



Burbage South Quarry.
Photo: John Coefield.

PEAK AREA NEWSLETTER



May 2018
peakarea@gmail.com

Rocking Chair

Rob Greenwood



This meeting feels like it's come around quite quickly, but there's been a lot going on in the lead-up to next month's AGM (which takes place at the Castle Green Hotel in Kendal, on Saturday 16 June) so it is actually quite timely.

My personal aim for the meeting is to distil the choices down into as plain and simple terms as possible. At the last meeting and online since there has been a lot of discussion of the fine details, much of which has gone over my head, so by starting from a point of simplicity we can hopefully build the debate around it. I'm happy to get

complex, but let's make sure everyone understands the basics first, because - lest we forget - the vote at the AGM will have a major impact on the structure and operations of the organisation as a whole.

On a somewhat more celebratory note, our very own Lynn Robinson has decided she is no longer content with simply being Vice President and has - alongside the NW Area's Les Ainsworth - been nominated for the role of President (pending a successful vote at the AGM). No doubt we'll hear more about her manifesto at the meeting, but suffice to say the area will be fully behind her.

Next meeting: Wednesday 23 May, 7.30 p.m.
The Maynard, Grindelford, S32 2HE



Mickleden Edge and Midhope Moor.
Photo: John Coefield.

Access News

Henry Folkard



Newsletter deadlines seem to be coming thick and fast this year. Still, it's good to remember that with all the kerfuffle of the organisational review going on, the bread and butter work of sorting out access issues for climbers and walkers carries on, often quietly.

Something that is key in resolving many access problems, and to identifying where improvements to the access infrastructure are desirable, is the **Local Access Forum**. Representation on the LAF is determined by members having a general interest in safeguarding and improving access for people who enjoy the countryside, and also for people who live and work in the countryside, rather than acting as champions of any particular activity. Yet it is good to have people who also have more detailed knowledge of particular activities, and what is important to those who enjoy them. I have

been a member of the LAF for a few years now and am standing down when my current appointment ends in August – though my last meeting will be in June. It would be good to retain on the LAF someone with a more specialist knowledge of what matters particularly to BMC hill walking and climbing members. Anyone interested should get in touch with the secretary to the forum, Mike Rhodes, at Aldern House, the national park offices in Bakewell. Appointments to the forum are for two or three-year periods, but these may be renewed, and are through interview by the National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council. There are four meetings a year. Additionally there are sub-groups on access and on green lanes which forum members can attend if they wish. The sub-groups normally make site visits, with officers, before putting their recommendations on particular issues to the full forum.

Here in the Peak we are blessed with an excellent team of national park officers who work on access, though we do lament a recent decrease, and change in job

description, in the ranger service, which has been, for those of us who are out and about, the public face of the Authority, and has given exceptional service to us and to the public.

On **green lanes**, tracks and roads, current concerns relate to several moorland ways, for example, behind Crow Chin, on the Derwent Moors and across Midhope Moor, reports of illegal use on Chapel Gate, Beet Lane and Abney Moor and, in the White Peak, at Minginglow (where what was a very pleasant and very green lane is now severely rutted). If you notice illegal use when you are out and about it should be reported to the police. They can't be everywhere all the time, and can't react to something they may not know about unless it is reported.

The matter of the plastic matting across **Midhope Moor**, laid without planning permission but with the acquiescence of Natural England, and to which the BMC plus a substantial number of other organisations and individuals has objected, is shortly to be determined by the planning authority (a process that is taking its time).

The cumulative impact of treating the moors as fair game for making tracks is self-evidently detrimental. The landscape impact, our enjoyment of open country and impact on any wildlife that has not been shot dead on the Derwent Moors is substantial. That concern extends to proposals regarding the **A628 Woodhead** road which will again carve a barrier across what was once treasured as a wide-open landscape. It says something about society's current values that what was once regarded as a special landscape, giving huge benefits for open-air recreation, and adventure, and was deemed so special it commanded the creation of a national park, is now being progressively denigrated. It is perfectly true there is a major traffic problem around Mottram and Tintwistle, and for the villages east of Woodhead, but treating a national park as a

short-term sacrificial offering won't solve the problem long term, and will destroy something irreplaceable.

The **Ravensdale** restriction, which affects both climbers and walkers, is likely to remain until the end of May, even though at the time of writing raven young have fledged and peregrines have yet to nest. It increasingly becomes less and less likely that they will this late in the year. There are reports of peregrine present in the area, but whether these reports refer to a single bird, or a pair, or whether there is a nest elsewhere with the territory, remains unknown.

What we do know is that last year, when peregrine nested there for the first time in living memory, and there was a voluntary restriction, young were successfully fledged, while this year, when a draconian compulsory restriction was imposed, they have yet to nest at all. The BMC is happy to do all it can to help the birds breed successfully, and does so elsewhere in the Peak and the country, especially in the Lakes and Wales. It's not as though the draconian measures can be explained by any failure last year, as last year was a success. The logic of this year's imposition by Natural England – the same organisation that was happy to see the plastic matting on Midhope Moor and is supposed to have a statutory remit in respect of access – beggars the mind. Their attempt to hide behind the national park authority and say it is they who have imposed the restriction is disingenuous and utterly unprofessional.

Access rep Adam Long, ornithologist Kim Leyland and I attended a meeting at our head office in Manchester, hosted by BMC access officers Rob Dyer and Cath Flitcroft, and with access reps from Wales and Yorkshire there too, to review the position and determine future action, which will be to first formalise our policy position, and then seek to secure general agreement for

our evidence-based approach, as things affect both climbers and walkers. Rob and I were subsequently called to a meeting at the national park authority to review the situation in the Peak, at which we suggested climbers and walkers should be seen as part of the solution to the problem of raptor persecution in the Dark Peak, and theft of eggs and chicks from nests in the White Peak. Unfortunately Natural England, who were also invited to the meeting, and offered an alternative date after they said they could not attend on the original date, were not there either for the re-convened meeting.

It seems clear that Natural England is either neglecting, or is not interested in, its responsibilities on access. Perhaps the funding it receives for that purpose should be directed elsewhere. Certainly the BMC position is that responsible access goes hand in hand with an understanding of conservation issues, and that the two must not be perceived as mutually exclusive. Efforts should surely be better directed where there is a proven correlation between raptor persecution and grouse moor management. How sanctioning of completely unnecessary green matting track to enable faster motorised access to grouse moors (the track ends at some shooting butts) helps in this objective defies comprehension.

At **Masson Lees**, Matlock area access rep Ian Milward reports no new developments at the time of writing, and enquiries he has made should allow him to pick up on any substantial proposals that might be made in the future.

Elsewhere problems at **West Nab** continue to evade resolution. It is possible to argue access on foot – the right under CROW – is not affected. It's just that you can't get there, except as part of a very long walk, to get on to your feet to enjoy the access, and the superlative bouldering. Some problems have also emerged at **Running Hill Pits**, and these are being investigated.

The BMC has supported an application for funding from the National Trust for creating a small welcome building in the main car park at **Longshaw**. This should be particularly useful for walkers who don't know the area and want to explore it, as well as for mountain bikers and lots of other people. The intention is to have IT links in the small building which would also enable visiting climbers to link to RAD to check on crag locations (if they need to) and any current access restrictions or sensitivities.

The **Spirit of Kinder** event last month in Manchester was well attended. Kate Ashbrook reminded us of the Lost Ways project. The 2026 deadline for registering any lost ways – ways where you believe there to be an ancient but forgotten right of access – is approaching. If you want to know more about this, please do ask me at the meeting.

Next year is 70 years on from the **1949 Act** which gave us national parks. Outline ideas are being considered for repeating the major access rallies in Winnats Pass which preceded the Act, and which were attended by leading political figures – and 10,000 outdoor enthusiasts. Watch this space.

If you are on the **Eastern Moors** this summer, remember there are adders about, though not often seen. They are actually more of a problem for dogs. Also, on the moors and elsewhere (including a London park), **Lyme disease** is increasing. Once rare, it now affects around 3,000 people a year. The chief carriers are castor bean and blacklegged ticks, though not all will carry the bacterial infection. Worth checking, particularly in the folds in your skin, after you have been out, or seeing your doctor if you develop headaches or fevers, or see a ring, or bull's-eye-shaped rash. If the rash goes away it does not mean the infection has gone. See your doctor! More information: www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk and www.bigtickproject.co.uk



Mark on top of El Cap having done *The Nose*.
Photo: Vallance collection.

Mark Vallance, 1945-2018

Former BMC president and local climber Mark Vallance sadly died a few weeks ago. Mark had a huge impact on international, national and local climbing and was a regular at the area meetings for years. He will be greatly missed by many. Here, Jon Barton remembers Mark:

'You know what, I never climbed with Mark, and I've paused somewhat in my writing just now as I can't actually believe I haven't. I'm searching my memory, but no, I can't ever recall climbing with him. Yet, of course I have; many times. My first time was when aged 16 I bought my first Friend – rigid stem, black tape sling, passport to extremes. Then again when using Rocks – solid Rock four, never leaving the ground without a double set. Or the Quasar tent, camping in the Highlands in really quite obscene winds, only Wild Country tents surviving the night. Or British Mountain Maps; Mark shook up map

making in this country. Or the Foundry. Or Outside. Mark never stopped pushing what he thought could be done. Other climbers put up great climbs, some wrote guidebooks, others sold us hardware, but Mark *changed* climbing, and always changed it for the better.'



Tom Briggs on *Nightlight* at The C.
Photo: Dave Parry.

Climbing News & Gossip

Dave Parry

I write this while immobile, suffering from a meat-induced BBQ coma after the hot weather over the May Day bank holiday weekend (hashtag: athlete).

Hottest bank holiday since the Jurassic era apparently. Despite still needing a down jacket at the crag only a week ago we are now lifted aloft by unpredictable weather, spun around in the air and deposited unceremoniously far away into limestone country, making a hard landing, crushing your dreams of a productive spring gritstone season dead beneath your feet like the Wicked Witch in a vivid technicolor nightmare scenario. At this point I realise I've overstretched myself with this whole Wizard of Oz metaphor, I don't know where I was hoping to go with this so I'm going to bail out right now and get on to the actual news. Compared to last issue our news cup well and truly runneth over, so let's get straight to business with no further ado, cut to the chase, waste no further time with clichés or overly long sentences which promise much but under-deliver and never seem to reach a satisfactory conclusion or make the effort of writing them – and hence reading them – worthwhile.

First up, taking top spot alphabetically if not aesthetically, is Sheffield's ground-zero for shady golf-course-adjacent bouldering, Bell Hagg. News is incoming from Joe Harding of a few more new problems in the broken band of crag east of the usual approach path from the golf course. Of course when you're dealing with quality lines you can never be sure that some other prospector hasn't mopped them up already, but let's work on the assumption that they are new. These lines shun modern elitism being at grades between Font 3 and 5, so something for everyone there. Names and

details/topos on UKB. On the subject of Bell Hagg I was driving out of town on the A57 recently and noted a car parked at the old Bell Hagg Inn beneath the crag (now a residential property) with the number plate BEI I HAG. If anyone has spotted a better crag-related number plate then I'd like to hear about it.

Segueing north-east in a vaguely wordsmith-related theme special mention must go once again to Jon Fullwood, who not only keeps the pun name flag flying high as usual but also seems to be almost single-handedly dragging Wharnccliffe through something of a second bouldering renaissance (its first being in the early 2000s, also at the hands of Jon). Quality lines keep popping up with not even a hint of a *My Friend-Of-The-Family The Tomato Because Technically Tomatoes Are Fruit*. Top of the wordplay pile by a comfortable margin is Jon's 7a arete problem *The 87 Bus*, named because ... wait for it ... it goes from low edges to high green. Buy that man a drink. Right of this is a 7c called *Casu Marzu* (which is a type of Sardinian cheese with live maggots in it, as if you didn't know) which looks very good – video on Jon's Instagram feed. Right again is an arête by the name of *Epic Cheeseboard*, first ascent by Jon's young son, Spike. Certainly the youngest first ascent I've reported on, although it remains to be seen if the Peak has enough rock left to sustain two generations of Fullwood esoteric first ascent aficionados. Lock up your projects.

Also at Wharnccliffe, Jon has a couple of new things on a flat slab/wall at the Upper Tier again, a unique-looking block with serpent-like features on it. So naturally the problem up the face is called *Snakes On A Plain* (6c) with the right arête being *Half A Christmas Tree* at Font 5. Also nearby at the Cascade area there is *Oh What A Feeling* (7b+), a lowball roof – or ceiling, if you will –

you may wish to dance across. And returning to the site of his early-2000s development wave Jon has brought things full circle by adding a 7b+ sit-start to his already excellent *Curvaceous*.

Moving from the lowball to the highball, Dave Mason has repeated, above pads, the one-time state-of-the-art super-route *The Screaming Dream* at Froggatt. Dave apparently took the lob from the top move on his way; good effort Dave. I must admit personally I struggle to see the logic in highballing this one, since there's good gear all the way up it (unlike neighbouring *Renegade Master*) but you know, kids today etc. Taking that kind of ground fall could easily hurt your back once again. The highball grade of this is Font 8a in case you've got more balls than rack (and sense).

Turning our attentions to the limestone, Ash Wolsey-Heard, aka 'Lurch', has repeated Steve Mac's Font 8b heel-hooking extravaganza *Fat Lip* at Raven Tor. Also in the cave area pint-sized powerhouse Andy Burgess repeated *Keen Roof*, bringing to an end his year-long mega-siege of this coveted line. We should also report that the limestone has officially been called, which is handy since the temperatures have already reached mid-July levels.

Also on limestone, South Yorkshire's foremost 8c wad and Dolph Lundgren-doppelganger Mike Adams has added a few harder problems to a few of the venues listed in Marc Bellingal's handy Esoteric Bouldering Companion site: **esotericboulderingcompanion.weebly.com** First up, *Invocation* is a 7c+ sit-start right of *Chapel Of Ease* at Shining Cliff (not that one, the other one). There's a clip of this on Mike's Vimeo account somewhere if you fancy it. The crag directions are on the above website and in the new BMC *Peak Limestone South* guide (available from all good bookshops). Secondly, Mike did a new

unnamed 7c at The P (aka the Pic Tor bouldering buttress), the wall just left of *Flint Eastwood* apparently climbed in mistake for that problem. If you've not been to this crag there's quite a lot to go at in the 6s and low-to-mid 7s; worth a look this summer as it tends to stay dry in the rain and faces roughly north-west so is usually shady. Short walk-in too.

Finally, another ungoogleable (try it) but useful venue – especially in the heat of summer – is The C (aka The Chasms) at the top of High Tor. These odd slots in the ground/gullies/caves give a unique venue, and one which if the hot May Day weekend is anything to go by should offer a pretty good escape from the heat. Mike has added a 7c sit start to *Hector*, although it was wet when I checked it out. Again there is a video of this lurking on Mike's Vimeo account somewhere. Also at this crag is a 7c by Robin Nichols at the far end of the main wall. If anyone can suss out where this goes or what it does let me know as I couldn't fathom it.

Last but not least Ned Feehally of recent attempted-accidental-self-fingertip-amputation fame reports that he's repeated Mike's *Serenation* at Impossible Roof over near Roche Abbey. Only Font 8c, nothing to see here, move along people. Ned has also given *Boyager* at Burbage North a similar treatment to *Moss Side Story* on the Mossatrocious block (see the April 2018 newsletter), bisecting the roof from the right-hand block and finishing up the left wall via a pocket and toe hooks at a more amenable 7c+.

See you in September by which time I will be utterly sick of failing on the same handful of limestone problems that I've been failing on for the last decade. JOIN ME.

Get in touch

Send your Peak area news, gossip or article ideas to me at: **peakarea@gmail.com**



John Coefield on *Parklife* at The P.
Photo: Dave Parry



Cloud inversion in Longdendale.
Photo: John Coefield.

Trans-Pennine Corridor

Anne Robinson, Friends of the Peak District

History repeats itself. Almost 50 years ago the Peak District National Park was threatened with a motorway through Longdendale. Today it is facing the same threat. The recently proposed trans-Pennine dual carriageway, which would have passed under the entire national park through a tunnel at least 12 miles long, has been abandoned. Although feasible, at a cost of between £8-12bn, it proved poor value for money.

Instead, the powers that be are pursuing major upgrades to the A628 Woodhead Pass with a five to six-mile tunnel under the most challenging terrain. The route would be widened into an expressway, a two or three-lane dual carriageway, which could ultimately be designated a motorway connecting the M67 and M1. As 12 miles of this new road would lie within the park, with substantial lengths within its setting, it would inflict severe harm on Longdendale and its moors.

Some seem to believe that Longdendale is already disfigured by reservoirs, a 400kV overhead power line, a disused railway track bed and the existing A628. A motorway couldn't make it much worse. How wrong they are. In the 1940s when the National Parks Commission was considering the boundary of the park it found Longdendale to have such natural beauty that it was worthy of inclusion despite the reservoirs, the road and the then-functioning railway. The transmission line was erected after the park was designated, against the wishes of the Commission and the Peak Park Planning Board, but not without the substantial penalty of undergrounding three miles at additional cost, solely in order to preserve the high moorland between Dunford Bridge and Woodhead.

However, a new dual carriageway would create far greater impacts than the pylons. We are promised an exemplar scheme that is 'sensitive to sustainability considerations', but a new road, even partially in a tunnel, through its construction and use by traffic, would destroy

habitats and tranquillity, increase carbon emissions, air light and noise pollution, and add new intrusions on these beautiful landscapes. Yet it is here the National Park Authority with its partners such as Moors for the Future, United Utilities and National Grid, has invested millions of pounds in enhancing scenic beauty and removing eyesores.

Internationally important peat bogs are being re-wetted and woodlands created in order to restore the carbon sump and help reduce the impact of climate change. More traffic emitting pollutants and carbon will undo all this good work. Carving up the landscape into a series of dual-carriageway-bounded lozenges is in stark contrast to the Lawton principle of 'More, Bigger, Better, Joined Up' for wildlife and to the Government's 25-year Environment Plan to enhance natural beauty. National Grid is progressing plans to underground the overhead line east of Dunford and remove the pylons, and the hope is that the line west of the Woodhead tunnels would be removed in the next price control period.

And what of recreation? Three national trails cross the A628 – the Pennine Way, the Trans Pennine Trail and the Pennine Bridleway, along with other locally important footpaths. The noise and sight of cars and lorries thundering above or below the crossings that would be required would further mar an experience that is already blighted in the vicinity of the road. But it is not only near the road that traffic noise spoils tranquillity. Longendale is mostly open access land where one should be able to find peace and quiet, but north of Crowden towards Black Hill and descending Bleaklow's northern slopes the sight and sound of curlew, snipe and ring ouzel is found against the backdrop of moving vehicles and noisy engines.

We are acutely aware of the traffic conditions endured by the local communities. However, the majority is local traffic created by the communities themselves. Moving through-

traffic off the doorsteps of Tintwistle and Hollingworth would unleash suppressed demand for road space. Longstanding research repeated regularly over nearly 90 years tells us traffic would quickly re-fill the space and restore the existing condition, at the cost of destroying the outstanding countryside equally on the doorstep of residents. And what about communities at Crowden and Langsett through which a dual carriageway would pass?

Already the first step in this 'motorway by stealth' is developing – the dual carriageway bypass of Mottram and a new link from this to the A57 at Woolley Bridge in Glossop. It threatens to increase traffic on many roads, including those across the park, and will provide the ammunition for those wanting a motorway. Such an approach is simply not acceptable for a national park and conflicts with all national and local policy.

Local authorities, national government and the business community are locked into a highly car-dependent development model, in which road building just generates more traffic, which creates demand for more road building. It's not the answer. It will not magically unlock economic potential. It will just dump more cars in more traffic jams and harm more people's health and wellbeing.

Instead, decision makers should aim for a swift end to the traffic conditions at Mottram, Hollingworth, Tintwistle, Crowden, Langsett and Glossop. Reduction of the impact of existing traffic on people, the environment and the economy through demand management of road capacity and investment in active travel, public transport and rail freight should be the order of the day. These measures should be seen to fail before any concrete is laid. In London, where there is no room to build a new dual carriageway, no new road has been constructed in 20 years. Alternative solutions have had to be found. Let us do the same and not squander the first jewel in the national park crown simply because we have the space.



Quagmire in the Edale valley.
Photo: Peter Judd.

Hill Walking News

Peter Judd and Austin Knott

We may seek more access rights, but we should also accept greater responsibility.

Both of your Area Hill Walking Representatives joined Henry Folkard in attending this year's Spirit of Kinder event in Manchester last month. It celebrates the famous 1930s mass trespass from Hayfield and the disproportionate jail sentences doled out to activists that led to this becoming one of the great landmark events on the journey to the improved access we benefit from today.

Kate Ashbrook (of the Open Spaces Society and still heavily involved with the Ramblers) spoke at this year's event. Kate reminded us that our present position, including the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000's considerable improvements, should not be seen as the end of the journey. Here in England we have nowhere near the level of access opportunities that

are available in Scotland, for example.

So there is still much to strive for, not least the need to establish pathways through to presently inaccessible or difficult to reach areas of CRoW access land. Take our own Lose Hill. While the summit area and much of the sides are already designated access land under CRoW, the absence of any right of way through the farmland at the hill's base on its northern and north-eastern sides makes much of it of little value to walkers. Wouldn't it be great to be able to descend all the way down from the summit to Edale End, opening up all sorts of link-up possibilities?

Earlier this year the government published its '25-year plan to improve the environment'. This included statements such as, 'We will conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment, and make sure it can be enjoyed, used by and cared for by everyone', and spoke further about the importance of providing people with 'high quality, accessible, natural spaces'. Also in February, Michael Gove, present

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, spoke about replacing the Common Agricultural Policy payment system (where payments are linked to little more than the area of land farmed) with one where farmers are paid 'public money for public goods'. One such 'good' was given as 'providing public access to farmland and the countryside'. Maybe there are grounds for hope that future systems of subsidy might yet reward those who take good care of our uplands and offer enhanced access too? I'm pleased to say our BMC Access Officer, Dr Cath Flitcroft, is presently working very hard, in concert with umbrella organisations like Wildlife and Countryside Link, to exert a positive influence on current government thinking on our behalf.

This past winter I was starkly reminded of one of the reasons landowners might well resist any such hopes. In early April I walked along the very popular section of the Pennine Way from Grindsbrook Booth to Upper Booth. After recent snows you'll remember ground conditions in the Peak were dreadful, with waterlogged ground everywhere, so we struggled along slippery field paths. What should have been just a thin path line, wide enough for just two people to pass, had become a tens-of-metres-wide quagmire of muddy footprints ruining much of the remaining grass in the field (itself much-needed fodder for sheep being wintered there) as people, us included, tried to avoid the worst areas. What was I doing, knowing full well how bad conditions were, adding to the damage by persisting with a long-scheduled walk when I was clearly doing more harm than good? Did my legal right to pass this way trump my moral obligation to take responsibility for my impact? Why should farmers be willing to tolerate more access when we walkers (and I count myself as being just as guilty as anyone of this) sometimes fail to

adapt our walk route choices to take account of prevailing conditions?

Hopefully most walkers have more sense than I did that day! We may seek more access, but shouldn't we also strive with equal determination to be more responsible and considerate users of the outdoors too?

Great Ridge Light Night: A Peak District spectacular!

Did you manage to secure a place to take part in the Peak District's biggest event in support of the BMC's Mend Our Mountains campaign? The BMC team organising this torchlight event (scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 22 May) were absolutely astounded by the size of the response once the event was publicised online, all places being taken within just a few days. So if you missed out, you are not alone! This event, which promises to be a quite extraordinary spectacular, is now being run in partnership with the Camping and Caravanning Club and has outdoor TV presenter Julia Bradbury as a leading participant, so that should lead to major media coverage for our campaign. Your local Area Hill Walking Reps are very glad indeed that we're no longer responsible for organising this one, but we're very much looking forward to giving a helping hand as marshals on the night. Maybe see you there?



The White Peak ranger team review progress on the woodland management project. Photo: National Trust.

National Trust Update: May 2018

Luke Barley

In the High Peak, the restoration project on the moors has continued despite us losing almost a month of work due to the various snowstorms!

We've installed around 700 dams to block gullies and cut 30 hectares of heather to improve vegetation diversity. We've also applied sphagnum to the cut areas as well as to a further 20 uncut hectares as part of innovative work to restore these key bog-building species. (For comparison, a football pitch is about two thirds of a hectare – it's a lot of moorland!) The project work will take a break during spring and early summer to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds; you can help with this as well as ensuring the safety of lambs by keeping your dog on a lead or under close, effective control.

The aim of all this work is to restore good ecological condition to the moors as well as slowing the flow of water and

improving carbon sequestration (all as covered previously), but another benefit will be that, as the restored areas are wetter and less dominated by heather, they should be less susceptible to fire. On that note, as you're all aware fire is a huge risk on the moors in summer; we know we're preaching to the converted here but please don't have barbecues or fires on the moors, and let us and the fire service know immediately about any potential wildfire you may see while you're out and about – we really appreciate the help of our visitors in spotting these issues.

Rangers and volunteers have also been out fixing snow-damaged fences around the tree planting areas in the cloughs to make sure we keep sheep out. In the summer we will be looking at managing the tall dense bracken beds around newly planted young trees to allow them to get away.

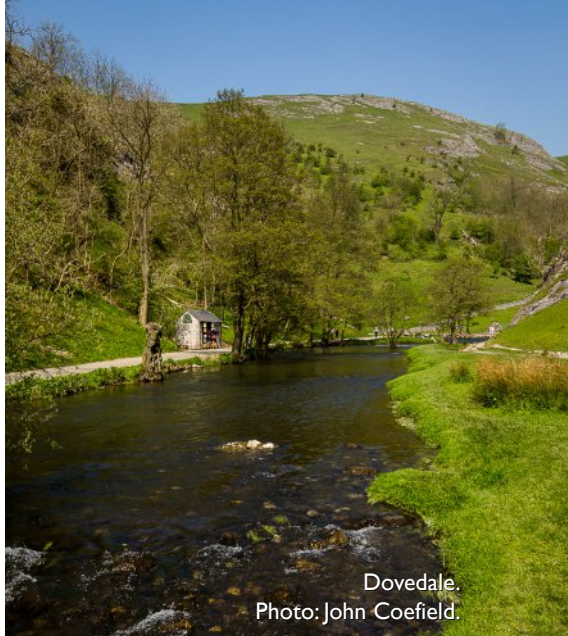
The White Peak rangers are all as fit as they've ever been after delivering the first winter of our woodland management project in response to ash dieback. We cut a dozen 'coupes' or clearings in the steep, ash-dominated ravine woodlands; this should allow local tree species other than ash to regenerate. We're also scoping out a planting project to supplement the natural regeneration and ensure the woods are more diverse in future, and we've launched a 'Peak District Woodland Appeal' to help fund this; visit our web pages for more details:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/peakdistrictappeal

There really isn't a better time of year to get into the White Peak woods and see the extraordinary range of wild flowers and ferns amongst the limestone crags as the trees slowly emerge into leaf. This summer should also see the next phase of our partnership project to re-naturalise the River Dove in Dovedale, with a handful more weirs breached by fishing clubs and the Wild Trout Trust. A more naturally flowing river is better for riverflies (key indicators of river health) as well as brown trout and other fish, and should also look 'wilder' and be more appealing for visitors.

At Ilam Park we've had a couple of setbacks including a landslip above the boil holes; we're working hard to get this path open before the height of summer, although the state of the hillside means we need specialist contractors and surveyors. On a more positive note the Inspirational Ilam project continues, with the development of plans well underway for conserving biodiversity and heritage, and for providing a brilliant visitor offer. Look out for consultations on these ideas over the next few months.

Spring at Longshaw means the start of monitoring season, and we've been out looking for adders on the moors and



Dovedale.
Photo: John Coefield.

grasslands, and keeping tabs on how many pied flycatchers use the nest boxes in the woods (as well as lots of other bird surveys). It's vital that we monitor the species we're trying to help so that we can adjust our management to ensure we achieve what we want – more for nature! Keen-eyed observers to Bole Hill Quarry and the rest of Greenwood Farm (between Padley and Hathersage) will have noticed that the sheep have gone and a small number of cattle have arrived. A change in tenancy has allowed us to pursue a more extensive grazing regime that should see rougher, more diverse grassland that will be better for flowers, invertebrates, birds and bats.

For more information about the National Trust's work in the Peak District, please email: **peakdistrict@nationaltrust.org.uk**

Peak Area Meetings

2018

23 May, 7.30 p.m.
The Maynard, Grindleford

5 September, 7.30 p.m.
The Maynard, Grindleford

21 November, 7.30 p.m.
The Maynard, Grindleford

Forthcoming Events

<http://community.thebmc.co.uk/peak>

BMC Mountain Medicine Weekend 9-10 June

Outside, Hathersage

Now in its third year, the BMC Mountain Medicine Weekend returns to Hathersage on 9 and 10 June 2018. Find out more:
www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-mountain-medicine-weekend-2018

Joss Naylor and Steve Chilton, Buxton Adventure Festival

19 June, 7.30 p.m.

Pavilion Arts Centre, Buxton

Fell running legend Joss Naylor and acclaimed author Steve Chilton are the latest speakers at BAF.

www.buxtonadventurefestival.co.uk

Cliffhanger and the British Bouldering Championships

6-8 July

Sheffield City Centre

Back once again ... will Leah Crane and Tyler Landman retain their crowns?

www.theoutdoorcity.co.uk/cliffhanger

BMC Peak Area Contacts

Peak Area Chair: Rob Greenwood.
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Secretary: Becky Hammond.
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Peak Area Reps (your voice on the BMC National Council):
David Brown and Alison Cairns.
<http://community.thebmc.co.uk/peak>

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Next meeting: Wednesday 23 May, 7.30 p.m.
The Maynard, Grindleford, S32 2HE