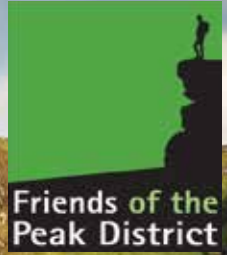


For everyone who loves the Peak District

Peakland guardian

Winter 2019



Also protecting the landscapes of South Yorkshire



In this issue...

Notes from the CEO	3
Climate change – our greatest challenge	4
Boundary Walk update	5
Can National Parks rise to the climate change challenge?	6
Contours Holidays	7
Sheffield's Local Plan	8
My favourite place – by Jean Smart	9
Matlock to Buxton railway	10
Dunford Bridge undergrounding	11
Fracking – Woodsetts fights back	12
Doncaster falls short	13
Archive project progress	14
Breedon do the right thing	15
Taking back the Tracks - Jacob's Ladder and Wetton	16
Leek Road – we won!	18
The Glover National Parks review	19
2020 calendars for sale	20
Lecture series	20
Magnificent Walk 2020	21
Peak District Designs	22
Moors for the Future update	23
Pure Peak Grit cycle challenge	24
All quiet on the western front?	25
With thanks	26
General Sir Hugh Beach	26
Membership	27

CPRE South Yorkshire promotes 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.

Friends of the Peak District works 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.

Registered charity number: 1094975

Registered company number: 4496754

Cover picture: Alaina Beacall in Winnats Pass on the Pure Peak Grit cycle challenge ©Rich Marshall www.richmarshall.com

Back page picture: Relay Championship held by Dark Peak Fell Runners at Fairholms ©Tim Mackey

Designed and produced by TMgraphics timmackey@live.com

Icons made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

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

T: 0114 279 2655

E: mail@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

W: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

W: www.cpresouthyorks.org.uk



Walkers in an autumnal Hope Valley
©Tim Mackey

Follow us on social media

We're being proactive on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you're already a fan, please do follow, share, like and '♥' us. Thanks!

 [@friendsofthepeakdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthepeakdistrict)

 [friendsofthepeak](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofthepeak)

 [@FriendsofPeak](https://twitter.com/FriendsofPeak)

Notes from the CEO

I'm writing this from my desk in our new office! We have completed the move downstairs in Victoria Hall to a bigger and brighter main office (part of which we have sub-let to CPRE National Office staff). We also have an adjoining room to house our archive while we work on our National Lottery Heritage Fund supported project to make our archive safe, secure, and publicly accessible.

As well as providing evidence for the government's Review of Designated Landscape Protections, we've been very busy across the length and breadth of our 'patch' - quarries, railways, green belts, affordable housing, inappropriate housing, air quality, community solar power initiatives, Traffic Regulation Orders, pylon undergrounding, choral concerts, ultra-distance bike rides,

IT upgrades, grant funding applications, and recruiting new staff to name just a few! There are articles about lots of this work within these pages.

At our AGM in August John Anfield, Yvonne Witter and John Hoare stood down as Trustees. We owe a debt of thanks to all three of them for their time and effort in supporting the charity. David Holmes, Paul Cooper (Hon. Treasurer), and Corinna Lincoln have joined us as new Trustees. We are also indebted to the contribution that Andrew Wood made for us in his many years as our consultant Planning Officer.

As the seasons turn I hope you manage to get out and about in the wonderful landscapes of the Peak District and South Yorkshire. Do keep in touch.

All the best
Tomo Thompson
CEO

Climate change our greatest challenge

It is perhaps too simplistic to state that we believe climate change is the greatest threat to the countryside. At a recent CPRE workshop, held to develop a new climate change policy for the organisation, a colleague from another branch took a different view: "Climate change may mean the greatest change to the countryside, but loss of land through poorly planned development remains the greatest threat".

We know that failing to rein in greenhouse gas emissions will be disastrous for landscapes, ecosystems and society at large. But CPRE's emerging national policy is

clear that although transformational change is 'required across the country, touching every sector and community', there could be huge benefits for rural communities and local enterprise, through a raft of initiatives such as farm-based and community energy schemes, addressing fuel poverty through energy efficiency and conservation, superfast fibre enabling smart energy solutions, better transport alternatives, and low carbon affordable housing.

We believe that the countryside's role in delivering net zero carbon emissions creates a unique opportunity to provide a more resilient and sustainable countryside which is more able to adapt to a changing climate and to provide many of the services society needs. The fear, of course, is about a radical change in the 'look' of the countryside. But does this matter?

Of course it matters for an organisation centred on conserving beauty, restoring wildlife and advocating for viable rural communities. The imperative for low carbon energy does not mean simply covering our favourite places in wind and solar farms. But we should not over-obsess about change in itself; after all, the countryside is constantly changing and adapting to new 'technologies', as it has for centuries.

We will surely see changes in the next 30 years – much more woodland and forestry, including short-rotation coppice, so openness and big views may disappear in some areas. Farming will change radically, with much less

livestock in some areas. The car will lose its dominance and we will travel in very different ways. There will be more multi-functional land, including for local energy generation and grids. But it is more about how we manage that change and ensure that the same functions we want from the countryside: space, access, health, relaxation, community, productivity, food, ecosystem services, beauty, biodiversity – can come from non-urban land, whether on the outskirts of Doncaster or in the heart of the Peak District.

So let's not be daunted and embrace the positives that a low carbon countryside can bring us!



Belted Galloways ©Tomo Thompson

Boundary Walk update by Carol Parsons



"I am delighted to be working for CPRE / Friends of the Peak District on a part-time basis helping to develop and promote the Peak District Boundary Walk. So far I have been busy undertaking desk research to get up to speed with its background and history and am enjoying walking and running sections of this fabulous route around the edge of the national park in my spare time. I'm keen to gather information from walkers who have completed the route and would welcome

ideas from you. For example we're hoping to produce a guide to walker friendly B&Bs, hotels, hostels and campsites within easy reach of the route, as well as information on tackling the walk using public transport. If you can contribute suggestions for these please get in touch. I will also produce a development plan, which will include marketing ideas and identify opportunities for funding.

We have created a Peak District Boundary Walk Facebook group to enable everyone to share information, photographs and experiences of the walk. If you're on Facebook please join and share the group with other interested parties www.facebook.com/groups/2244957655613191/

We were thrilled to receive £2000 from the Ramblers Holidays



Charitable Trust for Carol's short term part-time salary. Ultimately, we hope to raise enough funds (through grant funding and sponsorship) to appoint a permanent boundary walk development officer to enable us to maintain the route and generate ongoing support.

Can national parks rise to the climate change challenge?

Andrew McCloy

The dire implications of climate change are well known. And whilst Britain's 15 national parks represent our most sensitive and protected landscapes, their sheer accessibility means they are very vulnerable. We are already seeing the signs: the spread of invasive species and tree diseases, the devastating impact of extreme weather, such as the wildfires that ravaged the Peak District's heather moors, or flooding in the Lake District.

The statutory purposes underpinning our national parks go beyond conserving and enhancing the landscape to encouraging popular understanding and enjoyment of the parks' special qualities, so they are uniquely placed to deliver key messages, shape low carbon lifestyles and help tackle climate change. Here's how:

1. Sustainable land management.

National Park Authorities must be allowed to play an active part in the delivery of the new environmental land management scheme so that farmers and land managers are rewarded for caring for the landscape in a way that benefits people, wildlife and the wider environment. As intensive agriculture is a key source of emissions, we should focus on locking up carbon by restoring peat uplands, improving flood resilience, supporting better soil and livestock management, encouraging afforestation and exploring new technologies.

2. Influencing visitor behaviour. Nine out of ten national park visitors arrive by car, so we need to pilot integrated transport solutions that have an irresistible walking, cycling and public transport offer; such as park and ride schemes, e-bike hire, and installing charging points for electric vehicles. More radical solutions could include congestion charges, low emission zones

and seasonal closures of minor roads at peak times.

- 3. Low carbon communities.** National parks should promote greater energy efficiency and champion appropriately scaled renewable energy. From solar panels on the roofs of barns to mini hydro projects, there is scope to take this much further.
- 4. Education and research.** National parks are natural pioneers: Moors for the Future has made the Peak District a leading hub for research into sustainable moorland management, building ties with academic institutions and developing a citizen science programme. The Glover Report and National Parks England advocate that every schoolchild should be able to experience a national park. Surely an outdoor classroom is the ideal place to learn first-hand about environmental issues and climate change?

National parks are already committed to tackling climate change but, to realise their full potential, they need practical, policy and organisational support from government. They need the freedom to develop active, new partnerships, as well as adequate funding and powers to make it all happen. Now is the moment to take the shackles off and let national parks rise to the challenge of climate change.

©Tomo Thompson

Self-Guided Walking Holidays
Discover the British Isles at your own pace

We organise everything so you can relax and enjoy your holiday!

Walking Routes: Cleveland Way, Coast to Coast Walk, West Highland Way, Hadrian's Wall Path, Great Glen Way, South West Coast Path, Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Vikei Mair Way

We provide...

- Quality accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Maps & guidebooks
- Handwritten holiday pack
- Luggage transfers
- 24/7 emergency support
- Flexible itineraries
- Bespoke tours
- Dog-friendly holidays
- Group discounts
- Loyalty schemes
- Expert knowledge & advice

Contours Holidays

www.contours.co.uk
info@contours.co.uk • 01629 821 900

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube icons

Further delays to Sheffield's Local Plan



Mayfield Valley ©Julie Gough

Sheffield City Council recently announced a new schedule for the publication of its long awaited draft Local Plan, which will define the future extent of, and encroachment into, the green belt. We fear that government pressure to provide more houses will mean unnecessary loss of important green belt and green field sites. However, in letters to us and in the press, SCC have made clear their intentions (a) to retain as much green belt as possible and (b) to review how more housing can be provided in the city centre and on brownfield sites.

We applaud this approach and their understanding that in order to reduce the current housing crisis it is necessary to provide a mix of housing types (with much more social and affordable housing) and not just aim to meet numerical targets.

However the delay in producing the new plan also means that, without a five year housing supply, the likelihood of speculative 'off-plan' applications increases.

Working with local communities, we are currently fighting two such inappropriate proposals – one at Hollin Busk above Stocksbridge and another near Mosborough at Owlthorpe Fields. At Owlthorpe, we are working closely with the council, Clive Betts MP, the local action group, Friends of the Earth and the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to get a better outcome for the area. We objected to the application for 72 houses on part of the site due to concerns over poor design, density and lack of sustainability and are calling instead for a moratorium on development until a masterplan for the whole area is produced.

MY FAVOURITE PLACE The Rivelin Valley by Jean Smart

When I was growing up in post-war Sheffield, it seemed a rather grey, gloomy place with sooty air. The consequences of the Blitz were everywhere, with bomb damage to homes, public buildings and work places all too evident. However, at every opportunity my mother would take me on the tramcar to Malin Bridge and we would walk along the Rivelin Valley and experience the sounds of bird song, see beautiful trees, paddle in the stream and breathe clean air! It was a great escape and has been one of my favourite places ever since.

In 1963, it seemed like karma therefore when, at the age of 19, I started work at the Sheffield offices of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. At that time its amazing protagonists Ethel and Gerald Haythornthwaite were putting all their considerable energies into a campaign to protect the Rivelin Valley from the ambitions of the Sheffield Corporation to build 3,300

houses out from Malin Bridge all along the valley to Hollow Meadows. If this were to be permitted, they knew it wouldn't be long before housing went up to the national park boundary and beyond.

They didn't want to deny anyone a home and their alternative proposal was to build a new township at Mosborough instead. A long public inquiry was held and the result went largely their way. The Minister at the time, Richard Crossman, said that he was 'in no doubt that the Rivelin Valley should remain a permanent open space along the western approaches to the city'. Fortunately, so it remains. The Rivelin Valley is as popular today as ever... and you can still travel there by tram – Supertram!



©Tim Mackey

Matlock-Buxton railway re-opening - is it a runner?



©Phil Sproson

The Matlock to Buxton railway line closed in 1967, severing direct rail connections between Manchester, Derby and London St. Pancras. Now, the possibility of re-opening the route is being pursued by a consortium of quarry companies for a freight and heritage steam railway with Peak Rail, and separately by the Manchester and East Midlands Rail Action Partnership for freight and passenger services.

In principle, transfer of freight from road to rail is welcome and could have a significant impact in reducing environmental and congestion costs. Rail is more energy efficient per tonne of freight moved than road transport and, in order to meet net zero carbon by 2050, lorry mileage needs to be reduced by 10%. Then there are the 10 million visits made to the park annually, the majority by car, one million of which might be persuaded to transfer from car to rail if this railway were to be reinstated.

At present, limited information is available to us but there are two big issues of concern. The first is that this would entail major development in the Peak District National Park and for it to proceed exceptional circumstances must be demonstrated and it must be shown to be in the public interest. We ask: do the proposals constitute a national need in terms of UK considerations? Are there alternative routes for railways which would not cut through the national park?

Secondly, the hugely popular nine-mile Monsal trail - the track bed, used by walkers, cyclists (60,000pa), horse riders and people with disabilities - would have to be replaced. Topographical and ecological constraints make it virtually impossible to create a replacement trail of equal character and quality. So there are some big challenges to face before trains pass over the historic Monsal viaduct again.



At last National Grid's proposed undergrounding of overhead high voltage lines east of Dunford is before us as a planning application. Eight pylons including the very intrusive tower above the Woodhead tunnel would be removed, 1.8 kms of electricity wires would be buried beneath the Trans Pennine Trail east of Dunford Bridge, and a new sealing end compound would be developed in the valley below Carlecotes. The Trans Pennine Trail would require diversion north of the River Don, with a haul road on the north slopes and a change to the car park layout – but these changes would be temporary.

The Friends have a long history of trying to reduce the impacts of powerlines on landscapes, starting in the 1960s when we got the transmission line between Stalybridge and South Yorkshire concealed in the Woodhead tunnels. More recently we campaigned for undergrounding of lines in all nationally designated landscapes, which resulted in the development of a national scheme with four potential projects, Dunford being one of them. This application is therefore for us the fruition of a decades long campaign.

It would mean that the TPT, also the track bed, could not become a railway again unless the cables were moved elsewhere. But with no immediate plans for rail re-opening we

Dunford Bridge Undergrounding

strongly support National Grid's project. It will enhance both the national park and the openness of Barnsley's green belt. There are some significant adverse but temporary impacts on the local community and the environment but measures have been adopted to limit and mitigate them.

However a major project such as this should produce more nature than it harms resulting in net biodiversity gain. With the loss of 2% of the locally unique Wogden Foot and a change to the habitats adjacent to the Trail, there is a net loss of trees and scrub, so important to the willow tit. This must be compensated.





Woodsetts fights back



The third public inquiry into exploratory drilling for shale gas in our area took place in June 2019. This was to examine proposals by INEOS to develop a drill site just outside the village of Woodsetts in tranquil countryside. After a huge number of objections, Rotherham Council twice refused permission, leading INEOS to appeal.

As ever, INEOS were up to their old tricks and submitted late information that significantly changed the nature of the application. Again we called for an adjournment, to allow time for clarification and proper consideration, but – as at Harthill – the inspector pressed on regardless. Happily the local action group, Woodsetts Against Fracking, were incredibly well prepared having crowdfunded for expert witnesses and a barrister, and made a brilliant case through the two weeks of hearings. We

also gave evidence and, thanks to a recent legal case in London (the 'Talk Fracking' judgment), were able to have climate change impacts considered fully (this had been ruled as impermissible at the previous Harthill and Marsh Lane inquiries, to our frustration).

Possibly the strongest argument at the inquiry was the impact of the drilling, which would be 24/7 for months on end, on sheltered housing very close to the site. Noise levels were shown to be unacceptable, causing INEOS to propose – almost out of nowhere – a 'sonic' barrier in the form of a huge fence. If implemented, it would also be damaging to openness and the green belt.

Shortly after the inquiry closed, the government announced they were 'calling in' the decision which means the independent inspector could only write a recommendation to the Secretary of State, rather than make her own decision. We suspect this is because, in the wake of the Talk Fracking judgment (which ruled out in-principle support for fracking-related development) the government wants to consider the legal implications more carefully. A decision is expected early in 2020.

Doncaster falls short

Doncaster Council recently published the final draft of its Local Plan – the document guiding planning and development in the borough until 2035. We responded to the consultation on it which closed at the end of September. Although many of the proposed policies were very good, we were shocked by its lack of regard for the need to reduce carbon emissions in line with national climate change targets.

We pulled no punches and stated: "in short this is a 20th century economic vision based on Doncaster's continuing obsession with building roads and peripheral employment sites, and it has no place in preparing the borough for the realities of the mid-21st century that will be defined by how places respond to the challenges of climate change."

It is hugely worrying that very radical steps to reduce carbon emissions must be made by 2030 and yet this does not factor at all in Doncaster's plans. Huge questions therefore hang over their approach to new development in the countryside, the role of road transport, growth of Doncaster Sheffield Airport, transport policy, design and the built environment, and policies facilitating oil and gas extraction, including fracking.

The next step will be the examination of the plan and policies by an independent planning inspector, sometime in 2020. We will give further detailed evidence on the Plan's lack of compliance with national policy; we can only hope that the inspector will agree with our views and recommend radical revisions which will make the future for Doncaster much more sustainable.



Archive project progress

In August, work started on our Archive Project, with the appointment of project archivist, Caroline Bolton. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the 16-month project will ensure that our archives are preserved and made accessible to the public for the first time.

The Archive contains records of our campaigning activities dating back to 1924 (when we were known as the Sheffield Association for the Protection of Local Scenery).

Features of the collection include original exhibition panels, campaign posters, maps,

to our offices where they will be sorted, re-packaged into archival quality boxes and catalogued. Ultimately, they will be transferred to Sheffield City Archives where they'll be reunited with CPRE items already deposited there and managed on our behalf - assuring long-term preservation and public access.

To increase accessibility, we're planning a volunteer-led digitisation programme to create digital images of items which can be accessed online. This will focus on scanned images of items which are currently inaccessible (such as glass slides) or most vulnerable to damage/degradation. We will also digitise items that help to tell the story of the pioneering work of the branch including how Ethel and Gerald shaped the future of landscape conservation.

Since its establishment, this branch of CPRE has been at the forefront of the conservation movement nationally and locally. As we approach our centenary anniversary in 2024, we would

like to uncover stories within the archive as well as collect new ones, with the aim of inspiring future generations of campaigners. To this end, we'll be looking to recruit volunteer researchers, writers, oral history interviewers and interviewees.

If you are interested in any of the exciting volunteering opportunities outlined, and would like to get involved and offer or gain skills, knowledge and experience, please email Caroline with your details: caroline.bolton@cprepeakandsyorks.org.uk

architectural drawings, correspondence, planning papers, official documents, glass slides and photographs of local landscapes, as well as personal papers of our founder, Ethel Haythornthwaite and husband Gerald, both formidable campaigners. The archive offers a wealth of research opportunities for those interested in local, social, landscape and architectural history.

Currently housed in secure offsite storage, the first task has been to prepare the archive materials for a temporary move



Breedon do the right thing!

Last year we were troubled by an application to extend Dowlow Quarry, near Buxton, right up to the boundary of the national park. Under previous management, the quarry had been poorly planned and new owners, Breedon, felt the only solution was a temporary extension that would allow operations to be re-oriented so that the remaining reserves (of limestone, for aggregate and high quality powders) could be realised. In essence we thought this sacrificed landscape amenity for short term operational gain, especially as the temporary extension would last for 15 years and impact on the setting of important local heritage sites including Cronkston Low and Foxhole Cave at High Wheeldon.

We objected (twice) and the National Park Authority also expressed significant concerns over a number of aspects of the proposal. To their credit, Breedon – a member of CNP's (Campaign for National Parks) Corporate Forum – responded very positively and amended their plans to reduce the working period by seven years. They also offered some valuable landscape mitigation and amenity benefits, in the form of undergrounding visually prominent electricity lines on their land (and beyond) and



33kV wires to be buried near Dowlow

improving local rights of way, including a new bike link to the nearby High Peak Trail. They are also to establish a local environmental enhancement fund aimed at creating biodiversity gains in the area, to be overseen by an independent trust.

We were pleased to be able to withdraw our objection and are also hoping to arrange further complementary undergrounding, near both Cronkston Low and High Wheeldon which would improve their setting in the long term. This would be through OFGEM's multi-million pound Undergrounding for Visual Amenity (UVA) fund, which we, the National Park Authority and Western Power Distribution have operated in the Peak District since 2005.



Taking back our Tracks

Jacob's Ladder. We were delighted when Derbyshire County Council approved a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to ban permanently all recreational motor vehicles from Jacob's Ladder near the village of Stoney Middleton.

For more than 20 years the local community have been plagued by fast moving motorbikes and 4x4s which have intimidated residents and made them fearful of using the lane. Steep and narrow, with poor sight lines, it is incompatible for use by vehicles alongside walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The natural beauty, tranquillity and wildlife have been harmed and what was once a beautiful cobbled way has been destroyed.

Unsurprisingly local people turned out in force to pack the room at County Hall where Cllr Spencer, Cabinet Member for Highways, decided to proceed with the TRO. All that the national park stands for, won through and the lane's serenity and wildlife will be restored to the village and its visitors to enjoy.

The council said it would still consider requests for use of the route for lawful motorcycle rallies, and only with prior authorisation.

Since the order came into force in August, illegal vehicle use of the lane has thankfully abated - the majority now seem to have accepted that Jacob's Ladder is no-go for them.

Wetton, near the Manifold Trail, is a quiet grassy lane where you can quickly get away from it all. It displays five of the eight special qualities that underpin the national park's designation – (i) beautiful views, (ii) important and distinct wildlife, (iii) tranquility and dark night skies, (iv) prehistoric artefacts and (v) a place to be inspired.

As recreational motor vehicles are detrimental to all these qualities, the National Park Authority agreed a year ago to ban them permanently. But before the TRO could be made the Trail Riders Federation made a legal representation that required the highways authority - Staffordshire County Council - to undertake repairs. In doing so the council had to close Wetton which blocked the National Park Authority from making its order. The repairs themselves, now complete, changed nothing for the Park Authority – neither the grounds for making the order, which was not about damage to the surface but about protecting tranquility, nor the merit of alternative options, which could all be dismissed again.

Thankfully, the Authority has re-affirmed its order, which will coincide with the lifting of Staffordshire's temporary closure, once the grass seed has grown, so that motorbikes or 4x4s do not damage the lane anymore.

*Left: Jacob's Ladder ©Stephen Walker
Below: Wetton ©Stephen Walker*



Leek Road **we won!!!**

Thanks to you, our amazing members and supporters, contributing sufficient funds to employ an expert witness and planning consultant, we won the planning appeal to stop an inappropriate housing development on the edge of Buxton, hard by the Peak District National Park.

Our consultant planning officer, Andrew Wood, teamed up with expert planner Jackie Copley (on loan from CPRE Lancashire) and presented clear evidence that the development was unnecessary and against local policy in the High Peak. We gave evidence and also cross-examined the developer's witnesses. Local objectors also gave clear and compelling evidence of why the development was simply in the wrong place. We were therefore very heartened when the inspector decided very quickly that the appeal should be dismissed, thus saving the site. We couldn't have done it without you and the community.

The *Glover National Parks* review

September saw the government-sponsored, but independent review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty published in full. The panel, led by writer and journalist Julian Glover, and including our President Dame Fiona Reynolds, called for a big shake up of the current system, endorsing many of the asks made by us, CPRE and the Campaign for National Parks. These included more visitors from BAME (Black, Asian and minority Ethnic) and other hard-to-reach communities, more outreach to schools and children, changes to open access rights, steps to halt the shocking decline in biodiversity in national parks, a new national landscapes service, and changes to the core purposes of

national parks, including a controversial third purpose to 'foster economic and community vitality'.

Our initial take is positive on most of the proposals and we will be working with CNP and other national park societies to refine our common response in November 2019, which will comprise a focused set of asks to government. However, the breadth and scope of recommendations from the review – and the current focus on Brexit – may mean the Government's response could take quite a while to emerge.

See more here: www.cpre.org.uk/magazine

Below: Ex-trustees, John Lambert and Yvonne Witter, being interviewed for BBC Breakfast at Monsal Head





2020 Calendars for sale - £10 each

Buy your 2020 calendar with stunning Peak District photographs by Phil Sproson.

Online www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk/shop/

Online price (£12.50) includes postage & packing

Or call the office on 0114 279 2655

All proceeds in aid of Friends of the Peak District.

LECTURE SERIES IN AID OF THE FRIENDS

*An evening of words, poetry and music – with Ed Douglas, Helen Mort and others.
Tuesday 21 January*

A further lecture event will be held on Tuesday 10 March. Rock climbing speakers to be confirmed.

All events in the series at the Lescar Inn, Hunters Bar, Sheffield. 7.30pm

Tickets: £5 on the door or in advance from www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Hello from the Magnificent Walk Team



©Chris Heard

We're having fun planning the routes for the 2020 Magnificent Walk, which will be located on the Eastern side of the Peak District – near Sheffield. There are some magnificent Gritstone edges to explore, and some beautiful locations to visit. As always, the challenge is to see the best of our wonderful national park, while getting the smallest number of people lost, and keeping everyone safe!

The area is scenically important, associated with a lot of walking history, and promises to be a magnificent day out.

Date: Saturday 16 May 2020

Start and finish: The Three Merry Lads, Redmires Road, Sheffield, S10 4LJ

Tickets now on sale online: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Buy before 2020, and pay just £12 per person

This year we're planning three walks: the usual 21 mile and 12-ish mile routes, but also, following feedback from a number of you, we are adding a 5 mile walk – so there should be something for everyone. We also have a cunning plan to make sure everyone gets some flapjack!

We hope to see many of you on the walk, but if you'd like to help out, as a marshal or with the administration, please contact julie@friendsofthepeak.org.uk.

Peak District Designs



Si Homfray is an artist, designer, adventurer and author. He set up and runs Hammer Design and Peak District Design in Hathersage, where his small friendly gallery displays his contemporary and colourful artworks - quality giftware, soft furnishings and ceramics.

Si's work often starts with long lists of everything encountered, such as wildlife, flowers, leaves or local villages. These indexes become the basis for patterns, and textures used in larger more literal representations, often displaying many levels of complexity, rhythm and colour, and often lead to themes around wellbeing, the natural world and how our immersion in it works effectively to create personal growth and inner calm.

Following a life changing motorbike accident in 2012, Si found the time and space to start

this new adventure. "I have been incredibly lucky to have the chance to re-start my life. Sometimes you just have to stop and look around you with fresh eyes. Find the detail in the simplest of things, the head of a flower, the pattern of the fields, the sound of the birds. I am making the most of every day and appreciating the beauty of this amazing place I am proud to call home."

We are absolutely delighted that Si is allowing us to sell his beautiful merchandise at events, with proceeds in aid of the Friends.



Moors for the Future Partnership



A force of nature: 16 years of science

The conservation work carried out by Moors for the Future Partnership on the Peak District and South Pennine moors is underpinned by research and monitoring. The datasets, and the stories they tell, determine the conservation techniques used on the ground.

2019 marks the 16th consecutive year that data has been collected – looking at the transition from bare peat to vegetation cover, and the mixture of returning species that change over time.

Research shows that grasses (fescue, bent and rye) are quick to establish, changing the ground cover from 100% bare peat to nearly 100% vegetation in about 3–4 years. Importantly, this stabilises the previously eroding peat surface and creates a protective microclimate which encourages other species to grow.

Other blanket bog species (like wavy hair grass and cotton grass; bilberry and heather; mosses and lichens) germinate from seeds mixed up in the heather brash (chopped-up heather harvested from other local moors and spread on the bare peat sites to protect the nurse crop grasses as they establish) and also from seeds held in the seedbank in the top layer of the peat – from potentially hundreds of years ago, before the vegetation was lost.

After 4–6 years, these native species overtake the grasses and after 6–8 years, are approaching 100% cover. A key species for the return to healthy blanket bog is sphagnum moss, which starts to appear in some quadrats after around 6–8 years, but very slowly – and sometimes not at all.

All the vegetation monitoring relies on a large number of volunteers and staff. Counting the percentage cover of every single species in all 612 quadrats is quite a feat – but is providing an extremely valuable understanding of how the moors are recovering, and will provide a detailed account of how the moors may change in response to a changing climate.

48 Hours of Pure Peak Grit



“One crazy idea: a physical and mental endurance challenge across some of the most beautiful hills in Britain. The concept seemed simple, but even the planning tested my grit to the edge!

The final masochistic blueprint was a road route linking together every known ‘tough’ hill in and around the Peak District. The ride, emulating a drape of lace over our beloved national park, is 610 km long, and climbs over 42 categorised ‘serious’ hills, and upwards of 13,600m ascent. Yes, one and a half times the height of Everest. As an added challenge, the goal was to complete within 48 hours!

As a relative newbie cyclist, I had been inaugurated three years ago by attempting a self-supported Lands End to John O’Groats ride on my commuter hybrid, after which my addictive and adventure-seeking personality became untameable. Further time out from my medical career saw me solo cycle 5000

miles from the Arctic to the Mediterranean at 100 miles per day and raising funds for Syrian Refugees; this then prompted me to attempt my first competitive endurance event, the 4200 mile coast-to-coast ‘Trans America Bike Race’ in 2018.

Now to ‘settle down’ a bit, I am undertaking GP training in Sheffield. As a rock climber, the Peak District has been an absolute dream move, inspiring me daily with its multitude of wild landscapes. I wanted to share this magical place with riders through Pure Peak Grit (PPG) and aptly pair this with awareness and support for Friends of the Peak District and the brilliant work they do.

So, at 8pm on Friday 12 July 10 long-distance loving ladies pedalled away from Buxton train station, unsure of the ensuing 48 hours other than eight control points. These landmarks were photographed and updated to social media to allow progress to

be tracked. I would bump into fellow riders briefly for the first 50 miles, but afterwards was left solo. Due to the barrage of hills, severe fatigue and sleep deprivation through the long first night, some of my compadres started dropping out. On the Saturday afternoon I was on a high, sharing the weaving west and south Peak tarmac ribbons with Alice Thomson in the summer sunshine. At 386km I hit Glossop for a 4 hour kip, then rode up along the Snake Pass on a gloriously quiet and mist-soaked Sunday morning onto Mam Tor and the foreboding Sir William Hill. Only four of us remained in the game at this point, but despite this tinge of sadness for the girls I wished to share this spectacular scenery with, all I could do was smile and weep with already nostalgic joy through Stanage, Bradfield, and

along the Strines Moor to the final ‘biggie’ of Holme Moss. Buxton war memorial and the friendly faces of some incredible individuals greeted Jasmijn, myself and Alice, and the next day, Ede and Lulu.

Final numbers include: two finishers within 48hours, two further finishers (64 hours), and Alice did 500km in a brilliant time. £1090 raised for Friends of the Peak District.”

Alaina Beacall

We’d like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Alaina, all the cyclists, and her amazing team, for this incredible achievement, for raising awareness of our work, and for making such a generous donation.

Visit www.purepeakgrit.cc

for the route, how to attempt it yourself, and information about the next Pure Peak Grit Challenge in 2020.



All quiet on the western front?

In December 2018, new owners of the Hepworth’s site in the lovely Loxley valley, Patrick Properties, held a community workshop to help inform a new master plan for the site. Since then, development consultants URBED have produced a draft master plan but it has not seen the light of day. More recently we met with Patrick Properties to chase progress. To date they have not found a development partner to

build out the site (should permission be granted), so have decided to proceed to an outline application themselves. We are now waiting for the announcement of further community consultation on their proposals before they apply, but tentatively scheduled dates have been and gone, echoing the planning blight that fell over the valley ten years ago when Bovis Homes wanted to develop the site.

It’s a waiting game but we are fully committed to ensuring that we and the local community have as much say as possible in the future of this key site in Sheffield’s green belt.

With thanks

We are humbled by supporters' donations every day, but wanted to say a special thank you to Heather Bell, for the recent legacy we received. Her daughter, Rosie, explained her mother's great fondness for the Peak District and why she wanted to support our work:

"The Peak District touched my mum's heart so much so it featured in a poem she wrote following her terminal cancer diagnosis (which I read at her funeral) entitled "I remember". She moved here in 2011 from Ripponden in West Yorkshire where she had lived for 34 years. She fell in love with the Peak District long before she moved here, and loved spending time with our dogs and horses out and about (especially in the Edale valley). She loved the openness of the beautiful countryside, the seasons, our amazing weather, the vitality people have, the care they give and the love they hold for this area".

General Sir Hugh Beach

We were saddened to learn that General Sir Hugh Beach died recently. In addition to his distinguished military career, he was a great champion of the Peak District countryside through his inheritance of the North Lees estate at an early age.

Because of that, he became a supporter of our organisation and developed a lifelong friendship with Gerald and Ethel Haythornthwaite. When he decided to restore North Lees Hall in the 1950s, he asked Gerald to act as architect and clerk of works. Later, and when pondering the long-term future of the estate, he took Gerald's counsel and decided to pass it to the National Park Authority for them to look after for the benefit of the nation. He always had Stanage in his heart and continued to follow its fortunes, latterly through wise advice and support for the Stanage Forum. He also became our President in 1987 and served with great distinction.

Sir Hugh was a deeply religious and moral man, setting aside the usual conventions of senior military figures to advocate for nuclear disarmament. He was also long-sighted in other matters, including renewable energy. In 1994, after giving a speech at Hope Valley College on 'Wind Power', he wrote to Gerald hoping 'that I may persuade you to take a less hard line opposition to these things'. Gerald's misgivings were not assuaged but he must have relished the intellectual challenge!

We send our sincere condolences to Sir Hugh's family (Michael, Rosemary, John and David) and our gratitude for his life and service.



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	£30
<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.:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Branch Sort Code:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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: _____ / _____ / _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION

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 and add the date to validate this declaration:

☐ I would like Friends 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.

Date: _____ / _____ / 20 _____

Signature: _____

giftaid it

DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

By signing this membership application form, you agree that we may use your details for processing and administering your membership. ☐ If you agree that we may contact you for marketing and/or fundraising purposes, please tick all that apply:

Name: _____ ☐ By post

Signature: _____ ☐ By email

Date: _____ / _____ / 20 _____ ☐ By phone

Please note: we will never sell or pass your details on to a 3rd party or organisation.

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

W: www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk



Love the Peak? Help us protect it