

HIGH PEAK Stand Up to Racism

Spring Newsletter 2022

High Peak Stand Up to Racism was launched in Glossop in 2019 and has been very active since Black Lives Matter sprang into prominence in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

This was our first protest on Glossop High Street and over 100 people turned up! After wonderful publicity in the Chronicle more than 200 people joined us for the second week. We held many 'Take the Knee' events in Glossop, and also some in New Mills, and Buxton. This was a summer evening protest in High Lea Park, New Mills.



We have held discussions on Antisemitism Awareness, led by Jewish Voice for Labour, on Racism in the UK and on Myths about Islam. We organised a joint

public meeting on Zoom with High Peak Green New Deal on Climate Justice and Racial Justice which included a teenage climate activist from Nigeria.



In the wake of the racist abuse against black footballers during the World Cup we came out onto the streets again. We have a Home Secretary who actively condoned the booing of players who 'took the knee' before matches and a Prime Minister who failed to condemn it. And this same Home Secretary is being severely criticised by the United Nations for her cruel plans to set up offshore centres for asylum seekers and to institute criminal charges against people arriving in the UK without permission. It is no wonder that we see racism in society when we have such an example coming from the highest levels of Government.



High Peak Welcomes Diversity

In summer 2020 a group of campaigners from across Derbyshire climbed Lantern Pike from Hayfield with the message 'Diversity is Beautiful' in response to a 'White Lives Matter' banner being flown on Mam Tor.



We had been impressed by the support for our Black Lives Matter protests in Glossop but also sad to see a certain amount of negativity on social media.



The idea of running a 'High Peak Welcomes Diversity' campaign was born and in spring 2021 we received, through High Peak Council for Voluntary Support, a grant from Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Vulnerability Fund.

Supported by High Peak Borough Council, we launched the campaign in early June with a video featuring award winning actor Julie Hesmondhalgh



Dozens of shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants in Glossop, Hadfield, Hayfield, New Mills and

Chapel-en-le-Frith have now put a sticker in their window and a statement inside to say that they support diversity and inclusion in the High Peak. You will also find the sticker in all Council venues and Peak District National Park premises.

We hope that this campaign will help to make people of colour feel more welcome in our community, and will encourage local residents to think about the importance of embracing diversity and inclusion.

Lev, the Manager of 'Billy's Plaiçe' in Hadfield is an enthusiastic supporter of the campaign.

"My fiancé and I love this community and feel very fortunate to be living and working in the High Peak



area. Anything we can do to help and support your campaign is a privilege. I'm a great believer in diversity and equality. Everyone is equal."

And Mel O'Brian, the owner of Bay Tree Books, in Glossop is also a keen supporter. "Diversity is vital" she says.



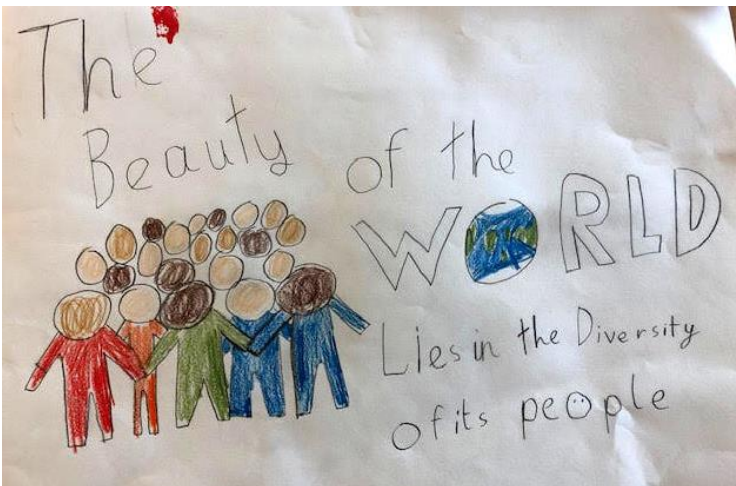
We have had beautiful banners made for us by Pat Gray and Meera Senior



When racist graffiti appeared in Hayfield, our members and other local residents came together in an immediate response, printing a selection of posters rejecting racism which appeared in shops and house windows all over the village.

Hayfield members have also taken our banners up Kinder Scout and welcomed Muslim Hikers into the village.

If you would like a sticker for your shop, or for the window of your car or home, please get in touch with us. You can also pick one up at George Street Community Bookshop or Glossop Labour Club.



When we appealed for children to produce posters about Diversity we had some lovely pictures submitted by Year 6 pupils at Chapel-en-le-Frith C of E VC Primary School.



We have held a number of street stalls where we have the chance to speak to shoppers. This stall was part of New Mills One World Festival last year which took place on the High Street and we found a very positive response to our campaigns, with many people wanting to sign a petition to Home Secretary Priti Patel. The stall at Hayfield Apple Day was a great success, particularly with children who came to do some artwork and have a henna tattoo.





We have come together with other local campaign groups to oppose the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which will make many demonstrations illegal and the Nationality and Borders Bill which seeks to make refugees and asylum seekers 'illegal' if they travel by unauthorised routes.



We have held many vigils and protests calling for Safe Passage for Refugees.

On UN Anti-Racism Day in March this year our main focus was on the need to welcome Ukrainian refugees and also refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen and other countries where people are fleeing war or oppression.

The fight against racism goes on

By David Jones

Glossopdale's fight against racism is showing no signs of going away.

Almost 200 people turned out on Wednesday evening to line High Street as part of the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement.

Most were wearing face masks to combat the coronavirus pandemic and all were observing the two metres social distancing rule.

The increase in the number of young people making a peaceful but powerful protest last week was clearly evident. Carrying placards denouncing racism they joined demonstrators of all ages - but of one single purpose.

At five they all went down on one knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds - the length of time a policeman in Minneapolis knelt on George Floyd's neck before he died.

"There was overwhelming demand from those attending to do this again next week," said Linda Walker, one of the organisers from High Peak Stand Up to Racism.

"People need an opportunity to show their solidarity and their desire for real change."

"There is growing movement to 'Build Back Better' as we recover after the pandemic and an end to racial injustice will be a vital part of that change."

Linda said the silent vigil was also for all those affected by racism in this country. She added that many people would have seen the BBC docu-drama about the Windrush scandal and been horrified by the persecution of innocent people of Caribbean heritage who had spent almost their whole life in this country.



We are very grateful for the wonderful coverage we have had from the Glossop Chronicle

To find out more about Stand Up to Racism or the High Peak Welcomes Diversity Campaign you can email highpeakstanduptoracism@gmail.com or look for the group on [Facebook](#) or go to standuptoracism-derbyshire.org.uk

