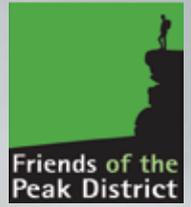




South Yorkshire
Campaign to Protect Rural England



Annual review 2014

In 2014, planning continued to be very pressured as developers exploited weaknesses created by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Two years after our restructure, we are now ready to grow our organisation and improve its effectiveness. Our main priority is to invest resources in membership development. In the meantime we are kept busy with: local plans; wind farms; quarries; stopping damage to green lanes; road connectivity plans; trans-Pennine rail routes; and getting rid of huge pylons, to name but a few issues. We are still only a very small voice – albeit a very persistent one – in an increasingly unequal fight. We rely on voluntary donations, legacies and support from individuals, local businesses and communities to continue our work.

In 2014, we supported the national CPRE ‘Waste of Space’ campaign to encourage the development of brownfield sites,

rather than invading open countryside and green belts. We cheered the government’s promise not to allow fracking in national parks, and groaned at their underhand u-turn. We celebrated four green lanes on our ‘top ten’ list being protected with Traffic Regulation Orders. We produced an inspiring feasibility report examining alternative options to trans-Pennine road developments. We championed the call for the Longdendale pylons to be buried by National Grid. We welcomed Dame Fiona Reynolds to our 90th anniversary celebrations. And we carefully guided plans for a rail loop in the Hope Valley. Our membership declined slightly but our finances remain fairly stable.



Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire

2014 ~ successes, issues and campaigns ~ 2014



Take Back the Tracks

We made great, but frustratingly slow progress in reducing damaging off-roading in the Peak District. Traffic Restriction Orders on our top four priority routes - Long Causeway, The Roych, Chapelgate and Chertpit Lane - were all implemented to great effect.

With our partners, the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance, we were successful in getting a promise from the government for a stakeholder working group to explore solutions for resolving the issues of green lanes use, including the conflict between recreational motorised vehicle users and other users and the costly and unacceptable damage the former cause.



Projects and events

2014 was our 90th anniversary, and we celebrated in a number of ways, including at our annual general meeting, where Christopher Pennell MBE was an excellent guest speaker, presenting a broad historical analysis of our work. We also held a special 90th Anniversary Lecture, where Dame Fiona Reynolds spoke movingly and powerfully on 'The Case for Beauty'.

Fracking and quarrying



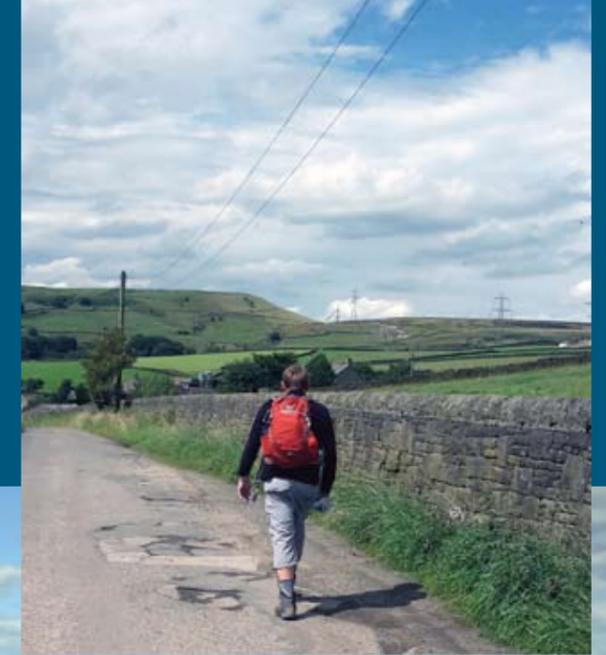
We will always campaign against illegal and irresponsible quarrying in the Peak District. But we fully appreciate that most quarries provide raw materials that our society demands, as well as jobs and income for local people. In 2014, we supported two small quarries where building stone is needed for local (conservation) use and an extension of underground mining of fluorspar at Great Hucklow which will reduce the pressure for further open cast workings.

The government announced that hydraulic fracturing (fracking) would not be allowed in national parks. And although we were initially very pleased with this clarification, we continue to have concerns about potential fracking in South Yorkshire and that the government may allow fracking under national parks as long as the surface infrastructure is outside the boundary.

Undergrounding

We continued to press for unsightly electricity pylons, poles and wires to be undergrounded. National Grid completed its visual and landscape assessment of intrusive pylon lines in English and Welsh national parks and AONBs in 2014, and we are pleased that the lines in Longdendale and to the east of Dunford Bridge were assessed as being of very high priority for being buried. A decision should be made in 2015.

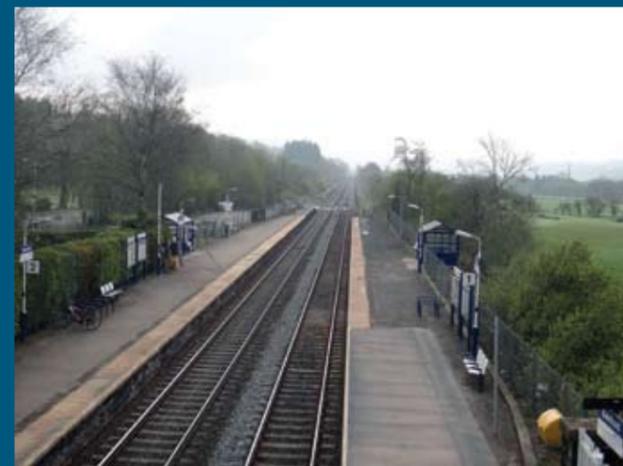
We worked closely with the local electricity companies to nominate stretches of lower voltage wires that would benefit from burial. This work, carried out in conjunction with the Peak District National Park Authority, saw several kilometres of wires being buried at Winster, Hurdlow to Parsley Hay, and Tissington.



Planning work

Planning is a never-ending cycle: our planning officer and his small team of volunteers spent many hours examining 250 planning applications and making detailed responses on 42 of them. A key threat is aggressive planning applications for housing on greenfield sites in planning authorities without a five-year land supply: this led to lengthy battles, for example in Glossop and Harpur Hill (High Peak) and Hatfield (Doncaster).

It was also a busy year for influencing local plans. We participated in the Rotherham Core Strategy Examination and responded to the subsequent proposed modifications, focusing on green belt impacts in Dinnington and Anston. We also made submissions on the draft High Peak local plan, and at the end of the year began work on the Barnsley local plan, which also proposes substantial green belt losses.



Transport

A major concern was the government announcement to fund upgrades to the A628 bypass including a bypass at Mottram. This project has come and gone over nearly 40 years, and we have consistently opposed it on the grounds that it will not provide a long-term solution to congestion. We have instead advocated a much cheaper package of measures and criticised the Department for Transport for not following its own guidelines for appraising road proposals.

We supported the Network Rail proposal to increase capacity on the Sheffield to Manchester line by building a new passing loop in the Hope Valley. However, we opposed siting it at Grindleford because of the damage that would be caused to precious woodlands. The new proposal to site the loop between Hathersage and Bamford stations has met with mixed reactions but our view is that we should not oppose this location.

Finance report

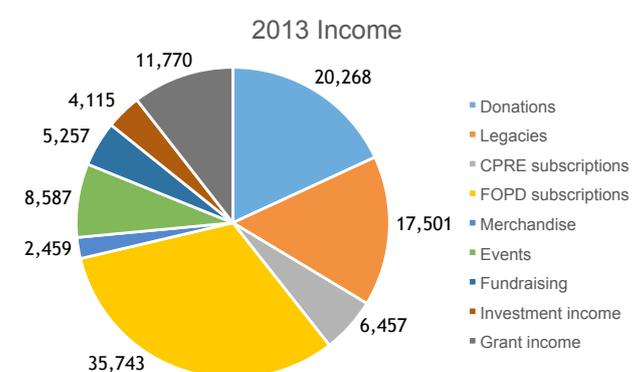
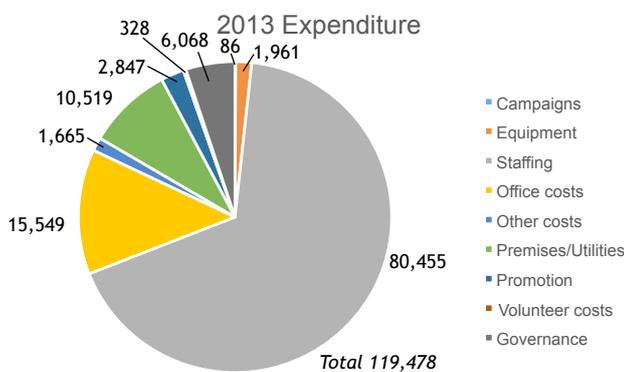
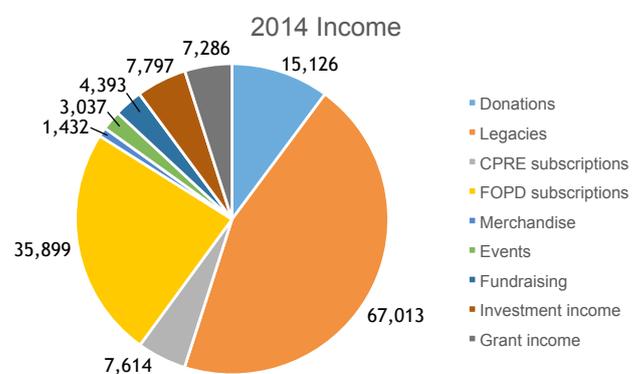
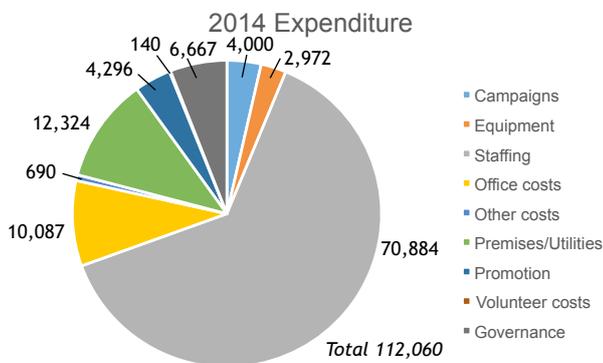
The Friends of the Peak District and CPRE South Yorkshire has been in existence for 90 years with the principal activity being:

- To promote and encourage the improvement and protection of our countryside for the benefit of the public
- To stimulate and educate public opinion
- To act as a centre for advice

Overall, we achieved a healthy surplus in 2014, thanks mainly to generous legacies. We continue to be hampered by a lack of staff resource but have laid plans to increase volunteer help and approved a new member recruiter role, funded from legacy income. We took steps to strengthen other forms of fundraising and hope to increase our membership - both to secure our financial future and to increase our influence and effectiveness.



| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2014 £ | Total 2013 £ |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Donations | 13,997 | 1,129 | 15,126 | 20,268 |
| Legacies | 67,013 | - | 67,013 | 17,501 |
| CPRE subscriptions | 7,614 | - | 7,614 | 6,457 |
| FOPD subscriptions | - | 35,899 | 35,899 | 35,743 |
| Merchandising income | 697 | 735 | 1,432 | 2,459 |
| Events income | 1069 | 1,968 | 3,037 | 8,587 |
| Fundraising income | - | 4,393 | 4,393 | 5,257 |
| Investment income | 7,797 | - | 7,797 | 4,115 |
| Grant income | - | 7,286 | 7,286 | 11,770 |
| Total income | 98,187 | 51,410 | 149,597 | 112,157 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Costs of generating funds | 9,406 | 6,569 | 15,975 | 21,446 |
| Charitable activities | 48,056 | 57,337 | 105,393 | 113,410 |
| Governance costs | 5,526 | 1,141 | 6,667 | 6,068 |
| Total expenditure | 62,988 | 65,047 | 128,035 | 140,924 |
| Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before investments | 35,199 | -13,637 | 21,562 | -28,767 |
| Investment gains/(losses) | 4,240 | - | 4,240 | 12,458 |
| Profit/(loss) on sale of assets | - | - | - | 5,000 |
| Total funds brought forward | 253,573 | 74,024 | 327,597 | 338,906 |
| Total funds carried forward | 293,012 | 60,387 | 353,399 | 327,597 |



Staff: Director – Andy Tickle; Administration and finance officer – Susan Belt; Fundraising and marketing co-ordinator – Julie Gough; Consultant planning officer – Andrew Wood
 Trustees: Chair - Isabella Stone (to 31 Oct), John Lambert (from 1 Nov). Vice chair - John Lambert (to 31 Oct), Pat Coleman (from 1 Nov); Honorary Treasurer – Isabel Hartland; John Anfield; John Hoare; Chamu Kuppaswamy; Andy Topley; Yvonne Witter.
 President: Julia Bradbury. Vice Presidents: Simon Groom; Anne Robinson; Jack Burling; John Tarn

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