



Landscape , wildlife, heritage – who cares ?

...We do – and so do most of you.

Undoubtedly most people who visit, live or work in the Peak District National Park care about its future. Here in this third edition of Parklife, we highlight the many different ways residents and visitors are working to protect it.

All over the National Park, young people are learning to care for their environment through working on conservation projects – our feature on Page 3 shows how we help.

Businesses and residents are increasingly concerned about climate-change, how it is affecting their local environment and looking at alternative energy sources. We can advise on the practicalities and grants: see Pages 4 & 5.

For years, residents have played a huge role in caring for some of the National Park's most treasured buildings – their own homes. We can offer advice, and sometimes, grants: see Pages 6 & 7.

Many people from outside the National Park join the locals in giving up their free time to mend paths and fences, build bridges and tend woodlands as part of our Countryside Volunteers – see Page 14.

Often, people get to know about the National Park through Rangers' free guided walks – there are walks for all, including families, wheelchair users, those new to the countryside and experienced walkers. For a full programme of walks, see the central pull-out.

Here, at the Authority, we try to shine a light into the future – to work with our many partners to ensure the National Park, its landscape, wildlife and its heritage, are handed on in good shape for the generations to come.

And if sometimes that means we are accused of being controversial – over planning applications, or fighting long and costly legal battles in our efforts against harmful quarrying – then that's because the wellbeing of the National Park always comes first in our priorities.

Tony Hams,
Chair, Peak District National Park Authority

About Parklife...

Parklife is the free community magazine of the Peak District National Park Authority. Published in January and July each year, it is distributed to households within the National Park, and is available through libraries and information centres.

We are keen to try out new ways to communicate with you, and with this in mind we are one of the first authorities in the UK to make our community magazine available as a 'podcast,' downloadable to your computer or MP3 player.

The Parklife podcast includes interviews and more in-depth background on some of the main features in this edition – look out for the following symbol to find out which stories are featured.



As well as the podcast, a full audio version of Parklife is also available to download.

To find out more visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/parklife

Parklife is also available on audio CD and in large print – to request a copy please contact the Customer Services team. Our contact details are on page 15.

If you want information about events and activities log on to www.visitpeakdistrict.com or contact the information centres listed on the back page of Parklife.

And for information about the Authority's performance against targets, log on to www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/bvpp.pdf



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Youth Rangers



Webster school pupils in Crowden Valley



Bradwell school seed spreading

Starting Young

Award opens door to natural world



An award-scheme that opens children's eyes to the National Park and encourages them to care for its natural wonders has been called a "huge benefit" by local teachers.

Children, working with National Park staff on a pilot-scheme at St Bartholomew's Primary School, Longnor, became the first in the National Park to achieve the John Muir Award (first stage) last summer.

With Ranger Andy McGraw, (left) they carried out a series of challenges – to discover, explore, conserve and share a wild place – in their case, the meadows,

woods and ponds at Upper Whitle Farm in Sheen. Back at school they researched National Park pioneer John Muir; and finally they interpreted their findings in creative art. As a result, their work covered natural habitats, history, geography, IT, maths, science, literacy and art – all while enjoying themselves outdoors and in.

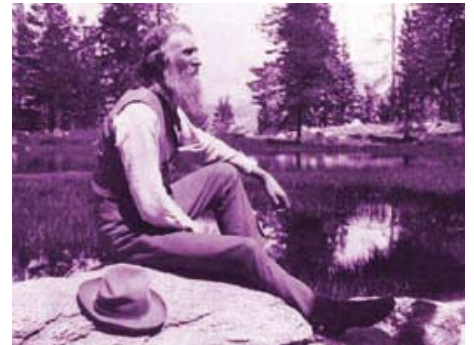
Teacher Anne Collins said: "The children have already benefited hugely from the scheme, and this year we are working toward the next level. We're developing the school pond and wild area with our own designed bird and animal boxes – it will be exciting to watch our wild area change throughout the year."

The John Muir Award encourages awareness and responsibility for wild places and has three levels: Discover (15 hours over three months), Explore (30 hours over six months) and Conserve (60 hours over 12 months). It commemorates John Muir, a Scot who founded the idea of National Parks in America in the 1800s, and was the first person to take practical action to safeguard the world's wild places.

It involves teamwork between teachers and National Park staff, and not just rural children benefit: two nearby city schools also achieved the award – Prince Edward School, from Manor Top, Sheffield, and Webster Primary School, from Greenheys, Manchester.

National Park education team manager Liz Ballard said: "The beauty of the John Muir Award is that the children enjoy and learn about the National Park and National Curriculum subjects without even realising it. By working in partnership with teachers, we can adapt it to what the school wants."

The award is a national scheme run by the John Muir Trust, and is also open to groups or individuals of all ages.



National Park pioneer John Muir

Youth Rangers dig in

The Youth Rangers (pictured below) from St Thomas More RC School, Buxton, Hope Valley College and Bradfield School, are learning ranger skills such as navigation, conservation, and tourism leadership. They also experience sleeping outdoors, cooking over a campfire, building their own shelters, a night bat walk and take part in an International Youth Ranger Congress. This is the third year of the Heritage Lottery-supported scheme, for youngsters aged 13 to 15. Visit www.youthranger.com or contact Sally Kempson on 01433 620373.

Other useful sites:

www.sourceofthepeak.co.uk

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/b_line

Check out: "Open Your Eyes – a teenagers' guide to things to do in the Peak District" – available from visitor centres.



Youth Rangers help stabilise moorland

Visit: www.johnmuiraward.org & www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/education

Or contact Losehill Hall (the National Park's environmental learning centre) on 01433 620373.



Renewable energy

Our front page picture, of a wind farm just outside the National Park near Penistone, shows the dilemma for conservationists in the drive for alternative energy systems.

A full-scale wind farm like that would be unlikely to get planning permission inside the National Park, but the Authority does want to encourage eco-friendly technologies that do not harm the landscape. Sensitive-sited small-scale devices are the key. So, if you have already insulated your property, and are exploring renewable energy options, here are a few pointers:

- You may not always need planning permission, but you should always get advice from National Park planners at a very early stage
- the Authority will normally favour systems with the least visual impact on the buildings, landscape and character of the National Park
- sustainable development officer, Richard Godley, offers advice on technologies and grants available (see opposite).
- ask for the Authority's free Supplementary Planning Guidance booklet on Energy Renewables and Conservation (or see it on www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/energy). Also enquire about leaflets.



Photovoltaic tiles

Solar Energy

Photovoltaic and thermal panels are now more efficient, but can still be obtrusive. For least visual impact, panels should be matt, and sited on the back of the building, preferably in a recessed box. Worth considering are photovoltaic roof-tiles, which are more expensive, but can simulate traditional slates.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps

These take the naturally higher temperature of the ground and upgrade it to provide constant, low-cost hot water and central heating. They need underground pipes, but this can be done in a small space – vertically in a narrow borehole. When finished, the ground is completely restored – hence a great system for the National Park. The Authority has two – at the new Moorland Centre in Edale, and the new cycle-hire centre at Parsley Hay.

Hydro-power

Water was used for centuries as a Peak District power-source and has great potential now. Old equipment is being refurbished – at Chatsworth, a century-old system now provides lighting, and at Longnor, a mill-wheel was restored. Modern systems need only a two-metre fall of water for a micro-turbine to power a house.



Philip Kidd and restored waterwheel at Longnor



Wind turbine near Wincle

Wind turbines

Not necessarily best for a National Park, as they are a challenge to locate without intruding upon the landscape. Small-scale individual ones are feasible if well-designed, appropriately coloured and masked by trees or geographical features. They do not provide constant energy, so may be best used in conjunction with other technologies.

Biomass boilers

These burn replenishable living matter, such as agricultural waste, bonemeal, straw, forestry residues or short-rotation coppice. One using wood-chips can be seen at Losehill Hall, the National Park's environmental learning centre near Castleton. Modern burners have very low emissions.

- a force of nature

Bushey Heath – model for eco-friendly energy

When Rod and Lisa Baraona took over Bushey Heath Farm, near Tideswell, in 2004, they were determined to be as environmentally-friendly as possible.

Since then they have installed a ground-source heat pump that provides enough hot water for washing and heating for their business, which includes bunk-barn accommodation of up to 36 beds.

They were helped by grants and advice from the Peak District National Park-managed Sustainable Development Fund, the DTI's Low Carbon Buildings Programme, and Derbyshire County Council. The system's total cost was £12,000, but a smaller domestic version would cost much less, and the savings on fuel bills are significant.

Rod and Lisa hope eventually to be self-sufficient for energy, installing a 6kw wind-turbine and harvesting rainwater for use in toilets.

Their next project is to restore an 18th-century barn as a training centre for traditional construction skills, including lime-plastering and dry-stone walling, and they also run a 12-acre smallholding with sheep, alpacas, and free-range hens.

"It makes sense to us, economically, environmentally and socially, to develop Bushey Heath as sustainably as possible," said Rod, a former teacher turned builder. "We're hoping, with help from our partners, to achieve beacon status, to show how these systems are workable in a business like ours – and we'd be glad to show people our installations."

For more details visit www.busheyheathfarm.co.uk



The pictures show Bushey Heath Farm ground source heat pump. (Top) during installation, (Middle) site restored, (Bottom) Rod demonstrates the central heating boiler.



Power source

Richard Godley, the National Park's sustainable development officer, is a keen supporter of alternative energy.

He said: "I'm happy to talk to anyone about the technology, and the practical and financial help that's available. It's particularly important to get renewable systems into community buildings, so that more people find out about them and see the benefits."

"The payback time is getting shorter and shorter – it's time for people to seriously consider alternative energy solutions."

Contacts:

Peak District Sustainable Development office: 01629 816312.

National Park Authority (for initial planning inquiries): 01629 816361.



Useful websites:

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/energy

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

www.saveenergy.co.uk

www.est.org.uk

www.cat.org.uk

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/sdf

www.ecoheatpumps.co.uk

www.microgeneration.com

www.solarcentury.com

• Community groups can get free professional advice & services through High Peak and Derbyshire Dales ProHelp (accessible through www.highpeakcvs.org or 01663 735350).

History in

Historic building project? Ask the experts...

In the Peak District, looking after a historic home need not mean a stately pile.

Old miners' cottages, millworkers' houses or converted farm buildings are an irreplaceable part of the National Park's character and link us directly with the past.

Caring for them is a major way that residents contribute to the National Park, and the Historic Buildings Team helps with advice on repairs and alterations that respect the past.

The team oversees 2,900 listed buildings and 109 conservation areas, guided by the Cultural Heritage Strategy, which recognises that good conservation includes change that safeguards the area's history and landscape.

The Historic Buildings Team offers:

- Free specialist advice on repairs, design, restoration and alterations
- Lists of builders, craftspeople and suppliers of materials
- Limited grant aid for work such as stone-slate re-roofing, window and stonework renewal
- Advice to parish councils on grant-sources & restoring community features.



John Sewell, historic buildings architect, explains: "What we do is all about trying to safeguard the character of the National Park. If there were no legislation protecting conservation areas or listed buildings, or money to help with enhancement, then designations made all over the country would become more and more meaningless, and we would lose a precious part of our heritage."



North Lees Hall - listed building

Listed buildings

Some of the most beautiful, and the most neglected buildings (such as field-barns) are listed for their importance to Britain's heritage. Owners need listed building consent to alter them, even internally, but there is no fee, and the Historic Buildings Team provides free pre-application design advice, a newsletter, leaflets and a visit to the property every five years.

Conservation areas

Conservation areas are designated for their special character, architecture, history and landscape. They can receive enhancement or restoration grants – eg: a five-year roof-repair programme for barns, village shops & post offices is nearing completion in 18 conservation areas. Property-owners should ensure their doors and windows stay in keeping with the past. The Historic Buildings Team is happy to advise.



Eyam conservation area

For information:

- National Park website: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/hb
- Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust: www.derbyshirehistoricbuildings.org.uk – includes a register of craftspeople.
- Leaflets on Replacement Windows or Re-pointing (call 01629 816200)
- A new National Park Building Design Guide - due in Spring 07 – will show best practice for residential, community and commercial buildings.
- Write to Heritage Buildings Team, Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House, Baslow Rd, Bakewell, DE45 1AE. Tel: 01629 816205.
- Craft skills courses: www.collegeofthepeak.org.uk or 01629 815749.
- www.english-heritage.org.uk

our homes

Winster - old buildings, new life

One example of a village that has rejuvenated itself while caring for its past is Winster, between Bakewell and Matlock.

Here a grand Main Street gives way to a jumble of former lead-miners' cottages that climb up the hillside in haphazard fashion.

Until the 1980s such villages were declining. Now, mainly with in-comers' cash, many buildings have been restored sympathetically, and property-values have soared – which unfortunately deters young families.

Geoff Lester was one such in-comer: in 1981 he bought two condemned cottages and re-built them as one. A retired English lecturer, he chairs Winster's Local History Group, raising awareness of the area's heritage.

"The main thing is making sure the character of the area is protected," he



said. "There is a lot less dereliction now. The Peak Park has had to oversee this rapid transformation, and mostly it's been to the good.

"The Local History Group sometimes expresses its views on planning applications, and they can get taken on board."

Another resident, Simon Reynolds, said: "People are proud of the village. They really care for their old buildings,

and they generally go along with the recommendations as long as they seem reasonable."

Ken Marshall, 76, a lifelong resident, said: "The people who've come in tend to have money – they restore the buildings well and tastefully – but it's young families that we lack nowadays."

In the 1980s the National Park Authority restored stone-setts around the Old Market Hall and put ugly phone-wires underground.

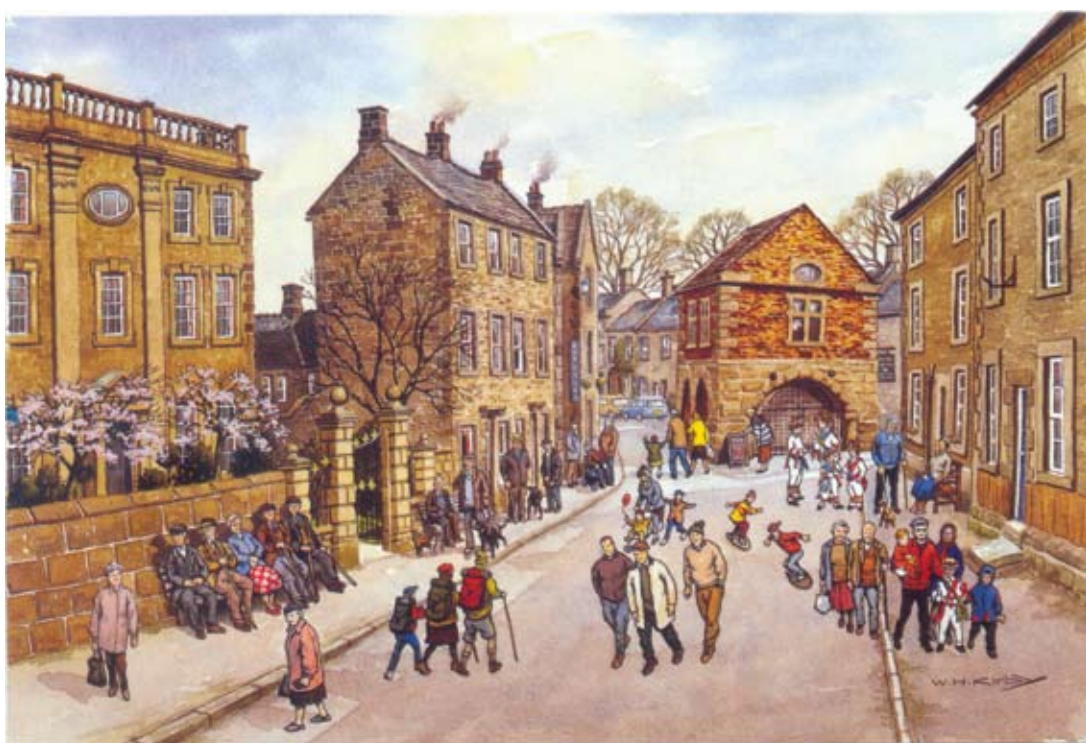
National Park historic buildings architect John Sewell said: "The encouraging change in the last 20 years is that people are much more knowledgeable about conservation and want to do the right thing.

"The restoration of Winster Hall and recent re-fronting of the 1960s house behind it are examples. We have been able to help, but it is the owners themselves who should be congratulated."

Main Street and Market House, Winster, by Bill Kirby, painted for 'Winster: A Peak District Village Remembers'. The book and an A3 print are available from Winster Post Office DE4 2DH or www.winster.org

(Incidentally, the figures are real people. E.g. in the foreground crossing the street Mildred Witham, now aged 86, a contributor to the book, and on the pavement the former vicar and his family, one of whom was a dancer in the village morris team.)

Winster (population 633) has 68 listed buildings and a conservation area. Its website is www.winster.org



Hit the themed trail....



This is a Peak District Interpretation Partnership project, funded by Derby & Derbyshire Rural Action Zone, the European Union, and other local partners.

From film locations to ghost-walks and ancient monuments, the most ambitious range of themed trails in the country is being rolled out.

New free Peak Experience guides not only direct people on tours of intriguing sites, they encourage people to use local shops, cafes and accommodation.

Recently-launched trails:

- The Bloody Peak (myth, gore & ghosts)
- Peak Film & Literature (Front Row of the Peak)
- Peak Time Travellers (Step Back in Time)
- Peak Churches (From Cradle to Grave)
- Peak Geology (Lands that Time Forgot)

Coming soon:

- Antiques
- Wild Peak (nature)
- Watery Peak (rivers, reservoirs)
- Industrial Pasts
- How We Ate the Peak District (food, farming & their effect on the landscape)

Peak Experience manager Bill Bevan said "Nothing like this has been attempted on this scale before. The guides encourage people to make the most of what the Peak has to offer.



Peak Experience manager Bill Bevan, Sir Richard FitzHerbert and Patrick McLoughlin MP at the launch of the 'Churches' trail

This is an innovative project, the first in the country to so extensively use the heritage of a region to boost economic regeneration."

Sir Richard FitzHerbert, of the 400-year-old Tissington Hall, helped launch the 'Peak Churches' trail. He said "This trail inspires visitors to enter our churches and see the astonishing array of monuments, artefacts and wonderful architecture that abound in and around them. The Peak Experience trails generally bring people to places they might not normally come to and that invigorates the local economy. In Tissington, as well as our Old Coach House Tearooms we have the White Peak Farm Butchery, a garden nursery, a candlemaker and the Acanthus Craft shop, all within two minutes walk of the Church. So not only do visitors benefit but also our small traders." www.tissington-hall.com

Visit www.peak-experience.org.uk or pick up leaflets at Visitor Centres.

Spring Events

April

- 7 Easter Egg Hunt, Treak Cliff Cavern, Castleton
- 17 Flagg Races 01625 575236
- 21-22 Kinder Mass Trespass Commemoration 01629 812034
- 21-6 May Peak District Walking Festival 01629 816558

May

- 12-13 Chatsworth SsangYong International Horse Trials 01246 582204
- 17-23 Tissington Well Dressing 01335 352200
- 19-20 Derbyshire Food and Drink Fair, Bolsover Castle 01629 585964
- 28 Bamford Sheepdog Trials 01433 651588
- 26-28 Peak District Historic Border Walking Festival 01246 345777
- 26-31 Middleton-by-Youlgrave Well Dressing 01629 636763
- 26-2 Monyash Well Dressing 01629 812778
- 29 Castleton Ancient Garland Ceremony 01433 621595

June

- 10 Edale Country Day 01433 670138
- 16 Flash Teapot Parade 01298 24854
- 23-28 Youlgrave Well Dressing 01629 636341
- 23-30 Hope Well Dressing 01433 621312
- 23-1 Litton Well Dressing 01298 871569
- 23-1 Tideswell Well Dressing 01298 871862
- 28-4 Peak Forest Well Dressing 01298 812234
- 29-8 Bakewell Well Dressing 01629 813995
- 30-6 Tintwistle Well Dressing 01457 861500
- 30-8 Hathersage Well Dressing 01433 651810



Details correct at time of going to print