
PEAK & NORTHERN
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 1992



CONTENTS

Members of Council	page 2
Chairman's report	4
COSA Unit	6
Secretary's report	8
Months by the minutes	14
Situations vacant	15
Environment Report	16
Fifty years ago	17
Signpost report	18
Footpath inspectors	20
Treasurer's report and accounts	24
Membership report	30
Constitution and rules	36
Midweek walks	38

Cover photo: New bridge across the Peak Forest Canal at Woodley (see page 19)

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Vice Presidents

A Bennett MP
GS Cooper
P Daley
T Ewart
Miss R Irlam

Chairman

Leslie Meadowcroft
1 Nelson Street
Hazel Grove
Stockport
SK7 4LR
☎ 061 483 2482

Vice Chairmen

Norman Edwards
5 Godward Road
New Mills
Stockport
SK12 3BL
Frank Whitehead
29 Burford Crescent
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 6BL

Hon General Secretary

Derek Taylor
15 Parkfield Drive,
Tyldesley
Manchester
M29 8NR
☎ 061 790 4383

Honorary Treasurer

Stephen Shaw
10 Alstone Road
Stockport
SK4 5AH

Auditor

E McCormick

Trustees

GS Cooper
LG Meadowcroft

Membership Secretary

Ted Whittaker
51 Queensway
Heald Green
Cheadle
Cheshire
SK8 3ET
☎ 061 437 1226

Inquiries and Courts Officer

Donald Lee
7 Mossway
Alkrington
Middleton
Manchester
M24 1WR
☎ 061 653 4560

Signpost Officer

vacant

Environment Secretary

Mrs Pauline Cliff
10 Raven Road
Timperley
Altrincham
WA15 6AP
☎ 061 969 7995

Other elected members

Harry Billington
Mrs Eileen Daley
Ms Gloria Gaffney
Harry Hadfield
John Houfe
Doug Jessop
Jeff Lewis
Justin McCarthy
Mrs Lorna Meadowcroft
Fred Ogden
Jack Ogden
Mrs Bessie Taylor
Mrs Kay Wells
Keith Wykes

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

LESLIE MEADOWCROFT

At the conclusion of my Report for 1991, I mentioned the further theft and vandalism of the Lantern Pike Memorial and that it had been recovered in a damaged condition.

I am pleased to record that, due to the co-operation and generosity of the National Trust (Kinder & High Peak Estate) and the Ramblers' Association (Manchester Area) with the Society the memorial has been re-established on site, and that we express our grateful thanks to all concerned.

It is worthy of mention that, from this site, one can look across to South Head which was also gifted to the National Trust in memory of Frank Head, a President of this Society for many years.

During the year we undertook a comprehensive review of our management structure, which was initiated by two members, Messrs McCarthy and Wykes, and was subsequently the subject of a special Council meeting. The outcome is to be a rolling implementation of some of the recommendations as opportunities arise, together with our appreciation of our members' involvement.

The Society continues to bear an ever increasing workload on a small but dedicated band of members, and senior officers. The work of the COSA unit (Consultations, Orders, Signposts and

Archives) at Hazel Grove now has to bear the additional work of Planning Consultations which may affect Rights of Way, as a result of the 1990 *Town & Country Planning Act*.

Our hardworked office equipment has recently been supplemented by a secondhand electric typewriter which was purchased at a bargain price at a local Boy Scouts field day sale.

We have also been experimenting with an Epidiascope for projection purposes at Council Meetings, and we would welcome the offer of such apparatus if any of our members know of one for disposal. We are always open for the gift of items such as hand tools and drills. etc. However, our greatest need is for dedicated volunteers. Despite a temporary lull in activity due to illness, it is also worthy of mention that we are soon to erect our 250th signpost.

Several members of our Cosa team have attended seminars given by leading barristers on Rights of Way legislation promoted by the Byways & Bridleways Trust; for this we received grant aid from the Countryside Commission, and the Lockerby Trust, to whom we are very grateful.

We have continued our liaison meetings with various highway and local authorities, other voluntary organisations, Derbyshire County, and the Peak National Park, all requiring precious time by your officers in attendance and travel. Some of the places visited are as far apart as Bakewell, Bolton, Chester, Doncaster, Leeds, Matlock, Stafford, Stockport and Wigan.

We have been particularly active during the course of the year in responding to various authorities public plans, and this has involved your officers in an additional workload. Written documents have been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Peak Park Planning Board and Stockport MBC.

During the year we made a limited bulk purchase of the revised edition of the *Blue Book - Rights of Way: Law & Practice*, and these we are now able to supply on temporary loan to our active members for reference purposes.

Of the future we are already considering our Centenary arrangements for 1994 and suitable means of celebrating the event. Thereafter I would wish for some additional personal time away from the Society's activities. Our sister organisation the Derbyshire Footpaths Society also celebrates its own centenary during this period.

Regrettably, during the year we lost several of our members who in the past have held office within the Society, including Donald Berwick (our Vice President and longest serving member), Pat Bramwell (Membership), Maurice Keen (Footpath Inspector) and Harold Merton who assisted with our exhibition displays.

The Society continues to press for a footpath along the Derbyshire bank of the river in Dovedale, between Lode Mill and Mill Dale on land held by the East Midland Branch of the National Trust who continue to oppose such a facility despite their National Annual Meeting's resolution to provide greater public access to their land. This Branch have also stated their intention to close an adjacent concession path.

More recently we learn they have received grant aid under the Countryside Stewardship of the Countryside Commission. This scheme has, as one

of its conditions, the granting of additional public access to the recipient's land. We are taking steps to draw the attention of the authorities to this involvement of public monies and failure to provide necessary facilities.

The granting of this riverside path has been the subject of applications for well over ten years!

One feature of the year was the designation as definitive several of footpaths and bridleways on land belonging to the Peak Park Planning Board, some of which are on the Derbyshire gritstone edges and on Access Land. Concern was expressed by the Board as to the question of fire risk, but this appears to have been resolved by Derbyshire County offering to promote Temporary Traffic Regulation Closure Orders whenever there is a high risk of fire and access to the moors is withdrawn by the Board. It remains to be seen if the two authorities can operate jointly to avoid any confusion to the public with this dual operation.

During the year the section of the Trans-Pennine Trail in Longdendale was officially opened to the public by Sir John Johnson, Chairman of the Countryside Commission; he made a sprightly walk along this section of disused rail track which has been converted to a bridleway route, mainly through the good offices of North West Water. This now makes an added recreational feature to the existing path network and the Access Land in and around the valley. □

1992 ANNUAL DINNER

Sir John Johnson was the principal guest speaker at our Annual Dinner held in Manchester, and proved to be a popular figure particularly, as before the meal, he moved around to engage various members in conversation. He subsequently addressed his attentive audience for some time, virtually without notes. An enjoyable evening was had by all and we were pleased to welcome members of our kindred Derbyshire Society.

COSA UNIT

by FRANK WHITEHEAD

or Consultations, Orders, Signs and Archives

Following last year's comprehensive report on our activities, I can be less specific in re-drawing your attention to a very busy section of our Society.

Assessors and typists, formerly known as the *Archives Team* (but named more often and somewhat disrespectfully by certain wives as the *Monday Club!*). Come wind, high weather, or bank holiday, this group of friends (yours and mine) meet at Hazel Grove to consider the ever increasing number of applications to alter the footpath system, too many of which are not in the interests of you or I as we walk out through town and country.

Inevitably in this day and age we have been accorded an acronym: COSA, otherwise – *Consultations, Orders, Signs and Archives*. But to what end, and what is all the fuss about? It is the ability, facility, necessity to deal with the growing number (following recent legislation) of proposals as the local authorities, often stymied by lack of funds, endeavour to clear a backlog and cope with the spate of applications coming their way. The

list is endless, from major motorway and by-pass legislation, and vast areas of quarrying and open cast mining, to the occasional creation but mostly would-be closures or diversions promoted by our farming friends and especially new country dwellers who have acquired disused farmsteads as private residences unaware (Nelson's blind eye?) that a footpath or bridleway goes through the backyard.

The more enlightened authorities send out consultation documents, seeking the opinion of all the registered societies like ourselves; thereby, where possible avoiding the need to litigate. Too many others make an early move to the Order stage, with costly time and legal action incurred, with one authority frequently issuing diversion orders without any preliminary contact whatsoever and, what is more, giving most limited information as to why the public should accept; effrontations which merit immediate objections and requests for full details. Like the others, such diversion proposals, seemingly uncaring and indifferent to footpath users, receive most careful scrutiny, ranging widely as they do (to give further examples) from the householder who has without authority extended his garden and patio across the right-of-way, to the farmer who would have us walk an extra half mile to avoid his carelessly dumped manure and discarded equipment.

Two teams operate. One in the morning identifies, registers, and 'digs out' previous related documents from the archives to begin considerations that two years ago would have been completed by midday but with the assessments now going on into the afternoon when the second shift takes over. They also deal with the ultimate amendments which have to be made to our very necessary and well maintained (by them) stock of definitive maps.

Then comes not only the typing but the filing. With over 40 items of weekly post regularly registered, the increasing weight of in-coming documents is another growing problem; but away it goes into our stock of boxes and filing cabinets (not without the occasional muttered oath, not always tasteful, of what might be done with it), a record of the work to date and a necessary reference against the possibility of future problems with the same path.

Meanwhile ... quietly working alongside, and not to be overlooked, are the signpost 'lads'. But they merit their own report which you will find on page 18.

Enough said; except to wish you some good walking and invite anyone interested in helping COSA to come along and join this happy band of pilgrims. □

Public Inquiries and Reports from the Courts

The following 17 public inquiries and court appearances involved considerable time and effort for all members involved in representing the Society. We owe them a considerable debt of gratitude.

January

- Westhoughton FP26
- M66 Outer Ring Road
- Waterhouses FP1

February

- Ringway FP17 and Manchester FP251

May

- Ashfield Valley Rochdale
- Manchester FP252 (Sharston) deferred
- Gamesley Estate, High Peak: resolved out of Court

June

- Manchester FP252
- Barrow-on-Trent FP1

July

- Widnes FP39

September

- Clowne FP16 and FP24
- Saddleworth Bridleway 143
- Colwich FP3 and FP5, BW's 1 and 2

October

- Altrincham Railway Crossing
- Norley RUPP12

November

- Disley FP44

December

- Swadlincote FP's 35, 36 and 37.

THE SOCIETY'S SLIDE LECTURE

The Chairman or Secretary would be pleased to present the Society's slide lecture to any interested organisation.

Please contact either of them for further details.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

DEREK TAYLOR

I am always looking for encouraging signs of progress be it in our dealings with local authorities or within the Society itself. This year I have been extremely encouraged by the number of new inspectors who have volunteered their services, no less than 15 since my last report. This increase enables me to spread the load more evenly amongst our inspectorate as a whole. I achieve this by breaking down some of the very large areas I inherited into far more manageable sections. Elsewhere in the report you will note that there are a number of inspector vacancies, six in total, most of these have been artificially created by splitting up areas with the objective of drawing members' attention to the fact that there are vacancies. So to those members who have perhaps been thinking of becoming an inspector but have just not got around to volunteering, now is your big chance.

I think one further point is worthy of note before leaving this subject and that is to ask you to note that when I took over as secretary in 1978 our inspectorate numbered 25, the number now stands at 53, that is really encouraging. You will appreciate, however, that the net result of more inspectors means more obstruction reports to myself, which in turn means more letters to local authorities, however this additional task I am quite prepared to accept but I do wish that some person would come forward to act as *Minutes Secretary* which would lighten my workload considerably. This

encouraging start to my report leads me to my annual review of the performance of the various local authorities with which I have contact. I should perhaps stress at this point that my dealings and therefore my report relates the response by local authorities to matters of obstructed rights of way only. Matters relating to closures and diversions etc are dealt with separately at our office at Hazel Grove.

CHESHIRE

Cheshire CC

I find it difficult to assess the situation in Cheshire for there always appears to be a great deal of work going on in respect of signposting and the erection of stiles, but the problems pour in to my office and the sheer weight of these would seem to negate all the effort put in by the rights of way section. I also note the County tend to deal with what might be described as minor problems but tend to sweep under the carpet major issues such as buildings etc. across the line of path in the hope, perhaps, that we will forget about them. Of that there is no chance.

We had expected the appointment of a new *Countryside Access Manager* would by now have resulted in the setting up of regular liaison meetings at which rights-of-way problems could have been resolved at an early stage. In fact there was a suggestion by the County that such meetings would be set up. Regrettably that situation has not developed, which is a pity for we find that most authorities these days have instituted such meetings and at most of them, though not all, positive improvements, certainly in relationships, have been the result.

I have come to the conclusion that there is some sort of magnetic influence at work in the parish of Mobberley for that parish would appear to attract footpath problems of every known type and in great numbers. We manage to get

one problem put right and several others emerge. The County tell me they have concentrated their efforts in Mobberley to such an extent that other parishes are crying 'unfair'. We continue to have good relationships with the Rangers operating from Wilmslow, with most of the problems in their area of responsibility being dealt with quite quickly. The situation in that area has changed somewhat in that Macclesfield BC have recently taken back from the Ranger service the parishes of Poynton, Adlington, Bollington, Macclesfield and Prestbury.

Our relations with the Bollin Valley Partnership have also improved of late as they have finally recognised what the definitive rights-of-way map is all about. Previously they placed stiles and bridges where they thought they looked nice, rather than on the definitive line.

Macclesfield BC

In short, there is no positive commitment by the Council with regard to rights of way. I feel pretty sure that if it features at all in their list of priorities then it is at the very bottom. It is therefore up to the Society to continue to pressurise them as we have in the past. The Council do have a footpath officer in post but I get the distinct impression that he is not kept aware of happenings involving footpaths and, anyway, I suspect he spends only about one day a week on footpath matters. Macclesfield is one of many councils that suffers a blockage on rights-of-way matters when a problem reaches the desk of the legal department. Legal departments are like a 'black hole' in so far as matters affecting rights of way are concerned.

Warrington BC

We have no formal contact with this Council via footpath liaison meetings. In my contact with them they seem to have found a solution to all problems, ie

refer to the Mersey Valley Partnership. They appear to think that this body, who in fairness do a great deal for footpaths in their area, can deal with all matters even those with legal implications. I have already advised them that we do not accept that the Partnership should be required to deal with, for instance, paths which have been ploughed and not restored. There are several outstanding matters in the Warrington area which I will be pursuing with rather more vigour during the coming year.

GREATER MANCHESTER

Bolton MBC

We continue to meet regularly with this Council and there would still appear to be some progress on the path maintenance front. Again this authority fails when matters reach the legal stage. At one of our meetings recently I felt constrained to ask the legal representative why it was that we saw a different solicitor at each meeting with the consequential loss of continuity. Many is the time we have heard the words - *well I am sorry but Mrs X is dealing with this matter and I have not been updated*. One further item of concern arose at our last meeting in October when we were told that all money for footpath work had now been expended so we now have a five month period during which further problems will accrue with no action being taken.

Bury MBC

My reports on this authority in previous years have always said 'rather a quiet year' and strangely this comment applies yet again. I just wonder if all is well in Bury for, if it is, then it must be the only authority in the country with a clean sheet on footpath problems. Sadly Fred Darwin who has been our inspector for Bury for several years has now had to

retire due to ill health and we are therefore looking for a new inspector for this area.

Manchester City Council

There are a number of outstanding footpath matters within the city boundaries not least of which relates to the footpath which crosses the main runway of Manchester Airport. I wonder why it is that we cannot persuade the Council there is a need for a formal diversion; as it is they just ignore letters addressed to them on this matter. As usual we will continue to apply pressure in accordance with our usual policy ... *the dripping water will eventually wear away the stone.*

Oldham MBC

Again difficult to find something good to say about this Authority, problems accrue but positive action is slow coming. We have many outstanding cases and reminder letters are sent at regular intervals. We could usefully use a liaison meeting with this Council.

Rochdale MBC

Again a poor Authority, I have now sent them the 20th schedule of path problems and their reply will no doubt say, as it has in the past, *letter sent to landowner* but I get the impression that there is no follow-up by the their officer to ensure compliance. This means the Society's Inspector has to make a follow-up inspection at regular intervals. I have recently asked the Council to consider holding a liaison meeting, we must do something positive if the situation in Rochdale is to improve ... I don't think they have heard of the Countryside Commission's target 2000, or perhaps they hear but do not wish to know. I think the latter might be appropriate.

Salford City Council

Last year I talked of some improvement following our presenting a case to the Ombudsman... I take it all back. Salford have had a relapse; several cases are outstanding not least of which is the infamous *Swinton & Pendlebury 51* where the Council have on several occasions, they say, been on the brink of getting the path re-opened. Personally I can see little progress. I have asked the Council to meet with us and they have promised so to do. Perhaps next year I will be able to report some progress.

Stockport MBC

Stockport continue to be our best local authority. If we report a problem, it almost always receives prompt attention and if action to resolve the problem cannot be taken immediately, then we are told. What more can we ask!

Tameside MBC

Tameside are a strange Authority. They take no action for a time, then suddenly there is a surge of activity which then returns to a negative situation. There are a number of outstanding matters in the borough which are at all times being pursued.

Trafford MBC

Another strange Authority, they talk in their promotional literature of recreational walks and pleasant countryside and yet they don't tell people that their paths are ploughed out and obstructed in other ways. They seem to find great difficulty in replying to letters from the Society and, on the occasions when they do reply, they tend to take a very negative attitude. They do not have a footpath officer nor do they see the need for liaison meetings. We will just have to keep up the pressure for another year.

Wigan MBC

Last year I said that there was only one word to describe the concern for footpaths by this authority ... nil. I can only think that they must have read my report for in the early months of the year our inspector and myself were invited to a meeting with the Highways Chairman and Council officers. The meeting consisted mainly of the officers saying - *sorry, we promised great things last time we met but they have just not materialised, but we now intend to do better.* I get the impression I have heard it all before ... I went to a site meeting some years ago and was told that *the wind of change was blowing on footpath matters in the Borough* but, unfortunately, that particular wind blew itself out within a week. I am more hopeful this time and will report again next year.

DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire CC

The County have been quite busy erecting footpath signposts this year, that is until the money ran out. The problems of obstructed paths have not been quite so quickly resolved. The footpath officer for the High Peak area retired during the latter part of the year and as we go to press, a replacement has not been appointed. I understand that all complaints are being left in a pile until an appointment is made.

Derbyshire Dales DC

We now have three new inspectors in the very large Derbyshire Dales area and one vacancy. If we can fill this reasonably quickly we should be able to apply much more pressure on the district council than previously. In the main the Council does quite a reasonable job in dealing with problems and are quick to respond to letters addressed to them. During the year Mrs Teece, who was

our inspector for a very large area of the dales, felt it time to retire and we thank her for her very real efforts on our behalf during the years she has been our inspector.

North East Derbyshire DC

We now have two relatively new inspectors covering this area and if the problems brought to light up to now are a measure of the total scene, then there are many problems still to be revealed. Quite obviously these have been allowed to continue over the years.

There are many paths which are not on correct lines and the definitive lines obstructed in many ways. The Council seem reluctant to take action on these, I think they have had an easy ride over the years and have become accustomed to just accepting the situation at face value. I have had to remind them those days are now over and we will not accept second best for the footpath network. I have also said that, by ignoring problems now, they are only storing up more problems for the future. I have invited them to meet the problems now, head on and get them resolved for all time. We shall see what progress we can make during 1993.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire CC

I have never been happy with the casual way the County appears to deal with rights-of-way problems, sometimes I think they operate an *anything will do* system which is certainly not acceptable to this Society. I am encouraged by the fact that we have been invited to a liaison meeting in March 1993 at which I will be able to present the Society's case for a more positive attitude towards footpath problems. We need a replacement inspector for part of the Chorley area ... any volunteers?

Blackburn BC

Many years ago I withdrew from the bi-annual footpath meetings held with this authority. This was the first and only occasion when I felt the need to do this for I am a great believer in formal contact with local authorities. My reason for withdrawing was that the meetings, which involved me in a 40 mile round trip, were nothing more than excuses meetings. I have never before sat in a meeting and heard so many excuses as to why a local authority was unable to carry out its statutory duty. Since the Society withdrew from the meetings it would appear the meetings themselves ceased but have now been resurrected; our local inspector and myself attended the first of a new series in December and I have to say that we were less than impressed with the attitude of the Council's officer. We were promised a system for dealing with obstructed rights-of-way at the next meeting. We shall see what their proposals are in due course.

Rossendale BC

We still have a number of outstanding obstruction problems in Rossendale but we are hopeful these will all be resolved in the very near future. The Council's attitude towards footpath matters has most certainly changed in recent years, particularly since the appointment of a footpaths officer.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Staffordshire CC

We continue to attend the rights-of-way meetings held in Stafford twice-yearly. There is certainly a new concern for rights-of-way in the County, though I am not sure that cases that we lodged with the Council many years ago have not been consigned to some sort of 'Black Hole'. These are being followed

up by the Society's inspectors and we are hopeful that the positive attitude of the Council will result in all paths being open for use by the magic year 2000.

WEST YORKSHIRE

Calderdale MBC

The dividing of Calderdale into two areas, each with its own inspector is now bearing fruit, with smaller areas to cover I am now seeing more reports and, more importantly, more follow-up reports from our inspectors. This Council is another which writes to offending landowners but fail to have any sort of follow-up procedure. So what happens is that the obstruction remains until the next time our inspector visits the area and I make a further complaint to the council. This merry-go-round effect can go on for years and is in no way acceptable to this society. Certainly some good work is being done in and around the area but this is mainly by agencies other than the Council itself. However, from our point of view it matters not who does the work just so long as it is being done.

Kirklees MBC

Again, due to more members volunteering as inspectors, I have been able to break Kirklees down into two areas. The effects of this re-organisation is not yet being felt but I am hopeful that our coverage of the area will improve during the coming year and we will be receiving obstruction reports from our inspectors. We will then be in a position to assess how the authority reacts, a situation which we have not as yet been able to test. More news on progress or otherwise next year.

SOME OTHER THOUGHTS ...

Manchester Airport Extension

Since last year's report, the Airport Authority have 'thrown in' an extra search area for their proposed Second Runway. If selected this area will affect a number of paths in the Parish of Ashley; the Society is monitoring the situation carefully and is involved in meetings with the environmental consultants appointed by the Airport Authority.

The Motorway Factor

We are currently involved in assessing the possible impact of three motorway proposals on the footpath network, namely the A556(M) from the M6 to the M56 at Bowden, which we estimate will affect some 14 paths. The proposed motorway link between that road and the M62 which will affect some 16 paths; and the M6 widening between junctions 16 at Barthomley and 20 at Lymm. This scheme will affect some 20 rights of way.

I wonder if members have any idea how much work these schemes generate, but can we just let them go without comment? I think not and so we must somehow fit site inspections, consultations and the subsequent comments into an already overflowing workload. These matters are dealt with by the Cosa Unit at Hazel Grove who already have a very full pending tray.

Highways Act Section 56 notices

We have known for some time that we could, if necessary, serve notices under Section 56 on local authorities who fail to maintain rights of way. We are also well aware that these notices can be used only under certain circumstances, mainly but not exclusively where a bridge is missing. Briefly, a Section 56 notice served on a local authority requires it to say if the way described is a highway maintainable at public expense. This initial move is a precursor to action in the Magistrates Court.

During 1992 we have served two such notices and threatened one more. One was served on Cheshire CC with regard to Reeds Bridge at Kettleshulme and, though perhaps not quite the appropriate section for the particular case, it did cause quite a disturbance and certainly concentrated the minds of those responsible to such an extent that work is now taking place in an attempt to resolve the problem.

The other notice was served on Salford City Council with regard to a missing bridge on Irlam Moss. This again prompted positive and immediate action, not normally a feature of Salford's highways section, and we were asked to withdraw the notice so that application for grant aid could be made to the Countryside Commission. This we were pleased to do and expect a new bridge early in the new year.

The third use of Section 56 was in fact the threat. We indicated to Cheshire CC that we would use that section if they did not move towards providing a bridge across the Bollin to connect a Wilmslow path with a Mobberley path which passes through Beehive Farm. Note that we have been asking for this bridge for at least 15 years. The County promptly replied that, if they were to provide this bridge, it would consume the entire annual budget of the rights of way section and anyway they say - *the proposed extension to Ringway Airport will almost certainly affect the area around Beehive Farm and the path and the river crossing will be lost within the next four years.*

Do they know something we don't?

Finally

My thanks to all who have assisted in this very busy year, particularly those of the inspectorate without whose conscientious work I could not operate.

MONTHS BY THE MINUTES

JANUARY

- Manchester Airport proposed Second Runway: 11 footpaths will be lost.
- Recommended that domiciled couples qualify for joint membership.

FEBRUARY

- £36 donated to the purchase of Tom Wood at Charlesworth.
- Rights of Way affected by planning proposals now being notifiable.
- *Dangerous Dogs Act* now in force.

MARCH

- Annual General Meeting.
- The new *Charities Act* now in force.

APRIL

- We lodge complaint with Ombudsman re negative attitudes of Rochdale and Wigan councils.
- Letter of appreciation from Sir John Johnson about our Annual Dinner.
- Problems on Middlewood Way, Mr P McHale agreed to survey.

MAY

- H A Section 56 notice served on Salford re missing bridge at Irlam
- Society's exhibition at the Kinder Anniversary celebrations.

JUNE

- Canal bridge at Woodley finally restored.
- Special Council meeting to discuss McCarthy/Wykes Report.

JULY

- Gamesley Estate problems resolved.
- Small panel of members formed to take public inquiries.

SEPTEMBER

- Cycling issues raised with Rights of Way Review Committee.
- Meeting with Groundwork Associates re Manchester Airport extensions.

OCTOBER

- Lantern Pike Memorial restored after vandalism.
- Consultations on proposed new draft DoE Circular 1/83.

NOVEMBER

- Several officers and assessors attended Stockport Rights-of-Way Seminar.
- H A Section 56 notice served on Cheshire County Council for Reeds Bridge, Kettleshulme.

DECEMBER

- Centenary sub-committee established.
- Speaker for 1993 Annual Dinner to be Jerry Pearlman.

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY

MRS PAULINE CLIFF

UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLANS (UDP'S)

Since the 1947 *Town & Country Planning Act*, councils have been legally required to produce development plans to indicate their planning policies for the next fifteen years. County councils produce *Structure Plans* and district councils produce *Local Plans*.

However, since the abolition of the metropolitan county councils (eg Greater Manchester) in 1986 there is only one layer of local government in the metropolitan areas and these councils are now obliged to produce *Unitary Development Plans* (with parts 1 and 2) as a substitute for the former *Structure* and *Local Plans*.

Part 1 includes general policies with Part 2 going into more detail. The old form of plan is still produced in the shire counties, at least for the time being.

A Plan shows how it is proposed an area will develop over the lifetime of that Plan. It does this by showing how land within the area will be used. The purpose is to enable potential developers and local people to know what uses will be made of land in an area; eg, whether it is for housing, shops, offices, industry, leisure facilities or open space. The decision is based on what use is appropriate in any given area, eg, it is unlikely that a new chemical factory would be put in the middle of a housing estate.

People have varied perceptions of what is *appropriate*, however, and the Council is obliged to consult local people when preparing a Plan. There is usually an informal consultation stage, after which a Draft Plan is prepared; this is put on deposit and formal objections can be made to it. If these cannot be resolved it may be necessary for a Public Inquiry to be held.

There is no legal requirement for councils to include any references to rights of way in their UDP. However, the Society felt that it did not want to miss the opportunity to have footpath protection policies included in UDP's and, therefore, I undertook to write to all the councils in Peak and Northern's area which are obliged to prepare UDP's (20 in all in Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester). I suggested that they include policies stating that:

- a. The Council will work towards the Countryside Commission's target of having every public right of way legally defined, properly maintained, signposted and publicised by the year 2000.
- b. The Council will keep the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way up-to-date in order that the record of public rights of way accurately reflects the position on the ground.

My aim was to draw the Councils' attention to Peak and Northern's interest in the UDP's, and this seems to have been successful. Of course, some councils responded more positively than others.

Draft UDP's are starting to be issued and, where possible, local members are looking into the detail of the Plans for their own area and I am continuing to keep an eye on the overall position. □

SIGNPOST REPORT

PERCY HUTCHINSON

This will be my last report as (acting) signpost officer. Over the past year I have had considerable help from Fred Ogden who is agreeable to having his name put forward for *Signpost Officer* at the AGM.

Two further cases of vandalism have been reported: signpost 56 Snake Pass (GR109911) in May and SP104 at Wildboarclough (988698) in December.

I am pleased that we were able to modify the signpost at Stoneheads (003817) donated by Mrs Pat Bramwell and that she had been able to see this before she died.

We have a longstanding request for a signpost, to be donated by Mrs Katherine Barber, and I am hoping to find a suitable location in the very near future.

Other recent requests for signposts have been received from *Moor & Mountain Club* re Maurice Keen and *Trafford Walkers* re Harold Merton

On behalf of the Society, I wish to thank those members who have helped with signpost work during the year.

SIGNPOST REPAIRS COMPLETED

SP35 Castleton (154832)

Re-furbished post delivered to Chairman of Castleton PC who is arranging re-erection.

SP54 Rowarth (015890)

Yellow arrow affixed to post to indicate correct line of path.

SP105 nr Cat and Fiddle (001708)

Post replanted after reported uprooted.

SP103 Sparbent (003693)

Plate & post repainted

SP110 Hayfield (029891)

Plates re-furbished and attached to new post.

SP120 Rowarth (002905)

Missing cross-plate - *To Sandhill Lane* - affixed; plate and post repainted.

SP124 Rushup Edge (099829)

Re-furbished post erected in arctic conditions; Peak Park rangers assisted with transport from roadside.

SP145 Kettleshulme (996798)

Plate and post repainted and new plaque mounting affixed.

SP147 Goyt Valley (015729)

Plate and post repainted

SP157 Reeds Bridge (983794)

Replaced with cast alloy plate on existing post.

SP160 Cranberry Clough (170953)

Rescued by NT warden, re-erected with very welcome help of two NT wardens.

SP161 Kettleshulme (987660)

Post and clips repainted

SP176 Kettleshulme (980768)

Replace corroded clip and repaint post.

SP177 Kettleshulme (992786)

Post and clips repainted

SP184 Stoneheads (003817)

New cast alloy plate affixed to replace original arm which was partly obscured by a wall.

SP205 Benfield Clough (963912)

Signpost re-erected with a vertical alloy plate to replace the original arms which had been broken off.

SP211 Nether Alderley (841762)

Two-way arm, which had been broken off, repaired and re-affixed.

NEW SIGNPOSTS ERECTED

SP228 Marple Bridge (967888)

New signpost erected, donated by Mrs Anne Harris in memory of her husband Mr Cyril Harris

SP229 Ollerset (014857)

New signpost erected, donated by Miss Olive Bowyer.

SP230 Ollerset (013855)

New post erected, donated by *New Mills & Hayfield WEA*.

SP232 Kettlehulme (987795)

New post erected in memory of Jean Griffiths, *Manchester Ramblers*, donated by Mrs Margaret Morris-Jones and relatives.

WORK IN PROGRESS

SP5 Peep O'Day (047850)

Existing signpost adopted by Mr Reg Hampshire, plaque in memory of his wife Gertrude, waiting to be affixed.

SP36 Hope (171833)

Existing signpost adopted by *Moor & Mountain Club*, plaque in memory of Kitty Smith waiting to be affixed.

SP222 Peak Forest (116788)

Existing signpost adopted by Mr John Page; plaque in memory of his wife, Margaret, waiting to be affixed.

SP227 Ollerton (779759)

New signpost to be erected, awaiting design of cross-plate.

SP231 Breckhead (059824)

New post awaiting erection, donated by Mrs J Davies in memory of Mr & Mrs Welburn.

SP233 Dimpus Clough (063846)

New replacement signpost awaiting erection in memory of Reg Brocklebank, donated by his wife.

SP234 Hollingworth (002955)

Cast plate ordered, donated by Mrs Mary Lane in memory of her husband Cliff.

SP235 Belmont (687168)

Cast plate ordered, donated by friends of Mary Morgan in her memory.

Peak Forest Canal Woodley

This photo shows the original bridge which was demolished by British Waterways some years ago.

Thanks to the efforts of the Society & Stockport MBC, it has now been replaced by a new bridge as shown on the front cover.

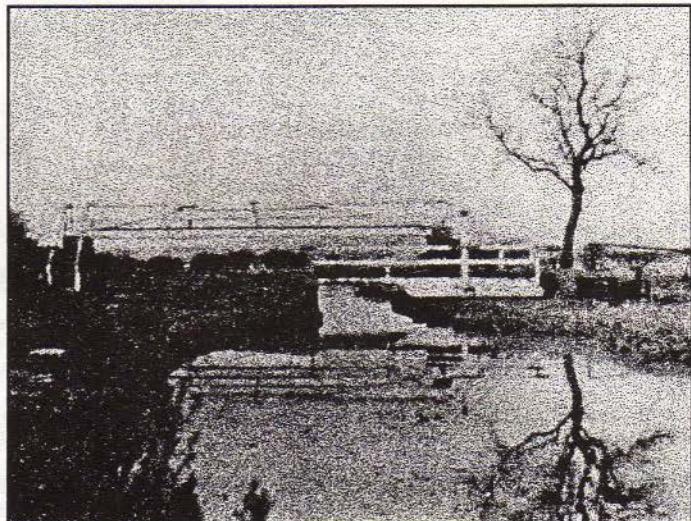


Photo courtesy of Stockport MBC

TREASURER'S REPORT

STEPHEN SHAW

Once more a successful year with total funds increasing by more than the rate of retail inflation. Interest rates remain higher than inflation and with corporate incomes (and hence dividends paid out!) falling, cash deposits remain a good investment, although of course any decline in interest rates (not forecast at present) would affect our income from investments.

The Society receives very valuable contributions which do not appear in the balance sheet: the contribution of time and talents by a small but hard working band of volunteers. You will see that we have the finances to fund voluntary work by more volunteers - can you assist us? Perhaps with publicity? Maybe with greater contact with our members? Footpath inspection? Office work in the Archive Centre? Signpost maintenance? There are a huge number of jobs and even an hour or so per week would be greatly welcomed.

Increasing pressures on the footpath network continue to increase the pressures on our workers and more help here now will avoid any possible future difficulties. Volunteers with an interest in helping the Society preserve footpaths will find a large variety of work available.

Annual Subscriptions

Members may wish to pay their annual subscriptions by Bankers Standing Order and a suitable form is reproduced on page 29.

The CAFCASH fund you see mentioned under Assets in the Balance Sheet is operated by the Charities Aid Foundation, and has enabled us to obtain interest rates often in excess of Bank Base Rate on a fully realisable investment. The fund is open only to Registered Charities.

The Charities Aid Foundation offer other services of value to us, and you may wish to note that as we are a registered charity, donations may be made to us by the *Give As You Earn* scheme operated by CAF, and that donations may be directed to us through the CAF VOUCHER scheme.

The latter scheme is one in which you make a covenanted donation to CAF for a minimum of four years, and then make your charitable payments by means of a special voucher - rather like a cheque book. Thus you increase your charitable giving by the amount generously added by the Inland Revenue (you must be subject to income tax for this to work). You also remain fully in control of how much goes to each charity, and are not tied to giving a fixed amount to a particular charity each year for four years.

For details of this please write to - Charities Aid Foundation, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD. The CAF is itself a registered charity. The Leeds and Holbeck Building Society Charity Account offers interest rates very close to those of Cafcash, also fully realisable.

Donations

A suitable form for members wishing to make a donation to the Society is given on the next page.

Donations from non members are, of course, always very welcome but please consider membership or affiliation as this is of more value to the Society in its continuing efforts to maintain the footpath network.

DONATION FORM

From:

Name

Address

I wish to make a donation to: General funds

Signpost Fund

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

We are grateful if members would remember the Society when making or review in their wills. To make a bequest to the Society the following wording is suitable

I bequeath the sum of to the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society Registered Charity No. 212219
(Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Mather Way, Salford Shopping Centre)
and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the
time being of the said Society shall be sufficient discharge for the said sum.

The Charities Aid Foundation also offer a service which allows you to bequeath a sum or portion of your estate to charity in general, and then leave informal written instructions for specific disposal - this makes it easier to redirect funds if your interests alter without having to have a new Will made out or a codicil added, both of which may produce income for your Solicitor. The form of wording would be -

*My trustees shall hold shares (or I bequeath the Sum of)
for the Charities Aid Foundation of 48 Pembury Rd, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD
(Registered Charity No 268369J upon trust to distribute the same and the income
thereof for charitable purposes (including its Foundation Fund) and I request the
trustees for the time being of the Foundation (without intending to create any binding
trust or legal obligation) to distribute the same or part or parts thereof to such charity
or charities and in such shares or proportions as I may have made known to them
during my life or as may be recorded in any note or memorandum found amongst my
papers after my death but so that notwithstanding such request the Trustees of the
Foundation shall have absolute discretion as to the distribution of this Gift and shall
be entitled to make a contribution of 3% of this gift to their founder, namely the
National Council for Voluntary Organisations for its charitable purposes as required
by the Trust Deed establishing the Foundation.*

Rather lengthy but very valuable. Do consult your legal adviser on such matters.

NOTE: All figures in the Treasurer's Report are shown to the nearest pound; it follows that the sums of the figures may differ slightly from the totals shown.

INCOME	1992	1991	EXPENDITURE	1992	1991
Subscriptions			Postages and telephones	1064	1 057
Ordinary	693	642	Stationery etc	453	388
Joint	710	588	Photocopying	410	198
Transfer from 10 yr suspense	914	782	Office Equipment	92	85
Junior	2	2	Travel	754	627
Affiliations	614	624	Annual Report	624	610
Total subscriptions	2 933	2 637	Expenses of COSA Unit	129	142
Donations	1 181	1 006	Room costs: COSA Unit	394	368
	4 114	3 643	Secretariat	315	300
Affiliates Service charge	95	95	Meetings	106	115
Consultation expenses charged	33	22	Publicity/exhibition	273	325
Sale of badges	104	51	Subscriptions & donations	92	62
	232	168	Conference fees	509	94
Investment Income			Purchase of maps	115	63
Received net of tax	277	715	Bank Nominee		
Income Tax refund due	93	238	Company charges	24	50
	370	954	Insurance of work parties	21	20
<i>Received gross -</i>			Loss on refreshments	-	26
Government Stock	2 721	2 095	Purchase of badges for resale	-	141
Short term deposits	3 592	3 401			
Total investment income	6 682	6 450			
Total ordinary income	11 028	10 261			
Grants received	126	160			
Sale of bonus scrip	-	16			
Investment adjustments	518	-			
Refreshments surplus	40	-			
Sundry	43	-			
	726	176			
Total income	11 753	10 438			
			Total expenses for year	5 375	4 670
			Excess of		
			income over expenditure	6 378	5 767
				11 753	10 438

(please also see notes on page 28)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for the year ended 31 December 1992

FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY as at 31 December each year

name of fund	1991 b/fwd	+ income	- expenses	=	1992 c/fwd
General	51 511	11 754	5 375		57 890
Defence	4010	-	-		4010
Signpost	911	521	470		963
Survey	399	-	-		399
Memorial funds					
E Royce	55	-	-		55
H Wild	250	-	-		250
FSH Head	142	-	-		142
	57 278	+ 12 275	- 5 845	=	63 707

Notes

- Our thanks to the Countryside Commission for grant aid towards the cost of attending conferences.
- The Signpost Fund is for the erection and maintenance of Society footpath signposts.
- The Survey and memorial funds are not open to further donations; the Survey fund was for the original survey of rights-of-way and the memorial funds are for use when needed to maintain the appropriate memorials.

■ The Defence Fund is for use as and when required to cover the costs of obtaining professional legal advice and, if required, meeting expenses relating to legal actions.

■ The several funds are amalgamated for investment purposes. No funds represent endowment gifts. All investment income is appropriated to the general funds. In the event of any separate fund proving inadequate for the stated purpose, the Society undertakes to meet any shortfall from general funds.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1992

	1992	1991
Assets		
Investments	25 843	27 148
Current Account	164	83
Leeds & Holbeck Charity a/c	6 376	205
Premium Account	3 761	4 353
Cafcash Deposit Fund	32 882	29 857
Cash float (COSA Unit)	32	20
Tax refund due	93	238
	69 151	61 905
Liabilities		
Funds of the Society as shown	63 707	57 278
Ten year membership suspense	5 398	4 627
Deferred income*	46	-
	69 151	61 905

Note

*Deferred income represents a cheque sent to us which may have been sent in error; no claim for refund received as at year end.

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

INVESTMENTS		
	1992	1991
Equity investments		
Cost of purchase	-	11 474
Market value on 31 December	-	13 924
Government Stock		
Cost of purchase	30 431	17 008
Market value at 31 December (excluding unlisted stock)	32 189	16 630
Maturity value (excl undated)	24 843	15 674

■ All investments are listed on the Stock Exchange except a government stock which was delisted during the year due to the small amount on issue. This remains repayable in 2000/2003 and has been included in the accounts, as before, at its maturity value of £490.34. It is excluded from the market value in the above table.

■ Equity investments are shown in the Balance Sheet at cost of purchase, which is lower than total market value as at 31 December. Government Stock, which is held until maturity, is shown in the Balance Sheet at the maturity value, which is lower than both purchase cost and market value as at 31 December. Stock having no maturity date is shown at the lower of cost and market value. Index linked stock is shown at the initial maturity value excluding the increase due to indexing. 1992 investments are thus shown as -

Dated Stocks at maturity value £24 843.26
Undated stocks at cost 1000.00

■ Assets purchased by the Society are fully written off to expenditure in the year of purchase. All sanctioned expenses for the year are shown, no significant claims awaiting sanction were known of at the end of the year. Income is recorded as it is paid into the accounts, the only item of accruals shown is the tax refund due on net investment income. Ten year subscriptions are apportioned over the ten year period.

Auditor's 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 Report and the Balance Sheet here given provide a true and fair view of the revenue and transactions for the year ended 31 December 1992 and of the state of affairs as at that date.

date 20 January 1993

signed: E McCormick

Honorary Auditor

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

TED WHITTAKER

With the 11 honorary life members, total membership now stands at 1083 which means we have achieved four figures for the first time.

Annual Members

Total membership under this heading is 514 which includes 139 joint members, an increase of 75 over last year. The

recruitment drive achieved 145 new members but this was partly offset by 64 members who did not renew.

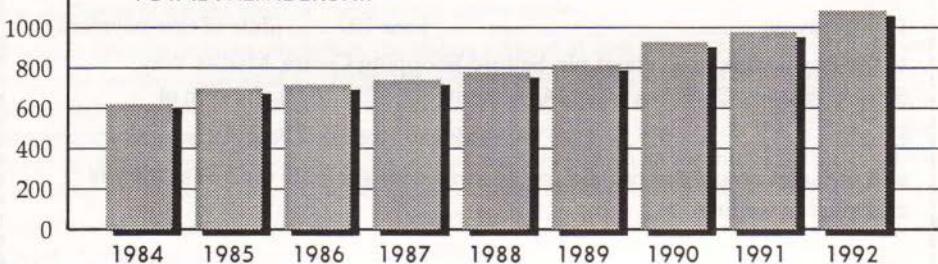
Ten-year Members

There are now 558 members in this category including 124 joint members, an increase of 30 over last year. We recruited 51 new members but several members did not renew or reverted to annual membership.

Affiliated Societies

At the close of the year there were 104 societies affiliated, a small increase of two over last year. Societies who wish to receive minutes of the monthly meeting of the Society's Council, which detail progress to date, can arrange this by adding £5 to their affiliation fee.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP



AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Society | 37 HF Bolton Group | 70 National Federation of the Blind, Manchester |
| 2 Barlborough Bor. Council | 38 HF Bury Group | 71 N Western Naturalists Union |
| 3 Barnsley Mountaineering Club | 39 HF Holidays Ltd | 72 Nottingham Wayfarers Rambling Club |
| 4 Barnsley District FP Society | 40 HF Manchester Group | 73 Pennine Paths Preservation Society, Rossendale |
| 5 Blackbrook Conservation Society | 41 HF Nottingham Group | 74 Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club |
| 6 Bradwell Parish Council | 42 HF Rochdale Field & Fell Club | 75 Poynton Rambling Club |
| 7 British Mountaineering Council | 43 HF Sheffield Group | 76 RA Bolton Group |
| 8 Buxton Field Club | 44 HF Warrington | 77 RA Congleton Group |
| 9 Buxton Rambling Club | 45 Hallhill/Springfield Neighbourhood Assn | 78 RA Derbyshire Area |
| 10 CHA Altrincham | 46 Halcyon Rambling Club | 79 RA East Cheshire Area |
| 11 CHA Bury & District | 47 Hanliensian Rambling Club | 80 RA Manchester Area |
| 12 CHA Eccles | 48 Hazel Grove District Scout Council | 81 RA New Mills Group |
| 13 CHA Leigh & District | 49 ICICALS Social Club: Hiking & Rambling Sc | 82 RA North & Mid Cheshire Area |
| 14 CHA Manchester | 50 ITT Rambling Club | 83 RA Oldham Group |
| 15 CHA Mansfield | 51 Knutsford Civic Society | 84 RA Sheffield Group |
| 16 CHA Nottingham | 52 Lazy Ramblers Club Macclesfield | 85 RA SYNED Area |
| 17 CHA Oldham | 53 Leek Footpath RA Rambling Club | 86 Roughfield Res Action Club |
| 18 CHA Rochdale | 54 Littleborough Civic Trust | 87 Rucksack Club |
| 19 CHA Sheffield Section A | 55 Longendale Amenity Society | 88 St Catherines Rambling Club |
| 20 CHA Sheffield Section B | 56 Longendale & Glossop Footpath Pres'n Society | 89 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers |
| 21 CHA Stockport | 57 Macclesfield Rambling Club | 90 Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club |
| 22 CHA/HF Ashton-under-Lyne | 58 Macclesfield & District Field Club | 91 Shirland & Higham PC |
| 23 Chapel-en-le-Frith Amenity Society | 59 Manchester & District Rambling Club for the Blind | 92 Stockport East Area Bridleways Association |
| 24 Cheshire Cty Scout Group | 60 Manchester Associates Rambling Club | 93 Stockport Field Club |
| 25 Cheshire Tally Ho Hare & Hounds Club | 61 Manchester Fellowship Rambling Club Indpnt | 94 Stockport WEA Social & Rambling Club |
| 26 Christian Endeavour HolidayHomes:McR Secn | 62 Manchester Field Club | 95 Stockport & District Federation of TWG's |
| 27 City College of Community Education | 63 Manchester Pedestrian Club | 96 Sutton-in-Ashfield Rambling Club |
| 28 Colne Valley Society | 64 Manchester Rambling Club | 97 Towpath Action Group |
| 29 Countrywide Holiday Assn | 65 Marple Community Council | 98 United Field Naturalist Society |
| 30 Crescent Ramblers | 66 Marple Naturalists | 99 West Lancashire FP Group |
| 31 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society | 67 Marple & District Rambling Club | 100 Whitwell Parish Council |
| 32 Derbyshire Pennine Club | 68 Mid Cheshire FP Society | 101 Wickersley Evening Townswomens' Guild |
| 33 Elmton wth Creswell PC | 69 Moor and Mountain Club | 102 Worsley Civic Trust & Amenity Society |
| 34 Forest of Rossendale Bridleways Association | | 103 YHA Central Region |
| 35 Friends of Eastham Country Park | | 104 YHA Stockport |
| 36 Greenfield & Grasscroft Residents Association | | |