

Park

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

PEAK
DISTRICT

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Issue 10 - July 2010

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Chair's introduction

Community vitality



Villagers explain the Heart for Hathersage project to National Park chief executive Jim Dixon (left) and chair Narendra Bajaria

Listening to you

One of the most important activities for me as chair of the Authority is listening to what communities want and setting wheels in motion to help achieve improvements.

Since 2008 I have been visiting villages, with senior officers, to speak to people on their home-ground. We arrange in advance to talk to different sections of the community, from schoolchildren to action groups, businesses and parish councils.

We ask about their concerns, their aims and needs, and see what we can do to support the excellent work that is going on. Often our position, working with many different councils and organisations, enables us to act as a co-ordinator to help propel matters along.

At Dungworth, on the boundary with Sheffield, we heard about the need for community facilities and later spoke to Sheffield City Council. As a result, a multi-purpose hall is proposed at Bradfield Dungworth Primary School. In addition, the city council agreed to fund a village officer, managed by the National Park Authority, to provide vital support for communities on our Sheffield border (see story on page 3).

At Hathersage we heard about serious concerns over future funding for the open air swimming pool, a unique asset run by the parish council. One of our village officers is now advising on the search for alternative grants, and has made constructive suggestions over future marketing, management and ways to reduce energy costs.

In Bakewell, townspeople were concerned that the various bodies that govern the town rarely talked to each other, leading to delays in decisions on vital issues. As a result, we arranged

for county, district and town representatives to meet regularly at the Authority's offices to discuss Bakewell issues together, for instance on improving the town's public conveniences.

Wherever we've been – including Hartington, Eyam, Parwich and Waterhouses – we've had incredibly useful feedback from people. And whether it be critical or constructive, it keeps us in touch and helps us respond to what people want.

The national park is a national asset, and we want people from all backgrounds to explore and enjoy it. But while visitors are a vital part of what we are here for, so too are thriving communities. They are the beating heart of the national park, along with the residents who care for its buildings, heritage and environment. I am always conscious that being chair of this Authority is a great privilege, especially when I meet people with such enthusiasm for improving community life.

I am proud too, of conservation projects that you can read about on other pages in ParkLife – the regeneration of our peatlands as a carbon sink, and the restoration of dew ponds and dry stone walls. We also feature Pedal Peak District, which will encourage many more people to see the Park on two wheels.

Whether you are a resident or a visitor, I hope you enjoy it.

Narendra Bajaria CBE
Chair

Peak District National Park Authority
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A help to improve village life

Who would have thought Our Cow Molly would be doing her bit to support village life on the north east side of the Peak District National Park?

But that's exactly what she did in June when a community food festival was held at a dairy farm in Dungworth that makes Our Cow Molly ice cream.

Helping to showcase local food and drink producers was village officer Sharon Batty, whose job is to support villages on the Peak District National Park border with Sheffield.

"I'm jointly funded by Sheffield City Council and the National Park Authority,

and my role is to listen to what villagers want, and help them achieve it," said Sharon. "I can help with village plans, grants and applications, liaison and practical organisation."

This year Sharon has:

- Helped Bradfield join the national "Walkers are Welcome" initiative, encouraging people to explore the area with better footpaths, signs, information panels and guided walks.
- Advised the Village Hall committee on organising a farmers' market in Bradfield – "There are some

wonderful food producers, from honey and preserves to dairy produce, lamb and beef," said Sharon.

- Set up a "How we used to live" day with Bradfield Dungworth Primary School, bringing older residents and children together to explore local history using old photos and maps.
- Held village meetings for Midhopestones and Upper Midhope, encouraging new action groups to start improving the local area and organised a walkabout with Sheffield City Council officials on highways issues.

Peter Butler and Ruth Labedz are Bradfield parish councillors who want to set up a new community area. "We've leased the old filter beds from Yorkshire Water," said Peter. "We want to provide an attractive area with seating, parking, information panels where people can walk and enjoy the national park. Sharon's been helping us with advice and support."



Jim Muirhead is on Bradfield's Village Hall committee: "We want to set up a community cinema for children and adults in the village hall," he said. "Sharon's found out about grants and advised on how to apply, which is a great help."



Rebecca Hughes, seen here with daughter Martha, works for the Steel Valley Project: "I've been working with Sharon to set up a taster day for dry stone walling in Upper Midhope," she said. "It's good for our organisations to work together to help village life."



Contact Sheffield Village Officer Sharon Batty on sharon.batty@peakdistrict.gov.uk or 07890 274620

Get ready to ride

Riding high, legs pumping, lungs full of fresh air - few thrills can match pedalling through the spectacular Peak District on a bike.

Now thousands more local people and visitors are being encouraged to take up cycling with the new Pedal Peak District project.

Cycling England wants to boost cycling in the countryside following its

successful Cycling Towns and Cities campaigns. So it has funded the Peak District National Park Authority to run a pilot scheme.

Pedal Peak District aims to:

- get thousands more people cycling – for enjoyment, health and fitness
- encourage more local residents to use cycling routes on their doorstep

- improve cycle-routes – by Spring 2011 four former railway tunnels on the Monsal Trail should be re-opened for cyclists, walkers and horse-riders. This should form part of a new cycle-route from Bakewell to Buxton. Long-term, there are hopes of a circuit linking Buxton, Matlock and Bakewell, though further funding would be needed.

Contractors Glyn Yates and his son Ben



Light at the end of the tunnel?

The challenging project to re-open four 400-metre former railway tunnels for cyclists, walkers and riders on the Monsal Trail is providing jobs for local firms in and around the Peak District.

Closed since 1969, the Headstone, Litton, Cressbrook and Chee Tor tunnels had been used to store building waste which had to be removed.

Contractor Glyn Yates, from Elton, and his son Ben braved dust and grime to clear 500 tons of rubbish, including 130 dumped tyres, rubble, wire,

plastic, timber, even old toilets and a kitchen sink.

Donaldson Associates of Derby did a structural survey, Archaeological Research Services of Bakewell surveyed the archaeology, and habitat surveys were done by Andrew McCarthy Associates of Sheffield and Peak Ecology of Bakewell.

Over the coming year, the track-bed will be resurfaced, the tunnels lit, and the work should be completed by late Spring 2011.

What's in it for you?

- New cyclists who sign up to log their progress at www.pedalpeakdistrict.co.uk get the chance to win a £300 bike every month.
- You can find out about routes, training and cycling tips at: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/cycle
- Hire a bike from a National Park Authority cycle-hire centre and get a half-price voucher for up to nine people for your next visit.
- Free bike maintenance, safety and confidence-building sessions are available.
Email: pedal@peakdistrict.gov.uk
- Gain a leaner, fitter, stronger body, a relaxed and refreshed mind, a lower carbon-footprint, regular healthy exercise and family fun.

No bike? No problem

National Park cycle-hire centres are at:

Parsley Hay
(High Peak Trail) – 01298 84493

Ashbourne
(Tissington Trail) – 01335 343156

Upper Derwent Valley
(Fairholmes: Ladybower, Derwent and Howden reservoirs) – 01433 651261

Public transport:
www.transportdirect.info
or Traveline 0871 200 2233

"WE'VE EXPLORED PLACES WE WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN WITHOUT BIKES"

Paul and Sarah Nixon (pictured bottom right), who live in Hathersage, took up cycling only a year ago after a holiday in San Francisco when they hired bikes and cycled over the Golden Gate Bridge.

"We enjoyed it so much that when we got back we bought a couple of mountain bikes," said Sarah. "Now we go out a couple of evenings a week after work, just to stretch our limbs and get some fresh air, and we do a longer ride at the weekend."

"We wanted to explore our own glorious back yard which is the Peak District National Park," explained Paul, "and now we've explored places we wouldn't have seen without the bikes, although we've lived here 11 years."

Using guides and maps which grade the rides, give conditions to expect and an approximate time, their rides have included Cavedale, Coombsdale, Stanage Pole, the Long Causeway, Redmires, and Blacka Moor.

"We really like the circuit round Ladybower, Derwent and Howden reservoirs," said Paul. "It's absolutely spectacular scenery and excellent trails that people of most abilities can do. We

took our teenage nephews and hired bikes and equipment from the cycle-hire centre. They thoroughly enjoyed it."

Fitness is also a key motivator for the couple, who run a sustainable packaging firm, SP Containers, in Rotherham: "We do feel better for it," said Sarah. "I used to struggle pedalling up the hill to get home, even got off and walked, but now I can do it. You get a sense of satisfaction when you achieve a new milestone."

"It's sociable too, people chat and exchange advice about the route. We've seen people of all ages doing it, from youngsters up to a couple in their 60s."

"We used to be gym-members, but we were always making excuses not to go. Biking is different, we go out in all weathers, it's lower impact on your joints than jogging or aerobics, and it's an activity we can enjoy together."

- Paul and Sarah have signed up to the www.pedalpeakdistrict.co.uk website where they can discover new cycle-routes, pick up cycling tips, log their cycle trips and get a chance to win a £300 bike.



Moors for the Future

Visit www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk for more details

Did Dads' Army patrol the moors?

Recruits are needed from fit men for the Moorland Patrol of the Home Guard, which is specially recruited in Manchester to operate in the wild unpopulated moorland area on the outskirts of the city.

This appeal, which appeared in the Northern Rambler in 1942, is just one of the moorland stories being explored by the Moor Memories oral history project.

Thelma Griffiths, a National Trust volunteer at Longshaw who found the cutting, is helping collect people's memories for the project: "It intrigued me," she said. "I'd like to find out if the patrol actually happened, and what about other towns and cities on the edge of the moorland?"

Moor Memories officer Tegwen Roberts is recruiting local people like Thelma to help record our moorland heritage: "There is a wealth of local stories connected to this unique landscape, but at the moment much of this knowledge is at risk of being lost.

"We want to collect and preserve it for a permanent public archive, and promote it to a wider audience."

"So far I've talked to keepers, farmers, retired wardens, rangers and ramblers," said Tegwen. "People remember how they coped in hard winters, mountain rescues, and interesting details about everyday life like sooty sheep before the Clean Air Act.

"I'm also running workshops with local community groups so that they can learn the techniques and carry on when this two-year project finishes."

If you would like to contribute, or help record moorland memories, contact Tegwen Roberts (Thur/Fri) on 01629 816585 or tegwen.roberts@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Moor Memories is a partnership project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, South Pennine Leader, East Peak Innovative Project, Peak District National Park Authority, National Trust, United Utilities and the Sheffield Ramblers.



Edale ski-lift - late 1960s



A moorland rescue party in the Alport Valley, 1964

Can humble moss save the Peak District moors?

Sphagnum being helicoptered in to a test site near Holme Moss



A sphagnum 'bead'

A specially-propagated rare moss has been helicoptered in to the National Park's remote moorlands as part of a pioneering trial to regenerate carbon-storing peatlands.

The Sphagnum Project, aimed at restoring blanket peat that can mitigate climate change and harbour precious wildlife, is being carried out by the Moors for the Future Partnership, funded by The Co-operative and Natural England.

Using a revolutionary new technique, scientists propagated sphagnum moss in beads of solution which were then dropped by helicopter.

Sphagnum moss, the water-retaining building block of blanket peatlands, was ravaged by industrial air pollution, wildfires and erosion. The regeneration should allow new peat to develop so that it retains carbon helps control rainwater and flooding, purifies drinking-water and enables other vegetation and wildlife to flourish.

If the trial proves successful, Moors for the Future will use the technique to restore more than 2,000 acres (810ha) of Peak District and South Pennine moorland over the next five years, providing a lasting legacy that can be applied to degraded moorlands across the UK.

Trees of life

Crunch-time for Hayfield

Hayfield could become the Big Apple of the Peak District – aiming to plant up to 50,000 fruit trees in community orchards all over the village.

Parish Council clerk Mike Crompton explained: "We wanted to get the whole community involved in learning about the natural environment, cultivation, healthy living and climate change. More than 60 villagers turned out for our first planting in March, and we planted 250 saplings in 100 varieties to see which thrive best in our conditions.

"The aim is to plant enough trees to make Hayfield Primary School carbon-neutral, and it's also being incorporated in the pupils' studies.

"Our next planting is in the autumn, using the school grounds, recreation land and sites offered by local people.



"When the first crops appear, the WI and Over 60s will hold jam-making, bottling and baking workshops for the children, passing on their skills to the younger generation."

This is just one of many environmental and community projects supported by the Peak District National Park's Sustainable Development Fund, which gave £8,100 to get it off the ground.

The Parish Council also found funding from High Peak Borough Council and Hayfield Educational Charity.

For details of the Sustainable Development Fund: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf or 01629 816312.

Keep up with the orchard project at www.hayfield.uk.net



The whole community got involved with fruit-tree planting in Hayfield



Tree cheers for our carbon footprint

Some 550 trees have been planted across the Peak District to commemorate last year's 60th anniversary of the legislation that created the UK's national parks.

Tree-planting was the resounding winner of a public vote last December for a project to create a lasting legacy of the anniversary for future generations.

Native species were chosen, including ash, beech, holly, rowan, hazel, alder, lime and crab apple.

Residents contacted us to offer sites at Stoney Middleton, Grindleford, Hathersage, Butterson, Bakewell, Combsdale, Coplow Dale, Elton, Over Haddon, Manifold and Hope.

Tree conservation officer David Goodwin said: "The trees will grow on to enhance the biodiversity and natural beauty of the National Park for many years to come.

"Hopefully they will also help negate

the impact of climate change for future generations and contribute to making the National Park a special place for everyone."

- Tree-planting is one of many projects residents can get involved in with the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers. Go to www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ppcv or call 01433 631433 to find out more.



Some of the 550 trees that were planted to commemorate 60 years of UK national parks

Planning - get the help you need

It pays to talk

Most people only make a planning application a few times in their life.

So it is no surprise that planning issues are a daunting or confusing prospect.

That is why we are doing more than ever to get out in the community explaining:

- how to make a planning application
- have your say on applications other people have made
- the reasons why particular decisions are made.

Bob Bryan, head of planning, said: "The perception of planning in national parks is that a large proportion of applications are refused. The reality is that 80 per cent were approved last year, out of 778 applications that were decided.

"Residents have told us they find the planning system confusing so we are responding to that by doing more to help

people understand what to do.

"The best advice is to talk to a planning officer at an early stage before you spend any money."

Every weekday between 9.15am and 12.45pm we offer a free planning advice drop-in session at our offices in Baslow Road, Bakewell.

Anyone who attends gets 20 minutes with a planning officer to discuss their application, although no legally binding advice can be given. Decisions can only be taken once a planning application has been made and the views of neighbours, local councils and other public bodies have been taken into account.

Telephone advice is also available by ringing **01629 816200**. If the duty planning officer is busy helping other residents a message will be taken and the call returned later that day - or sometimes the next working day.



National Park Authority offices, Bakewell

Less urgent questions can be emailed to planningservice@peakdistrict.gov.uk or sent in a letter to Planning Service, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, DE45 1AE.

Please send as much information and relevant location plans or sketches as possible. Normally queries will be responded to within 15 working days but it may take a little longer in busy periods.

Full details of the planning advice service can be found at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/dutyofficer

Explaining planning issues face-to-face

When Bill and Jenny Renard needed planning advice they were pleased to find it on offer in their own village.

The couple want to extend the garden outside their Rainow home by using a small part of a neighbouring field they own.

To do this they need permission to change the use of the land. So Bill and Jenny were thinking of making the 46-mile round trip to Bakewell to talk to planning officers – until they saw a newspaper advert for a Rainow planning surgery.

Bill, 62, said: "I think it is a really good idea to come out into the community as it is more relaxed and less intimidating than going to Bakewell.

"We rang up to book the session and told them roughly what we were after. So when the planning officer David O'Connor came he had all the information and maps he needed with him and he took us through the pros and cons in a professional manner."

Jenny believes it is best to do some

preparation to get the most out of the session. "We went with a list of questions we wanted answering and an OS map showing the land where we wanted to extend our garden," she said.

"The planning officer went through them all and gave us tips for the best way of going about it to avoid disappointment.

"If you don't talk to the planning officers you might not do it right and then it could lead to problems for you further down the line."

BOOK YOUR PLACE

Evening planning surgeries have already been held this year in Rainow and Bradfield. The next two will be at:

- **Alstonefield Village Hall** on Wednesday 29 September from 5pm to 7.45pm
- **Hayfield** on Tuesday 12 October from 5pm to 7.45pm.

Appointments can be made in advance by ringing **01629 816200** or emailing



Bill and Jenny Renard, of Rainow

Advice helps farmer's plans

When you run a busy dairy farm the thought of making a planning application is not an appealing one.

But Les Boam, who owns the 135-acre Tagg Lane Grange Farm, in Monyash, found it easier than he expected.

The 46-year-old farmer wanted to extend an existing general purpose building and construct a new livestock building to house his herd of 150 Jersey cattle during the winter months.

In January he approached planners at the Peak District National Park Authority to get advice.

Les - who lives with wife Karen, and sons Dean, 16, and Jack, 13 - said: "After past experiences I wasn't looking forward to making a planning application but it is much better now.

"I had a couple of meetings with the planning officer Adam Maxwell where I told him what we wanted. He helped me with the application form and corrected any mistakes before it went through.

"I filled in the planning applications myself to cut down on the expense but had an architect do the drawings."

Both applications were submitted on 24 February and approved by planning officers on 19 April.

Les said: "Don't be frightened about the process. Ask the planning officers the questions you have and get their advice on what to do."



Les and Karen Boam, of Monyash

Get active and enjoy

Live & Work Rural support for rural businesses

Inspired by the outdoors

Striding along Stanage Edge, cycling round Ladybower, or trotting along the Pennine Bridleway – does that sound more appealing than an exercise machine?

Many local people think so, including Ellie Koyander, from Tideswell. Ellie knows all about building fitness – at 18, she took part in the Winter Olympics earlier this year as the top UK

women's mogul freestyle skier (www.elliekoyander.com).

"The National Park inspired me to take up outdoor sports as a child, and began my love for adventure" said Ellie. "I love cycling to keep me fit in-between ski training, and I've spent many happy hours on my bike, whilst also enjoying the area's fabulous scenery, a great sense of freedom and fresh air."

From the pits to the peaks

World-renowned mountaineer Andy Cave is another local person who appreciates the "outdoor gym" of the national park.

A former Yorkshire coalminer, Andy now lives in the Hope Valley. He featured in the BBC TV series *Wild Climbs*, and wrote about his experiences in his books, *Learning to Breathe* and *Thin White Line* (www.andycave.net).

"I was taken climbing in the Peak District at 16 by a scout master and it changed my life," said Andy. "I was working as a coalminer near Barnsley and dreamed of being up on Stanage Edge. During the year-long miners' strike my climbing standard rocketed and I went on to establish some of the most difficult routes in the Himalayas and the Alps.

"I continue to climb in the Peak District as much as I can. Some of the most rewarding climbs I have ever done are on these cliffs. I love the place and feel extremely lucky to live here.

"We have outdoor opportunities that are second to none, but we also have a responsibility not to damage this fragile environment."

Mountaineer Andy Cave and Olympic mogul skier Ellie Koyander helped launch the National Park's 'Active in the Outdoors' recreation strategy

Healthy bodies in a healthy landscape

Health and vitality are as important for the landscape as they are for the people who use it.

That is why the National Park Authority's new recreation strategy, *Active in the Outdoors* (pictured right), aims to encourage activities that do not harm the environment, heritage and wildlife.

Whether it be walking to cycling, climbing, horse-riding, caving, angling, air and water sports, the Authority is working with other organisations to:

- encourage more people to try outdoor activities for health and well-being
- improve facilities and fill any gaps in provision
- promote responsible recreation to help the rural economy.

See www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/recreationstrategy



JOG ALONG TO JOG DERBYSHIRE

Jog Derbyshire aims to get more people into the jogging habit. More than 40 groups run weekly sessions, including Bakewell, Buxton and Ashbourne. www.activederbyshire.co.uk/jog or 01773 571227.



Small is beautiful



Whether you are starting a small business, or want to branch out with a new idea, every little helps.

So if your business could create economic, environmental or community benefits for the Peak District, then the Live & Work Rural programme is the place to turn.

Live & Work Rural advisers can help with:

- developing ideas, giving practical business advice on the way forward
- reducing your environmental impact and cutting costs

- small grants (40% of total costs) up to £3,500
- networking with local groups, such as Food from the Peak District or Village Shops
- recognition – the Environmental Quality Mark is an award for achieving high environmental standards that can be used to boost your marketing.

Find out more at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/liveandworkrural

Contact the Live & Work Rural team on liveandworkrural@peakdistrict.gov.uk or 01629 816338.

A slice of success



Peter and Kate Cartwright, of Paradise Farm, Chapel-en-le-Frith, sought advice from Live & Work Rural for marketing and research to develop a temperature-controlled meat maturing "pod" for delicatessen products like salami. Pete and Kate run an Environmental Quality Mark farm, selling their own beef and lamb at farmers' markets and through direct sales. Find them at www.peakfarmfayre.co.uk

Cupcakes full of garden goodness



When Maria Clark wanted to start up a new business, *Blush Cupcakes*, last year, she needed help to set up a website.

"I knew I had a good idea, which is that my cupcakes are as full of home-grown ingredients as I can make them," said Maria, who lives in Grindleford. "I grow my own herbs, fruit and vegetables, and I use them to create natural flavourings.

"I started the business in September, and applied for a Live & Work Rural grant in January. The advisers helped me through it, and it was all very quick and easy.

"I wanted to showcase my cupcakes, especially as I'm aiming for weddings, parties and corporate events, and without a website a business isn't as credible. So I applied for £220, which was 40% of the costs – it isn't a lot, but it all helps when you're starting up.

"I also had free advice on marketing, which was fantastic. I was introduced to Live & Work Rural through Business Link, and I'm very grateful for the help."

Maria's garden follows the seasons, and so do her cupcakes, flavoured with summer or autumn fruits, flowers, herbs or sweet vegetables. What she cannot grow she tries to buy locally, using all natural ingredients. She has expanded her range of baked goods to Mediterranean biscuits and dainty naturally flavoured macaroons.

Blush Cupcakes trades at farmers' markets and takes telephone and email orders. Deliveries are free within a 10-mile radius of Grindleford.

The website is www.blushcupcakes.co.uk

Ponds Proliferation Project

New life for old ponds

Striding over a field above beautiful Wolfscote Dale, farmer Joe Gibbs pauses by a tidy, concrete-lined pond. He is taking a break from his sheep and cattle – he wants to see if great crested newts have moved in.

A year ago this old dew pond was lifeless, muddy and stagnant like many others all over the Peak District. Built to hold drinking water for farm animals, they were abandoned when farmers turned to mains water in the 1970s.

Joe's pond is one of 40 that have been restored as wildlife habitats over the past two years as part of the Proliferating Ponds in the Peak project, managed by the National Park Authority and funded by the SITA Trust*.

Suzanne Fowkes, a national park countryside and economy adviser, co-ordinated the project. She oversaw the restoration of four ponds for Joe and his wife Jane at Wolfscote Grange Farm, near Hartington, where they produce beef and lamb on 500 acres.

"Wolfscote Grange is in a Higher Level Stewardship scheme, which means they already give a high priority to wildlife habitats and heritage features," said Suzanne.

"Great crested newts are a European protected species and the White Peak is one of the few places they are quite common, but Wolfscote Grange had none. We knew there were some across the dale, and we've found that when you create the right conditions, they can move in quite quickly – sometimes within six months, even though they may not have been seen for many years.

"The Pond Proliferation Project is all about creating the right habitats for newts, frogs, toads and insects to thrive, enhancing the biodiversity of the national park."

Joe added: "These ponds wouldn't have been cleaned up without the project. Farmers' priorities have to be to make a living, but it's good to be able to help wildlife as well."

How it was done

Practical work for the Proliferating Ponds in the Peak project was carried out by the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers, the Authority's Countryside Maintenance Team, Rangers, farmers themselves and contractors.

They cleared mud and vegetation, and restored linings with natural clay, stone setts or concrete coated with resin. They also brought in plants such as broad leaf pond weed and water starwort and restored walls or fences to keep cattle out.

So after all that work, Suzanne has an appeal for the more thoughtless passers-by: "Please don't throw stones in the ponds – you'll undo all the good we've been trying to achieve."

** SITA Trust provides funding to community and environmental improvement projects through the Landfill Communities Fund. It has supported more than 2,000 projects to a combined value of more than £73m since it began in 1997.*

Building history in the Peak District

Enthusiasm for dry stone walling beams from Sally Hodgson's face as she talks about the craft she learnt as a child at Higher Plainsteads Farm, near Glossop.

A professional dry stone waller for more than 20 years, Sally began passing on her skills in 1991. She now works as a tutor for the College of the Peak, the National Stone Centre and volunteer organisations.

Thanks to Sally, hundreds of people have gained qualifications to repair and rebuild the dry stone walls that are integral to the National Park's landscape and heritage.

"The job satisfaction is tremendous," she said. "You're building history, using material that is completely recyclable. Dry stone walls were mainly built from 1740 onwards due to the Enclosure Acts. They've stood the test of time, and we're here to ensure they last another 200

Sally teaching at the National Stone Centre, Wirksworth



years.

"They provide homes for newts, frogs, fieldmice and birds, and they save lambs' lives by providing shelter. Bits of the past survive in them – I've found old coins, fossils, clay pipes, an antique soda syphon, a hollow stone for hiding money – and even a pair of false teeth!"

When not walling, Sally is a farmer with high environmental standards, raising sheep and doing free farm visits for schools, colleges and community groups.

Getting started

There is a shortage of skilled wallers, says Sally Hodgson. The National Stone Centre, Wirksworth, offers taster days, and working wallers can get four levels of training at the College of the Peak.

The highest is Master Craftsman (Sally's level) which can take several years. From September these courses will be at the new Derbyshire Eco Centre at Wirksworth, with many other heritage and crafts courses. Most wallers also join the Dry Stone Walling Association for support and contacts.

"It takes time to get good, fast and well-known," says Sally. "You need finance while you get established, and people skills to get jobs; you have to cope with being self-employed and working for long periods alone in all weathers. "Having said that, I've been to university and travelled the world, I've walled in Canada, Australia and the Arctic, and I wouldn't do anything else."

Grants for walling

National Park countryside and economy advisers help farmers and landowners apply for grants for walling, which keeps wallers in work.

Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme covers around 50 per cent of rebuilding costs, and the Authority's Environmental Enhancement scheme can also help.

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/grants/farmersupport or **01629 816270**.

CONTACTS:

College of the Peak: www.collegeofthepeak.org.uk 01629 824765

Derbyshire Eco Centre: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/adcommmed/eco_centre

National Stone Centre: www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk 01629 824833

Dry Stone Walling Association: www.dswa.org.uk 015395 67953

Sally Hodgson: san.highplain@tiscali.co.uk 01457 861443



Countryside and economy adviser Suzanne Fowkes with farmer Joe Gibbs AFTER pond restoration



Sally Hodgson inspects students' handiwork on her own farm

Building biodiversity



Energy efficiency



© RSPB



© RSPB



Working together - a new era for the Eastern Moors

You can see for miles across the Eastern Moors, a vast landscape between Curbar and Sheffield where buzzards soar, deer roam and views take your breath away.

Now, in a far-sighted project, the 25 sq km (9.6 sq mile) Eastern Moors estate could become a model for the future management of the uplands.

The National Park Authority has asked leading environmental organisations the National Trust and RSPB to manage the Eastern Moors for the next 15 years. Their expertise will bring unprecedented benefits for biodiversity, access, landscape and carbon stewardship.

Developing this vision will depend on greater public involvement than ever before.

Speaking on behalf of the Eastern Moors National Trust/RSPB partnership, Roy Taylor said: "The views of local people are integral to how the moors will be managed. We will be inviting local people to a series of workshops over the summer so that they can feed their views into the development of a management plan for the estate.

"Our aim is to make the Eastern Moors a benchmark for how upland should be managed into the future, to help people explore to its rich heritage, and to encourage people from all backgrounds to learn about this magnificent landscape."

Mike Innerdale, National Trust Peak District general manager, added: "We want to use the Eastern Moors Partnership as a catalyst to create a vision for the future land and recreational

management of the wider moorland area along the eastern edges of the National Park."

Danny Udall, formerly a National Park estate ranger who has worked with user groups and on conservation on the Eastern Moors for many years, will be the site manager.

A full range of local interest groups such as Friends of the Peak District, conservationists, the British Mountaineering Council and Ramblers will also be closely involved.

The Eastern Moors stretch from Froggatt, Curbar and Birchen Edges to Big Moor, Totley Moor, Ramsley Moor and Leash Fen. They include spectacular viewpoints, climbing areas and important Bronze Age remains, as well as farmland, woods, heather moors and wetland which provide precious habitats for wildlife including upland birds, adders, water voles and red deer.

The partnership will be building on substantial improvements to the condition of the land made by the Authority since buying the estate from Severn Trent Water in 1984.



Roy Taylor (RSPB), Danny Udall (site manager), and Mike Innerdale (National Trust) of the Eastern Moors Partnership team

Save energy, save cash and shrink your carbon footprint



We hear a lot about renewable energy, but the most important measure anyone can take in their home is **SAVING** energy, not making it.

In traditional buildings, 60% of heat loss is through the walls and roof, 15% through draughts, and only 10% through windows. Reducing that

means lower heating bills.

Lots of insulation is the key, but modern materials can trap moisture. Traditionally-built homes need to breathe, or you risk damp, decay and mould. Natural materials are ideal, as in the example here:

Cosy and natural - the Haybarn Studio, Sheen

Paul and Elspeth Walker have tried to live sustainably ever since moving to their 50-acre farm at Under Whitle, near Sheen, in 1980.

Two years ago they gained planning consent to convert their old haybarn to an activities room and studio for their existing Dove Valley Education Centre. That gave them the opportunity to install the latest insulation – largely using the most traditional materials.

They put in:

- **Sheep's wool insulation** for the roof – "It's not that expensive, and it's lovely to handle," says Paul.
- **Hemp and lime insulation** for the walls. "It's about 6 inches thick and has huge insulation properties," says Paul. "It's also quite straightforward to put on once you know the procedure, and we finished it with lime plaster."
- **Double glazing** in timber frames, with glass which allows warmth in but not out, filled with argon gas. However, where traditional windows exist, it is best to use draught-proofing and heavy curtains or install a secondary window (which can be double-glazed).

- **Underfloor insulation** under the reclaimed flagstone and timber floors, heated by a ground source heat pump.

They also used reclaimed timber for the windows, doors and kitchens, organic paints and energy-efficient appliances. The adjacent holiday accommodation has wood-burning stoves, fuelled from a wood Paul planted for wildlife 25 years ago.

The Haybarn Studio opened in 2009, and the whole Dove Valley Centre has won the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark for its benefits to the national park environment.

Says Elspeth: "We're very pleased with the results. The whole family pitched in to help the conversion, which cut costs. We're now trying some insulating paint, which contains ceramic microspheres and is said to reduce heat loss by up to 25%."

The conversion was helped by the Peak District Sustainable Development Fund (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf or 01629 816312) and a Redundant Buildings Grant from Advantage West Midlands.

Paul and Elspeth are happy to share their experience – contact them via



www.dovevalleycentre.co.uk or call 01298 83282.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- National Park Design Guide (Section 6: sustainable design) at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/designguide
- National Park Historic Buildings team: 01629 816200 or www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/historicbuildings
- English Heritage advice: www.climatechangeandyourhome.org.uk
- Government advice: direct.gov.uk/ActOnCO2
- Energy Saving Trust: 0800 512 012 or energysavingtrust.org.uk

Preparing a wall for lime mortar



Installing sheep's wool insulation



An art group in the finished studio



Celebrating our cultural heritage

Calver Weir restored

Fin Cop

National Parks Week

This year's National Parks Week is July 26 – Aug 1 and its theme is our cultural heritage.

Free guided walks will help you explore the Peak District's rich and diverse historical and archaeological past:

- **Tuesday July 27, An Archaeological Walk** at Chatsworth Park and Edensor. 10.30am-4pm. Book on 01629 816200.
- **Thursday July 29, Lost Villages** discover the story of drowned Ashopton and Derwent. 10am-4pm. Book on 01433 659986.
- **Friday July 30, Peatland Heritage Walks**, 10.30am and 2.30pm from Moorland Visitor Centre, Edale. No need to book.

- **Sat July 31, Myths, Legends and a Ghost Road** 10.30am-4.30pm, meet Binn Green car park, A635, Greenfield, nr Oldham.
- **Sat July 31, Mining Mayhem** Archaeology and Activities for All. 10.30am-3pm Meet at Magpie Mine entrance, near Sheldon. Suitable for families.
- **Sun Aug 1, Dam Builders & Dam Busters** – 10.30am-4pm, meet Fairholmes ranger centre, Upper Derwent. Book on 01433 659986.

Find many more free guided walks at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ranger-walks
More UK National Parks Week events can be found at: www.nationalparks.gov.uk



NATURAL POETS – children celebrate the National Park

Last winter, children from Elton Primary School helped us with tree-planting to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the legislation that launched UK national parks. It prompted them to hold a poetry competition called Inspired by the Peak. Children's author Berlie Doherty, who is the National Park's cultural heritage champion, helped choose the winners and presented them with certificates and books.

She said: "It's a pleasure to read such lovely poetry inspired by the children's own village."

A NIGHT OUT

*I like to listen to
The whistling wind on a
frosty night,
As the white night comes
like a fright,
At the tweet of birds.*

*I like to look at
The stars making shapes in
the sky,
The birds flying,
At the sunset when day
is done.*

*I like to touch
The broken rocks of Robin
Hood's Stride,
The cats outside,
The petals of winter.*

*By Amelia Walker
(Year 4) – Winner*

Iron Age hillfort to reveal its mysteries?



Volunteers of all ages at last year's excavation

Villagers are hoping that new excavations at the Iron Age hillfort of Fin Cop, overlooking Monsal Dale, will reveal more about its story, following the discovery last year of a female skeleton dating from 400 to 200 BC.

Longstone Local History Group has been awarded a further £49,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to re-examine the site, under supervision of Bakewell-based experts Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

Ann Hall, the group's project manager, said, "We really want to find answers to the questions posed by last year's initial excavation. For instance, the hillfort's defences show signs of being deliberately destroyed, and the young woman's body was found among the ruins, with a baby. Who was she, where did she come from?"

Dr Clive Waddington, of Archaeological Research Services, said: "The site turned out to be much more complex than we anticipated. We're aiming to understand more about when and how the fort was used and shed important new light on the early occupation of the Peak District."

Last year, some 160 schoolchildren and 80 adult volunteers discovered hundreds of pieces of worked Mesolithic flint, chert and fragments of Iron Age pottery. This year, young people from schools in Longstone, Bakewell, Buxton and Ashbourne are involved, and a local youth group is making a DVD.

National Park senior conservation archaeologist Sarah Whiteley, who provides support, said: "We're very excited about this project as the fieldwork will engage local schoolchildren and bring surrounding villages together in a common cause to understand more about this iconic site."

The excavation – on private farmland – is from July 5 – August 6, with open days each Saturday: July 10, 17, 24 and 31 (guided tours at 11am and 1pm - meet at the front car park, Monsal Head overlooking the viaduct).

Volunteer diggers are welcome, but spaces are limited. To apply, contact Jim Brightman at jim@archaeologicalresearchservices.com or 01629 814540.

- The project is also supported by English Heritage and Natural England.

Restoring riverside heritage

Completion is in sight for restoration-work on a unique part of the national park's heritage – the 18th century Calver Weir.

Built early in the industrial revolution to power cotton spinning in the Derwent valley, the structure had deteriorated by the late 1990s, threatening important wetland habitats in Calver Marshes.

Now, after 13 years' community effort, the £1.8m Calver Weir Restoration Project is expected to be finished in August.

The project began with Calver, Curbar and Froggatt parish councils in 1997 and local residents formed a registered charity in 2004. Supported by the National Park Authority, it achieved funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Environment Agency, English Heritage, local businesses and residents.

Work began last October, and walkers watched with interest as contractors Tomlinsons installed temporary dams, cast new foundations and recovered huge original gritstone blocks from the river.

Measures to protect wildlife included moving water voles and installing a fish pass to monitor and count migratory fish.

Project chair Mike Hennessy said: "After many years planning, fund raising and constant doubts over will it happen or not, the end is in sight! Now we can begin to look to the future."

National Park Authority project manager Nick Quaife will co-ordinate educational, environmental, heritage and leisure activities around the weir for the next three years.

More details: www.calverweir.org.uk



The new fish pass to monitor migratory fish



Calver Weir restored



Calver Weir before work got under way, with breaches and vegetation

HERE TO HELP

The National Park's cultural heritage team offers support in applying for grants to save or research historic features. It can also advise on research, conservation or analysis. Call 01629 816200 and ask for the cultural heritage team.

Tales of the riverbank

Act now to help stop pink invader

It may look pretty, but the non-native Himalayan balsam is having a devastating impact along Peak District riversides.

Spreading along riverbanks, it engulfs native species and causes erosion which affects bankside wildlife.

Now the National Park Authority, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Trent Rivers Trust are asking for volunteers to help pull up this year's crop from the Derwent, Dove, Hamps and Manifold valleys.

National Park ecologist Frances Horsford explained: "We need to get rid of it in July/August before it seeds. Each plant produces up to 800 seeds in pods that 'explode' on touch, catapulting the seed up to seven metres. In autumn it dies back leaving bare banks.

"It was introduced to gardens in the 1800s, but quickly escaped and now threatens the biodiversity of our riversides. We'd be very grateful for people's help before it's too late."

Derwent volunteer days are 10am-3pm, Sunday July 11, Sat July 17 and Sunday July 25. No need to book, meet near Calver crossroads on A623, by the playing fields (opposite Peaklander Footwear).

Gloves, goggles and drinks are provided, bring wellies and refreshments. Children must be with an adult. Queries: **01433 631405**.

For volunteer days on the Dove and Manifold, contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on **01773 881188**.



Ecologist Francis Horsford shows how tall the invasive balsam can grow

Powering ahead

What is green, renewable and less divisive than wind turbines?

Water power – ideally suited to the Peak District, whose fast-flowing rivers helped launch the industrial revolution. Campaign group Friends of the Peak District went back to where it all started, Arkwright's Cromford Mill, to launch their Peak Power report in March.

Part-funded by the National Park's Sustainable Development Fund, this comprehensive report highlights 80 river sites with potential for generating local power for the future. It aims to help people work out whether their local river is suitable, and gives pointers for how to go about it.

Thirty sites are analysed in detail, including former mill sites at Litton, Cressbrook, Lumford, Bamford and Calver.

Andy Tickle, the group's head of planning and campaigning, said: "The Peak District's the perfect place for small-scale hydro-power. There's plenty of rain and fast-flowing rivers, and we've got a rich legacy of old watermills that have fallen into disuse. They are ripe for redeveloping."

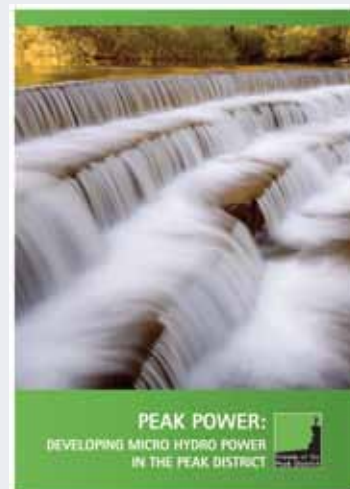
Hoping to stimulate more hydro-power in the Peak District - the launch of the Peak Power report



National Park chair Narendra Bajaria said: "We hope this report will encourage local residents, communities and businesses to consider harnessing water power to help move towards more sustainable lifestyles."

Already up and running is a micro hydro-plant at Alport Mill, and expected in the next few months, Flewitt's Mill at Ashford-in-the-Water. Both are private schemes.

See the Peak Power report at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk or call **0114 266 5822**.



Students from Long Eaton help moorland climate change research

Losehill Hall - learning in the great outdoors



Losehill Hall - the place to come for outdoor learning and conferences

"It was a great day out. It was a real eye-opener, we found out lots about how scientists go about protecting wildlife on the moors."

That was the reaction of 15-year-old Melissa Worthington, of Hope Valley College, one of 100s of secondary school students helping climate change research on the Peak District moors.

Each year, students aged 13-18 from schools all around the National Park, measure peat-depth, water quality, vegetation and wildlife as part of the Moorlands as Indicators of Climate Change Initiative. Their data is helping research by the Moors for the Future Partnership and University of Manchester.

This is just one of many options

offered to students from primary school right through to university by Losehill Hall, the National Park's learning and environmental conference centre at Castleton.

Classroom studies come to life as young people experience for themselves the rivers, villages, heritage, farms, art, rocks and wildlife. It opens their eyes to issues such as the impact of recreation on sensitive environments.

Losehill Hall also provides professional training courses for environmental and countryside staff, and comfortable residential facilities for conferences.

Find out more at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/losehill or **01433 620373**.

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	Secretary of State Member
Deputy Chair:	Cllr Trevor Bagshaw	Sheffield City Council
Council-appointed Members:		
Cllr Denise Wilde	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cllr Hilda Gaddum	Cheshire East Council	
Cllr Garry Purdy	Derbyshire County Council	
Cllr Marian Stockdale	Derbyshire County Council	
Cllr Judith Twigg	Derbyshire County Council	
Cllr Jean Wharmby	Derbyshire County Council	
Cllr Jacque Bevan	Derbyshire Dales District Council	
Cllr Tracy Critchlow	Derbyshire Dales District Council	
Cllr Tony Favell	High Peak Borough Council	
Cllr Chris Pearson	High Peak Borough Council	
Cllr Andrew Marchington	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cllr Dorothy Ward	NE Derbyshire District Council	
Cllr Barbara Beeley	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cllr Gill Heath	Staffordshire County Council	
Cllr Edwin Wain	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	

Secretary of State Members:

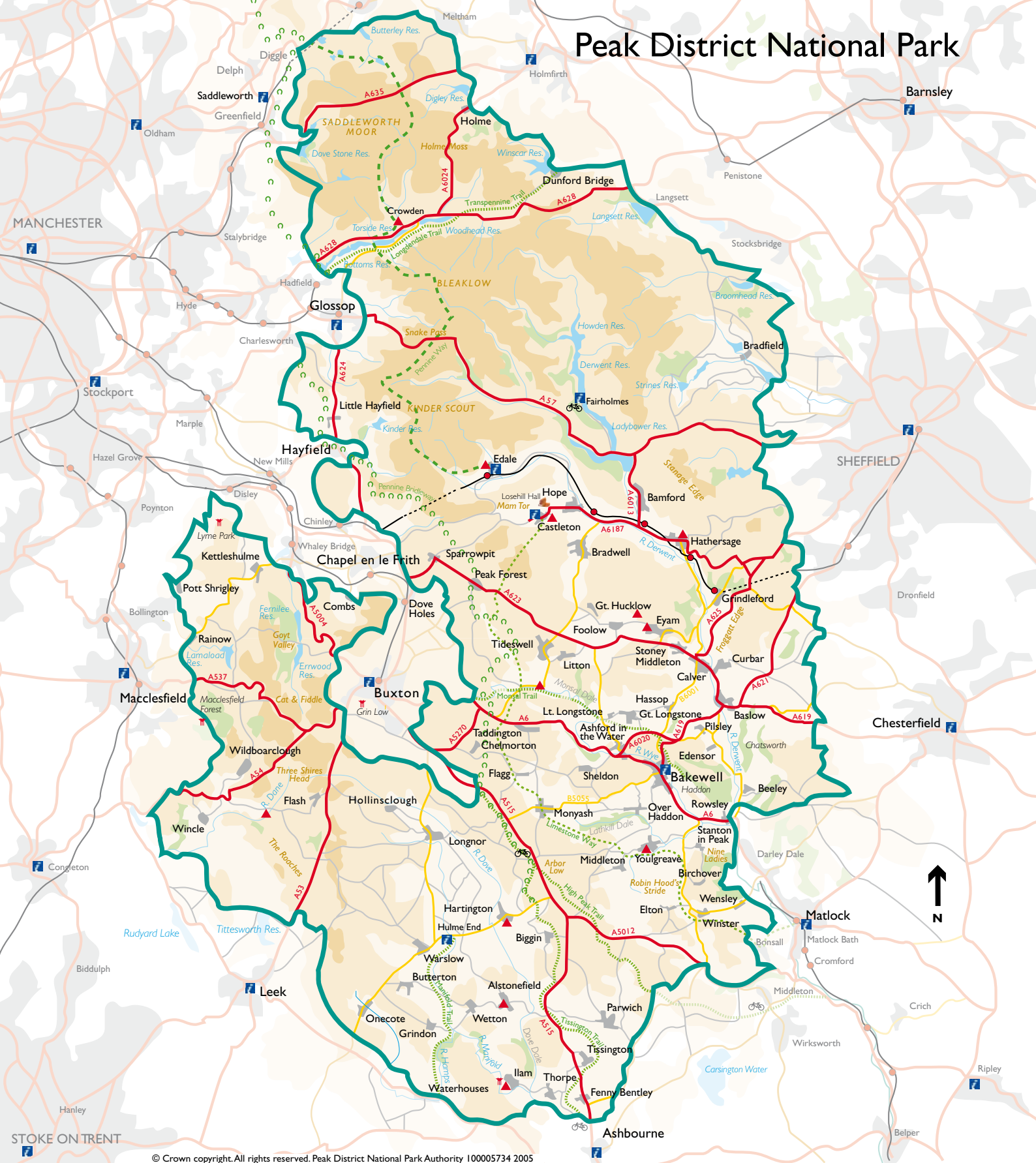
Paul Ancell
Pauline Beswick
Roger Clarke
Suzanne Leckie
Geoff Nickolds
Christopher Pennell
Ben Rayner

Parish Members:

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

For contact details: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/members, phone 01629 816200 or email customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Peak District National Park



	National Park Boundary		Railway and Station		Pennine Bridleway		Information Centre		Settlement
	Land over 400 metres		Railway Tunnel		Pennine Way		Cycle Hire		Reservoir
	Land over 300 metres		A Road		Trail		Youth Hostel		Woodland
	Land over 200 metres		B Road		Limestone Way		Country Park		
			Minor Road						

Peak District National Park Visitor Enquiries: 01629 816558 or email 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

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