

Yorkshire **DALES** review

Protection



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Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY


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Individual (Over 60) £300
Joint (Over 60) £450

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Contents

A Totem for our Times 3

News 4-5

Switch to Good Practice



Jack Ellerby is a Yorkshireman over the border, working for Friends of the Lake District steering their Dark Skies Cumbria Project, celebrating the

value of darkness for people and the natural world, and reducing light pollution. Also a dry stone waller and trainer of the craft 6-7

Bringing Forward the Voices of Young People

Campaign for National Parks Conference 8-9

Going, Going, Gone?

Red, Amber, Green. Conservation art by Rebecca Chesney 10

Favourite Walk

The Magnetism of Malham 11

Extra Care Needed

YDNPA Nature Recovery Plan 12-13



10 Going, Going, Gone?

Tame by Comparison



Mark Avery was Conservation Director at the RSPB for 13 years and is a founder and co-director of the campaign group Wild Justice. He is a 'poor grower of tomatoes, a half-decent identifier of birds and hopeless at remembering which plant is which' 14-15

Inspirational Curlew Strikes a Chord

Curlew Action 16-17

Slip, Slidin' Away



Matt Sowerby is a writer from Kirkby Lonsdale and the volunteer Fundraising Coordinator for the Friends of Ruskin's View. Having grown up a two-minute walk from 'the loveliest view in England', he's now throwing everything into saving it 18-19

Where Silence isn't Golden

The loss of birdsong from the Westmorland Dales 20-21

Book Review

A Poison Like No Other 22

Film Review

Woman at War 22

Events 23



A Totem for our Times

Chair Bruce McLeod asks what we can learn from *One Midsummer's Day: Swifts and the Story of Life on Earth*, a book that looks at one of the priority bird species of the Yorkshire Dales from a global perspective.



Writing about the natural world has evolved over the last couple of decades. One can still find, of course, many a monograph on a favoured species, organism or landscape. But increasingly popular are associative, wide-ranging, encyclopaedic, cross-fertilised approaches. As with our President Amy-Jane Beer's award-winning book (*The Flow: Rivers, Water and Wildness*, which won the 2023 Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing), Mark Cocker's recent book on swifts knows no bounds. In fact, he explicitly calls for getting away

from a 'limited focus' on a 'chosen icon' and bemoans the 'tunnel vision' and 'siloes nature' of 'my own naturalist community' in the face of 'avian collapses'.

Although the structure of the book is built around a leisurely day in Cocker's house and garden, the book is riven with energy and urgency. He demands that we think and see in a more respiratory way, with our attention contracting and expanding, in order to grasp the fine detail as well as the bigger picture. The latter is defined by evolution, climate breakdown, species collapse and a possible sixth extinction.

Cocker's view of the need to move from the iconic to a more incendiary and interconnected account of the wonders of the natural world mirrors eg the career of David Attenborough (and most likely the way in which many of us have changed our view of nature): from the celebration of the natural world to the celebration of the natural world we are destroying. Seemingly isolated wonders are now indivisible from the socio-economic and ecological meltdown caused by pollution, habitat loss and greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, as Cocker documents the decline of swifts, he is at pains to have us recognise our 'shared destinies'.

Like so many of our birds, swifts in the UK have suffered a steep decline. Cocker cites one study that shows that not a single house built after 1965 in Northamptonshire has been used by swifts for nesting. A good tactician, Cocker does not batter the reader with statistics and history that can leave one paralysed. He is very good at bringing the unimaginable — both good and bad — into a domestic setting, the better to understand and, hopefully, respond to it. Rather than a lament, Cocker's book is more of a love letter, often poetic, to swifts as well as to the planet that they navigate with their mysterious choreography and feats of geographical migration.

The Web of Life

We learn, unsurprisingly, a great deal about swifts, especially *Apus apus* (there are approximately 100 species of swift, some of which even nest within the Arctic circle). If Cocker revels in the swifts' 'communal screaming display' and 'centrifugal circuits at anything between 45 and 115km/h', the miraculous design of feathers and wing shape, or their ability to feed at 5,730 metres (or, for that matter, sleep at 4,400 metres), he is equally enthralled by the planet-saving angiosperm plants and the first organisms 4 billion years ago — bacteria — 10 trillion descendants of which can be found in a spoonful of soil. If we are to be amazed by that one spoonful of soil, Cocker also wants us to be horrified by the two spoonfuls of neonicotinoids, a pesticide, that can kill 2.5 billion insects (and a lack of insects is a prime contributor to the free fall in bird populations).

Education is vital in order to halt ecocide. However, Cocker does not leave it at individual responsibility, for each of us to do our bit. He also reminds us that we live in 'a system of economic exploitation devised by Western societies, to benefit what were once imperialist European and American nations... [whose] dominance and [...] self-serving impacts still prevail'.

Like the rebranding of our campaigns under the more holistic and encompassing rubric of Living Dales, Cocker's book is as much about system and scale as it is about the personal pleasure of observing swifts. In *Silent Spring* (1962) Rachel Carson talked about the urgent need to (re)connect our livelihood with the 'life force' of the natural world; Cocker takes that demand seriously. Swifts live in near perpetual motion. The challenge is for us to also inhabit perpetual wonder and resistance to that which diminishes the natural world in the Dales. So, install that swift box or brick, get involved with our campaigns, donate, become a member. It's truly a time for all hands on deck.

Bruce McLeod, Chair

See pages 12 and 13 for more information on the priority bird species listed in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Nature Recovery Plan.



Common Swift (*Apus apus*).
Photo, Marton Berntsen,
(Wikimedia)



Post-war Clothing Coupons

At first glance, the introduction of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 might appear to be by a government looking after the leisure activities of an affluent electorate. In fact, post-war rationing was still in place at the beginning of 1949, with the vast majority of the population still recovering from the rigours of World War II.

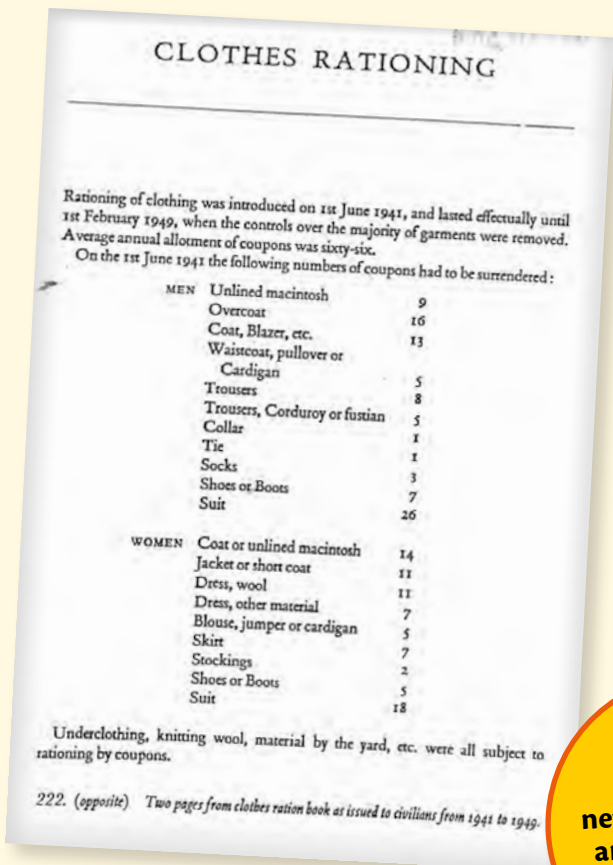
Within our 'Capturing the Past' project, Horton-in-Ribblesdale Local History Group records a number of rationing measures. The image shows the number of coupons needed to purchase particular items of clothing.

The number of coupons needed varied according to how much material and labour went into their manufacture. Eleven coupons were needed for a woollen dress, two needed for a pair of stockings and eight coupons required for a man's shirt or a pair of trousers. Women's shoes meant relinquishing five coupons, and men's footwear forced the surrender of seven coupons.

The coupon allowance was at its lowest from 1945 and 1946. For the eight-month period from 1 September 1945 to 30 April 1946 only 24 coupons were issued, effectively allowing the shopper only three coupons a month. New mothers were also given 50 coupons.

John Cuthbert, Capturing the Past Project Leader

www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk



Double Celebration for Protected Landscapes

National parks in England and Wales are celebrating a big anniversary in 2024. Seventy-five years ago, the enabling legislation to establish national parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty* was launched. Years of tireless campaigning had led to this landmark legislation, which included provision for National Trails, rights of way maps and National Nature Reserves. Read more about the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 on the Campaign for National Park's website.

Five years later, in 1954, our own Yorkshire Dales National Park was set up. We'll be celebrating these big birthdays with news and articles in each of the four issues of the magazine this year, and across our online platforms.

*AONBs are now called National Landscapes – see *What's in a Name?* opposite right.



Membership Rates

Since our members are the lifeblood of Friends of the Dales, it goes without saying that we are grateful to each and every one of you reading this magazine for your ongoing support.

It is therefore with a heavy heart and after careful consideration that trustees have made the decision to adjust our pricing to ensure that we can continue working hard to create a sustainable future for the Yorkshire Dales – something that is more important than ever with the threat of climate breakdown and the acute biodiversity crisis the national park now faces.

The new rates will come into effect from 1 April 2024, and you will see these changes reflected in your next subscription renewal. Depending on when your renewal is due (April 2024, July 2024, October 2024 or January 2025), you may not experience this increase for many months yet.

We understand that any increase can be impactful, which is why we have maintained the current prices for the last five years. Individual membership will rise from £25 to £30 and joint membership from £35 to £40. Life membership remains unchanged – details of which can be found on the inside cover of this magazine.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this increase, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Membership & Events Officer Victoria Benn at victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

27
new North Sea oil and gas licences announced by government



What's in a Name?

All 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales have been rebranded as National Landscapes.

The new name aims to highlight their importance and the contributions they make to fighting climate breakdown, biodiversity loss and the wellbeing crisis whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness of the work they do.

National Landscapes cover 15% of the land in England with two in three people living within a 30-minute journey of one. Their legal designation will remain Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Up in Smoke

Moorland is a critically important and rare habitat playing an essential part in biodiversity renewal and climate breakdown mitigation. Our concerns about the threats facing it are fully explained in our peatlands policy, available on our website (or on request).

So we were disappointed to learn that Ben Ramsden has been convicted of three counts of illegal burning on deep peat on his grouse moor at Middlesmoor, in the Nidderdale National Landscape. Worryingly, instead of a possible £1,000 maximum fine per offence, Mr Ramsden was fined a paltry £100, £200 and £300.

His reported defence was that the burns were a 'genuine mistake' and due to 'ignorance of the regulations'. This is hard to swallow, given that Mr Ramsden has served on a Defra project advisory group on restoration of blanket bog, and has benefited from a £1.5 million Yorkshire Peat Partnership restoration project.

Most concerning is that, until just 19 days before his conviction, Mr Ramsden was a director of the Moorland Association, the organisation which aims to 'encourage the conservation of heather moorland in England and Wales for everyone to enjoy'.

Anyone can report a recent or active burn to the RSPB via its Upland Burning website form or Survey123 App.

Sources:

Raptor Persecution UK (www.raptorpersecutionuk.org)

Craven Herald (www.cravenherald.co.uk)

Moorland Association (www.moorlandassociation.org)

RSPB Upland Burn (www.upland-burning-rspb.hub.arcgis.com)



Grouse moor burning. Photo courtesy of raptorpersecutionuk.org

Hot Spot for Raptor Persecution

The *Birdcrime* report 2022 compiled by the RSPB once again highlights the horrific impact of illegal killing of protected birds of prey. One of the worst counties is North Yorkshire with nearly 20% (19.67%) of persecution incidents. David Butterworth, Chief Executive Officer of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said*: 'It is yet again hugely embarrassing that this part of the country has been shamed as being the worst for proven and suspected bird of prey persecution in the UK.' The report identifies that 'at least 64% of all confirmed raptor persecution incidents in 2022 occurred on land managed for gamebird shooting, similar to data for the last two years'.

Notorious amongst these incidents was the brutal stamping to death of four hen harrier chicks in a nest on a grouse moor near Whernside. Another horrendous incident was the recovery of Free, a satellite-tagged adult hen harrier, found dead on moorland on the Yorkshire-Cumbria border. A post-mortem showed that he 'had died because his head and leg had been pulled from his body whilst still alive'.



Red kite found dead by a footpath in the Yorkshire Dales National Park (2021). The post-mortem found this magnificent raptor had been shot (illegally) but survived its injuries. The cause of death was Bendiocarb (rat poison), which is 'the most commonly detected substance in bird of prey pesticide abuse incidents'. The police case was closed due to insufficient evidence to prosecute. Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

'The target is for tree planting. I believe it should be for tree establishment. It shouldn't be about targets for planting a number of trees: it should be establishing trees. We can all plant a million trees, but will they be alive five years down the line and that's what the problem is.'

Tony Kirkham, former head of arboretum at Kew Gardens

Switch to Good Practice

Light pollution affects the flight trajectories of migrating birds, upsets the balance between predators and prey and disrupts the feeding and breeding cycles of a wide range of creatures. Friends of the Lake District Dark Skies Officer Jack Ellerby explains how we can all help to keep it to a minimum.

People's concerns and awareness about the growth and impact of light pollution are escalating. These include the ability to see fewer and fewer stars at night, visual intrusion into people's homes, glare in pedestrians' or drivers' eyes, or simply wasted energy if lights are left on all night when they are not really needed. Importantly, an extensive and growing body of research shows that many species of wildlife, both those active and those needing to sleep and rest at night, are suffering just at the time nature recovery is a top priority.

The good news is that, unlike with other environmental pollutants, we can all make an instant improvement by switching light(s) off or changing poor lighting. As the Yorkshire Dales is an International Dark Sky Reserve, it's important that we get all our lighting right but measuring and understanding it is a complex, technical science. It's a real challenge for the average planning officer, or indeed other non-lighting designers, to get their heads around.

Bearing this in mind, together with the need to prevent new sources of light pollution, Friends of the Lake District have worked with Kerem Asfuroglu of Dark Source design studio, all five local planning authorities covering Cumbria, the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Authority and the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape to produce a *Good Lighting Technical Advice Note (TAN)*.

This uses strong images created by Kerem, diagrams and photos to convey the key principles so different audiences can understand what's needed. The TAN is backed by a wide range of endorsing organisations and communities and won both platinum and green in the lighting category of the *Build Back Better Awards* before it was formally published.

Training sessions with the planning teams across the local authorities were held in October and November, and the TAN has been widely shared and publicised locally and nationally. A key issue is that lighting doesn't need planning permission or any other consent. However, where it forms part of a development, we should get that right and in turn best practice can spread to become the norm.

Manufacturers fully appreciate the need to change and more and more dark-sky compliant lighting is coming onto the market. As demand grows the next stage is for mainstream retailers like Homebase, B&Q and electrical wholesalers to readily stock it and make it easier for electricians and the general public to buy better lights.

The collective challenge for us all now is to ensure the TAN's widespread implementation within national parks and reverse the growth of skyglow pollution stemming from multiple lighting sources near to the boundaries.

Jack Ellerby, Friends of the Lake District Dark Skies Officer



1. Don't light unless it's necessary.

Is the light really needed to fulfil a clear task or function?



2. Light only what needs to be lit.

Avoid over lighting and clutter, direct light downwards and use the correct beam distribution.



3. Light should be no brighter than necessary.

Our vision is harmed when intense light glares. Use lighting sensitively, and ensure it's comfortable on the eye.



4. Use warm colour temperatures.

2,700 Kelvins or lower utilised throughout.



5. Use switch off, dimming or PIR sensors.

Only have lights on when needed, and help reduce carbon emissions and save on your electricity bills.



6. Use lower mounting height where possible.

Lower mounting height contains light more effectively.



7. Limit internal lighting spilling outside.

Avoid extensive glazing, fit blinds, external shutters and/or use tinted or electrochromic glass.

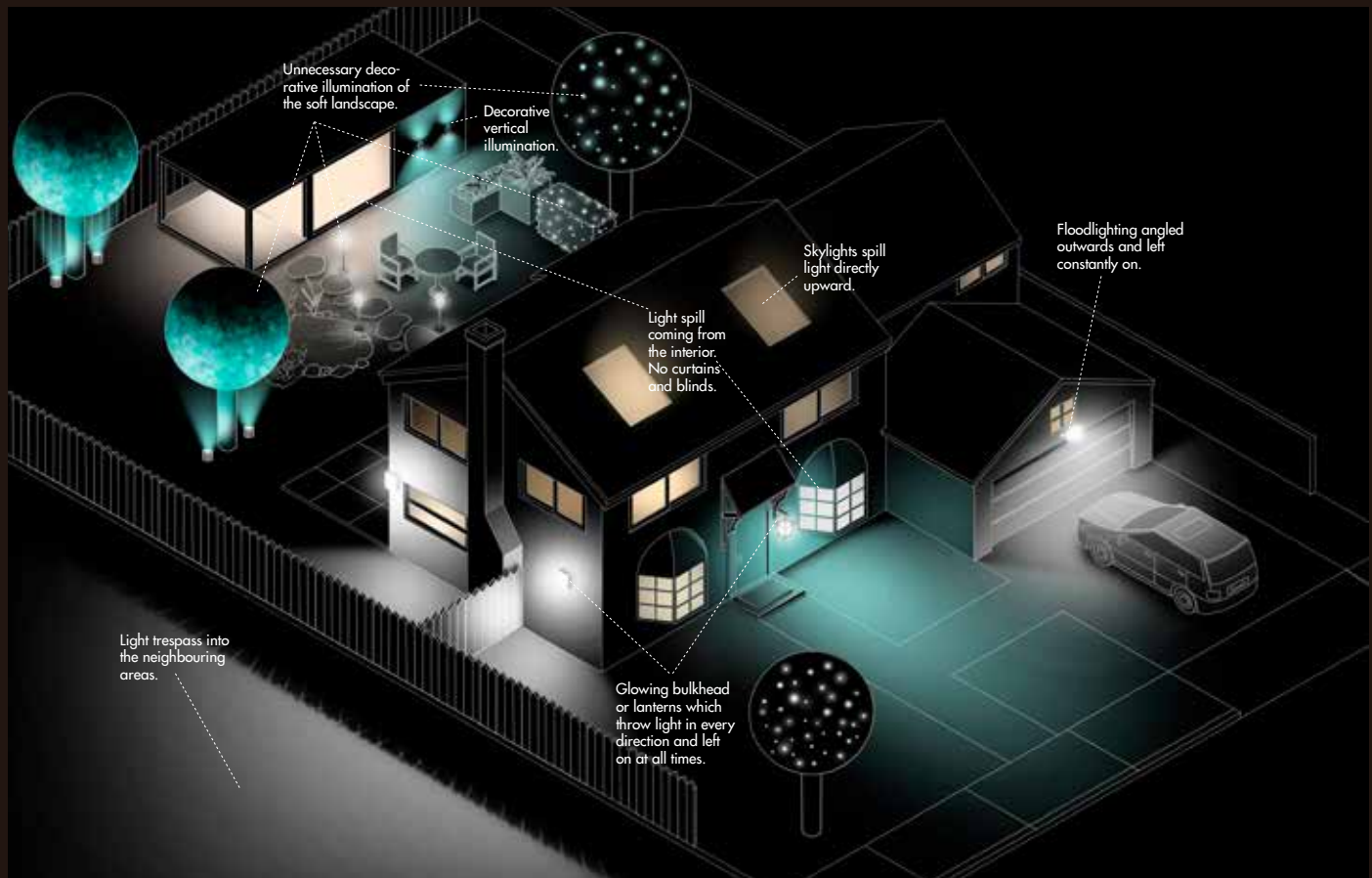


8. Keep light away from wildlife.

Nature needs darkness to function and be healthy.

These simple eight core lighting principles are a golden thread within the TAN.

Powerful visuals showing how lighting can be done very badly...



...and how good it looks when done well.



Bringing Forward the Voices

Once a year, the family of national park charities gathers at a short conference hosted by one society with active support from Campaign for National Parks. We, staff and volunteers alike, share and learn, compare notes and hatch big plans to combat the increasingly existential threats to national parks.

Last October, Friends of the Lake District (FLD) put on a superb three-day conference. Thanks to 10 bursaries for young people, paid for by FLD and CNP, young people were supported to attend. With our own Creative Campaigners, staff, trustees, volunteers, Vice Presidents and our President, Friends of the Dales had a most impressive presence.

Amongst other topics we pondered the value of the Sandford Principle. This core principle, enshrined in the 1995 Environment Act, offers national park authorities a handy reckoner when confronted with a development proposal that significantly harms 'nature' even if it helps recreation. For the avoidance of doubt, greater weight should be given to conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage than public enjoyment. See Bess Holt's illustration for her take on this misunderstood and sometimes ignored principle.

Three of our Creative Campaigners share their views, and their impressions of the conference.

Families Forced Out

Ruth Garrett, ambassador for Campaign for National Parks and long-term supporter of Friends of the Dales, spoke at the conference. Here's an extract from her speech:

'I want to tell you about my experience living and working in a small village in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Although local, I have always been an outsider to the communities of the Dales until a few months ago when I moved to the tiny village of Horton-in-Ribblesdale, which

some of you may know as the start and end of the popular Three Peaks Challenge.

'As a filmmaker I am constantly on the lookout for stories and I love talking and debating with different people about topics that are important to them. An issue that I've come across again and again is the disconnect that local people feel from those who visit, and from the national park authority. For example, I asked a teenager whom I worked with what she thought about living in a national park and her response was "What is a national park?". A big part of the frustration

of local people comes from the degradation of local communities through the fleeing of young people from villages. This is due to a lack of affordable housing, no real job prospects and lack of infrastructure to support families.

'Villages have become ghost towns littered with holiday homes and second homes that stand as empty shells where families once lived. The only reason I am currently in the privileged position to be able to live in the national park is because I took a summer job as a live-in staff member in a pub.



Friends of the Dales was represented in force at the conference (some were also attending on behalf of a kindred organisation), not least because the venue in Kendal was on our doorstep, but because several of our Creative Campaigners benefitted from bursaries offered by CNP.

Left to right: Ruth Garrett, Creative Campaigner; Mohammed Dhalech, trustee; Malcolm Petyt, Vice President; Ann Shadrake, Executive Director; Bruce McLeod, Chair; Mark Corner, Vice President; Kyle Blue, policy & planning committee; Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer; Richard Boothman, policy & planning committee; Amy-Jane Beer, President; Jonathan Riley, Chair of policy & planning committee; Penny Lowe, Administration Assistant; Bess Holt, Creative Campaigner; Josh Burge, Creative Campaigner.



of Young People

'Looking around the room it's amazing to see all the passion and love shown for our national parks. The work being done by the people in this room is inspiring. What you are doing is a continuation of what the national parks were set up to be and you embody the spirit of those people. This is where the hope and possibility of the future for national parks lies as we look towards the celebration and challenge of the 75th anniversary of the enabling legislation in 2024.'

Listening to Diverse Voices

I was joyful and grateful for receiving one of the bursaries to attend the conference, as it really made the difference between me being able to attend or not. I felt that

the increased attendance of a younger generation made an impact, and I was approached by several interested delegates during the refreshment breaks.

I felt included in the breakout discussions on the first day, where delegates made pledges to help younger people have an adventure in a national park. Whilst I was examining the board of post-it-note pledges that everyone had created, a delegate patted one in place, saying to me 'It's not glamorous, but it's practical... actionable': rewriting management plans to reflect the needs of younger people. It's a great step to take, especially if it leads to the intended cascade of change in the organisation's process and outputs.

I found the Parks for All workshop very interesting. I came away thinking that to engage people with national parks, it's important to work well outside the park boundaries. 'We have to be comfortable getting uncomfortable' is the phrase that sticks in my mind, and it gives me hope. The conference's discussions had their tensions and resolutions, their vulnerabilities and learnings, and I think that is a good sign: it's a sign that together we have started the process. I'm keen that all of us carry the momentum through this upcoming year, in the ways we choose to work and treat the people we meet.

Josh Burge



Clear Communication

During the conference, ideas about how to get more people involved with national parks came up frequently. However, a lot of language and conversations around national parks were based on lengthy definitions of policy wording and legislation, with very specific terminology bartered back and forth in debate. For those not involved with the professional outdoor sector, or those who haven't had access or formal education about our national parks, the language is very inaccessible and it leads to a large proportion of the public being pushed out of the conversation. But our national parks are for all.

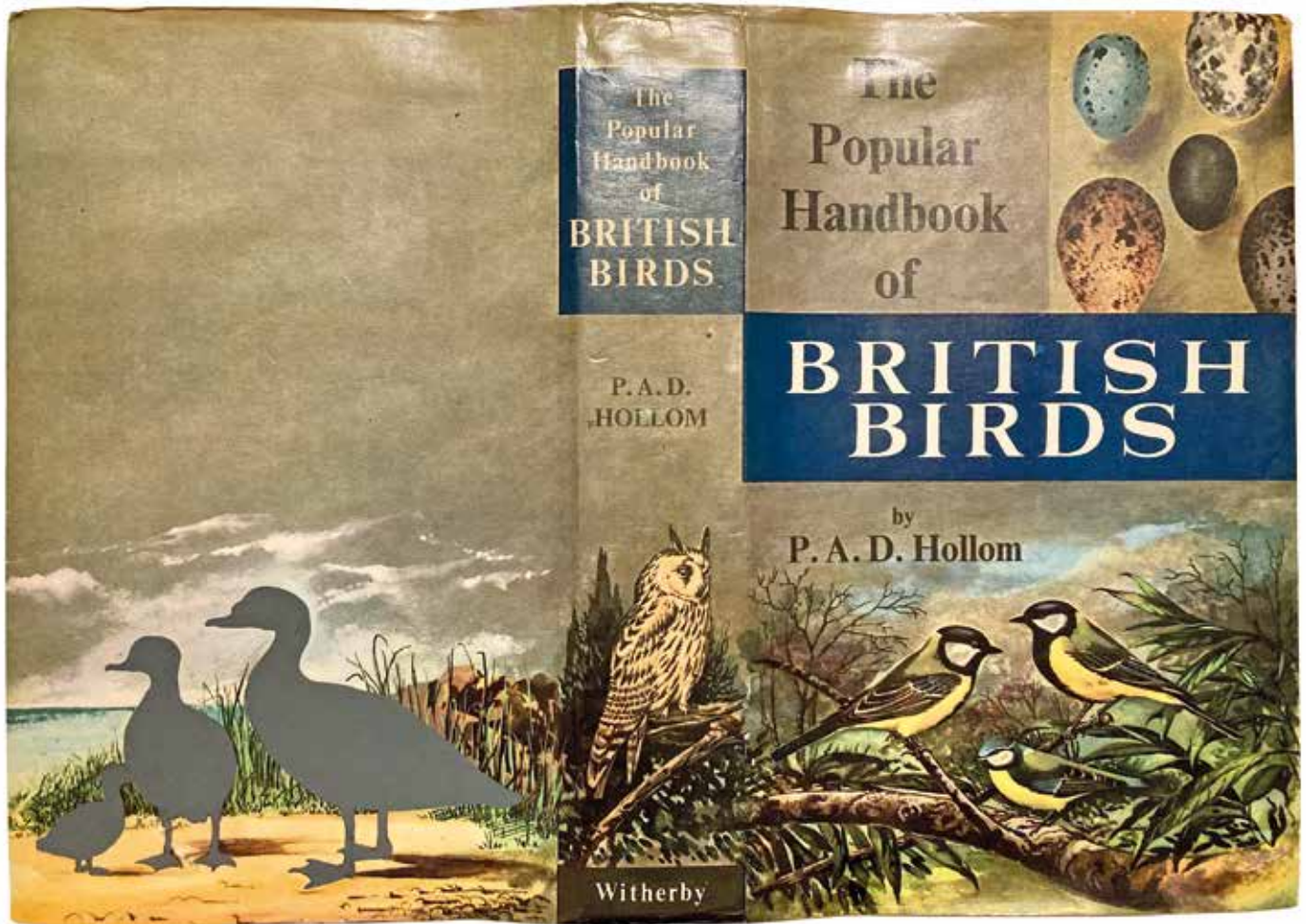
If we are to encourage and involve people from all backgrounds and walks of life, we need to look at demystifying the language and developing alternative forms of communication and debate — finding visual, accessible and interactive ways to convey information so that we can all have a say in the future of our national parks.

In short, where public enjoyment or a commercial project will damage the landscape, wildlife or heritage of a National Park, the Sandford Principle states it shouldn't go ahead.

Sandford Principle, illustration by Bess Holt

Bess Holt

Going, Going, Gone?



Red, Amber, Green (2020) by Rebecca Chesney was recently exhibited at HOME Manchester as part of the *A Fine Toothed Comb* exhibition. Presented as an imagined future handbook of British birds, it uses the entire 120 plates from a 1950s copy of *The Popular Handbook of British Birds* by P A D Hollom, with all the species on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern starkly blanked out. The appalling state of nature in relation to British bird species can be appreciated

visually and holistically through this installation, which insists you face the truth, with no option to 'turn the page' and forget what we have lost and will lose.

Chesney's work is concerned with how we romanticise, translate and define it. She looks at how politics, ownership, management and commercial value all influence our surroundings and has made extensive investigations into the impact of human activities on nature and the environment, examining weather, water quality, air pollution, land ownership and management, sea level rise, habitat loss and decline of species through her art.

Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer

www.rebeccachesney.com





The Magnetism of Malham

New trustee Mohammed Dhalech is not alone in being attracted to the stunning scenery around the infant Aire. He explains why he keeps going back and how more must be done to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse visitor base.

It was always going to be challenging to pick one favourite walk as I have many favourites — high-level or low-level, long or short — but one area does stand out and has lots of memories. Malham provides such variety, with walks for all abilities, and it's always enticing at any time of the year: spring, summer, autumn or winter. There's always something different to enjoy. I've walked in the rain or snow in winter and I think I have done all the variations over the years: Gordale Scar, Janet's Foss, Malham Tarn, the cove or all of them in a circular walk.

Every season offers you something different to see, hear, feel and smell. I have many recollections of my walks either on my own or with family, friends or groups that I have taken out. Malham is great for those new to the outdoors, those with experience and those who just want to spend time in the village.

If you want to see waterfalls, the peregrine falcons or the amazing limestone pavement, it's all here in Malham with some breath-taking vistas: night or day Malham has something to offer for everyone.

Broad Appeal

I've observed several trends over the recent years.

These include the changing demographics and diversity of visitors coming to the area. You can hear so many different languages being spoken and there are many intergenerational groups visiting and enjoying the landscapes of Malham in their own ways, be they long or short walks, dips in the waterfalls, looking at the beautiful vistas from the tarn or the cove, watching the climbers, picnicking or following in

the footsteps of Harry Potter and Hermione Granger, celebrity cooks Nadiya Hussain and Fred Sirieix, access champion Maxwell Ayamba and Joanna Lumley. Whatever reasons people come for, they enjoy the beauty of the area and feel happy and healthy.

Another trend in Malham and many other similar hotspots is that in the summer you see a large number of people visiting late in the afternoon and evening to enjoy the landscapes. There are many reasons for this: it's quieter, cooler, the lighting and sunsets are beautiful, and, in some cases, there are cultural reasons. Many of these people seem to be day visitors, spending a lovely evening having a picnic etc. We need to embrace the changing ways that people are enjoying landscapes, as it is a win-win for everyone.

The trends I've identified above are opportunities that stakeholders need to seize upon and change their operating models, if they are willing to embrace changes in society and the way communities use their leisure time and want to maximise the benefits for everyone involved. Unfortunately many stakeholders are not looking at these new trends and adjusting the business models to reflect them: this means that they are not benefitting from a new customer base. They (businesses, leisure service providers, etc) could engage in many ways, such as adapting their service provision and business hours to reflect changing visitor trends, and welcoming visitors outside of 'normal' business hours, thus providing the same level of service to all. Society has changed and is continuing to change, and if we are to be relevant and reflect society we need to change the business models to attract a diverse customer base.

Finally, seeing diverse communities visiting our landscapes creates a feeling and sense of belonging and responsibility for the area. More importantly, there is a moral and ethical responsibility for stakeholders to be more inclusive. This will help everyone enjoy our landscapes and protect them for the future.

Mohammed Dhalech, trustee



Malham Cove. Photo courtesy of Mohammed Dhalech

EXTRA CARE NEEDED

Bigger, better, more joined-up: that's the mantra behind the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's new Nature Recovery Plan. In line with changes to UK-wide practices, it emphasises working at landscape level to create more extensive, interconnected wildlife habitats and make sure they are in better condition. But what about those species that need extra help? We take a look at the birds that have been identified as needing bespoke conservation action.



Red Kite. Photo courtesy of Whitfield Benson Photography

The great auk, the dodo and the moa share two things in common: they lived on islands and they went extinct due to human exploitation.

Animals must be able to move around in order to feed, breed, find shelter and rear their young. It's not enough to create isolated refuges like traditionally managed hay meadows, native woodlands or wetlands if they are walled or fenced off from their surroundings. Nor is it sufficient to leave larger areas of semi-natural landscape that are lacking in diversity — like uniform upland moors without areas of wetland, scrub and tree cover.

So, after years of producing a plethora of highly detailed action plans dealing with individual species, the Biodiversity Forum has broken with tradition and produced an all-embracing strategy for creating an interconnected network of habitats where

nature can thrive and move freely within and across the borders of the Yorkshire Dales.

The emphasis is on ensuring that wildlife corridors cross, and extend beyond, the national park boundary, linking up areas of high conservation value. Produced in association with the Farming and Land Management and Dales Woodland forums, the plan will enable animals and plants to recolonise sites from which they have been lost, or adjust to climate change by moving to places with more suitable conditions. It also includes the creation of new and restored habitats and buffer zones around these and existing biodiverse areas.

But some species have been identified as needing additional conservation measures due to the challenges they face, including 12 of our best-loved birds featured on these pages and elsewhere in the *Review*.

Lynn Leadbetter, volunteer

We welcome the Nature Recovery Plan and have written to David Butterworth, CEO of the national park authority, to express our thanks to staff for their hard work in compiling it. We believe it is essential that the objectives and targets of the plan are fully integrated into the new Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan (which will go out to consultation early in 2025) but also the emerging nature recovery plans of North Yorkshire, Cumberland and Lancashire Councils.

Comments regarding species populations and causes of decline are sourced from the draft Nature Recovery Plan, which is available to download at <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/wildlife/nature-recovery-plan/>

Peregrine Falcon



This raptor has been known to nest at around 20 sites in the Dales after being completely absent from the Yorkshire part of the national park in the 1960s due to persecution and widespread use of DDT, but breeding has been less successful on grouse moors than elsewhere.

Hen Harrier



Despite full legal protection, illegal persecution has been cited as the main reason for hen harrier population decline in northern England and parts of Scotland. However, proving this is extremely difficult.

Red Kite

This once common carrion feeder became extinct due to persecution in England and Wales 150-200 years ago but was successfully introduced on the Harewood Estate near Leeds in 1999. However, dead birds found in the Dales have been illegally shot and the species is also vulnerable to poisoning from pesticide abuse. See *Hot Spot for Raptor Persecution*, page 5.

Curlew



Wensleydale is one of the most important breeding areas for waders in the UK with amongst the highest densities of curlew. However, the species is threatened by loss of breeding habitat due to changes in land use, increases in predation and disturbance by walkers. Find out about how nature-friendly farming can help the curlew on page 16.

Lapwing



Along with the curlew, the return of the lapwing is one of the first signs of spring in the Dales but it is also vulnerable to predation and changing agricultural practices. The UK breeding population decreased by 59% between 1967 and 2020.

Black Grouse



This species is best known for its elaborate courtship displays at communal display sites called leks. Formerly widespread in the Dales, population decline was associated with increased canopy cover in conifer plantations established in the late 1970s and early 1980s and the deterioration of habitat in adjacent areas. Since the late 1990s, numbers have increased from around 50 to 150 lekking males but wet, snowy weather has had an adverse impact on breeding success in recent years.

Ring Ouzel



This striking bird is still found on moorland fringes but a 2018 survey by the national park authority and the British Trust for Ornithology found that population densities had declined significantly between 2008 and 2014.

House Sparrow

This gregarious species is of conservation concern nationally but you can help by not cutting hedges between March and August and putting up nest boxes*.

Swifts and House Martins



A five-year project by Sustainable Swaledale will help populations of swifts, swallows and martins, which are believed to have declined in the valley in recent years. Volunteers are monitoring numbers, nest sites and returning birds, putting up nest boxes and raising awareness of their plight among residents and visitors. Find out more, including ways that you can help, at www.sustainableswaledale.org/swifts-swallows-martins-project/

Yellow Wagtail



Historical information suggests that this species was once abundant in the meadows and pastures of the Dales but a 2000 survey located only 25 pairs in 10 areas that were visited. It is likely that the change from traditional hay making to silage has reduced breeding success. In the key areas, landowners have been encouraged to enter agri-environment schemes that ensure meadows are not cut until mid-July, after all the young birds have left the nest.

Starling

The mass displays of aerial acrobatics known as murmurations are among the most spectacular autumn sights but this belies the fact that numbers have fallen by 60% in the UK in the last 40 years. Loss of habitat and food sources are key factors in this decline.

.....

Another 28 species have been identified as needing bespoke conservation support including the red squirrel, hazel dormouse, Eurasian water vole, white-clawed crayfish, seven bats (Daubenton's, Brandt's, Natterer's, whiskered, brown long-eared and common and soprano pipistrelles), two butterflies, six moths, eight flowering plants and juniper.

*Nest box information: see www.bto.org/sites/default/files/house_sparrow_nest_box_plan.pdf

Tame by Comparison

Campaigner and author Mark Avery says the UK has a long way to go before the landscapes and biodiversity of its national parks match those elsewhere.

It was the UK's loss and the world's gain, perhaps, when John Muir left Scotland with his parents at the age of 11 and headed for Wisconsin. Have you ever visited Wisconsin? I have. It's nice, but maybe not in a way that sets the pulse racing. As a boy, Muir saw massive flocks of the now-extinct passenger pigeon cross his family farm, but it was the landscapes of the west that ignited his almost religious fervour for protecting natural beauty. He played a major role in the notification of Yosemite as the USA's third national park and spent three nights there camping with President Theodore Roosevelt.

Muir was known as 'Father of the National Parks' and Roosevelt himself said 'There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us.' Much later, Wallace Stegner said 'National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.' That boy from Dunbar, Scotland, certainly helped whip up some pride in his adopted country for landscape, wilderness and wildlife – and I say good for him.

I've spent time in several American national parks and many in Europe and some in Africa and Australia. I could tell you of the sights I've seen, the vistas, the forests, the wildlife, but these were all real national parks.

They were sites that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature ranks as Category II protected areas – the likes of Yellowstone, Amboseli, Coto Donana, Bialowieza and Hardangervidda.

The 14 UK national parks are all IUCN Category V, protected landscapes. I often call them fake national parks because they are no more worthy of standing alongside real national parks than my cricketing inability would get me into the England cricket team, or even that of Yorkshire, or even a village team. Our national parks are lower-league national parks – what would John Muir think of that? Maybe he'd just recognise that the UK is a crowded country and there have been centuries of overexploitation and damage wrought on the landscape. That would be fine. But that isn't what the UK is doing.

In signing the UK up to the '30:30' target of having 30% of the land area protected for wildlife by 2030, a recent prime minister, Boris Johnson, claimed that we were pretty close to 30% already – but that is only vaguely true if one includes our fake national parks as being protected – and they aren't.

I spend a fair amount of time in UK national parks; I have friends and relatives who live in them, including the Yorkshire Dales, and, fair's fair, if I have plenty of time, I'd rather drive on a slow road from north to south with some scenery in it (I live in the lowlands of Northamptonshire: I'm easily pleased) than a faster road without scenery. I just feel that we could do so much better in our national parks.

We need national parks that are worthy of the exalted name rather than pretending that the over-grazed, over-burned, over acid-rained landscapes are up to scratch. As I drive through the Yorkshire Dales, I pass many sites where I know that hen harriers have been killed, illegally, nearly 70 years after they were given complete legal protection. But I won't bang on about that as I've written a whole book on how and why we should simply ban driven (not walked-up) grouse shooting (*Inglorious: Conflict in the Uplands* – available from me or any good and several bad booksellers).

Seizing the Moment

It would be fair at this stage to say, 'OK, Avery, what is the solution?' And I think I do have some solutions, but first it's fair for me to say that we have already missed a big opportunity, as there was the 2019 Glover review of 'protected areas' (national parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and it was rather limp. It used a few nice phrases about the importance of wildlife in such areas and then completely ducked out of suggesting any measures at all, in terms of land use changes, that might bring some of that about.

To my mind, we will never have real national parks in the UK, delivering wildlife and ecosystem services, until we have public ownership of much of those areas. If only we still had water authorities in England, instead of water companies, we could expect those public bodies to take wildlife, flooding, carbon sequestration etc into account. And, yes,

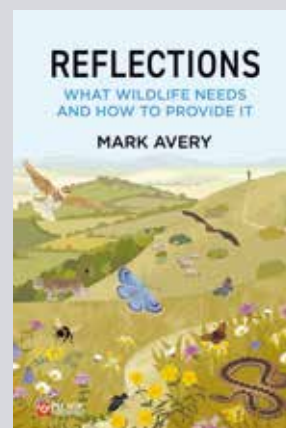
I think a fair chunk of rewilding is needed too, including some species reintroductions but I'm thinking more of beavers, red squirrels, pine martens and golden eagles than grey wolves and brown bears. We should get lynx back too, though. I set out some more ideas on this in another, my most recent, book: *Reflections: What Wildlife Needs and How to Provide It* – also available from the author.

This is the time for change: the climate is changing; the political climate is changing and the system of farm subsidies is changing. If not now, then when? And if not in upland national parks, then where? All this will take time but it would be better to embark on a long journey to sunlit uplands than to remain sitting in the dark valleys of unsustainable land use.

Can we imagine a present-day John Muir, maybe my mate Chris Packham, and a present-day Teddy Roosevelt, maybe one of the Dales' MPs, Rishi Sunak, camping together for three nights in Swaledale, Nidderdale or Wharfedale, maybe in a yurt, to commune with nature and reach a level of mutual understanding? It takes some imagination...

Mark Avery, founder and co-director Wild Justice

www.markavery.info



Inspirational Curlew



People care passionately about the plight of the Dales' most iconic wader. Curlew Action ambassador Leigh Weston taps into that concern to raise awareness of the challenges also facing many less charismatic wildlife species.

You might have seen Hill Top Farm on the BBC's *Saving Our Wild Isles* documentary. The programme followed a curlew – beset by changing agricultural practices and increased predation – from its wintering grounds by the coast to sanctuary on the fells above Malham, where Neil Heseltine and his partner Leigh Weston have proved that increased biodiversity and profitability can go hand in hand.

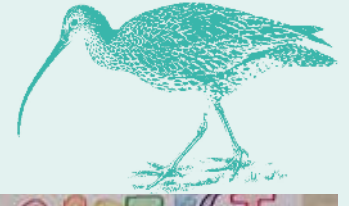
Moving to a low-input farming system has helped them to create the rich mosaic of habitats on which waders depend. Extensive year-round grazing of rough pasture by hardy Belted Galloway cattle and a single late cut of the grass in August or September encourages the growth of fields rich in wildlife and herbs, where the curlew can nest. Fifteen years ago, an upland hay meadow was restored with help from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The drainage was allowed to block up and now the wet areas provide the soft soil that the birds need to probe with their beaks when feeding. Although Hill Top Farm is open access land, walkers are encouraged to be mindful of disturbance caused by letting their dogs off lead.

But it's not only the iconic curlew that has benefited. Its success depends in part on a wide range of insects and other invertebrates on which it feeds – species that people may not take to heart so readily. Meanwhile, creating conditions favourable to the bird also encourages other waders that might not have as great a hold on the public imagination.

Together with Ellen Bradley of the charity Curlew Action, Leigh has hosted farm visits for pupils from Settle and Kirkby Malham primary schools and their teachers. To avoid disturbance to nesting birds, and because some of the children had not seen one in the wild, she made a life-sized model and hid it in the grass.

According to Curlew Action, 'widespread changes to our countryside have seen their numbers dramatically decline, especially over the last 40 years. In Southern Ireland curlews have decreased by over 90%, in Wales by over 80%, and on average we have lost 60% throughout England and Scotland since the 1980s'

Strikes a Chord



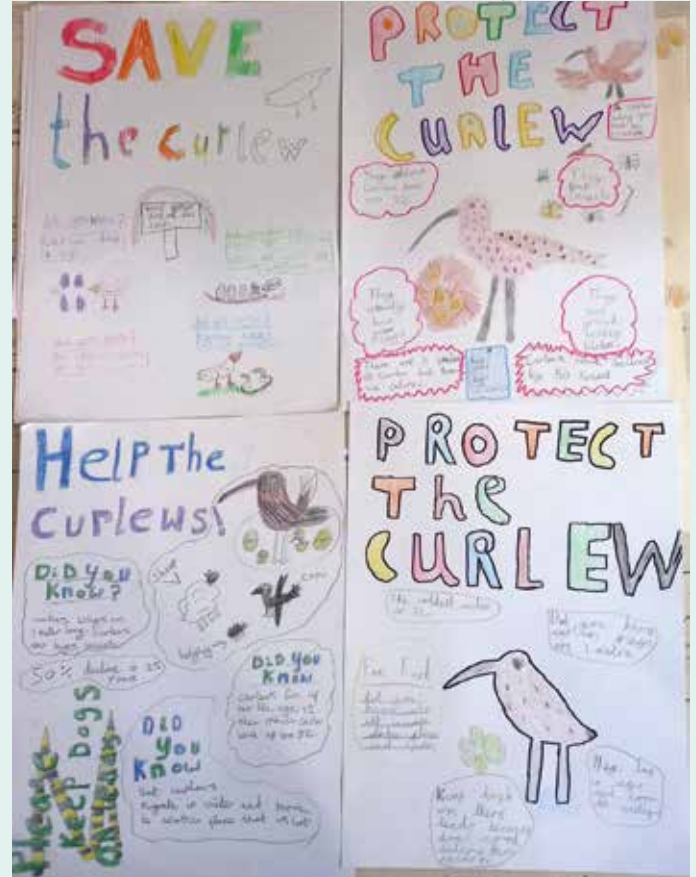
The visits were funded by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and organised by Sarah Smith of the Clapham Curlew Cluster, a group of 12 farms that have agreed to have annual wader surveys on their land carried out by 18 RSPB volunteers. They helped to kindle a love of the natural world in the next generation, who responded by creating artworks with support from Nidderdale-based textile artist Sue Harrison. Sarah, Ellen and the teaching staff also helped them to create posters, paintings and poems. These will be collated and form part of a touring exhibition, which can first be seen at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, from February to April.

Leigh is a member of Malham Environment Group, which has carried out a monitoring project that has increased knowledge of the location and nesting sites of waders. Her role as Curlew Action ambassador also involves raising awareness of the plight of the species on social media.

With its distinctive, bubbling call and centuries of celebration in folklore, poetry and art, it is no wonder that so many rural and coastal dwellers mark the seasons by the arrival and departure of this iconic bird.

‘Curlews are important in their own right but if we get land management right for them, we benefit so many other species,’ says Leigh. ‘Although it’s no more important than the lapwing, snipe and plover, there is something about it that evokes an emotional response in people. I don’t want it to be my generation that loses the curlew.’

Lynn Leadbeatter, volunteer



Curlew.
Photo courtesy of
Ann Shadrake

A Worldwide Celebration

Look out for events and activities marking World Curlew Day on April 21. This is also the feast day of St Beuno and legend has it that while the missionary was travelling to Anglesey, his boat was rocked by a sudden gust of wind and the book of sermons that he had spent years compiling fell into the sea. Fortunately, a curlew came to the rescue, picking it up and returning it to the shore to dry on the rocks. St Beuno blessed the bird and decreed that from that moment on, its nests would be difficult to find and be protected for ever.

More information at www.curlewaction.org

Watch *Saving Our Wild Isles* on www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0fd45w7/wild-isles-saving-our-wild-isles

Curlews have been identified as needing bespoke conservation action beyond site or habitat management in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Nature Recovery Plan. Find out why on page 12

For details of our online talk, *Breeding Waders of the Yorkshire Dales*, see page 23

Slip, Slidin' Away



JMW Turner, The Lune Valley from Kirkby Lonsdale churchyard c1818, watercolour (Wikipedia Commons)



Portrait of John Ruskin (Wikipedia Commons)

One of the UK's most famous viewpoints is in danger of disappearing forever. Matt Sowerby is among those fighting to preserve the vista that inspired a famous Victorian writer and one of Britain's greatest artists.

When John Ruskin visited Kirkby Lonsdale in 1875, he was already reflecting on an unsettling shift in the weather that he called 'The Storm-Cloud of the Nineteenth Century' — possibly one of the earliest recognitions of anthropogenic climate change. Now Ruskin's View, an iconic heritage site that he described as 'the loveliest view in England', is in danger of being lost forever.

Ruskin's View, a popular tourist destination since the Romantics, lies at the edge of the tiny Cumbrian town of Kirkby Lonsdale. Here, the ground drops away sharply towards the river, and visitors look out over the whole of the Lune Valley and towards the Yorkshire Dales. In 2021 the ground at the edge of the cliff began to crack, undercut by exacerbated riverbank erosion. Black iron railings were erected, sealing the area off. Kirkby Lonsdale had a choice: raise over £1,000,000 to protect Ruskin's View, or let it slip away.

The decision was obvious. Ruskin's View isn't just a stunning and important heritage site: it's a vital part of the town's story, community and economy — and the only wheelchair-accessible view around. The *Save Ruskin's View* campaign has already raised almost £150,000. The residents of Kirkby Lonsdale have done everything from running marathons and shaking buckets to holding concerts and dinners, applying for grant after grant and buying all the Ruskin's View merchandise the tourist information centre has to offer. But there's still a long way to go.

Cultural Connections

Ruskin wasn't the first to recognise the importance of this stunning viewpoint. His hero J M W Turner had visited back in August 1816 — known to history as the year without a summer. Mount Tambora, in what is now Indonesia, had recently erupted, casting debris across the planet, which led to famines across the northern hemisphere and global temperatures dropping by maybe 0.7°C. It was the world's largest eruption in at least 1,300 years. Over in Switzerland, Mary Shelley was inspired by the eerie weather to write *Frankenstein*, and Byron composed his apocalyptic poem *Darkness*:

*The bright sun was extinguish'd, and the stars
Did wander darkling in the eternal space,
Rayless, and pathless, and the icy earth
Swung blind and blackening in the moonless air;
Morn came and went — and came, and brought no day...*

Here in Britain, Turner was touring the North and capturing a series of startlingly red sunsets caused by high levels of tephra in the atmosphere. It was on this tour that he came to Kirkby Lonsdale, and he would later use sketches from this visit in his painting of the landscape — the atmosphere hazy.

It's often said locally that before Ruskin visited Kirkby Lonsdale, Ruskin's View was called Turner's View. In fact, Turner's sketches and painting were made slightly further down river. Looking closely at Turner's background, you can actually see someone standing at Ruskin's View. Here in Kirkby Lonsdale the figure — barely visible,



Turners painting in detail.

perhaps an afterthought — grabs at local people's attention. It feels as if they are trespassing, as if any moment the ground might give way under their feet. In a way, the figure is representative of a memory shared by hundreds of thousands of people over hundreds of years: stopping for a breath at the edge of the cliff.

It's a memory that unites the entire town, as well as all those who visit every year. It is a memory that may never be made again unless the money can be found to save Ruskin's View for the future.

The Friends of Ruskin's View are working to raise over £1,000,000 to save this beautiful heritage site from collapse. We would be excited to hear from anyone able to support us with their time, ideas or connections. To follow the campaign or make a donation yourself, visit www.saveruskinsview.co.uk or @ruskinsviewkirkbylonsdale.

Matt Sowerby, Fundraising Coordinator, Friends of Ruskin's View



The Lune Valley from Ruskin's View,
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria
(Wikipedia Commons)

Where Silence

Kyle Blue laments the loss of birdsong from the Westmorland Dales but is encouraged by farm and village initiatives that have succeeded in providing refuges for wildlife.

'Orton is one of the loveliest of Westmorland's villages, a delightful, rural settlement built around a central green with two streams crossed by many foot bridges and having venerable buildings and a fine church on a hill overlooking tranquil countryside.' So wrote Alfred Wainwright in his 1980 *Lune Sketchbook*. Alas, he was never to experience the delights of being an Ortonian: a property auction proved a step too far.

In 2016, following a long public inquiry, the outstanding value of this area was recognised, and it became part of the northern extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, known as the Westmorland Dales.

As Wainwright observed, the area is surrounded by tranquil countryside, but sadly it is a good deal more tranquil than it was back in 1980. Many of the birds so common in those days have diminished alarmingly, and it is the wading populations of lapwing, curlew and snipe that cause particular concern. That harbinger of spring, the

cuckoo, is now seldom heard as the foster species of meadow pipit and skylark become increasingly restricted to the remote upland areas.

There is little doubt that modern farming methods have contributed to the decline. The acres of hay meadows we had back in the '60s have largely given way to monocultures providing grass that can be foraged sometimes as early as May with perhaps two or more cuts to follow. Wildlife and insects have little chance here. Furthermore, many of the younger farmers have no recollection of the days when the hayfields were full of parent birds and young fledglings, many able to find safety as the slow, old Fergie tractor gave them a chance to escape — and 'What you've never had, you never miss.'

The value and cost of land now means that there is pressure to ensure that all of the field, even the more marginal parts, is utilised. At one time these would have been valuable sites for wildlife.

Spur to Action

However, despite these alarming declines, all is not doom and gloom. Entry into the national park and the Westmorland Dales project has acted as a stimulus to individuals and groups to act.



A change in grazing regime introducing cattle has enabled these bluebells to flourish



Winter at Orton Church with Howgill Fells

isn't Golden

Surprisingly Orton appears to have become a haven for the red squirrel — something that was never here in the past. The villagers have taken these endearing little creatures to heart, and there are numerous feeding stations. A warden dispatches any intruding greys. The red squirrels seem to coexist with the village cats but the main road, despite all the warning signs, is an endless source of concern. The village is also proving to be a haven for hedgehogs although last year 17 succumbed to the main-road traffic.

Perhaps the area's most encouraging development is the formation of the Orton Fells Farm Cluster (OFFC). This is a grouping of local farms, which includes much of the land surrounding the village. The aim is to consider conservation matters and look to providing wildlife corridors between the various farms. The group is currently funded by a FIPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) scheme and various conservation schemes are currently being considered and prepared. Whilst it is too early to see if this will lead to an increase in curlew numbers, there has been a resurgence of barn and short-eared owls together with kestrels.

The farm cluster has also spawned an associate group of villagers known as OWL — Orton Wildlife and Landscape. This enthusiastic

group considers all aspects of nature, arranges fascinating spring and summer walks and brings in expert speakers. Importantly, the group not only increases wildlife appreciation but assists with farm or village projects such as tree or plug planting. This development linking farm and village for the benefit of wildlife is highly encouraging.

If I'm completely honest, sadly, I don't think I'll ever again go into a field around Orton and be dive-bombed by lapwings, hear the drumming of snipe or the curlew's mournful cry. However, there are encouraging signs in other directions and I think, given goodwill, enthusiasm and perhaps Defra getting its act together, we shall see a resurgence in wildlife around Orton. Why not come and visit us next summer?

Kyle Blue

Kyle is a former trustee, having stepped down on completion of a full six-year term at the 2023 AGM. He continues as an active member of our policy and planning committee.

www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership



Red squirrel on a feeder



The Orton meadows in summer

A Poison Like No Other

Our Living Woods campaign supports more tree planting in the Dales but without the use of plastic tree guards: if these are left in place after their usefulness is over, they will cause long-term pollution of the environment.

If the thought of several million tree guards polluting the Yorkshire Dales worries you, the extraordinary global scale of plastics pollution described in this new book may cause you some sleepless nights.

Objects made from most polymers — including polyethylene, propylene and PVC — will degrade slowly into smaller and smaller pieces. Clothes often contain very fine synthetic fibres such as nylon and polyester and continue to shed them into the environment whenever they are worn, washed, dried or disposed of. No one is clear about how long these little bits will survive, maybe hundreds of years, but these small pieces are the microplastics that present such a threat to planet Earth and its inhabitants.

Microplastics pollute the soil, getting into our crops and livestock, enter watercourses and contaminate our drinking water. They spill into the oceans, entering the marine food chain, and float around in the air we breathe.

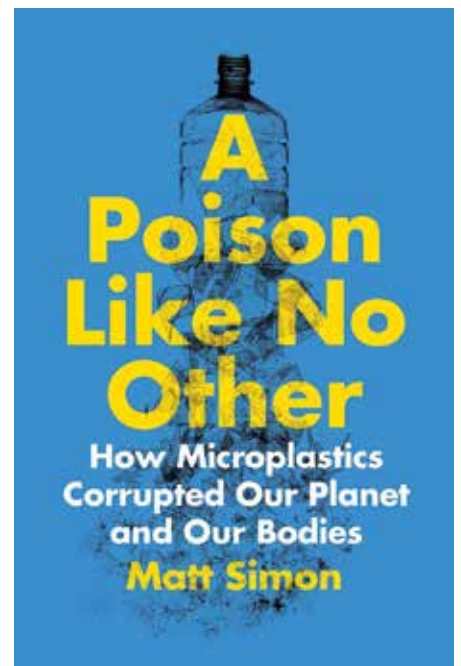
Even the bodies of newborn babies contain them and the effect on our health is only now beginning to be understood. The extent to which this is happening is the frightening detail of this book. The words ‘millions’ and ‘billions’ seem to crop up on every other page and while this becomes a little repetitive, it is nonetheless mind-boggling.

One complaint is the lack of critical evaluation of the data presented or the validity of the science. But issues such as biodiversity loss and climate change resulting from the production and processing of plastics are well referenced without distracting from the main theme.

It is a depressing read, but the final (short) chapter gives some suggestions as to how to resolve the crisis. Greater debate about this, and a survey of current international efforts to address the problems of microplastics, would be welcome additions to a second edition.

If you can bear the overload of data, this relatively short book may make you appreciate how small steps like our Living Woods campaign can help towards a cleaner and more healthy future.

Ken Humphris, trustee



Author: Matt Simon

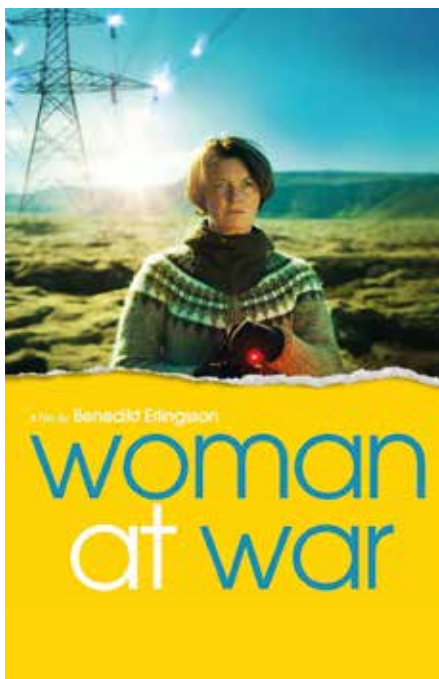
Publisher: Island Press

Price: £21

ISBN: 9781642832358

Woman at War

Film Review



Woman at War is a rebellious, fun and often touching film that follows the story of climate activist Halla, who is attempting to take down the local aluminium industry, while grappling with her own personal and life-changing news.

It is rare, but always refreshing, for a film to be as unshy in its political and social messaging as *Woman at War*, with the very first scene showing Halla sabotaging electricity pylons. From there, it simply gets wackier with Halla journeying through the vastness of the Icelandic landscape, challenging the antagonistic forces of the government and television propaganda, which attempt to diminish her powerful activism. Whilst potent in its messages, mirroring universal global concerns, the film never takes itself too seriously, making it as fun as it is thought-provoking.

As overt as *Woman at War* is about Halla’s eco-activism, it also feels equally involved in her personal storyline surrounding the adoption of a Ukrainian girl, orphaned because of the war. After a strong start, the propaganda elements of the story, along with Halla’s environmental ambitions, do seem to diminish as the film progresses, making the conclusion slightly less impactful than it could have been. Ultimately Halla’s relationship with the adopted girl becomes the most touching aspect of the entire film.

Woman at War is a brave feat of modern cinema, showing that filmmakers are starting to take their stance in the landscape of climate breakdown, depicting how activism and normal life can indeed go hand in hand.

Beatrice Benn, Year 11 pupil at Skipton Girls’ High School



STOP PRESS: NEW BOOKING SYSTEM

All digital talks must now be booked via the online ticketing platform, Eventbrite. This is quick and easy to use, capturing your name and details, sending you a confirmation email and also alerting our Membership & Events Officer of your booking.

The Zoom link for the talk will be sent out via email in the usual way a few days prior to the scheduled talk.

Switching to Eventbrite will save lots of time that can be channelled into promoting our campaigning work.

You can find all our forthcoming digital talks at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Online Talk: Access the Dales

Wednesday, 17 January

4:30pm

Since becoming a wheelchair user in 2011, Debbie North has campaigned tirelessly to break down barriers and promote countryside accessibility for all. She founded the charity Access the Dales, which has the motto 'making the inaccessible accessible' and has raised funds for nine all-terrain wheelchairs that are free to borrow from designated sites across the Dales. Debbie was also appointed a government disability and access ambassador for the countryside in 2022. This talk offers a unique opportunity to learn about the successes and improvements Debbie's campaigning has achieved, along with the challenges still to surmount.

To book visit www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events



Above Kirkby Stephen.
Photo courtesy of Debbie North

Online Talk: Breeding Waders of the Yorkshire Dales

Wednesday, 21 February

4:30pm

In this online talk Ian Court, Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, will outline the status of the key upland breeding wader species and how important areas such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park are for them. He will also look at the current threats, detail the habitat requirements that waders need and summarise some of the conservation work that is being undertaken to protect them. Finally, insight will be offered into how the authority's Nature Recovery Strategy will help to benefit a wide range of habitats and species including breeding waders.

To book visit www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Social Event: Friends 4 Friends

Wednesday, 6 March

11:00am – 3:00pm

Gargrave Village Hall

A social event for members with one caveat – you must bring a 'non-member' friend with you! As we look to the future it is vital that we recruit more members and so what better way to do this than encourage like-minded friends to come along and join us for a membership social comprising welcome refreshments, a short presentation, light complimentary lunch (donations are welcome) and a leisurely three-mile circular walk.

To book email: victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk (stating your name/s and the name of your friend/s)

Catch up via E-News

Sign up to our free monthly e-news and be one of the first to receive 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, X and LinkedIn.



Online Talk: Connecting Young People to the Yorkshire Dales

Wednesday, 20 March

4:30pm

This online talk offers a unique opportunity to meet one of our Creative Campaigners – our group of passionate environmentalists aged 20-30. Ruth Garrett will be talking about the issues close to her heart as well as providing insight into the challenges faced by young people wanting to connect with or live in a national park. In addition to supporting our work, Ruth runs her own film production company, Kittiwake Productions, and is an ambassador for Campaign for National Parks (CNP). Ruth also created a short documentary on sustainable farming featuring a former Friends of the Dales trustee, farmer Anthony Bradley, made possible with a CNP New Perspectives Bursary in 2022.

To book visit www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events



Ruth Garrett. Photo courtesy of Harriet Gardiner, CNP

Catch up on YouTube

If you missed one of our talks first time round, you can watch them on our own YouTube channel: [@friendsofthedales](https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales)

There are more than 20 films – with more being added all the time – on a wide range of environmental subjects covered in our successful digital talks programme. Find out more about everything from raptor persecution in the Yorkshire Dales to the facts about our decimated peatlands to the future of rural bus services.

If you subscribe to the channel you will immediately be notified of all new content additions.



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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.