

People & the DALES

Diversity Access Learning Environment Sustainability

Spring 2012

newsletter



Fantastic take up of People and the DALES

Welcome to the second newsletter of the People and the DALES (PaD) project. Now into its fourth year the project encourages people from disadvantaged and urban backgrounds to experience the Dales through a variety of activities. PaD was awarded a grant of £197,000 in 2009 by Natural England as part of its Access to Nature programme, funded by the Big Lottery's Changing Spaces programme. The project is run by staff at the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and is supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Field Studies Council, Natural England and Bradford Museums.

Elizabeth Holdsworth, of Access to Nature, said "The Access to Nature scheme, which is funded through the Big Lottery Fund, has enabled Natural England to work with 16 projects in Yorkshire and the Humber, delivering many activities including boat trips, wildlife habitat and community events.

One aim of the fund is the desire to make the natural environment available for everyone. Access to Nature is helping to make sure that people, from all cultures and abilities have the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from the natural world on their doorstep and beyond.

Visiting the incredible landscape of the Yorkshire Dales is an amazing experience, even when it rains. The team behind the project are driven by huge commitment and enthusiasm, which encourages more people to take part. Another



key result about the project is an increased confidence in the many people who have participated. With knowledge about the Dales, they return and bring their families to spend more time there and benefit from the beautiful surroundings, learning more about countryside on their doorstep."

Since the project began there have been over 3,500 day visitors taking part in over 250 events. With another season of activities to go the project has already exceeded our targets. This newsletter highlights some of the great events that have taken place over the last year.

We are proud to have been recognised nationally for our work enabling people from black and minority ethnic communities to get out into and get involved with the countryside. See <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/209164> for the 'Learning Report: Ethnic minority communities'.

Dale's project makes a SPLASH!!

At the Evaluation day at Cartwright Hall in Bradford in January 2011 a group of intrepid community workers made duck houses for the local residents of Lister Park, whilst others went for an inspiring walk in the botanical gardens. The event was attended by 39 group leaders who had been involved in the project over the first two years of the project.

"The feedback from people about the project was amazing", says Judy Rogers. "It reinforced for me that being out in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales brings real benefits to the health and well-being of people whose lives may be difficult." Natural England staff were present at the event and were so enthusiastic about the project that People and the DALES is now one of their case study projects.



Weaving the Willow

Service users from Settle Resource Centre delved into a willow wonderland on the edge of Clapham for a hands-on day at the home of Sue and Wayne.

The visit began with a walk through the wild forest garden, learning about the wild plants, fruits and vegetables growing, before stopping off to rest in the unusual Uzbek Yurt to learn how these traditional wood lattice-framed dwellings are built. Then the group explored the living labyrinth at the end of the garden and everyone created a willow plait to take home and plant outdoors as a lasting, living reminder of the day.

Red Squirrels on display

Most of the squirrels in our gardens today are grey squirrels which have been introduced into the UK from the USA sometime in the 19th Century. The grey squirrels are bigger and fiercer than our native red squirrel so have become prolific in most parts of the UK. However farmer, Hugh Kemp farmed in such a way over the last 50 years that he kept the grey squirrels out and now has a small red squirrel population thriving on his land in Widdale (near Hawes). A group of women from Womenzone in Bradford braved the cold and wet to go and visit Hugh's red squirrels and plant trees in the viewing area which offer the squirrels protection. Sadly over Christmas 2011 Hugh passed away.



Up close with crayfish

CHAS housing group and West Bowling People's Partnership both from Bradford got up close to one of England's most endangered species. The native white clawed crayfish is a lobster like creature which lives in our Dales river's but is being decimated by the introduction of the bigger American signal crayfish.

These American cousins were introduced into our rivers via fish farms and carry a plague which is killing off our native species and much of the rivers wildlife. A project to preserve a pocket of native white clawed

crayfish is run by ecologist Paul Bradley and local volunteers who were on hand during two events to explain about crayfish and allow people to get up close to these amazing creatures.



Bulbs for Bees on Tarn Moor

November may be an unusual time to be thinking about honey bees but early this November a group of refugees and YMCA clients came to help Simon Croker plant bulbs for bees on the Tarn Moor Estate, near Skipton. Some species of bees such as the mason bees are solitary, whilst others like honey bees rear their young in large colonies. It is these social bees which beekeepers manage for their honey. To encourage bees into this newly developed apiary Simon is planting wild flowers. Planting 3,500 bulbs is a mammoth task, but with the help of 15 volunteers from Blackburn YMCA and Refugee Empowerment project the job was made easy.



A first for Choto Moni Children's Centre

In June, 31 mums, babies and toddlers spent a fantastic day out in Malham, walking to the Cove, swimming in the river and visiting the home of local artist Katharine Holmes. For many who were either asylum seekers or refugees it was their first experience of the English countryside. The group meet at a children's centre in the heart of Leeds for antenatal classes and a postnatal get together.

Everyone loved the trip so much they have formed a walking group for parents and toddlers around Leeds.

- "I loved the river, it reminded me of Africa. The river was the place we used to do our washing but it was also the place we met our boyfriends!"
- I have never heard them laugh or smile so much. For one day, they could leave their troubles behind and have fun with their children - priceless!" Rose McCarthy, NCT Teacher

Our day in the Dales

Sue came out to Lower Winskill with Bradford Visually Impaired project Gardeners. This is her account:

“After we all got dressed in outdoor clothing, we set off for an hour’s walk. The cooler air and breeze and great expanse of sky made us feel as if we were on top of the world both physically and mentally. The sun came out for our afternoon visit to the meadow. I could only see smudges of colour all over the field, but Gail had brought mats for us to kneel on. Wow! When I put my face near the ground I could see the flowers. What a revelation! The smell of the earth and flowers was strong and I was quite overwhelmed by the experience and lay down among the flowers with the sun on my face. It was an emotional experience. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.”



What we can offer



- Day visits – nature walks, environmental activities, kite flying and farm visits
- Conservation work – tree planting, woodland management and path laying
- Training – to provide skills for individuals wanting to organise their own events
- Help with transport costs
- Outdoor gear – walking boots and waterproofs for our typical English weather!!

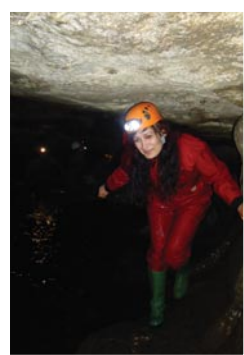


Training Weekends

Last year we ran two walking training events for budding group leaders that had already taken part in PaD events and wanted to lead group visits independently. The first was in March at Scargill House in Wharfedale, and included an archaeological walk along the Dales Way and a map reading exercise along the valley to Kettlewell and Starbotton.

One participant commented, “I now feel more confident about taking groups out walking” and “... they have developed my confidence in leading groups”

The second was held at Selside Hut in Ribblesdale for the more adventurous at heart and included an all-day climb to the summit of Ingleborough, and delving into the underground world of Long Churns Cave. There will be one more training event run through the project so book early to avoid disappointment.



LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND A TRAINING EVENT

16th – 18th March 2012

The Old School Bunkhouse,
Chapel-le Dale

Places are limited so contact Gail or Judy on 015242 51002 to book your place.

‘Taking it back home’ leaflets

Need ideas about local green spaces to visit and opportunities for getting involved in environmental activities back home? There are now two ‘Taking it Back Home’ leaflets, one for Bradford & Keighley District and a second for Leeds.

‘Volunteering in the Dales’ leaflet

Many of you have enjoyed being out in the Yorkshire Dales so much you have asked how you can get more involved. This leaflet tells you about organisations in the Dales which offer volunteering opportunities.

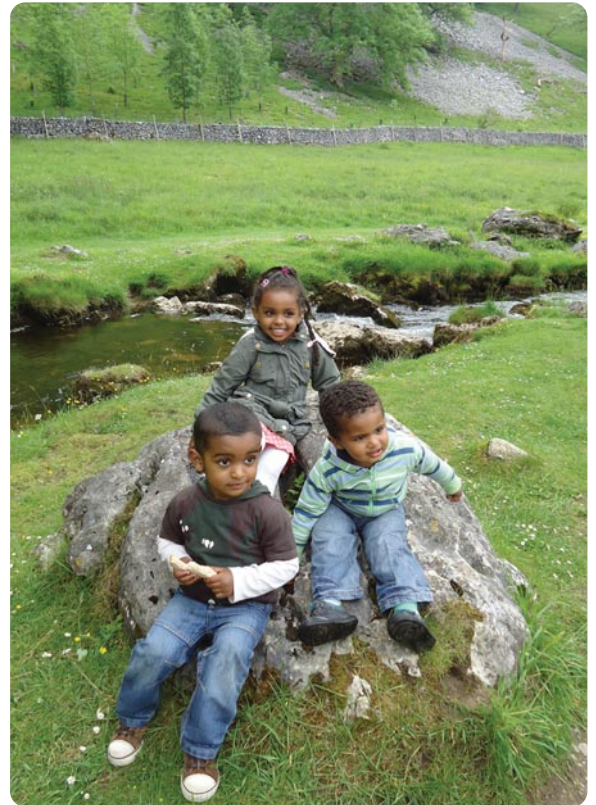
All these leaflets are available to download from www.ydmt.org/resources or get in touch if you would like paper copies. We would love your feedback on these leaflets and any activities you have been involved with as a result of the project.

Celebration event

The funding for People and the DALES comes to an end summer 2012. We are very grateful to Access to Nature for funding this work, to our partners who have helped deliver the project and you our friends who have come out to enjoy events. To celebrate the end of the project we are holding a celebration event on 4th July 2012 at the Bradford One Gallery. Please put the date in your diary and we will let you know more details soon.

Celebration event - date for your diary...

**4th July 2012
Bradford One Gallery**



Meet the People and the DALES team



People & the DALES TEAM

Dave Tayler
Project Manager
david.tayler@ydmtd.org



Judy Rogers
Community Worker
judy.rogers@ydmtd.org



Gail Smith
(works mainly Wednesday & Thursday)
Community Worker
gail.smith@ydmtd.org

Contacts

People and the DALES
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust,
Old Post Office, Main St, Clapham,
LA2 8DP

015242 51002

judy.rogers@ydmtd.org

gail.smith@ydmtd.org

www.ydmtd.org

YDMT Charity no: 1061687

Company No: 3236813 Images © YDMT

Supported by Natural England's Access to Nature grant scheme, funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme.

