

Editorial Ranger 80

Welcome to RANGER 80. Spring is here and things are hopefully moving quickly, but not too quickly for you at this time of year. The challenge for CMA is to move with the times to ensure that our Association stays at the forefront of things and remains the largest organisation of its kind representing professionals engaged in countryside and urban greenspace management in England and Wales. One thing the Association needs to do for sure is to recruit more members. There are various approaches your National Council can take, but what do you think? You can certainly help directly. The easiest way to do this is to tell everyone about CMA and the benefits of membership. An application form is on our website www.countryside-management.org.uk.

At one time, now just disappeared over a gilded horizon, was CMA perhaps the only real option for aspiring wardens, rangers and countryside officers? Does it continue to be the only real option? There is certainly more competition now. GreenSpace and the Institute for Sports, Parks and Leisure (ISPAL) are recruiting members from potentially the same membership pool as CMA and there is a current initiative in Wales to set up a similar organisation. Is CMA delivering what you want? If not you need to let National Council know.

Hopefully RANGER magazine continues to give an insight into the varied skills that go into managing and developing the land and its visitors. Read on in this issue for encouraging news that money available under the new agri-environment schemes will not be frittered away on projects that provide no biodiversity benefit.

Fancy flying a Green Flag to show what you have achieved? The Civic Trust explains how the Award can ensure that your site is managed to standards of real excellence.

Perhaps the chances nowadays of obtaining a job in the environmental sector are diminishing. Oldham Council shows how it has started to tackle the problem by providing on-the-job training via a modern apprenticeship scheme for a young Estate Ranger.

What happens when our heritage becomes irrelevant in a practical way to our modern lifestyles? In an astute summary of the Dartmoor Pony, Andrea Crisp, Dartmoor NP Ranger outlines the efforts being made to protect the breed.

Finally, regarding our advertisers – please **always** mention RANGER magazine when making a purchase or an enquiry. Advertising revenue helps us produce RANGER and recently we have lost advertisers because they felt that advertising in RANGER had not brought them extra business.

NEIL LISTER

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