

Jonathan Riley

Jonathan has lived in North Yorkshire for 20 years, the last five in the Yorkshire Dales at Long Preston. Hailing from Ashbourne in the Peak District, he grew up in a village near Derby and spent his youth very active in scouts, hill walking, rock climbing, listening and watching music and politics.

A 40-year career in transport involved managing railways, international consulting (Portugal, Sri Lanka, and Australia), leading the shift of freight from road to rail in the UK and latterly business development in rail ferries, rail including sleeper trains and cycle transport mostly in Scotland and Sweden.

A trustee of Friends of the Dales since 2023, Jonathan was appointed Chair by the Board of Trustees in 2024 partly to take the lead reviewing the future of the charity and changing what it does to attract more interest and new audiences. Also, a director of Dales and Bowland CIC (provider of DalesBus) bringing strategic thinking and campaigning experience which has resulted in putting the network on a more sustainable footing in partnership with the new Mayor of York and North Yorkshire.

Alongside spending most of his time campaigning on the key issues facing the Yorkshire Dales Jonathan also volunteers for the Yorkshire Peat Partnership and Woodland Trust and undertakes consulting work in the rail and ferry industries. Otherwise, time is spent walking in the Dales and other mountain areas in the UK, enjoying music and reading.