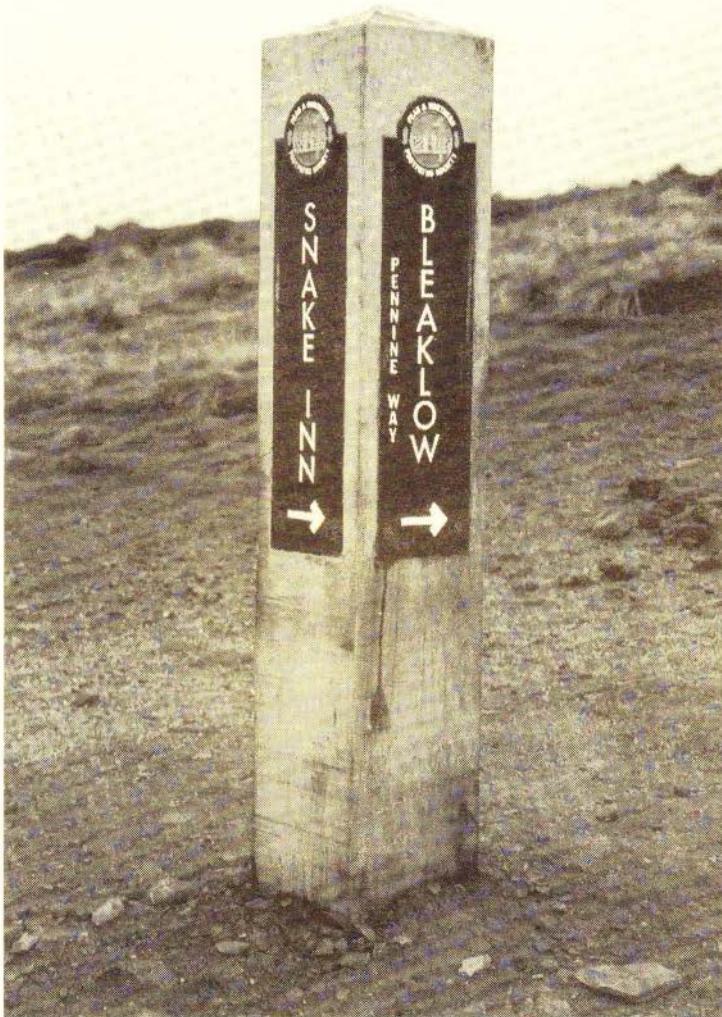


PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY



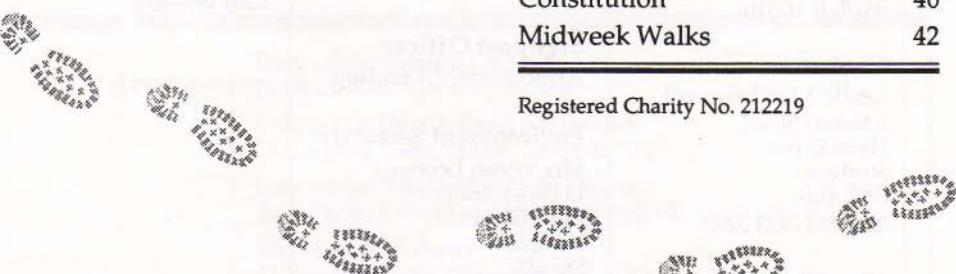
**CENTENARY
ANNUAL REPORT 1994**

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Registered Charity No. 212219



The cover photograph (by Leslie Meadowcroft) shows the four-way Centenary Commemorative post erected at the summit of Williams Clough on the Hayfield-Snake Inn path.

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Jeff Lewis
Mrs Lorna Meadowcroft
Jack Ogden
Mrs Betty Taylor
Mrs Kay Wells
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Assessors

Harold Brimelow
Percy Hutchinson
K Holt
Mrs S Holt
Cliff Law
Adrian Littleton
Stan Lomas
Charles Peers
Wilf Simcock
Frank Whitehead
Jim Wild
Cliff Wilding

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

LESLIE MEADOWCROFT

1994 was OUR YEAR and we made the most of it. Certainly we attracted the publicity and many more members of the public became aware of our activities in protecting public rights of way.

We commenced with our formal Centenary Dinner in Manchester with guest speakers Sir John Johnson, Chairman of the Countryside Commission, and our Vice President, Andrew Bennett MP. We endowed two plaques – one in the City of Manchester and one in Hayfield. We also organised four poorly attended Saturday afternoon walks. Throughout this period a floral carpet bedding display was on view from the A6 trunk road at Torkington Park, Hazel Grove, and for which we are indebted to the Borough of Stockport's Leisure Services Department.

In November we had an informal dinner with the Derbyshire Footpaths Society, who were also celebrating their centenary. This event had a social side, and some 30 members gathered at the Anchor Inn at Tideswell for a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. This event attracted both radio and press publicity.

Due to several factors outside our control, we were unable to arrange a formal dedication ceremony of our indicator post at Mill Hill at the summit of the Snake path, but we are particularly grateful to the Kinder Estate of the National Trust for their contribution of assistance at this remote location.

We obtained publicity in the press and features in the environmental papers plus air time on the radio. Needless to say all this encroached considerably on the time of officers and several other

members, most of whom had other duties to perform, and which they continued in a most satisfactory manner. To all these people we are most grateful.

Several organisations and an individual made a financial contribution to partially off-set some of the costs involved and to them we express our sincere thanks. Belated bequests are still welcome! The sales of our Centenary booklet were encouraging.

During the year, for various reasons, we had changes of office holder relating to Courts & Inquiries, Environment, Membership and Signposts. All posts have been filled with the exception of Signposts Officer for which a suitable volunteer is still sought. To the previous holders of this office we express our appreciation of services rendered.

Looking to the positive side of our activities we were able to convince Stockport MBC to promote a Modification Order to place the Benfield (Werneth Low) path on the Definitive Map. This was the scene of a spectacular demonstration in the 1930s and we are grateful to Fred Ogden who was able to produce significant evidence. We also threatened this Authority with a Highways Act Section 56 Order for failing to repair Bredbury & Romiley FP No. 43 which they proposed to close. Whilst we have now received a written assurance of repair, completion of the work is still awaited.

Several Agents were appointed for our outer areas and also representatives to distant authorities for their rights of way seminars.

After lengthy negotiations we were able to persuade Lancashire CC to provide us with copies of their Definitive Map which they had previously refused to supply.

On the negative side, after many years of campaigning we were unable to persuade the Peak Park Planning Board to provide a footpath on riverside land in Dovedale owned by the National Trust, and which the latter had refused to create, despite their receiving public money under a Stewardship Grant. This disgraceful state of affairs continues whilst pedestrians are put at risk from traffic whilst walking on the road without a footway.

Your officers have been discussing the future of the Society and its next 100 years. The effective continuance of activity cannot be left with its present officers who have served so well in the past, but obviously cannot continue for ever.

Nor can we assume the present premises will always be available under present arrangements. Thought is being given to accommodation which is both central and convenient to those who have to attend, not an easy problem to overcome. In the meantime present day prices are not cheap.

The Society has a reasonable healthy financial balance but much of this is

earmarked as a financial insurance against its possible liability to costs being awarded against it in the event of losing in a case of litigation, something which is ever present. There is therefore the need for the possible establishment of a separate Development Fund.

We need to place the Society on a much broader and sounder base than presently exists, and with an income that reflects the responsibility and status the present Society enjoys, particularly in the eyes of those with whom we so often deal. For instance we need to remind and encourage our members to consider allocating a financial bequest when they are no longer able to assist us physically in our efforts. We also need to convince others that the work of the Society is not confined to its members, but is of general benefit to all, and that the cost of its membership is a very small price to pay for the benefits of walking freely over our beautiful countryside.

That the present right of way network is kept open is largely due to the vigilance of this Society. Many walkers take this for granted and express concern only when an issue arises, ignoring the constant vigilance that is operated by our members in frustrating many issues of contention well before they surface within the public domain.

Membership of this Society can well be regarded as a walker's insurance policy, and at a price well within the reach of everybody.

THE SOCIETY'S SLIDE LECTURE

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

Please contact either of them for further details

COSA UNIT

by JOHN HARROP

or Consultations, Orders, Signs and Archives

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This is the story of Mr Allbrass. Mr Allbrass was a very important and respected man. He was something in the City. What he was in the City is not clear but, he was very important. He made a killing, in fact he made several killings so, the more killings he made the more everyone respected him.

Having so much money, Mr Allbrass decided to buy for himself and Mrs Allbrass a little place in the country. They looked round and found for themselves a farm in a beautiful area standing on the side of a hill with a magnificent view. After making a few enquiries Mr Allbrass found that he could buy the farm, the land and, the beautiful view. The farmhouse would need a few alterations as indeed would the farmyard but this would present no problem. He contacted his solicitors Messrs Grabbitt & Flogg, and soon Mr Allbrass was the owner of a farm with a beautiful view.

Mr Allbrass bought for himself and Mrs Allbrass a pair of wellies, green ones of course. He fitted them both out with oiled jackets and tweedy caps, bought a Land Rover and soon was something in the country in addition to being something in the City. The farm presented a few problems. Accommodation was totally inadequate for such important persons. Alterations had to be made. The roof was taken off and the walls were pulled down. Additional rooms were added. After all, how can one entertain guests with so few rooms

and only one bathroom. The farmyard had always been muddy in bad weather so Mr Allbrass soon cured that. He had it paved and extended so that it could accommodate the many visitors' cars. There was another problem. Those awful smelly cows that were on the farm. They made such an awful mess and distressed the guests. They had to go. Everything that could be improved was improved. Mr Allbrass saw to that. A few sheep were kept. They never caused any trouble at the farm and they improved the view. He could easily pay one of the locals to do whatever was necessary with them. Of course a farm is not a farm without dogs so he bought a couple of fine mastiffs which prowled about the beautiful farm defying all unwelcome guests.

Mr Allbrass really was something in the country now and his friends from the City came to admire his superb farm and his magnificent view. This was the reward for honest toil and Mr Allbrass enjoyed it all, until one day he phoned his solicitors Grabbitt and Flogg, almost bursting a blood vessel, in a rage. A herd walking across one of his fields that he had striven so hard to own. '*But I thought you had disposed of the cows'* said Mr Grabbitt. '*Not that sort of herd'* exploded Mr Allbrass. '*The common herd, walking with rucksacks and boots across my land*'. '*Leave it with me*' said Mr Grabbitt '*I'll sort it out*'. Sadly for Mr Allbrass there was a right of way across that field and the common herd had a perfectly legal right to walk that way.

Mr Grabbitt wrote to the local Council on behalf of Mr Allbrass to point out the merits in stopping up that right of way. Crops were being damaged, fences were broken down. The right of way gave access to thieves who could rob the house. Only good could come of making that field accessible to Mr Allbrass and his family alone.

Among the many letters received at the headquarters of the Cosa Unit in Hazel Grove, from government bodies, building firms, quarry owners, farmers and the numerous organisations who were concerned with activities on the land was one from a local council who had received an application from a Mr Allbrass regarding a footpath closure. The Council were bound to send details to organisations concerned with such a change including the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society. The letter was accompanied by maps showing the path and a copy of the letter they had received on behalf of Mr Allbrass. The assessors of the Cosa Unit who would give their views on such a change were consulted and, being competent to decide on the merits or otherwise of any such changes, they agreed immediately such a closure could not be accepted. Many members had walked over that footpath for years and it was now proposed that the right should be taken away. It was agreed unanimously that the proposals were outrageous, to take away a right that had been enjoyed by hundreds for the benefit of one individual who was something in the country and the City, should never be accepted and a strong objection to the proposed closure was sent to the local council. The Council in due course informed Mr Allbrass that the path would not be closed. Mr

Grabbitt on behalf of Mr Allbrass appealed against the decision and an inquiry was arranged to be heard in front of a barrister representing the Department of the Environment.

At the inquiry Mr Grabbitt, speaking for Mr Allbrass who was a very respected and important person, reiterated all that had been said before about damage and accessibility to the house by thieves should the path remain open. The representative of the Footpaths Society had done his homework and was able to point out that he could bring witnesses to prove that no damage had been done to any fences, walls or hedges in that area in the vicinity of the path. He was also able to say that no damage had been done to any crops. The area in question was stony and had insufficient topsoil to allow any crops to flourish and, as for the accessibility to the house, Mr Allbrass himself had increased this by having new approach roads to the house built and widened. The inquiry closed with the inspector retiring to give his verdict which the Society would learn in about six weeks time. In due course the awaited letter arrived. The path would be kept open; a victory for the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society.

All right, this narrative is all fiction. But little would have to be changed to make it real. Perhaps a different area, a different name, a different time and it all becomes true.

The Cosa Unit never ceases to watch all proposals that may affect our rights of way, and never lets anyone, no matter how powerful or important, take a right away from us without a fight. Thank you, Cosa Unit!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

DEREK TAYLOR

My report for '94 must, I feel, reflect the fact that it has been an extremely busy year for all the Society's officers. Certainly my own usually rather heavy workload has increased considerably as a result of the many aspects of the Centenary Celebrations which have demanded my attention.

The sheer weight of correspondence with which I deal each year is really quite unbelievable for a voluntary organisation. If I tell you that in 1994 I received 2517 items of correspondence and wrote 1623 letters and memoranda, you will have some appreciation of how your subscription is put to good use.

One word appears to dominate the footpath preservation scene in 1994 and that is *Finance* or to be more precise 'lack of'.

In my contact with local authorities during the year it has become increasingly apparent that budgets in all areas are being drastically cut and as always the budgets for footpath work are suffering more than most. Many borough councils have an annual budget in the region of £6000 for rights-of-way work, a totally inadequate sum, given that most authorities have hundreds of miles of rights of way. I now find that quite a number have had that budget cut even further. What this means is that work on the maintenance of rights of way is almost at a standstill. However there are some bright spots and I have mentioned these in my survey of individual councils later in my report.

The comments which follow, reflect my interpretation of how the various local authorities in our inner area have performed in respect of the removal of obstructions to rights of way. Closures & Diversions are of course dealt with by our COSA unit based at Hazel Grove.

CHESHIRE

Cheshire County Council

In my report last year I talked of the establishment of a County rights of way forum. The first meeting of that body took place in January 1994 at which I took the opportunity to raise several matters which caused us concern - (a) a request that representatives of borough councils, in particular Macclesfield and Warrington should be invited to attend the meeting; (b) clarification as to why legal amendments to the definitive map somehow do not find their way on to OS Maps; and (c) to ask the County why it was that the

Rights of Way Act 1990 with regard to ploughing and non-reinstatement of paths was just not working.

I expect our next meeting in January 1995 will answer some if not all of our queries. I think there is no doubt that the County Rights of Way unit are slowly getting to grips with what is an enormous problem of obstructed and illegally diverted rights of way but it is a formidable task and can only be completed if adequate financial resources are provided.

Maclesfield BC

I am told, though I have yet to see any positive evidence to that effect, that there has been some improvement in the way in which the Borough Council is dealing with footpath problems. In my opinion there is no positive commitment by the Council to deal with what is a massive problem of obstructed and illegally diverted paths under the Borough's control. I have mentioned earlier that I have asked that representatives of the Borough Council be invited to the next Cheshire forum and if they do not appear then I feel that my suspicion of lack of concern may well be vindicated.

Warrington BC

Warrington is another of the Cheshire borough councils which, in my opinion, merely pays lip service to rights of way matters. I have several cases with them which are long outstanding and extracting any sort of positive reply from them is extremely difficult. Again Warrington have been invited to send a representative to the next forum and I have a list of questions which I propose putting to them which hopefully will determine if they have any real interest in dealing with rights of way problems.

GREATER MANCHESTER

Bolton MBC

Our liaison meetings with the Council continue to flourish, there is a positive attitude at these meetings which was sadly lacking pre 1993. At the moment we are being consulted with regard to a possible sports complex in the Horwich area which, should it come to fruition would result in the re-siting of the Bolton Wanderers ground Burnden Park. There are one or two footpath issues which would need to be resolved before we can agree to the current proposals. Amongst other Bolton matters under review are proposals to extend the Westhoughton Golf Club course at Long Island and again agreement needs to be reached on the diversion of two paths which cross the site before we can pronounce ourselves satisfied..we are talking!

Bury MBC

Bury is one of two Greater Manchester authorities who now have a computer data base which contains details of all rights of way in their area. Information is also registered as to the condition of paths and if they are obstructed. In

theory, therefore, we need no longer draw the attention of the Council to obstructions unless they are very recent. We must wait to test the success or otherwise of this exercise. One issue in Bury continues to cause us some concern and that is the 'temporary' closure of the footbridge at Belle Vue Terrace, damaged some time ago. This footbridge carries Bury FP105 over the railway and in addition to our concern at the lengthy delay in the carrying out of repairs, we have a further concern at the way in which the Road Traffic Act temporary closure orders are being handled (see further comments at the end of my report).

Manchester City Council

I think I can report some improvement in my contact with the Council's representative in the southern area of the city and as a result some, though not all, problems in the Ringway area have been or are being dealt with in a positive manner.

Not so for the rest of the city area where the situation is bad to dreadful.

Oldham MBC

There are no problems on rights of way in this authority's area. At least so far as I am aware.

Rochdale MBC

Rochdale is the second authority to have completed its computer data base of all paths and problems in the borough. Having now hopefully recognised the massive number of problems they have, it will be interesting to see just what they propose doing about them given the extremely small budget they have available for such matters.

Salford City Council

This Council pursues a policy of ignoring complaints to which they cannot find an immediate answer. Let me say that if they think that by ignoring my letters I will somehow forget the problems, then they must think again, for I will continue to explore every possible avenue to ensure they comply with their statutory duty. Meanwhile the saga of Swinton & Pendlebury 51 goes on and on and on.

Stockport MBC

Over the last two years I have tended to describe Stockport as the 'jewel in the crown' of local authorities. It is therefore with some regret that I must advise you that 'the crown' has slipped somewhat. What was once a very positive attitude towards rights of way has now changed to a rather "lack of concern" situation. At the moment the post of rights of way officer is vacant, though advertised, and so perhaps I should defer any further comments until next year when, hopefully, an appointment will have been made.

Tameside MBC

In my report last year I described Tameside as a 'remote' authority and I have been considering if in fact the description was in any way unfair or unjust. I have concluded that it was not. I do wish we

had a more positive contact with the Council which would perhaps help us to decide if they really have a concern for the footpath network. Having said that, I have to concede that I receive very few complaints of obstructed paths in the borough.

Trafford MBC

Regrettably I have to report there has been no improvement in our relations with the Council. At one stage I had high hopes that a liaison meeting might be established but this has proved to be wishful thinking on my part. The saga of the obstructed path on the Dunham Massey/Altrincham boundary continues with the path still obstructed. Members may recall from my report last year that I had to refer this to the Ombudsman. I despair, for now some 12 months later the Ombudsman has still not decided if she will accept the case for investigation. When one considers that one of the criteria for the Ombudsman accepting a case is where there has been 'unjustifiable delay' by a local authority; one wonders at what point in time delay becomes 'unjustifiable'. Perhaps in my report next year I will be able to produce the answer ... who knows!!

Wigan MBC

Over the past year there has been some improvement in that just one or two longstanding matters have been resolved but the overwhelming impression of this Council's approach to rights of way matters is one of apathy. We meet the Council twice yearly when we list the outstanding complaints, and promises of action to resolve them are made. But six months later we are met with a series of excuses which really amount to at best a lack of concern or at worst sheer incompetence. This Council also fails to have a positive procedure for dealing with temporary closure orders, of which more later.

DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire County Council

I am concerned at the lack of a positive approach to footpath matters. There was a time, not all that long ago, when the County Council ranked high on my list of competent authorities but alas this cannot now be said. My feeling is that there is a lack of positive direction and encouragement from senior officers and perhaps even elected members. Without this, the man on the ground cannot be expected to give of his best. Signposting, particularly in North East Derbyshire is in a dreadful state and the indications are that it will be the turn of the century before legal requirements are met.

Derbyshire Dales DC

Again this year there have been few complaints with regard to paths in this area and when you consider that it is very well walked I can only conclude that virtually all is well. Doubtless someone will tell me if my assumptions are incorrect.

North East Derbyshire DC

Complaints of obstruction, illegal diversion, ploughing and non-reinstatement continue to flood in with the Council apparently being less than forceful in its approach to those who perpetrate these deeds. I am particularly concerned at the Council's approach to ploughing. We now have many cases where paths are ploughed and not reinstated year after year and yet the Council does not appear to have any intention of taking positive action against farmers and or landowners. Something will have to be done soon to resolve this major problem and our representatives at meetings with this Council have been asked to stress these issues on every possible occasion.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire County Council

Meetings of the Rights of Way Liaison body continue to be held at County Hall on a regular basis and do provide the opportunity to air grievances as appropriate. The statistical summary of obstructions and clearances continue to be tabled and are quite useful in assessing how each council deals with such matters. You will not be surprised when I tell you that despite repeated promises we still do not have figures for Blackburn who are the best promisers in the world and the worst doers.

Blackburn BC

In my report last year I summarised this Council's approach to footpath matters as 'hopeless'. This year I go further - 'worse than hopeless'.

Chorley BC

Chorley continues to be the authority which deals with all complaints promptly and positively. *It receives my Gold Medal for its efforts.*

Rossendale BC

Everything in Rossendale is perfect, I have not received a single complaint of obstruction during 1994.

WEST YORKSHIRE

Calderdale BC

I am never quite sure if Calderdale are as good on footpath matters as they would have us believe. I have many outstanding complaints but as the Council do not tell me when they have resolved a problem and our inspector cannot cover the very large area as often as he would wish, many obstructions remain current though in fact the path may be clear. I would very much like to know how the Council see themselves attaining the '*all paths clear and definitive maps up to date by the year 2000*' requirement but the Council appear to want to keep the society at arms length on such matters.

Kirklees BC

The improvement I saw last year continues, the Council does attend to problems pretty quickly though I suspect that some of those which are particularly complicated get swept under the carpet. They do in fact tell us when they have resolved a problem which is more than can be said for most authorities.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Staffordshire County Council

Liaison meetings with the Council continue in Stafford on a twice yearly basis and, despite the distance, I have to travel to these meetings I feel they are very worthwhile. As with most liaison meetings, discussion centres on general matters of concern whilst specific problems are raised direct with the officers concerned. One aspect of these meetings which I find rather disturbing is the fact that there is no item on the agenda for 'matters arising' and so each and every issue has to be raised again as an agenda item or there is no follow-up. I suppose I will get used to this in time but it does mean that issues I wish to raise have to be sent to the County some weeks before the meeting. Progress on the resolving of obstruction problems is slow but there is a positive approach to these and I suppose in time, and given the finance, all will be resolved.

SOME OTHER THOUGHTS.....

Claims under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 56

A strange and unusual situation has arisen with regard to a claim to add a number of footpaths to the definitive map in Wigan Borough. My claim, supported by 17 twenty-year evidence of use forms was made on the 1st January, 1993. The Council, as usual, failed to determine the application within the twelve months allowed and on the 20th March 1994 I asked the Secretary of State to require the Council to determine the application in accordance with Section 53 of the Act.

After lengthy correspondence the DoE wrote to Wigan MBC requiring them to decide the application by the 31st March 1995. Now here is the strange situation; Wigan advise me that they cannot process the application because the right of the public to use the ways has never been called into question. If we are to accept that comment at face value then we can never have ways added to the map unless there has been a challenge. This I cannot accept and I have advised the Secretary of State accordingly. The latest letter from the Department advises the Council must respond to them by the 31st March and, when they do so, they will decide what further action is required. I will comment on the outcome in my report next year.

Temporary Traffic Restrictions

The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 allows the temporary closure of footpaths or bridleways initially for a period of six months, after which permission to extend must be sought from the Secretary of State. I am finding that the requirements of this Act are being flouted by more and more local authorities. What is in fact happening is that the six month order is being allowed to run out of time, there is then a period when the way remains (illegally) closed without a current order. The Council cannot then apply for an extension to an Order which has expired and so makes a new Order for a further six months. This situation means that there is no opportunity for user groups such as ours to make representations to the Secretary of State against the Order being extended. The Department of Transport's Local Authority Circular 4/92 states (para 15)... '*Authorities should note that in considering whether an extension is justified, the Secretary of State will look for evidence that the views of local users have been taken into account*'. Local users (ourselves) are not being given the opportunity to make our views known.

Publicity for applications for planning permission

Amendments to the Town & Country Planning, General Development Order 1988 have, amongst other things, included a requirement that if a proposed development affects a right of way, then this should be so stated in the statutory advertisement. This requirement has proved very useful to the Society in that we get prior warning at an early, pre-planning permission stage of any possible interference with a right of way. As always there is of course a problem and that hinges on each local planning authority's interpretation of the word 'affects'. Some authorities are saying that a right of way is only affected by a development if there is a physical deviation of the way, a closure or diversion. I am saying that a way is affected if for instance a path which now crosses an open field is to be enclosed between fences even though it is still on its definitive line, or if it is affected in the environmental sense, eg additional traffic, dust and noise. I cannot get agreement across our area but it appears to me that as the development has to be advertised anyway, to add the words 'this application affects a right of way' would not unduly increase the advertising costs and would ensure that all are aware of the proposals. After all, keeping the public aware is what this amendment to the Act is all about, so what is there to hide?

And finally...

During the year the Society has lost three of its officers -

Don Lee has resigned as Courts & Inquiries Officer and will now concentrate his efforts in acting for the Open Spaces Society in the north west. We take this opportunity to thank Don for his work on behalf of the Society over many years.

Ted Whittaker has had to resign as Membership Secretary for health reasons and again we take the opportunity to thank Ted for his work in the membership field over many years. Ted's health is continuing to improve and we send our best wishes for a continuing recovery. We are pleased he has indicated that he will continue as footpath inspector for Congleton.

Fred Ogden has resigned as Signpost Officer and, though he has only been in that post for a short time, we take the opportunity to thank him for his efforts to date.

As always, my thanks to all who have assisted me during the year, with particular thanks to all footpath inspectors for their work in the field.

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY

MRS EILEEN LEONARD

As your new Environment Secretary I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to members and thank everyone for their tolerance over my limited knowledge of legal matters and for their help and advice.

The first year has been an interesting one. The work has fallen into roughly two main areas:

- i) looking at various Council local plans and how they will affect our public footpaths, and
- ii) expressing environmental concern over the proliferating wind farms.

Local Plans and how they will affect public rights of way

I notice that various councils in their local plans have very different attitudes to rights of way. For example

Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan has a detailed chapter on Recreation & Tourism which includes several positive policies relating to public rights of way. One policy which I think is very hopeful for all footpath users states (page 22) –

The District Council will encourage the retention and development of a network of well signposted and maintained public rights of way of varying length throughout the district, giving ready access from urban areas, where no current rights of way exist. Concessionary routes may be pursued.

In contrast, Warrington BC appeared to me to have no definite commitment to the development, waymarking and upkeep of rights of way (p160 of the local plan) – *Reference to the need to take account of, and enhance public footpaths has been added to the document.*

This is the only sentence and no policy is given. There was certainly no statement of commitment to comply with the Countryside Commission's target to have all public footpath signposted by the year 2000.

As a regular walker in the Cheshire and Staffordshire Moorland areas, along with many Peak & Northern members, I appreciate the improvements in waymarking and access along many footpaths that have taken place over the last few years. However at footpath ground level we all have our favourite obstructed footpaths which I am sure the appropriate local authority would be grateful to hear about and act on to help them achieve the aims of their local plans.

Environmental concern over proliferating windfarms

There are briefly two main schools of thought on this topic –

- (a) they are non polluting, renewable sources of energy, or
- (b) they are an eyesore, with each turbine requiring a substantial foundation and access track which completely ruin the soil structure, often on delicate moorland or peat.

The Society's policy is to consider their effect on any public rights of way. The first request for support this year was to oppose a proposal at Flaith Hill, Hebden Bridge for 44 turbines with some six miles of concrete roadway for building and maintenance. This development would affect the main network of footpaths in the area known as Limers Gate, Clay Gate and Black Gate. These are very old footpaths which were granted to allow access by Wadsworth tenants to remove peat, stone and clay and, in the summer, to move cattle on

and off Oxenhope Moor. If this development goes ahead, walkers along the Pennine Way would have (weather permitting) a continuous view of wind turbines from Blackstone Edge to Top Withens. The Society supported the objections to this proposed development. Members interested in this case may like to know I have a video produced by the objectors which shows the area and devastation this development will cause; it can be borrowed by interested members.

There are numerous other wind farm proposals. One (with seven turbines) is next to the Pennine Way at Erringden, near Todmorden, just in front of Stoodley Pike. Although outside our area, another is alongside Offa's Dyke Path just outside the Brecon Beacons National Park, at Black Hill - 2102 feet; this could have 30 wind turbines on the skyline.

Please let me know of any relevant environmental problems where I may be of help.

ERRATUM
CENTENARY BOOKLET (page 14)

Heywood Footpath 95 at Delph House Farm: this case was, in fact, won by the Society and the path is now well used by the public.



DONATION FORM

From:

Name _____

Address

I wish to make a donation to: General funds

the Signpost Fund □

Please return with your donation to Keith Wykes, Honorary Treasurer
30 Langdale Close, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7YS

MATTERS FROM THE MINUTES

FEBRUARY

Poynton opencast coal site: wide concern. **Manchester Airport** building now obstructing a previously diverted path. Concern at new **Charities Act** status. **Wind Farms**: concern on environment. **Countryside Commission**: proposed merger; Council objects successfully. **Centenary Celebration Report**.

MARCH

Ashton in Makerfield FP22: Section 56 Notice served on Wigan MBC. **Stockport: Benfield path** Claim to be subject of Modification Order. **Manchester Airport**: offer of non-definitive path not acceptable.

APRIL

Annual General Meeting

MAY

Sett Valley Trail: no consultation on Modification Orders.

Centenary mileposts: Snake path: National Trust preferred single post at summit on Mill Hill accepted.

Afram FP38: suspected interference with Society's witnesses to withdraw support loses our case.

Fleight Hill wind farm of 44 generators: Society to object.

JUNE

Floral Display of Society's badge by Stockport MBC commended.

Centenary Dinner: letter of appreciation received from Sir John Johnson

Norley RUPP 12: costs awarded to P&N.

JULY

Dovedale. Disappointing decision by Peak Park Board not to pursue path creation on National Trust land. Thanks expressed to **Geoff Daubney** and **Ramblers' Holidays** for help with distributing Centenary Newsletter. **Charities Act**: agreed should be possible for AGM to elect a higher body than Council to act as trustees.

Bredbury & Romiley FP43: Stockport MBC trying to avoid responsibility for maintenance; S56 Order to be considered.

AUGUST: no meeting.

SEPTEMBER

Ashton in Makerfield FP22: threat of Section 56 Order had provoked Wigan MBC into action.

Marthall FP7: alternative diversion agreed with agent on site overruled by his principals.

OCTOBER

Chairman's informal appeal now stood at £550.

Manchester FP129: Stopping-up Order refused; costs awarded against City Council.

Warrington DC's UDP does not show any commitment to rights of way.

Adrian Littleton appointed Courts & Inquiries Officer

NOVEMBER

Vice Presidents: Messrs Cooper and Ewart had not assented to renomination.

Voluntary Joint Committee for Peak Park: agreed that we support Sheffield RA's request for a special meeting.

Benfield claim: Modification Order now made by Stockport MBC.

DECEMBER

Charities Act: agreed amendments to constitution and subscription rates.

Centenary Booklet: sales now in profit. Rochdale Canal Company to clear obstructed towpath at **Smithy Bridge**.

COURTS & INQUIRIES

ADRIAN LITTLETON

The Manchester Airport Second Runway inquiry started in June 1994. This should finish in February 1995 and the verdict will probably come in 1996 or 1997. We object in principle to the environmental havoc which the runway would wreak and criticise the substitute paths which are offered. Belatedly the Airport Authority is discussing these paths with us.

A by-pass is planned for **Hindley and Westhoughton**. At the inquiry in November, we urged that better treatment should be given to Ince-in-Makerfield paths 16 and 33; a link be maintained between Lower Ince and Amberswood Common and that footbridges should be provided for Hindley FP8 and Westhoughton FPs 184 and 186. On our arrival at the inquiry the Hindley footbridge was conceded; we await verdicts on our other objections.

September 21: Les Fletcher opposed the diversion of 774 metres of **FP47** at **Abbots Bromley**, in East Staffordshire. This proposal would have taken FP47 away from cottage gardens and a busy farmyard but divert on to lower ground a cross-field section with fine views. The Inspector declined to confirm the order because the proposed diversion was less enjoyable to walk and would occasionally be flooded.

October 18: an inquiry was held into Staffordshire County Council's Order for the extinguishment of **Biddulph Town FP53** on the ground that the Path is not needed for public use.

About 20 years earlier, bungalows had been built near FP53 and their back gardens and side fences had encroached over it. Daunted by these obstructions, the County Council decided to extinguish the path.

At issue was the extent to which FP53 would be used if the Order was not confirmed. It is located on an elevated ridge running from the Pottery towns and is part of a chain of lanes and paths which exploit this terrain. Walkers on FP53 have good open views to the east across open fields. In contrast, the proposed diversion route took walkers through insipid housing estates. At the inquiry there was a strong turnout of opponents to the Order, but not one of the 14 bungalow owners came to support it!

The Secretary of State has refused to confirm the Order and the Society is now goading the County Council to re-open the path or divert it through farmland. The outcomes at both Abbots Bromley and Biddulph emphasise the need to turn up at inquiries and object. Don't assume that an extinguishment order can't possibly be confirmed merely because it legitimises the theft of a useful path.

Spend time on site visits and discussions with friends; then support the Society's advocate at the inquiry by politely but very firmly telling the government inspector how cherished the path is, why it is useful or would be if obstructions were purged, and how unjustly deprived future generations of walkers will be if the path is lost.

SIGNPOST REPORT

7 here is a need for a co-ordinator for the erection of signs. Someone with a tow bar on their car. This is urgent as work at present is at a standstill.

NEW SIGNPOSTS ERECTED

240 Turton Moor [696185]
Donated by Bolton HF
in memory of Mrs Norah Gillespie

241 Marple [969883]

242 Marple [968874]
Both donated by Oldknow
Community Forum

247 Mill Hill. Centenary Post at
junction of Pennine Way and
Snake/Hayfield Path. Grateful
thanks to the National Trust for
supplying and erecting Post.

NEW & REPLACEMENT POSTS

to be erected –

244 Derwent [198883] in memory of
Howard Townley

245 Higher Poynton [950824] in
memory of Howard Axon

246 Kettleshulme [994806] in memory
of Mrs Gibbs

247 Derwent [202882] in memory of
Anne Dean

REPLACEMENT POSTS

74 Derwent

118 Derwent

142 Shutlingsloe

192 Ilam

158 Charles Head

160 Derwent

243 Wicken Wells to replace post 37

MAINTENANCE WORK

has been done on the following –

30 Hayfield

33 Hayfield

68 Hope

75 Moscar

86 Moscar

128 Belmont

132 Wildboarclough

149 Gawsworth

CENTENARY EVENTS 1994

by Frank Whitehead

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN
COUNTIES FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY
WAS FOUNDED ON THIS SITE
16 AUGUST 1894

... so reads the Manchester City Commemorative Plaque. Our 1993 Annual Report listed the 'Centenary Events - 1994'. But discussions had begun in March 1993 with much research to follow - delving into old records, our own and in public libraries, and a lot of correspondence. These culminated in the erection of a waymarking signpost at the head of Williams Clough where the Hayfield/Snake Inn path crosses the Pennine Way (see cover illustration).

Floral Display

An early move was to offer a challenge to the Parks Departments of Manchester and Stockport to reproduce our rucksack badge in a floral display. Manchester wanted over £1000 for the design, planting and maintenance of a bed in Piccadilly Gardens, which we gracefully declined; Stockport rose to the occasion and, without cost, planted a display at the corner of Torkington Park alongside the A6 in Hazel Grove, for which we were very grateful.

Centenary Dinner - 22 April

For years we have enjoyed our annual dinners. But the Centenary Dinner in April, the first major event of our celebrations, was a winner, not only with what arrived from the kitchen but more especially in the excellent speech of our Guest Speaker, Sir John Johnson, Chairman of the Countryside Commission, and the Response by our Vice President, Andrew Bennett MP.

Centenary Booklet

A lot of effort went into the publication of a centenary booklet *A Century of Footpath Preservation* which was ready for sale at the Manchester plaque unveiling ceremony. It's a good read, and if you haven't got a copy, don't hesitate further but send or proffer £2 to the Chairman or General Secretary and one shall be yours.

Manchester plaque - August 16

Our Manchester commemorative plaque was unveiled in sunny weather by the Lord Mayor at 11am on the 16th August. But was it in the right place? Several annual reports from our early years have gone astray but Dr Frank Head's article in the 1954 (Diamond Jubilee) Annual Report provided much useful information. We became aware that, in the 1890's, discussions with particular bearing on the need for action to secure the public right of way over Kinder Scout from Hayfield to the Snake Inn, had taken place in the Piccadilly Restaurant and another restaurant at the Market Street corner of Spring Gardens, leading to the inaugural

meeting held on the 16th August 1894 in accommodation used by the YMCA on Peter Street. Both restaurant sites have disappeared whilst the former YMCA Building, now owned by Eagle Star Insurance, had yet to be built. Eagle Star, although interested in the historical aspects, initially were unhappy at the plaque's proposed location. It was persistence on our part, quoting from Kelly's Directory of 1894, which convinced them, and resulted in their agreement to a 'Corporation plaque' being fixed to the Peter Street/Mount Street Corner of what is now St George's House.

Kellys confirmed that part of premises on the site of the present building were occupied by the YMCA, two other tenants being the Primitive Methodist Young Men's Emigration Office and a restaurant on the ground floor. Another bit of Social History. Did you know there were no cafes in Manchester until this century? Records show they were all either restaurants or Chop Houses (isn't the last remaining Chop House still open on Cross Street?).

Back to the ceremony. The police came, as promised, to control the madding crowd. Actually, there was a very good turn-out with an observer concluding that even more people took up the invitation to the Town Hall for coffee and biscuits with the Lord Mayor, paid for, incidentally, by your Society – another bit of Social History?

Hayfield Plaque – August 21

One more plaque to go and another sunny day for its unveiling on the Sett Valley Trail Information Centre in Hayfield by Martin Doughty, Chairman of Derbyshire County Council. Again there had been some interesting research, including a pleasant morning spent with our soon-to-be centenarian member, Mrs Dorothy Wild, widow of Harold who was Secretary between 1949-51 and very active on footpath

work between the world wars. She reached her 100th birthday but, sadly, died before she could fulfil her promise to attend the ceremony in Hayfield. Tradition has it that following walks in the early days, our members regularly met in a pub in Hayfield. That would have been a good place for the plaque. However, there was no written record of these occurrences and present day landlords, so many times removed from their nineteenth century predecessors, couldn't help. So, what better site than the location of the former Hayfield Railway Station where so many members would have stepped from the trains to start their rambles. Sett Valley Warden, Keith Wood, Chris Coombs proved to be most enthusiastic about our celebrations and proposal to have the plaque fixed to their building. Indeed, Derbyshire County Council went one stage further by providing labour, free of charge, to cut back the stonework and fix our plaque which is the shape and size of our modern signposts. Many people attended the ceremony, with a goodly number taking part in the celebration walks that followed.

If you couldn't be at the ceremony do visit, take a look at the plaque, then sit on the stone seat below it. You are sitting on a bit of history, the slab being part of Hayfield Railway Station's platform edge.

Alan Mattingley, the Director of the Ramblers' Association, regretted he could not be present at either ceremony but responded with appreciative comments and best wishes including a note in the RA's magazine 'Rambling Today'.

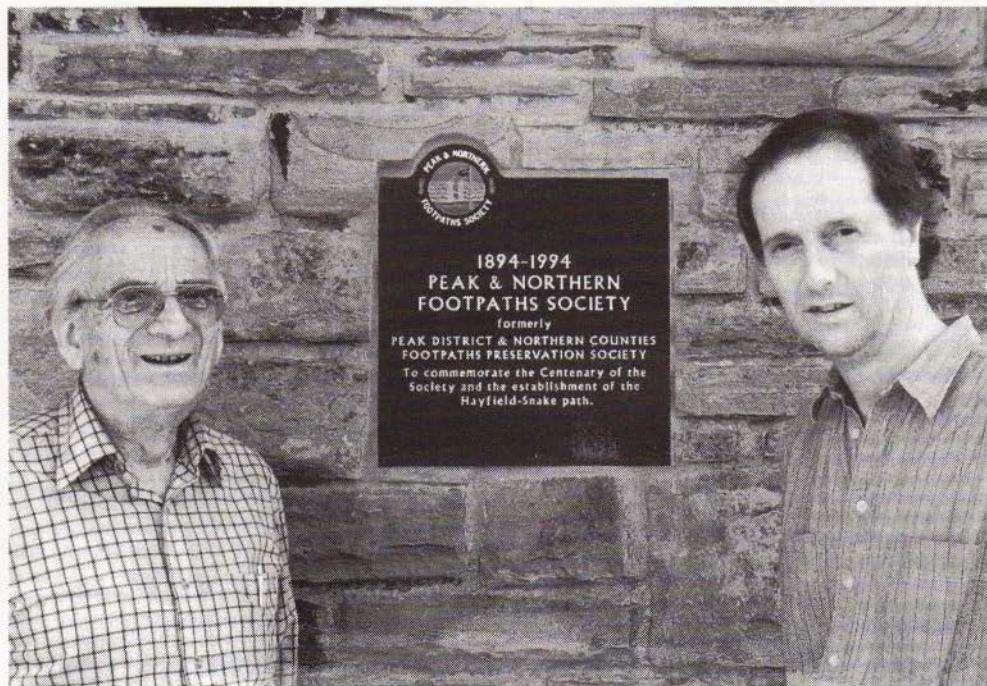
And the next time that you are in Manchester, do take a look at the red Manchester City Commemorative Plaque. Its across Mount Street, on the opposite corner from the former Midland Hotel.



The commemorative plaque which was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Manchester on 16 August 1994. This is located on the Eagle Star Building, St George's House (formerly the YMCA) at the corner of St Peter's Street, Manchester.

photograph

*The Society's Centenary Plaque at Hayfield after the
unveiling ceremony on Sunday 21 August 1994.
With (left) Leslie Meadowcroft, the Society's Chairman,
and (right) Martin Doughty, Leader of Derbyshire County
and Chairman of the Peak Park Planning Board.*



by John Houfe

TREASURER'S REPORT

KEITH WYKES

A more than successful Centenary Year, in financial terms, evidenced by

Increases in -	page	1994	1993
		£	£
Total Funds	(31)	73,937	69,334
Income exceeding expenditure	(30)	5,275	4,753
Subscriptions	(30)	3,200	2,971
Donations	(30)	1,400	850
Sundry Income; Public Inquiry received costs element	(30)	108	-
These increases have contributed to the funding of the Society's increased expenditure incurred in the maintenance of its objectives	(30)	5,572	4,689
and which includes net Centenary Event costs of	(30)	368	-

Most satisfactory !

All is not rosy however, as a decline in interest rates has meant that the Society's seedcorn - interest income - has remained virtually static (short term interest (p30)) Trustees have therefore looked elsewhere to place surplus funds. To this end £15,000 has been deposited (in December 1994) with the Woolwich & Skipton Building Societies at three year 8.5% and two year 8.10% fixed rate terms of interest respectively, in addition, a further £10,000 has been voted for additional suitable investment pending professional advice.

Other funds, immediately realisable on demand and appearing in the Balance Sheet (p31) attract higher average rates of interest than the Bank High Interest Account (in which a minimum balance of £2,500 must be held), are - Leeds & Holbeck Charities Account, where a balance of £20,000 circa is maintained: Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) CASH Deposit Fund. The CAF also offers other services, particularly its 'Give as you Earn' scheme for salaried/waged employees and donations via their CAF voucher Scheme. The CAF itself is a registered charity. Please contact me for further details.

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

We are grateful if members would remember the Society when making or reviewing 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 268369) 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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees (who are defined as all of the members of Council) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure of the Society for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to – (1) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; (2) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and (3) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Acts 1992 and 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees have elected, as permitted by the Charities Act, to provide the receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities (pages 30 – 31) and to further take advantage of the exemption from the need for a professional audit, such elections being due to the amount of the gross income of the Society. The accounts have been examined by an independent examiner, as required by the Act.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for the year ended 31 December 1994

(please also refer to the notes on page 32)

INCOME	1994	1993	EXPENDITURE	1994	1993
Subscriptions					
Ordinary	858	672	Annual Report	1012	732
Joint	670	675	Postages and telephones	1138	1203
Transfer from 10 yr suspense	1103	1005	Stationery	395	246
Junior	5	6	Photocopying	352	280
Affiliations	564	613	Office Equipment	147	28
Total subscriptions	3200	2971	Travel	803	633
Donations*	1400	850	Expenses of COSA Unit	111	155
	4600	3821	Room costs: COSA Unit	437	410
Affiliates Service charge	105	115	Secretariat	340	325
Consultation expenses charged	44	42	Meetings	208	143
Sale of badges	53	40	Public lectures	13	-
	202	197	Publicity/exhibition	-	333
Investment Income			Subscriptions & donations	94	42
<i>Received gross of tax -</i>			Conference fees	-	22
Government Stock	2295	2618	Map purchases	8	102
Short term deposits	2592	2546	Insurance (work parties)	26	24
Total investment income	4887	5164	Sundries	89	12
Total ordinary income	9689	9182	Total ordinary expenditure	5173	4689
Grants received ¶	352	160	Centenary events	368	-
Fees for annual report ads			Investment revaluation	31	-
and other donations	566	100	Total expenditure	5572	4689
Sundry	240	-	Excess of		
	1158	260	income over expenditure	5275	4753
Total income for the year	10847	9442			
				10847	9442

* Donations have risen due mainly to receipts of amounts of £100 specifically and increased volume generally, all related to the Society's Centenary Year.

¶ Grants received represents a 50% Countryside Commission Grant for signpost plates.

The Society gratefully acknowledges these assistances from whatever source.

FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY as at 31 December each year

name of fund	1993 b/fwd	+	income	-	expenses	=	1994 c/fwd
General	62 643		10 847		5 572		67 918
Defence	4 061		25		0		4 086
Signpost	1 784		418		1 115		1 087
Survey	399		0		0		399
Memorial funds							
E Royce	55		-		-		55
H Wild	250		-		-		250
FSH Head	142		-		-		142
	69 334	+	11 290	-	6 687	=	73 937

Please refer also to notes on pages 32 and 33

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1994

	1994	1993
Assets	£	£
<i>Investments -</i>		
Government Stock	22 744	24 183
Current Account	840	59
High Interest Account	2 518	4 379
Leeds & Holbeck BS Charity a/c	20 218	20 018
Cafcash Deposit Fund	18 845	26 509
Woolwich BS Three year Fixed Rate Bond	10 000	-
Skipton BS Two year Fixed Rate Bond	5 000	-
Cash float (COSA Unit)	20	20
Postages float - Membership Secretary	42	-
	80 227	75 168
Liabilities		
Funds of the Society as shown	73 937	69 333
Ten year membership suspense	6 272	5 835
Deferred income	6	-
Advance Subscriptions 1995/96	12	-
	80 227	75 168

EXAMINER'S REPORT

In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs as at 31 December 1994 and have been properly prepared.

signed: Roger K. Parker

Hale, Cheshire 29 January 1995

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

- Income is shown as it is paid into the Society's Bank Accounts, with the exception of Investment income which is credited automatically to the Business High Income Account.
- Interest receivable on the Leeds & Holbeck Building Society Account has been accrued to this year in so far as it was paid on 1 January 1995 in relation to the preceding 12 months; this practice is adopted in the interest of providing true, fair and accurate accounts.
- 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 at the end of the year.
- Ten year subscriptions are credited to the Income Account in ten even portions, one portion for each year from the year in which they are received; portions not so credited are included in the Balance Sheet Ten Year Membership suspense account as a liability until exhausted.
- Subscription income generally is 7.7% higher than in 1993
- Members may be interested to know that the £368 cost of Centenary Events (p30) comprises in the main –

Event	cost	net £ income
Dinner	41	
Ceremonies:		
Manchester: Lord Mayor's Parlour	59	
Hayfield: costs and Collection	15	43
Booklets: at £2 per copy; (hurry whilst stocks last)		271
Plaques & associated expenditure	417	

FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY

- The Defence Fund exists for the purpose of covering the cost of obtaining professional legal advice and meeting expenses relating to legal actions as, when & if required.
- The Survey & Memorial Funds are not open to further donations; the purpose of 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 Signpost Fund exists for the purpose of erecting and maintaining the Society footpath signposts. Whereas expenditure is roughly the same as previously (1993 - £1028), income has fallen drastically (1993 - £1849) and I draw your attention to the fact that the fund balance (£1087) is sufficient for only one years expenditure, assuming no further donation income. Please refer to the donation form on p15.

The reason for this loss of income may, in part, be due to unerected signposts in stock, and therefore uninvoiced by the Society; if this is so, contingent income of the Society may be resting in the unerected signposts; signpost stocks and contingent income are not included in these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

BALANCE SHEET ASSETS

Table 1:
Government Stock Investment Values

	1994	1993
	£	£
Cost of purchase	26,931	28,430
Market values at 31.12.94	28,380	33,502
Maturity Value	24,705	23,183

- All investments are listed on the Stock Exchange with the exception of a 1991 Government Stock, delisted due to the small amount in issue; this stock remains payable in 2000/2003 and has been included in the accounts, as before, at its Maturity value; as its market value is unknown, it is not included in Table 1
- Government Stock, which is held until maturity, is generally shown in the balance sheet at its Maturity Value - that value is lower than both purchase cost and market value.
- One stock, however, does not meet this criterion and is valued at its market value in so far as this value is lower than its maturity and cost values.
- A further stock, having no Maturity date, is shown at Cost in so far as this is lower than its market value.
- Index linked stock is shown at the initial Maturity value excluding indexing.

Table 2

1994 Government Stock Investments are thus -

	1994	1993
Dated stocks		
- at Maturity Value	19 623	23 183
- at Market Value	2 121	-
Undated Stocks at cost	1 000	1 000
Balance Sheet values	22 744	24 183

This revaluation exercise has revealed a minor adjustment as reflected in the Expenditure Account (p30).

BALANCE SHEET LIABILITIES

- The postage float represents the cash sum remaining from two £40 floats issued in the year, the latest being December 1994
- The 10 year membership suspense account comprises those amounts not taken to the income account by reason of the fact that the income is deferred until the year in which it is due; one may also note that this balance has increased (1993 £5835 - 1994 £6272) reflecting the greater incidence of 10 year membership as now occurring.
- Deferred income represents a 9.5% Treasury Stock Dividend, marked 'not ours' by my predecessor Treasurer; clarification of its status is pending.

DEALINGS WITH TRUSTEES

- All trustees (members of Council) are entitled, following claim, to receive reimbursement of their expenses properly incurred in carrying out their duties on behalf of the Society; such expenses are recorded under appropriate heads of expenditure in the I & E Account.
- Nominal rentals are paid in respect of significant areas of property used exclusively by the Society to the General Secretary and to member of Council, Mrs L Meadowcroft. These rents may well be significantly below market value and the Society benefits greatly from their generosity. The rental amounts are in respect of a proportion of rates, maintenance, lighting and heating and a small inflation increase has been applied to 1993's sanctioned payments; there is no profit element involved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

ERNIE SUTTON

The membership year terminates at the annual general meeting but, for statistical purposes, membership figures are shown as at 31 December

My appointment has given me a much deeper insight into the workings of the Society and a real appreciation of the work done by so many with the interests of our members and countryside at heart. I am happy to present this, my first report since being appointed last June in succession to Ted Whittaker -

- Total membership stands at 1100, a slight increase.
- Annual membership is 516, an increase of 26.
- Ten year members now total 580.
- We have 14 honorary life members.
- The number of affiliated societies has, I am sorry to say, fallen by nine.

My regret is that my appointment was necessary through Ted's ill health and we hope he will continue to improve.

Once again, as Ted reported last year, individual members and affiliated societies have again made generous donations.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

1 Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Soc'y	35 Greenfield & Grasscroft Residents Assn	64 North Western Naturalists Union
2 Barlborough Parish Council	36 HF Bolton Group	65 Nottingham Wayfarers Rambling Club
3 Barnsley Mountaineering Club	37 HF Bury Group	66 Pennine Paths Protection Society
4 Blackbrook Conservation Society	38 HF Manchester Group	67 Poynton Rambling Club
5 Bradwell Parish Council	39 NF Nottingham Group	68 RA Bolton Group
6 British Mountaineering Council	40 HF Rochdale, Field & Fell Club	69 RA Congleton Group
7 Buxton Field Club	41 HF Warrington	70 RA Derbyshire Area
8 Buxton Rambling Club	42 Hallhill/Springbank Neighbourhood Assn	71 RA East Cheshire Area
9 CHA Altrincham	43 Hanliensian Rambling Club	72 RA Manchester Area
10 CHA Bolton	44 Hazel Grove District Scout Council	73 RA New Mills Group
11 CHA Bury & District	45 High Lane Ladies Club	74 RA North & Mid Cheshire Area
12 CHA Eccles	46 ITT Rambling Club	75 RA Oldham Group
13 CHA Leigh & Distrct	47 Knutsford Civic Society	76 RA Sheffield Group
14 CHA Mansfield	48 Lazy Ramblers Club Macclesfield	77 RA SYNED Area
15 CHA Nottingham	49 Leek Footpath RA Rambling Club	78 RSPB High Peak
16 CHA Oldham	50 Littleborough Civic Trust	79 Rucksack Club
17 CHA Rochdale	51 Longdendale & Glossop Footpath Pres.Society	80 St Catherines Rambling Club
18 CHA Sheffield Section A	52 Macclesfield Rambling Club	81 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers
19 CHA Sheffield Section B	53 Macclesfield & District Field Club	82 Shirland & Higham PC
20 CHA Stockport	54 Manchester Associates Rambling Club	83 Stockport East Area Bridleways Association
21 CHA/HF Ashton under Lyne	55 Manchester & Dst Rambling Club for the Blind	84 Stockport Field Club
22 Cheshire County Scout Group	56 Manchester Fellowship Rambling Club Indpndnt	85 Stockport WEA Social & Rambling Club
23 Cheshire Tally Ho	57 Manchester Field Club	86 Stockport & District Federation of TWG's
24 Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes: Mcr Scn	58 Manchester Rambling Club	87 Sutton in Ashfield Rambling Club
25 Crescent Ramblers	59 Marple Community Cncl	88 Toc H
26 CAE	60 Marple Naturalists	89 Towpath Action Group
27 Derby Nomad Ramblers	61 Marple & District Rambling Club	90 West Lancs Footpath Grp
28 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society	62 Mellor Society	91 Wickersley Evening TG
29 Derbyshire Pennine Club	63 Mid Cheshire Footpath Society	92 YHA, Central Region
30 Elmton with Creswell PC		93 YHA, Stockport
31 Eyam Village Society		94 Zeneca Social Centre Hiking & Rambling Soc'y
32 Forest of Rossendale Bridleways Association		
33 Geriatrics Group		
34 Good Companions Rambling Club		