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## AONB Family Update - March 2017



**RIP Michael Mounde** It was with great sadness that the NAAONB of Trustees learned of the death of their colleague, Michael Mounde. Philip Hygate, NAAONB Chairman, paid tribute to Michael with the following words “Michael, a thoroughly decent and good humoured man, had an abiding commitment to the many virtues the countryside in general and AONBs in particular. He will be much missed across the AONB Family and the NAAONB”.

Michael’s funeral will take place at Kingston Deverill Church at 2pm on 16th March.

You can read more about Michael’s life and his work for the NAAONB and AONB Family [here](#).

**Advocating for the AONB Family** NAAONB Chairman, Philip Hygate, met with Defra Under Secretary of State, Lord Gardiner, to discuss Defra’s 25 year environment plan and the role of the AONB Family, the next spending round, the public sector transformation agenda, a possible Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills AONB and the role of the NAAONB. The Minister opened the meeting by stating his support for the work of AONB partnerships and conservation boards, as he had done for Outstanding Week, went on to express a wish to visit more AONBs and accepted an invitation to speak at the Landscapes for Life Conference 2017 subject to Parliamentary business. Members can see more information [here](#) or speak with their Lead Officers who have received an note on the meeting from [Howard Davies](#).

“Our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are some of our most special and beautiful places which should be enjoyed by all.

Outstanding Week was a real showcase of the activities on offer in these unique landscapes, encouraging residents and visitors alike to get involved and preserve them for generations to come.”

Lord Gardiner of Kimble  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of  
State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity



**NAAONB Trustee News** Papers showing items for consideration at the Board meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March can be found [here](#). The Board co-opted Lucy Barron onto the Board and elected James Williamson to the post of Honorary Treasurer. More details of these two Trustees can be found [here](#). The Board discussed the role of the NAAONB in pre and post Brexit policy formulation and implementation. In particular, the key issues identified and subsequently prioritised at the NAAONB-led Landscapes for Life Chairmen's meeting in November 2016 were considered. The NAAONB has an opportunity to step beyond current thinking and articulate ambitious solutions to the delivery of our charitable objects. NAAONB members can read the L4L meeting notes [here](#). The Board considered a draft communications strategy which shows the direction NAAONB and AONB Family communications might take over the next four years. The Board paper can be read [here](#) and the draft Strategy [here](#).



**Leading on liaison with CPRE** The collaborative project between the NAAONB and CPRE to jointly commission independent research to initially investigate how national policies, such as the five-year land supply policy, interacts with policies at the local level, such as a local plan has received enough support from the AONB Family to allow it to go ahead. It will focus on all English AONBs and analyse housing development both pre- and post NPPF, to consider both national and local policy context. An area on Basecamp has been set up to manage this project. Members can see more information [here](#). If you would like to contribute to the crowdfunding of this project please contact [Amber](#).

**Leading on value for money and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) AONB** Lead Officers gathered in February to review the work of the AONB Family over the past year. In particular, they looked at the KPIs agreed last year and how they have been used to show the value of our work, discussed collaborative and priority communications work and how to address Management Plan Review. Information collated last year was reported as an [Annual Review](#) launched at the NAAONB AGM. Case studies demonstrating the value of the work of the AONB Family can be found [here](#). If you would like your AONB partnership's work showcased on the Landscapes for Life website please complete the template on the page and submit it for inclusion. It usually takes only a couple of days to add.

**Sharing experience of HLF** The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched a review and call for evidence on the efficiency, effectiveness and governance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Every government-sponsored public body is reviewed at least once in each Parliament to ensure it is fit for purpose and provides good value for money. Heritage, natural environment and other cultural organisations, as well as members of the public, are invited to submit their views by completing an [online survey](#) by 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Landscapes for Life Conference 2017** - 18-19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in Winchester. Through engagement with colleagues and external organisations - public, third sector and corporate – delegates will look at innovative, efficient and effective ways of working. By leading, sharing, learning and inspiring

our Partnerships will be able to provide a robust and sustainable future for our outstanding landscapes. Reports from previous L4L conferences can be found [here](#).



**Sharing and inspiring while mapping the places we value** Between October and January, Natural England trialled a new way of recording the places people value. [Arnside and Silverdale AONB](#) was the first area in the country to be covered by the new website. Almost 100 people placed 387 pins on the map. This means that for the first time the Partnership has good quality evidence on how people feel about places within the AONB, something that has been difficult to quantify in the past. This information can be used when considering landscape change and making decisions in the future.

**Sharing, Learning and Inspiring with daffodils in the Tamar Valley AONB** [Tamar Valley AONB Partnership's](#) Heritage Lottery Funded project, [Heralds of Spring](#) will record and raise awareness of the special historic daffodil varieties growing in the Tamar Valley landscape. Over the next two months, there are plenty of ways to get involved through training and monitoring events, guided walks, talks and a visit to Ron Scamp's nursery in Falmouth. All events and volunteer opportunities can be found at [www.tamarvalley.org.uk](http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk) or call 01822 835030.



**Sharing, Learning and Inspiring** Basecamp Guidance has been updated and can be found [here](#) by members. This includes a current list of all areas available on Basecamp and advice on how to manage the email alerts to your inbox. If there are areas that you would like to be added to or if you are not a member and would like to benefit from the fount of knowledge to be found on the site, please contact [Amber](#), our membership manager.

**Sharing Learning** Westminster Forum Projects is holding a seminar on "The future of UK agriculture policy". For details see <http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/agriculture-2017>

**Job Vacancies** Wye Valley AONB Partnership [Information Officer](#) East Devon AONB Partnership [Communications Officer](#). Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONB Partnerships [Project Officer](#).

**Non salaried positions** Chilterns and Cotswolds Conservation [Board positions](#)

If you want to contribute to a future edition of **Leading, Sharing, Learning, Inspiring** please send your article/snippet/link to [Jill](#).