

# YDRT E-NEWS

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## MONTHLY UPDATE

Hello all,

April has been and gone and we can finally see those warmer, lighter, and longer days on the horizon!

From volunteer days finishing up the NFM project at Bishopdale, and water sample collection for the iWharfe project, to the development of our new website (keep your eyes peeled!), it's been a busy month here at the trust!

This month we also say farewell to Jack Hirst, one of our project officers who has been a fantastic asset to the team and who will be sorely missed - good luck in your new venture!

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you passionate about our water environments? Do you have project management experience? Come join our team as our Tees and Swale Diffuse Pollution Project Manager!

Working with both the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and the Tees Rivers Trust, this is a fantastic opportunity to get stuck in and make a real difference to water quality in the region. It's super easy to apply too! Click [here](#) to take a look and apply today. Applications close 10am 10/05/2021.

Also keep a look-out for a further opportunity that will be released for applications shortly.







In 2020, the iWharfe project started out as a citizen science project. Designed to provide a snapshot of water quality conditions along the entire length of the river on a single day and to raise awareness about water quality issues both for people and wildlife. Following this successful sampling event, the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust have adopted the project with an aspiration to continue the citizen science monitoring into 2021 and expand on the project further.

Thanks to the Swinden Quarry Fund, the project has been awarded funding to take further 34 samples in the upper parts of the River Wharfe to gain a greater understanding of the water quality between Hubberholme to Cavendish Pavillion. The fantastic iWharfe Volunteers have been out this month collecting those samples which have now been sent off to labs for analysis.



We will be repeating this work over the next couple of months in preparations for our full River Wharfe sampling event in August. Results from this day will be made available on our website in the coming months. If you wish to read the report from last year please visit our website.

Thank you to all of the iWharfe volunteers from various community groups and organisations along the Wharfe (Addingham Environment Group, Local Landowners, Ilkley Clean River Group and the Salmon and Trout Conservation group), without your commitment, passion and enthusiasm this project would not be possible - By Marie Taylor



# FEATURES FROM OUR FRIENDS: PLASTIC FREE WOODLANDS YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST

**Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has ambitious plans to remove more than 38,000 redundant tree guards from its woodlands over the next 18 months. The Clapham-based charity's Plastic Free Woodlands project, which is supported by the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA), aims to see these single use plastics reused or recycled, alongside research into finding alternatives.**



YDMT also will be engaging communities and volunteers in tackling the plastic problem, whilst seeking a sustainable solution through sector-wide collaboration, disseminating conclusions and recommendations nationally. Already, it is trialling commercially available alternative tree guards at six sites in the Dales and Nidderdale with the aim of producing a report at the end of the 18-month project.

Mike Appleton, EOCA Project Officer, said: "50 million trees must be planted each year to counteract Britain's contribution to climate change. However, the worry is that 1.5 billion plastic tubes will end up littering our environment and damaging ecosystems by 2050.

"We're working to encourage alternatives to planting with plastic guards as well as promoting better management of newly created woodlands including removing redundant tree guards once the woodland has established.

"Most new woodland creation schemes in the Dales will have been planted using plastic tree guards that provide essential protection from voles, rabbits, and deer. If a woodland is well managed, these guards will be removed after approximately 10 years once the trees are established.

"The concern is that if the plastic guards are left on site, over time they will disintegrate into smaller fragments that find their way into our soils and waterways.

"YDMT will be working with landowners, community groups, other organisations such as Friends of the Dales and volunteers to collect redundant tree guards over the summer and send them to be recycled and used to make new products."

The project will also see 7,000 trees planted across the Dales.  
To find out more, visit **[www.ydmt.org](http://www.ydmt.org)** or email **[info@ydmt.org](mailto:info@ydmt.org)**