

For everyone who loves the Peak District

# Peakland guardian

Winter 2017



Also protecting the landscapes of South Yorkshire

**CP  
RE** South Yorkshire  
Campaign to Protect Rural England



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**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.

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**Cover picture:** Peak District Climbers by Phil Sproson. See page 22 to buy Phil's beautiful Peak District Calendar 2018

**Back page picture:** Hope Valley mist ©Tim Mackey

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## End of an era

Over the last three years while I have been Chair of Friends of the Peak District/CPRE South Yorkshire, we have chalked up many worthwhile achievements. For example Longstone Edge has at last been saved from uncontrolled quarrying. This was what brought me into environmental activism 15 years ago. Our good work on undergrounding electricity transmission lines and stopping off-roaders using what should be peaceful lanes have brought worthwhile gains, though the processes for achieving this remain painfully slow. Our work on planning has been both busy and productive. We are implementing a plan to develop our capacity and grow our membership.

We have three priorities of great importance.

- (i) We were instrumental in setting up green belts. Now we must fight to preserve this achievement.  
(ii) Fracking is a major threat, through its immediate impact on the countryside and how it would delay our low carbon future. (iii) The threat of major road projects remains severe.

I am confident that my successor, Chris Heard, will lead us to new successes. For my part, I intend to find new ways to help our important work. In a country governed largely by economic considerations, I want to encourage environmentalists and economists who value landscape and biodiversity to work together, using a common language.

John Lambert  
Chair

Heather over Houndkirk ©Tim Mackey



# Sheffield green belt: *high stakes*

It was CPRE that mapped out and proposed the Sheffield green belt back in 1937, and it has been a great success story in defining the city's unique relationship with its surrounding landscapes. The green belt has been very effective in halting the sprawl of suburban Sheffield towards the Peak District; and it's worth remembering that there were very real threats of development at the Longshaw Estate and in the Mayfield Valley. Ethel and Gerald Haythornthwaite played a pivotal role in securing the long-term protection of those landscapes. Patrick Abercrombie, founder of CPRE and one of the most influential town planners of the twentieth century, was inspired by Sheffield and its landscape and described it as 'the finest example in this country of a radial park strip, an elongated open space leading from a built-up part of the city direct into the country'. In other words, we are working in the birthplace of the modern planning system. That is why our Sheffield green belt campaign is so important, and why it must live up to the radical spirit of those who made it happen.

Green belt prevents development from encroaching into the countryside. Crucially in Sheffield, whilst the inner green belt boundary is clearly visible where the city stops, the outer boundary adjoins the Peak District National Park and is much harder to spot in the landscape; there is a seamless transition

from national park to green belt. Most people feel themselves to be in the Peak District as soon as they're out of the built-up area. The green belt's effectiveness in bringing the countryside into the city can't be overstated.

Yet green belt is not an environmental designation – it is only about containing and shaping urban development and keeping land open. This highlights an often-overlooked point: green belt is first and foremost about protecting quality of life in cities, towns and villages. The original vision of green belts was that built-up areas and open areas should go hand-in-hand. At a time when the planning system is under unprecedented strain, we are in the eye of the storm. The development threats we now face in the Sheffield green belt may be in the very locations where the need to preserve that special connection between city and countryside are strongest. If you think about it, the more people live and work in Sheffield, the more important that connection becomes. A growing city needs its green belt more than ever.

This summer we launched our report, "A Blueprint for Sheffield's Green Belt" which sets out three key principles for the future of Sheffield's green belt.

Firstly Sheffield should only grow outwards if it is already making the best use of urban opportunities, including denser development and use of brownfield sites. That means investing in regeneration and in re-modelling of parts of the city where land is used very inefficiently, for example where low-density retail sheds and surface car-parking dominate.

Secondly, any proposed changes to the green belt must deliver truly special and sustainable development. Recent attempts by developers to undermine provision of affordable homes, especially on brownfield sites, are a huge threat. If we lost green belt but didn't meet communities' real needs, that would be the worst of both worlds.

And lastly, great care must be taken in re-developing brownfield sites in the green belt, such as the Hepworth's site in the Loxley Valley. The starting point should not be how many houses the site could accommodate, but what would be the

best solution to restoring and giving new life to a degraded site in a sensitive landscape.

We recognise that new development is essential, but it must be the right development in the right places. Our report draws on national research showing that current housebuilding plans will do very little to address the affordability crisis faced by many families and young people. There is a great risk that the only real beneficiaries from any releases of green belt land will be landowners and the big housebuilders, not local communities. That is plainly wrong.

Something has to change quickly. Decisions about the future of the green belt need to move beyond housing numbers, and concentrate on making Sheffield's connection to the countryside even better for the long term. We're looking to the city council and its planners to take up that challenge. Our initial conversations with them about our blueprint have been encouraging, but there is a long way to go, and it remains to be seen what the new Local Plan will propose.



Sheffield green belt. ©Tony Allsop [www.tonyallsopp.com](http://www.tonyallsopp.com)





Champions on Houndkirk Road

## Championing the Peak Park

Peak District Mosaic is an independent organisation which introduces new visitors to the Peak District National Park. Their programme, Peak Wise People, is for people from Black Minority Ethnic communities who live in the urban fringes of the Peak District in Sheffield, Manchester and Derby. It offers inspirational, practical and creative learning, and encourages communities to engage in activities in the national park.

Funded by Big Lottery Awards for All and delivered in partnership with PDNP staff, the programme aims to generate a deeper passion for, and confidence to explore the countryside. Successful participants in the programme, known as Champions, gained skills in leading outdoor activities such as guided walks and visits to attractions.

In September 2017, Peak District Mosaic celebrated 15 new Peak Wise Champions from Sheffield and Manchester, and recognised their achievements and commitment to the programme at an event in Edale: each had organised and led activities in the Peak Park for groups of people from

their communities.

One Peak Wise Champion commented, “the training is a boost of energy and an eye-opening experience of the Peak Park”.

The ultimate aim of the Peak Wise People programme is to widen people’s horizons and give them opportunities to develop new knowledge, skills, insight and experiences which will benefit them and their communities.

“The Champions proved this programme to be successful, as they have gained confidence and engaged over 75 new people from their communities in different activities” said Peak District Mosaic Chair, Yvonne Witter.

“Communities will become stronger as people come forward and take a lead in organising activities for them.”

Peak District Mosaic endeavours to carry on the legacy that was started by the Campaign for National Parks’ national Mosaic project. For more about the Mosaic project, email [peakdistrictmosaic@gmail.com](mailto:peakdistrictmosaic@gmail.com)

## DCC failing to act

In the Peak District National Park, both the National Park Authority and the local highway authorities have powers to manage the use of green lanes. However whilst the Park Authority is working hard to do its bit, Derbyshire County Council (DCC), the highway authority covering the majority of the Park, is lagging behind.



Hurstclough Lane

destruction caused by off-rovers. Last year DCC undertook a consultation asking how the lane should be managed but 10 months later, despite much lobbying, no results and no action have materialised.

DCC has also neglected to carry out repairs: Hurstclough Lane, an ancient sunken route between Bamford and Hathersage, once cobbled, is now badly damaged. A year ago, with pressure mounting for action, DCC proposed to use tarmac planings on the route, but this was unacceptable to many. Since then there has been silence. Chapelgate has been closed for repairs for nearly three years but, despite two consultations in that time, no action has been taken.

We understand that times are difficult for local councils whose budgets and staff have been severely reduced. We also appreciate that different users have different requirements which make for difficult decisions but years of delay suggests that DCC is shirking its duty. No wonder then that, in exasperation, people are trying to instigate a legal challenge to get repairs done.



Jacobs Ladder, Stoney Middleton

To date the Park Authority has issued six permanent TROs – Traffic Regulation Orders – banning off-rovers on green lanes including Long Causeway and Chapelgate. It now plans to consult on a seventh on Wetton, a green lane in a deep valley, between two reef knolls. If enacted this would give pre-emptive protection before ruts worsen and the grass surface is lost.

Within Derbyshire several green lanes need urgent attention, not only to resolve damage to the surface but also to stop unsustainable and unsafe use by off-rovers. How many permanent TROs has DCC issued to help the Park Authority? None! The Parish Council and residents of Stoney Middleton have been trying for more than 20 years to get a TRO on nearby Jacob’s Ladder in order to stop the intimidation and



Rushup Edge



# HS2 in South Yorkshire

In July the government announced the final route of HS2 through South Yorkshire, which follows the M1-M18 corridor to Bramley and then passes between Doncaster and Rotherham, east of Barnsley. It serves Sheffield city centre via a spur, and includes a northern junction allowing trains between Sheffield and Leeds to join the HS2 line.



At this stage, with detailed environmental impacts unknown, we have three key concerns. The first is the need for substantial upgrades to the existing rail infrastructure, without which the benefits of HS2 will be limited. The Sheffield-Leeds connection and a trans-Pennine rail upgrade are especially important and will require considerable investment, including a major upgrade to the station at Meadowhall.

The second is the mooted M18 parkway station which would inevitably be accompanied by proposals for adjacent development with serious negative impacts on the green belt and an already congested motorway. In addition, the strategic benefits of a parkway stop would be lost as it would increase the London-Leeds journey time and draw passengers away from Sheffield and Doncaster. These concerns also apply to an interchange station at Conisbrough which would also be in the green belt, generate substantial development pressure and draw traffic onto an inadequate road network.

Finally in terms of landscape, the M18 alignment is welcome since it is already scarred and eliminates some of the impacts of the previous scheme. However the harm to open tranquil countryside in South Yorkshire could still be devastating:

- i The route would cross the Magnesian Limestone ridge around Barnburgh and Hickleton, which is a distinctive, high quality landscape
- ii Viaducts over the River Dearne and Frickley Beck floodplains would have to be designed to a very high standard, as they would be widely visible
- iii The embankment at Barnburgh may have a significant visual and noise impact on other high quality landscapes, and
- iv A deep cutting adjacent to Watchley Crag, a locally valued viewpoint, woodland and walking area, would be deeply unpopular and require a short cut-and-cover tunnel.

Please let us know if you share our concerns or if there are any others you want us to consider.



View to Barnburgh



Eckington rally

The pressure to frack our local countryside is now ramping up. With our help, local communities are resisting INEOS' plans and calling instead for a better energy future.

Two planning applications are now in the system for exploratory drilling, at Marsh Lane near Eckington (in NE Derbyshire) and Common Road, Harthill (Rotherham). Another application from the same operator, INEOS, is expected shortly near Woodsetts (also in Rotherham). We are providing planning and advocacy advice to local parish councils and community groups to augment their brilliant campaigning.

Eckington Against Fracking recently organised a 'No Fracking Day' rally in fields next to the proposed drilling site near Marsh Lane. Hundreds, including director, Andy Tickle, and trustee Faith Johnson, marched from the locally affected communities of Coal Aston, Mosborough and Eckington to meet for the rally, where we also had a stall explaining our wider campaign work. No date for a decision has yet been set by Derbyshire County Council.

For the Harthill site, as of early September, over 1000 objections, including ours, had been registered with Rotherham Council. Not one letter of support was received. These facts speak volumes about local people's horror at the industrialisation of their beloved countryside and the desire to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Five miles to the north-east of the Harthill site, INEOS are now looking to drill in the lovely rolling countryside near the village of Woodsetts.

Even though an application has yet to be made, locals are rightly aghast and the Parish Council has approached us for advice on the planning implications. If the drilling went ahead, and setting aside other environmental and landscape impacts, a total of nearly 9,000 lorries would travel through the centre of the village, over a prolonged period (up to several years). This is not acceptable.

Finally, we are pleased to report that CPRE has now revised its national policy guidance note on shale gas, stiffening its stance to a moratorium, based on climate change impacts, cumulative harm to the countryside and currently inadequate regulation and lack of democratic control. See [www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/energy-and-waste/shale-gas](http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/energy-and-waste/shale-gas)





# News in Brief

## Longdendale Enhancement Initiative

National Grid's Visual Impact Provision aims to remove or mitigate the harmful landscape impacts of overhead transmission lines in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We know from our longstanding involvement in trying to reduce the impact of the Longdendale and Dunford pylons, that undergrounding of high voltage lines is a slow process. National Grid and its advisory group were keen to see more immediate impacts from the OFGEM-supported project, so £24m (out of the £500million for undergrounding) was set aside to be spent on 'quick wins'.

In the Peak District the Park Authority, supported by the Friends, has successfully secured £200,000 from the fund to enhance the Longdendale Valley. The initiative has taken a very broad landscape approach, not just related to the pylons, and will involve enhancement of grassland and woodland habitats, and restoration of traditional dry stone walls with the aim of shifting the visual emphasis for those using the trails away from the pylons. We have of course been careful to ensure that such investment will not prevent consideration of undergrounding of the Longdendale wires should more funding be available in the second round of the project.

## Smithy Wood update

For over four years the 'Extra MSA' group has been trying to get permission to build a major motorway service area on Smithy Wood, an ancient woodland in the green belt close to Junction 35 of the M1 in Chapelton. The development, which includes a large fast food court, 80-bed hotel, petrol station and car park, would almost completely destroy a habitat which is over 800 years old and is protected by strong national planning regulations.

The most recent postponement came at the request of Extra MSA, who have asked Sheffield City Council to place the application 'on hold' whilst another proposal for a motorway service area at Junction 33 is determined by Rotherham Council. This application, submitted

by Applegreen, is on a site astride the M1 and allocated in the emerging Rotherham Local Plan for mixed use development or for a motorway service station. Strong arguments have been made against the need, including in terms of driver welfare or safety, for a motorway service at Junction 35. Whether or not one is required at Junction 33 remains to be determined. If it is approved will Extra MSA finally give up their plans?

## A515 quarries

Many of the limestone quarries around Buxton are outside the national park boundary yet often present challenging issues because of their proximity. Four quarries line the A515, travelling south from Buxton: Hillhead (mothballed), Brierlow, Hindlow and Dowlow. Of these, Brierlow is the most intrusive although some efforts have been made in recent years to reduce its impact. It is now the subject of a planning review but we are concerned that insufficient information has been provided to judge properly the full impacts of the proposals, which include extending working on the site to 2112.

Further south, plans are afoot to extend Dowlow Quarry right up to the national park boundary, creating more working space for its operation. Whilst the visual impact may be localised, we are unclear that there is sufficient justification – other than the company's convenience and extending the life of the quarry – to outweigh the impacts. An application to Derbyshire County Council is expected soon. See <http://www.youareearthourworld.co.uk/?u=dowlow>



Dowlow Quarry © Breedon. The extension would be into the top right field.

## Highways England Road Investment Strategy

In 2015, instead of Highways England going cap in hand annually to the Department of Transport, Parliament approved a five year fund – the Road Investment Strategy (RIS) – with a budget of nearly £12billion. This was an important step towards better long term planning and aimed to cover the capital cost of enhancements to trunk roads and motorways. As one of our routes – the A628 corridor upgrade – is a candidate for funding we have been keeping a close eye on the fund and its progress.

The cost of a number of schemes has been underestimated, including that of the A628 which faces a shortfall of at least £150million, leading overall forecast capital costs to exceed the available funding by £861 million. Consequently, the National Audit Office has castigated Highways England for poor budgeting and recommended a more realistic strategy that provides optimal value.

Although we are only two years into the current road investment strategy, the next one is already

being prepared, with the likelihood that schemes unaffordable in the current round will now be allocated funding. We are therefore influencing, alongside national partners, the content of the next RIS, emphasising the importance of making best use of existing infrastructure, reducing carbon emissions and air pollution, and enhancing, not disfiguring, landscapes.



## New Business Friend: Climb-Outside

Climb-Outside is a specialised provider of climbing instruction based in the Peak District. We deliver fun, personal and goal-orientated courses that give you all the skills to become an accomplished rock climber.

All our courses are delivered in a friendly and supportive manner and will hopefully encourage you to take your next steps in outside-climbing!

[www.climb-outside.com](http://www.climb-outside.com)



## NEW FACES

### New Ambassador - Mark Cocker

Mark is an author, naturalist and environmental tutor who writes and broadcasts on nature and wildlife in a variety of national media, including *The Observer*, *The New Statesman* and *The Spectator*. He has contributed to the *Guardian Country Diary* since 1987. Buxton-born Mark, will be the Friends' first Ambassador, championing all things landscapes and Peak District on behalf of the charity.

The latest of his 10 books are *Claxton: Field Notes from a Small Planet* and *Birds and People*, which was published to international acclaim in 2013. His previous book *Crow Country* was also shortlisted for several awards, including the Samuel Johnson Prize, and won the New Angle Prize in 2009. In 2016 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Literature from the University of East Anglia.

### Dovedale Arts Festival

Mark Cocker will be discussing the growth of the environmental movement at the Dovedale Arts Festival which takes place at the Izaak Walton Hotel near Ashbourne, 8–10 June 2018.

### New Chair - Chris Heard



Chris was brought up in Cornwall before studying Physics in 1970s London. Chris' whole working career has been with Shell, first in the UK, and then internationally. Throughout his working life he has lived on the edge of the Peak District, first in Bollington and then in Hayfield. He retired in April.

One of Chris' main interests has always been the 'great outdoors' - initially fell running, climbing and mountain biking, but more lately confined to walking!

"I understand there are many challenges facing our countryside and I'm keen to help ensure that its complex and diverse communities can work together for the common good" says Chris "I'm very excited about taking on the role of Chair of the Friends, and look forward to

working with the many people who help protect the special landscapes of the Peak District and South Yorkshire, and championing the aims of the CPRE pioneers, which are still valid today".

### New Trustee - Les Sturch

Now a very active cyclist, walk leader, ramble, gardener and photographer, Les was previously Head of Planning at Sheffield City Council for ten years before becoming Director of Regeneration and Development Services

Les has extensive experience and skills in the planning system, with a focus on the delivery of sustainable development and regeneration. He has also worked on environmental issues and carbon reduction, sustainable transport, rail and infrastructure.

He has also served as Sheffield First Environment Board Member; on the Peak Park Monitoring Board and Management Plan Advisory Group; as well as on the Sheffield Local Housing Company Board; the Core Cities Planning Forum and on the Flood Management Regional Committee.

"I have always been committed to the protection of a living countryside, and have an intimate knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Peak District and its surrounds" says Les "and I believe in trying to put something back into the things I value".



## Volunteers please - can you give us a helping hand?

We launched our green belt appeal with this issue of *Peakland Guardian* but ideally, we want to reach a new audience – those people who are most at risk of losing the green belt countryside near their homes. So we're planning a leaflet door drop in Sheffield. If you've got some time to spare and would like to help us we'd love to hear from you. If you're fit enough and fancy the challenge, we need volunteers to help with the leaflet drop itself, but if you're not up for that and still want to help, we'll need envelope stuffers in the office too.

Please contact [julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk](mailto:julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk) for more info.

## Company secretary needed

We're looking for an organised person to help fulfil the role of (volunteer) company secretary, making sure we comply with organisational registrations and administrative good practice. We need someone with an organised approach to paperwork and process who is also able to manage our data, both in-house and through internet portals. Third sector experience would be helpful but is not necessary. We anticipate a commitment of 1-2 days per fortnight would be required.

Please call our director, Andy Tickle, on 0114 279 2655 if you're interested.

## Stella McGuire obituary

We were saddened to hear the news of Stella McGuire's death this summer.

We first worked with Stella when she was commissioned by the PDNPA to produce a



cultural heritage management plan for Stanton Moor. The Friends were involved because of our campaign to stop a dormant quarry (close to the Nine Ladies stone circle) from re-opening. The management plan she produced has really helped interpret and protect this unique Bronze Age landscape

We had closer contact with her once she became a National Park Authority member and she will long be remembered for her unyielding application of firm principles, which were very much aligned with ours. She was a crucial voice of common sense in Planning Committee, especially in their decision to refuse the Authority's own application to develop their site at Brosterfield contrary to the views of the community and their own policies.

We and the PDNP will miss her...

## Ward graves appeal

We are very pleased to report that the appeal for funds to restore the Ward family burial plot (including the graves of Ethel and Gerald Haythornthwaite), made by former staff members Jean Smart and Jean Hodgkinson, has been successful and we have now reached our target. Thanks to everyone who supported the appeal so generously – it's great to know that you are all so passionate about celebrating our history and the amazing contribution that Ethel and Gerald made to protect our local countryside. We also thank the Ward family for their generous support and

grants from charitable trusts. The latter included the JG Graves Trust which is especially fitting given Alderman Graves' strong support for many of CPRE's early initiatives, including saving Blacka Moor from development.

We have also submitted a large grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to preserve and make public our archives, focusing especially on the work of the Haythornthwaites as national pioneers of countryside conservation. The grant would pay for an initial phase of work whilst a larger grant bid is worked up. We expect to know if we have been successful in November 2017.



## Barnsley Local Plan

CPRE South Yorkshire has been working to influence the Barnsley Local Plan since 2014, and this summer we have been giving evidence at the Public Examination. Unsurprisingly, our focus has been on the perennial problem of inflated housing targets based on a totally unrealistic scale of employment growth, which translates into unnecessary loss of greenfield and green belt land.

In Barnsley we have some particular concerns. The employment growth is focused around the motorway junctions, which we believe will undermine urban renewal and worsen road traffic problems, as well as creating a linear landscape of warehousing and roundabouts all along the M1 corridor. Yorkshire's local authorities are all chasing the same types of employment – logistics and

distribution – with a wasteful lack of co-ordination and great damage to the landscape. Meanwhile, developers have been applying huge pressure to increase green belt housing allocations to the west of Barnsley, especially in Penistone and villages on the fringe of the Peak District such as Oxspring and Thurgoland.

The Public Examination will continue in 2018, but the Inspector's interim report is worrying. She has found that the employment and housing plans don't match up, and gives the Council the choice either to increase the housing figure or to reduce the employment aspirations. This creates difficult political choices for Barnsley, and we fear that realism may once again take a beating. If housing numbers rise, then we're likely to see more expensive houses in rural villages, instead of people's real needs for affordable housing being met.



## Choosing our BATTLES

Edenthorpe ©Anne Flanagan

Our planning officer Andrew Wood has been heavily involved in a public inquiry into new housing in Edenthorpe, on the edge of Doncaster. He gives us his thoughts here on how the appeal process works and what we can learn from it.

We don't often dive into public inquiries, because they make huge demands on our time and energy. Occasionally, it's worth fighting one, and the trick is to choose our battles carefully. At Edenthorpe, there's an application for 650 houses on a greenfield site, and it would knock out a 'green wedge' that is maintaining openness between two villages. It's a really bad scheme, which would be very isolated from the local community due to access difficulties. Doncaster's planning committee refused the application unanimously but the landowner, Hallam Land Management, owns many development sites to the east of Doncaster and seems determined to get outline permissions for them in advance of the new Local Plan which should emerge next year. It feels like a case that we have a chance of winning, and that would be a significant victory.

There's a lot at stake, most importantly a council's ability to defend non-green belt

countryside from speculative development. The landowner is also using the appeal to challenge Doncaster's housing need calculations. We think this is a distortion of the whole planning process, because it's impossible for local communities to scrutinise and give evidence about housing need in appeal cases.

What has really frustrated local people attending the inquiry so far is that most of the evidence and cross-examination seems to be about the status of Local Plan policies, housing need, economic growth assumptions... everything except the site itself. How is it right that an inquiry affecting Edenthorpe should feature so little discussion about Edenthorpe?

We have supported Edenthorpe Parish Council by acting as advocate and chief witness. It's no small task. We have huge quantities of paperwork to plough through, we have our own proofs of evidence to write, then we're cross-examined and we can cross-examine the appellant's witnesses. The appellant can throw many times the resources into the process than we could ever hope to.

But sometimes it's worth a try and if we don't do it, no-one else will



# The Raynsford Review

The Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) has set up a task force to review the English planning system, chaired by former planning minister Rt Hon Nick Raynsford. This comes at a pivotal moment for planning, following the 2017 Housing White Paper and an anticipated review of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2018.

Since 2010, the planning system has hit hard times. The government has – wrongly – seen planning as an obstacle to economic and housing growth and has sought to de-regulate it. The results have been pretty catastrophic. Local Plan processes have slowed down and more and more planning applications are decided at appeal rather than by the local authorities. Most damagingly, the voices of local communities have been drowned out by the volume of housebuilders, whilst planning's ability to deliver essential community benefits, including affordable housing and green space, has been all but wiped out.

The Raynsford Review will set out a new vision for planning that will be launched in autumn 2018. It has six themes that cover not only the overall objectives and structures of the planning system, but also how to improve democratic accountability and citizens' rights, and how to better capture the financial value of a planning permission to fund community benefits.

Nationally, CPRE will be submitting detailed evidence to the review, but is also encouraging local branches to do so. We intend to put in our own evidence, which will draw on our unusual experience of working both in a national park and in major urban areas.

For more information visit the TCPA website [www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)



## Green belt myths fact and fiction



There are many misconceptions about green belts, which seem to be gaining traction in the media. Here are a few facts and figures to counter the 'arguments' which call for us to abandon our precious 'green lungs'.

### **FACT: Green belt policy was established in 1955 primarily to stop urban sprawl.**

There are now 14 green belts around our largest, most historic towns and cities. They cover 13% of England (6,000 square miles).

Green belts are a huge asset, providing: countryside on our doorsteps, space for recreation, diverse wildlife habitats and good quality agricultural land; whilst protecting high-risk areas from flooding, absorbing carbon dioxide and helping to combat the effects of climate change.

Calls for development in the green belt assume the land is only valuable if it's built on. But the ever-increasing pressure for more roads and housing and from climate change and population growth, means that our farmland and woodlands will become more valuable in future, not less.

Development on the green belt is supposed to be tightly controlled. The land is supposed to be permanently protected – "unless there are exceptional circumstances". Demand for housing is not in itself an exceptional circumstance.

The government says it attaches great importance to the green belt and will maintain existing levels of protection. Yet in 2009, 2,258 homes were approved in the green belt and by 2015, the number had risen to 11,977. Recent CPRE research found that existing and emerging Local Plans are proposing more than 362,000 houses on green belt land

### **FICTION: Green belt protection pushes house prices up**

Much house price inflation is down to economic factors which treat houses as an investment opportunity rather than somewhere to live and include:

- Major housebuilding companies and land speculators control land supply and trickle out new houses in order to maximise sales
- The growth in notional wealth tied up in people's houses, enabling many owners to borrow against their current homes and enter the 'buy-to-let' market

If we loosen green belt controls we would simply allow more land to be built on, where developers can make maximum profits.

There is plenty of other, more suitable land that could be built on which could be used more effectively, for example there is currently enough suitable brownfield land for at least one million new homes; and many more homes are delivered on a brownfield site than on an equivalent area of greenfield land.

### **FICTION: If we don't allow development in the green belt, people will leapfrog it and commute in an unsustainable way from elsewhere**

Building in the green belt is not a solution to unsustainable commuting. On the contrary, it would lead to more people leapfrogging over the suburbs into city centres. Instead, we need to create jobs near where people live or provide the tools for people to work remotely if they choose to.

'Leapfrogging' is not inherently unsustainable if a good transport network exists.

Problems with the transport network are far better explained by an over-reliance on car travel, and the often poor quality of public transport, rather than by the presence of the green belt.

### **Green belt under threat in your area?**

Call us on 0114 279 2655 or visit the national CPRE website [www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-planning/green-belts](http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-planning/green-belts) for more information and to view their guide for local communities.





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## Peak District Boundary Walk update

Over 200 walkers took part in the first-footing of the walk on Saturday 17 June, just about the hottest day of the year! The launch event was held on the market place in Buxton where the Boundary Walk starts and finishes.

It was expertly managed and co-ordinated by the Buxton Town Team. Emma Bridgewater – award-winning potter and President of the CPRE – officially opened this brand new spectacular long distance walk around the boundary of our beautiful national park.

The whole route has now been waymarked with our lovely green roundels. Have you spotted any of them yet? Thanks to Tesco Bags of Help for funding the roundels.

Book sales are going well, but it's not too late to get your copy. Please visit our website to place your order. Only £10 per book, and you get a FREE passport, sponsored by Marston's.

### PEAK DISTRICT BOUNDARY SERIES 2018

**Thrilling news, hot off the press...**

We're planning an exciting series of challenge events based on our Peak District Boundary Walk, in partnership with Breese Adventures.

- Four challenge walks in four months (including one overnighter!)
- Dates: 12 May – 9 June – 7 July – 18 August
- 50 miles each to complete the whole Boundary Walk

**Tempted? Keep an eye on our website or contact [julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk](mailto:julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk)**



## Peak District 2018 Calendar

- Local photographer, Phil Sproson
- 12 stunning photographs
- £10 (plus p&p)
- Includes a donation to the Friends

Buy online at [www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk)



### cards for sale

Treat your family and friends to one of these inspiring views of the Peak District this Christmas. Four gorgeous photographs by Chris Maguire – Destination Derbyshire Photographer 2015.

- Winter walk – Edensor
- Winter's Edge – Stanage
- Lone Tree – Tideswell
- Winter Woolies – Chatsworth Park

One pack of eight cards (two of each image) for just £3 (plus P&P)

The message inside each card says "Season's Greetings"

Contact us at [julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk](mailto:julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk) or buy online!



## Dogwood's Production of No Finer Life

**By Graham Harvey, The Archers farming author and agricultural story editor**

**Sunday 18 February 2018**

**Medway Centre, Bakewell**

**7.30pm**

The play *No Finer Life* brings tells the true story of Elizabeth, a Land Army Girl and her unlikely hero, George Henderson who took on a small Cotswolds farm and transformed it into one of the most productive farms in the country at a time of deep recession. His best-selling book 'The Farming Ladder' published in 1944 encouraged farmers to re-evaluate their farming methods and inspired Elizabeth to set off in search of a better life.

Moving between the 1940s and the current day, the production reflects that our relationship with the land and issues of national identity, are timeless. Features new live music performed by award winning composer, Alastair Collingwood, composer of numerous TV and West End scores. Stars Rebecca Bailey as Elizabeth. Directed by James Le Lacheur, London's West End *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.

Graham Harvey will take part in an after-show conversation where he will discuss farming, the issues in the play... and all things Ambridge!

Tickets: £12 each. BOOK NOW or find out more: [www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk)



# Magnificent Walk 2018

**Saturday 28 April from 8.30am**



## The Fleece Inn at Holme

Friends of the Peak District's annual Magnificent Walk will start and finish at the fantastic traditional country pub and restaurant – the Fleece Inn – in the picturesque village of Holme, near Holmfirth.

## The walk

- 20 miles from Holme
- Via the Pennine Way onto the recently restored Black Hill into the large mill town of Marsden
- Then follow the Friends' Peak District Boundary Walk back to Holme around the northern-most tip of the national park via the spectacular Royd Edge and Digley Reservoir
- 15 mile route also available

## The logistics

- Registration at the Fleece Inn from 8am
- 314 bus from Huddersfield
- Parking will be available – (details to be confirmed)
- Public toilets are available in the village
- Drinking water will be made available
- Walkers can set off no earlier than 8.30am
- We'll provide route directions and maps (and waymark the route where necessary)
- Dogs and runners welcome
- Registration costs £12 for adults (£15 on the day). Children under 16 free.

The Fleece Pantry shop will be open from 8am serving a selection of takeaway hot and cold drinks, pies, pasties, cakes and their famous breakfast butties.

Book your place online, or email [julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk](mailto:julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk)



Marsden from the quarry on Deer Hill



Black Hill cotton grass





## Special Gift Membership 2017

Ideal Christmas gift for someone special who loves the Peak District

### Individual Membership £40

Includes:

- Either a Peak District 2018 calendar with photos by Phil Sproson OR a copy of the Peak District Boundary Walk book • PLUS a pack of postcards OR a pack of Christmas cards • PLUS a £5 gift voucher for Go Outdoors OR Marks & Spencers

### Joint Membership £60

Includes:

- A Peak District 2018 calendar with photos by Phil Sproson • A copy of the Peak District Boundary Walk book • A £5 gift voucher for Go Outdoors or Marks & Spencers • PLUS a pack of postcards and a pack of Christmas cards

### For a gift that lasts all year

- Support your favourite charity • Encourage family and friends to care for the Peak District • Help us to protect our incredible landscapes • Offer only applies on an annual membership (no monthly payments) • We will even gift wrap it for you!

To receive your special gift in time for Christmas please order before Friday 15 December and state where you would like us to send the membership gift pack.

Visit [www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk) or call Rob on 0114 279 2655

## Friendly Benefits

**Don't forget to take advantage of your Member Benefits and support our Business Friends:**

- **Peak and Speedwell Caverns** - 2 for 1 on joint tickets to both caverns
- **Poole's Cavern** - 2 for 1
- **Blue John Cavern** - 20% off 2 tickets

- **Casterne Hall** - Half price admission
- **Haddon Hall** - 2 for 1
- **Renishaw Hall** - 2 for 1
- 10% discount at all **Cotswold Outdoor** shops
- 10% off any of the walking weekends, holidays or trips with **Large Outdoors**
- 10% off all events with **Peak Mountaineering**
- 10% off all events with **Climb-Outside**

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

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please tick)

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please tick)	Minimum annual amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	£27
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint	£42
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Guardian	£100
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Guardian	£250
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (under 60)	£600
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (60+)	£350
<input type="checkbox"/> Under 25	£13.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Friend	£50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Guardian	£250
<input type="checkbox"/> Not for profit group	£50
<input type="checkbox"/> GIFT MEMBERSHIP Individual*	£40
<input type="checkbox"/> GIFT MEMBERSHIP Joint*	£60

\*Annual payment only

### Your details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*GIFT RECIPIENT DETAILS – please indicate where you want us to send the membership pack

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT

- a) By cheque or CAF: Please make cheques payable to "Friends of the Peak District" for £ \_\_\_\_\_
- b) By BACS: Sort Code: 40-41-07 Account No: 91855417 Account Name: The Peak District & SY Branch of the CPRE (HSBC)
- c) By Direct Debit: I would like to pay £ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ per month ☐ annually
- d) By credit / debit card: call us on 0114 279 2655 or visit our website



### Instructions to your Bank/ Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building society:

To: The Manager of \_\_\_\_\_ Bank / Building Society

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Account Holder(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Building Society Account No.:

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Branch Sort Code:

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Originators Identification Number: [5] [9] [9] [7] [0] [5] Office Use

### Instructions to your Bank / Building Society.

Please pay Friends of the Peak District Direct Debits 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 and, if so details will be passed electronically to my Bank/ Building Society.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



**Friends of the Peak District and  
CPRE South Yorkshire**

A: Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road,  
Sheffield, S2 2SF

T: 0114 279 2655

E: [mail@friendsofthepeak.org.uk](mailto:mail@friendsofthepeak.org.uk)

W: [www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk)

**Love the Peak? Help us protect it**