

# People, Landscape & Wildlife

## 2019 Impact Report



YORKSHIRE DALES  
MILLENNIUM TRUST



# Our impact thanks to your support

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) is delivering more charitable work than ever before to enhance and support the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

In 2019, we supported the planting of nearly 30,000 trees, delivered educational projects to more than 2,000 children, welcomed 1,750 people to 125 different events through our Flowers of the Dales Festival and led the way nationally with our commitment to finding environmentally responsible ways of creating woodland.


We also granted more than £103,000 to organisations and individuals - including school children - who wanted to make an impact in their local community.

The people, landscape and wildlife of this area face many challenges - environmental, economic and social - and, as a result, we have a bold ambition to extend the reach and impact of our work. We can only do this with the dedication of our funders and supporters, as well as the commitment of staff and Trustees.

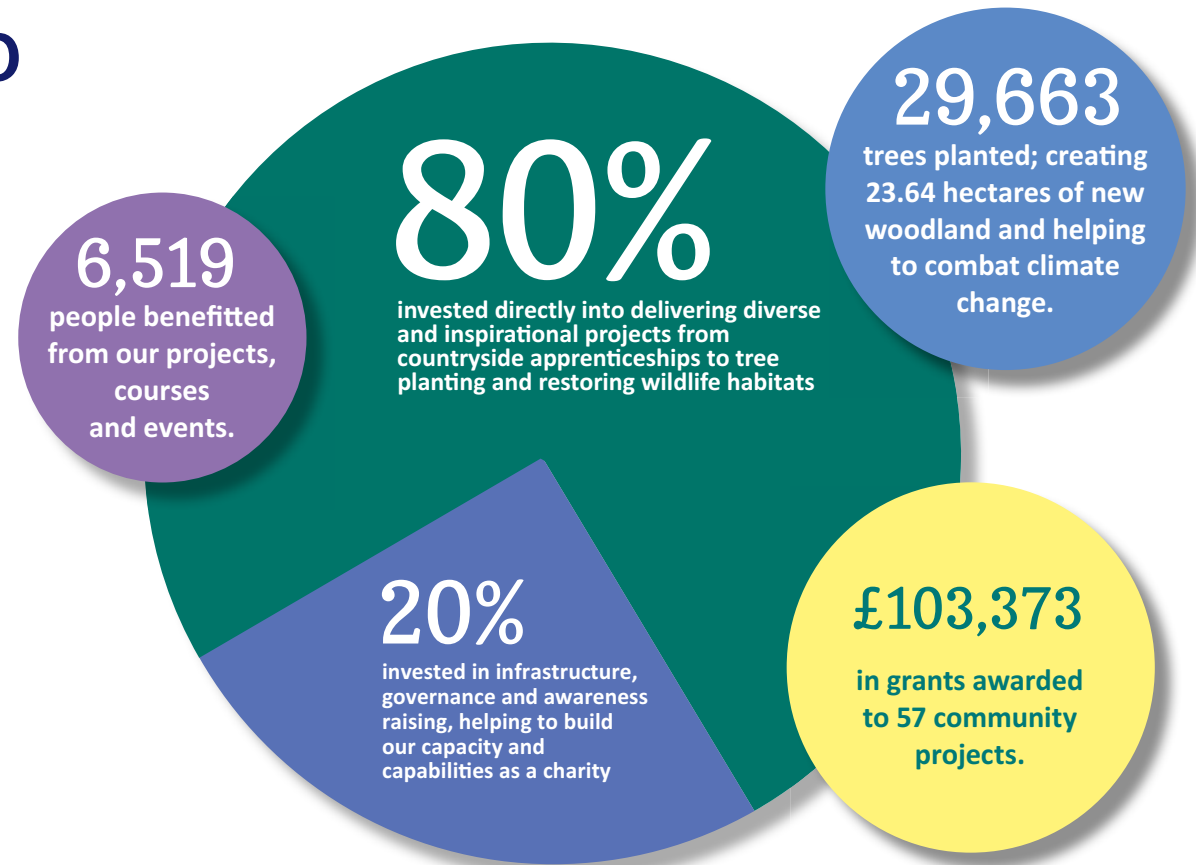
We will continue to become the best organisation we can be, with a focus on innovation and partnership working, and are excited about the year ahead. On behalf of all of us all I'd like to thank

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 2019, and once again, a whole-hearted thank you from all at Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.



David Sharrod  
Chief Executive



"There is an old Ethiopian proverb which says, 'When spiders unite they can tie up a lion'. Every bit of your contribution to welcoming and supporting us is hugely valued and much appreciated. Thank you." Tinta (left), Darwen Asylum and Refugee Enterprise (DARE), volunteer.

# 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 2019...

- **£103,373** was granted to 57 organisations and people to make a real difference in their local community.
- **6,519** people were engaged with our projects, events and courses, connecting them with nature and the Dales.
- **1 national accolade** - we won the Government's Year of Green Action award.
- **1,217** people were given respite and inspirational learning opportunities in the Dales, helping them to overcome challenges such as obesity, mental health issues and loneliness.



**Our Community Grants Programme has helped groups inspire people in their area.**



## “YDMT’s leadership weekend changed my life”

When **Mohammed Sharif** addressed our Community Group Leaders training weekend in 2019, no one expected his story to resonate quite as much as it did.

He admitted that the impact of the course, which aims to build confidence amongst leaders from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds so that they feel able to bring groups out into the Yorkshire Dales independently, had totally changed his life.

Sharif was a health worker for Bradford Care Primary Trust when he first came into contact with YDMT. He said he would think ‘get a life’ whenever he saw people walking around the Dales with a rucksack on their back. He told the group how he couldn’t

appreciate the joy of walking in the countryside until he was inspired by YDMT and the course.

It gave him the desire to complete the Yorkshire Three Peaks many times with friends and family, undertake 166 Wainwrights, do 50 walks in a year and subsequently trek Kashmir, Turkey, Morocco and ultimately to Everest Base Camp.

**“If it wasn’t for YDMT I wouldn’t have gone on to do all these things. The training enhanced my confidence in map reading, leading groups and health and safety, but above all it introduced me to the great outdoors. It has absolutely changed my life.”**



# 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 planted more than 1.5 million since 1996.
- We help reverse the decline of hay meadows. The Dales has lost 97 per cent of its meadows over the last 70 years.

## In 2019...

- **29,663** new native broadleaf trees were planted in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.
- **35.28** hectares of hay meadows were regenerated, increasing biodiversity and a vital food resource for pollinators.
- **224** volunteers lent their support to create new woodlands and enjoyed coming together to make a difference for the environment.
- **420** metres of iconic drystone walls were built and restored alongside **10** barns to maintain the Dales' historical links.



**This year we planted new woodland to the equivalent of 20 football pitches.**



## “We wanted to create a lasting legacy for the land”

With support from YDMT, **Darren Sheffield** and his partner **Anna** have planted 2,200 native broadleaf trees at Low Branthwaites in Sedbergh with the aim of creating interest in the landscape, improving biodiversity and allowing people to enjoy the breath-taking views across the Howgills.

The couple, alongside volunteers and local schoolchildren, planted Hazel, Elder, Rowan, Blackthorn, Downy Birch, Holly, Bird Cherry, Hawthorn, Crab apple, White Beam, Spindle and English walnut on the site.

“When we moved to Sedbergh we wanted to create something that would have a long-term benefit for

the area,” Darren said. “This woodland is here for future generations to enjoy and we hope that it will attract red squirrels from nearby Garsdale as well as birds and other species.

“YDMT were instrumental in helping us decide what trees would work on the land, and what types would be best to attract wildlife.

**“Now the site will be a Supporter Woodland for the Trust and we’re excited about that. We are open to people coming here and enjoying what we have created. We would hate for it to be closed off and for visitors not to be able to walk amongst the trees.”**

# 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 2019...

- **1,110** plug plants were planted in eight different sites to help start and regenerate hay meadows for wildlife.
- **930** people took part in pollinator workshops and practical sessions to improve habitat for our most vulnerable wildlife.
- **25** bird, bug and bee boxes were made by young people to attract wildlife - helping them connect with nature and wildlife in the process.
- **11** community wildlife patches and mini meadows were created.



**We are creating new habitats for wild bees and other pollinating insects.**



## “My apprenticeship connected me with wildlife”

“My apprenticeship with YDMT was incredible. Looking back to who I was at the start of this journey is quite remarkable.

“Two years ago, I didn’t really know what I wanted to do. I cared about nature and wildlife, but I’d never taken the time to immerse myself in it. This apprenticeship gave me the opportunity to learn about the natural world, and learn about myself as a person.

“I didn’t know what a chaffinch looked like or what sphagnum moss was. Now, I love to spend my time watching wildlife and being able to know what they’re called and where they’ve come from. I’ve

surveyed seals at South Walney, monitored red squirrel presence in Cumbria and held an Osprey chick!

**“I am so grateful for the opportunities YDMT provide for young adults like myself. For many schemes I would have been disregarded as my grades and age would have discounted me. YDMT find people who really care about the natural world and give them a chance. No matter their background or grades, if they think they can help you then they will try their hardest to help you progress.”**

**Jade Allen, former YDMT apprentice.**



# Organisation

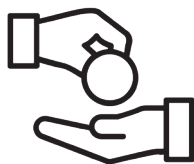
Since 1997, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has been an innovative organisation, striving to maximise its charitable impact on people, landscape and wildlife.

**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.**

- We invest **80 per cent of funds** 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** and our active Trustees completed a full **governance review**.
- At the end of January, we were recognised for our commitment to our staff by **Investors in People** and are working with them to review and embed our values across the organisation.



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.



### “I love inspiring others”

“Growing up around here, it's rare that young people are able to find work that gives them such high quality opportunities, training, and experiences that YDMT has given me over the last 16 months.

“Instead of having to move away, I've been able to grow and work in the communities that I love.

**“I've been able to discover and rediscover with people their sense of belonging and ownership of the story of this landscape and celebrate and contribute to it in a way that ensures a healthy future for this incredible place.”**

Rosie Russell-Cohen, Outreach Trainee.