

Autumn 2023 : Issue 164

Yorkshire **DALES** review

Positive Action



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Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

Front Cover: Beck on Hill Top Farm, taken at Creative Campaigners launch event. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Carr


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Esther has been involved with Climate Action Ilkley since its inception in 2018. She is also the coordinator of a Culture Declares

Emergency hub for Wharfedale and Airedale



Bess Holt

Bess is a multi-disciplinary designer and musician, making projects about folklore and rural life amongst other subjects. She is often found roaming through the dales and woods recording odd nature sounds



Stephanie Carr

Stephanie is a photography, art and design tutor at Craven College, whose family has farmed in the Dales for generations. She is passionate about environmental change

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The Burning Issue

Wildfires have devastated great swathes of southern Europe this summer, but Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chief Executive David Butterworth hopes that a new determination to safeguard our future will rise from the ashes.

Earlier this year I gave a presentation to the Yorkshire Society on the climate emergency, which highlighted the positive contribution that the historic landscape environment, and cultural heritage more generally, could make towards tackling some of the impacts of climate change. It was an unusual presentation in that the words 'climate emergency' and 'positive contribution' were used in the same sentence.

Following that presentation, I was asked if I might produce something for the *Yorkshire Dales Review*. Of course, I was delighted to do so but the problem I faced was that since that request came in, we appeared to have arrived at a situation where both of Westminster's main political parties are offering an approach to the climate 'emergency' (note the word) that appears at first glance to suggest our approach to this 'emergency' should be along the lines of 'Don't worry about it – someone else (our children/grandchildren?) will sort it.' What is particularly depressing about this alignment of the two parties is that this position was being developed as Europe burned (literally) as a direct consequence of changes in the planet's climate.

The extreme temperatures experienced across parts of Europe this summer have led to some horrendous situations, most notably in Greece, where forest fires have raged. It was heartening to see those countries with large numbers of visitors in Greece leaping into action to repatriate their nationals, in order to escape the terrible situation they were faced with. Watching these events, it was difficult not to wonder what our response will be when there are millions, tens of millions and then hundreds of millions fleeing areas of the planet that are no longer inhabitable, in search of water, food and shelter for themselves and their families. Issues around global migration will be as nothing if we do not tackle the climate emergency with rather more urgency than has hitherto been apparent.



We have known about the future impact of doing too little to address the climate crisis for more than 20 years, yet here we are in 2023 merrily sailing towards our own destruction. It is an extraordinary set of affairs and shows little sign of improving. Quite the opposite, in fact. The UN chief António Guterres has said that the planet is leaving the

threat of global warming and entering an 'era of global boiling'. The world's warmest day occurred on July 6, and the hottest 23 days ever recorded were all that month, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Meanwhile, back in Blighty we had a by-election in the former prime minister's constituency, where the winning party appeared to have secured sufficient votes on the basis that we should continue poisoning ourselves and our children by not taking greater steps to reduce air pollution in our biggest city. In my calmer moments, I look at these developments and wonder if the world has truly gone mad. It appears that we, as a species, are incapable of distinguishing between the things that will secure the future of the planet (serious and immediate action to tackle the climate crisis) versus the short-term impacts of higher inflation. The difference is between the important and the urgent, with the urgent always coming out on top.

So, what hope for the future? Well, I think there is hope and it is twofold. Firstly, those of us of a certain age need to stop prevaricating and decide whether we care sufficiently about the future for our children and grandchildren not looking so good and actually do something to assist future generations in tackling the greatest crisis that humanity has ever faced. Secondly, my hope is that the younger generation will recognise which of its political leaders on the international, national and local stages are genuinely committed to taking the necessary difficult decisions required to secure their future and the future of the planet, and which leaders are not. The hope must be that those who continue to obfuscate and prevaricate will have a very short shelf life.

**David Butterworth, Chief Executive,
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**

Cartoon from CartoonStock, www.cartoonstock.com



Parting of the Ways

The largest nature conservation charity in the UK, the RSPB, has left the Yorkshire Dales Bird of Prey Partnership, which it claims to be ineffective.

However, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and a number of other organisations such as the Moorland Association, which represent the interests of owners of land managed for grouse shooting, could have been seen as uncomfortable bedfellows.

In the spring 2023 issue of the *Review*, our Vice President Colin Speakman wrote that partnership working has been key to the success of the national park authority. However, the RSPB's decision to leave the initiative raises questions about how collaboration can be compromised when stakeholders have differing agendas.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chief Executive David Butterworth, said:

'Whilst we are disappointed to see the RSPB formally withdrawing from the partnership, we're not surprised they have chosen to do so.

'As the largest nature conservation charity in the country they, like us, want to see a change in the fortunes of birds of prey on our moorlands and the ending of persecution incidents.

'And while we have seen some tentatively encouraging results in recent years in terms of successful breeding of hen harriers – thanks to the efforts of a number of local landowners – the sad reality is that we're taking two steps backward every time another persecution incident comes to light.

'Despite their withdrawal from this partnership, it is our intention to continue working closely with the RSPB on conservation initiatives in the national park.'

In May, Natural England announced that a tagged hen harrier had been found dead at Outhgill in Mallerstang. His injuries were consistent with killing by human hands.

If you are concerned about a possible wildlife crime, call 101. If you witness a suspected incident, ring 999 and ask for the police.

Shooting Licences to End

United Utilities will be restoring 6,000 of the 56,000 hectares of land in its ownership for nature and biodiversity.

The company provides water for the North West including parts of Cumbria in the Yorkshire Dales. It also announced in July that it would be extending work to improve catchment resilience on a further 12,000 hectares. This includes plans not to renew around 20 licences for game bird shooting when they come to an end.

The company says that it will work with local communities to minimise the impact on livelihoods and maximise the opportunities available.

Would You Like to be More Involved in the Charity's Activities?

Our committees are a mix of trustees and member volunteers. We aim for a wide spread of experience and knowledge. Time commitment is around 1–2 days per month. Topics are discussed by email, in small task groups and at quarterly meetings, usually held near our office in Gargrave. We currently have vacancies on the following:

Policy & Planning Committee (quarterly meetings usually on Wednesday mornings) – one volunteer, ideally with a particular knowledge and interest in development policies and planning in a national park and/or with biodiversity expertise.

Events, Communication & Membership Committee (quarterly meetings usually on Wednesday mornings) – one or two volunteers, with an interest in marketing, media and/or helping with events.

Reaching New Heights

To celebrate two years of sociable walking together, members of Broughton Road Women's Group from Skipton and Ann Shadrake, Executive Director, Friends of the Dales, visited Malham this summer.

Ann said, 'I've been promising everyone a longer, more strenuous walk, taking in the 400+ stone steps to the top of Malham Cove, for at least a year. A couple of times we've had to switch to a Plan B at the last minute, as wet weather makes the limestone and mud at the top of the steps incredibly slippery. But finally on 15 June we completed our walk in fabulous sunshine. We had a picnic on the top then wended our way down across fields and quiet lanes – a really lovely day out.'

Members of Broughton Road Women's Group with Ann Shadrake, right, on Malham Cove



New Events Booking System

We are now using the *Eventbrite* online ticketing platform for all our digital talks. Find out how you can use it to book a place on page 23.



A Man of Principle

We were saddened to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of our Deputy Chair, Wilf Fenten, in August. Many of us have fond memories of working alongside this committed campaigner for national parks and protected landscapes. Chair Bruce McLeod and trustee Nancy Stedman describe the difference he made.

I met Wilf when his wife, Hilary, was Chair of Craven CPRE. His enthusiasm and courteousness, as well as an often wicked sense of humour, were irresistible. My partner, Naomi, and I found ourselves invited to read poetry at their lovely house in Selside and to attend the Quaker meeting in Airton, where Wilf eventually became Clerk. Later Hilary encouraged me to consider becoming Chair of Friends of the Dales. Wilf supported this by generously offering to be Deputy Chair to lighten the possible burden for me. Wilf was both a friend and role model. His efficiency, encouraging and ebullient manner and an attention to detail (grammar mattered to him, the result of his career as a translator) made him a brilliant committee chair and trustee.

Behind the sing-song voice and the cheery smile was, however, a steely commitment to his principles. He sought and fought for a truly sustainable and biodiverse future for the Dales. He was unstinting in voicing the need for public transport, responsible tourism and a high-wage, low-carbon economy. He drew on his vast experience of working with European national parks and protected landscapes to offer alternatives for our beleaguered national parks and often lacklustre policies. His convictions were rooted in the spiritual guidance and love he drew from Quakerism. His vision and wholly benign presence will be deeply missed.

I wrote to Wilf after the last policy & planning committee he chaired (July 26) to thank him for his support on a specific issue and to ask for advice. In his response he referred to his work on tourism in protected areas of Europe, characteristically humble, pragmatic and unapologetically radical. In that last email he wrote:

'A decade ago I helped produce the starter guide for sustainable tourism (brought copies along yesterday). It was then considered ahead of its time and challenging. It's now fit for recycling. The world has moved on. Indeed, we need to be much more bullish.'

Amen.

Bruce McLeod, Chair



A Wider Perspective

I first met Wilf when we both served on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – he as a parish representative, I as a Secretary of State appointee.

I soon learnt to respect his judgement and admire his enthusiasm in national park matters. He and Hilary became good friends of mine; we would visit galleries, go for walks, pick blackberries together. We shared many meals, sometimes at my place but more often sitting chatting for hours in their kitchen in Selside. Of German origin, I learnt that he first came to England on a cycling holiday when he was 17 and liked it so much he stayed. He was what I would call pan-European, with an open mind, finding parochial attitudes very frustrating.

He was always so committed, caring passionately about the landscape and the people who lived and worked in it. He spoke clearly and emphatically on issues close to his heart; if anything, he took things too much to heart. We both served on the planning committee for many years, and often we would have to relax with a glass of wine, to recover from long and taxing meetings. I always valued his views and welcomed the opportunities to talk over contentious issues with him.

He subsequently used his planning experience to good effect when he became a Trustee of Friends of the Dales by chairing the policy & planning committee. He proved a fine leader, organising the review and expansion of the organisation's policy statements, as well as dealing patiently and meticulously with responses to a wide range of planning applications.

He was also a key figure in the small group in Ribblesdale that identified the need to capture local archives and make them freely available online. Working with a couple of colleagues, he managed to raise the funds to achieve this, with the creation of the website www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk. On becoming a trustee, he continued to supervise 'Capturing the Past' to ensure its development as a significant and wide-reaching resource.

He was particularly pleased at how he had been able to encourage national parks across Europe to adopt more sustainable ways of working. Only recently he presented me with a copy of *Practical, Profitable, Protected: a Starter Guide to Developing Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas*. He made a major contribution on these issues over his many years as Director of Europarc Consulting, and this publication is a worthy legacy. Through this work he visited many European protected landscapes and made many friends.

He was always generous with his time and was one of those people who always gave you his full attention. He will be sorely missed.

Nancy Stedman, trustee

Creative Campaigners

Youth Engagement



We recently launched Creative Campaigners, a new volunteer network for people aged 20-30 years who live locally and are interested in actively and creatively contributing to our environmental campaigns. The launch day was held at the end of July in Malham, focused around a bespoke guided tour of Hill Top Farm with indoor sessions at Malham Village Hall.

The launch day was co-planned and facilitated on the day by Saima Bibi and Ruth Garrett, who are also volunteer Ambassadors for Campaign for National Parks (CNP). Bess Holt, a Dales based multi-disciplinary designer and musician, led a creative zine making workshop at the end of the day. By working with our new team of volunteer Creative Campaigners, we hope to build close working relationships so that we can better understand the viewpoints of younger people and bring more diverse voices to our campaigning work. Trustee Mohammed Dhalech attended the launch day and shares his impressions:

Creative Campaigners launch day at Hill Top Farm, 29 July 2023. Left to Right: Mohammed Dhalech, trustee, Jonny Cunningham, Ruth Garrett, Bess Holt, Josh Burge, Neil Heseltine, Esther Abramson, Leigh Weston, Charlotte Mudd, Stephanie Carr and Breeze the dog. Photo courtesy of Harriet Gardiner



'What came through in conversations I had during the day was the diversity and the different lifestyles the Creative Campaigners came from, and the passion the young people had for this work.'

'This is the beginning of a journey for Friends of the Dales. Effective youth engagement needs to be a priority for the charity, working with young people going into the future. Creative Campaigners can help empower young people to become a positive voice for change in their communities and for Friends of the Dales.'



Zine-making workshop. Photo courtesy of Harriet Gardiner

Harriet Gardiner Senior Communications Officer, Campaign for National Parks

Harriet joined us as a guest, and fed back to colleagues at CNP who are supporting national youth engagement activities.

'I couldn't have asked for better company on my first trip to the Yorkshire Dales. It was such a pleasure to meet every single participant and chat about the future of campaigning and the future they'd like to see. The visit to Hill Top Farm inspired genuine, insightful conversation, and there was a real buzz in the air – not just from the thriving nature that calls the farm home.'

'I enjoyed the day thoroughly and can't wait to see the contributions from the cohort.'

Bess Holt

'It was so lovely to meet everyone and have some really interesting conversations. Running the workshop was a pleasure and a really fun opportunity to have. I was so happy that people were really into it and it made my day when we all started sharing each other's ideas and thoughts behind each zine.'



Bess Holt captures memories of the day by sketching as the wind blows a gale. Photo courtesy of Steph Carr

Photo courtesy of Bess Holt



'This is the sketch I was doing at the time Steph took my photo – we were talking about the process and age of dry-stone walls.' Image courtesy of Bess Holt



Charlotte Mudd

'I'm from a farming family in the Yorkshire Dales and I love the farm – the land, the animals, the culture, the history and the freedom – but haven't been able to see myself in the future as a "traditional" farmer in the way it is currently practised by many.'

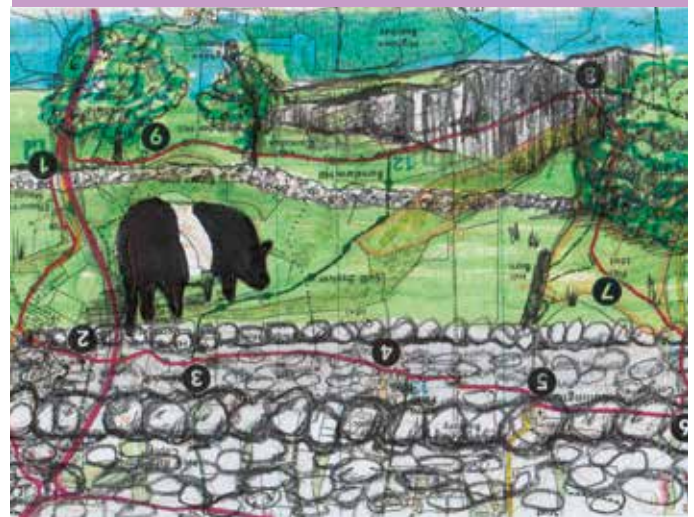
'The key message I took away from the Creative Campaigners' visit to Hill Top Farm is that there is no right way to farm – each farm is individual due to the land it sits on and the person it's farmed by and his or her values. Farming doesn't have to be high-input – in terms of time, labour or money – to be profitable. Animals can be farmed in a hands-off, low-input way that lets the animals display their natural behaviours and live a semi-wild and natural existence. Biodiversity change and improvement can happen quite quickly.'

'After visiting Hill Top Farm a couple of times now, my eyes have been opened to another way of farming that I would be interested in. This has given me hope for the future.'



'I made this word search with some words that came up throughout our visit to Hill Top Farm. Starting with the negative phrase "global boiling" that I heard at the start of the day and from that phrase I've written positive words that were mentioned throughout the day.' Image courtesy of Charlotte Mudd

A view from Hill Top Farm including the dry-stone walls, a Belted Galloway cow and Malham Cove in the background (drawn on a map). Image courtesy of Charlotte Mudd



Esther Abramson



'Page from zine: tiny pools of rural life can project waves of change.'
Image courtesy of Esther Abramson

'Dearest Dales,

'I attended the Creative Campaigners event hosted by your friends last Saturday. I felt grateful and inspired to spend time with passionate, like-minded people. Caring about the wellbeing of the planet can sometimes feel like a lonely endeavour, so connection and community are really important. Connection was definitely present throughout the day. Connection with fellow young Creative Campaigners wanting to contribute to a better future. With the wildlife, through noticing the insects buzzing around the wildflowers and stroking Bella, the beautiful, fellow introvert, hand-reared Belted Galloway cow. Connection with the land and its history through treading the same footpaths as the people who used to trek up to the dairy barns for milking, and the realisation that many of our towns and cities have been named after their natural features. Bradford, for example, is the old English for broad ford in reference to Bradford Beck.

'"Nature is at the forefront of everything we do," said Neil, and you can totally see this reflected at you when you wander through Hill Top Farm. Neil and Leigh have a responsive approach to the land and the life it harbours, adapting their decisions based not solely on their own needs but on the needs of the wildlife. I see their work to transform farming as a microcosm for the transformation that we need to see reflected at all levels of society – a transformation of our relationship to the earth and where we place its value. Its value is not monetary. Its value is not in aesthetics. So what is its value? My heart tells me its value is intrinsic. The way we organise our society does not. I can't help but think the pain we inflict on the planet is pain we are inflicting on ourselves.

'With love, a friend'

Stephanie Carr

Editor's note:
The front cover of this edition of Yorkshire Dales Review was taken by Steph Carr during the walk at Hill Top Farm.

'I felt the day was a success. It was great to meet others with similar interests and passion for change. For me, the day got me thinking not only about the environment, but about the social and emotional aspects involved in making sustainable changes in a rural area.

Small rural communities can hold strong traditions and "ways of life" and it takes courage to step up and make changes, especially if many are reluctant to make those changes too. We all know that farming is physically challenging, but I had never really considered the psychological aspects and the mental challenges.

'My family have lived and farmed in the Dales for generations and the Creative Campaigner launch has got me thinking about exploring my own links to the area. I think it would be a fantastic opportunity to also document and explore those willing to "roll the dice and change the landscape". I have ideas for documentary photography and film going forward in hope of raising awareness and creating something thought-provoking.'

Jonny Cunningham

'I would say the best parts were seeing the Belties up close, making the artwork at the end and seeing things that I wasn't familiar with eg the Dove's-foot Cranesbill.'

Image courtesy of Jonny Cunningham.



Getting to the Roots of the Problem



A wet day out for Bruce and the team at Mark Corner's woodland. Photo courtesy of Victoria Benn

We need to rethink our whole approach to woodland creation, writes Chair Bruce McLeod.

I am conflicted over collecting plastic tree guards. On the one hand, the mess must be cleaned up and it can be – as with our recent 'day out' for staff, trustees and volunteers at Mark Corner's woodland – a satisfying, unifying and enjoyable endeavour. On the other hand, the manufacturer, along with whomever installed them, should be doing the job (under the *polluter pays* principle).

Earlier this year I embarked on a solo mission, collecting a few hundred from around Otterburn whilst thinking things like, 'Will Tubex (and others) recycle these damned fiddly black ties? Shouldn't I collect all these treated stakes? Will their decomposition release chemicals? Why are so many of the young trees deformed?' (Most commonly they have a kink where they emerge from the tube.)

I took my (plastic) dumpy bags full of tubes to the collection hub in Skipton organised by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. A very large trailer load of bags was being unloaded. My comparatively measly haul was surveyed; then came the joking query: 'Is that all you've got?'

Well, yes and no.

Collecting and disposing of litter is vital. But our campaign against plastic tree guards is not about collecting and recycling, which excuses new plastic tubes entering the countryside. We aim to break this cycle and take degradation out of woodland creation. Hence the rebranding of the campaign to Living Woods: for woodlands to be truly alive (as with peat bogs and roadside verges), their antithesis – that which stops them realising their full potential – must be banished (whether that be plastic, chemicals, monocultural planting, drainage, overgrazing, burning or cutting at the wrong time of year).

Therefore, living woods – biodiverse, ecologically complex, biocide-free – have nothing to do with the economy of the fossil fuel industry that makes plastic, nor the recycling industry. A recent report concluded that the toxic risk from plastic is *actually higher* after recycling. Dr Therese Karlsson, a scientific adviser with the International Pollutants Elimination Network, said: 'The science clearly shows that plastic recycling is a toxic endeavour with threats to our health and the environment all along the recycling stream.'

Adding insult to injury, less than 10% of plastics are recycled in the UK (Greenpeace) and over 50% of household plastics are sent

abroad. Collection and recycling are, I believe, signs of misguided and polluting practices. They are signs of failure: of failing nature.

Rather than the economy of plastics, pollution and profits, we urgently need to apply a *circular* economy to woodland creation (and to peat bogs). The Ellen MacArthur Foundation bases this economy on three principles: 1) eliminate waste and pollution; 2) circulate products and materials (at their highest value); 3) regenerate nature. A circular economy is underpinned not by fossil fuels but by a transition to renewable energy.

Friends of the Dales will continue to offer opportunities for volunteers, working with partners, to collect plastic tree guards. This is a great way to shine a light on the issue. However, we will also campaign on a wider platform against overly engineered and packaged nature in favour of regeneration supported by responsible and sustainable practices.

Bruce McLeod, Chair

Our Vice President Mark Corner explored alternative methods of tree planting in the summer 2023 issue of the Review. Find out more in the Plastic Free Woodlands video on our YouTube channel.

Homes, Hostel & Hostelry: a Self-Help Success Story



Giving a redundant parish church a new lease of life is the latest venture by enterprising volunteers in Swaledale, who have already opened Yorkshire's first community pub and built three affordable homes for residents. Hudswell Community Charity Secretary Martin Booth tells how their efforts are helping to keep the village thriving.

The Yorkshire Dales are a great place to visit, but those of us who are lucky enough to live here also face some issues. These were set out in the North Yorkshire Rural Commission report, published in July 2021. They include a lack of affordable housing; the loss of amenities including pubs and schools; young families having to leave the area for work and housing; poor digital connectivity and a population that is increasingly dominated by elderly people. Another finding was that there are places in the national park where communities themselves have chosen to take action to combat these trends. One such place is Hudswell, which lies in the north-east corner of the park, just outside Richmond. Hudswell has succeeded in bucking the trend of being dominated by holiday and second homes and losing young families. It has far more children now than it did 10 years ago.

Hudswell has just over 100 houses situated on a bank above the River Swale, strung out for about a mile along Hudswell Lane. At the centre lies the George and Dragon pub. This closed in 2008 and it was this closure and the consequent campaign to reopen it as a community pub that was the impetus for the community action that has characterised the village for the last 15 years. The pub was



Main image: Hudswell Church. Photo by Dimitrios Corcodilos

[All other photos courtesy of Martin Booth]

Inset: Villagers outside the George and Dragon.

bought and reopened by villagers in 2010. It was the first community pub in Yorkshire. By 2016 it was chosen as the best pub in the UK by Campaign for Real Ale members. The pub is owned by Hudswell Community Pub Ltd – a community benefit society – but let to a tenant to run. The pub also contains, with its own separate entrance onto the road, the village shop, run as a separate business by HCP Ltd and staffed by volunteers.

In addition to HCP, the village also has a long-established village charity that has owned and managed three properties let to local residents for the past 100 years. In 2016 the trustees (all villagers) resolved to build three more on land that they owned, using their reserves and a loan from Charity Bank. These were built in 2017. Currently these six



The dig

houses provide homes at affordable rents for four young families and two elderly single people. All have strong local connections, having lived in the village previously or having close family members who live here. Such has been the demand for these properties that the charity decided to build three more. Planning permission and funding is now in place for three eco-homes that will be highly adaptable and extremely energy efficient. These will be built next year.



Young volunteers



Hudswell community houses

Facilities for Visitors and Residents

The charity's most recent and most challenging project has been to find a new use for the village's redundant parish church. This Victorian church was closed by the Church of England in 2018, when the village was informed that it would be sold on the open market unless the local community could find a new use for it. The charity resolved to take on this challenge. The village already had a village hall, and the church – situated on the western end of the village, set well back from the road and surrounded by a working cemetery – did not lend itself to conversion to apartments. After a lot of research and consultation with the villagers, the trustees concluded that the best option to secure its future is to convert it to a hostel for walkers and cyclists. This proposal will:

- preserve this much-valued local asset, which contains important heritage features
- secure public access to the building in local ownership and control
- provide high-quality hostel accommodation in a beautiful setting, which will attract visitors who will use the village shop and pub
- provide an additional facility to be used by the village as a meeting and activity space, hot desking for home workers and accommodation for visiting family and friends who cannot be accommodated in villagers' own homes

This proposal has received planning consent and grant aid support from trusts and local and central government. Much more funding is needed as repairing and converting a listed building with no road access, no water and sewage connection and no heating system is expensive. You can find out more at www.daleshostel.com

These projects are all interrelated and help to foster a 'can-do' attitude and generate enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved. The most recent example of this was the community archaeological dig, which took place on land in front of the church and may have uncovered the remains of an earlier church. Over 40 villagers, including many children, turned up to help scrape away the soil, directed by two archaeologists who live in Hudswell. Work on this is ongoing – who knows what we might find out about our Hudswell predecessors?

Martin Booth, Secretary, Hudswell Community Charity

MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

Addingham Environment Group shows what is possible with ideas, volunteers and enthusiasm.

Mark Twain said, 'There's no such thing as a new idea...' and there doesn't need to be if we share the great ideas and examples of inspirational practice that are already out there.

This was the premise behind our community event in July, *Making Space for Nature*, run in collaboration with the progressive Addingham Environment Group. Set up in 2016 by the village civic

society, its principal aim from the outset has been to protect, enhance (and, in some cases, restore) the natural environment of the village and surrounding countryside. It also aims to help the local community look after its natural environment and work towards a sustainable lifestyle.

Participants at the event came from a wide range of village communities and local environment groups, all keen to learn more. The event opened with an informative introduction led by our Vice President, Professor Rick Battarbee, one of the founding

members of the group. Following this there was the opportunity to join one of two comprehensive walks: Making Space for Nature in Green Spaces led by Jan Hindle and Making Space for Nature in Water led by Professor Battarbee.

With more than 300 members and 100 active volunteers, the group has already made a significant difference to the nature and biodiversity around the village. These pages show some of the group's inspirational achievements:

1 Memorial Recreation Ground

- working with the parish council to improve wildlife habitat
- planted over 150 native trees and shrubs (birch, field maple, hazel, rowan, guelder rose, elder and dogwood)
- created a small orchard of apple and pear trees
- changed the mowing regime to create areas of wildflower grassland around the edge of the recreation ground and football pitch



2 Church Field

- working with St Peter's Church to monitor water quality, fish and invasive signal crayfish populations in Town Beck
- planted alder and willow saplings along the banks to improve riparian habitat and create shade for brown trout
- working with the church to manage the field to allow wildflowers to grow and set seed followed by grass cutting and removal in late summer



3 Ferryman's Green

- working with residents to create a wildflower-rich verge. Cutting regime changed this summer to one late cut, with grass paths mown through



4 Suspension Bridge, River Wharfe

- working with the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust to monitor water quality in the River Wharfe
- surveyed for nutrient chemistry, faecal bacteria, diatoms and invertebrates



5 Olicana and Wine Beck

- working with Olicana Caravan Park to improve wildlife habitat and water quality
- removing invasive Himalayan balsam to allow native wildflowers to flourish
- monitored faecal bacteria populations in Wine Beck





6 School Wildflowers

- working with primary school and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to establish a mini-wildflower meadow
- children helped sow the seed and planted plug plants during a whole school 'Pollinator Week'
- autumn term enrichment activity delivered on the wildlife value of traditional meadow management, including demonstrating use of an Austrian scythe



7 School Jubilee Wetland

- working with the primary school to create a wetland nature reserve
- established eight wetland scrapes and two wildlife ponds, including a safety fence around the deeper pond
- built a wildlife hide and tables for pond-dipping studies



8 Old First School Site

- monitoring wildlife populations in the former school site, now rewilding
- counting bee and butterfly numbers monthly throughout the summer. Sightings include the rare white-letter hairstreak

9 Methodist Church Graveyard

- working with the Methodist church to create a wildflower meadow and wildlife-friendly margins
- planted native oak and beech saplings to replace ash trees suffering from dieback



10 Craven Crescent Green

- working with residents, Incommunities and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to establish a people- and nature-friendly village green space
- planted 50m of hedge with a mixture of native species including hazel, hawthorn, field maple, holly and honeysuckle
- sowed wildflower seed, including yellow rattle, and planted plug plants
- created a small wet meadow area
- grass paths and a picnic area cut through the summer

11 Town Beck Riparian Zone

- working with residents, created a small riparian zone
- surveyed freshwater invertebrates
- planted hawthorn, alder and birch

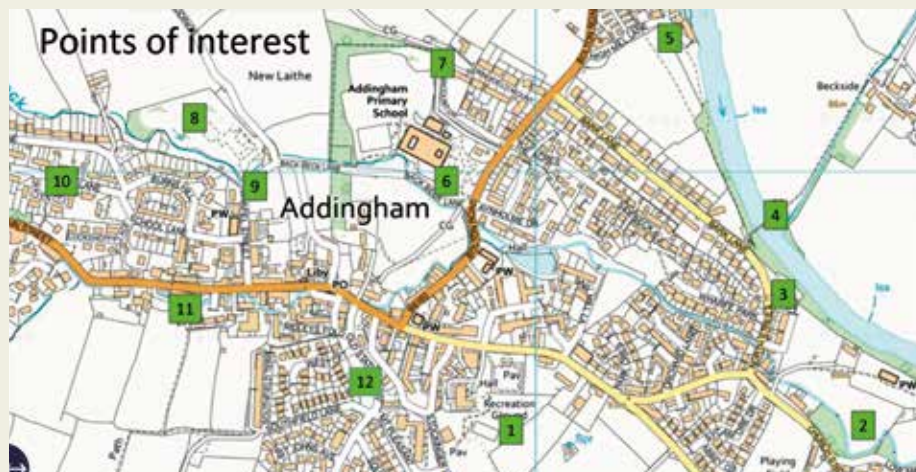
12 Old Station Way Meadow

- working with Bradford Council to create a wildflower, pollinator-friendly meadow
- sowed wildflower seed, including yellow rattle, and planted plug plants, such as cowslip, red campion, ox-eye daisy, knapweed and betony
- monitoring bee and butterfly populations
- Bradford Council cut the meadow and remove the grass in the early autumn and mow the margins and grass paths through the summer.



Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer, and Professor Rick Battarbee, Vice President

For further information about how to set up and structure an environment group or how to involve your local community, you can download Professor Battarbee's Making Space for Nature presentation at: friendsofthedaes.org.uk/events/archive



Art With Intent

Sculpture and ceramics by artists Mark and Emmeline Butler explore the beauty of the Dales and the threats facing them. Membership & Events Officer Victoria Benn explains how they have also minimised the carbon footprint of their work.

Many of us, whilst endeavouring to reduce our environmental impact, might apply our principles with a degree of flexibility, perhaps stretching them a little when their rigidity becomes inconvenient. For others, like the artists Mark and Emmeline Butler,

environmentalism and the desire to 'use' as little carbon as possible has become a way of life, with everything carefully evaluated against a clear environmental code.

'We've done everything we can think of on a personal level to make our lives have the least impact on the environment,' says Mark. 'However, I am very conscious that working in steel and recycled bronze demands I use heat, and steel production is a high carbon emitter. The obvious thing would be to move away from such materials, but these are the materials that speak to me as an artist, so instead I have chosen to reduce them as

much as I possibly can and then use my art as a way of speaking about the things that matter to me most.'

Indeed, a quick check of Mark's website elucidates the steps he has taken to reduce his carbon footprint; he also subscribes to a carbon offsetting organisation. Yet by far the most impressive contribution to environmentalism is made through Mark's work, which beautifully and succinctly highlights innumerable issues around habitat destruction and the fragility of nature in the Yorkshire Dales, in a way that words, photos and raw statistics never could.

Veined limestone orb - Emmeline Butler



Moorland Burning





Rising from the Ashes

'Ash is the predominant native tree of the Dales yet because of human influence, only 1% of the Dales is currently covered by semi-natural ancient woodland and 80% of that is ash,' says Mark. 'So ash dieback means we will lose most of the few trees we have left. My *Ash Maps* series is about reflecting and communicating this in a visual, powerful way.'

The five *Ash Maps* in the series – detailing Barden Bridge, north Grassington, Skirethorns, Conistone with Kilnsey and Settle – are beautiful, arresting pieces that demand further discussion. A skilled map maker – Mark previously worked for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as a GIS (geographic information system) officer – his initial step was the transformation of the chosen locale into a 'rust print' or type of etching on thick paper. Next, the locations of ash trees were marked by gunpowder which Mark 'exploded', burning the paper to signify the trees' historical footprint and subsequent death from ash dieback. The final addition of specks of gold leaf becomes a hopeful, beautiful detail, indicating the 5-10% of the trees which are predicted to survive through genetic diversity.



Mark says: 'Whilst many trees growing alongside public footpaths have been felled for public safety, they were felled because of a disease imported to this country by humans – so we are directly responsible for their demise.'

Clearly not afraid to stand up for his beliefs, another of Mark's series, entitled *Moorland Burning*, 'represents the destruction of the peat and other things you might not necessarily see'. He also has an extension to his *Endangered Species* project in the pipeline, exploring through cast bronze and words (in collaboration with poets and writers) the plight of several critically endangered species such as curlew, red squirrel and cloud spider.

Less vehement but equally thoughtful and responsive to nature are Emmeline Butler's ceramics, which also take the landscape and sensory textures of the Yorkshire Dales as their inspiration. Working in 'gritty' clay, Emmeline uses sodium silicate whilst throwing her pots to encourage them to naturally crack and fissure. 'It feels like a very organic process as the clay does what it wants to do, and I try to respond to that. I like working with that element of unpredictability and also enjoy that every pot comes out a little differently.'

Finishes of purple, grey, brown, black and moody blue reflect the beauty of the cracked limestone pavements, tree bark, peat moorlands and glistening rivers and streams of the Yorkshire Dales.

Ever mindful of the environmental impacts of creating her artwork, Emmeline reuses all her waste clay material to make new work and she ensures that she always fills the kiln to capacity before firing her work. The kiln is electric, previously run using deep green electricity, but with newly installed solar panels the kiln will also now be powered in part by the sun.

Mark's work can be seen at The Folly, Settle, 7 October - 3 January 2024, and both Mark's and Emmeline's work can be viewed in their Grassington home at the winter North Yorkshire Open Studios event from 2 - 3 December.

Mark and Emmeline have also 'declared emergency' with Culture Declares Emergency, a growing movement of individuals and organisations involved in arts and culture who are declaring a climate and ecological emergency. Members pledge to contribute to creating a regenerative future that protects the planet and sustains everyone: www.culturedeclares.org/

Victoria Benn,
Membership & Events Officer

More information at
www.msbutlersculptor.co.uk
www.emmelinebutler.co.uk

Clockwise from bottom left:
Fractured Landscape
Conistone - part of the Ash Dieback series
Barden Bridge - part of the Ash Dieback series
Moorland Tracks - Emmeline Butler
Mark and Emmeline





Fly Fishing – a Life on the River

Daubenton's bat is one of the priority species listed in the Yorkshire Dales Nature Recovery Plan. Emeritus Professor of Ecology and Conservation John Altringham looks at the extraordinary lifestyle of this tiny mammal and what we can do to help it thrive.



Daubenton's bat foraging over a river. Photo courtesy of Frank Greenaway
All other photos courtesy of John Altringham

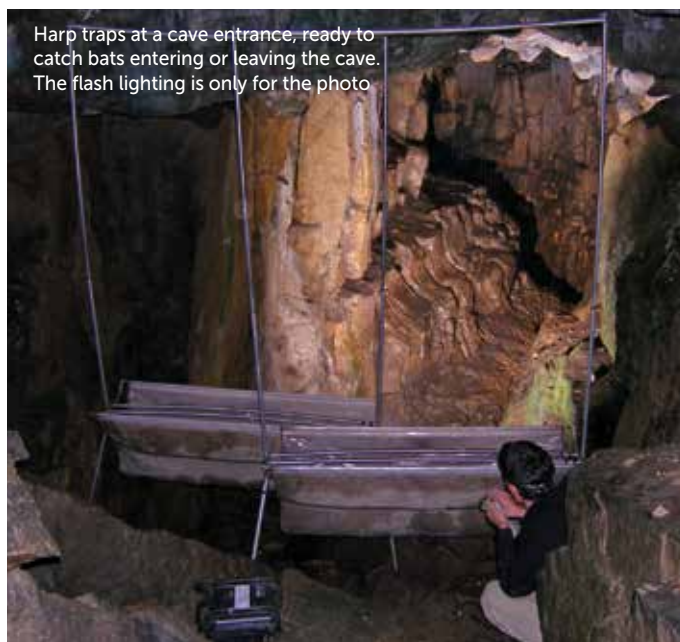
As many as 12 species of bat live in the Yorkshire Dales and my research group has studied most of them – but Daubenton's bats received particular attention. Because they rarely roost or feed far from water, we were able to build up a very detailed picture of their long and complex lives along the River Wharfe over many years using techniques from radiotracking to population genetics. What follows barely scratches the surface.

Daubenton's bats weigh in at 8-14g, much the same size as a shrew. So you might expect them to have similar, short, busy but uncomplicated

lives, lucky to see their first birthdays and very rarely reaching their second. However, the ability to fly has enabled bats to evolve lifestyles comparable to those of very much larger mammals. There are Daubenton's bats flying in Wharfedale now that I first captured and ringed over 20 years ago. I may have ringed one as it emerged from a summer roost by the river in Ilkley and recaptured it on an autumn night years later, leaving one of the old lead mines high on Buckden Pike. In between, our bat has led a varied life. The best way to describe it is to start in the nursery colony on the June day it was born.



Daubenton's bat hibernating in an old lime kiln



Harp traps at a cave entrance, ready to catch bats entering or leaving the cave. The flash lighting is only for the photo



Separate Summers

The nursery colony is in a large hole in an old ash, overhanging the river somewhere between Ilkley and Grassington. The 60 females in the colony moved there a few days ago from a roost in the stonework of one of the Wharfe's old stone bridges. Every night the bats forage for insects, flying just above the water surface, using echolocation to track their prey. Each female has given birth to a single pup that will be fed on mother's milk until it can fly at about three weeks old, when it will learn to catch insects for itself. There are several nursery colonies below Grassington before the river leaves the park and many more further downstream. Further upriver the summer nights are often cool, wet and windy and females can't catch enough food to meet the energy demands of pregnancy and lactation. Most of the female offspring will stay with the colony they were born into for the rest of their lives – perhaps 20-30 years.

Almost all the males will leave in their first autumn. Some will spend their summers roosting in smaller groups a little distance from the nursery to avoid competition for food. At Grassington, the small nursery colony tolerates a few males in the summer, possibly for warmth on the cooler nights. Many of the males move upriver and spend their summers in bachelor groups as high as Yockenthwaite. On nights when it's too wild to feed they go into torpor to conserve energy, an option not open to nursing females. Males are also faithful to their summer roosts but can be a little more nomadic than females.

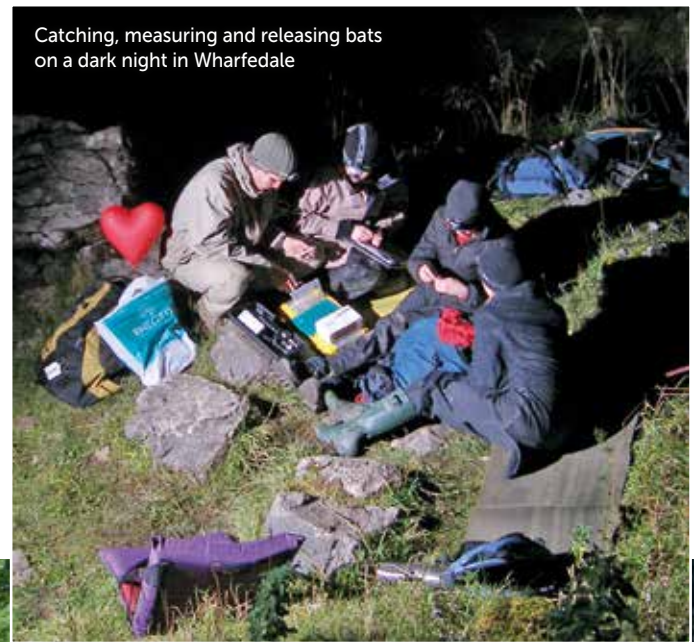
Males and females are therefore largely segregated in summer, but they come together in autumn and winter, when most hibernate underground. The Dales are rich in natural limestone caves and abandoned lead mines and Daubenton's bats begin visiting them to mate in late summer. As winter sets in, more and more of them stay underground, to sleep out the winter. In the cool, humid and stable cave interior, a few grams of stored fat will keep a torpid bat alive until spring. Most individuals return to the same cave year after year. Wharfedale bats stay primarily within the Wharfe catchment, but a few go much further afield. We have caught Daubenton's bats ringed in Lancashire and the Lake District at Yorkshire caves.

Habitat Protection

There are far fewer bats in Wharfedale now than 100 years ago, but it's impossible to know how many have been lost. Roosts have been lost to insensitive building and bridge restoration, mismanagement of riverbank trees and, in recent years, ash dieback. Bankside trees and other vegetation also provide sheltered, insect-rich feeding areas over the river. Sewage discharge and chemical run-off from farms pollute the river and destroy the insects bats feed on. Lighting scares bats away from feeding areas and disrupts normal insect behaviour. The windier and wetter summers predicted to come with climate change hamper foraging.

Making things better for bats means fighting climate change and biodiversity loss. On a local scale it means restoring riparian habitat, cleaning up rivers and making the nights dark again – all of which benefit all wildlife. On an individual level, we can stop using pesticides and herbicides: almost all are shown to damage the environment eventually. Keep your cats indoors – they kill large and ecologically important numbers of bats and other animals. And join a local bat group so that you can help with local surveys and education.

John Altringham, Emeritus Professor of Ecology and Conservation, University of Leeds



Catching, measuring and releasing bats on a dark night in Wharfedale



Putting mist nets up across the River Wharfe to catch Daubenton's bats

Farmer Joys



Haymaking in Hole Bottom meadow, 1940. Anthony, last of the Farmer Joys, is standing on top of the hay sledge

Below, David Joy on land in Hebden Gill farmed by past generations of his family



After many a year campaigning for the Dales, a fresh perspective is taken by author David Joy. He looks back at times good and bad for his farming family and what has become of their Hebden farms today.

Farmer Joys of former times eked out a living for over 200 years at one of the most remote farmsteads in Wharfedale. East of Hebden was a great bowl in the hills that today is a gathering ground for Grimwith Reservoir. Hidden from the outside world on its western flanks was Rams Close, where successive Joys were truly self-sufficient. They kept their own cattle for beef and milk, sheep for mutton, and chickens and geese for their eggs. Hay was grown in flower-rich meadows stretching down to the river and vegetables came from their own garden.

It took a long time for the Industrial Revolution to affect Rams Close, but the results were dramatic. By the Victorian age, Bradford was fast heading towards its role as wool capital of the world. Soon smothered in smoke belched forth by mill chimneys, it was running short of water and began to look to sources in the Dales. The result was the first reservoir at Grimwith, its name a portent of sad times at Rams Close. The farm lost its best bottom land and what today would be called sustainability.

Young farmer Joys forced to move included Anthony and his wife Maria, who took the tenancy of Garnshaw Farm in more sheltered surroundings west of Hebden. Here their four sons and four daughters grew up in a farmhouse that must have been cramped in the extreme. Problems lay beneath the surface into the 1850s, but achieving a good life was helped by boom times in Hebden with its lead mines producing hitherto untold riches.

Bitter Strife

Tensions finally erupted on the death of Anthony in 1860. Issues over inheritance became so divisive that it was decided the only way forward was to auction the livestock, followed by the entire contents of the farmhouse. The cash could then be divided equally between all concerned. It was a sorry turn of events, but at least the resulting auction provides a unique record of life on a Dales farm in mid-Victorian times. At 73 hectares (180 acres) it was larger than average.

Thirty head of cattle, 270 sheep and four horses – essential for all transport – were



Garnshaw Farm, Hebden, scene of a bitter Joy family dispute over inheritance in the 1860s. Photo courtesy of Chris Foster

Inset, bachelor brothers, David Joy (left) and Richard, outside Hole Bottom, Hebden, bought from the seventh Duke of Devonshire in 1886 in order to have their own farm

knocked down for almost £600 (£60,000 in today's money). The farmhouse contents totalled an amazing 300 lots, down to the last teaspoons. A huge amount of bedding included quilts, blankets, sheets and over 50 pillow slips, all reflecting the need to keep warm and get a good night's sleep in what would be a typically damp Dales homestead. Farmers' wives knew to bid high for comfy feather beds compared with flock mattresses. Items now either obsolete or antique ranged from fireside bellows to grandfather clocks.

When the bitter family strife subsided, boom time in Hebden was abruptly over with the failure of its lead mines. Rash optimism was succeeded by despondency to the extent that many farming families saw their ranks thinned as youngsters exchanged green fields for urban life in Liverpool. Two of the four Joy sisters married and moved to the port, developing 'cowhouses' at the end of terraced streets to provide fresh milk for the expanding city.



Bachelor Brothers

Two of their brothers – David and Richard – were destined to remain bachelors and acquired essential livestock and equipment in order to continue the Garnshaw Farm tenancy. Like most tenant farmers, their ultimate goal was to own their own farm. It seldom happened, but their opportunity came in 1886.

Faced with increasingly hard times, the seventh Duke of Devonshire auctioned much of his upper Wharfedale property and the brothers were able to buy Hole Bottom Farm in Hebden Gill. It was clear that the dukedom had put exploiting the local lead mines

ahead of caring for either the farmhouse or field barns, now in a state of collapse. As true farmers, David and Richard gave priority to the barns and ten years elapsed before the house was in a fit state for them to make a move.

Here they grew old gracefully in more settled times and acquired further land. When older brother David died in 1915 at the then ripe old age of 88, the farm passed to his nephew, another Anthony Joy, who was my great-uncle. Also a bachelor, he was the last of the Farmer Joys. He left the farm to me in trust until I reached a sensible age, but I knew full well that only a farmer's son stood much chance of making a success of Dales farming. Virtually all the land has been let to successive generations of the White family since 1959, thus fostering continuity in a way that today's politicians seem unable to grasp.

David Joy, Vice President

Find out more about Farmer Joys in David's newly published book *Mostly Joy on sale at the Stripey Badger bookshop in Grassington, or email dawjoy1@gmail.com*



Annual General Meeting 2023

With the 2023 AGM scheduled for Saturday, 23 September, some time after we will have gone to print for this edition of the *Review*, my confident expectation is that all will go smoothly on the day. We are hopeful that the AGM will confirm recommendations from the board and thus elect two new trustees/directors (introduced to you here) and re-elect Ken Humphris for his second three-year term. The Annual Report & Accounts will have been presented to members with a recommendation to approve – our Treasurer Ian Harrison provides a snapshot of the key points on page 21.

At this AGM we say farewell to two long-serving and valued trustees, who have reached the end of their second three-year terms – Kyle Blue and Marion Temple.

The board will also be notifying members of the continued appointment of our President, Dr Amy-Jane Beer, and Vice Presidents Professor Rick Battarbee, Mr Mark Corner, Mr David Joy, Dr Malcolm Petyt and Dr Colin Speakman, together with a newly appointed Vice President, Mrs Marion Temple. Our distinguished cohort of honorary members will be joined by Mr Mike Stephenson.

Special note about our Chair, Dr Bruce McLeod: members may recall that Bruce had indicated a desire to step down as Chair this September after four years of leading the organisation, although confirming he was willing to continue as a trustee. Over the last year we have advertised for a new Chair, and a number of candidates did come forward, but none felt ready to undertake the role at present. Bruce has very kindly offered to stay on for a further year whilst we continue the search for the right person. Full details of the Chair's role, and how to set up an informal chat with Bruce or another trustee, are available by emailing me (contact information inside front cover).

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director

New Trustee/Director – Mohammed Dhalech



Mohammed Dhalech has been passionate about the outdoors since he was a teenager living in Cumbria, one of the most beautiful parts of the UK. Mohammed has also been passionate about engaging ethnic minority communities to access the countryside and outdoors for over 30 years. In 2019 he was awarded the Churchill Fellowship and his research focussed around Black Asian and minority ethnic/Black, Indigenous and people of colour engagement in the outdoors. He visited North America to explore its approach to engagement and on his return to the UK continued his research by exploring several initiatives including how the sector engages with race equality.

Recently Mohammed has been working with partners on promoting safety in the outdoors and is a volunteer with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. He is an OS GetOutside Champion, serves on the National Outdoors for All working group and chairs the British Mountaineering Council equality, diversity and inclusion committee. Currently pursuing a PhD in Race and Rurality with the University of Leicester, Mohammed describes himself as a 'pracademic'. His recent role is Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager with the Fire and Rescue Service in Cumbria. Previously he managed support for witnesses attending court in criminal trials, to provide a smooth journey for witnesses. Mohammed is an independent advisor on race and religious issues with the Cumbria Constabulary and the North West Counter Terrorism community advisory group.

New Trustee/Director – Jonathan Riley



A lover of all things countryside- and transport-related, Jonathan has spent his life exploring the hills and rivers of the UK. Hailing from the Peak District but having subsequently lived and worked around the UK and overseas, he has played a leading role in railways and transport, latterly in designing more customer-focussed train, ferry and cycle hire services. From British Rail to international consulting to public sector and more recently in operations, transport has been his career choice since leaving school at 18. The link between transport and the environment has always been paramount for Jonathan and where his passion and concerns have been focussed. Finding ways to use transport as a key enabler for communities and local economies to prosper has been his focus – in northern England, the Scottish Highlands & Islands and previously in supporting companies to switch their freight from road to rail.

Since moving to the Dales in 2021 Jonathan has been keen to use his time and experience to support addressing the many challenges we face in the national parks, bringing experience and skills in strategic, governance, financial and risk management as well as the transport expertise. He sees Friends of the Dales as the ideal organisation in which to play a more active role in support of improving the health and wellbeing of the Yorkshire Dales in between his hill walking, cycling and enjoying the finest Yorkshire food and drink.



Treasurer's Report 2022/23

Below is a summary of our financial position for the year 2022/23. In it I have highlighted the key elements of our finances, which can be seen more fully in the formal Annual Report and Accounts available on our website. I have also provided a more detailed breakdown of the income and expenditure than is presented in the Statutory Accounts, which I hope members will find useful.

For members less familiar with charity finances, it is important to highlight the difference between *unrestricted funds* (money which is available to trustees in the pursuit of the charity's overall objectives) and *restricted funds* (money which is to be used for a specified purpose within those objectives).

Income 2022/2023

We received a total of £53,070 (2021/22 £221,011) of income during the financial year. Of this, £50,687 (2021/22 £217,117) was unrestricted income and £2,381 (2021/22 £3,894) restricted. The decrease in income compared to the previous year was attributable primarily to the receipt of significant legacy income in 2021/22.

A breakdown of our unrestricted income by source is shown in Chart 1. Of some concern was the further decline in our membership income. Individual subscription income fell by 3.7% to £26,358, whilst business membership fell to just £320. The latter has prompted a review of this category and a refocus for the future on Community Supporters. Offsetting the decline in membership income was a modest increase in unrestricted donations to £11,237 (2021/22 £7,498). I have previously highlighted the importance of legacy income to the charity. By its very nature, this is somewhat unpredictable, as reflected in this year's legacy income of £1,025, compared to last year's total of £172,151. Additional unrestricted income included Gift Aid of £7,811.

The charity received no restricted donations in the year to the benefit of our sister rural transport organisation, Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company (D&BCIC) (2021/22 £3,000); additional grants of £2,381 were received for the Capturing the Past (CTP) project.

Expenditure 2022/2023

Our total expenditure during the year was £123,576 (2021/22 £95,930), of which £113,085 (2021/22 £95,930) was from unrestricted funds (Chart 2). Staff costs (£58,542), office costs (£15,942) and the production of the quarterly Review (£14,118) represent our largest expenditure categories. During the year we increased our expenditure on our events programme and communications of our campaigns to £5,819 and increased the annual grant to D&BCIC to £10,000. The balance of our expenditure was primarily on governance costs and subscriptions to third parties. Restricted expenditure of £10,491 included a transfer of £7,000 to D&BCIC and £3,491 to Capturing the Past.

Overall Position

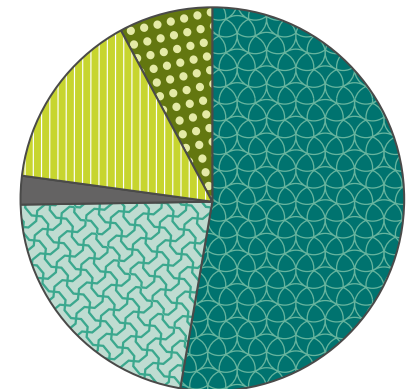
We opened the year with healthy unrestricted reserves of £436,453. Trustees are conscious of the need to use these funds in support of the charity's objectives. The excess of our expenditure over income during the year resulted in a net draw down from unrestricted reserves of £62,396, resulting in a year-end balance of £374,057. Trustees anticipate a similar draw down for the next two to three years as we continue to support D&BCIC, extend our successful Capturing the Past project and grow our campaigns and events programme. We will also explore ways to grow our membership.

Our year-end restricted funds balance was £26,000 for D&BCIC which, at its request, will be released in tranches over the next four years, and £1,619 for the CTP project.

Ian Harrison, Treasurer

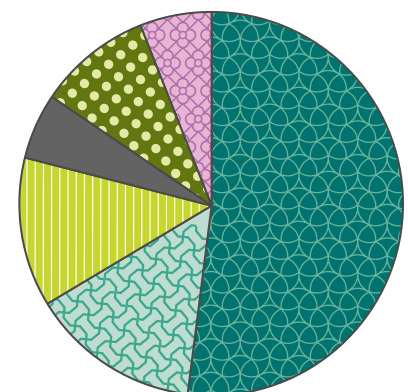
2022/2023

Unrestricted Income (Chart 1)



Membership	53%	£26,678	Membership
Donations	22%	£11,237	Donations
Gift Aid	15%	£7,811	Gift Aid
Other	8%	£3,936	Other
Legacies	2%	£1,025	Legacies
Total		£50,687	(2021/22 £217,117)

Unrestricted Expenditure (Chart 2)



Staff	52%	£58,542	Staff
Office	14%	£15,942	Office
Review	13%	£14,118	Review
Grants & Donations	10%	£10,975	Grants & Donations
Governance & Other	6%	£6,723	Governance & Other
Events, Comms, Membership	5%	£5,819	Events, Comms, Membership
Total		£113,085	(2021/22 £95,930)

Letter to the Editor

Ultimate Responsibility



I read with interest Bruce McLeod's article *Every Action Matters* in the summer 2023 issue of the *Review*.

Bruce points a blaming finger at intensive farming. This cannot be denied. However, farms, whether intensive or low-input/low-output (the latter does not necessarily imply environmentally friendly), need to stay in business to maintain the socioeconomic environment of the Dales (and elsewhere), as well as provide our food. To stay in business, the farmers naturally follow market forces. Down the food supply chain, the finger is also pointed at the supermarkets but further again down the supply chain, we as consumers are the ultimate market drivers.

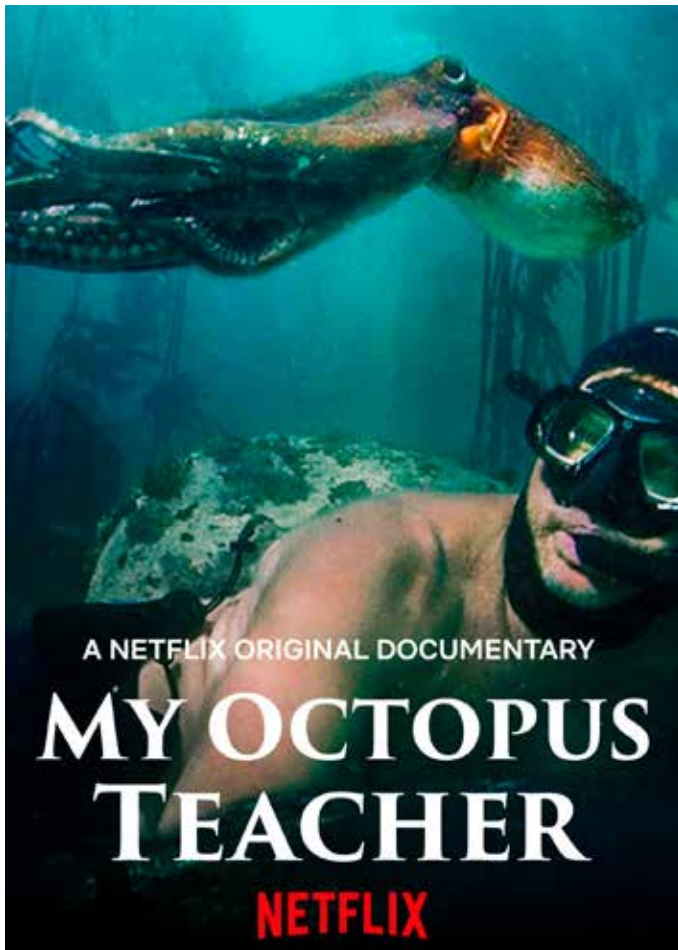
I think the point missed by Bruce is that our shopping habits – both where we shop as well as what we buy – can be major drivers of change. Beyond basic food consumption, I think lifestyles need major questioning too: walking versus driving, UK versus overseas holidays, and recycling are all major areas of our lives to question.

Food needs to be produced and it can be done 'intensively' as well as sympathetically to the environment. We as consumers can play our part, going beyond some of the measures Bruce suggests – what we eat and how much (that can include meat), what we buy, where we buy and how we live and enjoy life.

My wife's view, however, is that it is a pipe dream expecting consumers, in sufficient numbers, to change their habits and make a difference. Equally she is pessimistic about the prospects of legislation enforcing change in farm or major supermarket policy – cheap food rules. Her view is that it is the moral responsibility of the agricultural industry as custodians of the nation's land to make the change. Our household debate continues as to how that moral conscience in farmers may be ignited more widely than it is at present, to make the change away from intensity and artificial inputs.

Philip Dolbear, member

Film Review



My Octopus Teacher is an extraordinary ode to the beautiful and raw power of nature. The main character of the documentary is not so much the diver and naturalist Craig Foster but the titular octopus itself, as the film documents the fascinating connection between these two subjects, challenging preconceived ideas surrounding the relationship between man and nature. If the idea of Foster forming a 'friendship' with the octopus isn't convincing, the film still manages to provide a touching insight into this highly intelligent and wonderfully skilled creature.

Viewers will no doubt be aware of the intellect of octopuses, but seeing this in action is mesmerising and emotive. The film records an intimate portrait of the daily life of the octopus over the course of a year in such a close and personal way that you almost question whether the film is a documentary at all. The octopus, cognisant of his new companion, shows and teaches him his daily life and, as Foster reciprocates, an utterly unique relationship develops.

Although *My Octopus Teacher* is very much about a man and the connection he forms with a marine mollusc, the film also highlights the raw beauty of the ocean, the preciousness of marine life, and the importance of a connection to nature for people's mental health and wellbeing – particularly potent as Foster found the experience of creating the film instrumental to coping with his depression.

Available on *Netflix*, *My Octopus Teacher* is a special documentary that doesn't overplay its hand about humans' adverse impact on nature or the damaging effects of climate change, but by simply placing a camera within the underwater haven off the South African coast, it enables us to draw these conclusions in a much more profound way.

Beatrice Benn, yr 12 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. NB If you download the Eventbrite app, you can also use it to add a reminder to your Google calendar.

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.eventbrite.com/cc/friends-of-the-dale-autumn-programme-2567229

Guided Walk: Clapham Heritage Trail

Saturday, 7 October

10:30am – 2:00pm

Our trustee Ken Humphris will lead a two-mile walk around picturesque Clapham, planned in the early 19th century and now a conservation area. This guided walk offers an opportunity to learn about the village's long history, from its 10th century medieval farmsteads to the present day. Clapham comprises a fascinating collection of vernacular buildings, beck and waterfall, along with connections to the well-known Victorian plant hunter Reginald Farrer and writer Alan Bennett.

To book please email:
victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Photo: claphamyorkshire.co.uk



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](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



Digital Talk: In Your Words – Words from the Dales

Wednesday, 11 October

4:30pm

Dr Fiona Douglas, Project Lead for the Dialect and Heritage Project based at the University of Leeds, will bring to life some of the key insights and discoveries uncovered through its recent work with the Dales Countryside Museum and Ryedale Folk Museum. Fiona will share snippets of rare audio interviews gathered by researchers in the 1950s alongside newer oral histories, to explore whether the Yorkshire language and dialect has changed and developed over the last 75 years.

To book visit:
www.eventbrite.com/cc/friends-of-the-dale-autumn-programme-2567229



Digital Talk: Beneath the Cracks – the Hidden World of Limestone Pavements

Wednesday, 8 November

4:30pm

Following on from her feature in the summer 2023 issue of the *Yorkshire Dales Review*, Carly Stevens, Professor of Plant Ecology and Soil Biogeochemistry at the University of Lancaster, will draw on six years of research to illuminate these complex, often biodiverse and rich ecosystems, which typify much of the Yorkshire Dales. She will also highlight the impact of climate breakdown, farming practices and other threats affecting these precious habitats.

To book visit:
www.eventbrite.com/cc/friends-of-the-dale-autumn-programme-2567229



Digital Talk: Funding for Sustainable Business and Community Projects in the Dales

Wednesday, 6 December

Slightly later time of 5:00pm

This talk is pitched at businesses, community groups and individuals wanting to find out more about how the Yorkshire Dales National Park's Sustainable Development Fund can support projects that aim to promote a more sustainable way of living in, working in or visiting the national park. Meet Andrea Burden, Sustainable Development Officer for the national park authority, who will introduce the scheme, the funding available and how to apply. Edward Sexton of Clapham-based Glencroft will then reveal how the fund helped kick-start his company's now successful 'farm to yarn' project, Clapdale Wool – buying fleeces from farms within a five-mile radius and transforming them into Yorkshire-made hand-knit yarn.

To book visit:
www.eventbrite.com/cc/friends-of-the-dale-autumn-programme-2567229



Catch up on YouTube

If you missed one of our talks first time round, you can watch them on our own YouTube channel: [@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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