

People & the DALES

Diversity Access Learning Environment Sustainability

2017/18

newsletter



People and the DALES continues another year...

Welcome to the latest People and the DALES (PaD) newsletter, sharing events and activities that have taken place during the last year and outlining opportunities for the year ahead. Since the project began over 10,000 day visitors have taken part in nearly 700 events. We are proud to have been recognised nationally for our work enabling people from black and minority ethnic communities and other under-represented groups, to access the countryside, and are a Project of Sanctuary for our work supporting refugees and asylum seekers. PaD engages with disadvantaged members of communities from the urban areas surrounding the Yorkshire Dales to enable those that would otherwise not be able to get out of the city to enjoy the great outdoors and gain new experiences.

During the last year almost 1,000 people took part in around 50 activity events. Most beneficiaries came from West Yorkshire and North East Lancashire and include individuals with disabilities, those experiencing mental health problems, refugees and asylum seekers, and those disadvantaged through where they live.

Activities are planned to inspire and enthuse and are tailor-made for the abilities of each group: gentle wildflower walks for the less able-bodied, hill walks for the more adventurous, art workshops in the countryside and visits to historic places. Conservation and practical work are undertaken wherever possible to develop skills.

What we can offer

- Day visits – nature walks, environmental activities, kite flying, quarry and farm visits
- Conservation work – tree planting, woodland management and path laying
- Training – to provide skills for individuals wanting to organise their own events
- Help with transport costs
- Outdoor gear – walking boots and waterproofs for our typical English weather!!

Thanks to Sir George Martin Trust, the City of Sanctuary Guardian Christmas appeal and the Morrisons Foundation whose donations made this work possible. We look forward to working with the Co-op and David Morgan Rees, who kindly made donations to enable this work to continue into 2018.



Highlights of 2017



Interviewing Farmers

Radio 119 is part of Bradford Community Broadcasting catering for people with learning disabilities. The group visit various locations to interview individuals, edit the interviews and broadcast the programmes fortnightly. They visited Newhouse farm near Malham and met with farmer Irene Newhouse. The farm is a tenanted farm owned by the National Trust. It is farmed specifically for wildlife and has excellent hay meadows as well as a wonderful cliff face covered in wildflowers.

"My favourite part was walking through the meadow and looking at the different flowers and seeing the cows with three calves. I liked seeing the sheep and would love to go again." (Abid)

DARE tree planting in Buckden

The ESOL class from DARE (Darwen Asylum and Refugee Enterprise) in Darwen braved the winter weather to plant trees in Upper Wharfedale alongside the National Trust rangers in Buckden. A much needed pancake and hot drink was provided by members of the local community at the end of the day.



BCA Walk, Kirkby Malham to Hanlith

Men from the Bangladeshi Community Association in Keighley visited Malhamdale in the autumn for a short walk along the Pennine Way to Hanlith. They also visited the church of St Michael where they were given a warm welcome by the local vicar who explained the history of the church and gave a demonstration of bell ringing. One of the group even rang one of the 'lighter' bells, which was great fun.



Cricket in the Dales

Upper Wharfedale laid on a fun day for two refugee groups from Darwen and Bradford. After tea and cakes in the village institute, a cricket coaching session was organised by a local Grassington coach in a farmer's field. The local community provided lunch before a walk along the river to the stepping stones.

"A BIG thank you to all concerned, especially our hosts in Kettlewell. One of the guests said, 'It was heavenly'. Couldn't have had it better". (John East, DARE)

Meeting Point trip on Leeds - Liverpool Canal

Meeting Point is a drop-in centre for asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds. They offer English classes, support and a hot meal. Members of their English class visited Skipton to spend the day on a barge on the Leeds-Liverpool canal. It was a very quiet tranquil day for staff and students alike, it enabled them to relax and recharge their batteries.

"Meeting Point values trips extremely highly. We consider them to be paramount to positive mental health, contributing to enhanced wellbeing as well as creating memories and being a shared experience for the group." (Meeting Point's Annual Review 2016).



Newly arrived Syrian families

Several Syrian refugee families have visited this year. Most have come to the UK through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and were resettled from refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. Groups came through St Augustine's in Halifax, Horton Housing in Bradford and the Refugee Council in North Yorkshire, who work with the families for their first year in the UK. As part of their orientation into life in Britain the groups came to Malham. They walked to Malham Cove, played in the back garden of a local resident, had picnics and joined in activities run by the Yorkshire Dales National Park ranger.

One of the children drew this amazing picture of their journey to Malham. It must have felt a long way.



Skipton Hosting weekend

Individuals that attend BIASAN drop-in centre in Bradford for asylum seekers and refugees stayed with host families in Skipton over a weekend in March. The Mayor welcomed the group, and meals were provided in various locations. Activities over the weekend included a canal trip, walks, an African drumming workshop and a visit to Holy Trinity Church bell tower where people had a go at ringing the bells. The Saturday evening included a ceilidh and a Sufi Singers group.



Malhamdale host refugees

Over the last few years three hosting weekends have taken place in Malhamdale, a small community of around 500 people in the Yorkshire Dales. The latest weekend took place in September when 30 refugee and asylum seeking women and children from the City of Sanctuary Maternity Stream in Leeds were welcomed back. Many stayed in local homes, others at Malham Tarn Field Centre. Visitors came from Eritrea, Iran, Pakistan, Albania, South Africa and Bolivia but all enjoyed a warm welcome. During the weekend they learnt how to make mosaics with artist Shaeron Caton Rose, did some pond dipping and a bug hunt in Tarn woods. Saturday included the usual fun and laughter with a party, delicious food and lots of singing.

"The weekend really uplifted me. I was really down spiritually but knowing that people are there for me regardless helped. I am blessed." (Emily, from Zimbabwe)



Muslim Christian Women's retreat

Later in the year, over a weekend in the wilds of wind-swept Ribbleshead, 15 women met, most for the first time, to enjoy each other's company and explore their faith journeys. Some were Muslim, others Christian, but each revelled in the opportunity to discuss their faith in an open, caring environment. One of the highlights was making rag rugs, a traditional Dales handcraft. Everyone was able to take home their very own miniature rug.

"I don't think I've ever talked to a Muslim woman about her faith and mine before, which seems quite ridiculous seeing as we are both so similar in that we both follow a faith. Overall I absolutely loved the weekend."



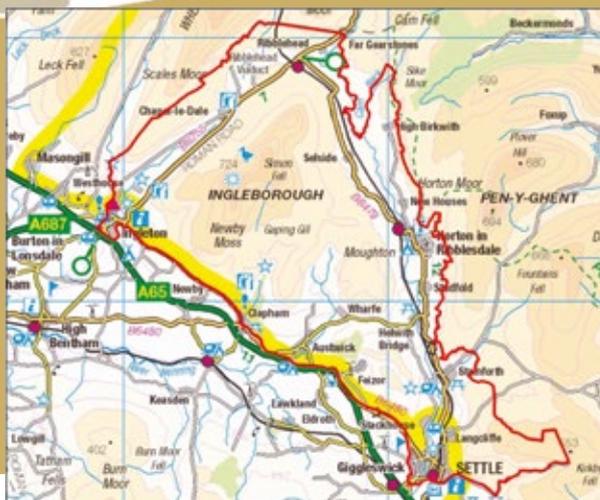
The next Muslim Christian women's weekend
will take place 12th – 14th October 2018.

Please contact judy.rogers@ydm.org if you would like to be involved.

Stories in Stone

Ingleborough for All

Ingleborough for All, part of Stories in Stone, is supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and now in its third year. Thanks to National Lottery players, we are able to provide more opportunities for groups that are currently under-represented in the countryside. This project will run until 2020 delivering activities within the 'Ingleborough triangle'.



Knitting the Three Peaks

Women from the Millside Centre Knitters in Bradford visited The Folly in Settle to meet local knitters who had produced fantastic knitted representations of Settle's streets which are on display in the museum. Together the women set out to knit the Three Peaks (Ingleborough, Wharfedale and Pen-y-ghent). Two return visits to Bradford saw the canvases completed. It is hoped they will go on display in Bradford during Refugee Week.

Haymaking at Broadrake

Volunteers from DARE in Darwen offered to help bunkhouse owners Rachel and Mike Benson with the arduous task of haymaking. A fabulous few days were spent at the bunkhouse raking up the cut grass and making mini hay bales. Everyone had the chance to go for walks around Ribbleshead, and do some willow weaving and conservation work in the grounds.



Maintenance at Bargh Wood

It's great to plant trees but who looks after them once they are planted?



Volunteers from St Vincent's in Leeds came to help maintain Bargh Wood just above Stainforth. Cattle had got into the wood and knocked over the trees which needed straightening and tree guards removing once trees are well established. Not a fascinating job to do but one that is much needed and when you get a fun group of people and a sunny day it makes it all worthwhile.

Felting

Following on from a previous felting workshop, women from the Bangladeshi Community Association in Keighley took part in a wet and dry felting workshop in Horton Village Hall. Making felt is a traditional countryside craft which is dying out. The women chose a photograph of the Dales which they then tried to recreate in felt. The pictures were framed and displayed in The Folly in Settle. The artists returned to Settle to see their 'works of art' displayed in the museum.





Dissemination

One of the unexpected outcomes of the project has been the numerous invitations to speak about this work and raise awareness about diversity and refugee issues.

In January the team ran a Diversity Training session for all Bolton Abbey staff. PaD participants came to share their experiences and demonstrate various aspects of their home culture. Later a presentation was given to residents of Upper Wharfedale who wanted to explore how they as a small rural community could support refugees. They have since set up a refugee support group and now organise their

own day visits. In April three refugees were invited to speak at the annual celebration of the Stories in Stone programme.

The PaD team also led 'Refugee Voices' workshops at two North Yorkshire schools conferences, which included asylum seekers who had been on PaD events telling their stories. Subsequently, Nidderdale High School invited Gulwali Passarly, author of 'The Lightless Sky', into school. His book tells how he fled from Afghanistan at the age of 12 and travelled to the UK. Gulwali will be visiting other Craven schools in the near future.

We are also working with other local organisations to develop a range of projects using the fantastic outdoor setting of the Yorkshire Dales to improve people's health and well-being.

Meet the People and the DALES team:



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