



The Exploits of Ethel

The Players

Whitworks Adventures in Theatre
Newfield School Sheffield



**The Council for the Protection of Rural
England (CPRE)**

The British Agricultural History Society



The 2024 centenary

Ethel Haythornthwaite: who was she and why should we celebrate her?

“It is important because Ethel shows even if you don’t have the most power in your society, you can still make a change.”

Year 9 Newfield School, Sheffield



Project beginnings

As all great partnerships begin, we started by finding our common ground, where each of our strategic aims connected.

- Working with young people
- Promoting travel to the Peak District by train
- Bringing heritage to life through drama
- Celebrating the pioneering founder of countryside protection, Ethel Haythornthwaite



Funding applications

- We worked with Gertie and Paul at WAT and Cassa at CPRE to focus ideas attractive funding opportunities.

Each of us made separate applications to:

- CPRE
- EMR
- Church Burgesses
- British Historical Agricultural Society
- As a CRP we also allocated some of our budget to the project.

Phase 1

- Archives and research
- Workshops with students
- We gave clear priorities for our funding requirements.
- Excitement building as research uncovers themes.
- Script development



RAMBLERS, CLIMBERS, CYCLISTS AND
HOSTELLERS—Hear About

NATIONAL PARKS

at the
MASS RALLY
to be held in
**Cave Dale, Castleton, on
Sunday, June 24th, 1951**
at 2-45 p.m.

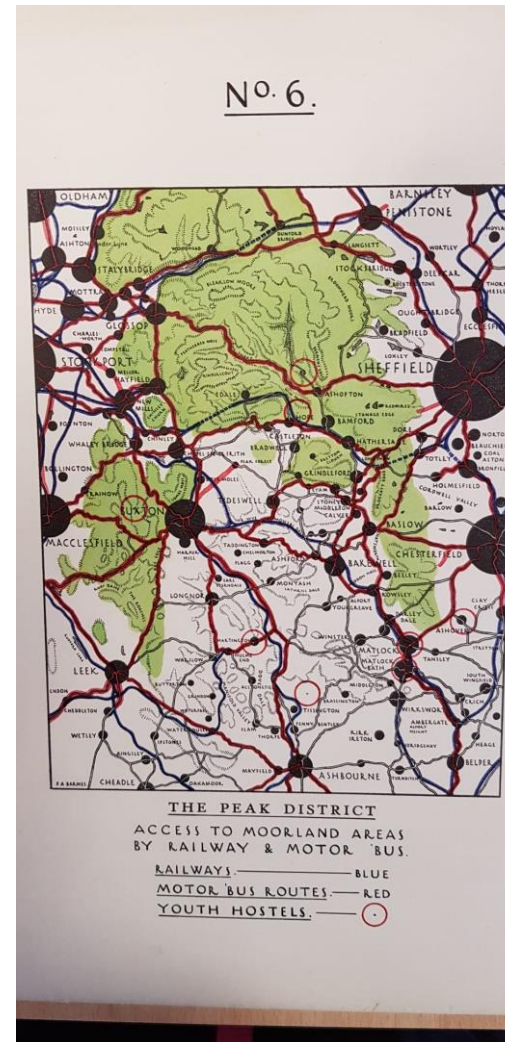
CHAIRMAN
Mr. Hervey Rhodes, D.F.C., M.P.
President of the Ramblers' Association (Manchester Area)

SPEAKER
Mrs. G. Haythornthwaite,
O B E
Hon. Secretary—Sheffield Branch of the C. P. R. E.

Special Trains will be run to **EDALE** and
HOPE at Cheap Fares.
See Station Handbills

Arranged by the Ramblers' Association
Manchester and Sheffield Areas

Richards, Printer, Ashton



Examples of the archives discovered

- 1933 Barnes Survey on access to moorland by rail and motor bus.
- A Mass Rally was held in 1951, the year the Peak District National Park was established, as the first National Park in the UK.

Phase 2

- **Casting and Rehearsals**
- **Marketing – CPRE and our CRP**
- **Performance Venues** were booked by Gertie
- The **Invitation list** was a joint task. We forwarded invitations to our contacts.



Pre-performance

- Train Travel permission

- Hoodies



Performances

- Edale Village Hall
- Newfield School
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Invited audience: families, funders, councillors, CPRE, Friends of Edale station



feedback

My favourite performance was at Edale because you could see the hills and countryside Ethel had worked to save. (Student)

I have gained friendships and knowledge of our city's history. It has changed my view of our city. I feel my voice is important as I am a young person in our city. Thanks for this unforgettable experience.(student)

It has been great to learn about some of the history of the Hope Valley line and the encounters faced by Ethel.
(Audience)

It is important because Ethel shows even if you don't have the most power in your society, you can still make a change.
(Student)

**AMAZING
POWERFUL
WOMEN!** In the story and in the cast. Learnt loads I didn't know before, thank you.
(audience)

Exciting because Ethel is not well known, and this can share her story. Engaging because her story is so incredible. Relevant because environmentalism and feminism are important today too. (Student)

Learning for us to share

- Rail travel permission- get clarity well in advance on what will be supported and what won't be.
- Difficulties of paying via Derbyshire County Council. Think carefully about how payment will work within the systems you have to work with.
- Keep an open mind to allow artists/creatives to flourish but make sure your objectives are clear and understood so that parameters are in place.

