

BMC Yorkshire Area – Chair's Report 2021

Despite the obvious challenges, 2021 has seen some good work carried out in the Yorkshire Area by committed volunteers and BMC members. Principal among these was the long-awaited laying of a new path at Almscliff to make crossing the perpetually muddy field in the wetter months slightly easier. We had a brilliant turnout for this and the work was completed in double quick time; thanks must go to Mick Johnson, Gritstone Rep for organising, and all the volunteers for giving up their Saturday morning to help get the job done. I have no doubt it will make accessing the cliff far easier this winter and should also help keep people off the wall(!), a persistent bugbear of the landowner.

Elsewhere, a clean-up at Baildon Bank is in the process of being organised, pruning and general low-level vegetation maintenance has taken place at Caley, and the importance of litterpicking where possible has been emphasised. Climbers are normally very sensitive users of the countryside and picking up litter helps to preserve that reputation, so it's great to see climbers doing so. This has been emphasised by the BMC's Hills 2 Oceans campaign; with any luck we will see some of the branded litter bags at the Baildon litter pick!

On the limestone, Paul Clarke has continued his marathon effort to secure climbing access to Giggleswick Quarry when the new owner concludes his development there; many thanks Paul, hopefully your graft will pay off soon! The big three of Malham, Kilnsey and Gordale have had a pleasantly quiet year on the access front with nothing major to report. Elsewhere in the Dales, the redevelopment of Attermire has been a great addition to Yorkshire's sport climbing.

Earlier in the year I experimented with running a local area newsletter with contributions from various local stalwarts. Unfortunately, as the year has progressed work and house moves have made spending time on this almost impossible so it has fallen by the wayside; if there are any local area members who would be keen to pick up the gauntlet/contribute to the newsletter in a more structured way it would be great to revisit this as I gather the few people that read it enjoyed it!

Thanks must go as ever to the team of access reps and volunteers. Particular mention should go to Stuart Wetherell who is standing down after several years as the Climbing Wall Rep; many thanks for your hard work Stuart, I am constantly amazed at how many walls you managed to visit between each meeting! With the opening of the new Depot in Leeds shortly (hopefully) we have never been better served for climbing walls in Yorkshire; if anyone is interested in taking up the baton as the climbing wall rep please do put your name forward!

We hope to return to face to face meetings in 2022; please do keep in touch and look forward to seeing you in person in the New Year.

Jim Hulbert

Yorkshire Area Chair