

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND  
NORTHERN COUNTIES  
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

**REPORT  
OF THE COUNCIL**

*For the Year  
ended 31st December  
1938*

**There having been no changes to  
The Constitution and Rules of the  
Society since 1934, the pages  
showing The Constitution and Rules  
in this Report have not been copied  
for the Web Site**

Printers  
THE POLICY-HOLDER JOURNAL COMPANY LIMITED  
18, Booth Street, Manchester, 2

# The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

---

*President :*

ARTHUR R. MOON, LL.B.

*Vice-Presidents :*

E. VIPONT BROWN, M.D.	W. MAXWELL REEKIE,
SIR HAROLD ELVERSTON, J.P.	O.B.E., J.P.
F. HOWARD	SIR E. D. SIMON.
P. M. OLIVER, C.B.E., B.A.	F. WILLETT

*Council :*

*Elected Members*

P. M. OLIVER, C.B.E., B.A., *Chairman.*  
J. W. PRICE, F.R.G.S., *Vice-Chairman.*

F. ALLEN	J. COOKE	J. MACAULEY
F. E. AMOR	W. H. COOMBER	A. MILNER
A. E. BOWEN	T. GREAVES	A. E. RICHARDS
J. E. BROOM	A. W. HEWITT	E. ROYCE
W. J. BROWN	B. S. HARLOW	G. SHARPLES
J. J. CASH	J. F. HODKINSON	A. SMITH
J. CLARKE	C. W. S. KIRKE.	Miss C. TAYLOR
F. COLLIER	W. KNOTT	H. A. WINSTANLEY

*Delegates from Affiliated Organisations :*

E. ANDREW	H. GILLIATT	H. KIDD
T. H. BARKER	G. GRADWELL	R. B. KNOTT
F. G. BAILEY	J. GRAY	DR. R. J. B. MARSDEN
Miss E. BELL	W. HALLAM	H. MEADOWCROFT
D. BERWICK	F. HASLAM	T. NUTTALL
J. BODNER	D. HEWLETT	J. PLATT
F. BROOME	A. HODKINSON	J. E. RALPHS
E. P. CAMPBELL	J. R. HOLMES	S. S. RIMINGTON
J. CHADWICK	W. HOWARTH	H. ROBERTS
E. CHETWOOD	W. B. HOWIE	W. M. ROBOTHAM
S. COOPER	H. INGE	Miss N. E. SHORE
Miss E. DALE	H. JACKSON	J. STOTT
N. DALE	N. JOHNSTON	J. WHALLEY
	H. C. KIRK	E. WHITELEY

Council—continued.

*Hon. Surveyor:*

W. H. COOMBER, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E.

*Hon. Auditor:*

T. GREAVES

*Inspector of Footpaths:*

H. E. WILD

*Asst. Inspectors of Footpaths:*

B. GILL.

G. H. B. WARD, F.R.G.S.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

ALFRED E. BOWEN, 39-40, Atlantic Chambers, 7, Brazenose Street,  
Manchester, 2.

*Hon. Secretary:*

ARTHUR J. MOON, M.A.

*Secretary:*

THOMAS BOULGER

55, Brown Street, Manchester, 2.

DEAnsgate 4276.

# REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1938.

**A**S will be seen from the Report many matters of outstanding interest have been dealt with by the Society during the year. More than the average number of complaints of obstruction and disrepair of footpaths and footbridges have been reported, and the necessary investigations made. In addition to its usual work of preservation of footpaths and erection and maintenance of signposts, the Society actively participated in the public inquiries regarding the Manifold Valley track, and the Winnats, and has also taken a very active part in connection with the proposed Pennine Way, National Parks and the Access to Mountains Bill, all of which matters have involved the attendance of your officers and delegates at many conferences. Naturally this has resulted in an increased expenditure for the year, and an appeal is made later in this report for adequate support to enable your Council to undertake such extra burden of work when called upon to do so, as it has been apparent during the past few years that the income received is insufficient for that purpose.

It is with deep regret that your Council has to record the deaths during the year of Sir Robert McDougall, B.Sc., J.P., a Vice-President of the Society, Mr. A. W. Dennis, M.A., and Mr. Albert Robinson, members of the Council. Sir Robert McDougall's gifts to the nation of considerable areas of land in and around Dovedale constitute a worthy memorial to his name, and have earned him the gratitude of this and all future generations of lovers of the countryside.

Following are notes of some of the many matters that have occupied the attention of the Society and its Officers and Council during the past year:—

## ACCESS TO MOUNTAINS.

At the Conference of Footpaths Societies and kindred organisations held at the offices of the Commons Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society in London, on November 4 and 5, at which the Society was represented, one of the many matters considered was that of access to mountains, and a report was received of the discussions that had taken place during the year between the Commons Society and the land-owners' organisations. Immediately following the Conference the Commons Society prepared a draft of a new Bill to be called "Access to Uncultivated Lands Bill," which it was

intended should take the place of the Access to Mountains Bill, and steps were taken to endeavour to agree the draft with the landowners' organisations. Within only a few days of the preparation of the draft it was ascertained that Mr. Creech Jones, M.P. (Shipley) had been fortunate in the ballot for private members' bills, and was proposing to introduce the Access to Mountains Bill. This he did, and after a full dress debate the Bill secured its second reading on December 2. In supporting the Bill on behalf of the Government, Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd made it quite clear that it would have to be considerably amended, and referred to the negotiations then proceeding between the Commons Society and the Central Landowners Association and the Land Union. These negotiations continued after the second reading, with a view if possible to agreeing a form of Bill that would be acceptable to all parties, and which would as far as possible incorporate the provisions of the draft Access to Uncultivated Lands Bill previously referred to. In order that the wishes of the various Footpaths Societies and Ramblers Federations might be ascertained before the Bill went forward to the landowners organisations, a Conference was called by the Commons Society, attended by representatives from your Society, and the draft proposed Bill was amended to meet the views of the organisations present. It is interesting to record that several amendments suggested on behalf of your Society were accepted. A further conference has just taken place at which were considered suggestions made by the landowners' organisations, and the negotiations with the latter have been resumed. Until the attitude of the landowners towards the Bill is definitely known it is difficult to foretell what will happen to the Bill introduced by Mr. Creech Jones during the committee stage, but your officers and Council feel it is the duty of the Society to do all within its power to help forward the negotiations and the Bill, and this is being done.

#### MANIFOLD VALLEY TRACK.

With a view to acquiring the powers necessary to deal with motorists and cyclists using this track, which it will be remembered was dedicated as a public footpath on the site being given to the Staffordshire County Council by the London, Midland & Scottish Railway Company, the County Council made an Order restricting the use of the track to pedestrians. In May last the Ministry of Transport held a Public Inquiry in order to decide whether the Minister should confirm the Order. At the Inquiry your Secretary represented the Society, and the Commons Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society, and in conjunction with representatives from other kindred organisa-

tions supported the County Council. The confirmation of the Order was opposed by one or two of the local highway authorities, and by motoring and cycling organisations. It is pleasing to report that the Minister has now given his decision confirming the Order, subject to modifications to exclude from its provisions hand-propelled invalid carriages and perambulators, which were agreed to at the Inquiry, and also five short lengths of the road on which the County Council propose to provide car parks, at points where existing roads join the track.

#### FOOTPATH FROM ROCHE END TO GOLDSITCH MOSS, STAFFS.

The bridge on this path across Black Brook having practically collapsed, the attention of the Staffordshire County Council was called to it, with the result that the County Surveyor gave immediate instructions for the replacement of the bridge by a new structure. This path is frequently used by motor cycle organisations as part of a trial route, which use not only renders the way dangerous to pedestrians, but churns the path up so badly that at times it is inches deep in mud. The County Council on being asked to take steps to put an end to this nuisance suggested it was a matter for the police, and that the matter should be brought to the notice of the Chief Constable. This was done, but the Chief Constable has informed the Society that the police have no power to restrict the use of the path by motor cyclists.

#### FOOTPATH FROM BUXTON-MILLERS DALE ROAD TO WORMHILL.

At a point  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile WSW of Millers Dale Station on the Buxton-Millers Dale Road commences a public footpath, which after crossing the River Wye proceeds to Wormhill, and also crosses the Chee Dale track. It was reported that a padlock had been affixed at a small gate by which the path is entered from the Buxton-Millers Dale Road, and the attention of the Bakewell Rural District Council was immediately called to the obstruction. It is understood that the owner had stated that at one time there had been steps in the wall at the point where the path approaches the main road, but the wall had fallen, and there seemed to be some misapprehension as to the point where the path originally joined the road, but he was prepared to put steps or a stile in the fence for the convenience of pedestrians. This has now been confirmed by the District Council, and the position of the stile agreed with the Surveyor.

## FOOTPATH IN BERESFORD DALE.

The attention of the land agent being called to the obstructions that had been placed on the footpath which branches off the Beresford Dale footpath near Hartington Village, and which after crossing the River Dove by a footbridge emerges on Beresford Lane at the side of Barracks Farm, within a week he had informed the Society that the obstructions had been removed.

## FOOTBRIDGES AT STOKE FORD.

Ramblers will be pleased to see that the two footbridges across Bretton Clough and Abney Brook have been re-erected. The work was carried out by the Bakewell Rural District Council following correspondence between the Society and the Council.

## RIVERSIDE PATH NEAR LEADMILL BRIDGE.

On more than one occasion your Council has endeavoured to get the District and County Councils to repair the riverside path from Offerton Stones to Leadmill Bridge, but they declined to accept the liability unless it could be proved that the path was dedicated to the public use prior to March, 1836. It is now understood, following further representations, that the land-owner was trying to get the County Council to accept responsibility for future maintenance, but the Council is not disposed to do so on the ground that the Bakewell Rural District Council did not repair paths. It is to be regretted the County Council will not accept that liability as it would have ensured the path not being lost to the public by reason of erosion. However, the path has been put into better condition than it has been for years—the trackway having been cut back into the bank in two or three places, hollows filled in, and the element of danger removed.

## FOOTPATH FROM KILNHILL BRIDGE, PAST HOPE MILL TO NETHERHALL BRIDGE, HOPE.

Complaints were received that a new six-barred gate had been placed at the Kilnhill Bridge end of this path, bearing the word "private." The owners, on being asked to have the notice removed or the words "Except to Pedestrians" added, pointed out that the gate was there in 1924 when they purchased the mill, and that the only difference was that it had been repainted, and that according to their deeds and plans of Hope Mill, the entrance to the public path was about 100 yards nearer Hope Church from Kilnhill, and goes through the river over stepping stones across Hope Mill yard to Netherhall Bridge. Your

Council is satisfied that both the crossing by the stepping stones and the way along the occupation road from Kilnhill Bridge are public ways for pedestrians, and the owners have again been asked to comply with the Society's request. The way from the gate is the more used, as it is normally more convenient, and, moreover, the stepping stones have rarely afforded a good crossing.

### THE WINNATS.

In 1924 proposals were formulated by the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council for the making of a new motor road through the Winnats, which in the opinion of your Council would destroy the natural beauty of the Gorge. Protests were made by the Society, the Manchester and District Ramblers Federation and the Sheffield and Peak District Branch of the C.P.R.E., whilst the Society also forwarded to the Minister of Transport and the highway authorities concerned a resolution urging that the ancient roadway through the Winnats and the pass itself be scheduled as a place of natural beauty and historic interest for preservation in its then present state. Steps were taken to obtain expert advice as to an alternative scheme, but in the meantime the proposal was shelved, and an assurance obtained from the Director General of the Roads Department that before anything was sanctioned by the Ministry of Transport very great care would be taken to see that people interested were afforded opportunity of making representations on any proposals submitted, and that such representations would be fully considered.

The proposal to make a 60 foot motor road was revived by the Derbyshire County Council early in 1939, when the Society, again in conjunction with the Ramblers Federations for Manchester and Sheffield and the Sheffield and Peak District C.P.R.E. made representations to the Minister of Transport, which resulted in his deciding to hold a Public Inquiry on July 8. As the matter was one of major importance it was decided that the Society's Solicitors and Counsel attend the Inquiry, and they were also asked to represent the Manchester and District Ramblers Federation. Very little time was available in which to prepare for the Inquiry, as less than a fortnight's notice was given that the Inquiry was to be held. At the commencement of the proceedings a statement was made that the road would only be a 22 ft. not 60 ft. road—the remaining 38 feet being intended to be utilised for sterilising the land as regards building. Everything possible was done to establish that the new motor way would destroy the beauty of the Winnats, and be more dangerous than the existing road. But, as no

alternative to the way through the Gorge was forthcoming, the material point was whether the latter road was capable of effective repair having regard to the "slipping" that periodically has taken place. Evidence was given on behalf of the C.P.R.E. showing that it was possible to utilise the existing motor road by building a deck on the top of a series of concrete piers so that any movement would not effect the stability of the road passing between the spans of the concrete bridge—similar in manner to the method used in the construction of the trunk roads abroad, and between Glencoe and Fort William, and at Llandulas, near Colwyn Bay. If it is at all possible (and only a test will show) to get to a solid foundation, apart from shale, for the concrete piers, the scheme would be economically possible. The County Council would not agree to bear the cost of the necessary test, and a suggestion was made that the Ministry of Transport should do so.

The expense incurred by the Society jointly with the Federation has been fully justified by the satisfactory result obtained, the Minister having decided to disapprove the County Council's application relating to the proposed road through the Winnats, a decision which will be pleasing to all ramblers and lovers of the countryside.

At the Inquiry the County Council applied for approval of plans of a proposed new road at Castleton to be constructed for the purpose of by-passing the village. No objection was made to this, and the Minister has accordingly approved such application.

#### FOOTPATH TO PEAK CAVERN, CASTLETON.

Whilst using this path a member of your Council was asked to pay one shilling by the tenant of the land if he desired to proceed along the path, but this he refused to do. The Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council was asked to protect the public rights over the path, and to inform the owners of the land that they had no right to demand payment. A communication was recently received from the District Council that following correspondence with the Duchy of Lancaster, the Surveyor General of the Duchy had intimated that the footpath was on the property of the Duchy, and was private. Enquiries are at present being made to enable your Council to reach a decision.

#### HAYFIELD-SNAKE INN PATH.

The attention of the Derbyshire County Council being called to the condition of the ground near Middle Moor, at the junction of this path with the Carr Meadow-Stonyford bridle road, that

Council at first declined to undertake the necessary repairs, because it was alleged the Hayfield Rural District Council had not previously repaired the path, notwithstanding the fact that the portion of the path in the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District had been repaired on more than one occasion by the latter Council. Fortunately your Council was able to produce to the County Council evidence that the Hayfield Council had repaired the path in 1925, following representations made by the Society, and in view of this the County Council promised to see that the repair of the path was seen to.

The attitude of County Councils concerning the repair of footpaths and footbridges varies considerably, and is rather puzzling. Some Councils will only undertake repairs where it is established that the particular path was dedicated to the public prior to March, 1836, but in Derbyshire, the County Council will now usually undertake repairs in the cases where the District Councils had previously repaired the path—the burden of repair having in 1929 been transferred from District Councils to County Councils. Happily (for the districts concerned) some County Councils undertake the repair of all public footpaths and footbridges. As mentioned in the Report for last year your Officers are of the opinion that on a proper interpretation of the Highways Acts, County Councils are responsible for the repair of all public footpaths and footbridges, and in the correspondence in connection with this particular matter an opportunity was taken of bringing those views to the notice of the County Council.

#### FOOTPATH BY OULTON PARK, LITTLE BUDWORTH.

Many complaints have been received during the year of ramblers being stopped from proceeding along the footpath which leads from opposite Little Budworth Church and goes by Oulton Park to Park Hall Farm, Rushton. The agent for the estate was seen, and he claimed this path and two adjacent paths as for the use of the workers on the estate, and would not admit any public right over them, although he intimated that if permission was asked he would not be likely to refuse. Records have since been inspected, and evidence sought from local persons, and the Society is at present in communication with the Parish Council.

#### FOOTPATH THROUGH MARBURY PARK, GREAT BUDWORTH.

On the footpath from Brownslow Cottages going S.W. to near Home Farm the once fairly substantial footbridge across Kidd Brook has been falling into disrepair, and at the present

time is rather dangerous to use. It is understood from the Northwich Roads Area Advisory Sub-Committee, to whom representations were made, that the Comberbach Parish Council was in communication with the Great Budworth Parish Council with a view to the cost of re-erection, estimated at £12, being shared by the two Councils.

#### FOOTPATH FROM HULSE LANE NEAR HULSE FARM TO LACH DENNIS OPPOSITE OLDHALL FARM.

The Northwich Rural District Council has been informed that this path has been rendered difficult to use, particularly by women, owing to missing stiles, barbed wire at four places, and a missing footplank, and has been asked to deal with the matter.

#### FOOTPATH FROM AGDEN BRIDGE TO BURFORD LANE, LYMM.

As reported in the Report for last year your Council asked the Lymm Urban District Council to request the removal of two obstructions on this path, the continuation of which from Burford Lane to Lymm is signposted by that Council as a "Public Footpath," and also to ask that in future the tenant of Burford Farm refrain from ploughing up one of the fields crossed by the path. The Clerk to the Council, after correspondence with the County Land Agent (the land being in the ownership of the Cheshire County Council) intimated that the latter Council had removed the obstructions, and his Council did not propose to take any further action in the matter beyond keeping the entrance free, and retaining the notice that a public footpath existed—which is all that the Society asked except as to the ploughed field. The Clerk pointed out that the path was of no significance locally, and was seldom used, to which your Council replied that although there were several paths in Cheshire which were not frequently used it did seem necessary they should be protected, as very few paths were being dedicated, and those now in existence might be of importance to the public in the future. The path is a useful link in the pleasant walk from Lymm to Dunham and beyond, and ramblers are urged to make more use of it. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the more a path is used the less likelihood is there of it becoming obstructed or rendered difficult to use by reason of over-growth.

#### FOOTPATHS AT ADLINGTON.

On our calling the attention of the Adlington Parish Council to the condition of the footbridge over Red Brook on the

footpath from Lower Swinesye to Redbrook Bridge, Adlington, that Council gave immediate instructions for the necessary repairs to be carried out, and the bridge is now in order.

Whilst making investigations regarding the footbridge your Inspector found that quarrying operations had rendered dangerous the path near Breck Quarries, on which are erected at each end of the path Cheshire County Council notices prohibiting the use of cycles on the path. Having regard to the notices there would appear to be no doubt as to the path being public, and it was suggested to the Parish Council that the owners be asked to take some precautionary measures to remove the danger. A fence has since been erected, but it is of such a character that it hardly affords any protection at all. Moreover, the quarrying operations continue to interfere with the public footpath, and further representations have been made to the Parish Council with a view to the quarry owners remedying the present unsatisfactory position.

In the same locality the Parish Council, at your Council's request, has asked the Macclesfield Rural District Council to call for the removal of an obstruction on the path from Long Lane to Styperson Pool, which is claimed as public. It would appear that previously on several occasions the Parish Council has called the attention of the District Council to the wrongful closing of the path.

#### FOOTPATHS AT LOWER WITHINGTON.

In conjunction with the Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society your Council has been concerned during the year with the question of several paths at Lower Withington, and as a result the footpath by Smith's Green Farm has been cleared of obstruction, and a new stile made at the side of the gate which was locked; further the Parish Council has arranged to attend to the footbridge on the path from Astle to Brookhouse Farm. The path through Gleads Moss is still the subject of negotiations, which it is hoped will prove satisfactory.

#### FOOTPATHS OVER WOODFORD AERODROME.

In September last it was learned that Messrs. A. V. Roe & Co. Limited had purchased further land for the purpose of extending their Aerodrome. The Society ascertained from the Company that the intention was to divert the existing paths, and to provide a new path, and the Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society, who negotiated the Agreement with Messrs. Roe & Co. Limited when the

Aerodrome was originally constructed, has since been in communication with the Company with a view to agreeing the substituted paths. At the moment the Company is considering a plan prepared by that Society, on which are indicated the paths it is suggested should be provided in lieu of those which it was desired to close. Your Society is in close touch with the Alderley Edge Society in connection with the matter.

Some uneasiness has been caused by the attitude of the Air Ministry in countermanding a Public Inquiry that had been called by the Minister of Health to consider objections by the residents and highway authorities to the plans of the workshops proposed to be erected on the land to be acquired, the land having been zoned for residential purposes under the Town Planning Scheme for that area. However, so far as the footpaths are concerned representatives of the Air Ministry have, it is understood, intimated these will be stopped up under the powers of the Ministry, but ultimately a cinder path will be provided within the boundary of the Ministry's land for the use of the public. In the first instance it was thought that the land was being purchased by the Company, but the scheme is now claimed as being a Government scheme.

#### FOOTPATH THROUGH POYNTON LITTLE COPPICE.

The Poynton-with-Worth Parish Council, on being asked to replace the footbridge near Hagg Farm that had disappeared, and to repair the other bridge that was in need of repair, recommended that no action be taken in the matter in view of the cost which would be incurred, and seeing that the path was so little used. On being interviewed a member of that Council stated that there was a doubt whether the path could be claimed as public, and the estimated cost to make the path and bridge safe was £300, and his Council could not afford to accept the responsibility. As it was necessary that the path should be preserved, forming as it does part of the path which proceeds to Lyme Park, your Council asked the Cheshire County Council to undertake the necessary work. Apparently the Parish Council again raised doubts as to the path being public, and on being asked by the County Surveyor to furnish evidence on this point your Council has forwarded the names of fourteen witnesses, all of whom have used the path over 20 years—ten of them for over 40 years. After consideration by the Macclesfield Area Sub-Committee, and the County Roads and Bridges Committee, the last mentioned Committee informed the Society that in view of the unwillingness of the Parish Council to undertake the work or make any contribution in respect of the same it had been resolved that no action be taken.

### FOOTPATH FROM TEG'S NOSE TO LANGLEY.

Following a complaint as to a "Trespassers" notice adjoining this path the landowners were communicated with, and asked to add to the notice the words "Please keep to the path," and this the owners readily agreed to do.

### FOOTPATH FROM GREENBROW LANE TO LOWER HAVILEYHEY FARM, BAGULEY.

The Manchester Corporation has agreed to replace the footbridge across Baguley Brook. At first the Corporation raised doubts as to the path being public, but from the Society's records your Council was able to show that in 1926 the Bucklow Rural District Council, the then highway authority, agreed that the path was public.

### FOOTPATHS ACROSS ROCHDALE GOLF LINKS.

Having received a report that it was understood an application had been made for the closing of three paths over the Rochdale Golf Links, and the Paving Committee of the Rochdale Corporation had recommended the closing of one of the paths, your Council urged the Corporation not to take any steps that would deprive the public of the paths. After intimating the Town Council had not adopted the recommendation of the Paving Committee, and in the circumstances none of the three paths would be closed, the Town Clerk assured the Society his Council was fully alive to the necessity for preserving public footpaths and, more especially, where they provide walks of a rural character for persons living on the outskirts of the town—which was a very pleasing assurance.

### FOOTPATH THROUGH JEPSON'S CLOUGH, HORWICH.

The Horwich Urban District Council having given notice of its intention to apply to Quarter Sessions for the closing and diversion of this path, some of the local inhabitants prepared and lodged notices of appeal on the grounds that they would be deprived of a pleasant footpath, and, moreover, that the closing would mean that the residents and children in order to get to Lever Park and Rivington Pike would be compelled to proceed along a portion of the Bolton-Chorley-Blackpool main road, on which there had been several accidents. The Commons Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, from whom advice had been sought by the appellants, asked the Society to help the latter with the statements of evidence, and on the hearing—which the Society was, of course, prepared to do. On considering the evidence it seemed this was a case where the

appellants might prejudice the case by themselves taking it in person, and in the circumstances arrangements were made for the professional conduct of the Appeal, which was successful—the Certificate of the Justices being by agreement quashed, and the footpath saved for the public, subject to a slight diversion at the northerly end, which had been suggested by one of the appellants prior to the proceedings being commenced.

On the hearing of the Appeal there seemed to be a doubt at first whether it would be successful owing to the form of the notices of appeal, which had been drawn up without legal advice. The notices should have objected to the form of the Justices' Certificate, which it was submitted was bad in several respects. However, all turned out well in the end, but it cannot be too strongly emphasised that when persons intend lodging notices of appeal they should, in the first instance, seek the advice of a Footpaths Society as to the correct form of appeal. One other point emerged from the evidence, that to be "injured and aggrieved" within the meaning of the Act, an appellant must suffer some special injury by reason of the closing or diversion of a path. Consequently it would not be possible for a rambler to appeal successfully against the closing of a particular path unless he could show that he was injured and aggrieved more than *other* members of the public.

#### FOOTPATH EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition of Maps, Photographs and Lantern Slides, which the Society (in conjunction with the Manchester and District Ramblers Federation and the Manchester Geographical Society) held at the Central Library from February 28 to March 26 last, was a great success. Nearly 25,000 persons visited the exhibition, and displayed a very keen interest in the many exhibits. Two public lantern lectures and four mid-day talks were given, all of which were well attended. The Society has materially benefitted from the Exhibition as several of the visitors became members, their subscriptions more than covering the amount of the Society's contribution towards the expense of holding the Exhibition.

#### FOOTPATH LIBRARY.

A ticket is issued to every member of the Society which entitles him to borrow from the Society's Library any volume for home reading. The collection is housed at the Manchester Central Library where for purposes of reference the volumes may be consulted by the general public.

The "Footpath" Library now comprises the following books and maps:—

Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society Journal.  
Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.  
History of Berkhamsted Common.  
Preservation of Open Spaces, Footpaths and Rights of Way.  
Scapa.  
Court Rolls, Wimbledon.  
Commons, Forests and Footpaths.  
Oxford and District Footpaths Society Map.  
Footpath Map of North Wirral.  
Freeman's "Rights of Way Act, 1932."  
"Kinderscout Guide."  
Commons and Footpaths Society's pamphlets.  
Ramblers' Handbook 3 Volumes.  
Baddley's "Yorkshire" 1 and 2.  
Rucksack Club Journal, 1925-1936.  
Rimmer's "Summer Rambles round Manchester."  
Minor Monuments of Derbyshire.  
Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbook 1914-15 and 1921-2 to 1937-8.  
Rusticus.  
The Horrors of the Countryside.  
England and the Octopus.  
Afforestation in the Lake District.  
The Scenery of England.  
The Scenic Heritage of England and Wales.  
Small Houses and Bungalows suitable for Peak District.  
The D. I. A. Cautionary Guide to St. Albans.  
Housing in the Peak District.  
The Threat to the Peak.  
C. P. R. E. Annual Report.  
Six 1 inch Ordnance Survey Maps 1840 edition.  
1 inch Ordnance Survey Maps, Popular Edition Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32,  
35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46. Manchester District Map, Peak District  
Map, Lake District Map, Snowdon Map.  
The Adventure of Building.  
Lake Country Rambles by W. T. Palmer.  
Moors, Crags and Caves, by E. A. Baker.  
Romantic Britain, Ed. by Tom Stephenson.  
All About Derbyshire, by Ed. Bradbury.  
Lysons' "Derbyshire."

Any reader of the Report who desires to help by the gift of a suitable volume or by a special financial contribution is invited to communicate with the Secretary.

#### DIRECTION POSTS.

During the year direction posts have been dealt with as follows:—

A new direction post has been erected near Sheldon to indicate field path to Bakewell.

A new post has been erected near Marsh Farm, Hope, and another between Marsh Farm and Lose Hill Farm.

A new post has been erected near White Hall, Buxton, to indicate the path to Combs.

A second direction post has been erected to mark the Thornhill-Aston parallel footpath.

At the cost of Mr. Manby A. Gibson a new post has been fixed marking the lower end of the Jacob's Ladder footpath, Edale. It is hoped that the use by the public of the correct line of path will allow the scarred hillside to become grassed over again.

A new post has been fixed to the direction plate near Clough Farm, Edale.

The iron plated post at Stonyford, Hayfield, and the finger post marking bridle path to Glossop have been repainted.

The nine posts on the Derwent-Moscar bridle path, and the seven posts on the Foulstone Delf to Abbey Grange footpath have been repainted, these being the sixteen posts whose maintenance is covered by the income from Mr. G. H. B. Ward's donation of £50.

The direction post marking the Ladyclough end of Doctor's Gate was knocked down in a traffic accident. A new plate has been provided, and the post has been repainted and refixed.

The Society's post midway between Blackshaw Farm and Long Lee was removed by persons unknown. The post had served its purpose, the path is now well marked, and it is not proposed to fix a new post at this point.

The Society proposes to erect direction posts in the near future in the following positions :—

A post on Chapel Gate, Edale, to indicate path to Upper Booth.

A post at Stoke Ford, Abney, and one near Abney Grange.

Three finger posts at Glossop.

Two posts on the Wildmoor footpath above Goats bridge.

A post near Dissop Head, Lyme Handley.

The following clubs, societies and members have previously given or have promised to give a direction post to the Society :—

The Stockport Rambling Clubs (2 posts).

Manchester Rambling Club (2 posts).

Peveril Social and Rambling Club (2 posts).

Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club (2 posts).

Out o'Doors Fellowship.

Chorlton Road Congregational Y.P.F.

Ramblers' Federation.

Manchester Pedestrian Club.

Art Museum Field Club.

B. S. Harlow, Esq.

Co-operative Holidays Association (3 posts).

C.H.A. "A" Section Rambling Club.

Ashton-under-Lyne C.H.A. Rambling Club (3 posts).

Hallamshire Footpaths Society.  
Oldham Rucksack Club.  
Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.  
C.E. Holiday Homes Comradeship (Manchester and Stockport).  
Manchester Holiday Fellowship Group.  
Friends of the late C. N. Jones, as a memorial.  
A. R. Moon, Esq.  
Manby A. Gibson, Esq.  
Ancoats Brotherhood (2 posts).

### FINANCE.

Although the work of the Society grows the income from membership remains somewhat stationary. During 1938 thirty-five members failed to renew their subscriptions, but fortunately forty-five new ones became subscribers.

It is unfair that the burden of support is practically restricted to 57 rambling clubs and 271 members—seeing thousands of ramblers are frequently using the paths safeguarded to them by the vigilance and enterprise of the Society. Without the benefit of the £26 1s. 5d. Interest on the Special Reserve, and transferred to our General Account, the position and outlook generally would have been discouraging. The actual income from Members for the year failed to meet expenditure by £49 15s. 10d. To have to curtail the Society's activities would be deprecated by all Ramblers, whose further financial support is earnestly invited—the Council being anxious to avoid having to raid the Special Reserve Fund to meet these necessary working expenses. It is to be hoped that in the year 1939 Income will suffice to wipe out the present debit balance of £7 19s. 5d., and also supplement the general working Account.

The Defence Fund in 1938 added £17 14s. 7d., making the total £288 19s. 5d. From this has been withdrawn £18 19s. 5d. for expenses incurred in securing the footpath rights on the "Cloud," also the costs attaching to the Winnats Inquiry. The round sum of £270 now stands to its credit. The usefulness of this Fund becomes increasingly apparent, as it enables the Council to undertake the defence of public rights necessitating a fair amount of expenditure without having to consider whether the ordinary income for the year will be sufficient for the purpose.

### MEMBERSHIP.

The terms of membership are 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 might be within the Council's power to give.

In fixing this small minimum subscription the Society has in view the desirability of obtaining the largest possible amount of public interest; the revenue, however, from subscriptions of the minimum rate is inadequate to the needs of the Society's operations. The secretaries of rambling clubs and kindred societies can perform a useful service if they will be good enough to bring to the notice of their members the objects and claims of the Society, and urge individual membership. It is gratifying to report that several of the larger clubs continue to do so.

The Council, therefore, renews its appeal for subscriptions in excess of the minimum, and for donations to 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 pleasing to report that since the last Report there have been four new affiliations. There are, however, still many rambling clubs and similar associations in the district which are not yet affiliated, and special invitation is extended to these to attach themselves to the Society, for by so doing, they will help financially, and, through their delegates, take a part in the conduct of the Society's good work.

It will be noticed that the Ancoats Brotherhood, which has been closely connected with the Society for very many years, no longer appears in the list of affiliated clubs. Deaths, removals and clearances have caused the Brotherhood to disband, a decision which will be regretted by all who have had occasion to come in contact with its members. The Council would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Brotherhood for its "farewell" gift of £5 to cover the cost of two signposts—indeed a very kindly and thoughtful act.

## Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies.

---

Accrington Naturalist & Antiquarian Society.  
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Preservation Society.  
Arthur Davy & Sons Ltd. Sports & Social Club.  
Art Museum Field Club.  
Ashton-under-Lyne & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
Blackpool & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (L.C. & N.W. District Association).  
City News Fellowship (Ramblers Section).  
Co-operative Holiday Association.  
C.E. Holiday Homes, Ltd.  
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Section).  
Derby C.H.A. and H. F. Rambling Club.  
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.  
Denton Trinity Wesleyan Rambling Club.  
Field Naturalists & Archaeologists Society, Manchester.  
Friendship Holidays Association Manchester Rambling Club.  
Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.  
Holiday Fellowship Limited.  
Holiday Fellowship (Oldham & District Group).  
Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group).  
Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).  
Hyde & District Footpaths Preservation Society.  
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.

AFFILIATED RAMBLING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES—*continued.*

Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "A").  
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "C").  
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "D").  
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "E").  
Manchester C.H.A. Club.  
Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.  
Manchester Pedestrian Club.  
Manchester Rambling Club.  
North Manchester Harriers & A. C. Rambling Section.  
Norton Ward (Sheffield) Ratepayers' Association.  
Oldham & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
Peak Ramblers.  
Peveril Rambling & Social Club.  
Plymouth Grove Wesley Guild.  
"R" Club.  
Ramblers Association (Sheffield & District Federation).  
Ramblers' Federation (Manchester & District).  
Rochdale Field Naturalists Society.  
Rucksack Club.  
Salford P.S.A. Rambling Club.  
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.  
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.  
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.  
Stockport Field Club.  
Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.  
Sutton-in-Ashfield Rambling Club.  
United Field Naturalists.  
Vegetarian Society Social & Athletic Club.  
Willersley, Sidholme & Sidstrand, Ltd.  
(Young Methodism Holidays).  
Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section)  
Stockport.  
Youth Hostels Association (Sheffield Sub-Regional Council).  
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.



### DEFENCE FUND

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Legal Expenses re:—												
" The Cloud," Buglawton	...	...	14	18	8					271	4	10
" The Winnats" ...	...	14	5	6						17	14	7
Less Fees returned by												
P. M. Oliver, Esq. ...	6	4	0									
Part exs. received from												
Ramblers' Federation...	4	0	9									
				<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>						
					<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>						
Balance carried forward to 1939...	...	...	...	18	19	5						
				<u>270</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>						
					<u>£288</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>5</u>					
										£288	19	5

### SPECIAL RESERVE FUND AT DECEMBER 31, 1938

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance carried forward to 1939 (Arnold Wilson Legacy, £713 16s. 8d.; G. H. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.G.S. Gift towards Erection and Maintenance of Signposts, £50 0s. 0d.)	...	763	16	8			

### MANCHESTER & SALFORD SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AT DECEMBER 31, 1938.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Interest as per contra transferred to General Account	...	26	1	5			
Balance on deposit carried forward to 1939 ...	...	1,000	0	0			
				<u>£1,026</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	

### CASH POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 1938.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance at Credit of Defence Fund	...	270	0	0			
Special Reserve Fund	...	763	16	8			
Subscriptions paid in advance for 1939	...	1	5	6			
				<u>£1,035</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	
Cash in hand	...	3	3				
Cash at Bank	...	26	19	6			
Cash on deposit with M. & S. Savings Bank	...	1,000	0	0			
Debit Balance of General Account	...	7	19	5			
				<u>£1,035</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	

(Signed) ALFRED E. BOWEN, Hon. Treasurer.

THOMAS GREAVES, Hon. Auditor.

26th January, 1939