

# People & the DALES

Diversity Access Learning Environment Sustainability

## Case Study

### Black and Minority Ethnic Community Groups

Humera Khan is the Community Environment Worker with the Otley Road and Barkerend Environmental Project, which is funded by Access to Nature. The aim is 'Making the most of what we've got' by taking people from BD3 (one of the most deprived communities in the whole of the UK) out into local parks to do environmental work. Local people fear going into their parks where there is vandalism, graffiti, drugs and youths. Humera is trying to build confidence by establishing relationships between local residents and their parks, improving local 'Grot' spots, clearing rubbish, weeding, cutting back and planting bulbs. The most successful part of the project has been the gardening competition, which had 6 entrants in the first year, but now has 50 gardens entered in various categories. Whole neighbourhoods and schools have been inspired to look after their gardens.



Humera has brought a variety of groups on People and the DALES visits including prize winners from the gardening competition who came to visit Growing with Grace, an organic farm near Clapham, so that gardeners could share their experiences. As 90% of the women involved have never been to the Yorkshire Dales before the main benefit has been to get them out of Bradford and into the countryside. This reminds the women of their roots back home in Pakistan. For Humera the highlight was seeing friendships blossom.

*“ Women have made friends whilst out on the visits when there is the opportunity to chat, and these friendships have lasted. As many of their husbands work long hours these women often feel isolated and visits through this project have increased their friendship circles and developed their confidence. ”*



Women have subsequently gone to the park together and are invited to each other's family weddings. This has empowered them to go elsewhere on their own, and many have returned to the Dales with their families.

Humera has set up walking groups where women have done 10 weeks of walks in the local area and then have had the opportunity to visit the Dales. These walking groups still continue and they are independent of Humera.

“ Working with PaD has been a great partnership. We get groups. You organise the day. We wouldn't have done so much in the Dales had it not been for you. I hadn't the confidence to bring the groups out at first so visits to the Dales would have come later on in the projects. The project made it easy – there was funding for transport, organisational support and local knowledge which were all important. Now a lot of people go to visit Malham. It's about changing people's view about where to go and what to do when you're there. It' opened people's eyes. ”

Humera took part in the first People and the DALES training event at Malham Tarn which developed her knowledge and awareness. She is now going to do her Walking Group Leaders training in March 2013.



“ It's a brilliant project which needs to continue. It' an easy way to get people who don't experience the Dales out there, especially the volunteering stuff. In BD3 people don't always have gardens only yards so in taking part in these activities they are learning new skills. It has been especially good for bringing people from different cultures together such as through the Green links events. ”

People and the DALES – Diversity, Access, Learning, Environment, Sustainability - is a nationally recognised community outreach project run by YDMT, funded through the Big Lottery's Access to Nature programme. The project works with disadvantaged groups, from urban areas bordering the south of the Yorkshire Dales, who have little or no previous experience of the countryside. Running since 2009 the project has enabled over 4000 people to take part in a wide range of fun, active and thought provoking activities in the countryside.

**People & the DALES**

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