

Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



ANNUAL REPORT 1988



ABOVE: MARPLE 187 "THE DEER FENCE" NOVEMBER 1988

FRONT COVER: MARPLE 187 "THE DEER FENCE" WITH GATE,
AFTER SUCESSFUL PUBLIC INQUIRY JAN 1989.

Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

founded in 1894; Manchester Association founded 1896

President

Vice Presidents

A Bennett MP	G S Cooper	T Ewart
D T Berwick	P Daley	

Chairman

L G Meadowcroft, 1 Nelson Street, Hazel Grove, Cheshire SK7 4LR

Vice Chairman

N H Edwards, 5 Godward Road, New Mills, Stockport, SK12 3BU

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Closure and Diversions Secretary

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Auditor

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Council

H Billington	Miss R Irlam	J Ogden
W Brookfield	P Kenyon	C R Peers
Mrs P Cliff	Mrs B Kuse	B Rothman
Mrs E Daley	J L Lewis	Mrs B Taylor
Mrs J Howard	P J McCarthy	A Townley
J F Houfe	Mrs L Meadowcroft	(co-opted)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Countryside Commission

During the year two discussion documents were issued by the Commission. The first paper "Changing the Rights of Way Network" required a special meeting of interested members to discuss in detail its proposals which were very far reaching. Along with many other organisations the Society gave a firm thumbs down to the proposals many of which could have been inspired by the NFU and CLA. The Commission is now considering the submissions made. The second document "Paths, Routes and Trails" was received far more favourably and dealt mainly with the future use of long distance routes such as the Pennine Way and the Cleveland Way as well as possible future creations such as a long distance Pennine Bridleway. Our main concern was the use of the word "trails" and what this might imply.

Other organisations

We have been actively represented at quarterly meetings with Derbyshire CC's Countryside Standing Conference and at their bi-annual conference. We held our annual meeting with the Peak Park Planning Board when we emphasised our opposition to diversion orders where the path is obstructed and asked that such problems should be referred to the appropriate highway authority. We also held annual meetings with Barnsley and Stockport metropolitan councils. We are represented on the North West Federation for Sport and Recreation and our representative also serves on the North West Sports Council. We maintain close links with various sections of the Ramblers' Association including the Thomas Lockerby Trust.

Archives/research

The progressive nature of our activities means that this title is rapidly becoming a misnomer and we are now moving into a more operational sphere of management which means we shall have to choose a more suitable title. During the year the team has dealt with over 750 items of correspondence relating mainly to closures and diversions in the counties of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, South and West Yorkshire and the Peak Park. This of course is in addition to the general secretary's vast mailbag and matters relating to obstructions. Monday is now a very full working day for "the team" and we are very grateful and indebted to those dedicated members who turn up regularly each week to perform these essential duties.

We were successful in receiving a Countryside Commission grant to enable us to update our administrative equipment. The Secretary now has a word processor and small photocopier and we have purchased a telephone answering machine and a modern photocopier for use in the Archives including production of the Society's minutes. We are hoping to purchase a second word processor for the Archives team. Some of the work involved in producing this annual report has been prepared on one of these machines which also helps to reduce our printing costs. We are very grateful to a generous and anonymous benefactor who has provided us with a quantity of stationery and office equipment and fittings.

We have also received a small grant from the Countryside Commission to enable us to buy 20 cast alloy direction signs similar to those the Society erected prewar and which are often commented on favourably. The new plates will incorporate the Society's badge symbol. It should be emphasised that these grants cover a maximum of half the cost involved and the balance has to be found by the Society, so please remember us when making your Will! A form of bequest appears later in this report also a Bankers' Order form.

From the membership lists you will see a further increase in the number of ten year members and this class of membership offers benefits and savings for both the member and the Society; it is further recommended as an investment against increased membership fees which we shall have to consider shortly. If you still wish to remain an annual member please note the membership renewal form provides for various types of donation to be made. There is now an opportunity for affiliated clubs to offset the high cost to the society of servicing their delegates since, after despatching 12 copies of minutes plus postage, virtually nothing is left from the basic club subscription of £5 for all the other expenses of the Society.

Midweek walks

These walks are organised jointly with the Manchester Area of the Ramblers' Association and grow from strength to strength. At one time a monthly event these walks have now become a weekly fixture in the programme which is shown later in this annual report. It is important that wherever possible leaders should avoid the popular routes but rather should arrange walks along little used paths. A path should not be avoided because of possible problems but leaders should ensure they keep to the definitive right of way wherever possible. These walks are not intended for the fainthearted! Leaders are expected to make a report to the general secretary on any points that may arise during their walks so that the Society may take appropriate action.

Cloth badge of the Society

Are you yet the proud possessor of our Society's emblem which has proved so popular that we have had to order a further supply? It can be sewn onto either a rucksac or anorak and can be obtained (£1 plus 19p postage) from Robert Fysh, 57 Moss Lane, Timperley, Manchester.

Illustrated lecture

During the year the chairman and general secretary again presented the Society's illustrated lecture on a number of occasions to interested organisations. We should be pleased to accept invitations from other organisations and a small contribution to the society's funds would be appreciated.

Looking to the future

The Society is approaching the future more efficiently equipped than in the past to deal with the constant threats to our rights of way network most of which we regret to say seem to emanate from local authorities, the very people who are supposed to protect the rights of the public. There are several who in our opinion just don't do that but are always on the lookout for the easy solution irrespective of the consequences.

In particular we note there has been an increase in privacy type diversions for the sole benefit of the individual. We shall continue to oppose closures and we will look very keenly into diversion proposals where we shall expect to find some public benefit. We shall support creations of new routes provided they do not normally require the sacrifice of any existing route.

We are watching keenly the progress of our newly "greened" administrators and their legislative progress with several bills before Parliament, in particular the Water Bill dealing with the privatisation of the Water Industry and which could have serious effects on our access to attractive areas of countryside.

The Society badly needs more involvement from our younger members who are needed to lead the Society into the next century. It would also be nice to see more involvement from our lady members.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to submit for your consideration, my report for the year ended 31st December, 1988.

The year was again extremely busy and some 300 new obstruction files were added to those already in existence. My footpath report gives some indication of these and also records the clearances achieved during the year.

In my report last year I mentioned the work carried out by M.S.C. teams and indicated that these teams were making the major contribution to the footpath maintenance programme. This year we are told that these teams will no longer be available and I shudder to think what effect this will have on the footpath network. I see a situation where there will be little or no work done on maintaining paths during 1989.

At a recent meeting with Stockport M.B. I asked what effect this withdrawal of M.S.C. teams would have on the footpath maintenance programme. The answer I received was that it was not possible to judge at that time but during the coming year all works would have to be put out to tender and footpath maintenance would fall into this category. I now see a situation where very large sums of money are going to be needed to pay contractors and we all know that this sort of money is not available, certainly not for footpath work which must have the lowest priority in local government spending.

I mentioned in my report last year, as I have for the last few years how we have had to refer cases to the Ombudsman. We referred no new cases in 1988 but there were two which were outstanding from 1987 on which we were awaiting decisions.

It is with regret that I must report that in both cases, Marthall 4 and Standish-with-Langtree 8 the Ombudsman declined to accept the cases. You will recall that in the Marthall case the County Secretary declined to take action because " the landowner was providing alternative means of access " [a stile 110 yards off line] yet the Ombudsman could not or would not find maladministration. The Standish case was even more appalling. The obstruction of this bridleway commenced in May 1975 but because the Local Council, Wigan M.B. promised that the way would be open in 1988 the Ombudsman again could not find that there had been maladministration.

In the booklet " Your Local Ombudsman - What the Local Ombudsmen do " there are a number of examples of maladministration which have been accepted. One of these is " neglect and unjustified delay "..... The Ombudsman quite obviously does not see a wait of 13 years as being unjustified delay !!

When I prepare a case for the Ombudsman I ensure that it is good and sound and well prepared but in my eleven years as your Secretary I have yet to have a complaint accepted. There has just got to be something wrong with the system.

It is interesting to note that in the Ombudsman's Annual Report for 1987/88, Mr Laws, the vice-chairman of the Commission says " **The footpath "lobby" is vociferous but the criticism of the highway authority is sometimes immoderate. All local authorities have limited resources and I cannot place the clearing of obstructions at the top of a priority list of all their duties. What I would ask is that complaints about the obstruction of footpaths should be recorded, that the cases should be dealt with systematically and a reasonable allocation of resources should be made to ensure that footpaths are not lost or totally neglected** ".

I always felt that if all else failed in our effort to persuade local authorities to carry out their statutory duty then we could turn to the Ombudsman....how wrong I was. This prompts the question....what do we do now and that is just one of the problems we take with us into 1989 and one to which I have not as yet found the answer.

Another problem which is a "carry over" into the new year is that of the ploughing and non reinstatement of paths. This problem is particularly prevalent in Cheshire where we have been pressing the County Council to take action against those who habitually plough and do not reinstate. From the evidence we have it is apparent that the County is reluctant to take habitual offenders to Court. The County Highways department exert as much pressure as they can on the offenders but in the end they have to refer the matter to the Legal section for positive action and there I am afraid the matter rests. We will continue to apply pressure on the County Secretary but members can help by continuing to report cases of ploughing to me, stating the date seen and the grid refs, end to end, of the ploughed section.

I have mentioned in previous years my concern for the footpath network in the Boroughs of Blackburn and Rossendale, these two authorities are extremely lax in their dealings with footpath matters and almost always do not reply to letters addressed to their senior officers. I am giving serious consideration as to if we should ask for a meeting with a senior official of Lancashire County Council who are the Highway Authority (although the Boroughs' operate under delegated powers). I think we should ask them to give serious consideration to taking back responsibility for footpaths in the way that Derbyshire County Council took back that same responsibility from High Peak, some years ago.

Finally can I thank all those who have given me assistance during the year and make special mention of our Footpath Inspectors without whom we could not continue to operate.

DT.

Marple FP 187

In June 1983 the Society was notified by a High Lane resident that this path had been obstructed by a two metre high deer fence which was being electrified. Following investigations we wrote to Stockport MB on 24 July 1983 asking that the path should be re-opened to the public and they replied on 29 July advising they would have any obstructions removed. Thereafter Stockport procastinated and pussyfooted over the issue until October 1987 when they made an order to divert the path onto a non definitive path which had existed for a period far in excess of the time needed for 'deemed dedication'. Both the Society and the Ramblers' Association took exception to a local authority condoning an illegal act. The RA was successful in prosecuting the landowner who was convicted in the Magistrates' Court and ordered to remove the obstruction but, following the lodging of an appeal, the matter dragged on across the summer until the appeal was withdrawn at virtually the last minute. A further obstruction by an adjoining landowner was drawn to the Council's attention but still they failed to act.

Meanwhile a public inquiry was held on 14 September at Marple into the diversion order at which the two societies and interested individuals set out their strong objections to the proposals. The inspector's decision was announced just before Christmas and he refused to confirm the order. Stockport now had little choice but to act and by the middle of January two gates had been installed in the deer fence, although at that time the further obstruction remained. It is assumed this will be removed in time for a demonstration victory walk to be held on 29 January 1989.

We are appalled at the ineptitude of Stockport Council in its failure to resolve these problems when drawn to their attention. These obstacles could have been removed under the Highways Act 1970 at no cost to the public, instead of which the costs of a public inquiry now have to be borne by the ratepayer.

Comment

The thanks of the Society go to all who were involved with the battle to reopen Marple 187. This operation was a triumph of co-operation between the Society and the Ramblers Association. The Footpath Officer of the New Mills Group of the Ramblers Association and also a member of this Society was used by the Ramblers Association as the complainant in the case in the Magistrates Court. Far too often we take efforts of these workers for granted. It was therefore very nice to see over a hundred people on the celebration walk and I am sure that this gave considerable encouragement to all the workers of both the Society and the Ramblers Association. On their behalf I say to all involved (an no names in case I miss someone) a heartfelt thank you.

The inter -involvement of the two Societies is exemplified by the honour given to your Vice Chairman by appointing him President of the Manchester Area of the Ramblers Association.

N.H.E.

REPORT OF THE SIGNPOST SUPERVISOR

I regret to report an increase of vandalism this year after a good year in 1987 when only one case was reported:-

SP 144 at Shutlingsloe - uprooted.
SP 203 at Wilderness - disappeared.
SP 98 at Chapel Gate - Steel post bent over.
SP 78 at Eyam - Cast plate and post disappeared.
SP 132 at Wildboarclough - memorial plaque missing
SP 200 at Shining Tor - Double Arm missing
Lockerbry Signpost at Linnet Clough - uprooted and arm broken.
Lockerbry Signpost at Hollywood End - Arm missing.
Lockerbry Signpost at Longhurst Lane opposite Townscliffe Lane - disappeared.

A new waymarker post to replace SP 203 is ready for erection at Wilderness above Chew reservoir G.R. 027016. This is to replace the post donated by Mr Walter Brookfield in memory of his wife.

We have recently negotiated very reasonable terms with a local foundry for the manufacture of cast alloy plates, similar to the original P.& N.F.P.Soc. plates and a provisional order for twenty has been placed. The Countryside Commission has generously agreed to meet half the cost of these as and when they are erected. The first one to be made will be a replacement for SP 78 at Eyam which was originally erected in 1933.

New Signposts Finding suitable sites, tracing and locating landowners to obtain permission to erect a signpost, is a very slow and onerous task and is by far the most time consuming activity.

Two sites have been agreed for signposts to be donated by Manchester C.H.A., one at Damsteads Farm, Peak Forest and one near Lumbhole Mill, Kettleshulme. Mr Ellis Goddard has submitted a possible site for the proposed signpost for Buxton Rambling Club on the Limestone Way GR 137751.

We are still looking for sites for the proposed signposts which have been requested by New Mills R.A. and Miss Dorothy Bellman. Any suggestions, particularly with the name and address of the landowner, would be very much appreciated for these and future needs.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank those members who have given active assistance with signpost work throughout the year.

PSH.

SIGNPOST WORK COMPLETED DURING 1988

No.	Type of work.	Location.	G.R.
211	New signpost erected.	Nether Alderley	84097621
212	New signpost erected.	Marple	96558845
144	Re-erected & re-painted.	Shutlingsloe	978 697
142	Re-painted.	Shutlingsloe	975 699
143	Re-painted.	Shutlingsloe	970 703
24	Re-painted.	Eccles Pike	041 812
27	Re-painted.	Eccles Pike	047 810
192	Post reinforced & re-erected	Ilam	144 508
185	Cleaned up.	Combs	045 783
211	Re-erected.	Nether Alderley	84097621
93	Temporary reinforcement	Hope	163 845
83	Re-painted.	Shutlingsloe	983 691
34	Re-erected on concrete footing.	Dimpus Clough	063 846

38	Re-painted & re-erected on new post.	Brough	182	826
213	New Signpost erected	Cowlow	067	786
200	New replacement signpost erected	Shining Tor	995	739
156	Re-painted, arm re-fixed	Wildboarclough	986	697
134	Re-erected after renovation	Handley Fold	983	808
98	Post straightened	Chapel Gate	099	834

Work carried out by Mr Jack Ogden

23	Re-painted	Peep O' Day	047	850
33	"	Mount Famine	051	853
29	"	Middle Moor	095	883
148	"	South Bolder Hall	982	826
109	"	Dissop Head	979	820
154	"	Pott Shrigley	955	805
155	"	Pott Shrigley	955	806
150	"	Disley	981	832
116	"	Bowstones Ridge	972	808
119	"	Disley	963	841

During the year work was also carried out on several signposts on behalf of the Ramblers' Association, Thomas Lockerby Fund.

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ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Society will be held on Friday 21st April 1989. We are pleased to have as our speaker the North West Director of the Countryside Commission Mr Richard Thomas who will speak to the Society and propose a toast to the Society after the meal. The Venue is again the Masonic Temple in Bridge Street, Manchester at 6.45 for 7.15 p.m.

Tickets are available from your Vice Chairman. Tickets at £7 will be sent on receipt of a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope.

Norman resides at 5 Godward Road, New Mills via Stockport. Telephone number 0663 43571

COMMENT

The achievement of the year is undoubtedly the completion of the saga of Marple 187. There is much more about this in the report and I will not repeat it here. I really must stress how much work has been put into this case by numerous members of your Society.

The future of the Society is one which is concerning all your Officers. I think that I can say that the Society is riding on a high at the moment. We are fortunate in that we have a Chairman who is prepared to spend time and use his expertise for the benefit of your Society. Your Secretary has recently retired from full time employment and is willing to serve the Society in wider aspects. The other Officers put in much time to assist the Society in many varied ways and of course there is the efficient and eager assistance provided by the archive team. Too much is being accomplished by too few and if the future of the Society is to be maintained then we must have more active support from the members.

Let me give some instances of where you, as members can assist. In no way is this a full or conclusive list.

We have to absent ourselves from, or leave on the table possible Inquiries which really we should be covering. But as we do not have unlimited manpower with sufficient experience, we have to let them go. Now, there must be members who have legal or local government experience who could offer assistance. Although personal attendance at these inquiries is preferred they can be accomplished by written representation. This sounds so simple when you say it quickly but when you stop to think of the background work required, then the true effort involved begins to emerge. The site has to be carefully surveyed although the local inspector can probably assist here. Then there is the need for local support and communication with the local press. This task becomes so much easier after one or two efforts.

We are fortunate in our Closure and Diversions Secretary, but I know that he will be the first to admit that he has to take on only those of supreme importance, otherwise it could be a full time occupation. The cases that suddenly appear in the Magistrates Court are the ones which cause most concern because of the shortage of time for preparing the appropriate case.

The various Councils & Boards are constantly issuing reports and plans. These have usually taken them months if not years to prepare and we are asked to comment in next to no time. The latest example of this was the Countryside Commissions paper on "Changing the Rights of Way Network". I am sure you will appreciate that these cause your Officers and others a deal of extra work and concern.

I am in no way saying that your officers object to or dislike carrying out these works, but it has to be faced that sooner or later there will be a big void appearing in the Society. If there is to be a future then we should be planning for it now.

NHE

FOOTPATH REPORT FOR 1988

OBSTRUCTIONS AND CLEARANCES

This report is a summary of NEW cases reported to the General Secretary during the year and all reported clearances. It does not cover the several hundred ongoing cases which are also being pursued with local authorities.

COUNTY OF CHESHIRE.

Adlington 21 - Path said to be very overgrown and not passable. 92087872 to 92127939.

Adlington 24 - Path is said to be " in need of attention ". 92617893 to 92127938. Inspector is investigating.

Adlington 33 - There were allegations that this path was blocked by a fallen tree . 93077873 to 92887880. This has now been cleared but path is still overgrown and needs walking.

Brereton 1 & 2 - Various obstructions on these paths and there is a suggestion that application for diversion will be forthcoming. F.P. 1 - 75466544 to 75916658 and F.P. 2 - 75726603 to 76486644.

Brereton 3 - Stiles in need of repair and a steel gate tied up. 764663 to 762651.

Brereton 11 - No signs and no stiles on this path. 80676397 to 81286408.

Chelford 2 / Nether Alderley 50 - New stiles and a bridge erected. Path now clear though it does require a signpost. 82187540 to 82427532.

Cranage 1 - Badly obstructed at 656686 by a new barbed wire fence. Path also ploughed out and not reinstated.

Cranage 3 - Badly obstructed by a wire fence at 759683, the path has also been ploughed out and not restored.

Disley 50 - Two new stiles erected at 98108258 and 98188270. Path clear.

Disley 58 - There is some confusion as to the correct line of this path in the area 98788251. Cheshire C.C. have been asked to supply details of the correct line.

Kettleshulme 1 - Erosion of this path has caused it to become unavailable for public use in the area 99158076. Inspector is investigating.

Kettleshulme 8 - New stile in position, path clear. 99407988.

Kettleshulme 20 - Path is said to be 18" deep in sludge from an adjoining farm. G.R. 988784. Inspector is investigating further.

Little Bollington 5 - Crossing point at Agden Brook is in need of attention, 72108605.

Lyme Handley 3 - Path eroded away at 95268450. Cheshire C.C. have been asked to reinstate.

Lyme Handley 39 - Allegations that this bridleway is obstructed by barbed wire are being investigated. 98408096 to 98198075.

Lyme Handley 41 - Obstructed by a deposit of road skimmings at 98227932.

Mobberley 7 & 8 / Knutsford 11 - New bridge erected over Birkin Brook 78018232. First reported in 1980 now available for use.

Mobberley 49 - New wooden gates erected at each end, path vastly improved but signs still required. 81228009 to 81781018.

Mobberley 57 - New stile erected in mesh fence at 808810 and signpost erected.

Mobberley 68 & 69 - New bridge erected over Sugar Brook at 78008235. Path now clear.

Mottram St. Andrew 23 - Path surface, stiles and bridges on this path have deteriorated and the entire length requires attention. In the area 878785.

Nether Peover 14 / Allostock 15 - Missing footbridge has now been replaced. 73107290.

Over Alderley 12 & 13 - A dangerous stile, overrun by a double length of barbed wire, obstructs the way at the junction of these paths. 85877656.

Peover Superior 19 - The construction of a road is said to have interfered with the correct line of this path. The Society's inspector is checking. 79657410.

Poynton 20 - Path impassable due to flooding 94458416 to 94468438. Macclesfield B.C. have been invited to take action.

Poynton 21 - Path now clear with good stiles and signposts in position. 90908444.

Poynton 44 - Path was overgrown in parts, walkers were hemmed in by fencing and undergrowth. Path is now clear after attention by the Countryside Rangers

Rainow 16 - New stile now in position, path clear. 970776.

Rainow 17 - Path previously obstructed but now clear. In the area 97007751.

Rainow 19 - New stile erected at 96657848, path now clear.

Rainow 53 - Path blocked by a large metal sheet at Marsh Farm 943744.

Rainow 81 - Stile and signpost required where this path leaves the metalled road at 95677754. Reported to Countryside & Recreation Division.

Rainow 92 - New stile erected where the path leaves the A5002 at 96787787 but signpost still required. Path clear.

Siddington 22 - There was an unsafe stile at 85057152 and another at 85057158. New stiles have now been erected and the path is clear.

Sutton 13 - Hazardous stile at 95006981, signpost also required. This situation prevailed early in the year but was subsequently cleared.

Sutton 18 - Inspector advises that this path is open on its correct line.

Sutton 23 - Dangerous step stile with barbed wire overlay at 95626965. Also problems with water which makes it almost unusable

Sutton 34 - Two gates, chained and padlocked at 93776973 and 93726970, Foxbank Farm. Roadside stile at 93856972 is receiving attention

Twemlow 7 & 8 - On 7 the path is obstructed by two barbed wire fences and is ploughed out. On 8 the ploughing is far too near the field boundary.

Wildboarclough 32 - The bridge on this path is said to be "down" G.R. 00586775. There is said to be a new bridge further upstream but this is not on the line of path. There is also another obstruction at Knar, 00446777. Reported to the County Council.

Wincler 23 - Previously obstructed by an electrified fence but is now clear.

COUNTY OF DERBYSHIRE.

Ashover 69 - Obstructed at three points. by wire, a high wall and crops. 34386175 to 33856177.

Baslow & Bubnell 2 - Path ploughed out and not reinstated. 244721 to 243715.

Brough & Shatton 13 - No stile in stone wall and adjacent gate is chained and padlocked. 19538135 to 19818191.

Buxton 44 - Allegations of obstruction by person. A security guard told the party to use the signed (unofficial) diversion. Being investigated.

Chapel-en-le-Frith - A number of paths have been affected and some obstructed following work on the Chapel / Whaley Bridge Bypass. The Society's Inspector is checking the area.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 2 / Whaley Bridge 41 - Allegations of "obstruction by person" at the house "Fofanny". There are also suggestions that the path has been illegally diverted. Derbyshire C.C. have been asked to comment.

Charlesworth 1 - Obstructed adjacent to Higher Gamesley Farm. The path is a walled lane which has been filled in with straw and manure. 00749369.

Charlesworth 62 - A complete lack of stiles on this path which also needs signposting where it leaves the metalled road. 99509289 to 99839319.

Charlesworth 63 - Definitive line obstructed by a large bush and a post and wire fence. Signpost also required. 99519283 to 00409270.

Charlesworth 68 - Farmer insists that there is no right of way and has sealed off the path with barbed wire at Lee Farm.

Charlesworth 72 - Stiles and signposts required on this path which runs from 99459264 to 99509285.

Chelmorton 16 - Path obstructed by a wall at south end and by a wall and fence at the north end. 097698 to 089703.

Chinley 15 - Path obstructed following work on the new bypass.

Fenny Bentley 7 - Path is ploughed out and not reinstated. There is also allegation of illegal diversion which is being investigated. 16675018 to 17315008.

Glossop 70 - Stiles in dangerous condition, riverside path eroded and barbed wire too close to path line. 009941 to 005948.

Glossop 91 - Landowner has erected a difficult stile at 028930.

Great Hucklow 1 - Allegations that this path is obstructed by buildings across the line are being investigated. 18127562 to 17927613.

Great Longstone 27 - Field ploughed out and not reinstated. 20177428 to 20117348.

Hartington-middle-Quarter 26 - Path obstructed by a heap of soil and later by a manure heap. 119675 to 117665.

Hartington-upper-Quarter 71 & 125 - Stiles are required at the north end of these paths and signposts at both ends. FP 71 - 04306980 to 03896956 and FP 125 - 03817015 to 03886949.

Hayfield 24 - Barbed wire fence obstructs the way at junction with 23. 01808973 to 02408952.

Hazelbadge 2 - Obstructed by a high mound of topsoil at 17307920. We are advised that the top of the stile is just visible.

Hope Woodlands 11 - Inspector has now checked this path and declares it to be clear and good underfoot. G.R. 16388820 to 16328810.

New Mills 10 - Stile in stone wall is obstructed by a sheep wire fence topped with barbed wire 00808968.

New Mills 32, 34 & 60 - A number of obstructions and signposting problems on these paths in the "Briergrove" area.

Rowsley 1 - This path is covered in deep mud and positive action is required to make it useable. 25536593 to 26026675.

Stoney Middleton 3 - Stile obstructed at 22457462.

Whaley Bridge 13 - Path obstructed by barbed wire and building materials at the entrance to Hockerley Farm complex. 00918202.

Whaley Bridge 71 & 75 - Path does not appear to run on its correct line and there is a damaged stile on 75 at 00857895.

Whaley Bridge 72 - Allegations that there is a stile in bad condition at 006795 are being investigated.

COUNTY OF GREATER MANCHESTER.

Bolton 362 - Path ploughed out and not reinstated. 651084 to 652084.

Bredbury & Romiley 5 - A considerable amount of work has been done on this footpath, which is now in good condition. It needs to be used. 96589133 to 96259115.

Bredbury & Romiley 64 - Diversion works now complete and signposts erected.

Chadderton 16 - Private Road notices tend to deter all but the most determined walkers on this path. The local authority have been asked to resite public footpath signs at suitable points.

Crompton 10 & 11 - Allegations that these paths are obstructed is being followed up by the Society's inspector. All in the area 95670874.

Denton 13 - This path has been diverted due to Motorway works in the area 91059480 and is now said to be difficult to find. Inspector is checking

Dunham Massey 10 & 12 - Both these paths, which are on National Trust land, have been ploughed out and not reinstated. Trafford B.C. have been asked to prosecute. They are investigating.

Hazel Grove & Bramhall 5 - Two dangerous stiles, obstructed by sheep netting and overgrowth at North end. 883824 to 881821.

Hazel Grove & Bramhall 16 & 19 - A variety of problems on these paths have been reported to the local authority. The path leaves Woodford Road at 9095840.

Hazel Grove & Bramhall 28 - This path is said to be totally overgrown 88108376.

Heywood 166 - Barbed wire across gateway, stile required at 83981820.

Hyde 55 & 160 - Footpath 55 was said to be obstructed by an electrified fence just south of Low End and by a similar fence at 976934. Following representations by the Society the path is now clear.

Hyde 155 & 156 - On 155 a new wall is under construction across the path 97389783 to 97359298. On 156 a wire fence obstructs the way. 97559290 to 97409285.

Irlam 2 - New bridge in position at 69059380. This path is in an excellent walking area and now needs to be used.

Littleborough 19 - Obstructed by a fence at 93411830 close to "Grimes"

Littleborough 51 - Path previously wired at Hey Head 93271809 is now clear.

Littleborough 115 - Bridleway out of repair around 93351730

Littleborough 121 - Obstructed by walls at 92961706 and 93011718.

Littleborough 234 - There is a broken stile on this path at the junction with the canal towpath. G.R. 94511708. Rochdale M.B. have been informed.

Littleborough 240 - This path is impassable due to excessive use by motorcyclists in the area off Fetherstall Road, 93261596. Rochdale M.B. has been informed of our concern.

Littleborough 435 - Obstructed by fencing at 92651490.

Littleborough 601 - Path previously obstructed at G.R. 95491350, is now declared clear.

Longdendale 51 & 52 - Two stiles completely lost and barbed wire run through in each direction. 98829574.

Marple 4 - New signpost erected at 98019050. Path can now be said to be clear.

Marple 19 - The wet, swampy area on this path has now been drained and large stone flags make walking much easier. G.R. 99828966.

Marple 21 - This path has a history of "Obstruction by person" at Far Bradshaw Farm and signposts have regularly been removed, Stockport M.B. have again advised the farmer of the right of way and at the moment the path is available and the signpost in position.

Marple 45 - New stile erected on this path which can be said to be clear although some waymarking would be advantageous. G.R. 97639073.

Marple 49 - Another path with a history of "obstruction by person" this time at Hillside Farm 97099037. Again signposts have been removed. At the moment the path is clear and the signpost in position.

Marple 99 - Allegations of a poor stile at 99568925 are discounted by the Society's inspector. Path clear.

Marple 100 - Obstructed by four strands of plain wire and adjacent gate is wired. 99518875 to 99978889.

Marple 101 - Allegations that the path was obstructed by a new fence and a padlocked gate. 99518875 to 99758848. These have been checked by the inspector who finds good stiles and no obstructions. Path clear.

Marple 120 - Several problems on this path are being investigated by the Society's Inspector. 96788748 to 97588800.

Marple 162 - The ditch at Lum House has now been bridged, waymarks posted in Barlow Wood and the signpost is still standing

Marple 167 - Path totally overgrown, progress almost impossible. 96788610 to 96978606.

Marple 183 - Path now clear of undergrowth, fences have been fastened back, the narrow section made wider and waymarks provided. G.R. 95878691

Marple 184 - Path now stiled, waymarked and signposted to a high standard. It now needs to be used !. 95858688 to 96228645.

Marple 211 - Obstructed adjacent to Assisi Cottage by three or four steel frames wired together. 99419080 to 99869090.

Middleton 19 - Ditch across line of path at 89080836 and at the same reference there is a secured gate.

Middleton 20 - Obstructed by barbed wire at 89110787.

Middleton 109 - Barbed wire across gateway. Farmer disputes right of way. Path ploughed out. 84350685 to 84600700.

Middleton 119 - Path out of repair, more a drainage ditch than a path between 86990812 and 86950823.

Milnrow 16 - This bridleway is out of repair in the area 96531138. Reported to Rochdale M.B.

Milnrow 17 - A wooden fence obstructs the line of path at G.R. 96381133. reported to Rochdale M.B.

Milnrow 46 - Two obstructions removed from this path at 95611184 and 95621188. Path clear.

Milnrow 106 - Gap stile is blocked at the junction with footpaths 104 & 105 at G.R. 94691262. Reported to Rochdale M.B.

Prestwich 10 - This footpath on Kersal Moor is now clear of obstructions. 81550220.

Rochdale 33 - This path now reported as clear though it does pass through a farm outbuilding which, depending on how much machinery is in the building at any one time, could make passage difficult. 84811597 to 84651650.

Swinton & Pendlebury 12 - Path temporarily closed although there has been no official Order and there would appear to be no moves to re-open. 790034.

Tottington 68 - Rubbish and diverted surface water cause problems on this path. 76701345 to 77001360.

Tottington 82 - Path obstructed by a heavily chained gate where it leaves the minor road at 76511270.

Tyldesley 190 - Fence constructed across line of path has now been removed.

Wardle 95 - Path is said to be "out of repair" between 90551754 and 90931721. Rochdale M.B. have been informed.

Wardle 127 - Step stile provided over 3' high wall, path clear 90071798.

Wardle 131 - Obstructed by a fence at 90241818.

Wardle 156 - Previously secured gate at 91111751 is now open.

Wardle 161 - A 6ft high wall obstructs the way at G.R. 91701827. Rochdale M.B. have been informed.

Wardle 190 - Stile now provided at 90501832. Path clear.

Whitefield 6 - Path at Brick House Farm, G.R. 82880754 is now clear, as is the alternative concession path. An application to divert has still not been received.

Whitefield 7 - Path obstructed by barbed wire adjacent to Brick House 82850737.

COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE.

Coppull 54 & 55 - Both paths obstructed by overgrowth and there is a lack of signposts. 54 - 58161327 to 58681352 and 55 - 58681352 to 58721349.

Coppull 60 - Garage built across line of path, no signpost. 58311279 to 58051273.

Coppull 63 - Stile in a very bad condition at 58001281.

Coppull 65 - Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 57531290.

Coppull 80 - No footbridge over Stars Brook and a barbed wire fence some 10m to the north obstruct this right of way.

Croston 15 / Mawdsley 34 - Bridge which should connect these two paths is missing. 48851655.

Darwen 181 - Obstructed by newly erected barbed wire at a number of points 71202115 to 71382015.

Darwen 202 - Obstructed by a run of barbed wire and gap stile is filled with timber and wire. 70322140 to 7055 2156.

Euxton 11 - Obstructed by wire, being investigated.

Haslingden 8 - Obstructed by barbed wire at 79502675.

Livesey 1 - Path obstructed by a demolished fence and rubbish adjacent to the R.C. High School. 65992569 to 66002600.

Livesey 2 - Dangerous stiles and two very high fences without stiles obstruct this right of way. 649236 to 655251.

Livesey 5 - Difficult stile, requires replacing at 648246.

Livesey 6 / Tockholes 10 - The footbridge which connects these two paths at G.R. 65302371, was in a dangerous condition. It was reported to Lancashire C.C. and has now been repaired.

Livesey 7 - Stile at G.R. 65302432 was in a dangerous condition. A "through" was required to make it acceptable. This has now been provided and path is clear.

Tockholes 6 - Access to this path at 65802335 is newly wired and a shed or similar structure stands across the line. Reported to Blackburn B.C.

Tockholes 15 - Obstructed by barbed wire at a number of points. 64652310 to 64882360.

Tockholes 16 - This path has now been walked by the Inspector and was found to be clear throughout. 65602370 to 64652310.

Tockholes 26 - Two fences and a large waterlogged area obstruct this path. 647228 to 654231.

Tockholes 191 - Inspector reports this path as being clear. G.R. 64562361.

Turton (Edgworth) 8 - Stile at 72351839 is totally unacceptable.

Turton (Edgworth) 31 - Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 72401818.

Turton (Edgworth) 37 - This path has been obstructed for some time but has now been cleared. 72231813.

Turton (Edgworth) 68 - Obstructed by wire at 73101970.

Turton (Edgworth) 131 & 132 On 131 three stiles badly need attention and one is blocked with timber. On 132 a bridge is required.

Whittle-le-Woods 32 - Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 591219. Signposts also required.

Whittle-le-Woods 33 & 34 - This continuation path is impossible to use and is totally obstructed on the west side of the Motorway. 590201 to 586218.

COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

Alstonefield 37 - Allegations that the route of the path from 138564 to the valley top is ambiguous have been checked and substantiated by the Society's Inspector.

Fawfieldhead 33 - Stiles overgrown and unsafe 098613.

Fawfieldhead 37 - Stile required at 097607 and signposts at each end.

Fawfieldhead 62 - Obstructed by a hedge, no stile or signpost 093602.

Fawfieldhead 67 - Gate secured by barbed wire at 074615.

Grindon 9 - The final point of obstruction has now been cleared. 09705395 to 09105240.

Grindon 12 - Previously collapsed section of wall has been rebuilt including the step stile. 08735428.

Grindon 13 - New footbridge installed at 07235334. Signposts are still required but path is now clear.

Grindon 20 - Allegations that it is not possible to find this path when travelling south are being investigated.

Grindon 39 - Path found to be clear of obstructions but stile from road requires signposting. 08555430 to 08205425.

Heathylee 21 - Path appears to go through buildings, no diversion on record 081645.

Heathylee 36 & 0.1728 - Obstructed by barbed wire and derelict vehicles. FP36 - 057647 to 057648. FP 0.1728 - 058644 to 054644.

Ipstones 6, 7 & 8 - It is alleged that the network of paths around Booths Hall appear to be non-existent. Inspector is checking.

Ipstones 9 - In the area around Glenwood House Farm, 006488, the path is shown on the map as " Staffs. Moorland Walk " but the definitive line does not appear to have been followed.

Ipstones 11 & 19 - To the east of Belmont Hall there is a misleading notice " Private Drive " which needs to be countered by a public footpath sign.

Leekfrith 24 - Obstructed by a locked farm gate topped with barbed wire and later by a barbed wire fence. 98606415 to 98356240

Leekfrith 31 - New stile erected and the path has been waymarked. 98786118 to 98026152.

Leekfrith 67 - Several obstructions on this path which was diverted some years ago. 99286301 to 99196200.

Onecote 12, 13 & 15 - Path 12 is ploughed out and not reinstated. Path 13 is lost, there being no trace on the ground. On path 15 there is a gate which is wired up. Inspector is investigating.

Onecote 19 - This path is lost after the first stile and the bridge is wired up at "ford". Inspector is checking.

Onecote 20 - Path obstructed at four separate points G.Rs 04105724 to 03505556. Reported to Staffordshire C.C.

Onecote 23 - Path is wired off and there is no trace of it beyond the wire. Inspector is investigating.

Onecote 24 - The Society's Inspector reports " this is one of the most obstructed paths I've come across ". Obstructions are reported at every field boundary, 03085682 to 02875618. Reported to Staffordshire C.C.

Quarnford 0.1828(c) - Path is said to be difficult to follow, has impossible stiles and is not always on the definitive line.

Rushton 4 - Path impassable. Large area under deep mud around G.R.909636.

Rushton 6 - Bridge swept away at G.R. 925636. Reported to Staffordshire County Council.

Sheen 10 - Entrance to path difficult to find, signpost required. 09876241 to 09486249.

Sheen 14 - Gap stile is filled in at 10186127.

Sheen 35 - The line of this path cannot be established, stile and signpost required. 11346260 to 11486199.

Sheen 36 - A number of obstructions on this path between 10966227 and 11306251.

Warslow & Elkstones 0.1857 - Bridge missing at 065596 also signposts required.

Warslow & Elkstones 17 - Path impossible to find, signposts and waymarks required.

Warslow & Elkstones 23 - Inspector has now walked the length of this path and reports it clear although signposts are still required, 05535883 to 05335805.

Warslow & Elkstones 24 - Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 062595, no stiles in evidence.

Warslow & Elkstones 25 & 47 - On 25 the gate is wired and stile is blocked. Signposts are required on both paths. In the area 069591.

Warslow & Elkstones 46 - Inspector reports this path clear and confirms that although there is no footbridge at 075578, there are two large stones in the stream which allow a good crossing.

Waterhouses 13 - New wooden step stiles installed, path now clear. 08255131 to 08485113.

Waterhouses 19 - New stiles installed and path signposted. 08255130 to 08025114.

Waterhouses 119 - All obstructions on this path have now been removed. 09155225 to 09355160.

COUNTY OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

Erringden 9 - Line of path fenced off and the gap stile blocked with stones. G.R. 98692515 to 98082563. Reported to Calderdale B.C.

Erringden 15 - Obstructed by barbed wire at 98232530.

Erringden 16 - This Bridleway is in an extremely poor condition and requires urgent attention between 98322600 and 98162613. Reported to Calderdale B.C.

Halifax 195 - Gate previously fastened up at 04952850 is now clear.

Hebden Royd 22 - Gap stile blocked with stones at G.,R. 00462741. Reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Hebden Royd 58 - Bridleway totally out of repair.

Hebden Royd 59 - Obstructed by barbed wire at 02302550.

Hebden Royd 61 - Obstructed by barbed wire at Hall Bank. 01592533.

Hebden Royd 99 - Obstructed by a wooden fence at Nab End 01602436.

Hebden Royd 117 - Steps obstructed by a wooden fence and path obstructed by a garden extension. 00162354 to 00232365.

Todmorden 32 - A two log bridge has now been erected across Great House Clough 95852533. Path now clear.

Todmorden 72 - Bridge at G.R. 915258 is in a dangerous condition. Reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Todmorden 80 - Stile requires renewing at 93622466.

Todmorden 167 - A dangerous stile, more like a fence at 95592327 and obstructed by a wooden fence at 95602340. Reported to Calderdale

Todmorden 193 - Previously secured gate is now freely open at 92362168.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31.12.88

1987	INCOME:	1988
	SUBSCRIPTIONS	
342.50...	Ordinary.....	364.00
293.50...	Joint.....	315.00
405.70...	Tfr from 10yr Suspense.....	425.40
7.00...	Junior.....	4.00
520.00...	Affiliated Groups.....	508.00
1568.70...	=====.....	1616.40
604.07...	...Donations Received.....	... 529.95
	INVESTMENT INCOME:	
540.79...	Received Net.....	654.97
208.14...	Tax Paid/Recoverable.....	227.86
748.93...	=====	882.83
669.74...	Received Gross-Bank.....	799.94
2349.12...	Recvd Gross-Investments..	2349.12
3767.79...	=====.....	=====... 4031.89
7.10...	...Profit on Refreshments....	...
34.48...	...Sales of Badges etc.....	... 25.15
6.47...	...Sundry.....	...
...
5988.61...	...TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME.....	... 6203.39
120.98...	...Investment Revaluation....	...
=====...	=====.....	=====
6109.59		6203.39
=====		=====

1987	EXPENDITURE	1988
335.80...	Annual Report.....	395.81
272.22...	Stautionery etc.....	233.17
33.20...	Maps.....	25.90
599.54...	Postage & Telephone Costs.....	672.34
112.50...	Gen. Sec. Expenses of Office...	125.00
100.00...	Gen. Sec. Honorarium.....	100.00
.	...Typist Honorarium.....	50.00
397.36...	Travelling Expenses.....	487.09
84.00...	Rent: Meeting Rooms.....	101.15
323.83...	Rent: Archive Centre.....	334.02
40.00...	Subscriptions & Donations.....	45.00
52.70...	Publicity & Displays.....	32.72
34.70...	Archive Centre Expenses.....	69.66
36.75...	Bank Nominee Co. charges.....	49.00
.	...Losses on Refreshments.....	8.90
.	...Purchase of stock of Badges....	68.77
25.00...	Office furniture.....	
18.00...	Conference Fees.....	
-----	-----	-----
2466.04...	Total Ordinary Expenditure....	2798.53
.	...Office Equipment (see note)...	2232.75
3643.55...	Excess Income	1172.11
6109.59		6203.39
=====		=====

THE FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY AS AT 31.12.88:

Name of Fund:	31.12.87:	+Income:	-Expenses:	31.12.88:
General Fund.....	31844.21.....	6203.39.....	5031.28.....	33016.32
Defence Fund.....	2853.25.....	42.00.....	4.35.....	2890.90
E Royce Memorial.....	54.66.....			54.66
H Wild Memorial.....	250.00.....			250.00
Dr F Head Memorial.....	132.00.....			132.00
Signpost Fund.....	604.56.....	190.25.....	270.17.....	524.64
Survey Fund.....	387.53.....	11.00.....		398.53
	36126.21	+ 6446.64	- 5305.80	= 37267.05
	=====	=====	=====	=====

THE BALANCE SHEET OF THE SOCIETY AS AT 31.12.88:

1987	ASSETS	1988
29420.72..... Investments.....	30140.72	
86.95..... Bank: Current Account.....	49.19	
927.19..... Bank: Deposit Account.....	1780.06	
3799.71..... Bank: Premium Account.....	5993.04	
3872.35..... NSB: Investment Account....	1226.63	
20.00..... Cash: Archive Centre Float..	20.00	
208.14..... Debtor: Inland Revenue.....	227.86	
38335.06	39437.50	
=====	=====	
LIABILITIES		
36126.21..... Fund Balances as Shown.....	37267.05	
2208.85..... Ten Year Suspense Balance...	2170.45	
38335.06	39437.50	
=====	=====	

NOTE 3:

1987 figures have been restated to show the following amendments:

1. Equity investments are shown at cost, rather than at market value. 1987 has been restated for consistency.
2. The total income for 1987 was correctly shown but the figures did not add correctly due to an item being omitted in the income list. This has been corrected, and the opportunity taken to make a very small reclassification.
3. The debtor figure for Inland Revenue was overstated in error by a small amount. The duplicate counterfoil mentioned in last years accounts was received and is included in the 1987 figure as stated here.

The expenditure on office equipment in 1988 is we understand subject to a 50% grant, and this will be shown in next years accounts if received.

Income and Expenditure is on a cash basis: it is considered that accruals are not significant and are not subject to significant variation from one year to another.

All fixed assets are charged in the year of purchase- they are not held with a view to disposal.

INVESTMENTS:

Equities, including a fixed rate preference share, are shown in the accounts at COST. Government stock, which we intend to retain to maturity, is shown at MATURITY VALUE.

The relevant values as at 31st December:

1987	1988:
EQUITIES:	
10754.43...	Cost of Purchase...11474.43
11094.25...	Market Value.....13085.00
Government Stock:	
19998.38...	Cost of Purchase...19998.38
22274.59...	Market Value.....21035.17
18666.29...	Maturity Value.....18666.29

AUDITORS REPORT:

I have examined the Society's accounts and in my opinion and to the best of my knowledge and belief the Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet here given provide a true and fair view of the revenue and transactions for the year ended 31st December 1988 and of the state of affairs as at that date.

Signed: E McCormick.
Honorary Auditor.
29th January 1989.

TREASURERS REPORT.

As you will see from the accounts, the year has again ended in a slight surplus of income over expenditure. However, this is not a period to be complacent.

The work of the society is well measured by the increases in the travel and postage costs. The extra workload has caused us to need to improve our office efficiency, and you will see in the expenditure records, the cost of photocopying equipment, for which we hope to receive a 50% grant.

During 1987 we expect that we shall be purchasing word processing / computing equipment. While this expenditure will help us to cope with increasing demands upon the Society, the extra work will generate additional costs, as will the new equipment. Seen against a fairly static income for subscriptions, and a drop in donations in 1988, I am sure that you will appreciate the need for an increase in subscriptions is not far off.

In order to allow us to see how the extra equipment actually affects our running costs, I have recommended that the subscription for 1990/91 shall remain at its present levels, but I am fairly certain that I shall need to approach you at the 1990 AGM and ask for an increase for the year 1991/2, and we cannot rule out a fairly sizeable increase, at least in percentage terms.

Members will appreciate the value they receive now if they consider that even a 150% increase in subscription levels would still leave our basic subscription well below the level of most other conservation charities. Also, as so little of our income arises from subscriptions, a 150% increase would result (at 1988 prices) in an increase in our total income of just 40% - but not immediately, as about half of our private members take advantage of the ten year membership plan! Members may well wish to consider taking out a ten year membership in 1990/91, at present rates!

Our prime and over-riding concern is the protection of footpaths, this is called for in our Constitution, which you will find in the rear of this Report. To carry out our task, our fundamental need is for more volunteers. In particular we would benefit as a Society by having a publicity officer, to seek to increase our membership, which remains alarmingly low if we consider how many people use and enjoy the footpaths we fight to retain.

It may be that a single Annual Report is not sufficient to generate and maintain interest apart from a dedicated few, and if this is the case, we need to consider expanding our communications with members. This would take resources, and need an increase in subs to cover costs, but also it would need volunteer labour.

In 1987, please would members consider what help they may give the Society in respect of volunteering for work (we have many different types of work, not all outdoor), and in respect of generating more members for the Society.

As ever, the Society is indebted to its workforce of volunteers, who do considerable work for us, for the reward of maintaining the footpaths they know and love. Our thanks to all who assist in the work of the Society.

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NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS : SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the 1988 AGM the membership year for 1988 was extended to the date of the 1989 AGM, and from then on, the membership year will run from AGM to AGM. If you have paid your sub for 1989 before the 1989 AGM, worry not, your subscription will cover you for the 1989/90 membership year.

The Annual Accounts will continue to cover the year to 31st December, and the entries in the Accounts for subscriptions will cover those subscriptions which are received between Jan 1st and Dec 31st. Similarly, the list of members in the Annual Report will be a list of members in good standing as at 31st December.

The purpose of this change was to ensure that every member was advised of any increase in subscription before he paid it. We had a great deal of difficulty and extra costs as a result of members paying their subs on or near to the due date- January 1st- which was some months before they received their Annual Report advising them they needed to pay extra.

It follows therefore, that for 1990 and following, when the membership fees are due at the date of the AGM, members will be assisting the society by paying their subscriptions AFTER receipt of the Annual Report, which will contain a membership renewal form. You can then be sure you are paying the correct amount, and the Society will not have the expense of having to ask you to send extra.

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 1989/90, it is due for payment at the 1989 A.G.M., or may be paid by post using the enclosed renewal form. Subscription levels for 1989/90 are the same as last year: Standard membership is two pounds, joint membership three pounds, and Affiliation five pounds.

The Peak and Northern is a Registered Charity. Bequests to the Society are exempt from duty. The Society is registered with Dr Barnardo's "PAYROLL GIVING" and welcomes donations through this Agency through the Give as you Earn scheme, which is arranged with your employer.

Stephen Shaw

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

There are 105 Societies affiliated at 31.12.88. This is an increase of one over last year. Four new Societies joined, but three did not renew during the year.

ANNUAL MEMBERS

The membership is 391 including 100 married couples. This is an increase of 16 over last year. We recruited 87 new members. Forty nine did not renew and 10 members died or resigned. The balance is accounted for by transfers to 10 year membership.

TEN YEAR MEMBERS

There are now 374 members including 77 married couples. This is an increase of 20.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

The Society has 13 honorary life members and the total at the end of the year stands at 778. A net increase of 37.

Donations amounted to £478 and the generosity of members and clubs is much appreciated. The money will certainly be needed to carry on the Society's vital work in preserving our Footpath Heritage.

TED.WHITTAKER
