

September 2014

New Newsletter

This is our first newsletter to let you know about how we work with others to protect, improve and promote access in the National Park. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list please email your contact details to access@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Open Access Anniversary

On 19th September we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the introduction of open access in the Peak District with the British Mountaineering Council, Ramblers and other access champions. A decade earlier the public's rights to wander freely were extended to more than a third of the area of the National Park.



We were led across open access land by leading British climber Andy Cave and heard about the importance of access from our speakers which included: access campaigner Terry Howard, Mosaic walk leader Yvonne Witter, landscape and wildlife photographer Alex Hyde, author Roly Smith, Lynn Crowe, professor of environmental management at Sheffield Hallam University, John Thompson of the Peak District Local Access Forum and Andrew McCloy, chair of the Authority's Audit, Resource and Performance Committee.

Our speakers told us how they have been inspired by these areas and challenged us all to work together in looking after and opening up access to these wilder areas. We will be publishing the speeches in the next few weeks.

A further celebration event was held by ramblers from South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire who met to reflect on the campaigns and campaigners that led to the freedom to roam.

More information on access land can be found at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/crow.

Access Fund

The Authority has set up a fund to go towards new access points and paths and other access improvements. We have started off this fund with a contribution of £3000 and are looking to build on this with income generation, sponsorship and donations. We will be working with and reporting to the Peak District Local Access Forum.

Donations to take forward the legacy of access would be very welcome and can be made currently by cheque or by phoning 01629 816379. More information can be found at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessfund.

Path Improvements



Enjoying these views of the millstone grit of Stanage Edge, near Hathersage is now easier for people with limited mobility thanks to the resurfacing by volunteers of the 'cabin track'. This is the level path which runs across the moor from the road which skirts the eastern end of the edge. Parking is available at the roadside laybys (Grid Reference SK 253826).

Walk on the Wild Side

This month's walk is from Terry Howard who has been a member of the Peak District Local Access Forum since it first formed to give guidance on the implementation of the new open access rights. Terry was also one of our speakers at the anniversary event. More information on the Local Access Forum can be found at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/laf

*"On Margery Hill when the air is still
On a moonlit frosty night,
You may hear a sigh
See the blink of an eye
Of Wilfred as he keeps his watch close by".*

Margery Hill is almost the highest point in Sheffield's Peak District situated above the upper Derwent Valley with spectacular views towards Bleaklow and the "sacred" and iconic Kinder Scout. In another direction are views over the wild and rough moors of Upper Commons and Broomhead towards the Don and Dearne valleys. Such challenging, and beautiful, moors are not to be traversed by the uninitiated.

On nearby Wilfrey Edge is "Wilfred", a natural rock face with the profile of bearded man looking out over the Derwent with his "eye" wide open. Through this eye or "needle" young men would climb through to prove their love to their girl. It is a place of imagination with ancient burial mounds, strange place names and rock carvings, both natural and man-made.

It is also a place of extreme weather – blizzards and winds so strong you can't stand, to the gentle summer breezes that whisper in your ear as grasses dance around your feet. I have stood on Margery Hill as the sun rose and felt its first warming rays and seen the satin like moors spread all around me. A truly wonderful experience.