

YDMT & ILLUMINET

Thank you for
creating woodlands
in the Dales for
everyone to enjoy

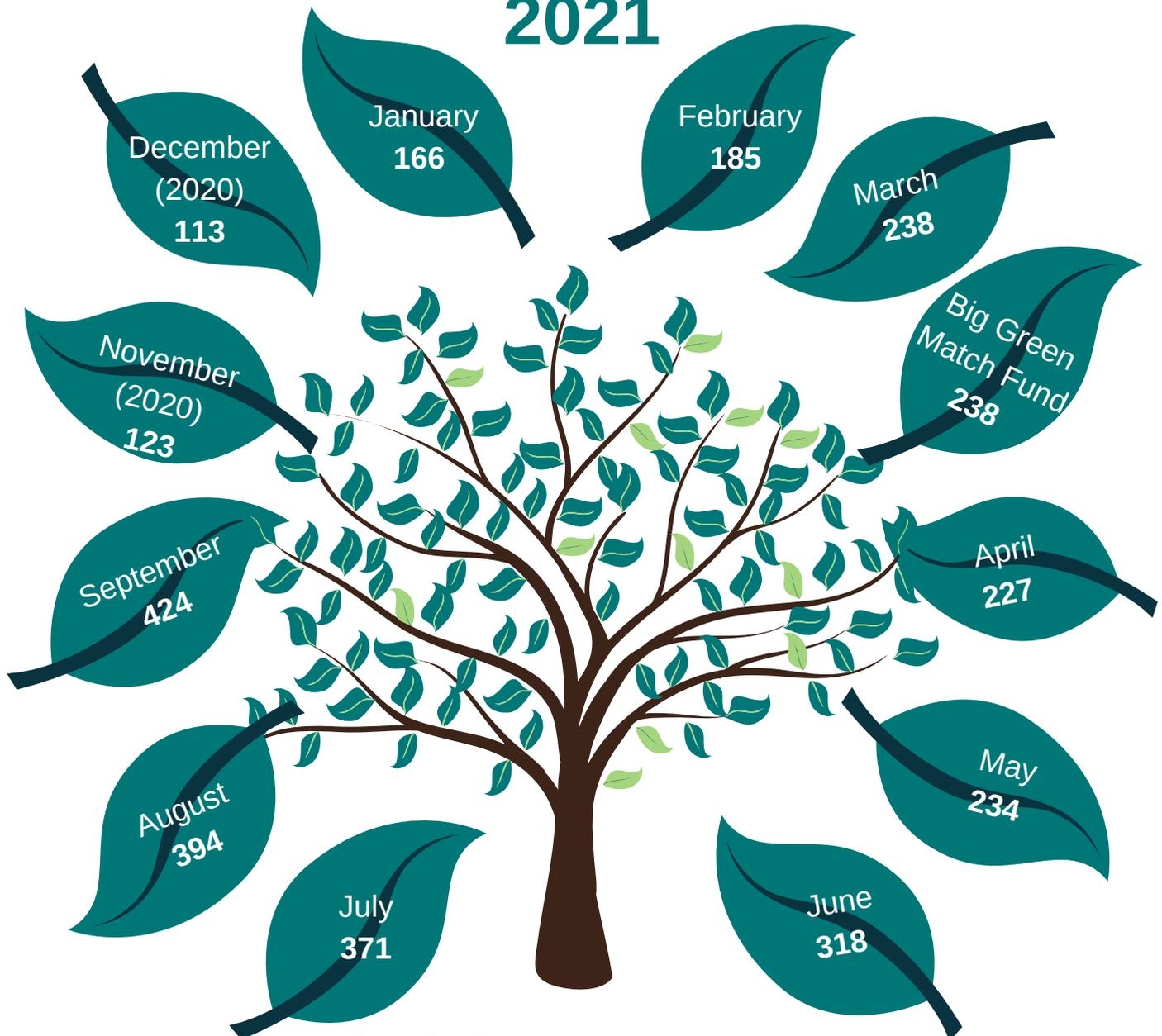


Your Annual Impact Report November 2020-October 2021



Illuminet Tree Count

2021



3,031 Trees

In the last 12 months you have supported the planting of 3,031 trees, taking your partnership total to

4,900 trees

planted across the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

Communications and Marketing

We continue to promote our partnership through social media, and would be delighted to work together on more press releases. You can also read about our partnership on our dedicated Illuminet page on our website. Check out our Illuminet thank you video [here](#)



YDMT Woodlands, 2021/22



Last winter, we supported the planting of 27,508 trees. We are now planning for this winter's planting season and working with a number of landowners to develop woodlands. This winter, we have plans to create 28 new woodlands in the Dales, planting **25,000** trees.

Our focus continues to be: '**right tree, right place**' - considering not just the number of trees planted, but ensuring that those planted can thrive, create good habitats and have the best possible impact on our environment.



Ormsgill Wood is a short distance from the village of Airton in a peaceful area of open countryside with views across Malhamdale. Streams run throughout the Ormsgill woodland site (headwaters of the river Aire) so species planted are appropriate for wetland areas. These native trees now form a series of new gill woodlands which will grow to provide habitat suitable for black grouse. 20,510 trees are planted in total including: Downy Birch, Silver Birch, Rowan, Hazel, Bird Cherry, Sessile Oak, Goat Willow and Hawthorn.

The photo on the left was taken in 2017, just after the trees were first planted. The photo on the right shows the difference just a few years makes, taken this summer from the same spot. Thank you for helping to create thriving woodlands like this one.

Collingholme Farm

1,600 trees were planted at Collingholme Farm this winter, extending a 3 year old woodland which was planted with support from YDMT.

The new woodland will comprise of a mix of native broadleaf and there'll be new hedging boundaries along the stream and farm boundaries.

The landowners wanted to increase biodiversity whilst also improving the erosion control along the stream banks by reducing runoff. The family have already spotted short eared owl, sparrowhawk, and barn owls.

100 of the trees at the site have been planted with trial alternative tree tubes, as part of our efforts to research the possible reduction of plastic use in woodland creation.



Lilly and Leonie share their experience of planting 1,600 trees at Collingholme Farm

“

Having never planted a single tree between us, the offer to plant 1600 trees was daunting to say the least! First seeing the large, empty plot of land at 8.30am on a cold, cloudy Monday morning only drove home the task ahead of us. We never thought we could actually get it all done but knew we would give it a go...

Quickly we learnt we were actually quite good at planting trees. Our 100 trees a day target was exceeded day after day and at our peak we planted 175 trees in a day! Seeing our little forest grow was extremely rewarding and gave us more and more gumption to see it through! ...

Finishing the project has been bittersweet; while we are glad to see all the trees in their rightful place and certainly feel a sense of relief to have it done, we have genuinely enjoyed our tree planting experience and are sad to see it end. Women are not always encouraged to pursue 'manual labour' jobs and that was certainly a stereotype we had internalised, at first feeling like we just weren't cut out for it. But we proved ourselves wrong and that has been incredibly rewarding!

We both feel we are at crossroads in our lives due to the pandemic and this project has given us confidence that we can do anything we put our minds to, an attribute that we both know we will take forward as we both move away for University in September.

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Read more from Lilly and Leonie [here](#)

Plastic Free Woodlands

Most new woodland creation schemes in the Dales will have been planted using plastic tree guards that provide essential protection from wildlife. If a woodland is well managed, these guards will be removed after approximately 10 years once the trees are established. The concern is that if the plastic guards are left on site, over time they will disintegrate into smaller fragments that find their way into our soils and waterways.

We are working with landowners, community groups, other organisations and volunteers to collect redundant tree guards and sending them to be recycled and used to make new products.

Mike Appleton, Plastic Free Woodlands project officer



Our Plastic Free Woodlands project, which is removing redundant tree guards from the landscape, championing alternatives and highlighting the issue of plastics in forestry, has:

- Planted 520 trees with alternative guards at 6 sites, including cardboard, coated cardboard, compostible plastic, sheepswool and resin tubes!
- Two recycling collection points have been established, in Skipton and Appersett to remove 40,000 redundant tubes. These have been a huge success, bringing together volunteers, farmers and landowners to tackle this issue.
- A National Forestry Plastic Group established, with members sharing best practice



Harnessing the power of young people



Young people are our best hope for a better, greener world – yet we have a generation disconnected from their local environment and lacking the confidence, knowledge, and skills to protect it. Thanks to you, we empower the next generation through our education, skills, and apprentice programmes to experience the countryside.

Sam and Zoe, Woodland Trainees

Through our Together for Trees project, we are providing 2 trainees with opportunities to create woodlands and gain valuable skills and knowledge. During their 12 months placement, and will have access to training, mentoring and professional development experiences. We're excited to support them as they start their new careers in the environment sector.



I'm really enjoying my time. I've done such a range of jobs, which have ranged from tree planting, bracken control, invasive species control to bird surveys, peatland restoration, river and peat bog restoration.

It's also given me a great insight into life as a contractor and the challenges of the job. My practical skills have improved no end since starting this traineeship and I'm beginning to gain the confidence I need to begin a land management job.

I truly believe the woodland traineeship will allow me to get the job I desire in the environmental industry, so a big thank you to YDMT and all those that have created this opportunity for me.

Sam, Woodland Trainee



Connecting with nature

Not only do we create woodlands, but our work supports a variety of people to connect with nature for improved health and wellbeing, whilst providing opportunities for skills development and learning. Our Green Guardians project offers sessions to young people to access the Yorkshire Dales and enjoy green spaces. This work is more important than ever as we recover from the pandemic.



"Memories were made and the trip highlighted how much I enjoyed being out in nature. My mind was clear and I rarely felt anxious, which is significant because anxiety plays a big role in my everyday life. Very grateful for this experience and thank you to those who made it happen. I hope to meet Fiona [our Green Guardian's Project Officer] again for more sessions; the experience was like no other."

Green Guardians participant

2020 Achievements at YDMT

Thanks to your contributions, we have continued to support the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales, throughout such a difficult year for our communities. Here are some of the things we've achieved together in the last year:



143 people were given inspirational learning opportunities in the Dales, alongside many virtual events

1,101 school children and young people were connected to the Dales landscape and inspired to care about the natural world and our environment - giving them hope for a better future



27 hectares of hay meadow habitat was restored, increasing biodiversity and providing a vital food source for pollinators

27,508 trees were planted, creating **19.73** hectares of new woodland and helping to combat climate change.



It's with thanks to all at Illuminet that we're able to achieve so much for our people, landscape and wildlife.

Our sincere thanks for your donations totalling £19,551 over the last 12 months, making a huge contribution to our work in creating woodlands for everyone to enjoy.



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR WORK
POSSIBLE**