

# Park

*The Community Newsletter of the  
Peak District National Park Authority*

# Life

Celebrating the  
national park's

60<sup>th</sup>

anniversary

page 6

Picture taken at Jacob's Ladder, Edale, early 1970s

WHY NOT GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A BOOST THROUGH A COST EFFECTIVE ADVERT IN PARK LIFE?



your **business** could be advertising here



Park Life is delivered to the **18,000** homes in the Peak District National Park and is also available online and at visitor centres.

For more information contact John Fern, Head of Communications, on **01629 816356** or email [john.fern@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:john.fern@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

**FLIGHT SALES, TUITION & SERVICE**  
**DERBYSHIRE FLYING CENTRE**  
 Hang Gliding & Paragliding School

Your opportunity to get involved in the three-dimensional freedom of the air!

Open from 8am - 7 days a week (weather permitting)

Tel: 0845 108 1577 or 01298 872 313  
 Email: [steve@d-f-c.co.uk](mailto:steve@d-f-c.co.uk)  
 Web: [www.d-f-c.co.uk](http://www.d-f-c.co.uk)

**Gift Vouchers Available**  
 £10 Discount on presentation of this advertisement

### COCKERTONS SOLICITORS ESTABLISHED 1878

Serving the needs of private individuals and the business community

Bridge Street, Bakewell DE45 1DS  
 Tel: 01629 812613  
 EMail: [enquiries@cockertonslegal.com](mailto:enquiries@cockertonslegal.com)  
 Web: [www.cockertonslegal.com](http://www.cockertonslegal.com)

**COTSWOLD**  
we get outdoors

Cotswold Outdoor for all your outdoor clothing and equipment needs

**10% OFF**

Available at Cotswold Outdoor, Bakewell.

Cotswold Outdoor  
 Bridge Street  
 Bakewell  
 DE45 1DS

Tel. 01629 812 231  
[www.cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com)

\* Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Upon presentation of this voucher in-store. Available in Cotswold Outdoor, Bakewell store only. Offer ends 6th March 2011.

Code: M42VP3

**STONE & SLATE LIMITED**

Natural roofing slates  
 stone and ceramic flooring  
 Huge choice at great prices!

Please contact or visit our showroom:  
 Coney Green Farm, Lower Market Street, Clay Cross, Derbyshire S45 9NE (opp. Bwater)

Mon-Thu 9am-5pm | Fri 9am-4.30pm | Sat 10am-4pm  
 Tel: **01246 250088** | [www.stoneandslate.co.uk](http://www.stoneandslate.co.uk)

# Chair's introduction

Narendra Bajaria helps launch the 'Walkers are Welcome' campaign in Bradfield  
 Photo: David Bocking



***"2011 marks a significant milestone for the Peak District National Park – its 60th anniversary – and as I come to the end of my tenure with the Authority on March 31, I'd like to celebrate the past and look to the future."***

The Peak District was the first UK national park, founded on 17 April 1951 to protect its landscape, wildlife, heritage and traditional communities as a green refuge from urban sprawl. The Authority still puts these qualities first, and – thanks largely to the people who live and work here – they are still a national treasure to be cherished.

But these are challenging times in terms of public spending cuts, and we in the Authority will have to achieve our aims with fewer resources.

So we are increasingly working with partners, sharing activities, pooling expertise and adopting a more commercial approach – for instance, including advertising in ParkLife for the first time.

We are pulling back from direct property ownership and management, for instance at Losehill Hall, the Eastern Moors and the Roaches, though any new owners or partners must share our priorities for conservation, recreation and education.

Our essential work carries on: we actively support farmers and land managers who want to look after the landscape, wildlife and heritage features. Our planning policies safeguard the area's distinctive character and encourage lower-cost housing and energy efficiency. We support rural businesses and promote a 'green' economy. Our rangers and learning and discovery teams continue to introduce young people to the outdoors, and we are widening opportunities for volunteers of all ages.

For the future, I am heartened by examples of innovation, co-operation and progress in projects such as:

- the Moors for the Future Partnership, carrying out vital restoration work for nature conservation, clean water, carbon storage and flood reduction
- Pedal Peak District, creating new cycle trails, re-opening old

railway tunnels and encouraging thousands to take up healthy exercise

- the Live & Work Rural Programme, advising hundreds of micro-businesses, providing small business grants and helping communities to develop their green and enterprising ideas
- Calver Weir, where residents, supported by the Authority, restored the 170-year-old weir and are maintaining its wetland habitats
- Longstone Edge, where the Authority, community and environmental groups, fought a lengthy, successful legal case to end unlawful limestone quarrying.

Next month (April) we will seek your views on the draft National Park Management Plan – the blueprint for the way the national park should progress from 2011-16. We have reviewed our strategies on issues such as the economy, recreation, biodiversity climate change, quarrying, and we welcome your input. Putting these strategies into action will depend on engaging the help of local communities, businesses, voluntary groups and individuals.

The key to the national park's future lies in harnessing the commitment of people who live or work in the national park, or who visit and care about it.

Only by working together can we ensure this glorious national park will continue to flourish beyond the next 60 years.

**Narendra Bajaria CBE**  
 Chair  
 Peak District National Park Authority





Stoop Farm, Hollinsclough

As **Park Life** went to press a Government inspector was also due to start examining the Local Development Framework core strategy, following public consultation last autumn. This is a document that sets planning policies for the area. More information: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ldf)

# What you think matters

We want your thoughts on how the national park should develop over the next five years.

A public consultation about a draft new National Park Management Plan, which is the main policy document for all organisations operating in the national park, takes place from 15 April until 1 July.

The existing plan has been reviewed following a series of consultation events attended by community groups, charities,

businesses, local authorities, parish councils and other partners held last year.

Some of the proposed changes are:

- Giving a bigger emphasis to supporting and promoting farming and land management
- Doing more to support the local economy and communities
- Ensuring that climate change issues and managing the reduction of carbon emissions is integrated into all areas of work in the

- national park
- Maintaining the emphasis on protecting and improving biodiversity and cultural heritage
- Recognising the interaction of people, the landscape and the economy.

The draft management plan and details of the consultation can be seen at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/nmpmconsultation](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/nmpmconsultation)



# Hopes for the future

Hollinsclough residents Bez and Karen Beresford run just the sort of businesses the new management plan wants to do more to support.

Bez is a third generation farmer with 1,000 sheep, while Karen manages a bed and breakfast business based in a converted stone barn on Stoop Farm.

Bez said: "The farming side of the business has been better for the past two years due to the exchange rate in the export market after being very poor for the previous 10 years.

"Changes in subsidy payments made to farmers mean sheep numbers have fallen which means that in the next five years I think there may be areas that are under grazed. This could be an important factor in how the

land looks in the future."

Karen has been getting lots of repeat business to her B&B since it opened two years ago.

She said: "One of the biggest problems we have had is getting a broadband internet connection. We couldn't get a landline broadband service so had to rely on dial-up which was really slow when we were trying to update the website promoting the B&B.

"In the end we had to spend a lot of money getting satellite broadband but it still isn't great so we could do with something better."

A sense of community is important to Karen and Bez, with both concerned about litter and fly tipping problems and the loss of community facilities in villages like Longnor.



Main Picture: B&B owner Karen Beresford and dog Bez, and (above) with Bez on the farm



# Rising to the financial challenge

**The Peak District National Park Authority, like all other local authorities, is having to play its part in making savings to address the national debt.**

The Government is cutting English national parks' funding by 21.5 per cent up to 2015 (which equates to 28.5 per cent with inflation). For the Peak District this means a budget cut from £8.2m in 2010-11 to £6.5m in 2014-15.

The challenge for the Authority is to cut costs (by £446,000 in 2011-12) while maintaining its essential work in protecting the landscape, biodiversity and heritage and promoting understanding.

## SO WHAT WILL IT MEAN?

Broadly, the Authority will share more work with partners, widen voluntary opportunities, generate more income, scale back some services and reduce staffing through redundancy, redeployment or early retirement.

It is also selling or leasing its larger properties to like-minded organisations, cutting running costs. One of the biggest savings (£250,000 a year) will come from ceasing to operate Losehill Hall, its environmental learning centre at Castleton.

The Authority is selling Losehill Hall to the Youth Hostel Association, the



Losehill Hall, Castleton, is being sold to the YHA

preferred bidder out of four. The YHA proposes a £2m refurbishment, creating a youth hostel and education/activity centre that will boost the number of young people learning there to 30,000 a year. A smaller national park learning and discovery team will continue to work with schools, families and communities.

The Authority has also leased its largest land-holding, the Eastern Moors estate, to the National Trust and RSPB. Together they are managing the 6,200 acre (2,509 ha) estate which includes Curbar, Froggatt and Birchen Edges, as well as Big Moor, Ramsley Moor and Totley Moor.

In Staffordshire, the spectacular 975-acre (394ha) Roaches estate is likely to be leased or sold to a like-minded organisation or individual. Eight interested parties are being asked how they would manage conservation,

recreation and farming – objectives set with the help of local people and users.

Community and business support is important and will continue through the Sustainable Development Fund and the Live and Work Rural programme, both offering advice and grants.

Extra volunteers will be welcomed, and extra income generated from visitor centres and cycle hire.

Chief executive Jim Dixon said: "We hope people understand the reasons for the changes we're going through. In everything we do, we are seeking lower-cost ways of achieving our objectives and looking at where partnerships, volunteers and income generation can support vital work.

"As we reach our 60th anniversary we want to celebrate the achievements of the past and work in partnership with people who care about a sustainable future for the national park."



The Roaches - in the process of being leased or sold for conservation, recreation and farming

# HAPPY 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Peak District National Park came into being on April 17 1951, as Britain's first national park.

The past 60 years have given us the opportunity to safeguard and promote the Peak District's special environment and ways of life. The area has enriched and transformed the lives of

thousands of residents and millions who visit.

In celebration of the diamond anniversary, we invited a few people to share their thoughts about the national park. To read the full interviews or add your own story visit : [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/anniversary](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/anniversary)

## How the national park has touched people's lives

### THE PIONEER

"In the 1950s we were national park pioneers, breaking in new legislation that had never been used before. Rural car parks, picnic sites and information booths were all new and important, as even then the Peak District was a busy place. National park visitor centres were unheard of until Fred Herdman set up a big table and filled it with information in the best room of his pub, the Nags Head, in Edale in 1954. 'People management,' as it was called, had never been used before in the

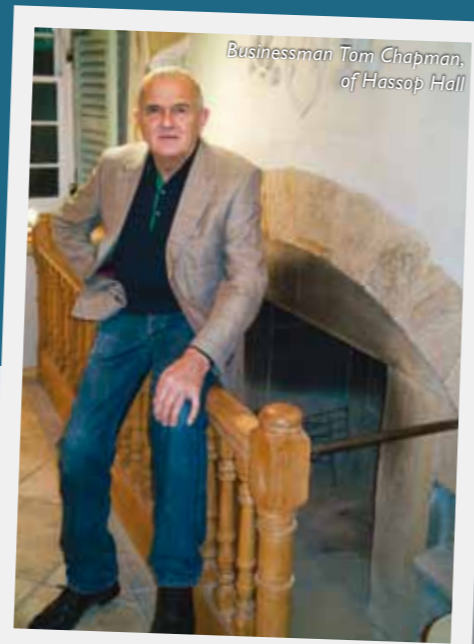
countryside; we take it for granted now and expect certain facilities to a standard, but then it was new. Working with local people and businesses is an essential part of the role of national parks. It's about getting into the hearts and minds of people, helping them develop in an appropriate scale and character that is better for their living standards and way of life but good for the place too. It's important not to lose the national perspective as well as paying attention to local needs. The balance of the two: national interest and local need, is vital



National park pioneer John Foster CBE



Farmer Marshall Waller, of Wildboarclough



Businessman Tom Chapman, of Hassop Hall

to a sustainable future for all national parks." *John Foster CBE, was the Peak District National Park's Director and Planning Officer (Chief Executive) 1953-1968. Now 90, John lives with his wife in Scotland.*

### THE BUSINESSMAN

"I was privileged to know well several of the great pioneers of Britain's first national park, including Ivor Morten, Lt Col Gerald Haythornthwaite and Norman Gratton; they showed a passion in the way the national park was conceived. The valuable experience of having such a great authority on my doorstep has always been an enormous inspiration to me."

*Tom Chapman, Hassop Hall hotel and restaurant owner.*

### THE FARMER

"We've adapted our business to be in harmony with the national park, to be tourism based and educational. If we hadn't done this we would not have been as successful. It's up to us to explain the farming messages and being in a national park has given us a platform to do that." *Marshall Waller, Blaze Farm, Wildboarclough, farmer.*



Environmental Christine Gregory, of Youlgrave

### THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

"It is easy for people to be complacent about the Peak District because it looks beautiful, but like the rest of Britain the National Park has sustained massive losses in traditional grasslands with devastating consequences for wildlife. We must look after the environment on our doorstep. Loss of biodiversity is a threat to all species including us".

*Christine Gregory, Youlgrave, painter, writer and photographer.*



Actor Brian Blessed, a lifelong visitor to the national park

### THE ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUNTEER

"Archaeology opened up a new level of appreciation of the national park for me. Spending time on-site gives you a different perspective; you're happily trowelling away in a landscape of layered history, finding traces of the people who once lived in the place. It can feel timeless; the only sign of our modern age is the people working near you."

*Ann Hall, Baslow, archaeology volunteer.*

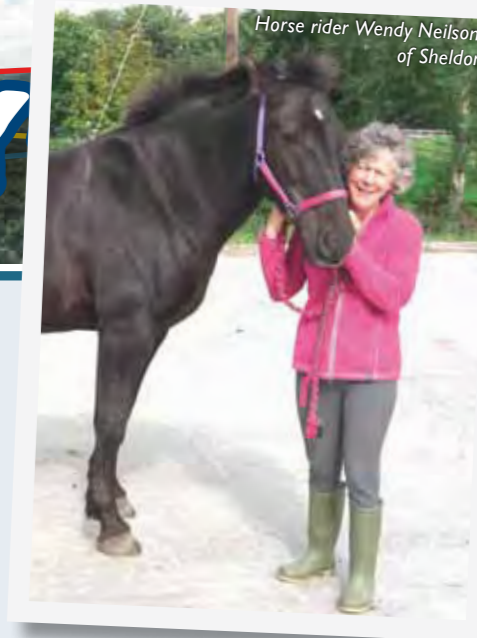


Archaeology volunteer Ann Hall, of Baslow, with a prehistoric find

### THE VISITOR

"I grew up in the South Yorkshire coalfield near Doncaster and have known the Peak District since I was a boy; for me it is the centre of the earth. I love its high rocky edges, its wild moorland vistas, its dramatic hillsides and hidden valleys. It's on the doorstep for millions yet you can escape the hordes and make your own adventure. We are indebted to the people who set up national parks in Britain 60 years ago and it's up to us to celebrate by helping each other look after these special places. We are the guardians of our world; let's make the most of it."

*Brian Blessed, actor, adventurer, author, and honorary life vice president of the Campaign for National Parks.*



Horse rider Wendy Neilson, of Sheldon

### THE HORSE RIDER

"It's a fantastic place to ride - the variety in the landscape is stunning. You can be on top of the moors yet within minutes you can be down in a sheltered dale. It's a very special place. My only criticism is that I want more! More safe, traffic-free, places to ride."

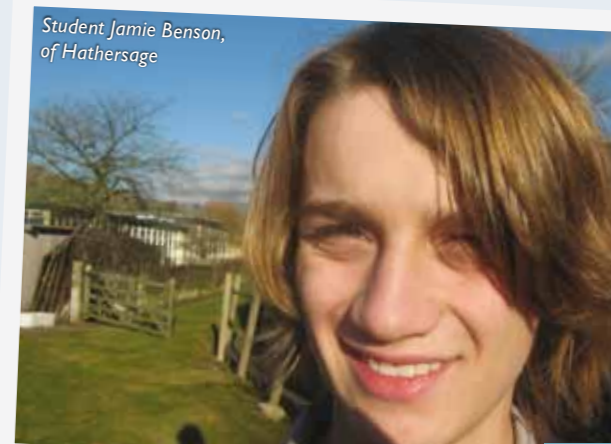
*Wendy Neilson, Sheldon, Peak Horse Power an action group for bridleways. More details: [peakhorsepowersecretary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peakhorsepowersecretary@hotmail.co.uk)*

### THE STUDENT

"It's a good environment to grow up in. I do a lot of walking and cycling. In winter there's sledging and cross country skiing and in summer we've got swimming in the outdoor pool in Hathersage."

"I feel lucky to go to school here: it's smaller and friendlier than city schools, but we can easily get to the city. The national park is good for anyone who's adventurous - my Grandad, who is 80, is a devout climber and walker - we enjoy visiting the climbing shops in Hathersage or the caverns in Castleton. It's a great place to be."

*Jamie Benson, 15, Hope Valley College student*



Student Jamie Benson, of Hathersage

# HAPPY 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

## Improving planning services

### DIAMOND DATES

1930s	Dovedale proposed as UK's first national park
1932	Kinder Mass Trespass campaign for access to countryside
1949	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act passed
1951	Peak District set up as UK's first national park, followed by the Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor
1953	First access agreement to open countryside signed for Edale Moor
1954	Ranger Service is set up – Tom Tomlinson (pictured right) is the first warden
1965	Pennine Way opens – first national trail from Edale to Scotland
1968	Countryside Act passed
1976	Peak District suffers drought and devastating moorland fires
1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act passed to protect listed species and habitats
1990	Rights of Way Act established
1995	Environment Act updates National Park purposes and duty
2000	Countryside and Rights of Way Act gives walkers rights to roam on more areas of the national park
2001	National outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease has a big impact on Peak District communities
2007	75th anniversary of Kinder Mass Trespass celebrated
2010	South Downs becomes the 15th British National Park



Tom Tomlinson,  
the national park's first warden

### Join us in celebrating the 60th anniversary

Other organisations are helping us celebrate the national park's 60th anniversary on April 16-17.

Friends of the Peak District is holding a "Diamond Dawdle" from Thornbridge Hall on Saturday April 16. For more information see [www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk)

National Park rangers, and the Sheffield Ramblers and the Peak District Local Access Forum are organising a series of walks over the anniversary period.

Full details of all events at: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/anniversary](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/anniversary)

### Did you know?

Britain has 15 National Parks: 10 in England, three in Wales and two in Scotland.

Globally, there are 113,000 National Parks and protected areas covering 149 million square kilometres - about 6% of our planet's land surface.

Visit [www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk) for more facts and figures.

## Acting on your planning feedback

A series of improvements have been made to the quality of information available about planning applications on our website.

Responding to feedback from planning applicants, parish councils and website users we have:

- Improved the search box so applications can be found more easily
- Introduced a street map of application sites that can be viewed in 2D or 3D
- Brought all documents associated with a particular application together so they can be viewed on one website page
- Introduced a comment box to enable interested parties to give their views about a particular application – this only appears during a public consultation period.

The improved planning application information can be seen at

<http://pam.peakdistrict.gov.uk>

David Higley, website manager for the Peak District National Park, said: "We have been testing the new planning application information with planning applicants and parish councils.

"We have made improvements from the feedback we have received. We believe the new system makes it much easier to get relevant information quickly, without having to search all over the website."

Two further improvements are planned in the next few months. The search box for planning applications will be extended so that it also brings up details of appeals against planning decisions alongside the documents for the original planning application.

The map to show the location of planning applications will be improved to highlight the boundary of the buildings mentioned in the planning application.

Planning applicants visiting our offices at Aldern House in Bakewell will be asked to continue testing the new website over the coming months to see if any more improvements can be made. The website page also has a feedback button to enable other users to make comments.



## Site visits help planning decisions

Information to explain the purpose of planning site visits has been added to our website.

Site visits are occasionally arranged for items going to planning committee when it is considered important that members have the opportunity to see a planning application site before they make a decision the following day.

They will be shown the application site by a planning officer who will explain the details and issues of the case. They are purely fact finding visits as no discussion or representations are allowed until the planning committee meeting.

On occasions other people may be invited solely to answer questions from planning committee members that apply to the site visit.

More information: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sitevisits](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sitevisits)



Brian Long, chair of the Peak Park Parishes Forum, checks a planning application on the improved website

# Boosting the local economy

## Your business is our business

The Peak District's vitality depends on local businesses that look after the land and buildings, source local products, sustain local jobs, develop new ideas and create a healthy economy.

The proposed new National Park Management Plan will give a bigger emphasis to supporting local businesses but much work is already happening through our *Live & Work Rural* programme.

## Leading the llamas

Millions of people go walking in the Peak District National Park each year - but not many do it accompanied by llamas. Until now.

With the help of a £632 grant and business development advice from our *Live & Work Rural* programme Great Hucklow couple Nick and Janet Chandley have started Peak Llamas. It is a llama trekking business where national park residents and visitors can book to go on walks on public bridleways with llamas.

Nick and Janet saw an opportunity to bring the concept to the Peak District

after experiencing llama trekking businesses in other national parks but turned to our *Live & Work Rural* team for help in turning the idea into reality.

Nick, 50, said: "We have done loads of work training the llamas and getting them used to dealing with the public, dogs and cars.

"We spent the year before we started our first commercial trek finding suitable walks for llamas to use in a national park. We got the advice of the Peak District National Park Authority's rights of way team and various landowners about

possible routes."

Some of the most booked walks are on the Chatsworth Estate and are proving particularly popular with families.

Nick said: "If you said to some kids that you were going on a walk for two hours then they would not want to do it but they get so interested in the llamas that they do not notice that they have done the walk.

"We have seven llamas and each of them has its own endearing character."

More information: [www.peakllamas.co.uk](http://www.peakllamas.co.uk)



## Live & Work Rural supports small businesses

Our *Live & Work Rural* programme helps local businesses – or budding entrepreneurs with business ideas - with small grants and advice on everything from feasibility studies to marketing, product design, training opportunities and equipment.

It also works with residents to help develop community schemes and includes the pioneering Environmental Quality Mark – the certification of best environmental practice.

So far

*Live & Work Rural* has:

- Approved 34 grants providing £41,025 of financial assistance to small and micro businesses. Businesses have added to this, meaning the sector has had an overall £119,359 cash injection.
- Created or safeguarded 75 jobs
- Helped 154 local businesses to improve their performance
- Given 738 hours of training to 123



Live & Work Rural business networking event

local business people

- Carried out environmental audits and given advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy to 62 businesses
- Helped 2,958 people involved in community activities

Go to [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/liveandworkrural](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/liveandworkrural) or 01629 816200

## Tideswell's really cooking with new School of Food

Eighteen months ago villagers met in a Tideswell pub to cook up ideas for boosting their local economy. They wanted to bring more prosperity to village businesses, and to help local people develop new skills and products.

Thus the Taste Tideswell project was born. Now, with the major achievement last May of winning a £400,000 Village SOS grant from the Big Lottery Fund, their professionally-run Tideswell School of Food is up and running, and the Tideswell Community Kitchen Garden is about to start its second season.

The whole project will air on BBC1 this Spring, but anyone can taste the School of Food now, with:

- Half and full-day courses, including bread-making, beer-brewing, healthy eating, foraging, Indian or Italian cuisine, cooking for men.
- A commercial kitchen where local producers can develop new products or prepare dishes for catering.

- A conference room where people can hold events and training courses.

Pete Hawkins chairs Taste Tideswell's volunteer board of directors. He says: "We wanted to make Tideswell famous as the place to come for good quality locally-produced food, set in the beautiful Peak District National Park.

"We also wanted the School of Food to be a local resource for local people as well as a professionally-run cookery school. Local people can learn to grow, cook, make, brew and sell local food and drink, for their own interest or to develop new products.

"Local producers who meet our criteria can use the Tideswell Made brand, which we want to become nationally-known and trusted. We're encouraging all Tideswell Made

producers to work towards the national park's Environmental Quality Mark\*."

Visit: [www.tideswellschooloffood.co.uk](http://www.tideswellschooloffood.co.uk) or call 01298 871262.

\*Nearly 100 national park businesses now display the Environmental Quality Mark, certifying they actively support best environmental practice.

Go to [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/eqm](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/eqm)




TV presenter Sarah Beeny gets a taste of the Tideswell School of Food

**Chesterfield College**  
achieve your potential

Get a taste for College

Come along to our Taster Days between 21-25 February 2011 and find out what it's like to study a course at College.

Engineering, Exercise and Fitness, A Levels, Hair and Beauty, Catering, Apprenticeships, Construction, Art and Design, Science, Computers and Graphics, Travel and Tourism, and many more!



Contact: schools@chesterfield.ac.uk or call 01246 500531 for more details.

**PEAK CYCLE HIRE**

A great day out for all the family

With a huge range of cycles to suit all sizes, ages and abilities and access to miles of traffic-free trails



**PEAK DISTRICT**  
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/cycle

Ashbourne 01335 343156 • Derwent 01433 651261 • Parsley Hay 01298 84493

**Creative Things for Creative Kids**

44 Newbold Road, Chesterfield. (01246) 271540  
- on site parking and only 5 mins from town centre  
see our website for other exciting, creative classes  
www.chesterfieldstudios.co.uk

**Ballet Babies**  
1-3 Year Olds Dance - Friday 10.30-11.30

**Little Dancers**  
3-4 Year Olds Dance - Saturday 9.30-10.30


**Chesterfield Studios**  
3rd Annual Summer Theatre School for 5-11 year olds, 25-29 July & 1-5 August 2011

**SUMMER Theatre School**

An Alternative Retirement Lifestyle

**Peak Care**

**Grove Park Ashover**



**Grove Park** offers a range of independent housing options with comprehensive care services

**Assisted Living and Close Care Apartments**

**Grove House** offers quality residential care, respite and day care are also available

For brochures or to arrange a visit please call  
**01246 592092**  
info@peakcare.co.uk www.peakcare.co.uk

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**



# Conservation heroes

## Volunteers dig deep for national park

**Teamwork is what conservation is all about. Many hands can make lighter work of bridge-building, fencing, path repairs, pond clearance, dry stone walling, hedge-laying, coppicing, scrub clearance, ragwort-pulling – whatever needs doing.**

That is why the National Park Authority is thankful to the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers – hundreds of people who regularly help out, not just on our own land, but farms, riverbanks and moorland.

They include all ages and abilities from scouts and students to pensioners. Mary Laycock, of Calver, has volunteered for 10 years. She

says: "I spent years of happy hiking in the Peak District, so it seemed appropriate for me to give something back to the national park.

"I've been soaked, frozen, covered in mud, scratched by hawthorn and baked in summer! But it is fun. There's good company and it's satisfying to complete a task together. We have a variety of skills and we work in wonderful scenery. We chatter and laugh a lot, which must be good for us.

"I've been back to some of the meadows we've cleared and they're bright with wild flowers in the late spring. Hedges we planted several years ago are now providing nesting sites for wild birds."



Young volunteers repair a path near Slippery Stones in the Derwent Valley



Volunteers with team leaders

### Helping healthy habitats

Over two winters Peak Park Conservation Volunteers have helped clear hawthorn scrub from Hand Dale on Hartington Moor Farm.

Their aim is to achieve a more healthy balance of habitats on the farm which is managed under Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme for its outstanding wildflower interest.

Hawthorn spreads, changes the soil and micro-climate, and shades out delicate species, so its removal helps conserve a wider diversity of plantlife.

Countryside and economy adviser Rob Townsend said: "Among the species we want to encourage are dropwort, at the edge of its northern range, along with early purple orchids, birds foot trefoil, mouse-ear hawkweed and tormentil.

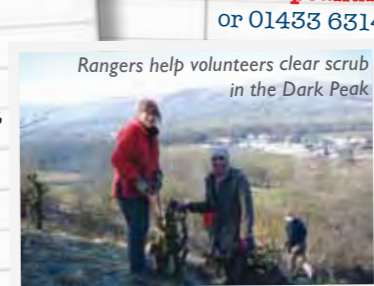
"The volunteers have done a magnificent job, helping retain the delicate habitats and wildlife interest on these tricky, steep-sided banks."

### Wonder wallers

Volunteers can come as groups or individuals – one group of employees from outdoor gear companies Sprayway and Mountain Equipment went the extra mile for the national park.

While at an event at Gradbach Youth Hostel, they not only helped rebuild a dry stone wall, they arranged for their company to donate money for young people from Barnsley to come out and do conservation work for the first time in their half-term.

To find out more about the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers:  
[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ppcv](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ppcv)  
or 01433 631433.



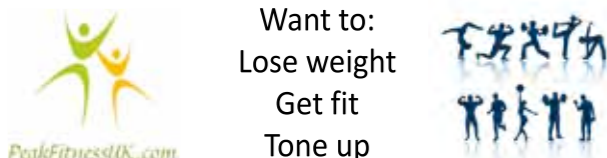
Rangers help volunteers clear scrub in the Dark Peak



Sprayway and Mountain Equipment volunteers

## Make 2011 YOUR year You

Want to:  
Lose weight  
Get fit  
Tone up  
Improve performance?



PeakFitnessUK.com

## Us

### Latest / best training methods

Kettlebells  
TRX  
Medicine balls  
Functional training

ViPR  
X-Bag  
Battling ropes  
Corrective exercise

Proven results  
Testimonials – previous success  
Money Back Guarantee  
[www.peakfitnessuk.com](http://www.peakfitnessuk.com)  
[contact@peakfitnessuk.com](mailto:contact@peakfitnessuk.com)  
01629 813696

# Villages keen to be green

New Mills community hydro-power project  
Torrs Hydro - photo © Simon Clayton/Peak Digital

## Village halls show the way

**We worry about climate change and dwindling fossil fuels – but can we really make a difference? Plenty of national park residents believe they can, and it all starts with small changes in our own homes and communities.**

**Here we highlight two new village hall projects that put energy-saving and renewable energy at the heart of their design, creating community buildings fit for the future.**



An air source heat pump located unobtrusively behind Over Haddon's new village hall

## Over Haddon aims high for low carbon-footprint

**Over Haddon had a big problem that faces many small communities – a 1950s village hall that was becoming inflexible, in need of major repair and expensive to run.**

Now, thanks to the hard work of the Village Hall Management Committee, it has a new £450,000 building designed to benefit residents and the environment. "It took three years to get the funding in place," said management committee secretary Dick Foxon, "but it's been worth it".

"We wanted a community building that's sustainable for the future and also reduces our carbon-footprint. I think we've done both."

The new hall incorporates an air source heat pump for underfloor heating and hot water; solar photovoltaic panels for electricity; rainwater collection to flush the toilets, and substantial insulation in walls, roof and windows. Outside, the ground-surface is porous, reducing run-off.

The architects were Adrian Russell Associates of Bakewell. Construction was done by D J Atkinson Construction Ltd of Chesterfield, using stone from nearby Once a Week Quarry and recycled beams from the original building.

With an adaptable main hall, incorporating French doors opening onto views of Lathkill Dale, a meeting room, large kitchen, office and storage, the



Over Haddon's new village hall, with solar panelled roof, under construction earlier this year



**ON LOAN**  
**FREE energy monitors**  
Derbyshire library users can borrow free energy monitors for up to six weeks. The monitors measure the electricity you use for everyday tasks, spurring you to save energy and cash by about £60-£70 a year. Ask at any Derbyshire library for details.  
For tips on energy-saving:  
[actonco2.direct.gov.uk/home](http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/home)

management committee believes the new hall will serve the needs of residents, community groups and local commercial organisations.

A grant from the Peak District National Park's Sustainable Development Fund helped get the whole project off the ground.

"The Sustainable Development officer, Richard Godley, was really helpful," said Dick Foxon. "He was always available with advice, contacts and to talk things through."

The committee subsequently achieved a major grant from the Big Lottery Fund as well as funding from four other organisations plus substantial local donations.

For advice on the Sustainable Development Fund:  
[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf)

## Parwich builds an eco-friendly future

Parwich's new Memorial Hall echoes with children's laughter as they play happily at the Stepping Stones pre-school play-group. For them, energy conservation and generation are already part of everyday life.

The floors beneath them are warmed by a ground source heat pump, the hot water by solar panels, natural ventilation comes from wind-catchers, natural light from strategically-placed windows, the toilets flush with rainwater and the whole building is cosily insulated.

"We needed to replace the 1960s hall which had done good service but was beyond reasonable repair and not suited to the community's modern needs," said Memorial Hall Management Group member Lynette Coyne, who led its planning and design committee.

"We wanted it to be as environmentally-friendly as it could be, so we sought an architect specialising in low energy buildings (Marsh Grochowski of Nottingham).

"We re-used the existing site, but the new hall is about 25% bigger, and much more adaptable.

"Stone was donated by a local quarry (Longcliffe), the timber is sustainable green oak, and the contractors, Wildgoose of Chesterfield, were local.

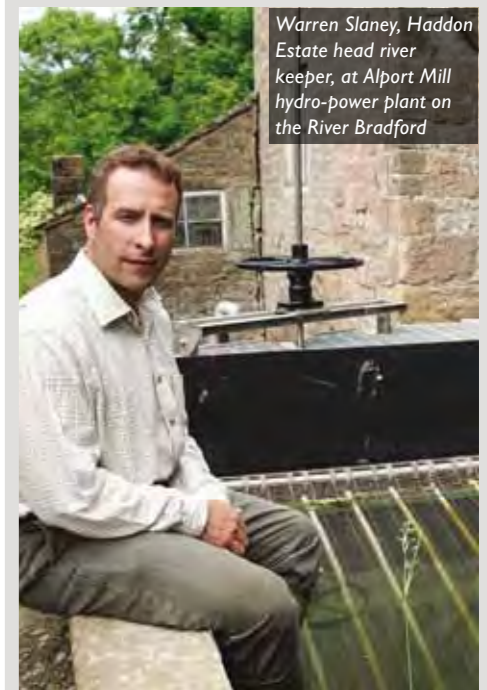
"We were aiming to blend contemporary and traditional design in a genuinely multi-use building - the pre-school is based here, it's handy for the primary school, community groups meet here, we have films, shows, public meetings and parties."

The £695,000 project was supported initially by a grant from the National Park's Sustainable Development Fund, which opened the way for a Big Lottery grant.

- The Authority's planning committee welcomes designs that incorporate energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy devices that work well with buildings and landscape – see [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/energy](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/energy)
- The Authority has cut its own carbon emissions by 16 per cent over the past two years and uses ground source heat pumps in its newer properties – see: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/emr2010](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/emr2010)



National park leaders visit Parwich's eco-friendly Memorial Hall



Warren Slaney, Haddon Estate head river keeper, at Alport Mill hydro-power plant on the River Bradford

## Renewable energy on-stream

**The Peak District launched the industrial revolution with its water-power, and now it could help launch a cascade of community hydro-power schemes.**

Climate Change Minister Greg Barker visited the Torrs Hydro scheme last autumn to call on other communities to follow New Mills' lead in harnessing river-power to generate electricity and income.

He also announced that restored water mills and turbines are now eligible for the feed-in tariff, which pays people for generating renewable electricity and for any surplus exported to the National Grid.

To help communities and individuals, the Friends of the Peak District's "Peak Power" report identifies local rivers with potential for micro-hydro schemes – see [www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk)

- Both Torrs Hydro and "Peak Power" were helped by the national park's Sustainable Development Fund – see [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf)

# Communities protect heritage

## Massacre above Monsal Dale?

Could the discovery of nine 2,300-year-old skeletons at Fin Cop, overlooking Monsal Dale, indicate a prehistoric massacre?

Local volunteers and professional archaeologists think so after making the remarkable discovery at two award-winning excavations of the Iron Age hillfort in August 2009 and 2010.

The remains of five children, an adolescent and three women were found – but no men. All had been unceremoniously thrown into the fort's perimeter ditch with rocks tumbled on top.

With the excavations uncovering only 10 metres of the 350 metre rock-cut ditch, it is suspected that many more remains could lie buried there.

The dig, by Longstone Local History Group and Bakewell-based Archaeological Research Services Ltd, won the British Archaeological Awards Best Community

Archaeology Project 2010.

Dr Clive Waddington, of Archaeological Research Services, said: "The investigations have opened a window on a dramatic history to one of the region's major hillforts. The challenge now is to understand what was going on and how it fits into the wider history of the region."

The project involved more than 500 schoolchildren and 200 adults, unearthing hundreds of fragments of prehistoric tools, utensils and weapons. It was made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the private landowner, and supported by English Heritage and the National Park Authority, who can now develop an up-to-date conservation and management plan.

Ann Hall, of Longstone Local History Group, said: "We were particularly pleased that our project benefited young people. Many local schools helped with the excavation, from Longstone to Bakewell,

Buxton, Ashbourne and Sheffield.

"The smiles of the volunteers of all ages show the pleasure we had, coming together to make a 'Fin Cop' community."

Fin Cop is on private farmland, but more details can be found at [www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com](http://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com)



Volunteers enjoy the dig at Fin Cop

## Angels smile on Ilam Cross

Angels adorning Ilam Cross will have plenty to smile about in July when villagers hope to unveil their newly-restored monument – the culmination of more than 10 years' work by a community group to conserve their village heritage.

A campaign to rescue the 170-year-old, 13-metre memorial to Mary Watts-Russell, wife of landowner Jesse Watts-Russell, was launched in the 1990s by local historian Phil Mottram.

The restoration was finally made possible when the National Park Authority

bought it by compulsory purchase in 2009 and transferred it to the village's Ilam Cross Trust.

Specialist restorers began work last autumn on its elaborate Gothic Revival carvings, including six angels, an imp and a fine new cross to replace a "temporary" 1960s one.

Support has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, the Pilgrim Trust, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, the National Park Authority and a host of private donors.

Go to: [www.the-ilam-cross-trust.org.uk](http://www.the-ilam-cross-trust.org.uk)



Ilam Cross - now under wraps for long-awaited restoration

# Recreation on wheels

## Driving home the message on off-roading

A Peak District campaign to reduce illegal and irresponsible off-roading is setting a national example.

Police, national park rangers and groups representing responsible 4x4 drivers and trail-bike riders have worked together on Operation Blackbrook since 2007.

They hold regular Operation Blackbrook days, visiting places popular with riders and drivers. They pass on information on keeping to lawful byways, being careful to avoid wildlife habitats and

historic features and being considerate to walkers, horse-riders, cyclists and residents. Police also spot-check vehicles and bikes.

Their work was recently highlighted on BBC1's Countryfile in a special feature by John Craven, and national park rights of way manager Mike Rhodes said: "There is certainly interest on a wider national basis in Operation Blackbrook."

"The ethos of information and communication, leaving enforcement as a last resort, is achieving improvements here and other areas have consulted us on best practice."

Sometimes the last resort has to be considered however, as at Chapel Gate, a badly-eroded 3km byway skirting Rushup Edge, near Edale. The Authority has held a public consultation on a possible 18-month exclusion of motorised traffic to allow repairs and recovery.

More information: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles)



## Light at the end of the tunnel

Work is going full steam ahead to re-open four old railway tunnels on the Monsal Trail. The aim of the Pedal Peak District project is to make the trail more cycle-friendly, while also benefiting walkers and horse riders

Now repairs are complete; lighting, resurfacing and access improvements are under way, and information panels and listening posts are in hand. The launch is planned for early summer, though any bad weather could still affect the completion-date.

Next steps are to secure funding to continue to promote cycling, and link the Monsal Trail from Bakewell to Matlock and through Buxton to the High Peak Trail.

For more information visit [www.pedalpeakdistrict.co.uk](http://www.pedalpeakdistrict.co.uk) and check out Pedal Peak District on Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and YouTube.



## ON YOUR BIKE!

Pedal Peak District, the project to get more people cycling in the national park, has proved a real success. In less than a year, thousands of people have been encouraged to make active changes to the way they travel and exercise by signing up to [www.pedalpeakdistrict.co.uk](http://www.pedalpeakdistrict.co.uk)

Three national park residents: Claire Greatorex of Bakewell; Mark Roberts of Tideswell; and Sara Robinson of High Bradfield won bikes in the website's monthly prize draw.

Events organiser Carol Parsons said: "Since April 2010, we've held 97 free public cycling events, rides and training sessions and helped 3,415 people get in the saddle. In partnership with Pedal Ready from Sheffield we've taken Bikeability training (formerly Cycling Proficiency) into five schools in the Bakewell and Bradfield areas."

Pictured right: Mark Roberts with his prize bike





# A memory bank for the moors

If you have ever recorded the memories of an aging relative, you know how important it is to capture them before it is too late. Now the Moor Memories project is creating a unique oral history of life on the Peak District moors by recording the recollections of people

who lived, worked or walked there.

Their memories will form a lasting archive of voices, photos, podscrolls and displays, based at the Moorland Visitor Centre, Edale, home of the Moors for the Future Partnership.



The Second World War, foot and mouth epidemics, wildfires, the freezing winters of 1947 and 1961-2, hiking in hobnail boots – all provide wonderful material which the Moor Memories officer and volunteers are recording and collating.

One farmer relates trying to feed starving

sheep in deep snow: “I got over the gate and the sheep would meet me. They were so hungry they got me down, so I couldn’t take the hay where I wanted, and what they hadn’t trodden out of sight was blown out of sight. I thought: how do you win in a situation like this?”

If you would like to help record people’s memories, or to relate your own, go to: [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moor-memories](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moor-memories) or call 01629 816585.

- Moor Memories is funded by: Heritage Lottery Fund, Peak District National Park Authority, English Heritage, East Peak Innovation Partnership, South Pennine LEADER, National Trust, United Utilities and Sheffield Ramblers.

## National Park Authority Members

Thirty Members control the Authority. Sixteen are councillors appointed by county, district, city or borough councils and six are parish councillors. Eight are appointed by the Defra Secretary of State for their specialist knowledge of issues that affect the National Park.

**Chair:** Narendra Bajaria CBE  
**Deputy Chair:** Cllr Tony Favell  
**Council-appointed Members:** Secretary of State Member High Peak Borough Council

Cllr Denise Wilde  
Cllr Hilda Gaddum  
Cllr Garry Purdy  
Cllr Marian Stockdale  
Cllr Judith Twigg  
Cllr Jean Wharmby  
Cllr Jacque Bevan  
Cllr Tracy Critchlow  
Cllr Chris Pearson  
Cllr David Woodhead  
Cllr Dorothy Ward  
Cllr Barbara Beeley  
Cllr Trevor Bagshaw  
Cllr Gill Heath  
Cllr Norma Hawkins  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Cheshire East Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Derbyshire Dales District Council  
Derbyshire Dales District Council  
High Peak Borough Council  
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council  
NE Derbyshire District Council  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sheffield City Council  
Staffordshire County Council  
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

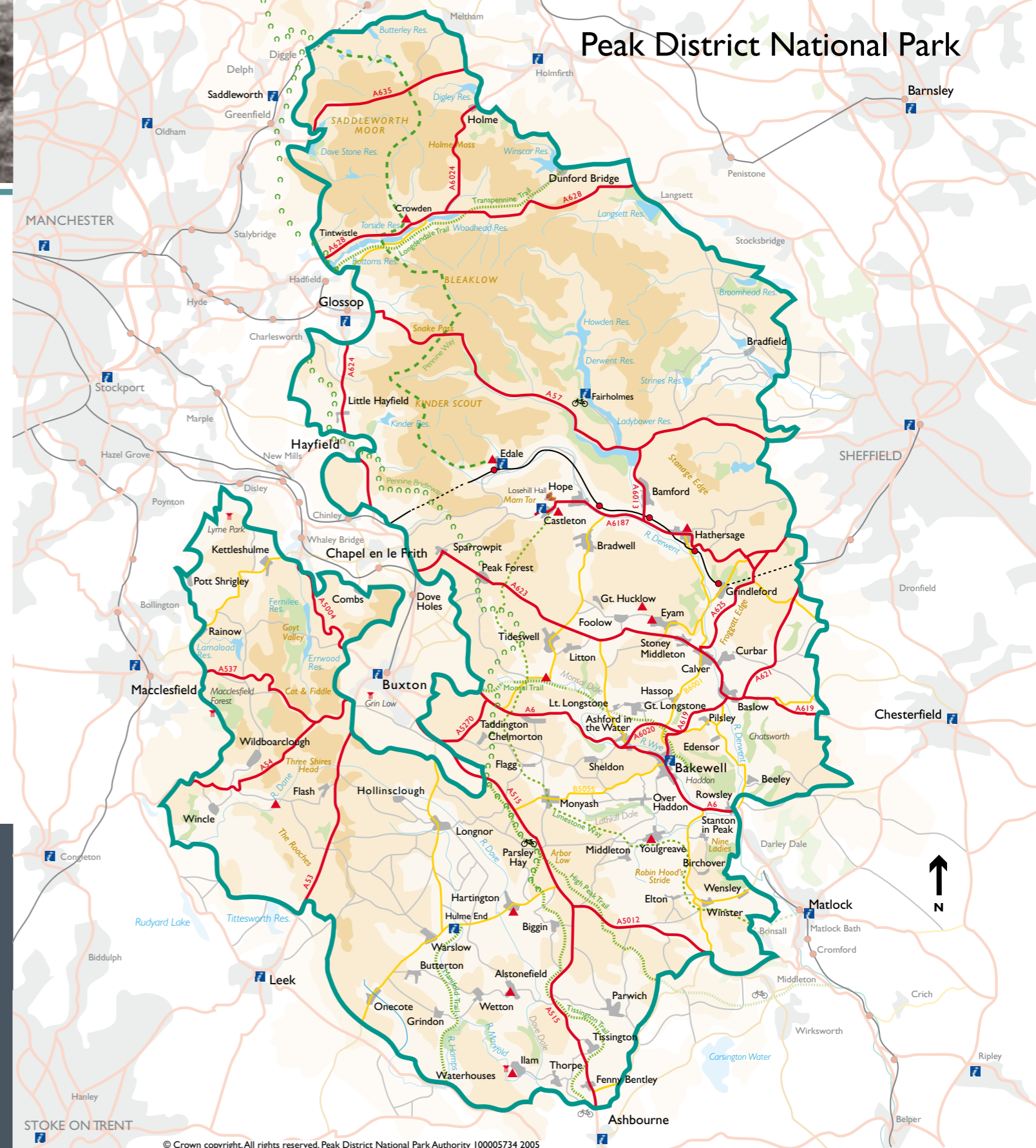
### Secretary of State Members:

Paul Ancell  
Pauline Beswick  
Roger Clarke  
Suzanne Leckie  
Geoff Nickolds  
Christopher Pennell  
Ben Rayner

### Parish Members:

Christopher Carr  
Patricia Coleman  
John Herbert  
Kath Potter  
Ron Priestley  
Lesley Roberts

For contact details: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/members](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/members), phone 01629 816200 or email [customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk)



**Peak District National Park Visitor Enquiries: 01629 816558 or email [bakewell@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:bakewell@peakdistrict.gov.uk)**  
Bakewell Visitor Centre Tel: 01629 813227  
Castleton Visitor Centre Tel: 01629 816572  
Upper Derwent Valley. Tel: 01433 650953  
Moorlands Centre, Edale. Tel: 01433 670207

### Tourist Information Centres

Ashbourne Tel: 01335 343666  
Barnsley Tel: 01226 206757  
Buxton Tel: 01298 25106  
Chesterfield Tel: 01246 345777  
Congleton Tel: 01260 271095  
Holmfirth Tel: 01484 222444

Leek Tel: 01538 483741  
Macclesfield Tel: 01625 504114  
Matlock Tel: 01629 583388  
Saddleworth Tel: 01457 870336  
Sheffield Tel: 0114 221 1900  
Stockport Tel: 0161 474 4444

**Peak District National Park Authority**, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AE  
T: 01629 816200 E: [customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk) W: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk) Minicom: 01629 816319



Computer generated image – Indicative only

# So, what exactly is a retirement village?

**A retirement village is one option to think about when you are ready to downsize to a more manageable sized home. The good news is that you still own your chosen home thereby retaining that highly valued independence.**

In fact, you can continue living life just as you do now... but with major advantages. Because, it's a place where you can feel safe, and all those laborious things like having to mow the lawn or paint the exterior windows are taken care of for you. More importantly, it's a place that looks to your future needs, recognising that as you get older, you may need a little more help, so takes care of this too. It's a place just like St Elphin's Park. Why not drop in to see how retirement living should be.

**Prices from  
£249,950 to  
£355,000**

Retirement living for the not so retiring.

**Why not call 01629 733 337**

Marketing Suite open daily 10am – 5pm

**Audley St Elphin's Park**

Dale Road South, Darley Dale, Matlock, DE4 2RH

**[www.audleyretirement.co.uk](http://www.audleyretirement.co.uk)**

Follow us on [www.facebook.com/audleyretirement](https://www.facebook.com/audleyretirement) and Twitter @audleyadviser

