

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL

For the Year
ended 31st December
1945

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The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

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THOMAS BOULGER

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1945.

AS anticipated, the end of the war was quickly followed by a spate of new Government Bills affecting public rights, commons, and open spaces, which were considered necessary in view of the contemplated cessation of the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act, 1939, under which public rights of way had been kept closed during the war. As is now well-known the Act came to an end on February 24, 1946, and had it not been for the new legislation all public rights of way would automatically have been restored to the public on that date. The new legislation comprised the Requisitioned Land and War Works Bill, Supplies and Services (Transitional Powers) Bill, Emergency Powers (Transitional Powers) Bill, Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Bill and the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Bill. In addition there was the Water Bill. All these Bills are now on the Statute Book.

More than ever, the views of the Society are sought on all national matters affecting public rights and during the year your Secretary and Officers spent much time and labour on such Bills.

The Requisitioned Land and War Works Act probably affects the Society's work more than the others. The provisions of this Act were dealt with at considerable length in last year's Report. It is interesting to record that it was entirely due to the Society that a provision was inserted in the Bill during its final stages whereby public rights of way (closed for war purposes) could be reinstated before the expiration of the period of two years (during which period under the Bill the Government departments had to make up their minds whether to derequisition the land or to acquire it under Part II of the Act)—your Officers' interpretation of the Bill as drawn being that there was no such power despite the fact that the Minister of War Transport had given assurances that whenever possible footpaths would be restored before the end of the period of two years. It was an extremely difficult task getting the legal advisers to the Minister of War Transport to accept the Society's point of view. However, at length it was accepted, and the Government introduced the necessary amendment to the Bill. Already under the Requisitioned Land Act reports have been asked for from the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society by the Minister of War Transport on proposals made by the

latter for the permanent closing or diversion of public rights of way in cases where land is going to be retained. The Commons Society has passed on the cases affecting this area and reports have been submitted on paths at Brough, Oldham, Padiham and Accrington—the latter through the Blackburn Footpaths Preservation Society. If the recommendations made in the reports are accepted by the Minister there should be no necessity to hold public inquiries which, under the Act, has to be done in case of dispute. This procedure should considerably simplify and quicken the procedure for restoring the rights of way to the public, and will considerably lessen the work of the Ministry and Footpaths Societies.

As previously mentioned, under the Requisitioned Land Act Government Departments had two years, i.e., until February 24, 1948, in which to make up their minds whether to derequisition land. This period was extended by the Supplies and Services (Transitional Powers) Bill to December 10, 1950, but only if the land was intended to be used for the purposes referred to therein. When it was first introduced into Parliament the Bill extended to public rights of way, but later the Bill was amended to exclude such rights of way from its operation. Consequently the Minister of War Transport will still, as required by the Requisitioned Land Act, have to initiate all his proposals for permanently closing or diverting highways before February 24, 1948. Unfortunately the Act still applies to commons, playing fields, and other open spaces, and obviously opens the way to considerable further delay in the restoration of such public amenities.

The Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Bill was introduced to provide a quicker Parliamentary procedure than hitherto existed for dealing with legislation of the kind at present promoted by Provisional Order Bill. Such a Bill if opposed took some 8 or 9 months to become effective, but under the new procedure the period may be less than that number of weeks. The new procedure will apply to the Water Act, 1945, and it is only when the provisions of that Act have been interpreted that we shall know whether the public are likely to be prejudiced by the new procedure, which gives the minimum of time in which to present a petition against a Provisional Order Bill.

As a set-off against the continued curtailment of public rights imposed by the new legislation it is pleasing to report that Defence Regulation 62 (5A), under which the ploughing up of footpaths for war-time cultivation was authorised by County War Agricultural Executive Committees, was revoked on

September 28 last. The effect of the revocation is to withdraw the protection from prosecution under the Highways Act for interference with public rights. Your Council sought the views of one of the Agricultural Executive Committees as to the position of footpaths which had already been re-seeded at the date when the regulation was revoked, but it is understood that the farmers have been requested to restore the rights formerly exercised by the public over the original footpaths whether re-seeded or not and to remove any obstruction. They have also been asked to roll out or level the original line of the path for the use of the public. In view of the food crisis which has arisen since the revocation of the regulation which makes it more than ever essential that agricultural land should be cultivated to produce the greatest possible amount of wheat, etc., it would appear to be only fair and reasonable that where re-seeding has already taken place, the public should refrain from insisting on paths being reinstated until after the next harvest, provided, of course, the farmer has continued to leave available a reasonable diversion. With goodwill on the part of the farmers and public alike there would appear to be no reason why intensive agriculture and the very necessary recreation of rambling should not both function satisfactorily. The Society will always be willing to further any efforts to this end.

Your Secretary's observations were asked by the Ramblers' Association on a Memorandum on the revision of highway law prepared by the Joint Committee of the Ramblers' Association and Commons Society. Many of the suggestions made in a lengthy Memorandum furnished by him have been adopted by the Joint Committee.

It is with deep regret that your Council has to record the deaths during the past year of Mr. Arthur R. Moon, LL.B., Mr. Alfred E. Bowen and Mr. W. H. Coomber, Assoc.M.Inst. C.E. Mr. Moon was connected with the Society since 1907, having acted as Hon. Secretary between the years 1908-1914 and 1921-1934, and as President from 1935 until 1945. Both Mr. Bowen and Mr. Coomber were actively connected with the Society for a good number of years, Mr. Bowen having held the office of Hon. Auditor from 1926 to 1932 and the office of Hon. Treasurer from 1933 to 1943; whilst Mr. Coomber was the Society's Hon. Surveyor from 1935 to 1943. The present position and status of the Society owe a great deal to these gentlemen.

Mr. B. Gill has felt it necessary to retire from the office of Inspector of Footpaths which he has occupied for the past 10 years. His knowledge of Cheshire footpaths coupled with the

tact shown by him in dealing with farmers have been of considerable benefit to the public in the preservation of Cheshire footpaths, many of which would otherwise have been lost. Mr. E. Midgley has agreed to undertake the office of Inspector for Cheshire.

Following are some of the many matters that have occupied the attention of the Society and its officers :—

PROPOSED LEICESTER CORPORATION RESERVOIR IN MANIFOLD VALLEY.—Your Secretary, as a member of the Peak District National Park Committee, has been actively engaged during the year on this matter, and, apart from general work in connection with the Bill which has been presented to Parliament by the Leicester Corporation, he attended with a deputation from the Peak District National Park Committee and the National Farmers Union, which was received by the Corporation Waterworks Committee, and at a meeting in London of the Standing Committee on National Parks when the decision was reached that the Peak District National Park Committee should Petition against the Bill. The Petition has been presented, and it is anticipated that the cost of fighting the Bill may reach the sum of £500. Your Council has agreed to make a contribution of £25 towards such costs, which will be debited to the Defence Fund in the 1946 accounts. The other organisations represented on the Peak District National Park Committee have also made contributions, but in some cases out of specific subscriptions made by their members. It was not possible for your Council to do this, but if any members are desirous of reducing the burden so placed on the Defence Fund they can do so by making an extra or further contribution to the Defence Fund when forwarding their subscriptions for 1946.

In order that the Petition should not be complicated by the question of footpaths and to avoid any confusion on that ground it was agreed between the Society and the Corporation and Engineers to the scheme that this question should be disposed of if at all possible. Your Council suggested that there should be a new footpath along each side of the reservoir, and also a new footpath below the proposed dam which will give access to the path which proceeds down the valley. In addition the Corporation was asked to agree to delete from the Bill Clause 9 which provided for the closing of all footpaths on the land to be acquired, and that only the footpaths between the new paths and the reservoir (which would be rendered useless by the reservoir) should be closed. At a meeting between the Engineers, the Waterworks Engineer and your Secretary the Society's

proposals were agreed, and steps are being taken to amend the Bill to give effect thereto. It is distinctly understood that the question of footpaths is entirely without prejudice to the Petition against the Bill by the Peak District National Park Committee, and is merely designed to save time and confusion in reaching agreement on this point should the Bill be proceeded with notwithstanding the many Petitions against it.

FOOTPATHS FROM NORBURY TOWARDS BARROW HILL AND DENSTONE, ELLASTONE, UTTOXETER.—The help of the Society was sought with reference to the obstruction of footpaths at Ellastone, Staffordshire. Although actually outside the Society's area your Council has made representations to the Uttoxeter Rural District Council and asked for the removal of the obstructions and the replacing of missing stiles.

BERESFORD DALE FOOTPATH.—Complaints having been received as to the obstruction of this well-used track by numerous fallen trees, after investigation by your Inspector, the Staffordshire County Council was asked to have an inspection made of the path with a view to calling for the removal of the obstructing trees. The County Council agreed that the trees obstructed the footpath, but as the question in regard to the obstruction of rights of way was a matter for the Rural District Council they had communicated with the Clerk to that Council, asking him to deal with the matter.

DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH AT PARKIN CLOUGH.—The Society was asked by the Derwent Valley Water Board to agree to a slight diversion of the footpath which proceeds from Winhill down the side of Parkin Clough to the Yorkshire Bridge owing to the damage caused to the farmer by the rolling of stones down the slope. The Board suggested that the substituted path should follow the wall which extends by Parkin Clough on the north side of the stream—the gradient on such path being generally more uniform and less severe than the original path. In agreeing to this diversion your Council suggested the erection of "Public Footpath" notices at each end of the new way.

FOOTPATH FROM ABNEY TO STOKE FORD.—At the Abney end of this track there has been for some years a six-barred gate on the top rail of which the inscription "No road" has met persons using the track. The trees in White Edge plantation were felled during the war, and at the Stoke Ford end of the road in place of the former light wide hurdle gate, there is now a tumble down wall, two or three fir poles, a stone

gate post lying on the ground, and a very boggy condition of the ground itself made worse by the felling operation. In June last the landowner was written to and asked to remove the "No road" notice, and it was also suggested that if he was the owner of the land at the point where the road emerges at Stoke Ford, it would be desirable when the boundary fencing was eventually made good following the tree felling, that a stile should be provided. As the owner claimed the track to be private, evidence is being sought to augment that which the Society now possesses in support of the public claim that the track is an old public road and bridle path. Evidence of user for upwards of 20 to 40 years would be welcomed by the Society.

FOOTBRIDGE OVER STOKE BROOK NEAR CALVER NEW BRIDGE.—One of the handrails on this footbridge being missing and the other insecure the Bakewell Rural District Council was asked to effect the repairs necessary. These will be put in hand by the County Council as soon as possible.

FOOTBRIDGE NEAR BROADHAY FARM, HATHERSAGE.—One of the two footbridges near Broadhay Farm being found to be out of repair (although only repaired barely 12 months previously by the Hathersage Parish Council), it was suggested to the Parish Council that a more satisfactory crossing could be effected by the placing of stone or concrete steps in the banks on each side and that, while a short plank or slab would complete the job more satisfactorily, steps in the bank would be a more lasting solution than the frequent rebuilding of a light footbridge. Nothing having been done by the Parish Council, representations were made to the District County Surveyor as the repairs now necessary were such that it would be fairer to the Parish Council if the County Council undertook the same. Although he took the view that the footbridge was not one for which the County Council was liable, the District County Surveyor has intimated that if it was the wish of the Parish Council that the County Council should undertake the repair of the bridge at the cost of the Parish Council such an application would receive sympathetic consideration. Your Council has communicated with the Parish Council thereon.

ROADS AND PATHS IN THE LONGSTONE MOOR AREA.—The help of the Society having been sought with reference to the condition of the roads, bridle paths and footpaths running from the following points, namely, Rowland, the Bleaklow Mine Workings and Stony Middleton to the Wardlow-Foolow Road which crosses the Peak Forest-Manchester road,

your Inspector made a thorough investigation, and his report has been forwarded to the District County Surveyor with a view to his remedying the matters complained of.

FOOTPATH NEAR PHOSIDE FARM, HAYFIELD.—The Society has four direction posts indicating the Hayfield-Ridge Top-Phoside-Peep o' Day footpath. That portion of the footpath which crosses Foxholes Clough a few yards S.E. of Phoside Farm was out of repair and needed attention—the stone step-way leading down to the stone slab crossing the stream and the stone slab itself required to be made secure. This was reported to the Hayfield Parish Council, and the suggestion made that a little channelling would also appear to be called for and that the protruding hedge required to be cut back. The Parish Council has made a very satisfactory job and the crossing is now better than it has been for some years.

STILE NEAR TUNSTEAD FARM, HAYFIELD.—On the field path from Hill Houses to Tunstead Lane the footpath enters the lane by a stone step-stile over the wall, one step on each side. The lane is below the field level and a stone abutment enables the connection to be made from the wall stile to the lane. In July last there was a fatal accident—on a lady stepping down to the abutment, a wall stone came away in her hand and she fell backwards, somersaulting into the lane. Apparently some three years ago there was another serious accident at the same stile. The attention of the Hayfield Parish Council was called to the danger and repairs were quickly carried out. Although a guard rail has not been provided nor the general level of the abutment raised, the actual cause of the fatality has been given attention and the stones on the top of the stile cemented, and a large stone at the foot of the wall cemented in the best position possible on the top of the abutment. The stile still remains one calling for careful use but the crossing has been improved, and is now in as good a condition as it was ever known to be.

TOWN GATE PACK HORSE BRIDGE OVER RIVER NOE AT JACOB'S LADDER.—For a year or so the condition of this old stone footbridge (known as Youngit Bridge) has required attention, part of the parapet being down, and while the bridge itself was sound enough it was desirable that the fallen masonry should be rebuilt. A suggestion to this effect was made to the District County Surveyor, who has promised to have the damage repaired as soon as he can spare suitable labour, as the repairs must match the existing work.

PEAK CAVERN, CASTLETON.—It is pleasing to report a very satisfactory ending in the dispute which the Society had with the Duchy of Lancaster regarding the proposed restriction of the right of way to the Cavern. The Council to the Duchy was asked to reconsider its previous decision, and as a result, decided that when the time came to set up a new barrier for the protection of the Cavern and the Ropewalks the Chancellor of the Duchy would be advised to order its erection on the site of the existing ineffectual barrier—as originally suggested by your Council. Furthermore, instructions were given for the permanent removal of the notice near Alwyn Cottage, which notice stated that the path was for the use of visitors to the Cavern only. The public rights of way claimed over the path as far as the entrance to the Cavern have accordingly been safeguarded.

FOOTPATHS AT PICKING RODS, CHISWORTH.—On the Air Ministry ceasing to use the Picking Rods area and reinstating the footpaths to the public, your Council secured the removal of certain obstructions and dumps of barbed wire which had been left by the R.A.F. It was later found that one obstruction remained on the path which runs from Picking Rods in an easterly direction across Cown Edge to the Monk's Road to Plainsteads Farm—the obstruction consisting of a barbed wire fence at a point 90 yards N.W. of Far Slack Farm. From the enquiries which were made it appeared that the obstruction was not placed there by the R.A.F., and following representations made to the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council that Council has requested the tenant of the farm to remove the obstruction.

FOOTPATH FROM COPPICE ROAD ACROSS POYNTON BROOK TO YEW TREE FARM, POYNTON.—In 1942 difficulty was experienced in crossing Poynton Brook owing to there being no footbridge. The brook being the boundary between Poynton and Adlington representations were made to the Councils of both Parishes, but though nothing was done at the time (presumably owing to the difficulty in obtaining timber), a good footbridge has now been erected over the brook.

LYME PARK FOOTPATHS.—Your Council's endeavours to obtain the reopening of the various footpaths through or adjacent to Lyme Park were quite successful—the paths being reopened last Whitweek. Subsequently at your Council's request the military authorities removed the notices which were erected when the Park was taken over, and also various obstructions. Three of the stiles were in need of repair, and the Macclesfield

Rural District Council has been asked to undertake such work. On the path from Elmerhurst to the West Park Gate one of the tenants had carried a stake and barbed wire fence across the line of path and at the actual intersection there was a five-barred gate fastened to the wood gate posts by galvanised wire. Following correspondence with the Agent to the estate the latter has requested the tenant to leave the gate unfastened.

FOOTPATH BETWEEN BROWN HOUSE AND BILLINGESIDE FARM, RAINOW.—On being informed that the tenant of Brown House Farm was objecting to the public using this path your Inspector had interviews with the tenant and owner of the farm, and following correspondence with the Rainow Parish Council it was agreed that there was a public right of way through the farm yard and up the cow lane. Apparently some persons were wrongly crossing the meadow in wet weather when the lane was rather dirty.

FOOTPATH FROM ROAD NEAR BRINKS FARM TO FURTHER HARROP.—A few years ago the stile on this path through which access to the road was gained was obstructed but by arrangement the farmer agreed to leave open the gate at the side. On going over the path last summer your Inspector found that the path had been blocked in two places by barbed wire. He saw the tenant who suggested a considerable detour should be made, but afterwards agreed to remedy the matters complained of. As a further inspection showed that the obstructions still remained, representations were made to the Rainow Parish Council who obtained a further promise from the farmer to remove the obstructions. The only remaining obstacle is a rickety fence across the path, and it has been suggested to the Parish Council that they should see to such work.

FOOTPATH FROM ASTLE, CHELFORD, TO BROOK-HOUSE, OLD WITTINGTON.—After a good deal of correspondence with the Macclesfield Roads Area Advisory Sub-Committee of the Cheshire County Council as to the erection of a footbridge and the repair of the path, word has now been received that such Committee has accepted the offer of the Chelford and Old Withington Parish Councils to defray the cost of the erection of the footbridge, and the District Surveyor has been directed to proceed with the work. It is assumed that when the work is carried out the District Surveyor will take steps to drain the water away from the approaches to the bridge,

as the present condition of the path at that point makes it impassable.

FOOTPATH FROM ARLEY VILLAGE GOING SOUTH TO BUDWORTH HEATH.—For several years this footpath, which proceeds due south from opposite the western entrance to the drive to Arley Hall and finally emerges at Hill Top Farm, Budworth Heath, has been closed under Defence Regulations. The purpose for which the path was closed having ceased the path has now been reopened for public use.

FOOTPATH FROM MOBBERLEY CHURCH NORTHWARDS TO DAVENPORT LANE, MOBBERLEY.—On inspecting this path your Inspector found that it had been partly ploughed up and a strand of barbed wire fixed across one of the stiles. He interviewed the farmer who arranged to remove the barbed wire.

FOOTPATH ACROSS ALDERLEY PARK FROM EAGLE LODGE.—For some time efforts were made by your Inspector to get the landowner to remove the overgrowth which blocks the entrance to the path at Eagle Lodge, and also to obtain the removal of barbed wire obstructions at the Shaw Cross End of the track. Such efforts being unsuccessful the matter was reported to the Macclesfield Roads Area Advisory Sub-Committee. An intimation has been received from that Committee agreeing that the Society's complaint was justified and that representations had been made to the Nether Alderley Parish Council to remove the overgrowth, fill in the ditch and make good the path at the Eagle Lodge entrance, and to the Over Alderley Parish Council to take whatever steps were necessary to remove the barbed wire obstructions at the Shaw Cross end of the path.

PICKERINGS BRIDGE, CROWTON, NORTHWICH.—Although the Petition by the Cheshire County Council against the Bill presented to Parliament by the Weaver Navigation Trustees for the closing of Pickerings Bridge (referred to in last year's Report) did not stop power being given for the removal of the bridge it did achieve good results and justified your Council's action in urging the County Council to Petition against the Bill. The Weaver Trustees must first provide a public bridle path along the left bank of the Weaver from Pickerings Bridge to Dutton Locks including a crossing at the Locks and must recognise the towing path on the right bank between Pickerings Bridge and Dutton Locks as a public bridle path.

Moreover, the Trustees must also permit a ferry to be established at or near the site of the bridge. If some person obtains the necessary licence to work the ferry it should prove beneficial to ramblers and the local inhabitants. One important gain is the recognition of the towing path on the right bank of the river as a public bridle path, as it provides the connecting link with the paths through Aston Grange, Blackamoor Woods and Becketts Woods on that side of the river, which your Council claimed as public rights of way and had provided the County Council with evidence in support of such claim.

FOOTPATH FROM CANAL BANK GOING N.E. TO VICTORIA FARM, WINDLEHURST, MARPLE.—This path being found to be obstructed in three places representations were made to the Marple District Council, with the result that such Council has asked the farmer to remove the obstructions. Failing the removal, the District Council intends to take the matter up with the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

KNUTSFORD - ARLEY - LYMM PATH.—The District County Surveyor at Bucklow, when re-erecting the Society's notice boards on this path, unfortunately erected the two notices at Hollowwood Farm in their wrong position. This resulted in the farmer obstructing the correct line of path, but he promised to remove the obstruction and also rebuild the stile as soon as the notices had been placed in their proper position. This has now been done and the farmer has been asked to fulfill his promise. On the same path your Inspector found two barbed wire fences, but on seeing the farmers responsible they promised to make new stiles. Arrangements have also been made for the estate owners to repair four hunting laches on the path.

FOOTBRIDGE NEAR PIGLEY STAIR BRIDGE, RIVER BOLLIN.—Complaints were received that the footbridge about 300 yards down stream from Pigley Stair Bridge was again in a dangerous condition, the wooden baulks placed in the bank by the Cheshire County Council to stop erosion having disappeared and the bank was crumbling away again. The danger was reported to the County District Surveyor, and the necessary repairs to the footbridge abutment have now been carried out.

ST. ANN'S ROAD, NEAR SCHOOLS HILL, CHEADLE.—This road being impassable after rain representations were made to the Cheadle and Gatley Urban District Council, with the result that the brook course co-extensive with the road has

been cleaned for a considerable distance and tons of cinder ballast put down on the road. On the same road about 30 yards nearer High Grove there is another water-logged patch at the foot of a slope. The District Surveyor anticipates carrying out the necessary work during the coming summer.

RIVERSIDE PATH FROM WATERMEETINGS FARM TO COMPSTALL BRIDGE, COMPSTALL.—Following complaints which were received as to the condition of this footpath your Inspector investigated the matter when he found that in the section of the path which lies in Redbrow Wood the soil was loose and the vegetation thick; water runnels had scoured into the line of the path and there had been a little erosion of the river bank itself. Moreover, obstructing overgrowth covering the path itself required to be cleared, and here and there some consolidation of the path surface was called for. The Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council has the matter under consideration, but at the moment is in some doubt as to the Council's liability where the path has been swept away through river erosion. Your Council has suggested that this is not a case of erosion by the river but merely the interference of the path by water runnels.

FOOTPATH IN BOTTOMS HALL WOOD, HYDE.—The attention of the Hyde Corporation being called to an obstruction consisting of a strand of barbed wire about 24 ft. long fixed on two wood stumps across the way which runs from Rhodesfold to Bottoms Hall the Corporation Surveyor has communicated with the farmer who may be concerned with such obstruction.

FOOTPATH FROM PEEL HALL TO CHAMBER HALL.—Some time ago your Inspector urged the landowner to repair the path near Peel Hall and a satisfactory job has now been made.

FOOTPATH THROUGH DRINKWATER PARK, PRESTWICH.—Your Council reported to the Prestwich Corporation that one of the bridges near the site of the north lodge near Drinkwater Park had been removed and the path on each side of where the bridge should be was obstructed by barbed wire. The Corporation has restored the footbridge and the path is now free from obstruction. The footpath joining up with the path through Drinkwaters Park leading in the direction of Prestwich Clough having been damaged owing to the flooding of reservoirs during the heavy rains of October last—such flooding having caused subsidences in two parts of the path—the

Corporation is dealing with the matter with the owners of the reservoirs. In the meantime the dangerous parts are roped off and lighted each night in the interest of public safety.

FOOTPATH FROM STANEDGE CUTTING TO DIGGLE.—Complaints having been received as to the alleged stopping up and diversion of this path investigations were made by your Inspector who interviewed the farmers concerned in the dispute. All that was required was the making good of three stiles and this the farmer has satisfactorily attended to.

STILES.—Action has been taken in the case of defective stiles on the following routes :—

Castleton via Hurdlow Barn to Rowter Farm Road.

Path near Blackshaw Farm, Hayfield.

Path west of Mottram Bridge, Mottram St. Andrews.

Path from Gawsworth Church to Rodegreen.

Path from Princes Parkway westwards to Jackson's Boat.

DIRECTION POSTS.—During the year one new wood direction post was erected by the Society at Castleton on the riverside footpath to Hope. The Society's direction post above Cowclose Farm, Hathersage, which was of light construction—a wood board on wood stake—after having been uprooted on several occasions has now disappeared. It is hoped to replace this wood sign later by one of the Society's iron direction plates.

Two of the Society's direction plates, one on Win Hill and one above Goyt's Bridge, have been broken by stone throwing and need replacement.

In three cases direction posts have not yet been located since their removal for national reasons in 1940—if necessary these will be replaced later by new posts.

The Iron Foundry, where up to the beginning of the war the Society's direction plates were cast, went out of business during the war, and so far your Council's efforts to find another foundry able to undertake the Society's work have not been successful. Difficulty has also been experienced in finding local joiners who would attend to the repair or renewal of the Society's direction posts, while in addition practically all such direction posts and plates require repainting.

Some eighteen months ago it is understood that a resolution was passed at a meeting of the Cheshire County Council to the effect that "consideration should be given to the matter of signposting all public footpaths in Cheshire." The matter was passed on to the Council's Roads and Bridges Committee for consideration. On learning that such Committee proposed to pass a resolution recommending that no further action be taken

your Secretary, in urging the County Council to undertake such work, pointed out the necessity for signposting footpaths to guide the public and prevent claims being made that certain paths were private and that it was unfair that voluntary societies should be saddled with the burden of erecting signposts and the further annual burden of maintaining the posts. Word has been received from the County Clerk that his Council (after considering the Society's letter) decided to refer back such decision of the Roads and Bridges Committee to that Committee for further consideration.

FOOTPATH LIBRARY.—The following additions to the Society's "Footpath Library," housed in the Special Collections Department of the Manchester Central Library, have been presented during the year :—

C.P.R.E. Quarterly Report, March, June and September, 1945.

Sheffield C.P.R.E. Annual Report, 1944.

Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbook, 1945-6.

Baddeley's Guide, North Wales, Part 1.

Seven one-inch Ordnance Survey Maps, Longtown, Silloth, Carlisle, Ullswater and Barrow.

The Northern Rambler, 1944 and 1945.

FINANCE.—In view of the large volume of work disclosed by this Report, which has entailed a larger expenditure, particularly in travelling expenses and postages, it is somewhat discouraging to your Council to record that membership income instead of showing an expected increase actually shows a reduction on the previous year of £1 4s. 0d. This has resulted in the balance in hand at the beginning of the year of £19 17s. 9d. being reduced to the very small sum of £2 6s. 0d. Your Council has repeatedly emphasised that the amount of work undertaken by the Society must be determined by its income and unless such income is substantially increased it is difficult to see how the Society can ever hope to extend its activities, or, in fact, undertake for more than a short period such a considerable amount of work as during the current year. Apart from its ordinary work of preserving footpaths it is necessary that the Society should continue to take a very active interest in all national problems affecting public rights and amenities, which will mean increased expenditure.

It is pleasing to report that during the year 95 new members were enrolled, but against this 40 members failed to renew their subscriptions leaving a net increase of 55. Three further organisations affiliated during the year but one Club failed to renew its affiliation, having disbanded. The number of members

is now 379 with 56 affiliated Clubs. The work of the Society is increasing so rapidly that the time will soon arrive when it will be impossible for your Officers to get through the work in their spare time. Accordingly, your Council has had under consideration the question of changing the organisation of the Society into a full time office. However, it will be obvious from the Statement of Accounts embodied in this Report that this change cannot be contemplated unless and until your Council is assured of a membership income very considerably in excess of the present income. To this end members are again urged to take every opportunity of inviting their fellow walkers to join the Society.

The Defence Fund has been augmented by £27 5s. 7d. during the year to £381 4s. 2d. but, of course, this fails to be reduced by the £25 agreed to be contributed towards the costs of opposing the Leicester Corporation Bill. The £27 5s. 7d. included a very generous contribution by the Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club of £10 14s. 7d., which with the Club's affiliation fee of £1 10s. 0d. represents more than one-fourteenth of the total subscriptions and donations received by the Society during the year! In making this acknowledgment of the continued generosity of the Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club your Council does so in the hope that other Clubs will be encouraged to follow such a splendid example.

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION.—The terms of membership are simple, involving no formalities other than the payment of a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum which entitles a member to receive a copy of the Annual Report, together with any information which it may be within the Council's scope to afford. It must be emphasised that in fixing the *minimum* subscription the Society has in view the desirability of obtaining the fullest possible public interest, and that the revenue derived from minimum subscriptions is inadequate to meet the needs of the Society's operations. The Secretaries of Rambling and kindred Clubs can perform a very useful service by bringing to the notice of their members the objects and claims of the Society *and urging individual membership*. Some Secretaries make themselves responsible for the collection of subscriptions from the Club members, which are forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer in bulk. Other Secretaries are urged to adopt a similar method, as it ensures that subscriptions are not overlooked, and is very helpful to the Society and its Officers.

The minimum Affiliation Fee for Clubs and Societies is 10s. 6d. per annum which includes the privilege of appointing a Delegate to attend the Council's meetings.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies

Accrington Naturalist & Antiquarian Society.
Art Museum Field Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bury & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club
Bramhall Ratepayers' Association.
C. E. Holiday Homes, Ltd.
Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (L.C. & N.W. District Association).
Central Rambling Club.
City News Fellowship (Ramblers Section).
Co-operative Holiday Association.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Sec.)
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Stockport Sec.)
Crescent Rambling Club.
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Derby C.H.A. & H.F. 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)
Lower Mosley Street Institute Rambling Club.
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
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.
Manchester & District Rambling Club for the Blind.
Marple Field Club.
North Staffordshire Field Club.
Oldham & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Ramblers' Association (Sheffield & District Federation).
Ramblers' Association (Liverpool & District Federation).
Ramblers' Association (Manchester & District Federation).
Rochdale Field Naturalists Society.
Rucksack Club.
S.E. Lancashire County Scout Council.

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 & District Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists.
Vegetarian Society Social & Athletic Club.
Warrington C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Willersley Sidholme & Sidestrands Ltd.
Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section) Stockport.
Workers' Travel Association Ltd.
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
Youth Hostels Association (Sheffield Sub-Regional Group).

Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1945

INCOME	£	s.	d.	INCOME	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions for 1945:—							
Paid in advance, as per 1944 Statement	8	13	6	Printing Annual Report	19	0	0
Paid during the year to December 31, 1945	125	4	11	Circulars, Posters and Envelopes, etc.	4	2	6
Balance brought forward from 1944	133	18	5	Hire of Rooms	5	17	6
Bank Interest on deposits M. & S. Bank	19	17	9	Printing and Stationery	13	4	11
Bank Interest on Current Account	26	5	5	Insurance Premiums	3	8	7
	0	9	5	Signpost account	10	11	3
Subscriptions paid in advance for 1946	180	11	0	Subscriptions to C. O. S. & F. P. Society	2	2	0
	2	6	0	Affiliation Fees, C.P.R.E., 4 Branches	2	2	0
				Advertising and Sundry Expenses	4	4	0
				Maps and Plans	5	19	4
				Annual Meeting—Lecturer's Fee	1	3	0
				Annual Meeting—Lantern and Operator	0	15	0
				Secretary's Honorarium	30	0	0
				Treasurer's Clerical Assistance	5	5	0
				Footpath Inspectors' Honorariums—Mr. Wild	15	0	0
				Mr. Gill	7	10	0
				Footpath Inspector's Travelling Expenses:—	57	15	0
				Mr. Wild	9	10	10
				Mr. Gill	4	3	5
				Other Officials' Travelling Expenses	4	13	10
				Inspection Fees re Awards	18	8	1
				Postages	1	7	6
				Cheque Book	14	10	1
				Bank Commission, Current Account	0	4	2
				Amount transferred to P.W.R.	0	7	0
					10	2	0
				Balance carried forward to 1946...	172	0	11
					8	10	1
				Subscriptions for 1946, carried forward...	180	11	0
					2	6	0
					£182	17	0

DEFENCE FUND

Balance brought forward from 1944 ...	... ... ... £353 18 7	Balance carried forward to 1946 ...	... ... ... £381 4 2
Donations received during 1945 ...	... ... ... 27 5 7		
	£381 4 2		£381 4 2

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND

Balance brought forward from 1944 ...	... ... ... £776 6 8	Balance carried forward to 1946 (Arnold Wilson Legacy, £713 16s. 8d.; G. H. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.G.S., Gift towards Erection and Maintenance of Signposts £50; Anonymous £12 10s. Od.) ...	... ... ... £776 6 8
	£776 6 8		£776 6 8

BROOMYCROFTHEAD BRIDGE FUND

Donations in hand ...	... ... ... £27 15 6	Cooper Bros. (Builders) Ltd. Erection of Bridge ...	... ... ... £32 0 0
Donations received during 1945 ...	... ... ... 5 13 3	Balance transferred to Post-War Reserve ...	... ... ... 1 8 9
	£33 8 9		£33 8 9

POST-WAR RESERVE FUND

Brought forward from 1944 ...	... ... ... £45 0 0	Balance carried forward to 1946 ...	... ... ... £60 0 0
Donations received during 1945 ...	... ... ... 3 9 3		
Balance from Broomycrofthead Bridge Account ...	... ... ... 1 8 9		
Balance from General Fund ...	... ... ... 10 2 0		
	£60 0 0		£60 0 0

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AT DECEMBER 31, 1945

Deposits at December 31, 1945, at 2½ per cent ...	... ... ... £513 15 0	Balance on deposit carried forward to 1946 ...	... ... ... £1,052 10 5
Deposits at December 31, 1945, at 2½ per cent ...	... ... ... 512 10 0		
	1,026 5 0		
Interest to December 31, 1945 ...	... ... ... 26 5 5		
	£1,052 10 5		£1,052 10 5

CASH POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 1945

Cash at Bank ...	... ... ... £175 16 6	Balance at credit of Defence Fund ...	... ... ... £381 4 2
Cash on Deposit with M. & S. Bank ...	... ... ... 1,052 10 5	Special Reserve Fund ...	... ... ... 776 6 8
		Post-War Reserve ...	... ... ... 60 0 0
		Subscriptions paid in advance for 1946 ...	... ... ... 2 6 0
		Credit Balance of General Fund ...	... ... ... 8 10 1
			£1,228 6 11

(Signed) J. E. BROOM, Hon. Treasurer, February 13, 1946.

(Signed) G. SMITH, Hon. Auditor, February 13, 1946.