

Recruitment of Chair of Friends of the Dales

Welcome to Friends of the Dales

We are the only registered membership charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We are a campaigning organisation working to care for and promote the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Dales and the well-being of its local communities.

We have more than 40 years experience in campaigning and taking action on issues of critical importance to the Dales. These include reducing plastic use in tree planting, enhancing biodiversity and supporting the restoration of our biggest carbon sink, our peatlands – plus many others!

Find out more about us here: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk

Our current Chair of Trustees, Bruce McLeod has brought great passion and dedication to the role. Following completion of his three year term (plus an additional year) of office Bruce will be stepping down in at the AGM in September 2023.

Recruitment Process

- **Informal discussions** with current Chair, other trustees, or Ann Shadrake, Executive Director, are encouraged – please email: ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk to arrange.
- There is an opportunity to join an **informal webinar** with the current Chair of the Trustees, Bruce McLeod, Treasurer; Ian Harrison and Executive Director, Ann Shadrake on **Thursday 9 March at 1pm**. This aims to be a friendly ‘non obligatory’ way for interested candidates to find out more about our Charity, the Chair’s role and to ask questions. If you are interested in receiving a Zoom invite for this event please email ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Overview of the role of Chair of Trustees

The Chair is a key figure within the Charity, providing direction, enthusiasm, commitment and drive to the work of the Charity.

This is a high profile role that requires an individual to commit the necessary time and energy. The role of the Chair is to provide leadership to the Board, taking responsibility for ensuring that the Board has agreed priorities, appropriate structures, processes and a productive culture; and has Trustees who are able to govern well and therefore add value to the Charity.

Insight about the role from our current Chair, Bruce McLeod:

“Friends of the Dales has a strong reputation and an excellent track record of more than 40 years in protecting the Yorkshire Dales National Park and encouraging people to value and enjoy them. Over the last few years we have refreshed our strategy, rebranded ourselves, halted the decline in membership, and become a more active, effective and visible campaigning organisation. Challenges remain to get the organisation on a sustainable financial footing; we have healthy reserves but currently run with operational losses, and the outcome of the current government review of National Parks will present opportunities and challenges that we will need to respond to.”

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Person specification

- Capacity to lead, and an ability to relate to people from a range of backgrounds
- Passionate about protected landscapes and the environment; especially the Yorkshire Dales
- An ambassadorial aptitude that will help advance the organisation externally
- Experience in campaigning would be of benefit
- Experience of working with people who identify themselves as belonging to marginalised or minority groups would also be of benefit.

Role description – Core Activities

Likely time commitment is the equivalent of one day per week (voluntary role)

- Shares the same governance responsibilities as other Trustees
- Takes a strategic lead in developing, promoting and representing the Charity in partnership with the Executive Director
- Helps plan and chairs the Trustee board meetings (four meetings per year)
- Chairs the Annual General Meeting (a Saturday in late September)
- Member of Finance & Governance committee and optional attendance at Policy & Planning and Events, Communications & Membership committees
- Acts as a figurehead and spokesperson for the Charity, e.g. representing it with key stakeholders, at functions, meetings or in the press.

Tenure

- 3 years - Annual election at the AGM (and with possibility of extending for a further 3 years)

Further Information about Friends of the Dales

Friends of the Dales is a charitable company limited by guarantee (1822908) and registered as a charity (515384) under our original name of Yorkshire Dales Society. The Charity's Articles of Association were updated and adopted at the 2015 AGM. The Directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Board.

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Trustee and Staff Team:

We are a small charity, having around 1300 members and thousands of supporters across online platforms. We have three staff and a number of dedicated volunteers, and currently 11 Trustees. Together we have a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to campaigning for a sustainable future for the Yorkshire Dales.

<https://friendsofthedales.org.uk/about-us/our-team>

Given our limited executive capacity, Trustees tend to be more hands-on than would be the case in larger organisations.

Interested candidates are invited to:

- Study the material available on our website and social media platforms
- Submit a CV (max 2 pages) together with a covering letter focusing on:
 1. Why would you like to be Chair of Friends of the Dales?
 2. The experience and skills you can bring to this role?
- **Selected candidates** will be invited to an interview with a small panel of Trustees and the Executive Director
- **We are seeking a new Chair now (early 2023) to enable a period of handover from our current Chair, Dr Bruce McLeod, who has held the role for three years and will be standing down at the AGM in September 2023. Reasonable travel expenses are reimbursed under our Volunteer Expenses Policy.**

For more information on our charity's work see our website at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk and social media accounts at:

<https://www.facebook.com/YorkshireDalesSociety>

Twitter: @YDS35

[instagram.com/friendsofthedales/](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofthedales/)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/friends-of-the-dales](https://www.linkedin.com/company/friends-of-the-dales)