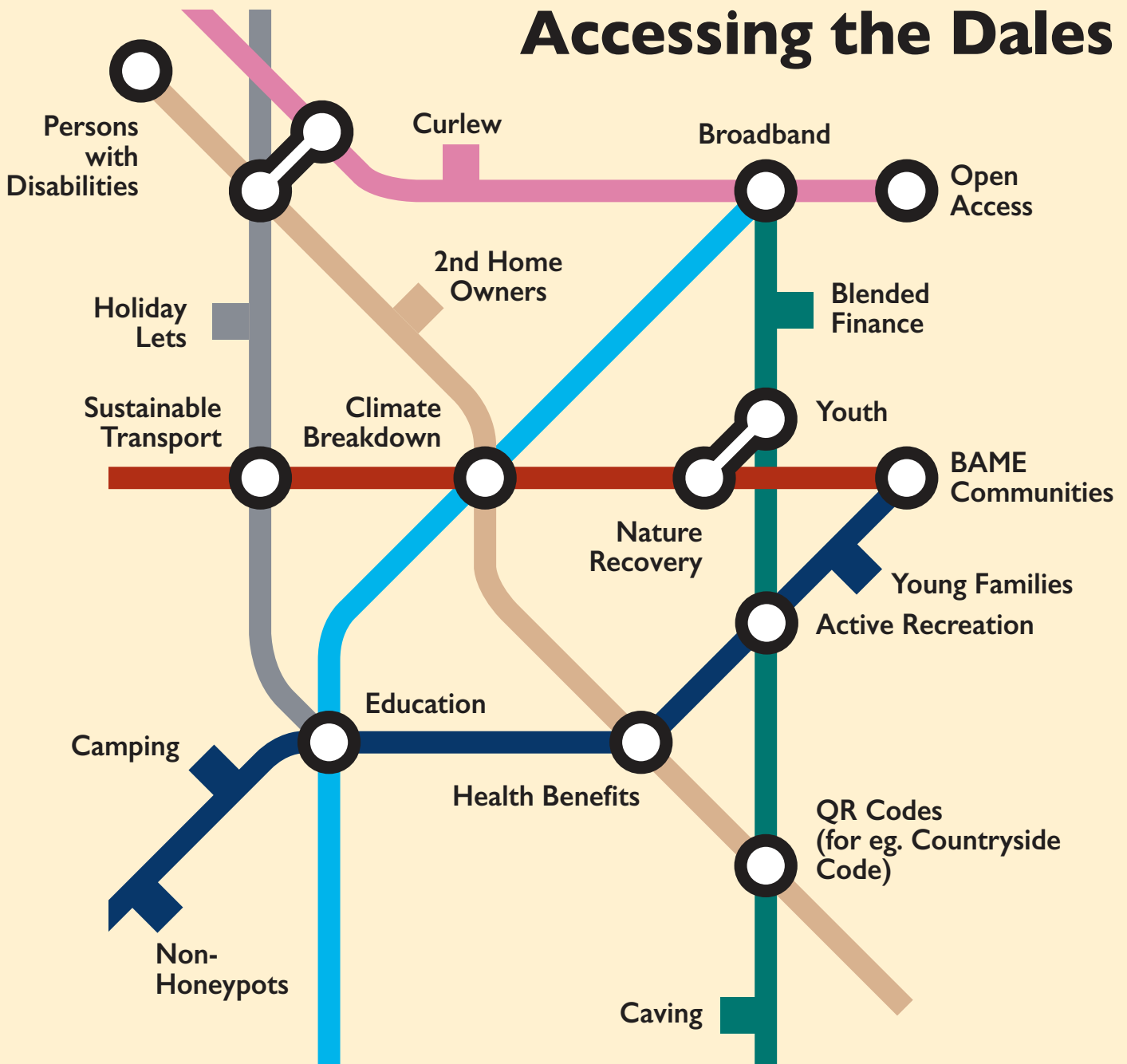
In 1949, at the conclusion of the second reading of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Bill, the Minister of Town and Country Planning, Lewis Silkin, famously said: ‘This is not just a bill. It is a people’s charter...for the open air, for the hikers and ramblers, for everyone who lives to get out into the open air and enjoy the countryside.’ Seventy-three years on we need a new people’s charter, backed by resources and commitment, to enable our national parks, AONBs and the wider countryside to be more open, accessible and welcoming to all.

Kate Ashbrook



Stalling Busk was the venue of the Ramblers’ meeting that planned access legislation in 1996. The plaque is on the cottage of the late Jerry Pearlman, a founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society (now known as Friends of the Dales), who drafted the first access bill, the precursor to CROW.

Accessing the Dales



Whether it be the right to roam, caving, receiving information, using buses or feeling welcome, the Yorkshire Dales National Park must be a space for everyone and for nature. At present 'access for all' is heavily weighted in favour of certain groups of people while many others - often due to their race or socio-economic background - are, or feel, excluded. Inequality determines who can enjoy the benefits and beauty of the Dales landscape. Who visits depends on time, money, knowledge, confidence and ability.

Some of the relevant issues, activities and actors are represented above and within the pages of this edition of the *Review*. For more on our countryside policy see

<https://friendsofthedales.org.uk/policies/countryside-access>

Bruce McLeod, Chair

Walks for Wheels



Exploring the access paths around Grimwith Reservoir by Trampler, and on foot.
Photo courtesy of Stephen Garnett photography

Photo courtesy of Chatsworth Settlement Trustees Bolton Abbey

Many of us love the Dales for their stunning vistas of sweeping moorland, limestone crags and high, windswept fellsides - but the distinctive scenery of the national park can also appear to be an insuperable obstacle for someone with a disability.

It might seem an uphill task to find a footpath with a gradient of less than one in ten but, in fact, there is a range of options available for those who lack full mobility.

Miles Without Stiles is a directory of 20 walks in the national park that are suitable for wheelchairs and buggies. Maps for the routes, ranging from a 700m section of the Dales Way near Burnsall to a seven-mile circuit of Ivelet Moor, can be downloaded from www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/plan-your-visit/essential-information/access-for-all/miles-without-stiles/ Details of facilities indicate whether toilets have RADAR keys or car parks have blue badge bays. Route cards are also available at national park visitor centres.

Open Country is a charity that has been helping people with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors for more than 30 years. It has compiled a directory of accessible activities in North Yorkshire with details of walks from Dales destinations such as Buckden, Grimwith Reservoir and Leyburn Shawl.

There is also information about sporting and recreational facilities catering for disabled people like the trekking and riding centre at Conistone in Wharfedale. Anglers can make use of the two wheelchair-accessible Haylands fishing platforms on the River Ure at Hawes and another at Kilnsey Park.

Suitable venues for outings include Hesketh Farm Park near Bolton Abbey and the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes, which welcomes assistance dogs and has plenty of items to touch and sound recordings for those with a sensory impairment.

On the Bolton Abbey Estate electric wheelchairs are available to hire twice daily from 10am and 1pm between April and

the end of October and a guide to suitable pathways is available at www.boltonabbey.com/your-visit/accessibility.

Specially designed four-wheel drive, all-terrain electric buggies called Trampers even make it possible to explore off-road at the National Trust's Malham Tarn Estate and the nature trail from Clapham to Ingleborough Cave.

Whether you want to cycle in Greenfield Forest near Beckermonds or learn to paraglide with Settle-based Active Edge, there are many opportunities for disabled people to enjoy the Dales – and easily accessible information to help you plan your next adventure.

Lynn Leadbeatter, volunteer

Download Open Country's North Yorkshire Countryside Directory for People with Disabilities at www.opencountry.org.uk/countryside-access-directories Many of the routes in the charity's Wild About Wharfedale Breakfree pack are also in the Dales – visit www.opencountry.org.uk/breakfree/

Bringing the Dales Underworld to a New Audience

Orchestral conductor and composer Ben Crick describes the challenges posed by an unusual assignment – writing a piece inspired by Ingleborough Cave and then performing it in this unique environment.

Ben caving with his son



In ancient Greece if you fancied picking up a few tips about the future, you descended into a cave to discover the mysteries within. The very birth of Rome itself is said to have come from the Lupercal (wolf's cave), where the twins Romulus and Remus were suckled by a she-wolf before issuing forth to create the Eternal City. In many ancient cultures caves are revered settings for magic, divinity and wisdom but it's never been quite the same in modern Europe.

In 1704 Antoine Galland introduced a translated version of the *Arabian Nights* to Europe, which made it quite clear that there were a few bob to be found in Aladdin's cave (a revelation that would have surely encouraged Yorkshire folk to view caves in a positive light). But by then caves had already been slandered by Shakespeare 'Fit for the mountains and the barbarous caves'; Milton 'Hence, loathed Melancholy, of Cerberus and blackest Midnight born, In Stygian cave forlorn'; and Henry Vaughan 'As he that in some cave's thick damp Lockt from the light,'.

Yet what caves have never aroused from any civilisation is apathy. There is always a draw to the unknown and whether we face that with avoidance or with curiosity about what we can learn is a question that has intrigued mankind from antiquity to today.

As a keen caver I'm drawn to them and if the desire to spend my free time crawling through an ever-lowering stream in search of a bit of adventure seems at odds with what a lot of people class as a good day out, I can reflect on a long-established habit of going against the flow. As the only member of the Emley Moor under-17s rugby league team with ambitions to be an orchestral conductor, I never sought universal approval of my pastimes. Now, with a bit more age behind me, I can see how caving and music may form unlikely bedfellows but do provide similar challenges and rewards.

There are always unknowns when descending into a cave system. Water wears away at the rock; rivers can even change course over time; and rockfall or changing water levels can transform the cave environment. Music can be the same: when you start to compose a piece, you're never quite sure where it will finish. It is a creative process that sees you make decisions at innumerable points, which change the final destination of the piece. We make these decisions and overcome these challenges by implementing techniques and strategies learned from many years of lessons and practice – just as we stay safe in caves with ropework perfected from many dedicated hours of work.

Happily these two passions are about to come together with a commission from Skipton Town Hall to compose a site-specific piece to be performed in Ingleborough Cave. I'm hopeful that, although much delayed by Covid, this piece will be performed this summer in this unique environment. The audience will descend into the darkness and then hear music creep out of the silence before melting back into the silence. On their return to light and modernity, if nothing else, perhaps people will be left with the wisdom that the Turkish playwright Mehmet Murat ildan so beautifully sums up in these words: 'A cave has two things to teach us: Light is sacred; silence is to integrate with eternity.'

Ben Crick - www.bencrickmusic.com | skiptoncamerata.com

Composing by hand



Acoustic Heritage of Dales Caves Preserved

The unique soundscapes of Dowkerbottom and Ingleborough Caves can now be explored online.

They have been preserved by a University of York project that promotes heritage acoustics by recording natural UK sites and creates a tool that researchers worldwide can use and apply to related work.

Caves such as Dowkerbottom and Ingleborough help us to understand people's mythological landscapes. Previous research has shown that our ancestors would have interpreted sounds such as echoes as supernatural or the voices of spirits.

To listen for yourself visit www.acousticatlas.de

Other featured sites include York Minster, Ripon Cathedral and the Taj Mahal.

Ben caving with his son



Computer score writing

Homes From Home in The National Park

Is open access to the Dales housing market damaging our communities? Friends of the Dales Vice President Mark Corner gives his personal views about how towns and villages in the national park can stay vibrant despite the inexorable rise in under-occupied properties.

The number of second homes and holiday lets in the national park is significant and growing. This article examines the issue, its implications and possible responses.

The latest data we have, from the 2011 census, indicated an overall dwelling 'vacancy rate' of 21%. This is a measure of the scale of second homes, holiday lets and vacant properties in the national park. The national average was 4%. In 2018 around one half of these under-occupied properties were registered as second homes: that is 1,442 properties, or 11% of the housing stock, compared to 1.1% across England.

The proportion of under-occupied properties has almost certainly increased since these numbers were established, not least because of the impact of COVID. We don't have the current information for the Dales (data from the 2021 census will be available shortly) but, as a corollary, reports from the Lake District indicate that around 80% of homes sold there since March 2020 have been as second homes.

So, what is the issue? Under-occupied properties impact the availability and price of the housing stock in the national park and have a negative impact on the social cohesion of communities, leaving 'dark gaps' in villages especially outside of the tourist season. They make a lower call on local services – including schools and shops, which end up closing - and contribute less year-round to the local economy. Of course, second and holiday homes are not a 'stand-alone' problem. They cause concern when allied to other issues, such as the proportion of retirees in the national park, low wage levels, availability of affordable homes and lack of services; they add to the broader social and economic pressures that our communities face.

What can or could be done to control this growth in under-occupied properties? Policy makers have two main levers – taxation and the planning process. In Wales a premium can be applied to council tax on second homes in order to suppress demand and to use the tax collected to facilitate the building of more affordable homes. The possibility of adopting this approach was tested in 2018 in our national park but did not garner local political support.

Within the existing planning framework, the planning authority, in our case Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, can exercise development control over new builds and conversions. Currently a proportion of new builds are specified as being for local occupancy only, effectively precluding use as a second home or holiday let. Consideration is being given to introducing an additional Primary Residence restriction in the development of the next Local Plan (2023-40), which would also prevent second home ownership whilst enabling those not currently living in the national park to move here. Consideration is also being given to withdrawing the option for barn conversions to be used for short-term holiday lets.

Whilst these changes would help, given that the number of new builds or conversions per year is modest in number (around 50 and 30 permissions respectively), the impact would be limited. To exercise control over the existing housing stock would require changes to national legislation. The Welsh government

is currently consulting on introducing the need to obtain planning permission to change the use of a property from residential to a second home or a holiday let and on a licensing scheme for holiday accommodation. Both of these approaches would give planning and local authorities more control over the number and location of second homes and short-term holiday lets.

Alongside these possible policy responses I believe that there is scope for us to try to encourage some of the second home owners in the national park to make these homes their primary residence. The recent working-from-home phenomenon could be an enabler in this regard.

My personal hope is that YDNPA introduces the changes outlined above that it has the existing authority to make and that we collectively support efforts to introduce the more fundamental reforms needed to address this important issue impacting the sustainable future of our national park.

Mark Corner, Vice President



New Street in Langcliffe:
over half these properties are
second homes or holiday lets.
Photo courtesy of Mark Corner

Opportunity to Influence the Future of Our National Parks

Regular readers may recall articles in previous issues on the *Landscapes Review* conducted by the journalist Julian Glover and his team. If not, or if you're a new reader, here in brief is what has been happening recently.

In May 2018 the government instigated a review of the country's 'national landscapes', principally national parks like the Yorkshire Dales and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) like the Forest of Bowland and Nidderdale.

The review team reported in September 2019 and argued strongly for a more positive and well-resourced approach to the nation's important natural landscapes, with 27 proposals or recommendations covering issues such as nature recovery, natural beauty, living and working in these areas, visitor pressure, funding and governance. The final report and a summary of findings are available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf

Since then the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been considering the report's recommendations and formulating its draft response. This was duly published in January 2022 and all interested parties were invited to respond to the government's thoughts on taking the Glover Review forward. It has asked for comments by 9 April and will, in due course, issue its final response to the Glover Review and, hopefully, initiate some positive and constructive action. (Yes, the wheels of government do turn slowly.)

Some of the key points in the government's draft response to the Glover report include:

- **creating a new protected landscapes partnership at national level, including all national parks and AONBs**
- **introducing a new function of all protected landscapes to drive nature recovery and increase biodiversity**
- **rebranding AONBs and introducing a common set of statutory purposes for both national parks and AONBs**
- **a new national landscape strategy with clearer strategic direction for protected landscapes**
- **expanding community engagement within the protected landscapes**
- **improving the local management of, and providing more sustainable resources for, these landscapes**
- **better management of visitor pressures**
- **enhancing the 'biodiversity net gain' approach to planning decisions**
- **improving the delivery of affordable housing within the protected landscapes**

The full draft response is available online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-government-response

Along with many national organisations such as the Campaign for National Parks, we are compiling our views on the government's initial response in time for the 9 April deadline. If you have any particular thoughts that could feed into our response, please contact Ann Shadrake at ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Rick Cowley, volunteer member of the policy and planning committee

Plan to Tackle Second Homes Crisis

South Lakes MP Tim Farron has led a debate in Parliament about the shortage of affordable housing in Cumbria.

The former Liberal Democrat leader, whose constituency covers parts of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District national parks, put forward a seven-point plan to tackle the problems caused by excessive second homes ownership. The proposals include giving local authorities the power to increase council tax by up to 100% on such properties in the worst affected communities.

Other recommendations include creating new and separate categories of planning use for second homes and holiday lets. This would enable councils and national parks to limit numbers in each town and village. Planning departments would receive ring-fenced funding for policing the new rule.

Mr Farron also proposed:

- **forcing all holiday let owners to pay council tax**
- **giving local and national park authorities the power to ensure that 100% of new builds are genuinely affordable**
- **banning section 21 no-fault evictions, which enable private landlords to repossess their properties at short notice**
- **ensuring platforms like AirBnB must meet the same standards as other rentals and cannot undermine them**

'Some 80% of all house sales in the lakes and dales in Cumbria have been to the second home market,' said Mr Farron. 'In some rural communities there has been a reduction in the private-rented affordable market of 70%.'

Financial Secretary to the Treasurer Lucy Frazer said that 96% of second home owners pay the full amount of council tax.

Tim Farron's seven-point plan can be found at <https://timfarron.co.uk/en/article?year=2022&month=1>

Airbrushed out of History?

RUN AWAY,

From Dent in Yorkshire, on Monday the 28th of Aug last. THOMAS ANSON, a Negro Man, about five Feet six Inches High, aged 20 Years or upwards, and broad set. Whoever will bring the said Man back to Dent, or give any Information that he may be had again, shall receive a handsome Reward from Mr. Edmund Sill of Dent, or Mr. David Kenyon, Merchant in Liverpool.

This advertisement appeared in *Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser* in September 1758.

At first sight, it seems to confirm rumours that have long circulated about enslaved Black people working in remote locations of the western Dales; of discoveries of manacles and shackles in country house cellars; and of remains interred in long-lost graveyards.

Some scholars have argued that Emily Brontë based the character of the dark-skinned Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights* on stories that she had heard about the Sill family, possibly whilst a pupil at school in Cowan Bridge.

But where does the boundary between fact and fiction really lie?

In the case of Thomas Anson, we know that Edmund Sill's brother John owned a plantation called Providence in Jamaica. He became a merchant in Liverpool and later had a shop in Kingston. It's also true that he held shares in two ships, the *Dent* and the *Pickering*, which both sailed to the Caribbean in 1757 although neither vessel was involved in transporting enslaved people. Profits from the plantation enabled his nephews to buy up land in and around Dent and build a mansion at West House (now Wherside Manor).

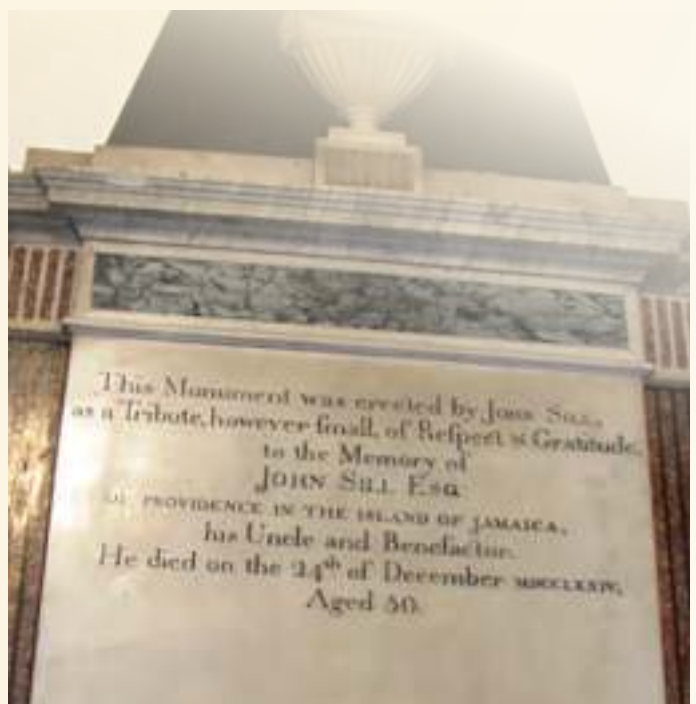
The property passed to their sister Ann, who was paid £3,783 1s 8d compensation for the enslaved workers at Providence following Emancipation. But this doesn't mean that Thomas Anson was working under the same conditions at Dent because servants and apprentices often ran away from their employers.

It's rare to find references to enslaved people in the parish records of the Dales but one exception is the baptism of William Gibson, 'a Native of Ginea or a Nigreo [sic] Slave', at Linton-in-Craven on 24 November 1765.

The Somersett Case of 1772 was generally regarded at the time to mean freedom from enslavement for anyone in England. Some masters then obliged Black people in their employment to be contracted to work without pay for a given period of time as indentured servants.

Take 17-year-old Jenny Finlay, whose baptism took place in 1804, for example. Thorns Hall in Sedbergh had been bought by a former slave ship captain called William Findlay in 1803, who moved in with his wife, mother, mother-in-law and servants. When he died in 1808 he left a cottage rent of £5 and an annuity of £25 to 'Black Jenny' and her daughter Maria, who had been baptised in 1806 and may have been his daughter.

John Sill Memorial Tablet in Dent Church.
Photo courtesy of Dales Countryside Museum



As elsewhere in the UK, many Dales families grew rich on the proceeds of the transatlantic trade and that legacy is still visible in grand properties like Rigg House in Appersett, which was owned by George Metcalfe, a sugar plantation owner in Demerara (now part of Guyana) and Dominica. But even those much further down the social scale were dependent on the Caribbean trade for their livings.

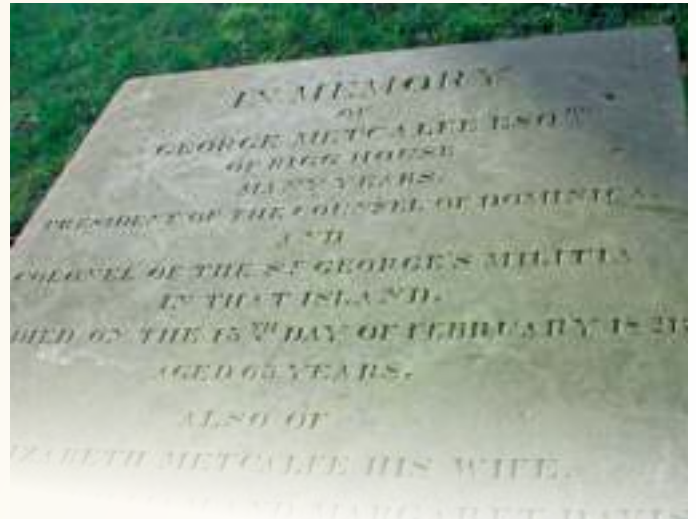
People in Dentedale supplemented their incomes by knitting 'bump caps' that were exported for wear by enslaved people; cheese was a valuable commodity that could survive a long sea passage; and the younger sons of farming families could find employment in the Caribbean as overseers, millwrights, coopers and carpenters. Even geologist and clergyman Adam Sedgwick, who opposed enslavement, inherited family shares in the West Indies and administered compensation after Emancipation as a trustee of the will of Ann Sill.

As for Thomas Anson, it seems that his story may have had a happy ending after all. Historian Audrey Dewjee has discovered records of a person of that name, born in Africa, being discharged from the 4th Royal Dragoons in 1768 at the age of 30. Thomas had served eight years as trumpeter and received a pension so he was assured of a continued income in later life.

Other Black people like Maria Finlay went on to marry and have children. John Yorke, a servant baptised at Marske Church, was given a cottage as a reward for rescuing someone from a fire in the moors. This enabled him to raise a family in the village and he has left more than 130 descendants living today.

Their stories should not be forgotten.

Lynn Leadbeater, volunteer



George Metcalfe's Grave. As well as being President of the Counsel [sic] of Dominica, plantation owner George Metcalfe was an investor in the transatlantic trade, shipping enslaved Africans to Dominica and British Guyana from 1796-1807.

Photo courtesy of Dales Countryside Museum

Find out more at Audrey Dewjee's illustrated talk *Part of Our Past – the Role of Africa and Asia in Dales History* at the Dales Countryside Museum at 7:30pm on Friday, 22 April 2022.



Wherside Manor. Photo courtesy of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Film Review

Apocalypse 2021

We've invited 14-year-old Beatrice Benn from Threshfield, a pupil at Skipton Girls' High School, to review the film *Don't Look Up*, released on 10 December 2021.

The latest comedy from Adam McKay sees the world in a state of disarray; a scientific discovery is made about an approaching comet, which is to result in the extinction of the entire global population. This might sound like a typical disaster movie, but the thing that makes *Don't Look Up* stand out from its shallow and overly serious counterparts is the interesting commentary the film makes about the power of political propaganda, social media culture, and the way that tech companies have much more influence over our lives than we may believe.

Don't Look Up is an interesting look at a global catastrophe, released at a time when climate change is at the forefront of our thoughts and conversations. While some say it's hypocritical using major Hollywood actors, some of whom have their own private jets, to make a satirical movie about natural disaster, others would argue that it is important to get stories like this into the mainstream. (It is, after all, one of the most viewed Netflix movies – ever.)

In one of the film's most notable scenes we see scientists attempting to inform a stubborn president, played by Meryl Streep, about a comet that has a '99.78%' chance of hitting Earth. The president eventually says, 'Call it 70% and let's just move on.' This reluctance to take the threat seriously and act upon it does make the viewer reflect on the parallels with how our political leaders are choosing to tackle the imminent and very real future impacts of the climate crisis.

Perhaps *Don't Look Up* is a flawed movie: the comedic aspects may not appeal to every viewer and the social commentary may seem ironic coming from some of the world's wealthiest actors. However, it does present some interesting observations about our political and social response to a global crisis.

Beatrice Benn



Events Planner -

Digital Talk

Birds of the Yorkshire Dales

Wednesday, 20 April 2022

7:30pm

In this live digital talk Ian Court, Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, will showcase the bird species – both native and migratory – that make the Yorkshire Dales their home. Ian will highlight the various threats to a range of species along with positive conservation measures the national park has put in place. He will also highlight the important role the public can play in protecting vulnerable birds.

This live talk is free for all: to book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Photo courtesy of Whitfield Benson YDNPA



Digital Talk

Give Peat a Chance 2022

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

7:30pm

Following her very popular talk last year, Jenny Sharman from Yorkshire Peat Partnership returns to tell the story of the restoration of three moors that are close to her heart. What might have caused them to degrade and decline? What were the likely consequences of this to the wildlife, the carbon store, local flood risk and water quality? What has been done to rewet, replant and restore them? Through these examples, the enormous undertaking of restoring all of Yorkshire's upland peatlands by March 2035 will be brought to life.

This live talk is free for all: to book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Photo courtesy of Yorkshire Peat Partnership





Summer 2022

Walk Event Peat and Poetry

Saturday, 21 May 2022

10:00am – 4:30pm

Join us for a special circular peat and poetry walk of five to six miles with an optional three-mile extension, starting and finishing in Ilkley. Witness the damage caused by peatland erosion; learn about its significance for wildlife and carbon and water storage; see some painstaking remediation work to restore the ancient peatlands and hear more about our active peatlands campaign. Take time out to reflect on the elemental beauty of the moors at two of Poet Laureate Simon Armitage's famous Stanza Stones. The walk will also take in the Poetry Postbox, with participants encouraged to write their own peatland or moorland poem to post in the box – a selection of which will be published in the *Yorkshire Dales Review*.

This guided walk is free for all to join. No dogs except RAD.

To book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Beck Stone. Photo courtesy of Marion Temple



Booking for our events is easy. Either email our Membership & Events Officer, Victoria Benn, at victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk or add your booking request to our **contact form** on the home page of our website, www.friendsofthedales.org.uk.

Walk Event Nurturing Nature

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

12 noon – 4:00pm*

Join us for a short walk from Ribbleshead railway station to visit two of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's most nature-rich reserves. Graham Standing, the trust's Living Landscapes Officer, will be offering expert insight into the native flora and fauna of the biodiverse grassland at Ashes Pasture and also the more complex site at nearby Salt Lake Quarry, which houses several fragile habitats and scarce plants.

This guided walk is free for all to join although places are very limited. No dogs except RAD.

To book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

*approx timings – tbc when rail timetable published

Ashes Pasture.
Photo courtesy of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust



Digital Talk Building Conservation and Limewash

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

7:30pm

Lime was once an essential building material and chartered surveyor and building conservation expert Jonathan Ratter will reveal why it is still the best choice for protecting the stonework of traditional buildings and how it should be applied.

This live talk is free for all: to book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Photo courtesy of Jonathan Ratter



Digital Talk The Flow - Rivers and River Life

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

7:30pm

This is an opportunity for members and supporters to interact with new honorary and voluntary President of Friends of the Dales, Dr Amy-Jane Beer. Drawing from her newly published book, *The Flow*, Amy-Jane will read a couple of extracts about Dales rivers, before talking more broadly about aquatic life and the challenges facing river systems. Bring your questions as Amy-Jane is looking forward to an interactive Q&A.

This live talk is free for all: to book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Photo courtesy of Roy Halpin



Catch up on YouTube

If you missed one of our talks first time round, you can now watch them on **YouTube**.

Look out for our page and subscribe to be notified of all the latest videos.

Catch up via E News

Sign up to our free monthly e-news and be one of the first to hear our news, new event listings and information about hands-on volunteering opportunities arranged by Friends of the Dales and other environmental charities. Sign up at: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk

You can also follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter**.



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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.