

# People, Landscape & Wildlife

2020 Impact Report



YORKSHIRE DALES  
MILLENNIUM TRUST



# Our impact thanks to your support

In 2020, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) continued to have a big impact on the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

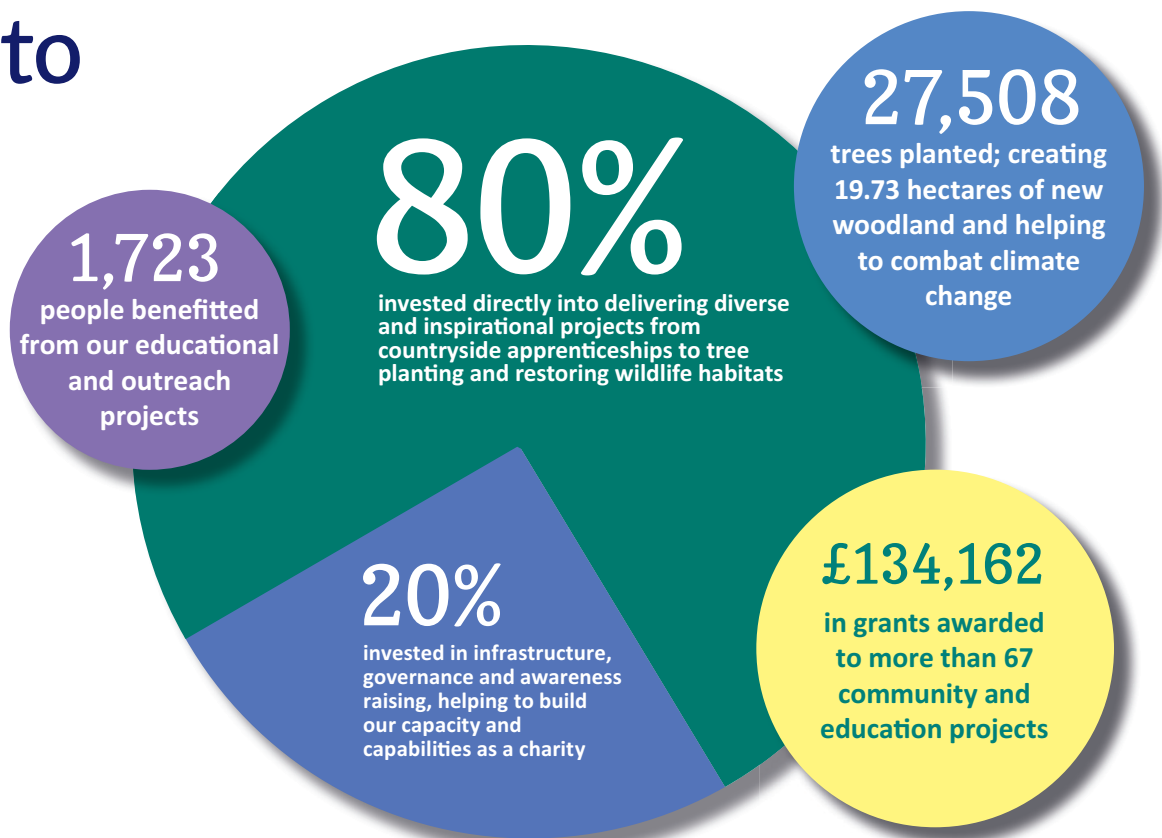
Despite the global pandemic, we were able to continue our long-running conservation projects such as woodland planting and wildflower meadow restoration, whilst also providing a direct response to the crisis.

We supported the planting of 27,508 trees, engaged with 1,723 people, even in periods of lockdown, and awarded £134,162 in grants to local organisations and young people to make a real difference in their communities and schools.

I was particularly proud of our response to the pandemic. Our Coronavirus Community Fund made a real impact to communities across the Dales.

It helped people to deliver food and medicine to the most vulnerable, supported community organisations to stay viable and is now enabling groups to recover from the virus' impacts.

We know there is always much more work to be done – now more than ever – but thanks to the commitment from our partners and wonderful supporters, we can continue to make a real difference in the Yorkshire Dales for future generations.



On behalf of us all I'd like to thank everyone we come into contact with during the course of our work. Your support is truly humbling and enables us to do so much.

Please enjoy our Impact Report for 2020, and once again, a whole-hearted thank you from all at Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

David Sharrod  
Chief Executive



"Because of YDMT, I found out I'm a lot more sociable than I thought. I used to not be able to talk to people, but now I'm even confident to put my hand up in class. You made me talk to other people outside my close friendship circle or family. That gave me a lot of confidence and I've been able to socialise more." Rhiannon

# People

Our projects help people to visit, care for and live sustainably in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

- We support a vibrant and sustainable Yorkshire Dales with stronger, better supported and welcoming communities.
- We enable people to gain new skills to live and work in the Dales and provide more opportunities for people to access, appreciate and enjoy this special area.

## In 2020...

- **£134,162** was granted to more than 67 organisations to make a real difference to communities and the heritage of the area.
- **11,505** people were estimated to have benefitted from our Coronavirus Community Fund - receiving help when they needed it the most.
- **1,101** young people were inspired to care about the natural world and to get out into the countryside to learn new skills.
- **143** people were given inspirational learning opportunities in the Dales, alongside many more in virtual events.



**Our Coronavirus Community Fund gave hope to groups affected by the pandemic.**



## “Coronavirus Community Fund helped us to survive”

**The Jonas Centre in Wensleydale was one of the first organisations to receive a vital grant from our Coronavirus Community Fund.**

It helped to ensure the respite space, which accommodates underprivileged families and carers who need a break, as well as adults with special needs, could survive the pandemic.

Simon Eastwood from the Centre said: “Because of the pandemic, it was with a heavy heart that we took the decision to temporarily close The Jonas Centre in March 2020.

“Thankfully, the Coronavirus Community Fund allowed us to cover some of our running costs and the overheads at the Centre – and helped us focus on making sure that the most vulnerable in our area were safe and had enough provisions.”

During the crisis, Simon offered log cabins at the Centre to individuals who were homeless in the Richmondshire district.

He added: “We sought to support the national effort by working with the NHS, homelessness groups and other organisations to see how our facilities could support both key workers alongside the most vulnerable members of society.”

One of the people The Jonas Centre helped said: “I would say that The Jonas Centre gave me hope when I’d lost all hope and hit rock bottom.

**“It made me feel safe, supported and comfortable. Staying in the cabin helped me get back on my feet and look forward to the future. I cannot thank you enough.”**



# Landscape

Our projects help to protect and enhance the unique natural, cultural and built heritage we have in the Yorkshire Dales for future generations.

- We support the planting of trees and have helped to plant **1,523,099** since 1996.
- We are helping to reverse the decline of hay meadows. The Dales has lost 97 per cent of its meadows over the last 70 years.

## In 2020...

- **27,508** new native broadleaf trees were planted in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.
- **27** hectares of hay meadows were regenerated, increasing biodiversity and a vital food resource for pollinators and other insects.
- **1,050** metres of iconic drystone walls were built and restored - and **3** caves were cleaned to maintain their environment.
- **Our Plastic Free Woodlands** initiative was launched to remove redundant plastic tree tubes from the Dales landscape.



**This year you helped us plant woodland to the equivalent of 24 football pitches.**



## “Being able to give something back is humbling”

**Richard Shepherd has a passion for trees and how they can impact the landscape.**

The third-generation farmer at the 300-acre family run Kingstone Farm, based near Pateley Bridge in Nidderdale, has planted 2,600 trees with YDMT over the last year.

He wanted to link up the patchwork of existing woodland already at the farm, and create Shoe Gate wood, a vital habitat for wildlife.

He said: “My grandfather bought the farm in the 1950s and I have spent my life here.

“This site is very exposed to the elements so the

woodland will provide shelter and food for many small mammals and invertebrates. It also links two existing woodlands creating a wildlife corridor.

“As it grows it will benefit red and black grouse and act as a wind break to reduce the amount of soil erosion from the flat fields behind.”

Shoe Gate – named after an old OS Map reference of the area – is now 2.5 hectares in size and includes 220 metres of hedgerow.

**Richard added: “To be able to give something back like this by working with the team at YDMT, is humbling. I’m really looking to watching it grow.”**

# Wildlife

Our work helps to champion and improve the wildlife of the Dales and surrounding areas.

- We improve the conditions of key habitats and species.
- We make the Dales more resilient to the effects of climate change.
- We enhance public awareness, support and appreciation of Dales wildlife.

## In 2020...

- **10** wildlife patches were created in the community - including one at Airedale Hospital for the benefit of patients and staff.
- **187** people came together to learn practical skills about meadow restoration.
- **143** bird boxes were installed to attract wildlife - many by local people which helped them connect with nature.
- **1,458** eco activity packs were sent to people across the region so they could remain connected with the Dales over the festive period.



**We created 10 wildlife patches for wild bees and other pollinating insects.**

## Apprenticeship helped Chris connect with conservation

**In 2020, thanks to your support, ten young people completed their rural apprenticeship and moved into full time work or further education in the sector.**

Our apprenticeship programme equips young people with the lifelong skills they need to go onto further education or employment- and connect with nature and their environment.

Chris Atha joined the scheme as a Dales and Fells Apprentice after initially struggling at school. It gave him work experience with DTMS Group as an apprentice.

He would be the first to admit he didn't have a lot of confidence and was worried about the prospect of attending college as part of his apprenticeship. But, support from other apprentices and YDMT saw him pass

his Intermediate Apprenticeship in Environmental Conservation in early 2020. Chris gained certificates and skills such as tractor driving, ATV driving, safe use of pesticides, brushcutter, and passed his trailer test.

Throughout his apprenticeship Chris' positive and cheerful attitude has helped drive his success and confidence. He now has a full time, paid role with his employer and helps to train new employees.

"Chris is a really valued and reliable team member, who takes on responsibility. He puts himself forward and will always step up when there is no supervisor available. He is also very good at customer relations.

**"He has a real future career with the company and is progressing through the ranks."**





# Organisation

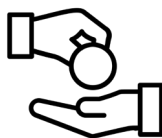
Since 1997, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has been an innovative organisation, striving to maximise its charitable impact on people, landscape and wildlife.

**We work in partnership to deliver the best outcomes for the Yorkshire Dales and to ensure we can do more for the communities and people of this special area.**

- **80 per cent of funds** are invested directly into delivering diverse and inspirational projects. **20 per cent** is invested in infrastructure, governance and awareness raising.
- We continue to **train our staff** and equip them to further YDMT's charitable aims.
- We invested in **infrastructure and IT** to support our staff to work from home.
- We updated our **policies** after our governance review.
- We continue to be recognised by **Investors in People** for our commitment to our staff and are working with them to review and embed our values across the organisation.
- We focused on the **health and wellbeing** of staff, hosting several wellness courses and providing one-to-one support.



We deliver projects to support the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales



We raise and distribute funds to enable our partners and individuals to deliver projects



We work in partnership to deliver the maximum charitable benefits to the area

## Our Values

**Enabling** - We make real practical things happen and are approachable, collaborative and inclusive, valuing people's opinions in everything we do.

**Caring** - We are passionate about supporting the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales and are committed to being sustainable.

**Creative** - We thrive on new challenges and act with entrepreneurial spirit in order to make a positive difference to this special area.

**Honest** - We always act with integrity and are open, clear and fair.

## “Keeping us together while we're apart”

**YDMT has worked hard to ensure the wellbeing of our staff team is cared for and supported during these challenging times as life moved online.**

A series of wellbeing training sessions have been put in place, with the offer of one-to-one sessions from a trained counsellor. We're supporting this through a wellbeing channel sharing resources, articles, courses and the odd motivational meme to keep things relevant.

Fun and sparking people's interest has been crucial to keeping us all connected online too. Whether that be staff led lunchtime learning

sessions, regular coffee times or a social with a quiz. 'Secret squirrel' has been busy sending small gifts between staff members, helping bring a smile to people's faces in difficult times.

YDMT prides itself on having a family atmosphere amongst our staff and we are doing our best to sustain this through these challenging times.

We are, however, very much looking forward to times when we can be together in person not only for our work but to share the good times. Until then we'll keep connected online.

**Gail Smith, wellbeing co-ordinator**