

Hardwick Hall (The National Trust)



The young rangers at Hardwick Hall have had another eventful year. In June they helped out with the Bio-Blitz where they discovered, identified and recorded as many plant and animal species as possible in 24 hours. They had the added excitement of staying overnight with Young Rangers from other groups.

In addition to their usual activities they also had a day's navigation training where they got clattered in mud as they explored the countryside surrounding Hardwick Hall.

Buxton

Buxton Junior Rangers have been trying their hand at a wealth of practical tasks and improving the habitat at Grin Low Woods in 2019. From rebuilding tumbled-down drystone walls in June to controlling Rosebay Willowherb in September through to chopping down diseased ash trees in October and December it really has been a year of action for Buxton Junior Rangers. Amongst all the grafting we also managed to fit in some wildflower surveys in the wonderful glades, also seeking and identifying spiders.



Langsett

Our Langsett group has been going nearly a year now and it is nice to have a group up in the north-east of the Park.

The initial session was affected a little by a spring storm but the youngsters were not deterred. They have since been searching for mammals, made bird boxes, improved their navigational skills and undertaken habitat management.



<https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/junior-rangers>
<https://www.visit-eastern-moors.org.uk/plan-your-visit/youth-rangers/>
<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/junior-rangers>

Where can I get involved?

Longdendale Environmental Centre, near Glossop, SK13 1HS

***Moorland Visitor Centre, Edale**, S33 7ZA Run by Moors for the Future / PDNP NEW in 2019

***Barbrook Cottage**, run by Eastern Moors Partnership near Owl Bar, S17 3BQ

Millers Dale, YHA Ravenstor, near Buxton, SK17 8SS Run by PDNP & Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

***Hardwick Hall**, run by The National Trust, S44 5QJ, between Chesterfield & Mansfield

Marsh Farm Volunteers' Centre, near Tittesworth Reservoir, ST13 8SH

Langsett Barn, near Stocksbridge, S36 4GY

Grinlow Woods **Buxton**, SK17 9DH Run in partnership with South West Peak

***Carsington Water**, run by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, DE6 1ST

*run by partner organisations



Final thoughts from our young rangers

'As Junior Rangers we could act as ambassadors for the natural environment, helping others within but also outside our National Parks to realise the importance of National Parks as a major role in our own wellbeing and in climate change.'

'We could create a Junior Ranger Award.'

'Next I would like to go to other National Parks to learn more about them.'

PEAK DISTRICT
NATIONAL PARK,
EASTERN MOORS
PARTNERSHIP, THE
NATIONAL TRUST &
DERBYSHIRE
WILDLIFE TRUST

Young Rangers

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Over 45 young people and 12 staff visited the PDNP from 4 other National Parks for the first national Young Ranger camp. Held at Hagg Farm, one of our Ambassador Centres.
- 2 Young Rangers and 1 member of staff visited Estonia for EUROCAMP
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have started a new group at Carsington

Who are we?

We are groups of young people aged 11-18 who volunteer once a month, to learn about and protect the areas that we work in.

The Young Rangers are based on the EUROPARC model. The groups provide a connection between the protected landscape/ areas and local young people.

Young Rangers learn the necessary skills to work alongside rangers to complete their day-to-day tasks. These tasks change with the seasons and include activities such as habitat management, scientific surveys, rights of way management, hill craft and working with the public.

Bike riding around the Derwent Reservoirs as part of the UK camp



Groups meet once a month for 3-4 hours and we have a residential once a year. There are also opportunities to get together with our European and UK counterparts each year.

The Langsett Junior Ranger group started last year with an exploration of the area and then sheltering from the storm where they made good use of the time building bird boxes.



We also take time to relax and take in the surroundings:



The Marsh Farm enjoying the Spring weather, getting creative with some landscape art.

We rely on volunteers to help out with all of the groups. If you are interested in volunteering with one of the groups, and you have experience in conservation or working with young people, please see the back page on how to contact us.

Our staff and volunteers love supporting and inspiring the youngsters (Edale group):



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2019 was the year of Green Action where people were encouraged to Connect, Protect and Enhance. This is a theme that has always been at the heart of what our young rangers do.

The last 12 months have been really exciting as our 3 new groups - Langsett, Edale and Buxton continue to grow and go from strength to strength.

We hope this newsletter inspires other young people living in and around our protected areas to think about, and act upon relevant issues. Please get in touch if you would

like to let us know about issues relevant to you, or to tell us about positive action you have taken to help look after the environment (see the back page).

TACKLING THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW? WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.

POWER = YOUTH CHALLENGE CHAMPION YOUNG PEOPLE AS LEADERS OF CHANGE TAKE PART IN THE POWER OF YOUTH CHALLENGE WILL YOU BE THE NEXT CHALLENGE #twth



Edale

What a great day for Sphagnum planting



In July, Edale Moorland Junior Rangers were taking out their stresses on the bracken on the slopes of Kinder Scout in a practise known as Bracken Bashing to help the National Trust Rangers manage the newly planted trees in that area.

We braved the elements in August to support Sue Smith (access officer) evaluate and improve part of the Limestone Way including putting up new signage for path users.

September's session took place under cover of dark and parents (yes parents!), and siblings were invited along.

We explored the nocturnal side of wildlife in Edale wandering around with bat detectors and luring in local moths with our moth trap. Top moth was the

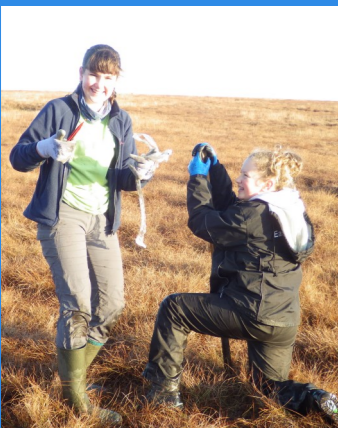
Canary Shouldered Thorn moth.

Oh, and we all had hot chocolate and marshmallows!

Surveying the Limestone Way



Eastern Moors Partnership, (NT & RSPB)



'Happy Sphagnum planters'

Louise Baddeley
Community Involvement
Ranger

The second half of 2019 was an exciting time for the Youth Rangers on the Eastern Moors. With the group just having turned 5 years old, we welcomed three new members into our gang as well as a new volunteer leader, Adam. July saw us carrying out meadow management tasks including ragwort pulling and species surveying in the rare upland hay meadow habitat at Curbar Gap. After the traditional summer break in August, we met again in September off-territory to take advantage of the superb

BE KINDER trail leading from Edale up Jacob's Ladder, where we completed a round walk back down Crowden Clough with the youth ranger's families in tow. For an autumnal September task, we collected acorns in Curbar Woods which have since been planted in the newly established tree nursery at the Eastern Moors HQ at Barbrook Cottage. Our final meet of the year was one to remember; a

stunningly beautiful day at Snake Top planting sphagnum plugs with youth rangers from all across the Peak District as part of the MoorLife project.

Here's to an equally busy 2020!



Collecting acorns

Special Events in 2020

There were a number of events available to the Junior Rangers in 2019.

These included the **Bio-Blitz** at Hardwick Hall, where a number of organisations worked together to excite us all about our local flora and fauna.

We delivered a **Mountain Training England Hill Skills course** where navigation skills were worked on

and the youngsters learnt more about staying safe in the hills.

In October the first UK-wide **National Junior Ranger Camp** was held. Over 60 people attended from 5 different National Parks. (Pictured raising & discussing issues).

Scientific **MICCI** sessions were delivered, helping to restore and protect our moorlands.



2 of our Junior Rangers were lucky enough to join Junior Rangers from across Europe for **EUROCAMP**. This year it will be in Norway. Anyone up for it?



2 of our Junior Rangers had a fantastic (if tiring) time in Estonia at **EUROPARC—EUROCAMP**

Marsh Farm (PDNP)



Leaf Art

We are a small but active group meeting once a month at Marsh Farm near Tittesworth Reservoir. With usually six of us we have enjoyed activities such as surveying hay meadows, pulling up invasive Himalayan Balsam plants, drystone walling, constructing nest boxes and

surveying them for the Willow Tit project, maintaining our wildlife garden, making natural Christmas decorations and most recently going on a wildlife walk on the Warslow Moors estate.

Close to Marsh Farm is a bird hide overlooking Tittesworth reservoir were we have seen a variety of water birds including rare Great White Egrets, heard but not yet seen the resident Kingfisher and spotted a Fox trotting over the bankside field.

In November we welcomed the National Park Chair who came to

see what a typical Junior Ranger group does who offered to help us find funding for resources to help our passion for the natural world. We had a great surprise when checking nest boxes in our wildlife garden to find two occupied Field Mouse nests.

Our Junior Rangers are very creative so we always make time for some art activities and try to learn new skills each time we meet. We are pleased to have recruited new members recently and have a busy schedule of activities for 2020.



Balsam pulling

Millers Dale (PDNP & Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)

Millers Dale Junior Rangers have had a year of changes as their local Ranger, Lynn, past the baton over to Rob, along with some big boots to fill!

The spring and summer was spent enjoying the fabulous flora and fauna, searching for the elusive Water Voles, identifying wild flowers and checking the local water quality by looking at which species live in it. (The quality is very good).

They have been roaming around rivers, scraping up scrub & weaving

wreaths in a busy 2019 year.

Millers Dale enjoys a great mix of ages and experience levels, with some new faces alongside rangers who have bene coming for 5 years or more!

The 2020 programme is now up and running, and we kicked things off with a great visit to Buxton Mountain Rescue base in January. Did you know that the first mountain rescuers in the Peak District were Scouts and Rangers?

The year ahead promises a whole host of activities from farm visits, to charcoal-making with professional archaeologists, to 'kick-sampling' with the Wye Valley River Keepers...but hopefully we can still make time to visit Millers Dale café for a hot chocolate once in a while!



Taking MICCI measurements

Some thoughts from those at the UK residential:

'The best bit was making new friends'

'I will remember the friendships we have made'

Longdendale (PDNP)

It's been a busy Autumn and Winter for Longdendale Junior rangers.

In October, we helped prepare for an event celebrating 20 years of Longdendale Environmental Centre. Thanks to a donation of tiles from B & Q, we were able to try our hand at recycled mosaic making, creating a series of millstone mosaics to display, and using wood pyrography tools to create an animal-themed treasure

trail for the wildlife area. On the day of the open day, Junior rangers helped run minibeast hunting and den building activities for the families who attended the day. We also indulged our creative sides at our Christmas session, making some willow wreaths and helping to finish a giant dragonfly willow sculpture.

Over the winter, we've been busy in our woodland area, working towards our John Muir award. It's a good time to remove dead trees and trim back

hedges, before bird nesting season begins. We've also been working to remove old plastic tree guards from hedges around the wildlife area, a tricky job involving crawling under the hawthorn and blackthorn bushes – hard hats and eye protection required!

We've also been exploring the wider area, including a trip up onto the moors above Holme Moss for a MICCI workshop, collecting data about climate change. Next month we're hoping to make an expedition to see white mountain hares. Fingers crossed we find them!

The Longdendale Group walking the moors, searching for our elusive Mountain Hare & litter picking along the way.

