

Q1 What is your Partnership role?

I am chairman of the Officers Working Group.

Q2 How long have you worked for South Staffordshire Council and how long have you been involved in the AONB Partnership?

Around ten years. I joined the Council in 2000 and immediately became involved in the AONB Partnership as the Council's representative on the Officers Working Group.

Q3 Which part of the AONB do you look after?

I don't actually look after any of it in the sense of managing the landscape. That falls to one of my management colleagues. In answering the question, Shoal Hill Common is the part of the AONB in South Staffordshire.

Q4 What is the best part the job?

I am a 'glass half full' type so it's all good! Being more specific though, I would have to say meeting other officers, Members and the representatives of the numerous groups that so keenly get involved in the AONB. Witnessing their enthusiasm and commitment is quite inspirational. Oh, and working with the AONB Unit gals!

Q5 What is the worst part of the job?

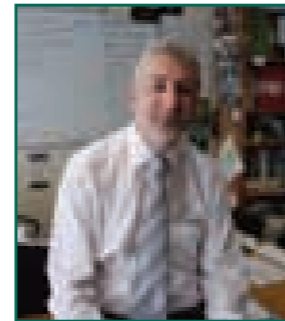
Needing to be in the office on a hot summer day when I could be out and about experiencing the magic of the AONB instead.

Q6 Favourite place - work

In the spring, summer and autumn - being out and about (when I get the opportunity) around South Staffordshire and in the wider AONB. In the winter - being in a nice warm office.

Focus on ...

Hayden Baugh-Jones
*Landscape Planning Manager
South Staffordshire Council*



Q7 Favourite place – real life

Difficult one, this. I have to go for three. I love the Scilly Isles. They're far enough away from the mainland to make you feel that you are stepping back into a more genteel age. They are also an AONB. I'm a real ale buff so would have to say one of my favourite places is the pub but I don't want to give the wrong impression! I have to say though, that my absolute favourite place is sat astride my motorcycle and then it matters not a jot where I am geographically.

Q8 What makes you important to the AONB?

I am a small spoke in a big wheel so don't consider myself as particularly 'important'. I like to think that I do a good job as chairman of the Officers Working Group but this is for others to decide really.

Q9 What one thing would you change about the AONB if your fairy godmother appeared?

I would like to see more resources - both money and AONB staff. It would be so much easier and just think of all the extra stuff that could be done.

Q10 If you were Prime Minister for the day, what law would you pass?

Come on! Free ale for anyone with the name Hayden Baugh-Jones!

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Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is supported by: Natural England, Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Council, Stafford Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Council, AONB Parish and Town Councils, British Horse Society, Cemex UK Operations Ltd, Country Land and Business Association, Defra, Forestry Commission, Friends of Cannock Chase, Hanson Aggregates, National Farmers Union, Ramblers, Staffordshire Children's Trust, Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Swinnerton Cycles Forest Centre Ltd, Walton Chasers, West Midland Bird Club.

Should you or someone you know require it, this newsletter can also be produced on request, in large print. Please telephone: 01889 882613 or fax 01889 883912.



AONB NEWS

Spring 2010

Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

New Faces at the Joint Committee

The September 2009 meeting of Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee saw a number of changes. Cllr Neil Roberts, who had been Chairman since 2005, stood down and handed the reigns over to Cllr Tony Williams. Cllr Williams, who represents Cannock Chase Council on the Joint Committee was elected unanimously after serving as Vice Chairman. His place has been taken by Cllr Doug Davis for his second stint as Vice Chairman.

Cllr Roberts isn't leaving the AONB scene altogether, he will remain on the Board of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where he holds the Rural Economy portfolio.

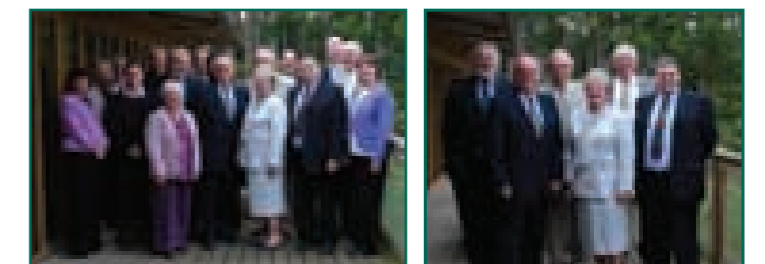


*The full list of Joint Committee members is:
Cllr Tony Williams, Joint Committee Chairman, Cannock Chase Council
Cllr Doug Davis, Joint Committee Vice Chairman, Stafford Borough Council
Cllr Val Richards, Lichfield District Council
Cllr David Billson, South Staffordshire Council
Cllr Mike Maryon, Staffordshire County Council*

Cllr Roberts was thanked for steering the Partnership through some challenging times and he was presented with farewell gifts as a token of appreciation.

Officers Working Group

November saw changes here too. We said goodbye to Geoff Unwin from Stafford Borough Council (SBC), who had been Chairman of the Officers Working Group since 2007. Naomi Perry now represents SBC on this group. Our new Chairman is Hayden Baugh-Jones (see 'focus on' section on page 4) with Antony Lancaster from Cannock Chase Council taking on the role of Vice Chairman.



Cass



Chase the Seasons

CASS Young Carers have had a wonderful time exploring the Chase AONB and how it changes from autumn to winter and on to spring. They have been out on the AONB, on a high wire assault course through the tree canopy; on a Winter Warmer evening at Beaudesert, to roast marshmallows and drink hot chocolate after a brisk and chilly walk; and on a Spring Picnic at Shugborough Park. All this as well as a whole host of fun workshops exploring the 'Chase the Seasons' theme. We have all had an amazing time and have learned so much about our Cannock Chase AONB and how to look after it through the seasons!



Cannock Chase AONB Awareness Days

In September 2009 a group of 20 people spent the day willow weaving in the AONB at Shugborough with Riverwoods. The group created baskets, trugs and besom brooms with willow they had planted the previous year. After all their hard work they all went for a walk for lunch then back in the afternoon to make some more willow creations.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the litter picks and helped us to tidy up the AONB. The first one was in October at Rifle Range Corner and was a huge success with bags of litter collected.

The second one in February was more of a litter hunt in the snow rather than a pick! However, our hardy volunteers who braved the cold still managed to find some litter.

On the next awareness day in March local community members are taking a canal trip from Great Haywood. On board will be a local ecologist who will be talking about the wetland ecology as everyone enjoys the ride.

Thanks to all for their continuing support of these events.

Annual Conference October 2009

The 6th annual conference took place at The Barns, Huntington attended by around 70 people. The theme this year was Access and Recreation and included presentations from Nick Young and Chris Hogarth of Natural England and Sue Prince (Destination Management Partnership).

The sessions were started with a balloon debate involving 6 characters representing interest groups who use Cannock Chase:



Bird watcher	Steve Welch
Cyclist	Justine Lloyd
Family person	Glynis Ward
Horse rider	Lesley Simmons
Dog walker	Steve Jenkinson
Orienteer	Jane Christopher

The bird watcher won the day. It highlighted once again that many differing opinions often lead to the same conclusion – we all love the Chase however we enjoy it!

Short presentations and workshops examined healthy living, tourism and peace and tranquillity.



We concluded with Steve Jenkinson outlining the Dog Project he has been working on with us addressing the issue of dogs, their owners and behaviours and workable management solutions for all.

Thanks go to all participants for making the day enjoyable and informative.

Stop press – note for your diary - the next conference is on 26th May 2010. The format will be a study tour of the Peak District National Park. Please express your interest in attending early, as places may be limited.

Sustainable Development Fund

This year thanks to Natural England £55,000 of grant funding has been allocated by the AONB to support projects which bring benefits to people, the environment and the economy. The aim of the fund is to support projects which show a positive benefit for Cannock Chase and demonstrate a strong level of support for the environment and social and economic needs of the community.

11 projects have been funded this year these include a toposcope and audio trail at Beaudesert Scout and Guide Camp, compost toilets at Beaudesert Park Farm, a mammal survey by the Mammal Group, 11 new benches as part of the Special Area of Conservation mitigation and phase 1 of the Sculpture Trail at Shugborough.

Here are just a few words from the project leaders:

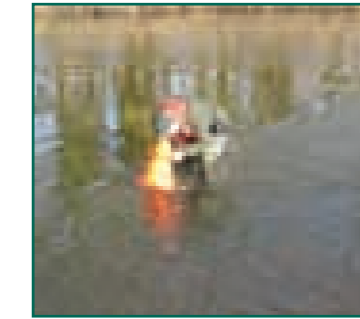
“Beaudesert Park Farm is delighted to have composting toilets on site for visiting schools and groups for the 2010 season and beyond - thanks to the AONB Sustainable Development Fund. Having welcomed schools, groups and organisations onto the farm for a number of years without our own facilities, the toilets and classroom facility that have just been completed will make the farm accessible to many more visitors. The toilets are part of a project that will educate young and old alike about farming, food production and sustainable development. They are a truly sustainable way of dealing with our own waste and actually turn this into a useful product – sure to be a real hit with children who appear to have a natural fascination for such matters!”

What's on...

Bluebell Walk at Beaudesert (Booking essential)
Monday 17th May 2010 - 10am

Study Tour of the Peak District National Park
(Booking essential, fee payable to cover transport costs) Wednesday 26th May 2010

Litter Pick at Shugborough
Thursday 16th September 2010 - 9.30am



Nick Mott – Staffordshire Invertebrate Group

“Down but not Out! AONB Depressed River Mussel Survey under way with The Environment Agency,

British Waterways and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

Freshwater mussels are ‘keystone’ species in our watercourses. It has been estimated that a single mussel can filter 40 litres of water a day and that the entire volume of a lowland river can pass through a population of mussels in just one week during the summer. They therefore have a crucial role to play in helping to maintain good water quality which, in turn, benefits other animals such fish, kingfishers and otters.”

For 2011/2012 there is still SDF funding available. If you think that your project could benefit and it fits in with our criteria, further details on the SDF and how to apply can be obtained from the AONB Unit on 01889 882613 or email emma.beaman@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Look to the landscape

Thanks to the Sustainable Development Fund Riverwoods has been able to successfully promote the benefits of using locally sourced wood. Working with local schools, volunteer groups and holding public events, the not for profit group have created a log directory, produced charcoal, promoted the use of beanpoles and pea sticks and installed seating areas and fencing in 2 local schools.



Charcoal making on Cannock Chase