

Climate of the Moors & Sea

This Quarterly issue investigates the local effects of climate change in our moorland, valley and coastal district.

Tom Chadwick presents evidence of pollution blown onto the moors over several decades from fossil fuel power stations 70 kilometres away, causing long-lasting damage to nature. But we can be heartened by Marshall Best's news of two large-scale clean energy hydrogen production plants planned for Teesside and the possibility to make this region a biosphere, plus other news of clean industries developing along our coastline – part of a low-carbon Bioeconomy for North Yorkshire.

Frank Thompson remembers sustainable farming in Glaisdale in the 1940s, while the National Park – busy restoring natural habitats destroyed by intensive agriculture and pollution – investigates how nature recovery might be privately financed in the future. Brian Walker tells us what the Forestry Commission is doing to prepare local forests for climate change, while botanists Anne Press and Martin Allen call for protection of the biodiversity grimly hanging on in hedgerows – in many places, a last sanctuary for wildlife – and for re-wilding to help mitigate the climate crisis.

Locals are grouping to deliver food and services, future renewable energy, guided walks for health and, in a remarkable Cricket Club initiative in Glaisdale, to cement the community through cricket!

Other creative contributions delve into historical and cultural connections, with tales of whaling in the Arctic, the witch of Goathland, poems about rainforests and photographs of our glorious, precious region.

Esk Valley News Quarterly is a community magazine for the Esk Valley, North York Moors, Whitby and coastal district. It presents the voices of people connected with this beautiful area, and aims to inform, inspire and strengthen communities and culture across the region.

Climate of the Moors & Sea



From the Editors

Welcome to the Esk Valley News Quarterly launch issue on Climate!

The contributions we've received have been fantastic – thank you to everyone!

Special thanks to Frank Thompson, who has taught us so much and whose scientific background has undoubtedly helped shape this issue. Also, to Marshall Best for introducing us to so many inspiring things happening in Loftus, to the Hydrogen clean energy programme developing on Teesside, and local community projects helping to improve our environment and health. There are so many other supporters and contributors from this area, who we'd love to tell you more about, but we'll let you read and be inspired by their words.

Inside you'll find helpful information on what's happening with climate change and its effects on this region – on our weather, local environment and wildlife, economy, industries and communities. And in what has become a popular feature of this magazine, we include observations from the past and look into the future, as much as we look at the present, so there are plenty of historical, cultural and creative angles to enrich these views and add interest.

While you might find information on the climate crisis alarming, this area has a rich history of pioneering work and industry, and there are resources here to suggest a bright future for the North East coastal area with its developing bioeconomy. You'll be heartened to hear about projects happening locally to tackle global warming, including habitat restoration, renewable

energy plans and opportunities to buy locally and use less plastic. There's much to do and challenging times ahead but amazing creative people are coming together to help.

Warm wishes,

NICOLA & PASCAL

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

The Autumn issue, due in October, is on **Working Lives, past, present and future**. Please could we have your contributions by **7 September**.

We'd love to hear about your work on or under the land and sea, tasks at home and in the community, the labours of your ancestors or historical and legendary figures, or projects that have taken you away from the area ... If there's an interesting, touching or amusing story to tell then please share it with us!

We are committed to presenting the voices of people connected with this region – as we believe it is important for a healthy communicative and creative culture, and helps strengthen our communities. So please do write in and share stories, poems, memories, views, news, ideas, photographs and art. It will inspire others.

(Contact details below.)

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Esk Valley News Quarterly is published by Basement Press (basementpress.com) and printed on recycled uncoated paper by Mixam.co.uk

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Photo by Andrew Marsay

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Climate & Weather

Climate – The Times They Are a Changing



Winter on Skelder.



Ice on the River Esk.

IT IS tempting to look back on our lives with rose-tinted spectacles – what lovely summers we had, the sun was shining every day – but the truth is that in the UK we have to be realistic and accept that throughout a year we may face a wide variety of weather conditions. However, in my lifetime I can feel that things are not quite as they used to be. The Farndale daffodils, much superior to those of Wordsworth, always came out at Easter and *now* they are appearing much earlier in the year. Perhaps at an even grander level we should think about the winters?

Winter of 1946/47 With the country recovering from the impact of the Second World War, the UK was struck down by one of the worst winters on record. The cold snap was felt across Europe, but the UK suffered the worst, and the country came to a standstill. Between January 1947 and March 1947, snow fell somewhere in the UK for 55 days. The snow was the main issue, but temperatures hit -21°C across the UK. Once the snow started to melt, the water poured into rivers. Many of these burst their banks and flooded nearby areas.

The coldest winter in 200 years – 1962/63 Believed to be the coldest winter since 1740, the 'Big Freeze of 1963' is considered the worst in modern British history. Despite not breaking any records for actual temperatures, the persistency of the sub-zero temperatures was harsh on the UK. To show how cold it was during this time, the River Thames froze over.



Glaisdale: Big Freeze of 2010.

The Big Snow of 1982 A mixture of snow blizzards and low temperatures made this winter spell record-breaking. At the time, the winter was the coldest in the UK for 100 years, with a mean daily temperature of 0.3°C . This time also saw the coldest registered temperature in UK modern history recorded at Braemar, an extreme of -27.2°C . Along with the freezing temperatures, there was an influx of snow. Snow fell on and off from December through to March, and some areas saw snow of up to 23 feet.

The Big Freeze of 2010 A more recent example of harsh winter conditions in the UK – December 2009 and January 2010 – saw snowfall and low temperatures in a two-month spell that caused transport disruption, school closures and power failures across the UK.

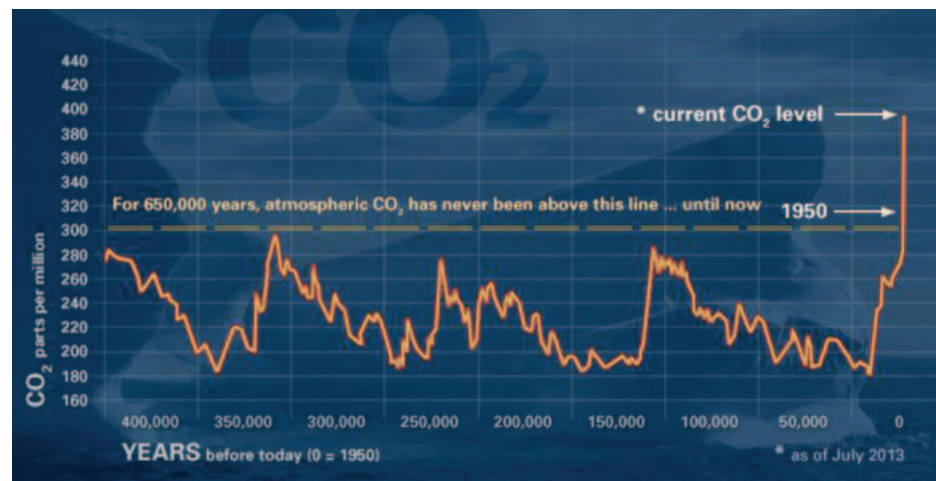
As climate changes alter seasons across the world, it isn't a surprise that five out of our top ten **warmest winters** have been in the period 2010–2021. The warmest winter came during December 2019 to February 2020. Despite a rather wet few months with floods across the UK, the mean temperature for this period had a value of 5.28°C , which is mild for that time of year. Experts predict we may begin to see a shift to wetter but warmer winters in forthcoming years because of climate change.

With personal experience of living through all these winters, I do have to conclude that something is happening to our climate. But one has to admit that these gut feelings can be misleading. We should, therefore, see if scientific studies throw a clearer light on climate changes.

WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS

One of the strongest pieces of evidence for human-induced climate change is the consistent rise in carbon dioxide (CO_2) in modern times, as measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, where CO_2 has been observed since 1958. As of December 2021, the concentration of CO_2 in Earth's atmosphere was about

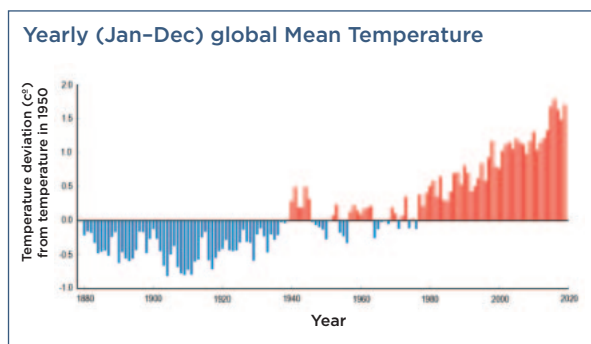
416 parts per million (ppm), with a steady recent growth rate of about 2 ppm per year. Over millennia this present level has never been seen before, as shown:



Most scientists agree that such high levels of CO₂ are resulting in the global warming that is currently observed.

Each member of the general public may have their own views on climate change and may feel it is all part of a natural cycle. But the scientific method is built on debate among scientists. Scientists test a question, or hypothesis, and then submit their results to the scrutiny of other experts in their field. **That scrutiny, known as ‘peer review’ (which includes examining the data, experimental and/or analytical methods and findings), has revealed that the fundamental elements of climate change and global warming are not in dispute.**

We may ask ‘are we feeling any effects of global warming?’ Thank goodness in our country we have only to put up with relatively minor changes. For the farming methods I grew up with we needed good summers so that hay could be dried and collected, ideally fair weather and sunshine for three consecutive weeks. Today’s farming involves making silage and often the whole crop can be collected in a matter of three days. In other parts of the world, we see a different story. In many regions of Africa there has been no rainfall for three or four years so cropping and

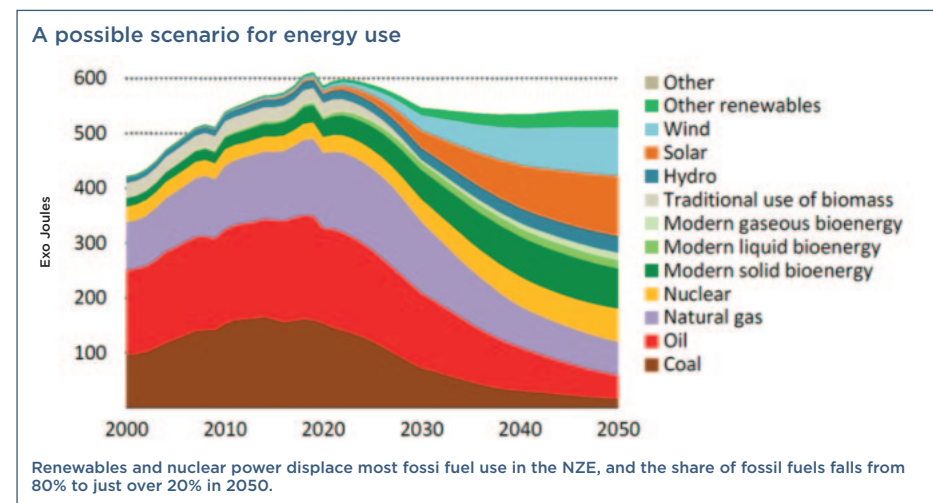


keeping livestock is impossible. Other regions of India and the Pacific Islands are being flooded so that once-good productive land is now under water.

Mark Lynas, in his book *High Tide – News from a Warming World*, gives numerous situations around the world that can be attributed to climate change. In his later book *Our Final Warning – Six Degrees of Climate Emergency* he explores a future world in which global warming has reached a level 6°C above the pre-industrial level.¹

In the UN Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, world leaders vowed to hold global temperature rise to below 1.5°C. Of course this can only be done by radically altering our use of fossil fuels.

One scenario that has been suggested is given below.



Each nation would have to significantly cut their reliance on coal, oil or gas so that total global use would approach 100 Exo Joules. The consumption is presently over 400 Exo Joules so the scale of adjustment is formidable.

The urgency of our predicament cannot be overstated: We are on the *Titanic* – our visibility is good – we can see a huge iceberg looming ahead – what do we do? ●

¹ Mark Lynas shares his thoughts in a video presentation entitled ‘Is Climate Change an Extinction-Level Event?’ www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Gc3GHDJM9Q

Frank Thompson was brought up on a farm in Glaisdale, he attended Whitby School and became a teaching professor of Physics after some years working in oil prospecting in Libya. He is affiliated to the University of Manchester. More about Frank Thompson’s early life can be read in *Esk Valley News*, issues March, April and May 2022’.



Climate change (long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns) can be caused by natural variations, but the main driver of the climate change we are seeing now (the Earth is 1.1°C warmer than in the 1800s) is the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas which produce carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that acts like a blanket, trapping the heat of the sun and raising temperatures. Methane is another greenhouse gas.

www.un.org/en/climatechange



Greenhouse gas concentrations are at their highest levels in 2 million years. To preserve a liveable climate, greenhouse-gas emissions must be reduced by half by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.

www.un.org/en/climatechange



To prevent climate change from reaching catastrophic proportions – where it will cause intense droughts and fires, water and food scarcity, rising sea levels impacting coastal communities, severe flooding, melting polar ice, devastating storms and declining biodiversity – nations of the world are pledging to reduce the burning of fossil fuels.

www.un.org/en/climatechange

THERE IS
N 
PLANET B

PAST NEWS

Wild Weather

Climate change is already having visible effects on the world. The Earth is warming, rainfall patterns are changing, and sea levels are rising. In the UK it is predicted that winters will be wetter and summers will become hotter and more prolonged. There will be increased local flooding with more flash flooding. We can expect more of the wild weather recorded in these early press reports . . .



Bridge over the Esk at Sleights swept away.

NORTH YORKSHIRE FLOODS

THE TIMES, WHITBY, 23 JULY 1930

Floods unprecedented in the history of the town were experienced at Whitby today. In consequence of the heavy rain of the last three days the river rose to an abnormal height and flooded land, houses and railway lines. Much damage

to crops has been done, and fowls, sheep and other animals have been carried away by the surging waters.

At Sleights a stone bridge which spanned the river, and formed the only means of communication by road between Whitby and the Malton-Pickering area, was covered by the flood and eventually carried away this

morning, thus severing all road communication, and the omnibus service to York was suspended. The danger and inconvenience were increased by the fact that the railway bridge at Ruswarp was damaged. The mail train from York could proceed no farther than Pickering, the mails being conveyed by road through Scarborough. Throughout the day an improvised service was maintained by this means. A large vessel broke away from its mooring in the upper harbour and fouled

the electric light cable. Several fishing boats broke adrift and were broken to pieces against the bridge, and throughout the day flotsam and jetsam came down the river and passed out to sea. Many houses in the Esk Valley were flooded and furniture was washed away. Another bridge at Egton was carried away by the flood during the morning, and later came the news that there had been a heavy landslide at Kildale, causing further interruption of railway communications and isolating several villages.

COASTGUARD AND LIFEBOAT TO THE RESCUE



MUCH land bordering the River Esk was under water, and many houses were cut off during the 1930s floods. Whitby coastguards were called out and taken inland to rescue people whose houses were in danger of being washed away. The lifeboat was taken by road to Ruswarp and Sleights to rescue villagers from the floods.



Weather reporter Bill Fogg of Thirsk: *'The awesome power of the flood was more than matched by the indomitable spirit of the Whitby lifeboat men. Up the raging Esk they came to rescue marooned families.'*

Royal Navy Lifeboat Robert & Ellen Robson, stationed at Whitby until 1957 and operational during the 1930s floods, was the last rowing lifeboat in the British Isles. It has recently been restored and can be seen at Whitby RNLI Museum. During the Jubilee 2022, Whitby RNLI volunteers were presented with Platinum jubilee medals in recognition of the 65,886 lives the charity has saved during Her Majesty's 70-year reign. You can volunteer for the RNLI at RNLI.org/VolRoles, 01202 663346, volunteering@rnli.org.uk ●



Whitby signwriter Pete Witney repainting the wording and RNLI flag on the 103-year-old rowing lifeboat. The old lifeboat is housed at the lifeboat museum on Pier road. Photo: Ceri Oakes.

Fortunately the rain has ceased and the floods are abating, but a tremendous force of water is still coming down from the Esk Valley. A man was observed sitting on the roof of his house signalling for help while his family were in the top rooms. They were eventually rescued. Mrs Robinson and her family, who occupy tea rooms on the riverside, were being rescued when the boat capsized and sank, but all were saved. Between Glaisdale and Egton the stone viaduct of three arches, 180 feet in length, has been damaged, and two girder bridges between Grosmont and Sleights are also out of running order. These bridges carry the railway over the river.

FLOODS IN THE ESK VALLEY WHITBY GAZETTE, 27TH MAY 1932

For the third time within the space of two years the Esk Valley felt the full force of the visitation. The general experience was that there was less water than on previous occasions, but that the damage was almost as great. Lealholm and Egton were very seriously affected, but Grosmont escaped without serious flooding, due largely to the fact that the Murk Esk did not burst its banks. The Guisborough and Kildale Moors appeared to be the central point for a downpour of rain, which must have obtained a tropical intensity, for these moorlands were transformed into vast lakes in the low-lying area. The usual water-courses were unable to cope with the running water, and in the fertile banks of the Esk Valley, fields and roads were inundated to a great depth by the

madly careering flood as it rushed towards the lower ground.

FLOOD SCENES AT CASTLETON AND DANBY

The rush of water down the small streams and hillsides around Castleton and Danby led to similar scenes to those witnessed in 1930 and in September last year. There was a large stretch of water near Castleton station, and the outrush down the hillsides carried away portions of fields and gardens, the silt from which was left on the roadway and in other fields when the waters receded. For several hours Castleton was cut off from the main road leading towards Guisborough; and as there was also considerable flooding between Castleton and Danby, the only passable road from the village was that leading to Rosedale. Several farmers, whose stock was grazing in fields on a level with the river banks, had an anxious experience in the early hours of the Sunday. There was a tremendous rush of water down Danby Beck and Danby again felt the full force of the flood, several houses being flooded near the Mill.

LEALHOLM AGAIN INUNDATED

As might be expected, the rush of water from the Danby area and the usual watercourses which flow into the Esk from that point led to extensive flooding in Lealholm. The first sign of flooding came from the mill race. When the water was at its height it was nine feet above the height of the river, and practically the whole of the lower portion of the village was under water. Mrs Codling and her family at the Shepherd's Hall

had to leave their home on the ground floor of the premises and go into the main room above for safety, leaving their furniture to the waters. The water did not rise as much as it did last year, but it seemed to rush more fiercely, and the outlook when the conditions were at their worst was one which was really frightening. The quantity of water down the mill race was in excess of that of last year this adding weight to the contention that the heaviest rainfall was on the moorlands between Whitby and Guisborough. It was apparent from an early hour that there was a danger of floods in the village, and preparations were made accordingly, so that at 10.45, when the water commenced to enter the houses, all the easily moved articles had been taken out into higher rooms.

IN ARNCLIFFE WOODS

When it was known that the Esk was again in flood, those knowing the position regarding the bridge repair work that was progressing in Arncliffe Woods were very apprehensive, particularly as the nature of the work entailed making coffer dam constructions in the middle of the river, where the water would be at its strongest. The abutment in the centre was three-quarters full of concrete, and its stability was such as to prevent any real damage being done, the only point being that the flood level water filled in the coffer dam, this having to be pumped out. The pumping plant of the contractors consists of two engines situate at the bed of the river and one of those, weighing 3½ tons, was knocked

over by the rush of water, a large quantity of tools being lost. The overturned boiler became embedded in the river, but on Monday a crane was brought into operation, and the task of securing the boiler to its original position negotiated. Considering the violence of the stream and flood, the fact that this construction escaped what might be termed serious damage was very satisfactory. At the bridge immediately above Egton station, minor damage was occasioned by the flood water getting behind the concrete abutment, but this will not be a serious matter. At both sides of the river there have been landslides of a minor character, and in places the course of the river was again altered.

EGTON BRIDGE AGAIN DESOLATE

In common with Ruswarp, Egton Bridge has again been one of the central points in all three Esk Valley floods, and this occasion was no exception. This village is practically built on the level with the river bank and in some parts very serious flooding took place. At St Thomas's Island efforts had just commenced to efface the silt left by the flood of last September, in order to prepare this well-known pleasure spot for summer visitors. On Sunday the island was completely submerged, for when the waters receded the island was again covered with mud and stones. The road in front of Bridgeholme was under water. The bridges were not endangered as Mr C.S. Sykes, agent for Egton Estate, and Estate workers had posted themselves at vantage points and hauled



Shepherd's Hall, Lealholm, 1930s floods.



Arncliffe Woods.



Glaisdale, 1930s flooding.



Replacing the wrecked railway bridge at Glaisdale, 1930s flooding.



Bridge lost at Egton Bridge in 1930s flooding

uprooted trees from the river. The water covered an even wider area than on previous occasions, even reaching the cattle houses at Orchard Farm. At about 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, there was a tremendous rush of water down Egton Bank and several gardens were ruined.

RAILWAY LANDSLIDES

Although the railway bridges in the district escaped without serious damage, the railway lines did not escape the fury of the storm, and in addition to the trouble at Glaisdale, there were two landslides between Egton and Grosmont and one at Newtondale. The slips on the Egton branch were such as to prevent the normal service being run on Monday morning, the fall of clay extending for several yards across the permanent way, and it was only after a gang of men had worked for some hours that traffic could be resumed. The slip near Grosmont was not of such a length. At Needle Eye in Newtondale, the rush of water had a two-fold effect, displacing a considerable portion of ballast and also causing a landslide. Monday's mail train arrived at 9.30am.

GROSMONT CRICKET FIELD FLOODED

Being the central point where the Esk and Murk Esk merge into one, it was generally anticipated that Grosmont would again have suffered severely, but the fact that the Murk Esk never overflowed its banks considerably eased the position at this village and no houses were affected. The fields at Alder Farm were where the water reached its greatest depth and when it was rising it was



Wrecked railway bridge at Glaisdale, 1930s flooding.

thought that the house would be inundated. Fortunately it receded but the low lying ground around the river bank was very much damaged and, once again, the Grosmont cricket ground and tennis court were subject to a swift flow of water. The slag works were flooded and a large fall of slag in the afternoon was the result of the undermining by the water. All the way from Grosmont to Sleights huge trees were lifted from the river by the flood, these being deposited, along with large stones and silt, in the fields adjoining the river, which after six months' hard work, had just begun to look presentable. Several of these fields had been sown with seed, which was undone and the whole area left with a bedraggled appearance, not improved by broken fences, walls and gates. Farmers in this area have had a very trying experience within the last two years, and they were very despondent on Monday, when they saw how their hard labours had been brought to naught by this visitation. ●



Eye of the Storm

Here is a dramatic true story of the RNLI rescuing a trawler from Hartlepool. Teesside Archives would like to discover more information about the crew and hope that this account will jog someone's memory ...

IT'S 8pm on the evening of Sunday 15 January 1922 and a howling gale has blown up with driving snow and subzero temperatures, whipping up an angry North Sea. The close-knit community of Holy Island, off the Northumbrian coast, batten down the hatches for the night and thank their lucky stars that none of their fisher folk are out battling with the waves and tides. Suddenly, flares of light are spotted off the north coast of the island, in the region of the rocks at False Emmanuel Head, scene of a previous shipwreck, and all thoughts of personal

comfort are cast aside as the community rallies to the call. The tide is low meaning that the launch of the lifeboat *Lizzie Porter* is even more difficult than usual, with expanses of soft mud to haul the boat over on its carriage before it can float off through the blizzards and extreme cold.

Some 60 islanders are involved in the launch with women of all ages waist-deep in the bone-numbingly cold water to help the boat float free. The wreck site is four miles away and it takes the lifeboat and its crew two hours to reach the *James B. Graham*, a trawler that is

listing badly on the rocks, mountainous seas continuously washing over its deck in the blackness. The lifeboat waits for the tide to rise before attempting to reach the wreck, the local knowledge of the Coxswain George Cromarty and his crew a critical factor in the careful and cautious navigation of the dangerous rocky reefs. The *Lizzie Porter* may be a self-righting boat but a hole in its hull would be catastrophic in these conditions. At last, after several attempts, the nine-strong crew of the fishing trawler are safely brought onboard for the perilous journey back to shore. The lifeboat reaches the island at 2am the following morning, both crews exhausted but alive.

I'm originally from Northumberland and have always been familiar with the story of Grace Darling and the rescue of the survivors of the *Forfarshire* off the Farne Islands, but until Linda Bankier at the Berwick Archives contacted me recently I'd never heard of this rescue. The wrecked steam trawler was registered at Hartlepool and Linda was hopeful that Teesside Archives may be able to help track down the names of the rescued crew members as part of the quest to find their descendants to mark the centenary of the event. It was only when I found details of the boat online, telling me that it was built in Aberdeen for Hartness Steam Fishing Company Ltd in 1914 (spending its first five years in service as a minesweeper during World War I), that I tracked it down in our shipping registers. Unfortunately, these had already left the building as part of the Archives' move to the Dorman Museum, though even if I'd

been able to view them, crew lists are not included as part of the register entries and so can't provide the information needed. In addition, a subsequent chat with archive manager Ruth Hobbins revealed that shipping crew lists held by The National Archive were actually sent over to Canada some years ago and in any case, our fishing trawler may not have been large enough to warrant such a record.

In the material kindly sent over by John Bevan of the Holy Island Community Archive group (who are leading the search for family connections), it was heartening to see that the extreme bravery of the lifeboat crew did not pass unnoticed. Coxswain George Cromarty was awarded a second bar for his silver medal and his 2nd Coxswain William Wilson and Bowsmen Thomas Stevenson both received bronze medals at a ceremony in London. In addition, a letter of thanks was sent to all the women and girls who'd helped with the boat launch in recognition of their crucial contribution to the rescue, namely their sheer grit and determination to see that boat launched

The presentation ceremony in London following the rescue.

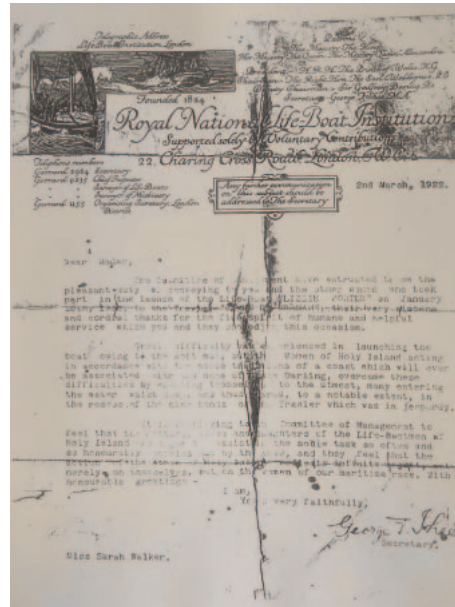


regardless of the mud, wet, cold, dark and snow.

I asked Middlesbrough Reference librarian Chris Gitsam if he had any ideas where the trawler crew names may be recorded and, while he had no luck with local newspapers, he did track down an article in the *Berwickshire News* (via the brilliant British Newspaper Archive) listing the names of the launch party of women alongside those of the lifeboat crew. It is no coincidence that many of the women share the surnames of the lifeboatmen; I can only imagine the courage it takes to launch your loved ones off into the eye of a storm with the dreadful thought that there was always a chance they wouldn't return: true bravery indeed. Moreover, I can't help thinking that these women probably deserved more than a letter for their actions.

However, what I'm really hoping for is that this article helps to track down some of the James B. Graham crew member descendants who can get involved with the centenary celebrations of this incredible event. If you think that your ancestors were involved, please contact me at christine_corbett@middlesbrough.gov.uk and I can pass your stories on to the Holy Island Community Archive group.

And finally, having experienced the full ferocity of last November's Storm Arwen, but from the relative safety of the land, I can't help but think what thoughts were going through the heads of those nine men as they lit the distress flares and prayed to whatever god they held dear that somebody on that dark and hellish



Letter of Thanks to the Holy Island women following the rescue.

night would look out of a window and see the signal. What did they go on to achieve with their lives after the heroism of the small fishing community on Holy Island snatched them from the jaws of death on that ill-fated fishing trip in the grip of a terrible winter storm a century ago? I'm keeping everything crossed that this archive collaboration helps to provide a few of the answers! ●

CHRIS CORBETT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

Teesside Archives Dorman Museum, Linthorpe Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 6LA, Phone: 01642 248321 / christine_corbett@middlesbrough.gov.uk

All images and information provided courtesy of John Bevan, Holy Island Community Archive Group. 'Eye of the Storm' was first published on Teesside Archives blog, 5 January 2022.

'Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get'

THIS July marks the fiftieth year we have lived in the North York Moors National Park and during that time there have been observable changes that can perhaps be identified with climate change. Primarily there has been a significant lack of snowy winters since the mid 1980s. Heavy snowfall and drifting snow blocking the higher roads of the moors has been an annual feature of winter weather in the past. In 1972 when we took up residence in Castleton 'Acid Rain' was a dominant environmental threat but since then attention has shifted to the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Both of these threats are the result of atmospheric pollution and here on the North York Moors, despite reductions in the emissions of acidic gases, the influence of pollutant sulphur deposition persists.

ACID RAIN

In 1989 an organisation called Environet was formed. It comprised a small number of people from a range of scientific disciplines and technical backgrounds with a common interest in environmental issues. In May 1990, in response to wide concern about the ecological damage caused by acid rain, a programme of manual sampling was started to monitor the effects of acid



Winter on the moors: a thing of the past?

rain on the North York Moors. Freshwater samples were taken weekly at three fixed locations and measured for pH (low pH indicates an acidic solution). These were in the headwaters of Danby Beck, Botton Pond, at the head of Danby Dale and Brown Hill Spring on Castleton Rigg. Daily rainfall was also measured and showed episodes of high acid levels and these were also picked up in the surface water measurements. Danby Beck, which is a feeder stream of the River Esk, frequently showed readings of around pH 3.6, especially during high flow rates. This high level of acidity is toxic for fish and aquatic invertebrates. Acid water



2005 SURVEY BY THE CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

In 2001, the report which Environet had produced was sent to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). It generated considerable interest and in 2005 funding was allocated for a snapshot survey of surface waters, which was carried out in March of that year by CEH. The survey included samples of water from 51 sites, including 46 headwater streams and four moorland pools and Lockwood Beck reservoir. The result of the survey by CEH confirmed that the area of the North York Moors which is based on sandstone is an area where 'Chronic acidification extends across most of the moorland area where elevated Aluminium (Al) concentrations and consistently negative Acid Neutralising Capacity (ANC) indicate toxic conditions for fish, invertebrates and other aquatic biota'.²

A GATHERING OF EVIDENCE

Other evidence of the effects of low pH was gathered, including the death of fish in Botton Pond in 1993. During an acid episode in September which showed a measurement of pH 3.9, the population of a fresh stock of brown trout was largely wiped out and over a fairly short period of time the rest of the trout also died. The pond was not restocked.

In 2005 a survey of the diet of water shrews in Danby Beck was undertaken by Derek Capes. The normal diet of aquatic prey, which formed 50 per cent of the shrews' diet, was absent from samples and it appeared to have been replaced by terrestrial invertebrates. This

indicated that the headwaters of Danby Beck were depleted of aquatic invertebrates.

Further indications of the impoverished state of Danby Beck have been shown by diatom (single-celled alga) surveys of 2009 and 2010 carried out for CEH. The surveys describe a low diversity of diatoms and found only those species that can tolerate extremely acidic environments.

The accumulated evidence of the Environet data gathered over a period of 20 years, together with the two CEH surveys, led to the publication in 2012 of a peer reviewed paper.³ The paper concludes that the evidence demonstrates that acidification in the North York Moors is extensive and exceptionally severe and that the Environet long-term data suggests that recovery may be progressing more slowly than in other upland areas. Despite a reduction in atmospheric sulphur emissions of 90 per cent since the peak emissions of the 1980s it appears that high acid levels which have been recorded over the past twenty years are the result of the legacy of these earlier depositions.

Following the publication of the paper, Danby Beck became part of the United Kingdom Upland Waters Monitoring Network (UWMN). Monitoring by Environet now includes the additional

sampling of Danby Beck on a monthly basis; these samples are filtered on site and sent for analysis to Lancaster University. Environet monitoring of daily rainwater and the fixed locations on a weekly basis is continuing. There is now a database covering 32 years of daily and weekly sampling. A preliminary look at the last ten years of monitoring results indicates that high acidic episodes are still evident in the data from Danby Beck.

There is sufficient weight of evidence to show the long lasting damage to our ecology that results from harmful gaseous emissions to the atmosphere. The effects on nature are clearly to be seen with the decline in diversity in both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. On a global scale this highlights the urgent need to move from fossil fuel energy to green solutions. ●



1 Acid rain is precipitation with high levels of nitric and sulphuric acids. Burning fossil fuels to make electricity releases toxic particles like sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere, causing acid rain, which harms the environment and humans. Petrol and diesel vehicle engine emissions also cause acid rain.

2 & 3 'Persistent surface water acidification in an organic soil-dominated upland region subject to high atmospheric deposition: The North York Moors, UK', Chris D. Evans, Tom Chadwick, David Norris, Edwin C. Rowe, Tim H.E. Heaton, Philip Brown. Richard W. Battarbee.

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Grandchild

Recently, our seventh great-grandchild, Ralph, was born. I think of this little boy with a strange mixture of tenderness and dread, tenderness because he is very dear to me, and dread because I fear for his future.

I have remembered something I wrote fourteen years ago, which is perhaps even more apposite today:

‘Grandad, were you deaf when they told you
what would happen,
When they said the sea would rise
and flood the land?
Grandad, were you blind
when they showed you all those pictures
of animals dying and people so afraid?
Grandad, why didn’t you stop them?
Didn’t you know how it would be for me?
Didn’t you march or protest or write to
your government?
Did you do nothing, Grandad?
Didn’t you think of me?’

ANTHEA DOVE

Energy & Climate Change



Fuel's Paradise Lost as Global Warming Looms



James Eckford Lauder: *James Watt and the Steam Engine: the Dawn of the Nineteenth Century*, 1855.

THE World's **First Fuel Paradise** was largely based on burning wood (a 'traditional biomass'). As land in the UK was cleared of many trees, and wood became scarcer, a **First Energy Crisis** hit this country.

Formed in geological times long past, coal is one of nature's very 'concentrated' sources of heat, in that it gives out much more heat when burned than traditional biomass material. Coal was considered to be the best alternative fuel and so the development of mining began extensively in the late eighteenth century, with rapid expansion through the nineteenth century. Other parts of the world were in a similar plight as regards fuel, and we have early records of commercial coal mining taking place near Richmond, Virginia, USA, in 1748.

Any mining activity is beset by the problems of flooding and this was a severe hindrance to the effective production of coal, especially from the very deep mines. Then, in 1712, Thomas Newcomen installed an engine at the Caprington Colliery, Ayrshire, Scotland, to do the substantial work of clearing the mine of water. By 1725 the Newcomen engine was a common site in mines across Britain. Its design

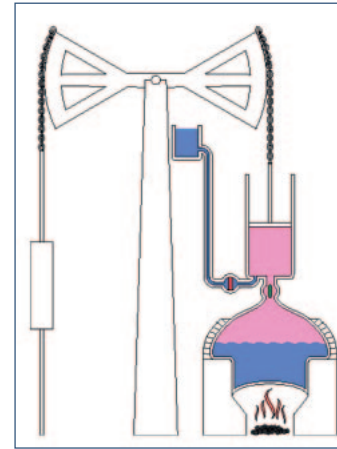


Diagram showing workings of Thomas Newcomen's engine from 1712: condensing steam (pink) is drawn into the cylinder creating a partial vacuum which allows atmospheric pressure to push the piston into the cylinder. Condensing steam (pink), water (blue) – Valves open and close alternately – shown open (green), closed (red). [Reference: wikipedia]

went largely unchanged until the 1770s when John Smeaton made a number of improvements.

Around the same time, while working at Glasgow University, James Watt was asked to repair a Newcomen steam engine. Realising that the engine was inefficient, he improved the design and, with his business partners Matthew Boulton and William Murdoch, Watt went on to further refine his revolutionary design. So, these improved steam engines were not only used to pump water more efficiently, but they were used to drive machinery in paper, cotton, flour and iron mills, textile factories, distilleries, canals, waterworks and even powering moving vehicles like traction engines and steam locomotives. These extraordinary developments transformed the British landscape and the lives of its people from an agrarian to an industrial way of living. The engine, thought of as a 'technological-fix' to solve the problem of pumping water out of flooded mines, was applauded as a miracle invention as it took the drudgery out of work. But

the engine had to be supplied with a fuel, and coal, being the obvious choice, meant the opening of many mines in the North of England and the Welsh valleys; coal was fuelling the Industrial Revolution.

Even as coal was being used at an ever-increasing rate, new sources of energy – new fuels – began to emerge. Town gas (derived from coal) became available for lighting and heating in the early nineteenth century, though its use was limited to urban areas. Gaslights made city streets safer and changed working practices, including much longer hours of work in factories. Later that century, oil was discovered in Pennsylvania, and one of the refined products, paraffin (kerosene) provided a cheaper alternative to whale oil for lighting homes. Another of the refined products, petrol (gasoline), fortuitously had a small market for use in the newly designed engines, namely, the internal combustion (IC) engine. Whereas the steam engine took several hours to gain the correct steam pressure for operation, the IC engine started instantaneously and thus the demise of steam power began.

Subsequent details are well documented in other articles, for instance, S. Pain 'Power through the ages'.¹

A preserved Watt beam engine at Loughborough University.





Air pollution by brick factories at Mahalaxmi municipality, Lalitpur Nepal, 2019.

With all the fossil fuels it was appreciated that they were finite resources and were expected to run out at some time in the twenty-first century. Marion King Hubbert published a timely article in *Science* journal to highlight this fact.²

Two additional fuels were added to the list after World War II – nuclear fuels in the 1950s and Natural Gas in the 1960s.

In the late 1950s we were assured by Harold Macmillan that ‘we had never had

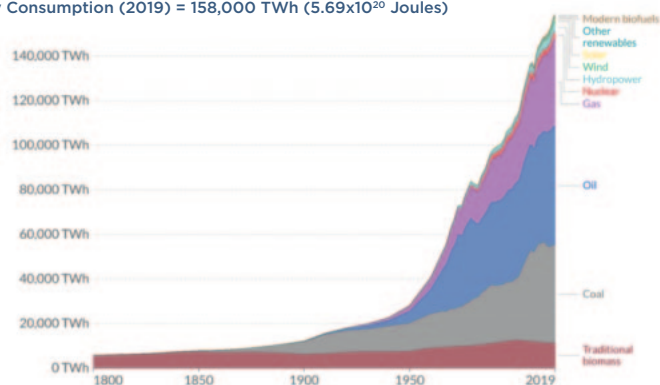
it so good’: we were undoubtedly in our **Second Fuel Paradise** with a variety of fuel choices. The burning of coal had major issues though, and in the 1950s many cities were beset by smog, a thick fog laced with particulate material. But natural gas was soon to come to our aid and provide a much cleaner fuel – liquefied natural gas (LNG), a fossil fuel typically made up of 85–95 per cent methane, which contains less carbon than other forms of fossil fuels. Although there had previously been appalling living conditions in much of the industrial north for the past two centuries, this was the first time that legislation was enacted: the Clean Air Act (1956) to enforce better environmental conditions in urban areas.³

In the early 1970s the Energy Crisis (probably caused by the Yom Kippur War, also known as the 1973 Arab–Israeli War), hit the world. The price of oil quadrupled.

However, despite feelings that conserving fossil fuels must be urgently considered, very little changed as the marriage between humans and machines was inexorably linked and would be for all time.

Global direct primary energy consumption

Direct primary energy consumption does not take account of inefficiencies in fossil fuel production
World Energy Consumption (2019) = 158,000 TWh (5.69x10²⁰ Joules)



courtesy of Our World Data

Thus, subsequent years have led to a steep rise in energy consumption as shown in the table on page 30.

Even if we continue to use fossil fuels at this rapid rate it is estimated that oil and gas will not be depleted for another 8–10 decades and coal reserves will last well into the next century. Hence ‘business as usual’ has become an option over the years. However, during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries it has also become apparent that the excessive burning of fossil fuels is releasing large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and that the temperature of our planet is increasing. Climate change is now inevitable but to prevent it from reaching catastrophic proportions all nations of the world are pledging to reduce the burning of fossil fuels.

But is there an alternative fuel available to fill the gap?

A reawakening of nuclear power is being advocated by Bill Gates who is suggesting that all the Uranium 238 material could be our fuel of the future. Reassuring the world that atomic power is safe when there are skeletons of Chernobyl and Fukushima visible is going to be difficult, and the decommissioning of old nuclear power stations is likely to last for many decades.

An example of mixing renewable with conventional fuels has been carried out in the state of South Australia, which is now on target for 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2030 with aims to export surplus energy from renewables by 2050. This venture (and there may be others) must be applauded as it points to a visionary future for the world which does *not* involve nuclear power or fossil fuels.⁴

In September 1989 the *Scientific American* journal published a special issue entitled ‘Managing Planet Earth’. This described how fragile our eco-system was and how we were rapidly destroying it.⁵

Solar power in Australia.



The United Nations assembly became alarmed when it realised that climate upsets/change was a more immediate problem than fossil fuel depletion and was an international problem. Demanding immediate action, the UN held an ‘Earth Summit’ conference in 1992. They have been running the so-called COP events since 1995.



Wind power in Xinjiang, China.

Since we adopted the engine as our helpmate in the nineteenth century we have put the very ability of living on our planet in peril, and now it is ourselves who are at risk from starvation. So, climate change is now seen as a much more pressing problem than fossil fuel depletion; our very existence on planet Earth is now in jeopardy.

The use of fossil fuels to create energy is roughly split three-ways between: domestic (heating homes, cooking, etc), transport (for work and leisure) and industry (including farming but also construction, manufacturing and other industries).

The million dollar question is – will citizens worldwide be prepared to suffer hardships from fuel poverty for the sake of moderating climate change when fossil fuels are still readily available?

We have little time to make up our minds!⁶ ●

1 www.nature.com/articles/d41586-017-07506-z

2 'Energy From Fossil Fuels', M. King Huggert, 'Science', 4 Feb 1949.

3 Thankfully, our country has had many years since then where air quality has been good, but in the last decade there has been a deterioration. Only a few years ago (2013) the death of a young girl was attributed to pollution in London. Cities are now needing to impose carbon taxes to restrict pollution.

4 <https://theconversation.com/against-the-odds-south-australia-is-a-renewable-energy-powerhouse-how-on-earth-did-they-do-it-153789>

5 www.scientificamerican.com/magazine/sa/1989/09-01

6 Our dual needs to save the planet and power our modern lives have thrown a spotlight on the way we produce and use energy, but the messages and rhetoric are often difficult to decipher. See the BBC Briefing on Energy for a clear and in-depth guide to energy consumption and climate change goals: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48186443

 Switching energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like solar or wind will reduce the emissions driving climate change. But we have to start right now. While a growing coalition of countries is committing to net zero emissions by 2050, about half of emissions cuts must be in place by 2030 to keep warming below 1.5°C. Fossil fuel production must decline by roughly 6 per cent per year between 2020 and 2030.

www.un.org/en/climatechange

 Climate action requires significant financial investments by governments and businesses. But climate inaction is vastly more expensive.

www.un.org/en/climatechange

 The ocean is an incredible source of renewable energy – off-shore wind and ocean energy don't emit carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Wind power could cover more than one third of global power needs, becoming the world's foremost energy source.

Ocean energy systems use the kinetic and thermal energy of seawater – waves or currents for instance – to produce electricity or heat. Ocean energy systems are still at an early stage of development but have the potential to easily exceed present human energy requirements.

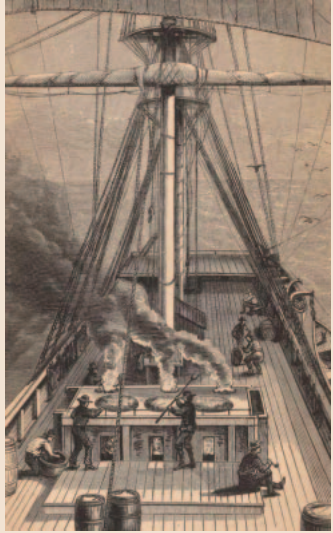
www.un.org/en/climatechange

 Approximately 90 per cent of world trade is transported by maritime shipping. Reducing the CO₂ emissions of ships to zero by 2050 is crucial in the fight against climate change. This means moving away from traditional fossil fuels to new zero-emission energy sources, such as hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, or wind. Green shipping corridors – maritime routes between two ports that support zero-emissions technologies for ships – are one way to accelerate the decarbonization of the shipping sector.

www.un.org/en/climatechange

Whale Oil and the Daring Whitby Whalers

Whitby's whaling industry (1753 to 1837) is an example of the great lengths people will go to obtain sources of energy. Whale oil, made by boiling strips of whale blubber, was used as a fuel in the eighteenth century for Whitby's street lighting and other applications – until coal gas took over. But catching whales in the arctic was a hazardous occupation.



Whalers boiling blubber on deck
(William M. Davis, 1874).



The dangers of Whale Fishery.



William Scoresby Junior (1789–1857), born in Cropton near Pickering, became a whaler and Arctic explorer like his father. In this vivid account from his voyages to the Arctic from Whitby, for the commercial purposes of catching whales and to further scientific knowledge, he describes his methods for catching whales found under sheets of bay ice. The year was 1813 and he had taken command of a new ship built in Whitby, the *Esk*.

The risks taken by Scoresby and his sailors seem quite remarkable to a modern reader.

BAY ICE FISHING . . . AN ACCOUNT BY WILLIAM SCORESBY JUNIOR

BAY ICE constitutes a situation, which, though not particularly dangerous, is yet, on the whole, one of the most troublesome in which whales are killed. In sheets of bay ice, the whales find a very

effectual shelter; for so long as the ice will not 'carry a man', they cannot be approached with a boat, without producing such a noise, as most certainly warns them of the intended assault...

In the year 1813, I adopted a new plan of fishing in bay ice, which was attended with the most fortunate result. The ship under my command (the *Esk*, of Whitby) was frozen into a sheet of bay ice, included in a triangular space, formed by several massive fields and floes. Here a number of small whales were seen sporting around us, in every little hole or space in the bay ice, and occasionally they were observed to break through it, for the purpose of breathing. In various little openings, free of ice, near the ship, few of which were twenty hands in diameter, we placed boats; each equipped with a harpoon and lines, and directed by two or three men . . .

Previous to this, I provided myself with a pair of ice-shoes, consisting of two pieces of thin deal, six feet in length, and seven inches in breadth . . . Where the ice was smooth, it was easy to move in a straight line; but, in turning, I found a

considerable difficulty . . . Equipped with this apparatus, I travelled safely over ice which had not been frozen above twenty-four hours, and which was incapable of supporting the weight of the smallest boy in the ship.

Whenever a fish was struck, I gave orders to the harpooner, in running the lines, to use every means of drowning it . . . By this measure, one fish, the stoutest of three which we got, was drowned. When others were struck, and the attempt to drown them failed, I provided myself with a harpoon; and, observing the direction of the line, travelled towards the place where I expected the fish to rise. . . . When the wounded fish appeared, I struck my harpoon through the ice, and then, with some occasional assistance, proceeded to lance it, until it was killed. At different times the fish rose beneath my feet, and broke the ice on which I stood: on one occasion, where the ice was

Drawing by R.K. Greville after a sketch by W. Scoresby Junior, showing 'the ship *Esk* of Whitby, damaged by ice and almost full of water, during an attempt to invert her position and bring the keel to the surface of the sea for repairing the damage'.





Beluga, or White Whale.

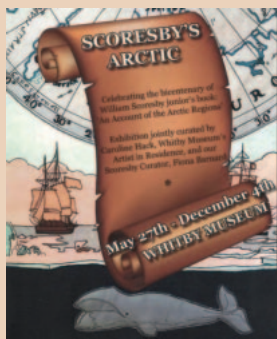
fortunately more than usually strong, I was obliged to leave my ice-shoes and skip off.

In this way we captured three fish and took their produce on board. . . This part of the business, however, I could not effect alone, and all hands who were occasionally employed in it, broke through the ice. Some individuals broke in two or three times, but no serious accident ensued. As a precaution, we extended a rope from man to man, which was held in the hands of each in their progress across the ice, and which served for drawing those out of the water who happened to break through. Sometimes ten or a dozen of them would break in at once; but so far was such an occurrence from exciting distress, that each of

their companions indulged a laugh at their expense, notwithstanding they, probably, shared the same fate a minute or two afterwards. The shivering tars were, in general, amply repaid for the drenching they had suffered, by a dram of spirits, which they regularly received on such occasions. I have seen instances, indeed, of sailors having voluntarily broken through the ice, for the mere purpose of receiving the usual *precious* beverage. ●

Extract and illustrations from *An Account of the Arctic Regions: With a History and Description of the Northern Whale-Fishery*, by W. Scoresby Junior, 1820, published by Archibald Constable & Co, Edinburgh.

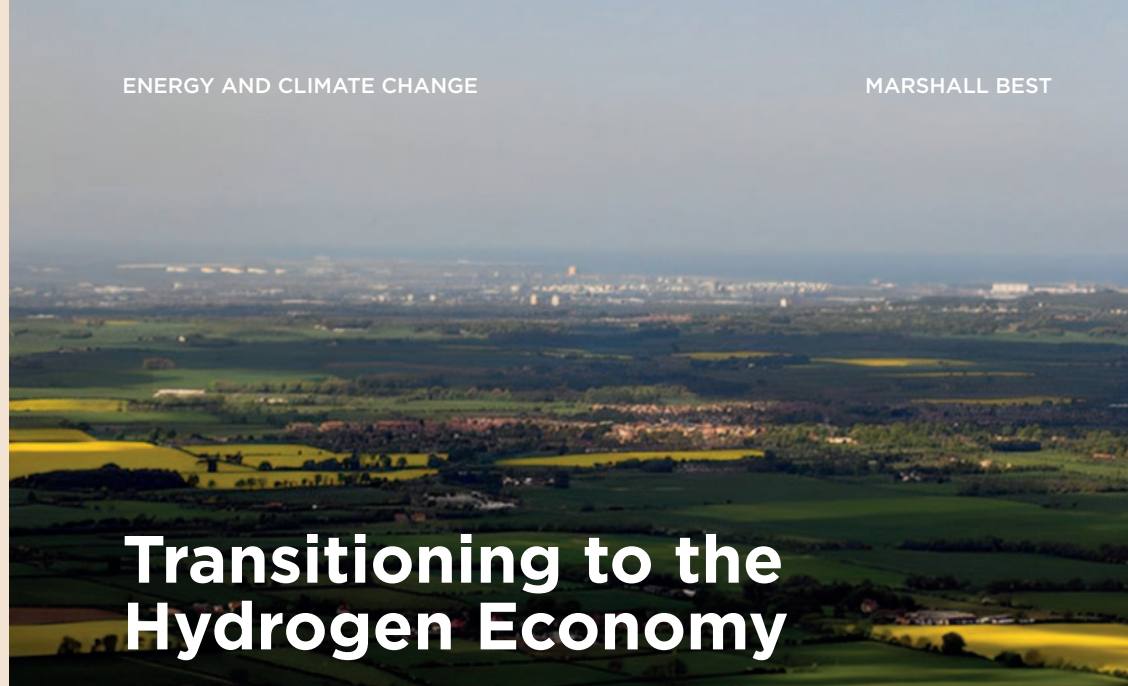
WHITBY MUSEUM EXHIBITION: SCORESBY'S ARCTIC: UNTIL 4 DEC 2022



HAVE you visited Whitby Museum to see their new exhibition?

'Scoresby's Arctic' looks at groundbreaking scientific discoveries in Arctic biology, climate, water pressure and magnetism.

Central to the exhibition is the 200-year-old manuscript of William Scoresby Junior's best-selling *Account of the Arctic Regions*. Subjects covered include climate, plankton, whaling, zoology, botany, and navigation. Scoresby's life and work is put into the context of his time and ours, with notes on some recent developments in fields which he pioneered. Many original drawings by William Scoresby Junior, including his snowflakes, are on display. ●



Transitioning to the Hydrogen Economy

BP plans to create two large-scale hydrogen production facilities on Teesside.

This article highlights the strategic imbalance in the distribution of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) throughout Europe following the invasion of Russia into Ukraine and the ongoing war. Few people, including political leaders, were aware of the extent of the supply of Russian oil and gas into Europe and our dependence on it. It concludes with an opportunity for our region to become recognised as a Biosphere.

WHEN political leaders, particularly in the USA, directed that countries and companies divest their interests in Russia, the immediate consequences have been profound and substantial. One major consequence has been a prolonged spike in the daily global spot market price for oil and gas. The UK and Nordic countries have adequate storage and infrastructure to pump gas into the European mainland, but many countries do not have the bulk terminals and connecting pipelines to deliver gas to end users. This is being rectified but will take months. Meanwhile, the strategic decision has been taken by the UK government to kick-start a world-leading Hydrogen

Economy set to support over 9,000 UK jobs and unlock £4bn investment by 2030.¹ Decisions have already been taken to accelerate the transition to the Hydrogen Economy on Teesside, where there are existing connecting pipelines for Liquid Natural Gas (a fossil fuel which will be converted to Blue Hydrogen), and infrastructure to receive electricity from wind turbines along the coast at Redcar and on the Dogger Bank that will be used in the production of Green Hydrogen.

The delivery of hydrogen-rich gas for domestic and industrial heating in the UK is not new. Coal gas was widely used for lighting, cooking, heating and

powering gas engines from the early 1800s. The typical hydrogen content of coal gas was 50 per cent. Today, the aim is to develop non-polluting processes in the production of hydrogen, and the infrastructure to support a Hydrogen Economy based on hydrogen power as a zero-emission fuel.

In November 2021 BP confirmed its plans to start the operation of a 60-MW electrolysis plant on Teesside by 2025, producing renewable hydrogen.

On 9 May 2022 Northern Gas Networks published details of a proposal for up to 2,000 homes and businesses in Redcar to be heated with clean-burning gas from 2025, together with plans for residents and businesses to be powered by locally produced hydrogen. This followed an announcement by BP on 3 May 2022 that it intends to invest up to £18 billion in the UK's energy system by the end of 2030. This investment includes plans to create two large-scale hydrogen production facilities on Teesside namely: H2 Teesside (producing blue hydrogen) and HyGreen Teesside (producing green hydrogen).

Together these hydrogen plants aim to produce 15 per cent of the UK government's 10GW hydrogen production capacity target by 2030. Locally, this could create more than 600 operational jobs and a further 1,200 construction jobs by 2027.

WHAT ARE BLUE HYDROGEN AND GREEN HYDROGEN?

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the known universe. On Earth, the vast majority of hydrogen atoms are part of

molecules such as natural gas – which is primarily Methane (CH_4) – or water (H_2O). Almost no pure hydrogen molecules (H_2) occur naturally – and none of them is green or blue! Pure molecular hydrogen is a colourless, non-toxic gas. Once manufactured, hydrogen can be used to power vehicles or produce the high-temperature heat needed for industrial manufacturing processes. It emits no CO_2 when burned, which makes it an attractive energy carrier for lowering carbon emissions. Hydrogen can be made from several abundant sources – such as natural gas or water – and during that process, energy is required. The process and energy used determines whether the hydrogen produced is 'low-carbon' or not.

Hydrogen made from natural gas (a fossil fuel formed from plants and animals living millions of years ago) must incorporate 'carbon capture, utilisation and storage' (CCUS) into the process to be low-carbon. This process is one way of making what is commonly referred to as 'blue hydrogen'.

When hydrogen is made from water via an electrolyser², the process must be powered by a low-carbon source such as renewable energy in order to be a low-carbon process. This process is commonly referred to as 'green hydrogen'.

Although they are frequently-used terms, the labels 'blue hydrogen' and 'green hydrogen' have no commonly agreed-upon definition. Some might describe any hydrogen production process that utilises CCUS as 'blue hydrogen', even when natural gas isn't the feedstock. Others might call any

production process that utilises electrolysis 'green hydrogen', even if it uses grid power that would result in an increase in CO_2 over the use of natural gas.

Whatever they are labelled, both hydrogen from natural gas with CCUS and from water using renewable energy have a role to play as part of a lower-carbon future. A diagram of the process routes for Green and Blue Hydrogen production is shown in Fig.1.

DISTRIBUTION OF HYDROGEN

In preparation for transitioning and managing the distribution of hydrogen gas in England and Scotland, a consortium of major companies, identified as East Coast Hydrogen, has been formed. Their objectives include transporting hydrogen by repurposing existing infrastructure and installing new pipelines. Importantly, they will build resilience with interconnectivity and storage facilities.

Large-scale existing and potential

geological storage sites within the region (underground storage sites such as ex-mines, caverns, or saline aquifers) could provide inter-seasonal storage³ and system resilience by providing demand points with access to a greater supply market. Fig.2 (next page) shows the planned use of salt caverns for hydrogen storage in the Hull/Leeds region for H21 Leeds City Gate Project,⁴ originally chosen as a blueprint for all UK cities developing hydrogen energy systems. The major advantage of using hydrogen gas for transporting energy in cities is that the gas pipe network is already in place.

CLEANER AIR – FORMATION OF A BIOSPHERE RESERVE

One profound change resulting from the transition to a Hydrogen Economy will be much-improved atmospheres resulting from a reduction in atmospheric particulates. Concurrent with the production and distribution of hydrogen will be the introduction of

Fig.1 Process Routes for Green and Blue Hydrogen Production (courtesy of Petrofac).

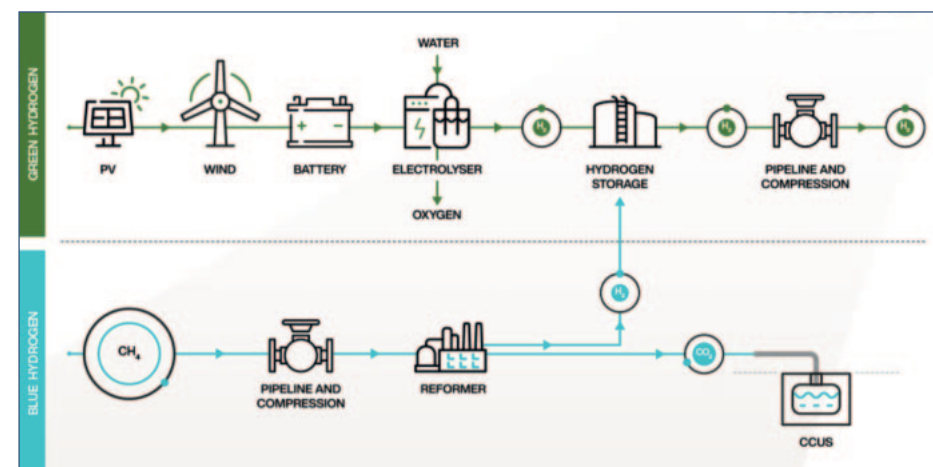




Fig.2 Planned use of salt caverns for hydrogen storage in the Hull/Leeds region

hydrogen-powered buses and lightweight passenger rail transport. These advanced transport units will add substantially to sustained high air quality in our region.

A hydrogen-powered passenger train, at InnoTrans 2016.



Loftus is a 'Walkers are Welcome Town', one of one hundred towns and villages in Great Britain making a special effort to assist walkers as they journey through the land.⁵ Walking, working and living in regions having objectives to achieve much higher levels of air quality is an ambition held by many for a sustainable future. Slowly, the elements required for sustainable development are coming together in our region to allow communities to contemplate the formation of a Biosphere Reserve.

Biosphere Reserves are defined as 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes



The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Zakarpattia Oblast, Ukraine, became part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO in 1992.

and interactions between social and ecological systems, including the management of biodiversity.

The transition to the Hydrogen Economy, bringing with it the application of new science and technology, will not only

provide a new platform for sustained economic growth but will also improve the relationship between people and their local environment through developing innovative ways for people and nature to thrive. ●

- 1 'UK Government launches plan for a world leading hydrogen economy', published by HM Government, Dept. for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 17 Aug 2021.
- 2 An electrolyser is an apparatus that produces hydrogen through a chemical process (electrolysis) that uses electricity to separate the hydrogen and oxygen molecules of which water is composed.
- 3 Electricity storage technologies which can store and release power for weeks or longer are referred to as 'interseasonal' storage.
- 4 H21 Leeds City Gate Project: www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/H21-Report-Interactive-PDF-July-2016.compressed.pdf
- 5 See more about guided walks with the Loftus Accord Walking Group around Loftus and the North Yorkshire Coast on page 119, on their Facebook page (LoftusAWG) and website www.walkingloftusandthenorthyorkshirecoast.com

Marshall Best has worked in the oil industry for over 50 years, specialising in the oxidation of hydrocarbons and fluid dynamics. He has participated in multidisciplinary groups developing process routes to convert non-degradable Polyethylene to a biodegradable plastic using a chemo-biotechnological approach: www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0956053X21004645 Marshall is also Chairman and a walk leader for the Loftus Accord Walking Group.

We're committed to the North Yorkshire coast

From funding community projects via the Skills 4 Work programme, to our continued support of local charities through our safety-driven Great Days initiative, to our team volunteering their time to support the North York Moors National Park authority – we're incredibly proud to be making a difference in our local community.

Find out more about our work in the community here:
uk.angloamerican.com



HYDROGEN POWER

Hydrogen Car Scheme



Hydrogen fuel cell car. Jon Hunt from Toyota (middle) with Alistair Skinner and Ruan Fouchee of Anglo American.

ANGLO AMERICAN, the company building the Woodsmith polyhalite mine near Whitby and on Teesside, took delivery this year of two Toyota Mirai hydrogen fuel cell cars for use in its operations on the project.

The cars form part of the £2.5m Tees Valley Hydrogen Hub scheme, which will see a raft of major employers, including the police, health workers and industrial companies, testing out a range of hydrogen-powered vehicles in real world situations, using a new refuelling station at Teesside International Airport. This local pilot scheme is designed to help speed up the adoption of hydrogen-powered vehicles in the UK.

Tees Valley was announced as home to the UK's first Hydrogen Transport Hub in September 2020. The Hydrogen Transport Hub is being developed by the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority in partnership with Teesside University and will form an innovation campus focused on clean energy research and development for cars, buses, trains, lorries, boats and planes.

'The trial of these vehicles and refuelling station is an important step in helping our region to become the UK's first net zero industrial cluster,' said Ben Houchen, Mayor of Tees Valley. 'We are at the forefront of developing cleaner, safer and healthier

industries of the future, and it's great that we have industry partners like Anglo American investing in our region to help us realise that vision.'

Anglo American has pledged to become carbon neutral across all global operations by 2040 and, through its Future Smart Mining programme, is pioneering several hydrogen initiatives around the world to help achieve that, including the development of hydrogen-powered mining trucks in South Africa and freight trains in Australia. The company also plans to generate hydrogen from electrolysis on many of its mine sites using renewable energy sources, and invest in a wide range of promising new fuel cell, hydrogen and energy-storage technologies and companies.

The Woodsmith Project currently employs over 1,000 people in Scarborough, Whitby and Teesside. It involves digging two 1-mile-deep mine shafts at Woodsmith Mine near Whitby, and a 23-mile transportation tunnel to a processing facility and port on Teesside. Most of the surface infrastructure at Woodsmith Mine is being built underground and the site is being carefully landscaped in order to minimise the visual impact on the surrounding countryside. The mine will exploit a giant deposit of the mineral polyhalite, which will be sold as a natural, low-carbon, environmentally friendly fertiliser. ●

Moorsbus: Transport Across the North York Moors



THE Moorsbus network, providing public transport for people across the North York Moors, National Park and surrounding areas, restarted on 2 July and will run on Saturdays, Sundays and August Public Holiday Monday until Sunday 25 September. Online timetables are available at: <http://moorsbus.org/timetablesfares.html>

Moorsbus is run by a group of volunteers. It aims to create an affordable transport system that allows locals and visitors to travel to, from and around the North York Moors without using cars.

It costs about £16,000 a month to run our bus network of three buses on a Saturday and five on a Sunday. Increases in fuel costs, drivers' pay, insurance and maintenance have taken their toll. We've been trying to raise enough funds to run for at least another month, but – despite our very best efforts – it's not been possible.

Some of our small parish and town councils have given grants, often of around £500 – enough for a bus for a day. And we've also had support from other bodies such as Forestry England and our long-time supporters in the North Yorkshire Moors Association.

But individual donations are especially important and we want to thank everyone who's contributed.

Friends of Moorsbus is a not-for-profit members organisation. We welcome new members and your support and suggestions: membership costs £5; apply via <http://moorsbus.org/joining-us.html>. Friends of Moorsbus have opened a Bus Operating Fund, to which passengers can make donations to support bus services. These funds are transferred to Moorsbus CIC to invest in services, along with other fundraising. We also work hard on publicity so that the buses and trains are well used and supported by fares as much as possible.

We always need help with distributing timetables and posters in the many places along the bus routes. There are other ways you could get involved too, wherever you live or stay.

As a member you can get 'MoorRewards' special offers with your membership card wherever you see the 'MoorRewards' triangle displayed – more information at www.moorsbus.org/moorrewards.html. ●

<http://moorsbus.org>
friendsofmoorsbus@outlook.com • 01751 477216



Community Vision for Renewable Energy in Loftus

ACHIEVING net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 in the UK will mean a huge number of new renewable energy developments, many of which will be situated in rural areas, raising the prospect of potentially enormous landscape impacts, as well as new economic opportunities locally.

With this in mind, residents of Loftus have created a community vision for their town's future local renewable energy, blazing a path many other towns and villages in the area may wish to follow.

Their plan – entitled 'Community Vision for the future of renewable energy in Loftus' – has been prepared following three community workshops held in 2021 organised with the help of CPRE's 'Community Visioning Process'. This is a programme designed to empower the people of parishes like Loftus to set out where and under what circumstances they believe that new renewable energy could be sited within their local landscape.

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) is concerned that rapid action during the transition to net-zero must not be at the expense of conservation and enhancement of precious landscapes. They want local people to be more involved in the decision-making process, which is why they have created the 'Community Visioning Process'.

The plan produced by Loftus includes a map of the community's proposals for future installations: 4 small wind turbines, 2 medium-sized wind turbines, 1 micro-hydro scheme and 20 fields of ground-mounted solar panels, to be supplemented by solar panels installed on at least half of the houses across the Parish.

There are also sketches illustrating the visual impact on the landscape, such as the one above showing two medium wind turbines on brownfield land west of Skinningrove, seen from the Cleveland Way near Hummersea Cliff.

The possibility for solar farms to bring biodiversity benefits to Loftus can be seen in the second image which envisions new hedgerows around solar panels adjacent to Micklow Lane.



In total, the new renewables that residents of Loftus proposed as suitable for the local countryside in their Parish would generate around 21,703 megawatt hours per year, nearly twice the domestic needs of local residents in a future where it is assumed that their day-to-day use has increased significantly (with half of residents moving to electric cars and half of homes heated by electric powered air source heat pumps). Given the high demand for electricity from sites within the Parish like the Skinningrove steel works and Boulby mine, it is notable that the renewable energy proposal could still meet nearly half of the combined domestic and industrial electricity demand, just from these local renewable energy sources.

The document created for Loftus is seen as the beginning of a conversation that will no doubt adapt over time as more residents engage with the project. It is a powerful tool for the community to take the future of their countryside into their own hands. ●

If you would like to find out more about this project and explore the opportunities for running the community visioning process in your local area please contact CPRE at info@cpre.org.uk.

Try the Pretty Green Line!



ESK VALLEY COMMUNITY RAIL

PARTNERSHIP continues in the quest to encourage a greener, more environmentally friendly railway.

All the stations along the Esk Valley Line now have LED lighting. New LED Customer Information Screens (CIS) are now in operation at Marton – and Battersby, Comondale, Sleights and Egton are the next stations to have this upgrade during the summer.

Herb boxes were installed on all the stations a few years ago, both to encourage people passing by to use the herbs, and also for the benefit of the bees. Bug Hotels, built by Beyond Boundaries at Comondale, are also on all stations– it is hoped they are now fully booked! Recently, to mark the Queen's Jubilee, additional planters were installed at all 17 stations focusing on them being wildlife friendly. Those are the pretty things.

Esk Valley Railway Development Company (EVRDC) continues to challenge the North Yorkshire County

Council decision to send some schoolchildren from the Esk Valley to Whitby by bus rather than use the school train. EVRDC claims the policy is wrong on social, safety and environmental grounds and rejects the NYCC defence that there are insufficient seats for the children on the 150-seat train.

EVRDC says that in addition to being costly, the duplication is socially divisive, and that unnecessarily sending children across the National Park in diesel buses is more dangerous and it contradicts NYCC claims to be environmentally sensitive.

Herb box.



This is just some of what EVRDC does. If you think there are things which could be improved on please let us know. Or how about joining one of our Station Adopter Teams along the line? trythetrain@eskvalleyrailway.co.uk ●

Sleights bug hotel.



GO GREEN WITH US

Rail is the green way to travel.

Trains produce only 1 per cent of Great Britain's transport emissions but carry 10 per cent of all passenger numbers and 9 per cent of freight.

In future, rail will be the backbone of a cleaner future transport system.

www.eskvalleyrailway.co.uk
twitter: @EVRDC

GREEN TRANSPORT FOR ESK VALLEY CAMPHILL COMMUNITY

Electric Car Charging Appeal

THE Esk Valley Camphill Community (based in Danby) is committed to removing carbon emissions from our transport needs by 2028. This means more walking and cycling for those of us who can, and more electric bikes and scooters for those who need a bit of help up the hills.

Our rural location means that to stay connected with the wider world, we rely on our car share scheme, which is the main cause of our carbon emissions. We have been systematically replacing our petrol/diesel-run vehicles with electric for the last five years. We currently have five vehicles and one electric scooter in our scheme. An essential step in achieving our goal is to increase the number of charging points within the community. At present we only have one installed charging point but we plan to install a further five units at a cost of £20,000.

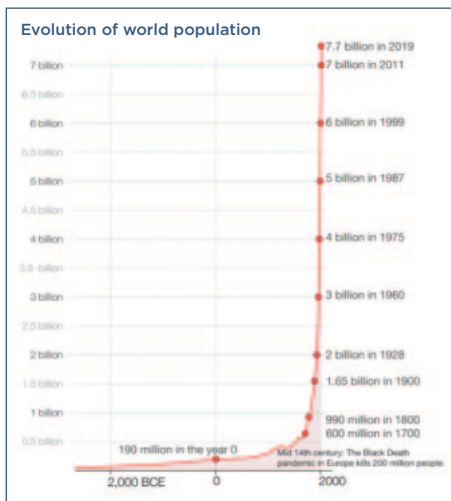


The Camphill Foundation UK and Ireland has kindly agreed to fund half of the project, which means we are asking our friends and supporters for help to raise the remaining £10,000. If you can help, please follow the link on our website: www.eskvalleycamphill.org/new-projects. ●

Farming, Forestry & Bioeconomy



Sustainable Farming



SINCE the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, our human population has experienced a period of explosive growth. The number of people reached 1 billion by the year 1800 and to date, at 7.95 billion, we see that over-population threatens animal and plant life, ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of the Earth.

In 1968, Paul Ehrlich, Stanford University, highlighted the problem of feeding this massive population in his book *The Population Bomb*, in which his first statement was: 'The battle to feed all of humanity is over – and humanity has lost'.

Farming, the manner in which we produce food from the land, is crucial for human existence and, as the book suggests . . . may we be losing the battle to provide enough food to feed each person on the planet?

Until the end of the nineteenth century most farming, globally, was what is known as 'subsistence farming': crops grown on a relatively small plot of land with most of the food being used to feed the animals and family. Any surplus food is sold to provide an income for the family. Working away from the homestead will also generate income so that the farmer will be able to buy essential items for the well-being of the family.



Family life at Nab End, Glaisdale, in the 1940s.

This type of farming is almost 100 per cent sustainable and the soil retains a high fertility as nutrients and essential elements are returned to the land though farm manure. Plant diseases, pests and weeds still prevail in this system but crop rotation helps to minimise their effects. With not too many modifications, this was the farming method that my family used when they farmed in North Yorkshire: at Hartoft (Lower Row Mires) and later in Glaisdale (Nab End) in the early twentieth century, up to the mid-1950s, when I was growing up.¹

A list of typical activities on our small mixed farm with no tractor or car:

January / February / March

Feed sheep
Lead manure to fields
Collect hay from stacks in field
Hedging and ditching
Repair tools and implements
Stock sales

April / May / June

Lambing
Cultivating land
Sowing cereals
Cutting peat on moors
Clipping sheep

July / August / September

Haymaking and harvest
Rickling peat (stacking to dry)
Farm shows
Potato picking after harvest
Collect peat in late Sept or Oct

October / November / December

Fruit and berry picking
Pig killing
Threshing days
Bottling, preserving, jam making

From my childhood memory, these activities completely filled the working day. The farm was 24 hectares (60 acres) but had moor grazing for sheep of about

18 hectares (45 acres). Mechanical power was provided by two horses and person power was used for small tasks. Heating of the homestead was mainly by peat and waste wood but 5 tonnes of coal had to supplement these 'free' fuels. Milk from twelve milking cows was sold to the newly formed Milk Marketing Board and this was our main monthly income. A mixture of bread and potatoes was our staple diet and the flour was an input to the farm as quality wheat, suitable for milling, was not grown in the area. The garden and orchard were the main source of fruit and vegetables although the hedgerows gave an abundant source of berries at autumn-time. The downside of relying on horse power is that these animals have to be fed in winter-time when they are not providing a normal workload. Clearly, sustainable power has an unavoidable cost.

Constant work involved milking cows twice a day and feeding the animals that were kept indoors (pigs and poultry, for instance). In the winter months the cows and horses had to be fed, but in the summer months they fed themselves in pastures. As an additional supplement to the income, we used to have paying visitors during the summer months.

Western farming, and indeed that of North Yorkshire, has been transformed in the twentieth century due to mechanisation. Far fewer people are now working on the land (less than 2 per cent of the working population) so it is inevitable that machinery has had to be employed. In the UK at least 10 per cent of good agricultural land has been lost for urban and motorway developments and half of



our hedgerows and woodlands have been destroyed to accommodate 'industrial' farming. In the war years the necessity for high levels of food production was obvious and mechanisation, together with the copious use of chemicals and selective plant and animal breeding, has resulted in very efficient farming with crop yields increasing four-fold. The European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), set up in 1962, originally welcomed these increases and paid subsidies to farmers on the amount of produce. We all know how this got out of hand and wine and milk lakes suddenly appeared, together with butter, beef, and grain mountains. The CAP is presently trying to address farming in a more holistic way and offer grants for environmental initiatives.

So, what kind of farming do we plan to have in the future? There are basically three elements to consider – labour, land and weather. Intensive farming would help in cases of land shortage, mechanisation and robotics could alleviate any shortages of labour, and covering large areas with poly-tunnels would separate farming from the ravages of the weather; but is this farming?

In Japan there are some people who wish to restore 'natural' farming. Just after the end of World War II, Masanobu Fukuoka went back to his native village and started to realise his vision: an earth-friendly agricultural method without using chemicals, fertilisers or technology. He called it natural farming, but he could have also called it 'do-nothing farming', since his approach was that of getting rid of unnecessary practices and work. It is zero energy farming as no oil (petroleum) is used.²



But would this system feed the world?

For a modern organic farming system see www.higherhacknell.co.uk/about/about-us.

Many questions present themselves and an immediate question for UK farmers is that of subsidies with Brexit having taken us out of the CAP. Farmers are asking 'will the government be willing to subsidise UK farming in the future?'

Colin Tudge, author, thinker and co-founder of the Oxford Real Farming Conference, recognises the problems created by industrial farming and monocultures and favours a total renaissance: an enlightened agriculture where farms are treated as ecosystems and positive contributors to the biosphere. This means farms with low input of pesticides, etc; mixed and diverse farms that give the best protection against disease; farms that give people control over their own food supply; and farming that is supported by financial mechanisms for the public good. He sees farming as a complex, intellectually challenging and rewarding career, and he believes that many more enlightened and highly skilled people need to be attracted into the industry.³ ●

¹ See earlier articles by Frank Thompson: 'A Mother's Love', parts 1 and 2, and 'Glaisdale Village Life in the 1940s and 50s', *Esk Valley News*, issues March, April, May 2022.

² www.ideassonline.org/public/pdf/Natural_Farming_Fukuoka_Panos_Manikis_ideassonline.pdf

³ see www.youtube.com/watch?v=TskV6wL6o74



The agricultural sector is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, second only to the energy sector. Livestock and crops emit carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide making agriculture a major source of greenhouse gases. Agriculture also provides opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Together, forests and sustainable agriculture have significant influence in mitigating climate change.

United Nations Environment Programme



A significant positive contribution to combat climate change can be made by increasing sustainable agricultural and forestry practices. These include measures such as diversification of planted crop and forest species, agroforestry and agroecology. Improved management of cropland and grazing systems, such as soil conservation and the reduction of fertilizer use, is jointly estimated to offer annual climate change mitigation potential of 3-6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

IPCC, the UN body for assessing science related to climate change



Forests are vitally important for sustaining life on Earth, and play a major role in the fight against climate change. Forests help stabilise the climate. They regulate ecosystems, protect biodiversity, play an integral part in the carbon cycle, support livelihoods, and can help drive sustainable growth.

To maximise the climate benefits of forests, we must keep more forest landscapes intact, manage them more sustainably, and restore more of those landscapes which we have lost.

Halting the loss and degradation of forest ecosystems and promoting their restoration have the potential to contribute over one-third of the total climate change mitigation that scientists say is required by 2030 to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Farmers Have Your Say



SUBSTANTIAL changes have taken place in farming since the publication of my book *Forty Shades of Green*. Tree planting has become all the rage and this seems to be a good use of steep, rough marginal land – we have some such land at Hart Hall, Glaisdale. (A steep fall of 100 feet to Glaisdale Beck was the access point for livestock to drinking water, but with the availability of plastic pipes and mains water, this access is no longer needed.) But now, what bothers me is when I hear of land that can produce food – even potential corn crops – being locked away in tree-planting schemes for many years to come. It seems particularly bad when the main reason is to produce carbon credits to offset some celebrity's lifestyle. If productive land is lost, food prices will rise and it will not be the celebrity who suffers. I believe in balanced farming. One aim of my book was to explain the need for grass-based livestock keeping, where the livestock improve the fertility of the land while grazing. This allows us to grow cereals for feeding to cattle, reducing the amount of bought-in concentrate feed by 50 per cent.

The tree-planting looks as if it will be coming to this area in quite a substantial way, and I just hope that Hart Hall can be kept as a dairy farm. It was built in the eighteenth century as a model farm, and it has been a struggle physically and financially to preserve and adapt listed buildings while adding more modern structures, but we feel that this has really paid off. With additional land formerly from Quarry Farm and Red House Farm, Hart Hall is now big enough, despite not going for excessive stocking numbers, to be a profitable business that can be viable for years to come and can provide a good and fruitful living for a local farming family.

My generation does seem to be waking up to the importance of a good and sustainable food supply and I hope that farms such as ours can contribute to that while at the same time carry on preserving and enhancing the beauty of the countryside.

Also in the book I mention the need for good home insulation. With the recent spike in energy prices this need has become more urgent. Even characterful farm houses can be carefully insulated without losing any charm. I have seen this type of upgrading and ground source heat pump installation carried out on the stone-built farmhouse



where I grew up – good insulation is a win-win situation.

It's a bit late for us to be getting involved in tree-planting grant schemes that tie us into agreements for five years or more, but we hope that whoever follows us at Hart Hall may enter some steep difficult land into such a scheme,

and in a way that follows our principles of balancing the problems of climate change and food production. ●

HART HALL, GLAISDALE, 22 JUNE 2022

If anyone wants to buy a book, please get in touch: dave.welford@hotmail.com

FARMING MEMORIES

Christmas Letters from a Moorland Farm, 1972–90, by Giles & Mary Heron



GILES AND MARY HERON gave up careers in education to buy a derelict farm in Glaisdale in 1972. Bank House Farm at this stage was overgrown with thistles. The couple set about restoring the land on traditional, non-chemical principles – pioneering what would become organic methods, in the belief that healthy food and work on the farm promoted a simple healthy lifestyle and was good for the soul: 'Thrift expressed appreciation of the true worth of things and of life itself, leading to their use with respect and care.'

Undeterred by lack of experience or capital – or flashy tractors – they harnessed up their horse, Krona, and set about rearing animals: 'For us free range meant exactly that – we did far less to shut them in than to shut them out – from garden, from cars, from the kitchen.'

Giles and Mary were helped by young people who came to live with them, who in return found a sense of achievement and self respect that so far the world had failed to provide. The adventures of this unusual couple and their visitors are recorded in Giles' earlier book,

Farming with Mary (published in 2009), a delightful story that continues to inspire people with its honest portrayal of a strenuous life in a close-knit moorland community on the cusp of change. 'Nothing was more magical than watching a full moon sailing in and out of clouds, while reclining in comfort on the last wagon load, swaying and jolting across the invisible fields somewhere below.'

Sadly, Mary passed away in 2019, unleashing a flood of admiration and gratitude from a wide circle of friends wishing to testify to the vital influence she had had on their lives.

Giles, still singing his wonderful bass lines in Sunday morning hymns and at the Mickleby folk club, has now collected together the annual Christmas letters he and Mary wrote in their years at Bank House Farm, in a new publication, *Christmas Letters from a Moorland Farm*. This charming booklet illustrates, with more photographs from the family archive, the consistency of Giles' and Mary's conviction to live their dream entwined in the cycles of the natural seasons. ●

Christmas Letters from a Moorland Farm is available for purchase for £8, or £10 with post and packing. To obtain a copy please see Giles Heron or email: valleynews@basementpress.com

Can Habitat Restoration Pay?



Esk Valley landscape.

(photo: Chris Watt, NYMNP)

THE Esk Valley is characterised by a mosaic of habitat types including moorland, farmland, grassland, woodland and rivers. The River Esk is the main watercourse in the valley and flows for 28 miles from the upper reaches of Westerdale to Whitby, where it enters the North Sea. The River Esk is home to an array of important wildlife, including Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) and the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Other charismatic species in the valley include the brown hare, dipper, kingfisher, otter and roe deer. The cultural and natural heritage, along with the

dramatic landscapes, make the Esk Valley a very special place to conserve and enhance.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INVESTMENT READINESS FUND (NEIRF) PROJECT

In 2021, the North York Moors National Park Authority was awarded £100,000 from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund to boost biodiversity in the Esk Valley catchment area while simultaneously attracting private investment. This is important, as private investment is seen as key if the UK is to reach its nature-recovery ambitions. Public finance alone will not be enough.



Tree planting along the River Esk.



(photo: Chris Watt, NYMNP)

The Fund is designed to support the development of nature-based projects until the point they become sustainable through financial return. This could be through the sale of carbon and biodiversity credits (giving companies the opportunity to compensate for their emissions through habitat improvements), or through natural flood-management benefits or reduced water-treatment costs. These are known as 'ecosystem services'.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE ESK VALLEY

'Ecosystem services' describe the raft of benefits that are available to humans for maintaining or building healthy, biodiverse habitats. For example, a healthy woodland is fantastic for nature, but it can also provide a supply of wood fuel, reduced water run-off, increased air quality and a peaceful place for a walk. It also locks away carbon, helping us work towards net-zero emissions.

The Esk Valley project is focusing on restoring and creating habitats such as species-rich grasslands, broadleaf woodlands and riverside meadows. The ecosystem services arising from this work therefore include increased carbon sequestration and improved air and water quality.

Working in partnership with the Esk Valley Farmers' Group, Palladium, Natural Capital Research and the Environment Agency, project partners will seek to explore how

nature recovery can be privately financed. No other projects in the UK are currently working with farmers on this scale to better understand the private financing opportunities that may be available in managing land for the benefit of the environment.

The project is being undertaken in three phases, operating until autumn this year. These include building a detailed picture of the current habitats and environment of the Esk Valley and understanding the opportunities for both landowners and tenant farmers. The overall aim of the project is to test a theory that by delivering nature restoration in this area, long-term economic returns for land managers can be generated through the sale of resulting ecosystem services.

It is hoped the findings will allow a package of options to be presented to land managers in the Esk Valley to help them pursue the delivery of nature recovery. The outcomes will also be reported to DEFRA so that this pioneering project can help inform similar schemes in other parts of the country.

To find out more about how partnership working in UK National Parks is helping to tackle the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, please visit www.nationalparks.uk/net-zero-with-nature. ●

CHRIS WATT,
RIVER ESK PROJECT OFFICER,
NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Preparing Your Local Forests for Climate Change



Dalby Forest: In this view you can see agricultural and recreational grassland in the valley; some of it has the highest environmental value. The area in the foreground has been cleared of a stand of large conifers and has recently been planted with native broadleaves as it is a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS). In the far distance are stands of mainly Scots pine and other conifers. As these are harvested the area will become even more diverse.

THE world's forests, after the oceans, are the greatest storehouses of life on earth. Life exists in the sea and on every continent on earth, but on land it is forests that are the most biodiverse – containing the greatest wealth of animal and plant life. This means that if we don't get the management of forests right in a world with a rapidly changing climate there will be a profound negative

impact on all life on earth, including ourselves.

Forestry England woods and forests on the North York Moors were, by and large, established last century using 'alien' tree species brought in from parts of the world that shared a climate similar to our own, with similar soil conditions. These trees had the ability to produce usable timber in a short time, as a strategic reserve. The need now is to create something very different.

Existing forests on the moors must now be 'sculpted' to meet a wide range of demands. They must be beneficial in supporting biodiversity through a period of climate change whilst meeting other demands placed on them, including accessible, sustainable, green space for diverse recreational pursuits and a sustainable supply of woody material for industry.

The recreational infrastructure needed is already in place for most Forestry England forests on the moors: signing, parking, accessible routes and open space. It is the support of biodiversity and timber production that requires the most thought.

Biodiversity on the Forestry England estate will be supported through a range of measures including:

- Careful and responsible management of existing known ecologically rich



Deep Dale, Dalby Forest: This secluded valley on the north side of the forest is a great example of where environmental issues outweigh the need for a timber crop. Over the last 30 years conifers have been gradually removed from the lower valley floor and riparian zone, allowing the native grassland, fenland and woodland cover to develop. The final larger coniferous stands were removed last year. It is a fine example of localised rewilding and ticks a number of climate change boxes, including species and habitat protection and connectivity.

'hot-spots', such as ancient semi-natural woodland, scattered ancient and veteran trees (Goathland, Helmsley Deer Park, Dalby Forest), herb-rich grassland, road verges and forest rides, water courses, unplanted peat-rich mires (Langdale Forest) and lime-rich fens (Dalby Forest), caves, mines and windy-pit pot-holes (Goathland Woods, Dalby Forest, Helmsley Deer Park). Some of these features are already protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

- Restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites to woodlands dominated by native species of tree (Goathland Woods, Helmsley Deer Park, Dalby Forest, Langdale Forest, Broxa Forest).
- Restoration of deep peat, mire and raised bog by removal of most conifers from such sites (Langdale Forest).¹



May Moss 2014, Langdale Forest: May Moss is the most important raised bog in the North York Moors National Park. Thanks to the dedicated work of Dr Margaret Atherden in the early 1970s, the Forestry Commission agreed not to plant the main area of the mire. Nearby areas were planted with Sitka spruce and Lodgepole pine but gradually it was recognised that the peat beds in these areas could store more carbon than the trees on the site could grow. Some trees were removed around 2000, but in 2009 a major project began that saw the removal of more than 70ha of conifers and the blocking of associated drainage channels. May Moss and the restored areas are visited annually to carry out species checks and monitor any changes.



May Moss 2017, Langdale Forest: This picture, taken only three years after the first, in roughly the same area, shows how good nature is at recovering itself given the chance.

- Managing wider areas across the estate to support endangered species dependent on broader habitats. For instance, Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), Honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*),



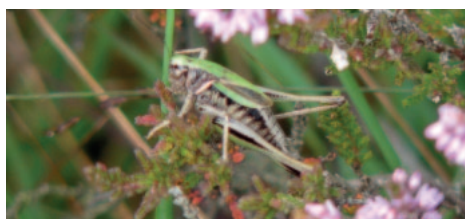
Small pearl-bordered fritillary: This lovely butterfly is restricted to a few valleys mainly in the south east of the National Park. It is a classic example of why we need habitat connectivity. Its food plants are violets, in particular it prefers the tiny Marsh violet (*Viola palustris*), which is found along stream banks and associated fens. It is a butterfly which lives in colonies and appears not to fly above 10m off the ground, so cannot fly over dense woodland. If its colony becomes isolated from other colonies, inbreeding causes the colony to weaken and eventually die out.



Turtle dove: This small but beautiful member of the pigeon family has suffered a major decline in recent decades. However, surveys carried out by the Forest Bird Study Group (a loose association of ornithologists surveying Forestry England woods and forests) found healthy populations in the larger forests. A major project was set up to help the species, which requires a wide range of habitats and has distinct food preferences. It is most definitely a species that makes use of the broad habitats of large woodland, often favouring areas of mixed large and small trees with nearby felled areas. For more information on Turtle doves and the project visit: www.northyorkmoors.org.uk (photo © Richard Baines)



Sutherland Mire, Cropton: Even small peat mires like this one holds important wildlife: not only is the site good for adders and common lizards it also holds one of the very few populations of Bog bush-cricket (*Metrioptera brachyptera*).



Bog bush-cricket, Cropton Forest.



Baneberry: Sometimes known in Yorkshire as Herb Christopher (*Actea spicata*), this is one of the region's rarest plants. Found in a few limestone woodlands such as Dalby it is greatly at risk from climate change because it seems to like very specific conditions to survive.

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and Pine marten (*Martes martes*).

- Careful and responsible management of historic environment features, the creation of which has often supported ecologically interesting sites in the forest.
- The reintroduction of cornerstone species, in particular the European beaver (*Castor fiber*).
- The creation of 'functional habitat corridors' that allow species the possibility of mobility through the forest from lowland to upland, for example the exciting new project on the semi-wilding of Newton Dale, a key link between Ryedale and the Esk Valley.

On its own, this would be an impressive range of measures giving some of the existing flora and fauna at least a fighting chance of surviving climate change. However, achieving these measures also requires at least two other important actions:

- Commitment from government, organisations and individuals.
- Productive forest.

Commitment can only come through having the will and the enthusiasm. Enough said.

Productive forest is needed, in part, because humans are users of their world like all the other species on it. We should use our world to survive, not abuse our world to survive. The enormous diversity in Forestry England forests exists because of the forest our forbears planted, and not in spite of it. The forest, and it could be any forest, is a framework on and in which life and a

diversity of habitats can exist. In varying amounts this is due to the length of time it takes a crop to grow, the way it is harvested, the space between trees, changing light regimes and micro-climate effects. Currently the main forest estate on the North York Moors comprises just under 90 per cent conifers: mainly Sitka spruce, Scots pine and Larch species. By 2080, predictions indicate that 65 per cent of the estate will be 'unsuitable' for these species and timber productivity is likely to fall by around 35 per cent. Indeed due to the already rapidly spreading disease *Phytophthora ramorum*, many infected larch stands have already been felled.

In the second paragraph I referred to 'alien' trees being used to produce forests of usable timber very quickly. The work carried out by the Forestry Commission's research arm, Forest Research, to source suitable trees is once again coming into its own. We already have the science about many trees and the understanding of the wrong species in the wrong place is a lesson learnt. In many respects Forestry England is 'ahead of the game' having gained knowledge of which trees are likely to do well in current climate predictions, which ones can produce usable timber, which ones are potential pests, and which ones are more vulnerable to pests and diseases.

Climate predictions for our area suggest hotter, drier summers and milder wetter winters. These changes have the potential to spell serious problems for trees. Insect pests do well in warmer summers with the higher temperatures

enabling them to fly further afield to new host trees. Warm wet winters enable fungal and related diseases such as *Phytophthora* to survive and spread. *Phytophthora* diseases can also readily mutate into new variants and even new species. These are issues that are being taken into account in replanting forests not just on the North York Moors but throughout the country.

Researchers have compiled lists of 24 conifers and 25 broadleaves that may successfully replace the 'at risk' species. It is important to remember that these species may replace 'at risk' timber trees, not native trees or woodland cover. The species have been selected based on scientific trials, their success in arboreta, and global research. Not all these species would be suitable or acceptable on the North York Moors. We are likely to start seeing Coast redwood, Japanese red cedar (not a cedar but a close relative of the redwoods), Macedonian pine, Serbian or Omorika spruce and Oriental spruce, among others. The aim is to achieve a tree diversity of at least 15 species across timber-producing stock.

When the Forestry Commission first started its planting a number of issues became apparent as time (and research) went on. Firstly, large areas of the crop were the same age and the same species. This meant that large areas of trees were very vulnerable to pests and diseases. The close proximity of trees of the same species, especially at times of stress (such as drought years), made the transmission of these pathogens very easy and rapid. Secondly, trees were

often planted using ploughing techniques to break up the iron pan (a layer of iron-rich salts deposited between the surface and sub-soil layers). Planting on the plough ridge initially aided the trees by helping with drainage. However, as the trees grew they became more susceptible to windthrow – falling over in long ribbons along the plough line in stormy conditions – leading to extensive damage over many hectares.

As the forests grew and were harvested, changes were made in planting techniques and to diversify the age structure of the crop. This sculpting of the 'raw' forest is now benefitting the foresters of today, who have to manage our forests, and us. Some age and species diversity is already established and we have a much better framework on which to develop a climate-change resilient forest. Instead of the large single-species block planting, we are starting to see a number of different planting techniques being used. The technique selected depends on a number of factors, including the existing tree cover (if any), the richness or poorness of existing biodiversity, any special qualities of the site, and the local soil and climate conditions suitable for the differing tree species.

- Blocky planting. This is the growing of species in small single-species blocks. This would suit trees like Western hemlock in areas of low biodiversity and where timber production could be maximised with minimum adverse impacts on other species.
- Mosaic planting. Here small groups of



Ancient trees aren't all Oaks. This Hawthorn in Newtondale has a stump about 1.5m across and like most veterans has already survived many changes in its life. This ability to survive is why ancient trees are so important in the gene pool.

single species are planted alongside similar clusters of other species. This might suit areas where there is a desire to mix conifer and broadleaf timber crops. These stands would be more environmentally permeable than the blocky planting.

- Intimate mixture. This involves the planting of a selection of trees in an intimate mixture and often involves incorporating self-sown native trees into the stand. This would be the most environmentally permeable of the three treatment types.

In addition to these types, there are two

other options in use:

- As part of its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification, Forestry England is expected to have a small percentage of its estate as complete non-intervention, where no operations at all are carried out and the trees are left to fend for themselves. A number of these areas are located in the moorland woods.
- There has also been a move towards Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF), where no clear-felling takes place, but periodically a percentage of trees are removed from the crop to create open



Only by careful monitoring of our world can we record how the environment is changing and learn what we can do to take it into account. These volunteers are recording the frequency of different plants on May Moss.

space and light to allow self-regeneration. This system enables both the age and the species structure of the stand to be diversified.

In this short article it has only been possible to touch on the subject of forests and climate change in the United Kingdom and how it will affect our local forests. More detailed information can be found on the Internet. Here are a couple of addresses to get you started:

- <https://www.forestryengland.uk/climate-action>
- www.forestresearch.gov.uk •



Proving climate change impacts our environment has been difficult in part because we have abused it so much. Butterflies respond rapidly to change and species like this Wall butterfly, photographed in Fryup Dale, are now classed as 'at risk'.

BRIAN WALKER,
FORMER FORESTRY COMMISSION
WILDLIFE OFFICER AT DALBY FOREST

1 Carbon-rich soils such as peat are capable of storing carbon dioxide and helping to tackle climate change. Peat soils are originally formed in wetlands, like bogs and wet meadows, and have a high content of carbon from old plant residues. For peat to be healthy and function efficiently, it must remain wet. When peat soils are oxygenated by drainage and ploughing, the carbon rots and emits gases, primarily as CO₂. In principle, this corresponds to the burning of fossil fuels, although it happens more slowly. Hence, draining of peat soils contributes to increasing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases, thereby intensifying global warming.



ANGLO AMERICAN, who are constructing the polyhalite mine near Whitby and on Teesside, is committed to supporting the creation of a bioeconomy¹ network on the North Yorkshire Coast. In March the company invited local businesses to their office in Scarborough to discuss the new Network.

Matt Parsons, speaking for Anglo American: 'The bioeconomy has been identified as a growth sector for the local economy, and we aim to play a role in supporting that growth and helping to create more jobs and opportunities in the region.'

Another meeting to explore opportunities for local green businesses is set to be held in the near future.

The Bioeconomy Network is connected with **BioYorkshire**, a ten-year programme to boost the North Yorkshire economy and develop

sustainable solutions for some of the UK's most pressing environmental challenges. Led by a public-private partnership between the University of York, Fera Science Ltd and Askham Bryan College, the programme aims to transform the region's bioeconomy – the sustainable production of renewable resources from land and sea, and their conversion into food, feed, energy and other 'green' consumer products.

BioYorkshire aims to support North Yorkshire's ambitions to become one of the first areas in the UK to be carbon negative, whilst also creating 4,000 highly skilled jobs, reducing CO₂ emissions by 2.8 million tonnes per year, reducing waste to landfill by 1.2 million tonnes per year and generating £1.4bn for the UK economy. •

Find out more: www.bioyorkshire.co.uk / www.angloamerican.com

1 A bioeconomy is an economy where the basic building blocks for materials, chemicals and energy are derived from renewable biological resources, rather than fossil fuels, thus helping to mitigate climate change. Many traditional products are in fact bio-based, such as fibres from cotton, hemp or flax, or paper and other wood products.

Seaweed Farming off Scarborough



ONE of the local businesses interested in the North Yorkshire Coastal Bioeconomy Network is **SeaGrown**, who are developing England's first large-scale offshore seaweed farm. Founded in 2018, Seagrown is farming a sustainable crop of Yorkshire seaweed for food (seaweed is a highly nutritious food source for our growing population) and for industry to sustainably manufacture innovative products such as biodegradable plastics, bio-chemicals, natural food additives, textiles and fertilisers. They also use farmed seaweed to produce sustainable food seasonings and bath products.

The seaweed crop, growing three miles off the coast and away from shipping lanes, just needs sun and sea – no power, chemicals or land – and it absorbs carbon and releases oxygen in the water as it grows, helping to mitigate climate change. The company has developed a new method for seaweed farming adapted to the challenging open-water environment of the North Sea. Their local crew aboard their workboat plant seaweed, then monitor and later harvest it.

SeaGrown are providing a blueprint for other coastal regions to join this exciting new marine



Scientists estimate that acre-for-acre, seaweed is up to 20 times more effective at absorbing carbon from the atmosphere than woodland is onshore.

industry working in harmony with the sea and planet.

Supported by the Seafood Innovation Fund and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, SeaGrown have also been working on an innovative project which seeks to farm scallops and oysters in offshore cages. They hope this will ultimately lead to a solution in which there is no longer a need for dredging, which can have a devastating effect on the seabed. ●

Find out more at www.seagrown.co.uk

Whitby Lobster Hatchery



ANOTHER local marine initiative is in the process of regenerating the unused fish auction shed in Whitby harbour into a marine discovery centre and Whitby lobster hatchery. Working closely with the fishing industry the project aims to conserve local lobster populations by raising and releasing juvenile lobsters into the ocean to offset the number of lobsters caught by Whitby's fishing fleet and protect the lobster industry into the future.

After the collapse of Whitby's fishing of cod and haddock (from 27 boats in the 1990s to just one in 2005), the local fishing effort moved into crabs and lobsters with an incredible 300,000 pots being put out by fishermen along the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority area (from the River Tyne in the north to Spurn Point in the south). Whitby has become Europe's third largest lobster port

(Bridlington being number one and Scarborough number two).

The problem is that, although lobsters produce up to 20,000 eggs per cycle, released into the water as larvae, only 1 per cent of these larvae survive. Developing the eggs safely in a hatchery dramatically increases the larval survival rate to 30–50 per cent. The project aims to release enough juvenile lobsters to offset the 100,000 lobsters landed into Whitby each year, making this a sustainable industry for the town.

The Hatchery will also create an area of the facility for teaching young and old about the benefits of looking after our environment, and a space for studying and researching marine habitats. ●

You can find out more and donate to raise money to install the hatchery via their website: www.whitbylobsterhatchery.co.uk

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Coast & Moor: Wildlife & Nature

Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership



A series of three short films showcasing the wonders of the Yorkshire coast and how the marine environment is integral to our society have been released. Developed with funding from the Championing Coastal Coordination fund and supported by the North York Moors National Park Trust, the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership (YMNP) hopes the films will highlight the importance of looking after our natural resources.

Yorkshire's marine environment is unique, diverse and ever-changing, yet it has been a constant source of food, energy and fun for coastal and in-land communities across the generations. From the bustling tourist towns, to the traditional fishing villages and rolling moors, the coast is a key part of Yorkshire's heritage and identity.

Working with organisations from across the region, the YMNP has been



exploring how a new approach to managing these resources might support environmental improvements in the long-term. Every day, we rely on the marine environment to provide us with goods and services, often without realising it. At the moment, the value of these natural processes to our society is not considered during decision-making. Through the 'natural capital' approach however, the YMNP hopes to establish a better understanding of this value and use the information to support, enhance and restore marine ecosystems. ●

To find out more about the 'Connecting the Dots' project and to watch the films, head to the YMNP website <https://yorkshiremarinenaturepartnership.org.uk/discover/research-and-active-projects/marine-natural-capital/connecting-the-dots-project/>



Human-caused climate change is increasingly threatening nature.

A sustainable global future for people and nature is still achievable, but it requires transformative change with rapid and far-reaching actions of a type never before attempted, building on ambitious emissions reductions.

Restoration of carbon- and species-rich ecosystems is among the cheapest and quickest nature-based climate mitigation measures to implement – offering much-needed habitat for plants and animals, thus enhancing resilience of biodiversity in the face of climate change, with many other benefits such as flood regulation, coastal protection, enhanced water quality, reduced soil erosion and ensuring pollination.

IPCC, the UN body for assessing science related to climate change



The ocean is central to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and stabilising the Earth's climate.

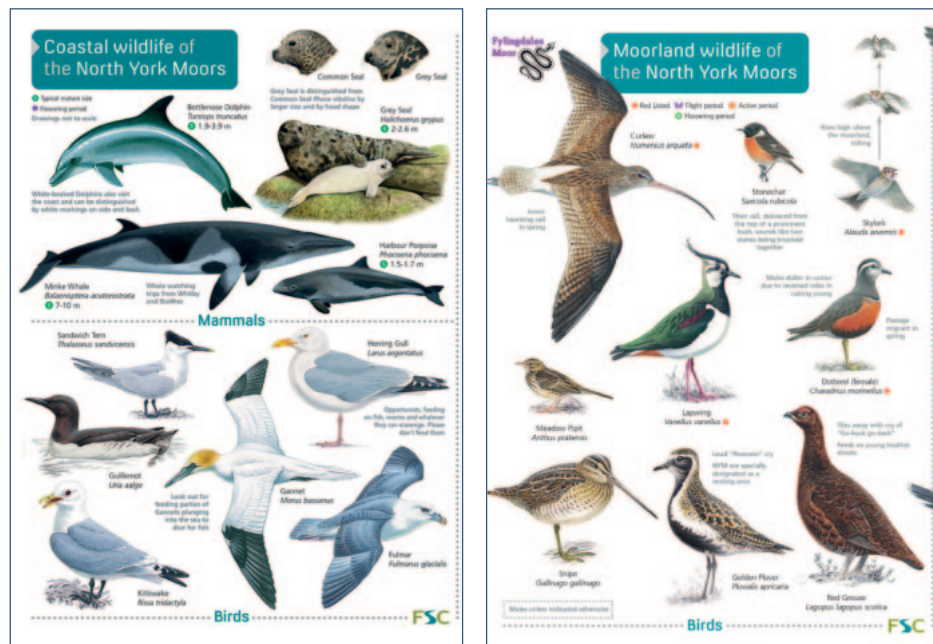
Our ocean generates 50 per cent of the oxygen we need and absorbs 25 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions. It is the 'lungs of the planet' and its largest 'carbon sink' – a vital buffer against climate impacts.

However, increasing greenhouse gas emissions have affected the health of the ocean – warming and acidifying seawater – causing detrimental changes to life under water and on land, and reducing the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide and safeguard life on the planet.

Ocean habitats such as seagrasses and mangroves, along with their associated food webs, can sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at rates up to four times higher than terrestrial forests can.

www.un.org/en/climatechange

Coastal & Moorland Wildlife of the North York Moors



WHITBY NATURALISTS' CLUB and the Field Studies Council have joined forces to produce a stunning identification guide to Wildlife of the North York Moors Coast.

This laminated fold-out guide covers the section of coast between Staithes and Cloughton Wyke, extending from the coast path to around three miles out to sea. There are notes on cliff-top, coastal cliff, shore and marine habitats, and around 80 colour illustrations to help you identify mammals, birds, seashore life, other invertebrates, seaweeds and plants.

MOORLAND WILDLIFE OF THE NORTH YORK MOORS

In the same series, the FSC, in partnership with Fylingdales Moor, North York Moors National Park, Whitby Naturalists' Club and the Wild Flower Society, produced a guide to Moorland Wildlife of the North York Moors.

The guides are available to purchase in local bookshops and village stores, or from the FSC website: www.field-studies-council.org

WHITBY NATURALISTS' CLUB

The Whitby Naturalists' Club, which celebrated its centenary in 2013, seeks to study, promote interest in and conserve natural history, local history and archaeology, particularly in the Whitby area. Membership is open to anyone with a genuine interest in these topics, and new members are very welcome. See their website for details on how to join (www.whitbynaturalists.uk), where you will also find information about the Club's lectures, workshops, field meetings and visits, exhibitions and recording programmes.

Look for 'Tour' on the website to find an interesting **Tour of Whitby**: a map of the town showing where you can find nature in drawings, ironwork, paintings, photographs, pub signs, sculptures, shop windows, and various other artistic creations. Click on the brown squares of the map or use the list hyperlink to see some of them. Then go around the town yourself and have a search.

A recent addition to Whitby's representations of nature is the subject of John Roberts' article below. ●

WILDLIFE WHITBY

JOHN ROBERTS

Working Together in Whitby: New Benches Depicting Wildlife

THREE seating sculptures have been added to the street furniture to be seen and used in Whitby. The illustrated brick benches depict stages of the River Esk environment and highlight the diversity of wildlife to be seen and celebrated along its course. The benches are at the following locations:

Endeavour Wharf, off Langborne Road, where you'll see illustrations of kingfishers, otters and other wildlife populating the Esk upstream from Ruswarp. The Esk is the only river in Yorkshire where freshwater pearl

mussels live and here they need clear water and gravelly beds. They spend part of their lives on the gills of young salmon, so salmon need to spawn in the river for the pearl mussel to survive.

New Quay Road, where the tidal stretch of the Esk is represented. Here you might see a cormorant or turnstone and, perhaps, a harbour seal.

Henrietta Street, towards the East Pier, where birds and marine life that frequent the nearby coastal area are portrayed.



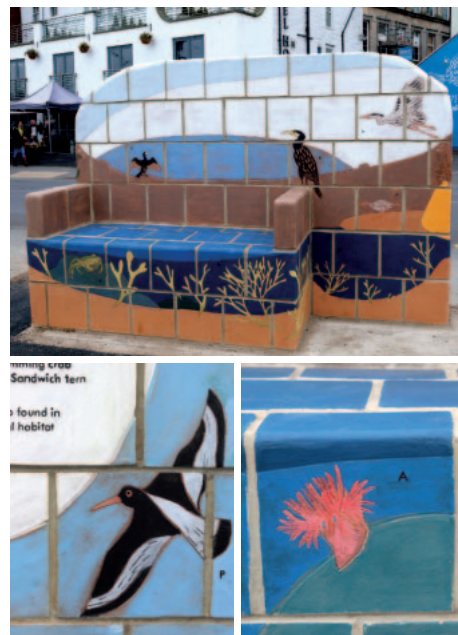
Map artwork by Whitby-based artist Kirsty Davis.

Each bench faces the river and can seat at least two people, with additional space for a wheelchair user. The benches have replaced seating and added an attractive, informative dimension to the walking experience in Whitby, providing spaces to appreciate the sights and sounds of nature in the harbour area. In order to see all three benches in sequence you're looking at a linear walk of about a kilometre, crossing the river on the way.

The benches are functional but they are also artworks offering great visual impact and tactile interest; they were created by artists Philip Duckworth and Ben Sadler of Birmingham-based Juneau Projects. The work was commissioned by Wild Eye, a project that aims to develop understanding of wildlife along the North Yorkshire coast through artworks and events that raise awareness of inter-related issues such as pollution, litter, biodiversity and climate change. Wild Eye has been developed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the art and environment organisation Invisible Dust, with support from Coast and Vale Community Action (CaVCA).

The sculptural seating structures project was highly collaborative, the artists

engaging the local community substantially. Organisations involved included The Esk Estuary Partnership, Caedmon College, WHISH (Whitby Hidden Impairments Support and Help), West Cliff Primary School, Whitby Railway Community Shop volunteers, Whitby Naturalists and Whitby Disability Action Group. Wilf Noble Construction and Ibstock Bricks also gave substantial support. Ben Sadler says: 'We thoroughly enjoyed the whole process of designing and making the benches. The local community in Whitby was incredibly supportive and we are very thankful to everyone who contributed to the project; it couldn't have happened without their support and input. Whitby is a very special place and we hope the benches can be a part of that specialness for years to come.' ●



The Tale of the War Whale

Reference Number. 109 19/4/41		
Date of Receipt (1)	Estimated Value (2)	Description of Property (3)
26.6.40		Whale 15 feet long (Sowerby's Whale)
Name and Address of Owners (4 known) (5)		
Name, Official No. and Port of Registry of Ship (6 known) (7)		
Particulars of Salvage.		
Date when found (8)	Exact spot where found (9)	
26.6.40	near old town, near West Mablepool.	
Services rendered (10)	Brought ashore by motor launch, hoisted in salt water in sailing net, transported by rail to British Museum.	
Name of Salvor (11)	Address of Salvor (12)	
W. Harrison	Victoria Terrace, West Mablepool.	
Transactions in respect of Reference Number. 109/40-41		
Charges on the Wreck (13)		Amount of Money received from Owners (14)
1. Port, etc. Commission 2. Freight 3. Day Pay 4. Towing Expenses 5. Incidental Expenses 6. Workman Rent Total Charges		1. Deposit 2. Balance of Deposit retained to Owners 3. Payment of Charges as per Compt.
Particulars of Wreck sold.		
Date of Sale (15)	To whom sold (16)	Amount received by Sale (17)
	Whale delivered to British Museum (Natural History), London, W. 7 on 1.7.40.	
Wreck or Proceeds delivered or paid to Owners or Lords of Manors.		
Date of Payment or Delivery (18)	To whom paid or delivered (19)	Whether Agent, Owner, etc. (20)

(Image Reference: NG/SR/WH/4/9)

ONE of my favourite books to read with my son when he was little was *The Whale and the Snail*, a tale of adventure and friendship by Julia Donaldson and beautifully illustrated by her regular collaborator Alex Scheffler. The wonderfully rhythmic and moving words of this story were a joy to read aloud (and nearly always made me emotional!) and the characters in the book appealed to the conservationist in me, as I have always been fascinated by whales and dolphins and passionate about their protection.

It was this life-long love of whales that led me to delve a little deeper into the story behind an intriguing entry in the Receivers of Wreck reports that Teesside Archives holds for Hartlepool and Middlesbrough. The entry that interested me was first encountered in a blog written by Lara, our archivist, last year and which can be revisited at <https://teessidearchives.wordpress.com> (Shipwrecks in Hartlepool).

The wreck receiver reports were an important log of anything that washed up on the local beaches, enabling the rightful owners to reclaim their

property and any finders to receive an appropriate salvage award. The north-east coastline was a notorious area for wrecks but cargo wasn't the only thing found along the shore, as our entry from 26 June 1940 shows.

On this day, only ten months into World War II and at a time when air raids intent on breaking the industrial might of Teesside had begun in earnest, a 15-foot long Sowerby's Beaked Whale was discovered near the old town pier in Hartlepool by Mr W. Harrison from Victoria Terrace. My curiosity was immediately aroused as I know beaked whales are particularly elusive and little studied and the value of this specimen is clear to see in the town's response to the find.

Despite the bomb attacks on the local area, the whale was moved higher up the beach to prevent it being washed back out to the sea, then carefully packed in salt to help preserve it and wrapped in sacking before being loaded on to a train on 1 July, bound for the Natural History Museum in London no less.



Sowerby's Beaked Whale
(image from the British Divers Marine Life Rescue website)

I wonder if Mr Harrison himself had been able to identify the species as a beaked whale, or if he recognised it as being different and sought further advice? When I found an image online, it's easy to see how odd looking the Sowerby's Beaked Whale is, with its distinctive dolphin-like profile, and as it turns out, our specimen was a male as depicted in the image, with its pair of protruding teeth almost like little tusks.

English naturalist and artist James Sowerby first described the whale that bears his name in 1804 from a stranded individual's skull that was found in the Moray Firth in 1800. This species was not commercially exploited to the extent suffered by other whale species and avoids ships so it was little known to the scientific world. Classed as a data deficient species, we are still learning about its extraordinary lifestyle, but so far we know that the whale inhabits the deep seas of the north Atlantic Ocean, surfacing only briefly to breathe before diving to depths of up to 2,000 metres to hunt for squid and small fish. Sowerby's Beaked Whales can spend up to 30 minutes on a single dive and apparently have a really odd way of catching prey – sucking them into their mouths rather than using teeth to bite them, hence they have no visible teeth apart from the pair seen in males.

Reaching a maximum length of around 5 metres, they are not as large as some of the more familiar whale species, such as the sperm whale, but like sperm whales, if they end up in the shallow North Sea, they are unlikely to survive due to the lack of appropriate food. It seems possible that our young whale made a navigational error and, unable to forage effectively, may well have starved to death before being washed up on the beach. Other threats include entanglement in fishing gear and, more likely, sonar pollution from oil and gas exploration and military exercises, which can

seriously disrupt whales' incredibly sensitive echolocation systems.

However, our whale's story did not end with the stranding as once it arrived at the Natural History Museum its skeleton was prepared and conserved and added to the national cetacean research collection, which is held at a different facility to the main museum, in South West London. I was keen to see if I could track our whale down and I sent off a generic enquiry to the museum through its website. A week or so later, I was delighted to receive a response from Richard Sabin, the Principal Curator in the mammal department, who informed me that the bones from our disarticulated skeleton are currently stored in two large drawers. Despite the disruption caused by a number of Tube strikes at the time of my query, Richard managed to make it to the research facility and very kindly sent me a fantastic photograph of our skull, meticulously labelled and still an important part of the collection for research in to this elusive species. He also sent a number of links to detailed research papers about the whale species and information concerning the number of reported strandings.

Sowerby's Beaked Whale is unlikely to be seen from land and so the approximately 150 strandings of the species found around the coast of the UK and Ireland since 1913 provide a vital insight into the health and physiology of this elusive whale.

However, other species are more obliging and regular citizen science cetacean land surveys are now held annually across the UK, coordinated by the Sea Watch Foundation. Volunteers are trained to recognise and log sightings of whales and dolphins from key land-based vantage points and this data plays a vital role in adding to our overall

knowledge of their habits and movements. In the last few years, bottlenose dolphins have become a regular sight off our own Teesside coastline and a local survey team of volunteers is supervised by the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to monitor this and other cetacean species. I remember vividly during the first lockdown in spring 2020 walking on my local beach and seeing, to my utter surprise and delight, a pod of dolphins actively feeding offshore; the sight moved me to tears and really helped to take my mind off the fears and anxieties that I was feeling along with so many other people.

It is reassuring to know that along with the return of minke whales, following the fish shoals in the summer, today's dolphin sightings are an important indicator of the health of our seas. Additionally, it's even better to know that our Hartlepool war whale continues to play its part in supporting scientists in their quest to understand the mysterious beaked whales and their role in our oceanic ecosystems, thanks in part to the curiosity of Mr Harrison. ●

CHRIS CORBETT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER, TEESSIDE ARCHIVES

(Image courtesy of Richard Sabin, Principle Curator of Mammals © Trustees of the Natural History Museum)



'The Tale of the War Whale' was first published on Teesside Archives blog, 18 May 2022.

WHALE AND WILDLIFE SPOTTING

WHALES move south along Yorkshire's coast during the summer months, following the shoals of mackerel and herring.

Minke whales, with their distinctive pointed heads and curved back fin, are the most regular visitors and can be up to 10m (32ft) long. Other sightings include sei, fin and humpback whales. September is one of the best months to see whales. Whether you see a whale or not you will see plenty of other marine wildlife on these trips operated locally: Real Staithes (01947 840278; <https://realstaithes.com>), Yorkshire Coast Nature (www.yorkshirecoastnature.co.uk), Whitby Coastal Cruises (www.whitbycoastalcruises.com), Whitby Whale Watching (Facebook), Coastal Fisher (www.whitbycoastalfishing.co.uk) and Three Sisters Sea Trips (www.threesisterboatcharter.co.uk). ●

Hidden Forests



Redcar beach forest.

I'M NOT SURE whether you will remember, but back in 2018 there was a storm that scoured sand off the remains of a buried forest on Redcar Beach. I went to visit and it was astonishing to see tree trunks and branches bedded within a layer of peat, all so well preserved that spotting the Downy Birch and Alder trunks was easy. The plant remains are thought to be around 7,000 years old, and knowing that whilst standing on the beach was an extraordinary moment, one shared with many other members of the public all fascinated by what the sea had revealed. As someone whose work requires thinking a lot about plant communities, I was interested to read in a report by



Downy Birch tree trunk.

the local archaeologist, Spencer Carter, of scientific investigations that identified the preserved pollen grains within the peat and also managed to carbon date them to give us an accurate historical context to the evidence of past vegetation. The pollen record switches

from Oak to Birch dominance around 7,200 years ago, and given that the record is punctuated by charcoal, evidence of burning events, it may be that man had a big hand in the changes, chopping down the Oak with the tiny wind-borne Birch seeds taking a speed and abundance that acorns never can. Spencer discusses spotting possible stone and bronze axe marks along with evidence of coppicing on the preserved pieces of wood when he visited the site in 2013.

Change in the plant communities around us has very much been influenced by humans and their farm animals ever since then and you would rather hope that we now make those changes in knowledge rather than ignorance. Yet we know the burning of past plant communities as coal and peat has changed the climate at a global level and that affects us all at a local level. More trees are part of the solution to shifting our global climate back to a more favourable one for people. And back with day-to-day weather, up on the edges of the moors, trees make a big difference to slowing rainfall and filtering the wind, as anyone who has been out there on a windy day knows.

And it is high up on those moors that there is another hidden forest. I noticed it particularly on Hawnby Hill when I was visiting recently with a friend to check on a record for a locally rare shrub, Petty Whin. I'd like to say that it was incredibly difficult to find, requiring years of patient study and searching, but it was the only thing flowering and right



Petty Whin on Hawnby Hill.

next to the path so really not that tricky. To say it wasn't exactly thriving would be an understatement but it was still there, hanging on grimly, like many of the rarer plants in the region. The surprise was the amount of young saplings of Birch, Rowan and Holly I spotted, some of which were getting to a height where their foliage was out of reach of the jaws of sheep, but most equal to the heather height with their tops being neatly bitten off. If they are allowed to grow there will be a very different plant community in future years with patches of taller heather and bilberry amongst clusters of large scattered trees.

You can see this already happening at the top of Birk Brow where the trees are marching across the moorland by the



Rowan saplings on Hawnby Hill.



Sessile Oak spreading under Roseberry Topping.

car park, or, if you venture further north, then Eston Moors is a good example of when sheep-grazing and controlled heather burning is stopped. Oak saplings, Birch and scattered Rowan grow along the moor edge, at least 2m high in places. You can even see Oak trees starting to colonise the dense bracken above the wood at Roseberry Topping, shading it out under their wide growing side branches as they grow ever taller and wider.

As someone working in conservation, letting trees seed themselves is by far the simplest and best option for creating new forests and extending existing woods; current tree planting aided by grant targets and the publicity pressure to plant as many as possible gives us squashed trees plonked on the landscape with too little understanding for each tree species' natural micro-habitat driven by their germination requirements. No matter what the species, planting trees closely together gives you telegraph poles with leaves stuck on the top – great for timber but lacking in wide spreading branches – or twisted leaning specimens carved out by the prevailing wind, useful for our native

invertebrates. If the trees aren't able to spread quickly on their own then giving them a helping hand by spreading, say, acorns of Sessile Oak will do the trick too. Plant trees for timber, sow trees for conservation.

It's a change that will happen eventually – trees on parts of the moors again – as grouse shooting becomes un-economic and we have fewer sheep around when the lab-grown meat becomes cheaper. I hope I get to see it like I did the buried forest on Redcar beach, though I suspect it will be the next generation to come who get to fully enjoy that hidden forest rising. ●

MARTIN ALLEN, BOTANIST

Natural regeneration of Birch with timber production in the background.



Wild Gooseberries – Need Our Protection

ACCORDING to family tradition, I was found under a gooseberry bush. Being June, my mother had been harvesting the first berries and so I had been 'left by the fairies' – a tactful way birth was explained to young children in those days! In truth, more prosaically, I entered the world in my grandmother's cellar during an air raid. But the family had always grown gooseberries, as I still do, and to this day I can visualise those in my grandparents' garden.

So after many years of living abroad, I was pleased and surprised to find so many wild gooseberries growing in the local hedges when I came to live here. I looked forward to tasting some, but soon learned that the nearest, reddest, sweetest and best ones should not be taken as they were the 'perk' of the retired village head teacher. Tradition! However, there were plenty more, ripening red, green and yellow, and most are still there.

For many busy years I then forgot about them, until during 'lock down' I began walking on my own around many lanes, tracks and woods all year round and I became a little obsessed about finding them!

The best time to spot these spiny, perennial shrubs is in March, when they



are the first hedge shrub to come into leaf, a couple of weeks before the very similarly leaved hawthorn. Only a few weeks later, the flowers appear on the previous year's twigs, rather inconspicuous but attractive in close up, hanging in small clusters from the leaf axils, with pale green or pinkish sepals and small white petals

surrounding prominent stamens. They are pollinated by small early wasps, whose constant buzzing are another give-away to the plant's position in the hedges, where they are an early treat for the insects. The typical berries then develop and ripen by late June–early July.

Over the last two years within a mile's radius of my house I have located well over sixty separate bushes, mostly in the hedgerows but I am increasingly finding them in old woodland, particularly woodland edges and beck sides, often with wild currant and raspberry. Unfortunately, in the more shady areas they rarely flower or produce berries as prolifically as the hedgerow ones that benefit from the early sun.

A very old name for the gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*) is 'feaberry'. In old English this means a spiny bush or scrub, suggesting they were looked upon

as a nuisance. Indeed, left to their own devices they can reach a considerable size, but nowadays they are mostly restricted in height and width due to their location in hedges. Interestingly, by studying the surrounding flora and history of the hedgerows and woods, it is obvious that they are all growing on older undisturbed land. The larger hedgerow ones have often been protected by being near corners, gates, telegraph poles or on hedge-top banks. Typically the bushes are growing from the base/front of the hedge, where they enjoy damper conditions but here they are more vulnerable to the severe hedge-cutting regimes practised these days – hedges, for our convenience, are being cut straight downwards, not as an A-shape as has long been recommended by agricultural colleges.

But at least they are surviving and ripening their red, green and yellow fruits. This is important as, although these bushes have often been dismissed as garden escapees growing from seeds deposited by birds from local gardens, I am more inclined to think, as many others do now, that gooseberries, as in the rest of Europe, are a native plant species. The plant's distribution in older, undisturbed areas, the lack of young bushes, and no actual record of it being introduced from abroad into our gardens, all point to a native origin. Its abundance in old hedges is most likely due to these being the remains of woodland – its original habitat, rather than enclosure hedges.

This is supported by the recorded uses of gooseberries. Use of both the leaves

and berries in herbal medicine and cooking go back at least to the sixteenth-century: English botanists/herbalists Gerard and Culpeper certainly knew them well.¹ The berries were used as a spring tonic to promote appetite and relieve stomach problems, while leaves made a poultice for skin inflammations, or as a tea for bladder problems. The berries were used to make sauces for fish or meat and in deserts and wines, while the leaves were eaten in salads. Similar uses were to be found in most of Europe.

So it does seem more likely and interesting that the huge range of garden varieties came from 'grass roots' breeding over the centuries in cottage gardens from this varied wild stock. How lucky that, here in the north, a large range of natural genetic variation produced the hundreds of different garden varieties we have now and led to the introduction of the well-known gooseberry competitions – Egton Bridge Gooseberry Show, for example. This show was first recorded as taking place at the Ship Inn, Egton, in 1843, and is one of the few that are still going strong. These old bushes need our protection. They are a valuable part of our heritage and we may need their genetic diversity, especially with climate change occurring. So what of their future? With our milder winters and drier springs they could suffer from more mildew problems, well known to gardeners and noted on the wild bushes this year. Or the changes could impact on the life cycle of the pollinating wasps. By far the greatest danger to them are human

Local wild gooseberries over the last six months:



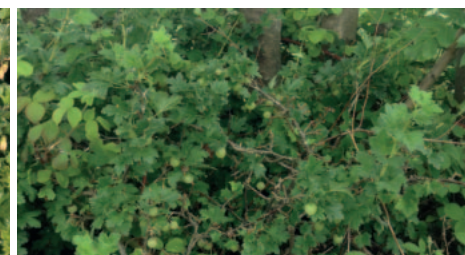
... in flower in the woods.



... in flower in a hedge.



... early berries in the hedge.



... later berries in a hedge protected by trees.

activities that are causing decreasing biodiversity.

Gooseberries may not be popular now or important in themselves but they are an indicator of our old irreplaceable flora, of genetic diversity. The preferred position at the damper bottoms of hedges make the wild gooseberry particularly vulnerable and fewer are setting fruit each year. We must recognise the importance of our old hedgerows and verges, the last sanctuary of our precious wild plants and dependent life – equivalent to the rain forest of the tropics.

For both verges and hedgerows we need more knowledgeable and careful cutting

regimes. We demand smaller, more controlled hedges for our safety, but in reality this only makes the lanes look wider, encouraging faster traffic speeds and more dangerous conditions. We need more thought and care, and a lot more tolerance.

We are responsible for climate change so it is up to us to change our habits to protect our heritage and not expect it to adapt to our actions. We must stop being selfish and learn and care more about our surroundings, or chance the fury of future generations.

As far as gooseberries are concerned, enjoy your pies, crumbles and fools this summer! ●

ANNE PRESS, BOTANIST

¹ John Gerard published *Generall Historie of Plantes* in 1636; Nicholas Culpeper's translation of the London Pharmacopoeia from Latin to English in *A Physical Directory* (1649) made herbal medical knowledge accessible to many people.

The 'Moor to Restore' Project

PEATLANDS are vitally important habitats. Their distinctive wet, waterlogged soils stop plants from decaying properly; the plant organic matter builds up and compacts over time to form a layer of peat. Aside from supporting significant biodiversity, peatlands also lock away carbon and prevent its release into the atmosphere. Any damage or loss of peat habitats is therefore extremely detrimental to the environment.

After securing over £250,000 in 2021 as part of Natural England's Nature for Climate Grant Scheme, conservationists from the North York Moors National Park Authority are carrying out a range of peat surveys as part of the 'Moor to Restore' project to assess the condition and depth of peatland across the North York Moors. The long-term aim is that all areas of degraded peat habitat (approximately 4,500 hectares) will be actively undergoing restoration within the next decade.

Leading the surveys is the project's Conservation Officer, Edward March-Shawcross: 'We are currently assessing a variety of locations across the National Park. The surveys are carried out by driving a narrow iron rod through the ground by hand. From this we can measure the depth and health of peat.'

'Alongside our colleagues from the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, we've already increased our understanding of the current condition of the Park's peat habitats. Previous activities, such as burning peat for fuel, has led to a significant loss of peat over the last 200 years. Our ability to restore these precious environments is now vital to enhance our



landscape's resilience and to meet the challenges of the climate crisis.'

The ecological aspirations of the 'Moor to Restore' project will only be possible if it can find a way for this work to generate sustainable incomes for landowners and managers. The sale of carbon credits or 'ecosystem services', such as improved water quality and natural flood management benefits, are just some examples of income generation being explored.

The North York Moors National Park Authority will be working in partnership with global impact firm Palladium to achieve its aims. The Moor to Restore project also comes under 'Revere', a UK-wide collaboration between National Parks and Palladium that aims to raise private money to fund nature restoration. ●

PEAT CUTTING AND DRAINAGE: TRADITIONAL MOORLAND PRACTICES



Peat cutting, Herbert Mould, Glaisdale.

PEAT cutting by hand is a traditional practice of the North York Moors. The cut peat is stacked to dry in the sun; once dry it can be used as a fuel for cooking and domestic heating. However, there is growing recognition that burning peat for fuel is not sustainable. Peat releases higher CO₂ emissions and less energy than the same amount of coal.

When peatlands are drained for agriculture, the organic carbon – built up over thousands of

years and normally underwater – is suddenly exposed to the air, causing it to decompose and turn into CO₂, which is released into the atmosphere and contributes to global warming.

Peatlands are now being restored as they are an important natural ally in the fight against climate change. They store a third of the world's soil carbon, are a rich haven for wildlife and help to reduce flood risk. ●

Peat cutting, Common Lane, Glaisdale.



Juniper of the North York Moors



Ellie Davison is working on the Juniper Project.

THE North York Moors National Park is home to some beautiful veteran juniper. Unfortunately, juniper numbers in the NYM National Park and across the UK are dwindling and their distribution across England is now highly disjointed. Juniper is vulnerable to various stresses which have contributed to its decline, such as overgrazing (from rodents, rabbits, deer and livestock), fire damage and being shaded out by faster growing plants. It is also vulnerable to disease, particularly one caused by *Phytophthora austrocedrae*, which results in dieback and eventual tree mortality. First confirmed

in the UK in 2011, this disease has not yet been recorded in the North York Moors but is as close as Teesdale and the Yorkshire Dales.

Juniper was one of the first tree species to colonise the UK after the last Ice Age. It has a rich history of usage in medicine, protection rituals, cooking, illicit whisky stills, and of course gin making. The tree is very beneficial for a range of wildlife: as a key food plant for a wide variety of invertebrates and birds, and a unique and specialised group of associated fungi, lichens and insects, including the specialised juniper carpet moth and juniper pug. The loss of this iconic tree and its history would be incredibly sad in itself, but it could also contribute to the decline of its associated species.

In the 1990s, Peter Woods recognised that juniper was relatively sporadic and not reproducing in the North York Moors. He initiated the Juniper Project, which included the collection and propagation of juniper berries at a nursery in Leeming Bar, North Yorkshire. The young junipers were then planted out into the NYMNP by local schools. The project has proved invaluable to the status of juniper across the Park and boosted numbers. Many of these plantings are now well established and producing berries – many of them in the Esk Valley.



NYMNP Conservation volunteers Scotty and Neil clearing vegetation around juniper at Danby.



Propagated juniper.



Wendy English inspecting juniper.

The NYMNP has recently revived the Juniper Project with dedicated volunteers and young rangers out surveying the juniper planted in the 1990s and 2000s to monitor the health of the plantings, checking for signs of

disease and carrying out any maintenance. We aim to extend our juniper populations by growing on cuttings and seeds to ensure juniper remains part of our landscape in the future. At present, we have over 400 cuttings that are being



A juniper laden with berries.



Juniper volunteers training day.

grown on by Alan Ayres at Esk Valley Camphill Community and several fantastic green-fingered volunteers.

Wendy English, a very active NYMNP volunteer and botany recorder for the Whitby Naturalists, has been an invaluable fountain of knowledge for the Juniper Project. Wendy identified some well-established, berry-laden juniper on Fylingdales Moor, planted as part of Peter's project, as perfect donors for cuttings and berries. She also recognised Fylingdales as having some particularly suitable areas for juniper plantings in the future. The Strickland

Estate have been wonderful and are keen to work with the project to protect the juniper of the NYMNP for future generations.

If you would like any more information or to be involved with the Juniper Project, please contact Ellie Davison: e.davison@northyorkmoors.org.uk. ●

ELLIE DAVISON,
CONSERVATION TRAINEE, NYMNP

If *Phytophthora austrocedrae* is suspected, please contact the NYMNP as soon as possible and submit a report to www.treealert.forestresearch.org.uk. Please keep boots clean and disinfect between sites.

The Valuable Work of Volunteers

ESK VOLUNTEER GROUP



The Esk Volunteer group is a small but dedicated group of volunteers who undertake conservation and habitat management tasks in the Esk Valley. The group was established to assist with river-centric measures to improve conditions for Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). The River Esk is the only river in Yorkshire to host a Freshwater Pearl Mussel population and it is in decline due to excessive sedimentation smothering the riverbed and inputs from agricultural land use. Original tasks included riverside fencing, trough installation, willow spiling and tree-planting, to name a few. Improving water-quality for this iconic freshwater species still remains at the heart of the group, but its remit has now expanded to include work across a range of habitats in the valley.

TREE & HEDGE-PLANTING



The Esk Group has been instrumental in assisting complete habitat creation work through the Water Environment Grant-funded Esk Restoration Project, which ran from 2019 to early 2022. Over

the duration of the project, volunteers helped to plant 4,165 new trees and 956 metres of hedgerow. Most of this planting was centred on riverbanks, providing environmental benefits in the form of increased woodland cover, bank stabilisation through root establishment, and slowing water flow off the land. Hedgerow creation offers similar benefits and is particularly good for connecting habitats within the wider landscape.

TREE GUARD REMOVAL



Tree guard removal from established woodland has become an increased focus for the group as many previous planting schemes have reached this stage. This simply involves stripping off the old guards from trees and recycling the waste material. If guards can be re-used they are taken for other planting schemes. The benefits include disposing of plastic waste, improving tree-health and immediate landscape enhancement. It has been rewarding for the volunteers to return to previous sites and see transformative results once the guards have been removed.

LEAKY DAMS

Leaky dams are a technique under the umbrella of Natural Flood Management (NFM) and are designed to slow and store water in the landscape, with preference for use in smaller watercourses. They do so by mimicking natural obstructions, such as fallen trees and branches. The group has been involved in constructing leaky dams in an active ditch system. The dams were assembled using locally sourced material: the woody material



was secured between larger stakes anchored into the bankside. The design allows space at the base for mobile species to pass and for the release of water and sediments at a slower rate. Suspended sediment behind the structure also assists with vegetation colonisation of the ditch system.

HEDGE-LAYING

Hedgerows form an important component of the Esk Valley and provide multiple benefits, such as carbon storage, filtration and wildlife corridors within the wider landscape. Retaining the value and function of hedgerows through laying is something the group has tackled. There are numerous regional approaches to hedge-laying; we selected 'Yorkshire Style', which involves laying a thin and compact hedge. Using traditional tools

such as bilhooks, the stems are cut at an angle at the base and laid uphill. These are then staked in place to hold things firmly. In time, vigorous new growth should emerge from the cut stems, retaining function as a hedgerow.

This article showcases some of the beneficial work the group does for the wildlife of the Esk and demonstrates the value of the volunteer service in the Park. Things are shaping up to be a busy summer for the group with tree/hedge aftercare being the main tasks to give recent plantings a chance to establish along the riverside. If you are interested in habitat management tasks in the Esk Valley please contact Sarah Lonsdale (River Esk Conservation Officer) at s.lonsdale@northyorkmoors.org.uk. ●

SARAH LONSDALE,
RIVER ESK CONSERVATION OFFICER



Swifts, Swallows and House Martins



A RECENT article in the *Guardian* talked about the precarious situation of Swifts, Swallows and Martins as climate change continues to accelerate. In it there was an estimate that, this year, the main arrival of most migrants from Africa in April was roughly 10 days later than usual. This was in contrast to a tendency over recent years for them to arrive ever earlier. Results from BirdTrack, organised by the British Trust for

Ornithology, confirm this, showing that Swallows, Sand Martins and House Martins all arrived one to two weeks later than expected, and generally in lower numbers.

Two reasons were suggested for these late arrivals. Unlike many other migrants, which fatten themselves up before they depart and transit from one refuelling point to another, these insectivores feed as they travel,

replenishing lost energy by catching insects on the wing. Which means that they are particularly vulnerable to bad weather en route. And the weather in southern Europe this spring – notably in southern Spain, which they pass over after leaving Africa – has been very unsettled, with heavy rainfall, strong winds and even falls of snow across parts of Andalucía. In 2021 also, there were heavy storms over the Mediterranean during their peak migration period. Quite a contrast to the span of hot dry summers that has contributed to the continued loss of autumn migrants, such as Cuckoos, but equally, a result of climate change.

More direct human actions are not always helpful either. Safeguarding stopover sites along the flyways has been shown to be vital for the survival of many migratory species. But many of these, such as the Tagus Estuary in Portugal where there are plans to build an airport, are already under threat, endangering thousands of migrant birds. Population increases in many such areas add yet more pressure on resources and it is not clear what the future holds for these migrant species.

Even when they do make it back here to breed, Swifts, Swallows and Martins don't have an easy time of it. Nesting sites are becoming fewer each year as houses are upgraded, with plastic replacing wood, leading to fewer nooks and crannies to attach nests to. BTO surveys reported that birds which build nests on PVC as opposed to brick, concrete or wood had much lower breeding success – probably because

nests were less able to adhere to the PVC. Some sympathisers are providing artificial nests on their homes to encourage breeding birds, and some new houses incorporate special hollow bricks for them to nest in. While these artificial nests might not be used, they can encourage efforts to build nests nearby.

Yet a further complication in the saga, and one with as yet unknown consequences, is that with the run of mild winters in recent years a small number of Swallows has attempted to spend the winter months in the UK. The BTO's BirdTrack received almost a hundred reports of up to a dozen individual Swallows in Britain and Ireland between 1 January and 1 February last winter. Most were seen in the warmer south and south-west of Britain and Ireland, and if they can survive, avoiding migration could be a real advantage.

Make what you will of all these changes, but one thing is clear. The future of most species of migratory birds, both garden visitors and others, is in the balance. There is much that can be done to help them, but many of the vital stopover areas are in war-torn or impoverished countries where the survival of passing birds is of little consequence. ●

MIKE GRAY
gbwmike@gmail.com / 07596 366342

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest, and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please contact me or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw).

Song for Costa Rica

Just before the first Covid lockdown, a good friend of mine went on a trip to explore Costa Rica. He returned with tales not only of outstanding natural beauty but of a country's dedication to the ideal of sustainable tourism. From that moment, I longed to follow in his footsteps. This January, that dream at last became possible. We spent nearly three weeks on an unforgettable journey through the equatorial rainforest from the Caribbean to the Pacific Ocean.

In Costa Rica you can see more shades of green than you ever thought possible, infinite leaf shapes, rainbow hummingbirds and electric blue butterflies with a six-inch wing span who fly so erratically along the forest paths that there seems every chance they will collide with a tree.

I knew I had to write something, as a celebration. So this is my song for Costa Rica.

This land is Nature's best;
For She has spoken to the longing earth and said:
'I will give you riches beyond your dreaming.
I will give you the brightest fire of heaven;
I will give you the winds of the world;
I will give you divine waters.
From these hallowed bonds will soar
Forest temples of light and shadow.
You will echo the sky in a butterfly wing
And sunset in the breast of a bird.
I will hold you between the oceans.
I will set your mountains ablaze beneath the moon.
I will cherish you.'

So the land has made a song for joy in her creation.
She has called to the sorrowing heart of man, and said:
'I will bless you beyond your dreaming
If you will cherish me.'

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A group of people are participating in a tree-planting activity in a grassy field. In the foreground, a person's legs in a striped skirt and black boots are visible, standing on a wooden post. In the background, several other people are working, some using tools to plant saplings. The field is green with some dry patches, and there are trees and hills in the distance under a bright blue sky with a sun flare.

Going Green... Sustainable Communities

Thinking Global, Acting Local

MANY of you will be aware of the work that has already been undertaken in the Esk Valley to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, this December will see Esk Energy (Yorkshire) Limited celebrate ten years of generating renewable electricity from the River Esk at Ruswarp.¹ If you haven't yet visited the Whitby Esk community hydro project, then get in touch to arrange a visit or to give a helping hand at one of their working parties.²

To try and ensure a joined-up approach to tackling the climate and nature emergencies, the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is developing a routemap to carbon-negative. The LEP has the aim of being England's first carbon negative region by 2040, with an interim stage of a carbon neutral circular economy by 2034.³ Following a carbon abatement pathways study, a routemap has been

developed and shared with local councils. A finalised draft is ready to be approved by the LEP Board in July. This will sit alongside a process of approval by local authorities. York & North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative will then be formally launched in October 2022.⁴

At either ends of the Esk Valley, there are community initiatives taking local action alongside working with the local councils and the LEP.

At the Whitby end, **Coast and Vale Community Action (CaVCA)**'s Circular Coast initiative⁵ is seeking to grow the 'circular economy'⁶ in Scarborough and along the Yorkshire Coast from the grass roots up. It believes that real, lasting change comes from people working together in communities, developing their own projects that meet their own particular needs as well as tackling climate change

A busy day apple pressing.



Esk Energy tour of Ruswarp renewable electricity site.



Great Big Green Week

and protecting nature. By focusing on the practical and achievable it hopes to enable communities to become self-sufficient.

The Circular Coast initiative will be launching a Repair Cafe on **18 July** to beat our wasteful throw-away culture (see next page). It is also running an experiment to produce linen from locally grown flax and co-ordinating a programme of activities for Great Big Green Week, which runs from 24 September to 2 October.⁷ Circular Coast is always happy to collaborate with and support other groups and you can contact its co-ordinator, David Stone, by emailing david.stone@cavca.org.uk or calling 07799 646300.



Repair cafe



Seed share box

Moving inland, **Climate Action Stokesley and Villages (CAsaV)** has a vision where it will help to:

- reduce the use of energy in the area and increase the use of renewable energy
- save the unique natural environment that is local to the area and plant more trees
- increase the availability of sustainable food
- reduce the use of petrol/diesel vehicles
- minimise waste

To help realise that vision the group undertakes a wide range of activities, e.g. helping organise tree planting in the area, taking part in a Food Share scheme to find homes for surplus food from the

local Co-ops, running a Repair Cafe, sharing information on reducing energy use in the home, and working with local schools, businesses and councils to reduce their carbon footprints. CAsaV has also taken over the work of Moor Sustainable CIC in lending out apple pressing equipment and managing the Bug Trail in Great Ayton.

The group is holding a transport themed event on **30 July** at Stokesley

Town Hall, 10am–1pm, promoting public and active travel alongside showcasing a number of electric cars.

Visit the website or Facebook page to find out about other future events, including dates for our Repair Cafe and information about borrowing apple pressing equipment.* ●

CARYN LOFTUS,
CLIMATE ACTION STOKESLEY
AND VILLAGES CO-ORDINATOR
climateactionsav@gmail.com

- 1 www.whitbyeskenenergy.org.uk
- 2 Email admin@whitbyeskenenergy.org.uk
- 3 www.ynylep.com/circularyorkshire
- 4 www.ynylep.com/strategies/routemap-to-carbon-negative-consultation
- 5 The Circular Coast initiative is about growing a sustainable, healthy and prosperous future for communities on the Yorkshire Coast: www.cavca.org.uk/circular-coast
- 6 The circular economy is a model of production and consumption that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible, thereby extending their life cycle and reducing waste. See: www.facebook.com/circularcoast
- 7 Great Big Green Week is a nationwide celebration of action on climate change, taking place across the UK from 24 September to 2 October 2022: <https://greatbiggreenweek.com>.
- 8 Climate Action Stokesley: www.climateactionstokesleyandvillages.org
www.facebook.com/groups/climateactionstokesleyandvillages

Repair Cafe 18 July, to beat Throw-away culture will be held at The Street, Youth and Community Facility, 12 Lower Clark Street, Scarborough, YO12 7PW
<https://cavca.org.uk/activities>



 Every one of us can help limit global warming and take care of our planet. By making choices that have less harmful effects on the environment, we can be part of the solution and influence change.

ActNow is the United Nations campaign for individual action on climate change and sustainability. In a collaboration with WhatsApp, individuals can receive an automated messaging service providing tips to shift to a more sustainable lifestyle. To use the service: save the number +1 212 738 9268 to your phone contacts and then text the word 'hi' in a WhatsApp message to this number to get started.

 Reduce your Carbon footprint:

1. Save energy at home
2. Eat more veggies, buy local
3. Walk, bike or take public transport
4. Consider your travel
5. Throw away less food
6. Reduce, reuse, repair & recycle
7. Change your home's source of energy
8. Switch to an electric vehicle
9. Choose eco-friendly products
10. Speak up

www.un.org/en/climatechange

Community Earth Festival



Wetland restoration project

FOR over 60 years as Botton Village, environmentalism was integral to everything we tried to do as a community. Our predecessors farmed the land biodynamically, a form of organic agriculture which prioritises the health of the land over commercial and production imperatives. The deep love with which every little corner of Botton Village was treated was palpable to any casual visitor. The careful use of natural resources and recycling were central pillars long before much of the rest of the world began to realise their importance.

Around the turn of the millennium, the community was at the forefront of innovative energy solutions. In 2005 its efforts over five decades were recognised with the receipt of the 'Deputy Prime

Minister's award for sustainable communities'.

The concept of a largely self-sufficient community working closely with its natural resources seems very much ahead of its time for those days, when there is now so much talk of sustainability, localism and community resilience.

However, a great deal has changed over the years. For a start, owing to the changes over recent years, we have reformed ourselves as the Esk Valley Camphill Community (EVCC). While we continue to occupy a number of houses in Botton Village, we do not currently have access to its farms and workshops. Instead, our efforts are focused on the five acres of land we have at the Homefield project in Ainthorpe

(although, it is to be hoped that we can begin to collaborate with Camphill Village Trust in the future to assist with the stewardship of the land at the back of Danby Dale).

The other big change over the years has been a global one. A whole generation of young people is growing up and reaching maturity in an age in which environmental issues appear to be taking on increasingly existential dimensions.

It was with all this in mind that EVCC celebrated our Community Earth Festival throughout the month of February this year. This was an acknowledgement of both the growing urgency of the current global crisis, and the need for today's community members to recommit to and reimagine our relationship to the natural world around us.

We began with a series of presentations, which attempted to wake people up to the themes and challenges. From that point on (once a week for four weeks) people split up into work groups. Some were of a very practical nature (e.g. tree planting, recycling, birdbox building, wetland restoration), while others took a

more artistic approach (e.g. natural dying, Earth dreamcatcher-making, and writing a fairytale to the Earth).

The final event (after a month's activities) involved presentations from each of the groups. The contributions were enormously varied, often deeply practical and fun, at times imaginative and soulful, and occasionally profound and spiritual. In so many ways it felt like the kind of cultural and social mobilisation that is going to be required if we are to face the colossal challenges of the decades to come.

But of course, this can only be the beginning... ●

MARK BARBER
tolstoi_9@yahoo.co.uk

We are imagining a follow-up event next year, but this time one that is explicitly outward-looking.

We would like to hear from interested individuals and groups in the Esk Valley and surrounding area who might be willing to offer workshops, activities, artistic contributions or talks.

Our aim is to put on an Esk Valley Earth Festival in 2023.



THE EARTH FESTIVAL

Emilia Gottschalk, a volunteer at Esk Valley Camphill Community, shares her experience of this year's EVCC Earth Festival . . .



THE Earth Festival – how enjoyable to have a festival that lasts a month. And how inspiring to have people coming together with their ideas, especially from different generations. I had a hard time deciding what activity to join, there were many good options ... I ended up going for Treeplanting, as I felt I wanted to do something very practical to help the Earth. Also I got to work with Eddie Thornton who I consider an inspiration when it comes to environmentalism. The first day, Candlemas Day, began with coming together and then going into our activities. We heard many talks throughout the afternoon, broken up with artistic contributions of poems and music. I applaud everybody who gave a talk, as I know most of us don't love public speaking. I enjoyed listening to you. Especially hearing about how trees communicate with each other. This was both informative and inspirational, but so was the break. I had a conversation with Ernst Nef

and what life before plastic looked like . . .

Working throughout the next three weeks felt good – connecting with the Earth in a very physical way, but also emotionally, as we pondered the questions given to us. What is our wish for the Earth, for the community, for the future? For my group, it was to keep doing these kinds of projects. Also, to establish re-wilding as a staple of the community, next to agriculture.

We came together again a month after Candlemas, each group presenting what they had done . . . I loved that there were hands-on bits to some of the presentations, such as the group that dealt with nutrition. The wool dyeing group presented their finished products. The fairytale group put me in a headspace that made me miss my Mum. . . I found it wonderful to see how ready everybody in the community was to partake in not-so-easy conversations about human impact on the Earth, how everybody was 'pulling on the same strand', as we say in German.

While I did love all we did, it needs to keep being followed by action. Action taken as a community, and as individuals . . . whether that is eliminating rubbish from our lives, making re-wilding one of our pillars, continuing our Earth Festival activities, planting plants that encourage our bees, relying on ourselves or other biodynamic farms and gardens for as much food as possible, or taking a stand when we can. All of it, ideally. . .

Something that stuck with me was something that Eddie said: Are we ready to put our impact on the Earth at the centre of everything we do? Are we ready to make her a priority in every single one of our choices? I think we will outdo ourselves by answering that question with YES every day.

We are doing ourselves a favour, really, because even if we have to readjust at first, what she needs is what we need. ●

BUY LOCAL: BAKERY & FARM SHOP

Totally Locally – Naturally!



photos Emily Watson

A GROWING proportion of people understand that the best way to buy food is to buy local; it's better for the planet as it reduces the damaging carbon emissions of long-distance transport and it's better for us, as fresher food is more nutritious.

A couple of producers new to the local area have recently started working together to optimise availability to customers. Maggie's *Off the Rails* is a microbakery at Glaisdale Station, currently open to customers on Saturdays, 10–2pm, and mainly selling sourdough loaves, with a few bakery treats, such as croissants, flapjacks and brioche buns. From about 11am, Maggie is joined by Gretchen of *Ridley's*, who sets up her stall alongside with her

indulgent savouries and inventively flavoured cakes and muffins, all home-made. On Saturday afternoons, 2.30–5, and Sundays, 1–5pm, Gretchen is at the end of her track at Moorside Farm above Egton Banks, adding home-grown vegetables, preserves (including their infamous chilli jam) and home-made soaps and bath salts to her range, along with some of Maggie's goods.

Ridley's is working towards becoming an established Farm Shop selling a full range of local foods, and has already earned a strong reputation – such that they've been invited to have a stall at Egton Show this year. Gretchen is delighted to sell and showcase others' local creations, such as *Stokers'* Jams and Chutneys, and *Wellies and Flowers'*

beautiful fabric gifts, but she is adamant that everything they sell must be local and natural. Maggie too eschews additives, and is an ardent member of the Real Bread Campaign, making all her bread to fit their requirements of a slow process for maximum flavour, digestibility and nutrition, with only

organic flour, water and sea-salt as its basic ingredients and none of the fat, sugar or enzymes that are allowed to be added undeclared by industrial bakeries.

You can find both *Off the Rails* and *Ridley's* on Facebook, and *Ridley's* on Instagram too. ●

Little Free Library at Glaisdale Station

IF you're short of something to read when you head for the train, there's now an opportunity to select a title from *The Quiet Coach* by the gate to the platforms – or indeed to leave a book you've finished for others to enjoy. The beautiful little library was made by one of the volunteers at Beyond Boundaries Day Centre at the request of Maggie, who lives at the station – and was launched on a glorious day in May after a pizza lunch for clients and volunteers of the centre, with the Whitby Storyteller visiting to entertain. ●



The Whitby Storyteller with Derek Enderby, who designed and built the library.

3-minute Drama Competition

READERS who saw this unusual competition being promoted in a previous issue of *Esk Valley News* might be interested to hear that a total of 65 entries were received from all over the country, with a view to finding a pop-up performance to surprise passengers waiting on the train at Glaisdale, while the driver goes through the process of obtaining permission to proceed along the single line.

A shortlist of 10 entries has now been decided and sent to the final judges (see 3minute dramacompetition.com/the-shortlist). With an

even number of judges – playwright and director Philip Ayckbourn, novelist and radio producer Kate Fenton, author and playwright Martin Vander Weyer, and events organiser and General Manager of the Esk Valley Railway, Lisa Williams – there could be some tense moments as they seek to agree an overall winner.

It's hoped to produce at least one play with a cast of locals later in the year, on a date when the author is able to attend. Watch out for further news. ●

Off the Scale, Castleton

Lizzie Watson has recently opened an affordable refill shop and village store called 'Off the Scale' on Church Street in Castleton, which will help you to reduce plastic packaging and waste. You can bring your own containers to refill with cupboard staples including flour, rice, cereals, pasta, dried fruit, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices, all sold by weight. It also offers cleaning products and toiletries, sweets and home-baking as well as local handicrafts. Here she tells us about the long history of the Watson family trading in Castleton and how she came to open a new refill shop.



THE WATSON FAMILY SHOP: A LONG HISTORY

As far as we know, the Watson family's long history of trading at the shop on Church Street in Castleton began when Charlie Watson bought the building in 1920 and opened a butcher's shop. Charlie's son Ernie took over when Charlie retired, and Ernie's son, Ian (Butch), carried it on after Ernie's retirement.

Family was at the heart of everything Ian and Annie did. While the meat products

were central to their trade, they also began to sell cakes baked by Mrs Hoskins, a tradition carried on by Ian and Annie's daughter Karen when Mrs Hoskins retired. Penny sweets, protected by a sheet of polythene, adorned a table in the middle of the shop, with a handy crate nearby awaiting little feet belonging to smaller children who couldn't reach the table top. I know many people who treasure this memory as they now visit the shop with their



children and fondly recall the penny sweet table!

When it came to Ian's retirement, carrying on the butcher's shop was no longer viable as shopping trends had pulled people to supermarkets. Ian and Annie let the shop out for the next twelve years to other local businesses and charities, including Esk Moors Caring and Halo Hair Design.

In 2018, Mark and I had the opportunity to buy the shop from Annie and Ian (Mark's parents). It felt like a no-brainer. We had just received the deeds to our house and learnt that it had been in the Watson family nearly 100 years, which meant the shop (adjoining the house) had also been in our family for this period. We loved the idea of continuing a family tradition, bringing our own business to this quiet corner of the village. Butchery wasn't for us but we were certain we needed to bring back the cakes and penny sweets – I love baking

and everyone loves penny sweets!

We spent a long time planning the renovation of the building as we were passionate to keep the key historical features and to restore some that had been lost, like the sash window. After a lengthy planning negotiation our plans were accepted in January 2020, and then the pandemic arrived. We all know the chaos that caused, but once restrictions allowed, Mark began work on the shop. Renovations were not as straightforward as expected: the entire building needed a steel frame internally, resin bonded to the stone walls, to secure the structure before underpinning. Mark had to work weekends and use holidays from his building business to complete the work, which took nearly two years.

A BUDGET-FRIENDLY REFILL SHOP

Off the Scale is a refill shop. The refill idea came about due to our own desire to use less plastic. We struggled trying to

use other zero waste/refill shops as we budget very tightly and they always seemed so very expensive in comparison to budget supermarkets. So we set out with a plan to make a budget-friendly refill shop, to make this style of shopping more accessible for everyone. After months of searching and price checking we are happy with our suppliers and we are able to offer quality products at very competitive prices. Buying in bulk does help with this, especially for herbs and spices, which will save you a small fortune if you choose to refill your old spice jar instead of throwing it away and buying new. For example, a jar of parsley is around 20p to refill!

At the shop you can buy a selection of dry foods, such as flour, cereal, rice, pasta, sugar, chocolate chips, baking ingredients, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, coffee beans (which can be ground upon request), herbs and spices, sweets by weight and penny sweets too!

Then we have the liquid refills: washing up liquid, hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, kitchen and bathroom cleaner, toilet cleaner, laundry liquid, fabric conditioner, laundry powder – all of which are vegan, cruelty free, septic tank safe (a must-have living

where we do!), free from harsh chemicals and pH neutral. What makes it even better is the company we use (Fill Refill Co – Refillable Eco Cleaning and Laundry Products) offers a zero-waste closed loop system, so they source and recycle used 20 litre drums, rather than buying new ones: the drums come out to the shop, we empty them and they collect and reuse them!

We also stock a range of hand-made crafts from local artisans. This was something I always wanted to have in the shop to support local people with amazing ('off the scale' kind of amazing!) skills and talents. And we bake in-house, offering regular selections of freshly baked tray bakes, cupcakes and cookies.

HOW IT WORKS

You can either bring in your own containers (used or new), buy from a selection of kilner jars, use one of our recycled containers or use compostable paper bags. We weigh the empty container, and fill with your chosen product, then subtract the weight of your container and you pay for what you buy. Prices are per 100g but you can buy any amount you choose. ●



OFF THE SCALE, 3 Church Street, Castleton. Opening hours: Tues 9am–1pm, 1.30–5pm; Wed 9am–1pm; Thu 9am–1pm, 1.30–5pm; Fri 9am–1pm, 1.30–5pm; Sat 9am–1pm; Sun & Mon closed. www.facebook.com/offthescalecastleton; email: otscastleton@gmail.com

Off the Scale is a family business. Lizzie and Mark's two children love to help out: on afternoons you will find Betsy helping after school and Joseph helps on a Saturday. Lizzie's Mum has stepped in to help with the business accounts.

Food for Free



Stinging nettle



Ground Elder



Dandelion

A **FEW** ideas for foraging locally... Many common plants are edible and some are extremely beneficial to our health. Here are some easily identified ones we can harvest locally – with the usual advice not to collect from the verges of busy roads, always wash thoroughly, be aware of local dog habits and never eat anything you can't identify with confidence.

STINGING NETTLE (*URTICA DIOICA*)

Easily identified, if tricky to collect, nettles contain a wide variety of nutrients (vitamins A, C and K; minerals Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorous, Potassium and Sulphur; fats linoleic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid and oleic acid). Also all the essential amino acids and polyphenols. Many of

these nutrients act as antioxidants inside your body.

Studies have shown that nettles may reduce inflammation, help treat enlarged prostate, reduce blood pressure, lessen bleeding, boost liver health and help wounds heal. More research is needed to confirm these claims but traditionally nettles have been used to treat a variety of health issues.

Nettle Tea is easy to prepare: collect a large handful, wash thoroughly, place in teapot and fill with boiling water, brew for a few minutes and pour.

Nettles can be used in stir fries, stews, omelettes – in fact anywhere we would include any other sort of greens – and they are tasty.

GROUND ELDER (*AEGOPodium PODAGRARIA*)

Ground elder was introduced by the Romans as a useful herb but has become an annoying weed over the years.

However, if we start to eat it we may find its nutty flavour makes up for its bad habits. It has been used to treat gout, rheumatism, arthritis and bladder and digestive conditions. The young leaves contain high levels of Vitamin C.

Like nettles, ground elder can be used to replace greens in many recipes. It is particularly nice in omelettes and risottos, but only pick young shiny leaves as once the plant flowers it becomes a mild laxative, diuretic and soporific – and the older leaves become too fibrous and not very tasty.

Ground Elder Gazpacho Soup

1 handful of young ground elder leaves
10 nettle tops
4 medium tomatoes
1 glug olive oil
Salt and pepper

Wash the ground elder and nettles. Chop the tomatoes. Put the ground elder, nettles and chopped tomatoes into a blender. Add olive oil. Blend for about 3 mins until smooth. If the mixture is too thick add a little water until you have the right consistency. Season as desired. This is enough to serve one person.

DANDELION (*TARAXACUM OFFICINALE*)

The dandelion is extremely nutritious, either cooked or raw. It contains vitamins A, C, E and K, small amounts of B vitamins and folate, and is a rich

source of fibre. Minerals include Iron, Calcium, Magnesium and Potassium. The root is rich in inulin, a carbohydrate which helps to keep healthy gut bacteria. It can be taken as a tea (rather bitter) or cooked with other root vegetables. It is full of potent antioxidants and polyphenol compounds, which may neutralise free radicals and protect against chronic disease. Potentially it may have anti-inflammatory properties, aid blood sugar management, reduce cholesterol, lower blood pressure, promote liver health and have anti-cancer effects. However, all of these claims have yet to be confirmed by proper research.

Dandelion leaves (best eaten when young as they become bitter with age) and the flowers add colour and interest to salads. The leaves can also be sautéed with olive oil and garlic as a side dish.

ELDERFLOWERS AND BERRIES (*SAMBUCUS NIGRA*)

The elderflower has diuretic, laxative, antiseptic, antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties. It has high antioxidant content and Vitamin C – great for boosting the immune system.

Elderflower Tea (made by drying the flowers) is excellent against MRSA and flu and colds. The berries have a similar potent direct anti-viral effect against the flu virus. Be cautious if Diabetic though, as it may work like insulin.



Elderflowers and Berries



Wild Garlic



St George's Mushroom

Elderberry Syrup

500g plump stalk-free elderberries
500g sugar
Juice of 1 lemon (or lime)
Optional extras: sliced ginger,
5 whole cloves, 1 cinnamon stick,
1 star anise

Pick the heads of berries on a sunny day and strip from stalks. Wash. Tip berries into saucepan and cover with water. Add any of suggested extras if you wish. Bring to the boil, turn down heat and simmer for 15–20 mins until the berries have softened into a liquid. Leave to cool a bit. Strain the mixture through a sieve or muslin cloth (overnight if possible) and measure liquid. To every 500ml of liquid add 400g sugar. Tip liquid and sugar back into clean saucepan and add the lemon juice. Bring up to a simmer and gently bubble for about 10 mins until all sugar has dissolved. Cool completely and freeze or bottle (in sterilised bottle). Will keep for 3 months in fridge or up to a year if frozen.

Elderflower Cordial

15 large elderflower heads
2 lemons (sliced)
50g citric acid
2.5 litres water
1kg sugar

Check elderflowers for dirt and insects (shake, don't wash). Add flowers, lemon slices and citric acid to the water in a big pan. Heat up to boiling point, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat, cover and leave to infuse overnight. Strain through muslin cloth, to catch all the flowers, squeeze cloth to make sure all the liquid goes through. Return liquid to pan and add sugar. Bring to the boil again, stirring frequently to dissolve all the sugar, simmer for 5 minutes. Sterilise bottles and any other equipment you are using (funnel/ladle) and transfer the cordial while still hot. Or cool and freeze in ice cube trays.

WILD GARLIC (*RANSOMS*, *ALLIUM URSINUM*)

You will often smell wild garlic before you see it!

Wild garlic was recognised as Plant of the Year in 1992, by the Association for Protection and Research of European Medicinal Plants.

Early healers among the Celts and ancient Romans were familiar with the wild herb and knew it as *herba salutaris* meaning 'healing herb'.

It has high quantities of heart-friendly constituents ajoene and adenosine, which help to reduce blood pressure and blood cholesterol. It also cleanses and improves digestion and boosts the body's immune system. The bruised plant releases allicin, which acts against micro-organisms – good for coughs, colds, flu and sore throats.

Best harvested in March/April before flowering, the young, tender leaves of **Wild Garlic** can be a replacement for spinach in many dishes. They can be used to make pesto and eaten in salads or sandwiches (particularly good with peanut butter). The young flowers are also edible and look very pretty in salads and omelettes. The bulbs are edible but not very big and are probably better planted in your veg patch in the hope of growing your own – it took several years before the bought plants I put in my garden finally became established!

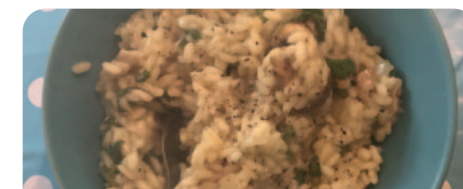
ST GEORGE'S MUSHROOM (*CALOCYBE GAMBOSA*)

The St George's mushroom appears in April/May (hence its name). It is easily

identified by its mealy smell (which disappears when cooked) and the time of year it fruits. It can usually be found in roughly the same place every year, though sometimes disappears for a while (perhaps due to weather conditions).

It must be cooked before consumption!

The only other mushroom it could be confused with is the Deadly Fibrecap, which appears at the end of Spring and early Summer and looks similar but stains bright red and has a cap covered in fine fibres.



St George's Mushroom Risotto

1 onion, chopped
Olive oil
A pan of vegetable stock, simmering
A glug of white wine
Risotto rice (or, just as nice, Brown Basmati)
St George's mushrooms
Chestnut mushrooms
A mix of nettles, ground elder, wild garlic (optional), chopped

Fry onions in olive oil, add rice and mix in. Add ladles full of stock while stirring, alternating with splashes of white wine. Cook for 15–20 mins till stock is absorbed. Add mushrooms and greens and continue cooking for around 15 mins, adding more liquid if necessary. Season as appropriate.

This is my recipe (with a little help from Carluccio), so measurements are vague. It is just as tasty without the mushrooms!

It is important to be 100 per cent sure that you are identifying the correct plant before you ingest anything – there are plenty of good books about wild food and loads of information online. As with

all medicinal herbs, seek the advice of a qualified medical herbalist if you are pregnant or have existing health conditions. ●

FORAGING WALKS



ABOUT four years ago I began taking people on foraging walks on the moors near Danby, teaching them about collecting and identifying wild food. I am keen to help people learn more about the lost knowledge of our ancestors and the beneficial plants around us.

Recently there has been a resurgence in the idea of foraging. It is something many of us have been doing since childhood, for example picking bilberries and blackberries. Our ancestors were hunters and gatherers and their survival depended on their knowledge of edible plants and their uses. They also knew the medicinal benefits of plants, such as yarrow to stop bleeding and willow for pain relief.

There are many benefits to foraging. You can walk out of your door and pick fresh leaves and berries, which are organic and nutritious, full of vitamins and minerals; there is no plastic packaging to dispose of; and it is one of the best solutions available to help us reduce our carbon footprint. It is also good for your health and well-being, both physically and mentally. Many people have become disconnected with nature in recent years and walking mindfully in nature helps us reconnect with our environment and the seasons.

However, there are many plants that are poisonous and harmful, for example Hemlock, which can kill you. It is very important to be able to correctly identify plants before eating them and only take a very small quantity so there is plenty left for wildlife. There are several laws which need to be followed concerning access and protected plants.

On a walk with me in the Danby area I can teach you the correct identification and uses of local plants. In the early summer season, we are enjoying collecting elderflowers for cordial and fizz. Later we will be picking elderberries for a cordial full of vitamin C, great for winter colds and flu. Pineapple weed, in the chamomile family, makes a lovely relaxing tea, good for stomach cramps, and an insect repellent. Sorrel is a favourite of mine to add to salads.

If you would like to find out more, join me on a seasonal wild food walk to learn about the abundance of edibles available to us throughout the year. ●



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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - WELCOMING WALKERS

Loftus Accord Walking Group: Community at its Heart



IF you haven't heard of Loftus Accord Walking Group (LAWG), you should have! This is a friendly and inclusive group welcoming walkers and promoting health and well-being, local landscape, heritage and tourism through walking activities in and around Loftus and the Yorkshire coast.

The Loftus area offers outstanding walking opportunities with a network of footpaths and lanes linking coast to moors. There's much fascinating history to enjoy from the excellent and friendly guides, including its industrial legacy and exciting archaeological discoveries.

'In many ways this stretch of coastline remains below the radar of national consciousness despite hosting the highest cliffs on the east coast of England and being on the route of the Cleveland Way National Trail' ... writes John Roberts (read his full article, 'Land of Cliffs', on the LAWG website (www.walkingloftusandthenorthyorkshirecoast.com)).



FREE GUIDED WALKS

In May we joined LAWG's annual Bluebell Walk from Loftus via Handale Abbey Walled Garden and back via Liverton Village (where we stopped for a welcome bowl of soup) and Rosecroft wood – a trail taking in stunning ancient woodland, local heritage, a pannier way, and a network of footpaths through varied and beautiful landscape.

Other Heritage Walks guided by the group include a 'Scenery, Steel and Sea' trail through woodland to Skinningrove Jetty and back via The Miners' Way; a Geology Walk; visits to the early



Loftus Leisure Centre/Swimming Pool car park. A regular bus service connects Loftus directly with Middlesbrough, Whitby and local communities.

COMMUNITY WORK

This group, run by volunteers, is not only improving the health of the community through walking, but also improving the local environment – making Loftus a great place to live and work.

Marshall Best, Chair of LAWG, explains that ever since Loftus Parish was awarded Walkers are Welcome status in 2015 their volunteers ‘have worked hard to provide walks, keep paths in good condition and promote the district as a place for visitors and local residents to appreciate and enjoy’.

LAWG is behind the new **Community Woodland Project**, recently opened and well worth visiting – especially suitable for people with limited mobility. Access is from the top corner of the Loftus Leisure Centre car park. ●



More information:

Website: www.walkingloftusandthenorthyorkshirecoast.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoftusAWG

Email: info@walkingloftusandthenorthyorkshirecoast.com

Neolithic site near Street House; a walk to the former Hummersea Alum Quarries; and a Fungi exploration walk in October.

LAWG organises **Weekly Health Walks** every Friday starting at 1.15pm from Loftus Town Hall (TS13 4HG) and lasting approximately 90 minutes.

Shorter **Health Recovery Walks**, also on Fridays at 1.15pm, start from outside Loftus Leisure Centre – these walks last 30 minutes and are designed for less confident walkers on relatively flat terrain.

No booking is needed for guided walks and they are free.

SELF-GUIDED WALKS

The group has produced a series of Walks Leaflets for Self-Guided Walking, available at Chapter One Bookshop and other shops in the town. The walks are: Loftus to Grinkle Mine, Saxon Princess Trail, Handale Abbey Trail, Lewis Hunton Trail and Skinningrove Valley Trail.

PARKING AND ACCESS

There are numerous places to park, e.g. South View car park off North Road (TS13 4JL) or the



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

JOYCE STANGOE

Making Whitby Sustainable

An opinion piece by Joyce Stangoe – the views expressed are those of the author.

WHITBY and District needs to have local housing, education and skills training to meet the employment needs of the area and to encourage further employment opportunities. We must ensure these basic needs are met for the area to be sustainable.

One of the difficulties is Whitby's success at attracting visitors – so many that during the peak season moving about the town can be a stressful experience for visitors and residents alike.

Whitby's current situation, a common problem for historic towns around Yorkshire, is summed up in the 2021 Historic England strategy document ‘Celebrating Our Distinctive Heritage’: ‘Historic places should not be theme parks. The activity, energy and decisions of people have shaped them over centuries; if they lack

functioning economies and communities, they lose some of their meaning and much of their vitality. While the visitor economy is undoubtedly important, and a market with real potential for enhancement, it cannot be prioritised over ensuring the region's places are as resilient, economically sustainable, and attractive to people who want to live and work locally.’

‘Similarly, places need to work for everyone. North Yorkshire has an ageing population, so in addition to ensuring the right facilities and housing types are available to cater to the needs of this community, creating the right conditions to enable younger people to stay in and move to the region's towns is critical.’

We are all aware of the housing crisis for residents in Whitby and surrounding villages, where there is a lack of suitable housing in terms of quality, size and affordability (rented or purchased) for

local people and key workers. Local Authorities and Government are failing to recognise the long-term impact this is having on communities and small towns like Whitby, namely that we no longer have enough people living in the area to fill the jobs or the children to keep all the local schools going, and public transport and general services are being cut even further.

EDUCATION MATTERS IN WHITBY

Education helps people think, feel and behave in a way that contributes to their success, and improves not only their personal satisfaction but also their community. But education in Whitby seems to be in difficulty.

We have extremely limited adult educational facilities; employing senior management for the three senior school vacancies I understand has not been without its challenges; and surely funding must be an issue when there are 774 untaken student places in schools as shown on the Government website.

The Whitby & District junior schools also show a large number of schools underutilised at present. The sixth form college figures are not recorded separately but are reportedly low, with many young people having to travel 40 plus miles per day to access schools and colleges with the courses they need to progress on to further education.

I would query why the Authorities decided to build a new University Technical College in Scarborough with the capacity to take 600 pupils, aged 14–18. The latest government information shows this has only 147 pupils with an

Ofsted rating ‘Requires improvement’ at the last inspection in 2019. Could this not have been incorporated into Whitby Sixth Form, saving building costs and reducing our carbon footprint? Surely we should be looking at fully using our Whitby Sixth Form as a centre of excellence, bearing in mind the jobs and associated training required in Whitby.

According to the North York’s Rural Commission,² established in 2019 by North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire has the highest number of small schools in England, rural schools perform well and achieve better educational outcomes than urban children, yet the children are less likely to go on to further and higher education when they leave school.

The same Commission believes that *‘The County Council and the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership must strengthen the offer for post-16 education and provide a better sense of future for young people’*.

In the Whitby Town Deal of 2020³ Scarborough Borough Council put forward a plan to build a **Whitby Maritime Skills Academy**, supported by the Towns Deal fund, at a cost of £10 million pounds, which will *‘deliver a new maritime skills facility in Whitby to provide training and certification for the maritime, offshore and renewable energy sectors, building upon the recent successful diversification of the fishery industry training school.’* It is proposed this facility be built on Endeavour Wharf and to include a training facility incorporating the existing Fishing School, presently located in the Seaman’s Mission, with



Whitby Sixth Form College

additional facilities for specialist training, such as working at height and in confined spaces, fire-fighting and water survival pools.

While investment in skills and training provision in the town is to be applauded, I would ask, is this the best way to invest £10 million for the future of our young people in the area, or is there a better alternative?

Maritime Hub proposal on Endeavour Wharf (from Dalby Offshore Planning application)



- Could this facility be incorporated into the existing Sixth Form College? The site is large enough to include the survival pools and height training apparatus and is within walking distance of the harbour, thus saving on building and environmental costs. Another alternative could be the now closed Roman Catholic junior school.
- The Dalby Offshore building,⁴ which we believe is the blueprint for the proposed Maritime Hub on Endeavour Wharf, is not in keeping with the harbour Conservation Area. The building will read as an incongruously bulky, monolithic addition to the historic environment, which will harm the character and appearance of this area and important views and vista within the town, particularly across the harbour.



The Seaman's Mission

Historic England recommends that for value to be captured locally in the evolution of our region's coastal towns *'it will be critical to plan for how and where this could take place, retaining the fabric and character of historic harbour infrastructure and avoiding adverse change to the setting of the iconic seafronts.'*

With Whitby's shortage of green open spaces and the cramped conditions in its narrow streets, surely the long-term future of this setting should be an urban park, allowing room for fishing

and tourist-related activities, rather than being dominated by an extra-large building containing offices and school rooms?

It is thought likely that the Seaman's Mission, the present location of the Fishing School, would no longer be viable once this facility has been relocated. Surely a heritage building close to the harbour could be used for office facilities for partners of the Maritime Hub if required? ●

1 'Celebrating our distinctive heritage' – How the historic environment of York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding can help achieve Good Growth', Historic England (HE) and the York and North Yorkshire LEP, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/celebrating-distinctive-heritage>

2 'Rural North Yorkshire: The way forward', North York's Rural Commission established in 2019 by North Yorkshire County Council, www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-rural-commission

3 Whitby Town Deal, Town Investment Plan October 2020

www.scarborough.gov.uk/sites/scarborough.gov.uk/files/files/Whitby-TIP.pdf

4 Whitby Blueprint 2021 is a masterplan for Whitby's regeneration over the coming years – the image of Dalby Offshore's proposal for the Maritime Hub building (for which SBC has already given planning permission) is on page 17. <https://www.scarborough.gov.uk/sites/scarborough.gov.uk/files/files/Whitby%20Blueprint.pdf>

Community on the Cricket Ground

AS RECENTLY as 2017, Glaisdale Cricket Club was in danger of folding due to lack of players, and we frequently had to play with only eight, nine or ten men. Other clubs always enjoyed visiting our ground, and we had a reputation as being good sports, but we were never considered a great cricket team, partly due to the fact that we rarely practised! We did, however, manage to keep our junior team going at U14s in a local league. Sadly, the local senior cricket league (The Eskdale league) folded in 2018 due to lack of clubs wanting to play in the competition, and it became obvious that our local junior league was also in danger of folding due to dwindling numbers of clubs fielding junior teams.

We took a gamble and joined a new league for the 2020 season, The Scarborough Beckett League, and our juniors joined the Derwent Valley Junior Cricket League in 2021, even though it meant we might have to travel further afield to play cricket. Both leagues were affiliated to Yorkshire Cricket Club, bringing us into much closer contact with this prestigious club.

When the pandemic struck, many clubs retrenched, but we were determined to keep the club going and attract new members, even during the time when games could not take place, so we maintained a strong social media

presence. We applied for any funding we could and got a grant to buy new practice nets; great timing, as outdoor practice sessions were allowed (in limited numbers) early on in summer 2020 as we came out of the first lockdown, and we made our nets available not just to our own team, but other local clubs who didn't have this facility. For the first time, we actually practised our cricket, and as restrictions eased, more and more people came down to our Thursday practice evening. We also encouraged our village community to use our great outdoor space, free of charge, resulting in many previously 'indoor' activities, such as keep fit classes and personal training sessions, becoming 'outdoor' activities. Families would come down to the ground to play cricket, rounders, etc. This resulted in a huge increase in people using the ground.

By the time team cricket started again in July 2020, we found ourselves with many new players. In particular quite a few girls had joined, and we were now finding we had too many players to fit in the team!

Through the support of Yorkshire Cricket Club, we were encouraged to apply for further Covid recovery grants. We won a support grant from Sport England and substantial grants through Scarborough Borough Council.

In 2021, we decided to add activities that would support the new group of people who were using the ground. We targeted younger children and women and girls. We started the ECB (England Cricket Board) Dynamos coaching programme aimed at 8 to 11 year olds, and promoted this by doing some mini coaching sessions in local schools, in particular with Glaisdale Primary School where we have very strong links. The take-up was unbelievable, and in 2021 we regularly had 25 primary school-aged kids (girls and boys) coming to sessions (not bad when you consider our village is tiny, and our primary school has only about 30 pupils in total). We had so many new players that we took a further gamble and entered a team at under 11 age group in the Derwent Valley League, teaming up with Castleton Cricket Club, who had done something similar. Many of the new players attending the Dynamos coaching quickly became players in the U11 team and some have moved on to our U13 team too.

We started a social media campaign to target women and girl cricketers, and gained a lot of interest from ladies who had been doing keep fit at the ground and had seen the men practising, but also mums who came along to practise with their kids. With all these new players we entered a B team in the Esk Valley Evening league, expressly for those new players who were interested in having a competitive game but maybe had little experience. This was the first time for many years that Glaisdale could raise enough players for a second team.

It was an interesting mix, with several dads playing with their sons and daughters, and we actually had a squad with more female than male players for one game.

We're proud we managed second place in every game throughout the season; no one was disheartened and everyone enjoyed themselves, including the opposition. Since 2021 we have run a dedicated women and girls' coaching evening and have had more than 30 players of all ages and abilities. Getting to play competitive female-only games was a challenge last year as we were about the only local club doing this, but we managed a women and girls' fundraiser in conjunction with Lealholm Cricket Club. Two of our more experienced young female players have completed their cricket coaching qualifications, supported by bursaries from Yorkshire Cricket Club, and now help run the women and girls' practice evenings, as well as the Dynamos coaching. Further ECB grants have funded all the equipment needed for these new players.

Thursday night practice sessions have now become a community event, with over 70 people one night, males and females aged 7 to 70. Sometimes people call in just to see what's going on, and often stay. We had so many new 12 and 13 year olds coming to practise that we also started an U13 team at the end of the 2021 season.

Although we have an enviable location, our facilities are poor. Our pavilion building is in a state of disrepair, and we have no female changing facilities, so we



declared an intent to rebuild a modern pavilion on the site of the old one. Many members of the local community have made donations and we have raised funds through a variety of events, including a route march through the cricket clubs of the Esk Valley, a virtual cycle ride from the Glaisdale Oval to Lords, and online auctions and raffles of items donated. The money we've raised through our own efforts, and generous donations and grants now means we have enough to start the rebuild. We applied for and won a further grant from the National Lottery Fund which will pay for a twenty-first-century-standard female changing facility and we've had further support from the Sirius Minerals Foundation (now the Woodsmith Foundation). The intention is to complete the new pavilion at the end of the 2022 season.

Through all of this, in the last two years we have gone from struggling to raise a team to having almost 100 regular players. As well as our flagship Saturday team, we have evening league teams playing in two separate leagues – under 11, under 15 and under 13 junior teams – and now enough to raise potentially two women and girls' teams (hardball and softball). With the new intake of Dynamos cricketers in 2022, we're hoping to go a step further and have provisionally entered an under 9s league.

The link with Glaisdale Primary School has also helped the school cricket team, who recently won a schools' competition for year 5 and 6 pupils. That was an amazing result as our school only has

enough pupils in year 5 and 6 to make up a team, and as it turns out, every pupil in those two years happen to also play for Glaisdale Cricket Club! The team beat opposition from some of the much bigger primary schools in Whitby.

Glaisdale Cricket Club still maintains its reputation as a fun-loving sporting club, with our declared aim to enable everyone to participate, regardless of age, sex or ability. The strange thing is, with all this practising we've actually become quite good! Our Saturday team has now been promoted two years in a row, and our U15, U13 and U11 teams are all doing well in their respective leagues. Our women and girls' team entered their first competitive tournament and won the competition against other local teams; they're now hoping to play more competitive matches.

It's impossible to thank everyone individually who has helped, but in particular Rich Wilkinson, Matt Hurren, Mark Jobling and Rob Johnson from Yorkshire Cricket Club, John Green from the Scarborough and Ryedale Cricket Development Group, and Malcolm Maw from the Beckett League/Derwent Valley Junior League have been an enormous support. ●



www.facebook.com/Glaisdalecricketclub

MEMORIES OF 1940s GLAISDALE . . .

WHEN THE CRICKET FIELD WAS USED FOR GLAISDALE GYMKHANA

MY BROTHER Dan (Andrew) bought a Welsh untrained pony. We called it 'Kitty' and he managed to train it. We were up at Nab End then and it had to gallop over the moors each day, so was pretty fast. Why not enter it into the Gymkhana?

To put Kitty into a meaningful class it had to be with ponies and needed a young rider. Well, Bob Ford offered to have a go (Bob was a real live-wire). Jim Winspear used to run the show and he lived at The Hall in Glaisdale (as distinct from Hart Hall). The Gymkhana was held on the cricket field down near the station.

Well, there was quite an entry in the ponies – Farrowes from Danby had two in, Petch from Pickering had three in . . . all real sleek-looking animals and nicely groomed. Well, Kitty looked as if she had been dragged through a Holly Bush, but no worries – she had four legs!



Jim Winspear, Master of the Glaisdale Hunt and a well known character in the farming world.

There was a shout to start the race: 'Off . . . !'

Kitty didn't start bang on time as I think Fordie and Kitty were still getting used to each other. But, off she went like a hurricane, catching most of the horses in the first lap and in the second lap she steamed into first position. How Jim shouted down that microphone, just like Chariots of Fire – 'Danny boy and Kitty have won!'

I think the next year Fordie couldn't hold Kitty and she ran off the course, and then Bob became too old to enter that class so our moment of glory was over. ●

FRANK THOMPSON

COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT FUNDING ... FROM THE WOODSMITH FOUNDATION

THIRTEEN organisations were awarded funding in June for climate change related projects, with the successful projects including the eradication of disposable plastics at a sports club, refurbishments to cut the carbon footprint of community buildings, workshops to help local people learn about environmental sustainability, support for community volunteers to set up small climate action projects and a school project to help children learn about climate change.

One organisation that received funding was Pannett Art Gallery in Whitby, whose environmental superhero, Envirogirl, visited six primary schools to inspire the young participants to adopt small changes that would help to improve the environment.

Another recipient, Danby Village Hall, used the money to install double glazing and draught-free doors. Liz Lonsdale, from Danby Village Hall

committee, said: 'We believe that everyone must play their part in addressing climate change. The refit will also benefit residents of all ages, as they will be much more comfortable attending events now.'

Grants totalling £61,300 were awarded and the successful organisations were: Marske Sports and Recreational Partnership, St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Pannett Art Gallery, Eskmouth Scout Group, Danby Village Hall, Community First Yorkshire, Fylingdales Church of England Primary School, Hawsker Church of England Primary School and Festival of Thrift CIC. ●

The Woodsmith Foundation is an independent charity funded by Anglo American's Woodsmith Project. Formerly known as the Sirius Minerals Foundation, it has supported community projects with over £2.5m of donations since it started its work in 2017.

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Revival North Yorkshire – The Information Station



A COMMUNITY 'Information Station' has opened at Danby Fire Station on Ainthorpe Lane. This is the initiative of local support group 'Revival North Yorkshire' in a pioneering collaboration with the Fire Service, which has provided the office space within the fire station building.

The new local hub offers information and support for the whole community – 'If we don't know, we will make every effort to find out' is the attitude you will find if you go along and use the service, which includes:

- Computers available to use and IT support for mobile phones, laptops, etc.
- Try Before You Buy lending library of useful gadgets to loan and try out before you buy one for yourself, e.g. speaking clock, motion sensor night lights and Companion Pets.
- A place to pop in for a cuppa if you're feeling in need of company.

The Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire's Deputy, Sir Harry Wilmott, cut the ribbon at an official opening of the facility on 20 June, attended by staff and volunteers from Revival and a host of local people and organisations, including Danby Surgery, Danby Village Hall, Heather Hopper, Living Well, Carers Plus, Caring Together and representatives from North Yorkshire County Council.

Debbie Swales (Revival North Yorkshire), Paddy Chandler (Stronger Communities), Kevin Scorer (Station Manager Whitby District, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue) and Sir Harry all spoke

about Revival and the importance of the Information Station for the community.

Debbie Swales thanked Revival's funders for the project: The National Lottery Community Fund and the Two Ridings Foundation; North Yorkshire County Council – Stronger Communities – for the Suicide Prevention Grant to support The Information Station and Amy's mental health training as Revival's Wellbeing Champion; and The Woodsmith Foundation for two staff laptops and the Try Before You Buy service.

Revival North Yorkshire's objective is to revive community spirit and provide a range of support and activities to improve the well-being of the North York Moors community, particularly the elderly, and this new facility is a great addition to its many valuable services. ●



The Information Station is open 9.15am–4pm most Mondays and any time you see the sign outside. If Mondays aren't convenient, phone Amy on 07458 314552 to arrange a time or to receive information by phone/post.



A Spiritual Prayer Poem

To build the World in the I
To behold the I in the World
Is breathing of the soul.

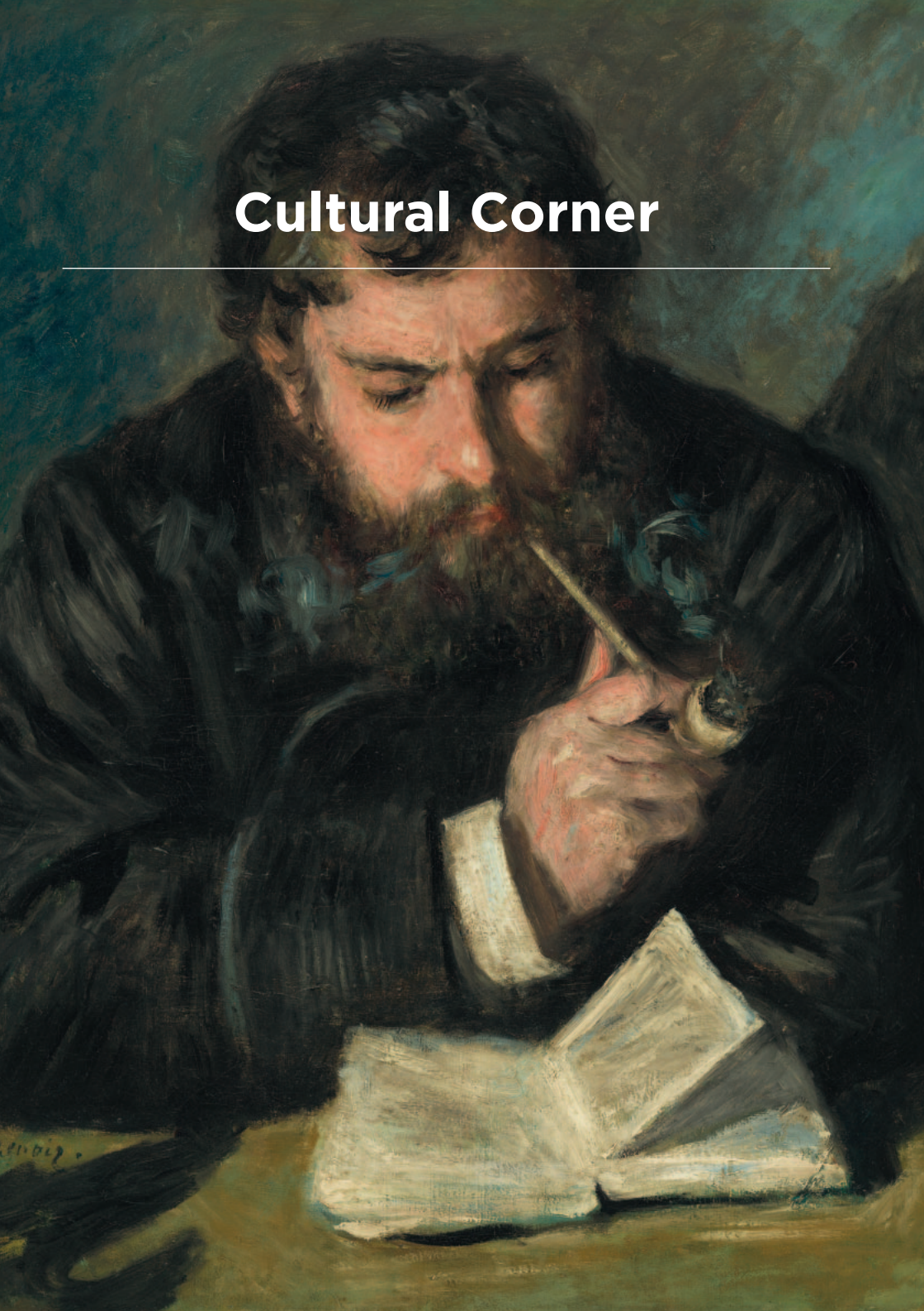
To sense the universal all,
In feeling of one's inner self
Is wisdom's pulse.

To trace the paths of the spirit
In one's own aims of life
Is inner speech of truth.

So let the soul's breath penetrate
Into the pulse of wisdom, calling forth.

From inmost depths
The speech of truth
Through all the rhythms of the years of life.

Submitted by Vivian Griffiths



Cultural Corner

SHORT STORY

Nanny Pierson of Goathland

A fictional adaption by Kate Hope

THE ironic branch of the Lime tree whips and rages at my shutters and there'll be no peace tonight, like the night afore, aye and the night afore that. Wicked winds blow for these storms are uncanny and unsettle all I know.

My name is Pierson. I am an outcast. I am a Witch. My mother and grandmother before me were too... Aye and their mothers afore them.

Mostly on my own, few dare to come near for they fear the Evil Eye. They angst I will turn them to stone with a glance. The women folk dread something else about me too.

I live on the edge of Goathland village, the abode is small, sparse, so very broken down... A straw bed, a chair and a chest, nothing much more.

At night I turn into a big grey hare, a Witch hare and I run and run, free to roam, free to look, free to see the moon and bathe in her rays.

I am Pierson and for my two score years and ten on this Earth, the village crowned me 'Nanny'. Well, crown away you who live by the rules with your perfect, tidy lives. I am Pierson, I am beautiful, and I look no more than a score years and ten. I am the eye of the storm, the wind that rattles and rails, the thief in the night who creeps and steals. I am Pierson, I am beautiful therefore I'll have what I will, I'll take what I will. I'll steal through your house and your life leaving markers of my presence, a hair ribbon here and a posy of herbs there. Like a storm leaving its trail of devastation and harm I'll blow through your being and your mind and your calm.

See the fallen barn, the flattened crops, see the up-rooted tree, the swollen river ready to flood and cause yet more care. That's a sign of my work and my mission to steal. Didn't I yield to custom, wear a ring, hold aloft the branch of the Lime tree, and was stolen from too? I take because I was taken from. I am Pierson, I am beautiful, and I'll take what I will. I'm the eye of the storm, I'm the thief in the night.

Witchcraft you say, there is evil about. No sorcery here, I just turn life about. I wheedle my way into a foolish man's affection by no fair means that's true. Though I need no herbs nor chants through the night. I listen carefully, that's my trick. I listen and I learn while a knave vents his spleen, wails his woes, puts his case and his cares. Then, fair maidens and those of you plain, I supply what is needed ... and let nature do the rest. If a wife won't dance then I'll dance for a man till dawn. I'll dance and delight like the dappled rays of sunlight through the ancient boughs of an oak. If a wife won't sing, my voice will rise like the dulcet tones of the Nightingale, true as she looks down from above in a clear blue sky. How I'll sing for her man, how I'll smile and beguile with my pretty head on one side and my heart black all through. If a wife is quiet, I'll chitter and chatter, if a wife is noisy, I am hushed and still. I am Pierson, I am beautiful and I'll take what I will. I'm the eye of the storm, I'm the thief in the night. I'm a cuckoo, a quisling, a magpie, a thief.

A rude knock at the door startles me, it punctuates the lash of the Lime tree, the tumult of the storm. Cautiously I lift the latch and there he is, as he has stood so many times before so many long years since... the Squire, back again.

His strong unscathed hands clutch the thick weave of his sodden cloak tightly. Heed carefully Pierson, prick up your ears! 'Oh help me', he cries. 'I've dealt you ill and I'll answer for that on my day of judgement. Help me and we will be as we once were, sweet lovers of the night, reunited once again.'

Bent and broken the Squire lowers himself to the chair. He tells me of his troubles, his woes and his cares. 'My beautiful daughter', he cries, 'she is in love with a farm-hand and try as I might, I cannot part them. Help me save her.'

I rush quicker than light to the old wooden chest, throw the wool fleeces resting there to the floor, and from it present the Squire with a bottle. He gives me a handful of coins which he throws to the floor and a glance which tells me what a fool I've been. Of their own volition my hands cup together as a beggar's. My blood runs thin and cold in disgust at the depths of my depravity. My hunger for verification, for a man to heed me, is such that it seems to know no bounds. I give the bottle a long hard stare and smirk and turn the pale yellow elixir into a deadly poison. I am Pierson. I am beautiful. I get what I want.

The Squire laces his girl's food with the devilish brew and she eats heartily. The next day she is still, paralysed and try as they might, no Doctor can cure this ill.

The Squire makes his weary way to my door once more. He begs my forgiveness and tells me how it can be between us again. I raise my piercing blue eyes to the old Celtic Gods, 'See my raw infidelity', I cry, 'see my noble high brow, feel and feed my hatred'. I brush my long dark greying hair from my eyes, I see clearly. My heart is hardened, my heart is black, I turn him away.

I am Jemima. I am the Squire's daughter. I lay in this opulent chamber as a precious stone in a golden casket. I lay painfully, silent and still on my pretty bed, fading fast. These walls are lined with rich, vibrant, colourful tapestries and a hearty fire burns in the hearth. I smell the frankincense which smoulders by night and day. I see physicians bent over me, their mouths moving silently as they debate my fate. They bleed me and bind me but to no avail. I dream of the ploughman I love, he is a country lad and true. He has no fortune but a treasure of tales to tell. I see him now in my mind's eye, lithe and strong, as he gently touches my dark curly hair. 'Oh tell me a story', says I the steadfast maid, 'of dragons and dens and fighting men.'

Doesn't news of the Squire's daughter and her plight travel fast. The farm-hand rushes to the Wiseman of the village and seeks counsel. The Wiseman sits him down and calms him and bids him to drink tea and gaze into the cup. Behold the lad sees my face distant and forlorn. 'You need that witch's blood', the Wiseman says. 'You need her blood and Holy Water, mix the two and rub your sweetheart's feet with the healing concoction and she will rise and walk beside you.'

The young man leaves and returns to his toil. His heart is good and true and he knows he will not fail the girl he loves. He returns to the land and his labour and as he works his mind grows strong and he makes a plan to draw my blood.

The night is so very dark and the storm so violent and strong, raging, blowing as angry Gods abound. Mother Earth is a planet of change and flux, she is restless and unwell and it is with great surprise that the Moon and the Earth bid me run, but bid they do.



It is midnight and I run free. I am a hare, a Witch hare. As I run the brave country boy with a righteous aim, and a dutiful eye, shoots me with a silver bullet. It pierces my leg. I shriek and toss and turn. I raise my front twisted in agony to the moon. I drag my broken body to the hedge to hide. My nostrils fill with the stench of undergrowth as I pant shallow and fast to stay alive. I cannot see him but I can hear him trace my path and bend low to soak my blood and make his life well. Slowly, slowly the storm abates.

That heartened man, for now he is a man, runs faster than any hare to his darling. He mixes Holy Water with my lonely blood and anointing her feet helps her rise and stand beside him. She is well and strong. She is the healing calm after the storm. She is an Ash tree, a beacon of sunlight, a heart good and true.

The Squire loses his daughter for a second time as the couple flee and marry, never to return.

I am Pierson. I can dig all day my soil to till, my herbs to tend. I am Pierson. I am an Autumn beauty. I get what I want.

Chamomile, mugwort, lamb's cress, plantain, mayweed, nettle, crab-apple, thyme and fennel are sometimes to be found scorched by the piercing sun in the sour soil of Pierson's garden. Other years they survive but never thrive. As the Moon wanes so she decreases, as does Nanny Pierson's garden.

As I grow older the weather grows stranger. My leg never truly heals after the gun-shot wound and ails me many a year. I bear the pain well, better than I bear the pain of the lonely life of the Evil Nanny Pierson. ●

Anne Pierson, the Witch of Goathland – at Ryedale Folk Museum



Claire Almond, volunteer 'witch' at the Museum, telling stories about Nanny Pierson and the other Ryedale accused.

STORIES of witchcraft on the North York Moors have been told for hundreds of years and are rooted in the collection at Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton le Hole. Our ancestors turned to the figure of the 'witch' to explain what was happening within the community, for example the illness of an animal, milk that wouldn't churn into butter or a hailstorm that destroyed crops.

According to stories, it was the eldest Pierson 'witch' in Goathland who was most feared, accused of being able to cripple an unborn child. Old Mother Migg, from Cropton, was also reported to have attracted so many victims into her hovel that she was tossed into a 'slag of migg' – migg being manure – and the smell had the effect of discouraging anyone who might have come under her influence.

At a time when historians and scholars no longer accept that maleficent magic took place, these stories of persecution and accusation can be

deeply troubling, particularly now that we are able to explain vastly more through science and medical understanding. Consequently, the museum is taking steps to share them with sensitivity.

When Ryedale Folk Museum founder Bert Frank and his volunteers had finished reconstructing the first vernacular building on the site, the cottage Stang End, they set to work using the remaining building material to make the 'Witch's Hovel'.

During event days at the Museum, the 'witch' is often at her 'hovel' – a volunteer has been taking on this role since the very early days of the Museum's opening, starting with Edith Butler in the 1960s. The current 'witch', Claire Almond, has been researching the history meticulously, sharing stories of 'Nanny Pierson' and other women from the region and inviting visitors to discuss and reflect on this heritage. ●

Louise Connell – Robin Hood's Bay



LOUISE CONNELL is an artist and sculptor whose love of making things is an integral part of her life. She grew up in a family where everyone was creative, but practical too.

Being the youngest of four children she learnt a lot from her siblings and was encouraged to use her creative mind from a very early age. 'It's like musical families where everyone plays instruments: you push each other to become better, but you also take your ability to play, or in my case draw and paint, for granted because it's normal in your family.'

As a child on the remote north-west coast of Scotland Louise was surrounded by the unspoilt beauty of the natural world. She spent hours studying rock pools and catching sea creatures to put in them, knowing they'd be freed by the next high tide. These days she makes her sea creatures from recycled tin cans. 'I always thought the ring-pull lids on the cans looked like fish scales.' So with some experimentation Louise started making tin fish, and more recently tin lobsters and crabs. 'I work from tail to head as the scales or sections on the lobsters naturally overlap that way.' Holes are punched and the pieces are held together using pop rivets. The creatures are all hollow, making them lightweight but surprisingly strong. Once constructed, Louise likes to decorate the tin sea creatures using acrylic paints and metallic powders.



Mackerel made from recycled tin cans.

Louise now lives in Robin Hood's Bay and its stunning position between moors and sea offer a wealth of subject matter for the landscapes and seascapes she loves to paint. She tries in her watercolours to capture a moment of beauty, be that a winter sunrise or the sparkle of sunshine on water. She has been painting watercolours for nearly forty years but feels that it's only in the last five that she's developed her own style.

After school and a year's foundation in Art, Louise went on to study Conservation and Restoration at Lincoln College of Art. She was introduced to various crafts such as bookbinding and lacemaking, but it was surface decoration that inspired her most, learning to gild, marble and imitate various natural finishes.

Louise went on to form a partnership, 'Swift & Connell', working on a number of architectural gilding jobs, including St James' Catholic Church in London and St Philip Neri in Mansfield. The partnership was dissolved when Louise became pregnant with her first child.

She spent the next twenty years living in County Cork, the most south-western part of Ireland, bringing up her two daughters, working as a painter and decorator, painting murals, window splashes and restoring and gilding picture and mirror frames. She



Sunrise over Ravenscar, watercolour.



Girl with flowers in her hair, acrylic on silver leaf.

Summer's day, Staithes Beck, watercolour.



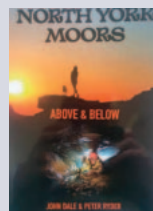
worked with a team of four gilders on Castle Hyde for Michael Flatley of Riverdance fame. Using her background in surface decoration she creates illustrative pictures working on boards that have been silver leafed. Sometimes she embosses areas using acrylic gesso. The silver leaf gradually tarnishes but the patination process can be suspended by lacquering and sealing. These pictures are often inspired by what the tarnished background suggests.

Louise is a member of **Robin Hood's Bay Arts Group**: six women who run a studio and gallery and hold exhibitions twice a year in Spring and Autumn. Formed in October 2016 the group has gone from strength to strength; their latest exhibition, 'Sunshine and Shadows', was their best to date, raising £445 for the DEC Ukraine crisis appeal. You can see more of Louise's work and the rest of the group's on their website: www.robinhoodsbayartsgroup.co.uk ●

BOOKS

North York Moors Above and Below

BY JOHN DALE AND PETER RYDER



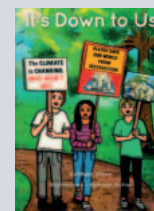
This is a unique book, born out of two men's passion for a side of the North York Moors that very few of us will have the chance to experience. It gives a fascinating insight into a ring of sites around the moors and a close-up view of what it is like to explore

underground in old abandoned mines, or to climb the smooth rock face of a moorland feature. Additional information is included on the geology and local history of the area. ●

100 pages with illustrations. Copies are available from Peter Ryder via publications@broomlee.org, £8 plus £3 postage and packing.

It's Down to Us

BY ANTHEA DOVE



A lively story about a group of children who are inspired to communicate to their local community the urgency of the Climate Change crisis. This colourful book, illustrated by Hannah Butler, touches on several current issues and will encourage children (aged

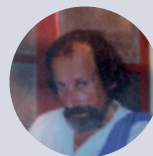
around 8–12 years) to think about the consequences of global warning in different parts of the world. ●

88 pages with illustrations, £7 plus pp. Copies available from Christians Aware, 2 Saxby Street, Leicester LE2 0ND, phone 01162 540770; email: Amanda@christiansaware.co.uk

TRAVEL AND CULTURE

PETER LYTH

A Visit to Gandhi's Ashram in India



I HAVE lived all my life in Whitby but occasionally I've had the opportunity to travel to places with very different cultures and ways of life. I would like to tell you about some observations I made on a visit to South India in March 2009, to Gandhi's Ashram.

Gandhi's Ashram in Sevagram village is an inspiring place. After his Salt March protest demanding independence for India in 1930, Gandhi was imprisoned. On his release he travelled to this village and established a residence, which became the headquarters for his campaign, and many decisions on important national matters were made there. The village lies roughly 515 miles east of Mumbai and about 15 miles from Nagpur.

What impressed me was the feeling of fusion between the people and their lifestyle. I felt the vast majority were completely 'at one' with their

natural surroundings. They are self-sufficient – which includes milk (Gandhi only drank milk reluctantly) but not meat. While I was staying there we ate cheese on one occasion. They use ash to clean utensils (it's very effective), and a brush with turmeric and salt added to the water for the skin, especially to clean dirty feet . . . someone showed me his spotless feet afterwards. A 'carding machine' was in evidence at the evening short prayer session (which was mainly gentle singing, and included devotions from different religions). This small, portable, hand-driven machine spins a thread from flax, and the Indians usually sit on the floor to use it.

There were no showers for the guests in Sevagram, but the bucket method was not unpleasant, because the water was slightly warm from the ambient temperature. In this location we were roughly in the geographical centre of India. Hence the heat in these parts! And summer had started early that year in South India, they said. ●

Layered Tranquillity

An unexpected greeting unfolds,
as layers of thermal protection are needed,
from the creased shopping bag below the stairs,
last explored in November.

One glove missing,
Looking for the sledges,
One blue,
One red,
Back of the garage.

The hills glisten with pride as the white granules empower nature.
Feeling robotic in stature with multiple protection,
The gift of freedom offers an icy cold handshake.
A time of claustrophobic cosiness.
Allowing nature to dance around our routine,
Re-defining freedom with an exhaled sigh of cold comfort.

HELEN SEARLE

QUIZ

AINSLEY

World, Weather & Climate Quiz



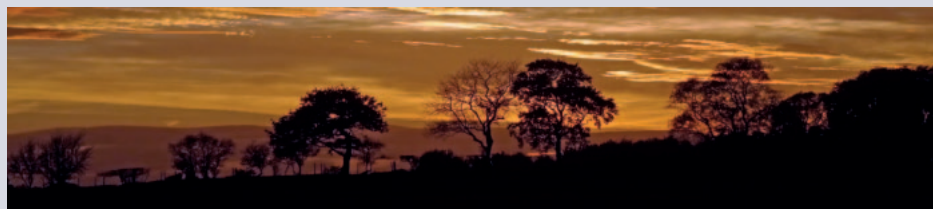
- Which fish name is used to describe a sky patterned with cirrocumulus or altocumulus clouds?
- Which is the driest desert in the world? In which continent would you find this inhospitable place?
- What would a nephologist study?
- What are the missing words from this well-known weather lore rhyme?
Red sky at night, (9, 7)

Red sky in the morning, (9, 7)

- What name is given to the commonly used scale that gives a comparative measure of wind force?
- Rapid climate change leading to global warming is now a major threat to the survival of humankind here on earth. What is the main greenhouse gas that is causing this temperature rise?
- Where would you find the wettest place in Britain?
- Land fill and farm animals are major sources of which greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming?
- 'Richard of York gave battle in vain' is a phrase used as a mnemonic in remembering what?
- One of the potentially disastrous effects of global warming is to raise the level of the World's seas and oceans thereby threatening serious flooding for people in many countries, particularly those living near lowland coastal areas and major waterways.
- What percentage of the world's surface is water?
- Why will planting more trees and conserving and expanding the world's forests help to combat global warming?
- Sirocco, Bora, Mistral, Chinook are the names given to what natural phenomena?
- What is the name given to someone who studies the weather and its effects?
- What, according to Irish legend, can be found at the end of a rainbow?
- What on a map is indicated by an a) Isotherm? b) Isobar? c) Isobath?
- Why should 15 July be of interest to those concerned about the weather?
- Which is the hottest place in America?
- Can you name four sources of virtually pollution-free power generation?
- In 1987 a well-known and well-respected British TV weatherman got his forecast completely wrong when he announced with confidence to the nation that 'no hurricane was about to hit Britain'. There followed one of the worst storms ever to hit the UK with widespread devastation and a huge loss of trees. Tragically 18 people lost their lives in the storm. Who was the embarrassed weatherman on that fateful day?
- Give six practical steps that you can try to take as an individual to minimise your impact on global warming and make your carbon footprint as small as possible? ●

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

World, Weather & Climate Quiz – Answers



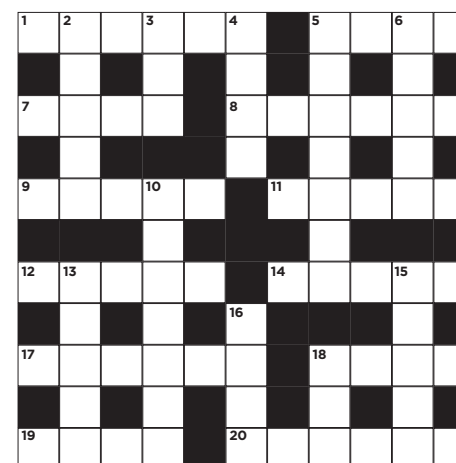
- 1 Mackerel. A mackerel sky has a rippled pattern resembling that seen on the body of the sea fish. A mackerel sky is an indicator of change in the weather. Mariners spotting a mackerel sky and a drop in air pressure would expect rain.
- 2 The Atacama desert is the driest place on earth. It is in South America.
- 3 Nephology is the study of clouds.
- 4 Red sky at night, shepherd's delight, Red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning. (In a common variation, shepherd is replaced with sailor.)
- 5 The Beaufort scale. It is named after its Irish inventor, the hydrographer Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort (1774–1857) of the Royal Navy.
- 6 Carbon dioxide (CO₂) generated from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas is a major contributor to global warming.
- 7 Having this dubious honour, the wettest place in Britain is said to be Capel Curig, a small village in the foothills of Snowdonia, Caernarfonshire, Wales.
- 8 Land fill and farm animals are a major source of methane, a hydrocarbon gas (CH₄) that significantly adds to global warming.
- 9 Aid to remembering the seven colours of beautiful weather phenomena known as a rainbow – the colours are in order red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.
- 10 71% of the Earth's surface is water, leaving us only 29% land surface to make up the continents and islands we have to live on.
- 11 Trees are magical things – they absorb CO₂ (greenhouse gas) from the atmosphere and break it down into carbon and oxygen. They retain or store the carbon (as long as they are living) and release the oxygen back into the atmosphere. Oxygen is essential for life on Earth. The destruction of rain forests is particularly damaging to the environment and is adding to the global warming crisis. Trees are essential to the survival of mankind. Look after your trees and they will look after you.
- 12 They are names given to winds: Sirocco – a hot, moist wind blowing from the Sahara to the Mediterranean; Bora – a cold, dry wind blowing towards Hungary from Italy; Mistral – a very cold wind blowing from the Alps over France; and Chinook – a hot, dry wind blowing in the Rockies, a major mountain range, the largest in North America.
- 13 A meteorologist.
- 14 A pot (or crock) of gold.
- 15 a) Isotherm – a line or points indicating equal temperature. b) Isobar – a line or points indicating equal pressure. c) Isobath – a line or points indicating equal depth below water.
- 16 The 15 July is St Swithin's Day. According to the old saying, if it should rain on St Swithin's Day it will continue to rain for the next forty days. Contrariwise, if on St Swithin's day it should be fine/dry, it will be fine for the next forty days. Despite the old adage, available records show that this weather pattern has never yet actually happened. There's always a first time!
- 17 Death Valley, a desert area in Eastern California, part of the Mojave Desert. It is claimed by many to be the hottest place on Earth.
- 18 Solar, wind, hydro and tidal power.

- 19 The weather man and broadcaster was Michael Fish. The accurate forecasting of the weather is a very difficult business as was demonstrated by Mr Fish that day.
 - 20
 - 1) Adopt the use of renewable energy whenever you can as your power source/s.
 - 2) Make sure your home is well insulated and you switch off all appliances and lights when not in use or needed.
 - 3) Invest in energy-saving and efficient devices and appliances such as LED light bulbs.
 - 4) Educate and influence others on better uses of power and energy saving.
 - 5) Avoid overconsumption and wastage.
 - 6) Cycle if you can. Car share or use public transport whenever possible to help reduce your carbon footprint.
- There will be many other ways in which you can help make a world of difference. We only have one world – let's look after it! ●

PUZZLE

AINSLEY

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Complain about the moor birds (6)
- 5 Herb that makes money? (4)
- 7 Instrument that is at the heart of hobo entertainment (4)
- 8 Ralph Cross is the one used for our National Park (6)
- 9 Small carnivorous mammal ruined toast (5)
- 11 Said in the Bible to be weak (5)
- 12 One hundred assign a value to the packing case (5)
- 14 Query the directions and go wrong (5)
- 17 Not on the level (6)
- 18 It is advisable to have a pass inside (4)
- 19 Weight measure of precious metal from ancient city (4)
- 20 Once every 365 days (6)

DOWN

- 2 Steal Old Testament android (5)
- 3 Runner going through Wensleydale (3)
- 4 Surprisingly smooth and flat (4)
- 5 Dynamic art works that have lots of rings (7)
- 6 Swedes from across the border (5)
- 10 Can't be done when one is living (7)
- 13 Measure the monarch (5)
- 15 Gives support to working painter (5)
- 16 Sounds like he's in a whirl? (4)
- 18 Go this way (3)

ANSWERS

ACROSS 2 Grouse, 5 Minir, 7 Oboe, 8 Emblem, 9 Stoa, 11 Flesh, 12 Cate, 14 Askew, 17 Sloped, 18 Visa, 19 Troy/troy, 20 Yearly DOWN 2 Roboc, 3 Ure (river), 4 Even, 5 Mobiles, 6 Neeps, 7 Autopsy, 13 Ruler, 15 Easel, 16 Eddy, 18 Via

Esk Valley Theatre – 2022 Season

‘All Lies’, written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn



A minimalist set. Actors Luke Dayhill and Saskia Strallen (photo by Steven Barber).

AS THE opening of ‘All Lies’ approaches, Esk Valley Theatre is trying to reduce its impact on the environment and it’s proving a challenge! However, we are doing what we can and hoping that all the little things add up to going a bit greener.

When the company first started, we hired nearly all our equipment and everything had to be transported to Glaisdale. Now, thanks to some generous sponsorship, we have our own storage shed so we can store equipment from one production to the next, reducing our carbon footprint and saving money.

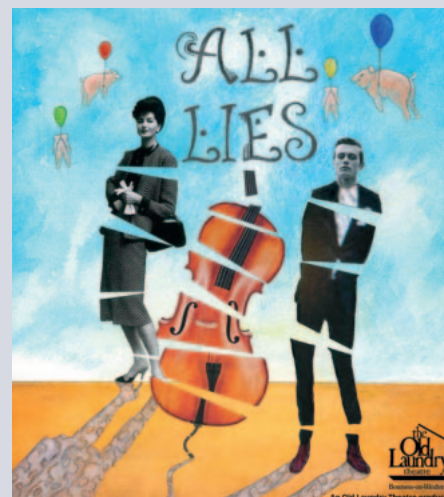
When it comes to building sets, we always try to re-use materials and when we can’t we try to send what we can for re-cycling, along with glass bottles, cans and other recyclable items. It’s a bonus when we can do a production with a minimalist set, like this year’s production of ‘All Lies’. It not only saves the environment but helps to keep costs down.

Where it gets tricky for Esk Valley Theatre is that some people have to travel to see a show, but hopefully the benefits of having the theatre outweigh any negative impact. It’s great that local people have at least one opportunity

each year when they don’t have to go on a long journey to see a professional production. In fact, if you are a theatre lover who has never been to the Esk Valley Theatre then perhaps a visit to see a home-grown production will save on having to travel further afield and help the environment.

In the EVT Box Office we have reduced our paper waste considerably over the

years, again sending any waste paper and cardboard to be re-cycled. So, while there is still room for improvement, you can rest assured that your theatre is doing what it can to help the planet. Here’s to a greener theatre and we look forward to seeing you in August. ●



A chance meeting . . . It’s love at first sight! The person of your dreams! But will they feel the same? Once you tell the truth about yourself will you even be worthy of them? Do you take the plunge and reveal all? Or choose the dangerous alternative and tell them . . . All Lies?!

World premiere production of ‘All Lies’, written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn, runs from **Thursday 4 to Saturday 27 August** at The Robinson Institute, Glaisdale, YO21 2PW. Performances Monday to Saturday at 7.30pm. Matinees at 2.30pm on 6, 11, 13, 16, 18, 23 & 25 August.

Tickets: £17 full price / £14 (18s and under).

Large Groups: Buy 10 tickets and get 11th ticket free, so 11th, 22nd, 33rd, etc, tickets are free.

EVT Box Office: 01947 897587

Website Bookings:

www.eskvalleytheatre.co.uk

Email: info@eskvalleytheatre.co.uk

Follow EVT on Facebook & Twitter

Esk Valley Theatre is a not-for-profit company, Limited by Guarantee.

Registered in England and Wales.

Company No. 6719735



Northumberland Theatre Company

'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare, adapted by Chris Connaughton

Northumberland Theatre Company will be returning to The Robinson, Institute, Glaisdale, on Saturday 8 October.



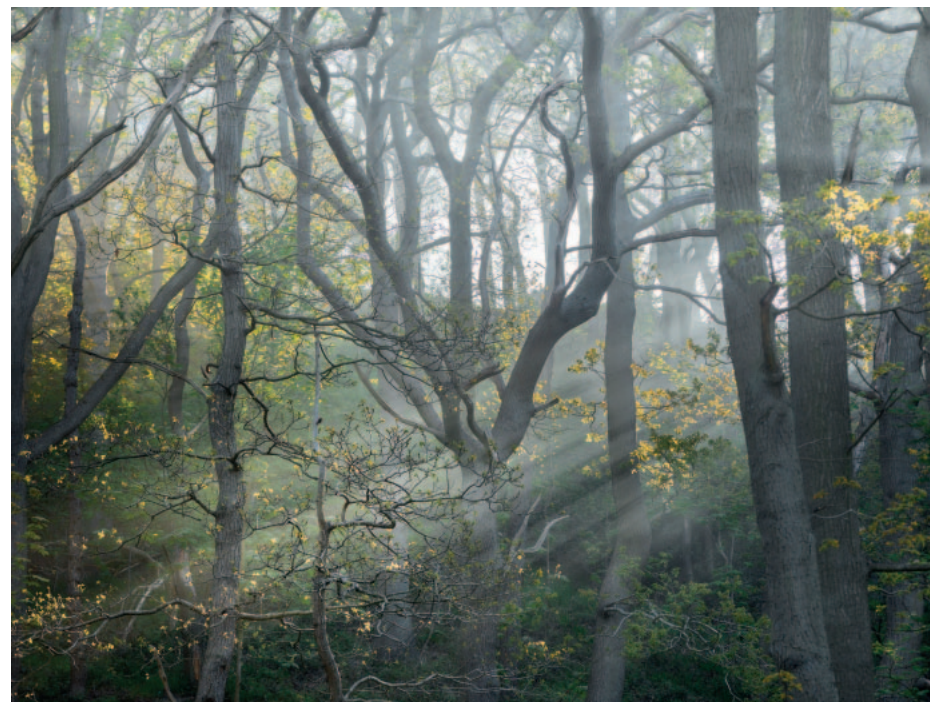
*'By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.'*

THIS all-female three-hander version of the well-known (and very gruesome) Shakespeare classic is an adaption by writer and director Chris Connaughton and directed by NTC Artistic Director Louis Roberts. Streamlined and unique, the grisly tale is told largely from the perspective of the witches, and performed in NTC's fast-paced and extremely physical style, featuring original music. Exploring ideas of

manipulation through the media and other external forces, the show includes all of the grim and gory elements that everyone loves and expects from the story of Macbeth. Perfect for those not particularly familiar with Shakespeare's work and die-hard fans alike. ●

Tickets £10: reserve your seat by emailing: valleynews@basementpress.com or phone/text 07472 622243. More information about NTC at: www.northumberlandtheatre.co.uk www.facebook.com/NTCtheatre

A Woodland Sanctuary



Newton Wood by Joe Cornish.

**INSPIRED BY... GALLERY, DANBY LODGE:
SAT 16 JUL-MON 12 SEP**

A Woodland Sanctuary is a major joint exhibition between acclaimed local photographers Simon Baxter and Joe Cornish. The work was gathered over the last five years, all of it within the North York Moors National Park.

For both photographers, woodland has been a source of exploration, tranquillity, meditation, artistic study and inspiration, and, especially during the pandemic, a solace.

Running alongside the exhibition is a whole series of special events, talks and walks. Booking is essential for all events unless stated otherwise, please visit: northyorkmoors.org.uk/events

- Joe Cornish and Simon Baxter will be leading a number of in-depth exhibition tours over the opening weekend:
 - Sat 16 Jul: 11.30am-12.30pm and 3-4pm
 - Sun 17 Jul: 11.30am-12.30pm and 3-4pm



Afraid of Time II
by Simon Baxter.

- Gallery talk with guest speaker, Lucy Lapwing on the ecology and wildlife of our ancient woodlands (16 Jul, 1.30–2.15pm)
 - Mothy coffee (17 Jul, 10–12noon) – expert Lucy Lapwing gives an insight into the secret lives of moths, as well as identifying the moths captured in our moth trap. Drop-in, no need to book.
 - Guest speaker Mark Littlejohn (17 Jul, 1–1.45pm) – join award-winning landscape photographer Mark for an inspirational talk.
 - An evening with... Joe Cornish and Simon Baxter (23 Jul, 5.30–8.30pm) – hosted by photographer David Ward in conversation with Joe and Simon and guest speaker Sean Tucker, followed by drinks, canapés and music.
 - Time out in the woods with Simon Baxter and Joe Cornish (28 Jul, 1–4.30pm) – pick up tips from Simon and Joe on using your smartphone camera on an afternoon walk around May Beck and Falling Foss.
 - The Art of Looking (12 and 26 Aug) – using charcoal and pencil to create your own work inspired by observation and photographs from the exhibition with artist Peter Reynolds.
- The exhibition at Danby Lodge National Park Centre, Lodge Lane, Danby, Whitby YO21 2NB is part of the National Park's 70th Anniversary and is free to attend – exhibition open daily, 10am–5pm; some of the special programme events are ticketed and need to be pre-booked. ●

More information: www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/awoodlandsanctuary

MUSIC NEWS

The Ryedale Festival 15–31 Jul



AN INSPIRING programme of concerts held in historic locations across North Yorkshire. In residence at this year's festival is much-loved baritone and composer Roderick Williams, who will be joining a series of concerts and events, including a free masterclass (on 18 July at Helmsley Arts Centre) where Roderick will share thoughts on singing and performance!

'Ryedale Festival punches above its weight with an extraordinary breadth of programming, with local talents and star musicians sharing top billing.' Royal Philharmonic Society Awards 2020 ●

<https://ryedalefestival.com>

The North York Moors Chamber Music Festival 13–27 Aug: 'Soundscapes'

A FORTNIGHT of concerts and around 40 chamber works featuring over 30 international musicians. Many of the concerts are held in a large marquee in the grounds of Welburn Manor, near Kirkbymoorside; others are held in historic churches around the region. ●

www.northyorkmoorsfestival.com



Teesside Music Society

TEESSIDE Music Society have announced their 2022/23 season chamber music concerts:

2 Oct Anna Huntley (mezzo soprano) & Joseph Middleton (piano)

6 Nov Hill Quartet

4 Dec Kosmos (piano accordion, violin, viola)

8 Jan Carducci Quartet

5 Feb Trio Volant (oboe, clarinet, bassoon) & piano

5 Mar Christine Zerafa piano quartet.

For more details:
<https://teessidemusicsociety.weebly.com>
For other local concerts, see: teesmusic.co.uk



Tickets £5, including tea or coffee available from Grosmont Post Office or on the door.



**For latest news and future projects
find us on Facebook**

although a sea fret or rough sea may mean that the event cannot go ahead. Whitby's historic lifeboat, *The William Riley*, will serve as one of the safety boats. The *William Riley* is remembered for its two heroic attempts to save *The Robilla* passenger ship, which ran aground off Whitby in 1914. ●

Whitby Regatta, Sat 13–Mon 15 Aug, presents a full weekend of entertainment, including yacht racing, rowing races and finishing with prize giving and fireworks. Volunteers are needed to assist with the organisation of the weekend's activities. More information: <https://whitbyregatta.co.uk>.

Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay, will be raced through before the route heads into the North York Moors National Park – passing through Ruswarp, Sleights, Grosmont, Egton, Danby, Castleton, Kildale and Great Ayton. The unforgiving final 30 kilometres of this 150 kilometre stage feature the climbs of Carlton Bank (2km long, 9.8 per cent average gradient) and Newgate Bank (2km long, 6 per cent average gradient) before descending into the finish at Duncombe Park at Helmsley. ●

North Yorkshire Moors Railway Annual Steam Gala, September 2022



THE LNER A4 'Sir Nigel Gresley' will be making a welcome return to the North Yorkshire Moors

Railway Annual Steam Gala, 22–25 September, fresh from overhaul.

Besides an intensive timetable of historic steam and diesel services, the Gala incorporates a Beer Festival at Goathland and Levisham Stations, live music at Goathland (Friday and Saturday), demonstration Freight Trains running between Pickering & Levisham and Goathland & Grosmont Stations, fundraising stands for Dame Vera Lynn and other traders, and a vintage stationary engine display at Levisham. ●

www.nymr.co.uk



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What's On

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Tour of Britain: 7 Sep, cycle race day four – Redcar to Helmsley via the North York Moors (see page 153)

Heritage Open Days: 9–18 Sep, www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Great Big Green Week 2022: 24 Sep–2 Oct, <https://greatbiggreenweek.com>

NATIONAL PARK

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk

- **Festival of Green:** all July, curated by Carers Plus Yorkshire, celebrating green social prescribing (connecting people to outdoors for physical and mental wellbeing), venues including Sutton Bank National Park Centre, NYMR and Ryedale Folk Museum. Free events but booking required – see programme on NP website.
- **Colourful Fingers Trail:** Until 24 Jul, Danby Lodge NP Centre
- **Exhibition – A Woodland Sanctuary,** 16 Jul–12 Sep, Inspired by... gallery (see page 149)
- **Nature on the Bank:** 17 & 27 Jul, various events at Sutton Bank as part of NP Festival of Green (free, but booking required)
- **Woodland Finders Trail:** 25–21 Aug, Danby Lodge & Sutton Bank NP Centres
- **Have-a-go Archery:** 29 Aug, Danby Lodge NP Centre
- **Mindful Month:** 1–30 Sep, feel invigorated in nature with events and activities to rejuvenate your spirits
- **Fringe Dark Skies Festival:** 21–30 October.

See www.northyorkmoors.org.uk for details, more events, workshops and guided walks

WHITBY

'Scoresby's Arctic' Exhibition: Until 4 Dec, Whitby Museum, <https://whitbymuseum.org.uk> (see page 36)

'Sea People's – Navigating the Pacific': Annual exhibition at Captain Cook Memorial Museum, www.cookmuseumwhitby.co.uk

The Great Seaside Vintage Fair 2022: 16–17 Jul, 10am–4pm, Whitby Pavilion, www.whitbypavilion.co.uk

Whitby Steampunk Weekend: 22–24 Jul, Whitby Pavilion, www.wswofficial.com

Whitby Ahoy! Annual Sea Music Festival: 30–31 July, sea shanties, <https://greatnorthfolk.com>

Yorkshire Day: 1 Aug, 11am–5pm, folk music at the Bandstand, Whitby

Whitby Traction Engine Rally: 5–7 Aug, Hawsker, Whitby

Dippy Craft & Gift Fair: 6 Aug, Whitby Pavilion, www.whitbypavilion.co.uk

Whitby Regatta: 13–15 Aug, www.whitbyregatta.co.uk

Whitby Folk Week: 20–26 Aug, www.whitbyfolk.co.uk

'Dracula!' performances at Whitby Abbey: 23–21 Aug (weekends only), www.english-heritage.org.uk

'Vikings!' at Whitby Abbey: 27–29 Aug, www.english-heritage.org.uk

Whitby Beer Festival: 28–31 Jul, at Whitby Mission & Seafarers Centre, in aid of Whitby District Lions, www.facebook.com/Whitbybeerfestival

Whitby 60's Spectacular: 23–25 Sep, Whitby, www.whitby-live.com

Fish & Ships Festival: 24–25 Sep, Whitby, www.discoveryyorkshirecoast.com

Whitby Goth Weekend: 28–30 Oct, Whitby, www.whitbygothweekend.co.uk

Tomorrow's Ghosts Festival: 28–29 Oct, 6.30pm, Whitby Pavilion, www.whitbypavilion.co.uk

BORROWBY

Borrowby Show: 30 Jul, Borrowby, Near Thirsk, <https://borrowbyshow.co.uk>

BOTTON VILLAGE

Great Ayton Strings Orchestra Summer Concert: 10 Jul, Joan of Arc Hall, Botton Village, 3pm, collection.

CASTLETON

Castleton, Danby & District Bowling Club: every Thursday during summer, 6.30pm. Bowls are available; flat-soled shoes are required. All ages welcome. Phone Ann Watson on 01287 660577 for more information.

Castleton Show: 10 Sep, www.facebook.com/castletonshow

DANBY

Danby Show: 10 Aug, www.danbyshow.co.uk

EGTON & EGTON BRIDGE

Egton Bridge Gooseberry Show: 2 Aug, the oldest surviving gooseberry show in the country, www.egtongooseberryshow.org.uk

Egton Show: 24 Aug, www.facebook.com/egtonshow

FARNDALE

Farndale Show: 29 Aug, www.farndale.community/farndale-show

GLAISDALE

'All Lies', written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn: 4–27 Aug, Esk Valley Theatre, www.eskvalleytheatre.co.uk (see page 146)

'Macbeth' with Northumberland Theatre Company: 8 Oct, Robinson Institute, Tickets £10; email valleynews@basementpress.com (see page 148)

Jamie's Gym 'The Ultimate Workout': Circuit training tailored to your needs, Mondays 7.30–8.30pm, £5, Robinson Institute; email activities@eskmoorescaring.org

GOATHLAND

Goathland Village Show: 13 Aug, 80th anniversary

Tannahill Weavers at the Goathland Hut: 18 Sep, concert 3–5pm, www.facebook.com/whitbyfolkforum

GREAT AYTON

Fletchers Farm Fest: sadly now cancelled: www.fletchersfarmfest.co.uk

GROSMONT

'Music for a While': 6 Aug, 3pm, Singer Megan Moffitt with guitarist John Forsyth (see page 151)

Annual Steam Gala, North Yorkshire Moors Railway: 22–25 Sep (see page 154)

Railway in Wartime: 2022 event cancelled in light of conflict in Ukraine

HINDERWELL

Hinderwell Show: 5 Aug, <https://hinderwellshow.org.uk>

HUTTON LE HOLE

Ryedale Open Studios: 23 Jul–5 Sep, celebrating Ryedale Open Studios artists and their work, free entry to art exhibition, www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk

History Walk Through: Re-enactors at Ryedale Folk Museum: 27–28 Aug, www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk

KILDALE

Kildale Show: 3 Sep, <https://kildaleshow.com>

LEALHOLM

Yoga Classes with Nadia: Tue afternoons, Ley Hall, 1–2.30pm, activities@eskmoorescaring.org

Lealholm Show: 3 Sep, www.facebook.com/Lealholmwhitbynorthyorkshire

LOFTUS

Guided Walks and Health Walks: Loftus Accord walking group, free walks, no booking needed: www.facebook.com/LoftusAWG (see page 119)

LYTHE

St Oswald's Church Exhibition: 5–7 Aug, artefacts connected with the parish over the years, www.stoswaldslythe.org.uk

OSMOTHERLEY

Osmotherley Show: 6 Aug, www.osmotherleyshow.co.uk

ROBIN HOOD'S BAY

Robin Hood's Bay Victorian Weekend: 3–4 Dec, www.facebook.com/RobinHoodsBayVictorianWeekend

ROSEDALE ABBEY

Make Bake and Grow event: 10 Aug, Turret Field, Rosedale; flower and veg, baking, handicrafts and children's classes (no Rosedale Show this year).

RYEDALE / HELMSLEY / PICKERING / MALTON / THIRSK / NORTHALLERTON

'Helmsley's Whole History – in two half hours!': 13–15 Jul at Helmsley Arts Centre; 16–17 Jul at Helmsley Walled Garden, fast-paced comedy production by 1812 Theatre Company, www.helmsleyarts.co.uk

Ryedale Festival: 15–31 Jul, Music and arts events in historic churches and buildings around Ryedale, <http://ryedalefestival.com>

Twelfth Night' presented by The Three Inch Fools: 21 Jul, Helmsley Walled Garden, www.helmsleyarts.co.uk

Ryedale Open Studios: 23–24, 30–31 Jul, www.ryedaleopenstudios.com

Ryedale Jazz Festival: 23–29 Jul, Pickering, <https://ryedalejazz.com/10th-ryedale-trad-jazz-festival>

Ryedale Show: 26 Jul, Helmsley, www.ryedaleshow.co.uk

Explore Beadlam Roman Villa: 29 Jul (also 9 Sep), starting at Helmsley Archaeology Store followed by a site tour of Beadlam Roman Villa, <https://englishheritage.seetickets.com/tour/beadlam-roman-villa>

Thornton le Dale Show: 3 Aug, www.thorntonleale.com

North York Moors Chamber Music Festival: 13–27 Aug, www.northyorkmoorsfestival.com

Castle Howard Proms: 20 Aug, Castle Howard, www.castlehoward.co.uk/whats-on

Bilsdale Show: 27 Aug, Chop Gate, <https://bilsdaleshow.co.uk>

Malton Harvest Food Festival: 27–29 Aug, 150 food stalls, cookery theatre, live music

Autumn Plant Fair: 11 Sep, Scampston Walled Garden, near Malton, www.scampston.co.uk

North Yorkshire County Show, Near Bedale: 11 Sep, www.northyorkshireshow.co.uk

Marathon Du Malton: 18 Sep, Malton, www.racespace.com/gb/mark-brayshaw/marathon-du-malton-4

World Jam Festival, Helmsley: 25 Sep, <https://worldjamfestival.com>

SALTBURN

'53 Drama Group Summer Production: 14–16 Jul, 7.30pm, Saltburn Arts Centre, <https://saltburnarts.co.uk>

Great Ayton Strings Orchestra Summer Concert: 17 Jul, Saltburn Community Arts Centre, 3pm, collection.

Saltburn Folk Festival: 11–14 Aug, www.saltburnfolkfestival.com

Saltburn Farmers' Market: 13 Aug & 10 Sep, 9am–2pm, <https://redcarcleveland.co.uk>

SCARBOROUGH

Scarborough Symphony Orchestra Concert: 16 Jul, 7.15pm, Methodist Central Hall, Queen Street. David Heath 'Rhapsody'; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto; Shirley J. Thompson 'New Nation Rising: 21st Century Symphony' www.scarborough-orchestra.co.uk

SeaFest Maritime Festival: 22–24 Jul, Scarborough, www.facebook.com/ScarboroughSeafest

'Brief Encounter': 22–27 Aug, Emma Rice's adaptation of Noël Coward's timeless tale, Stephen Joseph Theatre, www.sjt.uk.com

'Family Album': 2 Sep–1 Oct, world premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's 87th new play, www.sjt.uk.com

Yorkshire Fossil Festival: 16–18 Sep, Scarborough, <https://yorkshirefossilfestival.co.uk>

STAINTONDALE

Miniature Railway Charity Fundraising Open Days: 7 Aug & 4 Sep, garden of Lisa and Alan Williams, Staintondale (follow the ribbons from the Falcon on the A171), tea/coffee and cake, tombola, train rides.

STAITHES

Staithes Festival: cancelled for the foreseeable future: www.staithesfestival.com

STOKESLEY

Stokesley Show: 17 Sep, www.stokesleyshow.co.uk

TEESSIDE, GUISBOROUGH, REDCAR & CLEVELAND

Redcar Family Fun Gala: 23–24 Jul, arena shows, fun fair, entertainers, live music, <https://redcarcleveland.co.uk>

Classical Cafe Summer Special: 24 Jul, 3pm, Charlotte Potter (Soprano) and Alison Gill (Piano), a journey from Handel to Copeland with Romantic pieces in-between, Middlesbrough Town Hall (www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk)

‘Peter Pan’: 24 Jul, 3pm, award-winning outdoor theatre with Illyria, Gisborough Priory, <https://redcarcleveland.co.uk>

‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’: 12 Aug, 7pm, award-winning outdoor theatre with Illyria,

Gisborough Priory, <https://redcarcleveland.co.uk>

Kirkleatham Heritage Tour: 14 Aug & 11 Sep, 2pm, <https://redcarcleveland.co.uk>

‘Much Ado About Nothing’ by William Shakespeare: 31 Aug, 6.30pm, presented by Folksy Theatre, open air in courtyard or Town Hall Crypt if weather is bad, Middlesbrough Town Hall (www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk)

Snake Davis: 1 Sep, 7.30pm, virtuoso saxophonist with his four-piece band, Middlesbrough Town Hall (www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk)

Redcar & Cleveland’s Summer Walking Festival: 10–18 Sep, <https://redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/redcar-cleveland-summer-walking-festival>

Festival of Thrift, Kirkleatham: 24–25 Sep, the UK’s national festival of sustainability, celebrating its 10th anniversary with a ‘common wealth’ theme, www.festivalofthrift.co.uk

Classical Cafe: 2 Oct, 3pm, The Kildale Quartet led by Peter Gulbis, Middlesbrough Town Hall (www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk)

READERS’ NOTICEBOARD



I WAS horrified when I came to live in Glaisdale to discover I’d have to buy our milk in plastic bottles. Everywhere else I’ve lived I’ve had it delivered by the milkman and been able to return glass bottles for recycling. When I drove over to the Dales one day I passed a farm with a milk dispensing machine where you bring your own glass bottle/s to fill. Imagine if the villages of the Esk Valley each had one of those, filled by a local farmer – how much plastic that would save!

If anyone is interested in this idea, please let me know.

Maggie Rich, Glaisdale
maggie.rich@phonecoop.coop

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- ◆ Danby Surgery: 01287 660739
- ◆ Egton Surgery: 01947 895356
- ◆ Out of Hours Doctor or NHS Direct: 111
- ◆ Brotton (East Cleveland Hospital) Minor Injuries Unit: 01287 676205
- ◆ Guisborough Minor Injuries Unit: 01287 284101
- ◆ Whitby Hospital: 01947 604851 (Minor Injuries Unit 824238)
- ◆ James Cook University Hospital (Middlesbrough): 01642 850850 (A&E: 01642 854252)
- ◆ Scarborough Hospital: 01723 368111 (A&E 01723 342145)
- ◆ Samaritans, for emotional crisis support: 0845 7909090
- ◆ Good Neighbours Coastal Car Scheme: 01947 602982

Community Services

- ◆ Esk Moors Caring Ltd: 01287 669357; activities@eskmoorescaring.org

- ◆ Revival North Yorkshire CIC Community Support Organisation. Debbie – 07970 955407, info.revivalnorthyorks@gmail.com

Government

- ◆ North Yorkshire County Council: 01609 780780
- ◆ Scarborough Borough Council: 01723 232323
- ◆ Whitby Town Council: 01947 820227
- ◆ Glaisdale Parish Council: 01947 897481; website www.glaisdalepc.org.uk
- ◆ Danby Parish Council: 01287 641348; clerkdanbypc@yahoo.co.uk

Law Enforcement

- ◆ Police Emergencies: 999
- ◆ Non-Emergencies: 101

National Park / The Moors

- ◆ North York Moors National Park, Helmsley: 01439 770657
- ◆ Danby Lodge National Park Centre: 01439 772737
- ◆ Sutton Bank National Park Centre: 01845 597426
- ◆ North Yorkshire Moors Association (NYMA), independent charity: www.north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk

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