



Peak Area Newsletter

Here we go again... This issue's message is simple: use your vote and **Vote for the next BMC President**. You have a choice of two; Rab Carrington or Doug Scott. Each has [different views](#) on where the BMC should be going. The BMC AGM is on Saturday 25 April at Plas y Brenin; with about 65,000 members and an annual budget of getting on for £2 Million, the BMC has only a few full-time staff. It relies on all of us using our votes (by post or proxy if you can't be there) if it is to remain effective. Both Chris Moor and Mike Pinder (the Peak Area representatives on the BMC National Council) will be at the next Peak Area meeting and are willing (and keen) to act as proxies for any Peak Area BMC members. (More on this in Chris and Mike's bit below).

Speaking of effectiveness; the next Peak Area meeting is on Wednesday 22 April at 19:30 in [The Grouse Inn](#) on the A625, Froggatt Edge Road. With interesting conversation and free food (you have to buy your own beer); become better informed about mountaineering issues affecting you. Apart from discussing the merits of the Presidential Candidates, a big topic at this meeting will be a 'frank and open' discussion on the Peak District National Park Authority's [Core Strategy](#). If you care about the Peak District and where it's going, you need to attend this meeting. Alternatively if you're happy for other people to be in the driving seat... There will also be updates on the Longstone Edge saga, crag management and SSSIs [*Editors' note; we can never remember what this stands for either*] and as always, an opportunity to meet other BMC members, some famous, some not.

We don't often blow our own trumpet but an email after the previous issue was nice:

Hi! As an expat Brit climber, living in the absolutely flattest part of Texas (200 miles to nearest crag), I would like to say thanks for a brilliant and informative news letter. It allows me to keep up-to-date with what is happening in my local area, and also lets me wallow in a lot of nostalgia (which ain't what it used to be). Again Thanks and keep up the good work. John (cookie) Cook.

And thank you to you John. According to the BMC office, over 3,600 BMC members in the Peak Area receive this Newsletter. And one in Texas.

If you missed the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival (ShAFF), you really should go next year [*Editors' note; book early, we didn't and missed one of the best films*]. Provisional dates next year are 26-28 February 2010. If you did go, you know how good it was; over 40 of the best award-winning adventure films of 2008 featuring World, European and UK premières as well as speakers, debates and a photo exhibition. All this plus real beer and wi-fi and the venue is next to the rail and bus station!



cliffhanger is again at Millhouses Park in Sheffield, over the weekend of 11-12 July, 10:30am-6pm. Here's what's happening (in a nutshell): The British Bouldering Championships and a Dyno Competition in a Big Top Marquee; climbing coaching and towers; caving, mountain biking, kayaking, sledging on real snow, an assault course, a zip wire, abseil towers, orienteering, angling; plenty of bargains with Decathlon, Alpkit, Go Outdoors, CragX, Naked Ape, Costco and other exhibitors; food, drink, and an unbeatable atmosphere.



And Finally; the plea of all editors. We need articles, photos and feedback. Preferably well written and erudite, but we never turn anything down (except the ones in crayon or put together from cut-out newsprint). But really, if you like reading the Newsletter, then please contribute.

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moving on to bigger things, such as Everest. Rab Carrington has climbed extensively in the region, having lived in Sheffield since the early 70s and based his successful business in the area. He is also a frequent attendee and contributor to Peak Area meetings. More details on the candidates can be found at www.thebmc.co.uk/Feature.aspx?id=3024

So what does the President do? It's not simply an honorary position awarded to someone with a great reputation; they play a key role in determining the future direction of the BMC. Firstly they chair the National Council, the body that meets 5 times a year to agree the BMC policy and strategy. More importantly they chair the Executive - the body with the responsibility for implementing those policies and overseeing the day to day management of the BMC. Finally the President is likely to be involved in any number of issues and events as and when they arise.

How to vote:

You can vote either in person, or by proxy by using the voting form that came with the March edition of Summit, but if you've lost yours it can be [downloaded](#) from the web site. Both of the Peak Area National Council

Representatives, Chris Moor and Mike Pinder, will be at the meeting and are happy to act as your proxy. Alternatively you may select the chair or anyone else in attendance. Regardless of who you nominate as a proxy, you can indicate your choice for president, or for any of the votes, simply by ticking the form. More details here: www.thebmc.co.uk/News.aspx?id=3020
<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=420>
Remember, the future direction of the BMC is at stake, so make your vote count !!

The Peak Area Reps' Bits



“So what does the President do? It's not simply an honorary position”

By Chris Moor & Mike Pinder

BMC AGM and Presidential Election

Saturday 25 April sees the BMC's Annual General Meeting take place at Plas y Brenin in North Wales. Full details can be found on the BMC website at www.thebmc.co.uk/Feature.aspx?id=2248.

The AGM is preceded by an Open Forum and followed by the Annual Dinner. Any BMC member can attend, although tickets for the Annual Dinner have now sold out.

This year's AGM promises to be even more exciting than normal with the unusual event of a presidential election. Both candidates have strong connections to the Peak. Doug Scott was originally from Nottingham and was one of the first to spot the potential of limestone, pioneering many routes in the 60s, before

If you're reading this from a printout, the hyperlinks won't show up (In important cases we print them, as above). To obtain an electronic version in which the hyperlinks will work, go to the BMC website (www.thebmc.co.uk). BMC members can have this Newsletter emailed to them by contacting the BMC office (0161 445 611, office@thebmc.co.uk)



'Longstone Edge Saved'

By Henry Folkard

said the press release. So what does that really mean? It is not altogether easy to understand, nor I am afraid will this article make for easy reading.

Longstone Edge is a beautiful three-mile-long ancient limestone ridge in the Peak District National Park, prominently situated within sight of Chatsworth House and Bakewell, which is being destroyed by limestone quarrying.

In a unanimous judgement by the Court of Appeal published on 18 March 2009 their Lordships upheld the Planning Inspector's decision of 26 April 2007 and the Enforcement Notice issued subsequently by the National Park Authority (NPA). In so doing they reversed a High Court decision dated 7 March 2008 which had overturned the Inspector's decision.

A bit of background may help. But first two caveats. Whatever is written herein (on 25 March) about the future can and almost certainly will change. If you come to the next Area Meeting [Editors' note: Wednesday 22 April, 19:30 - [The Grouse Inn](#), A625, Froggatt Edge Road], expect an update. Second caveat. Their Lordships refused the quarry owner, Bleaklow Industries Ltd (BIL) and operators, MMC Midlands Ltd (MMC), leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Nevertheless they do have 28 days from the date of the Appeal Court decision for appeal direct to the House of Lords (as opposed to via the Appeal Court).

The gist of the case is that on that part of Longstone Edge which includes Backdale a minerals permission was agreed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1952. It remains valid until 2042. The operative part of the permission states:-

"The Minister has decided to grant permission for the winning and working of fluorspar and barytes and for the working of lead and any other minerals which are won in the course of working those

minerals by turning over old spoil heaps, by open cast working and by underground mining....."

A number of conditions were laid down of which the third is directly relevant here. Abbreviated it says: "waste material shall be disposed of in the hollows left by old workings, in agreement with the Local Planning Authority, or, in the event of disagreement, as determined by the Minister".

The case has hinged upon the meaning of and relationship between the two limbs (i.e. phrases) of the 1952 permission quoted above, the niceties of its syntax, the distinction between 'winning' and 'working', the implications of 'in the course of'. Convention has it that the meaning of a planning permission has to be 'clear on its face', so consideration of background and contemporaneous material was not held to be directly relevant.



In broad terms 'winning' is taken to mean uncovering the vein mineral so that it can be worked (i.e. removing the overburden). 'Working'

means removing the vein mineral(s) from its place in the ground.

In the High Court the view was taken that since the overarching purpose of the permission, stated in the first limb, was to allow the extraction of fluorspar nothing in the second limb should diminish that. What happened to the 'winnings' was for the operator to determine. From a commercial point of view the removal and sale of such material is believed to be economically critical. The ratio between limestone and vein mineral has been variously calculated. An indicative mid range figure is around 75:1.

The Appeal Court interpretation was that each limb had its own distinct meaning, and it also took the view that in determining the meaning of a planning permission economic considerations were not relevant. The condition on waste material quoted above meant the 'winnings' could not be removed from site. Incidentally the BMC had argued, in one of its submissions, that 'the second limb was not



nugatory and solely for adornment'. So much for the 'winning'.

What of the 'working'. The Inspector had ruled that a ratio of 2 parts limestone to 1 part vein mineral was appropriate. There was a great deal of argument about this 2:1 ratio and the way it was made. The Appeal Court established this was not a striping ratio – i.e. it did not apply to the overburden. Neither did it apply to anything that was mechanically associated or inextricably interlinked with what was in the vein (or flat or pipe). It related only to that limestone which had to be removed from either side of the vein to get it out of its place in the ground.

So the Appeal Court judgement does not mean there can be no more extractive activity on Longstone Edge. But it does mean that only that activity authorised by the permission as interpreted by their Lordships is legal.

There is a lot more to it than that, but I will say something about only one other aspect here. How much of Longstone Edge is affected? The original scheme proposed by different operators (RMC who subsequently withdrew) was for a huge area at the eastern end of Longstone Edge of which Backdale was a small part. This is called the ROMP (Review of Old Mineral Permissions) scheme. The Appeal Court agreed that since the ROMP scheme had never actually been determined by the relevant Planning Authority it could not be used as the basis of any

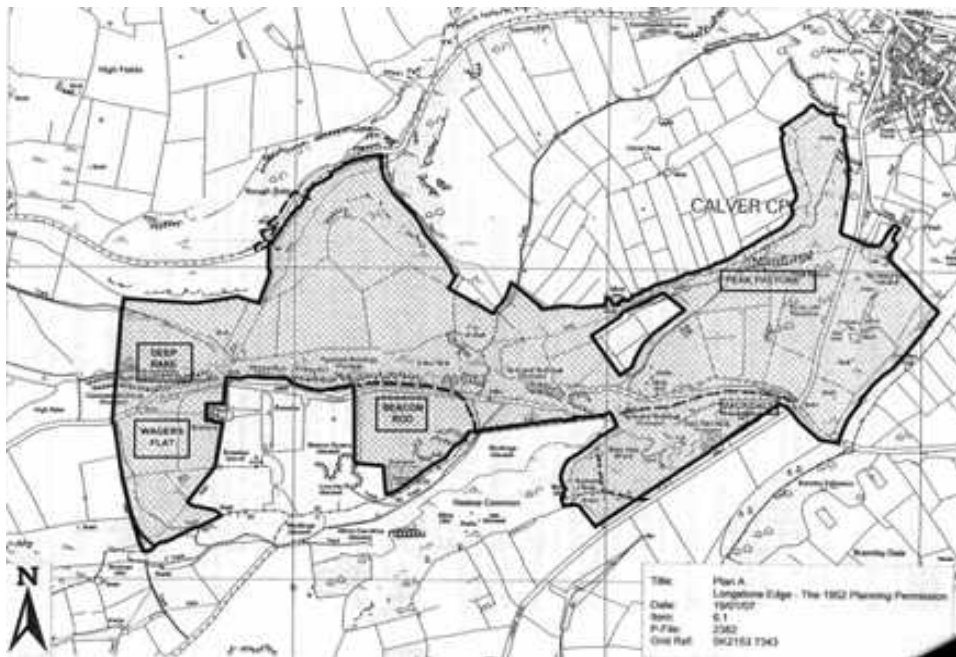
work plan by BIL or MMC. It could not be used to justify working in the larger area, nor to access Peak Pastures – that bit of land immediately above the Hassop road as it comes out of Calver Sough.

BIL own the land at Peak Pastures but not the mineral rights. The mineral rights on that site are

owned by Glebe Mines (now Ineos Fleur). As part of a different permission approved in February 2009 but subject to ratification by the Secretary of State for another vein mineral site in the National Park, at Tearsall, Glebe undertook not to seek permission to exploit Peak Pastures whilst they

were operating the Tearsall site – a minimum period of four years. Again there is a lot more to it than that, but you have probably had enough by now.

I have not finished yet though. One outstanding matter is revocation – buying out the remaining years of the 1952 permission which runs to 2042. The coalition of national organisations fighting the Backdale case – this includes the BMC, Ramblers, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Council for National Parks, Plantlife and the local groups Save Longstone Edge Group and Friends of the Peak – are continuing to press for revocation. One significant consequence of the Appeal Court ruling is that because the overburden can not now be taken off the site and sold the financial value of the asset will be significantly less.



[Scanned image](#) of the original 1952 planning application map, showing the areas affected



Finally there is one other issue which, though wholly distinct, is part of the Longstone Edge saga. Neither BIL nor MMC have been paying Aggregates Levy Tax on the material removed from the site and sold on the basis that they believed the limestone aggregate was a secondary product from their 'fluorspar processing' operation. A Tax Tribunal which went against those companies and in favour of Customs and Excise is currently the subject of appeal. In a nutshell, that is it.

The bus is back!

The 284 bus ([timetable](#)) between Sheffield Interchange, Stanage and Hathersage Railway Station in the Peak District will run on summer Sundays and bank holiday Mondays from 29 March to 18 October 2009 (Day Rider ticket £2). The BMC-run Access and Conservation Trust (ACT), Peak District National Park Authority and the Stanage Forum have again contributed funding to make provision of the bus possible. Please use the bus to help protect the environment and enhance the Stanage experience.

Semper Paratus

By Keith Montgomery

Last year saw the Mountain Rescue (MR) movement in England and Wales celebrate it's 75th anniversary – 75 years of rescuing people in wild and remote places. But what do the general public know of how MR works? Are we paid to rescue people? Do we get government funding? Are we full time rescuers? What drives us go out in all weathers, day and night, to rescue the unfortunate?



Over the next few publications, I would like to give you an insight into how we work, what makes us tick and how to avoid calling us out! But first, some history of the MR movement and the Peak District region in particular.

As far back as the 19th century, there was an increase in the number of visitors to upland areas but it

wasn't until 1933 that the first glimpses of MR as we know it started to form. The end of the Second World War saw a big increase in outdoor activity and in those days, if you had an accident on the hills, your companions would seek help at the nearest pub. You would most likely be saved by a group of slightly drunk walkers, having first been strapped to a five bar gate as a makeshift stretcher and bounced down the hill!

In the mid Fifties it was recognised that a permanent well trained team would be far more effective than dragging drunken walkers out of a pub and the formation of teams became widespread throughout England and Wales. The MR movement as we know it was formed.

Since 1964 the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland has been responsible for rescue work in the Scottish Mountains. Both it, and MR (England & Wales), together with sister organisations in Southern and Northern Ireland continue to maintain close links and co-operate in their joint objectives. Mountain Rescue (England and Wales) comprises of 8 regions of which one is the Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation (PDMRO).

The PDMRO is the umbrella body for Mountain Rescue in the Peak District and is the third busiest region in England and Wales after the Lakes and North Wales.

The PDMRO was formed in 1964 following the death during the bad winter of 1963 of two climbers in an avalanche in Wilderness Gully, Chew Valley, and a multiple fatal accident during the 1964 Four Inns Walk. Prior to then there were few mountain rescue teams in the Peak District. These were uncoordinated and inadequately equipped.

The two tragedies in 1964 demonstrated the need for coordination of the few teams that did exist and the need to establish others. The PDMRO was established to co-ordinate the activities of all the Mountain Rescue Teams in the Peak District and thus assist the Police with all mountain rescue incidents.

"The PDMRO is the umbrella body for Mountain Rescue in the Peak District and is the third busiest region in England and Wales after the Lakes and North Wales."



The prime objectives of the PDMRO are to save life and alleviate distress, primarily in Upland and Mountain areas. In addition the organisation:

- Supports member teams in their mountain rescue activities.
- Coordinates all rescue incidents.
- Encourages & develops good practice in Mountain Rescue.
- Assists in the recovery of animals from locations where mountain rescue skills are needed.
- Represents the member teams' interests to other bodies.
- Encourages the transfer of skills and knowledge to young people and other community groups.

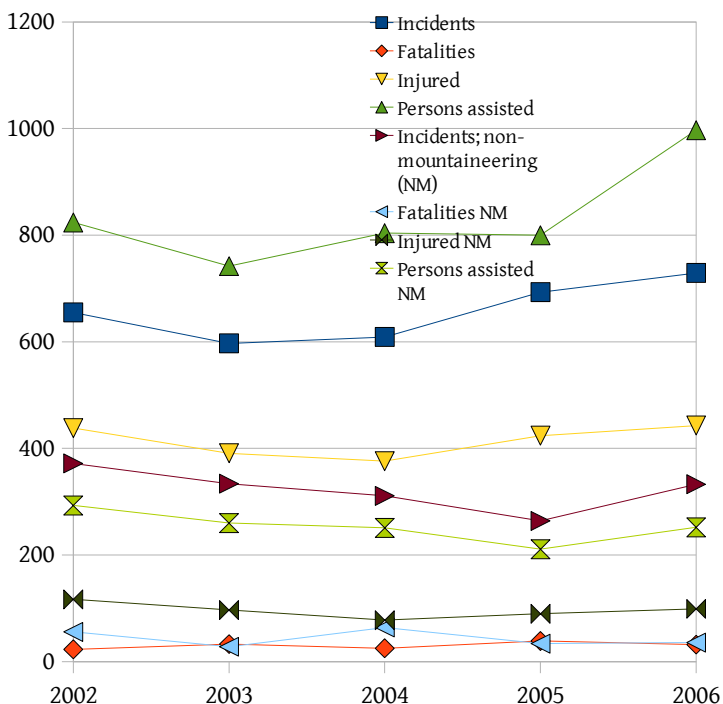
Mountain rescue teams provide an essential service not only to walkers and climbers but also to the local community. Their prime role is to provide a Search & Rescue service in upland or mountainous areas. However, the Teams are increasingly called upon to undertake searches for missing people in lowland areas.

In the twelve months to date PDMRO teams have been called out to 183 incidents within the Peak District. These range from falls from height resulting in serious trauma to a pregnant women, in a pub, who was having a baby on the pool table! The local ambulance service couldn't get to her because of the snow!



In the next issue we'll look at how we go about searching for missing persons; who goes missing; how are missing persons reported; what circumstances lead to getting lost; and how searches are organised.

For more information on the Mountain Rescue teams in the Peak District, or to make a donation, go to www.pdmro.org.uk



Mountain Rescue England & Wales Incident Report 2006



Lost Lads and a Lass

By Helen Elliot

The High Peak Marathon (Derwent Watershed) 6-7 March 2009

I often wonder how this event came about. I imagine a group of organisers sat in a pub discussing details for a challenging ultra distance event suitable for experienced hill walkers, runners and mountaineers. As often happens, a rash proposal was tabled for a traverse of Stanage North, Derwent Edge, Bleaklow, Kinder Scout and Rushup Edge with a common starting point at Edale. Then, after another round of drinks, it was suggested starting the event in winter, to the support of nodding heads. Finally, just before closing time, when the brain was dizzy with alcohol, some fool suggested starting the event with the last team off just before Midnight. Does the question of sanity apply to the organisers or the competitor? For more than 20 years the event has taken place on the first Friday in March for up to 50 teams of 4.

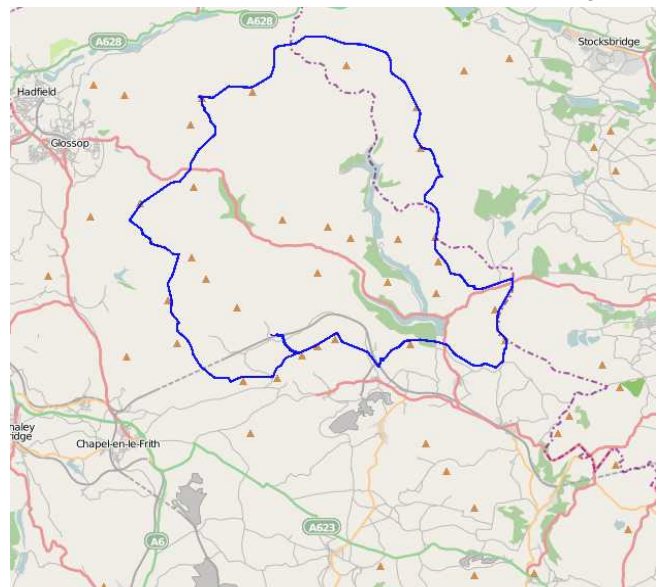
In 2004 I was persuaded to join my husband and 2 friends to form a mixed veterans' team at the age of 49. They reassured me that I would not find it too hard dismissing the mere 42 miles, the dark start and that a large proportion covers cold, wet moor land. We completed in 12 hours 25 minutes. Since then, every year I have said, 'Never again!' 2009 was my fourth round completed with the same 4 people as in 2004.

We arrived at Edale village hall at 22-30, one hour before our start time to allow time for registration and a kit check. Each team has to carry a tent, a sleeping bag, and a first aid kit between them. Each member also has to be self sufficient with survival equipment, food and drink. The teams consist of all male, all female, mixed, young and old. Past performance and ability determines starting times, consequently the fastest team starts last with other teams start earlier at 1 minute intervals.

We set off at 23-30 on a warm (above freezing), clear night and it was not long before the faster teams

were trickling past us. By the time we reached Ladybower Reservoir we felt a little demoralised; we were the last to check in at the first check point and hadn't seen any other head torch beams for a while. The dark silence made it more exciting however. We had reached Margery Hill by the time we caught up with another team. Slowly more teams came into view, which boosted our moral, and by Bleaklow Stones it was light. Good navigation took us directly to the Wain Stones check point, Hern Stones and the Pennine Way path to the Snake Road. We always finish quickly and we managed to cover the route from the Snake Road to Edale in 3 hours 10 minutes. Our finishing time was 12 hours 55 minutes; 29th place overall. Our combined ages were 207 years.

The winning team was VASQ North, completing in 8 hours 48; a 'vets' male team with combined ages of



21 checkpoints to pass through. Typical route 68 km, typical total ascent 1660 metres



The first mixed team finished in 10 hours 23 and the first ladies team in 10 hours 42. Well worth a mention was the 5th team in 10 hours 28 with combined ages of over 240 years.



Left to right: Phil Elliot, Helen Elliot, Dave Shepherd, Neil Drake

Details of the event can be obtained from: www.highpeakclub.union.shef.ac.uk

Kinder Mountain Rescue Team Spring fundraising Ball: Saturday 18 April 2009 at the Barcelo Buxton Palace Hotel. Black Tie. See www.kmrt.org.uk for details.

Bole Hill Kids

By Simon Jacques

“Hundreds & thousands please?”

The cigarette was stuck fast betwixt the ruddy lips of the ice cream lady, as she shuffled over to a stack of grubby tubs, muttering in a slushy Yorkshire drawl, the ash bowing, drooping and ultimately falling into the multi-coloured needle thin sugar strands.

The snow had come unseasonally early that year, a half-arsed smattering over the crags had lead us to the relative warmth of the Quarry. After a few pitiful attempts, we soon became bored with frigging Redbits, a fierce finger crack in Lawrencefield’s

Surprise bays, and so with gear and ropes left in place we made it over to the car park to get some fags from the ever present Ice cream van, ‘Jean’s Creams’.

Oaktree had decided that as I looked the oldest, I therefore would be our best hope. At 14 years of age, that was a backhanded compliment and needing a distraction from climbing so poorly, I reluctantly volunteered.

“Sorry luv I don’t sell em... but you can av a few o’ me superkings” Jean said, as two of the largest cigarettes ever conceived were prised out of a shoebox sized packet. We ordered a few 99’s and the greasy, lumpy ice creams covered in the garish tick-tack sprinkles were passed over.

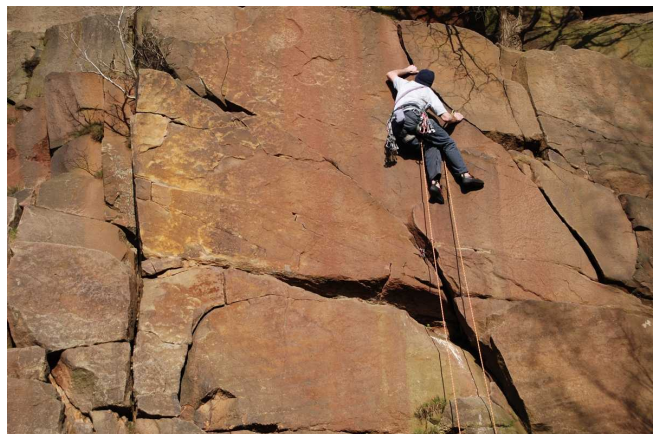
“Oh and I’ve got an ‘amlet if tha wants it?”

We bode our thanks, I put the cigar into my chalkbag for safekeeping and we shuffled through a light snow carpet over to the quarry lip and launched the ice creams into the pool.

In between sparking up and dive-bombing the ice’s water bound, Smee announced that the fish in the pool would be happy to eat the discarded fayre.

“Fish? In *that* shitty pool?” exclaimed Oaktree, “S’not bloody Grimsby docks!”

“Aye that’s where thee was last night at thee girlfriends” came back Smee.



Oli Lewis getting it right on Tyron - Lawrencefield



Streaks of ice had taken over Gingerbread slab and yet there was a surprising lack of white stuff on the vertical, so I protested that we should try **Great Peter**, me being the only one who gave a toss about looking in the faded 1979 guidebook to find a route, Smee now rolling a spliff and Woosy wanting start a fire to get warm and go look for some seasonal shrooms in the unseasonal September snow.

Oaktree agreed to belay me. I told him we would cruise it, "Finger crack. HVS guide says, piece o' piss, best watch me though".

Locking and torqueing fingers, I quickly shifted up the fine crackline, the wobble block providing the interest before the long crux reach, during which Peter the Great spat me off.

Spitting obscenities, I had a breather warming numb fingers and soon cranked it out to the larch tree ledge.

Oaktree took an age to second, he always did, and so bored and shivering, I reached into my chalkbag, salvaged the stoogie and proceeded to try and light the bugger just as wispy snow began to flit around the quarry coupled with that strange snowfall silence that accompanies.

Just as I got the Hamlet nicely fired up, it was by now quite chalky, without sound nor warning, the rope began rapidly snaking through my Figure of Eight.

Oaktree soon found his voice and after a comic fumble with lighted match and cigar, I just managed to stop his arse hitting the deck by a gnat's fart. A torrent of abuse billowed round the rocky crucible, followed by fits of nefarious laughter from a now well-baked Smee.

As cheap cigar smoke filled the air, I admit I could think of nothing else to ask...

"Did you fall off?"

Graffiti

In a discussion about paint on rocks at Lawrencefield quarry at the last Peak Area meeting it was explained that BMC resources are available to remove graffiti from crags, millstones, walls etc. What action is taken depends on several factors and in some cases the best solution is to let natural weathering take its course. Graffiti spoils everyone's appreciation of the outdoors, whether climber or walker, and to act the BMC needs to know about it. So, **if you see it, [report it](#)**.

Access Notes

By Henry Folkard

Around the crags

Tree clearance is scheduled for **Black Rocks** in April, thanks to the Forestry Commission who have been outstandingly helpful.

Aldery is having a face lift with the removal of regrowth following the last major clean up. Some substantial loose blocks have been removed from gullies. As part of this exercise we plan to get bramble growth controlled too. Anyone visiting the site is advised to treat the large overhang at the right hand end of the crag with extreme caution – that is to say do not go near it! Warning signs have been erected and as regularly removed. So have a number of other signs – and there is evidence of fly tipping too, though most of the removable litter has been cleared up. In recent months there has been recurrent inappropriate use of, and damage to, the site and stone walls. In order to protect it we have reluctantly decided to keep the entrance gate locked.

At **Horseshoe** there is evidence of use of a pellet gun of some sort on BMC owned land. Since this land is public open space we have reported it to the Police. The incident number is 236 of 16 March 2009. The Police request that any further incidents are reported to them at once. Remember a working day is scheduled here for 27 June.

Negotiations for access to **Shooters Nab** continue, and a number of meetings is scheduled between the time of writing and the next Area Meeting – so there



will be an update. The formal access restriction to [Countryside Rights of Way Act](#) (CRoW) land mirrors the fall of shot area from the rifle range. All formal restrictions under CRoW have to be reviewed. Both Local Access Forums responsible for this cross boundary area of land owned by the shooting club are currently engaged in that process. One particular bone of contention for the Club is a way currently recorded as footpath 212, which runs from the curtilage of the Club building to targets on the range and nowhere else. It affords no access to the crag. The BMC is not therefore currently minded to resist any application the Club may make for a Modification Order in respect of this specific path.

We have consent for tree clearance at **Stoney**, so watch out for request for volunteers to help.

Bird Restrictions

It's that time of year again. **The most reliable guide is always on site signage which is the most up to date information.** As of today – 28 March – the only restriction is for the **Roaches** peregrine, and a full note about this is on the BMC web site. The RAD and UKC websites carry updates to the situation and there are also signs on site.

There are no restrictions at **Millstone** or **Ravensdale**. The situation at Millstone is not terribly likely to change, but it may well do at Ravensdale.

At **Stanage** the Ring Ouzels are back, but not yet nesting. Expect an update at the Area Meeting. The regular restrictions notice will be posted in climbing shops and walls before Easter.

Land Closure

The grouse moor (**Bamford and Moscar Moors**) between the Long Causeway at Stanage, the A57 road and the New Road (below Bamford Edge) will be closed for access on the following days:

Friday 15 May to Friday 29 May
Monday 1 June to Friday 5 June
Monday 8 June to Friday 12 June
Monday 15 June to Wednesday 17 June

However climbing on Stanage between Stanage End and Secret Stanage will, by negotiation, be exempted from the closure provided you keep to the crag, and do not take dogs, even on a lead. If climbers do persist in taking dogs – which in any case are legally and permanently restricted all year round from these grouse moors – it will cost us all that exemption. It's as plain and simple as that.

Away from the crags

A lot of access work goes on behind the scenes. One particularly demanding bit of work has been making response to the Consultation on Refined Options for the Peak District National Park's [Core Strategy](#). This document forms part of the Local Development Framework, and is therefore a key policy document which will shape development within the Park for at least the next decade. At 300 pages in length there was quite a lot to digest. A copy of the document(s) and our response will be available if anyone wants to peruse them – but if you do be prepared to stay the night.

There has been good news on the **Mottram – Tintwistle A628** Bypass scheme. In the early 1970's Malc Baxter led a campaign for the BMC, with the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England), against the original proposal, which was subsequently dropped. Now the Highways Agency have withdrawn from the Public Inquiry that began in 2007 and ran for 15 days into the most recent proposal, but not before it cost taxpayers some £15 million. Their decision to withdraw came after the Regional Leaders' Forum 4NW decided not to include the £315m proposal in its spending plans up to 2016.

It is alarming to think what might have happened had an alliance which included the BMC not contested the proposal and challenged the Agency's traffic forecasts and environmental statements: these were challenged too by the National Park Authority and Natural England. A very great deal of public money would have been spent on providing a scheme which did little for local residents and ruined the countryside.

The matter of the proliferation of **fences** on gritstone moorlands is being raised in the House of



Lords by Lord Greaves. There has been a terrible proliferation of these fences since CRoW and besides being wholly inappropriate in terms of landscape present a very real barrier to access. The effect they have is pretty much the same as the effect the Enclosures had a couple of hundred plus years ago – the theft of the countryside from the people, to paraphrase John Cleare.

The Marine Bill, with its provision on **Coastal Access**, is making painfully slow progress through the House of Lords. That is not good news, even though the bits which have been most contentious are not to do with access specifically. Head Office staff are in constant touch with the powers that be on this – and indeed on the different process in Wales.

No one has drawn attention to any **CRoW mapping** anomalies in the Peak since the last meeting. There must be some we have not picked up on, so do let us know if you are aware of any changes that need to be made.

A final decision on the **Eastern Moors** proposals is now scheduled for June. Currently negotiations are at a level of detail which is outside the BMC's remit and directly between the National Park, National Trust and RSPB. Any new developments will be reported at the Area Meeting. See you then.

Calendar

There is a comprehensive calendar on the BMC website; this one covers stuff of mainly Peak Area interest. If you have an item for inclusion contact us at peakarea@gmail.com.

Throughout the year:

Consider a [Peak District Ranger guided walk](#). Interesting insights into geology, wildlife and archaeology.

April

8 Peak Area newsletter published.

18 [Kinder Mountain Rescue Team Spring fundraising Ball](#)

22 Peak Area meeting, 19:30 - [The Grouse Inn](#), A625, Froggatt Edge Road.

24 - 25 [BMC AGM](#), Plas y Brenin.

May

10 Submission deadline for Peak newsletter.

17 [Eyam Half-marathon](#) (400 metres cumulative ascent!).

27 Peak Area newsletter published.

June

10 Peak Area meeting, 20:30 - [The Travellers Rest](#), Quarnford, Buxton.

July

11 - 12 [Cliffhanger](#), 10:30 - 18:30, Millhouses Park, Sheffield including British Bouldering Championships.

August

1 - 16 [BMC Alpine Meet](#) at La Berarde, Ecrins National Park, France.

September

13 [Best of Banff](#) TBC, Buxton Opera House

October

9-23 [Great World-Wide Star Count](#) (take a look).

November

1-30 Application open for High Peak Marathon 2010

30 [Best of Kendal film night](#), Showroom Cinema, Sheffield



The conventional 'Kinder Downfall shot'; Members of the Peak Climbing Club in action, February 2009.