



Blakeley Reservoir from Wessenden Moor.
Photo: Peter Judd.

PEAK AREA NEWSLETTER



September 2019
peakarea@gmail.com

Rocking Chair

Rob Greenwood



Well, summer has come and gone (if it was ever here in the first place) and autumn is very much upon us.

Our next meeting, which takes place on 11 September, will focus on the BMC's future. After a lot of work from a great many members of staff – and volunteers – the draft of the organisation's Strategic Plan for 2020–2024 will be out for consultation and feedback from the membership, so there'll be plenty to discuss.

In addition to this there'll be further discussion on a matter close to my own heart: membership engagement. The BMC

represents a broad spectrum of outdoor (and, more recently, indoor) enthusiasts, spanning climbing, hill walking and mountaineering; however, appealing to each of these user groups and servicing their needs is a challenge indeed.

As such, get your thinking caps on and come and join the discussion and debate.

See you there.

Next meeting: Wednesday 11 September, 7.30 p.m.
The Maynard, Grindleford, S32 2HE



Millstone Edge and the Derwent Valley.
Photo: John Coefield.

Access News

Henry Folkard

The main news item this issue is that the National Trust has a major problem in knowing how best to manage ash dieback which has ravaged Dovedale.

They are considering options, one of which is to close Dovedale between about Ilam Rock (or perhaps Dove Holes) and Lover's Leap in October to facilitate necessary felling of diseased trees. Drastic perhaps, but so is the problem which confronts them. They are anxious to gauge public reaction (including from BMC Members) to this option, or hear alternative suggestions, before making any decisions. We will discuss this at the next area meeting and report back to the National Trust. We should also perhaps consider the position in Chee Dale and Water-cum-Jolly, which are owned, or part owned, not by the National Trust but by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

In other news, there have been reports of Forest Enterprise (what was the Forestry Commission) trying to charge groups for using **Black Rocks** – which is more popular with groups for weaseling and similar activities than for climbing. Rob Dyer has pointed out that guidance issued by Defra is explicit that adventure activity should not be regarded as commercial activity for which a charge on open access land is appropriate.

On **Kinder** and **Bleaklow** the fences which were erected after widespread consultation – and controversy – some ten years ago will need to be renewed at some point if they are to remain. They have certainly been successful in achieving what it was intended they should achieve; excluding stray sheep thereby preventing them from devastating newly seeded areas. The question the National Trust is asking is: would it be premature to remove them now and risk jeopardising partly restored landscapes?

What do you think?

Stanage Forum 2019

Get Involved!



Learn what's been happening in 2019...

- Ring Ouzels
- North Lees Hall, Cruck Barn Archaeology Project
- Hear about plans for the Estate in 2020
- Plus, find out how you can get involved

Saturday 26th October 2.00pm
Hathersage Methodist Church Hall
Main Road, Hathersage S32 1BB

Everyone welcome!



The Stanage Forum is a consultative body representing stakeholders, which advises on issues affecting the Stanage (North Lees) Estate. The Vision of the Forum is to care for, enjoy and promote understanding of Stanage-North Lees in a sustainable way which respects and enhances wildlife, heritage and landscape for everyone, forever.

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/stanageforum





The Great Ridge.
Photo: John Coefield.

Hill Walking News

Peter Judd & Austin Knott

Come for a walk!

Join us for a Peak Area Hill Walk from Marsden on Sunday 29 September. BMC Peak Area hill walking volunteers have devised a hill walk up on the northern tip of the Peak District that also includes a bit of West Yorkshire and even dips a toe into Lancashire too!

It's a 12.5-mile walk (with a shorter 10-mile option) and starts from Marsden (in West Yorkshire) before taking in Pule Hill, Redbrook Reservoir (which is within the Peak District), Standedge, (crossing briefly over into Lancashire for) White Hill and back to Marsden.

North West Area and Yorkshire Area BMC members have also been invited so there should be plenty of opportunity for networking and good conversation.

There is a lot to see along the way, including the 'Snow Stone', a 'Stanza Stones Poetry Seat', some fascinating geology and (hopefully) some fine views too. Do come – it'll be fun!

Details can be found here:

<http://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4125>

We're grateful to BMC members Emma, Kevin, Vikky and Amanda for volunteering to help us deliver this walk and so ensure it's not led solely by blokes! There'll be more on our the Peak Area Facebook page nearer the time.

Real3Peaks Litter Picks

There are two opportunities to join in with a Real3Peaks-linked litter pick here in the Peak this autumn, on 12 and 13 October.

The Real3Peaks Challenge began a few years ago (initiated by outdoor instructor Rich Pyne) with the aim of deep-cleaning the highest mountains that make up Britain's so-called National 3 Peaks Challenge with clean-up activities each October. Real3Peaks quickly blossomed into much more than just Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike, with other hills and mountains soon being added to the list of hills cleaned. More recently this list has expanded to include a Peak District clean-up on Great Ridge.

Given the BMC has strong links with Real3Peaks, and also is currently running its own Hills2Oceans clean-up challenge, we thought it would be good to get Peak Area BMC folk involved this year, so we are hoping to join in with the Real3Peaks Great Ridge clean-up on Saturday 12 October and in addition hold another event ourselves, over on The Roaches estate, the following day. These are excellent opportunities to help keep the uplands in the state we would all much prefer to find them, so do consider coming along.

If you are interested in joining in with The Roaches clean-up in particular then please let Austin know (via austinjknott@gmail.com) as he needs an indication of likely numbers. He will then send more details in due course. As this newsletter goes to press we're still trying to finalise details of both activities, so keep an eye on the Area Facebook page for more news!

Climbing News & Gossip

Dave Parry

One of the annoyances of writing this Peak Area news roundup is how the newsletter deadlines fall during the summer. Invariably it clashes with my holidays, this year being no exception. I have hence decided, to avoid running late yet give the illusion of currency, that I am going to write as much of the content in advance and just slot the details in right on the deadline. You would think that the quality of the news report would suffer due to some of it being written template-style long before the actual event, but I can assure you this is perfectly legit in journalism circles. Once I've included some pretty generic and non-specific padding which should fit most eventualities you won't notice a thing, I promise.

Anyway, on to the summer roundup. And what an eventful summer it has been, right? Who could have predicted that the weather would have turned out the way it did? I for one had certainly expected some elements of the prevailing conditions but others caught me off guard, that's for sure. One person who really took advantage of the aforementioned meteorological goings on was Pete Dawson, who made big news by repeating *Hubble* recently. There's a video of his ascent online and he makes it look disarmingly steady. Maybe we're about to hit that morphic-resonance threshold where suddenly every strong youth does *Hubble* and the mystique is broken? Time will tell. Sadly, I don't know anything about Pete other than what a perfunctory bit of googling tells me, which is that he's also done *Evolution* and *Make It Funky* at the Tor within the last year, and recently made a fast repeat of *Sea Of Tranquility* in Wales (a country only 200 miles from Britain) so safe to say he's been going well of late.

Hadyn Jones also reports that Pete also made a 'semi flash' ascent of 32 at the Cornice. I can only assume this caveat pertains to the level of prior knowledge/familiarity with some or all of the route, rather than an unfortunate wardrobe malfunction in a state of partial tumescence. I'll leave you to google that.

A hard limestone repeat, this time a boulder problem, which just missed the last newsletter back in June was Dave Mason's ascent of *Dandelion Mind* at Badger Cove. At Font 8b/+, this is actually easier on paper than its neighbour *Bewilderness* (Font 8b+) which Dave repeated some years ago. Still nails though, and this is not a crag which is easy to get good conditions at, so good effort.

At the far end of the horizontal bouldering axis is Haydn Jones' recent addition to Moat Buttress. *Against the Current* starts at *Drawbridge* and finishes at the far right of the crag by topping out. This 60-metre-long pump-marathon is Font 8a+ or equivalent to F8c as a route. Apparently breaks down nicely into a number of individual sections graded in the Font 7a to 7c+ range, so some sport for all to be had there, and the various combination links should keep the UKC logbook demographic happy.

Speaking of which, I'm sure everyone is talking about the recent linkup at Griff's Buttress in Blackwell Dale or the cave at the Tor, which presumably someone will have done. For those not in the know this probably starts up one problem, traverses in a particular direction then finishes up some other problem some distance from the start. Grade will be within half a grade of the existing and almost indistinguishable problem which starts or finishes up a slightly different version of one of the constituent problems. Name will be a portmanteau of the pre-existing problems or some terrible sheep-based reference. First ascent by one of the usual offenders. Not a bad effort by the aforementioned climber considering the

climatic phenomena we've been experiencing.

Regular mantelshelf contributor and Peak news column inch provider Ned Feehally is also no stranger to the limestone, and has in fact an entire new crag on the go, which I would love to report except I don't have the details. Ned has promised it'll be unveiled for the next newsletter – well, he hasn't actually promised that, but did indicate it was a possibility, so I am printing this in the hope that it forces his hand. So with a bit of luck we'll have a new crag for you in the November issue just in time for it to get wet for the winter. For the time being all the Ned collectors out there will have to settle for his recent offerings of a prow and a mantel, both Font 6c ish, up on the top of Stanage by the trig point above *Hamper's Hang*. They're by that existing problem the name or grade of which escapes me. Ned did send a photo in but neglected to include a climber in it, rendering it of limited value as an action shot, so you will have to make do with the rich image I have conjured up with words in this paragraph (which is now at an end).

I usually pencil in a fair-sized paragraph for Jon Fullwood's latest deeds, and he's not let me down, with a decent crop this time round: first is a new route on Two Tier at F7c+, a direct start to *Waffle*. This new addition is called *Stroop Dog* and confirmed as good quality by a few repeats. Bouldering start into a technical bulge into the roof on *Waffle*. Jon has also done a very good-looking limestone problem at Lees Top, a new one-problem venue above Lees Bottom (don't go there – the innuendo, not the crag). *Sheldon Mango* is Font 7c and a tall problem with some fancy-looking moves on pinches. Apparently quite resistant to seepage so worth having on your list. Warm up somewhere else though. Jon's final offering for this edition is at Baslow and is a crimpy little number just left of the neo-classic highball *Hot Ziggerty*. Jon's problem starts from the deck as per *Tony Gubba's*, then a big heel move and a prominent high crimp leads into the final moves of Ben

Heason's rarely done problem *Cold Diggity*. Video on Jon's Instagram. Looks good, and a fair bet for staying cool before the main grit season, cool weather arrives.

In a sentence I could probably have written in advance and safely include in every newsletter as standard and it always be true, Gary Gibson has done one or two new routes lately. Bit of a dry spell for Gary actually this year having only done 90-odd new routes in the Peak, although I should point out that's 90 at the time he emailed me, so will probably be more than that by the time you read this. Of particular note are around 35 new routes at Bradwell Dale Parish Quarry, the rough location of which I assume is evident from the name. Expect mainly offerings in the low French 6 grades with a few sterner tests. Gary has also added around 20 routes to Harpur Hill and is in the process of re-equipping College Buttress there. These and many more are detailed on Gary's website www.sportsclimbs.co.uk. If devotees of any of these crags Gary's worked on feel compelled to throw a few bob into his bolting pot then there is a donation link on the site too. Apparently Gary is closing in on 5,000 new routes in total, likely next year sometime. Which means, if you do the maths, that if you're aged 13 or under, Gary has in fact done more new routes than you've had hot dinners.

Finally, all that remains is to report as usual a quality addition from <insert name here> who as always manages to find some overlooked line/crag ~~***delete as applicable***~~ that the rest of us have written up. This time it's <insert problem name> at <crag name>, weighing in at an achievable 5/6/7 a/b/c/+ ~~***delete as applicable***~~. Looks like a quality addition, and really puts <crag/buttness/boulder name> on the map again as a viable option for a great little circuit.

Get in touch

Send your Peak area news, gossip or article ideas to me at: peakarea@gmail.com

Peak Area Meetings: 2019

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

11 September, 7.30 p.m.

27 November, 7.30 p.m.



Forthcoming Events

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

Peak Area Hill Walk

29 September, Marsden

Join the Peak Area hill walking team for a 12.5-mile walk from Marsden. All the details on page 5.

Real3Peaks Litter Picks

12 & 13 October, Great Ridge and The Roaches

Help clean up a couple of the Peak's best-known landmarks with the team from Real3Peaks and the Peak Area hill walking team. More info on page 5.

Stanage Forum Open Meeting

26 October, Hathersage Methodist Church Hall

Come and find out what's been happening on the Stanage North Lees estate and have your say on its future. Full details on page 3.

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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**