
News from Around the Parks



Footpath survey box in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, PCNPA

Spring 2017

News from Around the Parks is compiled and edited by the Campaign for National Parks. For any enquiries, please contact info@cnp.org.uk

Brecon Beacons National Park

BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Awards ceremony celebrates National Park Volunteers

The volunteers of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority were celebrated on 7 April at a special awards ceremony. Held at the Authority Head Office in Brecon, volunteers received two sets of Awards, the Huw Price Award and the UK National Parks' Volunteer Awards

The Huw Price Award recognises achievements of volunteers within the Park and was set up by the Authority in honour of Huw Price, a National Park Volunteer Co-ordinator who tragically died. Huw's widow Louise Price and their young son Henry Price presented awards to individual volunteer Joe Minihane and Guptaman Gurung on behalf of the Nepalese Community Footpath Group. At a national level the same Brecon Beacons' volunteers were congratulated with winning two of the three available National Parks UK awards. Kathryn Cook, UK director of National Parks UK presented certificates for their outstanding contributions to volunteering in the Park. Further congratulations went to Chris Evans, Volunteer Leader with the Authority's Upland Volunteers group, the first volunteer in the Park to achieve a John Muir Conserver Award.

Mel Doel, chairman of the National Park Authority added, "Volunteers are the unsung heroes of the National Park. We currently have 195 volunteers in the Park and last year alone they contributed 13,000 hours or 345 weeks' worth of their own time to helping look after this special landscape. We are immensely proud of our volunteer scheme and the staff who help run it. Their time, effort and enthusiasm makes a huge difference to ensuring the future of our National Park."

National Lottery grant success for the Gunpowder Works

The future of a former Gunpowder Works site, at Glyn-neath in the Park has been secured thanks to a National Lottery grant of £659,000. The grant recognises the location as one of the most significant sites of industrial heritage in South Wales. Work can now start to preserve the remains of the Scheduled Ancient Monument with the aim opening the site to the public by the summer of 2019.

The remote works deep in the Afon Mellte valley was one of only two sites in Wales to produce blasting powder used during the industrial revolution. The project, aptly titled 'Explosive Times', will secure it's long-term future and bring its remarkable history to life, recognising an important part of the local community's heritage and provide opportunities to experience an exciting conservation project.



Gunpowder works, Neil Mansfield

Richard Bellamy, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund Wales said, "Thanks to National Lottery players' money, this significant grant will allow the National Park Authority to work with the local community to save this unique and important Welsh heritage site. We look forward to seeing the project progress over the next three years, encouraging current and future generations to engage with a site which once thrived."

Success as Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global GeoPark gets a green card

Fforest Fawr in the Brecon Beacons National Park is celebrating success in retaining its status as a UNESCO Global GeoPark. All GeoParks are assessed every four years to make sure that they meet the required standard for the prestigious title - this is the GeoPark's third green card, meaning it is recognised as a world class part of the National Park. Fforest Fawr covers the western half of the Brecon Beacons National Park in South Wales. The GeoPark celebrates both its geological heritage shaped by ice and changed by man through farming and the industrial revolution and its diverse communities who work together to promote sustainable economic development, especially in tourism.

Deborah Perkin, National Park Authority, member champion of business and communities commented, "A UNESCO Global GeoPark recognises somewhere with geological heritage of worldwide significance, celebrated by its local communities. For Fforest Fawr to once again receive the green card from UNESCO as one of these sites is a huge achievement for us here at the National Park Authority as one of the GeoPark's partners. We encourage everyone to visit and experience the Fforest Fawr GeoPark for themselves - the annual 'Geofest' event takes place from 20 May to 4 June, with walks, talks and events, it's an ideal opportunity to get to know the area better." For further information on the Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global GeoPark visit www.ffeestfawrgeopark.org.uk

The Broads National Park

THE BROADS SOCIETY

Love the Broads

The Broads Society's fundraising campaign, Love the Broads, managed by the Broads Trust, had a good year in 2016 and was able to provide around £10,000 to six projects. These included a grant of £2,540 to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust for fen harvesting to increase biodiversity and £1,700 to the Museum of the Broads to enhance the safety features on the visitor moorings at the Museum. The campaign now has over 70 business partners who encourage their customers to donate to the fund as well as a membership scheme for local people, visitors and other supporters.

The Three Rivers Way

The first phase of this exciting project was opened last summer and is now well established. Usage has exceeded expectations and local residents and visitors are making use of the path both on foot and by bike. Automatic counters are monitoring the use and even during the winter months there were around 40 trips per day by bike along the path together with an estimated 100 trips by walkers. The innovative self-service bike hire scheme is back in operation after being closed in the winter and is proving popular. The local community group that campaigned for the creation of the path is continuing to work with Norfolk County Council on further projects to extend the path for a further seven miles.



Bike scheme, The Broads Society

Boat waste

Local Authority interpretation of the 2012 Commercial Waste Regulations has created a serious problem in the withdrawal by the Authorities of waste collections and public waste bins previously provided around the Broads. This has resulted in plenty of fly tipping and the accumulation of piles of rubbish at key beauty spots. Discussions with the Authorities have been interminable for more than two years with little sign of a resolution of the problem. The Regulations are due for review this year and the Society has written to all local councils suggesting a jointly signed letter to the Minister about the problem.

Dartmoor National Park

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Drive with Moor Care and save lives

An initiative to reduce the numbers of animals killed on Dartmoor roads was launched this spring. New interactive traffic signs have been installed at several locations in Dartmoor National Park in an effort to reduce the numbers of animals killed each year due to speeding motorists.

The signs, which are funded through a partnership between the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society, Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, and Dartmoor National Park Authority, warn motorists if they are exceeding the 40 mph speed limit across Dartmoor. The signs are installed at key locations in an attempt to reduce the numbers of ponies, sheep and cattle killed or injured each year on Dartmoor's roads.

Andrew Watson, head of access and recreation at Dartmoor National Park said, "We are introducing these new signs to remind motorists of the mandatory 40 mph speed limit. We ask that all who use Dartmoor's roads drive with Moor Care, taking into account the road and weather conditions, and within the mandatory speed limit. Motorists should expect the unexpected and drive accordingly."

Karla McKechnie, Dartmoor livestock protection officer, recorded 188 traffic accidents involving animals during 2016, nearly double the 2015 figure.

On the hunt for Dartmoor otters

This summer 100 otter sculptures will be released in and around Dartmoor to create a unique public arts trail for visitors to enjoy. This is the first project of its kind in a National Park, combining art with a protected landscape. The sculptures have been decorated by local and nationally renowned artists and are wonderfully varied in design – from pieces of pure fine art to fun otters like the 'Dartmoor Ranger' and 'Jail Otter.'

People can follow the otter trails and find the otters at visitor centres, hotels, holiday parks, cafes, pubs, shops, tourist attractions and other Dartmoor businesses in towns and on the high moor. Each otter has its own code and if 20 are spotted a prize can be won. Later this year the otters will be auctioned to raise funds for vital conservation work in the National Park.



Dartmoor Otter, DNPA

Alongside conservation projects to enhance the wildlife, landscape and improved accessibility; the money raised from the campaign will be used to help develop Dartmoor's young ranger programme, which supports educational access and engages young people in conservation projects, creating conservationists of the future.

Second Sunday volunteering at Haytor

Simon Lee, sector ranger for the Haytor area runs regular volunteer days every second Sunday of the month. The first volunteer day, on 10 January 2016, saw volunteers working with rangers and ecologists on a site close to the National Park Visitor Centre at Haytor where the bog hoverfly, has made a home. The bog hoverfly (*Eristalis cryptarum*) is an extremely rare hoverfly that in recent years has been found only within a restricted area of Dartmoor. Work was carried out at the site to benefit the habitat for this fascinating creature.

Since then Simon's volunteer days have proven immensely popular with a great variety of work being carried out by a dedicated group of individuals. They have carried out work to benefit butterflies in the Becka Brook valley and undertaken a large maintenance project on the Haytor granite tramway, as well as making repairs to the historic reservoir leat. They have also carried out vital erosion repair work on popular paths in the area.

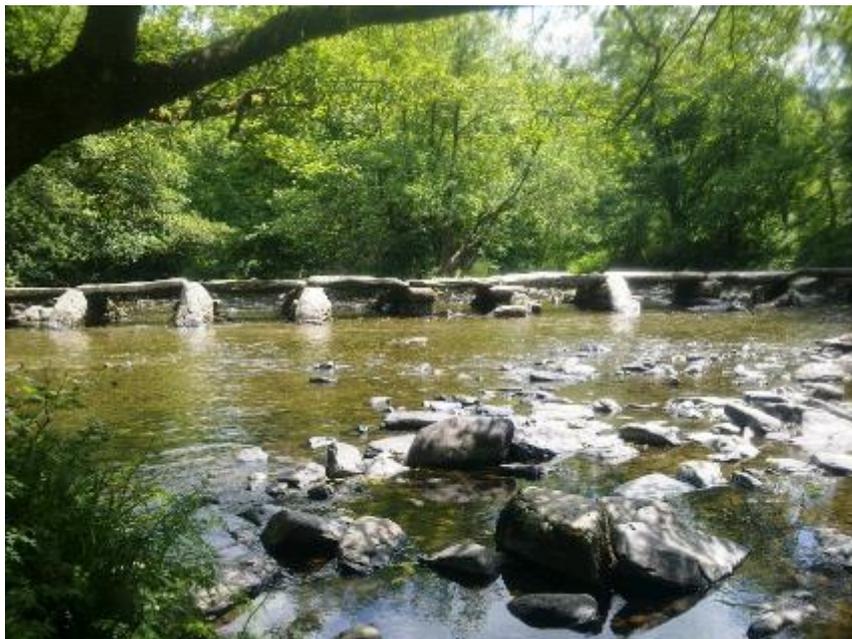
For those who come along regularly there is plenty of variety, with practical work being carried out on habitat management and archaeological sites as well as helping keep this iconic Dartmoor location looking good. New volunteers are always welcome and it's a great way to get healthy outdoor exercise whilst learning more about this special place.

Exmoor National Park

EXMOOR SOCIETY

A new role for Exmoor and its natural capital

The annual spring conference, a partnership between the Exmoor Society and the Exmoor National Park Authority, took place in Dulverton in April this year. The theme was Natural Capital. The previous Government's objective was to improve and quality of the environment and see a net gain in its value over the next 25 years, and a Natural Capital Committee was been set up to advise on how this can be achieved. Delegates heard from two world-leading experts, Professors Dieter Helm and Ian Bateman, chairman and member of the Natural Capital Committee respectively. They explained how it was important that the environment is recognised as part of the fabric of the economy, otherwise it would continue to decline and lose out to other pressures, such as population growth and major housebuilding programmes and other infrastructure development.



Tarr Steps in Exmoor, Jo Hall

Professor Dieter Helm, in a powerful presentation, stated that natural capital was everything that nature gives us for free. Certain building blocks had to be put in place to prevent further decline in environmental assets such as wildlife, water, soils, and beauty, and instead to maintain and increase their value. Starting with the compilation of an assets register, the next step was to define assets at risk, then to decide what was needed for their capital maintenance and further enhancement, and finally to produce a balance sheet. He envisaged a new role for the National Parks, such as Exmoor, with their many natural assets and a strong sense of a place of much beauty. Exmoor now needs to enhance its five-year Management Plan, prepare for the end of CAP, compile a database of its natural assets and budget for capital maintenance. 'Crucially', he said 'we must continue to build the case for enhancement so that the next generation inherits this extraordinary place'.

A detailed explanation of how nature can be valued in monetary terms was given by Professor Ian Bateman, director of the Land Environment Economy Policy Institute (LEEP) at Exeter University. He emphasised that some goods and services provided by natural assets had a market value, others did not. Through measuring the value of ecosystem services in monetary terms using cost-benefit analysis, environmental economists were able to incorporate these services into economic decision-making. This allowed resources to be targeted in ways that increased their value for money.

Delegates also heard from Rob Wilson-North (ENPA conservation manager) and Dr Helen Blackman (Exmoor Society archivist) that it was necessary to see the environment around us as a product of nature and people in a complex interaction between them. It was not always easy or necessary to encourage a divide between them. Exmoor ponies and the red deer well illustrate the ways in which, seemingly wild animals have been shaped by human activity. Rachel Thomas, chairman of the Exmoor Society, said after the conference, 'Exmoor is well-placed to take forward the natural capital approach with its wealth of different landscapes, of moorland, woodland, coast, rivers, valleys and farmland and the wide range of goods and services they provide. The onus is now on Exmoor to present a strong case of its overall value to people locally, nationally and for future generations'.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

New chief executive for Exmoor National Park

In January this year, Exmoor National Park Authority appointed Sarah Bryan as their new chief executive, after a rigorous selection process with a national advertising campaign resulting in 70 applicants.

Sarah was head of conservation and access at the Authority for four years, bringing a wealth of experience of National Parks and a strong background in landscape management and conservation to the post.

Andrea Davis, chairman of Exmoor National Park Authority said, "The Authority has always worked very closely with local communities and Sarah continues the strong relationships that have been forged with farmers, landowners all those who live and work on Exmoor. I am confident that she will lead the Authority successfully through the potentially challenging times ahead and raise the profile of Exmoor National Park as one of Britain's most beautiful protected landscapes."



Sarah Bryan, new chief executive, ENPA

Exmoor visitor satisfaction levels at all-time high

Tourism satisfaction on Exmoor is at an all-time high according to the results of the 2016 Visitor Survey conducted by the Exmoor National Park Authority. Ninety-nine percent of visitors rating their overall satisfaction level as either 'Very Good' (76%) or 'Good' (23%). Satisfaction levels have increased in all areas including quality and value of accommodation, rights of way, roads and signage since the survey was last carried out in 2014.

Visitors to Exmoor were approached over a 6-month period during 2016 and asked a series of questions designed to help the National Park Authority and its partners, such as Visit Exmoor, gain a greater understanding. Visitors were asked their thoughts on a range of tourism issues. The research is carried out every few years and is used to inform marketing strategies, support funding bids and highlight possible areas of concern. The survey shows that 81% of visitors were on a repeat visit and 86% intend to visit again.

Signs of the times

A project that aims to record, refurbish, celebrate and explore the history of Exmoor National Park's traditional signposts has been awarded a grant of £43,000 over a 2-year-period from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The money is in addition to £20,000 committed to the project by the National Park Authority and £10,000 from Somerset County Council.

The bid was prompted by the concern of local communities about the state of some signposts in their areas and a desire to preserve and celebrate the distinctive character of the historic signs which are a much valued part of the Exmoor streetscape. When Exford Parish Council took the lead by refurbishing an important sign in the centre of the village, it became clear there was an appetite for a larger project across the whole of the National Park.

The Exmoor Society has already started working with volunteers to understand the history of the signposts and the stories behind the names of the various crosses, gates and posts. Somerset County Council has been working with the South West Heritage Service to produce a fingerposts handbook to support the Exmoor National Park Authority project and to help other community groups who may be interested in documenting and maintaining historic signs in their areas. A Historic Signpost project officer, Charlotte Thomas, has been appointed for the Exmoor project.

Lake District National Park

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

What a difference a day makes

Over fifty volunteers descended into the beautiful valley of High Borrowdale in early March to take part in Friends of the Lake District's Fell Care Force Tree Planting Day. There were 5,200 native trees planted on land owned by Friends of the Lake District at High Borrowdale which is now within the newly extended area of the Lake District National Park. Volunteers set about the task of creating an area of native woodland in the valley Alfred Wainwright once described as "the most beautiful valley outside the Lake District."

It is hoped that the planting of hardy native tree varieties like alder, ash, oak, rowan, holly, hawthorn, and willow will enhance the habitats and landscape as well as assisting in stabilising erosion. This area witnessed numerous landslides during the storms of December 2015.

Ruth Kirk, Fell Care project officer said, "We are so grateful to all of the volunteers who gave up their spare time to help us with our tree planting task. Their efforts saw over 600 trees planted on the day which is a wonderful contribution to our target of 5,200 trees."



Fell Care Day nut hunt, FLD

Rising

In December 2015 Storm Desmond wrought devastating damage on the landscapes and communities of Cumbria. Is the prediction of rising global temperatures responsible for the rising incidences of heavy rainfall events, not just in Cumbria but nationally and globally?

Friends of the Lake District commissioned director, Dom Bush and editor Simon Sylvester to create a short film as a means of showing the impact of flooding events on a community and what, in their own words, the possible solutions may be in the future.

It has provided a look through the lens, with an intimate, personal perspective, at members of the communities of Glenridding and Patterdale. Their words tell the stories of the impact of this flooding event on their lives, their livelihoods and the landscape.

The editor, Simon Sylvester said, "I discovered the community of Glenridding second-hand, through the footage that Dom was bringing back from the field. I was genuinely humbled and awestruck at their resilience and their courage. It's a tight community, and they're working together to build a future — even against the sense that these floods will return. Their humility was an inspiration." The film is available to [view here](#).

12-15 nuts potentially chewed by dormice and one possible nest found

A dreary drizzly day couldn't dampen the spirits of volunteers excited by their find. The Dormouse Nut Hunt was just one of many tasks taking place during Friends of the Lake District's Rusland Fell Care Day. Some of the results included: 188 volunteers, 100m of vegetation cut back, 6m of dry stone wall rebuilt and 350 pieces of cake eaten!

Ruth Kirk, Fell Care project officer said, "Fell Care Days allow people's love of the Lake District and Cumbria to translate into direct, practical action to protect and care for these outstanding but surprisingly fragile landscapes."

LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

National Park on track to create routes to resilience

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA), the body that supports farming and food production in the UK, joined the Lake District National Park rangers in March 2017 on a tour of bridges and footpaths that have been repaired as part of 'Routes to Resilience', a £3m flood recovery project. Announced in November 2016, the £3m pot from the RPA has enabled rangers to begin an 18-month programme to reinstate bridges, repair and improve paths, and replace stiles and gates to improve the access for visitors.

Steve Ratcliffe, director of sustainable development at the Lake District National Park, said, "We've made an excellent start on our flood recovery project, so it was fantastic to be able to show the RPA our appreciation of the £3m and share some of progress made so far. We are focused on not just repairing the vital rights of way network affected by flooding, but to also make it more resilient for the benefit of our important rural and visitor economy.

However, £3m wasn't the total repair bill for the Park following Storm Desmond. So we are continuing to explore funding options to cover the shortfall; this is currently estimated at a further £2m for the rights of way network and £5m for the Keswick to Threlkeld Railway Path reconnection."

Call for farming roles to help shape the future of the Lake District

Farming plays a special role in the Lake District, its identity and cultural heritage. A rugged landscape from which to carve a living, a potential World Heritage Site in 2017, and the prospect of the UK leaving the EU in 2019 - there are both challenges and opportunities for farming to help shape the future of the Lake District.

To help ensure farming continues to deliver high quality food and livestock in a world class cultural landscape that millions enjoy every year, the Lake District National Park and the National Trust worked in partnership to recruit two new farming officers, to work with farmers and farming communities across the area. The roles will help develop and deliver practical projects with farmers, and strengthen relationships with the farming community. The Lake District National Park post will work with farmers across the whole of the Lake District and is due to start in the summer.

The mountains are calling, let the winter adventure begin and #summitsafely

As the Lake District National Park's fell top assessors returned in December 2016 to make their daily trek up Helvellyn and in winter they shared even more top tips using #summitsafely to help walkers stay safe on the fells.

In addition to the vital Lake District Weatherline winter weather reports, #summitsafely was a new campaign that ran for the 20 week duration of the fell top assessors' season, from December to Easter. Assessors, Jon Bennett and Graham Uney, tweeted their top 20 safety tips from @LakesWeather, sharing short videos on lakedistrictweatherline.co.uk, and running special safety kit giveaways. For those who felt inspired to take to the snow-topped high fells, Graham returned with his popular one-day Winter Skills courses, for walkers looking to learn the basics of how to use an ice axe and crampons.



Fell top assessors, LDNPA

New Forest National Park

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Successful first year for landscape partnership

Now beginning its second year of work, the Heritage Lottery Funded Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme is celebrating a year of successes. Achievements include the restoration of 1,500 metres of hedge, 9,500 trees being planted at Foxbury enclosure and 173 people were trained in traditional rural skills.

Led by the New Forest National Park Authority with 10 key partners, the scheme involves 21 projects across the Forest to restore lost habitats, develop Forest skills and inspire a new generation to champion and care for the Forest. For more information on the projects within Our Past, Our Future visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership.

Housing scheme up for prestigious award

An innovative affordable housing scheme in the New Forest has been shortlisted in the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence 2017.

The RTPI Awards are the most established and respected awards in the UK planning industry. Running for 40 years, they celebrate exceptional examples of planning and the contribution planners make to society. Being shortlisted in the Excellence in Planning to Deliver Housing category recognises the success of the New Forest National Park Authority's scheme to build and let two affordable homes to local families in Bransgore.



Bransgore affordable homes, NFNPA

Around 80 people are on the council waiting list in the Bransgore area alone, and the New Forest housing market makes it difficult for many local people to find affordable homes to allow them to stay in the area. The land at Ringwood Road was kindly provided on a 999 year lease by local landowner Richard Frampton, who is a National Park Authority member, specifically for affordable housing.

Volunteer fair hits new heights

The New Forest's popular volunteer fair enjoyed a record breaking year as hundreds flocked to the annual event. Over 700 people came along looking to change their life through one of the hundreds of roles on offer from 46 local organisations. This was a 40% increase on last year's event.

The Volunteer Fair was opened by Brian Matthews, from Lymington, who spent an astonishing 400 hours volunteering in 2016. He was named project champion for the New Forest non-native plants project recently at a celebration evening for volunteers in the New Forest.

Brian was joined at the fair by dozens of other groups at Lyndhurst Community Centre. They included organisations as diverse as the RNLI, Exbury Gardens, Hampshire Scouts, the Forestry Commission and the National Trust. Exhibitors at the 2017 fair included partners from the New Forest's Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Northumberland National Park

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Northumberland National Park's project to create a National Landscape Discovery Centre nearing completion

For anyone passing the site at Once Brewed, the building is now clear to see; the world-class visitor centre and YHA rises out of the landscape perfectly mirroring its surroundings and the unique environment of Hadrian's Wall.

The Sill will be the UK's first National Landscape Discovery Centre, and is the result of an innovative partnership between Northumberland National Park, the Heritage Lottery Fund and YHA England and Wales. It is the most significant initiative to be undertaken in rural Northumberland in a lifetime.



The view from the roof of The Sill, NNPA

Ahead of the public opening this summer, Northumberland National Park teams will be out and about across the North East of England providing opportunities for people to find out more about the project, the events programme and the important role landscape plays in our lives.

Although The Sill venue is yet to open, the project as a whole is already engaging people with the National Park and transforming how people think about and interact with landscape. Since construction started in November 2015, there have been more than 400 Sill events providing a range of volunteering opportunities. Latest footage of The Sill can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKL7OvVh1U>

Conservationists join forces to help incy wincy spider

Another major conservation project is underway in the west of Northumberland National Park to protect an ancient peat bog which is home to a rare and diminutive species of money-spider. The Lampert Mosses near Spadeadam, is a classified Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its rich peat habitats and varied species of flora and fauna, including the rare cloud-living spider (*Semljicola caliginosus*).

The tiny spider, which grows to around 2mm in length, is one of the UK's smallest and most elusive arachnids, favouring living conditions found in damp, moss-rich upland areas. A recent ecological study which was funded in partnership by Natural England, Buglife and the British Archaeological Society, recorded a number of cloud-living spiders at Lampert Mosses, but the research also showed that the area required sensitive conservation and repair work to preserve the spider's unique peatland habitat.

Now a team of volunteers led by Northumberland National Park and Tyne Rivers Trust are working together, using funding from Natural England, to help protect the cloud-living spider's upland home by replacing eroded dam structures to preserve the Lampert Mosses' peat bogs.

Sir James Knott Trust backs National Landscape Discovery Centre schools programme

Northumberland National Park's Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre has received a £10k boost from Sir James Knott Trust. The grant is supporting the development and delivery of The Sill Partnership Schools Programme. The initiative combines classroom learning with a range of workshops connected to nature, history, arts and conservation which are delivered within the National Park by a dedicated team of engagement and education officers.

A pilot of the three-year programme is currently underway with eight primary and middle schools from rural and urban locations across Tyne and Wear and Northumberland.

Sarah Glynn, sill manager, said: "We are delighted to have the support of Sir James Knott Trust for The Sill Partnership Schools Programme. Whilst Northumberland National Park welcomes an impressive 1.4 million people annually, we've also experienced an 11% decline in the number of young people visiting since 2007. We firmly believe that a strong and diverse education programme is critical in re-engaging young people with our landscapes. The educational and personal development benefits to youngsters connecting with the outdoors are limitless. It's our aim to use the Park's amazing landscapes to contribute to the curriculum and inspire a new generation of landscape and nature enthusiasts."

In addition to its £10k education grant, Sir James Knott Trust also donated £50,000 to the capital phase of The Sill project.

North York Moors National Park

NORTH YORK MOORS ASSOCIATION

Mine development

The construction of the Sirius Minerals polyhalite mine has started with earth moving activity at the mine head site at Doves Nest Farm. Topsoil is currently being removed over a large area to make way for the building of the platforms for two winding towers and eventually the start of shaft sinking.

Work has also started on the tunnel access site at Lockwood Beck with road widening and provision for access to this site which will also see major landscape alterations from the distribution of spoil from a tunnel access shaft.

The commencement of all this work marks the beginning of a 5/6 year construction period on major tourist routes into the National Park with HGV traffic predicted to be one HGV every six minutes along the A171, and an increase of 360% of HGV traffic along the B1416 which is the only access road to the mine head site.

The history tree

NYMA have been successful in a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for the publication of a book which is part of the History Tree Project. Some years ago a large iconic Copper Beech tree which stood at the entrance to the National Park Danby Moors Centre had to be felled for safety reasons. NYMA produced a metal plate engraved with the names of people and events which took place over the life of the tree, around 150 years.

The plate which has a profile to match the base of the tree now forms a point of interest for visitors and is set in the ground where the tree previously stood. The award of £9,800 will help the NYMA to produce a book which provides details of events and people named on the engraved plate who in some way have contributed to the area of the National Park. The book is planned to be completed by the end of the year.

Yorkshire awards

NYMA have received £1,500 from the magazine *Dalesman* as part of their sponsorship of last year's Yorkshire Awards.

Marking the award, Adrian Braddy, editor of *Dalesman* Magazine said, "The North Yorkshire Moors Association does some fantastic work protecting and enhancing the very special landscapes of the North York Moors National Park - one of my favourite places in the world. It is a charity with a relatively low profile and we wanted to highlight what this hard working and dedicated team of volunteers do and give them a little financial support along the way".

The award will contribute to one of the NYMA conservation projects.

NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

This exploited land of iron

Around 150 years ago, some parts of the North York Moors looked very different to the present day. Valleys and hills were filled with fire, smoke and noise as they helped fuel the industrial revolution. A short but intense period of ironstone mining and railway construction left a huge impact on the landscape and its communities that can still be seen today.

This Exploited Land of Iron is a £3.8 million Landscape Partnership Scheme that runs from 2017 to 2021. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, North York Moors National Park Authority, David Ross Foundation and inspired by local communities, it tells the fascinating, but largely forgotten story of trailblazing industrial growth and exploitation.

Within the 77-square mile project area there is a remarkable mix of built heritage sites, some visually breathtaking such as the calcining kilns at Rosedale and some almost hidden from view, such as Grosmont Ironworks. Wrapped around this built heritage is a patchwork of valuable natural habitats and species that have withstood the industrial exploitation and sometimes found a particular niche in the landscape left behind.

The vision of the project is that by 2021 the landscape and ironstone heritage of the North York Moors will be in better condition and better cared for, better understood and valued by more people, and will have a more sustainable future. Visit www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/landofiron for more information.



River Rye, Liz Bassindale

Ryevitalise

The North York Moors National Park Authority and its partners have been successful at the first stage of securing a further £2m of Heritage Lottery Fund money to develop their next Landscape Partnership Scheme – Ryevitalise.

The Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme (under development), will help appreciate and enhance the River Rye's verdant landscape and clear waters which have been prized for millennia for their beauty and tranquillity resulting in a more natural, better functioning and better understood landscape. The partnership will spend the next 18 months developing the scheme ready for final approval at the end of 2018.

The projects will cover four themes; Water Environment, looking at aquatic habitats of the Rye and rare and threatened species; Water Quality, working with land-owners and managers to reduce pollution; Water Level Management, working alongside North Yorkshire County Council to harness natural processes to manage the sources and pathways of flood waters; Reconnecting People, improving the understanding of the river landscape by telling the story of its evolution and encouraging people to protect their heritage. The Authority are all really excited

about the opportunity to make the most of the wealth of habitats, species and history surrounding the river and the potential to make a lasting difference to this wonderful landscape.

Monuments or Cairns?

Prehistoric burial monuments or barrows, dating from the Bronze Age 3-4,000 years ago, are a distinctive, important and relatively common feature of the North York Moors landscape, and constitute about 65% of the 842 protected sites or Scheduled Monuments, within the National Park. Barrows are often situated on high ground with fine viewpoints and these days may be on well-used footpaths, particularly long distance routes. Here the modern practice of building walkers' cairns can cause damage to the archaeology, putting it at risk.

In spring 2015 an assessment of Scheduled Monuments with walkers' cairns showed that in some cases the modern cairns had originated as markers for estate or parish boundaries, or as grouse grit stations, but that they were now being added to by passing walkers. Damage caused to the monuments varied from very slight to extreme and eight had been so badly damaged by the construction of the modern cairn, or by erosion from too many walkers, that remedial work was identified as urgent.

To put things right, a programme of work is under way as part of the North York Moors National Park Authority's Monument Management Scheme (MMS), a partnership project with funding from Historic England. This work includes frequent monitoring of the affected monuments by volunteers, raising awareness of the issue with the walking community, and carrying out remedial work to repair the worst damage.

Peak District National Park

FRIENDS OF THE PEAK DISTRICT

Northern Powerhouse

The Friends of the Peak District recently responded to the previous Government's Northern Powerhouse strategy, issued late last year by the Treasury. Although the strategy was introduced by the then Chancellor (Phillip Hammond), it is fair to say that the Northern Powerhouse (NPH) concept lost some of its shine with the previous Government. Nonetheless, FPD wanted to address what they feel are two serious problems with the current overweening focus on cities and road connectivity.

First the assets of the northern countryside, including its national Parks, are undervalued, especially as an attractor for jobs and secondly, they are regarded as an obstruction to transport projects, notably trans-Pennine routes.

The FPD are also pleased to contribute to research that academics from Newcastle University, commissioned by the British Academy, pulled together to underpin similar concerns. This came through their involvement with the Academy's 'Where we live now' project which their President, Fiona Reynolds, has been steering.

Stanton Moor - end of the campaign?

After fifteen active years of campaigning by the Friends, it now looks as if the end of quarrying at Stanton Moor is near. The Moor is one of the jewels in the crown of the Peak - it's both a beautiful landscape and also one of the most important Bronze Age monuments in England, epitomised by the Nine Ladies stone circle. But it is also surrounded by active and dormant gritstone quarries.

However the last planning application, including relinquishment of a sensitive central quarry, swapped for a small amount of additional extraction in an existing quarry nearby, has now been approved by the PDNPA, with the active support of the Friends.

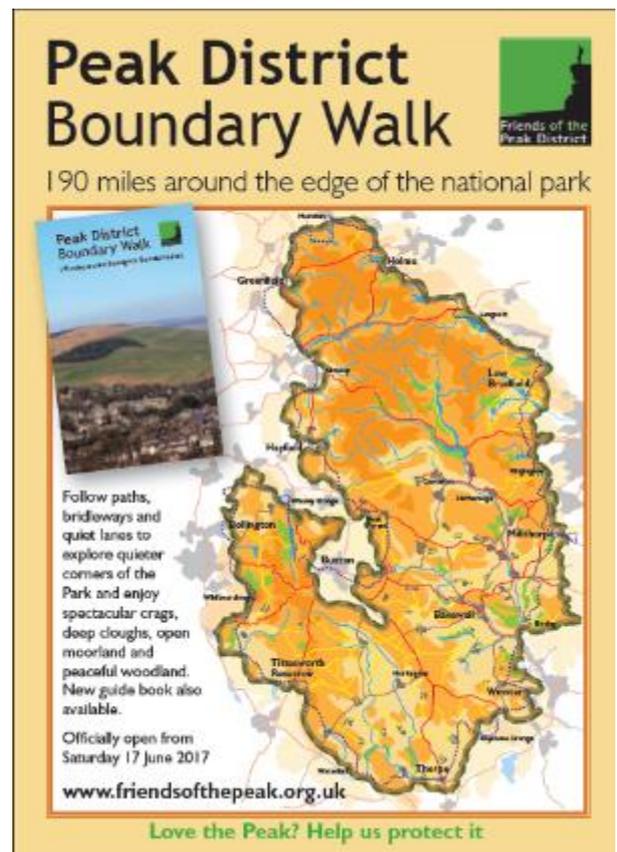
With the last old permission being given up, quarrying in the area should be finished within a decade. Working closely with the local community, the Friends of the Peak District resisted previous inequitable deals and reduced the tonnages sought very significantly.

Boundary walk

The current Peak District National Park boundary is almost identical to the one drawn up by the founders of the Friends of the Peak District - Ethel and Gerald Haythornthwaite – 80 years ago.

The Friends have devised a new 190 mile walk which never strays far from that boundary and celebrates not only the huge diversity of the UK's first National Park but also its historical significance. It has been divided into 20 manageable stages which can each be tackled in a day. One of the reasons for devising the route was to raise awareness of the Peak District's outstanding beauty and to encourage people to cherish and protect it. A book to accompany the walk will be published on 12 June.

It's been a truly collaborative project: volunteers helped to map the route, walked it on the ground and made improvements using their local knowledge. They agreed the criteria for the walk and the conventions for the book, as well as donating the photos and articles about the issues we face. The launch event is taking place on Saturday 17 June in Buxton with Emma Bridgewater, President of CPRE. Groups of walkers will 'first-foot' the whole route, starting each stage at 10am.



PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Partnership investment protects unique moorland

Protected moorland in the Peak District National Park is thriving thanks to specialist partnership conservation works worth £1.2m. Three years of work by the Moors for the Future Partnership, funded by Natural England through the EU Agri-Environment Programme, has revived and safeguarded Saddleworth moor (on the Pennine Way) and Deer Hill Moss, Meltham.

Both vast upland sites, totalling 670 hectares (more than 900 football pitches) are part of the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and home to unique wildlife and active blanket bog that is rarer than rainforest. The Moors for the Future Partnership worked closely with key partners: Natural England, the owner of Saddleworth moor and land managers at Deer Hill Moss. The team reversed severe damage caused by wildfire and acid rain, a result of historic pollution, which killed off unique Sphagnum mosses, leaving vulnerable peat exposed.

Around 200,000 tiny Sphagnum moss plants were planted to reduce flooding and wildfire – they hold 20 times their weight in water. More than 35 miles of eroded gullies have been blocked to keep water on the hills. The restoration will also improve drinking water quality, enrich biodiversity and store carbon to help tackle climate change.

Solar panels boost for community hub

Newly-installed solar panels at Bamford's community hub were officially launched by the Peak District National Park's chief executive, Sarah Fowler. Sarah cut the ribbon at a 'switch on' ceremony at the Anglers Rest Community Hub, which houses a pub, café and post office. The solar panels will cut energy bills at the property and help Bamford Community Society to work towards the Peak District's Environmental Quality mark. They were installed thanks to a £6,000 award through the Marks & Spencer Community Energy fund.

Sarah said, "The solar panels will help to boost the energy efficiency of this very important community resource. I was delighted to take part in the launch event and to see at first hand the initiatives and hard work undertaken by Bamford Community Society."

In 2013, The Anglers Rest became the first community pub in Derbyshire when it was bought collectively by more than 300 people. It is now run for the benefit of the community and hosts The Anglers Pub, The Rest Café and Bamford Post Office.

National Park campsite opens new facilities for people with disabilities

An accessible camping pod has been installed at the Peak District National Park owned North Lees campsite, near Hathersage. Close to woodland and a stream, the comfortable wooden pod has been carefully planned and equipped in partnership with Accessible Derbyshire. It is accessible for people with a range of disabilities and would also be ideal for older people with mobility issues. It is located next to a stream at the edge of woodland and provides an intimate countryside experience.

Accessible Derbyshire sourced and bought the pod's height adjustable electric profile bed with rails, a hoist to help people in and out of bed and a shower chair which can also be used as a commode. The accessible camping pod complements an additional six pods elsewhere on the site, which can also accommodate up to 60 small tents. All wooden pods are built locally have a double glazed window and lockable French doors. They are insulated for winter warmth and to keep summer temperatures down, have a covered veranda and include lighting and heating and the opportunity to charge a phone/laptop.



Accessible Derbyshire supporter Hannah Taylor, PDNPA

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

FRIENDS OF PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

Annual literary competition

The Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (FPCNP) organises an Annual Children's Literary Competition. The competition has been held annually since 2012 to encourage young people to write about the National Park and what makes it special for them. It is open to pupils from all Pembrokeshire schools and also to children visiting the National Park from other areas. The FPCNP works in conjunction with schools and teachers across the county, who play an active role in encouraging entries.

The competition invites children to explore and relate to the National Park and its special qualities. Entries can be in either poetry or prose and prizes are awarded for Primary (9-11 years) and Secondary (12-14 years). Small cash prizes are awarded for the first three places in each class, and for commended entries.

This year's winners were presented with their prizes during the FPCNP AGM at Oriel Y Parc, St Davids, on 8 April 2017. Over 70 entries were received this year and judged by Stephen Drinkwater (chairman FPCNP), Carys Jones and Ann Morris. The winning entries are published on the Friends website: <http://www.fpcnp.org.uk/2016-childrens-literary-competition-winners/>

Work party

FPCNP has a thriving work party, drawing on a pool of around 20 regular volunteers, who meets every Tuesday to undertake tasks within the Park. This includes repairing footpaths and structures, painting, litter picking and clearing vegetation. In 2016 the work party completed the equivalent of more than 300 person days improving and enhancing the Park. The FPCNP is looking to better this in 2017.

Recently, the Work Party has completed a project under the supervision of PCNPA ranger Dan Wynn, to restore and improve a permissive path across woodland at Castlebeach near Dale on the St Ann's Head peninsula. The path joins up the coast path and the established footpath network to facilitate new circular walks in the area. It follows an old trail which had been blocked by several very large fallen trees which had to be cleared before work could commence.



Finished steps, FCNPA

FPCNP are now working with the PCNPA, the land owner and local environment groups in planning a formal opening event to provide publicity for the path. They are organising a guided walk later in the summer for FPCNP members which will take in the route.

Policy work

FPCNP continues to respond to consultation documents from anybody or Planning Authority on issues that could impinge upon the policy of the National Park.

A planning application has been made by Bluestone Resorts Ltd to restore Blackpool Mill, a Grade 2* property within the National Park on the banks of the Eastern Cleddau river. Like the PCNPA and many other local community groups, the FPCNP are supportive of the restoration and regeneration plans, but have expressed to the Planning Authority their serious concerns about the company's plans to manage the tourist attraction and build additional facilities, including a steam railway, which they believe would severely impact the surrounding tranquil woodland landscape and cause congestion on local roads.

The FPCNP have recently commented on behalf of their members on the proposals put out for consultation by the PCNPA on plans to reroute the A487 at Newgale, to counter the threat of coastal erosion, and also expressed their concern to the PCNPA on their proposals to close two of their Tourist Information Centres within the National Park.

PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Survey says National Park landscape is main motivation for walkers

More than half of visitors to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park are walking country paths on every day of their stay, according to a recent Footpath User Survey conducted by the National Park Authority.

From August 2015 to July 2016, 2,959 questionnaires were collected from 12 survey boxes located around the National Park's 1,100km network of public rights of way, which includes the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail. The condition of the paths maintained by the National Park Authority was described as 'excellent' or 'good' by 95% of respondents; while 88% of people said their main reason for walking was to enjoy the natural landscape.

National Park Authority access and rights of way manager, Anthony Richards said, "The survey demonstrated the economic importance of the Coast Path and public rights of way to the tourist industry of Pembrokeshire, with visitors accounting for more than three quarters of respondents. Residents of Pembrokeshire accounted for 26% of respondents with 43% walking at least once a week, showing that public rights of way provide an important recreational resource for the health and well-being of local communities."

The survey was funded by the Welsh Government's Rights of Way Improvement Plan funding programme. The 12 boxes were located near to path monitors with 168,770 walkers recorded during the survey period. Seven of the survey boxes were situated on the Coast Path with an additional five on inland paths.

Panoramic views of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path just a click away

You can now view the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail from your computer, mobile or tablet as the world-famous walking route has been added to Google Street View. Google loaned the National Park Authority one of its back-pack mounted Google Trekker cameras last spring, making it possible to film the spectacular coastal scenery of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.



Google Trekker Ainsley, PCNPA

The task required filmmakers that were physically fit as the camera and equipment weighed 25kg, about the same as a sack of potatoes. Luckily two of the Park Authority's wardens were up to the task, with Alex Payne and Ainsley Corp swapping their mowers and strimmers for the Trekker to film the Coast Path.

National Park Authority access and rights of way manager, Anthony Richards said, "The Coast Path provides a spine for dozens of circular walks, which are promoted on the National Park website; it will allow people to preview a walk to work out if it will be suitable for them in terms of its terrain and cliffs. You can also now just scroll along and enjoy the views of iconic landmarks such as the Green Bridge of Wales, or some of the more remote and lesser known stretches of coastline."

The online footage of the Pembrokeshire Coast now joins iconic landscapes such as the Grand Canyon and it is hoped it will help promote Pembrokeshire as a destination for visitors from all over the globe.

For more information or to view the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail on Google Street View visit www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/trekker.

New project to promote Wales' National Parks after dark

A new project is highlighting Wales' three National Parks as outstanding dark sky destinations, with opportunities to enjoy activities that reach beyond the traditional activities of stargazing and astronomy.

The Discovery in the Dark Wales website has been produced by the Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia National Park Authorities to help people discover the variety of dusk-till-dawn adventures that are available to residents, visitors and businesses.

The project has been supported by dark sky experts and local businesses, with the website including advice on how everyone can maximise the potential of the dark skies above Wales' most cherished landscapes.

Hannah Buck, health and tourism policy officer said, "Wales' National Parks are well-known for their spectacular landscapes; but this project aims to make everyone aware of the potential benefits that lie in the starry skies above them. They include an opportunity to lengthen the tourism season beyond the summer months and how energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by limiting light pollution."

The Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia National Parks are designated Dark Sky Reserves while the Pembrokeshire Coast is home to a necklace of designated Dark Sky Discovery Sites. For more information including information on the best dark sky locations in each National Park, visit www.discoveryinthedark.wales

Snowdonia National Park

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Support for ambitious Carneddau project

It was announced in November that a £1.92m grant to the Carneddau Landscape Partnership has been given initial approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund through its Landscape Partnership programme.

The seven year project, led by Snowdonia National Park Authority in close partnership with several other organisations, aims to coordinate and proactively manage the rich but fragile natural and cultural heritage of the Carneddau Mountains. Close collaboration with landowners, farmers, residents, local businesses, recreational users and any other organisation with an interest in the area will be central to the project.

It will cover 210 sq. km, which features Carnedd Llywelyn as its highest peak, 100

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 2000 sites of archaeological importance and the majority of the area's natural environment has protected status.

However, despite this protection the Carneddau's heritage is at risk. Important archaeology is under threat due to scrub invasion and the special ecology of the *ffridd* is in danger due to changing patterns of land use. Welsh place names are being lost, Bronze Age cairns have been damaged, stock and visitor impact has severely affected rare and important habitats and the population of the twite has declined. Action is required to prevent the loss of more carbon from peatland and the future of the unique Carneddau ponies needs to be safeguarded. Through effective collaboration with partners this project will address these, and many other issues, to help safeguard this landscape for future generations.

Google returns to the footpaths of Snowdonia

Twenty-eight footpaths in Snowdonia can now be seen on Google, thanks to Google Street View and the Snowdonia National Park Authority. Eleven footpaths in Snowdonia were added in 2015 and another 17 footpaths were recorded for the first time last year.

Volunteers and SNPA staff have been recording views from a wider variety of footpaths throughout the National Park including those which are suitable for families and are accessible to all.

Mair Huws, the Authority's head of wardens and access explains further, "Some of the advantages of having a resource such as Google Street View is that it shows the diversity of our footpaths and can give you an idea of the terrain before you arrive. Therefore, it can help you make an informed decision about which path is suitable for you before you start out on your journey."

More details on these footpaths can be found on the Authority's website, www.eryri-npa.gov.uk



Carneddau, SNPA

World's eye on Snowdonia

In October 2016, North Wales was named by the Lonely Planet as one of the best regions in the world to visit in 2017 - the only place in the UK to be included in Best in Travel 2017, and which has 'earned its place as a must-see destination for 2017'.

A few months later, this was reinforced by a poll by Samsung which concluded that Snowdonia had the best view in the UK - the view of Llyn Llydaw from the 560ft (1,085m) peak of Snowdon.

However, following the increased interest in the area over the past few months, Snowdonia National Park's profile has increased significantly. This in turn will increase visitors to the area and managing Snowdonia effectively will prove challenging. In addition, during the current economic climate, financial constraints will intensify the Authority's task and they will be faced with cutting our coat according to our cloth.

The articles by Snowdonia National Park Authority are also available in Welsh.

South Downs National Park

SOUTH DOWNS SOCIETY

Council sell-offs

Some of the local authorities have substantial, and important, landholdings in the South Downs National Park. Current budget pressures have led one or two to consider disposals, either to other "benign" public or voluntary bodies or to the private sector. This action has generated public concern and opposition, repeating previous campaigns, in the strong belief that ownership offers more robust protection and potential for landscape, wildlife and recreation than planning and rights of way legislation.

Brighton and Hove, after some relatively minor sales, were pressured into halting further disposals pending a review. Eastbourne, having maintained its intention for many months, eventually succumbed to a well organised campaign by organisations including the South Downs Society, CPRE and Friends of the Earth, and have formally abandoned their plan. The South Downs Society is now working with local partners and individuals to maintain constructive dialogue with the council over future management. East Sussex County Council, after the May county council elections, is likely to seek a benign voluntary sector owner for its Seven Sisters Country Park, which The Society is likely to endorse.

Unconventional oil and gas extraction

The Government continued to weaken the protection of National Parks against fracking and similar extraction operations. Having agreed to permit unconventional extraction beneath protected landscapes, the then Minister, by means of a Statutory Instrument, expressed the intention of permitting fracking wellheads within the Park provided the operation is modest in size. The Society is seeking clarification and reassurance, though it is impossible to view this as anything other than a worrying loophole.

Prospecting companies are now referring to extraction techniques like acidization and these seem to entail similar concerns to fracking, in taking risks with our subterranean geology and hydrology. The South Downs Park Authority was scheduled to determine a major planning application for this in May. The Society was intending to take one of the speaking slots alongside local objectors to address the planning committee in opposition. However the application was subsequently withdrawn.

General election

The Society will follow their usual practice of writing to parliamentary candidates across the National Park before the election, seeking their commitment to local and Park-wide issues, with a view to publicising what the Society receive – and reminding them when they forget all about it afterwards.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

New community archive website launched

Our “Capturing the Past” project to train local heritage groups and others to be able to digitally store and make publically available online their archives is progressing well. The project is funded through a Heritage Lottery Fund grant as part of an exciting series of projects called “Stories in Stone” coordinated by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and is based on the principle that a community's sense of place rests on an understanding of its past.

Significant progress has been made by the project team and volunteers in preparing six collections of local historical material for cataloguing and digitising and the new website - providing a portal to the catalogues, collections and archives of local historical material - was launched at a public event on the 4 April.

From the site you can browse through collections of local historical material, which includes photos, old documents, wills, parish records and the memories of some of those privileged to have lived and worked in these upland communities. Have a look now at www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk



Market Cross at Settle dressed for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, YDS

On the Buses

The Society continue to campaign for improved public transport access to and within the Yorkshire Dales. Their subsidiary, the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company, faces significant funding challenges in maintaining its DaleBus Sunday and Bank Holiday services but has had some success with sponsorship and funding appeals, with the result that the 2017 summer timetable shows very few cuts compared with 2016.

Funding of the Wensleydale service by Acorn Stairlift, a major contribution to the Northern Dalesman service from Middleborough by Northern Power Grid, and contributions to services from Justgiving campaigns run by local residents in these areas has resulted in the 2017 summer timetable showing few cuts compared with 2016. With the help of the local MP, D&BCIC are still appealing to businesses in Bradford for help with the Dales Experience bus, which this year will be more firmly linked to family activities, to try to attract more families, particularly those from minority groups, to take a trip to the Dales.

The success of these funding appeals is partly due to a continued high media interest in DaleBus, with the highlight being the showing on national television of ‘the Country Bus’, a two hour film of a journey on one of the services. However, as is usually the case, the funding brought in is only committed for one year, so funding for 2018 currently looks very uncertain.

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Yorkshire farmers pioneer new “agri-environment” payment scheme

The Yorkshire Dales have become one of two pilot areas in England for a new style of agri-environment (AE) scheme, in which farmers retain full control over the management of their land. A total of 19 farms in Wensleydale are taking part in the three-year ‘Payment by Results’ project.

The project is being coordinated by Natural England and delivered in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Farmers are being paid for producing species-rich meadows or good quality habitat for breeding waders such as curlew, snipe, lapwing and redshank. The big difference between Payment by Results and the previous and current AE

Acorn on the bus, YDS

schemes such as Countryside Stewardship is that it carries no prescriptions for the farmer. Instead of following a set of rules, such as strict mowing dates, farmers are free to manage the land as they see fit in order to achieve a positive environmental outcome or result. One of the farmers in the pilot, Tom Fawcett, said, "It's a good scheme and I hope it succeeds. There's not too much red tape and you're letting farmers get on with it."

Major rights of way deal signed

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has assumed responsibility for an extra 300 miles of rights of way, following a legal agreement signed with Cumbria County Council. A further 150 square miles of Cumbria, including Orton and the northern Howgills, became part of the National Park when its boundaries were extended in August last year.



Walkers in Mallerstang, which became part of the National Park last year, YDNPA

The agreement, which came into effect on the 4 April, means that National Park rangers are now formally the first port of call for any enquiries about rights of way in the extension area. Cumbria County Council will make a one-off payment of £150,000 to the Authority to help it carry out its new duties.

The YDNPA's Chairman Carl Lis, said, "Cumbria County Council have been exceptionally good to work with, and I would like to thank them for their co-operation. Now the National Park Authority can get on with maintaining and improving the rights of way network in this beautiful part of Cumbria. Well maintained rights of way are often cited as one of the advantages of being in a National Park. Everyone should benefit, as excellent footpaths help support the local economy and protect local facilities such as shops, pubs and cafes."

Community to dig historic village green

An archaeological dig will take place on the stunning and historic Bainbridge village green this summer. The Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists Club, local schools and community groups will be involved in the three-month long project, which could shed fresh light on the period of Roman occupation of Britain.

The Roman fort of Virosidium lies immediately to the east of Bainbridge and while that has been excavated, the village itself has not. At least 25 test pits measuring a metre square will be dug by hand on the village green and in private gardens. The project is being managed by the community heritage officer at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Rebecca Cadbury-Simmons. Each test pit will be excavated by a team of six people to a maximum depth of 1.2 metres. Earth will be sieved, photographs taken and finds recorded. Any pottery, metal objects and animal bone will be examined by specialists. Bainbridge is one of the few definitively Roman sites within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The current hypothesis is that the Romans occupied this part of the Dales in order to mine lead for their plumbing systems.