

October 2015

Access Fund

The first year report on the National Park's Access Fund is now available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessfund. This is a ring-fenced fund for access improvements. The report is an annual one.

The report shows the contributions received and what they have been spent on in this first year. Interim progress reports on projects which are still ongoing and for new work will be reported to the Local Access Forum.

The report also includes quotes from those who have made donations. Their words and deeds best convey the importance of access and how we can care for this special place for the enjoyment and inspiration of all.

Peak Paths Appeal

The National Park Authority works with landowners to install and maintain access points and paths on access land and takes a leading role in negotiating and maintaining concessionary routes and increasing access rights to create links and improve the network.

One of the paths which we help to look after is the one leading to Grindslow Knoll and the Edale skyline. This is a path on access land but an important one and is now quite eroded and has widened. We have already carried out some works to improve the drainage and would like to carry out further works to the surface of the path and the areas adjacent. This will make it easier to walk on and will encourage revegetation. The work will be carried out sensitively in a manner suitable for this location and its use.

We will be telling you more about our progress on this as part of our Peak Paths appeal.



MoorLife

MoorLIFE 2020 a new project with a value of approx £13 million to conserve priority habitat across the South Pennine Moorlands between Edale and Skipton has been awarded the biggest grant the European Commission have given to a UK conservation project. The work is co-financed by 3 water companies and delivered by the National Park Authority and Pennine Prospects, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the National Trust. More information is at www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife.



A Day in the Hills

The annual Mountaineering All-party Parliamentary Group/British Mountaineering Council's day in the hills for MPs, AMs and Peers took place this year in the Peak District National Park. The group, which included three MPs with constituencies in the National Park, walked the first part of the Pennine Way from Edale and then along the southern edge of Kinder Scout and the Edale skyline.

Brief presentations were given to the visitors by Mike Rhodes from the National Park Authority and Jon Stewart, National Trust, on the value of access in the National Park, and the work done to look after the paths and moorland environment.



Walk on the Wild Side

This month we hope you feel inspired by Pete Bush's photos of discovery in the White Peak. Pete is one of our Area Rangers and our expert on the who, the what, the where and the why in his area.



Ichneumon Wasp

"I have worked as an Area Ranger for the Authority for the last fifteen years with previous experience of working as a Ranger/Warden in the Derbyshire Coalfields, the Norfolk Broads, Southern Uplands and the Farne Islands. I got my first break with the National Trust protecting nesting Peregrines at Alport Castles in the late 80s. I still feel as enthusiastic about the job as I did over 20 years ago and am inspired by the cycle of the natural world around me aware that I still have much to learn.



Fly Agaric

I am aware that there are so many other distractions around today that people are often quite disconnected with nature and whilst I might rave about some rare species lurking in the depths of a pond, they are often more excited about watching the Dragonflies whizzing over the surface. That's when I need to remind myself how lucky I have been to work in the places I have with the opportunity of observing all sorts of wildlife events.



I particularly enjoy working with my local schools and highlights this year have been studying the rivers Wye and Lathkill, especially dipping for creatures along stretches normally reserved for fly-fishing, controlling the children's initial over-excitement is the hardest part of the job.

To see the Peak District in a different light I would encourage others to get out at a different time of day. Dawn, dusk or even in the dark completely change a regular walk often give the best chances of seeing wildlife, heighten the senses and allow great views of the night skies (it does not need to be too late if you go in the winter). Last autumn I took the family on to White Edge late in the afternoon to see the Red Deer rutting and underestimated how long it would take back to the car. Walking in the dark along the edge with Stags bellowing all around was an experience not quickly forgotten!"