



Newsletter #7
People & projects
February 2022

Generation Green is a 16-month funded project that aims to connect young people to nature, create and save jobs, and build an aspirant workforce for a green recovery.



Alison Stevens,
Programme Director

Welcome

This may be our penultimate newsletter, but the passion for Generation Green is as strong as ever, despite the colder weather.

I am looking forward to delivery being completed (and warmer weather and longer days) at the end of March. It will give me some breathing space to reflect on all that the Generation Green partners have achieved together and the collective impact we have made.

These newsletters have been packed with just a very small sample of the projects and activities each partner is delivering and the people benefitting from them – and this newsletter is no different.

Virtually every day, a Generation Green activity takes place somewhere in England, whether it's in a National Park, youth hostel, outdoor centre, school or online. Collectively, we have used every platform available to us to reach out to young people and engage them in the outdoors.

Our work hasn't gone unnoticed. Generation Green was recently referenced in the governments' response to Glover's National Landscapes Review. Importantly, the response recognised an ongoing need for projects like Generation Green. This makes me hopeful that March will not be the end of Generation Green, rather the start of a journey together to give every child a night under the stars in a national landscape. It is a bold ambition but, as we have seen through Generation Green, one that is achievable with support, collaboration and central government funding.

In just 16 months, I am confident that we have reached at least 100,000 young people. Just imagine what we could achieve together with long-term funding!

A big thank you once again from me to everyone who is making Generation Green a reality.

Alison Stevens, Programme Director (based at YHA)





Generation Green praised by Defra

Generation Green has been praised in the government's response to Glover's National Landscapes Review.

The long-awaited report, which was published on 15 January 2022, highlighted Generation Green (Chapter 3: People and Places) as an example of how national-scale partnerships and coordinated collaboration can increase engagement with all parts of society.

The report also said 'the government is proud to support more diverse and inclusive engagement, such as the Generation Green programme'.

The report laid out plans by the Environment Secretary George Eustice, to:

- encourage improved access to our protected landscapes and nature for all parts of society, particularly where this supports improved public health and wellbeing;
- continue support for the local communities that live and work in protected landscapes, helping preserve our heritage for future generations;

- drive nature recovery and nature-based solutions within protected landscapes to help address the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change; and
- apply structural changes and resources to support our protected landscapes in delivering more for nature, climate, people and places.

The plans are subject to a 12-week consultation which will end at 11.45pm on 9 April 2022.

To contribute your views to the proposed legislative changes, as well as share any wider views on other aspects of the government's response to the review, visit <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/future-landscapes-strategy/government-response-to-the-landscapes-review/>



Young people inspired to transform local green spaces

The New Forest National Park's Generation Green-funded Wild Spaces project is helping young people in urban areas to connect with nature and look after the green spaces where they live.

One of the groups working with the New Forest National Park includes young people from Calshot Youth Club in Hampshire. They have been inspired by the project to transform their local green space with bird boxes and feeders, the planting of fruit trees, and to create areas for planting and incorporating natural play features.

The project will work with the club to help them make their visions a reality; from designing their space and applying for funds, to developing the key skills they need to install it themselves.

As well as Calshot Youth Club, New Forest National Park has worked with several other youth groups to inspire them to create and look after their own green spaces, and empower them to become advocates for nature.

Project Officer Claire Pearce said: 'Members of the Calshot Youth Club are making a fantastic effort to look after their green space and create an environment where people and nature can thrive. It's really inspiring to see how the New Forest National Park and its unique environment have played a part in empowering young people to make a difference for nature where they live.'

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Project Officer Claire Pearce



Planting for the future

A partnership project between Generation Green and Dartmoor National Park saw nearly 500 tree whips planted by young volunteers during National Tree Week.

During December, sixth form students from Mill Ford School, students from City College Plymouth, young people from the Momentum Project at Tavistock Youth Café, and young adults from Dame Hannahs planted a total of 465 tree whips at sites throughout Ivybridge.



The volunteers planted a mixture of English native species, including hazel, rowan, hawthorn, silver birch and native yew trees.

Emily Cannon, Youth Engagement Ranger at Dartmoor National Park who oversaw the tree planting projects, said: "Despite some very wet weather, everyone absolutely loved having the opportunity to plant some trees which will benefit future generations, and which they can easily re-visit and watch grow."

National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season from November to March each year.

The Generation Green-funded tree planting project formed part of a wider initiative in Ivybridge that will see a total of more than 2,500 trees planted this winter.



Landscape inspires poetry

Alexandra Ridge was one of eight women given the opportunity to experience the Generation Green-funded Outward Bound Trust's Women's Outdoor Leadership Course in 2021.

During her solo expedition on the 10-week course she was inspired to write this uplifting and inspirational poem - "Solo Surrender" – to describe her experience.

From her 'poo-shoe' to being 'stunned by the sun's kiss', Alexandra's words transport the reader to the wild wilderness in which she found herself during her solo expedition.

The Outward Bound Trust has created a film of Alexandra reading her poem. The film also features footage from the Women's Outdoor Leadership Course which inspired her to write Solo Surrender. Watch the film [here](#).



Solo Surrender

"Welling with tears, with pride, but why?
For this day I have endured, enjoyed, made me cry.
Alone I have been, seen wondrous things.
But am I selfish for not sharing with friends and kin?"

I exchange smiles with passers-by, our beams contagious.
To enjoy such a tough task, is that outrageous?
No, not at all - the mountains ignite my soul!
"i fyny for nod" ... indeed, "up is the goal!"

Up and up I climb, Ridge over ridge, I soar, I fly.
Heart pumping, heavy breathing, on an endorphin high.
Stunned by the sun's kiss, golden over slopes and ghylls.
Blocked by tall shapes, I see shadows shape-shift across hills.

How lucky am I to witness candyfloss clouds pink.
Autumnal oranges on green, the contrast makes me blink.
If mother nature was to weep, would that dampen my spirit?
If past experiences could talk they'd say "come on woman, bring it!"

I sit and close my eyes, my senses reignite.
Reminded that experiences are more than plain sight.
What's that I hear? Of course, Lakeland sheep!
You're never too far from the Herdwick's bleat!

... or smell for that matter - oh no, poo-shoe strikes again!
Luckily it's soon masked by fresh air, my friend.
The most wonderfully waking, odourless scent.
Sounds dreamy now I'm trapped with smelly socks in my tent.

But oh the satisfaction, I feel smug and well.
Food always tastes so much better after a day on the fells.
Now the warm embrace of down replaces the whip of the wind.
So content are my body and heart, I start to sing.

Welling with tears - so touched, that's why.
Heartfelt notes from dear friends bring an itch to my eye.
Alone I have been, such an empowering thing.
Words don't do justice to the feeling today brings."

Alexandra Ridge



Generation Green builds resilience and engagement at Field Studies Council

Cross department innovation and skills development, funded by Generation Green, has enabled Field Studies Council to connect more than 10,000 young people to nature.

The wider engagement with young people has directly contributed to an increase in the number of young people booking onto Field Studies Council's new range of online courses, which were launched in April 2021.

Tutors across eight centres introduced immersive nature activities into their fieldwork days; the marketing team successfully targeted niche audiences to encourage young people to connect with the outdoors, and the publications team sent thousands of free wildlife ID guides to young people across England.

Roisin McAteer, Marketing Team Leader at Field Studies Council said, "The budget received as part of the Generation Green project helped us reach and grow a customer base of future environmentalists, which will benefit us now and in the future. Through targeted campaigns we were able to inspire young people to take action to protect the natural world for generations to come. The project also encouraged us to create a new social media channel; TikTok, to engage young people in an authentic way online – which we will continue to use to speak directly to young people."



The activities and teamwork across Field Studies Council's centres and the marketing and publications teams which are supporting the next generation of environmentalists, have also helped the organisation become more resilient.

Clare Rooney, Field Studies Council's engagement and training manager added: "This is equally beneficial to Field Studies Council, as we strive to broaden our audience reach and connect all ages and backgrounds to nature at a time when it is more critical than ever that we do so."



Up Skill, Down Dale volunteers secure permanent 'green' jobs



Alice Rich

Lydia Gill speaking to Rishi Sunak

Two youth volunteers from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) have secured exciting new 'green' jobs thanks to the Generation Green Up Skill, Down Dale youth volunteering programme.

The programme aims to provide skills to support a route to employment in the 'green economy' through inspiration, experiences, skills training and career development.

Lydia Gill (27) and Alice Rich (22) joined the Up Skill, Down Dale programme in April and August last year respectively.

The programme has since proved a stepping-stone into new careers in the outdoors. Lydia has secured a permanent role with Dartmoor National Park Authority as a Ranger Apprentice, while Alice has joined Leeds City Council's trees team.

Prior to securing her new role, geography graduate Alice undertook a four-month placement with YDNPA's Trees and Woodlands Team, where she volunteered one day a week.

Lydia volunteered in YDNPA's education team, supporting primary and secondary school group visits and activities. She also conducted visitor surveys at the Aysgarth Falls National Park Visitor Centre, and tree surveys with the YDNPA Trees and Woodlands team. It was while Lydia was part of Up Skill, Down Dale that she had the opportunity to meet Rishi Sunak when he visited YHA Grinton Lodge last year and saw Generation Green in action for himself.

Nick Cotton, Member Champion for Recreation Management at YDNPA said: "We're thrilled that Lydia and Alice have secured such great opportunities, which is testament to their hard work and focus. I'd like to thank officers in the Trees and Woodland and Ranger teams who mentored them both throughout their time with us.

YDNPA currently has 12 youth volunteers as part of the Generation Green Up Skill, Down Dale programme, and recently announced new volunteering plans aimed at young people and under-represented groups.



Day visits create lifelong Green Champions

**In just three hours
The Scouts are helping
thousands of young
people improve their
local environment as
part of the Generation
Green-funded Green
Champions programme.**

The day programme, which is being delivered by Scouts Green Volunteers, will ultimately create 4,000 Green Champions in England.

Delivered in schools, parks and local meeting places, Green Volunteers are helping young people understand more about their environment.

Following a day visit, groups then complete a short hands-on project which is designed to have a positive impact in their local community.

Caldershaw Primary School in Rochdale is just one of the many schools benefitting from the Green Champions programme.



Since their day visit, pupils have worked on a whole range of projects to improve habitats for birds, bugs and bees just in their school grounds.

They've made compost bins, bird feeders in coconut shells, designed their own wooden insect houses, created 'do not litter' signs for the school playground, created an eco-word wall, planted sweet peas and made bee baths.





Photography graduate Ed Owen (24) was one of a number of young people who has undertaken a six-month Kickstart placement with YHA.

Ed was based at YHA's Swanage youth hostel. He said: "Although being at the hostel was not related that much to what my degree was really about, in a weird way it opened my mind to the possibilities that I shouldn't give up on photography."

Ed, who completed his degree in 2018 and has done temporary supermarket work since graduating, also added that the placement had 'opened doors' for him and encouraged him to re-think how he could apply his photography degree within the green sector.

Kickstart placements give young people confidence to 'boss it'

YHA's Generation Green-funded Kickstart placements have prompted young people to think about how they can apply their new-found and existing skills in the green sector.



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Before I started the Kickstart position, I was looking for opportunities and I didn't have a clear direction, but now I feel I have some solid options.

Ed

Ben Summers (24), who undertook a placement at YHA Hartington Hall in Derbyshire agreed, saying that he had "become a lot more aware of opportunities to progress within YHA", and also gained confidence from the placement to become self-employed and "have the full-on drive to go ahead and 'boss it'."

While the Kickstart programme comes to an end on 31 March, YHA's commitment to providing employment and development opportunities to young people will continue.

Through the relationship developed with the Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus as part of Kickstart, YHA is now looking to fill more than 300 vacancies across its network through the government's new Way to Work programme. There is, however, one less vacancy after Ed successfully applied for a Team Member position at YHA Swanage following his completion of the Kickstart programme. Congratulations Ed!



Girlguiding leader hopes to make hiking cool

Generation Green funding has turned a dream into reality and opportunity for a longstanding member of Girlguiding.

Georgina Barrett (28) is on course to completing a combined Level 3 Leader and Hill and Moorland Leader qualification, which will enable her to take younger members of Girlguiding to more exciting places and make hill walking cool.

She said: "I think there is a little bit of a preconception amongst young people, particularly teenagers, that hiking is something that old people do. I'm hoping that, because I'm a bit younger, it will just make these young people think twice and see actually this person is not that much older than we are, at least not at first appearances, and they've been doing it since they were 18 and it's something that they've enjoyed and maybe it's not as uncool as we thought."

Generation Green funding has enabled Georgina to access the Level 3 course at minimal cost and she hopes to complete her final assessed walk in April 2022.

She explained: "The financial assistance made it a lot more achievable for me. The funding turned it from something I wanted to do into something I knew I could actually do."

Involved with Girlguiding since the age of 9, Georgina has progressed through the sections to become an advisor at regional level and achieving her Queen's Guide Award - the highest possible level you can reach in Girlguiding,

She already holds a number of outdoor instruction qualifications, however the Level 3 qualification has boosted Georgina's confidence and prompted her to apply for positions she wouldn't have thought herself capable of before. She is now considering pursuing a freelance career in outdoor leadership.

Georgina features in this film produced by Girlguiding to promote its Walking Courses. Watch it [here](#).



Georgina Barrett

“““

I wouldn't be doing things like this today if it weren't for Girlguiding. I'm really grateful for all the opportunities that they've provided, not least the funding that they've offered

Generation Green is funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



Generation Green is the first project to be delivered by the Access Unlimited coalition. The project capitalises on the coalition partners' combined reach of more than two million young people. Learn more at www.yha.org.uk/generationgreen

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