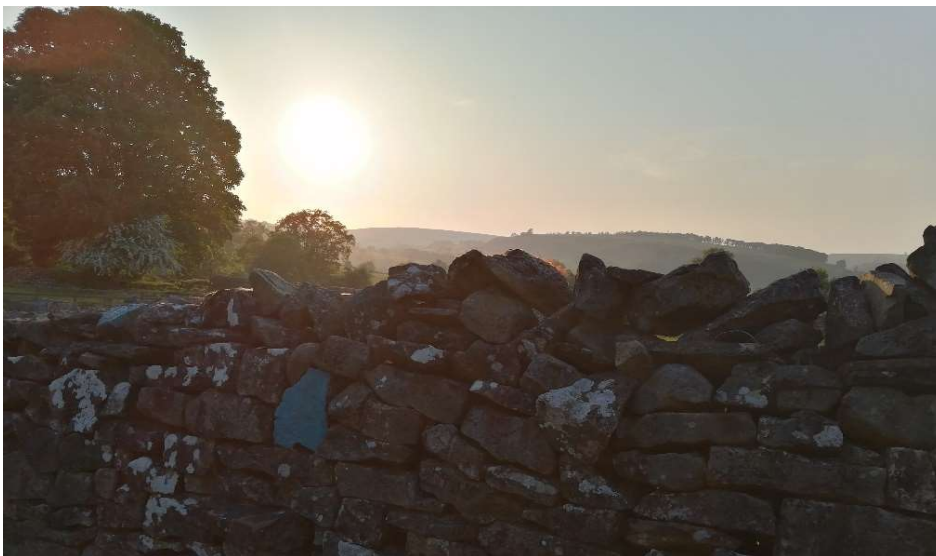


Issue 1 November 2023

Holmedale Community Nature Project Newsletter

A warm welcome to all readers to our first but hopefully not last issue of the Holmedale Community Nature Project. I would like to thank Sean Baker for some fantastic photos (see photo credits).



How it all began. Early in the year National Highways approached Whashton Parish regarding a potential biodiversity project, to be funded as compensation for loss of habitat resulting from the A66 improvement works. They were seeking a substantial project.

Whashton residents Sally Zaranko and Lizzie Rumble

organised a meeting to gauge interest from neighbouring communities. The meeting was attended by about 40 people who generated many ideas for potential project activities.

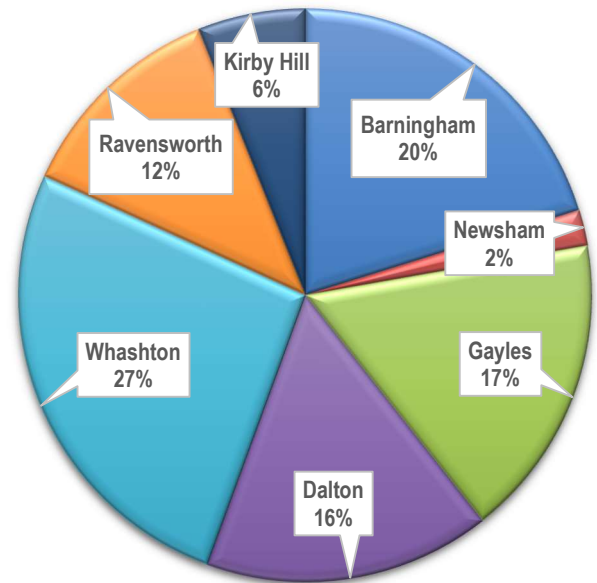
A steering group was formed with representatives from each village (Lizzie & Janet Clipsham, Whashton; Ross Addinall, Ravensworth; Linda Goulbourne & Marie-Pierre Dean, Gayles; Sue Ley, Dalton; Martha McBarron, Barningham). Since then, the steering group has been meeting on a regular basis to build the vision and scope of the project. This included carrying out a residents' survey in late Spring. We are now ready to share our progress.

Residents Survey 2023

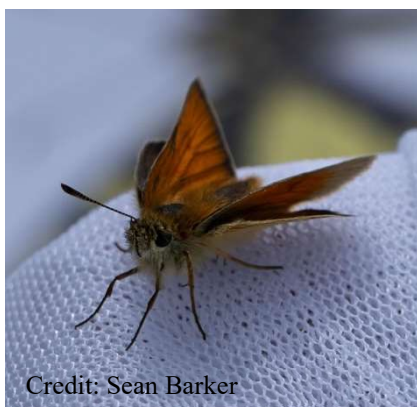
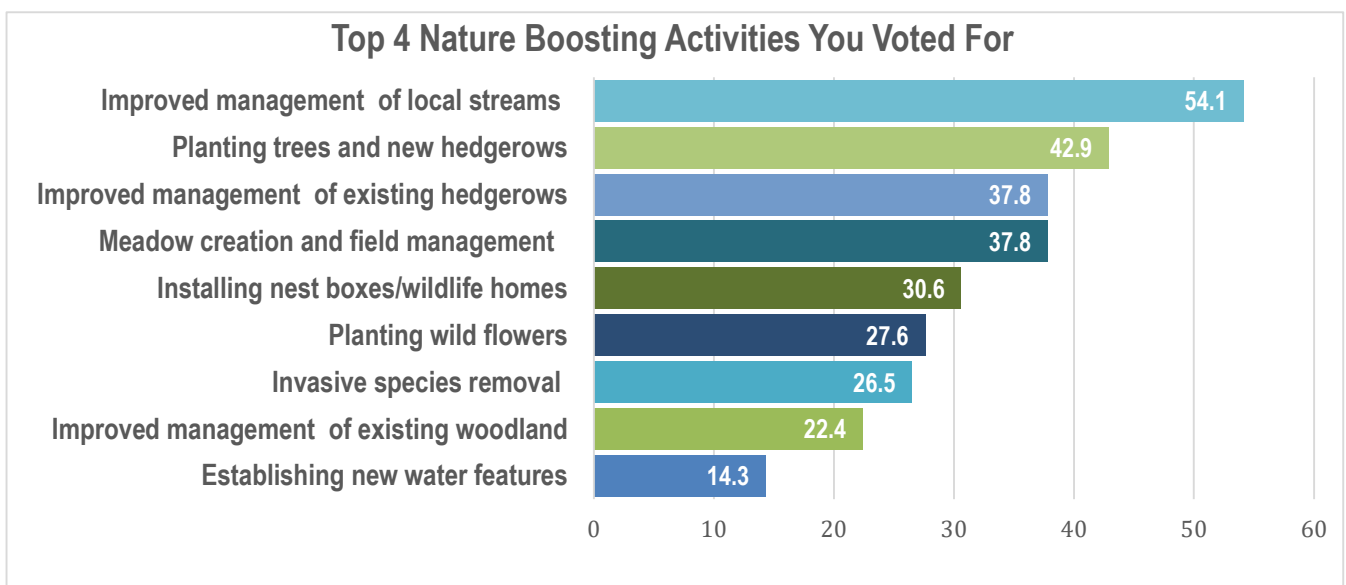
Thank you to all those who participated in the survey. We were delighted that 99 residents completed the survey which is roughly a 10% response rate. Additional results from Newsham are due to be incorporated.

The key findings to date are provided here.

Most importantly 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would like the project to improve biodiversity, and 85.9% would like the main priority of the project to be “*giving nature a helping hand.*”



Residents were asked to pick the top four nature boosting activities they would like to see and the results are shown below:



Credit: Sean Barker

A full summary of the results will be presented at our residents’ meeting on Monday 20th November at Dalton and Gayles Village Hall.

Funding update

As discussed in the initial February meeting, we had hoped to gain funding from National Highways for the project but this now appears uncertain in the short term.

We are applying for alternative funding for short and longer term activities. Watch this space!

Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust visit

Due to the strong interest indicated in watercourse improvement activities from our community consultation, we contacted the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT) for advice and support. Introductions were made online and in September, we hosted Dr Marie Taylor (CEO) and Senior Project Managers Charlotte Simons and Tim Longstaff for a guided walk and talk around our Holmedale becks. We discussed actions that we could take to improve our watercourses and manage flood risk, as well as picking their brains on other project ideas. The YDRT will be an important project partner for us and we have been happy with their positive response to our group and project plans.

Community Engagement Talks 2024

As we draw closer to 2024, we wish to share our plans for next year. It is our hope to invite speakers, enthusiasts, and experts along to host talks and workshops in our village halls. Our aim is to provide one session per month based around the themes that residents have shown the most interest in. This is likely to include healthy watercourses, hedgerow management, planting for pollinators, meadow creation, supporting bird populations and much more. Have your say by coming along to our meeting on Monday 20th November at 7pm at Dalton and Gayles Village Hall.



Riverfly monitoring

We are excited to share that several of us in the steering group, along with other interested residents, have been trained to carry out riverfly monitoring in our local watercourses. Martha worked with The Riverfly Partnership, YDRT, the Environment Agency and local anglers to arrange funding for the training and monitoring equipment, identify suitable monitoring sites and support the new volunteers. This has also given us the opportunity to build a positive relationship with our local anglers to work together to improve our local water courses. The monthly monitoring started in August.



Credit: Sean Barker



You are invited

Come along to our open meeting on
**Monday 20th November 7pm at Dalton
and Gayles Village Hall.**

All residents and landowners in Barningham
and Holmedale parishes are welcome.

The plan for the evening includes sharing the
results of the residents' survey, sharing the
steering groups vision for the project and
small group discussions.

Refreshments will be provided.

Further details contact Lizzie at:
wildwhaston@gmail.com or 07969 490302



Credit: Sean Barker

Expression of interest Calling all landowners and farmers in Holmedale

Would you like to share your knowledge and
experience of nature friendly land
management?

Are you interesting in finding out what small
and big changes you could make to support
local wildlife without compromising your
business?

Do you have a nature friendly project in
mind and would perhaps like some support?

Please let us know and we can explore how
we can shape the project with you.

Contact: wildwhaston@gmail.com or speak
to one of us in person (see our names on
Page 1).

WANTED Volunteers

Interested in representing your
local community and/or having an
active role in supporting our
wildlife?

We are looking for additional
volunteers to join our friendly
steering group. No skills or
experience required.

Contact Lizzie at:
wildwhaston@gmail.com or
07969 490302

