

Friends of the Dales (Yorkshire Dales Society) 37th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 19 September 2020 at 2.15 pm. **To be held online**

Dear Member

As indicated in our Summer Review, the current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and uncertainty mean that this year's AGM will be a very different event. We appreciate that not all of our members have internet access but, in common with other charities and organisations, we need to adapt to this year's unprecedented circumstances.

The AGM will be held at 2.15pm on Saturday 19 September 2020 via Zoom managed online by a small team. We are providing the opportunity for up to 24 members to join us remotely and for all members to ask questions in advance.

2020 AGM Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. To confirm the Minutes of the 36th AGM held on Saturday 21 September 2019
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Chair's Report on the Year and Report on Dales and Bowland CIC
6. Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts
7. Election of Directors and Honorary Officers
8. Notification of Vice Presidents
9. Notification of Honorary Members

How to participate in the AGM

- A. If you'd like to register your interest in joining our virtual AGM, please notify our Executive Director, Ann Shadrake, by email to ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk by **11 September 2020**. Electronic copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/2020 will be available for you to download from our website at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk. We will send further details in September to those registered to participate. Any late information updates will be posted on our website.
- B. If you do not wish to attend the virtual AGM, or places are fully booked, you can still obtain a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/20 by downloading from www.friendsofthedales.org.uk
- C. If you do not use the internet or prefer a hard copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/2020 please request this by **11 September 2020** from Ann Shadrake at Friends of the Dales, Canal Wharf, Eshton Road, Gargrave, BD23 3PN or phone 01756 749400.



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This year's limit of 24 participants is for practical reasons but is significantly lower than the number of members whom we usually welcome to our AGM. In light of the unusual circumstances this year, we encourage those members who are not participating online on the day to vote by proxy either by email or by post in advance of our AGM.

So, if you are a member with voting rights but are not participating in the AGM on 19 September, we would like you to complete the proxy form appended to this letter and **return it by email or post** to our Gargrave office to arrive by **11 September 2020**. If you do not have a named proxy to participate in the AGM in your place, you may choose to have the Chair vote on your behalf. Please use the appropriate section on the form.

NB Individual members have one vote. Joint members have one vote **each (please copy the proxy form to allow two votes)**. Honorary and Life Members have relevant number of Individual or Joint Membership votes. Business and Group/Affiliate Members have one vote.

Our 2019 AGM offered members an opportunity to ask informal questions and to express their opinions after the close of the formal business. I, other Trustees and our staff all welcomed this additional feedback from members.

Members who wish to email or to post their questions and comments in advance of the 2020 AGM should do so by 8 September 2020.

In addition, we will post a selection of material on our website for reference after the AGM.

We aim to make this year's "different" AGM as open and inclusive as possible. Please be patient with us as we experiment with unprecedented circumstances and a different AGM format. In planning for this 2020 AGM, we have come to appreciate the potential advantages of a more "blended" approach to future AGMs. We hope to return to a more traditional AGM in 2021 where we can welcome and meet some of our members. We are also excited by the prospect of building upon this year's experience to offer digital access to future AGMs for interested members who do not live locally or are not in a position to travel.

We have cancelled all our events until the beginning of October so, regrettably, the informal activities that we usually arrange on the day of our AGM will not take place this year. We hope to restore a more fully participative programme for our 2021 AGM. [In the meantime see enclosed advance information of our "A Green New Dales" online conference to be held on Saturday 3 October and Saturday 17 October 2020.](#)

If you have any queries about this year's AGM or the procedure for proxy voting please contact Ann Shadrake on 01756 749400 or ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk.

Regards



Bruce McLeod, Chair, Friends of the Dales

August 2020