

THE PEAK DISTRICT & NORTHERN
COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY.



REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1925.



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CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

1. The Society shall be called "The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society."

2. The objects of the Society shall be :—

- (a) The preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the public highways, footpaths, bridlepaths, bye-ways, and other ways, vacant spaces, waste lands, and roadside slips, and to right of recreation over commons in the Northern and Midland counties, particularly in the Peak District.
- (b) The prevention of the abuse of such rights, especially trespass and damage to crops and property, and disturbance of game by trespassers.
- (c) The support by influence, petition or otherwise of Bills in Parliament promoting the aforesaid objects, or any of them, or others of a like or kindred nature.
- (d) The purchase, or promoting the purchase of rights of way and rights over open spaces to be dedicated to the use of the public for ever.
- (e) And all objects conducive to the foregoing, including the combination, or co-operation with other societies or persons in the promotion or furtherance of the aforesaid objects, or any of them.

3. An annual subscription of 2s. 6d. or upwards, payable in advance on the first day of October in each year, shall constitute membership.

4. The business of the Society not transacted in general meeting shall be in the hands of a managing committee, elected annually, and consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Solicitor, Honorary Secretary, and not less than Twelve other Members of the Society, with power to add to their number.

5. An annual general meeting of the members of the Society shall be held in the month of October in every year, and shall receive, consider, and, if approved of, adopt the report of the Managing Committee for the past year, and transact any other business that may arise.

6. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held without delay whenever occasion shall arise, upon the requisition of five members specifying the reason for the meeting and communicated to the Honorary Secretary. Such meeting

shall also be held before the institution or defence of any legal proceedings, the costs of which the ordinary revenue of the Society shall be insufficient to defray, and a favourable vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at such meeting, shall, subject to the necessary funds being duly subscribed or guaranteed, be sufficient sanction for the institution or defence of such proceedings, provided that no liability in respect thereof shall attach to any member beyond the amount of such member's individual subscription to the Society, or the amount of such member's guarantee towards the funds necessary to conduct such proceedings.

7. The Managing Committee shall by themselves or by Sub-Committees appointed from their number :—

- (1) Induce—or, if necessary, compel—as far as possible, all Local, Public, or Urban authorities and District Councils to perform their duties as conservators of the said public rights.
- (2) Institute, or defend, assist others in instituting or defending, continue, compromise, abandon, or prosecute to judgment, at their discretion, and generally give instructions for all the legal proceedings sanctioned by general meeting as aforesaid.
- (3) Keep a map, or series of maps, wherein the situation of all footpaths and other public ways shall so far as possible be indicated and recorded, and visit, inspect, survey, and report on the same from time to time, and receive, consider, and investigate complaints of violation of any of the said rights, or of the abuse thereof.

8. All Sub-Committees shall, from time to time, report to the Managing Committee.

9. The Society shall subscribe and be affiliated to such national Society or Societies constituted for like objects, as may from time to time be determined in general meeting.

10. All General Meetings, whether Annual or Extraordinary, shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary's written notice, posted or delivered to members at their usual or last known addresses, at least three days before the day of meeting, and indicating the business for which the meeting is to be convened. Ten members shall form a quorum.

11. These rules may be rescinded, supplemented, or altered by resolution passed in General Meeting, but not otherwise, and then only after a week's notice in writing of the proposed alteration.

REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1925.

IN presenting the Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925, the Council again draws attention to the marked increase in the work of the Society in the protection of public rights of way and in resisting encroachments. Many of the cases investigated have entailed prolonged enquiries, and subsequent negotiations or discussions with local authorities. The Society can therefore justly urge its claims for an enlarged membership and substantial financial support.

Among the matters which have occupied the attention of the Council and its officers, have been the following :—

Footpaths Around Haddon Hall.

The outcome of the litigation concerning these rights of way about Haddon Hall, was reported at the last Annual Meeting. The new footbridge across the River Wye, agreed to on the settlement, has been constructed by the joint Bakewell Councils. This bridge affords access to several walks or diversions in the vicinity of the Hall, which had been closed to the public for some years.

The question of the public rights in the following footpaths in the neighbourhood still remain to be settled :—

- (1) Rowsley to Stanton Lees via Stanton Woodhouse.
- (2) Alport to Conksbury.
- (3) Alport to Bradford.

It is understood that the committee appointed by the Bakewell Councils is in communication with the solicitors to the Duke of Rutland in reference to them.

Doctor's Gate.

Since the issue of the Society's last Annual Report the portion of the late Lord Howard's estate traversed by this ancient track has changed hands twice. After the first sale, the purchaser was notified by letter, written on the advice of counsel, that the Society could no longer ask the public to refrain from the exercise of the right to use the track at all seasons of the year. No reply was received to the letter conveying this intimation.

In consequence of the second sale, the Council has entered into communication with the new owner with a view to

ascertaining his attitude in regard to the public rights over this ancient way.

Members need hardly be assured that the Council will use every effort to maintain those rights without restriction, and it has asked the co-operation of the Rural District Councils for Glossop Dale, Charlesworth and Chapel-en-le-Frith in so doing.

It may be mentioned that on the occasion of the last sale the Shelf and Cold Harbour Moors (about 1,900 acres) including of course Doctor's Gate, were offered to the Society at, roughly, £7,000. Mr. Chubb (the secretary of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society) got into touch with the solicitors to the owner, and asked whether they could grant an option to the Society so that, if thought advisable, a public appeal could be made for contributions towards the cost of purchase. The grant of an option was declined, and time was too short before the date fixed for the sale to permit of the Council doing anything further in the matter. However, in any case, your Council held the view that the price asked was exorbitant. This would clearly seem to have been so, for it is understood that the price realised by the second sale was only about half the amount at which it was offered to the Society.

The Winnats.

It will doubtless be recollected that amongst the proposals of the Manchester and District Joint Town Planning Scheme there is one for the construction of a modern road through the Winnats Pass. This project has greatly alarmed all lovers of natural scenery. The Council was advised that a road of the type proposed—that is, one suitable for motor traffic—could not be constituted without destroying much of the characteristic beauty of the gorge. Consequently, a resolution was passed, now more than a year ago, urging that the ancient roadway through the Winnats and the Pass itself, should be scheduled as a place of natural beauty and interest for preservation in its present character. Copies of the resolution were forwarded to the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council, Derbyshire County Council, the Ministry of Transport and the Manchester and District Joint Town Planning Advisory Committee.

It would seem that the authorities concerned contend that no material damage to the beauty of the Pass would accrue by the construction of the proposed motor road. With this view the Council emphatically disagrees, and at the same time

has good grounds for its opinion that the improvement of the existing road can be effected by an alternative diversion which would leave the Winnats untouched. Representations have been made by the authorities concerned that they are prepared to consider an alternative scheme, if it can be shown to be practicable, but are not disposed to undertake the investigation survey necessary to determine the best line for the alternative diversion. Thus it means that the burden of the defence of the beauty of the Winnats Pass is left to voluntary effort.

The Sheffield Association for the Protection of Local Scenery is engaged in the preparation of an alternative scheme, and arranging for technical advisors to view the ground and report. The Council of this Society will give all the assistance which it can afford. It is hardly necessary to say that the Sheffield Association and our Society confidently appeal to the public for subscriptions to save from desecration this delightful bit of Derbyshire scenery.

Unfortunately, another new enterprise threatens the beauty and tranquillity of the dale, for quarrying has recently been commenced within it. In May last, complaints were received calling attention not only to the prospective damage to the scenery, but also to the danger to passers by, caused by the blasting operations and the tipping of refuse. A communication was addressed to the Chapel Rural District Council, asking that the necessary action should be taken to obviate the danger, and also again urging on that Council the advisability of the Winnats Pass being scheduled for preservation. The Rural District Council, however, replied that although they would do all they could to induce the Spar Company to take all proper precautions for the safety of the public, they did not consider the mining operations could, to any appreciable extent, affect the natural beauty of the locality, and were not at the present time prepared to take any steps to acquire the Winnats as an open space.

Encroachment on "The Cross," Eyam.

Eyam, ever of historic interest, on account of the terrible visitation of the Plague of 1665-66, would seem to be in danger of gaining further notoriety by reason of the encroachments taking place there.

In addition to the encroachment referred to in last year's Report, another encroachment has taken place on the roadside waste known as "The Cross." This waste piece of grass-covered land is situate in the middle of the village, immediately

opposite to Eyam Hall. It is called "The Cross," from the fact of there having been upon it in pre-Reformation days one of the roadside crosses then common. Upon the plot of land in question there are also the remains of the village stocks. It would appear that this space of ground, or village green, has been from time immemorial freely used by the public.

In the early part of 1924, the owner of Eyam Hall commenced the demolition of two old cottages which stood upon land close to the south-western edge of "The Cross." In the course of his operations, finding the foundation stones of an old building, which at some previous time stood upon the edge of the "Cross," the owner apparently came to the conclusion that because he had found the remains of a building there, he had the right to extend the iron fence of his land immediately bounded by "The Cross," to the extent of the line of the old building, and proceeded to advance his fencing accordingly, thus creating an unsightly projection into the pleasing piece of roadside waste, and taking in, approximately, one third of the area of "The Cross" green, and depriving the public of a footpath approach to a passage through adjacent buildings. So far as at present ascertained, it would seem that the Derbyshire County Council, in conjunction with the Parish Council, have given tacit consent to the encroachment, notwithstanding that certainly not for over 40 years had the owner of the demolished cottages claimed to be entitled to the portion of the land now taken in.

Your Council made a formal complaint to the Derbyshire County Council, as the responsible authority, and, although pressed to do so, the County Council would not consider (or, at any rate, reply to) the cases submitted in proof of the public right (through presumptive dedication) to the land in question.

Being firmly of opinion that the encroachment is illegal and should never have been allowed by the County Council, as there is ample evidence of user and dedication, the Council sought the views of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society on the case, the latter Society submitting it to its Standing counsel, Mr. Glen, M.A., LL.B. Mr. Glen's opinion, which has just been received, confirms that of your Council, and the Derbyshire County Council has been asked to reconsider its decision and call for the removal of the fence and the retrocession of the land enclosed.

Encroachment at Middlewood.

With regard to this encroachment, the Macclesfield Rural District Council, to whom the matter was reported, replied

that inasmuch as the useable width of the highway had not been narrowed, it was not clear or apparent in what way the rights of the public had been curtailed, and that a sub-committee of the Council, who viewed the spot, considered the alleged encroachment to be in the nature of an improvement of the highway. In answer, your Council pointed out that the enclosure of a piece of roadside waste was manifest, and, therefore, the consent of the Council to the encroachment would be wholly ineffectual as it could not legally be given, and, that if an improvement of the highway, as regards the safety of vehicular traffic, was concerned that improvement could be effected without depriving the public of the roadside waste ; that the effect of its proceedings would be to give to the adjoining owner a piece of roadside waste unless action be taken before he acquires an absolute right. In view of the Rural District Council's refusal to do anything further in the matter, the Poynton Parish Council was asked to make the necessary representation to the Cheshire County Council under Section 26 of the Local Government Act, 1894, to have the fencing put back to its former position.

Unfortunately, the County Council seems to adhere to the view that no encroachment has taken place, and, therefore, saw no reason to resolve that the powers and duties of the District Council in the matter be transferred to them. That the public has been deprived of a certain area of roadside waste there is no question. Indeed, the enclosure is not denied by the District Council. The roadside waste in question is clearly shown on land sale plans in the possession of the Society. The Council has addressed the County Council upon the matter.

Slippery Stones Footbridge.

It will be a matter of interest to many members to know that the footbridge across the River Derwent at Slippery Stones was completed in April last. The re-erection of this bridge was very necessary as the stones did not belie their name, and in wet weather could be very slippery, and might be the cause of an unwelcome immersion in the River. The cost of the footbridge, amounting to £25 11s. 8½d., was borne in equal shares by the Wortley Rural District Council, Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council and the Society. The dimensions of the new footbridge are 31 feet long by 2 ft. 6 ins. wide, and it has a single handrail.

To safeguard the new footbridge against the chance of being carried away by flood, the Chapel-en-le-Frith Council has made a suggestion that it should be raised another 2 feet above its present position, and also be secured by two strong chains. Concurring in this suggestion, your Council has promised to

contribute towards the additional cost the balance of the original guarantee of £10. Although no definite instruction has been received from the Worthy Council, it is understood that the footbridge has now been raised and strengthened as suggested.

Bridleway near Slippery Stones.

On learning that the very ancient Yorkshire—Derbyshire moorland crossing from Hazlehead and Penistone to Derwent, and the Woodlands, had been obstructed, so far as concerned its use as a bridle way, at a point west of the Howden reservoir, and south of Slippery Stones, by the erection of a wire netting fence across the bridle path (a stile had been provided at one side of the fencing for pedestrians) the Council communicated with the Derwent Valley Water Board, asking that the character of the bridle-way should not be interfered with. The Board replied, admitting the track to be a bridle-way and stating that the fence had only been erected temporarily to prevent sheep straying off the moors pending the arrival of new gates, which were required to replace the former ones which had decayed. When these arrive the fencing will be removed.

Footpath Over Sickleholme Golf Links, Outseats.

Consequent on the construction of additional links, the public footpath which runs from Thorpe Farm, Outseats, to Bamford, was apparently in danger of extinction, owing to the ploughing up of the path for some considerable distance. After a preliminary examination of the path by your secretary and the representative for the district of the Bakewell Rural District Council, the latter Council took the matter up with the Club committee, who readily admitted the public right, and regretted the action of any individual members who may have asserted to the contrary. A notice was at once placed in the Club House in terms which should prevent a further misunderstanding. In addition, a notice board has been fixed on Shay Barn stating that the path is a public one to Bamford, and giving directions of the route to follow where the path is rather indistinct. They have also erected a plank footbridge at the line of the path where it crosses the stream in Bamford Clough. Further, the Bakewell Rural District Council has promised to erect a signpost indicating the commencement of the path at Thorpe Lane.

Your Council thinks that it would be well to place on the Bamford side of the path one or two more indicatory notice

boards (say on the trees), about the portion of the path which is not well defined, and has suggested this to the committee, which has now the matter under consideration.

Footpath between Benfield and Further Clough Side Farms, Compstall.

Members would be very greatly interested to read in the newspapers in June last of the action of the Hyde and District Footpaths Preservations Society in forcibly removing the obstructions on the above footpath. For some considerable time previous to that date the latter Society had been endeavouring to induce the Compstall Urban District Council to do its obvious duty and remove the obstructions, but without success. Being satisfied, from local knowledge, that there was a right of way, a party of, roughly, 200 (including the officials of the Hyde Society and members of your Society and the Ramblers Federation) went over the path and cut down or removed all the obstructions. The farmers replaced the obstructions, which have several times again been removed by members of the Hyde Society. It is obvious that the farmers intend to do all they can to prevent the public from using the path—and in this they would appear to be encouraged by the inactivity of the Compstall Rural District Council. This Council, after having the matter under consideration for upwards of two years took up the attitude that it had not actively interested itself in the dispute and desired to remain neutral; this despite the duty of safeguarding of public rights clearly imposed upon the council by the Local Government Acts. Recently the Compstall Council suggested that the matter should be referred to arbitration, the cost of the proceedings to be borne equally between the owners, the Rural District Council and the Society.

At the request of the Hyde Society your Council took the matter up with the Rural District Council, pointing out that it was evident that the farmers would continue the attempt to obstruct the public user of the path unless they were legally prevented from doing so, and that it was clearly the duty of the Council to come to a decision on the matter and take action accordingly. In reply the Compstall Council merely repeated its suggestion of arbitration. Your Council is far from being convinced that this is a case where arbitration can or should be applied, but, out of courtesy to the Compstall Council, will consider carefully any representation which that council may desire to make in reply to the questions which have been put to it as to how it is proposed to state a case for arbitration without prejudice to the public rights.

Footpath from Woodhead Road to the Heath, Glossop.

The Council, having received information of the obstruction of this footpath, that it had been ploughed up several times in recent years, and other attempts made to prevent the public from using it, reported the case to the Glossop Borough Council. At the request of the latter Council your secretary and inspector of footpaths met the town clerk and borough surveyor on the spot, when, after inspecting the path, evidence was obtained as to the public use. It appears that the land over which a portion of the path lies has recently been sold, and the purchaser desired to build upon it, but the existence of the path in its present line creates a difficulty which, unless the path be diverted, might prevent building. In view of this difficulty, a further meeting has been arranged, at which the whole matter will be thoroughly considered with the purchaser of the land in question.

Footpath Through Coal Aston Aerodrome.

It having transpired that the land (known as the thirteen fields) over which, prior to the land being acquired for the purposes of an aerodrome, the public had enjoyed a right of way, had ceased to be used for the purposes of an aerodrome, your Council took the matter up with the Norton Rural District Council and, subsequently, with the Disposals Board as to the re-opening of the footpath for the use of the public. It appeared however, that the latter board had surrendered the land to the former owner, and on your Council making formal request for the path to be re-opened the agents to the owner stated that their client did not take possession of the land until January 1. Your Council has left the matter in the hands of the Norton Rural District Council to make the necessary arrangements with the owner for the re-opening of the path.

Miller's Dale—Buxton Track, via Chee Tor.

This well-known and picturesque pathway is in several places in very bad condition, particularly in the portion through Meadow Wood. At present, even after a very moderate rainfall, that length of the way is almost impassable. The two footbridges crossing the river Wye are also in need of repair. It should be possible to restore this track to such a condition as to be passable at all times when the flow of water in the stream is normal, without incurring any great expenditure. Representations to this effect have been made to the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council, which, it

is trusted, will lead to the very necessary work of repair being carried out.

**Footpath from Birch Hall Lane to Old Hall Lane,
Rusholme.**

This path having been closed by the Manchester Grammar School authorities under order of Quarter Sessions, the city surveyor was interviewed as to the possibility, if any, of the path being re-opened, when he stated that having regard to the order nothing could be done in that respect, but stated that in any event the path was doomed to go under the Corporation's own scheme. As there seemed to be some doubt concerning the adjacent path running alongside the back of Birchfields Park this was mentioned to the city surveyor, when he confirmed that this was a public footpath.

Footpath from Gorton to Reddish Vale.

Complaints having been received of an attempt to obstruct the footpath (which obstruction had been removed by a pedestrian using the path) but that there still remained a barrier extending half way into the path rendering its use dangerous at nights, representations were made to the Stockport Corporation. As a result of the steps taken by that authority the farmer has promised to remove the barrier.

Footpath from Poynton to Bramhall via Birch Hall.

Members of the public having been stopped from using this path, your Council being of opinion that a right of way existed wrote to the Bramhall Golf Club, asking that the notice boards, warning the public that trespassers would be prosecuted, should be removed. In reply the club committee asked for evidence of the public's right. A summary of the evidence is being prepared which will be supplied to the committee.

**Footpath from the Holmfirth-Glossop Road to the
Sheffield Road, Woodhead.**

This path having been closed by the Manchester Corporation Water Works Committee, your secretary interviewed the secretary to the latter committee, when it was arranged that the evidence as to the path being public should be investigated jointly. Your Council has now obtained its evidence and is awaiting another interview with the Waterworks Committee, the result of which, it is confidently hoped, will be the re-opening of the path.

Diversion of Footpath at the Naze, Chinley.

The formal consent of the Chinley Parish Council having been granted to the proposed diversion, the solicitors to the owner were applied to for a copy of the plan showing the diversion, an application which was readily complied with. From an inspection of the plan the Council felt quite satisfied that the rights of the public were not disadvantageously affected.

Footpath between Damhead Farm, Mobberley and Ollerton.

Members will be glad to hear that, as a result of your Council's request to the Bucklow Rural District Council, a substantial, well-tarred plank bridge, has been placed across Pedley Brook on this track.

Upkeep of Field Paths.

At the request of the Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society, the following resolution was passed by your Council :—

“ That this Council write to the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society as to the necessity of communicating with the Minister of Transport suggesting that a sum of money be allocated for use towards the upkeep of field paths which are adjacent to main roads and more convenient for use and less dangerous, especially those that have no path at the road side.”

In acknowledging the resolution, Mr. Chubb, the secretary, thought his committee would sympathise with the proposal, and he would recommend its adoption. He also made a suggestion that when arterial roads are made or existing highways improved, the Ministry of Transport, and/or the local authorities concerned, should fingerpost the intersected public footpaths.

Your Council is indebted to Mr. Chubb for advice on this and many other matters during the year.

It will be seen from the balance sheet your Council has sent a small subscription to the funds of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society. It is hoped that the Society will be able to renew this annually.

In response, the National Society invited our Society to nominate a delegate to its committee, and your Council has nominated the president as representative of the Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

Westend-Alport Bridle Track.

As it had been ascertained that the gate forming the obstruction had been unlocked, your Council decided to write to the agent to the Duke of Devonshire, hoping that the gate would be left open in the future, and that he admitted the right of the public to use this track. The agent, however, in an interview with the secretary, asserted that the gate had not been left open by his authority, and insisted that the track was strictly private. He, however, asked the Council to state, without prejudice, what period during the year it would desire to use the track in case a compromise could be effected, but your Council, having regard to the evidence that has been obtained as to public user, stated in reply that it could not in the interests of the public agree to any compromise.

Footpath, White Hull to Buckstones House, near Marsden.

Your Council was very much concerned at the action of a gamekeeper in assaulting members of the Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club on their insisting to use the above mentioned footpath, which they contended was public. The matter is being very thoroughly investigated, and, so far as can be gathered, there is every indication that the public have a right of way over the path.

Signposts.

The Council of the Society continues to give attention to the erection and maintenance of signposts and notice boards, regarding this part of its operations as of material importance, not only in the preservation of rights of way but also as a preventative of unwitting trespass. The notes which follow are given as examples of the nature of the work performed or in hand.

Early in the year it was reported that the iron-plated direction post which indicated the commencement of the path from Yewtree House to Flittogate Farm, near Knutsford, had fallen owing to rot at the base. A new and more substantial post has now been fitted, and the plate and post have been repainted and re-erected in position.

Four of the Society's iron-plated posts on the Hayfield-Snake footpath require attention, and the new posts will be carried to their respective positions as soon as extended daylight permits.

Some two or three years ago the Society resolved to erect a five-armed finger post near Blackshaw Farm, Lantern Pike. The right of way along a sixth path radiating from the same

point was contested by one of the farmers concerned, but as there were special reasons for proceeding with the work, the five-pointed post was erected. Subsequent investigation has revealed satisfactory evidence of a right of way over the sixth path, and the Society will very shortly add the sixth arm to the post.

It has been resolved to mark the commencement of the bridle road to Carr Meadow by the erection of a three-pointed finger post on the Hayfield-Edale road, a short distance below Stony Ford.

The footbridge across Lady Clough, on the Hayfield-Snake Inn footpath (which was erected by the Society), requires minor repairs, and this work is now in hand.

In addition to the above, the Society's programme for the present year includes the preparation of seven iron direction plates to replace wooden boards, a broken plate and, in the case of two, revised wording.

In addition to the matters dealt with in this Report there are many others under investigation, and advice has been given to members and the public generally on legal and various other points submitted by them.

Finances.

Although there has been a small, though very welcome, increase in the number of members, the total of subscriptions is approximately the same as the previous year. It need hardly be pointed out that the income of the Society must determine the extent of its activities, and an earnest appeal is made for a larger membership. The burden of supporting the Society would appear to be undertaken by a very small percentage of Ramblers and those interested in the preservation of footpaths. Although there must be at least 5,000 Ramblers in and around Manchester, the total membership of the Society is approximately only 250. Secretaries of rambling clubs and kindred societies would be doing a very useful service if they would bring to the notice of their members the objects and claims of the Society, and urge individual membership.

The defence fund has, during the year, increased from £22 9s. 3d. to £49 16s. 6d. It is very desirable that the Society should have a defence fund of at least £250 so that the Council may be in a position to meet contingencies without hesitation. Occasions have arisen in the past, and may at any moment recur, when the consideration of the possible financial responsibilities has delayed or prevented the necessary action

being taken for the preservation of public rights. It is not safe to rely on the chance of funds being forthcoming at the moment when the necessity arises. The ammunition should be in store ready for the engagement.

Membership.

The terms of membership are quite simple ; there are no formalities other than the payment of a subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, which entitles the member to a copy of the Annual Report, and to any information which it may be in the Council's power to give.

In fixing so small a minimum subscription the Society had in view the desirability of obtaining the highest possible amount of public interest, but, of course, the revenue from subscriptions at this low rate is quite inadequate to the requirements for the conduct of the Society's operations.

The Council, therefore, renews its appeal for subscriptions higher than the minimum, and for donations towards the defence fund mentioned above.

Affiliation.

The minimum fee for Rambling Clubs and other Societies desiring to become affiliated is 10s. 6d. per annum. The payment of the fee carries with it the right to nominate a delegate to attend the Council's meetings.

It is encouraging to note that many more Rambling Clubs have become affiliated, in response to the Society's invitation of last year. There are still, however, many similar associations in the district which are not yet affiliated, and a special invitation is extended to these to attach themselves to the Society, for by so doing they would help financially, and, through their delegates, take a part in its management.

“The Rambler and the Law.”

The second edition of this very useful booklet is still on sale at the exceptionally low price of 3d. No member should be without a copy of the booklet, which clearly defines in simple language the legal points which are always a source of trouble to pedestrians.

The idea seemed to be prevalent that, under the new Law of Property Act, which came into force at the beginning of the year, the law relating to footpaths was altered, and that in future the notice boards warning pedestrians that trespassers would be prosecuted will no longer be wooden falsehoods.

This idea is entirely erroneous and has doubtless arisen from

a wrong interpretation being given to Section 193 of the new Act. This section only deals with the rights of the public over commons and waste lands, and provides that members of the public shall have rights of access for air and exercise to the commons defined by the Act. It is further provided that such rights of access shall not include any right to draw or drive upon the land a carriage, cart, caravan, truck or other vehicle or to camp or light any fire thereon, and any person who, without lawful authority, is guilty of such acts is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding 40s. for each offence. It will readily be seen that the latter part of the section is intended to check the many acts of vandalism on common lands, which unfortunately do occur. It may be stated that section 193 referred to above was drawn by the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society at the request of the government, with the object of protecting the rights of the public, having regard to the alteration in the law relating to commons and waste lands.

As before mentioned, the law relating to footpaths has not been altered in the slightest, and, consequently, the law, as dealt with in "*The Rambler and the Law*," is still the same.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies.

Ardwick Rambling Club.
 Ancoats Brotherhood.
 Art Museum Field Club.
 Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation
 Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club. [Society.
 Bury and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
 Co-operative Holiday Association.
 Campers of Great Britain and Ireland (L.C. and N.W. District
 Association).
 Chorlton Road Congregational Church Rambling Club.
 Derby C.H.A. and H.F. Rambling Club.
 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
 Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society, Manchester.
 Glossop Field Naturalists' Society.
 Holiday Fellowship Limited.
 Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group).
 Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).
 Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
 Hyde and District Footpaths Preservation Society.
 Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society.
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "A")
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "B")
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "C")
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "D" West)
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "E")
 Manchester Pedestrian Club.
 Manchester Rambling Club.
 Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
 Oldham and District C.H.A. Rambling Society.
 Peak Ramblers.
 Plymouth Grove Wesley Guild.
 "R" Club.
 Rucksack Club.
 Ramblers Federation.
 Rotherham C.H.A. Rambling Club.
 Stockport Field Club.
 Salford P.S.A. Rambling Club.
 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers.
 Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling Club.
 United Field Naturalists.
 Workers' Educational Association (Stockport Branch).
 Whalley Range Presbyterian Rambling Club.
 Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
 Zion Rambling Club.

PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1925.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1924 :						
Defence Fund	...	22	9	3		
General Account	...	57	11	1		
				80	0	4
Subscriptions	...	85	1	6		
Sale of Booklets	...	1	19	4		
Bank Interest	...	1	18	7		
				88	19	5
Defence fund...	34	4	10
				£203	4	7

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Printing and Stationery ...	14	16	1
Hire of Rooms ...	4	7	0
Insurance Premium ...	0	19	1
Advertising ...	2	7	6
Signposts ...	6	19	10
Postages ...	4	4	0
Travelling Expenses ...	6	9	11
Correspondence Secretary's Honorarium	30	0	0
Footpaths Inspector's Honorarium ...	10	0	0
Maps ...	2	6	0
Subscription to Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society ...	2	2	0
Contribution towards cost of erection of Slippery Stones Footbridge ...	8	10	6
Sundry Expenses ...	3	12	1
Balance—Defence Fund ...	£56	14	1
„ —General Account	49	16	6
	106	10	7
	£203	4	7

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, Hon. Treasurer.

ALFRED E. BOWEN, Hon. Auditor.