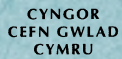


'Countryside Recreation' is provided free by the following organisations to promote good practice:



Contents

Editorial1

Climate Change in the UK

Andy Kerr, University of Edinburgh2

Hypermobility: too much of a good thing

John Adams, University of London.5

The Relationship between Hunting and Country Life

Andrew Norton, Cardiff University8

Windermere

Ian Brodie, Friends of the Lake District12

News14

Training and Events Diary20



Countryside Recreation Network

CRN is a network which:

- is UK wide
- gives easy access to information on countryside and related recreation matters
- reaches organisations and individuals in the public, private and voluntary sectors networks thousands of interested people

The Network helps the work of agencies and individuals in three areas:

Research:

to encourage co-operation between members in identifying and promoting the need for research related to countryside recreation, to encourage joint ventures in undertaking research, and to disseminate information about members' recreation programmes.

Liaison:

to promote information exchange relating to countryside recreation, and to foster general debate about relevant trends and issues.

Good Practice:

to spread information to develop best practice through training and professional development in provision for and management of countryside recreation.

Chair: John Thomson, Scottish Natural Heritage

Vice-chair: Eileen McKeever, Environment Agency

Countryside Recreation is free and is published four times a year. We welcome articles and letters from all readers. The copy date for the next issue is **28th April 2000**.

Visit CRN on the Internet!

See our home page on <http://sosig.ac.uk/crn/>

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Editorial

The start of any New Year is a time for looking to the future, and as we stand at the start of a new century and new millennium this is doubly true. This month's issue includes some thought provoking articles around this theme of "Futures".

As Andy Kerr highlights in his article, global warming is now generally accepted as happening and the focus of research is switching to predicting the likely implications of climate change and the necessary policy responses. Climate change could lead to profound changes in leisure patterns: will the English Riviera enjoy a climate akin to the Spanish original?

Linked to the climate change debate is the whole issue of transport trends and our reliance on the private motor car. The article by John Adams reports on his work into the social implications of hypermobility for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In it he outlines his vision of a hypermobile society that is driven by technological advances. Are we heading towards virtual leisure?

In his article on the relationship between hunting and country life, Andrew Norton argues for a more responsible representation of hunting practices that is less socially divisive. It is to be hoped that the Commission of Inquiry into Hunting with Dogs in England and Wales, established by the Home Secretary in November 1999, will be able to deliver this new vision.

After over 100 years of lobbying by the Ramblers Association and other bodies the Government has published the Countryside and Rights of Way Bill which will deliver its manifesto commitment to improve access opportunities to open countryside. The Bill contains provision for increasing public access through new right of access and improved public rights of way, and to provide better protection to SSSIs and wildlife through tougher penalties for wildlife criminals. The Bill does not contain any provision for amendments to the status of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The Countryside Agency and Countryside Council for Wales, amongst others, have argued for local authorities to be given a statutory duty to manage AONBs and for new management structures.

As Ian Brodie suggests, in his article on Windermere, the Government's decision to uphold the need for a speed limit on the Lake could prove to be a landmark decision in clarifying the role of National Parks and the debate about quiet enjoyment.

CRN is currently organising a conference in the Peak District in April, "Managing the Challenge of Access", and a workshop "Breaking New Ground in Sustainable Tourism" to be held in York in June. Contact Emma Barratt at CRN for bookings and further information. We are currently inviting articles for the next journal with the theme of Access. Copy deadline is **28th April**.

Dr Kevin Bishop