

**AONB OFFICER'S REPORT**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

Some of my main duties over the past 6 months have been:

- **Projects Fund:** Grants offered for diverse range of projects and summer projects completed and checked (including 3x Churchyard Conservation cut and rakes, 2x Himalayan balsam clearance projects, 1x knapweed broomrape site managed and further walling at Wiganthorpe). Grants offered for clearance of scrub from next section of Wiganthorpe Wall and walling at Pilfit Farm. Rhododendron clearance at Gilling and birch management at Terrington Carr both arranged to take place in near future.
- **Exmoor Pony Grazing:** Access to sites agreed by all eight landowners and eight sites grazed (two of them very briefly due to land being put up for sale).
- Updating and maintaining the **Countryside Management Budget**.
- **SDF 2008/09:** Final checks to enable grant payment for: Howsham Mill (RHT), mobility buggy and storage (Castle Howard Arboretum), Apple Recipe book to raise funds for Community Orchard (Ampleforth Abbey), traditional direction sign restoration (NYCC) and Farm Carbon Audits (FWAG).
- **SDF 2009/10:** Applications for ground-source heat at Castle Howard and ground-source heat at Gilling Village Hall taken to SDF Panel on 28<sup>th</sup> May and agreed. Castle Howard installation complete and information board underway. Funding granted to Rural Action Yorkshire for Community Projects Officer covering the AONB and to Amotherby Village Hall. Application pending from Hovingham Wildlife Group.
- **Community Projects Officer:** Working with Rural Action Yorkshire on the development and launch of the initiative in the AONB.
- **Biodiversity:** North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group, Hambleton Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group and Ryedale Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group. Working with Castle Howard to determine future management of Terrington Carr SINC. Working with Hovingham Village Wildlife Group. Advice to Swinton Village re. habitats around community field.
- **Volunteers:** content for volunteer newsletter. Volunteer tasks completed at Foss Spring Mire in May, Airyholme/Hollin Hill Bogs SINC in June and Peel Wood and Grasslands SINC in October. Vols assisted with preparation for and delivery of Junior Ranger Club in Easter holidays. Involvement with NYCC IIV process. PROW surveying undertaken by volunteers this spring. Volunteers contacted for help at Ryedale Show and Helmsley Walled Garden Green Day.
- **Discovery Project:** Preparation for and delivery of Junior Ranger Club in Easter holidays at Nunnington (x2), Hovingham (x4) and Welburn (x2). Sessions planned for Nunnington and Slingsby in October half-term.
- **Discovery Project:** Final claim for grant submitted to HLF end-May 2009.
- **Children's activities post-Discovery Project:** Junior Ranger Club sessions organised for October 2009. Discussions with AONB, Hull and York schools re. twinning project.
- **CAN DO** – ongoing input into AONB related aspects of the project and discussions with the member of staff at NYMNPA about projects in the AONB part of the area.
- **Lime and Ice:** Project development and planning of delivery with Lime and Ice Project Officers. Specifically working towards a community history project (images and spoken) and Yearsley Moor community archaeology (with English Heritage). Community archaeology introductory day planned for 14th November.
- **RAY in the AONB:** working with the Community Project Development Officer to develop her role in the AONB and hosting the first two Parish Meetings. Planning stages of community recycling/composting workshop.
- **Publicity** - Inputting news, events, text and photos for website. Articles for NYCC Countryside News, Outstanding and NYCC Countryside Service Volunteer Newsletter. Preparation and drafts to designers of Annual Newsletter. Preparation of Howardian Hills pages for NAAONB Northern Group Calendar.

MEETINGS
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 1<sup>st</sup> – Northallerton – Hambleton LBAP Steering Group</li><li>• April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brandsby – JAC</li><li>• April 14<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Richard Flinton visit</li><li>• April 14<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group</li><li>• April 20<sup>th</sup> – Appleton le Street – AONB Partnership Group</li><li>• April 21<sup>st</sup> (am) – York – NYBAG – Verges working group</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 21<sup>st</sup> (pm) – NYBAG – Steering Group</li><li>• April 29<sup>th</sup> – Malton - Ryedale LBAP Steering Group</li><li>• May 6<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Work programming</li><li>• May 7<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group</li><li>• May 18<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Lime and Ice Project Officers – AONB L&amp;I projects</li><li>• May 18<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Projects and grants update with PJ</li><li>• May 28<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – SDF Panel</li><li>• June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Northallerton – Working with communities meeting</li></ul> |
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- June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Northallerton – Heritage and Environment Meeting
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Core Funders
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham - Lime and Ice – re. Yearsley Moor community archaeology
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Church Farm, Scackleton – HLS - pre-FEP meeting with Nat Eng and landowner
- June 16<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – Mark Antcliff – woodland assessment results for Church Farm
- June 30<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton - Natural Environment Team
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – Church Farm, Scackleton – HLS Application Form meeting – landowner and Natural England.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> – Ryedale House – Development Officers Group
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – work programme update
- Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hovingham – SDF Steering Group
- Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham - Core Funders
- Sept 21<sup>st</sup> – Helmsley – Lime and Ice 2010 – events and continuing projects
- Sept 29<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Natural Environment Team
- Sept 29<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – AONB Unit work programme update meeting
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Northallerton – Hambleton BAP Steering Group
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – Development Officers Group
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – SDF Steering Group
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – York – Road verges working group
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – York – NYBAG – Steering Group
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – Ryedale House – Ryedale BAP Steering Group
- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hovingham - Appraisal
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – JAC
- Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Pickering – North Yorkshire Grassland Forum
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Core Funders
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – Development Officers
- Monthly - Howardian Hills AONB Unit meeting
- Monthly – SDF Steering Group Meetings
- Approx every 6 weeks – Project updates with Paul.
- Approx every 6 weeks – Natural Environment Team Meetings
- Quarterly – work programme meeting with Paul and Maggie

- Bi-monthly – SDF Panel Meetings

#### SITE VISITS

- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Littledale SINC – Basics Plus pony grazing prep
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – Snargate – Salt bins
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Amotherby – Churchyard habitats
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Huttons Ambo – churchyard conservation advice and grant assessment
- May 2009 – All bus stops in AONB - info fed back to Integrated Transport Team at NYCC
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - Wiganthorpe Park Wall – with landowner – scrub clearance at northern end
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Snargate verges – NYCC Highways re. salt bins.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Howthorpe Farm – site meeting with landowner re. fencing and water supply
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – Howthorpe Farm – site meeting with contractor re. fencing and water supply
- June 9<sup>th</sup> - Wiganthorpe Wall northern section with landowner
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Howthorpe/Wath Beck – contractor re. balsam strimming
- June 16<sup>th</sup> – Mugdale and Barker Woods SINC – site meeting with landowner re. Himalayan balsam control
- June 18<sup>th</sup> – Mugdale and Barker SINC – agreeing work with Basics Plus Team Leader
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – Natural England site visits
- June 29<sup>th</sup> – Wiganthorpe Park Wall northern section – Arbortec – blackthorn clearance and road signage – pre-quote site meeting.
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – SDF - Castle Howard – ground-source heat – interim check and photos
- July 13<sup>th</sup> – Pilfit Farm, Newburgh – Landowner and contractor – determining staged approach to work and obtaining cost estimate
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – JAC fieldtrip
- July 30<sup>th</sup> – Dalby Bush SSSI – site visit/work needs assessment with Natural England Advisor
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Swinton – Village openspace – conservation/habitat enhancement advice
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – Grimston walling – site meeting with contractor re. bracken control
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – Airyholme/Hollin Hill Bogs SINC – site meeting re. extending balsam strimming.
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – Coulton Fens and Swinsey Carr SINC
- August 24<sup>th</sup> – Terrington Carr – meeting with Estate forester re. birch control options
- Sept 7<sup>th</sup> – Broughton Lane knapweed broomrape site, Whitwell gate pillars, Bulmer Bank grassland and Sproxton dew pond
- Sept 21<sup>st</sup> – Boltby – Lime and Ice - Hill Fort investigation
- Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Gilling Wood – Rhododendron clearance scoping with FC

## FUTURE SITE VISITS

- Bonnygate Lane Hedge
- Brierhams Lane – Rhododendron assessment

## PROJECTS

- April 28<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – SDF Officer from NYMNPA preparatory meeting re. Castle Howard SDF
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Scackleton – project check for payment, scoping 2009/10 projects and ELS/HLS advice
- May 10<sup>th</sup> – Rutters Plantation – NYCC/AONB Volunteer task
- May 26<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Bill Thompson – Dale Wood SINC survey feedback
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – Hollin Hill Bogs – AONB/NYCC Volunteer task – Himalayan balsam clearance on bridleway next to SINC
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – Wiganthorpe Park Wall – southern section meeting with walling contractor
- June 18<sup>th</sup> – Park Wood, Gilling – Western Hemlock clearance – Basics Plus
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – AONB-wide – Natural England site visits
- June 29<sup>th</sup> – Pilfit Farm, Newburgh – On-site provisional discussions re. walling project
- July and August – Basics Plus Himalayan balsam management at Mugdale and Barker Woods SINC
- August – Letter to all landowners – boundary and in-field tree grants
- Sept 8<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Volunteer botanical surveyor feedback
- Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – Newburgh – walling progress at Pilfit Farm
- Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Terrington Carr SINC – with NYCC Ranger – scrub removal
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – Countryside Volunteer Task – Peel Wood and Grasslands SINC
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – with Native Woodland Development Officer – tree planting grant responses
- Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – Wiganthorpe Wall – Paul and contractor re. capstones followed by a joint visit to stone yard
- Assist Ryedale Naturalists with data and access for complete tetrad survey of AONB
- Assist local botanical expert with SINC survey update access in exchange for data
- Spring/summer 2009 –grassland management and flora survey work.
- As the above projects have been completed they have been checked prior to grant payment.

- FEP – Church Farm, Scackleton – several days of site survey and writing-up the report
- 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.

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

## FUTURE PROJECTS

- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – Grimstone – potential hedge planting site
- Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Countryside Volunteer Task

## RECREATION/ACCESS

- April 1<sup>st</sup> - Rural Action Yorkshire Community Officer in post with SDF support
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Welburn Village Hall – Junior Ranger Club
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – Nunnington Village Hall – Junior Ranger Club
- April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham Village Hall – Junior Ranger Club
- June 12<sup>th</sup> – York – YWT – October Junior Ranger Club
- June 20<sup>th</sup> – Walk for Nepal at Castle Howard – AONB volunteers attending
- Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – Planning visit for Teesside-based multi-ethnic group with NYMNPA Heritage Connections Officer

## FUTURE RECREATION/ACCESS

- Walk leaflet for Nunnington
- December 2009 - Visit by Teesside based multi-ethnic group with NYMNPA Heritage Connections Officer – talk and guided walk

## COMMUNITY WORK

- Response to Hovingham Parish Plan
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Eastern part of AONB – Maggie Farey familiarity tour
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – Western part of AONB – Maggie Farey familiarity tour
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Maggie Farey and

- Hambleton DC community event planning
- May 28<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Maggie F and Hambleton DC community event preparation
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Maggie F and Hambleton DC community event final prep
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Castle Howard Arboretum – RAY and HDC Community Event (1)
- July 11<sup>th</sup> – Husthwaite - RAY and HDC Community Event (2)
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – Magge Farey and Claire Wood – role of RAY Officer and Parish Forums.
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham Wildlife Group – guidance re. project methods and funding sources
- Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham – Recycling, energy saving and composting evening for AONB communities/residents.
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley – meeting with Lime and Ice Project Officers planning training day for community archaeology vols

#### FUTURE COMMUNITY WORK

- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> – Hovingham – Funding advice session
- Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – Yearsley – field work and mapwork introductory session for Lime and Ice (Yearsley) volunteers
- Build on links with schools, parishes and community groups.
- Continue to plan and identify potential funding for future children’s projects in AONB
- 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

- Easter Junior Ranger Club promoted in several parish newsletters.
- Easter JRC fliers to schools in and around AONB.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – The Arboretum Kew at Castle Howard – photo for mobility vehicle press release.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> – Pickering Memorial Hall - facilities check for NYCC Nat Env Day
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – Helmsley Walled Garden – Green Day event
- August – planning October JRC and drafting fliers
- Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> – Slingsby – Village Hall check for JRC
- Completing and distributing Junior Ranger Club fliers for October sessions.

- Content supplied for NYCC Volunteer Newsletter and NYCC Countryside Service Newsletter.
- Article included in NAAONB Outstanding and material supplied for autumn/winter 2009 edition.
- Text and images sent to designer for 2009 AONB Newsletter.
- Text and images supplied for Northern Group AONB’s calendar.
- Ongoing contribution to AONB website.

#### FUTURE PUBLICITY/INTERPRETATION

- Oct 26<sup>th</sup> – Slingsby – Junior Ranger Club
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – Nunnington – Junior Ranger Club
- Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – The Arboretum at Castle Howard – Halloween event ??
- Articles for Volunteer and Countryside Service Newsletters and Outstanding.

#### EDUCATIONAL/RAISING AWARENESS

- May 20<sup>th</sup> – Welburn & District Horticultural Society – evening talk
- June 12<sup>th</sup> – York – YWT – Hull and AONB Schools twinning – initial discussion/planning
- July 14<sup>th</sup> – AONB Schools – meetings re. twinning ideas (with YWT and teachers)
- July 28<sup>th</sup> – Welburn – Ryedale Show
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hovingham – Lime and Ice Walk
- August 26<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham and Dalby Bush SSSI – Natural England Area Team Meeting – talk about the AONB and visit to SSSI
- Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> – Hull – schools re. twinning with YWT
- Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – Slingsby – visit to orchard pre-Junior Ranger Club

#### FUTURE EDUCATION/AWARENESS

- 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.

## TRAINING

- June 26<sup>th</sup> – LEADER – Ryedale House - frontline officers training

## FUTURE TRAINING

- First Aid – one day skills update – autumn/winter 2009

## MISCELLANEOUS

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Solway Coast – AONB Northern Group officers meeting
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Solway Coast – AONB Northern Group meeting
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – Hovingham - Appraisal
- July 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – Coleraine – NAAONB Annual Conference
- July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – Holiday
- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – Holiday
- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – Holiday
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – Nidderdale – AONB Northern Group meeting

## FUTURE MISCELLANEOUS