

# ParkLife

Issue 24 | Spring 2018

The **Peak District National Park** Magazine

*My Peak District*  
with Jon McGregor

**TASTY  
TREATS**  
Seasonal spring  
recipe ideas

**YOU OTTER BELIEVE IT**

A ring of bright water in the Peak District

**REACH FOR THE SKIES**

Moorland technology takes off

## Branching out

The local communities learning more  
about the woodlands on their doorstep



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ON THE COVER:  
Spring bluebell woodlands by  
Alex Hyde. See more on woodland  
projects in the Peak District National  
Park on page 22.

ParkLife aims to inspire, inform and share the experiences of those living, working in and visiting the Peak District National Park, along with the activities of the Peak District National Park Authority.

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# In the limelight

I'm always delighted when this edition of ParkLife arrives on my desk, as I know that spring is tantalisingly close around the corner.

Not that it has been a quiet winter. January saw the publication of the government's 25 year plan for the environment at a launch in London, where I was proud to represent the Peak District National Park. Prime Minister Theresa May pointed to the 60,000 young people a year who engage with Britain's National Parks – with an ambition to double this figure – and there is more on how every child should have access to an outdoors experience on page 18.



*“The Peak District took centre stage for the government's 25 year plan for the environment”*

The report continued with an ambition for National Parks that seeks 'unique, cherished and valuable natural assets that are not only conserved but enhanced' over the next 25 years. We were particularly thrilled to see the Peak District taking centre stage on the report's cover, in a dramatic photograph of the Great Ridge, now the subject of a major fundraising campaign for 2018 (see more on page 21).

This same location was also in the limelight later in the month, as not one but six Peak District National Park locations made 'Britain's Favourite Walks' countdown on ITV, and you can read more on this in our refreshed ParkLife news section from page 4.

Alongside these celebrations of Britain's first National Park, there was also disappointment as a report published in late 2017 highlighted the ongoing low numbers of birds of prey in parts of the Peak District. These results continue to sadden me, as do reports of illegal wildlife crime in the National Park, which remains unacceptable. We remain committed to working closely with the police, and other partners, to tackle these issues.

For now though, we look to the excitement of a new season; so join us for an event, pop in and say hello at one of our visitor centres and cycle hire locations, or get inspired by something in this edition of ParkLife and start your own adventure. You'll always be most welcome in Britain's original National Park.

*Sarah*

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## Our new look – tell us what you think

You'll find this latest edition of ParkLife may look a little different to past issues, with larger features, new sections, and ways for you to share your Peak District National Park experiences too. We want to make sure that ParkLife represents all that's great about Britain's original National Park, the people who live and work here, and those who visit us, so you can help by giving us your views.

Just head to [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/parklifesurvey](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/parklifesurvey) to let us know, and to say thank you we'll enter you into a prize draw too! If you'd rather write or email,



please do so at the address on the left, or at [media@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:media@peakdistrict.gov.uk)



Turning over a new leaf – youngsters from Elton Primary School and others are learning about local Peak District woodlands and how to look after them.

“The children love the wood so much they encourage their families to visit at weekends”

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PHOTO: CHRISTINE GREGORY



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PHOTO: TOM MARSHALL





PHOTO: TIM MELLING

This winter's visiting parrot crossbills are far from their breeding areas of north-west Europe and Russia.

## Parrots in the Peak District

The Upper Derwent Valley had some unusual feathered visitors during the winter, in the shape of a flock of up to a dozen rare parrot crossbills. The bulky-beaked birds joined groups of resident common crossbills to feast on larch and other tree cones in woodlands above the Derwent Reservoir. Around the size of a chaffinch or sparrow, as their name suggests crossbills have crossed upper and lower beaks – a useful tool for prising open cones to access the seeds inside. Male crossbills are particularly prized by birdwatchers, with their striking red colour a contrast to the better camouflaged green females.

Have you had an amazing wildlife experience in the Peak District National Park? Share your stories and photographs with us on social media **#MyPeakMoment @peakdistrict** or on **media@peakdistrict.gov.uk**

## Miles without Stiles

Last issue you heard about our work to making our National Parks as inclusive as we can to all those visiting and living and working in these amazing places. We're busy getting ready to launch our first Miles without Stiles routes and have been removing barriers and clearing paths such as at the River Lathkill at Conksbury Bridge. More information at **[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/mws](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/mws)** and in the next issue.



The River Lathkill and adjacent trail during winter snow.



There's a guided National Park ranger walk for everyone.

## WALKING THE WALK – WILL YOU?

More than 1,000 people joined Peak District National Park rangers and other teams on our guided walks programme during 2017, across almost 140 events.

Among the most popular options was navigation training for beginners at venues across the National Park from Trentabank near Macclesfield, to Edale and Grindleford.

The Upper Derwent Valley also remained a must-visit location, with groups enjoying historical insights into aircraft and 'sunken villages', along with

experiencing the burst of purple heather in late summer.

Wildlife was also top of the agenda, with some of our more secretive residents like the mountain hare and the summer-visiting ring ouzel or 'mountain blackbird' a draw for many. Youngsters didn't miss out too, with Miller's Dale hosting a 'bats, bugs and night time noises' evening for all the family.

**Find out about our upcoming events on the centre pages of this edition of ParkLife.**

## 15 years of mending moorlands

A team of organisations mending landscapes at the heart of the UK is celebrating its 15th anniversary with 15 unique events.

The Moors for the Future Partnership commemorated its crystal anniversary in February, but is extending celebrations throughout 2018.

A special event took place in Edale on Friday 16th February to kick start the '15 for 15' aspiration – seeing the launch of the Partnership's state-of-the-art 'Bogtastic' van. Guests included High Peak MP, the Rt. Hon. Ruth George, and award-winning local folk singer, Bella Hardy.

The novel vehicle is set to travel across the Peak District National Park and South Pennines to spread the word about the importance of healthy moorlands. You'll get the chance to experience the sights, sounds, smells and textures of the moors.

The Partnership was established in 2003 with a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund. Since then, it has worked to transform degraded moors equalling the



Bella Hardy.

PHOTO: TOM MARSHALL

size of almost 3,000 football pitches.

Keep your eyes peeled on social media to stay up to date on the Bogtastic van's calendar, and exciting plans to commemorate our 15th anniversary with **#Bogtastic #MFFP15**.



Mam Tor and Great Ridge make the top ten in ITV's Britain's Favourite Walks presented by Julia Bradbury and Ore Oduba.

## MAM TOR MAKES TOP BRITISH WALKS

In January, an ITV special showcased 'Britain's Favourite Walks', with our very own Mam Tor and Great Ridge making the top ten.

A further five Peak District National Park locations were in the 100-route countdown, including The Roaches, and Kinder Scout at number 21.

Presenter Ore Oduba of *Strictly Come Dancing* fame, shimmied his way through the secretive spots of Stanage Edge with recently retired National Park ranger Bill Gordon, to take in the breathtaking views.

Check out some of the most popular routes in the Park on our website at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)

## Bird of prey initiative

At the end of last year, the Peak District Bird of Prey Initiative (BoPI) published the results for the breeding seasons of 2016-17.

The Peak District National Park Authority was disappointed to see continued poor results for raptors in the National Park, in particular peregrine, which it was noted had failed to breed successfully in the Dark Peak for the first time since the mid-1980s.

We remain committed to ensuring that birds of prey have a healthy and sustainable future in Britain's original National Park, and will continue as partners in the BoPI during this year's breeding season where we will be looking for positive action and a substantive increase in numbers.

We have also welcomed the increase in engagement from the police, and will maintain our support to the Wildlife Crime Unit in tackling illegal activity and wildlife crime in the Peak District National Park.



PHOTO: TIM MELLING

## Walkies without the worries

As the days start to draw out and leaves appear on the trees, taking your dog for a walk in the Peak District is an uplifting experience for pets and their people. It can be tempting to let dogs run free after the confines of winter, but being aware of the challenges this creates can help those who live and work in the National Park.

National Park Ranger Martin Winder explains: "Spring is a vital time for wildlife and farm animals. Hedgerows, trees and fields are full of the sounds of birds establishing territories, nest-building, finding mates and raising young. Sheep are pregnant at this time and need some peace and quiet to get on with lambing. We all love to see lambs and wildlife so it's really important that we keep our dogs on the lead to avoid disturbing these busy creatures."

No-one wants their family pets to be harmed but if your dog chases or attacks livestock then you could end up being responsible for criminal damage or sheep worrying. Farmers have the right to shoot dogs that are worrying or attacking farm animals, so please avoid problems by keeping control of your pet.



## David (Dave) Frost, 1963-2017

Friends and colleagues at the Peak District National Park were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Dave Frost, whilst on holiday in October 2017. Dave was working as Tree Conservation



Officer, but his passions extended well beyond his love of trees into aircraft, outdoor pursuits and more. His closest colleagues recall memories of an encyclopedic knowledge of our woodlands, one-liners and an unrivalled zest for life. As well as his formal position at the Authority, Dave also sat on the voluntary staff committee supporting others to get the best from their roles.

A community celebration of Dave's life took place at the Mount Cook Adventure Centre in Wirksworth in November, and it is expected that a lasting memorial to him will also pay tribute from this year.



## Junior Rangers

The Junior Ranger volunteer programme is open to 11 to 18 year olds who have an interest in the outdoors, particularly in wildlife and conservation. Most groups meet once a month to undertake tasks such as navigation, running patrols, conservation and engaging with the public.

There are groups running at Marsh Farm near Tittesworth, Millers Dale Station, Longdendale and Barbrook Cottage near Owl Bar.

If you would like to get involved, email: [learning.discovery@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:learning.discovery@peakdistrict.gov.uk)



Young people are learning new skills and gaining a greater understanding of the countryside through a new charity project.

Our Endeavour is a partnership between Sheffield-based youth charity Endeavour and the Peak District National Park and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It offers young people the chance to learn skills such as dry stone walling, fencing and woodland management, and aims to increase their understanding of the importance of the National Park and how it is managed.

Many of the young people are from inner-city Sheffield and have not previously had an opportunity to discover the Peak District. The project offers the chance to gain qualifications in practical skills and there is also a focus on

topics such as biodiversity, tourism and volunteering.

Project coordinator Ed Thatcher said: "By the end of the programme we will have worked with over 100 young people. We hope that Our Endeavour will develop their confidence and heritage skills, which may help them to find employment in the future."

Sarah Wilks, head of outreach development at Peak District National Park, added: "We are very excited to be working with Endeavour on this project, which will enable us to connect young people living in Sheffield with the National Park on their doorstep. The project will not only give them skills to conserve such important breathing spaces, but a connection with the natural environment that will support their lifelong wellbeing."

## RINGING IN THE RESULTS

With its distinctive crescent-moon-shaped breast band, the ring ouzel is also known by its other moniker of 'mountain blackbird', and is one of the Peak District's rarest wild residents. An important 10-11 territories are established across the crags of Stanage Edge in the National Park, where in 2017 up to 8 pairs fledged at least one brood of youngsters.

In this rocky home, the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and volunteers have worked for a number of years to ensure the birds can breed with limited disturbance alongside the many local climbers, also making use of the famous crags.

Recently retired National Park ranger Bill

Gordon and his wife Flo have tirelessly committed more than 15 years to the study of ring ouzels in the area, and along with the BMC and Eastern Moors Partnership this commitment is set to continue.

It's hoped the future for ring ouzels in the Peak District remains positive, despite challenges from impacts such as climate change affecting ring ouzels in other UK strongholds.



The ring ouzel.

## Traffic Regulation Order Consultation

A six week public consultation on a proposal to make a traffic regulation order to permanently prohibit motor vehicles from the route at Wetton Hills, near the Manifold Track, is underway. The consultation runs until 5pm on Friday 6th April, 2018. Find more details and submit your views at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/consultations). For more information on the Authority's work on managing motorised vehicle use visit [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/vehicles).



# Taking conservation to **NEW HEIGHTS**

It may take thousands of years to create a blanket bog, but the technology now used to look after them couldn't be more cutting edge.

**S**tep onto the moors of the Peak District National Park and the South Pennines this spring, and you may be forgiven for thinking you've spotted a UFO. Thankfully, there's no need to call in the team from the X Files as the work of this particular craft – an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to give it its correct name – has more to do with looking after our landscape than taking over the world.

So how does a 'drone' or UAV play a part in safeguarding one of the landscapes that is a quintessential part of the Peak District National Park? The answer lies in just how much blanket bog we're working to restore – 95 square kilometres to be precise – which is about 23,475 football pitches. When you're working towards the conservation of so much habitat, suddenly the view from above seems pretty appealing.

With a name that sounds like it comes straight out of mission control at NASA, this innovative 'earth observation' technique is now at the heart of the work of the Moors for the Future Partnership, based at Edale's Moorland Centre. Helping to get the UAV project off the ground – quite literally – has been Senior Research and Monitoring Officer, Tia Crouch.

"This eye in the sky gives us a new and unique perspective," says Tia. "Traditionally, conservation has looked at things on a site-by-site scale, but now we are looking down from above we can see things in the context of the whole landscape."



## UAV Tech-Spec

- Maximum take-off weight is 4.8kg
- Wingspan is 2,200mm
- Optimal flight altitude for all sensors is 400ft
- Maximum flight time is up to 1 hour (depending on weather conditions)
- UAV has three landing modes: automatic belly landing, parachute landing and manual belly landing.



- Purchased around 18 months ago as part of the MoorLIFE2020 project, the UAV will be used to analyse 'land cover change' across the Peak District National Park and South Pennines – including vital changes like the increase in sphagnum moss and reductions in bare peat – showing how the habitat is recovering to its true condition.

For Tia and the team, however, becoming a pilot certainly wasn't on the job description when they signed up.

"It was quite challenging learning about the rules of airspace," Tia says whilst thumbing through the huge CAA handbook.

Training and assessment in air law, air charts, and meteorology was all part of a lengthy process to be able to fly the UAV legally. "We had to change our mindset and start thinking in 3D because you have to be aware of the airspace above where the UAV would fly and the airspace below it," adds Tia.

*“ We had to change our mindset and start thinking in 3D ”*

After some studious hours behind the scenes, an assessment had to be passed before the UAV could be insured. Next, the team's first foray into remote-controlled vehicles was a modest training course on terra firma. A visit to Northumberland with QuestUAV for manufacturer's training saw them given a remote-controlled car to drive.

"We were tested on how quickly we could pick up controlling the car because it's very similar to the controls used to fly a UAV," says Tia. "I was a bit disappointed because the test resulted in me being given the role of commander and two of my colleagues being given the role of pilots. I really wanted to be flying the UAV."

Nevertheless, Tia's new role carried plenty of responsibility, with the commander helping the pilot deliver a safe and accurate flight by monitoring the heights and speeds of the UAV. Not to miss out completely, Tia is now learning to be a pilot too.

"The project has been a real rollercoaster because every time something doesn't go according to plan it's totally new to us, we started at stage zero."

After this training the team were able to fly it for training purposes, but a flight assessment had to be passed before they could apply for permission from the CAA to fly the UAV for commercial operations. Once permission for commercial operations was



Dr Dave Chandler launches the UAV from a bungee-like device.





### 5 steps to help traditional blanket bogs recover:

- 1 Cover bare peat with chopped heather cuttings to create a barrier protecting the surface from erosion, while providing a stable base for plants to grow.
- 2 Drop seeds, fertiliser and lime by helicopter to enrich the soil, reduce toxic levels of acidity, and protect the peat from further erosion by knitting the peat together with fast-growing grass seeds.
- 3 Hand plant moorland shrubs which help bring back the natural moorland species.
- 4 Use natural materials such as local stones and heather bales to make mini dams to keep the water on the hill.
- 5 Reintroduce Sphagnum moss to allow the bog to become healthy again.

### What is that?

#### BLANKET BOG

- Very wet.
- Nutrient-poor and acidic, dominated by acid-loving plants, especially Sphagnum mosses.
- 10–15 % of global peatlands are found in the UK so they are internationally important.
- South Pennines SAC represents the most south-easterly blanket bog in Europe.
- Actively absorbs carbon. Blanket bog stores almost 50% of UK carbon even though it takes up only 8% of UK land area.
- A living landscape supporting communities by providing other benefits including: drinking water provision, carbon storage, flood & fire risk mitigation, recreation, and others.

#### SPHAGNUM MOSS

- A bog-building plant because it forms peat when it dies by being compressed over hundreds of years.
- Can hold up to 20 times its own bodyweight in water – a great natural flood management plant.
- Cleans water by filtering out the mud and peat.
- Was used by soldiers in WW1 as an anti-bacterial sponge for wounds.

Water is stored on the moor, reducing flow to lower areas as a form of Natural Flood Management (NFM)

A degraded moor with bare peat – water flows more quickly, vulnerable to fire, little or no habitat for plants and animals to thrive

### WHAT A RECOVERING BLANKET BOG LOOKS LIKE

Sphagnum mosses help to slow the flow of water (holding between 10-20 times their weight in water)

Healthy moors with plants like cottongrass are a key carbon storage area

Curlew and mountain hare call blanket bogs their home

obtained, qualified pilot Mike was able to start flying it on the monitoring site.

"The weather on the moors can be wild, and whilst our UAV can handle wind, when it's windy or the light is flat, it can be difficult to capture high quality images," says Tia.

When the weather is right and the team can fly, Tia undertakes a pre-deployment survey which involves looking at air charts, getting permissions from air traffic control and landowners, planning the flightpath, scouting out potential dangers, and completing checks to ensure the UAV is working properly.

"Each time we go out to fly, it does take a

lot of prep. But I'm so excited to get out and start collecting new information that it's all worth it," says Tia.

"Getting the UAV off the ground and collecting data has been a massive problem-solving exercise and I don't think we've met all the obstacles yet."

The team had their first successful flight in November 2017 after over a year of hard work. It seems a lot of effort but, as Tia says with a smile: "it's all about ensuring that the moors are receiving the best conservation treatment. We're safeguarding these moors for our children's futures, which gives me the drive to do the best I can." ■

The team in a pre-flight briefing.





# Riverside ROYALTY



PHOTOS THIS PAGE: CHRISTINE GREGORY

Meet the experts on the trail of one of the Peak District National Park's most captivating wild residents.

**C**harismatic, elusive and a firm favourite on the cameras of *Springwatch*, otters only returned to every county in England as recently as 2011.

This remarkable revival has come in the space of a generation, with otters left clinging on in just a few strongholds in the late 1970s, following decades of pollution in our waterways, habitat loss and persecution.

Now, as the 'river king' makes a comeback in regional waters, two new

projects in the Peak District are seeking out these secretive mammals, both using a somewhat unexpected tracking method: their poo!

By their largely nocturnal habits, spotting an otter can be a challenge for even the keenest experts, whilst their droppings or 'spraint' – typically left in areas of frequent use in a territory – are a much more reliable method of monitoring.

Here are just two of the schemes looking at how otters are doing in our area:





A glimpse of an otter during daylight hours is a rare treat.

PHOTO: PETER GRIMMING

## TAILS OF THE UPLANDS

**A volunteer otter, water vole and American mink (an introduced non-native species) survey run by the Moors for the Future Partnership.**

Joe Margetts is communications and engagement officer for the Partnership's Community Science project that is monitoring otter, water vole and mink in the Peak District and South Pennines.

Joe says: "Otters are often nocturnal and spend most of their lives in or near water, so you're very, very lucky to see one, instead we look out for the droppings they mark their territory with in places where other otters may come across them. The spraint is quite distinctive with an almost black colour when fresh, and they often use man-made locations such as underneath bridges, weirs or slipways.

"People are often surprised that rather than smelling unpleasant, fresh otter spraints have an aroma a bit like jasmine tea, albeit rather fishy!"

Join in, visit [moorsforthefuture.org.uk/community-science/tou](http://moorsforthefuture.org.uk/community-science/tou)



Otter poo is known as 'spraint', and is a reliable indicator of their whereabouts for scientists.

## PEAK DISTRICT OTTERS

**DNA-based study of otters by the University of Sheffield.**

Dr Deborah Dawson and the team from the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences are collecting otter spraint and extracting DNA to identify different individual otters, their sex and diet, and distribution.

Deborah says: "DNA analysis is required to enable the identification of numbers and identities of different otters and investigate the extent of their territories. This information can help to identify drivers, seasonality and barriers to their movements.

*“Globally the numbers of otters are declining and the otter's future is not yet assured”*

"Through the DNA analysis we can also identify their diet, and understanding what other species are present gives us a more detailed picture of the health of the river. Water quality has improved but globally the numbers of otters are declining and the otter's future is not yet assured, with threats from habitat loss, increased road traffic and severe flooding."

The study will provide vital information to identify ways to help our recovering local otter population. To find out more or donate to support the research, visit [sheffield.ac.uk/molecol/deborah-dawson/peakdistrictotters](http://sheffield.ac.uk/molecol/deborah-dawson/peakdistrictotters)

### OTHER LOCAL STUDIES:

The Peak District's otter population is also being monitored by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the Derbyshire Mammal Group.

## otterly amazing

### What's in a name?

Eurasian otter, scientific name *Lutra lutra*. Male otters are dogs, females are bitches. Our otters are solitary but groups can be a bevy, family, lodge or romp.

### Vital statistics:

Adult otters' average weight is 6kg (female) to 9kg (male) and they are about 92cm to 136cm in length. Their webbed feet are perfectly adapted for swimming.

### Home:

Otters use holes near the river bank; their den is a holt. Ground-level resting places are hovers or couches.

### Diet:

The University of Sheffield's pilot study has shown local otters are eating the invasive American signal crayfish, fish ranging in size from minnows to brown trout, amphibians and waterbirds like the moorhen.

### The revival:

Changes to the law on pesticide use and hunting, the cleaning up of waterways, and conservation efforts, like installing artificial holts, have all supported the otter's resurgence.

### Protection:

Otters are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is illegal to capture, kill, injure or disturb otters or to damage where they live.

### In the limelight:

On 31st October, 2017, an otter was caught on film in the Peak District National Park for the first time by University of Sheffield volunteer Dr Douglas Ross. The footage shows an otter leaving spraint on a river bank.

*Caught on camera!*





# TOGETHER we can do more

The Peak District National Park is a truly special place and we are passionate about keeping it that way.

**M**aintaining 555 square miles of natural beauty for millions of visitors is an expensive business. For example, it costs us £40 to repair one square metre of pathway, and £150 to install a stile. As well as protecting the special places you enjoy, we are committed to improving access to the National Park and enabling everyone to safely and easily experience the locations we love. Our access projects include educational visits for school children, a young rangers programme, family events and guided walks.

But we need your help to achieve all this. If you care about the Peak District National Park as much as we do, and want to help us to keep it special, here are some of the ways you can support us.

## Something for you?

- Celebrate a special birthday or anniversary by making a gift donation, or ask others to do so in lieu of gifts
- Consider leaving a legacy to the Peak District National Park in your will
- Donate to the Mend our Mountains – Make One Million campaign – read more on page 21.

## Something for work?

- Host your next team-building away day in the Peak District National Park. From a guided walk, a casual lunch, a networking breakfast, or a posh dinner – the options are endless!

- Make a donation from the sale of a related product to the National Park; read about how The Derbyshire Candle Company are doing this below.

## Something for your event?

- Make a donation per participant
- Encourage participants to collect sponsorship towards our campaigns
- Invite us to attend to talk to participants about our campaigns.

For more information on how you can help support our fundraising campaigns please visit our website at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/donate](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/donate) or email [donations@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:donations@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

*“It feels like we’re doing our bit to help look after this incredible place”*



A donation of £1 from every candle sold by Jo and Harriet goes to the Peak District National Park.

## Jo and Harriet strike up donation partnership

A local handcrafted candle company are helping to give back to the Peak District National Park with a new supporter scheme.

Mum and daughter team Jo and Harriet Lee make and sell luxury scented candles from Ilam inspired by the natural beauty of the Peak District. Their idea is to bring the familiar fragrances of the peaks, hills, dales and woodland into your home.

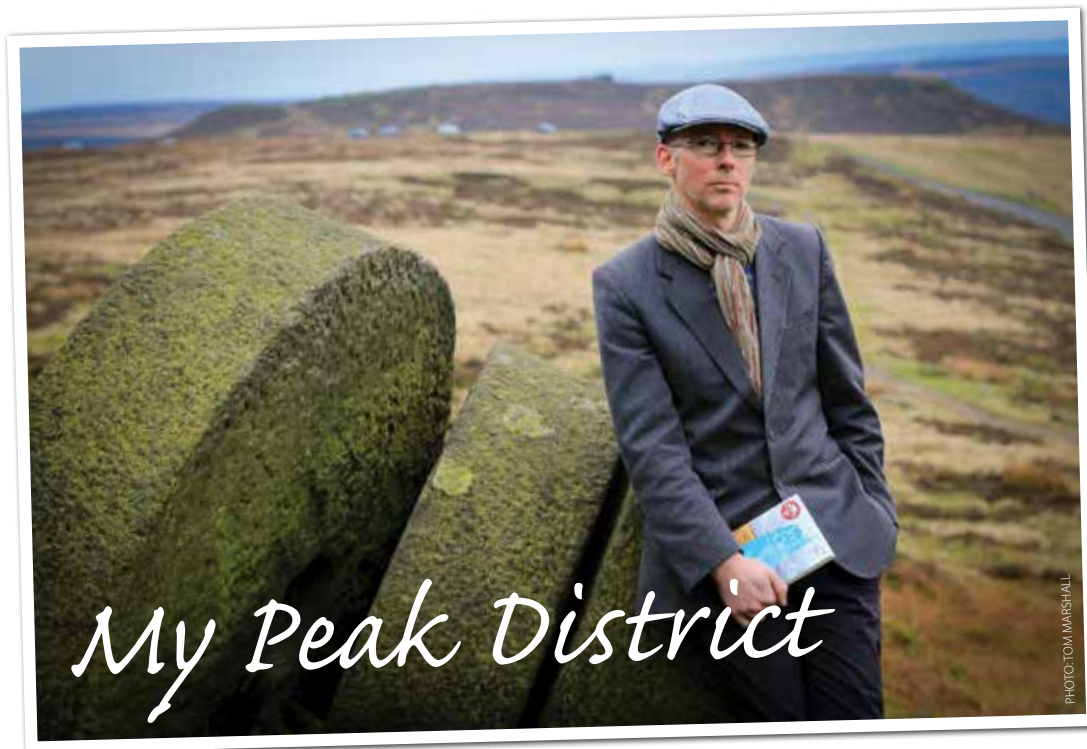
Customers not only get a little bit of the Peak District in their living room, but now a donation from each sale as part of our donation supporter scheme will go directly back to supporting the work of the National Park Authority on the ground.

Jo said: “We are passionate about wildlife and nature conservation and wanted to do something positive that would help make a difference. Donating £1 from every candle we sell is our way of saying ‘we love the Peak District National Park’ and it feels like we’re doing our bit to help look after this incredible place.”

You can see Jo and Harriet’s range at: [derbyshirecandlecompany.co.uk/](http://derbyshirecandlecompany.co.uk/)

If you run a business and would like to be part of our supporter scheme, get in touch with Sarah Slowther on [donations@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:donations@peakdistrict.gov.uk)





## Jon McGregor

Author of *Reservoir 13*, winner of the 2017 Costa Novel Award talks to Alison Riley.

I first got to know the Peak District National Park in my early twenties, after university, when I moved from Bradford to Sheffield. I'd loved living in Bradford but as somebody who had grown up in Norfolk it was always a shock to me how difficult it was to get out of the city and into the countryside. What I enjoyed about Sheffield was how the national park comes

right down to the city, you can start walking out through the city parks and you're away.

The thing I love most about the Peak District is the sense that it is on everyone's doorstep whether you live in Sheffield, Manchester or Derby. It's a rural landscape but it's somewhere that a lot of urban people feel at home so there's always this sense that it's one thing but it's also another.

As a writer, that tension is really interesting to me; I look for juxtapositions, contrasts and conflicts. In the Peak District it's the way that industry, agriculture and tourism overlap and crash up against each other. It's very picturesque but it is also full of quarries and mines. History has helped create the landscape and an interesting mix of communities that live and work here. ▶



Jon enjoys tackling Winnats Pass on his bike.





Jon McGregor talking to Alison Riley.

## Jon McGregor

**Born:** Bermuda.

**Home:** Nottingham.

**Family:** Three children.

**Day job:** Professor of Creative Writing, Writer in Residence, the University of Nottingham.

**What they say:** 'a wicked British writer' – *New York Times*.

**Awards:** Dublin Literary Award (2012), multiple Booker Prize longlistings.

**Dark Peak or White Peak?** The White Peak for a day trip because it's closer, but the Dark Peak is always a bit more exciting.

**Hill or dale?** Hill.

**Notepad or tablet?** Notepad.

**Walking or cycling?** Cycling.

**Bakewell pudding or tart?** Pud.

“The thing I love most about the Peak District is the sense that it is on everyone's doorstep”

► When I was writing *Reservoir 13*, I did a lot of thinking about a year in the life of a sheep farmer, a day in the life of a dairy farmer, stuff around game-keeping and moorland estates, and what river keepers do. Most of the factual research I did was from books or online but I always had the landscape of the Peak District in mind.

The sense of place was essential but I was creating fiction so I didn't want to describe actual life in the Peak District; I wanted to create a fictional world which was true to it. So it is an amalgam of a few different places although it feels very real to me; I can walk my way around the village in my head and I know where things are and I wanted the reader to get that as well.

As a visitor, I love cycling so I cycle from the south through Youlgrave and it's great to get up as far as Edale. Tackling Winnats Pass is always a big adventure – it feels like it is right at the limit of what's possible – you get to the top and there's a real sense of achievement. Then you get to come down

the other side into Edale. I really enjoy that.

I am very fond of Edale and because it is so accessible by train it tends to be Edale where I've come camping with the kids – and they adore it. It's really nice to rock up with your rucksack full of camping gear and set up camp for the weekend. For the kids it feels like an adventure and the climb up to Mam Tor is the first really adventurous walk they did.

I don't know if *Reservoir 13* would make a good film, but a TV series perhaps, like so many great stories these days. We'll see if the phone rings! ■

• ***Reservoir 13*** by Jon McGregor is published by 4th Estate. Winner of the 2017 Costa Novel Award. Hardback £14.99, paperback £8.99 from bookshops and online.

• ***The Reservoir Tapes*** is a series of short stories also by Jon McGregor, published by 4th Estate, set in the 6 months before the start of *Reservoir 13*. Listen to the podcasts on BBC Radio 4 iPlayer.

## Jon's tips for writers:

Read more – and write more. When people start out writing they get anxious about how good their writing is and they get stuck. The key is to keep writing to develop your skills. A top tip is to visit the Peak District National Park for inspiration.

## COMPETITION

**100 words writing competition!**

**Win a signed copy of *Reservoir 13*!**

Discover your own inspiration in the Peak District National Park. Enter our writing competition to be in with a chance of winning a signed hardback copy of Jon McGregor's prize winning novel *Reservoir 13*, set in the UK's original national park!



We will publish the winning entry on our website and promote it through our social media accounts. All we ask is that the writing is your own and that it links to the theme of the Peak District National Park.

There is no age limit for this competition, one entry per person. Please note we are not able to acknowledge entries and there will be no feedback given.

Send your entry as a word document, with the title as the file name, to **parklife@peakdistrict.gov.uk**. Put Writing Competition in the subject line, attach your word document (with the title as the file name), in the email include your name, address, telephone number, and the title of your writing.

• Closing date for entries is midnight on 31st May, 2018.

• See **[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/tandcs](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/tandcs)** for full terms and conditions.

## MORE PEAK DISTRICT LITERARY CONNECTIONS

**Jane Austen** – stayed at The Rutland Arms, Bakewell, during the time she was writing *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Charlotte Bronte** – visits to North Lees Hall, Hathersage, inspired her semi-autobiographical novel *Jane Eyre*.

**Stephen Booth** – the Peak District National Park is the backdrop to the internationally popular Cooper and Fry detective series novels.

**Berlie Doherty** – children's author whose books are often inspired by the Peak District: *Deep Secret*, *Children of Winter*, *Blue John*, *The Snake Stone* and *Valentine's Day*.

**Helen Mort** – the critically acclaimed poet's collection *No Map Could Show Them* centres on women in the wilderness and modern urban life.





Partnered by  
**WEDGWOOD**  
ENGLAND 1759

# RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, 6-10 June

Members' Day 6 June

The RHS shows team have been busy preparing some fabulous new experiences for this year's show, which we hope you'll be excited about too.



## Here's a sneak peak of what's lined up...

### IMMERSE YOURSELF AMONGST THOUSANDS OF EXOTIC ORCHIDS

The Great Conservatory, which represents Paxton's Great Conservatory at Chatsworth House, will be overflowing with thousands of beautiful Phalaenopsis orchids, so you can immerse yourself amongst the exotic blooms in a wonderful tropical sanctuary.

### A RIVER OF FLOWERS

A mass planting of Cosmos will create a pretty and colourful sight to see and photograph this year. A first for any RHS shows, the planting will be made up of 12,000 Cosmos bipinnatus 'Razzmatazz' outside the iconic Chatsworth House.

### NEW LIVING LABORATORY

For inquisitive minds, the vital role plants play within the city will be explored in a new Living Laboratory feature. Plants and technology will be on display highlighting how different varieties can help address a number of urban challenges including pollution, flooding and food scarcity.

### And the inspiration grows on and on...

With inspirational gardens, fabulous plant displays, shopping opportunities and new installations, the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show is the perfect summer's day out with friends and family.



Join the excitement by booking your tickets now and have a wonderful day out to look forward to. Book at [rhs.org.uk/chatsworth](https://rhs.org.uk/chatsworth) or 0844 995 9664\*

\* Calls cost 7p per minute plus network extras.



# Spring into ACTION!

The days are growing longer, the weather warmer... and the Peak District's magnificent countryside is coming to life. Spring is a special time to experience Britain's original National Park. Let us inspire you!



## AN EASTER MERMAID

**Sunday 1st April**

**10.30am to 4.30pm**

Discover the mysterious Mermaid's Pool in this 6-mile walk on Kinder Scout's western flanks. Legend claims that a beautiful mermaid lures men on Midsummer's Day with her alluring singing. A 19th century poem tells how a shepherd boy fell in love with her, jumped into the pool and was never seen again. Other legends say she will give eternal life to those who see her swimming in the pool every year at midnight on Easter Eve. Which one will you believe?

- Meet at Bowden Bridge car park, SK22 2HJ. £6 per person, under 18s go free.

## WHO DARES, WINS!

**Saturday 14th April 2018**

**10.30am to 5pm**

A strenuous, 10-mile hike, climbing more than 2,300 feet over the summit of Win Hill, following the old Roman road past Hope Cross, then up to Crook Hill and Hagg Farm before descending to beautiful Ladybower Reservoir.

- Meet at Heatherdene Car Park on the A6013, close to Ladybower Fishery Office, S33 0AZ. £6 per person, under 18s go free.

## PINNACLE EDGES

**Saturday 19th May**

**10.30am to 4pm**

A moderate, 8-mile walk across the iconic edges of the Eastern Moors, passing pinnacles, taking in wonderful panoramas and dipping into enchanting bluebell woods.

- Meet at Grindleford Railway Station Café, S32 2JA. £6 per person, under 18s go free.



## FROM EDGE TO EDGE

**Sunday 13th May**

**10.30am to 5pm**

Take in the high spots and get the best views from the Peak District's iconic mountain – Kinder Scout in this strenuous 12-mile walk. The perfect introduction to Kinder Scout, the walk features wonderful panoramas, a visit to the summit and a chance to explore the distinctive "grough" system that can be used to navigate from one side of the plateau to another.

- Meet at Bowden Bridge car park, SK22 2HJ. £6 per person, under 18s go free.



## Stay with us!

Camp in comfort by hiring one of our cosy wood campsites, the pods are guaranteed to keep you warm without putting up a tent. All pods are set within wooded areas and the pod is accessible for people with a range of issues. To plan your camping trip to North Lees v

## MINDFULNESS WALK: DERWENT HERITAGE WAY

**Sunday 20th May**

**10am to 1pm**

A short mindfulness walk along the beautiful River Derwent between Calver and Froggatt, allowing you the chance to slip into a slower gear and appreciate the special qualities of the Peak District National Park. There will be periods of slow walking and quiet moments for reflection and stillness.

- Meet outside the Derbyshire Craft Centre in Calver Village, S32 3XA. £4 per person, under 18s go free.

## RHS CHATSWORTH

**6th to 10th June**

From the Great Conservatory filled with spectacular orchids to the floral first of a river of flowers, this year's event blends tradition with innovative design

[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/rhs](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/rhs)

## EROICA BRITANNIA

**15th to 17th June**

A unique festival of beautiful bikes, stunning rides, music, food and shopping - based at Friden Grange

[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/eroica](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/eroica)





en pods. Set at the fringe of our North Lees  
warm and dry, without the hassle of carrying and  
l areas and three overlook a small stream. One  
of disabilities – or older people with mobility  
visit [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/camping](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/camping)

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JANE EYRE

**Sunday 17th June**

**11.15am to 4pm**

A family friendly, literary 6-mile wander around the beautiful North Lees Estate, thought to have inspired the setting for Charlotte Brontë's much-loved novel Jane Eyre.

• Meet at Hathersage main bus stop in the centre of the village, S32 1DT. £6 per person, under 18s go free.



## Wheely good times

Cycling is healthy, fun – and a great way to take in the Peak District's stunning scenery. We have miles of traffic-free trails for you to explore – and three handily-placed hire and service centres. Visit us at: Ashbourne, at the southern end of the Tissington Trail; Derwent in the picturesque Derwent Valley; and Parsley Hay, at the junction of the High Peak and Tissington Trails and Manifold Valley on the Manifold Track.

[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/cyclehire](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/cyclehire)



Our Parsley Hay cycle hire centre has a range of bikes for those with additional mobility needs.

## Festival fun

From ancient traditions to the latest foodie trends, there's a Peak District festival for everyone!

Welldressings are unique to Derbyshire and have been a key part of the county's spring and summer calendar for centuries. Tissington well dressing is from **10th to 16th May**, followed by Middleton by Youlgrave from **26th May to 1st June**. Learn more at [www.visitpeakdistrict.com](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com)



Bakewell Food Festival returns over the weekend of **28th to 29th April**, with a celebration of the Peak District's finest produce. The town's historic streets will host stalls of tempting treats for all the family.

[www.whatsonbakewell.co.uk/events](http://www.whatsonbakewell.co.uk/events)

## school hols



## HOLIDAY FUN!

**Every Thursday during school holidays at Longdendale**

**10.30am to 1pm**

From tree tops to tree roots, explore with us in your wellie boots! Be prepared to get dirty – bring along a change of clothing and a picnic to enjoy in the woodlands. Our play days are suitable for children aged five and over but younger siblings are welcome (maximum two per family). All children must be supervised by a responsible adult.

• Meet at Longdendale Environmental Centre, United Utilities Bottoms Office, Tintwistle, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 1HS. £5 per child. Adults and siblings under two are free. Booking essential.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT CASTLETON VISITOR CENTRE

**4th, 8th and 11th April,  
30th May and 3rd June**

**11am to 4pm**

Our school holiday events are always a big hit with children – so please join us for Easter and spring half-term treats!

## Find out more

For full details of walks and events – and to book – please visit [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/events](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/events)





# Serious about PLAY

How a Wildlife Trust project at The Roaches in the South West Peak is helping children to reconnect in a world detached from nature.

“Is it a boy or a girl?”, “Can you see its teeth?”, “It’s got little horns on its head!”, “It’s making a shiny path!” It’s May, it’s raining and colder than you’d like too. A snail is making characteristically slow progress over a log, watched by two ‘Wildlings’ in wellies and bright waterproof coats. They are taking it in turns to hold a magnifying glass. Blissfully unaware of the damp day, the two five-year-olds are engrossed in their minibeast hunt.

These little ‘Wildlings’ may be able to avoid the dragon-battling antics of their Game of Thrones namesake, but they share a closer affinity when it comes to a life lived outdoors.

As a recent Wildlife Trusts’ report into children’s engagement with the environment commented, as a species our children have had an outdoor life for more than 200,000 years, so we are ‘hard wired’ to be part of the natural world.

Wild Child officer Aimee Burrows, hosted by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust through the South West Peak Landscape Partnership Scheme, explains: “Playing outdoors in nature is fantastic for children of all ages – whatever the weather, being in our wilder spaces gives them the feeling of freedom and a sense of discovery. It’s about experiencing the natural environment for themselves through play.

“It opens children up to the variety of sights, sounds, smells and textures that being outside brings. They can run about, jump around and generally make a lot of noise which helps relieve restlessness and



“This may be play,  
but it can have  
serious results too”



## WHO'S IT FOR?

**Nature Tots** – under-fives and their parents or carers.

**Wildlings** – six months to five-year-olds and their parents or carers.

**Wild Families** – five to eight-year-olds and their parents or carers.

**Wildplay** – eight to thirteen-year-olds who want to explore the natural world.

reduce tension. And there are opportunities for them to slow down too and enjoy looking at nature in detail – they get a sense of calmness and you see them behaving in a kind way towards each other.”

This may be play, but it can have serious results too. Outdoor programmes such as the Scandinavian-inspired Forest School can drive dramatic improvements in conditions such as Attention Deficit Disorder and ADHD. As one 14 year-old child described it: “...when I’m outdoors, I don’t have ADHD”.

The widening gap between contemporary generations and those of our parents is all too stark, with around

80% of both boys and girls now exercising for less than an hour a day, and just 44% of youngsters in 2018 saying that had played outdoors independently in the last six months.

Alongside the physical impacts of this more sedentary lifestyle, our children are also increasingly losing touch with the realities of the outdoors, now being described as ‘nature deficit disorder’. This is borne out in only half of children saying their school had an ‘outdoor nature area’, and a third of youngsters (37%) saying they have never seen a wild hedgehog.

Thankfully today with Aimee and her team, there’s more than enough to occupy these wintry warriors, from bug hunting to den-making, scavenger hunts, and natural arts and crafts.

Adds Aimee: “This morning it’s the simplicity of a snail, but in 20 years’ time these Wildlings could well be looking after the nature reserves and National Parks of the next generation.”

Since the Wild Child project started last summer, 560 children and 160 adults have taken part at the Roaches, near Leek, and in after school clubs in the South West Peak area.

## Nature deficit disorder

- 60% of children have never seen a peacock butterfly
- Only 1 in 10 parents think their children spend more time outdoors than they did
- 78% of parents say children don’t interact enough with nature and wildlife
- In the last century, a child’s ‘roaming range’ during play has reduced almost 6 miles
- Children walking to school has reduced to just 10%.

**YouGov/WildlifeTrusts**

## Wild Child

Wild Child is run by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. It is one of 18 projects set up by the South West Peak Landscape Partnership thanks to a £2.4m Heritage Lottery Fund Grant. The 5-year scheme is working together with local residents, visitors and other organizations to shape a better future for the communities, landscape, wildlife and heritage of the South West Peak.

**southwestpeak.co.uk**

**@swpeak**

**@southwestpeak**

**WHERE AND WHEN?** For Wildling, Wildplay and Wildfamily activity dates and events, visit [www.southwestpeak.co.uk/projects/community/wild-child](http://www.southwestpeak.co.uk/projects/community/wild-child)





Hassop farmers Bob and Judy Dilks.

PHOTO: TOM MARSHALL

## Support for upland farmers and land managers

Bob and Judy Dilks, with support from their family, have been farming at Hassop for 27 years. They have recently taken up the tenancy of Knouchley Farm at Calver, and have applied for financial support for organic and conservation management of the land, from the Mid-tier of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

National Park farm adviser Suzanne Fowkes explains: "We've helped Mr and Mrs Dilks with their Countryside Stewardship application and grant aided several capital conservation projects at Knouchley Farm, all on or close to the flood plain of Stoke Brook. This is one of the most important locations for wetland habitats and species in this part of the Peak District National Park.

"Grants were awarded for dry-stone wall restoration, streamside fencing and the creation of three new small farm woodlands in partnership with the Woodland Trust.

"At Calver Marshes, the old meander-style pond within the flood plain has been reinstated. This project was carried out by our Countryside Maintenance Team



A 'meander-style' pond.

together with volunteer hydrologist, Peter Worrall, who provided specialist advice and on-site support."

Peter Worrall said: "This project will enhance wildlife opportunities within the catchment and contribute to the process of 'slowing the flow' which, however small, will contribute to the alleviation of flooding downstream. We would like to see water voles, great crested newts or otters move in to this restored floodplain."

If you would like help with a Countryside Stewardship Scheme application please contact the farm advisers: email [farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk), phone **01629 816200** or call in at the drop-in centre at Bakewell Livestock Market on Mondays, 10am–2pm.

## COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME 2018 APPLICATION DEADLINES

Countryside Stewardship Scheme 2018 application deadlines are tight so if you are interested in applying please note the following dates:

- **Mid-tier: 31st May** for requesting an application pack, and **31st July** for submitting the application.
- **Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant applications: 30th April.** Grants for the restoration of hedgerows and dry stone walls have been increased from £5,000 to £10,000 this year.

And in the future, whilst changes have been made to the scheme for this year which will better support upland farmers, the National Park Authority, together with other stakeholders, continues working for further improvements. We are seeking to influence the design of a new support scheme post-Brexit to reward farmers and land managers for the full range of public benefits which our Peak District farms can deliver. So watch out for further updates.



## Show your support – buy direct, shop local

Bread, beer, veggies, pies, sausages, steaks, the shopping list could go on – fill your bags and baskets at a Peak District Farmers' Market or from a farm shop: **Bakewell Market** is every Monday, and **Bakewell Farmers' Market** is on the last Saturday each month, in the Agricultural Business Centre. **Buxton Farmers' Market** is every first Thursday of the month at Buxton Pavilion. **Chesterfield Farmers' Market** is on the second Thursday of every month on Central Pavement. **Hartington Farmers' Market** is on Sundays, weekly from late May to September.



# Mending our MOUNTAINS



**Carey Davies** from the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) introduces an ambitious new campaign to ensure our favourite paths are fit for the future.

**W**hen you walk the Great Ridge, the wonderful, sweeping edge connecting Mam Tor and Lose Hill at the heart of the Peak District, you walk between different worlds – in more ways than one.

For a start, it straddles the divide between the two main 'identities' of the Peak District. When you gaze north from Back Tor or Hollins Cross, you look out over the 'Dark Peak', where the underlying geology is dominated by Millstone Grit and the wild moors and rocky escarpments it produces. But if you turn around and face south, you will find yourself looking out over a different sort of landscape, one marked by a fertile plateau covered in sheep pastures and scored by spectacular plunging gorges – the limestone 'White Peak'.

But for the less geologically-fixated, it also represents a bridge between different kinds of experience. The long, flowing, photogenic ridge with its clear route makes finding your way straightforward, but the level of exertion and difficulty (and arguably reward) is just that bit higher than a riverside ramble or a lowland stroll. It hits a sweet spot between lowland and mountain walking that makes it a wonderful day out and deservedly popular.

But that popularity comes at a price. The Peak District National Park has some of the highest visitor numbers of any protected landscape in the world – an estimated 20 million people live within an hour's drive. It is a vital resource for the health and wellbeing of the surrounding

population. The Great Ridge, with this dynamite combination of accessibility and spectacle, is one of the most popular walking routes in Britain – an estimated 120,000 people walk it every year.

*“The accumulated impact of footfall and erosion now means that a long section of the ridge is suffering”*

The accumulated impact of footfall and erosion now means that a long section of the ridge is suffering from a wide and extremely visible scar on the ridge line, poor walking conditions, and damage to the surrounding landscape.

That's why the Great Ridge is a part of the Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million appeal. This is a national call to action to everyone who values the hills, mountains and landscapes of Britain. It aims to galvanise mass support for things we all use: the paths, bridleways and bridges which underpin our experiences in the great outdoors.

Through a year-long appeal we aim to raise £1 million in total for a range of vital projects within the UK's entire family

of 15 National Parks. The Great Ridge is one of the most ambitious and significant projects within this. Together with the Peak District National Park Authority, we aim to raise £144,000 to completely renovate the damaged section, healing existing impacts and creating a durable route that will future-proof the route for countless people to continue to enjoy it in years to come.

It's about more than just tidying up a muddy path – it is about protecting the health and integrity of a place which is hugely important to many people.

While we were on the Great Ridge filming a promotional video for Mend Our Mountains last September, we stopped and chatted to the many people out walking that day. One woman, Colleen, told us she been on the Great Ridge about seven times this year alone, had walked it every year for the last 10 years at least once, and often took people there to show them what it's like. On this walk she had brought along a couple of her friends from America; one had been moved to tears by the views.

Humans form a part of the landscape but the landscape can also become part of us. Some places get under our skin and call to us to return to them time and time again; the Great Ridge is surely one of them.

**Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million** is having its public launch at the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival on **March 9–11** – see [www.shaff.co.uk](http://www.shaff.co.uk)

For more information about the national appeal and the Great Ridge project, go to [www.mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk)







# Putting down ROOTS



To adventurous youngsters, woodlands are magical places – full of exciting opportunities to explore, play and learn. For others they are peaceful havens, a chance to escape the demands of everyday life and to reconnect with nature. One of the ways we have enhanced the Peak District National Park is through the planting or improvement of woodlands, to benefit local flora, wildlife – and people. **Fiona Stubbs** discovers three of our best-loved woods.



## Anne's Wood, Elton

More than 20 years ago, children from Elton Primary School helped National Park rangers to plant trees in what would become Anne's Wood.

Now the woodland provides a wealth of learning opportunities for today's pupils.

We have granted a licence allowing the school to use Anne's Wood for lessons and groups of pupils visit regularly.

Teacher Rebecca Edwards-Gill explains: "Woodland activities link up with everything in the curriculum – literacy projects, numeracy and science. We also do activities such as minibeast hunting and den building, great ways to develop team work, independent thinking and problem-solving skills.



"The children love it. They don't realise how much they are learning – they think they're having a lovely day out!"

Anne's Wood was planted in 1997 in memory of Marianne Grace Hinnells,

who was known as Anne. It was funded as a gift to the National Park by her family – a plaque at the entrance to the woodland describes Anne as "a wonderful daughter, wife, mother and devoted teacher" who was "loved by all who knew her."

Rebecca adds: "One of the really nice results of our work is that the children love the wood so much they encourage their families to visit at weekends and

during the school holidays.

"It's expanded their knowledge of the area, taking them out of the house and encouraging them to enjoy – and learn about – the countryside."

*“One of the really nice results of our work is that the children love the wood”*

The wonder of woodland... pupils from Elton Primary School love learning in Anne's Wood.





Enjoying a stroll at The Fall, Danebridge.



## The Fall, Danebridge

Have you ever taken a bite of an Ashmeads Kernal? Or how about a Keswick Codlin?

These and other ancient varieties of apple have long disappeared from our diet, but live on in a special Peak District woodland – and through the culinary skills of the local Women's Institute.

In 2013 contractor Rob Jordan, working with our woodlands manager Richard Claxon, planted an orchard at The Fall, Danebridge, on the Cheshire-Staffordshire border. It was part of a wider project, which involved planting 4,360 native trees to provide important habitat and shelter for wildlife. The Woodland Trust donated a Royal Oak from Windsor Great Park and an official woodland 'opening' day attracted generations of local families.

The orchard is made up of old Cheshire varieties Lord Derby (1862), Millicent Barnes (1903), Minshall Crab (1777) and Withington Welter (1883). Other varieties of apple trees include D'Arcy Spice (1785) and Ribston Pippin (1688) and the orchard also includes plum, damson, quince, cherry and pear trees.

We granted Winkle WI sole licence for fruit collection. President Angie Page says: "It is interesting comparing the looks and flavours of the older varieties with the fruit we see in our supermarkets today.

"The first year brought a small amount of produce but we have seen an increase every year and look forward to many years of harvesting with subsequent jam and pie-making."



Apples from The Fall orchard.



## The Willows, Great Longstone

Many of the woodlands we have established or improved have been on reclaimed land, previously used as rubbish tips or quarry sites.

One of our prettiest woods is rooted on the site of a former sewage works just outside Great Longstone.

"When the sewage works closed in 1972, there were initially plans to turn the site into a lorry park," explains our woodlands manager Richard Claxon. "But when ownership was transferred to the National Park, we decided to create The Willows woodland, under the guidance of National Park forestry officer Alec Unsworth.

"Our work there has been fascinating and revealed an archaeological feature – an ancient water funnel – which had been buried beneath 6ft of sediment.

"In recent years the woodland became



Discover the wonderful plants and habitats at The Willows, Great Longstone.

overgrown and needed thinning out. Now, after some painstaking work, it is a lovely village amenity for walking, with some wonderful plants and habitats."



National Park woodlands manager Richard Claxon helps a pupil to prune a branch from one of the trees.

PHOTO: TOM MARSHALL



# Shop with us and support your National Park

Our range of Peak District National Park products have been specially chosen to reflect the colours, character and beauty of Britain's original National Park. Whatever you choose, you'll be helping to look after your favourite places, trails, wildlife and more across the Peak District.



## Aim for the top in our new cycling jersey

If you make the most from the Peak District National Park on two wheels, then this summer aim high with our brand new contemporary road jerseys for men and women.

Produced with Tour de Yorkshire merchandise partner Milltag, our new design features a taste of what the National Park has to offer; iconic crags, winding passes and of course the classic millstone.

Picked out in gritstone grey with higher visibility green panels, the back of the jersey

features the Peak District's four locations in the revered top 100 climbs in the country.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for official launch dates and where to get hold of yours.

### Where to shop

You'll find these items and more, including maps, books, clothing, locally-made products and souvenirs, on sale in Peak District National Park visitor centres at Bakewell, Castleton, Derwent and Edale. Or shop online at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/shop](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/shop)  
Your purchases help us look after the Peak District National Park for everyone to enjoy.

Millie  
the sheep



@PeakMillie  
#MillieTheSheep



From adventures in outer space (yes, really!) to at home on the Peak District moors, Millie will happily find a home with you.

Inspired by the Swaledale breed, this Yorkshire lass now plays a big part across the Peak District, as one of 400,000 sheep in the National Park.

If you want to see Millie and her other friends up-close, why not visit one of the Peak District's annual sheepdog trials to see highly trained working dogs and experienced handlers in action. Check out Bamford Sheepdog Trials in May.

Read more about Millie and her space adventure at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/millie-the-sheep](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/millie-the-sheep)

Share your Millie adventures with us @PeakMillie



## Best-dressed dogs

Having your dog on a lead can make a real difference to livestock and wildlife at this crucial time of year, during nesting and lambing season. But that doesn't mean your four-legged friends can't make a statement when you're out for a walk!

Why not add a splash of seasonal colour all year round with our range of Peak District tartan and leather dog collars and leads.

Handcrafted, you'll find a bespoke, tailored country look – a hint of tradition with a modern twist.



# Taste of *spring*

Welcome to our new food page. In each edition, we'll showcase seasonal produce and invite guest foodies to cook up delicious recipes for you to try.

**L**aunching our series is the **Blueberry Café**, based at our visitor centre in Castleton. **Carly Shawe** – who runs the café with her husband James – says: "After winter's heavy meals, we all look forward to the lighter dishes of spring. Seasonal ingredients include highly-nutritious watercress – great for soups – and asparagus, a delicacy of the vegetable world.

"Spring produce also includes radishes, cucumber and, of course, spring onions – which add colour and flavour to salads, the perfect accompaniment to quiches and tartlets."

📷 @cafe\_blueberry 📺 facebook.com/BlueberryCafeCastleton



## Watercress and Potato Soup

### Ingredients

- 2 potatoes
- 2 onions
- 2 cloves of garlic
- Olive oil
- 400ml vegetable stock
- 3 large handfuls of watercress
- Salt and pepper

### Method

1. Peel and dice the potatoes, onions and garlic and saute in a heavy based saucepan for 5-10 minutes.
2. Add the stock and simmer until the potato is soft.
3. Chop and add the watercress and simmer for a further 3-4 mins.
4. Using a hand blender, liquidise the soup until smooth.
5. Season to taste and serve with a spoonful of crème fraîche.



## Asparagus Tartlets

### Ingredients

- 350g asparagus
- 40g cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon grated parmesan
- 2 egg, beaten
- 284ml single cream
- Salt and pepper

For the pastry:

- 25g butter
- 25g lard
- 110g plain flour
- Pinch of salt
- Cold water

### Method

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 4, 350F, 180C.
2. Make the pastry by rubbing the butter and lard gently into the flour. Add the salt

with enough cold water to make a smooth dough.

3. Rest dough in the fridge for 20 minutes, then roll out on a floured surface.
4. Line six small tart tins. Prick the bases and line with greaseproof paper and baking beans. Blind bake for 10-15 mins. Remove paper and beans.
5. Meanwhile, cut off the woody end from the asparagus and cut the spears into 2-3 pieces. Boil in water for 4-5 mins. Arrange the asparagus into the bases of the tartlets.
6. Beat eggs together with the cream and grated cheese, season with salt and pepper. Pour over the asparagus in each tartlet and sprinkle with parmesan.
7. Place tartlets onto a baking sheet and cook for 20-25 minutes, until the centre feels firm and the tops are golden brown.



# What's this?

**T**his unusual wooden figure was found at the bottom of a garden in Tideswell. It had twine wrapped around the upper part of the body. It may have been used as a spool or a plumb-bob to help keep a straight line when the drystone wall was rebuilt a number of years ago.

It's a conical figure made of wood with carved features, and appears to be holding flowers. It stands 23.5cm tall, and is 6.3cm wide at the base. The head is 13.5cm in diameter and the base is 18cm in diameter.

Have you any ideas about the purpose of this object? Do you know when or where it was made? Who made it? What type of wood is it?

We'd love to hear your thoughts. Email us on [parklife@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:parklife@peakdistrict.gov.uk) with 'What's this' in the subject line.

If we find out any more about this mysterious object we'll update you in a future edition of ParkLife.

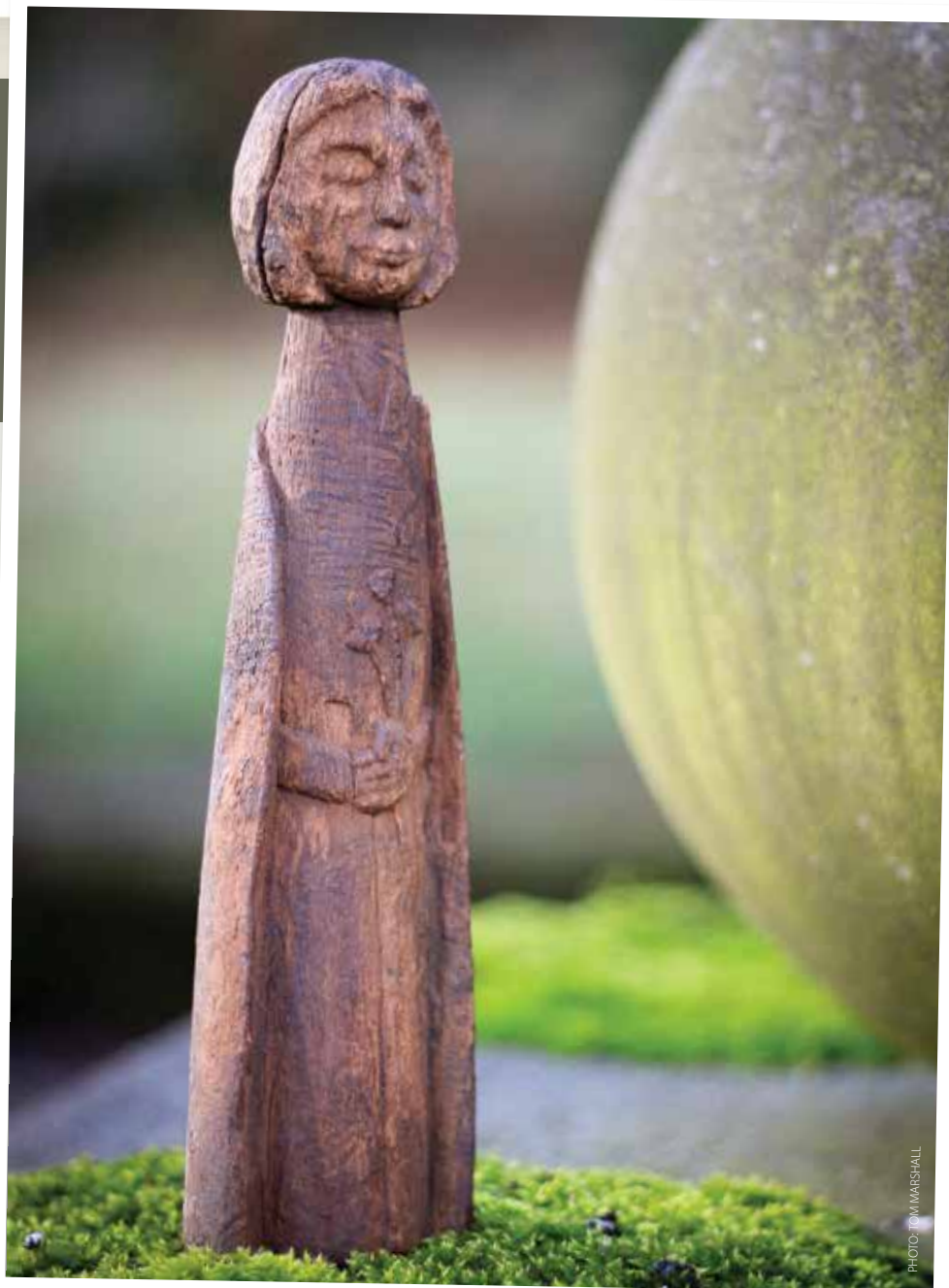


PHOTO: TOM MARSHALL

## Read all about it

The 2018 edition of Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire, or ACID as it is affectionately known, is out now.

Edited by Roly Smith, articles in this issue of the annual magazine feature bears living in Peak District caves, the historic landscape of Ilam Park, old gold found at Leekfrith, and Castleton cotton mill.

This informative publication is free of charge and available from Derbyshire libraries and the Peak District National Park head office (see page 2), or you can read it online [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/acid](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/acid)



## IT'S A CUT THROAT BUSINESS

The Moors for the Future Partnership have repaired the popular Cutthroat track, on the moors between Ladybower Reservoir and Sheffield.

This bridleway runs through an area that contains evidence of the people who lived there up to 4,000 years ago. Large stretches of the route had become very eroded which was bad for native plants, as well as birds that nest on the ground, and could have damaged the Bronze Age settlement remains.

A new hard wearing surface and drainage has been put in place funded by Derbyshire County Council and Natural England Higher Level Stewardship.

## A Monumental Landscape

Arbor Low, near Monyash, is an amazing place to visit.

Long known as the Stonehenge of the North, even though the stones aren't standing, the henge and nearby barrow Gib Hill are around 5,000 years old.

Discover the latest thinking about why these monuments were built in our Arbor Low booklet, £2.50 from Peak District National Park visitor centres.





# MY PEAK DISTRICT PHOTO COMPETITION

## Stanage Edge Rebecca Haigh

**WINNER!**

**C**ongratulations to Rebecca Haigh, our photo competition winner. Rebecca's picture melted the judge's hearts with this adorable image of her four year-old daughter enjoying her first 12km "yomp" on Stanage Edge which, we're told, she "loved". Rebecca has won our Millie the Sheep. We hope Rebecca and family will take Millie on great adventures and post some photos on twitter @PeakMillie!



We received dozens of entries and the runners-up photos were great too.

If you'd like your own Millie to cuddle you can buy her from Peak District National Park visitor centres. Profits are reinvested in your Original National Park.

**Millie**  
the sheep



@PeakMillie  
#MillieTheSheep



### RUNNERS UP:



**Stanage Edge**  
Andrew Baker



**White Edge**  
Bev Froggett



**Chatsworth**  
Elina Viluma Kuzmina



**Curbar Edge**  
Janet Jones



**Trig point above Sandy Heys, Kinder Scout**  
Lisa Bloor



**Near Lud's Church, Roaches**  
Robert Dudek



**Top of Mam Tor**  
Sam Draper



Caroline Smart



**Thorpe Cloud, Ilam**  
Kieran Metcalfe



# Peak views

Get in touch with us by email, Twitter, Facebook or write.  
We love to hear from you.

Owler Tor last week, and a sight I didn't expect to see...  
Phil Norton Photography  
(via Facebook)



The plug hole on Ladybower new year's day.  
Steve Owen (via Facebook)



Me and my best pal, my dog Rossi on Mam Tor Trig Point.  
Gary Fletcher  
(via Facebook)



All in a day's work for @PeakRangers. Rescue a coal tit who head butted the window and it rewards you by perching on your shoulder before flying off. #That'sNotHappenedBefore  
@LD\_PeakDistrict




I thought it was a pom-pom at first on the river but it was only Britain's fastest declining wild mammal I saw this morning.  
@KayFairrest (via Twitter)

## More of your moments


Whether it's posting a great Peak District selfie, an amazing wildlife encounter or fun with the family, we'll share some of our favourites here. You can also write to us at:

**Parklife Magazine, Peak District National Park Authority,  
Aldern House, Baslow Road,  
Bakewell, DE45 1AE.**





 Delighted to have been nominated for the National Parks UK Volunteers Awards.  
Peak Park Conservation Volunteers




 Black Men Walking: a hilly hike through 500 years of black British history.  
@guardian



 While walking @nationaltrust Dovedale, @peakdistrict I came across these #sheep having a mid-morning snack.  
@DworakPhoto

 @peakdistrict

 /peakdistrictnationalpark

We promise to read all of your letters, but unfortunately we won't be able to respond personally.



# 5 minutes with...

Jane Newman

In the first of a brand new ParkLife series meeting those who live and work in the Peak District National Park, **Jane Newman** tells us why she swapped the North York Moors for a role in planning in Britain's first national park.

**I was brought up in the North York Moors National Park and have always really valued the special places our National Parks are.** I understood from an early age that planning has a huge role to play in the conservation and enhancement of national parks. Today, the Peak District is a great place to explore the tensions between the demand for development and the need to protect the place.

**I always wanted to work in the planning profession, as it helps to shape places for the benefit of everyone.** I did a Masters of Town and Country Planning at Manchester University, and after that, worked at Oxfordshire County Council in Minerals and Waste Planning. The Peak District National Park Authority has a reputation for taking a creative approach to resolve some large and complicated mineral planning issues and I was drawn to the challenge of those issues.

**The great thing about the job is you can actually see the results of the work that we do on the ground.** I now lead the Development Management Service – the teams that deal with any planning applications and enforce breaches of planning control in the National Park. I really enjoy the variety of work, from agricultural buildings to house extensions to quarries and large projects such as the RHS show at Chatsworth and schemes for the delivery of affordable local needs housing. It's particularly rewarding where we have negotiated changes to schemes and we can see where those changes make a positive impact on the special qualities of the area.

**It's a privilege to work with so many people who have such high levels of expertise in their fields, which other planning authorities simply don't have.** So many people I come into contact with have such a huge enthusiasm for the National Park and really care about what



happens here – it's a constant reminder that what we do matters and has a real impact well beyond the boundaries of the National Park.

**We can get better at telling people about the good work that we do – including that we permit 9 out of 10 planning applications in the National Park.** It's often hard for people to understand how places would be so much worse without the planning system. Developments that could have had a negative impact without our input of course don't exist for people to see.

**There are so many amazing and varied parts of the National Park.** I really enjoy Mam Tor and the Great Ridge and the views into the White and Dark Peak. My children really enjoy seeing how the old road has moved due to the effects of the geology and it's nice to see things through their eyes. I think the Park should be experienced in

Jane really enjoys exploring Mam Tor, the Great Ridge and the contrasting views of the White Peak and Dark Peak.

different ways – walk, cycle, drive, camp. There is always somewhere peaceful if you look hard enough, even on August Bank Holiday weekend.

**I'm a big fan of our other national parks,** particularly the North York Moors as I grew up there and Pembrokeshire where we've had some lovely family holidays. Further afield, I would really like to return to New Zealand one day, it has such a diverse landscapes. I would love to kayak in Abel Tasman National Park on the South Island with my family.

**Bakewell tart or Bakewell pudding?** Pudding! Ideally with custard.



## Peak District Members as of March 2018

This map shows which members cover the area where you live. Use the colour code to help.



 **7**

**Cllr Lesley Roberts**  
Parish Member

**01538 388900**

 **2**  
**3**

**Cllr David Chapman**  
Council Member

**01298 85067**

 **7**

**Mr Paul Ancell**  
Secretary of State Member

**01625 613995**

 **2**

**Mrs Penny Anderson**  
Secretary of State Member

**01298 27086**

 **4**

**Cllr Jason Atkin**  
Council Member

**01629 258834**

 **7**

**Mrs Frances Beatty**  
Secretary of State Member

**01785 240667**

 **3**

**Mr James Berresford**  
Secretary of State Member

**07810 528460**

 **5**

**Cllr Doug Birkinshaw**  
Council Member

**01226 243716**

 **3**

**Cllr Patrick Brady**  
Parish Member

**01298 85798**

 **2**

**Cllr Chris Carr**  
Parish Member

**01335 390342**

 **5**  
**6**

**Cllr Tony Favell**  
Parish Member

**01433 670281**

 **1**

**Cllr Chris Furness**  
Council Member

**01433 621811**

 **4**

**Mr Zahid Hamid**  
Secretary of State Member

**0114 2366332**

 **7**

**Cllr Andrew Hart**  
Council Member

**01782 379431**

 **7**

**Cllr Gill Heath**  
Council Member

**01538 381601**

 **1**  
**6**

**Mr Robert Helliwell**  
Secretary of State Member

**01433 670250**

 **6**

**Cllr Caroline Howe**  
Council Member

**07800 819901**

 **5**

**Cllr Alan Law**  
Council Member

**0114 2883405**

 **1**

**Cllr Harold Laws**  
Council Member

**0114 247 5376**

 **7**

**Cllr Jamie Macrae**  
Council Member

**07872 807367**

 **2**

**Cllr Andrew McCloy**  
Parish Member

**01629 636125**

 **6**

**Cllr Colin McLaren**  
Council Member

**0161 6274197**

 **6**

**Cllr Jim Perkins**  
Council member

**01298 812927**

 **4**

**Cllr Kath Potter**  
Parish Member

**01629 734320**

 **6**

**Cllr Nicola Turner**  
Council Member

**07528 988823**

 **4**

**Cllr Judith Twigg**  
Council Member

**01629 813292**

 **5**

**Cllr John Walton**  
Council Member

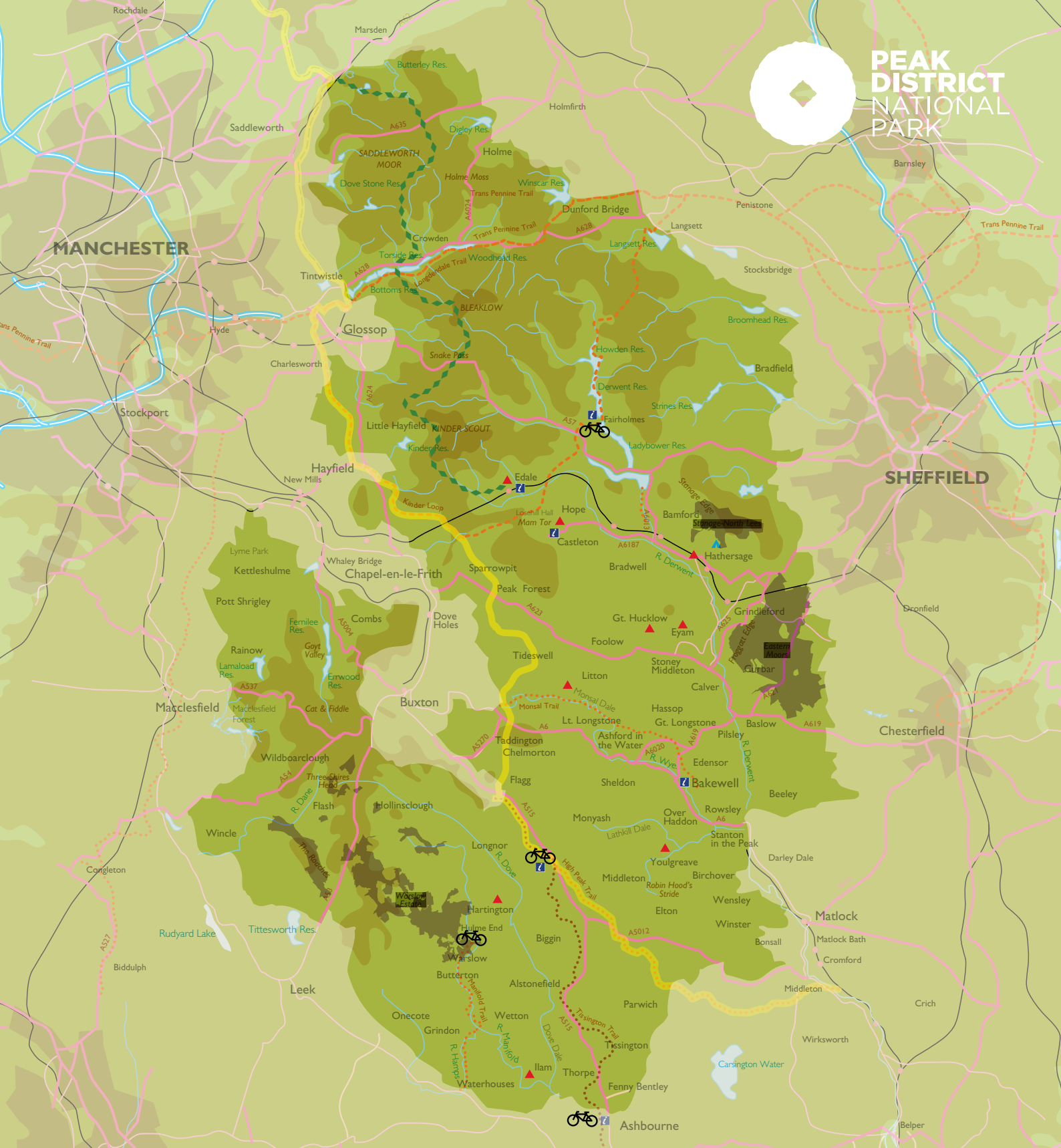
**01433 650031**

 **6**

**Cllr Becki Woods**  
Council Member

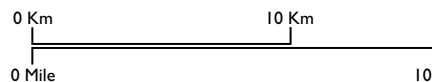
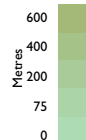
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**PEAK  
DISTRICT  
NATIONAL  
PARK**

- |                        |                          |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| National Park Boundary | Trail                    | National Park Cycle Hire |
| Pennine Bridleway      | Rivers/Canals            | City/Town                |
| Railway and Station    | Pennine Way              | Reservoir                |
| Railway Tunnel         | Information Centre/Point | PDNP owned estates       |
| A Road                 | YHA Hostels              | North Lees Campsite      |



Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AE  
Tel: **01629 816200** Email: [customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk) Web: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.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 |

[@peakinfocentres](https://twitter.com/peakinfocentres)

#### Cycle Hire Centres:

**Ashbourne**  
Mapleton Lane,  
Derbyshire  
DE6 2AA  
Tel: 01335 343156

**Derwent**  
Fairholmes,  
Derwent  
S33 0AQ  
Tel: 01433 651261

**Parsley Hay**  
near Buxton,  
Derbyshire  
S17 0DG  
Tel: 01298 84493

[@peakcyclehire](https://twitter.com/peakcyclehire)



# TESTED TOUGH BY THE UK NATIONAL PARKS RANGERS



**PEAK  
DISTRICT**  
NATIONAL  
PARK



**Columbia**



**National  
Parks**

Columbia sportswear are outfitting UK National Parks staff to help them protect our natural landscapes for generations to come. First up and last home, the Rangers are working with Columbia to develop the best product to keep warm, dry, cool and protected in UK conditions.

[COLUMBIASPORTSWEAR.CO.UK](http://COLUMBIASPORTSWEAR.CO.UK)

 **Columbia**