

Summary for the LDNP 2021/2022

As the past year has remained somewhat challenging I am pleased to report just a few of the excellent things that the National Park have achieved.

- Worked started on Orrest Head in Windermere to allow it to be more accessible to people with limited mobility and families with pushchairs. On the 12th September 2021 we were able to celebrate this as our '50th miles without styles route'
- A new state of the art, yet Victorian-inspired, cantilevered viewing station was installed at Stanley Ghyll, which juts out five meters over the 150 foot drop
- Funding has been secured for the free shuttlebus from Cockermouth to Buttermere which was very popular in 2021. This will start from 7th May, allowing people to visit the beautiful bluebells of Rannerdale and Holme Wood. This will initially run over the weekends and the two Jubilee bank holidays. The summer service will start on the 23rd July.
- June 2021 saw the launch of the new three year grant programme launched by Defra – Farming in Protected Landscapes. The funding aims to help farm businesses for the future, become more resilient and prepare for Environment Land Management
- Bridge repairs – the National Park look after 1700 bridges on rights of way across the park, all bridges have been surveyed and a replacement plan put in place. The rangers have done an amazing job replacing a staggering 29 bridges
- A group of woodlands within the Rusland Valley have been chosen as part of a nationwide network of 70 Ancient Woodlands to be dedicated to the Queen in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee
- The Visitor Service team had a busy summer which continued through September and into early October. There was the 'Spooktacular' event at Brockhole, with all 10 day tickets selling out, the event was a credit to the Brockhole team and hopefully this year's event will be just as successful.
- The Safer Lakes team along with volunteers have continued their work to provide visitors with information and to manage the visitor pressures in the Park. The National Park continues to be busy, particularly at weekends and on good weather days. Evaluations are now being made to allow effective planning for the 2022 season.

Cllr Vicky Hughes