



In this issue:

Awards for Green Tourism • Bowland Festival 2008 • Volunteer hedge laying

Welcome

Dear Readers,

Several AONB events have been taking place during the autumn months including our successful Annual Conference 'Future Landscapes' in the newly re-furbished Slaidburn Village Hall. A large number of AONB partners and also businesses attended the event and were given an informative insight into issues relating to climate change from a variety of excellent speakers.

At the recent Sustainable Tourism Forum, His Grace, the Duke of Westminster proudly presented several tourism businesses with their Green Tourism Business Scheme Awards. It was an exciting event, which again brought together a significant number of businesses and partners from across Bowland to celebrate this prestigious development in Green Tourism.

Our training programme for businesses was well attended and included courses on Marketing, Green Tourism, Sense of Place and Familiarisation days. The courses enabled businesses to gain practical knowledge and ideas to use in their own business and marketing campaigns, and to learn more about the AONB.

Community projects have continued to develop, and recently a hedge laying project has been carried out by a group of enthusiastic volunteers at Stocks reservoir. These small changes have a significant visual impact on the landscape and countryside, so well done to them!

If you are interested in getting involved with any of the projects detailed please get in touch. Thank you for your support and an early Happy Christmas to you all.

Best wishes,

Hetty

Contents

Community News	3
Events	4
New route ways	5
Business News	6
Bowland in Focus	8

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This project is supported by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and has received funding from the following organisations





Newly laid hedge at Stocks



Chipping war memorial



Ancient milepost at Dunsop Bridge

Hedge laying with volunteers at Stocks

A week-long hedge laying holiday took place near Stocks reservoir from 2nd to 9th November.

United Utilities, who own the land, have several roadside hedges that, with a combination of tangled tops and sparse coverage at the bottom, were ready for laying. 7 British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and a few local people helped lay about 200m of hedge with bow saws and axes in weather varying from balmy sunshine to driving rain. Accommodation was at nearby Dale House camping barn. The volunteers were in fact the first ever guests of Chris and Cheryl Morris-Barrow (not forgetting Heidi and Scarlet and several hens and more bats than the average belfry) who finished converting their barn into a camping barn just as their guests arrived - and some things a little after! The volunteers were from Leeds, the Midlands, Derbyshire, Holland via Richmond (Surrey) and last but not least Colombia. Nigel Pilling from United Utilities was very pleased with the result. Dave Padley, from Lancashire Countryside Services, sharpened all the axes thus disproving the commonly held view that the 'BT' in 'BTCV' stands for 'Blunt Tools'! A wonderful example of sustainable tourism in action.

Martin Charlesworth from the AONB team went along for probably the worst day and got soaked, but learnt how to say 'Hello' and 'Goodbye' in Dutch and how a Dutch pack of cards differs from an English one. Several local people stopped to comment favourably on the hedge, which should now be good for the next 20 years. Martin is keen

to organise training and events solely for local volunteers, arranged to suit them - take him at his word and contact him martin.charlesworth@env.lancsc.gov.uk or **01200 426433**.

Restored war memorial

The middle photo above shows the war memorial for Chipping and Bowland with Leagram in its newly restored state with some of the people responsible for getting it planned and executed. This project had been planned for several years but finally all the loose ends were tied up this year. There was agreement to change the site to incorporate a seat and a wall, and secured funds enabled this to take place. The Forest of Bowland and 12 other funders contributed to this wonderful restoration and it is a great example of persistence and co-operation. Jayne Marginson, Joanne Hampson and Wilf Blezzard are pictured with Matt Tomlinson, LCC cabinet member for the Environment.

Ancient milepost

Have a look at this signpost (image top right). There are two actually. Most obvious is the new one but look closely and you will see an ancient milepost that appears to have been displaced to make way for the new one. This one is at Dunsop Bridge. It's a 'listed building' and we'll need permission to straighten it up! Do you know of any other ancient features that need protecting or restoring? Please let Martin know.

Future Landscapes - Annual Conference 2007 11th October at Slaidburn Village Hall



A successful event was held at the new Slaidburn Village Hall. We had an inspiring day looking to the future of the Forest of Bowland AONB.

A large number of AONB partners and businesses attended to:

- celebrate the landscapes of the Forest of Bowland
 - find out more about the European Landscape Convention
 - consider how climate change might affect the AONB and what we can do about it
- listen to a showcase of various Forest of Bowland projects
 - input views into the forthcoming management plan review
 - enjoy a delicious local lunch

For a full conference report please visit the website.

Website update

Why not direct your visitors towards our website, there's lots of useful information and we endeavour to keep it updated with new material. We have recently added a series of tramper trails to accompany the recent 'Wyresdale Wheels for All' leaflet along with a series of new public transport walks to encourage people to leave the car behind.

Visit

http://www.forestofbowland.com/wrc/wrc_walk_intro.asp

Look out next month for some new web walks around the lovely villages of Downham and Chatburn.

Last month saw the introduction of a new accommodation search facility to the website, bringing together all accredited Forest of Bowland accommodation. The search engine uses information from the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board accommodation database, to which we've also added the Yorkshire businesses. This will be a really useful asset for visitors - check that your business is listed and if it isn't and should be, then please contact Hetty.

Moorland safari walk, Bowland Festival 2007



Bowland Festival 2008!

Discover the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at the Bowland Festival from 1-8 June 2008.

The Bowland Festival offers a unique opportunity to learn more about the area's exceptional birds and wildlife, explore its heritage, enjoy its landscape and sample its delicious food and drink through a series of events and activities led by experts.

Events are taking place across the area and cover a wide range of interesting topics. Look out for new events for 2008.

To reserve a free copy of the Bowland Festival events programme visit www.bowlandfestival.co.uk or call Clitheroe Travel on **01200 420301**

New route ways



Installing a gate on a Trampler trail at Cobble Hey



Trampler in use below Harrisend Fell

North Lancashire Bridleway - Phase II

Work on developing the second phase of the North Lancashire Bridleway is currently underway, and includes the creation of further local networks linked to the existing long distance route. As sections are completed updates will be available via the Forest of Bowland website.

Lots House Circular ride

A circular route taking in a new concessionary bridleway linking Moorside Road, Brookhouse and Roeburndale Road, Littledale was launched in Spring 2007. Provision of safe off-road parking for horseboxes is available at a local farm.

For a copy of the route visit the website

http://www.forestofbowland.com/wrc/wrc_intro.asp

Wyresdale Wheels for All update

The Wyresdale Wheels for All leaflet was launched on 14th August with the aim of introducing everyone, and people with disabilities in particular, to the Scorton area, part of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The Trampler is available to hire at any of the businesses involved in order to access their facilities, plus drive along the rights of way shown on the map. These are being especially adapted for Trampler use, and enable all users to experience the natural beauty of the area. The business members undergo training so they can confidently show Trampler users how to ride safely and with confidence.

Interest in this project has quickly developed, and users include visitors to the area, locals and members of the Lancashire Local Access Forum. Since May 2007 23 users have used the chair on a total of 31 days on routes and sites detailed in the Wyresdale Wheels for All leaflet.

Work is currently underway, and is due to be completed by early spring, on several farm based Trampler trails at Cobble Hey Farm & Gardens, Cloughton-on-Brock and Broadgate Farm and Bleasdale Cottages both at Bleasdale.

To download a copy of the leaflet or the trails visit

http://www.forestofbowland.com/wrc/wrc_intro.asp

Leave the car behind

We have recently added five new linear walks to the web walks section of our website. These are all accessible by public transport, which means you can enjoy your walk by catching a bus from Clitheroe, Settle or nearby East Lancashire and take a ride into Bowland. Alternatively you can park your car at one end of the walk and catch a bus to walk back.

We are also supporting the new B10 bus group, who are organising guided walks on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the year. Walks in the Hodder and Ribble valley are all based around our local bus services, departing from Clitheroe and Settle. For details of their walks see the news section of our website, or phone them on **0113 264 5920**. Why not encourage your visitors to leave the car behind one day, or take a day off and explore Bowland for yourself!

New leaflets

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find three new leaflets: 'Welcome to Bolton-by-Bowland, Sawley & Tosside' and 'Welcome to Chipping' both in our series of village leaflets which feature over 20 businesses along with useful information about these beautiful areas of the AONB and a lovely walk. The 'Fishing in Bowland' leaflet provides general information on angling in the Forest of Bowland along with details of 12 businesses offering different types of fishing.

Business News



Successful businesses and their awards, presented by His Grace, the Duke of Westminster

Awards for Green Tourism

Seventeen tourism operators received Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards in the area's first Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS).

The tourism businesses, ranging from campsites, restaurants, pubs, self-catering accommodation and cycle hire, have achieved 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 6 bronze awards with the Green Tourism Business Scheme. Winners received their awards at The Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Forum on Thursday 15th November at Over Wyresdale Parish Hall, Abbeystead, presented by His Grace, the Duke of Westminster.

In addition to working towards their awards with GTBS these businesses have shown a commitment to working with the Forest of Bowland AONB and other tourism businesses in the area through the Sustainable Tourism Network. These quality accredited businesses also encourage consumers to contribute towards the area's payback scheme, the Bowland Tourism Environment Fund, which puts money directly into environmental projects in the area.

Over 80 businesses and partners of the Forest of Bowland attended the successful event. It provided an opportunity for businesses to gain an update on progress in delivering the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and listen to inspiring words by several businesses and community groups about their specific sustainable tourism developments. These

included insights from Anne Clark of Broadgate Farm; Chris Morris-Barrow of Dale House camping barn; Ann Fletcher, the Chipping Lengthswoman and James Starkie, Chairman of Roughlee Parish Council. The Priory at Scorton provided a hearty and enjoyable lunch. Thanks to all our speakers and well done to all those who received an award, it is extremely inspiring to see such a strong commitment to sustainable tourism in a wide variety of businesses in Bowland.

European Charter Business

The Forest of Bowland AONB gained the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas



in 2005 and has been working to develop a way to get individual business recognised as committed to the objectives of sustainable tourism. We are now - November 2007 - able to invite tourism operators to become a European Charter Business.

To be a European Charter Business, businesses will have to meet the following criteria:

- Be an active member of the Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network
- Maintain a Bowland Tourism & Environment Fund information and collection box
- Have a recognised, relevant Quality accreditation as agreed with the AONB
- Have an eco-tourism accreditation as agreed with the AONB - usually Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Being a European Charter Business will have a number of benefits including a certificate and use of a logo, we will keep the website updated with new developments or if you require further information please contact Mike Pugh.



Beacon Fell familiarisation day on Trammer route at Cobble Hey Farm & Gardens with Countryside Officer, Tarja Wilson



Familiarisation day at Gisburn Forest, walk to Dale Head Church led by Countryside Officer, Dave Padley

Successful training

During the autumn the AONB ran a successful programme of training days for people involved in the business of sustainable tourism. The courses were well attended and covered a variety of topics including a Green Tourism course, which looked at how to improve environmental performance while saving money and time, the course also addressed waste minimisation, improving energy efficiency and renewable energy practice. The popular Sense of Place workshop that was also delivered last year, enabled participants to develop their own understanding of 'a sense of place' and look at how this could be developed in the marketing of their business. A marketing course run by the Tourism Centre at Lancaster University provided practical solutions for creative marketing as well as the production of a creative marketing action plan. Two familiarisation days took place at Beacon Fell and Gisburn Forest, which enabled businesses to develop and improve their understanding of the AONB and its special qualities, it was also an opportunity to network and visit other tourism businesses whilst participating in outdoor activities such as walking and riding a Trammer:

Feedback from the training was excellent, a comment from one participant on the Marketing training course was *'The training session far exceeded my expectations and I have gained many useful points from which I hope my business will benefit in the future, excellent thank you.'*

Discovery Guide

We are currently putting together our new 'Discovery Guide' - a visitor guide for the Forest of Bowland AONB. It will include information about walking, cycling, wildlife, history, local produce and accommodation and will be a really useful addition to our range of publicity materials. The Discovery Guide will be available from February from Tourist Information Centres and we will also send out a reference copy to all tourism businesses in Bowland.

Ordering leaflets

If you are a BTEF host or a Network member you can order Forest of Bowland leaflets, BTEF pin-badges and postcards from Brochurelink.

If you are using e-mail go to www.brochurelink.net, using your contact ID and password to enter the order page. If you have lost or forgotten your ID and/or password, e-mail admin@brochurelink.net and ask for a replacement. If you are ordering by post, you should have received a paper order form - use this to re-order. If you have lost this, please phone **0151 653 8494** for a new one.

Bowland in Focus

Dale House camping barn, Dale Head, Slaidburn

A year ago Chris and Cheryl Morris-Barrow and their young family purchased a house in an idyllic spot with views over Stocks reservoir and Gisburn Forest. Attached to their house is a derelict 17th century barn and it was their dream to preserve this barn in a way that was sensitive to the beautiful surroundings but could also be developed in some way to bring it back to life.

And so began the project of Dale House camping barn...

Chris and Cheryl wanted to develop a barn that didn't detract too much from the original structure and so set about creating accommodation space around the original fixtures and fittings. The beams were incorporated into the build of the stairs, which lead to a cosy mezzanine floor sleeping area. The remainder of the space is made up of a simple kitchen, living area and toilets and showers which make use of the original cattle stalls, and the toilet has been adapted specifically for disabled access. The barn has also made use of a Bio Disc sanitation system which is an efficient and environmentally safe solution to sewage disposal. The cosy ambience to the barn is finished off with a wood burning stove, which soon warms the building after a cold day on the fells.

The barn took 2 months to complete and was just in time for its first booking of a group of conservation volunteers, who were working on laying a hedge just about a mile down the road. Despite the rush to meet the completion deadline for the camping barn, the volunteers had a really enjoyable stay and even embarked on some evening walks to capture the atmosphere of the area, having been hard at work all day.

A recent addition to the family has been a brood of ex-battery hens, so Chris and Cheryl are now able to offer free-range eggs to their visitors and passers-by.

This is an idyllic location for those wanting simple but comfortable accommodation in a beautiful part of Bowland; its a special gem for those wanting to seek out the wide open spaces for walking or to enjoy some peaceful mountain biking in the many trails through Gisburn Forest.

For further details please contact Chris and Cheryl on **01200 446820**



Dale House



Chris & Cheryl Morris-Barrow and family inside the new Dale House camping barn

This project is being part-funded by the AONB's sustainable tourism project. If you have an idea for a sustainable tourism project and need some assistance, please contact Cathy Hopley or Mike Pugh.

Image Credits

Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB, Cover, P6 & 7; Charlie Hedley, Countryside Agency, P2; Martin Charlesworth, Forest of Bowland AONB, P3; Denis Oates, LCC, P4; Tarja Wilson, Lancashire Countryside Service, P5; Chris Morris-Barrow, Dale House Camping Barn, P8.