

# Horsepower

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### **PHP Members Meeting**

**Tuesday 25 Jan**  
**Monyash Village Hall**  
**7.30**

**The meeting is to update everyone on PHP activities and plans. CU there!**

## **Welcome to the Peak Horsepower newsletter**

This is the first issue of a simple newsletter which the Peak Horsepower Committee will be putting out from time to time to keep members and supporters up to date with what we are doing/achieving.

We have been set up to extend and improve the Peak District bridleway network.

There is plenty that needs our attention. Some of it we can progress just via the committee. But

sometimes we will need to call on you all for support and action. Typically, this will be when we need as many people as possible to write and send emails to the Peak Park or the highway authority as part of the growing campaign against offroad vehicles using and destroying our green lanes. You will have received some emails about this from us already.

For more on what is rapidly becoming a Peak Park-wide campaign

against offroading, see page 2.

But as well as the campaigning stuff, we are also hoping to do some fun things in 2011. We are beginning to think about fund-raising events and organised rides, once the weather has improved. If you have ideas of other things we should be doing, please come along to the Members Meeting at Monyash Village Hall on Tuesday 25 Jan, 8.00pm

Or you can contact us at [peakhorsepowersecretary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peakhorsepowersecretary@hotmail.co.uk)

## **PHP wish list of bridleway improvements**

Following our first open meeting, at Monyash in September, the committee compiled a 'wish list' of all the ideas for improving bridleways put forward by members. The list has nearly 30 items. We have organised these into short, medium and long-term categories. Two of the committee then took the list to a meeting with officers of

Derbyshire County Council and the Peak Park. This was a very useful and informative meeting and gave us plenty of ideas about how we can take things forward.

We will give a full progress report on the wish list at the next meeting for members and supporters at

Monyash on Tuesday 25 January.

Meanwhile, we continue to receive a steady flow of new bridleway information and ideas from members.

If you would like a copy of the wish list, please contact Wendy Neilson at [wendyneilson@hotmail.com](mailto:wendyneilson@hotmail.com)

## Offroading: an update

The danger to horses and riders from motor vehicles using green lanes is a key issue for Peak Horsepower. We are already busy campaigning on a number of routes and we have made strong links with other organisations in the Peak who feel just as strongly about this as we do.

We are now part of a new umbrella group called the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance. This is bringing together groups like the Ramblers, Friends of the Peak Park, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, the Forum for Ancient Byways, parish councils in areas badly affected by offroading and local campaign groups trying to preserve and protect their local green lanes.

Concerted pressure is being put on the Peak Park and Derbyshire County Council to use Traffic Regulation Orders

(TROs) to make it illegal to take 4x4s and trail bikes on Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs). We are also urging them to reject wherever possible the legal claims being made by the offroading lobby to reclassify other green lanes as BOATs. Many hundreds of such applications have been made by the offroading community nationwide. A large number are in the Peak District.

TROs and BOAT applications go through complicated legal procedures and the offroading lobby fights very hard in the courts and at public enquiries to hang onto their right to trash green lanes. But for every green lane under threat, there are key points when organisations and individuals can get involved and make a difference to the outcome. We will continue to keep you updated on these

opportunities by email and to call on you support individual campaigns.

### Putting our case

Peak Horsepower will be putting the horse riders' case against offroading to Patrick McLaughlin, MP for Derbyshire Dales, at a meeting in January organised by the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance. And we are meeting Jim Dixon, Chief Executive of the Peak Park in February.

### Photographs please!

We need a library of good photographs showing the damage being done by offroading. If you have a digital camera and have time, please take some shots showing clearly the damage to lanes near you. Please file them with the name of the lane and its map reference and send it to

[p.stubbs@btinternet.com](mailto:p.stubbs@btinternet.com)

Thank you!

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*'The offroading lobby fights very hard in the courts and at public enquiries to hang onto their right to trash green lanes.'*

## Black Harry progress

The scheme to open up Coomb Dale (Stoney Middleton) so it can be used by horse riders and people using wheel chairs is making steady progress.

The project will put horse hops at either end of Coomb Dale and chicanes for wheel chairs, leaving

the gates locked against offroaders.

There are also plans to fill in some of the big ruts on nearby Black Harry Lane made by offroaders, tackle the damage to Taylor Lane and make the gate to the Darlton quarry area wider and safer for horse riders. There may be

volunteer working parties to do some of this work – we will keep you posted.

There are currently no plans to impose a Traffic Regulation Order to keep motor vehicles off Black Harry Lane. But this is among the routes on which there will be campaign action.

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**Peak Horsepower**

To contact Peak Horsepower, please email us at: [peakhorsepowersecretary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peakhorsepowersecretary@hotmail.co.uk)

**Committee Members**

Wendy Neilsen  
(Chair)

Sue Dunk  
(Treasurer)

Charlotte Bright  
Andrea Snowden

Ally Turner  
Vicky Turner

Patricia Stubbs,  
(Offroading)

Caroline Camp

The Secretary post is currently vacant

The Nat West Bank has agreed that Peak Horsepower is not a gang of international money launderers and we now have a bank account.

If you would like to be a member and have not yet paid a sub, then we would like to hear from you!

Membership is just £5 a

year. We are keeping the membership fee as low as we can but we do have to charge something as we need money for things like room hire, postage, stationery and so on.

For families, we are offering one £5 membership to cover all riding family members.

Please do join. To get improvements to the bridleway network in the Peak District, riders need an active and well-supported organisation. We need you!

If you are not yet a paid-up member we will be emailing you a membership form!

**BHS affiliation**

PHP is affiliating to the BHS as a bridleway group. This will give us access to news and information about what other campaigning groups are doing and opportunities for training in rights of way. Affiliation will also be useful when we are campaigning.

**Feedback**

If you have any comments or feedback on this first issue of the newsletter, please email them to: [p.stubbs@btinternet.com](mailto:p.stubbs@btinternet.com)

**Eastern Moors**

There are plans to open up Froggat Edge to riders and mountain bikers as part of a new management plan for the area known as the Eastern Moors.

The Eastern Moors lie above and beyond Curbar Gap and include the moors of Totley, Ramsley, Big Moor, Clod Hall, Jack Flat and Leash Fen.

Previously run by the Peak Park, the whole area is now being managed by a consortium of the RSPB and the National Trust.

The idea is to find a way of opening up some of the paths across these moors to riders and mountain bikers without letting in offroaders or damaging the very precious environment of the moors or the archeological remains to be found there.

There are also related plans to open the Longshaw Estate to more riders – currently you have to pay an annual fee to ride there. We will keep you posted.

*“To get improvements to the bridleway network riders need an active and well-supported organisation.”*