

BMC Yorkshire Area – Chair's Report 2022

2022 has seen the Yorkshire Area return to face to face meetings and visit some new venues following the untenable increase in fees requested by our previous venue in Ben Rydding. This has allowed us to build new relationships with the Black Horse in Otley and the Climbing Hub in Bradford; thanks are due to these for their support for the BMC and their assistance in getting these meetings on at an affordable cost.

The area has undertaken several key volunteer led activities, foremost among them the cleanup of Baildon Bank, which was really well attended and resulted in a real improvement to the crag. I've seen significant activity there all summer which is testament to the good work done. Thanks are due to Gecko Climbing for providing bags of chalk as a sweetener for volunteers! A similar event is being planned for Shipley Glen in the spring. On the limestone, a Paul Clarke led team of volunteers collaborated with stakeholders at Trow Gill to undertake significant remedial work at Trow Gill, chopping up and stacking large amounts of fallen wood which will not only make the environment safer for walkers and climbers but also provide a new habitat for wildlife in the woodpiles. Many thanks to all who have contributed and hope to see you again at similar events!

On the access front, the main issues have been on gritstone with the greasing of Snowden Crag by persons unknown. The Area is in ongoing contact with the North Yorks Council in order to install a stile for access to this crag as it remains on open access land. Enquiries with local residents suggest that lamping, whilst not directly responsible for the damage, is not suitable at this crag as a courtesy to residents. As we cautiously return to the crag over the winter please confine climbing to daylight hours and park with utmost care. On the limestone, access has been mercifully hassle free this year on the whole. The usual guidance applies to honeypot venues such as Malham and Kilnsey; many thanks to the climbing community who continue to park responsibly, pick up litter and generally act as ambassadors for the sport.

Huge thanks to the team of access reps and volunteers who selflessly give up their free time to make a contribution to the Area. On a personal note, I will be stepping down from the Chair position at this AGM in order to devote (slightly) more time to my PhD; I've really enjoyed the experience over the last few years and will be remaining involved through access issues. Look forward to seeing everyone at the Shipley cleanup in the spring hopefully!

Best wishes

Jim Hulbert

Yorkshire Area Chair