

PDGLA
PO Box 7976
Great Longstone,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire, DE45 9AY
Web: www.pdgla.org.uk
Email: pdgla@hotmail.co.uk



Peak District
Green Lanes Alliance

Newsletter 2 – November 2011

Welcome to our second newsletter. We're hoping to produce between four and six newsletters a year but there is so much happening at the moment, that we want you to know about, we thought another newsletter was needed.

Chapel Gate – TRF to Appeal



Photo: Before DCC repairs



Photo: After DCC repairs

The Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) have appealed against the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that the Peak District National Park Authority placed on Chapel Gate, Edale. The experimental TRO bans motor vehicles from Chapel Gate for 18 months. Among the reasons for the appeal, the TRF claim that the TRO is not a true experiment and that there was no reason to extend the ban to 2 wheeled vehicles.

Chapel Gate – boulders moved



Derbyshire County Council placed boulders in front of three gates to stop 4x4s from using Chapel Gate. Local people found two of these boulders moved away from the gates and one gate left lying on the ground. There were plenty of trail bike tracks on the wet path in early October although they are banned from using the route.

President and Vice President for PDGLA

Roy Hattersley has agreed to become Honorary President of the PDGLA. He is a Privy Councillor, former Cabinet Minister and former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party who was born in Sheffield and now lives in the Peak District. Leading rights of way guru, John Riddall, who is a retired barrister and co-author of the definitive guide to rights of way in England, "Rights of Way, a Guide to Law and Practice" has agreed to become an Honorary Vice President. Both have observed the increasing destruction of "green lanes" within the National Park and both support our campaign for authorities to use TRO's to prevent further damage.

Derbyshire County Council to Provide Money and Signs



Photo: Long Causeway 2011

DCC has agreed to provide £30,000 for repairs. We believe these will be to Long Causeway (near Hathersage), Washgate (near Hollinsclough) and Moorlands Lane, Bonsall. Earlier this year DCC repaired the lower part of Long Causeway although the materials used meant that horses could still not use the route. They are also providing new signs for some of the footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways that are illegally used by recreational motor vehicles. This is good news because the local Police and Crown Prosecution Service will currently not consider legal proceedings unless suitable signs are in place.

DCC has agreed to provide £30,000 for repairs. We believe these will be to Long Causeway (near Hathersage), Washgate (near Hollinsclough) and Moorlands Lane, Bonsall. Earlier this year DCC repaired the lower part of Long Causeway although the materials used meant that horses could still not use the route. They are also providing new signs for some of the footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways that are illegally used by recreational motor

Derbyshire County Council Publishes New Policy

DCC endorsed their new "Policy for the Management of Motorised Vehicle Use in the Countryside (Highways and Transport)" at the Cabinet meeting on 1 November 2011. The public will be allowed to comment on the policy. We believe there will be a 12 week consultation period but no details are available yet. The policy can be found at

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/POLICY%20FOR%20THE%20MANAGEMENT%20OF%20MOTORISED%20VEHICLE_tcm44-191869.pdf

We will let you know when we have more information.

PDNPA Debate New Strategy on 2 December 2011

Peak District National Park Authority Members will debate their new Strategy for the Management of Recreational Motorised Vehicles and their new Procedure for Making Traffic Regulation Orders on 2 December. The documents are on their website at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/vehicles> . There will be no public consultation on these so any comments need to be sent to PDNPA urgently. Applications to speak before the debate have to be made by midday 30 November.

Blackberry Lane Victory

Recreational motor vehicle users submitted an application for Blackberry Lane, Foolow (also known as Silence Lane) to be upgraded to a BOAT. This lane runs from Bradshaw Lane to Hucklow Edge. When Derbyshire County Council considered the application they decided the route should be made a BOAT but a local resident appealed. The Planning Inspectorate heard the appeal by written submissions and has recently decided that the route should remain a restricted byway.

PDGLA and GLEAM

The Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM) is a national group which campaigns for changes in the law to stop thoughtless off-roaders destroying green lanes. Some of our members also belong to GLEAM. Karen, our Chair wrote an article for the GLEAM newsletter earlier this year about the problems in the Peak District (<http://www.gleam-uk.org/newsletters/Gleam%20Spring%202011.pdf>). John, one of our two vice chairs, wrote an article about the problems of Chertpit Lane, Great Longstone for the Autumn newsletter (<http://www.gleam-uk.org/newsletters/Gleam%20Autumn%202011.pdf>). Mark, our other vice chair addressed the GLEAM AGM in October talking about the problems in the Peak District.

BBC4 documentary on Off-Roading in the Peak District



Documentary maker Richard Macer filmed in the Peak District for 12 months as part of a series of three programs on National Parks. He concentrated on off-roading in the Peak District, filming a variety of events as well as talking to those for and against off-roading and PDNPA. The program was shown on BBC4 on 30 October and highlighted some of

the problems we face. We have had many messages of support and encouragement from people who saw the programme.

Photo: Richard Macer and Great Longstone residents on Chertpit Lane

Radio interview

High Peak Radio recently broadcast a radio interview with Peak Horsepower bridleway group which gives a powerful insight into the dangers which riders face from recreational motor vehicles and the need for Derbyshire County Council to act. You can hear it at: <http://www.highpeakradio.co.uk/images/listen-again/offroad.mp3>

Eyam public enquiry

Eyam, well known nationally as the picturesque 'plague village' is now plagued by a ring of green lanes heavily used by off-roaders. Two of its

lanes are already BOATS. More have BOAT claims on them. One of these is the subject of a public inquiry this month. The case against the BOAT is being led by PDGLA and a colleague from the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance. We are very grateful to the Yorkshire Dales for their support and expertise in public inquiries. All are welcome to attend the inquiry which starts on 22 November 2011 at 10 a.m. at the Church Centre, Church Street, Eyam.

Updated Police Contact details

Two Police forces have changed their non emergency telephone contact numbers since our last newsletter. So we are giving you all the emergency numbers again.

It is important to report illegal offroading because the Police will not devote resources to a problem if they are unaware of its scale.

Ideally, you should know the status of a route before contacting the Police. None of the definitive rights of way maps for the Peak Park are yet available online, so here is a simple set of rules which should be accurate in most cases when used in conjunction with an up-to-date OS map. (Consult the OS map key for symbols, as these differ with different scales of map.)

- **BOATs:** driving on a BOAT is legal unless a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is in place banning motor vehicles e.g. Chapel Gate, Edale and Beresford Dale near Hartington.
- **'Other routes with public access':** the Police will almost certainly not take any action about off-roaders on a route marked as 'other route with public access' on an up-to-date OS map.
- **Everywhere else:** Recreational motor vehicles will almost certainly be driving illegally. This includes driving 'off piste', i.e. deviating from the route.
- **Dangerous driving:** is illegal everywhere.

The Peak Park is covered by six Police forces. Please contact the right one! And please report incidents as soon as possible.

Police force	Area of PDNP covered	Telephone number
Derbyshire	All parts of PDNP in Derbyshire	101
South Yorkshire	All parts of PDNP within areas covered by Sheffield and Barnsley Councils	101
Staffordshire	All parts of PDNP within Staffordshire	0300 123 4455

West Yorkshire	All parts of PDNP within Kirklees	0845 6060606
Greater Manchester	All parts of PDNP within Oldham	0161 872 5050
Cheshire	All parts of the PDNP within Cheshire East (may be shown as Cheshire on maps)	0845 458 0000

The Police will ask you for the location, type of vehicles involved, how many vehicles, and if there were any distinguishing marks. If you can do it safely, get registration numbers and photographs. Ask the Police for an incident number because if there is no incident number the incident won't get onto Police statistics. Don't expect any immediate action.

Please also tell PDNPA know about any incidents and, if it the incident is in Derbyshire, let Derbyshire County Council know about it. The email contacts are:

mike.rhodes@peakdistrict.gov.uk and phil.berry@derbyshire.gov.uk