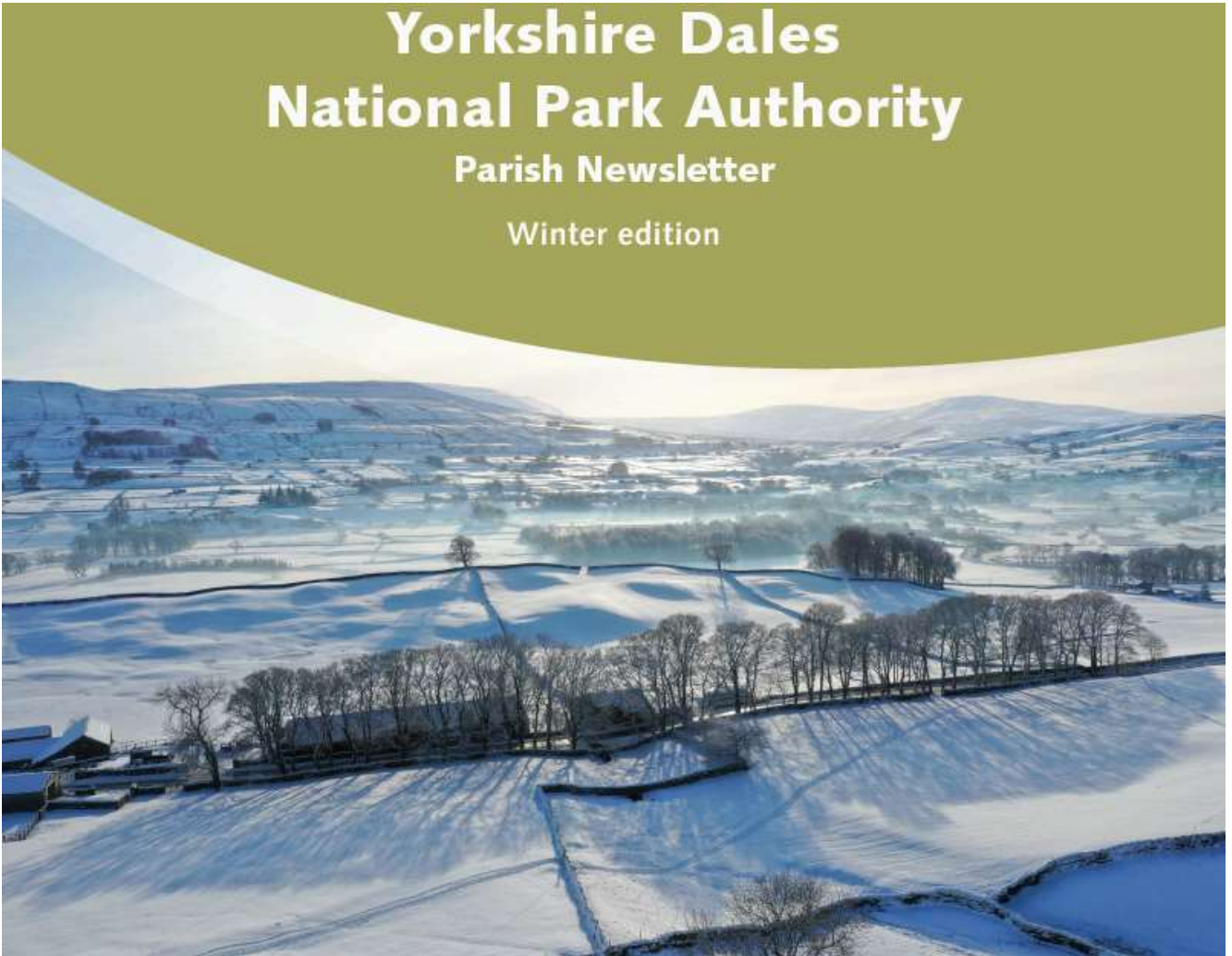


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Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Parish Newsletter

Winter edition



A round-up of all the latest news from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for Members of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the National Park.

A still from the YDNP Special Qualities film by Film on the Brain.



National Park special qualities showcased in new film

An inspiring new film showcasing the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park has been produced (see below) to coincide with the launch of a wide-ranging survey into what people think the priorities for the National Park should be in the coming years.

The film celebrates the exceptional landscape features, farming, the dark night sky, opportunities for recreation, and the people who live and work here.

Results from the survey, which has enjoyed high levels of engagement, will be made public in the spring and will help inform an update of the [National Park Management Plan](#).

The updated Plan will set out a five-year programme of work to be undertaken across the National Park and is being produced and monitored by a [partnership of local organisations](#) that operates across the area.



Peatland restoration at Cray Moss, Langstrothdale Chase.



New outcomes

framework agreed for protected landscapes

The updated National Park Management Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park will be the first to incorporate ambitious new targets set by Defra for all National Parks and National Landscapes.

These new targets reflect the actions most needed to achieve the outcomes detailed in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Within the new Management Plan will be:

1. Thriving plant and wildlife targets, which will include the restoration of a range of wildlife-rich habitats.
2. Targets to mitigate the impact of climate change, including the reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions, an increase in tree cover, and the restoration of peat bogs.
3. Targets to enhance the natural beauty and cultural heritage and increase and broaden the opportunities for people to be able to enjoy them.

It is expected that an updated National Park Management Plan for the Yorkshire Dales, which will incorporate these new targets, will be published for consultation later in the year.



‘Last link’ restored in flood-hit northern Dales

National Park Rangers and volunteers have built a bridge over Slei Gill in Arkengarthdale to complete a mammoth four-year programme of flood recovery work. In total, 13 river crossings were swept away in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale following freak thunderstorms in July 2019, and work to complete the repair of these crossings has continued thanks to additional support from North Yorkshire Council.

The bridge at Slei Gill, which is on the route of a popular bridleway, is the last significant piece of rights of way infrastructure to be restored, with funding to complete this work provided through the [Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected project](#), a joint venture supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by the North Pennines National Landscape and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Member Champion for Recreation Management at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Lizzie Bushby said:

“Through the Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected programme we have been able to improve six circular routes in this part of the National Park, with the Sleil Gill bridge repair now making possible a circular walk or ride from Fremington and Reeth up to Langthwaite. It’s really satisfying that this last link has been restored”.

ITV News Coverage

Woodland creation at Moorhen Farm near West Scafton.



Woodland creation 'on course' as planting season begins

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority will manage the creation of 43 hectares of native woodland this winter, at 12 sites, in the third year of a funding

Forum members are on course to meet an ambitious shared target of creating around 600 hectares of woodland each year (6,000ha over 10 years). This

scheme called 'Grow Back Greener'. The sites will be part of the 'Northern Forest'.

Other organisations creating woodland elsewhere in the National Park, including the Forestry Commission, White Rose Forest and Woodland Trust, have informed the 'Dales Woodland Forum' they expect to create a further 550 hectares of woodland this winter most of it native, deciduous woodland.

would increase woodland coverage in the National Park from just 4% in 2020 to 7% by 2030.

'Grow Back Greener' is a national, Government-funded scheme co-ordinated by the Woodland Trust as part of the Northern Forest partnership.

Full News Release

Old Gang Smelt Mill by Paul Clark.



Dark Skies Festival 2024

The Yorkshire Dales is home to some of the darkest night skies in the country, and is internationally recognised as an official Dark Sky Reserve.

Over many years, together with local businesses and other partners, the National Park Authority has been helping raise awareness of the need to conserve the dark sky and celebrate this special quality. And the Dark Skies Festival 2024, now underway, is just such an opportunity.

Parents with young children will be heading for a dark skies-themed trail at Aysgarth Falls to learn fun facts about the universe while spotting planets in the woods. Anyone in awe of space travel can experience how NASA uses underground cave systems to help train astronauts by heading to a special event at Stump Cross Caverns in

Nidderdale. And there's a special weekend of activity which combines stargazing with yoga, hiking and live music at Low Mill Outdoor Centre in Askrigg.

Full Programme of Events

Derek Twine, Deputy Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said:

“While enjoyment and discovery are at the heart of the Festival, it's also a reminder to us all of the vital need to do everything we can to protect one of nature's greatest wonders, the night sky, from light pollution so that we can help safeguard the natural world as well as our own health and wellbeing.”

An Orton Fells farm cluster meeting.



3,000th Farming in Protected Landscapes grant awarded

Grants worth over £2 million will be made available this year to farmers and landowners in the Yorkshire Dales National Park through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. The programme, which is part of the government's Agriculture Transition Plan, operates in all of England's protected landscapes. The programme here is run by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

The 3,000th grant to be awarded nationally under the programme was given recently to a Yorkshire Dales farm, a project which Defra described as "fantastically demonstrating how collaboration between farmers, FiPL advisers and other organisations can achieve a range of brilliant outcomes".

Gam Farm, just north of Grassington, is home to some of the rarest native livestock breeds in the UK, including Whitefaced Woodland sheep, Bagot goats and Northern Dairy Shorthorn cattle. The farm works with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust to host workshops, open days and demonstrations with the purpose of increasing knowledge and awareness of rare breeds – amongst farmers and the public alike. The Authority is encouraging local farmers and landowners to get in touch quickly with any ideas they might have for projects that need grant funding in what is the final 12 months of the programme.

Farming in Protected Landscapes

John Dower, Malham resident and architect for National Parks in this country.

75 years of National Parks

The opportunity to head into one of the UK's 15 National Parks for recreation and relaxation is something we take for granted these days, but it wasn't always the case.

2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, an act made possible by John Dower, a local architect and planner, from Malham in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

His White Paper, published in 1945, was pivotal in establishing the principles by which National Parks were to be designated.

He saw them as extensive areas of beautiful and relatively wild country for the nation's benefit and believed that National Parks should be a characteristic landscape to be strictly preserved, where access and facilities for public open-air enjoyment are amply provided, wildlife and buildings and places of architectural and historic interest suitably protected, and 'established farming use' effectively maintained.



Later this year the Yorkshire Dales National Park will celebrate its own 70th anniversary as a designated National Park - a chance then to reflect and recognise more widely what John Dower imagined in the small village of Malham all those years ago

[Read more about John Dower](#)



Find out more...

For more details on these stories and the wider programme of work being undertaken by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority please contact:

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