

## **Dr Margaret E Bradshaw (Proctor) MBE**

### **Founder and Director**

I am an 'incomer' from a farm on the Yorkshire Wolds, now hefted to the Teesdale Fells, drawn here in 1951 in search of Teesdale's rare flora. Whilst teaching in Bishop Auckland, an encounter with Dr Max Walter (Cambridge University) initiated my study and mapping of rare Lady's Mantle species in Teesdale and Weardale. After gaining a Ph.D. at Durham University I joined the Adult Education Department, meanwhile continuing to study the flora and environment of the North Pennines with Botany Classes in Teesdale. I was part of the Teesdale Defence Committee that opposed the building of the reservoir at Cow Green in the late 1960s and have been involved in research into the Teesdale special flora, and an advocate for its conservation ever since. In 2017, conscious that several of the rare species were declining and frustrated by lack of effective action on their conservation, I founded the Upper Teesdale Special Flora Research and Conservation Trust.