



# Peak Area Newsletter

September 2015

**The next Peak Area meeting is on Wednesday, 9 September, starting at 1930, at the Globe Inn, 144 High Street West, Glossop SK13 8HJ**

## The Sec speaks

By Lynn Robinson



I hope you've all managed to get out and about and have achieved your summer goals between the showers.

The next Peak Area meeting is taking place on the 9 September starting at 1930 at The Globe Inn, 144, High Street West, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 8HJ. As well as having incredible cheap beer, the pub also serves a lovely vegetarian hotpot which we'll be sampling in the break.

We have a packed agenda and Neil and I are very pleased to be welcoming staff from the BMC office who will be gate-crashing our meeting to get an insight into how local area meetings are run. We are taking this opportunity to run a Q & A session with

them, so now's your opportunity to find out exactly what does go on in West Didsbury and beyond.

There are some important access issues that need discussing as well as the usual update from our tirelessly working access representatives. These, as ever, are detailed in the newsletter.

Peter and Cath, our two hill walking reps have an interesting proposition and Rab Carrington has a 'photo archive' proposal that he would like to sound out at the meeting.

As you already know, it will be Neil's and my last full meeting as Chair and Secretary, as we are standing down at the AGM in November, having served the maximum five-years in the positions. If anyone is interested in these or other local area roles (helping out as an access rep, etc) and would like any information about what the roles entail, then please have a chat with us at the meeting, or email us.

If you're reading this from a printout, the hyperlinks won't show up (in some cases we do print them). To obtain an electronic version in which the hyperlinks will work, go to the BMC website ([www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)). Members can have it emailed to them by contacting the BMC office: 0161 445 6111, [office@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk)

**Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome at any time; the Deadline for the next Newsletter is 4 November - send to [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com)**



As well as the packed agenda, we've got a fantastic guest speaker, Emma Flaherty. Emma has recently climbed Royksopp, Font 8a at Rocklands, South Africa. She will be talking about her climbing journey, preparation for climbing her first 8a and about her future plans.

When Emma isn't busy training, she's also organising this year's Women's Climbing Symposium which still has some spaces available.

Hope to see you all on the 9 September.

designed to be friendly, informative, accessible and most importantly beneficial.

The day is about celebrating climbing. Learning from each other. Getting psyched and having fun. The Women's Climbing Symposium has so much to offer and this gives each individual the opportunity to embrace what is available and walk away informed, inspired and connected.

This year the WCS is heading to the climbing Mecca of the UK, Sheffield. Taking place in the heart of the city at the world-renowned Climbing Works on Saturday 17 October.

## Women's Climbing Symposium 17 October The Climbing Works, Sheffield

### About the Event:

The Women's Climbing Symposium (WCS) is an event that aims to connect, inspire and develop women's climbing through collective climbing experiences, the latest research and the best coaching. We endeavour to create a welcoming environment for women of all abilities from every background by creating a program that is diverse and interesting. We seek out women from all disciplines of our sport. The program is intentionally varied and busy so that participants can create their own pathway through the day. Alongside the multiple talks there are also five different coaching sessions that are available. These are







For more information and how to get tickets for the event, please go to the website:

[www.womensclimbingsymposium.com](http://www.womensclimbingsymposium.com)

About the Organisers:

Shauna Coxsey: Shauna is a professional climber who is passionate about the positive development of our sport. Shauna founded the Women's Climbing Symposium with Stephanie Meysner in 2011. After four successful events the WCS team are looking to create the biggest and best Women's Climbing Symposium yet. Shauna has been working to create a new coaching program for the day with more female coaches than ever.

Emma Flaherty: New to the WCS team this year Emma is full of fresh, new, exciting ideas to bring to the event. Coming from a totally different background of the sport Emma has a very different perspective and insight.

Together Shauna and Emma are working to create a full, diverse program that has something to offer every climber out there.

### **HELP at Horseshoe:**

We are still looking for a volunteer to look after Horseshoe. If you are interested please contact Rob Dyer or Henry Folkard

## **Access Notes**

By Henry Folkard

Dateline: 22 August 2015



If the summer brought mixed weather it also brought mixed news on the access front.

### **Longstone Edge**

Let's begin with something really positive – the promise of a successful outcome to the BMC's longest running campaign, that which concerns mineral extraction on Longstone Edge. There are two different parts of Longstone Edge for planning purposes, the eastern end including Backdale, Peak Pastures and Wagers Flat, often referred as the ROMP area, and the rest of it including High Rake, Blakedon Hollow and Arthurton, often referred to as the Consolidating application area.

BMC supported the National Park when it sought to restrict mineral extraction within the ROMP area. A long legal battle was fought which culminated in a determination of the meaning of a 1952 planning permission in the then Court of Appeal which was distinctly helpful to our cause, in that it severely limited the amount of host rock that could be extracted in the quest for vein minerals.

Subsequent to that the the National Park issued a Prohibition Order but there were disputed interpretations on the meaning of provision within the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) and related Regulations issued in 2008 relevant to the case.



The National Park's Order relied upon an interpretation of this legislation which the BMC endorsed, along with the Friends of the Peak and the Save Longstone Edge Group. This interpretation was the subject of an objection by two parties, and was to have been the subject of a Public Inquiry (PI) in January 2016 at which the BMC would be present. Very recently, however, both those parties have indicated they wish to withdraw their objections, so the Prohibition Order will endure, and we shall all be able to enjoy a retained landscape on Longstone Edge worthy of its place in a National Park.

There remain some issues concerning the restoration of the ROMP area, particularly on the re-alignment of a Public Right of Way, on which the BMC is making representation, but these fall outside the strict remit of the PI and are being dealt with through other relevant statutory provision. The PI will still have to take place in January, but since the issue with which it was concerned is no longer a contested issue, it will not take too long – hopefully.

The BMC has also made representation on restoration proposals for the Consolidating application area, including support of proposals to leave an area of rock face exposed on High Rake, provision of a concessionary Right of Way along the

northern edge of the Rake, and dedication of the restored area under CROW.

## White Peak

Elsewhere in the White Peak some issues have come and gone, whilst others remain very much with us. Thus closure of access to **Wild Cat** due to rock fall, and similar reported problems at **Chee Dale Cornice** have come, caused a flurry of activity across the Access Team, and gone. Likewise Jon has established a new and very positive working relationship with the National Trust in **Dovedale**, which will result in landscape improvements in the Dale, as well as more amenable climbing, particularly on Dovedale Church.

As we go to press further difficulty has arisen in our strained relationship with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) who remain by far and away the least access friendly organisation with whom we have to liaise. The current focus is **Deep Dale** where, at DWT's behest, Buxton Mountain Rescue have removed bolts from Thirst House Cave despite what we thought was an ongoing dialogue with them. It seems inevitable that this issue will re-ignite matters regarding access, climbing, and particularly the use of bolts, in Chee Dale and Water cum Jolly.

The BMC is a broad church, and there may well be a diversity of view amongst members as to where bolting is appropriate and where it may not be. That is not new. But it is crystal clear that for DWT bolts are absolute anathema and it is difficult to imagine how something which is of no concern to many other landowners, and is accepted practice all over the world, will be readily accommodated in the Wye Valley. An update should be possible at the Area Meeting.

Please send articles, letters, photos, notices and so forth, to [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto: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.





## Dark Peak

A raft of problems in the northern Peak at **Standing Stones, Shooter's Nab, Uppermill Quarry and Hurst Reservoir** are not regrettably being readily resolved, despite a huge amount of work from Mark and support from the National Park. Persistence in establishing de facto access may present the best option for solution in some cases, which, though not a neat answer, does at least go some way to achieving a goal – and it is the nature of access work that solutions that can be a very long time coming do eventually come. And in each case you can at least get there to climb or walk, even if this is not by the most convenient way.

Dogs running free, accompanying climbers, have been a significant factor in some cases, and problems caused by other members of the public relevant in others. Unfortunately climbers get to pay the penalty. On the dogs issue we keep putting messages out. It really is a serious problem for farmers, and it really does cost us access, or improved access.

On a more positive note – as I said its been that sort of roller coaster summer – the BMC is supporting a major initiative by Yorkshire Water and the National Park on improved facility for recreation provision and access around **Langsett**, including access to water for canoeists. Hopefully the Shooter's Nab problems will get resolved with that package of measures if it comes to fruition.

Moving south we get to **Bleaklow and the Upper Alport**. National Trust have removed a number of old fences from Bleaklow, which is very good, but what is perhaps not so good is that new ones are going in around the Upper Alport to protect young native trees that are to be planted thereabouts to

create a more natural habitat. So why not just get rid of the sheep, which are not economically viable anyhow, and let nature solve the problem of degraded landscape on its own, asked the BMC. Part of the answer is Arctic hares which share a predilection for young trees with sheep. At least the fence will be temporary, will have stiles, and will not be capped with barbed wire.

Another huge problem is the establishment of self seeded sitka across the **Upper Derwent Moors**. This can only increase, and global warming will favour the sitka too. Any bright ideas?

The BMC has been campaigning with others over the quality of some path restoration work on these moors, and on the intrusion of major 4x4 tracks right across open moorland to assist grouse moor owners. These have major negative impact on landscape and on perceptions of wilderness – and we are going to continue to campaign on these issues.

Coming south again to **Kinder**, the re-vegetation of once bare areas has been dramatically successful. Along with the re-vegetating comes re-wetting by a lot (ie over 2000 from memory) of dams built across groughs. There is a number of different sorts, but they all have the effect of making large fans of land in water catchment areas much wetter, and therefore much boggier.

Just a word of warning: be careful in planning your walk and if crossing the plateau think watersheds, where it will be dryer rather than straight lines across, where you are likely to get stuck. Some caches of matting rolls may be stashed in strategic places to aid rescue if needed – and it has been.



For **Burbage, Houndkirk and Hathersage Moors** the BMC is contributing towards the Management Plan, as we did for Eastern Moors. If there are any particular points you want us to make please let Adam, Louise or me know – and we can also feed into plans for **Blackamoor**.

So finally to **Stanage**, where a refreshed Management Plan is evolving. It will look very different to the old one, and is being built up from a series of on site meetings held by the Stanage Forum Steering Group which concentrated on key topics like access, conservation and cultural heritage. A draft will go to the appropriate National Park Committee on 19 September and thereafter be presented publicly via the Stanage North Lees web site and Plenary Forum Meeting on 31 October.

Elsewhere on Stanage a new pole is being made and will be erected at some point, and pods, which are proving popular, have been erected on the North Lees camp site.

For ring ouzels it was an OK year at Stanage and a better year at Burbage, with three successful nests at Stanage fledging probably ten chicks and seven at Burbage fledging eighteen to twenty young. Thanks for your support: no nests are believed to have been disturbed by climbers. The most worrying human

interface came from wildlife photographers who caused real problems for the birds.

Members of the Mountaineering All-Party Parliamentary Group, for which the BMC acts as secretariat, are visiting the Peak in September and having a wander around part of the Edale Skyline. It will be a good opportunity to acquaint them with how we try to do things in a very crowded Peak, and to lobby on things they may be able to help with.

Two diary dates:

1400 on Saturday 31 October at the Memorial Hall, Oddfellows Road, Hathersage for the annual Plenary Stanage Forum Meeting – when the new Management Plan will be presented for your comments. It will be well worth attending. The proof of the pudding is in the eating because it will be apparent the points made from the floor by the public a year ago struck home and have changed things for the better;

and;

23 April 2016 in Hayfield for next years Spirit of Kinder event.

That's it for now.

**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](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk)).





## Mapping the Peak District with OpenStreetMap

by Dudley Ibbett

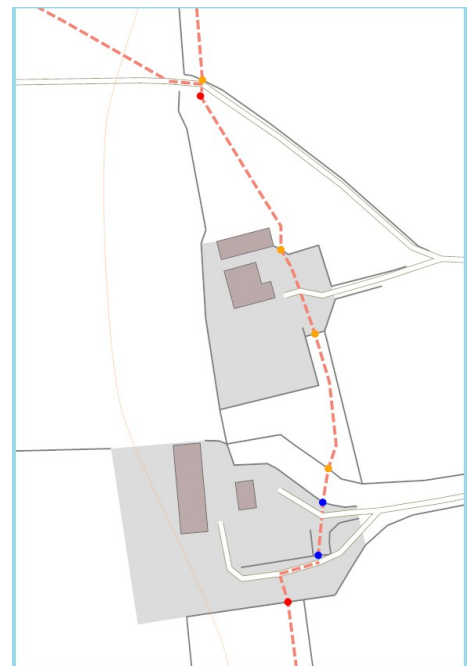


Over the last three years significant effort has been made to improve OpenStreetMap (OSM) coverage of the southern Peak District National Park.

One great advantage of OSM is that you are free to choose how you want to “render” a map. i.e. determine how and what features are displayed. For computer-based maps you can also choose what and how features are displayed at different zoom levels. This has the distinct advantage that you can provide much greater detail to help navigation at higher zoom levels. The map below, shows a footpath (red dash) through two residential properties (grey areas) along with walls (brown lines) and hedges (green lines).




An alternative rendering of this same area, as shown below, might highlight the gates (orange dots) and stiles (red=step and blue=squeeze). OSM provides the opportunity to produce maps that identify footpaths that have easier access (gates only) for those with disabilities.



Modern “maps” such as OSM are actually a large database of geographical data. An example of such data might be a map feature that is represented by a line. The line will be made up of a series of points (latitude and longitude) to identify its position. It will also have tags to identify the feature it represents. These could be for a river, cliff, footpath or motorway for example. To produce a pictorial map, a program called a “renderer” uses this data to draw the position of the line and give it a style (colour, width, texture etc.) according to the tags it has been given. This translation between tags and how they are rendered is essentially the traditional map key.



Maps can be a simple image; web-based “slippy” map, Garmin , Android or iOS navigation map, to give just a few examples. OSM’s main website, [www.openstreetmap.org.uk](http://www.openstreetmap.org.uk) is the principle example of a web-based “slippy” map. If you click on the layers button  you can select different versions of the rendering. Another website, for those interested in long distance walking and biking routes is [www.waymarkedtrails.org](http://www.waymarkedtrails.org) This highlights the routes and provides information about their distance and elevation profile.


OSM has a set of tags for rock climbing. You can identify the position of the climb on a crag/cliff and add information such as the grade, length, type of rock, whether it is bolted etc. An example of how this can be displayed is provided by this link. <https://tsac.climbing.nl/map?layers=4> There isn’t much data in the Peak District yet but you will find climbs mapped on the Gower coastline as shown in the extract below:



OSM provides the opportunity to produce detailed maps of access paths to climbing routes, full details of the routes and the location of the nearest cafe or pub!

The above are examples of how OSM can potentially be used to provide different maps. Progress continues to be made in improving the OSM “map” of the Peak District National Park. Its uses are expanding as the dataset improves. Derbyshire County Council now uses it as the background for its public rights of way definitive map

If you want a specific map for a publication, or some other use, it is well worth taking a look at OSM. It is relatively easy to produce you own maps with the rendering you would like and you are free to publish these maps provided you make a simple copyright acknowledgement.

If the map data isn’t there or isn’t as detailed as you need there is the freedom and tools to improve the data to produce the map you may require. Helping to improve the map can be as simple as leaving a note  on the main OSM website. If you want to participate more, the OSM website has several resources to help people contribute. Just click on the “Help” button.





## Hill Walking in The Peak Area

By Cath Lee

Joint BMC Peak Area Hill  
Walking Representative



Through the summer months I hope that the hill walkers amongst you have managed to get out to enjoy the hills and moorlands of the Peak District. It would seem a good idea to consider some sort of BMC walking orientated event or get together here in the Peak District before too long. Such an occasion would allow individual and club BMC members locally, with an interest in hill walking, to meet others with the intention of forging links for further outings of their own and also to try to identify issues of mutual interest and concern that the Peak Area might be able to pick up and focus on in the future. Such an occasion might also offer an opportunity for those BMC affiliated clubs in our area, who have an active hill walking arm to plan activities, to canvas for new members or promote their own walks too? Peter and I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in such an event so do please get in touch either by coming to talk to us at the next area meeting or by email.

We're lucky to have such stunning landscapes on our doorstep, and although the moorlands and gritstone edges of the Dark Peak area are a firm favourite with hill walkers, the White Peak also has some interesting hills to offer. Chrome and Parkhouse hills, south of Buxton for example are well worth a visit with their ridges and fabulous views. Chrome hill is known locally as 'The Sleeping Dragon' because it resembles a dragon's back with a ridge along the top. Parkhouse hill offers the opportunity for some easy scrambling that is well within the scope of most

hill walkers. Both are Access Land and can be reached by permissive footpaths over farmland.

August and September are my favourite months for hill walking in the Dark Peak because of the beautiful heather flowering on the moorlands. Did you know that there are three types of heather in the Peak District? The most common is Ling Heather and that is what gives the moors the appearance of being carpeted in purple in mid to late August and early September. Very rarely you will come across white Ling Heather and this year I've been lucky enough to spot some in three different locations around the Peak District.



The second variety is Bell Heather which has a longer flowering period and has larger, slightly deeper coloured flowers...







... and the third variety which is the least common is Cross Leaved Heather. This likes wet boggy places and has pretty pink flowers.



Peter Judd and I continue to represent the Peak Area on the national BMC Hill Walking Working group. Good progress has already been made by the group in making membership of the BMC more attractive to hill walkers, and we will be continuing with that work over the coming months.

If you haven't looked recently I'd strongly recommend that you check out the walking section on the [BMC TV](#) website. There are now some fabulous little videos on there, specifically for hill walkers with a whole series dedicated to 'Britain's Mountain Challenges' plus videos with hints and tips about scrambling and advice on walking gear and kit.

## Stick up for Stanage

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For more information  
[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/stickupforstanage](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/stickupforstanage)





## Craig Harwood Climber, fell-runner, architect (1961-2014)



*Craig at the 2010 BMC International Meet. By Peter Sterling*

Join us in a tribute evening to the memory of Craig Harwood who was tragically killed in a climbing accident last September. The evening will take place at the Don Whillans Memorial Hut (DWMH) at the Roaches, starting at 6.30pm on **Wednesday 16 September 2015**.

Craig was a member and office holder of the Climber's Club since 1993 and a BMC activist for many years. As Chair of the BMC Huts Committee, he was actively involved in the management of the DWMH and was instrumental in bringing about the recent significant investment in hut facilities, including the new wash-room.

As a permanent memorial to Craig, the BMC has agreed to a further investment in remodelling and extending the patio area to the front of the hut. Planning permission for this has been obtained from the Peak Park and the work is currently being completed by volunteers and local contractors. A memorial plaque will be unveiled at the event. On the evening there should be plenty of opportunities for those who wish to reacquaint themselves with the Roaches classics, many of which were particular favourites of Craig. Refreshments will be provided, though you may wish to finish the evening in Ye Olde Rock for chips and a pint or two in Craig's memory.

We have closed the hut to normal bookings so can make available 12 free places for those who wish to stay over. These will be allocated on a first come first served basis – please contact the Hut Warden.

Looking forward to meeting you on 16 September.

Mike Battye  
BMC DWMH Warden  
[mikebattye@hotmail.com](mailto:mikebattye@hotmail.com)

Don Whillans Memorial Hut on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/donwhillanshut](http://www.facebook.com/donwhillanshut)

A tribute to Craig Harwood:  
[www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-volunteer-craig-harwood-accident-tribute](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-volunteer-craig-harwood-accident-tribute)





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



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[northlees.campsite@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:northlees.campsite@peakdistrict.gov.uk)



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

Access Reps Co-ordinator, Henry Folkard:

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