For everyone who loves the Peak District

Peakland guardian Spring and Summer 2016

Also protecting the landscapes of South Yorkshire



Friends of the Peak District

This issue...

From the President	2
Exciting plans for Peak District geopark	4
Backdale Quarry update	6
Neighbourhood planning workshop	6
Saga in the Green Belt	7
New Business Friends	8
Trans-Pennine tunnel	9
Last call for Clarion Ramblers	10
Forgotten heroes?	10
Housing and Planning Bill	11
The Big Conversation	12
Take Back the Tracks on Derby Lane	12
Fracking	13
Our Green Belts	14
Why I volunteer	16
A special AGM	16
Undergrounding at Dunford Bridge	17
Washgates	18
Take the Lead	18
8 point plan for national parks	19
Absent friends	20
Events	21
Book corner	22

Friends of the Peak District is an independent charity working to protect and enhance the unique landscapes of the Peak District for future generations. Friends of the Peak District represents the Campaign to Protect Rural England in the Peak District, and is the national park society for the Peak District.

CPRE South Yorkshire - Our aim is to promote the beauty, tranquility and diversity of South Yorkshire's countryside for everyone to enjoy now and in the future. We campaign for green spaces unspoilt by development, environmentally friendly farming and forestry, and thriving villages and attractive towns, connected by excellent public transport.

Registered charity number: 1094975 Registered company number: 4496754

Cover picture: Spring Blossom ©Julie Gough **Back page picture:** Wardlow to Cressbrook Dale by Bill Bennett

Designed and produced by TMgraphics timmackey@live.com A: Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF T: 0114 279 2655

E: info@friendsofthepeak.org.uk W: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk There's nothing like spring to make me want to shake off the lassitude of winter and head for the hills. And if those hills are the Peak District's, the experience is even more of a delight. Living in Cambridge, which I now do for the majority of the year, I yearn for the Peak District's multi-layered horizons, secret valleys, ever-changing views and stunning edges. It means a lot to be your president and to have an additional reason to remind myself of the Peak District's beauty.

As our first national park, the Peak District holds a treasured place in the nation's conservation story, in which I've immersed myself recently while writing my book *The Fight for Beauty*. The vision and bravery – even audacity - of the pioneers of the countryside protection movement, including the Friends of the Peak District's founder Ethel Gallimore (later Haythornthwaite), is humbling.

But as today's campaigners will attest, those same skills and dedication are as much needed today. We live in a world where we are so preoccupied with economic growth that we risk forgetting the importance of the heart-stopping beauty of an exceptional landscapes, the vital need to protect nature and the spiritual value of experiences that money can't buy. Our work will never end, and as we step out each spring with renewed gladness we are thankful for the work of our forebears and those who carry the flag for beauty today.

> Fiona Reynolds Friends of the Peak District President

Ladybower from Bamford Edge ©Tim Mackey



Exciting plans for Peak District geopark and geotrail

People visit the Peak District for many reasons; to admire the dramatic scenery, to appreciate the varied wildlife, to understand our industrial and mining heritage or to walk, cycle, cave and climb. All of these activities ultimately rely on the underlying geology, as does the modern economy based on agriculture, tourism and quarrying. Although the geology of the Peak District is easily accessible and understood, it has been somewhat neglected as a focus for tourism and public education. A group of us are looking to remedy this by proposing to establish a Peak District geopark.

A geopark is a unified area with geological heritage of international significance which promotes geo-conservation, geo-tourism and sustainable development. Geoparks are designated by the European Geopark Network, linked to UNESCO (www.europeangeoparks.org), but they are not well known in the UK, where there are only two in England (English Riviera and the North Pennines).

Clearly this is a very ambitious project for the Peak District and will take several years to implement fully. We have made a start by publishing a 'Geotourism Attractions in the Peak District' leaflet which signposts all that the area has to offer and which is available at most local tourist offices. Together with the English Geodiversity Forum and the Peak District National Park Authority we organised a Geotourism Conference held at Buxton in November 2015, attended by many local tourism providers and Friends of the Peak District.



Left: Dovedale is one of the few limestone dales with a river flowing through it. Elsewhere most of the surface drainage disappears underground into cave systems. Above: The Tissington Trail runs along a disused railway line that cuts through beds of limestone that contain fossils Below: The summit of Kinder Scout is a curious landscape, fashioned by erosion of a surface layer of peat to expose the underlying sandstones. Our next step is to create a Peak District geotrail, which will traverse the best geological and scenic areas. This will be a circular walk of about 100 miles linking the White and Dark Peak areas together with the eastern and western edges. We hope that this will promote a better feel for the coherence of the Peak District as a whole.

With the help of Friends of the Peak District, we have drafted a provisional route using only existing rights of way and divided into easy day walk segments. The geotrail essentially will be an 'inner loop' and complement the longer Friends of the Peak District Boundary Walk.

We are also planning feeder routes in from the local towns and railheads and a loop to cover the south-eastern area around Matlock and Wirksworth which is of particular geological interest. The University of Derby are helping us develop an impact assessment over the summer with a view to securing funding later on this year.

If you would like to get involved with the geotrail, the geopark or if you would just like further information, please email us at; PDgeotourism@gmail.com

Albert Benghiat and Martin Whiteley, University of Derby







In January 2016, the Friends of the Peak District took part in what we hope is the final public inquiry into Backdale Quarry. Although no guarrying has taken place since 2009, the National Park Authority (NPA) took advantage of a new law, put in place after lobbying by the Friends and CNP, that allows the planning permission to be torn up if the guarry owners don't comply with environmental requirements. This is called a 'prohibition order' and because the landowner objected to it, a public inquiry was held. After a two day hearing, including our evidence on why removing the permission was in the public interest, we hope the planning inspector will conclude that the order should be upheld and signed off by the secretary of state. Given that none of the NPA's or our evidence was challenged by the landowner, Bleaklow Industries, we think the result will go our way. If so, we will soon be able to celebrate the final chapter in our hard-fought campaign, which started in 2003. We also pay tribute to the efforts of the local community and other organisations, such as the BMC, who all worked with us to secure the right outcome.

Neighbourhood Planning Workshop, Bakewell

Just before Easter, a nationwide Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) funded roadshow, organised by CPRE and ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), came to Bakewell. It was led by Rural Action Derbyshire who are the main provider of consultancy and support for Neighbourhood Planning across Derbyshire and the Peak District.

Most of the 40 delegates arrived with at least a basic understanding of Neighbourhood Plans, and many of them were working on Plans in their own areas. There were presentations from Joe Dugdale of Rural Action Derbyshire, from our own planning officer, Andrew Wood, from Jonathan Green of DCLG, and from Brian Taylor of Peak District National Park Authority. The big message was that Neighbourhood Planning is here to stay: there are now 160 completed Plans across England, and 18% of the population now live within a Neighbourhood Plan area.

The panel discussion highlighted the need to distinguish between influencing your Local Plan and preparing your Neighbourhood Plan. If you want to shape the scale and distribution of housing and employment land in your area, or influence a green belt review, then you should focus on the Local Plan; whereas a Neighbourhood Plan has particular policies that only apply within your locality as long as they conform with wider planning policy. Rural Action Derbyshire are the experts on Neighbourhood Plans, while CPRE has an ongoing programme of workshops to help you influence your Local Plan.

Inspiring presentations by the Bakewell and Bradwell Neighbourhood Plan groups emphasised that the process of preparing a Plan can really help to galvanise the community around the issues they wish to address, and that there is much to be gained from sharing experiences between different Neighbourhood Plans. As the number of Plans across the country grows, the more likely it is that someone will already have addressed a very similar issue somewhere else.

Visit the website to view and share others' experiences of neighbourhood planning and how other local communities have shaped their areas www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk

For more information about our forthcoming community planning workshops, email andrew@ friendsofthepeak.org.uk **Saga in the Green Belt** Saga in the green belt outside Stannington, on the fringe The proposal for 88 houses in the green belt outside Stannington, on the fringe of the Peak District, continues to loom large in our planning work.

The site is one of two former Dyson Refractories works in the Sheffield green belt. Nothing has yet happened with the Baslow Road site outside Totley, but we objected strongly to the proposed scheme at Stopes Road, Stannington. We recognise the site needs re-using and accept that some residential development must feature in order to finance the clearing of the derelict buildings, but we had two points of principle. First, if a site in the green belt in open countryside, remote from the built-up area, is to become a new hamlet, it should only be decided through the Local Plan review, not on an isolated planning application. Second, a very visible site in an otherwise beautiful landscape demands imaginative, sympathetic architecture and genuine community participation in planning and design. Sadly, we lost on both counts, and in October 2015 permission was granted for a general, high volume housing estate to be built.

Our defeat in this case raised some grave concerns. In granting the application, Sheffield City Council interpreted national policy to mean that brownfield sites in the green belt could be re-developed without needing to demonstrate 'very special circumstances'. Sheffield has a number of large brownfield sites in the green belt, perhaps most worryingly the former Hepworth site in the Loxley Valley, where 500 homes were previously proposed, and the council has now seriously weakened its scope to refuse a future application of that kind. It also means that sensitive restoration of such a site, blending nature with industrial archaeology, so successfully achieved in the Rivelin Valley, will be much tougher to secure because the financial rewards to the landowner of a housing scheme may prove hard to resist. Furthermore, what will become of the half-mile of open countryside between Stannington and the Dyson site? It will come under increasing pressure for infill development and a redrawing of the green belt boundary. Increasingly, the site looks like a Trojan horse for worse threats in future.

Nevertheless, when the council granted planning permission they did secure an important concession from the developer: a \pounds 1.8m contribution to affordable housing in the area. This significantly weighed in the scheme's favour. So it came as a very nasty surprise when the developer, just ten days after signing a legal agreement committing to the \pounds 1.8m, applied for permission to remove it on the grounds that it would render their scheme unviable. The council clearly felt that they had been misled by the developer. For CPRE it was a bigger issue, a national test case for developers' ability to wriggle out of their obligations to contribute to affordable housing. With our help in raising the stakes, the council took a firm stance and the developer withdrew the application.

This is a small but significant victory in our ongoing campaign to save affordable housing, which is under attack on several fronts. There is also now a new question over the future of the Dyson site. If the 88-house scheme really isn't viable, and if Sheffield City Council remains strong in not permitting green belt development without securing benefits for affordable housing, then an alternative plan for the site is needed. It's too soon to be optimistic, but there is at least now a hope that new proposals could come forward which are more sensitive to a unique piece of our countryside.

New Business Friends

DAVN www.tomsbarn.co.uk



Tom's and Douglas's barns started life a couple of centuries ago as rather mundane farm buildings, housing cows. Transformed now into two charmingly romantic cottages, they are enjoyed and appreciated these days by couples of all ages who delight in the opportunity to enjoy precious time together in welcoming luxurious comfort, in an idyllic rural village setting. Instant access to the Peak District, walks galore and trails that are great for cycling on, are part of the barns' appeal as well as the opportunity to visit local attractions such as Chatsworth, Haddon, Tissington, Carsington Ordnance Survey maps of the area and a folder full of walks that are suitable for everyone no matter what their abilities. Information on where to go and what to do in the Peak District provides useful ideas on how to really enjoy their time here. As members of the Ramblers we encourage our guests to get out and explore the very special countryside. We provide bikes for the guests so they can experience the great cycle tracks around. We are passionate about and the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark. We decided to join as a Business Friend because we felt it was one way that campaigns to protect the Peak District's beauty. Our guests have two ways to help fundraising, firstly by adding a minimum of $\pounds I$ to their booking fee and secondly by putting donations into collection boxes



The Trans-Pennine tunnel and a dual carriageway between Manchester and Sheffield have recently been making headlines. Leaders in the north have voted it their second priority for investment after smart motorways and before a long term strategy. This is despite the fact that we - as stakeholders on the group progressing the tunnel – have yet to see any evidence of its need. The new road and its tunnel came out of nowhere, a political announcement without proper planning.



<text>

Slow down and savour the Peak District

Bradt's new Slow Travel Peak District guidebook encourages you to forsake the top-10 lists and must-see attractions and instead discover the local intricacies and eccentricities that make the region special.

For an exclusive 20% discount visit www.bradtguides.com and enter the code FPD.

Available from bookshops or www.bradtguides.com

Fundamental guidance for transport infrastructure has been ignored. If connectivity is the problem it requires genuine consideration of alternative modes to solve it – should it be through rail, road or broadband? If the ultimate goal is to transform the economy of the north, then investment in these modes between all the north's major cities should be tested against investment in intra-city travel (bus, tram, walking and cycling), and against investment in non-transport sectors such as education and skills.

The folly of not doing this careful planning and testing is now obvious in how the study is struggling. It is working with five broad corridors stretching between Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire without being clear about what traffic (commuters, freight, leisure) is to be moved and between which destinations - city centre to city centre, city region to city region or port to port, Liverpool to the Humber.

Neither Manchester nor Sheffield want more congestion in their urban areas and are planning for less, not more, car traffic. Instead the politicians have backed a new dual carriageway which will allow drivers to zip 30 mins cross country then to sit in polluting traffic jams and waste all the time they have saved.

Once again the government is pursuing more road space which will fill up in a few years and fuel more demands for new roads. When will we learn that we need to invest in rail as the most sustainable intercity mode? Thankfully Lord Adonis, chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, saw sense and made rail his prime recommendation to government for future investments in the north of England.

Last call for Clarion **Ramblers**

We were very sad to learn that, after leading the way in rambling since their formation in 1900, the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers recently disbanded. Our histories are strongly entwined. Bert Ward (the 'King of the Ramblers') attended our founding meeting in 1924 and the Clarion (named after The



Clarion socialist newspaper) campaigned with us on

many important issues. They also became famed for their (now very collectable) annual handbooks, which mixed local history snippets with their walks programme. Some years ago we were privileged to receive a full set of handbooks from Roy Bullen, a Clarion member and long-time trustee of ours, which are stored in our archive. As a final gesture, the Clarion have given FPD a share of their residual funds, to help us carry on our work. We are very grateful for this kind donation and are proud to have worked with them for nigh on a century!



Forgotten heroes?

Eagle-eyed Sheffield members may have seen this recent eye-catching headline in The Star (Sheffield's daily newspaper) commenting on the poor state of graves in Crookes Cemetery, including the Ward family grave where our main shakers and movers. Ethel

buried. As the article noted, these were some of 'Sheffield's finest benefactors' who 'fought hard to keep the scenery on our city's doorstep picturesque and open to all', a sentiment we all can agree with! We have been aware of the deterioration of the graves and we are now liaising with the family and former staff and trustees who worked closely with the Haythornthwaites, to ensure that the appropriate remedial works can be carried out.

The Housing and Planning Bill: a threat to both

We have never been convinced by the argument that rural issues are significantly different from urban ones. Generally, if something works well in the countryside it will usually apply in the city too, so the test of any policy should be 'will it work in a small village?'

By this measure, the new Housing and Planning Bill looks doomed to failure. The bill's context is a government policy shift away from increasing the quantity of housing in the country, towards boosting home ownership. The measures include Help to Buy, discounted starter homes and Right to Buy for housing association tenants. In essence these amount to a huge, one-off subsidy from the taxpayer, to move people from rental to owner-occupation. This is set against a trend of rapid growth in the rental sector, and ever-rising house prices that outstrip household incomes. Meanwhile, planning policies have been stripped back to make it easier for housebuilders to get planning permission, despite clear evidence that this doesn't actually increase the supply of housing.

In short, we need smaller, more affordable homes in accessible locations, well-served by public transport and local amenities, and suited to an ageing population. Inexplicably, the government believes this need can be met by building large, expensive homes in car-dependent fringe areas, and often that means in villages which are currently protected by green belt. Planning also provides precious little protection to essential facilities like village shops. So, to a large extent, the increasing threats that we're seeing to our green belts are a result of illogical policies that risk building the wrong houses in the wrong places.

In our experience, rural communities are not anti-development. They're really keen to see local shops, schools and services thrive, encourage local employment and bring young families to the area who can breathe new energy into their villages. Yet they're now being hit by a devastating doublewhammy: new housebuilding is predominantly larger, expensive housing that local people cannot afford; and the existing stock of housing association homes are about to be sold off.

These policy failings will hurt many communities in town and country, but they'll certainly hit villages the hardest, especially in beautiful landscapes like the Peak District, where house prices are even higher. Clearly, then, the Housing and Planning Bill fails the rural test: if it won't work in a small village. the chances are it won't work anywhere.

This year the Campaign for National Parks will have been fighting for national parks for 80 years and as part of the celebrations it wants to look forward to the next 80 years and ensure the relevance of the parks for the 21 st century.

To that end, CNP has launched a Big Conversation, a questionnaire not only to get people talking about national parks but also to find out why they are important and what about them needs to change for the better. People love and enjoy these inspirational areas already but they are under severe challenge – from the government's economic agenda, climate change, changing societal needs and from inappropriate development.

The survey will be the first step in an iterative process and the views gathered will inform CNP's thinking about the next steps. But if it is to be worthwhile it is essential as many people as possible do the survey, including people who live and work in the national parks, people who visit the parks now and also people who don't yet use the parks. CNP wants to hear from as many of you as possible so please follow this link www. surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cnp80yrs and express your views.

the **Big** Conversation

Take Back the Tracks: Derby Lane

Derby Lane, which links Monyash with the minor road Long Rake (between Parsley Hay and Conksbury) is the latest candidate for legal protection from vehicle use. It provides an excellent walking and horse riding route, with fine views across traditional White Peak landscapes. It can be used to visit Arbor Low from where the lane is extremely visible. Whilst the northern half of the route is a broad well-surfaced track enclosed by stone walls, the southern section crosses green fields with no definitive route on the ground. This part of the route also passes through the Lathkill Dale SSSI, designated for its underground caves, and is particularly vulnerable.

At its meeting in March the Peak District National Park Authority voted unanimously to proceed with public consultation to ban all vehicles from Derby Lane permanently. Voluntary restraint, which can be effective if less vehicle use is required, is not appropriate here where the special qualities of the national park need to be protected properly. The Authority's swift action represents a welcome pre-emptive strike – preventing harm rather than rescuing an already damaged route.

If you would like to respond to the consultation, which is now live, please see our website for information.

rocky róad or energy bridge?

Just before Christmas, the government changed the law to allow fracking under national parks, despite previous promises to ban fracking in our finest landscapes. Worse still, they did this using secondary legislation, thus limiting parliament from exercising its amending powers. This sends worrying signals about the commitment of the current government to protect our precious and best landscapes. Indeed, some suggest it fundamentally changes the physical definition of national parks, as the area protected is now only effectively to a depth of 1200 metres.

We argued alongside many others, including the Peak District National Park Authority, the Campaign for National Parks and CPRE nationally, that not enough is known about the impacts of fracking at depth and therefore the precautionary principle should apply. Last year we responded strongly to a government consultation on the level of protection



parks came just days after the United Nations climate change conference in Paris in which all countries agreed a deal intended to limit the extent of human-induced warming to less than two degrees Celsius which means that carbon emissions need be near to zero by 2050. Although gas is a less carbon intensive fuel than

that should apply to protected landscapes and nature reserves and made clear that fracking was highly inappropriate development in or under these areas.

We are also sceptical about extracting more fossil fuels at a time when we need to reduce carbon emissions. Especially at a time when extreme weather is showing how bad climate change is for many parts of our countryside. Very little is known about how the Peak District's landscapes and biodiversity would be affected by climate change but a key area of concern is our internationally important resource of heather moorland which is already under pressure from air pollution, erosion and fires.

The decision to allow fracking under national

oil or coal and can thus be considered as a potential transitional fuel or 'energy bridge' to a zero carbon economy, the timescales for developing a mature shale gas industry in England (Scotland and Wales currently have moratoriums on fracking) appear incompatible with what is an urgent need to cut UK carbon emissions.

However, it is the damage to our countryside in the Peak District and South Yorkshire, which is key to our organisation. Noise, pollution and lorry movements are unlikely to be mitigated and, taken together with climate change arguments, will be at the core of our policy presumption against fracking.

STOP PRESS: After policy input by the Friends, High Peak Borough Council has resolved not to support fracking in the High Peak.

Our Green Belts and the South Yorkshire conundrum





As I sat down to write about our green belt campaign my phone rang. It was a friend who is a senior planner in a local authority not in this area. "Our city is getting worse in the deprivation league tables," he said. "Maybe we should be more relaxed about building on green fields and focus on attracting investors who will bring employment, and then we'll be better able to tackle our urban regeneration?" I fear he's been nobbled by the protagonists of 'trickle-down' – the idea that boosting the higher echelons of the economy benefits everyone lower down the pecking order. Unfortunately all the evidence points the other way. London is by far the richest city in the UK, but housing gets ever further out of reach for its workers.

Meanwhile, national CPRE recently published data compiled by construction consultants Glenigan, which showed that brownfield sites actually tend to be developed more quickly than greenfield ones. This contrasts with housebuilders' cries that brownfield sites are too slow and inconvenient to develop, and chimes well with the arguments we've made in our area – in High Peak, Rotherham, Barnsley and Sheffield – that it is poor



quality urban environments that put investors off. As another colleague put it recently, "Northern cities are half-empty, when you consider derelict sites and all the land that's been covered with low density retail and car parks."

Cities have grown outwards into their surrounding countryside for centuries, and logic suggests that some greenfield development will always happen. But not when the inner areas of cities are half-empty. There's no logic to that.

This branch of CPRE was instrumental in getting green belts established, and the Sheffield green belt was the first in the country. Its lasting effect is plain to see, for example where Sheffield's sprawl along its river corridors stops and the dramatic landscape suddenly begins. This year, as Sheffield and Barnsley review their Local Plans, the green belt that forms the eastern edge of the Peak District is under more threat from unnecessary development than it has been for several decades, and we will be working harder than ever to protect it. Our campaign hinges around three big reasons why the green belt is so important:

 The clamour to build in the green belt comes from those who wish to build larger, more expensive homes that will not meet our housing needs, and will make it harder to focus development on inner urban areas that are in desperate need of regeneration;

- 2. It defines the shape and extent of built-up areas and the open spaces between them and, in South Yorkshire, the vast majority of the countryside that matters to local people is protected by green belt;
- 3. The green belt is not empty space it's full of places to explore, green places that contribute to health and bring children into contact with nature, places where local food is grown, and places that can help us respond to climate change, for example by managing of storm water run-off and reducing flood risk.

Put simply, green belt is not just something that can be ignored in order to supply development land. In some areas it may need to change shape and purpose, and we may want to see more focus placed on the quality of the land itself and the use that's made of it. But treating it as a limit to economic prospects would be a huge mistake.

To share your memories, photos and why our green belt is important to you – and read the inspirational stories of others, or sign up to hear more about what we're doing to protect the countryside, visit http://ourgreenbelt.cpre.org.uk by Planning Officer, Andrew Wood

Why I volunteer

The sheer beauty and diversity of different parts of the Peak District and their relative accessibility for so many people make it a very special area. We may be walking, climbing, cycling, sailing or visiting one of its many beautiful attractions – the scope for activities of all kinds is huge. But more than that, the same uplifting Peak District landscapes which inspired Joseph Wright, and many other artists, satisfy our spiritual need for a place of peace and beauty in which we can wonder at the natural world.

The hours that my family and I spend in such wonderful countryside help us to recharge both our physical and spiritual batteries - and for my daughter, the most recent Derbyshire Poet Laureate, serve as a source of inspiration for much of her poetry about landscape.

In my view, the benefits of this special place to



large numbers of people

who work, live in and visit the Peak District are inestimable. The many and varied pressures on the countryside are such that we are in danger of losing something that can never be replaced. This is why I volunteer in a small administrative capacity to support Friends of the Peak District and their invaluable work in helping to protect this unique environment for future generations. I see it as a small, but positive way in which I can foster the protection of the landscape I love.

Janet Mort, 2016

President's address and 2016 AGM

Our 2016 AGM, preceded by an address by our new President, Dame Fiona Reynolds, will be held at The Maynard at Grindleford on the evening of Monday 27 June 2016, from 6.30pm onwards. Fiona has agreed to give a book signing and public lecture before the formal business of the AGM, talking about the evolution of her new book *The Fight for Beauty*. This will be a very popular event, open to non-members, and so will be ticketed – please keep an eye on our website or call the office for more details of how to get tickets.

Please let us know if you plan to attend the AGM by calling Susan Belt on 0114 275 1649 or email susan@cprepeakandsyorks.org.uk. Full papers will be on our website www.friendsofthepeak.org. uk from early June or ask Susan if you would like a hard copy mailing out. If you wish to put a motion from the floor, please notify us by 16 May; if you make an independent nomination for a new Board member, please notify us by 30 May.

AGM 2016, Monday 27 June, 8.30pm at The Maynard, Grindleford

Agenda

- . Welcome, introduction and apologies
- 2. Minutes of the 13th AGM of CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire
- 3. Presentation of the 2015 annual report and annual accounts: John Lambert, Chair of Trustees; Andy Brightmore, Hon. Treasurer
- Appointment of auditors for 2016: we propose that VAS Community Accountancy Service be re-appointed to examine the accounts independently
- 5. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Trustees (as necessary)
- 6. Election/re-election of President/Vice-Presidents (as necessary)
- 7. Pre-notified items: to be submitted by 16 May8. Any other business



In a previous Peakland Guardian magazine we reported how pleased we were that at least part of the overhead transmission line that disfigures the Dark Peak is under investigation for removal.

We were hopeful that all of the line east of Dunford which weaves along the park boundary to Hazlehead would be undergrounded. The sealing end compound on top of the Woodhead tunnel, with its pale footprint, is particularly intrusive on Dunford but the whole line mars this eastern portal to the park. The original plan was to underground the line as far as Castle Hill below Carlecotes. However, as a sealing end compound here would be equally as intrusive as the existing pylons, we and many others pushed for undergrounding as far east as Bullhouse Colliery. This would remove the impacts of the line on the park and its setting.

We now learn that a shorter stretch only as far as Townhead is being investigated. Whilst Dunford Bridge would obviously be greatly improved, this is disappointing. The scheme is a once in a lifetime opportunity to enhance the Don Valley and the beautiful countryside around Hazlehead. Once the five most intrusive pylons near Dunford are removed the rest of the line will be considered less damaging to the park and unlikely to score highly in future rounds for funding. It and its pylons will be left to spoil the countryside for years to come.

There is also a bigger issue at stake here – which is the overall impact of National Grid's project in England and Wales. Four schemes have been chosen and these are likely to represent equally short sections of line as that at Dunford. Instead of choosing to underground one line with substantial impacts on one designated landscape, National Grid is spreading the benefits more thinly – and less noticeably. However, for the moment we will temper our criticisms as it is more important to get these four sections removed and prove to Ofgem, the electricity regulator, that a second round of funding should go ahead.

Washgates

We are delighted that the Peak District National Park Authority is consulting on a complete ban of recreational motorised vehicles on Washgates Lane. Within the White Peak Washgates provides a tranguil walk that descends steeply on both sides of the River Dove to cross it on a charming listed pack horse bridge and by way of a ford. At 4 feet 6 inches wide, the bridge is particularly vulnerable to 4x4 damage and its setting is marred by signage warning of a width restriction. The stone pitched lane both sides of the river has suffered severe damage although recently the setts have been partially restored.

Given the sensitivity of the historic quality of the route, the conflict between 4x4 drivers and other users, and the damage caused by them, we believe that a permanent Traffic Regulation Order



restricting all motorised vehicles on Washgates between Leycote in the east and Tenterhill in the west is the most expedient method of protecting the environment and public amenity. See here for further information www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ looking-after/vehicles/current-tro



Take the Lead is a campaign in the Peak District which aims to raise awareness of the reasons why dog owners are asked to put their dogs on a lead or keep them under effective control, especially during lambing and bird nesting season from 1 March to 31 July.

Dog walkers are important guardians of our countryside; the eyes and ears of the landscape, noticing seasonal change, recognising unusual wildlife sightings as well as witnessing undesirable behaviour and identifying problems with paths, gates and tracks.

The key points the campaign emphasises are:

Sheep are at their most vulnerable during lambing season, but can be chased and injured or killed by dogs throughout the year, and often by dogs which owners truly believe won't chase sheep.

Eggs and young chicks on the ground... In the Peak District there are many ground nesting birds such as curlew, snipe, woodcock, meadow pipit, skylark and stonechat. Their nests can be well camouflaged and difficult to see, but disturbance by dogs can seriously threaten their breeding success.

Cattle are included in the term livestock and qualify for the same respect when walking your

he Lead in the Peak District

dog. However, cattle can feel threatened by dogs so if you think you may be chased, let go of the lead.

Take

8 point plan for England's national parks

The government recently introduced an 8-point plan which they claim 'sets out our ambition to put national parks at the heart of the way we think about the environment and how we manage it for future generations. We want as many young people as possible to learn about and experience the natural environment. National parks are a great way in: inspiring environments that can be lifelong sources of wellbeing, identity, adventure and pride'.

We warmly welcome the ambition of the plan but when the budgets of national park authorities have been slashed, deliverability remains a key issue. We will be working politically for better national park funding and, together with CNP, will be organising an awareness raising walk in the Peak District with 38 Degrees on Saturday 30 July – please keep the date free!

- 1. Connect young people with nature through the National Citizen Service, a new package of teaching materials and National Park Authorities engaging directly with young people via schools visits
- **2. Create thriving natural environments** National Park Authorities, the Environment Agency and Natural England, to champion integrated management of the natural environment
- **3. Driving growth in international tourism** by promoting national parks as world-class destinations to overseas visitors
- 4. Deliver new apprenticeships in national parks
- 5. Promote the best of British food from national parks
- 6. Everyone's national parks encourage more diverse visitor to, and volunteers in, national parks
- 7. Landscape and heritage in national parks enhance people's involvement in the interpretation of the historic environment and natural beauty in national parks, support the Lake District's bid for UNESCO World Heritage Status and tell the story of cultural landscapes in England's national parks.
- 8. Health and wellbeing in national parks promote innovative schemes for national parks to serve national health and realise the immense potential for outdoor recreation in national parks.
- To read more, visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-parks-8-point-plan-for-england-2016-to-2020





Jon Humble RIP

At the end of November last year, we lost a key colleague in our planning work in the Peak: Jon Humble of English Heritage, who died unexpectedly, aged just 57. We worked closely with Jon, starting with our Stanton Moor quarries campaign, from the early 2000s and came to greatly respect his quiet determination to protect the cultural heritage of Derbyshire, including the Peak District, through his role as Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

He was a larger than life character and certainly added zest to all the projects he was involved with, whether the restoration of Bateman's House in Lathkilldale or his work to ensure the legacy of lead mining in the Peak was properly protected and celebrated. At the time of his death we were still working together on two <u>projects: undergrounding high voltage wires at Magpie Mine, near</u>

Sheldon and resolving the final old mineral permission on Stanton Moor: Stanton Moor Quarry, which was actually eating into the scheduled monument area.

Successful conclusions to these two knotty problems would be a fine testament to Jon's enduring work to protect the Peak District landscape he loved.

Be a countryside *champion!*

Unlike many environmental charities, Friends of the Peak District and CPRE has no vested interests – we own no land, rely solely on membership income, donations and grants, and are politically independent. We act as an independent voice and campaign against development and threats that harm the Peak District's beauty and tranquillity.

We want to see a protected countryside, and a healthier, happier, thriving rural community.

Achievements like rural planning, national parks and green belts didn't happen overnight; they took decades of campaigning, careful organisation and reasoned argument. But in the last few decades we have been challenged by growing pressure on the countryside: threats from housing development, road building, fracking and climate change continue to assail us and demand our attention.

We would not exist as a charity today without the fantastic legacy left to us by our founders, Ethel and Gerald Haythornthwaite – their vision, their years of dedicated hard work and campaigning, and ultimately, their estate.

If you choose to leave us a gift in your Will, your legacy will enable us to continue their work and the fight to protect our beautiful countryside in the Peak District and South Yorkshire. We will invest your gift wisely and ensure it has the greatest impact, helping to protect our environment and encouraging others to join the fight for beauty. Your gift is going to make a difference. Thank you.

To discuss, in confidence, how to include us in your Will, please call Julie Gough on 0114 279 2655 or email julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Making a difference...

In the last two years, we have been delighted to receive two significant legacies from people who really loved the Peak District and wanted to see it protected into the future.

The first came from Geoff Errington, a keen walker and long time member and supporter of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society, who left legacies to a number of organisations which help protect local countryside, including the Friends of the Peak District.

Another came from Mrs Pauline Simpson of Nottingham who clearly loved the Peak District. Because of their help, we can invest in new projects, including an emerging initiative to introduce new groups, including young people, to their local countryside and create a new generation who will care for its future.



Magnificent Walk 2016 Saturday 21 May from 8.30am

The spectacular 18 mile Hayfield Skyline includes a traverse onto Kinder Scout, the Peak District's famous gritstone plateau. A lovely 11 mile circuit via Kinder Downfall and a gentle 5 mile family walk via Kinder Reservoir are also available. 18 mile and 11 mile routes: $\pounds12$ per person. 5 mile route: $\pounds7$ per person. Under 16s FREE. All proceeds in aid of Friends of the Peak District

Meet at Sett Valley Trail car park, Station Road, Hayfield, SK22 2ES

Book online at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

This is an annual event, so even if you've missed this year's event, check our website for details of next year's Magnificent Walk.

Don't forget our AGM and Dame Fiona Reynolds address Monday 27 June from 6.30pm

See page 16 for details.

Friends of the Peak District and 38 degrees Celebrating national parks. Guided walk Saturday 30 July

Please see our website for details.

New Chamber Choir concert Saturday 15 October, venue tbc

The New Chamber Choir explores the whole choral repertoire, from Renaissance church music and 19th century part-songs to arrangements of popular songs. The challenge for the singers is to master a variety of choral styles so they constantly surprise the audience.

New Chamber Concert consists of over 30 singers who come from across Yorkshire and Derbyshire and meet for 'workshop' days before coming together for performances.

"The music we perform is intended to uplift the soul, or to glorify God, or to accompany meals, or to declare love, or simply to amuse" said Choir master, Paul Hudson, who has over 50 years' experience of choral music, as a singer (as boy chorister, then in chapel and cathedral choirs) and then as a choir trainer.

Join us for an uplifting and inspiring concert.

Contact us for details or sign up to our monthly eNewsletter. Email julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Wells dressings

The ancient custom of well dressing is unique to England, and Derbyshire in particular. The practice is thought to date back to the Celts, and that the area's remoteness prevented invaders from imposing their customs on the local people. The early Christians were not happy with the custom of dressing wells - they considered it water worship and promptly put an end to it! But the tradition refused to die. Tissington was the first village to re-introduce well dressing in 1349, after the village escaped an outbreak of the Black Death.

Well Dressings in 2016

Tissington	Thu 5 - Wed 11 May		
Ashford in the Water	Sat 21 - Sun 29 May		
Monyash	Sun 22 - Sat 28 May		
Middleton by Youlgreave	Sat 28 May - Sat 4 June		
Cressbrook	Sun 12 - Sun 19 June		
Flash	Sat 18 - Tue 28 June		
Litton	Sun 19 - Mon 27 June		
Youlgreave	Sat 25 - Thu 30 June		
Bakewell	Sun 26 June - Sun 3 July		
Hathersage	Sat 2 - Sun 10 July		
Dore	Sun 3 - Sat 9 July		
Hayfield	Sat 9 - Sun 17 July		
Over Haddon	Sat 9 - Sun 17 July		
Bamford	Sun 10 - Sun 17 July		
Great Longstone	Sat 16 - Sat 30 July		
Little Longstone	Sat 16 - Sat 23 July		
Stoney Middleton	Sat 23 July - Mon I August		
Bradwell	Sat 30 July		
Great Hucklow	Thu II - Wed 17 August		
Taddington	Sat 20 - Fri 26 August		
Eyam	Sat 27 August - Sat 3 September		
Foolow	Sat 27 August - Sat 3 September		
www.visitpeakdistrict.com/events/Well_Dressing			

The story of one of Britain's most endangered mammals **By Christine Gregory**

A native of the British Isles, and popularised in modern culture as 'Ratty' in Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows, the water vole is a cherished resident of our rivers, canals, streams and ponds. But this once ever-present mammal, like so many others, is now in danger. During the 1990s Britain's water vole population declined by over 80%, and it is now fully protected by law in England and Wales.

In The Water Vole, Christine Gregory, author of Brown Hares in the Derbyshire Dales and A River in Time, tells the story of the water vole, past, present and future, principally through its history in the waterways of Derbyshire. Having spent several years studying Derbyshire's water vole population and habitats, and capturing their behaviour intimately through her photography, Christine has developed a relationship with many of the custodians of the county's waterways, who are vital to the survival of the water vole.

Víllager Jím's Peak Dístríct

Landscapes – Country Lanes – Wildlife and Farm Life – Gardens By Villager Jim

NAJEKVOLE

They seek him here, they seek him there, but the elusive Villager Jim cannot be found ... anywhere! He's been called the 'Banksy of the photography world' on BBC Countryfile and has been selected as Editor's Choice at the British Wildlife Photography

Renowned for his entertaining, witty, poignant and Awards. stunningly beautiful images of his local area, the Peak District National Park, Villager Jim says the secret to his success is simply being in the right place at the

It's hard to believe this is Europe's busiest national right time. park as Villager Jim gives us a sneak peek at the

Peak District's quieter, gentler side; accompanied by humorous and insightful observations.

Villager Jim's Peak District is a collection of over 180 beautiful photographs that speak volumes for Jim's love of the Peak District's landscape and wildlife, and all of mother nature.

Another great reason to join the Friends

Order your copies online:

Contact the office for the discount code

Yes - I would like to be a Friend of the Peak District

Membership type (j Annual individual Annual joint Silver Guardian Gold Guardian Life membership (du Life membership (60 Business Friend Business Guardian	ıder 60)	Minimum £27 □ £42 □ £100 □ £250 □ £600 □ £350 □ £50 □ £250 □	Other amount. Surprise us!	If you are a UK taxpayer please tick the box below so that we can claim back an extra 25p for every £1 you give: vould like Friends of the Peak District to claim back the tax on all gifts of money that I have made in the past four years and all future donations that I make from the date of this declaration. If I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Signature	
Your details Title	Firstname	2	Surname		
Address					
				Email	
If the membership is a gift, please provide the details of the member Name(s) Address Postcode Tel Email					
Please make cheques payable to Friends of the Peak District and send to us at 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF. Or pay by direct debit					
Instructions to your bank or building society to pay by direct debit I would like to pay £ to Friends of the Peak District Monthly Annually					
Name of account h	older(s)				
Bank/Building Society			Sort c		
Name and postal address of your bank or building society					
To: the manager				Bank / Building Society	



Instruction to your bank or building society Please pay Friends of the Peak District from the account detailed in this instruction, subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Friends of the Peak District and, if so, details will be passed on electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature(s)



Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire A: Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF T: 0114 279 2655 E: info@friendsofthepeak.org.uk W: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Love the Peak? Help us protect it