

YOUNG RANGER

VOLUME 2 - JUNE 2019

THE NEWSLETTER FOR YOUNG CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS IN CENTRAL
ENGLAND RUN BY THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK, THE EASTERN
MOORS PARTNERSHIP, MOORS FOR THE FUTURE
PARTNERSHIP AND THE NATIONAL TRUST



HIGHLIGHTS IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS:

- Eastern Moors Youth Rangers 5th birthday
- New Junior Ranger group for Langsett
- Hardwick Hall Youth Rangers push on despite adverse weather

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EASTERN MOORS YOUTH RANGER GROUP TURNS 5

In May the Eastern Moors Youth Ranger group celebrated 5 years of meeting up to help protect the moors on the fringe of Sheffield and Chesterfield. We celebrated in style with cake and biscuits alongside this month's task of drystone walling.

In 2014 the Eastern Moors Youth Ranger group was started to give young people aged 11-18 a way to give back to the Peak District by helping to conserve it, as well as have fun and meeting new people. Since then the group has gone from strength to strength, with around 15 young people meeting up every second Sunday of the month, 1-4pm, to carry out a wide variety of conservation tasks. The group has helped the Eastern Moors day to day running by carrying out infrastructure maintenance tasks such as track repairs, drystone walling and car park resurfacing. As well as this, they have been involved in some big projects such as the woodland clough planting project and the Sandyford Brook restoration project, where they had great fun doing what they do best; demolishing things – this time it was a bridge.

Occasionally they also get a day off and have chance to explore the Peak District in different ways. In April this year they took part in an Easter Egg hunt which was a great way to practise their map reading skills. They've also tried archery, scavenger hunts, the Big Wild Sleep Out and helped the Eastern Moors to run events for other young people such as Woodland Day.

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EDITORIAL

This issue of Young Ranger is brought to you by the Eastern Moors Youth Rangers. We put our heads together to bring you the headline articles, and we'd like to thank other young rangers and their leaders from across the Peak and Parks for other contributions.

WHO ARE WE? AND WHAT IS A YOUNG RANGER?

We are young people aged 11-18 who volunteer once a month for 3-4 hours, to learn about and protect the areas that we work in.

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.

See the back page for locations and contact details if you are interested in joining.



Young Rangers from all groups studying Grindsbrook on the 2018 residential.

Continued from previous page

To celebrate all this amazing work, at the meeting in May this year the Youth Rangers took some time out from their hard task of drystone walling to think about the past, and the future, of the group over a slice (or three) of cake.

The Youth Rangers would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the group over the last five years, especially Katherine Clarke who established the group as well as Bryony Thompson, Anne Johnson and Andrew Johnson who have been (or continue to be) leaders over the years. Most of all, I would like to thank all the young people who have been involved in the group over the years – we really could not do it without you! - *Thank you!*

Louise Baddeley, Eastern Moors Partnership



WHAT CAN BEING A YOUNG RANGER DO FOR YOU?

At their April meeting, the Eastern Moors Youth Rangers chatted about why they take part in the group and what it can do for them, for their present and their future!

Opportunities

Being a Young Ranger gives you the opportunity to do things that you wouldn't normally do in day to day life. These opportunities come in all shapes and sizes, from learning new skills and developing your fitness, to meeting new people and eating lots of chocolate biscuits!

The Eastern Moors Youth Ranger group carries out a lot of practical tasks to help look after the plants and animals of the moors, and to make sure people can come and enjoy them. This can be anything from path repairs, to tree planting and carrying out plant and animal surveys. This gives the Youth Rangers the opportunity to help the environment and have a positive, long term impact on the planet. As well as this, they're helping other people by enabling them to come and enjoy the National Park. Not only that, but while they're at it the Youth Rangers are building skills and knowledge that they'll keep for life, and have things to put on a CV, job or university application.

"We do things that help both the environment and the people in the Peak District." - Otto

"I like that we make things that last." - Reece

But it's not all hard work! There are usually about 15 Youth Rangers each month working on the Eastern Moors. Some of them have been coming for years, and some only a month or two, but they all get along and work as a team to get the job done. We always stop for a brew and biscuit break, with some Youth Rangers even bringing along home baking to share with the group!



Youth Rangers building a drystone wall, an important heritage skill in the Peak District

"Youth rangers is a great way to meet new people and learn skills, which helps to build your confidence and self esteem." - Jess

"Everyone is included" - Adam (Midge)

Being part of a Young Ranger group can provide any opportunity you can imagine. Last year one of our Youth Rangers went to an international conference in Scotland and met some leading conservationist – all funded by the group! So join today and you never know where it might take you.



The conditions might not always be excellent, but the Youth Rangers carry on regardless

Life skills

In April 2019, the Eastern Moors Youth Ranger group had an Easter egg hunt. This might sound like a lot of fun (and it was!) but we also used it to practise search skills in open moorland. It might sound like twelve Youth Rangers wandering around in an open bit of moorland could easily find and Easter egg covered in shiny colourful foil - however it took them longer than you'd think! So we practised a common search method used by search and rescue teams such as Mountain Rescue. We all stood in a line, with several meters in between to cover an area of around 50m, and walked slowly looking at the ground as we went. *(continued overleaf)*

WHAT CAN BEING A YOUNG RANGER DO FOR YOU? CONTINUED

Life skills *(continued from previous page)*

...Within a matter of minutes the hidden chocolate was found using this method, and it led us to think what other life skills to you learn at Youth Rangers that you might not otherwise...

Foraging – even though we mostly carry out practical conservation, we're always chatting about the plants and animals around us and occasionally snacking on things like bilberries!

Survival skills – you don't often have the chance to learn to whittle wood, build a shelter to sleep in from bracken or light a fire

Many Youth Rangers are also doing their Duke of Edinburgh award at school, and Youth Rangers is a chance to practise map reading skills

Working in a team – almost every job in the world requires you to work in a team, and where better to practise this than out in the wild in all weather; we have to learn how to communicate with each other really well!

Even things like getting up early and staying committed to a job are important skills that are useful for life!

LANGSETT JUNIOR RANGERS INAUGURAL MEETING

Saturday May 25th 2019

The first ever meeting of the Langsett Junior Rangers was held on Saturday 25th May 2019 and was well attended by some who had been to the Taster Session held in March and by some new faces too.

The day's activity was to survey areas around Langsett for small mammals such as voles, mice and shrews. We were very lucky to have the National Park's resident small mammal expert Mick Laughran with us to share many fascinating facts and information about the lives of our small furry creatures. Traps that had been set the night before were found to contain plenty of bank voles and some wood mice, there was also a sighting of a shrew although running over a trap and not inside it!

Nick Baker, Peak District National Park



WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Hardwick Hall Youth Rangers will be out there!

Come rain or shine the Hardwick Youth Rangers meet once a month and help us look after our fabulous estate for our visitors to enjoy. They support our Ranger team to mend fences, clear woodland, clean ponds and much more...



During the last few months our youth rangers have had to deal with some fairly extreme weather whilst performing their tasks:

- ⇒ In high winds: roping off the west court of the gardens to keep visitors safe and clearing branches and debris from the car park.
- ⇒ In beautiful, bright sunlight: dismantling old fences, so that they could be reused for other projects on the estate, including renewing the board walk at our duck decoy.
- ⇒ In the rain, hail and wind: rolling up metres and metres of old barbed wire fencing and building new tree guards.
- ⇒ In the freezing cold: wading into the ponds at Hardwick to clear weeds and help the water flow.

Sally Collier, our Assistant Ranger is extremely impressed by our team;

'They are an amazingly resilient group of young people, getting stuck into

whatever we ask them to do, whatever the weather. With great laughter and group spirit all the time.'

Next month our youth rangers will take centre stage again as a key team at Hardwick's first ever BioBlitz. They will be helping to count and catalogue the variety of flora and fauna on our property, helping us understand the biodiversity living in Hardwick's varied habitats. They will then take a well-earned break over the summer holidays, ready to start again in September.

Helen Cashin, National Trust Hardwick Hall



WHERE CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Longdendale Junior Rangers

Longdendale Environmental Centre,
near Glossop, SK13 1HS

Edale Junior Rangers

Moorland Visitor Centre, Edale,
S33 7ZA - NEW in 2019 run by Moors for
the Future

Eastern Moors Youth Rangers

Barbrook Cottage, near Owlbar, S17 3BQ

Millers Dale Junior Rangers

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

Hardwick Hall Youth Rangers

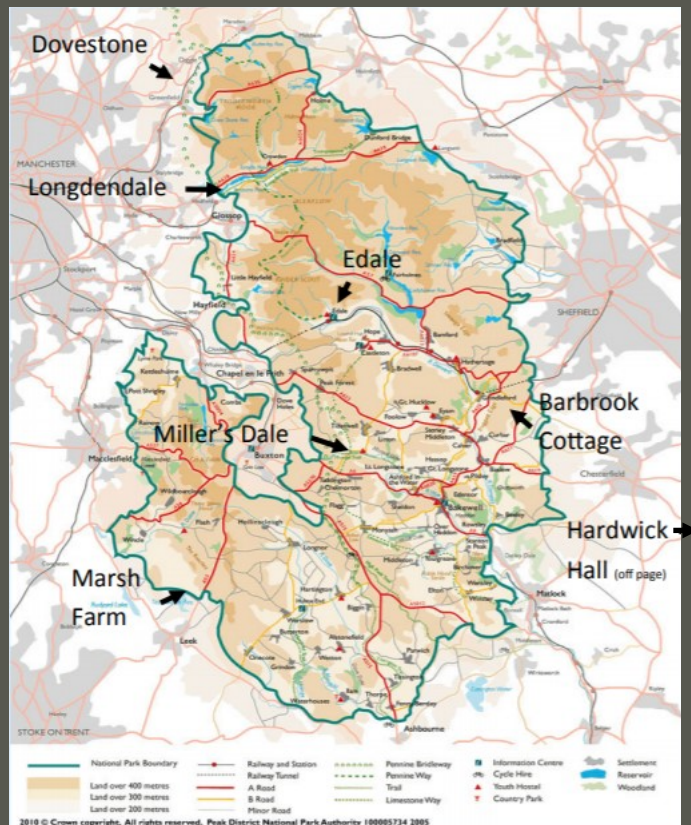
S44 5QJ, between Chesterfield & Mansfield.
Run by National Trust.

Marsh Farm Junior Rangers

Volunteers' Centre, near Tittesworth
Reservoir, ST13 8SH

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

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



YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION DAY

5TH JUNE 2019

Have you made a pledge for social action?

If not, then National Volunteers Week 2019 (1st-7th June) is the perfect time to do it, and the #iwill campaign are supporting this through Youth Social Action Day on 5th June. The #iwill campaign is asking young people to make pledges to take action to make their society and environment better. This can be something as small as cutting down your plastic waste, to something big like joining a young ranger group!



Millers Dale Junior Rangers pond dipping



Langsett Junior Rangers making bird boxes

The Peak and Parks young rangers are all part of this movement through their amazing contribution to care for the environment. Here are some quotes from them about taking social action to help the environment:

"One person thinks they might not make a difference but collectively we will. So take action!"

"This is your world too."

"Look after the environment; it is for everybody."

"Always take your rubbish home or use a bin."

So why not make your pledge this 5th June and take some social action to help save the world?

Make your pledge and share it with #iwill on 5th June!