

# MEMBERS' NEWS

NOVEMBER 2005

- *Conservation*
- *Recreation*
- *Community Inclusion*

COUNTRYSIDE  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

[www.countrysideassociation.org.uk](http://www.countrysideassociation.org.uk)

## Welcome...

...To the November edition of Members' News. The key message from the CMA Editorial Team (RANGER & Members' News) is that it has now grown to four with Andrea Crisp (Dartmoor) and Neil Lister (Suffolk Coast) joining Andy Thwaites (Bucks CC) and Ian Barnes (Members' News – Worcs CC).

The Marketing Group would also like to remind members that RANGER Magazine intends running a series on "Income Generation Opportunities" on countryside sites and urban parks. Anyone who has recently introduced a successful scheme and who would be happy to share their experiences with others please contact Andrea Crisp who is the lead editor on this series [acrisp@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](mailto:acrisp@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)

*CMA Marketing Group*

## CMA Seminar and AGM 2005

*A personal view of the day by Mike Anderson (CMA Secretary)*

It was a late summer afternoon and there I was sitting in a plush living room, tea in hand, browsing one of the complimentary daily broadsheets and the only sound was that of the slight ringing of tinnitus in my ears. At home I would have been being used as an assault course whilst cries of 'Hot tea! Hot tea!' were aimed at my two year old whilst my five year old was asking why there was a lady with her boobs out in The Sun.



As the day progressed there was a steady trickle through the room of old friends and friends I hadn't yet met. Malcolm and his team of organisers had done their work perfectly and there was an air of professionalism that carried over the whole time I spent at Losehill Hall. What I found best about the few days, and one of the main reasons why I enjoy being actively involved in the CMA, is the networking that

went. Mine really began, not surprisingly, down the local pub. Janice from Losehill guided us safely down a treacherous path in the pouring rain to the local watering hole. Now, it's been a while since I've ended up in a dark alley with six blokes and one woman but the best of my photos can be seen on [www.mikesdogginghotspots.co.uk](http://www.mikesdogginghotspots.co.uk).

The pub was being run that night by the world's most miserable barman. Everything was just too much of an effort including at one point pulling pints (he just walked off). The least I expected was a large amount of fawning given that a group of twenty people had just spent the best part of £400 on a wet Wednesday evening. Still, if it all had gone well I wouldn't have got a paragraph out of our time there. Once the ale was flowing freely Richard (outgoing Treasurer) and I leant on a few individuals to get them to write a brief précis of the upcoming workshops; although I have to admit our 'leaning' was less like the Krays and more like the Chuckle Brothers. After last orders it was back to the Hall where a bottle of port and some cheese was rustled up from the suitcase (well, it would have been rude not to). With a full day of concentration on the Thursday everyone was safely tucked up in bed a little after 1am and I was looking forward to a rare lie-in. However, having spent the best part of five years waking up at dawn by the dulcet tones of the children banging their toys, it would transpire that my natural in-built alarm clock saw me waking up at dawn, which was soon followed by the dulcet tones of the water pipes banging in the room.

Given the amount of sitting and listening that I had to do the day seemed to fly by. My only criticism is that, like all good quality workshops, you want twice as much time as you've got in order to really chew on the issues. It was such an inspiring day that someone even piped up during the AGM to volunteer to help (although you don't have to wait that long. Just get in touch with your regional rep or me - there's always plenty of ways you can get involved).

With business out of the way for the day it was back to the socialising. For those who have never been to Losehill Hall it has a wonderful little bar stocked full of bottles of real ale and a plethora of whisky, or should that be whiskey. I'm never sure, but either way fine food and stimulating companionship accompanied it.

It was a good evening for building bridges with our ranger friends north of the border. Two representatives from SCRA had accepted our invite and, under the cover of alcohol, acquired nearly two hundred of our English pounds to take home for the IRF Congress. We tried to be

gracious hosts and kept them up 'til gone 4am. Or did they keep us up? It all got a hazy after half past port (well, it would have been doubly rude not to).



*There were spectacular views of the cement works*

Friday dawned with the ceremonial banging of the water pipes and the consumption of Red Bull, Nurofen and stomach acid blockers; it was the only way I was going to get through the day. After a light breakfast (which, for Losehill Hall standards, consisted of fruit, yoghurt and half a dozen croissants for me rather than the large mounds of fried

bacon, sausages eggs *et al* that awaited further down the serving table) it was into minibuses and into the glorious Peak District countryside. I was amazed that it was so close to so many large cities and still remained undeveloped and so attractive. We visited the Upper Derwent Valley an area where the NPA have the vision to close a large section of one of the roads so that cyclists can use the area safely. I have big problems just closing a path so we can fell trees safely.

We then moved onto Stanage Edge, a very popular climbing spot, and where Keira Knightley stood for some of the most evocative shots in *Pride and Prejudice*. What amazed me about the NPA was that, despite the size and complexity of managing the area, they actually appeared to have a workable balance between the rights and responsibilities of visitors and wildlife/landscape management. It does raise the question as to why we have such piecemeal greenspace management outside of these areas. Is it just budgets or egos as well?

And that was the end of that.

As an end note I have to say that I'm proud to be a member of an association that can, through voluntary effort, organise and deliver such an inspiring and professional Seminar. If you didn't attend it and your employer won't pay for it then start saving your pennies for next year's which will be in Worcester. The programme for the Seminar never captures all the aspects and opportunities that arise over the course of the two days and in this case the sum of the parts really is greater than the whole.

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## Honorary Membership for Patrick Norris

*RANGER magazine editor 1997 to 2005.*

The CMA has awarded Patrick Norris Honorary Membership in recognition of the many years service given to the Association, particularly in his role as editor of *RANGER* magazine.

Our records show that it was in Autumn 1996 when the then editors were looking for an extra member of the editorial team. Thus it was with issue 46 in Spring 1997 that Patrick was first involved, with issue 71 (Winter 2004/05) being his last. This is a tremendous achievement and one unlikely to be matched.

Looking back at the earlier copies of *RANGER*, the magazine has come on in leaps and bounds under Patrick's editorship. There is really no comparison between those early black and white editions and today's full colour version. The quality of the articles and photos have also improved greatly. For several years Patrick took on the task single-handedly and it was under his steadfast guidance the quality and profile of *RANGER* was lifted to its current level.

Honorary Membership is a fitting tribute to Patrick's past and continuing dedication and support to the CMA.

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## Country Parks Renaissance Delivery Group

Just in case you weren't aware Andy Maginnis is an official representative for the CMA on Greenspace's Country Parks Network (CPN) "Country Parks Renaissance Delivery Group".

To get you up to speed on the delivery group see the website [www.countryparks.org.uk](http://www.countryparks.org.uk)

One of the outcomes of the group has been the production of a marketing leaflet, freely available to download, distribute and use to promote the benefits of country park services. The CMA logo sits alongside those belonging to the CPR Strategy Group of policy makers and funding bodies.

As a point of note, at the last joint meeting between the delivery and strategy groups, four out of the five practitioners present were members of the CMA. Needless to say there were prompts of 'the CMA do that' or 'get them to talk to the CMA' etc throughout the meeting!

If you are a country park professional and haven't yet registered, do so now to promote your park on their web site.

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## Tick Talk

Following the recent *RANGER* article on ticks, BADA UK inform us that they have recently launched a new discussion forum on their website [www.bada-uk.org](http://www.bada-uk.org). The forum is dedicated to the sharing of information on tick prevention and tick control. The aims are to encourage people from different backgrounds to discuss and share their personal knowledge in the hope that steps can be taken to address the growing population of ticks and the escalating number of cases of tick-borne disease. BADA are eager to promote cooperation and communication, particularly between park rangers and landowners.

## **CMA Clothing**

The CMA Marketing Group would like to gauge members' thoughts and feelings regarding the possibility of producing CMA corporate clothing, in particular to tie in with the CMA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

Various items of CMA clothing have been produced previously but a lack of interest has meant that it was quickly discontinued.

Please let us know what you think by e-mailing your comments to Dan Duthie at [daniel.duthie@mclaren.com](mailto:daniel.duthie@mclaren.com)

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## **Regional Round Up**

### **South West Region**

A meeting was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September at Crickley Hill Country Park in Gloucestershire. Some of the key items raised were for a Senior Officer regional study day and possible fund raising ideas for the IRF congress. Also best wishes go out to Kim Beresford (Gloucestershire County Rep) touring around Asia for the next 6 months. The South West region needs a county rep for Oxfordshire. If anyone is interested please contact the regional chair. The next regional committee meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> December in Somerset.

There was a winch training day at Lydford Gorge, Devon which was organised by Adrian Shaw of the National Trust. It was a well attended day with some real life demonstrations. A full report of the day will be in Sou'wester, the regional newsletter. Back issues of Sou'wester are available on CMA website. Future meeting - Working with media, Exmoor National Park further information will go onto SW training page of website.

### **North Region**

We have been in communication with East Durham and Houghall College and attended a seminar / workshop to look at ideas within the region to target suitable training and study events. The event was well attended with representatives from all sectors of the industry. The meeting established the formation of an "Industry Liaison Group" to look at identifying training needs, expertise and organisations within the sector that should be included. A full copy of the meeting minutes is available from the chair on request. The region will maintain links with this Liaison Group to increase CMA profile/membership and interest in the region.

We ask members to support the work of the College and identify training needs and even offer to hold a course. We are looking for members to fill roles on the regional committee, ranging from vice chair & training co-ordinator to the position of a regional rep. If you are interested, or know of anyone who is, please get in touch. We are aiming to organise meetings at least twice a year in locations that are convenient to members.

## **Midlands Region**

There have been no meetings since the last newsletter. Can we remind members to contact the regional chair with items for the national council meeting, articles for a regional newsletter and networking/training events for 2006.

Members were invited to the Murray Grey Cattle Open Day at Saltwells LNR in Dudley. About 30 people attended, members and non-members. A good day was had for networking and looking at meadow creation, mechanical scrub bashing and Saltwells LNR Murray Grey Cattle, a new (30 yrs) but small, hardy and quality beef animal.

There will be a Compact Tractor Demo training event on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

### **Home Counties/East Anglia Region**

#### **Study Day at Coton NR & Wandlebury CP**

The 12<sup>th</sup> October saw 14 people from the HCEA region gather at Cambridge Preservation Society's (CPS) 200 acre Coton Countryside Reserve.

We heard how the team there are endeavouring to spend £725K of ODPM money in improving habitat and landscape within the constraints of a "difficult" agricultural tenancy which restricts certain things they would like to do. Nevertheless, recent entry into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme is leading to changes for the better and improved access to the reserve will lift its profile both locally and within the wider Cambridge community. We visited the high-spot of the site, an 80 metre hilltop with excellent views over the surrounding area. The proximity of the M11, an adjacent MOD firing range and an ever-expanding city of Cambridge were obvious and all exert pressure on the site but its future importance as a green-space wildlife haven was clear to see.

The group then moved across to Wandlebury Country Park & Nature Reserve, the flagship of CPS at Gog Magog Hills. This was acquired in 1954 and is centred on a 5<sup>th</sup> Century Iron Age hill fort. It is a mix of old buildings, established and new woodland plantings and chalk grassland meadows together with a delightful Education Centre.

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### **CMA Sponsor East Europeans**

Following the decision to help fund some rangers from East Europe to attend next year's IRF World Ranger Congress in Stirling, these are the rangers we will help: Goran Pavic from Croatia  
Borek Franek from Czech Republic  
Ulan Naamatbekov from Kyrgyzstan (Russia)  
Juraj Svajda from Slovakia  
This still leaves a further 4 rangers from the original 8 applicants who are looking for help the Congress. Any fund raising or donations to assist these would be greatly appreciated. We will be hearing from Goran Pavic of Papuk Nature Park in the next copy of RANGER.

## **CMA Contacts**

An up to date list of useful CMA contacts:

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