

Chairman's Message

February 2008

Dear Supporter,

As we pass the 10th anniversary in our campaign to halt illegal quarrying activities on Longstone Edge it may appear that we are no further forward than we were in 1997.

Our argument that the 1952 permission to extract fluorspar was being abused in order to extract massive quantities of Limestone was largely upheld in May 2007 at the Public Inquiry when the Inspector ruled in favour of The Peak Park Authority, by imposing limits on the quantity of Limestone which could be extracted during the course of winning and working the Fluorspar veins. The PDNPA have finally listened to our demands for action to stop the latest activities by issuing an enforcement notice at the beginning of January 2008.

However, the owners of the mineral rights and their appointed operators having won the right to appeal against the Inspector's decision and have resumed working at Backdale Quarry.

If they are allowed to expand the current limestone workings across Longstone Edge, massive and irreversible environmental damage will be done in the heart of The Peak District National Park.

At several public meetings over the last decade, we have been told that the legal issues are complicated and prevent the Park Authorities from taking decisive action against the quarry operators. We were encouraged last year by the eventual action of the PDNPA in issuing a stop and enforcement notice and we urge them now to continue action to stop the renewed destruction.

During this time, we have also managed to raise the profile of our campaign to protect our National Park to be recognised as a nationally important issue — not just of local interest.

We now enjoy more leisure time than our forebears ever did and our lifestyle is increasingly passive with associated problems for public health. At this time, more than at any time in the past we need to preserve our open spaces and in particular Our National Parks.

On your behalf, I would like to express my thanks to your committee for their tireless and unstinting efforts to prevent further damage from taking place and I am confident that we can count on your help and support to continue this fight. We cannot afford to fail.

Steve Illingworth - Chairman Save Longstone Edge

What happened during 2007

January – We lobbied Government Minister Barry Gardiner as he visited Longstone Edge to see for himself.

Thousands of tonnes of polluted mud flowed through Stoney Middleton after a Lagoon burst. This polluted Stoke brook and the River Derwent.

February – The long awaited Planning Inquiry hearing took place in Calver. This was extremely well attended by supporters of SLEG during all 10 days. Thank you. The SLEG walk was very well attended with over 150 supporters walking around Longstone Edge

April – SLEG members lobbied Ministers Gardiner and Milliband at the celebrations for the anniversary of the Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout

May – The Planning Inspectorate found largely in favour of The Peak Park, over the enforcement notice on Backdale, and put a quota ratio on the Limestone. The