

AONB OFFICER'S REPORT
1ST APRIL – 21ST OCTOBER 2008

Some of my main duties over the past six months have been:

- **Projects** 2007/08 Fund: Checking completed work and processing grant claims for autumn/winter season projects: hedge planting (including Barton le Street, Thornton on the Hill, Hovingham (x2), Kirkham), barn owl boxes, SINC grassland (Littledale).
- **Projects** 2008/09 Fund: The quiet time of year for Projects. However, cutting of Appleton le Street churchyard and Amotherby Lane SINC arranged, work arranged for Wiganthorpe Wall, advice re. hedge planting at Ampleforth and Coulton, Dalby Maze re-cut and gravelled, site meeting lined up with Terrington Parish Council re. Conservation sites in the village and samples taken for analysis from black poplars.
- Updating and maintaining the **Countryside Management Budget**.
- **SDF** 2007/08: Projects supported through the final stages of delivery include; a mower and gathering tools (Basics Plus), Churchyard Conservation Project (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), GLOBE Project (BTCV), Compost Bins and Information displays and interpretative material (Castle Howard Arboretum), a Hedge Laying Course (FWAG), local flora guide (NYMNP and local botanist) and Farm Carbon Audits (FWAG).
- **SDF** 2008/09: Projects supported through the application process and early stages of delivery include Farm Carbon Audits (FWAG), Eco-renovation Survey (Gilling Village Hall), Orchard Event (PLACE), waterwheel driveshaft extension, solar hot water heating and materials for repair (Howsham Mill). Discussions with several other potential applicants.
- **CAN DO** – ongoing input into AONB related aspect of the project. Potential Community Fund applicants identified and linked to CAN DO coordinator. Parish Fund applications commented on.
- **Volunteers:** content for volunteer newsletter, liaison with PRoW and Ranger Service re. tasks and events with vols. Input into Investors in Volunteers process. Volunteers helped with: tasks at Littledale SINC to prepare site for Exmoor Pony Grazing, help at Partnership Group, preparing for and delivery of Management Plan Community Consultation Events, delivery of Junior Ranger Club and Discover Days, Ryedale Show (x8 vols) and information stand at Walk for Nepal.
- **Events:** Planning and delivery of 2008 events programme. Events to included a Bat walk at Castle Howard on National Bat Night (joint event with YWT and The Estate), very successful, 41 attendees (fully booked and a waiting list), Ryedale Show and Walk for Nepal.
- **Discovery Project:** Planning and delivery of 2008 Discovery Project which includes; Pilot twinning project between Welburn School and Neasden School (Hull), Discovery Days with AONB schools (x6), two-day JRC activity comparing Hovingham and Filey (geology and water-life, August), 12x Junior Ranger Club Sessions (May in Hushwaite (x4), October in Gilling (x4) and December at Castle Howard Arboretum (x4).
- **Attendance at HLF Briefing** into new grant scheme criteria and application process.
- **Exmoor Pony Project** – checking SDF grant aided transporter, final preparation of Littledale and Bull Ings SINCs for ponies. Holding pen at Cawton Bank. Seven sites in the AONB grazed by ten Exmoor ponies (including the first year of grazing at Littledale and a return to grazing for Grange Bogs). Assistance with linking North York Moors National Park to YEPT.
- **Management Plan/Parish Plans** – Four Parish Plan/Community Consultation drop-in sessions delivered with YRCC (and the support of other partners). Management Plan Topic Groups attended (and notes taken). Feedback provided on the draft Management Plan.
- Inputting events, text and photos for **website**
- **Publicity** – Articles in local press and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust magazine re. launch of Churchyard Conservation Booklet. Parish Plan events advertised in local press.
- **Newsletters** etc: Supply of material for Natural Environment Day Booklet, Countryside Service and Volunteer Newsletters.
- **AONB Newsletter** – Determining article topics, writing content and gathering content from partners, editing joint articles, sourcing images, supplying material to PLB.
- **Carrying out Admin/Office duties** when the post was vacant and helping Maggie to take on these processes now that she has joined us.
- **NAAONB** – attended annual conference and represented the interests of Northern AONBs on the National Communications Steering Group.

MEETINGS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 3rd – Hovingham - JAC• April 7th – Swinton – AONB Partnership Group• April 8th – Northallerton – Heritage Unit Mtg | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 10th – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group• April 10th – Northallerton – Hambleton BAP• April 16th – Malton – Ryedale BAP• April 23rd – Hovingham – Appraisal• April 28th – Sheffield Wildlife Trust – Grazing Animals Project workshop |
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- April 29th – Leeds – HLF update session
- May 7th – Hovingham – YEPT – Finances
- May 13th – Hovingham – YWT – Ranger Club
- May 15th – Hovingham – Agriculture Topic Group
- May 14th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- May 15th – Hovingham - Forestry and Woodland Topic Group
- May 27th – Hovingham – Recreation and Access Topic Group
- June 12th – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- June 12th – Hovingham - Core Funders
- June 13th – Hovingham – Development Topic Group
- June 18th – Hovingham – AONB Assistant Interviews
- June 19th – AONB Office – Planning for Ryedale Show with Sue Bragg
- June 19th – Hovingham – Cultural Heritage Topic Group
- June 20th – Hovingham - Roads and Traffic Topic Group
- June 25th – Hovingham - Biodiversity Topic Group
- June 25th – Hovingham – Communities Topic Group
- June 27th (am) – Northallerton - North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group (Implementation Group)
- June 27th (pm) – Northallerton - North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group (Steering Group)
- July 15th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- July 17th – Hovingham - David Patmore re. ELS options
- July 22nd – Hovingham – Natural Environment Team
- July 28th – London – NAAONB Comms Group
- July 30th – Hovingham – SINC meeting (AONB and NYCC)
- July 31st – Helmsley – SDF Panel
- August 14th – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- August 19th – Hovingham – YWT review
- August 22nd – Northallerton – Investors in Volunteers briefing session
- July 18th – JAC Projects Tour
- Sept 2nd – County Hall – Heritage and Environment Team Meeting
- Sept 8th – Helmsley – Lime and Ice - events development
- Sept 9th – Northallerton – Natural Environment Team
- Sept 10th – Hovingham – Core Funders
- Sept 11th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Sept 22nd – Hovingham – YRCC re. Potential SDF Communities Project
- Sept 26th – Helmsley – SDF Panel
- Sept 29th – Northallerton – Investors in Volunteers Meeting
- October 7th – Northallerton – Heritage Unit Mtg

- October 9th – Hovingham – Ryedale Naturalists
- Oct 16th – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Oct 16th – Helmsley – Leader and SDF briefing
- Oct 16th – Hambleton BAP Steering Group
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting
- As required – Project updates with Paul.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 30th - Hovingham – JAC Meeting
- Nov 17th (am) – Northallerton - North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group (Implementation Group)
- Nov 17th (pm) – Northallerton - North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group (Steering Group)
- Nov 19th – Malton – Ryedale BAP Steering Group?
- Nov 25th – Hovingham – Farmers Management Plan meeting
- Dec 11th – Hovingham – Core Funders
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting
- Monthly – SDF Steering Group Meetings
- Bi-Monthly – SDF Panel Meetings
- Monthly (as required) – Heritage Unit
- Every 6wks (as required) – Nat. Env. Team
- As required – Project updates with Paul.

SITE VISITS

- April 3rd – YEPT - Coulton Fen, Grange Bogs and Bull Ings.
- April 17th – Crambe/Howsham – ELS advisory visit
- May 8th – Yearsley/Brandsby – Land agent and site owner re. four potential projects and woodland advice
- May 19th – Yearsley, Gilling and Castle Howard Avenue – NYCC Highways and British Cycling
- June 19th – holding pen at Cawton Bank with contractor
- June 23rd – Terrington School – habitat advice and potential SDF Project
- July 18th – JAC Field Trip
- July 22nd – Barlow Common – NET visit (pm)
- July 23rd – Ampleforth – hedge and grassland management advisory visit
- July 24th – Swinton and Amotherby – Broomrape site monitoring
- August 19th – Castle Howard – Bat walk planning – YWT and C.H.
- Sept 8th – Terrington Community Sites – potential community conservation projects and advice

- Sept 23rd – Gilling School – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – JRC venue visit
- October 8th – Oulston – CAN DO Parish Fund Application

FUTURE SITE VISITS

- Oct 14th – Brandsby/Yearsley – Hedge planting projects with owner and NWDO

PROJECTS

- May 15th – Bull Ings/Swathgill – Basics Plus – Exmoor Pony Site Prep.
- June 25th – Dalby Maze – meeting with contractor re. cutting and gravelling.
- July 17th – Hovingham – ELS advisory meeting
- Project checks and grant payments for hedging at Barton Le Street, Hovingham Lodge, Hovingham Estate, Thornton Hill and Firby.
- SDF Projects – advice during delivery and checking completed projects. Direct involvement with the majority of those on the separate table in the form of advice on delivery/minor changes to conditions.
- CAN DO Parish Fund Projects - Ampleforth Book and Oulston tree planting

SEE SEPARATE TABLE FOR FULL DETAILS OF PLANNED/DELIVERED PROJECTS.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Sept or Oct – Amotherby Lane SINC – cut and clear
- Wood pasture creation and in-field trees – Snargate
- Hedge planting – Sites on the Fryton to Broughton Bank and possibly Firby
- Wiganthorpe Park Wall – Scackleton
- Wall repairs at Blackdale Plantation
- Black poplar cuttings and planting out (March 2009)

RECREATION/ACCESS

- June 10th – Appleton Le Street Churchyard – Guided visit for Friends of Redcar Cemetery
- June 21st – Castle Howard - Walk for Nepal
- August 24th – Castle Howard – Bat Evening
- AONB volunteers continue to survey condition

of PRoW in the area. Feeding back to Countryside Ranger. New methods under development.

- AONB volunteers working alongside Countryside Ranger on maintenance tasks.
- Walk leaflets supplied to outlets in Welburn and Hovingham

FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Edit and publish a walk leaflet 2008/09.
- Continue supply of existing leaflets to outlets.

COMMUNITY WORK

- April 30th – Hovingham – YRCC and AONB Volunteer – Community Event Planning & Prep
- May 7th – Hovingham – YRCC and AONB Volunteer – Community Event Planning & Prep
- May 13th - Welburn – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- May 28th & 29th – Husthwaite - Junior Ranger Club
- May 30th – Northallerton – Countryside Service Presentation to NYCC staff
- June 2nd - Hovingham – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- June 9th – Barton Le Street – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- June 17th - Ampleforth – with YRCC - Parish Plan / Community Consultation Event
- June 23rd – Terrington School – SDF Project Ideas with deputy headteacher
- August 5th and 7th - two-day JRC activity at Filey and Hovingham
- July – Initial contact letter sent to schools in York and AONB re. proposed twinning project.
- Sept - Follow-up twinning letters to schools who haven't replied.

FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Oct 27th & 28th – Gilling Castle – Junior Ranger Club
- Dec 22nd & 23rd – Castle Howard Arboretum – Junior Ranger Club
- Prep for JRC in October and Dec half-terms.
- Build on links with schools, parishes and community groups.
- Continue to build links with existing volunteer schemes in the locality (including PRoW Vols, National Park etc) and to develop joint tasks

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY/ INTERPRETATION

- March 26th – Article for Hovingham and Scackleton News
- May 21st - Amotherby – Churchyard Booklet Media Release Photo Session
- May 28th and 29th – Circulation of August Junior Ranger Club fliers at May sessions.
- May 30th – Northallerton – Talk about the AONB (and AONB Unit) as part of Countryside Service Talks series.
- June 2008 - Continue distribution of fliers for August Junior Ranger Club
- June 5th – Street Villages – Basics Plus leaflet distribution re. Community Consultation / Parish Plan events.
- June 12th – Central Villages – Basics Plus leaflet distribution re. Community Consultation / Parish Plan events.
- July 28th – London – NAAONB Comms Group.
- August 5th – Filey – Junior Ranger Club
- August 7th – Hovingham – Junior Ranger Club
- August – Compiling AONB Newsletter text and photos

Production of AONB Newsletter – writing material and sourcing material for others, editing, images, liaison with designers.

FUTURE PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Sept 2008 - Continue to distribute fliers for October Junior Ranger Club
- Finalise Junior Ranger Club Fliers for December.

Ongoing contribution to the maintenance of the Howardian Hills AONB website.

Content for NYCC volunteer and Countryside Service Newsletters and NAAONB outstanding.

EDUCATIONAL/RAISING AWARENESS

- March 30th – Amotherby – Open Churchyard Event with YWT (SDF)
- April 30th – Stillington – Talk to Gardening/Wildlife Club
- May 20th – Welburn – AONB and Hull Schools twinning trial - Neasden children to Welburn
- June 3rd – Crayke School – Discovery Day
- June 4th – Hovingham School Discovery Day

- June 4th – St Hilda’s School Discovery Day
- June 10th – Sheriff Hutton School Disc. Day
- June 11th – Amotherby School Discovery Day
- June 16th – Terrington School Discovery Day
- June 21st – Castle Howard – Stand at walk for Nepal Event with PRoW
- June 19th – Hovingham – Pre-Ryedale Show meeting with Sue Bragg
- June 24th – Hull and AONB Schools Twinning – Welburn children to Neasden
- July 29th – Ryedale Show
- August 24th – Castle Howard – Bat Evening
- BTCV – Completion of SDF Project Delivery Grant for GLOBE Project – assisting BTCV with delivery of this Project.

FUTURE EDUCATION/AWARENESS

- 29th Oct - Talk to Terrington Gardening/Wildlife Club
- Continue to develop projects with local schools through working with them both in their school grounds and on field-trips.
- Developing the skills of the Volunteers on a variety of tasks including ongoing PRoW Condition Assessment Training, Community Events and Habitat Management.
- Project development with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for successor to Discovery Project

TRAINING

- April 2nd – Bristol – Diversity Workshop
- June 3rd – Castle Howard/Coneysthorpe – Wild Game Management Day

FUTURE TRAINING

- Nov 24th and 25th - St John Ambulance – Thirsk - First Aid at Work

MISCELLANEOUS

- April 21st and 22nd - Holiday
- June 18th – Hovingham – Interview day for AONB Assistant Post
- July 8th to 11th – Harper Adams College – NAAONB Conference
- August 4th to 12th – Holiday
- Sept 15th to 19th – Holiday

FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS