

# MEMBERS' NEWS MARCH 2007

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

**COUNTRYSIDE  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

[www.countryside-management.org.uk](http://www.countryside-management.org.uk)

## New CMA Vice Chair

Dan Barnett takes time out to introduce himself as he takes up his new role as CMA Vice Chair.

'After completing my degree in Ecology and doing conservation work and travelling abroad I began work within the countryside management sector in 1998.

Initially I volunteered at an urban Local Nature Reserve near Dudley before getting my first job as an Assistant Warden with Dudley MBC's countryside team.

In 2001 I started work as a Countryside Sites Officer with Worcestershire County Council's Countryside Service and in 2003 I was promoted to Senior Countryside Sites Officer.

My passion has always been the conservation of wildlife and habitats but through my work I have come to appreciate the value of 'natural' greenspaces for people's happiness and wellbeing.

My work has provided a wide range of operational experience within Country Parks, Nature Reserves and SSSI's and in more recent years I have been involved with the Green Flag Award Scheme as a Judge as well as The Country Parks Network and the West Midlands Parks Forum.

As Vice Chair I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the CMA and champion the needs of our operational and newer members, with training and sharing of good practice being my highest priorities.'

cultural resources that they protect. It will come out every two weeks, depending on the flow of contributions.

In order to make Guardaparque a success, we will need your help. Please send reports or newspaper stories to the editor Bill Halainen at [TGLedit@ptd.net](mailto:TGLedit@ptd.net). The newsletter will be short and written in straightforward English to make it as readable as possible to members who don't speak English as a first language.

Guardaparque will carry reports on the protection of parks and the natural and cultural resources within them, reports on programs to educate visitors and communities on the values of parks and protected areas, reports on emergency response and law enforcement incidents and reports on the people who are responsible for all these activities. Guardaparque contains information from rangers in the field on operations conducted in the field. From time to time, it also reports on political issues affecting those operations. Let's talk to each other about the work we do and keep rangers around the world informed about our challenges, setbacks and successes. Guardaparque is supplementary to IRF's quarterly newsletter, **The Thin Green Line**, which focuses specifically on IRF global activities.

If you have a submission for Guardaparque, please send it to the editor, Bill Halainen, at [TGLedit@ptd.net](mailto:TGLedit@ptd.net). Similarly, if you would like to receive Guardaparque direct via email you should also contact Bill to provide him with your email address. We plan to set-up a link on the CMA website to enable both Guardaparque and The Thin Green Line to be viewed.

## Launch of new IRF newsletter

By Roger Cole



**Guardaparque** (the Spanish word for "park ranger"), is a new electronic publication prepared and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF).

Guardaparque will have news about rangers at work around the world, about the parks and protected areas where they work and about the natural and

## CMA Conference 2007

This year's conference, working title "Paying for Parks", will be held at Stowe Mansion in Buckinghamshire on the 9th and 10th August 2007. We realise that the dates are in August but this is perhaps a one off opportunity to visit the nationally renowned Stowe landscape gardens and mansion.

Since the 18th century, Stowe has welcomed monarchs, poets, politicians and high society to delight in the largest, most completely realised, private neo-classical building in the world. Surrounding the house are 300 hectares (750 acres) of historic parkland.

It is hoped that there will be visits to the Nene Valley Regional Park, Milton Keynes Parks Trust, perhaps the Rockingham Forest and Bucks Country Parks (who are self-financing, raising in the order of £380K per year). We may also be able to arrange a visit to the Chilterns AONB to see some of their initiatives.

A detailed programme will be published and forwarded to members shortly.

### Stowe House and Landscape Gardens



Sir Richard Temple, 3rd Baronet, commissioned a new house in 1676 to reflect his family's increasing fortune and influence. Designed by William Cleare and completed in 1683, it marked the beginning of the wholesale expansion of the landscape surrounding the mansion.



A beautiful creation of the 18th century, Stowe is one of Europe's most influential landscape gardens. Hidden amongst spectacular vistas and vast open spaces are magical secret corners, hidden meanings, and over 40 monuments and temples.

### Does your site spin a good yarn?



If your organisation really communicates with its visitors, you could be a winner in the 2007 Interpret Britain and Ireland Awards.

The award scheme, run by the Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI), recognises the very best examples of interpretation;

the art of sharing the stories and significance of our natural and cultural heritage. Entries can use any forms of interpretative media including panels, displays, leaflets, live interpreters, audio, multimedia installations or websites, but must show commitment to communicating with all visitors.

In addition, the Special Award Category for 2007 will recognise excellence in the interpretation of sustainability, addressing the issues of how we can use the earth's natural resources wisely and in a way that doesn't compromise the needs of future generations. Details and entry forms are available from [www.heritage-interpretation.org.uk](http://www.heritage-interpretation.org.uk) (closing date Friday, 4 May 2007).

Entry is open to organisations throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, whether major attractions or modest local projects. Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, the scheme is supported by English Heritage, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales.

### Litter picking could damage your health

*A report in The Daily Mail, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007*

'A park keeper has told a court of the moment he discovered an alleged home-made bomb hidden in shrubbery. Jackie Whitcomb, park keeper in Little Wormwood Scrubs Park, west London, was clearing up litter two days after the alleged failed suicide attacks on the London public transport system (21<sup>st</sup> July 2005), when the white top of a container caught his eye. "It stuck out quite a lot," he told Woolwich Crown Court. "I didn't realise what it was. It's my job to take litter away from the park." Mr Whitcomb said he wasn't able to pick up the container with his litter picker, so he bent down and picked it up. "Then I saw the nuts and bolts on it and slowly put it down and briskly walked away." He told his two colleagues about the discovery and they closed off the park to the general public.

The police later confirmed the 5kg container was indeed "a viable device".'

## You're Having a Laugh!

### Birdwatchers thrilled at first ever sighting of a girlfriend

Hundreds of excited twitchers converged on a remote Welsh Estuary yesterday where a fellow birdwatcher was spotted with a girlfriend. Ornithologists think this may be the first ever sighting of a birdwatcher's girlfriend on the British mainland.

'Isn't she a beauty!' said Ray Meader, 57. 'I've seen drawings and photos before but I've never seen one for real.' The girlfriend was clearly visible on the far shoreline; holding the hand of a young male birdwatcher, having a drink and, to the gasps of watching twitchers, giving him a kiss.

But hopes that the pair might breed in Britain were sadly dashed. After a couple of hours of being photographed and stared at by middle aged men in anoraks the girlfriend suddenly fled leaving the young male birdwatcher looking confused and disorientated for a few minutes.

Later he spotted a guillemot and perked up again

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## Regional Round Up

### South West Region

By *Richard Eales*

A meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February at Crickley Hill Country Park (thanks go out to Sarah Gibbs).

The regional AGM venue has been decided pending a budget. Also the committee decided to actively seek out County Reps after no response was received from the Sou'wester article.

Contact details of potential member organisations within the South West were collected and will now be contacted. Reps will pass on details of colleges in the South West region.

The 2007 training plan was agreed and Dave Ellacott (Training Co-ordinator) will be assisting people in organising and promoting their training. I would like to remind members that he needs to be notified of any training organised in the South West region rather than just going ahead with it.

George Hammond stood down as Worcestershire County Rep and is replaced by Liz Appleton, sites officer for the South of Worcestershire. The committee wish to thank George for all his hard work and support and wish him all the best for the future.

We are still short of County Representatives for Cornwall, Somerset and Oxfordshire please contact me (07973 727473) if you are interested in taking on one of these roles.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007.

We also have two training events coming up:

**Boscastle – Recover Restore and Rewild; after the Boscastle Flood** on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Contact Jeff Cherrington for more details / booking 01288 331372 or [Jeff.cherrington@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Jeff.cherrington@nationaltrust.org.uk)

And **Training and Supporting Volunteers** on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March (small charge but includes free CMA Membership). For more information please see the website [http://countryside-management.org.uk/news/index.php/events/2006/12/14/training\\_aamp\\_supporting\\_volunteers](http://countryside-management.org.uk/news/index.php/events/2006/12/14/training_aamp_supporting_volunteers) and for booking please contact CMA Administration.

Keep an eye out in the Sou'wester and on the website for further training details.

### Midlands Region

By *Phil Armshaw*

#### Grazed Knees, Grazed Landscapes

This free two topic training day will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at Sutton Park National Nature Reserve. It will look at both environmental games and grazing as a land management tool. A fantastic example of the diverse range of work encompassed by countryside rangers and others.

The morning session (10am 'til lunch) will be an ideas session starting with the fundamentals. The FUN will come from play and co-operative games ideas to give positive experiences to visitors. DA MENTAL will come from ideas to use this positive approach to stimulate caring, ownership and interpretation as the beginning of informing and educating.

The session will be led by myself and John Porter (Sutton Park Manager). You just need to be prepared to join in. The classics will be revisited, parachutes, bat and moth etc. plus some things new and different. A great way to freshen up your skills before the busy warm weather period!

The afternoon session (lunch 'til 4pm) will explore the question of the grazing problem. How can you get 2.5 million visitors a year into an urban park with free roaming wild ponies and cattle and designations such as NNR, SAM and SSSI? (Clue – this happens at Sutton Park)

The answer is to start practising in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and keep it going so that you learn what you are doing and local people get used to the idea.

In this session we will look at what we can learn from this phenomenal survival of urban grazing. Out in the field we will try to track down cattle and Exmoor ponies to see what they are doing and how they need to be managed.

Bring your own lunch and vehicles for site visits would help. To book places please phone John Porter (0121 355 6370).

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Training Adviser – Vacant

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