

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

Young Rangers

In Central England run by the Peak District National Park, the National Trust, RSPB & local Wildlife Trusts

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2018

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR:

- Over 30 young rangers and 10 adults came together for a residential weekend in Edale
- 2 Young Rangers and 8 members of staff went to the Europarc Conference in the Cairngorms National Park to celebrate 'The Year of Young People' and to celebrate the launch of the 'Youth Manifesto'

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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.

The Longdendale Group taking part in MICCI - Moorland Indicators for Climate Change Initiative:



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

Young Rangers from all groups studying the water quality of Grindsbrook and looking for life on the 2018 residential:



Presently there are 5 groups that work together. We are really excited that a 6th group will be starting in January and other organisations that work to protect the landscapes might be joining us in the new year. If you would like to join a group see the map on the back page for locations and contact details.

We also take time to relax and enjoy ourselves:



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 please see the back page on how to contact us.

Our staff and volunteers escaping the weather on the residential:



#iwill
Week

This week, 12-16 November 2018, is #iwillWeek which serves as a focal point for anyone and any organisations to communicate the benefits of youth social action. This year our focus is on young people. Their voices. Their impact. Their story.

To celebrate #iwillWeek 2018 we asked our Young Ranger groups to tell us what they have been up to this year. This newsletter, the very first, is full of their stories, written by them. We hope to continue these newsletters on a quarterly basis, allowing the voices of our young people to be heard. We would also love to hear what other young people living in and around our protected

areas think about relevant issues. Please get in touch (see the back page). 2019 is the Year of Green Action #iwill4nature In 2019 we will continue to work with our Young Rangers to encourage their social action to benefit their local landscapes and communities. **What will your Green Action plan involve? We'd love to know!**



Hardwick Hall (The National Trust)

One of the highlights of Hardwick Youth Rangers for me was pulling reeds out of the pond. Once I knew the technique of pulling and twisting, it wasn't that difficult! It was also fun as people were falling into the water.



Another activity I enjoyed was on a sunny day with a nice breeze. We were planting saplings in the wood. I made the unexpected



discovery of a wheel hub when I was digging a hole, but otherwise just enjoyed focusing on digging and planting. I like the idea of coming back in years to come to see how much our trees have grown.

On our most recent meeting it was pouring down. I turned up in full waterproofs but then spent the session indoors making little wooden

snowmen! They are like the ones that line the route up to Hardwick at Christmas. We had a production line and I painted carrot noses, drilled holes and assembled the snowmen. I'm sure they will fly off the shelves when they go on sale!

Joe Payne
Hardwick Youth Ranger

Eastern Moors Partnership, (NT & RSPB)



The Eastern Moors Youth Rangers have had a fantastic year in 2018...

The Eastern Moors Youth Rangers have had a fantastic year in 2018, with several new recruits and the excellent news that we were nominated in the UK National Parks Volunteer Awards.

Kicking off with tree planting in January as part of our woodland regeneration project set the year in motion, but the bad weather in February cancelled the planned scavenger hunt. March saw the Youth Rangers developing their greenwood working skills while the scavenger hunt was back on in

April. Over the summer months, the Youth Rangers worked hard at a number of infrastructure tasks including working on the Sandyford project, as well as carrying out meadow surveys. In September, 7 of our group attended the residential with other youth rangers across the national park in Edale, which was greatly enjoyed despite the wet weather. The end of the year sees us carrying out seasonal woodland work including

birch thinning.

The work of the youth rangers is very seasonal, but we get a good turn out to every session no matter the weather, which gives the group the chance to develop a variety of skills. Thanks to all of them for their hard work and to our volunteer youth ranger leaders, who we couldn't do it without!

Louise Baddeley
Community Involvement Ranger - young person herself!

Special Events in 2018

Junior Rangers Anabel & Rafael at the Cairngorm Conference with Carina



In September, Junior Rangers from 5 groups camped overnight in Edale. We attempted to walk up Kinder Scout (but were beaten by the weather), learnt knots, carved tent pegs, learnt plant/animal ID and listened to pipistrelle bats. We also went to the EUROPARC 2018

Conference This involved an extremely long coach journey but we were rewarded by plenty of delicious food throughout the week! The theme was 'inspiring the next generation'. There was the presentation of the Youth Manifesto, a Youth Workshop and specific talks by keynote speakers.

Alpkit's Big Shakeout Festival was held from the 28th to 30th September and we helped to run navigation activities on the Peak District National Park stall on the Sunday. This included interactive games to work out map symbols and using a compass to find Gruffalo's friends. The events were aimed at engaging people at the festival with the national park.

Anabel & Rafael

Marsh Farm (PDNP)



This year, Marsh Farm welcomed Pete Bush as our new leader who has brought new knowledge (about bats) and enthusiasm to the group. Unfortunately, we have recently said goodbye to our long term assistant leader Ted Willmot,

Reservoir in July, where a competition started to catch the most - and biggest - Bullhead fish (as well as finding other freshwater creatures). The session included making a small raft to float down the river and a clay figure to sit on top. By the

who we wish all the best for the future.

One of the most prominent memories from this year was river dipping at Tittesworth

end, 3 of the 4 junior rangers ended up wading down (and swimming) after the rafts to catch them and to cool down after a hot day!

Another memory of this year was completing a Bilberry Bee Survey with Moors for the Future on the Roaches. After successfully spotting some other species of bees and on the way back from the trig point, we finally managed to find and rescue two very wet and half-drowned Bilberry bees from crevices in the rocks.

'...we finally managed to find and rescue two very wet and half-drowned Bilberry bees from crevices in the rocks.'

Anabel Cole
Marsh Farm
Junior Ranger

Millers Dale (PDNP & Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)

We undertake a variety of practical conservation tasks, learning about wildlife in the National Park and other fun activities. We often go off-site such as helping out at events, engaging the public in conservation at Longshaw, or learning about the job of a ranger on the Monsal Trail, checking the condition of the trail and tunnels on a bike patrol. Also we have achieved the first level of the John Muir conservation award and are working on the second. Recently our group has moved from the Millers Dale

ranger centre to Ravenstor Youth Hostel nearby, this is an exciting opportunity to see some new wildlife and scenery. Millers Dale Junior Rangers is a fun opportunity to learn and help in the PDNP. We have been working on an area we've named Hurdle Glen located just off of the Monsal Trail. We have cleared shrubs to create a better environment for butterflies, built our own bird boxes & maintained them as well as mapping and recording the condition of existing boxes. We

have also been doing small mammal trapping, learning what kind of animals live in the woodland habitat of Hurdle Glen. Alongside these we have been doing fun activities in the area such as creating kazoos out of sticks and toasting marshmallows.

Rafael Abrahams
Millers Dale Junior
Ranger



Longdendale (PDNP)

We have had a great year in 2018. Although we are a small group we are very enthusiastic and have done lots of great exploring and skill learning this year!

We have undertaken several tasks to improve the area for wildlife including coppicing Hazel, removing dead Alder trees, improving the paths, planting hedgerow trees and wildflower bulbs to improve the biodiversity.

We also had a Himalayan Balsam blitz in the summer, removing as much of the invasive species as we could.

Our woodland has also been an excellent space to have some fun, building dens and practising our fire-lighting skills at the end of a busy day. We have explored further afield, measuring habitat quality, practicing navigation skills and searching for the Bilberry Bumblebee and Green Hairstreak Butterflies.

This year 2 of the group have achieved their John Muir Awards.

All in all 2018 has been a fantastic year and we hope 2019 will be even better. We plan to search for Mountain Hare, continue work to improve the biodiversity of our woodland, improve the fencing and continue to develop our navigation & bushcraft skills.

Longdendale
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 **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

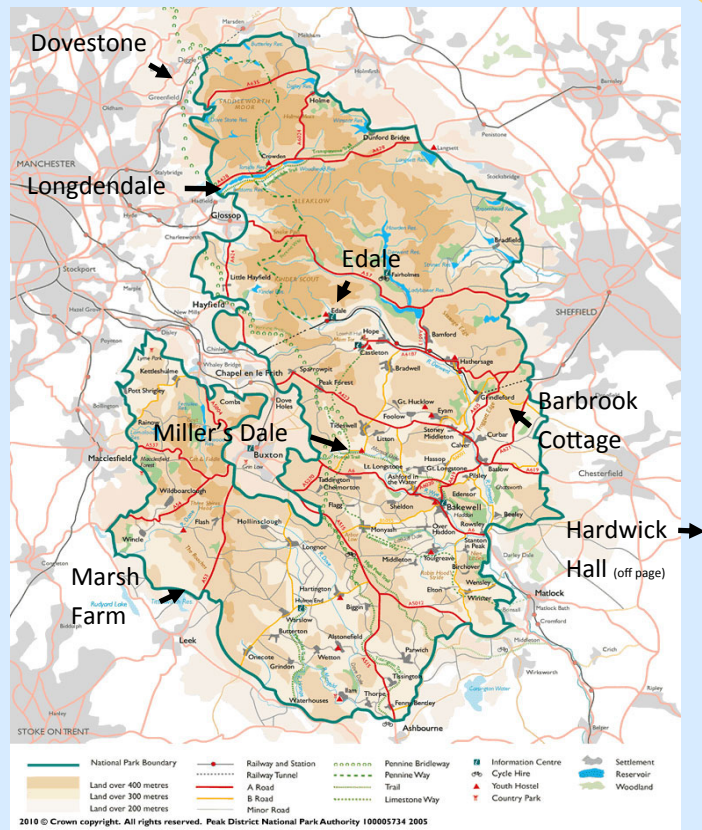
*Hardwick Hall, run by The National Trust, S44 5QJ, between Chesterfield & Mansfield

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

For all enquiries please contact Learning.Discovery@peakdistrict.gov.uk and quote **Young Ranger Enquiry**

*run by partner organisations

We also work closely with Dovestone Youth Rangers, run by Saddleworth Environmental Education, Delph, OL3 5DB



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

Final Thoughts from our Young Rangers:

Anabel Cole:

Junior Rangers gives young people the chance to be involved with nature, for me the sessions have provided me with a complete change from my normal environment, due to living near a busy city.

I love how we can 'muck in' and be part of a global nature movement through the affiliation with the EUROPARC Federation. My group is based at Marsh Farm, Tittesworth Reservoir. We have completed a climate change survey in the Goyt Valley and helped Severn Trent Water to conserve the Willow Tit as well as completing the John Muir Award. We have also learnt navigation, dry-stone walling and Bushcraft, and have gone bird-watching, geocaching and stream dipping, as

well as making nettle soup.

Most relevant issue to me:

Not being able to get to outdoor places due to lack of affordable & frequent public transport as we often have to rely on parents to drive us to places (like Junior Rangers).

Solutions:

- lower fares for students
- increase frequency of buses during peak times and at the weekend/bank holidays when more young people/families have the time to visit parks/green spaces.

Rafael Abrahams:

The trip to the Cairngorms was very helpful in identifying problems in my own community such as the lack of frequent public transport, jobs and affordable housing. During the week the Europarc Youth Manifesto was launched, calling for

change in rural areas to address these problems.

Solutions:

A solution for this is for the government to subsidise public transport, especially for young people. Reducing the cost of public transport would encourage more people to use it, allowing young people to get to outdoor spaces much more easily. Young people using public transport more frequently will also help create habits, so that later in life they are more likely to use it, decreasing the amount of cars on the road. This will reduce the levels of greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuels used, helping to slow the effects of climate change.

If you are a young person and you would like to share your views in the next issue, please email:
carina.humberstone@peakdistrict.gov.uk