

The North Yorkshire Moors Association
Trustees' Report for the period April 2018 to March 2019.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Registered Charity Number 1169240

Address. 4 Station Road Castleton, Whitby, North Yorkshire. YO21 2EG

President of the Association: Ian Carstairs OBE

Trustees at March 2019

Tom Chadwick (Chairman)
Albert Elliot
Ann Glass
Dave Moore (Vice Chairman)
Carolyn Moore (Membership Secretary)
Brian Pearce (Hon. Treasurer)
Colin Speakman
Elaine Wisdom
George Winn-Darley

Secretary: Janet Cochrane

Structure, Governance and Management

The Association's governance is based on its 2016 Constitution, written when it became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The "Council" is the body which manages the Association. In addition to the Trustees, there are two Council members and a Secretary who are not Trustees. Council members are nominated and seconded by members and elected annually at the AGM along with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Association has a Council representative on the Council of the Campaign for National Parks (CNP).

Membership

Total membership in April 2019 was 423, which shows a small decline of 4 members over the year. There has been a good take-up of the 10-year membership option which was introduced at the beginning of 2018. Business memberships now total six, all since the beginning of 2018. We have reviewed our membership subscriptions regarding the cost of posting 'Voice of the Moors', especially to members outside the UK. In the case of overseas Life members a large proportion of their membership fee is taken up by postage, while in the case of UK-based Life members the cost of mailing 'Voice' also outweighs their subscription after around 13 years. An option of a digital subscription rate of £10 has been introduced for individual membership and a proportionate rate of £14 for joint annual membership. Under this option, members will receive a digital copy (pdf) of 'Voice' at the same time as the paper copies are sent out.

The main Objective of the Association is:-

"To protect and enhance the characteristic beauty of the North Yorkshire Moors for present and future generations of those who live or work in, or visit the area ".

Planning Matters

We have continued to monitor the developments at the Sirius Minerals Woodsmith mine-head site at the former Doves Nest Farm, and also at the tunnel access site at Lockwood Beck. Further modifications to the original planning application have been agreed with the National Park.

The large painted bronze sculpture known as 'The Seated Man' which was erected on Brown Hill between Danby Dale and Westerdale has been removed. Two years ago when the planning application was made we objected to putting the sculpture on Brown Hill because we felt it was not a suitable location, but it was approved by the National Park Planning Committee for a limited period of five years. The popularity of the sculpture, generated partly through social media, led to an unexpectedly large number of people visiting the site. This resulted in considerable damage to this protected area of moorland and so a decision was made to remove it after only two years.

We are pleased to report that the North Yorkshire County Council has imposed a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on Kirby Bank which includes the historic 'Kirby Bank Trod'. This bans all motorised vehicles from using this track and will help to preserve an ancient public way from the damage caused by off-road vehicles. In 2018 NYMA added its voice to the consultation which started the process leading to the ban.

Activities undertaken by the Association, including those for public benefit:

- Publication of a quarterly magazine ('Voice of the Moors')
- Guided walks and visits to places of interest in the North York Moors
- Publication of the History Tree book in 2018 (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Land of Iron project) and a focus through walks and events on places featured in the book
- Annual Conservation Award of £500 made to a research or practical conservation project in the national park
- Biodiversity Project at Park Wood (renamed Corbett's Copse), including planting, weeding and fencing
- Funding and administrative support for MoorsBus
- Annual liaison meeting with the North York Moors National Park Authority
- Participation in the national-level Campaign for National Parks campaigns and programmes
- Collaboration with Leeds Beckett University

Publication of the Association's magazine "Voice of the Moors" continues as a quarterly magazine sent to members of the Association and subsequently available to the general public via the website.

Guided walks The programme of guided walks has continued over the last twelve months with eleven varied walks led by different people, clocking up a total of over 60 miles. An occasional 'Town Walk' series has been introduced, the first of these being a guided walk around Kirkbymoorside, organized in collaboration with the Kirkbymoorside History Group.

History Tree Project: After the launch of the History Tree book at the 2018 AGM, the project continued with production of educational materials. A pack was sent to almost 90 primary schools in and around the Moors and they are able to access free learning sheets (aimed at pupils and teachers) via the NYMA website. Other groups are using the materials too – for instance the Whitby Museum now refers schools to our educational resources. The books are distributed to outlets around the Moors and around 500 have been sold, especially around Christmas, generating a useful income stream for NYMA as well as disseminating information on the Moors. A feature article on the project in the Yorkshire Post gave NYMA good coverage and generated new members, while several of our guided walks during the last year were built around places and personalities covered in the book. On behalf of NYMA, Ray Clarke (a member of NYMA as well as a contributor to the book) gave a well-received talk to the Scarborough U3A group on the History Tree.

The Conservation Award is an award for conservation work which in some way enhances the National Park. The award is jointly funded by NYMA and the National Park Authority and is presented at NYMA's AGM. In 2018 the award was won jointly by the Thornton-le-Dale Village History Society and a local author for publication of her book 'Wildflowers of Westerdale'.

MoorsBus Funding. The Association is continuing to support the Moors Rambler bus service, which runs at weekends in the summer months, with funding and the provision of guided walks for members of the public. The funding provided by NYMA is from a ring-fenced bequest which is for the purpose of encouraging walking in the National Park (2018-19 was the last year of this bequest). The service provides a means of getting people who do not have their own transport into the National Park from surrounding urban areas such as Darlington and Middlesbrough.

Park Wood Biodiversity Project: This long-term project has continued with some fencing maintenance and additional tree-planting in the spring. We thank Botton Forester Alan Ayers for generously providing trees from the Botton Tree Nursery and tree-stakes. The plot has been renamed Corbett's Copse after a former owner of the land.

Meetings with the North York Moors National Park are held annually and take the form of round table liaison meetings with senior management from the National Park to discuss issues of common interest.

NYMA also meets three times a year with the Campaign for National Parks along with other National Park Societies (two meetings a year of Chairs and CEO's of National Park Societies and an annual conference).

Yorkshire Parks Societies and Leeds Beckett University: As part of our commitment to extending our reach, especially towards a younger age-group, we have teamed up with the Friends of the Dales in a collaboration with Leeds Beckett University. The Centre for Tourism & Hospitality Management at LBU hosted two meetings during the year at which we have discussed matters of common interest. So far, outcomes have been an online survey of young people to ascertain their attitudes towards our national parks, and field trips to the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Dales for groups of students on undergraduate and Masters programmes.

Website and social media: In addition to the website, which provides information on campaigns and projects as well as other matters), NYMA has a new Facebook page ('Wild About the Moors').

Financial Review: At the end of the financial year in March 2019 our financial position was sound with an end-of-year balance of £55,628.33. Our main expenditure is 'Voice of the Moors' production and Secretary Fees and Expenses, with the majority of the latter covered by the 'History Tree' grant from the HLF. A donation of £2,000 was made to MoorsBus, covered by funding from a bequest (as detailed above). Our main income is from Members Subscriptions (£5,558) and History Tree book sales (£2,401), and we also received £2,905 in donations, including a bequest from the estate of our late Vice-President Allan Patmore of £2,500, to be allocated to a specific project which has yet to be arranged.

Tom Chadwick
Chairman NYMA