



Treesponsibility Newsletter



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Hello all, and welcome to yet another treesponsibility newsletter – Volume 2 Issue 25, to be precise. (I don't know whether it is me getting older, but they seem to come round faster and faster – I feel like I have only just finished the last one!). Anyway, this issue is a rather sketchy example of the genre, because I am busily trying to finish spending the EA funding on time and on budget, which is my main focus at the moment.

Anyway, to cut to the chase, I need to remind you all that the treesponsibility 19th birthday weekend will take place on 10th-12th March. We will be staying at Height Gate, and tree-planting on the Saturday and Sunday at StoneBooth cottage, off Haworth Old Road, where you will also be able to see some of our NFM interventions. Please let us know asap if you are intending to come.

Things have been poodling along quite nicely since Issue 24. Pinnacle Farm is almost finished, thanks to a good turn out at our new year's planting; we've made good progress at Withins End, thanks to Josie's 30th Birthday planting, and the Woodcraft Folk planting weekend; and we've held our biggest volunteer event ever, with about 150 people from all over the country taking part in a planting day at Lodge Farm which we organised for the Church of Christ (we had been expecting 30 just a week before, but then things spiralled!)

Those of you who receive the newsletter by post will notice that it has a first class stamp. This is because Friday 3rd March is the LAST DAY of a crowd-funding push for the film "High Water, Common Ground" about Natural Flood Management. Andrew Clark the film-maker is hoping to raise £3000 to finish the production. Treesponsibility will be featured in the film, so we hope he reaches the target. The trailer and further details can be found at @HighWaterFilm on Twitter or @HighWaterCommonGround on Facebook, and the kick-starter campaign link is here:- (<http://kck.st/2jUIxu8>).

That's all for now, hopefully see you soon.

Dongria x



Just a few of the Church of Christ volunteers. Most were from the Philippines, and they were a really lovely crowd, and really enthusiastic in spite of appalling weather.

Phew!

It was a huge relief to be able to get our polytunnel reskinned before storm Doris blew in - the polytunnel is a vital part of treesponsibility's operations because it is where we store all our planting equipment, so it was big worry when a hole in the plastic appeared in January.

We would like to say a very big thank you to Performers without Borders who paid for the new skin (they have a small environment fund, because of their air travel).



Performers Without Borders

Performers Without Borders gives orphans and vulnerable children the opportunity to explore their potential through learning performance arts. Their work mainly takes the form of a 3 month tour, with a team of up to 9 volunteer circus and performance artists, who spend 1 month at 3 schools and orphanages in Indian and Nicaragua. During that time they encourage personal development by teaching the children various aspects of the performing arts which concludes with a show presented to their local community.

The project has run for almost 10 years entirely on hard working volunteers and their dedication and commitment. In 2015 they took the step of paying part time admin staff to keep PWB running every day, as it was no longer deemed sustainable for them to run entirely on volunteer support. They would also like to cover the expenses of their intrepid Tour Coordinators, who donate up to an entire YEAR of their time recruiting, planning, organising and finally facilitating and ensuring the success of each PWB tour. And although they get a lot of donations of circus equipment, they do need to allocate some funds to buying and repairing workshop essentials and other Tour materials.

Performers Without Borders already have a campaign for receiving small donations (£2 to £50) called the FAB500 (see their website). But they are now also looking for larger donors who can support their work with a single or regular bigger donations. They are also looking for Patrons and Trustees who can help guide their mainly volunteer led charity, so that it is self-funding and sustainable for the future. Please contact them if you can help them in any of these capacities or can put them in touch with someone who can.



Natural Flood Management in Stroud, a field trip.

By Keith Wilson, Sticks and Stones

Early in January, 2017, a few Calderdale folk went to visit Chris Uttley, the Natural Flood Management officer for Stroud Council. As you may be aware, Stroud also suffers from flooding and is one of the few councils to have invested in an NFM post.

Our rather open ended mission was to see how they operate down there, and more specifically to see some woody debris/leaky dams and learn how they make them.

After meeting Chris and some people from the Environment Agency we were taken to a site above the town to work with some contractors to make a few dams across a tributary of one of their rivers.

First suitable spots were chosen for the dams. Criteria for selection included looking for a widening of the clough where water could be successfully moved out of the stream to the flood plane banks, and there being suitable trees that could be felled. Once the sites had been identified – squeezing as many in as possible, as they work best in series, the trees were felled. Using a winch attached to a tractor the stems were pulled into place, adjusting by hand using cant hooks and crowbars. Chainsaw were on hand to cut them to length or remove and woody stumps that were in the way. The dams are almost thrown together. There is no attempt to stop the flow of the stream with the dam, we are only trying to slow the flow. Gaps reduce the forces on the dam and if they are too small the river in spate could destroy the work.



Finally holes are drilled through the logs with a massive petrol driver auger and steel rods, about 1 inch diameter are driven through to pin the logs together. These help ensure the dams wont go anywhere when the river is up. Unfortunately we didn't get to see these part of the operation, they tend to build all the dams then pin them all at the end, but we did pick up some tips – like have several spare augers as some will get stuck! Then smaller branch wood is piled in or behind the dams to help catch any more woody debris that flows down stream.

That evening we went to a nice pub with Chris and talked about wider issues of his post. He gets people who have been affected by the flooding to talk to land owners to acquire sites. He offer the work of building any interventions – be they leaky dams, bunds or other earth works to the land owners themselves which give them another incentive – a job - as well as helping to ensure that the features will be looked after and maintained. He has contractors on hand if they don't want the work and he himself works on site with whoever does the

work. He has managed to side step the usual council restriction of tendering for work. He needs to interact with various bodies to ensure felling licenses are in places, and take into account whatever local wildlife concerns there are for a given site.

He also gave us a map so we could visit some other sites where interventions have been made the next day. He was very generous with his knowledge and has invited us to keep in contact should we require any guidance in the future.

On day two we hit the road and went to see some earthworks. At a National Trust site where heavy rains turn a track into a river turn-bys had been dug to take the water into ditches buy the side. The ditches however were compartmentalised with logs and clay to form temporary ponds. They must have held thousands of gallons of water and looked very pleasing to the eye. They were incorporated into a kids play area, a woodland trail they could follow.



We saw some older wood debris dams which were some of the first they built. It was useful to see as they weren't all that good – lessons had been learned and we don't need to repeat their mistakes. Large stems are better than little one and the more steel pins you use the better! We could see where the dams could have been better placed too.



Finally we saw some bunds in fields. Sloping fields had had the turf removed while the earth was re-profiled to make long mounds along the contours. Turn-bys had been made to feed surface run off from the track into these temporary ponds. It wasn't easy to get a decent photo of these, especially with the bright low winter sun.

All in all it was a very useful and informative trip. Chris is lovely. He's very enthusiastic about his post and very accommodating to us piling in, interrupting his work and asking loads of questions.



And here is a leaky dam that we did in Long Field Farm near Todmorden last month

DON'T BANK WITH  BARCLAYS



***They're FRACKING
RYEDALE OVER***

FRACKING



Speeds up climate change

Produces hazardous pollutants that can damage health

Blights roads & countryside with mass lorry movements

Not needed as transitional fuel

Overrides local planning decisions

A web of financial interests links Tory politicians & fracking co's.

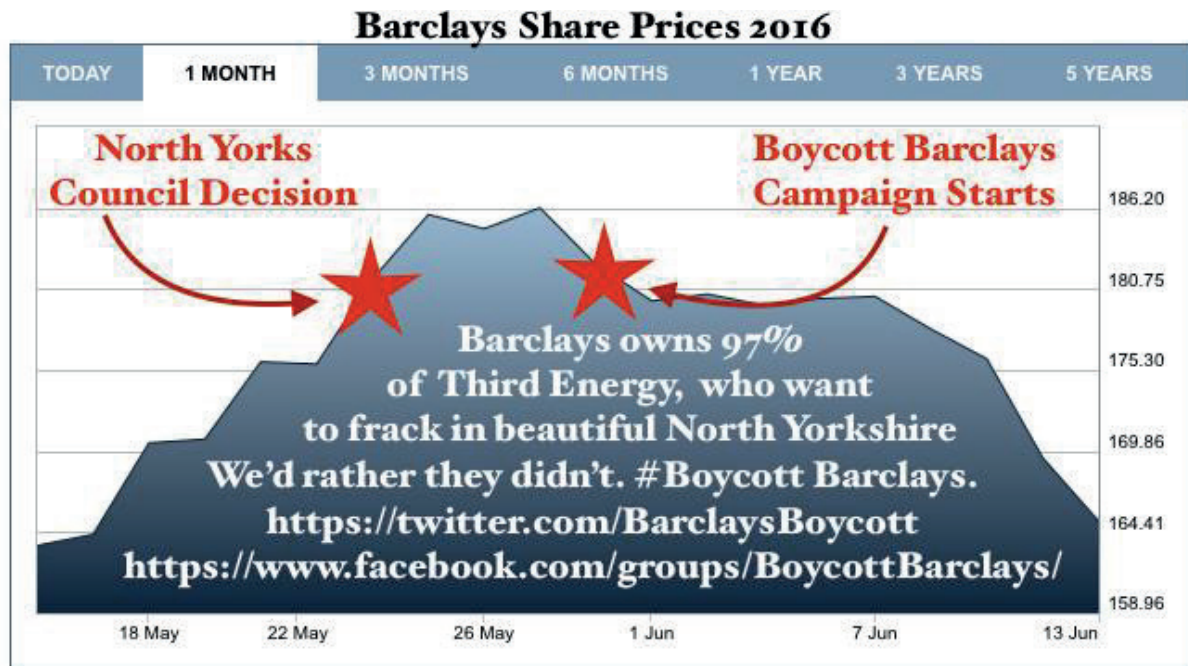
Support Kirkby Misperton and Preston New Road camps

Barclays owns the company fracking Ryedale

Published by Frack Free Planet (Calderdale) c/o 19 Unity Street, Hebden Bridge HX7 8HQ

Move Your Money! It Works!

The **Boycott Barclays** campaign drove down share prices



As at 14-Jun-2016 12:49:00 - All data delayed by at least 15 minutes.



If you want to tell Barclays to GET THEIR FRACKING HANDS OFF RYEDALE please write to: John McFarlane, Barclays Chairman, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP



Move your money to a fossil-free bank - www.moveyourmoney.org.uk
More info on facebook: **Boycott Barclays**
Keep your fracking hands off Calderdale
Online: foe.co.uk/fracking



Treesponsibility March/April Programme 2017

March 7th Planting with Scout Road School at Rowlands Farm

March 9th Planting with SUMA at StoneBooth Cottage, Crimsworth

March 10-12th Treesponsibility 19th Birthday Weekend. Please book if you want to stay at the camping barn – treesponsibility@yahoo.co.uk. (£25 for all food and accommodation). We will be staying at Height Gate and planting at Stone Booth Cottage.

**Hebden Bridge Station pickups:- Friday:- 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday:- 10.20a.m.**

It is also possible to make your own way to the plantings by taking a Keighley bus and alighting at Howarth Old Road. Walk down the road for approximately half a mile until you see the tree-planting signs.

March 13th – Planting with Hebden Royd School at Middle Strines

March 14th – Planting with Ash Green School at Wilcroft House

March 15th – Planting with Ash Green School at Wilcroft House

March 17th – Planting with Colden School at Middle Strines

Sunday March 19th NVDA TRAINING DAY FOR PEOPLE WANTING TO TAKE PART IN DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST FRACKING. HEBDEN BRIDGE TRADES CLUB 10am – 1.30 pm. If you are new to direct action but want to get involved to stop fracking in its tracks, this workshop is for you. Please let Dongria know if you are coming 07847 815 926

..and if you want to make a day of it...

Sunday March 19th – 2p.m. Planting with Manchester Quakers at Pinnacle Farm

March TBC - Planting day with St. Joseph's at Lodge Farm

Sunday March 26th – Planting with St. Augustine's Centre refugees at Withens End. Please join in! Pickups from Sowerby Bridge station by arrangement

March 28th – Planting with Burnley Road School above Redacre Wood

April 4th – Planting with Castle Hill School – Site to be confirmed

April 5th – Planting with Sowerby Village School at Lower Springs Farm

April 7th – 9th. GAPS Planting weekend. Everyone welcome to join us at Hardcastle Craggs on Saturday and Sunday. Hebden Bridge station pick up 10.20 a.m.

April 22nd – Private planting Day

28th - 30th April – Liverpool Woodcraft Folk planting weekend. Details tbc.