



Hear the
voices
of the
moors

Moor Memories
Oral History Project
“A living, working moorland”

Summaries of interviews

Moor Memories Oral History Project

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1. Roger France – first interview - Gamekeeping

Born in 1949

Gamekeeping from 1962 onwards

The role of the gamekeeper

Moorland conservation (e.g. mowing bracken)

Grouse shooting

Wildlife then and now

Control of predators

Heather burning – why and how it is managed

The effects of wildfires

Tasks of the gamekeeper throughout the year

Difference in grouse shooting in the past and the present

Driving and beating

Grouse butts

Habits and habitats of grouse

Working in winter

Grouse shooting and sheep grazing

Grouse shooting and walkers

Communication with the public

Effects of National Park and CROW Act

All terrain vehicles and mountain bikes

2. Roger France – second interview – Gamekeeping

Using horses on past grouse shoots (up till 1980s)

Bottles getting broken when the horse bolted!

How to work safely with horses

Bracken mowing with a scythe

Invasive nature of bracken

Spraying bracken to control it

Moorland edges – cornfields (1930s)

Snailsdon Moor – ploughing to grow wheat, oats and barley for grouse

“White ground” grassy moorland edges, not heather moors

Replanting heather

3. Elizabeth Worsley

Born in 1929

Early life in Gradbach

Domestic life

A family of ten children

Collecting the shopping from Flash

Macclesfield market on a Saturday

Haymaking with a pony and cart

Keeping cows - Jerseys in Gradbach – rich milk

Elizabeth’s father’s family in Middle Hills

Family in Poynton – taking eggs and butter to Gladys

Tom’s car – having rides

Elizabeth’s mother – born in Keswick, lived in Litton

Married at Tideswell Church, moved to Gratton, then Top Middle Edge Green's Cottage, where Elizabeth was born – no running water
Moved to Gradbach - well by the side of the kitchen never dried up
Taking milk in the donkey and cart
Donkeys chasing each other with the cart on two wheels
Keeping a pig for meat
Peg Inn sold pegs and gave a glass of beer with it to get round licence!
Old mines? Water affected by the coal underneath
Never enough sugar, especially in the war
School in Leek between 12 and 14
After 14 worked at home on the farm
No fruit off the fruit trees – too cold, no bees
Typical meals
Milking at night and cleaning
Everything was punctual. Father was very strict. Couldn't go out
Getting married
Relationships with family
Getting sweets for a penny (got twopence for taking the paper down)
People were good to the children

Continuation of interview

Married life
Move back to Clough
Elizabeth looks after keepers and chauffeurs at Wildboarclough post office
Not enough bathrooms!
Opens small shop, trade taken away by supermarkets
Move to Bank Top, still look after keepers and chauffeurs
Leaky roof at Crag Hall Cottages
Move to current bungalow
What were the moors like around Sniddles and the Roaches?
Farms had improved the land but too stony and swampy to do any more
Used for hay, but not very good
Major Young had Sniddles farm for tax purposes
Moors around Bank Top – Derby's had looked after the estate more
Stony but better land, haymeadows around there
Bad summers – made silage. Good summers - made hay
Sheep don't like silage. Will eat haylage (half and half)
Weather was often bad in summer

4. John Eardley and Philip Sharpley - Farming around Wildboarclough

1 of 4

Farming in the 1940s
Growing food in the war
Milk producing in wartime and after ("milkless days")
New tractor bought in 1937 – the end of using horses – tractor still running today!
Use of moorland – grazing sheep, subsidy for cattle grazing in summer
Cattle graze moorland to make better pasture for sheep
Sheep farming

Introduction of motorbikes
Attempts to plough the hills – subsidy for adding lime – moorland edges
Made the grass palatable for the sheep
Mat of dead grass in early 1980s. Killed off old grass and began reseeding.
Use sheep to tread the seed in
Fields now reverting back to what they came from
Overgrazing by sheep if left too long on moors, now there is noticeable
heather and other plants including bog asphodels for first time
Need for monitoring this
Grouse and golden plovers
Sheep don't disturb nesting birds

2 of 4

Improving the land
Grouse shooting
Farmers beating – interviewee got shot when 14 or 16!
Got sandwiches, pop and 16 shillings
Pickford Moor was best
Bracken was high enough to hide a horse and cart
Bracken ploughed in but roots remained. Good for growing potatoes on
Bracken cut for cattle bedding – 1937 up to 40s
Cutting with scythe
Not so much around now
Farmer previous to interviewee did a flit due to not paying rent.
1937-38 started ploughing to grow food
Every field in Wildboarclough has been ploughed

3 of 4

Effects on grouse of sheep farming
Pollution
Wartime memories – POWs and bombs
3 keepers looked after the area
Good years and bad years with the grouse
Fox hunting ban – has it had any effect? Not much?
How the countryside works - "Can't have one thing dominating the rest"
Farmer has got to be versatile
Snow ploughing – cleared the A54 – last time in 1980. Three years later
chopped arm off! Missed footbrake when winching wood with tractor (?)
Tractor turned over and rolled on top of him. Stitched back on in hospital!

4 of 4

Winters and summers
Oldest building in Wildboarclough – old barn – used to keep cattle
Mowing with scythes – an acre a day
Growing crops
Hand clipping sheep
Electric shearers turned by hand
A big flock was 40 in the old days
Started selling milk in 1932 – previous to that made own butter
Other local famers/characters

Spreading muck – by hand and with a muck spreader
Water not fit to drink – and in lead pipes
Moorland grips to dry out moors in 1952/53 – 46 miles of them on this estate
Had to keep them clear
Were ten feet deep at the end – cattle could get stuck in them
Has caused drainage and erosion – a new idea at the time and a wrong idea
Did them all over the moors

5. Dereck Nobles – Sheep farming around Holme

Born 1935

1 of 2

Photographer for tractor firm
Connected with farming for his whole life
Also worked as a test driver for tractor firm
Started in 1959 after the war
Holme Village is just in the Peak District and just on the 1000 foot contour
Sheep farming
2 big changes – paving the Pennine Way and controlling grazing by fencing
Breeds of sheep
Lot less sheep on the moors now, giving it a chance to regenerate
1947 – “the winter of winters”
Shepherds meetings – claiming unmarked lambs
1963 – the frost was even keener – minus 23 in the village
Holme Moss transmitter 1981 – overnight heavy snow in April in the middle of lambing – kept on snowing.
The keepers manage the moors – shooting syndicates, or by invitation
Langsett House – who lives there now
Didn't used to overstock the moors, so that sheep could move around with the weather
Sheep are hefted (born on the hill). Never bought your neighbour's sheep, because they would go back.
Old shepherd's cabins on the moors, roofless now, stone built with a grey slate roof.
Loaders and beaters on shoots
Rain gauges – up until the 60s – visited once a month by water board workers
Burning heather – to get varying stages of growth
In a good summer grouse can have two broods
Worm can wipe out grouse
Keepers worried about open access, but people generally follow paths

2 of 2

Army camp in the war
Plane crashes on the moors
Life in the RAF – during National Service
Causes of wildfires on the moors
Ramblers and gamekeepers in 1950s
Part time Ranger work at Dovestones (“Outer Mongolia”)
Early 60s onwards – working as a ranger
Working with rescue team in the early days

Climbing memories
Avalanche at Dovestones in 1963 – Chew Valley
Climbing on the Edges in the Peak District – no fancy kit in early days!
Getting lost on the moors - Follow a stream!
Moors are busier now
Pollution
Foot and Mouth in 1963

6. Clifford Robinson – Holmfirth – first interview – Gordon Danks also present - Gamekeeping

Born in 1929, Carlicotes
Walked everywhere. Father was part time keeper
Kept hens and pig, grew vegetables
Worked as keeper himself after father's death
Sheep went anywhere – too many sheep, caused over grazing – during the war
Fenced after this and heather has grown back – big issue
Went to Ladycross
Peat cutting
What a gamekeeper does
Moors are better kept now
Disease affected grouse – then put medicated grit out
In the war farmers grew corn and grouse ate corn on edges of moors
Heather burning – burning strips. Knew when to burn – damp but not too damp!
Wild fires
Shoots – syndicate (half a gun – could shoot for half a day) paid per year
Never know how many grouse you have on the moor – don't shoot at all if there aren't enough grouse
Grouse follow the contours and wind
Building butts – from stone so sheep wouldn't destroy them
Cabins for shooting parties – mostly wood – had to maintain them
Were left open for walkers
Opponents of blood sports pulled butts and cabins down at one point
Police called on some occasions
Walkers mostly no problem – dogs could cause problem or leaving a gate open on odd occasion
Schools were the biggest culprits
Open access – dropping matches could cause fire. If they were responsible there was no problem.
Genuine hikers were fine
Never know which person is going to cause a problem
Egg stealing could be a problem too
Winters – once snowed in for 7 weeks, but had everything in and could live out of the freezer – in 1970s. Swindon Lodge.
1985 ground froze
Grouse will follow the sheep to find the heather
Cutting bracken with a scythe
Forestry planting at Langsett – 1973

Magnum – houses all condemned and pulled down in 1950s. Village now gone
Lots of farms closed down because of pollution into reservoir
Corner shops now closed down in villages
Effect of the war

Changes to the moors – heather in the old days, sheep overgrazed this. Now back again.

Pollution – industry from Manchester said to turn the sheep black
Holme TV mast said to be coated with Buxton lime from limestone quarries
Mast got iced up, 1958 ice brought Emley Moor transmitter down
Keepers were born to the moors – passed from father to son, brought up with it
Invited to shepherds meetings
Close relationships with farmers as a keeper

7. Clifford Robinson - 2nd interview - Gamekeeping

Early days. Always interested in the moors
Winter of 47 - Sheep huddled under the walls and got buried by snow drifts, had to be dug out
Wanted to be a joiner but couldn't get wood into the country because of the war, became a plumber instead
Went to Ladycross as part time keeper in 1972
Landrovers replaced horses on shoots
Moved to Holme in 1954 or 55
Was a very friendly village. Mostly sheep farmers
Farms shut down around reservoirs. Remember Dunford reservoir being built.
Woodhead tunnel
Magnum Harvest Festival at Church – whole hamlet not there any more – had a small sweet shop, church and pub
Farming experiences
Small farms, 50 acres maximum, 10 acres of corn
Working with horses
Made hay not silage until the war. People said it would turn inside of a cow rotten.

8. Don Johnson – Baslow - Rambling

Born 1927
Walking on moors in 1940s with Clarion Ramblers
Trespassing and gamekeepers
GHB Ward – life and walking activities
What we used to wear
Brewing up
Cafes for afternoon tea
Lack of modern clothing
Being chased off the moors by gamekeepers
Walking boots

Harry Baxby – President of Clarion Ramblers – plaque on Back Tor
Taking shelter in shepherd's huts and shooting cabins
Wore cycling capes against the rain and sou'westers
Went every Sunday – only had Sundays off work from steelworks etc
Cafes attached to farms – Alport Castles for instance
Reading a map and compass
Walk leaders
Getting lost – Bleaklow for instance, main problem was mist
Walking became easier with founding of Peak Park
Not free access until 2000
Main challenge was walking on Kinder, but walking on Bleaklow is harder
Can be dangerous places
No rescue service in old days
What to do if challenged for trespassing
Working as a Ranger – how to deal with people, especially with dogs
Ramblers' attitude to dogs on walks

Changes on the moors
Moorland degradation and regeneration
How to balance leisure and regeneration
Fell running
Favourite places
Moors – very quiet
Forestry – cutting down trees proposed at Alport
More and more erosion of moors
Introduction of Ranger Service has made changes – contributed to understanding and education of people
Off-roading has been the worst thing
Mountain biking is a new thing – quite encouraged by Peak Park
Can be a problem on footpaths – sometimes can't be heard
Cars have made the countryside more accessible to volumes of people
Clarion was the forerunner of the Ramblers – 1900s
Ramblers from Manchester too
Well known shops for hikers – not the variety available today
Camping in the old days was popular
Seasonal changes – 1947 was the worst winter – had to dig out the sheep
1963 bad but not as bad
Still went walking in the snow, took walking sticks

Walking equipment
GHB Ward –
Clarion handbooks
History of violence and persecution – dedication of the people involved
Known as hikers not ramblers.
Resistance of the landowners to access
Access but still private ownership

9. Ray Platts – Bamford – Cattle farming near Bamford

Born in 1922 – frightened about economic collapse at that time!

Born at farm at Hathersage owned by Colonel Shuttleworth
Some land bought by public subscription in 1935 for bowling green and park
School in Hathersage
Family's farms – very supporting.
Had a lot of horses and foals – father told tales about breaking in horses
Short horn cattle – delivered milk to village twice a day – people couldn't
always pay
Rent was 7/6 an acre. Inflation and then slump after the 1st world war
Father would walk cows to Bakewell market
Father gave milk to a newly married couple with a baby who had no money
Often only had bread and jam to eat
Domestic life - washed in cold water
Had a few sheep and shared a ram with a neighbour
Back breaking jobs – clipping sheep and hoeing turnips
Had pneumonia at 15 – grew tall at that time!
Moved to Bamford in 1943
Farmer there had workers who were being called up, so family moved there

Brother was in Air Force saw how good their Ayrshire cows were when in
Scotland
Has been a long process building a herd
Had a milk round in village and put on wagon to Sheffield
Father said train made the biggest difference to the valley – couldn't cross the
valley as easily and made people live by the clock
Meeting wife during wartime
War took the best years out of life, and brother and lots of friends killed
Plane crashes on
Liked weathered (brown) bracken for calves and horses bedding
Got permission from gamekeepers to collect bracken on Stanage – different
place each year
Steam engines on the road Road block on the road during war time

Was in the home guard in Hathersage
Got invitation to opening of Ladybower just before wedding.
Remember spire sticking out of the water when reservoir first made
More domestic memories – food and celebrations

10. Rangers group interview 1 – Edale – How they started and what a ranger does

(Discuss Coronation Street filming)

Interviewees:

Ian Hurst – Peak Warden's Association in early 60s; volunteer warden after
that; patrol ranger at 21; assistant warden at Crowden in mid 60s; full time in
1970s; district ranger at Buxton after that. 1986 Northern District, advisor for
Countryside Commission in 1990s. Returned to National Park in 1995 – area
ranger in Hayfield. Retired in 2007.

Cliff Laycock – became warden in mid 60s, Eastern edges of moors around
Langsett and other areas. Moved to Skye, also involved in Edale Mountain
Rescue team

Jack Ellmore – involved for 40 years, Edale and Eastern edges; moved to White Peak area. Now at Langsett

David Millner – took Wardens' training course (as did others). Ollerbrook. Went to Stanage (still voluntary), then Langsett, Tissington trail

Bill Darley – Had cottage at Upper Booth – appointed as assistant warden when Tom Tomlinson was full time warden. Moved to Hayfield and has covered lots of area

Gordon Miller – camped at Edale as schoolboy, taken up on Kinder by Fred Heardman. Started when very young as a volunteer, took training course at Edale. Worked at Eastern Edges - Stanage, learnt about farming at North Lees Hall. Became full time "floating" warden then Kinder, Hayfield, Castleford for 30 years. Now volunteer again

What does ranger do? Everything!

National Parks Act included access land so wardens' role written into the legislation. Tom Tomlinson was first one. Enforcement role in early days. More involving and educating people now, as well as maintaining the landscape.

Lots of vandalism in the early days (of cabins) – wardens got involved rather than the police

Uniform introduced in 1974. Used to buy ex army gear before that

Had to enforce the bye laws over issues like camping, fires, dogs, poaching etc. Changed since introduction of CROW act

Poachers could be dangerous

Egg stealing in the past

Keeping people off the moors during grouse shoots

Hunt saboteurs involved. Lots of negotiation involved

Christmas tree patrol on Langsett

Monitoring usage of moors prior to access agreements

Foot and mouth in

Made an igloo at Fairholmes were so bored!

Redmires farmer would bring flasks of coffee laced with brandy

Edale valley cut off due to Foot and Mouth

Also involved in Mountain Rescue in the past

Four Inns in 1964 is the memorable one

Prior to that farmers would lead rescues. After that need for more co-ordinated system became clear

(Shows photos of Four Inns rescue)

Took longer to attend incidents in the past. People were worse equipped on the moors in the past as well.

Dogs were an issue too – sensitive to criticise people's dogs!

Farmers used to (and still do) shoot dogs for worrying sheep

Dogs abandoned on moors as well

Another major concern was fires – 1976 was bad year – over 80 that summer

Danger of ammunition exploding during fires

Moors used for training during the war – Langsett – shells buried in the peat come back to the surface – some live and had to get bomb disposal out to explode them

No guidance for these issues, organisation and equipment was very basic

Management now better organised, have learnt from past mistakes and lucky escapes – always moving forward

Wardens used to run a ski run in Edale

A good example of the range of things rangers have done

Built own searchlight, powered by a gas bottle – almost too big to carry

One search between Edale and Crowden on Pennine Way – had flares which set fire to the moorland alongside the Pennine Way

Fall from Stanage – same thing happened there and elsewhere

Briefing centres – basic conditions.

1960 – Park bought Fieldhead, used a shed attached to that

Then moved into building when Visitors Centre opened – had a big pot-bellied stove which warmed everyone up as they came off the hill

Also used bungalow from when railway was built in 1894

Other buildings used as briefing centres

North Lees Hall was derelict at the time – restored the hall at that time

(featured in Jane Eyre)

Had to use spring to get water

No rules or legislation in old days. Service was very diverse and had to do all its own maintenance

Now, may suffer through cuts, but visitors would have a poorer experience if it disappeared tomorrow.

Rangers interview 1 - continuation

Started with volunteers from rambling and climbing clubs – up to 1960.

Then started appointing part time paid wardens. Volunteers still came out as a group sometimes

Mailed individual briefing every week from Tom Tomlinson

Became better organised and trained, standards were raised, in 60s

More change in 1970s as well

Did night navigation and bivvied out on Kinder

Changes in wildlife – has changed for the better – more raptors

New phase now – rangers used for observation and monitoring vegetation

Gamekeepers' attitudes have changed too

Education now – is it right that people should be educated to degree level? Is experience more important

Education is increasingly important (schools, health walks etc)

You marry the job – huge commitment – lots of relationship breakdowns amongst full time staff

Essence to being a ranger is having lots of strings to your bow – danger of concentrating on one aspect only

Voluntary training in Peak District National Park is unique

Why have a national park here?

Role of the trespass movement in promoting care of the Peak District

GHB Ward and socialist movement – escape from the smoggy city

Even sheep are whiter now – take it for granted now

Return of vegetation – regeneration not a new idea – has been tried in the past too

Issue of paving Carbon storage – a new concern. But always worried about peat disappearing

Sphagnum – theft of sphagnum as well in the past

Litter and camping is a problem now

11. Bamford Workshop – Bamford – Living near the moors

General discussion with 5 interviewees, not named on recording.

The filling of Ladybower reservoir

Walking on the moors with the scouts

Farms taken over for reservoir building – no compensation – 1936

Bilberry and mushroom picking

Rabbits and rosehips during the war

Using bracken for animal bedding

Terrible fogs in Manchester

Rocks that the climbers used would be sooty from pollution

Biggest change to the moors is the increase in people; and regulation

Couldn't get fuel delivered during the bad winters

Farmers helped to clear the snow away

Long hot summers in 1950s and 1976 – led to fires

Filling the car with blankets and tea to travel over the moors in cold weather

Unofficial mountain rescue – being called out to help

Medical kits and stretchers kept on the moors (Stanage)

Big searches for people missing on the moors

Changes in wildlife – used to be red squirrels

12. Flash School Workshop – Flash – farming life

Interview between pupils and Janet Garlick (nee Frodsham)

Born in 1960 in Leek but lived at Goldsitch Moss (?) for 29 years [nb: just south of Flash]

Can trace back 6 generations of Frodshams from the area

Mother was a housewife; father a haulage contractor

Two sisters and 1 brother (her father had 17 siblings!)

House built in 1716 – lived there from 2 months old with her parents

Didn't own the farm animals, but did help out

She was 6 when first got electricity – used Tilley lamps, candles and paraffin lamps

Cooked food on old fashioned range – this provided all the heat for the house too (no central heating)

Played in the fields and on rocks (Ramshaw Rocks). Roamed the countryside

Went to Leek for shopping on bus (on Wednesdays)

First time went on holiday was when she was 11 or 12yrs old to her granddad's

Went to Flash School (52 children at the time)

Left Primary School at 12; went to Warslow Secondary till 17

Had sheep, horses, hens, ducks, geese, pigs on the farm – helped herd the sheep when they were lambing – hard work

Had a pet cat

Always seemed warmer (but colder winters than today)

Used to collect frog spawn from the pond; river between their farm and neighbouring one – tried ‘tickling’ trout
Lots of hay meadows
A lot of the land is no longer farmed
Explains a little how the land has changed after it was sold by the Crewe and Harpur estate
Land around where she grew up has changed – no longer farmed and has gone back to bog and moor
Lack of management of heather moors these days (past 20yrs)
Used to be plenty of wildlife on the moors
First job was at Hintons Motor Factors – had to be there at 7am and walked there

13. Ron Priestley – Hope – Sheep farming in the Hope Valley

Born in Sheffield 1927
Lived on hill farms in Hathersage and then Hope
Had sheep and later small dairy herd with milk round
Moved in 1946 to Hope
Shepherding in snow in 1947 winter
Dogs would smell out sheep and find air pipe
Would then dig them out
Mainly in big hollow by Moscar and Strines
Hard work - Used to go to a lot of dances as well, in Buxton
Big dance hall in Castleton, would arrange dances there
Burnt down in 1950
Fires on the Eastern moors – 1938 – burnt from end to end
Don't need fire brigade though
Heather needs frost to grow
More heather now than ever – but harder on some places than others
New heather on Moscar (by gamekeeper's bungalow)
Fewer walkers 30 years ago
Foot and mouth and threat of wildfire closed the moors and this kept them undisturbed
Bracken clearance – during and at end of war. With a roller pulled by a tractor. Would take several years
Not a lot done now and this is a threat to the moors
Used for bedding when mowed. Hard work to mow with a scythe
Poisonous if there is still some growth in it – will kill cattle but not sheep
Moors are different now

Surprise View – used to be quarry – now covered with silver birch
Stone taken from there to build Derwent Dams
Top dams started in 1901 to 1915. Ladybower started in 1934.
Ashopton and Derwent Village closed (shows pictures)
Hand sheering sheep – techniques (shows pictures)
Would take 3 minutes to shear by hand, then dip
Wool was packed and sent to Bradford – all marketed through Bradford

(Shows photos from book)

Forestry around the dams – built after that
Breweries in Sheffield
Planted heather around the trees. Now just trees. Used to be fenced off
Moors were open – sheep were hefted (could roam free). Sold mutton not
lamb. Tasted like venison – heather gave the meat a flavour.
Farmers had their own mark to identify their sheep – still use the same mark
today
Some brought off to lamb, but were better off on moors than eating richer
grass
Shepherds meet
Used to wash sheep before they were sheared - wool used to be full of soot
“Long Arthur” and other quarrymen – from photographs
Paper Mill near North Lees
Butchers shop in Hathersage

Pollution – must have affected the moors too
Granddad had milk round at turn of the century until 1940s. Seven different
milkmen in Hathersage at the time, now only one.
Bad winters – 1941, 1947 was worst
Shop was completely different – everything on display
Mutton – comes from castrated male sheep. Too old and they would get
tough
No one sold lamb as lamb
Effect of war – too many sheep on moors? Walked sheep to Bakewell on a
Sunday
Granddad was a shepherd for Duke of Rutland on Longshaw
Ollerenshaw’s at North Lees – went with horse and cart to sell produce in
Sheffield

14. Geoff Kaye – Upper Midhope – Forestry, military use of moors and the coming of the reservoirs

Born 1954 in Upper Midhope
Mother from village; worked in shop at Langsett, then Thurlstone
Father originally farmer then after war worked at waterworks
Was only child in village for many years
As a youngster spent lot of time at one of local farms (John Walkers) helping
out with tasks – mostly done by hand in those days
Went shooting (+ poaching a little!), mole trapping, rabbits, ducks on
dam...frowned upon by local gamekeeper
Shooting for food...more pheasants around since John left village!
In winter pheasants come to house looking for food
Caught/shot foxes (predator control) – competition between farmers and
gamekeepers
Tradition now gone due to changes in gun laws, loss of working farms (none
left in village).
Farms replaced with houses – most land around reservoirs owned by
waterworks. Didn’t want nitrates, fertilisers, manures washing into waterways
so farms sold

Some land taken by other farmers but restrictions on how they can use it
Land gradually returning to moorland / rough grass – some fields around village now in this state

Supposed to be better for birds / wildlife, but birds came before
Some hawk species have returned
More birdwatchers now

During war most of moorland was used by army
After war buildings occupied by people, families from all over
Some local people born there
Probably people from the cities who were bombed out / evacuees
Some families returned after war for holidays
Buildings demolished sometime in 1950s
Another temporary village existed for dam workers at Langsett when dams built - 'tin town' Still being used by 2 families in early 1960s
Had its own hospital (on lawn of pub)
All removed by time new Langsett waterworks built (1985)

Changes in attitude by water company about land use and access – no longer as concerned about contamination because of treatment works
There used to be a reservoir keeper for each site; controlled access etc
Now fewer keepers and less concerned about controlling access (footpaths created around reservoirs; concessionary right to roam exists)
Downside is people leave litter / rubbish

Little pollution from industry – most pollution (from Sheffield) went down the valley rather than up onto moors
Damage caused by army
Aircraft wrecks: story of light aircraft landing in field
Glider crash landed in garden – pilot killed (mid 1960s)
Father worked at waterworks (Barnsley Corporation) – lived in waterworks house until 1970 then moved back to family home / farm
Most people moved on when asked to but some gave verbal abuse – technically trespassing
Lots more walkers these

Forestry - uncles were involved in tree planting; father planted around Midhope Dam
Trees planted to cleanse water running off moors into reservoirs; also commercial timber use. Trees need to be managed (a lot weren't).
Management has improved but too late in some areas
A managed forest allows grass / shrubs to grow beneath canopy; many of those around reservoirs not managed properly so timber of low commercial value / poor quality

Left school became apprentice engineer at Hepworths, then C&G Mech Engineering at Barnsley College.
Then worked at steelworks (Stocksbridge) – wanted to work outside.
Followed by range of outdoor jobs

Involved in digging 'grips' on moors, mainly clearing out / improving to allow access for forestry operations
As young lad used to go grouse beating with school friends. Stopped when started work.
Farming stopped when it was grouse shooting season – farmers would work on moors. Community event; less so now
Solitude on moors – Pike Low highest point in area
Bracken mowing (by hand – scythe) for animal bedding.
Gamekeepers job now more difficult because of extra rules/regulations
Farmers have important role in countryside management

15. John Littlewood– Penistone – Farming near Penistone

Born in 1948
Attended Bradfield School
Growing up in Loadbrook
Working for Earl Fitzwilliam's after leaving school
Working at clay mines
Then, guarding, forestry and vermin control
Moved to Derby
Keeping and forestry work for Fitzwilliam Estates again
Shooting and moorland vermin control
Looked after sheep and farmland as well

1980s went to Midhope as keeper and sheep farmer
Sheep farming calendar
In-bye land – rough grazing ground between farmland and moorland
Snowy winters – gave hay and mineral blocks to sheep
Quotas for keeping sheep off the moors
Changes in the work – shooting more relaxed and social, now big business
Burning heather
Controlling bracken
Experimented with heather seed
Feeding the grouse in bad winters
Team of people for heather burning – had to carry everything by foot in the beginning
Midhope - bad moor to burn because of past fires during military training
Technicalities of heather burning
Fires out of control – fires in peat holes at Midhope – 1982 (?)
Dukes Road fire – set off WW2 bombs
Battery house to light decoy lights in WW2 – on Strines Moor
Mowing bracken with a "swipe" on Fitzwilliam Estate
In younger days used bracken for cattle bedding
Draining of moors in old days
Bilberry picking
Commercial forestry on Fitzwilliam Estate and at Bradfield
No health and safety precautions then – one day's training for explosives in mines! Same with farming

Changes in the moors – involvement of villagers in shooting in old days
A lot quieter in the past – only the odd hiker

Wildlife – reintroduction of goshawks in 1955
Hard for keepers when they take grouse
Keepers' management of moors help wildlife like songbirds too
There should be more understanding of what keepers and farmers do

16. Clarion Ramblers Longshaw Working Party – Volunteering at Longshaw

Discussion with several interviewees – Mr Allan, Colin Todd, George Thomas, Bob Priestley and others

Track 1

Volunteering, wardening and working at Longshaw since 1940s and 50s
Annual Clarion bonfires at Longshaw
Children used to help
Donations and loans to buy the estate
The kind of work carried on now – outdoor activities
Early working parties (1950s and 60s) – once a month
Mostly from Sheffield
Did a walk once a week
Clarion Rambler handbooks
Café closed from 12 till 1
Holiday Fellowship
Teas at Greenwood Farm
Cleaning the lake – used for swimming and skating on occasion in the past
Bus travel
What wardens used to do – Wardens' booklet

Track 2

Plaque to Harry Cook
“Harry's bridge”
The ice house
(Discussion of photographs)
The roundel in the meadow
Keepers lodges – now derelict – one had a piano in it – discussion of location of old lodges
Formation of Clarion movement
Songs and stories – Clarion song book
Singing on rambles
Sheffield Rambling Club
Names of old Clarion members
GHB Ward
Campaigning for access to the moors after the second world war
Trespassing on the moors
Keepers on the moors
Helping with moorland rescues

17. John Bunting – Sheffield – Campaigning for access to the moors

Born in Sheffield 1918 (Pitsmoor)
Father worked on railways (plate layer) but in 1920s recession was unemployed for 4yrs. Hard times – mother took washing in

Saturday trips as children to places like Fox House and Rivelin
Joined YHA when 16yrs old – started walking and campaigning
Got involved in his first campaign in 1934 (calling for National Parks) – went to Winnats Pass

Used to cycle out

Early groups mainly professional people; few working class folk – he was one of first

He unveiled a plaque in Winnats celebrating early campaigns

Large numbers attended the early campaigns. Police presence but no trouble
Speeches about right to access land etc...you couldn't walk on open moorland without trespassing.

Pressure for access increased after war

Large concentration of working class population surrounding peak area

Knew Benny Rothman and served on early committees with him in 1930s

Anecdote about early days of Youth Hostelling

First holiday with friends – rode bikes to Lake District! Has returned nearly every year since

Cycled to Glasgow in same year to see Empire Games

Early walks mainly on routes like pack horse routes across moors – once known as 'salt routes'. Took steel / iron implements from Sheffield to Manchester; brought salt and silks back

Had to keep to routes as other land privately owned; gamekeepers patrolled with big sticks. Trespassed but could run faster!

Walked on Sundays (Saturdays part of working week)

Involved in Advisory Committee for setting up Peak Park – hoped to obtain freedom to walk

Fought for freedom in war, but nothing had changed after war

Trained as anti-tank gunner at Langsett Moor

Joined Home Guard and patrolled moors at night

Had to light fires on Totley Moor – can still see holes filled with water.

Used as decoys against German bombers

Doesn't think moors have changed significantly, but lots more footpath erosion.

Even in early days (1940s) certain places (e.g. Black Hill) suffered from erosion

Attended regular rallies (1934 – 39) in Winnats. Held every year (names some of those who gave speeches)

In 1945 rallies moved to Cave Dale as during war road put through Winnats
1949 - National Park Act. Delighted till read small print – most of access land had been left off

After war things quietened down a bit / moved slowly.

Formed SCAM (Sheffield Campaign to Access Mountains and Moorland) and was first Secretary

Started organised trespasses

Some people were satisfied National Park was founded but others weren't because of the access issue so continued campaigning

In 1940s – 50s feels more children / families were involved in walking

Clothing worn very different
Talks about walks done and being a volunteer warden (preceded Mountain Rescue). Patrolled Kinder / Bleaklow

Talks about how Ramblers Association was organised and links with Manchester
Biggest change in his lifetime has been ability for all to access the moors

18. Mr & Mrs Frodsham and Janet Garlick (daughter) – Farming in the Staffordshire moorlands

Born 1932 and 1940 respectively; married 50yrs
Mrs F from Leek; Mr F lived at Winking Man pub then known as the Moorland Club

Moved to current house in 1960

Talk about landownership changes in Roaches area – private land used for grouse – Mr F used to go beating (paid 10 bob a day)

Much less grouse around these days

Mrs Smith (Shaw House) used to have grouse parties for those shooting (but not the beaters). Beaters went to Royal Cottage...he was allowed a pint with his dinner (but underage)

Long days / hard work.

Explains where they went and anecdote about shooters shooting across road – law now changed

Mr F explains where he went to school – started at 5 till 14; stories about school days

Horses used by most people on farms – no tractors till after war

No water or electricity when young – got water from trough.

Water collected in barrels from gutters

Now rely on spring but this dries up sometimes. Explain about using different springs in area

No electricity till 1964

During war had to plough up some land (meadow) for growing food. After war Ministry of Ag had scheme to revert land back – at no cost to farmers.

Talks about using lime on land and how it changed the vegetation

Moorland not used for crop growing

Used to have more hay meadows

Thinks there are less birds now (lapwings and curlews)

Too many badgers / foxes / magpies; less vermin control practiced

Less hares too – many killed off by bad winter (1947)

Winters were a lot worse then (every winter bad)

People used to grow more of their own

Shopping in Buxton on Saturday mornings

Anecdotes about several local people

Talks about farm work and how hard it was

19. Ian Stuart – Bakewell – Walking on the moors

Born 1931, Manchester

Visited moors as a child once old enough to travel on buses (with friends)

First visit to Kinder Scout with his mother (age 9). Father in RAF (wartime) but encouraged them to visit
Explains how they travelled to moors by bus / train and walks they did
Once old enough made regular use of Youth Hostels
Wore shorts in all weathers; tried a variety of waterproofs – tells of using army gas capes
Early rucksacks terrible to wear and inefficient (but cheap!)
During wartime moors were empty with little erosion
Original line of Pennine Way badly drawn as goes straight across boggy areas
Talks of 'outwitting' a gamekeeper on Bleaklow / Kinder
Finding aircraft wreck (Flying Fortress?) in late 1940s
Winter 1947 – very bad conditions. Food drops at Edale. Went walking, got bus to Hayfield, saw man on skis (first time ever)
Explains about early RAF Mountain Rescue based at Harpur Hill – set up to rescue aircrew
After the war walking/climbing clubs and outdoor groups proliferated – people had more leisure time. Started climbing in 1952 after being in Army
Can remember Black Hill and other places before they were badly eroded
Talks about difference following Clean Air Acts

Moors now much busier – misses the absence of people.
Often saw white hares (north side Kinder). Probably fewer now
Better access after war lead to some areas being vandalised
Roaches popular – saw wallabies and llamas. Released from private zoo during war
Less skylarks now

Supported start of National Park – desirable idea. However, disappointed by building of Hope Cement Works just prior to this. Can be seen from many areas

20. Bill Emmingham – Moorland Centre, Edale – Rambling, Woodcraft Folk and access to the moors

Born and brought up in Sheffield
Joined Woodcraft Folk (1942) – Sundays camping in summer, walking in winter.
Woodcraft Folk aim - get children out of city / smoke; in Sheffield formed by members of Independent Labour Party (March 1929) –how it was formed / organised (political background)
Met regularly, formed strong bonds
Early camping on outskirts of Sheffield
First summer camp at Youlgreave (1943), then Edale (1944)
At Youlgreave during VJ celebrations
Every member had a woodland name - his was 'Brown
'Barning' – staying in barns overnight
Joined 'Clarion' -1947. Knew some of those involved in open access campaigns.
Early traditions and walking...Clarion routes

Rejoined Woodcraft Folk (1962) – movement has changed
Setting up Lockerbrook activities centre with Terry Howard
Walking at Win Hill and building of dam
Coming across 4x4s on Houndkirk Moor

Changes e.g. clothing.

More people using the areas and more publicity about using it
Taking own sandwiches to cafes and buy a pot of tea
Youth Hostelling in Peak District
1947 – getting stranded on after walking to Stanage.
Training exercises - early mountain rescue through Clarion group
Mountain Rescue now more professional
Moorland fires more prevalent now
Walking Black Hill with group of lads
Wards Piece – disc paid for by man from South Africa
Used to see white hares frequently in winter – not now
Less curlews – used to hear regularly in 1940s – 50s
Hang gliders / aircraft and more people spoiling the tranquillity

Mr Emmingham – photograph memories: took New Years Day 1981 – snow,
icy, gale. Looking across Kinder.
Visiting Kinder on New Years Day
Camped once at Kinder Downfall
Always a challenge walking on Kinder

21. Holme Village Workshop 1 – Holme village - Peat cutting on Holme Moss

(Various contributors, including interviews with Carlton Mellor and Derek Bailey)

Barrage balloons and searchlights
Peat blowing off the moors
Cycling up Holme Moss
Red Cabin – shooting cabin
Packhorse route
Weather at Holme
Commercial peat cutting in 1947
Peat cutting rights & techniques
Plane crashes on the moors
First sight of a helicopter
Playing in streams – sulphur water
Sponsored walk on Black Hill in 80s – black, muddy morass – now green

Interview with Carlton Mellor

Early life
Memories of the building of Holme Moss transmitter, where parents worked
Mother taken to the top of a mast in a bucket!
Watching a rugby match at the transmitter (1953)
Getting snowed in
Ice on Emley Moor transmitter

Memories of Black Hill
Aeroplane crashes

Interview with Derek Bailey

Salvaging material from plane wrecks
First experience of plastic came from this

22. Former Rangers group interview 2 – Moorland Centre, Edale – The role of the warden/ranger

People present:

David Milner, Ian Hurst, Bill Darley, Gordon Miller, Cliff Laycock

Track 1

Discussion over photographs that the group had brought in
How the rangers became involved in fence and stile repair/building and other ground-works
Originally mostly a patrolling role and liaising with landowners / gamekeepers
Trying to stop trial bikes on Stanage
Bye-laws and bye-law enforcement – main role in early days
Stopping someone with a shotgun - having to go to court
Keeping records of incidents
Farmers expected prosecutions!
Serious incidents dealt with by the Police (e.g. poaching)

Track 2

No uniform – wore what was appropriate
Development of warden/rangers uniform – armbands to badges
Origins of the term Ranger - keeping order.
Full-time staff had vehicles
Original Fieldhead building (Moorland Centre)
First centre for Ranger Service - Edale.
Spread of the service over the National Park - access agreements spread further afield
Footpath work / responsibilities evolved – taken on role from DCC.
Signing and waymarking

Track 3

Opening of Tissington Trail
Legal responsibility for Pennine Way - experimenting with different path-building materials
Development of footpath management - work with the National Trust and the Pennine Way
stone flags
Black Hill fire beacon (1970s – Silver Jubilee?)
Black Hill quagmire, loss of peat and restoration
Loss of peat on Mam Tor
Erosion exposing new levels of archaeology

Track 4

Ranger vehicles
Muttley the Ranger Service horse,
Bagpipes played in the National Park!

Track 5

Dogs and dog walkers
An incident with stock lead to them not being able to take dogs out
Problem dogs
Filming with John Noakes when Shep went missing
Warden training course (Dove Dale)

Track 6

Walking home as a child through the Chinley Tunnel!
Warden's Land Rovers
Land Rover training courses (at Solihull)
Edale Station
Volunteer rangers got the train to work
Noise of hobnail boots from walkers at Sheffield
Peak Warden Association

Track 7

Stayed at Ollerbrook
Comradeship in the ranger service
Working with the local farming community
Peak Warden Association
Sad that PWA doesn't exist now
Regular social events
Social aspect continued by Edale Mountain Rescue
Local people invited – breaking down barriers

Track 8

Beginning of Mountain Rescue, the development of mountain rescue groups
(including Edale Mountain Rescue)
Glossop - first group (1959)
Had to be a Ranger to join Edale team (no longer applies)
Initially run by National Park - roles separated in 1980s
Edale MR based at Hope now
Henry the dog (Henry) stretchered down from Kinder after a heart attack
People missing on the Pennine Way
The Four Inns incident
Missing Scout group at Crowden
Helicopters (rescue and training) – early 1960s

Track 9

Fire fighting – Arga Cats.
Could get stuck in groughs
Centaur - bigger and more powerful than Arga Cat
Helicopters used for carrying stone
Losing Arga Cat on a steep slope
Early fire-fighting very basic and learnt on job ...
Became more professional - portable reservoirs and helicopters.

Increased liaison with emergency services

23. George Townsend – Life in drowned villages before the reservoirs came

Born in 1929

Early life in Ashopton

What the village was like

Moved to Thornhill in 1939

Went to Bamford School

Worked at Aston Hall – four generations of family had done so

Married and lived at Edale when children were young

Later life in Hope Valley, sheep farming

Changes in farming practices

24. Brian Gill – Hope – Walking in the snow

Born in Sheffield in 1928 (Nether Edge)

Listening to early Radio Sheffield broadcasts

Moved to Norton Lees

Sheffield Blitz

Rambling with his older brother

Walked over Totley Moor, past firing range to Longshaw

Cold winters during war – ice skating in Graves Park

Winter 1947 heavy snows – started snowing end of January

Weather patterns

Caused chaos – most of bus services stopped but tram cars running along valley bottoms.

Hostelling and walking - winter 1947: headed for Edale YH. Walking on top of deep snow. Walked to Castleton following day via Mam Nick. Had to walk home from Hope!

Deep snow - just top of road sign showing! Headed for Fox House – took shelter overnight at Longshaw Lodge

Moved to Hope when he retired (worked in steelworks: River Don Works / Vickers). Started as apprentice (at 15yrs). Wife was a schoolteacher.

Keen walker and cyclist; joined Scouts and went camping

Youth Hostelling with brother and friends

Joined Ramblers Association; walked abroad and met his wife through this

Fred Herdman – first NP Ranger

Mountain Rescue exercise / training.

Changes in Hope Valley –conversion of farm buildings to residential

Few changes to Moorland. Bracken.

25. Hayfield Day Care Group – Life in Hayfield; mountain rescue; sheep farming in winter

Interview with Arthur Huddleston

Church warden in Hayfield

Bracken cutting and beating
Farm work
Delivering milk
Winter of 1947
Walking over Kinder
Wartime plane crash on Kinder
Wartime bombings
Home Guard and ARP
People leaving Manchester because of the blitz

Interview with David Blyth

Involvement with Kinder mountain rescue team
Painting the trig points
Paving moorland paths
Training and activities of mountain rescue team

Interview with John Gill

Searching for sheep buried in deep snow
Mother's experience of rambling on the moors
Changes to the moors
Duke of Edinburgh Award groups on the moors

26. Terry Howard – Redmires – Mass trespasses and leading walks

Woodcraft Folk
Fed stories about Kinder Scout
Hostelling at Edale Youth Hostel
First walk up Grindsbrook
Weekends walking, hostelling or camping with Woodcraft Folk
Ewden Valley – leading a group aged 15.
Using map and compass
Trespassing on Bradfield Moors
Quotes GHB Ward “You’ve never been anywhere unless you’ve been lost”
Abbey Brook trespass
Talk a little about GHB Ward (but bad audio)
Politics and rambling in Sheffield hand-in-hand
Other trespasses (e.g. Stanage Edge)
End of access struggle - CROW Act (2000)
1982 - 50th anniversary of Kinder Trespass
Finding bits of flint as a child
1982 reunion
Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland
Still finding things -burial mounds and Bronze Age settlement sites
History of people on the moorlands and relating it to us now
Black Hill and the erosion/degradation
Big Moor/Totley Moor – red deer have appeared
Birds of prey still suffering from being shot/poisoned
Landowner who has destroyed moorland by turning it into
Lots of little pieces of moorland have been lost

27. Margaret Bailey – Hayfield - Working as one of the first female rangers

Born in 1924

Joined Ranger Service at 40 in 1964

Walked on the moors from an early age

Reads from article she wrote in 1980 about woodland on slopes of Kinder Plane crash site

Sees a Brocken spectre at Kinder Downfall

Mysterious message carved in stone

Strange rites on the moors

Bomb disposal

Decorating a shooting cabin at Longdendale

Moorland flora – species of Cloudberry named “Warden” in her honour

Night exercises and other wardening memories

Mountain hares

Awarded MBE in 1995

First woman ranger

Based in Hayfield and Glossop

28. Brenda Smith – Running a pub in Edale

Born in 1914

Early life in Baslow

Moved to Edale after Second World War

Conditions at the Church Hotel

Guests and regulars

Social events in the village

Walking clubs

Famous visitors (including Barbara Castle)

Filming in Edale – Charlie Bubbles

Running the pub single handed

Meeting her husband, who came from Dalehead

Local politics

Building of the Church Hotel

Ramblers on Kinder – then and now

Staff who worked at the pub

The Nag’s Head

Locals and visitors

29. Ken Harwood – Wirksworth – volunteer ranger

Interview on Mr Harwood’s work as a volunteer ranger in the Hayfield and Kinder areas

Began walking in area in late 1940s (before NP and Ranger Service set up)

Lived in Stockport – got bus to Hayfield then walked; not aware of problems with gamekeepers etc (access movement was earlier)

Relied on public transport, so early trips limited to Kinder area

1954 – Volunteered with Edale Ranger (Warden) Service (run by Tom Tomlinson)

Youths 'stone-rolling' (knocking down stone walls) and campers
Upholding access agreements and byelaws made with landowners
Patrolling moors closed for shooting.
Couldn't close public footpaths round edge of Kinder
Patrolling in pairs
Big changes on Kinder
National Trust fencing
Rights to dig peat
Seen as an 'information service' rather than policing role
Warden equipment and authority
Pay and hours
Setting out routes
Ranger centres
DCC Ranger (1971) – covered parts of Derbyshire outside NP.
Many of early Peak Park volunteers ended up working elsewhere in the country
A typical working day
Nags Head pub - Information Centre before Fieldhead
Carried a whistle, map/compass and first aid kit
Rescue equipment -Nags Head
Clothing
Freedom on moors
Worked in factory - getting out at weekends
Wildlife

Edale Mountain Rescue
Rescuing a trapped climber using chip shop fat!
Volunteer Ranger Service started in May 1954
Part-time Ranger in early 1960s till 1971
Evenings on the moors
Unprepared / ill-equipped visitors
Gamekeepers / agents
Fewer grouse on Kinder and Bleaklow
White hares not as common now
Access agreements
"Pennine Rambling Club"
Changes in moorland areas -erosion, footpaths
Continuation: Early days - travelling to Peak by bus, meeting up after at Dales Café Hayfield

30. Fred Goddard – Farming on Broomhead moor

Born in 1929
Working for local gamekeeper in 50s and 60s
"Fever hospital"
Measuring the rain gauges
The moors during wartime
Helping on the farm
Moorland ploughed up for crops during wartime
Grouse shooting on Broomhead moor

Building of the reservoir and subsequent depopulation of Ewden Valley
Living in Stocksbridge
Winter of 1947
Working at the steelworks
Bilberry and mushroom picking on the moors
Collecting rosehips for the war effort
(Looks at maps)
Derelict buildings in Ewden valley
Submerged structures in the reservoirs
Old pubs
Plane crashes on the moors

Old names from maps
More gamekeeping memories – burning
Wartime defences
Building the reservoirs
Ewden village
Planning and access issues
Water quality
Life before domestic electricity and gas supply

31. Holme Village Workshop 2 – Life in and around Holme

Discussion with Kenneth Denton, Gordon Hallas, Shirley Simmonds, Arthur Quarmby and Herbert Beardsell

Using bracken for packaging
Uses of sphagnum
Cloudberry on the moors near Holme
Reseeding of the moors
Peat cutting expeditions
Tools for cutting peat
How rights to cut peat came about
Reduction in pollution
Condition of the moors – then and now
Building of the reservoirs
Flooding
Beagle hunting
“Adopt a trig point”
Shooting rights and gamekeeping
Fossilised roots found in the peat
Use of sledges – practical for steep hillsides
Small scale farming in the past
Industrial peat cutting enterprise after second world war
Forestry plantations – now being removed

32. Maureen Armes and George Hill – Life in and around Langsett

Memories of past residents and dwellings
Depopulated after building of the reservoirs
Wartime bombings

Life in the community
Schooldays
Life revolved around the farms
Use of horses
Home made butter
Pig keeping etc
Soldiers stationed in the village
Pubs and clubs
Christmas and May Day
Everyone shared their vegetables
Helping with grouse shoots
Past cafes
Memories of Langsett House
Walks across the moors
Memories of past residents of Langsett
Basic facilities
Wells
Swimming in the quarry
Hard work involved in past ways of life
Christmas traditions
Bilberries and other fruit picking
Opening of the water treatment works
Destruction of the village

33. Frank Harvey – Farming and forestry work near Brightholmlee

(Discussing old photographs while interview is in progress)

Nature of farm work
Fire caused by thunderstorm
Working for Forestry Commission
Tree planting, cutting bracken, fencing
Ploughing with horses
Buying livestock
Local old mill workings
Feeding animals
Livestock markets
Killing pigs
Old buildings no longer in existence
Growing mushrooms
Tree felling with an axe
Measuring tree planting distances by stride
Musical traditions at Christmas time
Where the railway line used to run
Building the dams

More discussion of old photos – forestry work around reservoirs
Building the reservoirs
Accident while working with a chainsaw
Land girls

34. Arthur Quarmby – Peat cutting in the Graveship of Holme

Role as Chief Constable of the Graveship of Holme
History of graveships – peat cutting rights on the moors
Tools used for peat cutting
The Holmfirth tiger
Archaeological excavations – discussion of photos
Building of the reservoirs – closing of farmsteads
Management of woodland
Exemption which allowed peat burning
Graveships made up of townships
Peat cutting in the present day

35. David Wombwell – Ashover – Walking on the moors from Manchester

Early 1950s in Manchester (Didsbury)
Beaverbark Park Baptist Church; regular group visits to Derbyshire
Train from Didsbury to Chinley (or Hayfield). Walked over to Edale and returned from there. Walking down Jacobs Ladder
Blisters as only had normal shoes; older group members would have nailed boots
Often Kinder Scout enveloped in mist; can't remember people using compasses; navigated using OS 1" map...never got seriously lost
Sometimes varied route and found interesting things
Interested in archaeology– thought he'd found a stone axe. Manchester museum - right shape, but wrong type of stone (gritstone not flint)
Found small caves/tunnels in the peat (Edale Cross and Brown Knoll area).
Hasn't seen these features since
Moved to Derbyshire when got married

36. Herbert Beardsell – Working for the water companies

Working as a reservoir keeper for Yorkshire Water on reservoirs around Holme
Landslips
Checking for leaks
Reading rain gauges – colleague got lost
Went in twos after accident
Inspecting for pollution
Moors were more closed
Grazing on the moors
Moorland regeneration
Other duties of a reservoir keeper – walls to keep people out
Walking the perimeter
Bypassing a reservoir if pollution occurred
Swimming in the streams
Teenagers tombstoning and playing in the overflow of reservoirs
Mowing bracken or adding lime to control it

Co-Operative societies
Wildlife around the moors – hares and deer
Studies of peat depths
Catch pits and grips
The working day on the moors
Pumping water between reservoirs
Fish in the reservoirs
Safety issues concerning the reservoirs and dams
Inspecting the pipes – changes that technology has brought
Peat blowing off the moors
Water is full of peat – “Langsett tea”
Clearing silt traps
General discussion with other people present
Boundary marker (for old Cheshire boundary) – taken down from moors
Old “characters”

37. Ian Davidson – Sheffield – climbing memories

Born 1950

Walking, climbing, ice climbing, skiing, potholing, canoeing.
Started about 14 or 15 years old
Went to school in north Manchester – walking / climbing group.
Volunteer work in Salford, taking kids out at weekends
Walking and climbing in late teens
Sleeping in caves on the edges
Often hitch-hiked from one place to another
Volunteered at Birchfield Lodge (outdoor centre) in Hope – taught navigation and walking skills to children from Salford
Moved to Sheffield - access to Peak District
Changes in climbing (e.g. equipment)
Made some of his own early equipment
Climbing now safer - increased standards & more popular
Division between University climbers and working class climbers
Never used to train for climbing
Using new climbing equipment and getting stuck
Ice climbing on Kinder Downfall

38. Gwyn Fields – Sheffield – skiing on the moors

Born in 1955

Has skied on peak district moors, but not in recent years
Cross-country skiing above Woodhead Pass. Occasionally has seen other people on skis, but not common
Ice-climbing up face of Mam Tor (1980s) this

39. Gerald Eastwood – Working for the water companies

Started working for the water authority in 1958
Nature of the work and the working day
Checking rain gauges seven days a week
Keeping people off the gathering grounds

Developed interest in the bird life of the moors
Fishing rights and the fishing club
Used to walk for miles
Reduction in bird numbers
More birding stories – peregrines, owls, ospreys and buzzards
Types of fish found in the reservoir
Fly fishing and poaching
Sightings of kingfishers
Issue of public access to the reservoirs edges
Other activities around the reservoirs – quarrying, biking and quad biking
Motorbike accident
Building of Holme Moss transmitter
Fires on the moors
Isle of Skye pub
More fishing stories

40. John Ownsworth – Military uses of the moors

Military use of the moors
Shooting range built at Midhope in 1941
Shells on the ground at Low Moor
Remains of camps on the moors
Anti-aircraft guns at Langsett
Catenary defences for the reservoirs
Examples of bombs dropped on the moors
Tanks units stationed on the moors
Nissan huts and NAAFI buildings
Fires caused by the shooting
American soldiers stationed on the moors as well
Wartime information was censored
Plane crashes on the moors
Farm commandeered by the army
Guards and security to stop people going on the moors
Artillery range at Bradfield
More memories referring to photos and articles

41. Nick Smith – Moorland Centre, Edale – Search and Rescue Dog Association

Born in 1961
Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) - training organisation for mountain rescue personnel to work with search dogs in the mountains
Buxton MR team - involved with SARDA through this.
Volunteered as a 'dogsbody' i.e. person who waits on moors to be found when dogs being trained
SARDA training
How a search dog works and finds a human scent
Qualities of a good search dog
Increasing urban searches (e.g. missing children, Alzheimer's sufferers)
A trained dog equals 20 humans of area coverage

9 search dog teams cover the Peak District...works as a team operation alongside Mountain Rescue team
Search and rescue in bad conditions on Kinder
Dog and handler are re-assessed
24/7 call-out system
Mountain Rescue is a charity funded by donations and all volunteers
Rely on farmers and landowners allowing them access to land for training
Also rely on volunteers who act as 'dogsbodies'

42. Ian Hurst – Doveholes – Mountain Rescue

Born in 1943
President of Buxton Mountain Rescue Team
Warden Service (late 1950s / early 1960s).
Volunteering at Edale
George Garlick was Head Warden
Wardens got involved in 'rescuing' people; Mountain Rescue 'evolved' from this
People mainly travelled by train so focal points were Edale and Hayfield
First incident he was involved with (1964) - 'Four Inns Walk'
Prior to this - no regional teams or co-ordination between teams
1965 – meetings in Buxton with all Peak District rescue teams (+ police). Led to setting up of regional organisation (comprising 7 teams)
Training exercises and range of knowledge needed
Types of incident – 2 types: searches and 'known location'
All members are first aid trained (>60% are trained in Casualty Care)
More professional and better equipment –stretcher design
Personal equipment
Radios now much better - used to rely on runners
Difficulties with communication and using Farey pistol
Radios now provided by Police –direct comms with other emergency services
Emergency vehicles – drivers have Police driving training
Water rescues – assisting searches along river banks and canals etc
Also trained in basic helicopter awareness
Moorlands are better managed now
National Trust / National Park work on 'slabbing' footpaths
More work to protect and revegetate moorland areas
Gully blocking – potential danger to users once gully has filled with peaty water
Will rescue livestock and dogs – rely on goodwill of farmers to allow access to land for training
Early access issues (1920s onwards)
Incident in 1925 on Kinder.
Early search and rescue relied on local police officers and farmers etc

43. Linda Cawley – Sheffield – Woodcraft, rambling and singing

Born in 1953; lived in Sheffield
Involvement with moors through the Woodcraft Folk –14yrs old.
Lockerbrook Farm - DofE Award

Basil Rawson –Woodcraft Folk leader - also a leader on the DofE
Compass and map work
Walking the moors and hills
Bus to Ladybower -walking to Lockerbrook in the dark
Big walk on Saturdays, singing in the evening, then another walk on Sundays
Caught last bus on Sundays from Fairholmes (4pm).
Singing on bus

Learnt to play guitar so played at Woodcraft Folk meetings: **sings and plays**
“The Manchester Hiker”

Mentions ‘peat bog jumping’ on Kinder
Taught about the history of the Kinder Trespasses etc by Basil, Bill
Emmingham and Terry Howard
Getting lost on Kinder when quite young – Mountain Rescue called out
Political / social influence of Woodcraft Folk

Sings “The Banks Are Made of Marble”

Visits to the countryside with parents and grandparents
Social education, healthy exercise, discovering wildlife etc

Sings: “This Land is Your Land” by Woody Guthrie

Connection between walking and singing – talks about singing on the bus
coming back to Sheffield

Sings: **“Out Into The World We Wander”**

Strong tradition in Woodcraft Folk of sharing songs
Talks about how popular climbing is now amongst young people
Supports groups that introduce youngsters to the outdoors
Finishes with the **“Campfire Carol”**

44. Riona Shergold – Sheffield – a young person’s experiences on the moors

Born in 1999. Has been involved through walking, camping on moors.
Was carried as a baby up Grindsbrook
When 4 or 5yrs old walking it again and moaned a lot!
Member of Woodcraft Folk – walking and other activities on the moors
Climbing on the Roaches
Has ‘bivvied’ on the moors...camping without a tent.
Wildlife Trust – every month went to Blackamoor to check the Highland cattle,
gates etc were ok.
Once it was deep snow and couldn’t find the cows so had to call farmer. Then
found them
Cattle on moor for grazing and stops it growing too much
Has helped SARDA – acted as a ‘dogsbody’ to help train the dogs.

45. Ken Drabble – Moorland Centre, Edale – Early days of the Peak Park

Born 1934 in New Mills
Long involvement with the National Park
Could see Kinder Scout from his bedroom
Royal Marines - National Service; then asked if he would help Mountain
Rescue at New Mills (about 1960)
Practised on Kinder; saw advert in local paper for part-time.

Talks about early years in Warden Service
Became one of first 6 part-time NP Wardens; Tom Tomlinson was Head Warden; George Garlick was Deputy Head Warden
Became first Warden/Ranger in Longdendale then moved to Fieldhead to replace George Garlick
Eventually became Chief Ranger
Talks about how the role changed
Early on National Park negotiated a number of access agreements with landowners; this then necessitated providing a Warden Service, later to become Rangers to make sure people behaved and abided by the agreements
Easter camping in Edale Valley - tented village.

Changes to moorland environment. Early moves to protect and regenerate – many areas had been overgrazed
Paving of footpaths (e.g. Pennine Way)
Tackling moorland fires
Dykes – not firebreaks but to allow shooters to move around without being seen by the grouse
Early role of the Warden -guiding people to where they were allowed to walk.
'Right to Roam'
Meeting Lord Sandford (Sandford Report) in early 1970s
Early days of the Joint Planning Board
Hard winters (e.g. 1947)
Allotments - so more self sufficient
Weather patterns on the moors

The infamous Four Inns Walk tragedy
The creation of the Pennine Way by Tom Stevenson
Modern Rangers