

Summer 2022 : Issue 159

Yorkshire **DALES** review



Creating Change

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CAMPAIGN • PROTECT • ENJOY
.....

Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Front cover photo: Globeflowers in Upper Ribblesdale, part of the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve. Photo courtesy of Andrew Parkinson WWF-UK

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

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Dales and Bowland Community
Interest Company:
www.dalesandbowland.com

Annual Membership	
Individual	£25
Joint	£35
Business Members	£40
Affiliate Members (Group)	£40
Life Membership	
Individual (Under 60)	£400
Joint (Under 60)	£550
Individual (Over 60)	£300
Joint (Over 60)	£450

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



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Katie Daynes is a children's non-fiction author with over 90 books published. She lives in Skipton and her latest book *Can we REALLY help the bees?* will be out in June..... 6-7

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Dr Deborah Trebilco has held senior business roles in Teesside and the United States. She is a director of Community Energy England and the North York Moors

National Park Trust and helped to develop a community-owned hydroelectric turbine near Whitby. 14-15

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Seeing the Wood for the Trees

As a campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales is all about making informed observations and promoting informed actions. Our goal is to raise awareness of the issues and pressures that are relevant to the Dales and our ecosystem. The challenge is to do this effectively so as to have an impact in the face of a climate and biodiversity emergency. In short, we're in the business of shaping attitudes and behaviours to enhance the environment for everyone to enjoy. Enjoy - but also feel a responsibility to conserve.

However, as Rose O'Neill points out in her article on page 12, there is a gap between knowledge and action. Despite a near-universal cultural shift that acknowledges climate breakdown and the attendant chaos and devastation underway, carbon-emitting and polluting practices are increasing. How do we facilitate the questioning of assumptions and default choices, thereby bridging the evident disjunction between the individual and systems that are ruining the environment?

Clearly there is resistance to doom-mongering concerning the advent of the unimaginable (our extinction). More positive, easy-to-achieve, action-oriented messages are necessary; messages that might target the everyday, domestic sphere but connect to the bigger picture. For instance:

- **Peatland is our Amazon rainforest** so let's protect it and ban peat in all horticultural products.
- **The Dales have achieved International Dark Sky Reserve status** so let's reduce LED lighting for decoration outside.
- **People are embracing a wilder countryside** so let's not use any toxic chemicals in the garden and cut verges only once, later in the summer.

Our campaign against plastic tree guards has achieved great success, having been endorsed by 11 out of 12 national park societies and the Campaign for National Parks. We've been effective by emphasising that tree guards are litter, an eyesore and inefficient if one considers the true costs of their generation and lifespan. We also connected them to the 'bigger picture' of the fossil fuel industry and micro-plastic pollution.

However, plastic tubes continue to appear in their tens of thousands, making a mockery of efforts to collect and recycle redundant ones.

Two developments have made me query the priority of planting trees.

One is that in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc there has been an estimated 10 million hectares of forest regrowth on abandoned farmland. This has occurred on only 14% of the abandoned land so there is definitely more woodland to come. And not only there: an area the size of Italy is expected to be abandoned in the European Union between 2000 and 2030.

The second development is that massed tree planting may well be a Trojan horse for corporations and investment companies: they are starting to grab farmland in order to offset their carbon emissions and trade in carbon credits. If our zeal for tree planting is perhaps misplaced, not to mention inefficient and polluting compared to natural regeneration, private finance threatens to hijack reforestation in order to greenwash and turn a quick profit.

Is it time to change our message? Time to emphasise the importance of species-rich grasslands, restoring peatland and protecting existing woods instead?

Bruce McLeod, Chair

2/3
of world's forests naturally regenerated.

Starting Young

Plans for a GCSE in Natural History have been approved by the Department for Education.

The subject could be taught to 14- to 16-year-olds from 2025 following a campaign spearheaded by activist Mary Colwell, author of *Curlew Moon*, and backed by a long list of supporters including the Royal Horticultural Society, Natural History Museum, the Wildlife Trusts, the Field Studies Council and the Eden Project.

The Oxford Cambridge and RSA examination board put forward proposals for the new GCSE following public consultation. It says that the course will help pupils to develop a 'rich understanding of the natural world: from their own local wildlife, environment and ecosystem to critical global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity and sustainability'.

'This could be a game changer for public attitudes to nature,' says Friends of the Dales President Amy-Jane Beer, who was among the campaign's supporters. 'People who understand and appreciate ecological complexity almost invariably become guardians of it, and we need everyone to be standing up for the web of life that supports us all. The next challenge will be to ensure that this course is available in every school, not just a select few, and for that we need parents to insist and the conservation community to pitch in.'

Friends of the Dales Statement on Climate and Ecological Breakdown

We believe that the interrelated crises of climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, overuse of natural resources and pollution pose a serious threat to the Dales. While we recognise that change is inevitable, we will strive to make sure that:

- change is managed and that, where possible, it is restorative and regenerative;
- our activities do not exacerbate or accelerate the adverse changes;
- we seek to take a precautionary approach to safeguard the Dales for present and future generations where necessary.

It is our intention that the Dales of the future will retain the special qualities that are important to current residents and all those who, along with Friends of the Dales, care for and seek to protect and enhance the area.

Seen at the V&A in Dundee:

a plastic tree guard displayed on a wall with the following text:

'This plastic tree shelter is over 50 years old and will take up to 1000 years to decompose.'

In the museum where it should be!

Bernard's back!

Long-standing volunteer Bernard Peel, who has filled a variety of roles for the charity over the last 16 years, recently came back into our office at Gargrave to help Membership & Events officer Victoria Benn set up a new system to organise the charity's press cuttings. Thank you, Bernard!



Victoria and Bernard in our Gargrave office.
Photo courtesy of Penny Lowe

AGM – Join us Live or On line

We are delighted to welcome members in person to our first physical AGM since 2019 as well as those who still prefer to join us on line. We will do our best to ensure that our AGM provision follows any appropriate Covid protocols in place at the time. This year's AGM will be held on Saturday, 24 September 2022 at the Devonshire Institute, Grassington. Please see the event entry on page 23 for details of timings. Members will receive information by post during August with full details of the AGM and how to register or give apologies and thus cast their votes by proxy.

Our colleagues at Friends of the South Downs on their first plastic tree guard litter pick (inspired by Friends of the Dales).
Photo courtesy of Malinka Van der Gaauw





Thorpe Apology

A short item in the spring *Review* by Colin Speakman claimed that most barns and outbuildings in the Dales village of Thorpe have been converted for retiree or weekend use or luxury holiday lets.

We have been contacted by the chairman of Thorpe Civil Parish and another local resident, who have explained that, in fact, all but one recent conversions of redundant farm buildings have been restricted to local occupancy, and now provide homes for local families.

Colin has apologised to the two local residents who contacted us. Here is a short extract of that apology:

'I owe the people of Thorpe an unconditional apology for misrepresenting their lovely village, which has enjoyed such a welcome increase in permanent residents in their community. This is most welcome and something I know Friends of the Dales wishes to see, especially if it helps to retain young people in the Dales.'

What happens to the UK's plastic waste?

**15% recycled in the UK • 21% exported
22% to landfill • 42% incinerated**

Source: Greenpeace

For All to See

Friends of the Dales welcomes the decision by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to publish all comments received in response to planning applications on its official Citizens' Portal planning website at <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/yorkshiredales>.

Wilf Fenten, Deputy Chair of Friends of the Dales, said 'We have been lobbying for our comments, and those of other interested parties who are not on the list of statutory consultees, to be uploaded by YDNPA onto the planning website. So we are very pleased that all comments, whether objections or in support of any application, are now easily accessible to members of the public and the press.

'Our volunteer committee keeps a close eye on significant planning applications in or close to the Yorkshire Dales National Park - for example, barn conversions, schemes for affordable housing and major developments such as new hotels and quarry extensions. If we feel an application threatens the landscape, wildlife, heritage or communities of the Dales, we will send in an objection or make suggestions about how the plans could be improved. We also look out for applications we can support with a positive comment.'

Local residents, groups and parish councils are very welcome to let us know about any significant applications in their areas of the national park. Contact our Executive Director, Ann Shadrake, at ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Wales

The Welsh government has announced £26 million of funding to limit the carbon footprint of tourism in Wales, boost biodiversity and improve access to the countryside so all can enjoy its beauty.

National Press

Readers of *Third Age Matters* (the national u3a magazine) should have spotted a feature about us and our campaigns in its summer magazine, which goes out to its environmentally-conscious audience of 450,000 members.

DalesBus summer timetable

For car-free, sustainable travel into the Dales, make sure you get hold of the new DalesBus summer timetable – available to download from www.dalesbus.org. Routes include Burnsall, Bolton Abbey, Malham, Hawes, Ingleton, Nidderdale and Fountains Abbey. DalesBus is the trading name of our social enterprise company, Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company, which financially supports DalesBus services running on Sundays and bank holidays throughout the summer across the Yorkshire Dales.

#LivingVerges #KneeHighJuly

If you have been working hard to create 'living verges' in your patch, you will have hopefully enjoyed a whole host of wildflowers including buttercups, speedwell, daisies, pignut and milkmaids over the last month or so. Throughout the summer we would encourage you to continue cutting back nettles, docks and thistles to make room for less 'thuggish' species – leaving small areas as food plants for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Hopefully, along with a proliferation of plants and flowers, you will enjoy discovering a variety of insects hiding in the longer vegetation and birds enjoying the insects. It's not too late to encourage your rural verges or grassland to regenerate – to find out how and to access downloadable resources, visit www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/campaigns/verges

If you have any photos of 'living verges' you would like to share with us, email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk



Summer verge in Chew Lane, Gargrave.
Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

Correction

We apologise for an error on our News page in the spring *Review*: the owner of Where2Walk is business member Jonathan Smith, not Jonathan White.

How to Channel our Inner Child

Encouraging people to maintain a youthful mindset throughout their lives could help us avoid environmental catastrophe, says author Katie Daynes.



*Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.*

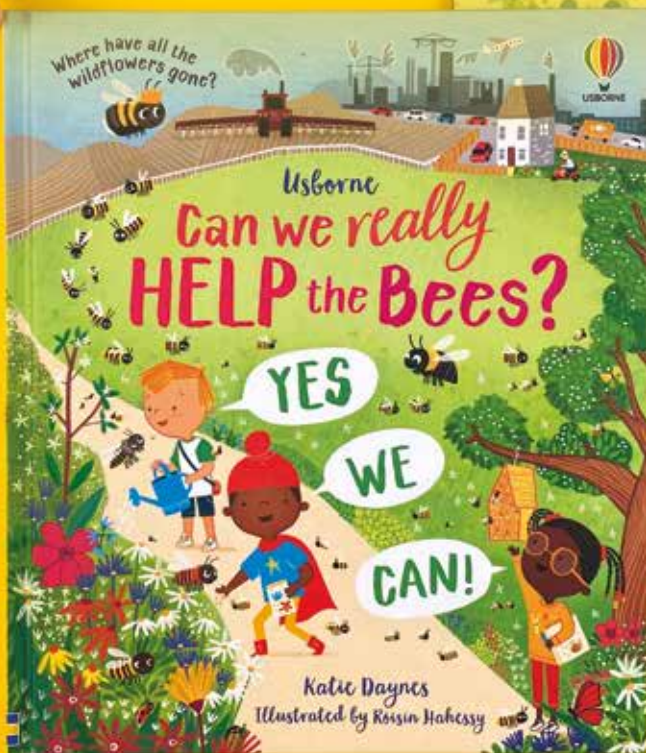
Mahatma Gandhi



This quotation has inspired me for many years and I'm lucky enough to have a job that lets me learn something new every day. That may seem surprising given that I write books for children aged 3+, but it's amazing how quickly my ignorance is exposed when I question myself on a seemingly obvious subject. Just this week I learned that snow is, in fact, frozen water vapour (bypassing the liquid stage) and that seaweed doesn't have roots (it's an alga). Who knew?

Whilst my teenage children, who are currently studying for more GCSEs than they care to think about, will roll their eyes at my enthusiasm for facts, I bemoan the day they stopped asking 'But WHY?' questions and started becoming cynical about the world.

In short, I think young children have a huge amount to teach us adults about our attitude to learning, the number one lesson being NEVER LOSE THAT SENSE OF WONDER ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND YOU, closely followed by DON'T STOP ASKING QUESTIONS.





and Make a Difference



Stimulating Positive Action

There are some deeply upsetting stories in the press at the moment, and some stark facts about climate change that are hard to live with daily, but the Blitz spirit of Keep Calm and Carry On will take us only so far. A bit of panic is good. Telling a friend you're worried is good. Reading what respected scientists are saying is good.

We can't all be Greta Thunberg but we can engage in the world's predicaments, learn what the problems are, and play an active part in the solutions. This can be as simple as letting wildflowers grow for the bees, turning down the heating a degree or choosing loose apples instead of ones bagged in plastic. Positive actions make us feel better – and we have to look after our own mental health if we're going to be any use to society and the planet.

When I write for children about environmental and social issues, I want to empower them with facts and enthusiasm so that they're equipped to tackle the future. Often, the children themselves are my inspiration. A campaign by two young sisters against the plastic toys that come free with children's meals led to Burger King and other fast-food chains phasing them out. Last year, eight teenagers took the Australian government to court over plans to expand a coal-fired power station. The court ruled that

the Minister of the Environment had a duty of care not to ruin children's futures by exacerbating climate change.

Perhaps it would help if we all felt that duty of care – for our children and for our planet. But changing habits and taking the right steps environmentally will be so much easier if first we rekindle our wonder for the world around us, and our thirst for knowledge.

Two of the grown-ups I admire most in the world, both for their positive attitudes and for what they've achieved, are Peter Usborne (founder of the company I write for, Usborne Publishing) and David Attenborough (no introduction needed). What they have in common – and possibly the secret to their success – is that they've never lost their marvelling, questioning inner child. As a result, they've managed to engage, enthuse and empower one generation after the next.

We've all got the potential to generate hope in others, simply by taking action and talking about it. Together we can turn ENGAGE, ENTHUSE and EMPOWER into a cyclical process that will snowball us all towards a better future. It's worth a try.

Katie Daynes



It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living.

David Attenborough



Letter to the Editor

Protection or Trespass?

The Yorkshire Dales Review spring 2022 highlights a clash of interest.

On the one hand, you have articles like *A New People's Charter* and *Fighting for the Right to Roam*. On the other hand, you have Nancy Stedman writing *Protecting our Peatlands* and Ann Shadrake writing *Breeding Curlew Seek Sanctuary in the Dales*. This raises the question: Can you have a policy of both protection and trespass?

I think not.

I have walked the Dales for 60 years and witnessed the decline of the curlew, much to my distress. As Ann writes, this is due to the loss of damp habitat, too many gulls and people with roaming dogs, who delight in watching dogs chase birds. Furthermore, I was horrified on my last visit to Wensleydale to encounter dense fog caused by so much burning of the moor. I thought we had learned that this practice was not good management.

As lockdown eased, we all learned the effects of too many people in the countryside leaving piles of litter and starting fires on open moorland with the use of barbecues and wild camping. We can't have more access unless we educate people to appreciate the countryside. Sadly, too many people have lost touch with nature. The example of introducing people from different ethnic groups to the countryside is an excellent idea. This is not the same as open access.

I think that the Yorkshire Dales Society has to seriously review its focus in keeping with its title 'Friends of the Dales'.

(Rev Dr) Maurice Staton



Rewilding Hearts

How has public opinion about the natural regeneration of ecosystems changed so quickly? We asked Rewilding Britain Director Alastair Driver why he thinks people are embracing a new approach to tackling climate change and increasing biodiversity.

I've had the privilege of working for Rewilding Britain for just over five years now and even I am amazed at how quickly the dialogue on rewilding has changed. When I started, everyone was telling me 'Ooh, no - you can't use the R-word.' Now the world and his wife are talking about rewilding and the biggest challenge is to stop people misusing the R-word – for example, buying up half of Wales to plant sitka spruce and calling it rewilding. It absolutely is not, because it doesn't meet any of the criteria for rewilding – which, put very simply, is 'the large-scale restoration of ecosystems to the point where nature is allowed to take care of itself'.

So how have we got so quickly to the point where Defra has been persuaded by Rewilding Britain to include rewilding as an option in the future Environmental Land Management scheme or funding for natural regeneration of trees and scrub in the English Woodland Creation Offer? And how have we suddenly, only a year or so after setting it up, got 600+ landowner members on our Rewilding Network and 65 case studies on our website? Well, as ever with such complex issues, it's down to a combination of many factors.

Firstly, there's no doubt that the public is far more aware of the reality and seriousness of the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis, and this is largely down to clear evidence of more extreme weather events in combination with the 'Power of Attenborough'.

Then Brexit has been an opportunity for the UK to break away from the Common Agricultural Policy, which was so damaging to the sustainability of farming and the natural environment. This has enabled us to adopt an approach that incentivises farmers to provide public goods, such as greater biodiversity, improved water quality and reduced flood risk from the management of their land, whilst relying solely on the marketplace for their income from food production. As a result, an increasing number of those who own non-productive or marginally productive farmland are now considering rewilding as one of the options for some or all of that land.

In parallel with this wider awareness of the need for change, but at least equally important, is the rapidly improving evidence-base from rewilding projects on the ground. This comes in two key forms. Firstly there is increasingly familiarity with the amazing environmental and economic success story of Knepp Wildlands, through having been there, or seen it on the television, or having read the superb *Wilding* by Isabella Tree – or, indeed, a combination of all three. And then there is the quantitative evidence from a growing number of rewilding projects across the country.

and Minds

Virtuous Circle

Rewilding Britain has led the way on this in England and Wales and we now have good data for 43 sites totalling 39,000 ha of rewilding, including Kingsdale Head and Ingleborough NNR in the Yorkshire Dales and Broughton Hall Estate, a few miles outside the national park boundary. We regularly update all of this evidence as more rewilding sites are added and existing sites grow and mature and it is all becoming hugely compelling when negotiating with government for more and better policies and funding for rewilding. This then becomes circular, with evidence influencing policy, policy influencing action on the ground and action on the ground producing more compelling evidence to further influence policy.

What is reassuring for me is that people are embracing rewilding because they firmly believe it is the right thing to do - not only for them and their families now, but also for future generations. They also recognise that they need to do it in a way that is economically viable for them and ideally for their local communities as well. This gives me great confidence that we are winning the battle of hearts and minds and that rewilding is here to stay.

Prof. Alastair Driver, Director, Rewilding Britain

Rewilding Britain is a charity with a mission to support the re-establishment of natural processes to enable animals, birds, plants and the elements to shape landscapes and habitats over time. For more information visit www.rewildingbritain.org.uk

Rewilding Britain in Numbers

- FTE jobs up by 65% compared with traditional farming on same site
- Fourteen times as many volunteers
- Livestock units 54% of those before rewilding, due entirely to reduction in sheep
- Slightly more cattle and pigs
- Income sources increased by 50%
- 47 species reintroduced or considered for reintroduction – but very few are charismatic megafauna
- But only 1% of Britain on rewilding spectrum compared to target of 5%

You can read Friends of the Dales' Wildlife and Biodiversity Policy at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/policies/wildlife-and-biodiversity

Cultivating a New Mindset



Rachael holding the champion Bluefaced Leicester sheep at Malham Show. Photo courtesy of Rachael Caton



Ashley with children Jack, Thomas, Frank and Betsy and sheepdogs Moss and Nip. Photo courtesy of Rachael Caton

Beset by a perfect storm of economic, social and environmental challenges, farmers are adopting radically new ways of working in order to survive. New trustee Rachael Caton, who runs a farm with her husband, Ashley, in Malhamdale, describes some of the issues they face.

Farming is an industry that has been well used to adapting over the years, but most farmers will tell you that we are facing a scale of change and challenge not seen for generations.

The implications of Britain's departure from the EU are now being felt by farmers, with Basic Payment Scheme subsidy payments reducing year on year between 2021 and 2027. These are payments that have been made to farmers for the amount and type of land that they own. Whilst there have been many flaws with the EU system of farm support, there can be little doubt that these subsidies have helped to keep food prices artificially low and have enabled farmers to carry on when they have often been producing food below the cost of production.

With these payments ending soon, British farmers are looking keenly to the new 'Environmental Land Management schemes',

which will reward farmers for good, sustainable environmental land management. Whilst the principles of the ELMS are encouraging, the challenge for farmers is that the detail on these schemes remains very limited, making it hard to plan for how they will apply practically at a farm business level.

The UK government is very clear that it intends there to be a big shake-up of British agriculture and has introduced a scheme to encourage some older farmers to move out of the industry to make way for the younger generation. Bringing young blood, particularly new entrants, into farming has been a long-standing challenge, which is illustrated by the average age of a British farmer being 59.

Encouraging young farmers is difficult, with long, physical working hours for the returns and often lonely working conditions. Many decide there is an easier way to make a living, leaving many farms without succession. Those wanting to get into the industry for the first time are faced with very high rents and fierce competition for land, intensified in recent years by demands for land from investors, people wanting land for lifestyle or leisure pursuits and land being acquired for tree planting. It remains to be seen if the government scheme and changing system of farm support can help to unlock some of these pressures.

Inflation is undoubtedly the test of the moment for industry and households alike and farming is certainly at the sharp end of this, with agricultural inflation running at around 30%. Cost pressures have been gathering considerable pace for the last 12 months, with issues over gas supplies driving fertiliser and energy costs now exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, which has resulted in a world wheat shortage with significant impacts for the price of animal feed.

Whilst prices for lamb, beef, milk and arable commodities have increased in recent months, these will not be enough to offset the rising costs farmers are currently facing. This, combined with the removal of direct subsidies, means that farmers really are entering uncharted waters. On our farm here in the Yorkshire Dales we enter this period of change and challenge in the only way we feel we can, with open minds, ready to be flexible and adaptive to whatever is coming next.

Rachael Caton, trustee

Rachael was recently co-opted as a Friends of the Dales trustee and will be standing for election at our 2022 AGM. Find out more about her in the autumn 2022 issue of the Review.

Inspiring the Next Generation

I am in Year 12 at Settle College, and recently sent a questionnaire about conservation projects to everyone in school, with a great response from nearly 100 students and staff. The results show that 71% have never been involved in a conservation project, despite more than three-quarters of respondents saying that projects were important. Almost half were keen to be involved but wouldn't know where to look. Perhaps, therefore, projects should be more visible to raise awareness that they are happening. On a positive note, my school has already organised tree planting activities by the river, and this was mentioned in the answers of some of those who participated in the project. Some respondents also said that they 'haven't had the opportunity/time' or had 'other priorities', but there is always something small that people can do to help reduce the impact of the climate crisis.

When asked about the climate crisis, many people said that it is 'bad', and 69% thought that it was not mentioned enough in the news, although the media need to 'mention ways to prevent/reduce it' rather than negatively portraying the disastrous effects it has. A very common word mentioned was 'need', as governments and people all need to do

something to make a difference. The most apparent thing to me was that students are aware of the disaster we are facing, but they either don't want or don't know how to get involved and change things.

Most people mentioned that the war in Ukraine was currently more pressing than the climate crisis, but some others thought that climate change won't be reversible for much longer and needs more coverage because 'it's not really talked about as much except for when there's a day like Earth Day.' Another respondent said that 'the BBC does a good job of keeping the climate crisis on the agenda through documentaries, particularly those made by David Attenborough.' However, programmes were not mentioned by anyone else.

From the responses to the questionnaire, I think schools should encourage students to participate more in local conservation projects and possibly support student 'conservation champions', who could spread the word within school to embed a culture of environmental awareness. Climate change is part of the curriculum, but perhaps there could be more emphasis on what each of us can do to live more sustainably.

Tabitha Brown, student, Settle College

Forms Opinions on conservation a... TB

4. Do you think we need conservation projects? *

Yes

No

I don't know what they are

5. If you would like to get involved in conservation, would you know where to go? *

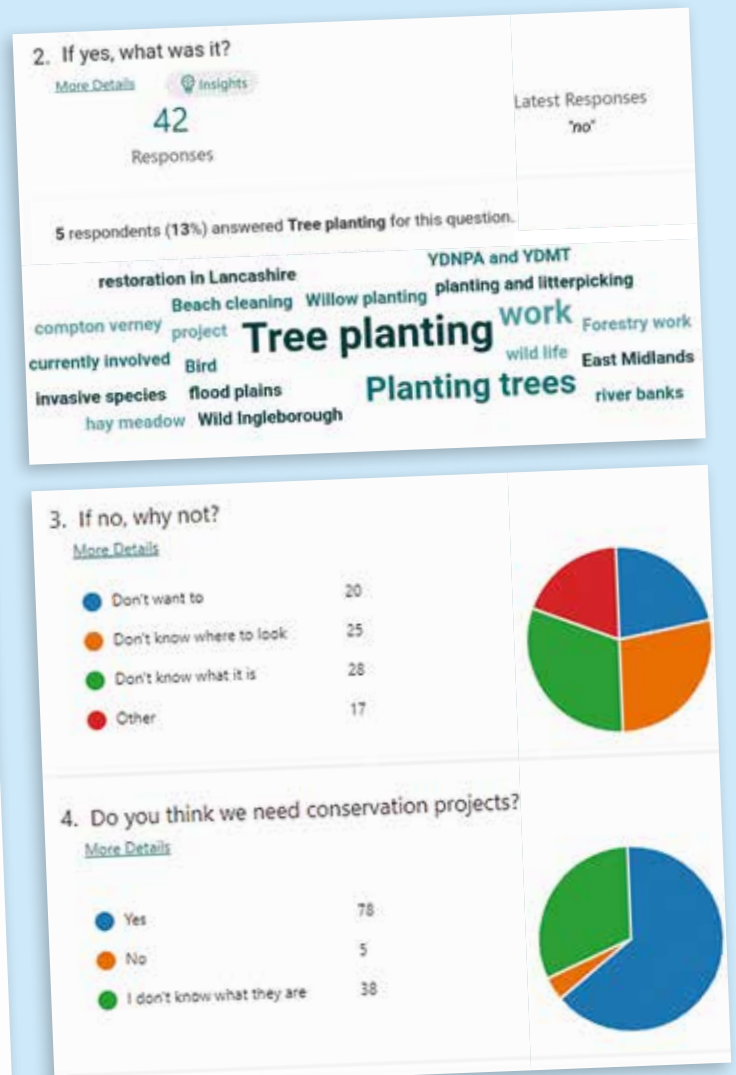
Yes

No

No, but I don't want to

6. What is your opinion on the climate crisis? * ...

Enter your answer



Mind the Gap:

Changing Behaviours for National Parks

Something strange was going on during those long, unsettling months of the pandemic. In homes and back gardens across the country, the British public was falling in love with nature.



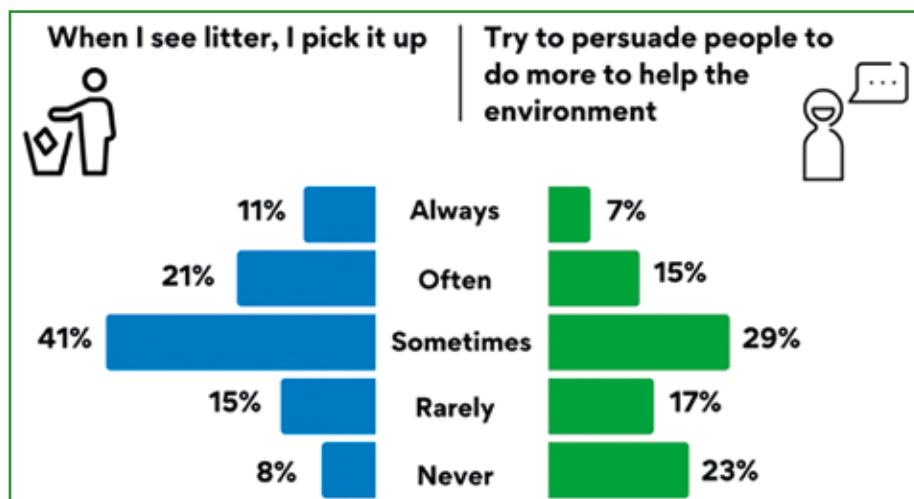
I was working as a principal scientist in government, collating all the data I could get my hands on (for the first time in a while, the Prime Minister's office wanted daily updates from its environment department). Every measure I looked at – interviews and surveys, evidence from national park authorities and urban park keepers, Google data – showed something changing. Over 9 in 10 adults reported that nature was important to them: going outside was important for mental health and made people happier. Visitor numbers skyrocketed and for the first time in over 30 years 'the environment' was ranking at the top of lists when the public was asked 'What are the most important issues facing our country?'

So what was going on? How can we reconcile this eco-awakening, and widespread care and concern for nature, with some scenes of devastation reported at the end of the day at our national park beauty spots? Why were people saying one thing, but seeming to do another?

Behaviour scientists know that this contradiction is not at all unusual: in fact, it is hard-wired into the human brain. How many of us start the year with good intentions for our diet and health that soon fall by the wayside? How many drive polluting cars whilst deep down we are terrified of the climate crisis? This 'attitude-behaviour' gap is a well-studied phenomenon of human behaviour: put simply, 'life gets in the way'.

Breaking Down Barriers to Change

I know driving my camper van is bad for the climate, but it's the best way to visit national parks. So many of us have this behaviour 'locked in' – as there is no clear alternative (public transport being expensive, hard to use and limited, and electric vehicles still being expensive). Individual 'problem behaviours' are better viewed as failures of the system, of management. No amount of pressure on people to 'do the right thing' is going to change that.



For further details of Rose's research, visit:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5980956965208064>
www.gov.uk/government/collections/people-and-nature-survey-for-england

As Nobel Prize winner Professor Daniel Kahneman puts it: 'Think not how to make someone behave in a certain way, ask why they are not already doing it.'

The future of national parks depends on so many behavioural changes, from visitors to land managers, to authority members and staff. I take heart from the data: the large majority of people love these landscapes (and it's a more uphill struggle to change values and attitudes). So how do we start to close the gap?

Understanding – it's so important to check assumptions. For example, my research with dog owners showed that so many were nature lovers who did not realise that 'wildlife disturbance' was anything less than a bite, and they were already doing what the signs said ('My dog is under control'), so more specific messages were needed.

Make it easy – the most effective way to change behaviour is to make it the easiest option, or even the default.

Messenger effect - building trust, creating positive social norms and role modelling is crucial, which is why the Nature Friendly Farming Network is so powerful and why the ranger service is so important.

At Campaign for National Parks, our work is all about campaigning nationally for better policies and laws. The biggest behavioural changes we have seen, from seatbelts to smoking and plastic bags, have been driven by changes in policy and legislation. My biggest hope is that new policies for landscapes and Environmental Land Management support our best intentions and remove the perverse policies that lock in existing behaviours. For more on our work, visit www.cnp.org.uk

Dr Rose O'Neill, chief executive,
Campaign for National Parks

Under the Radar?

Key changes in a refreshed Countryside Code include clearer advice for dog owners and a reminder to stay on marked footpaths to protect crops and wildlife.

The first update in over a decade was launched in April 2021 to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the original booklet. It was informed by almost 4,000 responses to an online stakeholder survey and responds to issues that were raised during lockdown in 2020 including increased littering and sheep worrying by dogs.

The new Countryside Code aims to provide guidance rather than taking a more prescriptive approach – but just how many people know it exists? Natural England's plans for publicising it include targeted stakeholder and media promotion such as partnership work with Mosaic charity to encourage people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities to visit the Peak District National Park.

Should more money have been invested in marketing the Countryside Code? We'd like to know your thoughts – contact ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk



The Countryside Code

Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



For further information visit www.gov.uk/countryside-code

Follow advice and local signs

The arrows show the legal and recorded rights of way for different user groups

	Footpath	
	Bridleway	
	Restricted Byway	
	Byway open to all traffic	



Permissive Path

Follow advice on local signs as landowners voluntarily provide access to these paths and choose who can use them. Some open access areas are also made available in the same way.



National Trail

National Trails are created for walking, with horse-riding and cycling possible on some trails or trail sections.

www.nationaltrail.co.uk



Open Access

You can walk and explore away from paths.

www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk

Our Sustainable Energy Future



Lime-rendered and limewashed houses in Austwick. Photo: Yorkshire Dales Community Archives

Community Energy England director Dr Deborah Trebilco asks whether our ancestors could teach us a thing or two about making our homes more economical.

The price of energy has got us all thinking about the future. We know we have to make changes, especially as in our wonderful protected landscapes most of us live in older stone- or brick-built homes, using coal or oil for heating and hot water.

This energy crisis has focussed us all on the most important aspect of our journey towards a sustainable future: making our homes energy-efficient and affordable to heat. It is easy to chat about all the technologies out there for non-carbon heating, but this can miss the point.

The first rule of energy transition is simple: USE LESS.

We do this by insulating our houses, either on the inside or on the outside. Insulating inside is effective but involves major upheaval. In addition, not every house has the luxury of losing some width off a room. There may be features that cannot easily be replaced or electrical sockets that need moving. It is not a job for the faint-hearted. Trust me: we did it this way for our 1850s North York Moors stone house. Insulating the outside of a building is less disruptive, as effective and cheaper.

Driving from the North York Moors to south Cumbria recently, we decided to take the scenic route, picking up the winding road that led us to follow the River Ure. A delight of pretty towns and villages with their quaint, stone houses. Quaint: there's an interesting word. Picturesque? Undoubtedly. As originally built? Hold that thought.

The hard fact is that, as we transition away from oil and coal, we will need to make these houses use a lot less energy. Why? Because although heat pump technologies exist today to replace oil and coal, they work best (and at their cheapest) when delivering heat at lower temperatures. No problem if your house is well insulated. Pricey to run if it isn't insulated, as you'll use a lot more electricity.

So, back to quaint. How do we avoid our homes becoming 'quaint but cold'?

Reviving Historic Building Techniques

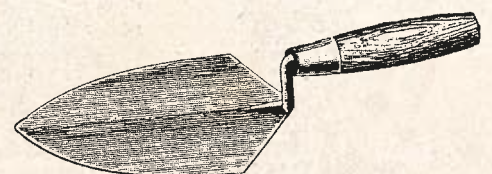
We look back. We challenge the current thinking that houses must look exactly as they do today. Why today: why not how they looked 50, 60 or 100 years ago? By picking an arbitrary time to represent how buildings should look, we are denying ourselves a solution to our energy transition problem.

This picture (above) opened my eyes. The houses our great-great-grandparents lived in hold the solution. Why? Because they used to be limewashed to protect the stone and fill up the gaps. Only relatively recently (in the last 80 years or so) have we stripped these walls back to the bare stone.

If we insulate the outside of our homes and then limewash them again, we will not only be warmer: we will be able to use heat pumps for our heating without it costing the earth. Quaint and cold becomes quaint and cosy.

We are occasionally accused of having our heads stuck in the past. Well, on this occasion going back to how our homes used to look means that we can still live cosily in older houses.

Dr Deborah Trebilco,
Director, Community Energy England

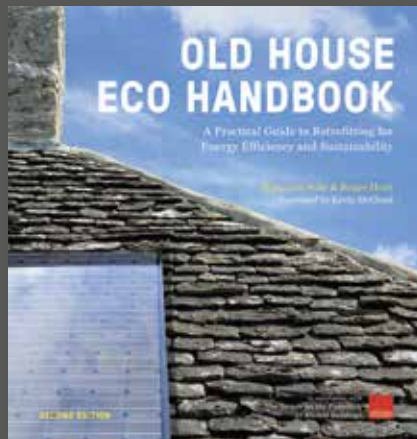


Further reading

Old House Eco Handbook 2e (2019)
Marianne Suhr and Roger Hunt

'A practical guide to retrofitting for energy-efficiency and sustainability. Updated throughout, the second edition of the *Old House Eco Handbook* shows homeowners, architects and builders how to make houses – be they medieval and timber-framed, Georgian, Victorian or Edwardian – energy-efficient and low-carbon without devaluing future sustainability or character.'

www.spab.org.uk/shop/product/old-house-eco-handbook



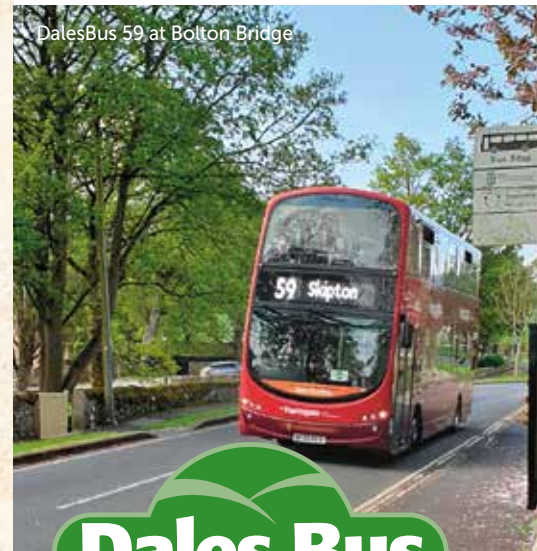
Editor's note: In the winter 2022 issue of the *Review* chartered surveyor Jonathan Ratter looked at how traditional limewashing techniques can help to prevent damp penetrating solid stone walls. After reading this article, Debbie realised that these techniques could also be used to hide external insulation whilst returning the exterior of a house to a more traditional appearance.

The *Yorkshire Dales National Park Design Guide* says that in the past lime-based finishes were often used to make an architectural statement as well as protecting the stonework from the elements. For more information see www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/06/Yorkshire-Dales-Design-Guide.pdf



Houses in Dent pre 1974

DalesBus 59 at Bolton Bridge

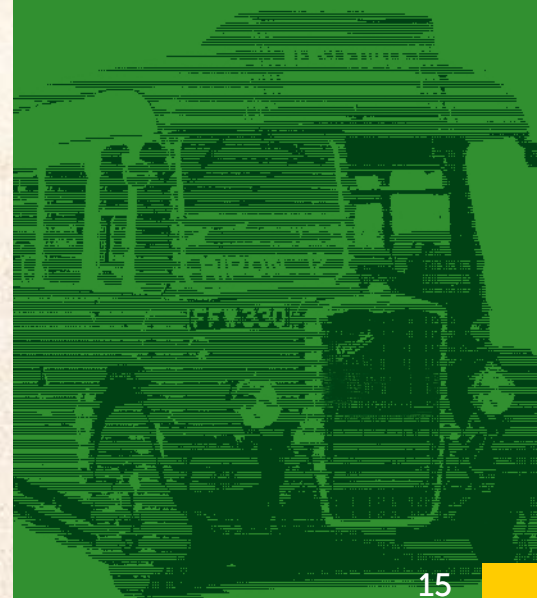


Dales Bus

EXPANDING

The full network of DalesBus services managed by our subsidiary Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company was reinstated during summer 2021 following a lengthy period of disruption due to the pandemic. The network was even expanded to include a long-awaited direct bus link between Harrogate and Skipton, with service 59 now running every Saturday throughout the year.

Nearly 29,000 passengers were carried on the network during the year to 31st March, just 5% down on pre-pandemic levels, with numbers continuing to grow. The full DalesBus network is now running again for summer 2022 – details online at www.dalesbus.org



Friends of the Dales is urging people to resist the urge to 'tidy up' roadside verges in order to encourage biodiversity. But what about the trees that fell victim to last winter's storms?

They too provide havens for many kinds of wildlife, as shown in this illustration by Netherlands-based ARK.

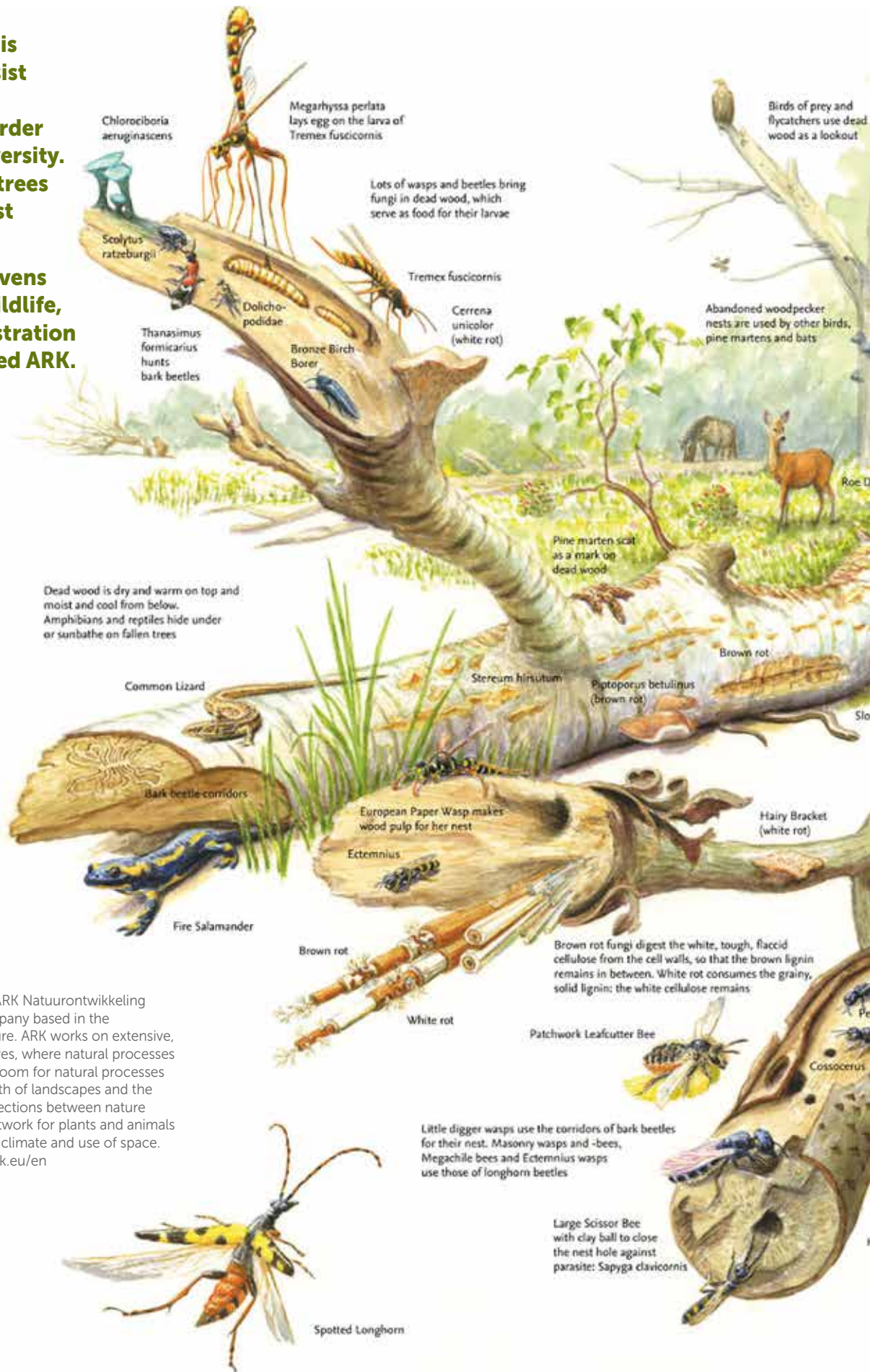


Illustration by Jeroen Helmer of ARK Natuurontwikkeling (Nature). ARK is a non-profit company based in the Netherlands, promoting wild nature. ARK works on extensive, robust and dynamic nature reserves, where natural processes are allowed to run their course. Room for natural processes results in an unprecedented wealth of landscapes and the associated flora and fauna. Connections between nature centres provide the necessary network for plants and animals to move and adapt to changes in climate and use of space. Visit its website at <https://www.ark.eu/en>

Supporting Local Women to Enjoy the Dales



Yesmien exploring the limestone pavement above Malham Cove

As part of our charity's work to explore ways of supporting inclusivity, our Executive Director, Ann Shadrake, and Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer, have been meeting women from a community group in Skipton. Despite the town being billed as the 'Gateway to the Dales', many residents face a range of barriers that stop them enjoying even those parts of the national park practically on their doorsteps.

Ann says, 'Following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in mid-2021, we were invited to one of the group's regular weekly meetings. We discussed what sort of walks members would like to try, and how this might fit into their work and family responsibilities. We've arranged local walks for members of the group about once a month since then.'

'The women in the group have a wide range of experiences and backgrounds. Some have lived and worked in Skipton or close by for years. Other families may only recently have arrived in the area, sometimes after fleeing from war zones. Spending time together in beautiful parts of the Dales gives us a chance to learn more about each other as part of a shared and safe experience.'

'As the charity's staff team, we've had the privilege of some really insightful conversations on big topics like racism and under-representation in the countryside and in "outdoor" organisations. Such barriers were recently explored in the article *White Open Spaces?* by Mohammed Dhalech (*Yorkshire Dales Review* spring edition). We are planning further walks and activities with the group, as part of a long-term relationship.'



'We were blessed with sunshine and only a few drops of rain on the walk from Gargrave to Skipton. Led by Ann, with Penny and Ruth, we enjoyed sweeping views of hills and sheep and even a flock of oystercatchers on the opposite bank of the canal. Twice we saw a rainbow. It was good to be out in the fresh air.' Celia Midgely

Yesmien Bagh Ali, a member of the group, gives an insight into how these social and leisurely walks are helping to forge respectful connections, and build trust and confidence.

'For about a year the Broughton Road Women's Group (based in Skipton) has been connecting and networking in the glorious Yorkshire Dales with support and help from Friends of the Dales.

'Our group is made up of women from communities that may at times be reluctant to visit the Dales due to various barriers. Initially we were not sure how we would develop and connect with each other but it didn't take long for the women to bond. We were able to adapt the walks and times to suit the women in the group. We shared our common, day-to-day family life experiences. We overcome any language barriers and learned from each other.

'Our walks visited places close to Skipton, where our communities live, creating

opportunities for us to better understand the local environment and the people of the Dales. We learned about the history of Grassington and Malham; about canal bridges and locks; and about similarities between areas of the Dales and Pakistan and Afghanistan.

'We enjoyed the outdoors during sunny, cloudy and rainy days. We tried out the new experience of catching a bus together to get to a destination in the Yorkshire Dales. We loved the laughter and stories as we walked along the canal towpath or across the hills and we even managed to chat to the cows. Of course, exchanging delicious, diverse cultural food for our little picnics was always enjoyed and welcomed.

'We were able to enjoy the walks, feeling safe in our small groups, giving some of the women confidence to visit again on their own too. Thank you, Friends of the Dales for connecting and opening new doors for the group.'



Yesmien and Ann route planning in Malham

In Praise of Peat

Nature, history, science and poetry came together with more than 30 supporters and volunteers for our mid-May Peat and Poetry Walk, led by former trustee Tony Smith and superbly supported by Jody Vallance of Moors for the Future and Yorkshire Dales Review editor, Prue Harrison, who recited the poems *Beck* and *Puddle* by Simon Armitage (created with support from Ilkley Literature Festival).

Membership & Events Officer Victoria Benn said: 'With #MoorPeat, our peatlands campaign, now live, this event – along with Jenny Sharman's talk, which took place earlier on the same week – gave a thought-provoking insight into the beauty and importance of Yorkshire's peatlands. Jody brought to life the painstaking work involved in 'slowing the flow' to keep the water in the peat. This is vital for wildlife and water purity and, of course, crucial for preventing the thousands of years of carbon stored in the peat being released into the atmosphere, which is what happens when it dries out, degrades and breaks down.'

Simon Armitage's six Stanza Stones, sited on a route from Marsden in the South Pennines to Ilkley, celebrate water - the element that gave shape and life to the region. Supporter Gill Petrucci and Friends of the Dales Vice President Colin Speakman also added their voices to the event, writing poems articulating how this ancient beauty is not only crucial for the wildlife it supports (the group saw red kite, curlew, skylark and fox moth caterpillars among many more) but to the future of our climate.

Excerpts from both poems:

Peat

*Peat soaks, holds back winter storm-floods,
that scour valleys, sweep away bridges, homes,
drown cities. Yet peat also draws in, stores
carbon, to cool our burning planet.*

*It is here in the wildest, the bleakest places,
at the end of our imaginings, our future begins.*

Colin Speakman

Colin Speakman reciting his poem, *Peat*, at the Poetry Postbox seat on Ilkley Moor.



Strength Comes from the Hills

*CROUCH down amidst the moss,
soak your knees in its verdant gloss.
Slick, shuddering sponge sustains
ancient carbon in peaty domains.*

*BIND the mossy stems together,
knitted veil shields against weather.
A hidden carbon sink reposing,
layers of history decomposing.*

Gill Petrucci



Jody Vallance of Moors for the Future pointing out some sphagnum moss – the lifeblood of peatlands, storing 20 times its dry weight in water, vital for keeping moisture in the peat and slowly decomposing over thousands of years to form it.

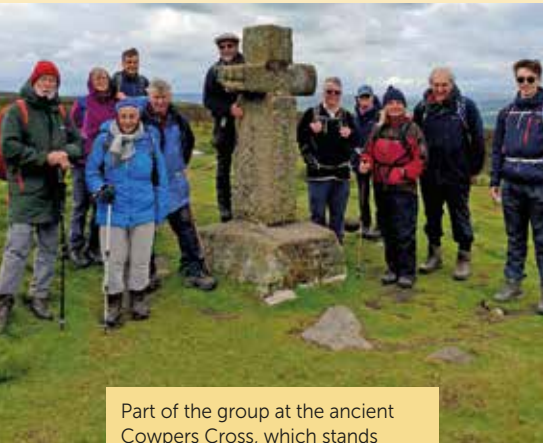
Photos courtesy of Victoria Benn

Prue Harrison stands in front of leaky dams installed by Moors for the Future to 'slow the flow' and keep rainfall in the peatlands.



Sticking to the paths over Ilkley Moor – good to see this part looking wet.





Part of the group at the ancient Cowpers Cross, which stands close to the old Roman road across Ilkley Moor. Walk leader Tony Smith is standing behind the cross.



Friends of the Dales supporter Seth Benn on the trig point.



A smile from Friends of the Dales members and event supporters Cora King and Colin Priestley.



GUNDA

2021 release in UK

A documentary of a kind never seen before, *Gunda's* entire story focuses on the daily lives of a family of pigs, a couple of chickens and a herd of cows. Yet, as simple as it sounds, the film still manages to observe unusual subtleties in the nature of animals, ultimately building to a poignant climax. With its slow and reflective pacing, it certainly isn't a movie that will be enjoyed by all, however viewers willing to sit through its entirety will be left with a lot of important things to think about.

Gunda doesn't fit into any genre conventions. It doesn't contain a single piece of music, not even a quiet melody in the background, completely immersing the viewer instead in the sounds of the farm and its environment. This technique not only enables the viewer to observe every audial nuance but also creates a harsh discomfort to any unfamiliar sound, most notably in its final scene. The choice to film it in black and white wasn't a coincidence either, as director Viktor Kossakovsky explains in an interview with *British Cinematographer*, 'I felt that black and white would make us focus on [the animals'] being instead of on their appearance.'

Filming the animals like this presents them in their truest and most honest form. Additionally, the way that the piglets interact in the film is almost reminiscent of the way children interact, with complete innocence and happiness, creating a deeply human and personal effect. The movie never tells viewers what they are meant to feel but instead allows individuals to make their own connections to the subject, which is a rarity in documentary filmmaking.

The film's final moments make *Gunda* even more meaningful than you could ever imagine. This is a visually beautiful film and definitely worth a watch to find a new perspective on farming and the temperament of animals.

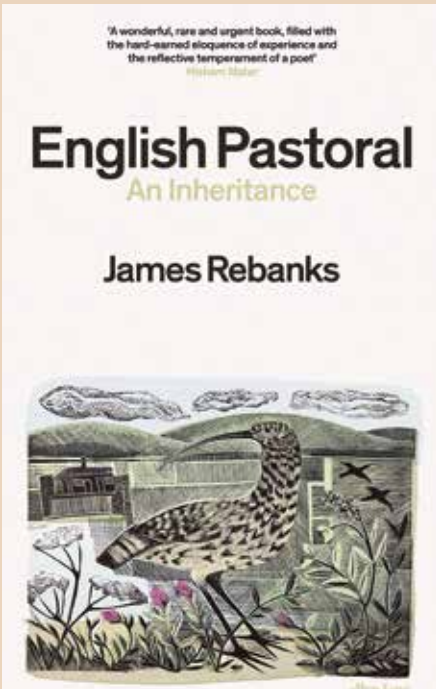
Beatrice Benn, Year 10 pupil at Skipton Girls' High School

Pigs at Kilnsey Park. Photo courtesy of Seth Benn



English Pastoral

An Inheritance



James Rebanks

Penguin 2021

ISBN 978-0-141-98257-1

This beautifully written book is a reflection on three generations of a farming family in the north of England. Its language and its passion will leave few readers unmoved by the profound and perhaps unexpected joy to be found in that way of life despite all its harsh realities.

Rebanks's early life on his father's farm tenancy in the Eden Valley was shaped by the family's need to reduce costs and improve yields in order to stay in business while supplying powerful and demanding customers. Following his grandfather's death, he moved to his Lake District farm in the northern fells. It was here that he gradually became aware of the contrast between the methods that most small farmers must adopt to remain competitive and the old-fashioned ways of his grandfather, which required minimal inputs such as fertiliser and a much more long-term view of the land.

As they gradually reverted to those more traditional ways, the family planted hedges and trees, reinstated meandering watercourses and wetland areas, selected appropriate livestock, managed the grazing and fed their stock in more sustainable ways.

As a result of these changes, mammals large and small, predators, birds, butterflies, flowers and the myriad creatures that live in the soil all proliferated on their farm. Like his grandfather, James found time to really look at his land and, despite the hardships and relentless labour of such a life, a growing appreciation of the beauty of their surroundings helped to sustain the adults and made a wonderful environment for their children.

The joy that came from discovering and being able to share the beauty in his own landscape is most movingly expressed, and some of the descriptive passages linger long in the memory.

James Rebanks has shown that there is another way forward for upland farming, and the eloquent prose of this Lakeland farmer shows some of the rewards for those brave enough to take it.

Ken Humphris, trustee

Events Planner -

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 on 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

Walk Event: Stainforth and Settle Circular

Saturday, 6 August 2022

10:30am – 4:30pm

A scenic seven-mile walk through a section of the Ribble valley's limestone landscape, which takes in an impressive waterfall, hay meadows and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, led by trustee Scarlett Armstrong. The walk follows footpaths and bridleways and, whilst mainly moderate, does contain a couple of steep sections. Well-behaved dogs welcome on a short lead.

This guided walk is free for all to join. Booking essential - to book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

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.



Summer & Autumn 2022

AGM 2022

Saturday, 24 September 2022

10:00am – 11:30am

Devonshire Institute, Grassington

Registration 9:30am for a prompt start at 10:00am

The AGM will include a review of the year, adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts, election and re-election of directors, notification of President, Vice President and honorary members, and adoption of amended rules. The AGM is a great opportunity to meet staff, trustees and volunteers. Advised parking is YDNPA pay & display (c 10 mins' walk), with disabled parking/drop-off available at the venue.

Booking essential – full details of the AGM, and how to book, will be sent to members in August. After a break for lunch, our conference 'From Peat to Paddling' will commence promptly at 1:00pm (see separate entry below).

Conference: From Peat to Paddling

Saturday, 24 September 2022

1:00pm – 5:30pm

Devonshire Institute, Grassington

This year's conference explores the journey of the River Wharfe from Oughtershaw Beck to Ilkley – 'from peat to paddling'. Our speakers, who include our President, the biologist and nature writer Dr Amy-Jane Beer, Tim Thom of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership and Professor Rick Battarbee from University College London, will be answering the question 'What constitutes a healthy river?' from their unique, expert perspectives. If you plan to attend the conference and are a member, please consider booking for the AGM, which takes place the same morning.

The conference is free for all to join. Booking essential - to book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Digital Talk:

Wild Ingleborough

Wednesday, 14 September 2022

7:30pm

Launched in 2021, Wild Ingleborough is a multi-partner, landscape-scale conservation project aiming to create a wilder future for the Ingleborough area of the Yorkshire Dales. In this talk Ellie Parker, Community Engagement Officer for the project, will showcase the team's ongoing work to combat the impacts of the climate crisis by protecting fragile upland habitats, increasing the area's biodiversity and establishing more habitats for key endangered species. In the long term Wild Ingleborough aims to become an exemplary model for nature restoration in the English uplands.

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

Walk Event:

Wild Ingleborough

Thursday, 6 October 2022

10:00am – 4:00pm

Building on her September talk, Ellie Parker, Community Engagement Officer for the Wild Ingleborough project, will lead a walk around Ingleborough and up Park Fell, bringing to life the different features of the landscape that have been shaped by humans and offering insight into different wildlife habitats, why they're there and which species they benefit. She will also point out some of the areas the project has been developing. This is a full day's walking over moderate and steep terrain. No dogs except RAD.

This guided walk is free for all to join. Booking essential - to book your place email victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

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](#).



Digital Talk:

Plastic-Free Woodlands

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

4:30pm

Fifty million trees must be planted each year to counteract Britain's contribution to climate change. Trees often need protecting from grazing animals or harsh weather conditions to become established. However, without radical changes to the way we plant trees, 1.5 billion plastic tubes may end up littering the environment and damaging ecosystems by 2050. In this digital talk, with support from Mark Corner, a former Chair of Friends of the Dales, Mike Appleton, Plastic-Free Woodlands Project Officer for Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, will talk about its ongoing work to break our reliance on plastic and find sustainable alternatives for woodland creation.

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

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.

Our YouTube channel now hosts 11 videos on a wide range of environmental subjects gleaned from our successful digital talks programme. For those that prefer tuning into sound and vision, it's the perfect place to find out more about our Living Verges campaign, the plight of our decimated peatlands and what's been done to restore them, walking in the Orton fells and around Crummackdale and the work of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – amongst several other subjects. We post updates about new video uploads on our social media pages or you can subscribe to the channel to be notified. Visit www.youtube.com and search for Friends of the Dales.



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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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LOVE...**



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