



BMC AGM walkers on Combs Moss.  
Photo: Spencer Ramsey.

# PEAK AREA NEWSLETTER



June 2019  
peakarea@gmail.com

## Rocking Chair

Rob Greenwood



**By the time you're reading this there's a distinct chance I'll be a dad, which may/may not explain my absence from the next meeting. While I'm very much hoping to attend, I'm sure you'll excuse me if I'm not there. It's a shame too, as it's looking like we've got a cracking meeting lined up.**

Of particular interest and importance is our speaker, Tim Birch, Head of Living Landscapes at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, who will be giving a talk called 'Rewilding: a new approach for uplands'. With the likes of Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion raising the

profile of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss on a global scale, we obviously need to be asking ourselves some serious questions on a local scale too – as individual hill walkers and climbers, and as an organisation.

On a small scale, I've been doing my bit for the local ring ouzel survey which the BMC takes an active role in. So far, they've been doing well, with several nests on my local crag, Bamford Edge. It's great to see, but monitoring is only one small step in the face of climate change which is widely regarded as being a major factor in the bird's declining population – down over 43% in the last 40 years.

Undoubtedly there's a great debate to be had and I very much hope to be there so I can be a part of it.

See you there ... or not ...

Next meeting: Wednesday 12 June, 7.30 p.m.  
The Maynard, Grindleford, S32 2HE



Curbar Edge.  
Photo: John Coe field.

## Access News

Jon Fulwood (Limestone), Andi Turner (Roaches), Louise Hawson (Stanage) & Rob Dyer

**The limestone season started well with even the wettest crags becoming almost completely dry and promising a fruitful summer on the Cornice. Sadly, one record-breaking day of rain in late April soaked all the seepy crags which sent us back to square one.**

Access wise, a climber was escorted off **Blatant Buttress** in **Cheedale** with a warning from the police due to the crag's close proximity to the live railway line. No further action was taken, but future access to Blatant Buttress seems very likely to result in the police attending if climbers are seen and reported by passing trains. BMC advice on the **Regional Access Database (RAD)** now states that due to the proximity of railway lines and the consequent possibility that any trespass may be considered a criminal rather than civil offence, climbers

should not visit this crag, along with nearby Blackwell Halt.

Minor rockfall has been reported at the right-hand side of **Raven Tor** (Millers Dale) above the bouldering area, causing some damage to the road surface below. An assessment has yet to be made to determine if further loose rock is liable to fall in the near future. Common sense would dictate that climbers make their own visual assessment in the meantime prior to climbing or parking vehicles in this area.

At **Gardom's**, significant tree clearance has been carried out without the permission of the landowner around Apple Buttress, and subsequent signs have been erected by the landowner stating their position. The felling has been done to a poor standard, leaving high stumps and arisings piled in inconvenient places which suggests it wasn't carried out by climbers. The BMC has been in contact with the landowner to offer assistance and is awaiting a response, but if you are considering removing trees at this or any other crag, please contact the BMC access

team first to ensure the proper channels are followed and access issues aren't inadvertently created.

At **The Roaches**, things are generally running smoothly. There haven't been any peregrines nesting this year (at least not on the popular crags), which is a mixed blessing: good for climbers, but a shame for the birds. We're not sure what has put them off, perhaps the camera they installed up there ...

We've had a little bit of positive progress regarding parking. The field next to the tea room has started to open up for overflow parking on busy days. It's a couple of quid, but that's a whole lot cheaper than the fine you'll likely get if caught parking on the verges.

The burnt moorland continues to be off limits for walking across, although it should be reiterated that all the climbing is open, despite signage still occasionally turning up stating '*no climbing beyond Chicken Run*'. There is more on the impact of the fires from Moors for the Future's Chris Fry, below.

The Peak District National Park has released an invitation to consultants to bid to carry out an options appraisal of the **Stanage-North Lees** estate's built and land assets. This could affect the campsite, Cattsidge Cottage, the hall and the farm, with opportunities to develop better facilities for educational and recreational user groups. The Stanage Forum will be consulted as part of the appraisal process, before a decision is made by members later in the year. We'll keep you updated on the process.

The 2019 Open Meeting of the **Stanage Forum** will be at 2 p.m. on 12 October at Hathersage Methodist Hall. More details will be circulated nearer the time. The meeting will focus on opportunities to get involved in conservation, education and archaeology on the estate, as well as the usual discussion of issues that have arisen over the year.

Speaking of which, parking clearly remains

a problem, with cars parked along the road while Hollin Bank car park remains half full. Cars parked along the roadside impede access for emergency vehicles and residents, and damage roadside habitats. We know there has to be a better solution to this than the current situation with increased parking charges and enforcement, but please park in the car parks if you can.

### **Restoring the Roaches after the wildfires**

Chris Fry, Moors for the Future

Last year the Roaches suffered a horrific wildfire which left devastating damage which still persists a year later. Caused by a barbecue which got out of hand, the fire spread to cover 60 hectares of blanket bog and woodland. These fires burn deep into the peat and have an impact which lasts long after the smoke has gone.

Charred peat is extremely hydrophobic; it repels water which makes it incredibly difficult to re-establish moorland vegetation. Not only that, but dry, bare peat is highly sensitive to erosion as it dries, crumbles, turns to dust and then blows away in the wind or flows downhill in heavy rain. Work by Moors for the Future's Community Science Team has shown that on the Roaches fire scar over 10 centimetres of peat has been eroded away since the fire – that's about 100 years of peat growth and accumulation gone in one year.

Restoring this site will require a lot of money and time. Once the water flow has been addressed and some stability has been returned to the peat, vegetation will be able to grow and this will begin the healing process. However, it will be ten or more years before abundant sphagnum flourishes on the site, and even more to get it back to the healthy condition which was – and

could once again be – an active part of the UK's largest terrestrial carbon store (that's what peat is).

If you are climbing in the area – or any area, frankly – and you want to help, please do whatever you can to avoid any risk of starting fires, and if you see one, call **999** immediately.

### **Access extra**

Henry Folkard

Wandering about on **Kinder** the other day I was alarmed by the number of Sitka seedlings that have taken hold. There were a few less when I got back, but still far too many. Partly they are there because they are not nibbled by sheep, a downside of the fence, but mostly because the seed just gets blown in by the wind from the many surrounding plantations and it germinates more readily than it used to as the warmer climate favours Sitka. The National Trust (NT) does hold volunteer work meets to try and keep on top of it, but they need all the help they can get, and if you are out and about, any little bit helps. If you do pull some out try not to leave the peat disturbed, and if you cut any larger ones down please don't leave any stump protruding as this creates a trip hazard.

The battle for the moors goes on. It is really heartening to see the fruits of the good work the NT and Moors for the Future have done on the one hand, and then you are horrified as on a recent trog around Snailsden at the sheer number of vehicle tracks going everywhere. The only vehicles to use these tracks are those in association with driven grouse shooting, and whatever you think about that activity, the stark reality, as evidenced on the ground, is that the current amount of vehicular use is quite simply not sustainable. No recreation activity brings with it the right to trash

the environment for its own ends.

Elsewhere on Kinder the main work this year will be on repairs to the fence and particularly to some of the access points over it which have deteriorated. Nobody likes the fence of course, but it is temporary, and it is helping to make the moors better places. Finding the right balance for conservation is never easy. What was really heartening though was going out with some kids on an event associated with the Spirit of Kinder celebration and picking up from them their enthusiasm for looking after the landscape, and the amount they actually knew about it. I should perhaps rephrase that as 'their landscape'. Hope for the future!

The big fire up on **Marsden Moor** was a disaster. It was started by a barbecue and spread very quickly indeed. The fire brigade was busy putting the Ilkley fire out at the same time, so they were really stretched. And besides the damage to the moor, and the burden placed on all those who had to drop everything and rush up there, one of the NT's low-impact vehicles went up in flames too – replacement cost in the region of £70,000.

What might have been? It never hit the headlines that the same weekend NT rangers put out a further 26 barbecues before the fires they were generating took hold. Which is where we all have a job as the eyes, ears and custodians of the countryside we enjoy.

The review of the **Sheffield Moors Partnership** (SMP) document was discussed at a meeting in April and a few suggestions made for a revised and final document that will go to a second meeting in early June. A number of things are common across all the moors that make up the Golden Frame irrespective of who owns them – and on the ground that is never obvious – and though quite a lot does



Grindsbrook Clough, Kinder.  
Photo: John Coefield.

actually happen under the auspices of SMP, it lacks any visibility with the general public, and perhaps some cohesion within itself. Stronger links with Sheffield, the Outdoor City, might be another outcome, but resourcing it all, a task shouldered by the NT, is always going to be a problem.

On **Eastern Moors** there is no predator control at the moment, and an evaluation of what there was is taking place. As mentioned earlier finding the right balance for effective conservation in what is after all a managed landscape is never easy, as examples from elsewhere illustrate. In the Cairngorms, should you fence out sheep and deer as one essential control to allow the Caledonian Forest to regenerate but incidentally kill all the black grouse that collide with it; do you rejoice at the pine marten re-establishing itself or lament their decimation of the few surviving capercaillie chicks?

Remember the public outcry a few years ago when there was a move to privatise the nation's forests? This is something to watch

again as a restructuring of the Forestry Commission raises concerns that this is privatisation by the back door, with an emphasis on planting of conifers strictly for commercial return, with no nod to native broadleaves, recreation or landscape. The BMC did comment last year on plans for three forests in the Hope Woodlands/Upper Derwent area, and another south of Matlock: it seems we may have to say more.

And this just in: the BMC wrote to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the enforcement notice issued by PDNPA regarding the moorland track at **Rushy Dyke Flat/Cartledge Edge**. The Planning Inspectorate has given its decision: the enforcement notice stands: the track must go.



AGM hill walk.  
Photo: Spencer Ramsey.

## Hill Walking News

Peter Judd & Austin Knott

### Peak Area hill walk from Buxton

With the BMC's AGM taking place in Buxton on Sunday 31 March it was no surprise to have the BMC office ask us to provide a hill walk for the day before. Austin devised a lovely route for us (despite not being able to be with us on the day) and 19 people set off from the railway station to walk up the hill to Corbar Cross and enjoy the excellent views back across the town. The wooden cross itself is quite recent, being a replacement for a previous cross believed to have been cut down by someone protesting about the Catholic Church at the time of the Pope's visit in 2010. A few people, with commitments to other BMC meetings later in the day, had to turn back here, including our president Lynn Robinson, but looking at their faces I think more than one would have loved to keep going – yet duty calls!

A further climb up to the edge of Combs

Moss brought us to the walk's high point and extensive views. Dropping down from the top took us past White Hall Outdoor Centre. Austin had provided us with plenty of useful information to share along the way, including the story of gritstone climbing pioneer Joe Brown's permanent orienteering course, set up during his time as an instructor here in the 1960s. We quickly found the first of two such sets of these permanent markings that we were to see during the day, this one a grid reference (for the next point on the course) chiselled neatly into the Hall's entrance gate post. There are 20 such marked points scattered around an 18-mile course and one of our walkers was able to confirm that all still exist, she having hunted them all down not too long ago.

We then headed downhill into the Goyt Valley before climbing over the small hump of Bunsal Cob and seeking out a pleasant spot for lunch not far from Errwood Reservoir.

From now on, much of our journey

followed the track bed of the old Cromford & High Peak Railway, making for a gentle climb back up out of the valley. Just before leaving the track bed (to crest the rise, just short of Buxton's own Burbage Edge) we came across the bricked-up entrance to Burbage Tunnel and found another of Joe's orienteering points marked on its entrance wall. Once over the top of the hill all that remained was to walk down through the golf course (avoiding the objective danger of flying golf balls as we went) to re-enter the town in time to search for the necessary post-walk refreshments!

A big thank you to Austin for the route, Kevin Noon and Martin Wass for the additional help on the day, to Amanda Clifton, who, having joined us for the recce, unfortunately was prevented from joining us on the day, and last but not least Spence Ramsey for acting as 'official' photographer for the day. See you all next time, folks?

BMC Peak Area walks are more than just a chance for a walk, they offer opportunities to meet other members, network, share information and plan future adventures. Do you fancy leading a future Peak Area walk? Or maybe your club fancies opening up one or more of its own walks to be promoted to other BMC members in the area (and maybe aiding club recruitment in the process)? If so, Austin and Peter would be very pleased to hear from you and happy to chat about opportunities and how we might help. We ourselves plan something for the autumn; keep your eyes on the Peak Area Facebook page and email newsletters.

### **Hill walking on the national BMC scene**

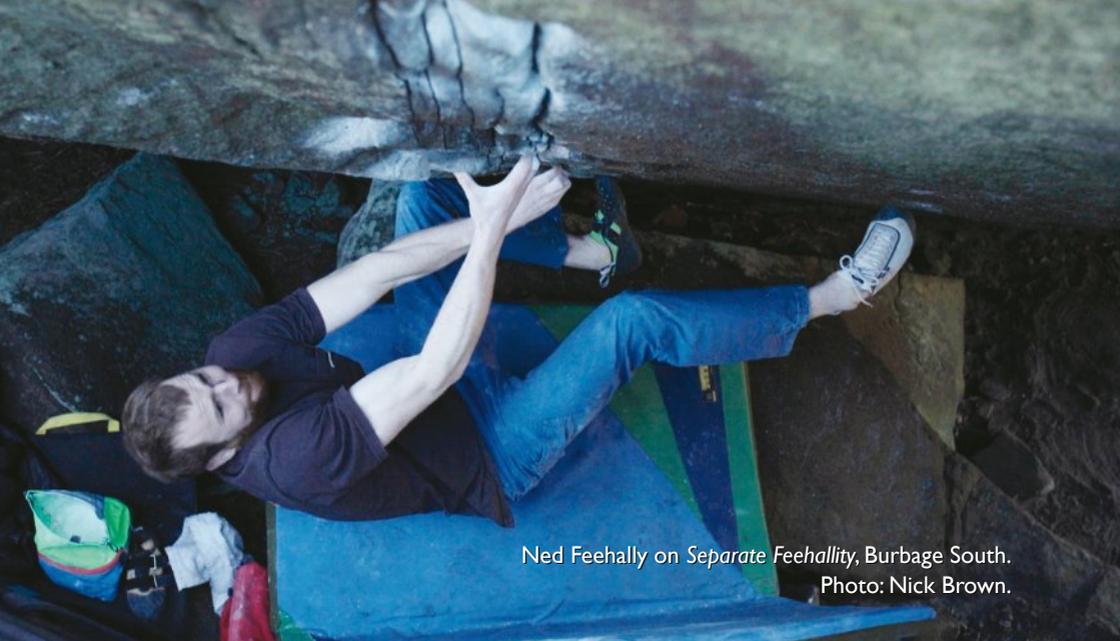
The Mend Our Mountains campaign, now in the process of being wrapped up, looks to have raised over £710,000 with more and more of the target projects moving into the delivery phase. News on the start of work on our own two Peak District project paths

is expected later this year.

With the BMC's Board and National Council both beginning to address the development of future vision and strategy, the Hill Walking Working Group is very much hoping that continued development of the BMC's hill walking work will feature strongly. While such development was one of the three key aims of the previous BMC (2015–19) strategic plan, we all know well enough that the BMC's ability to deliver was badly sabotaged by the various unexpected torpedoes that have hit the organisation in that period. So, becoming 'the natural home for hill walkers' (as that previous strategy encapsulated its aim) is, I hope most will agree, very much unfinished business. Couple that with fascinating new evidence provided by Sport England's most recent 'Active Lives' survey that suggests an extraordinary figure of 2.8 million people go 'hill and mountain walking' regularly (they've not previously separated out that particular activity grouping in previous surveys), making it clear that hill walking is more 'popular' than football, cricket and rugby put together (the same survey found 315,000 go 'climbing and bouldering'), then there seems to be every justification for the BMC to continue to prioritise the development of its hill walking work, if for no other reason than to justify our claim to be the representative body for hill walkers (as well as climbers and mountaineers). That participation figure is then both a challenge and an exciting opportunity.

### **Dates for your diary: 12 & 13 October**

In recent years there's been a Real 3 Peaks Challenge event on the Great Ridge. It's likely to be on 12 October this year and we're looking to support it. We're also planning to lead an event in the south-west Peak area on 13 October. More details to follow.



Ned Feehally on *Separate Feehallity*, Burbage South.  
Photo: Nick Brown.

## Climbing News & Gossip

Dave Parry

### Welcome to an unapologetically perfunctory Peak News update.

This edition I have been asked to keep it short, for a variety of reasons, with the specific intention to reducing the length of the article, and to increase the shortness. So what this column will lack in length it will make up for in a lack of length. There will be a surfeit of brevity, at the necessary expense of duration. With this in mind, please join me in enduring a thankfully abridged recent history of developments in the climbing areas of the Peak District.

But before we do, I must also note that the intended succinctness of this article actually suits me fine this time. I've left it to the last minute to write (as I, like most of us, have been busy not repeating *The Young* at Callaly) and don't have much content to write about, so this saves me from having to pad the piece out with excessively wordy introductory paragraphs. I'm also knackered

and have my eye on an early bedtime.

Furthermore, an upshot of the impending deadline is I've not got any time to edit or rewrite this, so it is being laid down in one take. If I write anything then subsequently decide I don't need it, I've not left myself enough time to do anything about it. With that in mind I realise now I may have already shot myself in the foot with these first two paragraphs. I now expect to have to resort to increasingly desperate measures to keep the length down. Sorry.

OK, on to the actual content.

One of my favourite additions recently has been Ned's ascent of the long-fancied overhanging crack project in the gully behind the Triangle Face boulder at Burbage South. *Separate Feehality* is the name. I don't know what he graded it but have run out of time to find out now, so I'm guessing Font 8a+?

Also at Burbage, Rachael Briggs continues to develop some cool-looking bit and bobs, with some nice-looking traverses too, mainly at the far end of Burbage North. She's accumulated quite a lot of decent ascents of

late and will almost certainly have put this paragraph out of date before I finish typing it so, best just check out her Instagram account [@newascents](#) for details.

Limestone news, and Frances Bensley has repeated *Keen Roof* at Raven Tor, and in doing so, hot on the heels of her earlier ascent of *Fat Lip* (reported last time), earns her the crown of Queen of the Tor; a coveted accolade indeed. Might even be the first female ascent? Hit me up if you know different.

Also at the Tor cave, Mat Wright had a strong session repeating *Keen Roof Extension* and *Belly of the Beast*. Fans of repeated chalkbag dabs will want to seek out the video of the latter. Mat also repeated Zippy's F8c testpiece *Make it Funky*. No back-around on that one, hopefully.

Steve Ramsden has done a new E7 at Stanage, the left arête of *Tower Chimney*. Looks bit run-out, with some crafty footwork. Called *Pinch Soma*. Video on Instagram. See, I can be brief when I want to be.

Mike Adams done *8 Ball* finishing up *Lunatic*. Name *Crazy Ball*, looks hard, suitors should bring long arms, and the ability to climb Font 8a+/b.

Jon Fullwood bits: *Compression Sickness*, steep prow/roof at far end of Chatsworth, Font 7b. Slab opposite *Elmer Fudd* at Baslow is now *Tex Avery*, Font 6c. His son and wad-of-the-future Spike has done a slabby Font 6a arête near *Heroes* at Baslow.

Howshaw, J. Fullwood done *Black Rhino* finishing left into *Inside Out*, Font 7b, *Rhinos 'r' Us*. Nige: *Chip Shop Scrawl* on RHS @ 7b.

Haydn: *Slap Happy* Font 7c+ (*Born Slappy* sitter), Stanage.

Got news?

Email us.

Bye.

### Get in touch

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



Spike Fullwood on his new problem WADS at Baslow.  
Photo: Jon Fullwood.



Youngsters display their badge designs in Winnats Pass.  
Photo: Peter Judd.

## Spirit of Kinder

Peter Judd

**This year's Spirit of Kinder event took place on 27 April and celebrated the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in 1949. In addition, it was tied into the National Trust's year of 'People's Landscapes' initiative (Kinder Scout and the trespass story being one of its main themes).**

While we may think of the trespass story as being all history, we know there are access and environmental campaigns still to be fought today. It is to our young people that we must look to take up these challenges – their ample capacity to do so having most recently been demonstrated by the examples of climate change campaigner and Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg and the series of recent climate action schools strikes. So, in the lead up this year's event, so-called 'trespass elders' – from The Ramblers, the Sheffield Campaign for Access

to Moorlands and the BMC (our own Henry Folkard) – worked with groups of local schoolchildren in collaboration with the National Trust to explore and pass on stories of campaign and trespass. Artists Trish Evans and Nick Humphreys of Instar joined in to help the children design fabulous new 'Freedom to Roam' badges, based on walkers' rucksack badges of old, and mighty colourful they proved to be too!

The event was to have taken place in Winnats Pass, scene of many campaign rallies last century, but continuous heavy rain and wind put paid to that. Instead the Peveril Centre in Castleton made for a dry, warm base. However, that didn't stop most attendees marching up to Winnats first, where the youngsters unfurled their stunningly colourful banners, based on their badges, and tried to avoid being blown away in the process. We then returned to Castleton to drink tea and hear from a host of high-profile speakers on related themes.

These included:

Lord (David) Blunkett, Ramblers South

Yorks & NE Derbyshire Area President, who spoke of his joy in hearing skylarks sing in the Peak District. He's glad that the Labour governments he served introduced such improvements as the CRoW Act 2000, but regrets not doing more, while he had the opportunity, about intrusive motorised vehicular use of green lanes.

Hilary McGrady, Director General of the National Trust, expressed concern about the accessibility of our national parks to those without their own transport. She also spoke about environmental concerns and praised recent actions by young people such as Greta as a sign of hope in that regard.

Ruth George, MP for the High Peak constituency, including Castleton, spoke of her own pleasure in taking family and even her office staff up on to Kinder Scout, but expressed concern and a desire to work with the national park to do more around transport and accessibility.

Our own President, Lynn Robinson, spoke of her personal pleasure in both walking and climbing around the Kinder plateau over many years. She also drew attention to the importance of partnership working, such as that between BMC and national parks (not least the Peak District National Park) through campaigns like Mend Our Mountains, before going on to speak about Hills 2 Oceans, the BMC's new campaign to remove litter from our uplands, and call on all of us to not to walk past litter that annoys us but to stop, pick it up and carry it off the hill (she'd already done just that carrying off a little litter we'd found at Winnats).

Sue Hayman, MP & Shadow Environment Secretary, got a spontaneous round of applause when she told the meeting she would be calling on the government to declare a 'climate emergency' – indeed a motion to that effect was moved by her and passed by parliament just days later.

Jarvis Cocker, well-known singer, DJ and local resident, talked about his own first experiences of Kinder when orienteering with school and how he discovered that, despite being a city boy and so not expecting to, he came to enjoy those experiences and value the place. Jarvis is heavily involved with a new summer art trail and guided walk with 'artistic surprises' related to the trespass story that will start from Edale station and has been developed in association with Jeremy Deller, the National Trust (and Turner Prize-winning) artist for the Trust's Peoples' Landscapes initiative. Jarvis ended by saying he hoped this project would, 'encourage people to be kind to the landscape, to be kind to the environment. To make them stop, close their eyes, think for a moment, think how to be kinder. Think how to be ... Kinder.'

Finally, Andrew McCloy, Peak District National Park Authority chair, who had acted as master of ceremonies for the day, told us that while the Peak District may be the first UK national park, and also the one that negotiated the most access agreements before the arrival of the CRoW Act, he was much troubled by the impact of recent 40% cuts in the funding received by such parks and appealed both for more funding and also for us all to work together to support and value our national parks.

Despite the importance of these speeches, perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this event was the enthusiasm shown by the youngsters who, after listening to the campaign stories of the elders and displaying their fine badges, showed a real willingness to take on the challenge of continuing to protect and enhance our access rights in years to come.



Kim Leyland and Mark Anderson  
near Balcony Buttress, Stanage.  
Photo: Tomo Thompson.

## Nestworking

Tomo Thompson, Friends of the Peak District & CPRE South Yorkshire

**Nestworking ... or how to put something back in to the local outdoor and environmental community, learn some new stuff, get some headspace, and meet some like-minded people.**

For many walkers and climbers in the Peak District, their first encounter with a ring ouzel might be a picture of one on a board at the foot of Burbage, Stanage, Bamford or Froggatt, asking them to avoid climbing on, or walking near, a particular buttress area while a sort-of-blackbird-looking bird builds a home and raises a brood.

In addition to having seen these notices over previous years, I was also swayed by the legend that is Bill 'Mr Stanage' Gordon and his 4,000 years of looking after the ouzels on the North Lees Estate (for which he was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2017).

So it was that in April I went to the

Eastern Moors Partnership centre on Big Moor for an afternoon of learning about *Turdus torquatus*, aka the mountain blackbird, aka the ring ouzel. Arrives April time. Male is like a blackbird wearing a white bib. Female similar but browner in colour, and a less distinct bib.

The number of breeding pairs of ring ouzels decreased by 44–100% during 1979–2009 across 13 study areas across the UK. The UK range area of the bird has also decreased by 40% over the last 40 years. The amount of information on the training day was only exceeded by the amount of cake! Most of the volunteer monitors for the 2019 season were seasoned ornithologists, and for many it was like a reunion initiated by a small friend flying in from Morocco.

A week later there was a whole day of training, again led by ornithologist-conservationist-climber-walker-cake-provider Kim Leyland. The morning was in the lovely classroom at Longshaw, the afternoon was on Stanage. We saw nowt

until, ending the course in the car park, four birds appeared almost literally behind us. Oh no they didn't. Oh yes they did.

As a newbie monitor, my volunteer role to begin with was to walk and listen. I did this a lot in Burbage, and a little along Stanage. Often alone, sometimes with Kim. Beginning to understand these clever little birds, and moreover to begin to understand the crags and valleys that they nest in and on. Not running or climbing or cycling through them as I regularly do, but, mostly, sitting for a few hours. Observant. Still. Almost meditative. In doing so, quietly observing the interaction not only of the ouzels and the landscape, but also of humans and the landscapes in which the ouzels nest, one realises fairly quickly that perhaps the biggest threat to the birds is humans and our use and misuse of landscapes.

Support for the ring ouzel programme in the Peak District also comes from the RSPB, the Peak District National Park Authority and the BMC. The BMC involvement ensures that physical signs at the foot of crags and digital notices (social media and the Regional Access Database) inform climbers about the nesting situation. Stanage, for example, is the most popular climbing crag in Britain, with over 1,400 routes. So far this season the birds appear to have eschewed Burbage as a nesting site and taken up several residences along Stanage, as well as Bamford and White Edge.

So, at the beginning of May, while wandering along Stanage with Kim and Mark Anderson (the North Lees Estate Warden) I got to see most of the 'business' of the ouzel. Close inspection proved that one nest had been predated; another nest near the Plantation had four eggs in it; a couple of birds were seen active back on Manchester Buttress. We removed the access restriction signs from around the predated nest to allow climbers to climb

there. Cuckoos, curlews, lapwings, kestrels, ravens and wrens provided the morning chorus.

I have been assigned the nest on Manchester Buttress at Stanage to monitor. Who would build a nest on a climbers' descent path on the busiest part of the busiest climbing crag at the beginning of the busy climbing season? If you're passing at an unsociable hour of the morning or evening, do say hello, I'm the one sitting in the grass just downslope, filling my observations form in. A small jigsaw piece of information, the likes of which Kim receives from a few dozen volunteers across the area and which he uses to map the nesting and breeding season of this important little bird.



Bosley Cloud.  
Photo: John Coe field.

# Friends of the Peak District News

## **The Friends celebrate 95 years**

After helping the Campaign for National Parks celebrate the 70th anniversary of the creation of our national parks in March and April, the Friends of the Peak District passed its 95th anniversary.

On 7 May 1924 a few people met in a house in the western suburbs of Sheffield. Disturbed by the increasing defacement of the beauty of the Peak District by 'incongruous and promiscuous development', they had come together to discuss the possible formation of a society for the preservation of local scenery.

The only formal business conducted at that meeting was the discussion preceding the decision to form a society, although strong feelings were expressed against a proposed new road through Winnats, and it was arranged that the newly appointed honorary secretary should write about this to the National Trust.

Those present at the meeting were Mrs Ethel Gallimore, Mr H.B.S Gibbs, Miss Moorwood, Rev. Martin Pope, Dr W.S. Porter (Chair), Miss Porter, Mrs Somerset, Mr G.H.B. Ward, Gertrude Ward, Alan Ward and Mr W.R. White. Invited but unable to attend were Mr T. Walter Hall, Mr and Mrs Samuel Osborn, and Mr Carus Wilson. In his absence Sir Henry Hadow, the then vice chancellor of the University of Sheffield.

As well as providing the room for the meeting in her mother's house in Endcliffe Vale House, Mrs Ethel Gallimore was elected to be honorary secretary at the meeting.

In July the following year, the society voted to call itself 'The Sheffield Association for the protection of Local Scenery'. In December 1926 the honorary secretary attended the inaugural meeting of the

Council for the Preservation of Rural England and, in February 1927, the association unanimously voted to accept an invitation to become affiliated to the CPRE.

The rest, as they say, is history.  
Happy Birthday!

## **End of quarry lorry threat to Grindleford**

Friends of the Peak District and campaigners from the local community recently celebrated as quarry owners Stancliffe Stone (part of the Marshalls Group) withdrew a planning application to increase heavy lorries through the village of Grindleford.

This marks the end of a long campaign against Stancliffe illegally intensifying their processing operations at a linked set of locations including Stanton Moor, Rowsley and Stoke Hall at Grindleford, while supplying stone for the prestigious Bloomberg building project in London.

'We're really pleased that, working with Grindleford residents, we've been able to send a strong message to Stancliffe that their plans were unacceptable because of significant impacts on road safety and the local community,' said Andy Tickle, head of campaigns at Friends of the Peak District.

The quarry still has permission to extract high-quality gritstone for important local and regional building projects, but the new plans would have turned the quarry into a regional processing centre, resulting much more heavy lorry traffic. 'We are supportive of local quarries and the jobs they provide when there is an established need for the stone,' added Andy, 'but Stancliffe's plans were a step too far for a sensitive location in the national park.'

# Peak Area Meetings: 2019

All meetings are held at The Maynard,  
Grindleford, S32 2HE.

12 June, 7.30 p.m.

11 September, 7.30 p.m.

27 November, 7.30 p.m.

## Forthcoming Events

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

### **BMC/BMMS First Aid & Mountain Medicine Weekend 8-9 June, Hathersage**

Spend Saturday and/or Sunday learning new skills and join us for a beer, barbecue, and talk from BMC Patron and Himalayan legend Mick Fowler on Saturday evening.

[www.thebmc.co.uk/mountain-first-aid-course](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/mountain-first-aid-course)

### **Cliffhanger & the British Bouldering Championships 6-7 July, Sheffield**

Cliffhanger and the BBCs are back in Sheffield for another year.

[www.theoutdoorcity.co.uk/cliffhanger](http://www.theoutdoorcity.co.uk/cliffhanger)

### **Women's Trad Festival 2-4 August, venue TBC**

Women's Trad Festival is a trad climbing festival in the Peak District, bridging the gap between indoor and outdoor climbing. It supports, connects and inspires climbers of all abilities, ages and genders.

[www.womenstradfestival.co.uk](http://www.womenstradfestival.co.uk)

## BMC Peak Area Contacts

Peak Area Chair: Rob Greenwood.  
[robgreenwood@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:robgreenwood@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)

Secretary: Becky Hammond.  
[becky@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:becky@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)

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

Access Reps Co-ordinators:  
Henry Folkard and Louise Hawson.  
[henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)  
[louise.hawson@gmail.com](mailto:louise.hawson@gmail.com)

Peak Area Hill Walking Reps:  
Peter Judd and Austin Knott.  
[Peak10roam-bmc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Peak10roam-bmc@yahoo.co.uk)  
[austinjknott@gmail.com](mailto:austinjknott@gmail.com)

Peak Area Newsletter Editorial:  
Dave Parry and John Coefield.  
[peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com)

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) is the representative body that exists to protect the freedoms and promote the interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, including ski-mountaineers. Find out more: [www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-governance](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-governance)