



Mother Cap. Photo: John Coefield.

# PEAK AREA NEWSLETTER



**November 2016**  
peakarea@gmail.com

## Rocking Chair

Rob Greenwood



**The next area meeting marks the one-year anniversary of Becky and me taking over the roles of secretary and chair. We'd like to extend our firmest thanks for your support over the past 12 months.**

Within the Peak Area we are very lucky to be surrounded not only by an excellent team of volunteers, but an equally excellent group of people that attend each and every meeting. The discussion is consistently of a high calibre, both interesting and varied, and long may that last.

In terms of what to expect on the evening of 16 November, there is – as always – a lot on, including the **AGM** (something we've got very good at doing quickly in the Peak), an update on **Stannage** from Peak Area access coordinator Henry Folkard, details on the rejuvenation of the **Peak Bolt Fund** and, perhaps most important of all, the (in)famous **BMC Peak Area Quiz**.

So get swatting up on the difference between your V grades/Font grades, your Munro peaks/Munro tops, and come pit yourself against some of the most specialist minds in the country. There'll be plenty of prizes up for grabs too.

See you there!

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Next meeting: Wednesday 16 November, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindleford, S32 2HE



Stanage. Photo: John Coe field.

## Access News

Henry Folkard



**Stanage will be directly affected by a fundamental staffing reorganisation. Twelve new 'Heads of Service' posts will be created. Four of the post holders will have responsibility for different aspects of Stanage as part of their wider remit, for example, landscape and conservation, visitor experience, outreach etc. Their roles will be national park wide rather than site specific. Thus instead of having one property manager, whose post will go, there will be bits of four posts, covering bits of Stanage along with everywhere else.**

John Horscroft, who is chair of the Stanage Forum, and I have, as I write, just emerged from a long meeting with the CEO of the national park, one of her three directors and the chair of one of three members' committees. They explained the new set-up, and against a background of very

serious concern we and others had expressed about how the new arrangements would work out, sought to reassure us they were putting more resource into the care of Stanage, and their commitment to the future care of Stanage North Lees in its entirety was undiminished.

By the time of the area meeting our heads may have cleared sufficiently for us to know how we feel about all this, and whether we, either singly or jointly, want to continue in our voluntary roles. We received reassurances on some key points we raised, but just now are not sure of the extent to which we are reassured – and we will certainly rue the departure of the current property manager, Rebekah Newman, who, in the last couple of years, has done a huge amount for the place. Bill Gordon, the longstanding estate warden, is on reduced hours pending retirement.

The crux, in this hugely important site for climbers in particular, will be in how elaborate corporate rhetoric translates into actions.

Work is in hand to repair the main path up from Popular End, and hopefully make it blend in a bit better, and also on the Cowper Stone path.

Three more pods have arrived at the campsite. Personally I don't like them at all, but they have been popular with climbers from overseas. I did manage to get the proposed siting of two of the new ones changed to make them largely invisible if you are camping. The one by the amenities block is for visitors who may be physically impaired in some way and would not otherwise be able to get out and enjoy themselves.

The **campsite** will be unlocked in November and March, though not formally open, so if you want to use it then just turn up and pitch. Not sure what will happen in the months in between yet, as Flo Gordon, who has been a brilliant campsite warden for some years now, has formally retired (though she may still appear from time to time as a part-time helper).

The white lines that have recently appeared down **The Dale** (the road up from Hathersage) were put there by the Highway Authority after a John Lewis delivery van ran off the road and got stuck. They are meant to signify the road is a single track road, though it may well be worth checking in the Highway Code if there are implications beyond that.

The headline from this year's **ring ouzel** monitoring work is that there are more pairs nesting now than there were in 2002 when the last Stange/Burbage count was carried out. There are sundry caveats concerning comparability of different data sets, but at least it is beyond question that whereas there have been declines elsewhere in England and Scotland, this is not the case here. So thanks to everyone who made reports, and took notice of temporary restrictions because

it really has made a difference.

On the **Sheffield Moors** there is a lot going on. The **Eastern Moors** stakeholder group is due to meet later in the month, so if there are any points you want fed in to the meeting, or into the next management plan, please let me know. I intend to raise, again, the question of fencing, since fences do proliferate where there are cattle.

A limited cull of red deer is due to keep the herd healthy. Essentially this mimics what wolves would do in taking out sickly animals, while keeping numbers consistent with the habitat's ability to support them – about 150 to 160 at the rut count. This policy is working as all animals previously culled have been found to be free from disease. Culls are not undertaken lightly, but as necessary management for sustaining a healthy herd. They are certainly not done for profit as the net cost of a cull is roughly £8,000.

There is also a curlew project planned – a species which is of national conservation concern.

On **Burbage**, legal niceties have yet to be completed, but the Eastern Moors stakeholder group will in future also include Burbage – so there is another chance to get anything you want raised taken up.

Across the wider **Sheffield Moors** area there are big questions being addressed, like overnight parking, predator control and the future approach to upland farming. This is a major question. If conservation gain, in terms of landscape and its enjoyment by mountain walkers and climbers, is a valid return for the public subsidy used to support upland hill farms in producing something (sheep) which in reality is neither profitable nor needed in the volumes in which it is produced, how do you define that conservation gain, and how could hill farming best support its delivery?

Elsewhere in the Dark Peak it is noteworthy that the **National Trust**



Derwent Edge. Photo: John Coe field.

has helicoptered four kilometres of old enclosure fencing off **Bleaklow** – well done and hooray. And you may have noticed **Win Hill** is for sale. If the National Trust asked you ‘should we buy it?’ what would you say?

There are a number of developments on sundry moorland tracks. On **Chapel Gate** a consultation is running (at the time of writing) on a new design specification for repairs, while on **Duke’s Road**, **Foulstone Road** and **Cutthroat** track work is in progress, with a contractor who seems to be doing a good job (and he is a climber).

The Cutthroat work will extend to repair some of the damage caused earlier by a different contractor where it meets the Derwent Edge path. If you ever wondered why the status of Duke’s and Foulstone Roads changes in the middle of nowhere, it is because both roads were laid out under the Bradfield Enclosure Awards. The purpose was to enable the Duke of Rutland to access his grouse moors in the Upper Derwent from Mortimer Road.

Once the roads reached the boundary of the Duke’s land, they had served their purpose and were not continued. National Park planners assure me that the **Midhope** green plastic matting track really is going to be removed. Concerns have also been expressed about the state of **Cut Gate**.

The option that some, but not all, footpaths may reasonably be upgraded to **concessionary bridleway status** to permit better access for horse riders and mountain bikers is increasingly being written into Rights of Way Improvement Plans and the like, and is beginning to change expectations. This approach, of granting new status on a concessionary basis, has worked well on the Eastern Moors. There are also proposals for extending the provision for mountain bikers in Lady Canning’s Plantation, and in a number of other parcels of woodland owned by Sheffield City Council.

If you want more detail on any of the above, please don’t hesitate to ask at the area meeting.



Jon Fullwood on *Proper Gander*, The Roaches.  
Photo: Ned Feehally.

## Climbing News & Gossip

Simon Lee

**The September Peak Area Meet was the last one on the ‘Climb Britain’ tour and nearly 100 people came to the meeting.**

There were many memorable contributions from the floor. Geoff Milburn waxed floridly and left us all confused by our national identity. Another contributor seemed firmly of the opinion that ‘Sport Britain’ was the new name and left many of us intently examining our shoes. Paul Mitchell revealed he had suggested an alternative name many years ago but when pressed was unwilling to reveal what it was. (I can now exclusively reveal the name was disappointingly ‘The British Adventure Sports Association’. Personally, I am disappointed. I expected something far more leftfield from the inventor of such route names as *Fatty Manuel and the Paranoid Oysters*).

A somewhat confusing straw poll at the end of the meeting (with many voting twice)

indicated that there wasn’t majority backing for a full rebrand which chimed with similar votes at other area meets.

The rebranding went back for a revote at National Council on Saturday 1 September in the Lake District. The meeting lasted a full day instead of the usual half day with many agenda items unresolved. The BMC officers then retired to their respective ‘quiet spaces’ and ‘meditation rooms’ and other designated ‘thotful spots’ in the swankily refurbished head office where they had a good hard think. The thinking lasted a full six days and on the seventh day a statement was released confirming that the BMC was no longer going to be rebranded Climb Britain but instead be renamed Climb Down.

Commenting on the new name, Chief Executive Dave Turnbull said that ‘climbing down’ was an underrated survival skill. He added that ‘any irresponsible fruit loop can run it out above an RP but a responsible climber will weigh up the risks and use their judgement and where appropriate climb down. The BMC is a responsible

organisation that promotes good judgement on the crags, mountains and hills and Climb Down encapsulates where we are going, or sometimes not'. In support, President Rehan 'Chuckle Brother' Siddiqui said, 'Climb Down, means Climb Down' and he thanked the wider membership for 'taking the time and effort to put us all through the mangle'. 'It shows you all care,' he concluded.

Turning to new boulder problems, Ned Feehally (who else) has climbed a Last Great Problem. This is the pit problem at Gardom's located 50 metres left of *Suavito* and he had no problem naming it *Dhalsim* and grading it Font 8a+. This adds a low start to the highball 7b+ *Pit Fighter* which he had already established and has been mooted as one of the best of its grade in the Peak, albeit a reachy one. Another LNQAGP (Last Not Quite As Great Problem) was the direct to *Velvet Crab* at Burbage which went to Tom Newman at Font 7c+. Named *Smash and Crab* it requires you 'to leap from the back like a mentalist!'

Ever-active fossicker Jon(boy) Fullwood has recorded an impressive tally of 36 new problems which can be found on UKBouldering.com. Pick of the bunch are *Proper Gander* (Font 7c) on the *Ou Es Le Spit* buttress at The Roaches, *The Real Thin* (Font 7a) on the left side of the *Crystal Voyager* buttress at the Nth Cloud, and a Font 7a+ sit start to *Village Green* at Wimberry.

Moving to limestone there was only a handful of new sport routes in the Peak, the best of which appears to be Haydn Jones' *White Knuckle Shuffle* (F8a+) up the blank wall next to *Kumquat* at Chee Tor East. This was repeated by Jon Clark who also recently added a big new route on the left wing of High Tor, linking the bulge right of *High Torquing* with the blank headwall left of A6: named *Fury Road* (F8a+) it is judiciously equipped so as not to interfere with existing trad climbs.

Also at High Tor, it is with bitterness and regret that I inform you that Ben Silvestre climbed the obvious and attractive unclimbed wall left of *Reproduction* at E6 6b/c which he named *Aegis*.

The award for the hardest trad limestone new route of the year goes to Joe Heeley (the younger) who climbed a direct line through *Adjudicator Wall* called *Eyes Wide Shut* and initially graded E9 6c/7a. This grade was slapped down by old hand Jordan Buys on a raid from Burnley who repeated and regraded it E7. Joe has taken it on the chin saying he is 'looking forward to other repeats as the climbing is impeccable'. Jordan also made the second ascent of Tom Randall's *Final Round* across the river on Ilam Rock. Tom gave this HXS and Jordan confirmed it at E9 – which is what everyone assumed it was – thereby confirming it as by far the hardest trad lime route in the Peak.

Out of the limelight at Dirlow Rake near Castleton the Lawson brothers have started to unearth (literally) the bouldering potential of the place – see details on the UKC Logbooks. Elsewhere, Mark Rankine established *Pretty Peggy-O*, a bouldery F8a up the scoop to the left of *All My Pegs In One Basket* in Tideswell Dale as well as adding a crimping F7c at Chee Dale on Moving Buttress – *My Lovely Horse*.

Big news on the repeat front at Raven Tor which still attracts the talented from around the nation. Super-strong reticent Scottish teenager ~~Malcolm Smith~~ William Bosi redpointed *Hubble* thereby cementing his standing as the UK's best under 46-year-old sport climber. At 17 he is the youngest to do the route by several months and to his further credit eschewed kneepads and reachiness to get the redpoint in horrid conditions. Great stuff. Another 17-year-old schoolboy who is relentlessly progressing through the grades is Londoner Jim Pope who redpointed *Kabaah* (F8c+).

Slightly older at 18 and one month is Aidan Roberts who on a short visit from Cumbria flashed *Tsunami* (Font 8a) downstream at Rubicon – this is (perhaps surprisingly) the hardest flash recorded on Peak Limestone (unless anyone knows different that is). Youngest of all, 11-year-old Toby Roberts from somewhere called Guildford has astonishingly repeated *Revelations* (F8b) at Raven Tor as his half-term project. This features a desperate Font 7c/7c+ reachy start for most, so Toby had to contrive a hideous sequence using hitherto unused holds and lots more moves.

In their 20s, and so already well past it, are Haydn Jones, Ethan Walker and Will Smith who have all repeated *Stamina Boys* which is an extending Font 8b/F8c+ traverse. In case anyone else cares, Haydn reports that he did the pocket cross-through finish whereas Will and Ethan did it the reach way.

On a stranger note, Tor regulars, who it is fair to say are more than familiar with dogging, were nonetheless perplexed to recently find S&M clothing strewn around the crag. The items included a leather jacket, studded belt, a pair of stilettos and one thigh-length PVC boot. No one has stepped forward to claim the belongings which are now residing in Haydn Jones' closet. However, if the perpetrator steps forward, the crag owner, the National Trussed, may enforce a restraining order.

And finally it should be recorded that on this day, Tuesday 1 November in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen that Not-So-Long Adam of Hangwater doth heard the cry of a newborn crow born with the head of quail which can only mean one thing: The Grit Season has begun!

### Get in touch

Send your Peak area news, gossip or article ideas to me at: [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com)



Haydn Jones on *White Knuckle Shuffle*,  
Chee Tor East. Photo: Pete Clark.



Stannage. Photo: Cath Lee.

## Hill Walking Notes

Cath Lee and Peter Judd

### **Peak Area Walk on Kinder Scout Saturday 26 November**

Fancy a late-autumn hill walk and chat? Our area hill walking rep Peter Judd plans to lead a 14-kilometre (just under 9-mile) hill walk up on to Kinder Scout from Edale village on Saturday 26 November starting at 10.15 a.m. for any interested Peak Area BMC members. This circular walk will, weather permitting, take in some of the edge paths on both the southern and northern sides of the plateau plus a short crossing of the plateau itself, offering excellent and varied views along the way. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to gather in one of the local pubs for a good chat.

If interested, then please let Peter know in advance by email at [peak10roam-bmc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peak10roam-bmc@yahoo.co.uk) so that he can provide more details, and also keep an eye on likely numbers.

### **Mend our Mountains in the Peak Area**

Following the BMC's highly successful Mend our Mountains campaign earlier this year, we are delighted that work to the Ringing Roger path on Kinder Scout started at the beginning of November.

The crowdfunding campaign, which aimed to raise £10,000 in the Peak area towards the cost of repairing the badly eroded path on the west side of Ringing Roger, ultimately raised over £17,000 thanks to generous cash donations from BMC members and the general public, and the donations of 'rewards' from local businesses such as B&Bs, self-catering accommodation and activity businesses.

The work will involve airlifting around 40 tonnes of gritstone up to the site before contractors can lay the new path. It means that in the years to come, hill walkers will be able to continue to enjoy the wonders of the Kinder Plateau in a sustainable way.



### **Hill Walking Working Group News**

The BMC's national Hill Walking Working Group was established almost two years ago to oversee the implementation of the national Hill Walking Strategy. The aim of this was to make membership of the BMC attractive to hill walkers as well as climbers and mountaineers. In addition, it was hoped that more people could be encouraged to take up hill walking, and membership numbers of the BMC be increased, so helping to give the BMC more clout on the national scene when defending the interests of all mountain users among other things.

Over the last two years we have represented the Peak Area on this national group. It is now coming to the end of its planned two-year lifespan, and we are delighted to report that excellent progress has been made in implementing changes to achieve the strategy's objectives.

Proposals are now being put together for a mechanism by which hill walking can continue to remain prominent within the BMC's ethos after the Hill Walking Working Group has been wound up. These proposals will be shared with National Councillors shortly for consultation, and will be officially presented to National Council in February.



Lynn on the summit of Mount Elbrus.

## Women's Development Group Update

Lynn Robinson ([lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk))

**The Women's Development Group (WDG) has continued to meet and move things on: Mountain Training now has a Women in Mountain Training Facebook page, men have even been welcomed on to the group, and planning work is ongoing for the Women in Adventure Network event which will take place at ShAFF.**

In terms of what I see when out climbing things have never been better. High performance in numbers is becoming the norm and indoors participation is becoming more equal every year. The BMC needs to follow this trend to ensure all climbers are properly represented. Positive steps have been made, for example Gwen Moffat and Angela Soper being the first women to be awarded honorary membership of the BMC in recognition of their contributions to mountaineering and climbing, but more needs to be done. The BMC is busy in the process of developing its thoughts for funding for

2017–2021 from Sport England. Its aspiration is that the board of directors and National Council should be made up of 30% women – personally I think it should be closer to 50%, but I'll live with 30% as a start. So now is as good a time as any for any women out there who want to get involved in the work of the BMC to speak up. Next time the Peak Area representatives on the National Council are up for election, I think we should aim for at least one of the posts to be held by a woman. I also think the Sport England bid should include funding for the post of a volunteer officer to support the work of all its volunteers – and closely link this to the aim of getting 30% of women involved. So far the work has been fantastically supported by the BMC equity and partnerships officer, but the post is only funded until the end of March 2017 and it would be an absolute travesty if it wasn't continued. So come on: get involved – don't leave things to chance and then moan about it later in the pub.



Jon on *Ape Index*, Cheedale Cornice.  
Photo: Jon Clark.

## Activist Profile: Jon Clark

### Age?

32.

### Where do you live?

Belper.

### Occupation?

I've had quite a few different odd jobs over the years, at the moment I work in a busy country house hotel close to where I live in Belper, in the food & beverage department, working in the restaurant, kitchen, bar etc. The main reason for working there is that it gives me a ton of free time to go out climbing. :)

### Where did you grow up?

I've lived in Derbyshire all my life. I was born in Chesterfield, lived in Matlock for a few years, but mostly grew up in Belper.

### What type of climber are you?

Most definitely a sport climber; I love the

physical side of the sport and being able to go all out on moves in complete safety. However, I also love being a bit adventurous so I am always looking for the crags and routes where not many people go because most of the time I find the routes are better than the 'popular' ones at the roadside crags! I don't like being lazy, and this is partly why I have always had an interest in doing new routes, cleaning up old ones, and rebolting all around the Peak. I find new routing to be incredibly satisfying and rewarding.

### Who do you climb with currently?

I've always been lucky to have my dad as a belayer for most of my climbing life! He was a pretty good climber himself back in the day, and always loves just getting out. Pretty much all my first ascents have been a joint effort by me and my dad! I've also been climbing with Haydn Jones a bit this summer, and we both repeated some

memorable routes and put up an awesome new route in Chee Dale!

**Describe what you did when you last went out?**

I did a first ascent at High Tor! It's a line on the left wing which I've been looking at for years but other things kept me occupied. Finally decided to get it done this year. It's about 40 metres long and I thought it was about F8a.

**When and how did you start climbing?**

I can't really recall when I actually first started, but I used to boulder a lot in my early teens with my dad and a couple of mates. We used to go to Fontainebleau quite a bit and also places like Cratcliffe and Burbage. It definitely helped build a foundation of climbing, but I was never really that serious about it. In 2006 I tried a bit of sport climbing with my dad and immediately was hooked; I still remember being stoked about redpointing my first F6c. Two years later I did *Mecca* (F8b+).

**Who were your early influences?**

Like most British climbers it would probably be Ben and Jerry. In my teens I used to watch all their vids over and over! Chris Sharma has always been hugely inspiring for me as well with regards to all his first ascents and how hard he tries on moves.

**You went from super keen to not climbing for a few years and now you are super-keen again. What is all that about?**

I think it was a case of doing too much of the same thing, I got a little bit bored. Also I don't enjoy winter in the UK mainly because I just want to go sport climbing! So I didn't climb for four years unfortunately. Then after a trip last year to one of my favourite places, the Gorges du Tarn

(somewhere I have been a lot over the years), I started to feel like I missed it so I dusted off the harness again. It was very hard at first feeling so weak and unfit compared to how I used to be, but I have been training very hard for over a year now and have exceeded my expectations, getting the second ascent of a McClure F8b+ in Water-cum-Jolly has been the highlight this year!

**What is your hardest route and boulder problem and how important are grades to you?**

My hardest redpoint to date is *Mecca Extension* (F8c) at Raven Tor. Hardest onsight is *The Dangerous Brothers* (F8a) at Rubicon. I've never really been interested in bouldering, mainly because I find the bouldering in the UK doesn't inspire me that much. However I have done a Font 8a on Peak lime. Grades are obviously important because that's what most people ask when you talk about a route you've done. So it's important in one way to try and get them right. But the experience should always be the most memorable part, so I guess that's why I enjoy doing new routes so much because it's so rewarding; it's not something you quickly forget about.

**What were your first new routes and/or boulder problems in the Peak?**

My first new routes were at Turkey Dip Rocks, a very esoteric crag near Matlock, in summer 2007. I remember looking at a really old guidebook for the crag and going to check it out with a friend. I was super excited to find a crag all to myself with tons of new route potential! I went there probably three or four times a week for ages just plugging away at all the new lines. The hardest one was the traverse line of *Onslaught* (F8a) which took me ages to do, and has still only been repeated by McClure!

**What are your favourite routes and crags and places in the Peak?**

Favourite place overall would have to be Chee Dale for me, it's got so much variety and its just a beautiful area to be in. However I have a special fondness for the quarries around Matlock (strange, I know!) because those are the places where I started climbing and have done some of my most memorable routes. I've always had a love for Peak limestone, so I don't think I could possibly say I have a favourite route, there's just so many memorable ones that I've done!

**What are your best new routes and/or problems in the Peak District?**

The ones that stick out the most to me would be *Dark Matter* (F8b) at Lorry Park, *Pedal to the Metal* (F7b+) at Turkey Dip, *Sworn Enemy* (F8a) in Dovedale and my routes at High Tor – *Limelight* (F8b), and the new one, *Fury Road* (F8a).

**What type of climbing do you enjoy most and why?**

I love short, power-endurance routes which are mostly vertical on small holds (i.e. Peak limestone!). Being very tall (6'3") with strong fingers I find that this type of climbing suits me down to the ground because I am able to get weight on my feet and use my long reach (often much to the dismay of my climbing partners). I seem to struggle on steep, Euro-style routes because my long legs seem to prevent me from keeping my body tensioned in!

**What do you think of the BMC?**

I highly appreciate all the work they do with regards to access. Being a Peak sport climber I've seen first hand issues coming up with landowners, and I know how gutted I would be to lose access to some of my favourite crags. It's important that we don't



Ground Zero, Lorry Park Quarry  
Photo: Jon Clark.

take our access for granted, and I always try to do whatever I can to give climbers a positive image, for example leaving gear on routes should always be avoided. I hate hearing climbers screaming and swearing in the places we share with the public, even though I understand it's hard not to sometimes! Being heavily involved in rebolting work around the Peak I am also highly appreciative that we have the equipment readily available for us most of the time!

**Grit or lime?**

I'll take a grim Peak lime crimp over a grit sloper any day!



Wardens and rangers past and present reunite on Kinder. Photo: Tom Harman/NT Images.

## National Trust Autumn Update

Luke Barley

**Autumn is always an exciting time for the National Trust rangers and our colleagues. While we spend a lot of the summer keeping the access network in good condition and making sure all our visitors have a great experience, we get on with the majority of our big habitat management projects in the winter, when much of the wildlife is dormant. Over the last few weeks we've been finalising our plans and gearing up for the hard, rewarding graft of improving our places for all the species that rely on them.**

At Longshaw, the major project to improve the wood pasture continues in Sheffield Plantation, with more brash still to be cleared to benefit ground layer plants, and subsequently birds like redstarts and pied flycatchers. In the woodlands, felling work will continue to improve the

'structural diversity' which means that trees of all ages and sizes will be present – at the moment some of the woods are even-aged and dark. This work ensures that the woodland is sustainable into the future, with young trees present to replace old ones that die, and also provides better habitat for lots of woodland species.

The snappy 'Longshaw Visitor Experience Design Project' continues apace, and visitors will notice the installation of a new accessible path through the woods, from the car park to the tea room – this will create an easy circular route for all. The Longshaw team are also working hard on a new management plan, which will guide our work for the next five years. Our long-term vision here is set by the Sheffield Moors Partnership's Masterplan document, and the new plan will contribute to that overarching strategy.

You can find out more at:

**[www.sheffieldmoors.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldmoors.co.uk)**

In the White Peak we're also busy planning for the long term – in this case for our woodlands. The National Trust owns 300 hectares of woodland here, which is almost a third of the total woodland in the White Peak area. Much of it is dominated by ash, which is under threat from ash dieback. We're creating a ten-year plan which will start to both mitigate the effects of ash dieback, and improve the quality of the woods as habitat. Much like at Longshaw, this work is likely to involve thinning in some areas and felling blocks of trees in others in order to improve the structure. We're also working with colleagues from Natural England, the Forestry Commission and beyond to hopefully start to grow and plant our own trees of different species that are found locally, to counter the current dominance of ash. More information about the future of the White Peak woodlands will follow once the plan is finished.

The other main habitats we manage here are species-rich limestone grassland and scrub, and maintaining the appropriate balance between the two is an ongoing challenge as plants like hawthorn colonise grassland, slowly changing flowery areas to thorny scrub. Although scrub is a valuable habitat itself, we often need to clear it from the richest areas of grassland to benefit the most unusual plants and invertebrates, and we've got another chunky work programme of scrub clearance this winter on the steep slopes of Dovedale.

The Dark Peak team are continuing with their major projects that contribute to the long-term High Peak Moors Vision and Plan, which you may remember was launched a couple of years ago:

**[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kinder-edale-and-the-dark-peak/features/high-peak-moors-vision-and-plan-in-the-dark-peak](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kinder-edale-and-the-dark-peak/features/high-peak-moors-vision-and-plan-in-the-dark-peak)**

The huge MoorLIFE 2020 partnership project has kicked off and NT teams have been busy blocking drainage gullies on the moors in order to re-wet the peat, as well as planting cotton grass and sphagnum. Closely related, we've been planting trees to recreate woodlands in the cloughs – over 80,000 trees so far on 11 sites, in the biggest Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Grant in the country. There are about 30,000 more to go in, along with another two kilometres of fence to protect them from hungry livestock.

There was time to reflect on the progress made so far when 11 former wardens and current rangers got together on Kinder to see how things have changed in the 34 years since the National Trust acquired the plateau. With hundreds of years of experience between them, these wardens and rangers developed many of the techniques we now take for granted in restoring the ecological condition of blanket bogs; be it starting to use helicopter lifts, inventing techniques for damming ditches, or raising the difficult idea of excluding livestock, these guys were there! All agreed that the improvement in the plateau is dramatic. Areas that were once bare peat hags are now covered with sphagnum, heather and cotton grass, and the cloughs are becoming wooded. Kinder is becoming a great habitat again, a more pleasant place for people to walk, and a more effective carbon store that also provides clean water for the surrounding cities – an amazing legacy for people who've dedicated their working lives to the place.

# Peak Area Meetings

## 2016

16 November, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindelford

## 2017

8 February, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindelford

5 April, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindelford

7 June, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindelford

13 September, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindelford

22 November, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindelford

## Forthcoming Events

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

### **Make Winter Count: BMC Skills Lecture Monday 21 November, Nottingham Trent University**

The Winter Lectures are brilliant for anybody that wants to learn more about winter mountaineering skills. You'll go from bumbling about to striding speedily with confidence to the summit after you've gained all the knowledge from expert Winter Mountaineering Instructors Sam Leary and Mick Jones. Tickets available from the BMC website shop: £6 for BMC members and £8 non-members. Group discount: £4 when purchasing 10 or more tickets.

### **Brit Rock Film Tour**

The 2016 Brit Rock Film Tour rolls into Manchester (23 Nov), Wirksworth (26 Nov) and Sheffield (13 Dec). The main feature for 2016 is the cinematic spectacular revelling in the UK's golden age of bouldering, *Blocheads*. Completing the programme are *Shauna Coxsey goes Crack Climbing* and *The Quarryman*.

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

## BMC Peak Area Contacts

Peak Area Chair: Rob Greenwood.  
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Secretary: Becky Hammond.  
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Peak Area Reps (your voice on the BMC National Council):  
Rob Greenwood and Dave Brown.  
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Peak Area Newsletter Editorial:  
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Next meeting: Wednesday 16 November, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindelford, S32 2HE