

Stanage Forum: SBSG Representative Wanted

Stanage Forum and the associated Steering Group was set up in 2000 by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) in order to produce a Management Plan for the North Lees Estate (which includes Stanage and Ringinglow Bog) that was acceptable to all interested parties.

Initially, SBSG was represented by the admirable and much-missed Chris Falshaw who fought our corner strongly and contributed hugely to the successful outcome. However, his health deteriorated in 2006 and he asked me to take his place on the Steering Group. By this time, the Management Plan was being implemented, and amicable discussions generally centred upon such issues as the usage of various buildings in the estate.

The PDNPA now inevitably finds itself short of funds, and they are looking at North Lees with a view to it breaking even financially by September 30th of this year (2014), see the Press Release on 25th September 2013 at preview.tinyurl.com/movgs4f or go to www.peakdistrict.gov.uk and search the News section.

I am wishing to stand down from the Steering Group but feel it is essential at this time of change and financial pressures that SBSG makes its own contribution to the Steering Group: parts of North Lees have been designated an SSSI and of course it is notable for Ring Ouzels and other bird species. It is of the utmost importance that we support the Steering Group in its efforts to ensure that PDNPA fulfills its obligations with respect to conservation and other important issues and, indeed, the Steering Group is keen that SBSG should be well represented.

Meetings are generally held several times per year, and are usually held in Hathersage or, occasionally, at Aldern House in Bakewell. They normally take place during office hours but with a choice of dates offered in order to suit as many members as possible. Anyone interested should email conservation@sbsg.org for more information. I would of course be happy to discuss the matter now and/or at any time in the future if that would be helpful.

Wendy Thomson