

Yorkshire Dales *Rivers Trust*

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YDRT: Monthly Update

Welcome to our May issue! As usual we've been busy bees this month - from welcoming our new CEO David to publishing our brand new website, we've been up to all sorts here at YDRT.

Earlier this month we partook in a meeting as part of the River Wharfe Partnership, updating residents in Ilkley and a variety of stakeholders on the progress of the partnership, created to help improve ecological status of the River Wharfe.

Also along the Wharfe, our fantastic citizen science volunteers for our iWharfe project are gearing up for the second day of water quality sampling in June, ahead of our mass sampling event in August.

In other news, the team have organised a 'BioBlitz' surveying event in Arkengarthdale which has already proven popular with local groups and volunteers, and weather permitting, looks like it will be a great success!



Welcome David Middlemiss: Our New CEO!



David joined the team at Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust as CEO in May 2021. After graduating from Cambridge University with a degree in Geography, David gained his managerial experience working for the oil company ExxonMobil, initially in Supply and Refining and subsequently in Retail, in both the UK and Iberia.

A career break allowed for a year-long cycle expedition the length of South America, followed by a teaching fellowship in Critical Geopolitics at Exeter University. Over the last decade David was CEO of the UK's largest and fastest growing cycle recreation and retail business. David is also currently an Associate Director of the Bicycle Association, the not-for-profit trade association for the UK bike industry.

In his spare time David enjoys fly-fishing for salmon, sea trout and trout, something that has been a passion for him since his childhood in Teesside. Over the last decade his interest in fishing has led to involvement in the restoration and rewilding of a stretch of the River Guash in Rutland. David also likes riding his bike, fell walking and playing and watching almost all sports, activities made better by enjoying them with his wife and two young children.



A Fresh New Look: YDRT Gets a New Website

Our brand new website is now live! Check it out at ydrt.org.uk Working with Yorkshire based website design consultancy Genie Creative, the new website aims to be easy to access, visually attractive and informative. It incorporates SSL security, giving confidence of secure and encrypted data, and has an intuitive content management system (CMS) and search engine optimisation functionality (SEO) built in. This will allow for improved analytics. With a secure and easy link to our 'Donate' page, for people to subscribe, we hope to build up our supporter base and reach a wider audience. Please visit www.ydrt.org.uk and let us know what you think!

Catherine Mason

YWT Volunteering Opportunity

The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are seeking a volunteer 'Crayfish Champion' to help survey 5 target river catchments (Derwent, Swale, Nidd, Ure and Foss).

Check out their website for more information: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/volunteering-opportunities>

The DVRN Gets Digital

The Dales to Vale River Network, the catchment partnership for the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Ouse and Wharfe, have been working on expanding their reach and increasing engagement online. They now have both a [LinkedIn](#) page and a [Facebook](#) page where they share updates and news from the network and beyond. Give them a follow to stay up-to-date and find out more about the positive impact they're having on our rivers.



Incredible Edible community garden plot in Reeth

Sustainable Swaledale: Small Community, Big Ideas

Rob Macdonald tells us all about a grass-roots, environmental community group in the heart Yorkshire Dales.

"Sustainable Swaledale is a group of enthusiastic volunteers seeking to promote sustainability in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. We meet every month and have twenty signed up members with a much larger following on Facebook and via our free newsletter. As well as sharing information, news and ideas that relate to our patch, we organise volunteering activities and run a number of long term

projects, often with support from larger groups such as YDRT. Last year we started our 'Incredible Edible' community vegetable gardens in Reeth and Gunnerside, and this year we are running a community tree planting project across more than a dozen sites, helped start a wholefood buying group and are launching two new projects, 'Swifts and Swallows' and 'Wildflowers'. We are also exploring how to get involved with YDRT's new Natural Flood Management project in Arkengarthdale.

There is also a campaigning side to our activities where we think we can make a difference locally. Last year we petitioned Richmondshire District Council regarding its Climate Emergency declaration, and are now involved in the Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership. We also actively respond to local planning consultations to promote sustainability.

We offer a warm, friendly welcome to anyone wanting to get involved in any or all of our activities at whatever level, so please find out more about us at our website <http://www.sustainableswaledale.org/> where you can sign up for our newsletter, or join us on Facebook."



Project Update: INNS Out



It is national INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species) Week so a good opportunity to update on progress with the DVRN INNS Out Programme. Work collating data and mapping of known INNS across our catchments is almost complete and some clear priorities for action are beginning to emerge.



One of the main problem species on our catchments is giant hogweed, which can spread down river catchments very rapidly. As well as the ecological damage this plant can cause, forming dense stands along river banks, it can also cause serious burns/blisters. This nasty plant has taken hold on some of our rivers, notably the Ure downstream of Ripon and through Boroughbridge, the mid Swale, including the Bedale Beck catchment, the lower Nidd, including the Crimble Beck catchment around Harrogate, and the Wharfe around Otley and Ilkley. The good news is that the Environment Agency are currently undertaking control of giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed on all 'main' rivers in North Yorkshire.

However, this leaves some smaller rivers and tributaries upstream to potentially act as a source of seed to recolonise treated areas. We are therefore looking for volunteers to help with INNS survey in these areas this summer, with training planned for July. We also want to hear about any sightings of INNS in other areas so please do get in touch (dvrn@ydrft.co.uk) if you encounter INNS along our rivers, or if you would like to get involved in volunteer surveying.

We will be holding a stakeholder workshop over the summer to present the results of the mapping exercise and to gather the thoughts of partner organisations, community groups and others with an interest in tackling INNS, to help us plan and find funding for a strategic INNS control programme across our catchment in the coming years. If you or your organisation would like to take part in the workshop please let us know by emailing dvrn@ydrft.co.uk, including INNS Out! in the subject line.

Finally, please remember that the best way to tackle INNS is not to allow them to spread in the first place, so please remember to Check Clean Dry footwear, clothing and equipment when out and about, especially when moving between river catchments!

Sarah Clarke

The Dales: Your Snaps and Shots



We LOVE to see your photos of the Yorkshire Dales – especially ones of our rivers! So why not send them in or tag us in your pics across social media? Check out this months featured photos below

To get your photos featured you can send them via:

1. Email: helena.thorntoneydrt.org.uk
2. Facebook: tag our page or send them in a message
3. Instagram: tag us in your pics @yorkdalesrt.

We'll feature our favourites in next months e-newsletter and might even share them on our own social media pages!

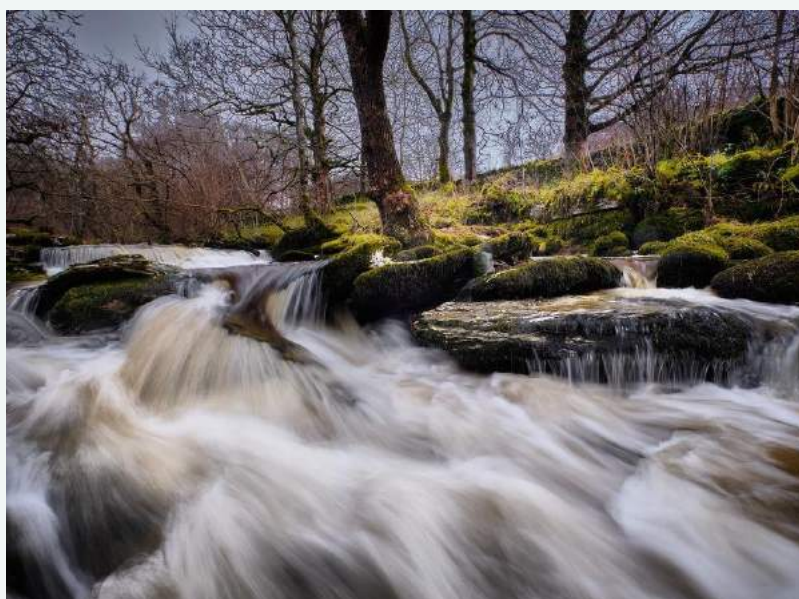


 raymar.jr

Ray: Posforth Gill, Valley of Desolation
via instagram tags @yorkdalesrt



Tony Harrison: 'Cautley Spout in the Howgills, a tributary of the River Rawthey. Showing a scene which can usually be viewed once or at most twice every decade, as the waterfall only freezes solid very infrequently. It was taken about 10 years ago by me – on the blunt end of the rope! Global warming is regrettably making activities like ice climbing, at least on England's mountains, less and less possible.'



Steve Gilley: Wharfedale
via instagram tags @yorkdalesrt