



REG

NEWSLETTER

August 2024



ryedaleeg@hotmail.com



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Who are Ryedale Environment Group (REG)?

Ryedale Environment Group (REG) is a developing grassroots organisation helping local communities reduce Ryedale's carbon footprint, by promoting positive projects to reduce environmental impacts across the district.

It acts as a discussion forum for established environmental groups such as Kirkbymoorside, Pickering and Hovingham, as well as fledgling groups including Helmsley, Malton/Norton, Lastingham, Kirby Misperton and Slingsby. New groups are encouraged to join and monthly online meetings allow us to share successful initiatives and brainstorm new ideas. We are strictly apolitical and welcome new members from all political persuasions and walks of life.

REG Talks

Our online talks via Zoom remain popular, and recent topics have included: Keep Ryedale Buzzing with Claire Ivey from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Nature-Friendly Farming with Mark Palmer from Systems4food; A Swift Recovery: Keeping the Skies Alive with Edward Mayer from Swift Conservation; Geothermal Energy in Ryedale; and The Green Transformation of Community Buildings with Ray Newton from Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Centre.

Please check www.ryedaleenvirogroup.co.uk for details of future events and recordings of previous talks. We're also always delighted to receive ideas for topics you'd like to hear about!

Restoring Ryedale update

Our February issue introduced Restoring Ryedale, an initiative created by Ryedale Environment Group to initiate and support nature recovery projects run by various entities and groups within the Ryedale area of North Yorkshire.

The main focus so far has been our work with councils to allow nature to return by creating wildflower verges. Those already established in Pickering, Kirkbymoorside, Kirby Misperton and Allerston are starting to thrive due to the new cutting regimes ("cut and collect" twice per year).

Members of the working group have started giving talks to town and parish councils, and are organising a [nature recovery conference](#) for 27th September 2024. This conference will include speakers from North Yorkshire Council, AONB Howardian Hills and North Yorks Moors National Park, which is kindly sponsoring this event. Tickets are available from [Eventbrite](#).

www.ryedaleenvirogroup.co.uk

Spotlight on Allerston Wildlife Enthusiasts (AWE)

The seed for Allerston Wildlife Enthusiasts was planted in the summer of 2023. It was sown by a small number of village residents with the aim of improving the chances for wildlife in Allerston and the local area.

The very first meeting happened at the Water Gap, an area of common land behind the Methodist chapel. This inaugural meeting involved cake and refreshments, a tradition that has continued ever since, along with an open and welcoming atmosphere.

We are hopeful for positive change for nature. We are working through the process of applying for charity status, which we hope will help with fundraising and with claiming Gift Aid.

Our boldest aim is to purchase land from North Yorkshire Council to create habitat for the threatened turtle doves. The aim is to fundraise up to £150,000 to achieve this objective. We need all the help we can get on this front, and hope to crowdfund, hold fundraising events and apply for grants. We are liaising with Operation Turtle Dove and other interested parties, and we welcome advice and support from anyone who has any knowledge or funds to support this project. Alongside providing habitat for turtle doves, we hope this land will also provide sanctuary for other wildlife such as butterflies, other birds, invertebrates and amphibians. Not to mention providing a refuge for Homo sapiens, to connect with nature.

We have already raised over £800 through cakes (you can see a theme here!), a raffle and Christmas wreath sales. We have been liaising with the Parish Council about ways we can manage verges and shared areas for the betterment of nature. We have held a bug hotel building day and a talk from Alan and Pat Staniforth about wildlife-friendly gardening. Later on in the year, we hope to hold bulb and tree planting events.

It's an exciting prospect to be part of a wider national movement to make space for nature, and we are hopeful for great change. We reach out to anyone who may be able to help us, in small ways or more, and welcome you to follow us on Facebook or visit allerstonwildlife.org, contact us at allerstonwe@gmail.com, or call Laura on 07847321846.

Our meetings are held approximately every couple of months, so if you'd like to come along please do let us know and we can share details.



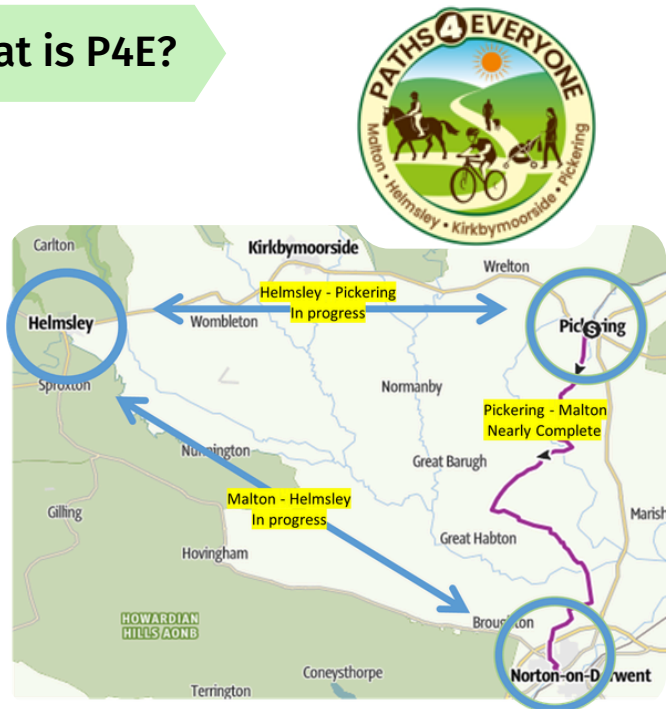
Photos (from top to bottom): Bug Hotel Day in Allerston with Raffi Cox and Mary Kemp; Saving the verge from the mowers at the top of the village in Allerston (the Butts area); The refreshments stall at Earth Day in Pickering. Photos taken by Marie Beresford-Dey, Mary Kemp, John Plowright, Graham Sigsworth, Laura Stephenson.

Stories from local projects: What is P4E?

Paths for Everyone (P4E) will provide safe, independent active travel across Ryedale.

Why P4E?

- P4E are for wheelchair users, walkers, pushchairs, cyclists of all ages, cycles adapted for disability, mobility scooters, horse-riders and runners.
- P4E will improve the health and well-being of our community.
- P4E will support our local economy.
- P4E will reduce our carbon footprint, providing safer, easier and greener connectivity between our towns and villages.



What is the scope of P4E?

The plan in consultation with NYC, is to link the market towns of **Malton, Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside and Pickering**.

This Market Town Circular will connect our village communities to the towns.

- The Pickering to Malton section is nearly complete.
- Linking the market towns will create a circular route of approximately 50 miles of safe, active travel and independent connectivity for individuals and families.
- It will provide the opportunity to link communities inside and outside the route, significantly increasing active travel to around 200 miles radius. P4E will enable linking the Way of the Roses Wolds route, routes to York, and the Moors to Sea Cycle Route.
- The objective is to complete the Paths by 2030.

What are the benefits of having P4E?

People living in rural communities are less active than their counterparts in large towns and cities. In rural communities, the car is primarily used to travel. At a time when tackling obesity and poor mental health is a top priority for society, what better way to encourage and enjoy low cost healthy exercise, with the provision of safe, accessible, cycling, walking and horse riding paths.

- Children will be able to ride to school. Parents will have the opportunity to exercise and push prams in safety, individuals with disabilities will not be so constrained by their location. Horse owners will be able to extend their rides.
- The local economy will benefit from the improved connectivity. Tourism will get a boost.
- Active travel will reduce the amount of traffic on the roads and cut down carbon emissions, improving air quality.
- Overall, P4E will improve the health, wealth and well-being of our community. The community benefits are enormous.

If you would like to keep in contact and receive communications updates, please get in touch:
Helen Gundry on 07827315131 or Frank Colenso on 07541854765, or email: p4eryedale@outlook.com.

More about sustainable travel in Ryedale

There will be a Teams meeting on Thursday 24th October 1–2pm, intended to boost wider support for P4E. For a meeting link, please email p4eryedale@outlook.com.

In addition, Ryedale Cycle Forum will be meeting 10–11am on Tuesday 17th September, also on Teams, and all are welcome to attend. To receive meeting notifications, anyone can subscribe to getryedalecycling.com by clicking the subscribe box on the website.

“Your Moors, your Moorsbus”: this volunteer-run network of buses is waiting to take you across the North York Moors National Park and its surrounding area, every weekend until the end of October. Do you want to support transport sharing, but not sure where to go? Moorsbus.org have some handy “Days Out” guides from different starting points, such as Helmsley. View on-line, or download here: <https://www.moorsbus.org/days-out.html>

Stories from local environment groups: Pickering goes wild!

Pickering Environment Group, working alongside Pickering Town CIC, Beck Isle Museum and many other community groups, organised a range of events across the town to celebrate Earth Day on 20th April. Over four hundred people took part, with many of those pledging to make way for wildlife by rewilding part of their garden. The events signified the start of Pickering’s very own Blue Campaign, where blue hearts are used to designate spaces devoted to nature in gardens and on roadside verges.

Eighty blue heart signposts were given out, mostly to children, at the Wildlife and Nature Fair, which was packed with experts from organisations such as the RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Butterfly Conservation, Yorkshire Dragonfly Group and businesses offering advice on wildlife friendly plants and seeds. Most of the hearts were then decorated at the heart decoration station run by Pickering Town CIC outside the Beck Isle Museum.



“It was a joy to see so many people, especially children, inspired to help nature. So much depends on the next generation” said Paul Norrington, from Pickering Environment Group. “More and more people are realising that gardens play an increasingly important role in nature recovery and can be even more rewarding if they are managed in a way to benefit species beyond us humans” he added.



The “Go Wild” event at Beck Isle Museum was also an unprecedented success. Entry was free thanks to a grant from North Yorkshire Stronger Communities, and continued the wildlife theme with talks, sunflower planting, a bug hunt and themed crafts for younger visitors.

Michala Pearson, Engagement and Operations Manager, commented “It was fantastic to welcome so many local people to the museum and to support such a worthwhile cause”.

Other events on the day included a “Waste Not Want Not” eco fair at The Hungate Centre, run by CaVCA, and a local wildlife photography exhibition in the library.

Want to learn more about our activities?

Please visit www.ryedaleenvirogroup.co.uk or email ryedaleeg@hotmail.com