



## Malhamdale Environmental Group

### MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 26 March 2026

**Present:** Wendy Carr (WC), Elizabeth Cummings (EC), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Annette Edwards (AE), Jonathan Heath (JH), James Powell (JP), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Sue McWhinney (SMc), Margaret Ross (MR), Jane Smart (Chair; JS); Ken Timms, North Craven Woodland Research Group (speaker).

**Apologies:** Claire Braeburn, David Howlett, Laura Parker, Mick Parker, Judy Rogers

**Minutes of meeting on held 12 February 2026:** These were approved.

	Matters arising
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEG needs a coordinator for Riverfly sampling in River Aire if we are to proceed. We are hoping to get a positive response to call for volunteers linked to Robert Hellawell's article in April Parish Magazine.</li> <li>• PC reported on launch of YWT's 'Rivers to Reef' project that includes chemical water sampling and Riverfly sampling.</li> <li>• The Show Committee have agreed to fund trees for planting in the Car Park Fields in the 26/27 season. Thanks to MP for submitting tree planting plan. Show Committee was also thanked.</li> <li>• Trees (from Windy Pike Tree Nursery and other sources) planted in Cricket field (owned by Malham Show) on 26 March. MEG volunteers thanked.</li> </ul>
	Summary of discussion with Action Points
Talk from Ken Timms, North Craven Woodland Research Group: Ghost and Shadow Woodlands: looking for areas of former woodland in Craven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ken Timms, North Craven Woodland Research Group gave an excellent talk on ghost and shadow woodlands.</li> <li>• He is researching the whereabouts of former woodlands in North Craven using historical documents including wills, and inventories of household and farming items, made of wood.</li> <li>• He mentioned the iron smelting that relied on charcoal in the area</li> <li>• After some interesting questions and discussion, it was agreed that MEG members could help look out for ancient woodland indicator species in the area.</li> <li>• Areas with bracken are likely to once have had woodland cover and therefore represent ideal locations for tree planting.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> JS to liaise with Ken Timms regarding woodland indicator species to look out for in Malhamdale.</li> </ul>
Articles for Parish Magazine: May 2026 and beyond	Future issues (including from previous minutes):



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article on Malham Dales ponies and conservation grazing; <b>Action:</b> JS to edit piece from Zana Jackson (second part of article; Part 1 was published in 2025)</li> <li>• SMc mentioned that Suzie Knight has submitted article on Himalayan Balsam for a future article; <b>Action:</b> Submit as separate piece for Parish Magazine.</li> <li>• Ancient woodland indicator flowers in Malhamdale – plan for Spring 2027</li> <li>• Article on recycling points (including blister packs collection in Malham and Airton) for assorted items that cannot be put into blue, green or brown bins.</li> <li>• Retrofitting houses in the Dales.</li> <li>• Challenges of using plastic tubes for tree planting.</li> <li>• Eyes on the Bog: update on progress and reasons for bog monitoring (by MEG volunteers).</li> <li>• <b>Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please, to ensure coordination.</b></li> </ul>
<p>2026 MEG (and other) events and meetings <b>(on Thursdays at 7.30)</b> unless otherwise stated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>23 April:</b> Catch up on current activities including Annual Review, Friends Meeting House, Airton</li> <li>• <b>25 April: Malham Chapel</b> event with visit from Cathy Curlew and Heathcliff (Nidderdale National Landscape); more details to follow</li> <li>• <b>4 June: Malham Tarn Estate:</b> Summer flower guided walk on National Trust Nature trail. (Meet at 5pm for walk on Nature Trail; refreshments at 7pm; meeting in Orchid House at 7.30 pm).</li> <li>• <b>11-12 June Malhamdale Curlew Project events:</b> Ryan Burrell (Curlew Recovery Partnership) and Flo Blackbourne (Curlew Action): talks in Kirkby Malham Parish Hall on Thursday 11 June and Curlew Walk on Friday 12 June (morning); details to follow.</li> <li>• <b>11 July:</b> NY Climate Coalition / Green energy event in Friargate Quaker Meeting House, York. More details to follow (DH).</li> <li>• <b>10 September:</b> Visit to Broughton Hall to see re-wilding and beaver reintroduction, 10.30 - 12.30 (16-18 people)</li> <li>• <b>22 October:</b> Plans for 2027</li> <li>• <b>26 November:</b> Christmas drinks and MEG Review of the Year</li> <li>• Other suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eyes on the Skies talk (Friends of the Dales).</li> <li>• Walk to show best ways to remove Himalayan Balsam (PMc).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting: 23 April (Friends Meeting House, Airton) For other meetings see above.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WC said she was in touch with YDMT re installing a water butt for little shed at the Tree Nursery; PMc offered to assist with guttering</li> </ul>



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KMPC Councillor has suggested planting along Malham Beck riverside (willows and alders). Planting trees along flagstone walkway also proposed <b>Action:</b> follow up at later meeting.</li></ul> |
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