



Peak Area Newsletter

Issue 001 February 2008

Hello Peakies,

So, what's this all about then? A newsletter? For the Peak Area? What's the point in one of those?

When I took on the role of Chair of the Peak Area Meetings I wasn't really that clued in to what was actually going on in the Peak. Sure I go out climbing fairly regularly; I noticed woodchips on the floor at Curbar Trackside, and the erosion work at Stanage Plantations (I even carried a few bags of rubble up to the boulders to help out), but in reality I was fairly ignorant.

Other regions in the UK have adopted a newsletter system so we thought we'd avoid re-inventing the wheel and do the same. Vertebrate Graphics have very kindly put together a lovely shiny looking template for us and we're set to go.

We aim to publish and distribute a newsletter like this a couple of weeks prior to each of the 5 Peak Area Meetings held each year (sorry, we are a little bit late with this one!). It's not exactly an agenda for the next meeting, but will hopefully help keep you informed of what's hot and what's not, and may even encourage a few of you to come along to the Grouse Pub (by the top Froggatt car parking area) to the meetings (the summer meeting takes place at the Don Whillans Hut at the Roaches). For those who don't know, there's always some food and entertainment laid on to liven things up and it's COMPLETELY FREE!

So come on, get interested, get involved, and get yourselves along to the next meeting – **7.30pm, The Grouse Pub, Froggatt Edge, Wednesday 20th February**. There will be chips, cheese and chocolate, and entertainment will be a couple of chapters of the brand new and awesome HardXS courtesy of Slackjaw Films.

Matt Heason

What's Happened Recently?

James Pearson has climbed one of the last great problems in the Peak District with a classy ascent of The Groove at Cratcliffe. It went at E10 7b!

There were crag clear-ups at Horseshoe and Robin Hood Quarries on Feb 9th – important brush-cutting, cleaning/litter collection and burning took place.

Your area, your clubs

This section of the newsletter will feature one Peak area club each issue. This time it's the glorious Mynydd CC, operating out of Hayfield in the High Peak. If you'd like your club to be the next one, please write in with a few hundred words about your club's history, meets, social events and anything else that you want to tell people. Details of how to get in touch and where you meet are also handy for encouraging prospective members along. Please include a picture or two.



The Mynydd Climbing Club is one of the most active mountaineering clubs in the South Manchester and High Peak area!

The Mynydd was formed in 1955, and has a membership of around 200, based mainly round

South Manchester, Stockport, Glossop, New Mills, Buxton, and Macclesfield.

The Welsh name "Mynydd" translates as "Mountain" in English. We have close links with





Wales, and have a well-maintained and cosy hut in the striking Crafnant valley in Snowdonia. The views are superb and the situation utterly tranquil: a real home from home!

We have a very active climbing programme with regular crag meets every Tuesday night throughout the summer. We have weekend trips roughly every other weekend in summer, visiting most of the major UK climbing areas. We have walking, winter mountaineering, climbing wall and social meets during the winter months. There are usually at least two longer trips abroad during the year.

We like to think of ourselves as a friendly, non-elitist club, and as well as having some very capable climbers amongst our member, we operate at all grades, and encompass all ages. We are a family - friendly club, with supervised children of all ages welcome on meets and at the hut.

Find out more about us on our website: www.mynydd.org.uk

Clean-up of the month:

Tintwistle Knarr, Longdendale



The Knarr sits high above the Woodhead Pass, near Glossop. It's a place of contradictions: south facing, yet damp after rain; high quality routes, yet deserted; great views, yet few have ever seen them. There are few reasons why this should be so. Perhaps the 20 minute walk puts people off, or the fact that some of the route names are unpronounceable. Probably, though, it's the fact that a lot of the routes

(The Old Triangle, Levi, Wall & Groove) are full of bracken and heather.

The crag is in the BMC's forthcoming "Over The Moors" guide, and the guidebook team will be there on **Sunday 30th March** to return the crag to it's former glory. Tea and cakes will be provided, as will suitable choreography for the day. Please bring abseiling gear (static ropes are best, but not essential), gloves, secateurs and tools for cleaning cracks out. We'll meet at the crag from 10.30am, and you should expect a good day's work. We

usually seed the mounds of soil and mud that end up at the bottom of the crag so that in a few months time no-one will be able to tell what's taken place.

Can't pay? Must Pay!

Paying To Park in the Peak District National Park by John Horscroft



Paying to park in the Peak District National Park is a remarkably divisive issue. So abhorrent is the notion of paying to park cars in the Peak that pay and display machines have in the past been vandalised. I may never have wielded the sledge-hammer, but there was a time when I was a member of the militant tendency, proudly proclaiming "Can't pay? Won't pay!" I felt that the national parks were an inviolable gift to the nation, reasonable compensation from the moneyed few to the working man and woman who craved fresh air and exercise at the weekend. Any erosion of that hard won freedom was to be opposed at all cost.

However, times change. Government under-funding of the national parks is now a major issue and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is fighting a losing battle against a tide of political indifference. Simply ignoring the financial realities is not an option, so climbers may have to rethink their aversion to paying to park.

Fortunately, BMC representatives have been engaging with the PDNPA through the Stanage Forum and have secured at least one notable victory. Pressure to install pay and display machines at Stanage and Burbage has been resisted, and honesty boxes at both crags are the result. It's important that climbers respond by



sticking their hands in their pockets. We happily pay to go to a climbing wall all winter and yet balk at the notion of stumping up the price of a half of bitter to climb at some of the best crags in the country. For that small investment, we prove to the PDNPA that we care about our crags. It also proves we care about the national park, that we're happy to support it.

The pay and display machines at Surprise View and Plantation are also effectively honesty boxes so stick a quid in. Alternatively, you could pay £30 for a season ticket. If you live inside the National Park, it's only £15. To find out more, phone the PDNPA on 01629 816211 or email them on parking.permits@peakdistrict.gov.uk. At the same time, pressure the government to fund the national parks properly. Climbers and ramblers fought long and hard so that we might enjoy current freedoms. It would be a tragedy if we repaid those efforts with indifference.

Access Summary by Henry Folkard

General Issues, Northern Limestone and Eastern Edges

The toll of local crags where landowners have made it clear climbing is not welcome is pretty much the same as it was last year - Eagle Tor, Shooters Nab and Cole Hill. Current advice is to keep away from these venues for the time being since forcing the issue is likely to make any solution in the longer term even more intractable.

The landowner has given notice all of Bamford Moor and Moscar will be closed under section 22 of the CRow Act from 15 May to 13 June inclusive, though Sundays in May, Saturdays and Sundays in June and Bank Holidays are not affected, and public rights of way remain open. This closure includes Bamford Edge and Stanage between the Causeway and the A57. Much of the reason for this is down to dogs, and not without cause: so far this year the access team is aware of one sheep being savaged by a dog on Stanage and two killed, one on Eastern Moors and one near Millers Dale.

The Backdate High Court appeal is scheduled for the end of February, though there is as yet no confirmation the Treasury Solicitor will contest the appeal - in which case all will be lost. The BMC has been busy writing to MPs. A stop notice was served on resumed workings on 7 January. Elsewhere on Longstone Edge the Public Inquiry into the Enforcement Notice at Wagers Flat is

set for mid May.

The Mottram - Tintwistle A628 Public Inquiry has been adjourned indefinitely after the Highways Agency withdrew all their evidence because the traffic flow forecasts they had submitted were wrong. Just think what might have happened if we had not challenged what they originally submitted.

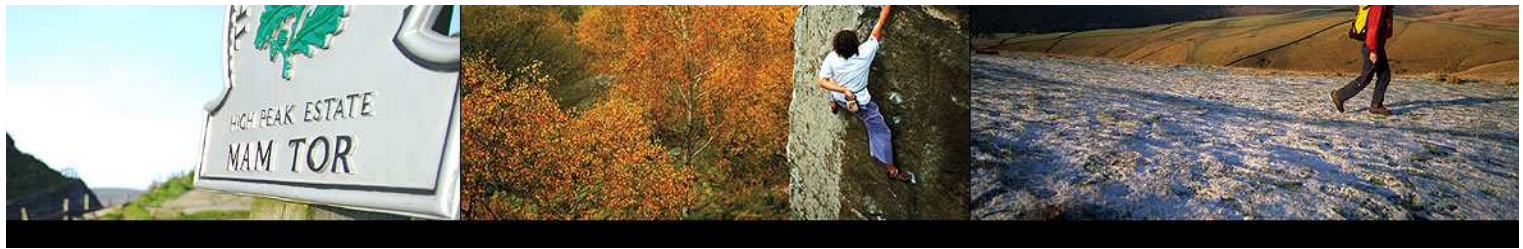
The BMC has objected to a planning application for a clay pigeon shooting range with two 60' and one 90' tower above Grindleford. Anyone who has climbed at Goblin Coombe will not need reminding what that would sound like echoing across the Derwent to Froggatt.

We have also submitted comments on the Landscape Character Assessment prepared by the National Park Authority, and the joint submission with NT, RSPB and Friends of the Peak on the Eastern Moors is being developed and processed along with two other proposals. Only one will be accepted - May is probably decision time.

And that's just a taste of what has been going on this wet and windy year. The Access Team is always happy to go into detail at the meeting if there is more you want to know.



Above: Gary Gibson & Henry Folkard at the recent clean-up day at Horseshoe Quarry (photo: Martin Kocsis)



BMC/Club Adopt A Crag Sceme Claims First Success

The BMC's embryonic "Adopt A Crag" scheme got off to a great start on Sunday 3rd February at New Mills Torrs. The Mynydd CC, based in Derbyshire, took on the job of removing all the rubbish they possibly could from the crag environment. In the end, they removed 35 bin liners full of crap, as well as assorted car tyres, prams and other detritus in a four hour push. Several pegs were replaced on the crag by persons unknown during the day and three impressive Victoria Sponges were consumed. Most of the clean up was based on the area around the crag rather than routes themselves. The main mover and shaker, the rabble rousing Chris Moore, is the lady to thank for the "new improved Torrs". Your club might be able to get involved with something like this if you can identify a suitable venue. All you need is enthusiasm, the BMC will provide the tools, bin bags and cake. Your club will benefit from the publicity and good vibes, your crag will benefit from the love, and everyone will enjoy the social atmosphere

If interested contact Martin Kocsis on 0161 438 3336 / martin@thebmc.co.uk

Upcoming Events

- Feb 11th – Foundry Bouldering League – Round 2
- Feb 19th – Leo Dickinson Lecture – Manchester
www.rucksackclub.org
- Feb 20th – Peak Area Meeting – The Grouse Pub, Froggatt Edge. 7.30pm. Free Chips, Cheese & Chocolate & clips from HardXS
- Feb 22nd – Climbing Works Bouldering League – Round 4
- Feb 29th to Mar 2nd – Sheffield Adventure Film Festival – See
www.shaff.co.uk for details. Over 80 adventure films from all walks of life and all corners of the globe. On at The Showroom Cinema in Sheffield
- Mar 11th – Ian Parnell Lecture – Stockport –
www.rucksackclub.org
- Mar 12th – Sir Robin Knox Johnston Lecture – Buxton Opera House
- Mar 15th – BMC Youth Climbing Series Round 1 – Nottingham Climbing Centre – www.thebmc.co.uk

- Mar 15th – BUSA Bouldering Champs – The Climbing Works
- Mar 15th & 16th – Chris Sharma Lectures – Sheffield –
www.heason.net
- Mar 15th – Tim Emmett Lecture – Awesome Walls Stockport
- Apr 5th – BMC Youth Climbing Series – Round 2 – The Edge –
www.thebmc.co.uk
- Apr 26th – BMC Youth Climbing Series – Round 3 – The Foundry – www.thebmc.co.uk
- May 31st – BMC outdoor Peak District Youth Meet – The Roaches – Hog Roast at the end of the day ☺
- Jun 4th – Peak Area Meeting - The Grouse Pub, Froggatt Edge. 7.30pm.
- Jul 12th – Cliffhanger – The British Bouldering Championships – Sheffield – www.cliff-hanger.co.uk

If you have an event that you'd like to see listed here then please let us know.

The Peak Area Newsletter is written by Peak climbers and walkers, for Peak climbers and walkers. We're happy to take contributions for the newsletter on any topic that is relevant to the readership. Pictures help an article look better, and help to increase its appeal and depth. Write something, send it in and prepare for either fame or notoriety, as is your want

matt@heason.net / 07966 529219



There's almost always free food on offer at BMC events ☺ - taken at a recent clean-up day at Horseshoe Quarry (photo: Martin Kocsis)