

The Friends of Ilkley Moor
Charity Commission reference 1126733
15 The Haywain, Ilkley LS29 8SL
Annual Review of 2021/22 Activities

Impact of Covid 19 restrictions

After the fundamental restriction on activities in the 2020/21 year due to Covid restrictions the gradual easing of restrictions at the start of the 2021/22 year meant that our activities could recommence. From 29 March 2021 outdoor social contact between 6 people or 2 households was permitted subject to the 2 metres distancing rule. From 17 May meetings of up to 30 people outdoors were permitted.

Accordingly, our work party volunteers could recommence work from 13 April, albeit initially in groups of up to 6, and an Events Programme could be operated albeit with tight booking requirements to manage participants natural concerns. As the litter picking volunteers normally operate in house-holds groups of 2 these were not impacted in the same way. Over 1,000 disposable face masks have been collected during their activities!

Review of Activities

The stated aims in FOIM's Constitution are noted below together with examples of activities undertaken in each case. References to 'Council' are to Bradford MDC.

- To restore, protect and improve Ilkley Moor, for the benefit of the environment, all those who use Ilkley Moor and those who reside in the surrounding area.
 - A day weekly is undertaken by our work volunteer group to carry out conservation works on the Moor including footpath restoration, bracken control, vegetation clearance, habitat management. Given the Covid restrictions volunteer activities could only be undertaken in groups of 6 initially. By the end of the year groups of 16+ were active demonstrating the success of this team. Work has focussed on Hebers Ghyll footpath and steps, (including Chalybeate Spring), the lower path in Hebers Ghyll Woods, the Lower Tarn outflow area, as well as supporting balsam bashing activities on the River Wharfe. The team were re-equipped with £1,200 of new tools in November. Despite reduced activity time only in the early part of the year around £19,000 of volunteer value was added this year.
 - The litter picking group of 35 individuals were very active throughout the year – their success being recognised by members Moo Ping and Jolyon West jointly receiving the Litter Picker of the Year award. This relatively new activity has added some £23,000 of volunteer value this year
 - Since its establishment in 2008 FOIM have delivered over £350,000 in terms of volunteer labour time and raised over £288,000 in grants and £83,000 in membership fees and donations. An approximate contribution to looking after the Moor of over £750,000. instigation.

- To assist the Council in the care and maintenance of Ilkley Moor and its wildlife, flora and recreational use.

- Whilst funds have been raised to assist Bradford in maintaining and preserving routes on the Moor it has been a frustrating year in some respects. Having paid to lift by helicopter the hardcore required for path restoration between the Buck Stones and the raised path the laying of this by the Council will only take place in Autumn 2022. Likewise, having raised over £20,000 in matched funds with Bradford to restore the paths between the Cow & Calf and Lower Tarn the Council's chosen contractor has withdrawn so the works will need to be retendered and undertaken later in 2022.
 - A key on-going focus will be the continued restoration of blanket bog through extending Crawshaw Moss and rewetting Hebers Moss.
 - Grants totally £9,750 have been received during the year.
 - Memberships pleasingly have increased by 40 over the year and stand at 307 with membership fees totalling £7,181 and donations of £12,113.
- To notify the Council when any hazards or problems with the area become apparent.
 - Issues have again arisen with mountain bikers creating an increasing number of downhill runs off the Moor leading to walker safety, erosion and water run off problems afield. The Council have a management plan with a local group of riders which has some benefit although the disconnected nature of the mountain biking fraternity creates inevitable limitations on its effectiveness.
 - We continue to work with the Council to promote the closure of the upper section of Keighley Gate Road to curb off-road and moto-cross use of the Moor and to introduce licensing for commercial dog walkers so as to better manage their activities.
 - Specific issues raised and addressed in the last 12 months have been the dumping of tyres, the tidying up of Moors For The Future materials post work on Backstone Beck, litter left by the Netflix filming crew at the Cow & Calf (which are volunteers dealt with) , and the delay in clearing fallen trees blocking paths in Hebers Ghyll Woods.
 - To develop projects in partnership with, or with the knowledge of the Council.
 - Liaison with the Council is via Richard Perham attending Committee meetings and Richard and Danny Jackson receiving Committee meeting agendas and minutes.
 - In addition, detailed bi-monthly meetings are held between members of the Committee and Danny and Richard so we can be appraised of the progress of planned activities and also new issues arising.
 - As noted above plans have been developed to create a better path between the Cow & Calf rocks and the Lower Tarn and to address the heavy erosion of the path between the Buck Stones and the raised path by Crawshaw Moss but these will come into fruition later in 2022.
 - In addition, we liaised with the Council and Natural England over the extensive natural flood control and peatland restoration work planned for above Backstone Beck.
 - For work beyond rights of way in the Council's woodlands which adjoin the Moor and which extend beyond rights of way we liaise with Ed Brightman, the Council's Woodlands Officer.

- To apply for grants independently or in conjunction with the Council to provide materials or labour to support projects for which the Council has insufficient funding, or for which the Council is unable to provide funding.
 - As noted above £9,750 of grants have been generated during the year. We are also very grateful for the bequest of £11,362 from the late Kathleen Thornley.
 - We are grateful to our corporate sponsors for the year being: Moor Leasing Ltd , Master Distributor Ltd, Le Bistro Pierre, Dales Land Net, Go Promotional, Ilkley BID, Ashworth & Tennant Jewellers, RW Morten, Ilkls Baht'at, and Yorkshire Flower Essences.

- To liaise with local residents and other users of Ilkley Moor in order to represent their needs and ideas.
 - Engagement with the local community and users of the Moor is undertaken via communication through the website, links to the secretary for enquiries, feeding information and seeking comments through Facebook and Ilkley Chat, the volunteer days, the Events Programme, issuing Newsletters to members, participating in local community events and presenting on the activities of FOIM
 - FOIM also engages with relevant statutory and other bodies, including Natural England, Moors for the Future, the Council, Ilkley Council, OFWAT, and Yorkshire Water so we can be made aware of issues that they may become alive to.
 - Local liaison through groups such as the Ilkley Community Network and Ilkley Clean Rivers Group continued.

- To encourage all groups making recreational use of Ilkley Moor to be represented on the Charity.
 - The following bodies are represented on the Committee: the Council, Ilkley Town Council and Wharfedale Naturalists Society.
 - We liaised with Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and the Ilkley Clean Rivers Campaign, and on the Ilkley Sustainability Plan to ensure that issues relating to the Moor are taken into account.

- To encourage local schools and youth organisations to use Ilkley Moor constructively for pleasure and education.
 - The Project Officer usually undertakes activities on the Moor with local schools/youth groups several times a year. These activities remained on hold this year given the challenges schools faced with the effects of Covid on the return to full time schooling.

- To encourage appreciation of the ecology and history of Ilkley Moor.
 - Thirteen events were planned for the Moor, being a combination learning and educational activities, covering a wide range of aspects including Heritage Walks, Birds of Ilkley Moor, the Stanza Stones, Flood Alleviation, Peatbog Restoration, an Archaeology Trail and Wildlife Explorers.
 - Details of the ecology and history of the Moor feature on the FOIM website and its publications.

- An Archaeology Policy was established for the first time, received keen member and expert input and is now in place. As ever the balance between promoting the artefacts and carvings on the Moor but also protecting them is difficult to maintain.
- To publicise the Charity's activities locally, regionally, nationally and internationally in order to encourage people to take an active part in preserving and maintaining Ilkley Moor.
 - Regular press releases feature in the Ilkley Gazette and Yorkshire newspapers although these have limited in the current year due to the restrictions on our activities.
 - An enquiry link for email queries by members of the public is available via secretary@ilkleymoer.org.
 - The GIS storybook reflecting our survey of the Moor and its ecology is available via our website.
 - Posters highlighting events and the AGM are placed in local amenities/stores/hostelries.
 - Members receive a monthly email update of upcoming events together with Newsletters updating them on our activities.

Financial position

Whilst Covid to a degree and a contractor failing to deliver for the Council has held back our activities to a degree in 2021/22 steady progress has been made throughout the year. Member donations, grant income plus a generous legacy (all as noted above) meant our income was just short of £30,000.

To aid delivery of our aims we have invested over £1,500 in new equipment for our volunteers and have purchased better display and projection equipment.

Our reserves at the year end stand at £70,049 which is higher than planned. Whilst £7,000 is for planned expenditure to support the full events programme planned for 2022/23 £20,000 is set aside for the deferred Cow & Calf to Lower Tarn footpath works and it is likely that the retender process will lead to a further spend of circa £10,000 on our part to complete these works.

We remain in a very good financial position with more than sufficient reserves being held to carry through our planned activities in 2022/23.

The Committee continue to provide their time and energy on a free of charge basis with Tracey Gray, our part-time employee who is very active as our Project Officer, being the only paid individual. Her fees and expenses were £8,400 for the year.

Management report and structure

The committee which runs our activities and meets monthly comprises the following individuals (those holding trustee status or being ex officio representatives of third-party bodies are noted):

Chair – Owen Wells – trustee

Vice-Chair – Helen Kidman – trustee

Treasurer – David Whitehead – trustee
Membership Secretary – Jonathan Copland - trustee
Publicity Officer – Barry Wilkinson – trustee
Secretary – Jonathan Guest – trustee
Elected member – Ian Condliffe
Elected member – Catherine Smith
Bradford Council representative – Richard Perham
Wharfedale Naturalists representative – Karen Shackleton
Ilkley Town Council representative – Pauleen Allon
Our employee – Tracy Gray

Committee meetings continued to be held via Zoom throughout the year. Our 2021 year AGM, planned for April 2021, had to be delayed due to Covid restrictions and concerns and was held face-to-face on 29th October 2021. The opportunity was taken to update our constitution to formally cover on-line member and committee meetings. The 2022 AGM was held on 6th May 2022 and attended by over 50 members.

Members are welcome to join the Committee at any time and all the trustees and elected committee members posts are subject to review and re-election/replacement by member voting at each AGM. All those in place pre the 2021 AGM expressed their willingness to be re-elected, there were no new nominations and the existing members were voted in at the 2022 AGM unanimously.

Approved by the FOIM Committee on 11 July 2022