

Are you our next Chair, or do you know someone who could be?

By Mark Corner, Chair of Friends of the Dales

We are looking for a Chair to replace me during 2019 after what will have been four rewarding, developmental and enjoyable years leading our charity, so if you think you may be interested yourself or know of someone who could be, please read on.

When I took the role on in mid-2015 I agreed with trustees that three years would be a good period of tenure to aim for so that we could make the most of a cycle of fresh eyes, energy and ideas. It's a great role, offering the opportunity to lead the organisation so that it furthers the charitable goals it was set up to achieve. You can play a leading role in shaping and supporting a dynamic, productive team of board members, staff and volunteers, and in developing mutually beneficial relationships with interesting and influential stakeholders. All in all, an exciting opportunity to have an impact in helping to look after this special place that we all cherish.

Friends of the Dales is in pretty good shape. We have a strong reputation and an excellent track record over nearly 40 years of protecting the Yorkshire Dales National Park and encouraging people to value and enjoy them. Over the last few years we have refreshed our strategy, rebranded ourselves, halted the decline in membership, and become a more active, effective and visible campaigning organisation. Challenges remain to get the organisation on a sustainable financial footing; we have healthy reserves but currently run with operational losses, and the outcome of the current government review of National Parks may present opportunities and challenges that we will need to respond to.

Trustees are looking for someone who is passionate about the Dales and can be an inspiring leader. If you would like to informally discuss the role with me, other trustees, or Ann Shadrake (Executive Director), please do get in touch. The time commitment is around one day per week and the likely tenure in the region of four years. Ideally, we would like to have a new Chair in place by our September 2019 AGM after a well-structured handover.

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Ann Shadrake, Executive Director: ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk

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