

MEMBERS' NEWS

FEBRUARY 2006

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

COUNTRYSIDE
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

www.countrysideassociation.org.uk

IRF World Ranger Congress, 14-21 June 2006

GREAT NEWS!

'Registration Fee held at £550 for CMA members'

Although the discounted rates have now officially expired for attending the IRF 5th World Ranger Congress in Stirling (full fee now £650), we have confirmed with the Congress organisers that CMA members will continue to receive the "early bird" discounted rate of £550 until 30th April. This fee covers all Congress event and field trips, workshops and sessions and all food and accommodation from the evening of Wednesday 14th June (opening ceremony in Stirling Castle) to the final breakfast on Wednesday 21st June.

TARGET 300

Nearly 200 delegates have so far registered for the Congress. Thus we are well on the way to our target of over 300 delegates. 20 members of CMA have registered to date and 12 of these have offered their services as volunteers joining the team of over 30 volunteers from CMA and SCRA (Scottish Countryside Rangers Association) who will undertake support jobs during the Congress such as manning the Help Desk or acting as drivers and tour guides.

FUNDING OVERSEAS RANGERS

The CMA have provided funds to help support four East European Rangers attend the Congress. The four lucky delegates come from Croatia (article in last RANGER magazine); Kyrgyzstan in Soviet Central Asia (article in next RANGER magazine); Czech Republic and Slovakia. Other East European Rangers who applied to CMA for sponsorship have been helped by some generous funding provided by Scottish Natural Heritage through SCRA. Our Scots colleagues in SCRA have been putting us to shame in their personal fundraising efforts and have so far raised over £2,000 to support Rangers from developing countries. In CMA we have had individual contributions from the SW region and from delegates at the Losehill AGM plus a small number of personal contributions. CMA members also purchased the two paintings by Juan Carlos Gambarotta (Uruguay) and auctioned at the Losehill AGM. Juan Carlos donated this money in turn to support funding East European Rangers. He has just sold another painting on eBay and this money is going to assist those Rangers who have been injured, and the families of Rangers killed, whilst working to protect the worlds diminishing natural resources.

There's still time to make a contribution to help rangers from developing countries attend the Congress. The IRF have launched an appeal called "**Rangers Across the Globe**"

calling for such donations. Please visit <http://www.ranger-irfc.com/rangersacrossthe%20globe.htm>

GET YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS!

Finally, the IRF Congress organisers have only had two offers of papers from CMA members, and just one poster offer. Our profession does seem to "hide our light under a bushel". Others get out and shout out loud. Those working in Universities seem to thrive on getting their names in print on scientific papers and magazine articles. So this is your chance to get your name, your project and your employer's name in front of an international audience. Just think of the *brownie points* this will bring to you! It will be a talking point amongst your colleagues and indeed for members. Chances like this don't come along every day. Papers (or posters) can be on any subject but I'd be happy to discuss it with you so please contact me SOON.

Roger Cole – CMA rep. on IRF Congress Planning Team

CMA Bursaries for 'Younger Members'

The CMA National Council have agreed to fund two bursaries to assist two CMA members to attend the 5th IRF World Ranger Congress in Stirling Scotland (14th to 21st June 2006). The bursaries will be for £275 each (representing 50% of the Congress registration fee).

The bursaries are aimed at assisting "younger" CMA members to attend the Congress. Applicants should be under 35 years of age and should have been a member of CMA for at least 2 years. Successful candidates will be expected to find the remainder of the funding themselves or from other sponsors.

In the first instance, could those wishing to apply for this funding please contact Roger Cole (details on back page) for an Application Form. Completed applications should be received by 5th March and the final selection of the two successful candidates will be made at the CMA National Council meeting on 14th March.

National Council Meetings On The Road

At their last meeting in December 2005, the CMA National Council took the decision to rotate their quarterly meetings around the regions. This is in order to give other CMA members an opportunity to come along to meet National

Council and for National Council to review each region in turn on their "home patch".

The next meeting on 14th March will be in the Wales Region at Connaught's Quay; Flintshire. Then on 7th June it will be in Worcestershire and on 11th October in Coventry.

Anyone who would like more information about the above meetings, especially if you would like to attend one, should contact the CMA Secretary, Mike Anderson.

Association for Heritage Interpretation 2006 Awards embrace diversity

Wherever you are, whatever your scale, if your heritage project excites and inspires people through the way its story is told, then you should enter this year's Interpret Britain & Ireland Awards. And if you're making a special effort to create "access for all", then this year's Special Category is for you.

Award organiser the Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI) invites entries from throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. There's a strong focus this year on diversity, and Awards will be made to winners in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Small-scale attractions and community projects are particularly encouraged to enter.

The Special Category Award will also encourage diversity. It's for projects that have successfully engaged with people who often find access to heritage difficult, including people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and disadvantaged communities.

Awards are made to projects that show imagination, innovation and good interpretive planning, and are clearly committed to community involvement, staff and volunteer training and future maintenance. All entries are visited by two judges and receive written feedback. The Awards are presented each year by AHI's patron, heritage campaigner and television personality Loyd Grossman.

The Award scheme is run by AHI with support from English Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) and the Office of Public Works (Ireland).

Details and entry forms are available on www.heritage-interpretation.org.uk. The closing date for entries is 5th May.

Member, Accredited

Congratulations go to **Christopher Leach**, Woodsman from Waddesdon Estate and **Steven Lyons**, Countryside Ranger from Hart District Council, the successful applicants for Member, Accredited, approved at the 7th July 2005 Review Panel meeting.

At the last Review Panel meeting, held at The Countryside Agency Offices in Birmingham on 10th November 2005, another 2 membership applications were considered for

approval – a process that is being completed by postal circulation due to a number of Panel Members being unable to attend the meeting.

Those who's membership category is 'Member, Accredited' are reminded that they will be asked to submit their Continued Professional Development (CPD) records as membership subscriptions become due in April, so now's a good time to look back in your diary and get your CPD return up to date.

Each Members Handbook contains copies of CPD forms & guidance for their completion. These forms and guidance are now available for electronic completion & return by e-mail – contact CMA Admin, giving them your full e-mail.

The next Review Panel meeting will be held on 1st March.

CMA 40th Anniversary Polo Shirt

All of you should have received a flyer with the last edition of RANGER promoting the new embroidered polo shirts to mark the 40th anniversary of the CMA.

The polo shirt is of good quality (100% cotton) and is navy blue in colour with the CMA logo embroidered on the breast. The green leaf and orange writing of the logo is supplemented by the words "40th ANNIVERSARY in gold coloured thread.

The shirts are available in a range of sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL). Concerning "size fit" – I've measured them and the approx sizes around chest are S – 42 inches; M – 44 inches; L - 49 inches; XL – 52 inches (we haven't got an XXL size yet). To give you an idea, my chest size is 46 inches and a Large polo is a comfortable fit – so they seem to come up to size.

Polo shirts may be ordered from CMA Admin (details on back page) and cost £15 each (plus £1.30 p/p for 1 shirt – make cheques payable to CMA).

Roger Cole

Industry Liaison

Over the past four months we have been busy responding to four consultations and a big thank you is due to all those who led on the responses, you know who you are! Copies of all responses can be obtained from me (contact details on back page) and I hope to get them on the website very soon. In October we responded to the Welsh Assembly Government regarding their policy statement on Welsh National Parks in which we stressed the importance of wardening/ranger services in the delivery of National Park duties. We also responded to Defra on diversion of rights of way. In November we responded to another Defra consultation on confirmation of byelaws relating to countryside recreation, again stressing the importance of clarity and workable systems for countryside and urban greenspace managers.

Most recently, we submitted our first response to the Department for Educational and Skills. We broadly supported their manifesto on Education outside the Classroom and its aim to provide all children and young people with a variety of high quality learning experiences outside a classroom environment. However, we did stress that the Manifesto should recognise the important role of countryside and urban greenspace managers in the provision of such experiences outside the classroom. This included the provision of appropriate facilities to provide learning experiences that cover the curriculum and the commitment to support such service provision particularly related to personnel and their skills. We also emphasised that issues relating to provision of transport to sites, risk and liability must be addressed and also asked Government to consider that this area of work is included as a Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) for Local Government.

The only current consultation I am aware of is from WAG on the review of Heather & Grass Etc (Burning) Regulations 1986 and the Heather & Grass Burning Code in Wales. The deadline for this consultation is 10th March 2006 and I will be looking at it urgently to see if we need to respond and then searching for a lead respondee – if anyone in Wales would like to volunteer then please contact me.

With regards to forthcoming legislation over the next year, Defra have this listed at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/pdf/legis-statement2006.pdf>. It does include some legislation that may be of interest to members including various sections under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005) relating to litter, dog issues and abandoned shopping trolleys! Other legislation includes revision of the Heather and Grass Burning and the Hedgerows Regulations, diversion of ROW orders and CAP Regulations. I am unable to find a similar electronic list for Wales but do have access to a colleagues hard copy of forthcoming legislation for the year if you want to know more.

On a final note, if you want to know any more about CMA work on Industry Liaison, have a query or a comment or would like to volunteer your services to lead on a consultation response then please let me know.

Ceri Daugherty – Vice-Chair

Good Practice Guidance

You may be aware that Dave Solly and I are in the process of collating examples of good practice from across CMA. This follows on from a presentation at the 2004 Annual Seminar where we were encouraged to develop a 'tool'. This will be used both within CMA to spread good practice but also to show others, including Government, the role that CMA members are playing in delivering their ideas for sustaining our future. Initially, we have concentrated on those who attended the Annual Seminar in 2005 but hopefully we will extend it to the rest of the membership. Let us know what you think of this idea.

From the Seminar we gathered 29 possible examples (the free raffle prize of a bottle of whisky was a good incentive).

We then sent out a form asking for more detailed information on the project/example and some pictures to illustrate and have had 12 replies which is not bad. Thanks a lot to those who responded, you know who you are and we appreciate the time you have taken. Next steps are for Dave and I to get together to bring together some ideas as to how best to demonstrate the projects and take these ideas to National Council on 14th March. We will keep you updated and if you have any queries, please email us at cmagoodpractice@hotmail.co.uk

Ceri Daugherty – Vice-Chair

Regional Round Up

South West Region

A meeting was held in December 2005 at the Quantock Hills AONB in Somerset where Dave Ellacott (01803 697525) was appointed new training co-ordinator for the SW region and Sarah Gibbs (01452 863170), based at Crickley Hill Country Park, appointed as new County Representative for Gloucestershire.

An apology goes to Gloucestershire members who were missed off the region's top ten in the last edition of Souwester – there will be a top eleven in the future.

The next SW Region meeting is in April at Exmoor National Park. The Regional AGM will be held at Quantock Hills AONB, date to be confirmed.

On the 19th July at Crickley Hill Country Park in Gloucestershire there will be Grassland Management training, for those who are interested please contact Sarah Gibbs (01452 863170) for more information.

North Region

Update from Kevin Vigars

Well, it has been all change in my life, following my 6 week trip to the southern hemisphere (all fun but did get to visit a few National Parks and speak to staff in New Zealand, Australia, Taiwan and Japan about their experiences) – a little warm up before the International Conference in June. Additionally I have now moved to pastures new to the position of Access Development Officer for Tyne and Wear and my main role is to service the needs of the Local Access Forum - a never ending task at present - and produce the varying strategic access documents as dictated by CROW. New contact details on back page.

Murmurings have been coming out of the Great North Forest about a study/training day in the future - watch this space.

As I keep saying, the CMA only works if we put in the effort. I would like to ask you to support the activities and events that are arranged. The regional committee is made up of willing volunteers and most counties have a County contact. However, we are looking for members to fill roles

on the regional committee, this could range from vice chair, training co-ordinator to the position of a regional rep. If you are interested please do not hesitate to get in contact. We organise meetings about twice a year in locations that are convenient to members – with one coming soon – honest!

Wales Region

Launch of the North-East Wales Ranger Forum occurred last November with a well attended day at Talacre and Gronant Dunes SSSI. This partnership initiative between CCW and Flintshire was set up to match existing fora in Wales, and provides local training and networking for frontline staff across the region. This appears to match what the CMA should provide but struggles to in Wales. The Chairman is working with the fora to mutually promote the fora and the CMA and its activities. Any comments/queries please contact the Chairman.

The Environment Post

Looking for a career in Countryside, Conservation, Environmental Management or Ecology? Like to stay abreast of News, Events, Legal Developments? If so, why not subscribe to:

The Environment Post

The fortnightly publication for green professionals. Write to:

TEP, 58 Kingsley Close, Wickford,
Essex. SS12 0EN.

subscriptions cost
£19.99 for six months (12 issues)
£29.99 for twelve months (24 issues)
or order on line at
www.environmentpost.co.uk



**The Original, the Biggest and the Best
in the field**

**UK Market Leader for countryside and
environmental staff**

countryside-jobs.com

to find and advertise countryside and
environmental jobs and a lot more besides...

Email: ranger@countryside-jobs.com
CJS, The Moorlands, Goathland, Whitby
North Yorkshire YO22 5LZ

Tel: 01947 896007 Fax: 01947 896474



The Scottish
Countryside Ranger
Association and the
Countryside
Management
Association



endorse the CJS and are supported by a percentage of CJS income

An ethical small business publishing free and low cost
information to promote UK countryside careers and environmental
conservation worldwide