



The countryside charity  
North Yorkshire

# Local CPRE newsletter

Newsletter | 2021



## Looking Back on 2020

**CPRE is “the countryside charity” that campaigns to promote, enhance and protect the countryside for everyone’s benefit, wherever they live.**

During the strangest of periods in our history the Charity has been able to grow its capacity and now has a strong skills-based Board of Trustees ensuring the Charity’s long-term future.

The Trustees were delighted to welcome a new chair to the charity, having co-opted Jan Arger into position following the retirement of Stuart White. Jan was previously our Treasurer and has lots of experience with CPRE across the north of England including having previously formed a new group in Teesside. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank Stuart White for his leadership and hope he is busy enjoying his ‘retirement’.

We have of course been able to continue with our planning work and have responded to 77 planning consultations (including policy, applications and appeals) since our last AGM.

Whilst the Trustees were disappointed not to be able to

carry out in-person events this past year, we have been fortunate that we were able to ‘meet’ members across the county on our virtual coffee mornings. These have been opportunities for members to meet the new Trustees and discuss matters of importance in their areas with our experts as well as a chance to talk with likeminded people and as we embrace the ‘new normal’ will continue.

The Charity has also been busy acquiring some enthusiastic volunteers who are keen to help us become more active with some of our new ventures.

The inaugural Best Kept Churchyard Competition was very well received and hopefully will inspire others to take part going forward and the Photographic Competition goes from strength to strength, with a new children’s category this year.

We’d like to take the opportunity to thank you for allowing us to contact you electronically - this has helped us keep you up to date with matters throughout the year with our e-bulletin, but also aid us do our bit for climate change.

With your continued support, we can continue to protect and promote our special county and ensure great things happen for North Yorkshire this next year, together.

President: Jan Arger

Trustees: Katie Atkinson, Ron Healey, Rosy Eaton, Clair Jones, Christian Mackintosh, Morris Charlton, George Firth

Accountants: Saffrey Champness    Legal: Shoosmiths    Charity Number: 1174989

# Chairman's Report

**So, we are already halfway through the year and things are starting to feel like the new 'normal' is normal.**

We hope you had the chance to join in with one of our virtual coffee mornings or webinar sessions during lockdown. We will be continuing with them as it seems a great way to stay in touch informally and discuss issues. In June we had our first actual meeting and it was so nice to welcome Crispin Truman, our CEO, along with Mike Hawtin from the North York Moors National Park Authority to join us. It was the first time our new trustees had had the chance to meet too, so a very positive start to the future. So far this year we have been dealing with many consultations on Local Plans and planning responses, many of which have been subjected to covid delays. Importantly, we are now looking after the old north riding, so have had a number of issues involving development in the green wedge there.

We have been working on trying to get a new AONB designated in the Yorkshire Wolds. You may remember we tried some years ago without success, but it seems like this time it may happen, so we will keep you posted with developments.

We are piloting our new Littertracker App which can be downloaded from our website. By sending a picture of the litter/ flytipping etc and making a few notes, the

information/ location is sent through the cloud to us, to build up an evidence base to try to find ways to solve the problem. The rise of staycations and increased access to the countryside raised several concerns, so we have been running a campaign to raise awareness about our wonderful rivers, waterfalls, reservoirs and lakes while also highlighting the less well-known dangers, water pollution etc, that people may need to consider when they go dashing in to cool down.

We are delighted to be joining forces with the Yorkshire Post this year for the annual Countryside Award Conference and for the first time we will be sponsoring the Environment/ Sustainability category, so please look out for this, a wonderful opportunity to get involved.

Our photo competitions and children's competitions continue to grow, so if you have an eye for the lens or want to challenge the children with something to do over the long summer holiday then do check these out. We would love to hear from you and your ideas.



**Jan Arger**  
CPRE North Yorkshire

## Long Lands Common

We couldn't let the opportunity pass without sharing some really inspirational good green news from Harrogate. The Long Lands Common group have successfully raised more than £380,000 over the last year, which has enabled them to purchase a large piece of farmland close to Nidd Gorge, which will become a community forest.

The group were so concerned about the amount of greenfield housing which is happening in and around the greenbelt in Harrogate, that they decided to do something amazing. The land is adjacent to a large

greenfield housing development, which potentially could have extended even further into the greenbelt.

In a time of job insecurity and covid, they were able to sell sufficient shares, at £50 each, to be able to secure the purchase of the land, which means that this piece of land is safeguarded for the future. Just like those early pioneers of the National Park movement they found this really innovative way to ensure the green space stays as greenspace, and while doing so have engaged a sizeable chunk of the local community to buy-into the process.

**We are delighted to be awarding the group our 2021 Enterprise Award at the AGM.**



# What our trustees do?

Our new full board continues to meet every three months to ensure all decisions taken by the charity fulfil or work towards our charitable objectives.

Trustees manage the day-to-day operations and future plans of the charity. Trustees liaise with other interested groups and the public to ensure help is given when needed. All trustees are volunteers who give freely of their time to manage this outstanding charity.

It's a full-time job without the financial reward, however, just one letter from a member of the public who writes thanking us for helping them makes it all worthwhile.

Thank you to all the people who've written to us!

Our charitable objectives are clear, we campaign to protect and enhance North Yorkshire's landscape and countryside. This includes campaigning for the right development in the right locations, objecting when necessary and supporting well-thought out and sustainable designs.

Our particular areas of concern include protecting and enhancing our: nationally designated and equally important non-designated landscapes; sites of nature conservation interest – including ones of local, national and international importance; sites of heritage and cultural importance; our beautiful coastline; the setting and character of settlements; areas of dark skies; tranquil areas; farming and forestry; rural communities; village greens and local greenspace; grass verges and hedgerows and open spaces within built-up areas.

CPRE North Yorkshire works in an unusually large number of authority areas due to the fact it is the largest county in England at 8,608 square km (3,324 square miles).

We are the only part of the CPRE Network to have two National Parks, four AONB's and 1 Heritage Coast to protect and enhance! We cover the following:

#### **National Parks:**

North York Moors

Yorkshire Dales

#### **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):**

Howardian Hills AONB

Nidderdale AONB

Forest of Bowland AONB

2km of North Pennines AONB (which extends to 2 fields and trees – but they're still ours!)

#### **Heritage Coast**

North Yorkshire Heritage Coast (from Filey to Saltburn-by-the-Sea)

#### **Local Authority Areas:**

City of York;

Craven;

Hambleton;

Harrogate;

Middlesbrough;

North Yorkshire County Council;

Redcar & Cleveland;

Richmondshire;

Ryedale;

Scarborough;

Selby

## Did you know....

That there is several ways that you can help us volunteers, continue to protect, promote and enhance our countryside.

### **Become a CPRENY member:**

Stuck for a gift idea? Membership of CPRE North Yorkshire makes a perfect gift.

Membership of CPRENY helps to protect our beloved countryside. CPRENY is the only independent charity working to protect our precious countryside, green spaces, and unique landscapes – for the benefit of all.

As an independent charity, we rely solely on membership, donations, and legacies.

### **Leaving a Legacy:**

Leaving a gift in your will to CPRE North Yorkshire could be one of the most important things you do in your lifetime to help promote, enhance and protect the countryside.

If you share our beliefs about protecting our precious heritage of beautiful countryside, consider leaving a gift to CPRE North Yorkshire in your will.

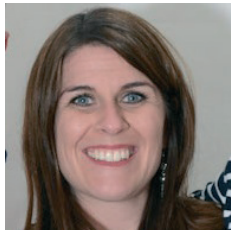
Your legacy, no matter what the amount, will help us ensure that developments are sensitive to the countryside, and that housing sprawl is kept in check. With your help, there will be a green, tranquil and beautiful North Yorkshire for all of our grandchildren to enjoy.

Please contact Fran at [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk) or more information or to become a member.

# Our Trustees

## Jan Arger, Chairman

Jan has been involved with CPRE for many years in the Northeast, at branch and regional level and nationally as a Board Member, with a specific interest in Green Belt, Dark Skies and Tranquility. Jan appreciates wild spaces and good quality-built environments and understands rural isolation and inner-city problems. She also has a passion for reading Terry Pratchett books, heritage, travel and cheese.



## Katie Atkinson, Vice- Chairman and Planning Lead

Katie used to work for the old regional structure of CPRE in Yorkshire & Humber and was employed by the National Charity, so knows our organisation well. We were fortunate to persuade her to become a trustee in 2018 when we restructured as Katie brings a wealth of planning expertise to the Board. Katie lived in the Ryedale area for 10 years before moving to our beautiful coastline. She has two young boys and manages to balance trustee work with a busy schedule!

## Clair Jones, Treasurer

Clair grew up in the North East of England. Trained as an accountant, she has spent most of her career overseas, working with various humanitarian international organisations. She is now looking forward to re-discovering the North Yorkshire countryside from Richmond where she has made her permanent home – and also exploring how she can contribute to CPRENY's financial management and strategic plans for the future.



## Ron Healey, Infrastructure

Ron has forty years of experience and commitment to CPRE North Yorkshire in various guises. Ron's knowledge of rural transport, minerals and waste and all issues York & Selby is second to none. Ron is our voice of reason, common sense and fair play. Ron was awarded a national CPRE award in 2019 for outstanding commitment to CPRE.

## Rosy Eaton, Biodiversity Lead

Rosy lives on the family farm in Ryedale, along with her partner, young daughter, their cattle and lots of wildlife. Rosy has always worked in nature conservation, from advising on environmental policy to helping farmers to do more for the environment, and now does environmental consultancy with her partner Fraser. They practice what they preach at home on the farm by providing habitat for wildlife and using regenerative farming practices to restore soil health.

Rosy is passionate about grassland, woodland and freshwater habitats, with a particular interest in the health of our rivers. In her spare time Rosy enjoys walking the farm looking for wildlife and searching North Yorkshire for the best outdoor swimming spots and cake.



# Our Trustees

## Christian Mackintosh - Campaigns Lead

Christian grew up in Ripon, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, and has always loved the precious, varied and unique landscapes of North Yorkshire. He is a firm believer in the enormous potential for rural communities to thrive by working hand-in-hand with nature and the environment. Christian is particularly focused on sustainable agriculture, rural infrastructure, and countryside access.

Beyond CPRE, Christian serves as UK Wealth & Asset Management Technology Innovation Leader for KPMG, the professional services firm. Outside work, he is usually to be found out on the North York Moors or Yorkshire Wolds – in rain, wind or shine



## George Firth - GIS Lead

George grew up in Cawood, lived in Richmond and now resides in York, with roots firmly planted in North Yorkshire, including serving in the Yorkshire Regiment until 2016.

George now works as a Geospatial Analyst remaining under the Defence umbrella, analysing and visualising a plethora of data to help make decisions – a skillset he brings to the charity. His hobbies include mountaineering and football, with a passion for travel.

## Dr Morris Charlton – Dark Skies Lead

Morris is a new Trustee for the Society with his focus area being Dark Skies – what a fantastic place to be in with such a brief. When he moved back to Yorkshire he settled in the West of the County near Skipton. Great access to Malham and the Dales – actually his back garden is brilliant for astronomy. Morris spent a number of years with the military as a regular and also as a specialist reservist. On leaving the military, he became a Headteacher focussed on SEMH as it is now called, moving through to work in Inspectorate. He now has his own business carrying out specialist ecological / environmental / safety taskings. Morris is currently contracted to a number of government departments working on C-19 and Brexit issues. His principal areas of academic study and lecturing are specialist ecology, history and crisis management- He is attached to and lectures at a number of universities. Morris is a Trustee of a number of military and environmental charities. He hopes to bring his experience and what expertise he has to support CPRENY over the next few what are likely to be challenging years



## Our Volunteers are:

Robert McIntyre - Planning Volunteer

John Bleakley - Photographer

Paul Stephenson - Photographer

Rakesh Prashara - Bid Writer

Helen Williams - Press and PR

Teresa Andow - Project Co-ordinator

Rebecca Denton – Green Clean Ambassador

Harriet Banister – Green Clean Ambassador

*thank you!*

# Litter Tracker

Litter may not always be at the forefront of people's minds in our busy modern world, however statistics – and sometimes a quick glance at the area around you – show that we really do need to act on this growing problem in the UK.

At CPRE North Yorkshire, we are working to tackle the blight of litter, in Yorkshire and beyond. Last year, we launched our Litter in Lockdown study, which revealed the extent of the issue across England.

Anyone with access to the internet can report areas that have litter issues through the CPRE North Yorkshire Litter Tracker – [littertracker.co.uk](http://littertracker.co.uk) or QR Code.



# The Climate Emergency

Did you know that some of the most-loved features of the countryside not only look gorgeous and are brilliant for wildlife, but can actually help to address the climate emergency?

These are our top five ways that the countryside can help with carbon reduction for a low carbon future...

## 1. Hedges

Here at CPRE, we're always keen on 'nature-based' solutions to the climate crisis. We are, therefore, currently, championing trees' often-overlooked little friends, the hedgerow. Like trees, hedgerows suck carbon out of the air and store it in their trunks, roots and in the soil underground. They also have loads of other benefits, such as boosting biodiversity by making great wildlife habitats and reducing soil erosion. And of course, they're already a part of our cultural heritage - we're used to seeing them, they blend into our landscapes and look beautiful, especially with seasonal blooms.

Support our #40by50 campaign by signing our online petition, calling on the government to commit to extending the hedgerow network by 40% by 2050. [www.takeaction.cpre.uk](http://www.takeaction.cpre.uk)

## 2. Peat

Like hedgerows, peat might be one of those things you've never really noticed. Put simply, peat is soggy soil that's developed over thousands of years. And guess what? Peat is really, really good at storing carbon – and better still, peatlands are essential habitats supporting lots of different wildlife. Although there's lots of peatland in England, we've not taken as good care of it as we should. It's lovely and rich, so has become much-used as a fertiliser in horticulture. If you have a bag of compost in your shed or garden, chances are it has some peat in. This is bad news for peatlands. It can take about a year to form just a millimetre of peat – so when it's dug up in this way, it has no time to reform and replenish.

In fact, rather than our making use of their amazing carbon storage abilities, we're often burning these areas to clear them and actually releasing more carbon! Burnt peatlands are losing an estimated 350,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually – a scary amount. We know that lovely healthy peatlands can form a huge part in carbon reduction, so we're asking the government for peatlands to be restored and well cared for.

## 3. Public Transport

We all like the idea of better public transport near to us, wherever we live. But CPRE has identified some brilliant opportunities in rural transport that will be beneficial for the climate, for health and for the economy.

We know we need to move away from cars, but right now the government is planning to spend a lot of money (£27bn) on building more roads – which makes it inevitable we'll see more car use and more carbon emitted. We know, though, that if we can just shift towards more public transport instead, the rewards will be huge. A July 2020 report points out that investing in this could generate more than 230,000 jobs. And if we shift as little as 2% of the miles currently taken by car to walking and cycling, we could see health benefits worth over £2.5 billion per year by 2030. The opportunities are huge, especially in rural areas where car reliance can be unavoidable at the moment – and we're working hard to tell the government and promote this chance for a better way to be.

## 4. Community energy

You might not have heard of community energy before, but the concept is simple: these are renewable energy projects proposed, designed, and owned by local people.

CPRE are keen on renewable energies instead of carbon-emitting fossil fuels, but for us, the gold standard within these is always community-led schemes. Community projects allow people to access the financial benefits directly. The energy produced is cleaner and cheaper and the projects can create local jobs. Better still, any profits can go back into community projects (some examples from our favourite projects, for example, put funds into wildlife ponds, educational centres and village playgrounds). CPRE are piloting a scheme across North Yorkshire as this newsletter goes to print to establish how and in what type of landscape these projects might work.

## 5. Farming

The way that farms are run can open up huge possibilities for carbon capture – and fortunately these are also great for nature!

With over 70% of the UK used for farming, there's scope to make a big difference by moving to more sustainable and nature-friendly methods of farming. One of the ways farmers can do this is by integrating trees within their farms. This is called agroforestry and has all kinds of benefits. The additional trees of course capture carbon but can also provide fodder for animals, shade and shelter from the elements and help to create corridors for wildlife to move across and through different landscapes.

Farming in this way can also improve the health of the soil – another element of the countryside that we might barely notice but which, when healthy, can actually lock in carbon (and of course make for the best possible crops). And, it can actually be more productive and more sustainable than the big monoculture farms, meaning we can produce more of our food on less land.

# Photography Competition 2020

We were blown away by the amazing entries. The winners were picked by the number of votes “likes” on Instagram on the 31st of December 2020. Thank you to everyone who entered.

There is still time to enter our 2021 photography competition.



## 1st Place Winner: Emma Bruce

Emma says: “Driving along the beautiful North Yorkshire Countryside, I came across something I have never seen before – a green phone box. I just had to stop and take a photo.

## 2nd Place Winner: Emma Bruce



## 3rd Place Winner – Richard Marchant



# Best Churchyard Competition 2021

**It's been a real privilege to be on the judge's panel for this competition and visit some outstanding Churchyards throughout August.**

Congratulations and much appreciation to all the volunteers, who have worked so hard, during exceptionally difficult times to ensure that these little havens are so beautiful and tranquil to visit. All of these churchyards have conservation at their core and all should be on a visit list.

Prior to setting out on his visits, CPRE North Yorkshire Trustee Morris Charlton, re read God's Acre by Francesca Greenoak. "I am always mindful of the quote on the front is by John Talbot White:

"The Churchyard, God's acre, is one of the most enduring features of the landscape. Together with the church it forms a physical as well as the spiritual centre of the community.....

The churchyard is the centre of the communal worship and celebration, the site of the most important occasions in life, baptism, marriage and burial..."

John Talbot White would never have envisioned a Pandemic such as Covid and seen how churchyards have been used in their traditional way but also as areas for meditation, contemplation, and peace. Over this period, they have been re- appreciated by many."

**Spofforth Church** just off the busy main road provides peace and tranquillity for visitors in the extensive churchyard. It has numerous mature trees and a meadow feel with a rich flora giving providing a haven to enjoy nature. The challenge is to find Blind Jack's grave!

**Acklam Churchyard** is a real haven and beauty spot well off the beaten track and unique in that as a rural churchyard it no longer has its church on site. The churchyard has a good balance of management intervention and letting nature take its course. I could have sat here for the day watching Roe deer and busy birds in the trees.

**Aisby Church** is removed from the busy Guisborough Road and gives a stunning view across the North Yorkshire Moors. It has a terraced structure with wildflower borders.

**Nunnington Churchyard** has a rich ground flora and numerous yew trees making it a very traditional and beautiful churchyard. It should be on the must visit list for those who visit the nearby Nunnington Hall.

Finghall has the ring of ancients - an old English word Fin, inga and halt meaning a nook of land of the family or followers of a man called Fina. It's certainly in a nook of the land hidden in a valley, great mature trees, visited by Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and a developed and nurtured ground flora.

**Sharow** is a tranquil haven by what is quite a busy road - well established mature trees, plenty of dead wood for insects and bee friendly with a well-developed coherent and consistent management plan ensuring this is an exceptional churchyard.

**Giggleswick** - everything you would expect of a churchyard in a beautiful area. Well-developed flora for a limestone area of the Dales well managed and developed by the local community.

**Lothersdale Churchyard**, moving onto gritstone contrast with the the Dales area to the north and has its own developed flora and mature trees. Evidence of much hard work and commitment in this churchyard. A tranquil spot and one I will revisit. Very strong links with flora walks based from the church.

**Kettlewell, our overall and unanimous winner.** Kettlewell is a very busy post pandemic tourist hot spot but walk down the little lane through the lych gate and you are in an area of peace, tranquillity and contemplation - the journey is immersive. The churchyard is big enough to swallow many visitors whilst at the same time allowing room for sitting undisturbed on the numerous seats and enjoying the yard itself and the views of the Dales. There is a rich and developed flora with a good insect population and busy bees. Whilst many piles of wood are havens for insects there is much high value standing dead wood in the churchyard. There is a meandering route through the churchyard that takes in the flora that ends up at a well-designed labyrinth. In 45 minutes within the churchyard there were 21 bird species and four species of butterflies.



CPRE North Yorkshire Trustee, Rosy Eaton, added "What really stood out for me about Kettlewell is how reverence and compassion for the natural world is woven into every aspect of the churchyard: the considered planting of the borders with bee and butterfly friendly plants, the quotes carved into wooden plaques, the way long-grass, mature trees and wildlife-rich habitats were interspersed throughout the churchyard. Even on an overcast damp day the amount and variety of wildlife we saw was fantastic. The sense of peace and opportunities for contemplation were outstanding. The church and local community should be commended on creating an exceptional space where people and wildlife are so nurtured and welcomed."

We are already looking forward to next year's competition!



## Winner: St. Mary's Church, Kettlewell



Set in the picturesque Dales village of Kettlewell beneath the slopes of Great Whernside, St Mary's church is a sanctuary of peace and tranquility. Here, amidst the drama of creation, a rhythm of prayer and praise takes place each week to the glory of God.

Di Blakey Williams says "Kettlewell Churchyard Project has been going forward for around three years. It arose out of a real desire to care for wildlife as well as providing something creative and supportive for people coming into the churchyard.

The response of many people, locals and visitors alike, has been a real delight, and we feel we are part of creating a better environment for nature and people to thrive and flourish in our village. "



## Highly Recommended: St. John's Church, Sharow



At the heart of the village of Sharow lies the church of St John the Evangelist. The mission of the church in this parish is to be a centre for Christian worship, witness, teaching and pastoral care for everyone. The church serves Sharow and the surrounding villages of Copt Hewick, Marton le Moor, Hutton Conyers and Bridge Hewick.

# Local Plan Status – North Yorkshire including The Old North Riding

## City of York

The City of York is still progressing towards its first ever Local Plan - although has faced several delays over the past year!

The Council submitted their draft Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination in May 2018 and the first stage of the examination in public was held in December 2019 regarding Housing Strategy and Green Belt Release. The Inspectors had further questions and asked CYC to provide further evidence on a number of points relating to proposed new housing figures and the need for Green Belt alterations. CPRENY provided evidence in relation to the importance of retaining Green Belt. CPRENY is still waiting to hear when Phase 2 of the examination's hearings will recommence.

## Craven

The Craven District Council Local Plan was adopted in November 2019. The Plan covers the period 2012-2032 and sets out the overall development vision for the district over that timeframe.

The Plan sets out that the Craven Local Plan Area, excluding the Yorkshire Dales National Park, will require 230 new dwellings per annum (4,600 dwellings over plan period) are required and sets a variable affordable housing target dependent upon the size of the site.

## Hambleton

Hambleton District Council held a hybrid Local Plan Examination in Public during the COVID pandemic as a result of restrictions (part virtual, part in-person). The Local Plan period covers up to 2035 and allocates at least 6,615 new homes across the district.

CPRENY have recently commented upon the Inspector's proposed modifications to the Plan to ensure its soundness against National Planning Policy. The Council are hoping to adopt the Local Plan in the next couple of months.

## Harrogate

The Council's new Local Plan covers the plan period until 2035. CPRENY participated fully in the local plan preparation process. Following adoption in March 2020, a legal challenge was raised against the new settlement policies in the High Court and a judgement was issued on 26 November 2020.

In-line with the court order accompanying the judgement the whole of the local plan was remitted to the council to consider whether or not to accept the Inspector's recommendations in so far as they related to the new settlement policies and whether or not to adopt the local plan with those policies, taking into account the full Sustainability Appraisal (SA) documentation and consultation responses. The Council therefore adopted the Local Plan and new settlement policies in December 2020.

The Plan sets out a need for 13,377 new homes over the lifetime of the plan, which equates to 637 new dwellings per annum

## North Yorkshire County Council:

The Joint Authorities (City of York, North York Moors National Park Authority and North Yorkshire County Council) submitted their Joint Minerals and Waste Plan to the Secretary of State in 2017. The Examination in Public sessions were heard in 2018, including additional hearings on hydrocarbons and fracking. CPRENY participated fully in these sessions as stated in the previous newsletter. The examination is not yet closed and the Council have recently prepared a full schedule of main modifications with additional supporting evidence for consultation in light of changes to National Planning Policy. CPRENY will of course respond in full. It is hoped that a final version of the Joint Plan will be prepared and adopted before the end of the year.

## Redcar and Cleveland

The development plan currently consists of the Redcar and Cleveland Local Plan (adopted May 2018) and the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents.

The Plan sets out that there will be a minimum of 234 net new dwellings per annum, or 3,978 for the plan period 2016-2032.

## Did you know?

As a CPRE member, you benefit from discounted entry to 175 of the country's most splendid attractions. Enjoy a day out at some of the finest castles, arboretums, museums, stately homes and gardens you can find in England's countryside and towns. All you need is your membership card and a copy of the guide to access these discounts. Also, as a member you are entitled to 10% off at Cotswold Outdoor! There's no excuse not to get out and about in beautiful North Yorkshire.



# Local Plan Status – North Yorkshire including The Old North Riding

## Richmondshire

The Richmondshire Core Strategy was adopted on 9th December 2014. The Council is currently reviewing the Local Plan (following updates to National Planning Policy) which will update the policies used to consider new development across the district.

The new Local Plan (2014-2035) will also include other detailed policies, a masterplan for Catterick Garrison and site allocations for housing, economic development, retail and leisure and community facilities.

CPRENY on the Council's initial issues and options and recently, their Preferred Options consultation. We are awaiting publication of the final draft Local Plan expected winter of this year.

## Ryedale

The Ryedale Local Plan is made up of several key planning documents. The Local Plan was adopted in June 2019 and sets out the site allocations which sit alongside the Local Plan Strategy (adopted in 2013) and the Helmsley Plan (adopted in 2015). The Council are currently required to deliver 3000 new homes over the plan period (2012-2027) which equates to circa 200pa.

The Council have recently completed a new 'Call for Sites' Exercise as the initial stage of their Partial Plan Review. It is expected that any potential new sites and changes to policy to reflect updates to current National Planning Policy will be released for further consultation in September 2022. In the meantime, CPRENY will continue to monitor proposals against the adopted Local Plan policies as necessary.

## Scarborough

The Scarborough Local Plan was adopted in July 2017 and covers the period from 2011 -2032. The Local Plan area covers the extent of the Borough outside the jurisdiction of the North York Moors National Park Authority and includes the main built up areas of Scarborough, Whitby and Filey, alongside a number of villages and hamlets and also has the responsibility for the onshore stretch of coastline between Cloughton and Speeton.

At adoption, to incorporate the large number of sites already within the planning system, Scarborough allocated a total 9,450 net new homes over the plan period.

However, despite being 3 years old, the Council have committed to a full Plan Review and have recently completed a consultation on a new Issues and Options documents, the first stage of local plan preparation, to which CPRENY commented. The new Local Plan aims to put a positive response to climate change at the heart of the planning system. We look forward to seeing their draft Local Plan document in Spring next year.

## Selby

Selby Council has a number of planning documents which make up their Local Plan including the Core Strategy (adopted 2013) and the Selby Local Plan (adopted in 2005). The Council have commenced work on a new single Local Plan which will incorporate a review of the Core Strategy and site allocations in line with current national guidance.

CPRENY commented on the Preferred Options Local Plan last year and have recently commented on the settlement hierarchy paper, additional sites and evidence base consultations. We look forward to commenting on the final publication version of the draft Local Plan later this year.

In the meantime, the existing Local Plan documents remain in force which plan for 450 net new dwellings per annum over the plan period.

## Middlesbrough

The Local Plan consists of a series of Development Plan Documents setting policies and proposals for the use of land in Middlesbrough. It includes the Housing Local Plan (adopted 2014), a Core Strategy (adopted 2008), and Regeneration DPD (adopted 2009).

The Council have committed to preparing a new Local Plan which will set out a vision for the future development of Middlesbrough in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure, up to 2037. The Local Plan, when adopted, will replace a number of existing planning policy documents, and provide a basis for determining planning applications within Middlesbrough.

In the meantime the existing Development Plan remains in force which sets out the need for circa 410 dwellings per annum or 6,970 net new dwellings over the plan period.

## North York Moors National Park (NYMNP)

The NYMNP adopted their new Local Plan in July 2020. Their development plan consists of the new Local Plan, the Helmsley Plan (adopted 2015 - shared with Ryedale) and the Whitby Business Park Area Action Plan (adopted 2014).

The Local Plan policies have been designed to serve and enhance the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and protects special areas and features within it from harmful development including by: protecting and encouraging the understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's 'Special Qualities'; identifying where development can and cannot take place; encouraging redevelopment of vacant buildings or land; and helping to reduce the National Park's contribution to climate change.

The NYMNP are also the joint authors of the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan for North Yorkshire.

# Local Plan Status – North Yorkshire including The Old North Riding

## Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNPA)

In 2016 the YDNPA boundary was extended and the NPA inherited policies previously prepared by other planning authorities. The policies were all prepared at different times and in different contexts so include a number of differences in approach.

The YDNPA has resolved to bring together all planning policies for the whole of the National Park area by preparing a new Local Plan. CPRENY have commented on various emerging documents to date. We look forward to commenting further on the preferred options Local Plan early next year.

## Howardian Hills AONB

The Howardian Hills AONB covers 204 sq. km (79 sq. miles) of the North Yorkshire countryside, nestled between the NYMNP, the Yorkshire Wolds and the Vale of York. It is a unique landscape with its well-wooded rolling countryside, patchwork of arable and pasture fields, scenic villages and historic country houses with classic parkland landscapes. The AONB designation was confirmed in 1987, in recognition of its national landscape importance. Planning is determined by the policies in the Ryedale District Plan and Hambleton District Council. The Management Plan has recently been adopted and covers the period 2019-2024

## Forest of Bowland AONB

The Forest of Bowland AONB is situated in North West England, covering 803 sq. km (312 sq. miles) of rural land in the counties of Lancashire (730 sq. km) and North Yorkshire (73 sq. km). Designated as an AONB in 1964 for its important heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. In North Yorkshire, planning is determined by the policies in the Craven District Local Plan. The Management Plan has recently been reviewed and the 2019-24 version is soon to be adopted

## Nidderdale AONB

Nidderdale AONB is an area of 233 sq. miles located on the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Pennines stretching from the high moorland of Great Whernside south and east towards the edge of the Vale of York. Designated as an AONB in Planning is determined by policies in the Harrogate Local Plan, Hambleton and Richmondshire Local Plans. The Management Plan has recently been adopted for the period 2019-24. CPRENY is a member of the Joint Advisory Committee for this AONB.

## Your Countryside needs you.

**We need your help. Could you be our Eyes and Ears in North Yorkshire and the North Riding?**

We are looking for volunteers across the county to look out for development proposals in their areas and get in touch with us to raise any concerns. We can't promise to take up every case but will certainly assess them against National and Local policies as well as our CPRE ones to ensure appropriate action. If we work together, we can help to make things better and do more. We think there can be no better people than our own members to alert of us to concerns or even highlight really good projects that deserve our support, so would love you to

get involved. This does not require any specific planning expertise, and simply means paying attention to issues affecting the countryside or green spaces in your local area, informing the CPRENY team of your concerns. All you would need is access to a computer, a spare hour or two each week, and a passion for supporting the countryside.

Every district is different and publishes planning application lists and consultations to their own timescale and if we don't notice, we could miss the deadline to comment. We don't want to stop development just make sure it's the right development, of an appropriate scale and in the right location. If you would like to find out more about the role or apply, please email [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk) or contact us on 07983 088120 to arrange a chat.

# How Hedgerows Help Us

**CPRE North Yorkshire's Biodiversity Lead, Rosy Eaton, knows first-hand how wonderful hedges can be from living on the family farm. But what can hedges do for the rest of us and why are CPRE nationally calling for a 40% increase in hedges?**

It is a joy to live on a farm thickly criss-crossed by hedges that have been here for hundreds of years. The main tractor driver of the family sometimes gazes wistfully at big fields, but even he wouldn't have our farm any other way. The hedges give the farm its character and support a huge amount of wildlife. The hedge bottom is where the most wildflowers grow, where the most free-draining ground is on our heavy clay land and where the cows lay up their young calves in spring. On warm summer evenings the air is scented by the dog-roses and honeysuckle that climb through the hedges and the silence punctuated by the sound of hedge-dwelling yellow-hammers, so evocative of rural England in summer. In the depths of winter the hedgerow trees host huge flocks of fieldfares and many more birds shelter in the hedges, surviving the coldest months by feasting on the plump black sloes and bright red hawthorn berries.

Hedges are not just good for wildlife, livestock and the souls of sentimental types like me. Even if you don't see hedges every day, even if you never see a hedge, they benefit all our lives in a surprising number of ways, in particular they have a huge role to play in the fight against climate change. Hedges can make our environment more resilient in the face of increasingly extreme weather events: by reducing wind-blow of soil and slowing the flow of rainwater off land, thereby reducing flooding, soil erosion and the run-off of pollutants into our rivers and seas. At a larger scale they help by storing vast quantities of carbon: estimates suggest hedges in Great Britain store as much as 13 million tonnes of carbon.

The UK has around 456,000km of actively managed hedgerows and around 200,000km of hedges that are in a poor or fragmented state. That might sound like a lot, but the truth is we've lost nearly half of our hedges since the 1940s. Because hedges are such a precious feature of our landscape, for wildlife, people and especially for climate,

CPRE nationally are calling for a 40% increase in hedgerows by 2050; the figure recommended by the independent Climate Change Committee to help achieve net zero carbon emissions.

As well as more hedges, we also need more healthy hedges. How hedges are managed, what species they're made up of and what size and shape they are all influence their value. If they are cut hard each year they don't get a chance to flower and bear fruit, as blossom is only produced on 2 year old growth. If they're cut before winter they lose the fruit that can be vital to help birds survive through the harsh cold months. If they're cut too small they lose their complex structure and sheltered micro-climates that are so valuable to birds and insects. And from a climate change point of view, a short hedge 1.5m tall can store 15 tonnes of carbon per hectare, but a tall hedge of 2.7m can store a whopping 30-40 tonnes of carbon per hectare.

In order for hedges to be long-lived, supporting lots of wildlife, protecting local soils and water and storing lots of carbon they need to be planted with a good mix of species (including hedgerow trees), be cut no more than every 2 or 3 years (preferably at the end of winter), allowed to grow tall and wide and have a buffer strip alongside which is not sprayed or cultivated.

Hedgerows have had legal protection since the Hedgerow Regulations were introduced in 1997 and the Hedgerow Incentive Scheme was one of the first environmental grant schemes for farmers in 1992. Every environmental grant scheme for farmers since then has included options for creation, restoration and sympathetic management of hedgerows. CPRE and many other organisations are working hard to ensure that the future Environmental Land Management Scheme, currently being developed by the Government, will help to get more hedges back into the landscape and make existing hedges healthier. If we can achieve a 40% increase in the length of hedges by 2050, and an improvement in the health of our hedges, we can ensure that hedges realise their true potential in the fight against the climate and biodiversity crises, as well as bringing a little bit of joy to our lives on sunny summer evenings.

You can sign the CPRE petition calling on Government to commit to planting thousands of miles of more hedges at [CPRE.org.uk](https://www.cpre.org.uk)



# Planning Campaigns of Note for 2020-2021

This section highlights a very small sample of some of the areas the CPRENY Trustee Planning Lead has had involvement with since the last AGM which may be of interest to members.

## Stainsby Master Plan

Having adopted the area south of the River Tees which forms part of the Old North Riding area earlier this year, CPRENY provided a response to Middlesbrough Council setting out our strong objections to the Council's proposed masterplan for a large allocated site at Stainsby on the southwestern edge of the town on one of the last remaining larger areas of greenfield land in the Borough. The proposal is for a large 1670 new dwellings, a new local retail centre and a primary school on a 130Ha site. Whilst there is a lot to be commended in terms of the master plans proposal for 'country park living' (i.e. 53% of the site will be green space - incorporated throughout the site rather than on an isolated edge etc) we consider the site is wholly inappropriate given that the premise of the application is built around a new spine road that is proposed to be directed through Mandale Meadows and Bluebell Beck which are local nature reserves and much valued local green space. CPRENY has suggested that the Council take the essence of the masterplan and redirect it to the many brownfield sites across the town instead and are pleased to hear that the Council has paused to deliberate the site, rather than push on as originally planned.

## Harrogate Water Bottling Plant

CPRENY responded to an application to extend the existing Harrogate Spring Water site into neighbouring green space and 4 acres of public woodland in order to grow the business. CPRENY wishes to support existing businesses in our area, however, considered that the loss of maturing woodland that had been planted by many local people (including school children) some only 10 years earlier, was not warranted given a previous (smaller) extension had already been approved but not yet built. We were equally concerned that the proposal was to extend their plastic bottling of the water rather than using a more eco-friendly material. Emma Bridgewater, our National President, also added her voice to the objections for this application. We were delighted that the Council agreed with us and the application was refused.

## Catterick Garrison

CPRENY have responded to numerous applications in this past year for large development sites across Richmond, particularly on greenfield land to serve the military base (predominantly) around Catterick Garrison. Whilst some of these are allocated in the forthcoming Local Plan and there is some local support for the proposals, it is felt that on balance there is a danger that the area could become 'over-developed' and lead to issues of sustainability for local services and the local road network in particular. The Council has committed, however, to ensuring that all such developments consider the impacts of climate change and incorporate green eco-design principles into the overall plan for the site. CPRENY will of course keep a close eye on these applications as they arrive.

## Askham Bog appeal

Last year we reported that we had joined Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and many others in strongly objecting to an application for a new residential and employment centre immediately adjacent to the Askham Boggs SSSI and Nature Reserve. As we expected, the applicant appealed the refusal which was dismissed by the Inspector. The Secretary of State then called in the proposal to ensure that the Planning Inspectorate had made the right decision. On the 13th May 2020, we found out the Secretary of State agreed with the Inspector's recommendation that the appeal be dismissed, meaning that Askham Bog is protected for the future. CPRENY is overjoyed that this special place can continue to thrive as a special place for wildlife and the people of York for years to come.

## Hellifield Holiday Park

Over the years, CPRENY has maintained an objection to the development of a large hotel and holiday park at a particularly sensitive site in Craven District adjacent to the Hellifield Flashes which are nationally recognised as important to a wading birds as well as being within the immediate setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The landowner has submitted a revised application for the site, which is a much reduced scheme than previous years, but still promotes up to 99 2-storey holiday cabins, which we believe is still too prominent for such a location which is also used for leisure and recreation purposes by the local community. We commissioned our new GIS trustee to produce specific maps to show just how far the site will be seen from and submitted these to the Council in support of our objection. A decision is yet to be made.

## Kellingley Colliery

CPRENY have welcomed the opportunity to comment on a variety of plans for the reuse of the former Kellingley Colliery within the Selby District. The proposals are to create a new employment park for light and general businesses and the applicant has produced various masterplans and landscaping schemes. Subject to site specific factors and ensuring appropriate mitigation in terms of ensuring that neighbouring amenity is protected with regard to potential noise, odour, landscaping and transport concerns, CPRENY support the principle of the redevelopment of this large previously used site in order to protect our greenspaces elsewhere.

## Petrol Filling Station, HGV park and Drive-Thru Restaurants at Thirsk

CPRENY joined forces with Thirsk Friends of the Earth and other environment groups in the area to object to a new petrol filling station with a large HGV overnight parking area and various drive-thru restaurants at Sowerby, Thirsk. We recognised that the site was close to the A19 to avoid the need to travel, but unfortunately that didn't outweigh our concerns that the site would impact on the setting of Sowerby and Thirsk and its Conservation Area, the removal of 390m of hedgerow, the impact of the residents at the adjacent Gypsey and Traveller Park, the impact on the economic centre of Thirsk and the fact we simply didn't believe the 'need' for the site at that location given the number of other offers in the location and on the A19. Further, the site was unallocated in the development plan when there was an allocated economic development site nearby at Dalton that could have been used instead. Regrettably the Council approved the application.

### Update at Kirby Misperton

North Yorkshire Fracking site to be a beacon of green energy

CPRENY is sure members will remember our active opposition to a proposal for high volume hydraulic fracturing or ‘fracking’ at a site in Kirby Misperton,

Ryedale, and our involvement in the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan for North Yorkshire County Council, City of York and North York Moors National Park Authority. The site at Kirby Misperton (known as KM8) is currently dormant and Third Energy, the company that planned to frack is now aiming to become a green beacon for the region – developing green energy, creating jobs, training and research into the latest innovations in green energy.

The company have dropped plans to frack at Kirby Misperton, following the Government moratorium and earlier this year, local anti-fracking campaigner (whom we have strong links with) Steve Mason was appointed as a director of Third Energy Trading Limited. He is a Ryedale Councillor also works for the green energy company, Wolfand Renewables, who have entered a strategic partnership with Third Energy to help them transition from fossil fuels to green energy. The company have now begun the process of clearing the old fossil fuel infrastructure from their Knapton site.

Steve said: “I have to say that this was not on my radar at the beginning of 2021 and it’s a bit surreal to say the least but so far, the local responses have been very positive, though very surprised. If we can deploy renewables at Knapton and in doing so, contribute to the UK’s net zero ambitions, then I feel that we have a duty to do just that and provide a greener future for us all. his decade will prove to be pivotal in any action needed to help us to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. We all have to look at ways to help reduce our carbon footprint.”

CPRENY have been just as surprised as nearby residents but welcome this change of direction for the company. CPRENY hopes to work alongside Steve on projects in the future in relation to rewilding opportunities and discovering historical ecological DNA to help support our work across the county.

### Forthcoming Changes to the Planning System

You may be aware that we have been expecting the biggest ‘rehaul to the planning system for 70 years’ as stated by our Prime Minister and alluded to in the Queen’s Speech earlier this year. Following a series of consultations over the past few years, which CPRE responded to accordingly, we had hoped to see a final version of what those changes might be by now. We were delighted earlier this year when we heard that the Government had dropped their plans for controversial changes to the housing algorithm – the way housing numbers are determined based on local need. We believed that the changes would actually deepen the housing crisis by delivering more unaffordable homes in areas based on higher housing prices and not genuine need. CPRE campaigned tirelessly to ensure Ministers understood our concerns and thankfully they agreed!

However, CPRE nationally and locally in North Yorkshire, remained highly concerned that the Government’s proposals would take local democracy away from

the system alongside other key changes which we have opposed to and therefore we have not stopped campaigning. At the time of going to print, it was announced that the Government may drop their controversial plans altogether for a much more pared back version of changes following a shock liberal democrat win in the south of the country away from a traditional Tory stronghold.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government have, however, declined to comment and insist that the consultation responses and thus final proposed changes will be available to view in the forthcoming period. We shall of course keep campaigning and do everything we can to ensure that local voices can still be heard in the application process.

CPRE has worked with a variety of other NGOs (including wide ranging groups dedicated to nature conservation to public transport) to create ‘6 Tests for Planning’ to provide the framework to track government progress towards creating a planning system fit for the future by judging each criteria red, amber or green at key milestones

As our CEO, Crispin Truman, puts it: ‘Planning has enormous potential to reshape society and create healthy, low carbon and thriving communities.’

These tests provide the framework to track government progress towards creating a planning system fit for the future by judging each criteria red, amber or green at key milestones.

Those 6 Tests include:

1. **Local democracy.** This includes ensuring that future planning rules retain and enhance genuine, accessible community participation and accountability throughout the planning process.
2. **Affordable homes.** An ongoing challenge, especially in the countryside, the government must deliver an evidenced strategy for building affordable homes and provide local authorities with the power to turn down developments that don’t create affordable housing.
3. **The climate emergency.** Any plans must see an acceleration of climate action to meet the UK’s net zero targets and make sure that local planning authorities are given powers to deliver climate-friendly developments.
4. **Nature.** Sites that are important for biodiversity and nature’s recovery must be protected – and new developments must enhance nature.
5. **Heritage.** Heritage sites and landscapes with special protections must be kept safe and protected from inappropriate development.
6. **Health.** The importance of human health, wellbeing and equality should be embedded into any new planning system, including prioritising access to natural green space, active travel and reduced air pollution

We intend to use these tests to ensure the Government is held to account when they publish the Planning Bill and establish whether they truly have put nature recovery at the heart of the planning system as we attempt to ‘build back better’.

# Dark Skies – Dr M. Charlton

## Where has Summer Gone?

Funny weather, and suddenly dusk arrives earlier and earlier, dark skies are looming.

With cloud cover I've not been able to see much of the stars and planets in August but have completed my bat transects and my National Bat Monitoring Programme along the Wharfe and Ribble. Some Daubenton and numerous Pips with the occasional Noctule flitting along watercourses and overhead, silhouetted in the night sky. Dark skies are great for animal watching. ( I do use a bat detector as well) It's when my bat monitoring finishes I switch into stars – Badger, Fox and Deer permitting. There is much natural historical entertainment in the night skies and countryside – bats like dark skies. (Who has tried NocMig? More to come in a future edition) Once children have got over the issue of not knowing where their feet are and stop walking into trees and their eyes grow accustomed to the night they love being out in the dark. Allow about 10/15 minutes for your eyes to adjust – use only red light if absolutely necessary to avoid loss of your night vision temporarily.

I'm lucky to live in such a rich dark skies area, one where I can have dark skies in my back garden. I keep away from binoculars and telescopes most of the time preferring to just use the eye. Have a look at some star maps in the newspapers. With groups, I always recommend starting with **Patrick Moore's Naked Eye Astronomy** and then graduate onto **Binocular Astronomy** by the same author. There are probably better books but these seem, as classics, to have worked for me and many of my friends, so why change?

When we look at the UK at night we see a densely populated and light polluted urbanised country that on the surface is not ideal for amateur astronomers.

The North Yorkshire Moors has three Dark Sky Discovery Sites (DSDS) – the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Centre at Danby, Sutton Bank and Dalby Forest. Across

But we have dark moors, reservoirs and dales that are well away from urban light pollution, aiding observation of the night sky, planets and stars. We have in North Yorkshire the largest designated Dark Sky Reserve - either side of the A1 - The Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors National Parks. With a combined area around about 3,500 square kilometres this makes them one of the largest dark sky areas in Europe, The Vale of York in the Dales there are seven DSDS's – Hawes, Malham and Buckden with four new sites in the Nidderdale AONB west of Ripon and northwest of Harrogate. Watch out for events by checking the web:

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

and or

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

Nationally by campaigning for DSDS we may soon have additional sites in the Cotswolds, Forest of Dean and Wye Valley, Norfolk Coast and Peak District.

If you choose to go out, make sure you take warm clothing, it gets colder the later it gets, and as we move into Autumn, normally the temperature drops. Check the weather forecast – the local on BBC – (other “brands” are available) to see what cloud cover is around. All trips into the outdoors are enhanced by flasks of tea and chocolate! Use a red torch light if needed. Make sure you don't have to keep going in and out the car and if you do switch the interior light off to protect your night vision.

### What are you likely to see in the month ahead?

September and the Equinox of the 22nd of September, mark the move into Autumn. The Equinox is when the sun crossed the equator moving South. What's the Equinox? Its Latin and it means equal, aequus and nox, night.

At this time, night and day are about the same length but after this we get more star gazing time as the nights and darkness get longer.





**Key date 5th September**

The moon and mars are very close together on the 5th September – look east / south east – for those who know near Pisces – otherwise east / south east.

A crisp night and you can with sharp eyes see the redness of mars and with low magnification binoculars the twin moons of mars. (prize of star chart to the first person under twelve who has:

- a) seen them and
- b) can email their names – (the moons not the child’s name!)

Email : info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk.

**WHO**

For the early birds, you have really good views of Mars at 06.30 in the morning over September.

**Key date 11th September**

Both Jupiter and Saturn continue to be very visible in the southern sky this month in the early evening for a few hours after the Sun sets.

If you’ve got your telescope to hand, then look to Saturn to spot its rings and perhaps even point it to Jupiter to see the bands in its atmosphere. There will be another of the so called gas giants to look at another of the gas giant planets will be ideally Neptune will be at opposition, nearest to earth on the 11 September. This means that the planet will be at its brightest as a result and visible throughout the night with the planet reaching its highest point in the sky at midnight. It’s worth a look, but you will need a telescope to see this distant ice giant!

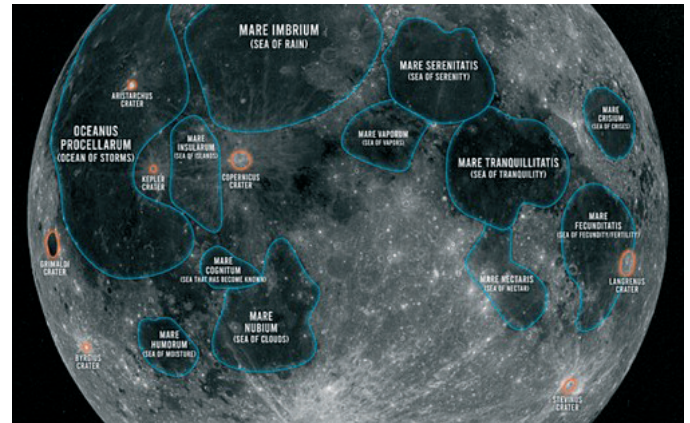
**September throughout – the moon**

The corn full moon will be visible on the 2 September – the name comes from the first nation Americans who would use the appearance of the September full moon as a sign to harvest their crops.

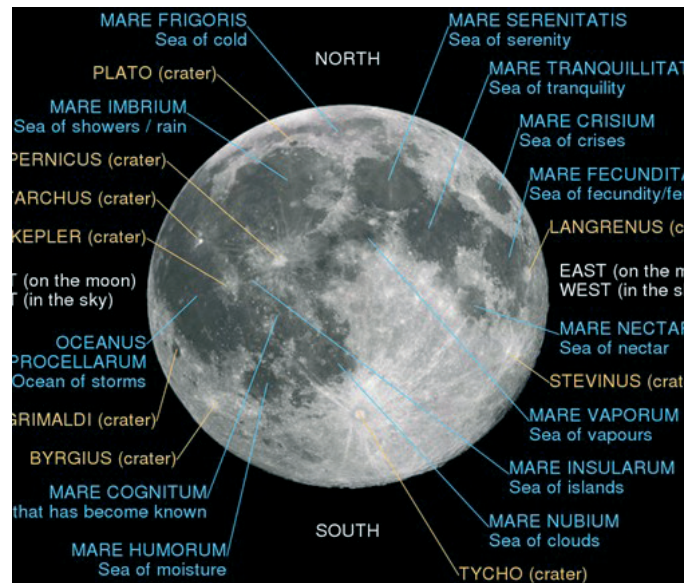
There will be great opportunities to view the moon throughout the month and start learning craters and the names of seas, Mares. You don’t need to be able to identify them all and be the star of the Village Hall Quiz – take it easy and learn one a day!

**Phases of the moon September 2020**

- 2nd September Full moon
- 10th September 1st. ¼ moon
- 17th September new moon – very dark
- 21st 1st ¼ moon



Some seas to identify



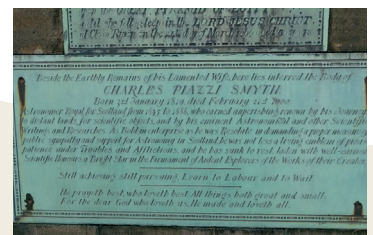
Some seas to give context to crate

**An astronomical aside to the North Yorkshire’s Best Churchyard Competition 2021**

Throughout July and August Trustees have been busy visiting churchyards as part of the competition. When I arrived for a visit at Sharow Churchyard I was pleased to see a commemorative plaque to Charles Piazzi Smyth, Astronomer Royal Scotland 1846-1888. He was appointed to this important position at the age of 26.

As Astronomer Royal for Scotland, he created the One O’ Clock Gun tradition from the castle, started the idea of mountaintop astronomy, (less particulate matter in the sky up high, makes viewing easier and more consistent temperatures, not interfering with telescopes, ) pioneered stereo photography, measured the Great Pyramid of Giza and wrote many popular books of the time.

He is buried in the graveyard with, given his work on pyramids, an appropriately shaped headstone / tombstone with a plaque commemorating his astronomical feats.



# Celebrating North Yorkshire Rivers

Over the summer of 2021 we've been celebrating North Yorkshire's rivers. They are tranquil and beautiful places that have shaped our landscape and history and do so much to support wildlife and people. During the pandemic rivers became particularly important to people as tranquil places to escape to in order to relax and recuperate. So we wanted to recognise their value, celebrate their beauty and encourage people to look after them.



Photo by John Bleakley

Our rivers are home to rare and iconic wildlife: otters, dippers, salmon. They provide us with vast quantities of drinking water and tranquil places to exercise and play. There is an increasing amount of scientific evidence that just being near water has amazing benefits for our mental and physical health. Our rivers are so valuable to people, yet they are beset by problems: litter and microplastics are found at alarming levels and raw sewage is being routinely dumped into them by water companies, 23,432 times, for 195,472 hours in 2020!

As part of "Celebrating North Yorkshire's Rivers" we have:

- Curated suggestions of some of the best places to go to walk alongside rivers, spot wildlife and see some of the fascinating riverside historic sites - all presented on our website in a beautiful story map created by George Firth our GIS lead.
- Encouraged people to learn about and care for our rivers by sharing information on our website about what rivers do for us, the main issues affecting rivers (pollution, litter and invasive species) and giving advice on how people can help to care for our rivers - in terms of what they do in their own homes, engaging in citizen science and writing to MPs about the shocking problem with sewage pollution in our rivers.
- Shared inspirational photos of North Yorkshire's rivers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Take a look at our website and social media channels to see just how stunning our rivers are, find out more about great places to visit and learn what action you can take to help our rivers. If you care about the future of our rivers and want to do something to help, can find a letter template to write to your MP about sewage pollution and a link to CPRE North Yorkshire's litter tracker to report litter problems, as well as other suggestion of things you can do and projects you can engage with. See the "Discover our countryside" pages on our website for more details.



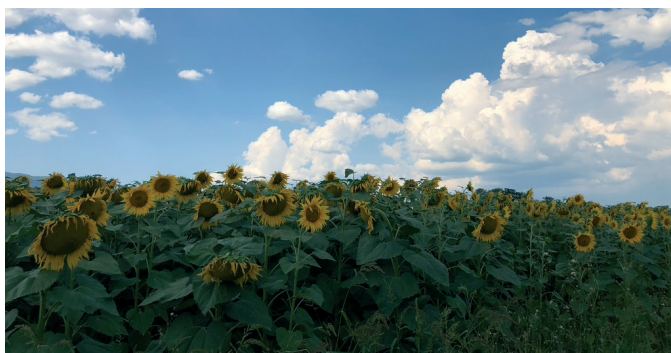
# London, New York, Geneva - Richmond, North Yorkshire

I have spent most of my professional life outside of the UK working for international humanitarian organisations. I have been fortunate to live for short periods in some of the more interesting and exciting capital cities and to travel extensively and, for the most part, enjoy the diversity of landscape, climate and community across the world.

I am now preparing to settle and re-establish in North Yorkshire and start the next chapter of my personal and professional life.

I was so happy that Jan and the other trustees offered me the opportunity to include CPRENY in that next chapter – and intrigued when Fran proposed that I share some thoughts on the similarities and differences between the footpaths that I have been walking in the last few years and where I will be walking starting in the next few months.

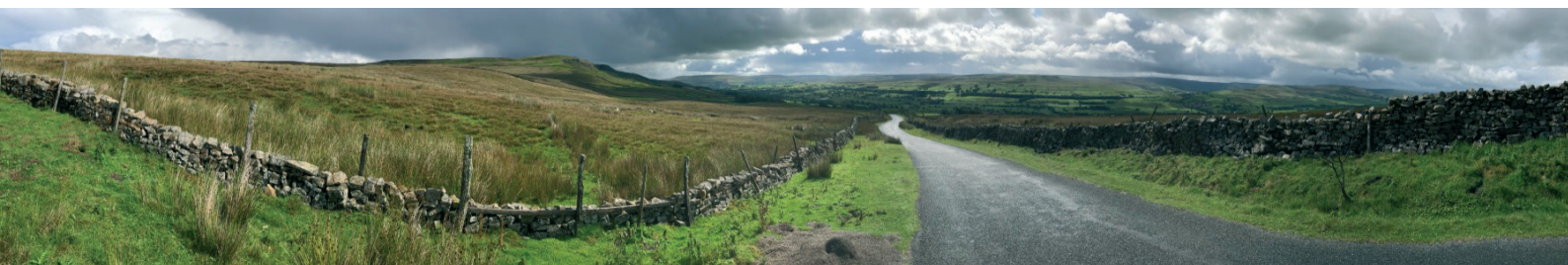
So I spent a few hours flipping through photographs of recent walking trips in and around Switzerland and North Yorkshire.



I was fully expecting to find more difference than similarity but my sense – even from this small collection of my favourites – is that similarity and difference are simply perspective. Whether we are reflecting on breathtaking countryside vistas, endless blue skies and cloud formations, observing the sights and sounds of local animals, country communities and their characters, or enjoying the tranquillity of rivers and sunsets in the cities and towns we may call home, similarity far exceeds difference.

And I can't help but conclude with a reflection on the importance of gates - which open into and serve, along with organisations like CPRE and its members, to protect the countryside experience for everyone everywhere in the world.

Trustee - Clair Jones



# Coming up in 2021 - 2022

We are pleased to announce our Events and Competitions for 2021.

## Instagram Photography Competition

CPRE North Yorkshire annual photography competition is still open.

Pictures should be themed around the heading:

“My amazing North Yorkshire”

The Closing date is the 31st December 2021.

There are 2 categories: Adults and Youth (under 12).

If successful, your photo will be used to promote CPRE North Yorkshire and will be published in our next newsletter, and online. The winner will be announced at the 2022 AGM.

Entry is free and open to everyone (including non-members).

Please send images via email or through our Instagram page by #cprenyphotocomp2021 or #cprenykidsphotocomp2021

## School Writing Competition

In 2019 we had over 700 amazing individual entries. Sadly, due to Covid we didn't run a 2020 competition, but we hope to build on previous successes in the 2021-22 academic year.

We have contacted all primary schools across North Yorkshire and invited them to join in by encouraging pupils to get outdoors in the North Yorkshire countryside during their break.

The main categories are EYFS, KS1 and KS2. Prizes are awarded to the overall individual winner and school. Is your school interested?

Contact us on [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk) for more information.

## Worm Charming Competition

Many children first experience wildlife in their garden by finding and holding wriggling worms in their hands.

Worms are fascinating creatures that are rarely seen, they live in our soil and at night drag dead leaves, and vegetation under the soil to eat, this food passes through the whole length of the worms body and is then excreted in the form of coiled 'worm casts' (poo) which you find on the soils surface, especially on lawns, these 'casts' are highly nutritious and feed the plants. Worms aerate the soil and improve its drainage by tunnelling in the ground. This is also beneficial to plants; a worm burrow can be as deep as 150cm.

Worms can also be found in our Compost Bins where they work their magic transforming our unwanted garden and kitchen waste into valuable soil-enhancing compost, they will make their own way in if the Compost Bin is on soil.

How many worms can you attract from the ground?

The CPRE North Yorkshire Charming Championship is an unusual event, during which people of all ages try to extract as many worms out from soil as possible. Charming, grunting, and fiddling are the most popular methods to attract earthworms from the ground. Participants use different techniques, like vibrating the ground by sticking implements into it, playing music, or patting the soil. But importing worms from outside and digging is against the rules. Prizes are awarded for the single heaviest specimen and the largest quantity of worms. After the competition, all the worms are released into the wild.

Please keep an eye on our website for more information



## Best Kept Churchyard Competition

After a successful 2021 competition CPRE North Yorkshire will be holding their second 'Best Kept Churchyard Competition'.

Entries will be invited from churches of all denominations from across our county to enter our North Yorkshire's Best Churchyard Competition 2022. Entry is FREE – and entries must be received by 31 May 2022

“North Yorkshire has hundreds of churchyards, and they are beautiful places,” says Jan Arger, Chair of CPRENY. “That’s why we believe in celebrating them and celebrating the people that look after them – because they are often volunteers and they do a fantastic job.”

Over hundreds of years, North Yorkshire's churchyards have come to form part of the county's rich and varied landscape. Some churchyards have changed little over the centuries. They are much more than burial grounds or simply open spaces around church buildings; they are unique and special havens, green sanctuaries for people and wildlife.

The winning churchyard will receive a cheque for £200, membership of CPRE North Yorkshire and a beautiful plaque, to be displayed with pride.

Details can be found on our website and will be sent to Parish/Town Councils to liaise with relevant Churches soon...

## Coming soon...

Events to be launched in spring 2022 (restrictions depending) watch out for forthcoming e-bulletin for further information.

# Updates from National Office

## Renewables Done Well.

When CPRE published the report ‘Greener, Better, faster’ in 2020, we recognised the fact that the climate emergency is one of the single greatest threats to our precious countryside.

If we fail to take action, farmers will increasingly struggle to grow our food and maintain their livelihoods in the face of more and more extreme weather, pushing the resilience of the countryside and its embattled communities to the limit. Some of our most cherished natural icons, such as English oak trees and beloved wildlife like hedgehogs and bumblebees, face serious challenges to adapt to changing weather patterns, threatening the look, feel and health of the landscapes we know and love.

All of which makes the need for more renewable energy imperative in order to rapidly reduce the climate impact of our daily lives. But, new energy developments have to be done well, in harmony with communities, nature and local landscapes – as CPRE North Yorkshire knows as well as anyone thanks to their hugely important fight against fracking.

That is why the CPRE national team has teamed up with CPRE North Yorkshire to develop a new process to empower rural communities to set out how they want to see renewables done well in their area, meeting local needs whilst protecting cherished landscapes and heritage.

We are calling the process “Community Visioning” and thanks to generous funding from the MCS Charitable Foundation we are running a series of workshops with communities across North Yorkshire, to discuss what they value in their local countryside, what renewable energy technologies they feel are best suited to the area, where they believe new installations should be sited and with what mitigation, ownership and management plans.

The workshops are due to be held at:

- Loftus Town Hall on the 15th, 22nd and 29th of September
- Thornton-le-Dale Village Hall on 18th and 25th of October and 1st of November
- Stillingfleet Village Hall on the 23rd and 30th of November and 7th of December

If you live in any of these parishes and want to attend the workshops in your area please get in touch at [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk)

## Update from Cassa.

Well, spring and summer 2021 came and went in a flash it seems! The CPRE Volunteering Development Team pushed on with work to support local CPREs to recruit and induct the new volunteers they have been seeking around the country, with some successes to highlight.



The now-online CPRE inductions have attracted a total of 110 volunteers through the year including a number of new volunteers supporting CPRE North Yorkshire which is great to see - welcome! So wonderful to hear of so many new names and faces elsewhere in this newsletter - people coming forward to commit time and energy to helping CPRE drive forward for better promotion, enhancement and protection of the North Yorkshire countryside.

“Assemble” - CPRE’s national online volunteering database now holds records for over 1,000 volunteers registered with CPRE local groups all over England which is fantastic - the hands-on “Citizen Scientist” voluntary role for CPRE Herefordshire has attracted more than 400 applications alone this summer!

Do keep looking at the national charity website for updates on the big campaign topics currently being highlighted including the importance of hedgerows to the rural countryside and biodiversity, and the CPRE response to the proposed government changes to the planning system.

If you would like to know more about volunteering for CPRE, please visit the website <https://www.cpre.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/> or email us at [volunteering@cpre.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@cpre.org.uk)

**Cassa Townsend,**  
CPRE Volunteering Development Manager



## The North Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2020	Total funds 2019
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	100,074	-	100,074	104,556
Investments	4	59	-	59	116
<b>Total</b>		<b>100,133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100,133</b>	<b>104,672</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	5	54,931	5,463	60,394	53,734
<b>Total</b>		<b>54,931</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>60,394</b>	<b>53,734</b>
Net gains/(loss) on investments		(200)	-	(200)	238
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>45,002</b>	<b>(5,463)</b>	<b>39,539</b>	<b>51,176</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>45,002</b>	<b>(5,463)</b>	<b>39,539</b>	<b>51,176</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		148,300	99,205	247,505	196,329
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	11	<b>193,302</b>	<b>93,742</b>	<b>287,044</b>	<b>247,505</b>

All amounts relate to continuing activities within the United Kingdom.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities.

### Balance sheet

As of 31 December 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Investments	7	2,989	3,189
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		288,045	248,228
Other debtors – investment income due		10	10
Creditors	8	(4,000)	(3,922)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>284,054</b>	<b>244,316</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>287,044</b>	<b>247,505</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
Restricted funds	9	93,742	99,205
Unrestricted income funds	10	193,302	148,300
<b>Total funds</b>	11	<b>287,044</b>	<b>247,505</b>

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk) and we can post it out to you or you can download it from our website.



The countryside charity  
North Yorkshire

You are invited to attend

# CPRE North Yorkshire's Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 13th November 2021 at 10:30 at the Rural Art Centre, Thirsk

## Agenda

10:30 Doors Open: Registration and Refreshments

11:00 Welcome

11:05 CPRE North Yorkshire

The Chairman

Introduction to the committee

Vote to endorse current trustee board 2021-2022

11:20 Financial Report 2020

Clair Jones

11:25 Planning Update

Katie Atkinson

11:40 CPRE National Office

Tom Fyans - Director of Campaigns and Policy

12:00 Close and Thanks

Jan Arger

12:05 Presentation of School Writing Competition Awards, Photography Awards,  
Best Churchyard Competition, Recognition Awards

1:00 Lunch

Please note booking is required to ensure catering and seats are limited.  
All reservations should be received by 01 November 2021 by email or letter.

## Governance

The last stages of the Governance review, completed in 2018, ensured compliance with the charity commission - the body to whom we are accountable. Whilst not compulsory, it is advisable to have clear risk assessment policies and complaints procedures in place. CPRE North Yorkshire now produces risk assessments each quarter and has a clear complaints policy.

## Accountants

CPRE North Yorkshire has continued to work hard to ensure transparent and professional accounting remains in place. In 2018/19 we moved to Saffrey Champness in Harrogate. Saffrey's produce our annual accounts and file them with the charity commission on our behalf to ensure full accountability. Full financial reports for the year are available FOC at the AGM.

Copies may be obtained at a cost of £2.50 to cover postage and printing costs.

Contact admin: [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk)

## Administration

All CPRE North Yorkshire correspondence is now on headed paper with ONE emailing address which can be handed on from management board to management board. This ensures continuity, clarity and reduces confusion.

Contact Fran Evans on [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk)

## Facebook

CPRE North Yorkshire Facebook is an effective way to alert residents, receive information and post images. CPRE North Yorkshire have a strong following on Facebook.

Click on the link on our web site to access.

## Legal

Robert Nieri, our lawyer, moved to head Shoosmiths. Robert has always provided support to CPRE North Yorkshire and guided us through the transition period. Robert was also legal counsel for the national CPRE charity, therefore, fully understands our remit.

We have continued to retain Shoosmiths and Robert in particular, to continue to advise us when required.

## Planning

Our improved finances ensure we can comment professionally on planning issues - our bank of professional planners includes: One Voyage Limited of Helmsley who specialise in Heritage and Conservation impacts of applications and KVA Planning Consultancy of Bridlington who provide us with professional planning advice to deal with specific planning matters.

## [www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk)

Traffic increased dramatically through the CPRE North Yorkshire website in 2019. Journalists across the county now have a point of reference and we are regularly asked for opinions and contacted via this route. Local communities and individual members of the public,

alongside Parish Councils, have a one stop shop to find out what's going on in their area.

## Instagram

Instagram is a chance to show off the best of our county through images and is a stunning page to follow.

All images submitted using #cprenyphotocomp2021 or #cprenykidsphtocomp2021 are judged in our annual photography competition - have you sent in your photographs - why not consider it for the next year?

For more information contact:  
[info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk)

Webpage: [www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk)

Email: [info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk)

Facebook: CPRENY

Instagram: [cpre\\_northyorkshire](https://www.instagram.com/cpre_northyorkshire)

Twitter: @CPRENY



The countryside charity  
**North Yorkshire**