



Peak Area Newsletter

February 2014

The next Peak Area meeting is on Wednesday, 12 February, starting at 1930, at the Maynard, Main Road, Grindleford, Derbyshire S32 2HE. Free food, great company and interesting conversation from a variety of speakers on a range of topics.

The Sec speaks

By Lynn Robinson



For those of you that didn't attend, you missed a cracking meeting/AGM in November. The highlight, of course, was the annual quiz and Jon and Nige didn't let the side down – cheers guys.

Also a very big **THANKYOU** to the following people/companies who kindly donated prizes – they were very much appreciated, and the quiz just wouldn't be the same without them:

Alpkit, Awesome Walls, BMC, Cordee, Dan Lane, David Simmonite, Heason Events, John Beatty, Keith Sharples, Paul Diffley (for Distilled DVDs), Rab/EquipUK, Rockfax, The Climbing Works, The

Depot Nottingham, The Edge, The Foundry & Crag X, and Vertebrate Publishing.



The booty...

You'll all be glad to know that Neil Foster and Graham Hoey have volunteered to do this year's quiz (I've heard from reliable sources that a few

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Deadline for material is 2 weeks before the next meeting



questions have already been plotted – now that’s forward planning for you!!).

At the AGM Neil was voted, unopposed, for the position of Chair and me as Secretary. 2014 will be another important year with regards to access and your input into the debate at meetings is crucial in helping to steer the BMC as it enters into discussions with our partner



Peak Area AGM meeting. Don't ask...

organisations. Simon Lee was voted in, unopposed, as the Peak Area National Council Representative, and David Browne for the Clubs Representative.

The next meeting is being held on the 12 February, 7.30 pm at our usual venue at The

Maynard, Grindleford. As ever there will be free sarnies and chips.

Come and pose a question or two to Mary Bagley from the Peak District National Park Authority, who will be attending to talk about Stanage and their plans for its future.

Helen Tuck from The National Trust will also be attending. The NT has a couple of new initiatives and ideas brewing at Longshaw which Helen wants to tell us about and get some early feedback on.

Neil Roden is coming along to give an overview of Mountain Rescue in the Peak District, so it’s going to be a packed agenda.

To end the evening, Pete Whittaker has mustered up some photos and will be giving us a slide show and talk on his recent impressive achievements in The Peak, most recently yet another last great problem: Sleepy Hollow.

Saturday 8th Feb 2014

HOPE VALLEY

ADVENTURE FILM FESTIVAL










HOPE VALLEY ADVENTURE FILM FESTIVAL

Where: Hope Valley College, Hope, Derbyshire S33 6SD
When: Films and activities from 11am - 6pm
 Andy Cave 'Miner to Mountaineer' lecture at 7.30pm

Film festival tickets available from Outside Hathersage, online at www.hvaff.co.uk or on the door



Access Notes



By Henry Folkard

Dateline: 29 January 2014

My impression is that it has hardly stopped raining in the Peak since the last issue of the Newsletter. Climbing has been pretty uninviting and going for a wander on the moors something of a challenge if you want to find a quagmire free route.

It is the Eastern Edges that have seen most recent activity on the access front. For **Stanage North Lees, Burbage, Longshaw and Eastern Moors** the Area Meeting at the newly refurbished Maynard Arms, Grindleford on 12 February will be a seminal event. There has never been a better opportunity to talk about landscape scale vision as well as the detail of what is going on within individual landholdings.

We will have as guests **Mary Bagley from the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA)** to consult about their future proposals for

North Lees; **Helen Tuck and Sophie Milner from the National Trust (NT)** to get feed back from the meeting on developments at Longshaw, Burbage and Houndkirk; and **Danny Udall from the Eastern Moors Partnership (EMP)** to keep you up to date on how work is progressing on the Eastern Moors. It will be a pretty packed agenda, and rather than me try and write everything up here, do come to the meeting to hear it at first hand, and register your aspirations, get clarification or express your own concerns about what matters to you.

Last September Members of the PDNPA resolved to keep **North Lees** in house and officers were charged with bringing forward proposals for full cost recovery, or at least breaking even. **Mary** has kindly agreed to come to the meeting to say what that means, and how proposals are progressing, and will be the first to speak. North Lees evokes strong feelings because of its value and its cultural history. I know Mary feels passionately about Stanage and North Lees, so we are particularly pleased she has agreed to come to the meeting to take forward PDNPA's consultation with stakeholders like the BMC. There was similarly a meeting very recently with the Stanage Forum Steering Group and arrangements are in hand for a plenary session of the full Forum. It is good that a better dialogue is being established.

The BMC's [Regional Access Database](#) (RAD) has up to date information on all crags in England and Wales. Otherwise access rep contact details are on the [BMC web site](#). Access reps attend most Area Meetings if there are any points you want to raise with them, or you can phone Henry Folkard on 01298 871 849 or the BMC office on 0161 445 6111 (office@thebmc.co.uk).



Then **Helen** e-mailed to say the NT would like to come to a convenient meeting to hear BMC members' views on proposals for new appointments at **Longshaw**. **Sophie** will update on the **High Peak Moors Vision and Plan** and cover landscape and access enhancements at **Burbage and Houndkirk**, funded through the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area (the NIA). NT has come to previous meetings to consult on eg the High Peak Vision and Sheffield Moors Masterplan, and very welcome it is too.

To complement that and indeed to emphasise coherence in terms of landscape and access routes (perhaps particularly for mountain bikers) between three different landholdings with common boundaries **Danny** will be paying us another of his regular visits more to answer questions that to give a complete run down of everything that has been achieved on the **Eastern Moors** – for to do that would take him a couple of hours at least.

To complete the picture on the Eastern Edges the BMC has collaborated with Moscar Estates at **Bamford** and the northern section of **Stanage** in the production of some discrete signs to remind visitors that dogs are prohibited from the grouse moors at all times of year – except when

on a public right of way and under close control. The pay back for climbers and walkers is that when these moors are closed for 28 days each year an exception is made for climbers on Stanage Edge and walkers on major concessionary paths, but those concessions can only be offered if we on our part respect the position regarding dogs.

Louise Hawson and I went to Uppermill for a **Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area (NIA)** meeting to get an update on landscape, access and monitoring improvements in an area stretching from Chatsworth to Uppermill. There are 42 different projects each relating to one of five aspects – blanket bog, heathland, woodland, grassland or access – which embrace landscape scale conservation under the strapline '*More, Bigger, Better, Joined Up*'. Funding is for a limited period only. This expires in about a year's time and will not be available again.

The good news is that most of the projects are on schedule, or at least not giving cause for concern. These include access improvements on the Eastern Moors, bracken spraying at North Lees and work on a number of the North Lees woodland plantations. The planting scheduled for the woodland around Hollins Bank (aka Plantation) car park happened last year, though the hollies that were planted are still small and you may not notice them, but what you may well notice, because its happening right now, is some woodland management work in the Stanage, Jubilee and Dennis Knoll Plantations.

Please send articles, letters, photos, notices and so forth, to peakarea@gmail.com All topics considered, the only requirement is that it is relevant to the mountaineers, walkers and climbers in the Peak Area. Summit magazine is the place for the national stuff. Any length up to 600 words; if you want to go longer, best to call us first. **We particularly welcome material from clubs.** Deadline for material is two weeks before the meeting.



One project which has slipped a bit is the removal of the Great Britain Plantation in the Burbage Valley, but it has not slipped so much that it will not happen. Delays have been caused by the complexity of the project and the myriad permissions that have had to be obtained, by the weather and by water voles. Sophie will be able to update on the detail, on proposals for improved access routes, and on planting of oak woodland within the Valley and on Houndkirk - along with attendant proposals for fencing, on which you may want to express a view.

Louise will be co-ordinating as many volunteers as we can muster to help with visitor surveys on certain dates in May, September and December. This is not physically challenging activity because it entails talking to people in car parks, but it does provide a lot of very valuable information about who visits the National Park and how they enjoy themselves when they come. This feeds directly into future planning and management. The provisional dates are May 14,15,17,18; September 3,4,6,7; December 3,6,7.

Two other dates to note – or should I say one date because the two events unhappily clash on the same day – are **26 April** when the **Spirit of Kinder** event, sponsored in part by BMC ACT, takes place in the afternoon at Sheffield Town Hall, preceded by a new Sheffield Centre walking route to be led by David Price, author of *Sheffield Troublemakers – Rebels and Radicals in Sheffield History* (2008) and **a litter pick in the Burbage Valley, sponsored by Outside**. Fliers for the Spirit of Kinder event should be available at the Area Meeting

East of Sheffield there are some developments in prospect since Rob Dyer has made contact with a Conservation and Land Manager for Natural England called Tim Kohler. Besides ongoing access problems at **Roche Abbey** and **Anston Stones** another venue, **Sprotborough Gorge**, has been added to the problem list. Besides being east of Sheffield what these sites have in common is that they are all SSSIs, and I think they are all magnesium limestone too. Natural England picked up on Sprotborough through scouring various blogs.

There has been a fresh round of complaints from a familiar source at **Rowtor Rocks**. This certainly remains a sensitive site, and all previous exhortations about best behaviour remain as relevant as ever.

As was the case in the last Newsletter there is not so much to report on limestone. Problems at **Water cum Jolly** remain unresolved and the BMC is revisiting the matter of access to Cramside Wood directly with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT). Incidentally, their CEO has announced that he will be leaving to go to another Wildlife Trust early this year. Is anyone going to apply for his job? Otherwise we had a positive meeting with DWT at **Horseshoe** which they have deemed to be a very suitable site for inoculation of badgers later in the year. They have been authorised to come and go as they please, so if you happen to be there and notice people wandering about with large traps do not be alarmed. Both badger setts on our land are pretty discrete so you are unlikely to notice anything once the traps are in place.



Thanks to Brid from Buxton who managed to shift a tractor tyre, a fire place and an iron bedstead, along with associated debris gratuitously dumped, from **Aldery**, and to CAN UK and Duncan for also offering assistance. Getting rid of tractor tyres is no easy matter. We have followed geotechnical advice in treating certain tree stumps which, though sometimes used for abseiling, were actually destabilising the rock face. The consequence is that the stumps will become increasingly less stable so avoid using them as belay anchors.

We may or may not be nearing the end of the very long running **Longstone Edge** saga, in which the BMC has played a leading role. A Prohibition Notice was served on relevant parties on 6 January 2014 in respect of the area covered by the Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMP). If those parties wish to challenge this notice in the High Court they have to give notice within 28 days, so some update may be possible at the Area Meeting.

For something a bit different, Neil, Clare and I attended a meeting thronged with cavers on the vexed matter of water flow – or lack of it - into the Lathkill River. It dries up from time to time and Natural England believe the cause to be the driving of a sough from **Magpie Mine** into the River Wye near Ashford (some time in the 1800s I think) to dewater the mine workings, rather than let the natural flow go towards the Lathkill. The idea is to restore the flow in the direction of the Lathkill by blocking the sough. There are different views on this as was apparent at the meeting, with by and large cavers of one opinion and Natural England of another. It being a small world the leading

spokesman for Natural England was the same person we had our own differences with over Ravensdale last year – and may yet do so again this.

Two recent applications for funding from BMC **ACT** relate to **Eridge**, an important site in the Southern Sandstone area and the **Avon** project, which is going well but seeking a time extension. The Eridge proposal, which is essentially about securing access, is strongly supported by the local Area and is a first for ACT in the South East. I think it has been given a green light, whilst the very recent application from Avon is still under consideration.

I have an update from Derbyshire County Council on '**green lanes**' which will be available at the meeting if anyone wants to see it. I guess most climbers will be aware of a spate of activity by 4x4s at Stanage around Fiddler's

HOPE VALLEY ADVENTURE FILM FESTIVAL PRESENT THE

ANDY CAVE LECTURE

'FROM MINER TO MOUNTAINEER, A LIFE ON THE EDGE.'



Saturday 8th Feb 2014

Lecture starts 7:30pm
Pie and Peas with local beer available from 6:30pm

Tickets £7:50 from Outside Hathersage, online at www.hvaff.co.uk or on the door.

Showing at:
Hope Valley College, Hope, Derbyshire S33 6SD
Part of the Hope Valley Adventure Film Festival
Further details at www.hvaff.co.uk



Supported by Lowe Alpine




Elbow and Long Causeway. Suffice it to say this has not gone unnoticed. And whilst on the subject of illegal activity, never get complacent about **theft from parked cars**, because thieves are persistent. Each time they get something worth having from a parked car – and they do – they come back for more.

Perhaps by the time you get to read this it will have stopped raining. We live in hope. See you at the meeting: if you have even the slightest interest in the Eastern Edges it will give a really good opportunity say what you value and what you think should be integral to the vision for their future custodianship. If you can't get to the meeting you can always e-mail Adam or Neil or me henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk beforehand and I can make sure your views are heard.

Mountain Rescue

A few bits of information to prepare for the talk on mountain rescue at the Peak Area meeting.

The data on military helicopter search and rescue is perhaps only for the geeks amongst us but some bits are perhaps worth a look (all data from <http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/activities/> and here: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?u=0&umonth=0&uyear=0&title=Military+Search+and+Rescue+Monthly+Statistic&lday=&lmont h=&lyear=>). Unlike school league tables they

comply with the UK Statistics Authority code of practice... [Other Search and Rescue helicopters are available. Editor]

If you need them...

Dial 999 or 112 and ask for the police, ask them for 'Mountain Rescue'.

Be ready to give a CHALET report...

Casualties – number, names and ages; type of injuries, for example, lower leg, head injury, collapse, drowning etc.

Hazards to the rescuers – eg strong winds, avalanche, rock fall, dangerous animals.

Access – the name of mountain area and description of the terrain. It may be appropriate to describe the approach and any distinguishing features such as an orange survival bag.

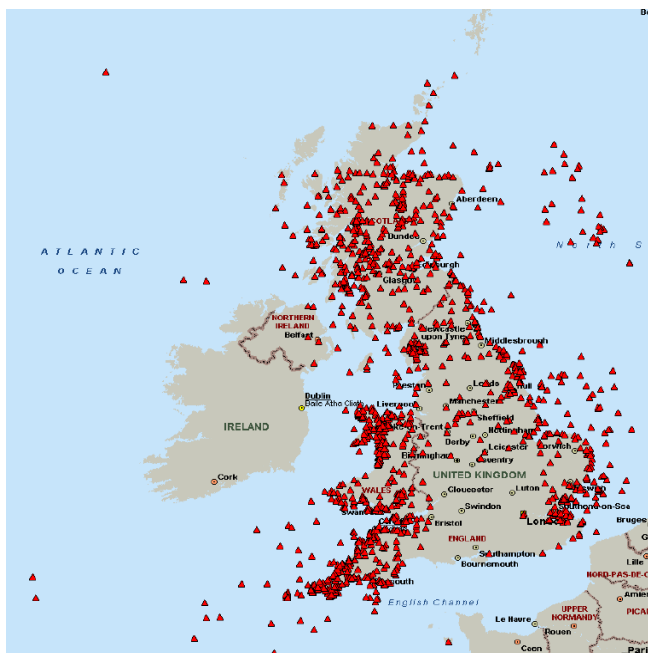
Information on the weather conditions at the incident site, particularly if you are in cloud or mist.

Location of the incident – grid reference and a description. Give the map sheet number and say if the grid reference is from a GPS device.

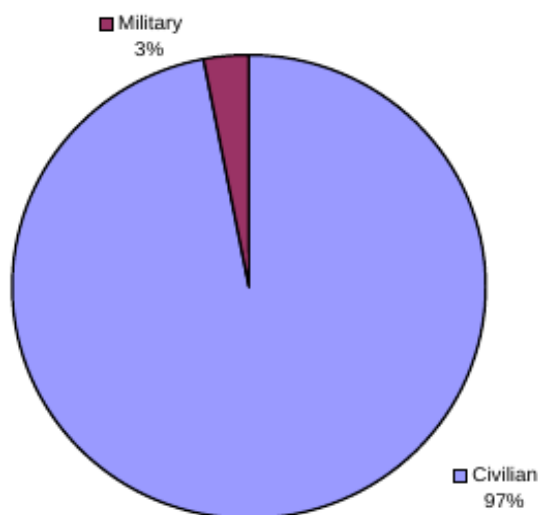
Equipment at the scene – eg, torches, other mobile phones, group shelters, medically trained people.

Type of incident – mountain, aircraft, train, etc. Be prepared to give a brief description of the time and apparent cause of the incident.

The map of where callouts go to is generally unsurprising, although the foothills of London look to be unusually challenging. The number of military callouts versus civilian ones goes some way to explain the privatisation of helicopter search and rescue currently underway.



UK Callouts - 2012



UK & Overseas Callouts by Civilian or Military - 2012

There are a number of Mountain Rescue teams using SARLOC software to text people in distress to determine their location. Developed by Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team, it relies on the 'rescuee' having a smartphone with GPS and the team being notified of an incident. But getting in touch in the first place can be a

problem. Not many people know this... You can text 999 emergency services. Even if reception is too poor to make a voice call, a text message may still get through (technical stuff). And there are some advantages, for instance a text message can be composed and sent in one go (eg with CHALET information). You need to put 'Police-Mountain Rescue' at the start of the text as the message is transcribed by an operator before being sent to the Police. There are, unsubstantiated, stories of police cars turning up at the bottom of mountains... For the same reason the FULL grid reference is needed, including those two letters at the front.

To use the service you **must** register the mobile phone **beforehand**. So, do it **now**, eh? But since the facility has been around since 2009 everyone will already have registered their mobile, yes? To register, text the word 'register' to 999. You will get a text reply - follow the instructions in it. This will take two minutes of your time and could save your life or someone else's! The Emergency SMS Website with more details is at; <http://www.emergencysms.org.uk/>

BMC Peak Area Contacts:

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Peak Area Reps (your voice on the BMC National Council): <http://community.thebmc.co.uk>

Newsletter Editors (articles, comments, threats, etc): peakarea@gmail.com

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