UDVET Upper Dearne Valley Environmental Trust
Registered Charity 1157514 - Established 2014
Chairman's Report 2025

UDVET was formed by SOS (Save Our Scissett), SCAN (Skelmanthorpe Community Action Network) and KORS (Keep Our Rural Spaces) in June 2014, for the benefit of our local communities, mainly, but not exclusively, in the Kirklees Denby Dale Ward. As described on the Charities Commission website UDVET exists "for the public benefit, conservation and, where possible, the enhancement of the natural and architectural beauty of the area known as the Upper Dearne Valley, and in particular to conserve for the benefit of those who live in, work in, or otherwise derive pleasure from this area, the open green spaces and flora and fauna, for this and future generations."

Thus continue to be represented within the local CEWG (Climate Emergency Working Group) in helping local residents work for a sustainable future. As part of this we took part in the local authority "Eco-Festival" at St Augustine's Church of England First School Academy, Scissett, this autumn, with both a particular focus on wildlife gardening, thereby encouraging local residents to aid biodiversity and combat the extremes of climate change - and also taking up the theme of the proper use of water drains, discouraging home pollution of local water ways by supporting the Council's initiative called 'Only Rain Down the Drain' at this event. We will continue to do so given that so called 'sustainable urban drainage' schemes are encouraging rainwater and other potential pollutants to be fed into existing, natural waterways.

Previously we had a stand at the 2022 "Eco-Fest" at Denby Dale Pie \hall, the 2023 event at Skelmanthorpe Methodist Church, and the 2024 event at Emley First School

We hope to distribute a "gardening for wildlife" leaflet for Denby Dale Ward residents during 2026. CEWG and UDVET have also supported the new reed bed wastewater treatment facility on the outskirts of Clayton West. As well as cleaning water in this part of the River Dearne catchment area, hopefully this will also increase the biodiversity of the area.

UDVET welcomes positive support and information from local residents, and cooperates with other local groups and charities including CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England) to which we are affiliated. UDVET also links in with KORS in its activity supporting local wildlife and the habitats that are essential for the needs of wild creatures.

UDVET's community work is non-party political. We welcome good relationships with local politicians across party lines whenever possible; and are delighted to have support from people of all shades of political opinion and none. We hope in the coming elections of 2026 that those wishing to become local councillors will (continue) to take sensible rural planning decisions, including the serious need to enhance biodiversity.

Monitoring the various developments in Scissett, Skelmanthorpe, Denby Dale and so on also take up much time and energy. Some of these projects are not providing for the actual needs of local residents, ie, affordable housing suitable for young families and also for a growing elderly population.

Far too many undischarged planning conditions, as found in Kirklees Planning websites, exist despite building going ahead on many sites. It is possible that developers are trying to save money, in the knowledge that an understaffed planning team will not check that conditions are fulfilled. Since, due to a lack of staff, when Kirklees has put conditions on building consent, they do not then always follow up the application of those conditions.

As far as possible UDVET does inform the local authority of contraventions of planning condition permissions. Thus, eg, UDVET has given support to local councillors and residents in their concerns about inadequate drainage at building sites in Skelmanthorpe; the potential destruction of mature trees (including those with TPO – Tree Preservation Order) also in Skelmanthorpe; and various other developments in the Denby Dale Ward.

We continue to support local residents in their concerns about possible building in the centre of Denby Dale, and have supplied Kirklees with a detailed critical analysis of the application, and kept some statutory consultees informed of matters that they did not seem cognisant of. This not only because of the effect on biodiversity, schools, doctors, roads, sewage and drainage, but because this particular development could include extraction of coal. This particular matter is subject to Appeal to the Secretary of State and we have made a Statement to the Examining Planning Inspector.

As the minutes of our regular meetings indicate UDVET also responds to many other issues in the villages, fields, rivers, footpaths and woods of our area. We are also aware of proposed developments and actions (whether positive or problematic) such as, eg, the proposed Calder Grove development affecting traffic from our area. UDVET also supports the Chidswell Action Group campaign

We are also aware of an increasing number of applications for development on our greenbelt and close to ancient woodlands which is of great concern and likely to engage us in the future.

We also anticipate the revision of the Kirklees Local Plan will take up a fair proportion of our efforts in the next few years.

Though our remit is not providing finance to those in need, we do raise money for UDVET expenses, thus we recently held a successful Pie & Peas and Quiz evening in Scissett Club. Providing such events helps enhance community cohesion, which is perhaps even more important than fundraising for our charity. We thank all who supported our Quiz Evening including those who kindly brought raffle prizes.

Philip Reynolds
Chairman of UDVET

UDVET FINANCE RECORD

MONEY HELD IN CASH/BANK

DATE	DESCRIPTION	IN	OUT	BALANCE
	BALANCE BROUGH FORWARD			1,006.31
21/05/2025	CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP		60.00	946.31
21/05/2025	MELISSA WOJARSKI - UDVET WEBSITE HOSTING		50.00	896.31
28/10/2025	QUIZ NIGHT COSTS		435.00	461.31
28/10/2025	QUIZ NIGHT TICKET SALES/RAFFLE	615.00		1,076.31
28/10/2025	DONATION	10.00		1,086.31
				1,086.31
				1,086.31