

# MOORS MESSENGER

News from Moor, Coast, Forest and Dale

[www.northyorkmoors.org.uk](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk)

## SEA LIFE, SEE LIFE



Staithes Harbour



Volunteer Brian Nicholson

*Dear Residents,*

**EARLIER** this year the National Park Authority (NPA), in partnership with coastal businesses and communities, secured £455,000 for a new project that will showcase the natural, fishing, artistic and culinary heritage of the North York Moors' coastline.

The North York Moors has one of the best stretches of coastline in the country providing a wonderful mix of history and wildlife within its sheltered bays, enchanting villages and high sea cliffs.

Led by local people, 'Sea Life, See Life' will ensure more visitors get to know about and experience our coast, encouraging them to spend more time here, to tell their friends and to visit again and again.

So where will the money go? In Staithes, there will be landscaping, more information and artwork to welcome visitors upon arrival at the car park and entice them to explore the village. An audio tour of Staithes blending its historical highlights with today's sights and sounds will be developed as well as an interactive trail for younger visitors based on CBeebies' Old Jack's Boat which is filmed in the village. There will also be more support for the Staithes' flourishing Festival of Arts & Heritage.



Staithes Festival of Arts and Heritage

### Village mosaic

In Robin Hood's Bay, alongside improved interpretation and new heritage restoration projects, there are plans to work with the community to develop an iconic 50metre<sup>2</sup> mosaic on the harbour wall. At the Alum Works at Ravenscar – one of our most important Scheduled Monuments – new interpretation, a heritage trail and special events will improve the

experience of visitors and help bring the site to life.

Whitby attracts 1.2 million visitors every year. We want to encourage them to stay longer in the town by providing ideas for days out along the coast through engaging information and stunning videos and imagery at the town's Tourist Information Centre. A coastal-themed mobile display unit will target the urban audiences in Teesside, Scarborough and York – over 800,000 people – to remind them of the coastal gems within their reach.

Catriona McLees, Head of Promotion and Tourism at the

NPA, said: "Discussions with coastal communities are well underway and although planned improvements to signage and interpretation are well defined, there are still plenty of opportunities for people to get involved. We want to increase visitors outside of the main tourist season – promoting the wonderful dark skies of the North York Moors coast is one idea but if you have others, I'd love to hear them!"

It is vital that 'Sea Life, See Life' continues beyond the end of the project (December 2016), so a key element will be supporting businesses to work together to provide visitors with a

'connected experience' and ultimately, strengthen the local economy. This could, for example, be as simple as accommodation providers displaying local artists' work on their walls.

Stunning films and photography capturing the essence of contemporary coast life, its history and heritage will be commissioned for businesses to use to help create a consistent brand. Taster days will also be developed – tours of hotels, food tasting, outdoor activities – so that businesses have a greater knowledge of the high quality experiences available and can enthusiastically sell these to their customers.

### Amazing projects

Steve Race, Director of Yorkshire Coast Nature, said: "The funding will help create and develop some amazing projects along the Yorkshire Coast and highlight just how incredible this area is to visit. We will be delivering several 'taster days' showcasing the area's wildlife – minke whales, honey buzzards, adders and fritillary butterflies, we have it all. The 'Sea Life, See Life Project' will help spread the word nationally and increase nature tourism throughout the area, helping to boost the local economy and showcase this beautiful area we call home."

Funding for 'Sea Life, See Life' is from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund.



The Coastal Communities Fund is funded by the Government, with income from the Crown Estate's marine assets. It is delivered by the Big Lottery Fund on behalf of UK Government and the Devolved Administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

### PARISH FORUM DATES

**NORTHERN**  
7pm Tuesday 7 July at Sunnyfield House, Guisborough

**SOUTHERN**  
7pm Thursday 9 July at Hutton le Hole Village Hall

**WESTERN**  
7.15pm Wednesday 15 July at Chop Gate Village Hall

**COASTAL**  
7pm Thursday 16 July at Sneaton Village Hall

*These meetings are open to all.*



### Give a gift that lasts

THE NPA has set up a donations page on its website to make it easier for people and businesses to support conservation and access projects in the North York Moors.

A financial gift, perhaps to commemorate a loved one or to give something back to an area that holds happy memories, can make a real difference to what we are able to achieve, helping to fund important work that might not otherwise happen.

Suggested projects start at £15 to plant an oak tree but general contributions to our ongoing work, such as restoring

ancient woodland and wildflower grassland, are welcomed. Larger scale projects, such as new play equipment for younger visitors at our National Park Centres, might appeal to businesses looking for sponsorship opportunities.

We would be happy to discuss other thoughts people might have about where and how their donations or bequests might be used – get in touch by calling 01439 772700 or email [info@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:info@northyorkmoors.org.uk).

More information on giving a donation can be found at [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/donations](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/donations)

The main reason for writing this letter was however to raise the issue of what more the National Park might do to support our older residents and how community action can best be helped. The summer round of Parish Forum meetings (see dates bottom left of this page) will be looking at this issue – do get in touch if you'd like to take part.

*Andy Wilson*

**Andy Wilson**  
Chief Executive  
(National Park Officer)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON EVENTS



Holy Moly & the Crackers

### Inspired music

This year's National Parks Week (27 July to 2 August) will be launched in style in the North York Moors with a stand-out summer concert by dynamic six-piece 'gypsy folk and roll' band, Holy Moly & the Crackers on Saturday 25 July. They've played sell out concerts in London, the Midlands, Newcastle and Yorkshire and we're delighted to welcome them to grounds of The Moors National Park Centre.

The Moors Centre is also playing host to Filey's roots rock band Morning Bride on the evening of Saturday 27 June. The Independent had this to say about them: "Every once in a while you stumble upon a band and wonder how it is that not more people know about them, but are secretly pleased they don't. Morning Bride are that kind of band."

In November, the Inspired by... gallery will be one of the launch venues for the 2016 North York Moors Chamber Music Festival with two concerts for classical string trios on Friday 6 and Sunday 8.

# CELEBRATE AND ENJOY YOUR NATIONAL PARK

Our events programme this year is bigger and better than ever, with plenty of new experiences alongside old favourites. From walks and workshops to family days and children's activities, all our events give you great options to soak up the North York Moors' wildlife, landscape, history and culture. The prestigious Inspired by... gallery at The Moors National Park Centre, Danby adds music events to its repertoire this year, alongside exhibitions from artists and makers who draw their inspiration from the National Park's landscape, life and colour. Here are just a few highlights of what's in store....



Volunteer Brian Nicholson

### WalkFest: Put your best foot moorward

Take part in our first walking festival from Friday 22 to Monday 25 May. WalkFest 2015 offers walks for all ages and abilities, including walks guided by experts in their field, navigation workshops, geocaching and self-led trails.

People can choose from over 20 varied walks including a 3.5-mile stroll along part of George Stephenson's original 1836 railway line from Goathland to Grosmont; a nature photography hike with award-winning Yorkshire Coast Nature wildlife

photographer Steve Race; a poetry and picnic event; a fairies, castles and folklore walk; and a beach art experience.

Sally Ann Smith, the NPA's Events and Exhibitions Coordinator, says: "We're absolutely thrilled with the line-

up for our first ever walking festival – there really is something for everyone in there, and most of the walks are designed to be extremely family-friendly." For more information go to [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/walkingfestival](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/walkingfestival)

### A meander down the Esk

Whitby-based watercolourist John Freeman returns to the Inspired by... gallery to showcase pictures from his new book 'A Meander Down the Esk'. In 2011, John embarked on a major project recording the river Esk from its beginnings high above Westerdale to its meeting with the North Sea at Whitby's harbour mouth.

The book features paintings showing the Esk in all seasons and at all times of the day and night, drawings depicting details along the river, including its wildlife, plus supporting text.

John says: "The Inspired by... gallery is a superb venue to showcase new paintings and because of its location, it always attracts the sort of people interested in my work."

Catch John's exhibition from 27 August to 22 September and join him for a 'meet the artist' event on 29 August 12 – 3pm. He will also be giving a talk about his new book on 10 September at 6.30pm.

We are very grateful to Northern Rail for sponsoring John's exhibition.



Witch posts and jet by Ian Burke

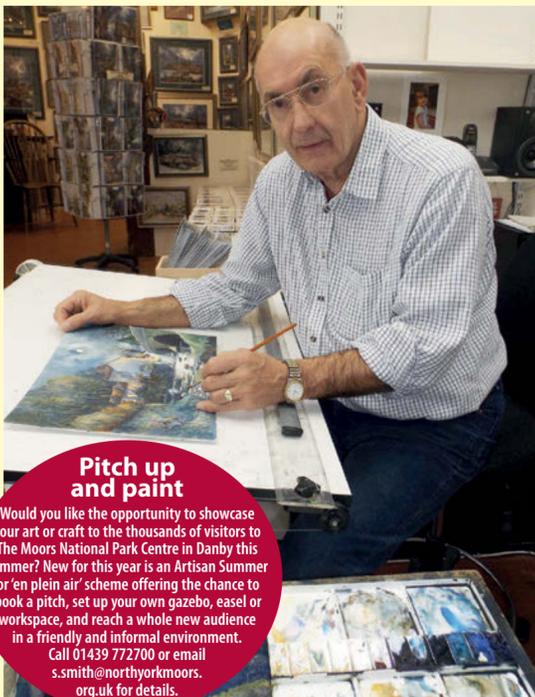
### Mirror images

We are delighted to be a major partner in an innovative printmaking project this spring. Connections North: Mirror Images sees three identical exhibitions opening simultaneously at the Inspired by... gallery and at galleries in Finland and Sweden before touring in Yorkshire, Cumbria and Scotland.

Mirror Images features new and original work by 40 artists from four countries – 10 of the artists are from North Yorkshire – and can be seen at the Inspired by... gallery from 9 May until 15 June.

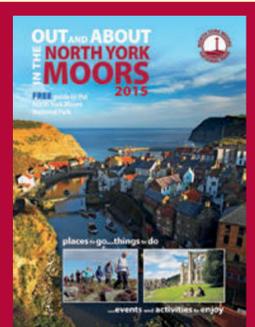
There is also an extensive programme of workshops, talks, demonstrations and additional print exhibitions for the public to visit and take part in, including sessions designed to encourage complete beginners and children to try different printmaking techniques.

The project is supported by Arts Council England and Scarborough Borough Council. For more information go to [www.connections-north.com](http://www.connections-north.com)



### Pitch up and paint

Would you like the opportunity to showcase your art or craft to the thousands of visitors to The Moors National Park Centre in Danby this summer? New for this year is an Artisan Summer or 'en plein air' scheme offering the chance to book a pitch, set up your own gazebo, easel or workspace, and reach a whole new audience in a friendly and informal environment. Call 01439 772700 or email [s.smith@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:s.smith@northyorkmoors.org.uk) for details.

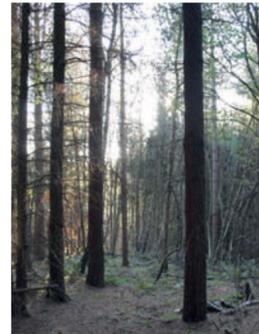


### Find out more

For information on all these events and more, pick up a free copy of our Out and About Guide from National Park and Tourist Information Centres or from our office in Helmsley. In addition to events details, you'll find ideas on attractions and places to go in the North York Moors plus articles on everything from beer to wildlife.

Information on events and exhibitions can also be found at [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/events](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/events)

# Let there be LIGHT



These pictures illustrate the difference that can be made by letting more light into our ancient woodland.



THIS TIME of year is perfect for walks in our ancient woodlands as the lengthening and (hopefully) warmer days draw out a variety of plants and animals.

One of the key ingredients that most of these species need to thrive is light. Many of our woods are however just too shady. Dense plantations of conifer and other non-native tree species, as well as woods infested with invasive plants like rhododendron and Himalayan balsam, upset the delicate woodland balance that has evolved over millions of years.

Ancient woodland today covers just two per cent of the UK yet once it covered most of the British landscape. The veteran trees and ecological communities they support are our natural heirlooms and need to be treasured and enhanced. In the North York Moors we have one of the highest concentrations of ancient woodland sites in the north of England. About 20% of our woodlands are 'ancient', having been continuously wooded for at least 400 years, but around half of these sites have been replanted, mainly with conifers, and many are in need of careful intervention to restore them to their former glory.

### Restoration

A dense canopy of inappropriate species prevents most light from reaching the forest floor, resulting in very little flora and understory (young and short species of trees and shrubs). Mark Antcliff, Woodland Officer for the NPA, explains: "In these darkened woods, letting in light can reactivate some species that are lying dormant in the ground as well as allowing others to move back in. Conversely though, you can over-do it – too much light can allow bramble, bracken and other coarse vegetation to take over at the expense of the woodland specialists. Restoration of these ancient sites is usually best served gradually."

Restoration of ancient woodland is a key component of the NPA Management Plan. Significant steps have been taken by many woodland owners, assisted by the NPA and others, to restore these sites by gradually thinning or in some instances removing completely the densely planted conifers, but there is still much to be done.

Thankfully, now is a good time for ancient woodland restoration, partly due to the fact that timber and wood fuel – both broadleaved and coniferous – is more valuable than it has been for a while so managing woodland is generally becoming more practical. There is also an increased level of support and expertise available to help woodland owners.

If reading this has made you want to take a walk in the woods, go to [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/walking](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/walking) for some suggestions. Neutondale, Forge Valley and following the Rail Trail between Goathland and Grosmont will all take you through spectacular and varied ancient woods.

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# PEOPLE IN THE PARK



## Blooming lovely

JANE and Trevor Roberts moved to Thornton le Dale four years ago. When walking around the village, they used to rest on a bench in the car park and talk about how much nicer it would look for a bit of regular maintenance.

Grasping the nettle, they approached the NPA and now every Saturday and Sunday morning, weather and health permitting, they can be found tending the beds and litter picking around the car park with fellow garden volunteer Helena Dunleavy (not pictured).

Their efforts have won the praise of villagers and visitors, the former bringing them spare plants from their gardens to spruce up the mainly shrub beds. For the Roberts, it has helped them meet people in the village and learn more about the park is on the site of a former walled garden and one resident has delighted them with tales of pinching tomatoes from greenhouses that stood where the cars now park.

Trevor and Helena both have ongoing health issues and they find the fresh air beneficial and like the fact that the volunteering can be tailored to suit how they're feeling – doing as much as they are able.

The trio provide information for visitors, Trevor even walking newcomers into the village if they're unsure of where they're going. They feel justifiably proud of what they've achieved. "It had got very overgrown," explains Jane. "I feel we've now tamed it and this summer will be its best year yet! It's a very pleasant place to be, especially now with the birds singing on a morning. We have a resident robin and blackbirds who follow us around the garden having a good sort of whatever we've turned over!"

There is a wide range of ways for you to get involved with the National Park. For more information go to [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/volunteering)

# YOUR AREA RANGER

FOLLOWING a reorganisation of our ranger team, we now have four ranger areas, each headed up by a Senior Ranger. These areas mirror our parish forums.

Rangers provide a vital link between the NPA and local communities and, along with our dedicated band of voluntary rangers, are often the first contact that visitors have with the National Park. Each ranger is supported by a Maintenance Ranger who works with our apprentices and volunteers to carry out a range of work on rights of way and conservation projects.

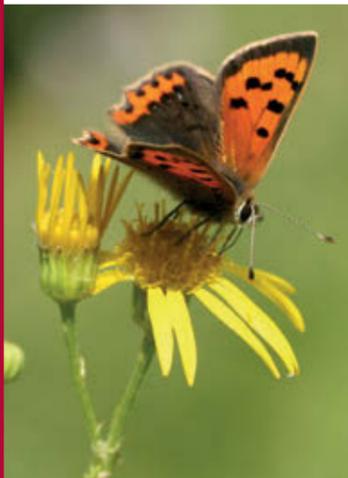


- Coast Area Ranger **Bernie McLinden**
- North Area Ranger **Naomi Green**
- South Area Ranger **David Smith**
- West Area Ranger **Simon Bassindale**

To contact the rangers email [rangers@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:rangers@northyorkmoors.org.uk) or call 01439 772700.

# WHAT TO SPOT

Tammy Andrews



## SMALL COPPER BUTTERFLY

AS ITS name suggests, the small copper has dazzling bright orange wings with dark brown spots and edging. Males are territorial, often choosing a piece of bare ground or a stone on which to bask and await passing females. They behave aggressively towards any passing insects, returning to the same spot when the chase is over.

A common and widespread species, chalk or unimproved grassland is one of its favoured spots. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Ellerburn Bank Nature Reserve, a limestone grassland in Dalby Forest, is a good place to see this beautiful butterfly and we've teamed up with the Forestry Commission to try and make it even more homely!

Conifer trees encroaching on calcareous grassland at the neighbouring Pexton Bank have been felled and the area fenced so that it can be grazed by native breed cattle. This will create a bigger bank of grassland for the butterflies to colonise and will have a positive impact on other pockets of grassland in the area.

There is a footpath through Pexton Bank leading to Ellerburn and June/July is the time when the grassland is at its best and you're most likely to spot a small copper.

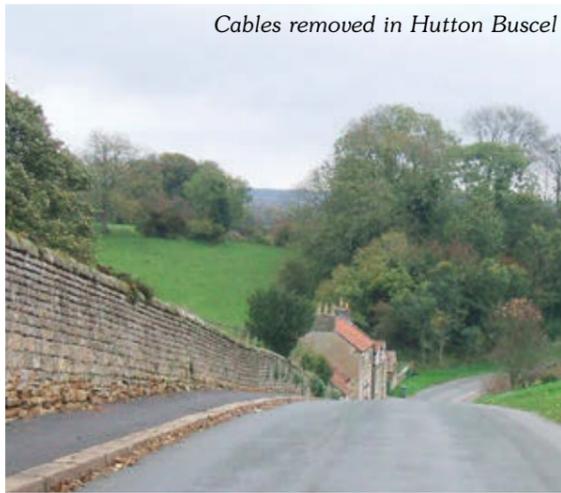
Electricity pylons on the A169



# TRANSFORMING THE LANDSCAPE



Cables removed in Hutton Buscel



**POWER lines and electricity pylons may have become an accepted part of our surroundings but there's no denying the views would be better without them.**

Take that wonderful, vast expanse of glorious heather moorland as you drive from Pickering to Whitby for example – wouldn't it be even more awe-inspiring if you had a completely uninterrupted view?

Over the next 18 months, Northern Powergrid, the company responsible for delivering electricity to your door, will be investing £18 million on installing 20km of underground cable along the route of the A169. There will still be a few spots where it will need to run above ground, at Ellerbeck for example where the bridge is too narrow, and at Blue Bank near Sleights where the road is too steep.

Next year, Northern Powergrid will remove the redundant pylons. They're working very closely with us as to the best way to carry out this work, given the highly protected and sensitive landscape that they sit in.

There will inevitably be some delays on the A169 while the work is carried out, but the end result will be a

more secure electricity supply – ie fewer powercuts – and even more breathtaking views.

On a similar note, since 2005 OFGEM, the gas and electricity regulator, has been allocating money to electricity companies to underground existing low voltage cables in protected landscapes such as National Parks. This has led to a significant improvement to the visual appearance of 17 villages in the North York Moors with a further nine villages due to have work start soon.

In April, a new round of funding was announced which can be used to enable more undergrounding of high voltage lines over the next eight years. This will mean we can now tackle electricity cables spanning dales in the National Park. When this latest work has been completed, Northern Powergrid estimates that it will have undergrounded in the region of 61,000metres of cable in the North York Moors since 2010 – an investment of more than £20 million.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## New Members

THE recent parish and district/ borough elections are likely to mean a change in the Members who serve on the National Park Authority. You can find out more information about our Members in the 'About Us' section of our website at [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk)

## Potash Update

FOLLOWING the submission of substantial amounts of new information about the impact of the proposed potash mine, officers are finalising the assessment of the York Potash planning application in readiness for a Special Planning Committee to determine the proposal.

Local council elections on 7 May will result in the Authority having a number of new Members and the aim is to determine the application as soon as possible after they have been appointed and completed their induction. The date for the meeting will be posted on the Authority's website as soon as it is set. For the latest info go to [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/potash](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/potash)

## Planning Advice Fees

FROM 1 April 2015 the National Park Authority introduced a revised set of charges for planning, administration and enforcement advice. You can find details of these at [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/planning](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/planning)

## Grants

A NEW round of funding under our Community and Local Distinctiveness & Tourism grant schemes is now available. We will be running our popular Traditional Boundary Scheme again this year too. Head to [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/grants](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/grants) for details.

## Annual Report

THE National Park Authority's annual report for 2014/15 will be available in the 'About Us' section of our website from June. It will contain key achievements for the year plus information on expenditure and performance indicators. If you would like a paper copy, please call 01439 772700.

## Open Farm

WE will be holding an open farm event at Stonebeck Gate Farm in Lealholm again this year on Sunday 21 June highlighting our work with farmers to look after the North York Moors. There will be guided walks and a children's treasure hunt.

## New Programme

A SUCCESSFUL bid to Defra has secured £2.3million for a new North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme which will run from 2015 to 2020. Grants will be available later this year for businesses, individuals and communities to develop projects that will create jobs and help local enterprises to prosper. Further information is available at [www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk](http://www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk)

# A pint of view...

**IF YOU'VE walked the walk, why not drink the drink?!**

'Striding the Riding' is a new beer inspired by the glorious views to be found along the Cleveland Way National Trail.

Brewed by Helmsley Brewing Company, a donation from the

sale of each cask will be made to contribute to the upkeep and promotion of the Cleveland Way.

Striding the Riding, a 4% pale ale, is available on tap from Helmsley Brewing Company's bar in Helmsley, but it is hoped that some of the 40 plus pubs along the route of the Cleveland Way will also serve it to their customers. Plans for a bottled

version of the beer are also in the pipeline.

It is promoted as the official beer of the Cleveland Way and its branding carries the distinctive National Trail acorn symbol. The design for the labels and pump clips also incorporates the varied scenery found along the Cleveland Way including moorland, coast and dales.



**DID YOU KNOW, if you run a cafe, pub, B&B or other business on or near the Cleveland Way National Trail, you can add information and pictures about your service to the online Cleveland Way map? Go to [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cleveland-way/add-data](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cleveland-way/add-data)**