



Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2001
HANDBOOK



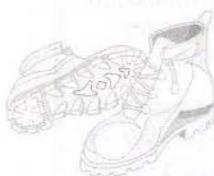
ANNUAL REPORT 2001

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Leslie Meadowcroft

As you will have observed from an earlier page there have been changes in our management structure, also new faces and probably new ideas including several computer literate members for the new age which we are entering. But also one in which we hope to retain our personal identities and contacts.

Perhaps we should start our review by referring to the new Act joining the book of statutes. The CROW Act, as it has already been christened, is the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the larger part of which deals with land access in England or 'wander at will' where land is so authorised.

The Rights of Way section of the new Act is rather disappointing possibly because, in the haste to complete the passage of this Bill through parliament, many contentious issues were dropped for reasons of expediency. One of these was the proposed abolition of magistrates' courts procedures for public path orders. The courts often intimidate potential witnesses and discourage them from attending to give evidence, whereas they would have so done had the matter been referred to a public inquiry with its less formal procedures.

Several access forums have been created by local authorities and some members have been appointed, including myself to the Stockport Forum. Whereas the mapping of potential Access land has progressed in the north west and south east of the country under the auspices of a private contractor as a pilot operation, it

is not expected there will be early resolution for several years as it is expected there will be many objections to be overcome or resolved.

The Society appeared at just one public inquiry during the year and this we won under a creation order at Hest Bank (Slyne with Hest) near Lancaster. It was promoted and attended by myself and spouse. Additional volunteers are needed in this field of operation to initiate and support the promotion of new paths and carry the application through to public inquiry.

The Society has completed two years of residence at its new address but are still operating on about two and a half manned days per week, which does not make the optimum use of our comfortable and well equipped premises. Offers are invited from those of you who could attend and volunteers are welcome at any time but days other than Monday are to be preferred, particularly Wednesday, Friday and Thursday morning. A fully equipped kitchen is available for those staying the whole day. Some days provide an opportunity for a combined 'work and walk' operation for those working in the morning.

During the year I have used the Society's newly inherited slide projector with new carousel magazines to present our audio-visual lecture to booked audiences. This provides invaluable publicity for the Society and supplements the Society's fundraising operations.

During the year, we bought seven copies of the recently revised so-called 'Blue Book' on Rights of Way law. As on previous occasions we applied to the Lockerby Trust, a specialised rights of way charity, for grant aid but so far our bid has been unsuccessful.

Members out walking and used to following the blue of yellow waymarks should be wary of using routes indicated by white waymarks. These do not indicate an official definitive route and are often used to divert users from a formal route to avoid the costs of a formal diversion if legally approved and processed. In one case near Alport Castles the diversion is considerably inferior to the existing formal route which no longer bears formal signing near the once classified farm buildings.

The New Year's Honours List carried the names of two of our members, Vice President Martin Doughty (knighthood) and 'Sam' Evison (MBE) a one time footpath inspector. We wish them well.

One of our unsung contributors is the compiler of the programme of monthly walks which take place on the last Wednesday of each month. He is always keen to hear from potential voluntary leaders, particularly if you have a long-standing footpath problem you wish to demonstrate.

We attended several local authority Access meetings as observers, including the Peak Park, and have a representative on the Stockport committee.

I believe it will take some considerable time before many problems will be resolved as some members appointed by local authorities do not appear to have the necessary background experience. There is also a danger that some local authorities will attempt to use these committees to deal with other problems relating to the environment. Furthermore the size of some committees raises the questions of efficiency and quality. Only time will tell.

In conclusion, may I express grateful thanks to our team of volunteers, many of whom are more than generous with their donations of time and effort.

ANNUAL DINNER 2001

This was attended by our old friend and member, Jack Burling, in his official capacity as Chairman of the Sheffield & Peak District Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

We listened with interest as Jack spoke and showed colour slides describing the work of his organisation within their area, mostly within the Peak National Park.

The use of visual aids by our speakers adds a new dimension and appears to be acceptable to our members and friends.

The quality of catering retained its usual high standard and we all experienced a most enjoyable evening

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Derek Seddon

Norman Edwards, our respected Chairman of vast experience, handed over in April. The transfer of power to a naive tenderfoot was accomplished with the minimum of heartburn thanks to the unflagging support of my fellow officers and the workforce at Taylor House.

We are now comfortably settled into operating from our headquarters. The fascia has been painted and emblazoned with the Society's name so the general public will know who we are. The memorial plaque commemorating the work of past Secretary Derek Taylor is in place. The roof has been repaired and we are moving into the modern era with a certain amount of confidence.

In April, Peter Palmer became our first information technology (IT) advisor. Within a short time he had our computers networked, our electronic files securely backed-up and the Taylor House copy of our membership files shipshape and database fashion. We were all sorry when Peter stepped down from his role and said goodbye in October; we wish him well in his other ventures. Meanwhile his wife, Anne, continues to give unfailing service in the essential job of the Society's typist.

The computers are now in the safe hands of Bob Dumbarton, Peter Rhodes and Reg Boot with exciting results beginning to flow from their nimble fingers. These youngsters certainly liven up the place and more sprightly 50-60 year olds are coming in! Peter Rhodes does double duty in the production of *Signpost*, our newsletter, taking all the hard work off my shoulders.

Talking of which we have been rewarded by the promise of a further sponsorship of £1000 from the Cheshire Building Society to cover our printing and postage costs in 2002.

We had a worrying time in September when Keith, our Treasurer, was laid low by illness which fortunately turned out to be less serious than first thought. His recovery was swift and, we hope, complete so we can breathe again. Good treasurers are hard to find.

A steady trickle of volunteers has kept us going throughout the year and it is pleasing to welcome back stalwarts like Jean Arnett, Jeanne Grundy and Geoff Daubeny. June Tweedie and Josie Sutton keep the Council Minutes flowing and Peggy Schonhut helps with the filing on Thursdays. The work of the Consultations and Orders section (subject of a separate report) goes on week in week out in the hands of old reliables but we do need back up in all these aspects of the Society's activities. Can you help?

We now hold Officers' Meetings once a month. Council Meetings alternate each month between the Friends Meeting House in Manchester and Taylor House but we have disappointingly low turnouts at both venues. Can I remind all members and affiliates that they are welcome to take part in the running of the Society; early in the agenda for each meeting time is set aside for members' topics so that individual opinions can be aired.

As he has done these many years, Leslie, our president, has produced the latest Society handbook. Always a struggle against time and more so this year, conjuring advertising revenue in a time of recession. A behind-the-scenes job too little appreciated.

Where would I have been without the warning touch at my elbow of June Mabon, so much more than her title of Minutes Secretary: my guide, philosopher and minder?

My report would not be complete without a mention of the dedication of the Honorary Secretary who has, quite off his own bat, involved himself in three daunting tasks ~

- the total reorganisation of the Society's enormous collection of footpath files
- the re-jigging of the Constitution (to be put before the EGM in April) and
- preparations for the forthcoming Inspectors' Conference in June.

Before I became a volunteer at Taylor House, my mental picture of the Society would probably have been of worthy people pushing aside the brambles as they trudged along half-neglected country paths and then sending their reports back to equally worthy people working in a sort of library full of dusty files and yellowing maps.

The reality is very different. We are as concerned about paths in towns just as much as with those in the countryside. Some old files still exist, and some of the letters in them could form the basis for a History of England, but they are rapidly being replaced by a simplified system that greatly reduces the time spent in finding the necessary information to answer queries or to deal with threatened closures or diversions.

Of course, all the normal secretarial duties of correspondence, legal advice and liaison with footpath inspectors continue uninterrupted. He is the supreme example of the way the people at Taylor House each find some task they would like to tackle and simply get on with it. I am constantly surprised and delighted by the way they do it.

It's exciting to work here and that's why, against my original intentions, I have decided to stand for another year.

**VICE
CHAIRMAN**
Eric Kime

Upstairs, and it does remind me of the old 'Upstairs and Downstairs' TV serial, are volunteers working on computers which are still a mystery to me.

I can foresee a time when most of the archives will be on disc and more easily referred to than ever, provided volunteers such as me can be persuaded to learn the technique.

If I have one complaint it is that as I grow weaker the stacks of maps grow heavier, so roll on complete computerisation. One benefit is the considerable improvement in my knowledge of the geography of England; I never imagined there were so many parishes with such unbelievable names.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Adrian Littleton

2001 - the year of hope

First, the bad news of 2001 ~ for several months the foot and mouth plague taught frustrated walkers the true preciousness of the footpath network. Perhaps the farming community will remember the restraint and responsibility which walkers exercised during those awful months.

The plague abated the flow of fault reports by 17% ~ from 247 in 2000 to 204 in 1991, but the clearances increased from 44 in 2000 to 47 in 2001.

Some of the toughest secretarial tasks are performed by June Mabon and this report would be incomplete without gratitude for her patience, thoroughness and occasional forthrightness. The last quality will be relished by anyone who has heard a colleague nitpicking a minute (perhaps in belated shame) which accurately records what he said !

In April 2001, your Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary all took these offices for the first time. Each was older than his predecessor but each was allured by the challenge of his new job 'because it had to be done, didn't it ~ it was there'. 72+ provisional governors we may be but we cherish the health of this Society so dearly that during 2001 - to facilitate the tasks of the striplings whom we hope will succeed us, we have ~

- rewritten the Constitution; for more about this topic see the notice of the 2002 Extraordinary General Meeting

- encouraged creation of a web site by Bob Dumbarton, Eileen Leonard, June Mabon, Peter Rhodes and Graham Sencicle; and an e-mail address too
- half-refurbished the huge Taylor House filing system
- promoted PNFS members' involvement in the local access forums set up under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000
- maintained the sequence of newsletters started in 2000. Producing the first issue of a newsletter is easy with plenty of material and most colleagues will write one article for it; the sixth, seventh, eighth issues are the hard ones.

Huge credit is due to our Chairman for creating these newsletters and maintaining their flow. He can't give that accolade, so I shall. Those newsletters engendered the hope referred to in my report's title ~ because they are enlisting imaginative, talented, young (ie under 65) volunteers who have broken the decade-long trend of demographic decline.

The amended Constitution enables all our members to attend Council meetings. Dates will be listed in newsletters. Come along and exploit the new mid-agenda slot in which you may raise otherwise unscheduled issues; within a time limit that ensures that everyone else can speak too.

If you want to mention a specific case at a Council Meeting, please contact me at Taylor House on or before the Monday morning before the meeting (by letter, fax, telephone call or e-mail) and identify this case.

Each month we process dozens of faults and diversion proposals and if you wait until the meeting to ask 'what progress is being made on re-opening Bogwort 102 ?' you may find that no-one can tell you. If

you ring beforehand you may even be told 'Clodshire CC says that Bogwort 102 is now clear of pig manure; please inspect it and tell me if 'clear' = 'clean-boot clear'.

If you are attending a Council meeting at Taylor House and would like to examine some of our maps or files or tour the building, telephone me beforehand and I'll show you what you want to see before the meeting.

My revered predecessor, Derek Taylor, enriched his reports with verdicts on our local authorities. I have only sufficient evidence for a just verdict on two. Cheshire's staff are innovative, approachable and strive to deliver but their administrative machinery for fault clearances seems to have a thousand slow-moving cogs so that a job which seems simple to PNFS grinds long on the brink of performance. All the same, I'm happy to pay my Council tax to Cheshire, and gladder still not to pay to Blackburn-with-Darwen. Abandon hope all ye who report path faults to B&D Council.

By the time that you read this report I shall have objected at a public inquiry in Blackburn to an attempt to make a paper mill in Belmont a walker-free zone; diverting uphill and down dale the paths which run directly through the mill. The justification, safety of walkers from mill yard traffic, might be credible if the Council had bothered to make the most basic of

risk assessments before sealing Diversion and Closure Orders. Via a series of Temporary Closure Orders, objectors are prevented from making their own risk analyses. If your job has ever included promoting workplace safety, you will know the gulf between facile perceptions of hazards and detailed analysis. Like the dance of the seven veils, what you see at the end of this analysis is very different from what was visible when you started.

The principal officers who volunteered last April have surprised themselves by offering to stay on until at least 2003. Don't treat this as incitement to non-involvement. You don't have to be a fan of Andrew Marvell to apprehend 'But at my back I always hear Time's winged chariot hurrying near...'. Come and join in the Taylor House fun; now rather than when we are all lost amid 'Deserts of vast eternity', and can't tell you what mistakes to avoid.

Never forget that this is your Society. Don't be shy about coming to Taylor House, attending Council meetings, helping with assessments and archiving ... moving onwards and upwards ...

In that way our 2004 Secretarial Report might be headed 'the year of hope fulfilled' and, three generations on, the Society's bi-centennial celebrations may come to pass in 2094.

note from Jeff Lewis, Midweek Walks Organiser

I am happy to see a continuation of generally good turnouts on these walks and wish to thank all the leaders involved. Can I issue a gentle reminder that any obstructions, etc noticed by any member of the group, not merely the leader, can be drawn to the attention of the leader or reported to the Secretary.

In conclusion, I would welcome any feedback or suggestions for improving the walks and, of course, volunteers to lead them.

Full details of the midweek walks are on pages 34 and 35

CONSULTATIONS and ORDERS

Peter Crofts

The 'Monday Team' deals with correspondence from highway authorities. It was formerly referred to as the COSA Unit but with its name now shortened since it is not concerned with signposts or archives except to the extent that many of the latter have arisen from its work. Reports of obstructions and other path problems reported by inspectors or others are dealt with elsewhere in Taylor House.

Highway authorities within the Peak & Northern area have a statutory duty to inform us whenever they propose to make orders which would create, divert or close definitive or other public footpaths within their areas. Nowadays, this is almost always preceded by informal consultation which provides welcome opportunities for a free exchange of views with footpath officers or other officials, often leading to considerable improvements for walkers before the legal processes are set in motion.

During 2001, over 2,500 items of post were received at Taylor House, nearly half of which dealt with proposed footpath changes. Every incoming letter is either given a new reference number or, if it exists, that of a previous file dealing with the same path. Until this year, file numbers were assigned sequentially but since last Spring there has been a gradual change. This was initiated and largely carried out by Adrian Littleton to a system where files have a three-part designation made up of abbreviations for the highway authority, the civil parish and either the definitive path number or, for a non-definitive path, a four-digit National Grid reference.

Each item of incoming mail which affects a footpath is looked at by three assessors (names on page 2 of this annual report) who make individual proposals for action. These proposals range from 'no comment' in the many cases which are uncontentious, to a 'standard planning letter' when there is possible temporary interference with a footpath during building operations, to cases which appear to need action by the Society.

The assessors' recommendations are coordinated by the Consultations & Orders Manager. Until May 2001 this was done by Norman Edwards in addition to his many other duties as Chairman. Following Norman's resignation, the task was taken on at short notice by Peter Crofts who had previously helped with writing some of the letters sent each week from the Consultation & Orders Section.

The great majority of contentious cases are referred to one of our local footpath inspectors or agents, who act similarly but cover larger and more remote areas. Without their detailed knowledge and willingness to make site inspections at short notice, assessors could rarely make sensible decisions. A holding objection to the highway authority is often made simultaneously with our inspector being consulted. If he or she advises that the proposal is acceptable, the holding objection is withdrawn. If not, it is changed to a firm objection.

Proposals to create paths are never opposed whilst closures of rural paths almost always are. Many closures of urban paths involve redevelopments or are desired by local residents because of vandalism and are, therefore, not opposed by us as a matter of course; but any which look unreasonable are and paths are often kept open as a result.

Some proposals are settled quickly but others drag on for months or years and, if still opposed when an order is made, may lead to a public inquiry. When orders are finally confirmed, a further legal stage where we cannot object, copies of the relevant papers are sent to our local inspector so that he can alter his maps accordingly. Since the middle of the year, lists of confirmed orders and of current objections have been submitted to meetings of Council.

During 2001, over 400 letters were sent out including 167 to highway authorities and 100 to inspectors about possibly contentious cases. There were also 141 standard planning letters and some neutral ones to a few authorities who ask for a reply whether or not we wish to comment. Most of these were typed, plus a great many administrative letters unconnected with the Consultation and Orders Section, by our greatly valued volunteer typist, Anne Palmer, following the retirement of Jeanne Grundy who had done it for many years. Fortunately, Jeanne has returned to help us in various ways including typing when Anne is unavailable. Norman Edwards similarly has been willing to compose the letters when I am on holiday.

During 2001, 19 objections were made to proposals at the consultation stage. More than half of these were later withdrawn, on the advice of our inspectors or because the highway authority had abandoned the proposal, but eight were currently sustained at the end of the year. Two of these are the subject of forthcoming public inquiries.

The quantity of incoming correspondence is close to the limit with which the present stalwart band of assessors can cope and there is a great need for more volunteers to join them. They are needed to reinforce and ultimately to replace those who have done it for many years and, hopefully, also to start a second assessors' group on another day. Our work is interesting, vital for the day-to-day running of the Society and carried out in pleasant surroundings amongst friends. Potential volunteers who wish to see the present team of assessors in action would be very welcome on any Monday morning from about 10 o'clock. Please telephone, write, fax or e-mail us if you are interested in becoming an assessor or in working for the Society in any other way, at Taylor House or in the field as a footpath inspector.

The Society's Slide Lecture

The President will be very pleased to present the Society's slide lecture to any interested organisation

Please contact him (on 0161 483 2482) for further details



MATTERS from the MINUTES

January

- Council supports objections to developments at Turner's Mill, Belmont ~ looks as if it will be a long campaign with Blackburn BC.
- Cheshire Building Society, our newsletter sponsor, visits Taylor House

February

- We start to index every record of paths in our Taylor House office
- Signwriter commissioned to paint Taylor House fascia board

March

- Watching proposals to reopen the Woodhead rail tunnel and to close the road at Fairholmes Derwent car park
- Foot and Mouth outbreak curtails footpath inspections and signpost planting

April

- Success in Swinton & Pendlebury~ path reopened after 15 years of illegal closure
- AGM appoints Society's first IT advisor
- Sub committee set up to review our Constitution

May

- Council asks for more effort for publicity to recruit new members
- Annual dinner takes place in Manchester
- Commemorative plaque to Derek Taylor on front wall of office

June

- Society will contribute to the open access mapping exercise
- Two members honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List

July

- Society represented at Cheshire CC highways annual meeting
- We keep an eye on stratospheric balloons - they may reduce the number of telecommunications masts
- Publicity sought in local TV programme and newspapers

August

- Inspectors urged to join local forums on open access
- Mid week walks resume post F&M ~ the leader reports 50+ eager walkers!
- Society new publicity/membership leaflet is launched

September

- Taylor House given internet access

October

- Officers attend Planning Inspectorate meeting at Bristol
- Hest Bank public inquiry claim
- Council approves revised Constitution ~ next step is presentation to the AGM
- Good working relationship established with Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society and Derbyshire Footpaths Society - the first of many we hope

November

- Open Access forums attract our members ~ some are appointed
- Success with Hest Bank claim
- We support the Ramblers' Association in Little Moreton Hall path claim
- Several new members welcomed

December

- Society's e-mail address and web site are launched
- Plans are made for a 2002 Footpaths Conference
- We visit Derbyshire CC highways at Matlock

**ENVIRONMENT
SECRETARY**
Derek Seddon

The two big events of our year were of course the devastating foot and mouth epidemic and the arrival of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act. The latter surprised us for we had thought that it would never reach the statute books.

As for F & M, walkers throughout the country showed ourselves to be a body of responsible people, obeying the 'keep out' regulations to such effect that the ancillary countryside industries suffered terribly. To my knowledge, not a single walker was prosecuted for defying the restrictions. Modern farming practices however will need close examination. One side effect of the F&M outbreak was that 4-wheel drivers have been kept off the paths, as well as pedestrians, so we have nothing to complain about on that score.

By the time you read this, the deadline for suggestions for fresh access to Open Country under the new Act will have passed and it will be the turn of the land-holders to comment. We look to the local access forums being set up to keep us informed of developments, but there are so many interests seeking representation on these bodies that walkers will be in a small minority.

We seem to be getting the message across that siting wind farms on the open fells is not a good idea. Cash-strapped farmers are to be encouraged to put up to three turbines on their land, but most new proposals for wind generators are offshore.

One big one in Liverpool Bay is opposed by the Ministry of Defence who feel the whirling blades will interfere with radar.

Telecom masts continue to proliferate, though mainly in urban areas, but there could be an end in sight. To be tested this year is a static balloon which will hover invisibly at 60,000 feet carrying mobile phone, internet and TV antennae, radiating signals over a 7000 sq mile area. Will this mean the eventual end of the intrusive masts? Will the operators be made to remove them when redundant and what about the concrete bases?

The biggest issue in 2002 is likely to be the Government's proposed reforms of the planning system. These would do away with public inquiries and the rights of individuals to object to projects of 'National Importance' ie nuclear power stations, open cast mining, quarries, chemical plants, trunk roads, etc in favour of decisions being made in Parliament. We have submitted our recommendations on these proposals.

SIGNPOST

OFFICER

Bill Johnson

Climbing up to Alport Castles this year to paint SP107 and looking down on the farm, I was reminded of the strong connection it had with radical and social history and the right to roam.

Hannah Maria Webster was born at the farm in 1871 and later became an active campaigner for women's suffrage. Gibbon Mitchell, the man she married in 1895, was a Fabian, ILP-er and Co-operator. They both campaigned with Dr Richard Pankhurst, the liberal barrister, for access to the moors.

You will see from the following list that we continue to receive valuable assistance from the Rangers.

Information about the state of signs is invaluable to our work and continues to come to us from the Society's officers, affiliated organisations and individual walkers.

Signpost work undertaken during 2001

Bridge 6	GR170953	Derwent	Repaired plaque
SP26	GR218818	Hathersage	Painted sign
SP34	GR243778	Grindleford	Replaced post, painted sign
SP35	GRI54832	Castleton	Fixed new bolts, painted sign
SP56	GRI09911	Snake	Painted sign
SP57	GRI81885	Derwent	Sign repaired and painted
SP71	GRI38896	Woodlands	Replaced post, painted sign
SP72	GR171919	Derwent	Painted sign
SP83	GR983696	Shuttlellslow	Painted sign and post
SP130	GR703181	Cadshaw	Painted sign
SP132	GR991687	Crag Hall	Painted sign
SP156	GR986697	Wildboarclough	Painted sign and post, repaired plaque
SP158	GR975790	Charles Head	Replaced sign and post
SP159	GRO13894	Rowarth	Painted sign and post
SP167	GR223837	Hathersage	Wooden arm repaired
SP191	GRI74909	Derwent	Painted sign
SP212	GR96558845	Marple	New replacement sign
SP267	GR69591770	Turton Moor	New sign IMO Ruth Clough
SP271	GR17568334	Hope	New sign IMO Stan Fry
SP272	GRO3049248	Whitley Nab	New sign, Manchester CHA

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Wykes

A very successful financial year with total *Funds* increasing by 13% (£21,053) (2000: 5%: £7,839) far outpacing the levels of retail inflation and interest rates generally.

The sources of this increase are *Income & Expenditure Account* surplus £3,569 (2000: £3,989), two bequests totalling £17,309 and other donations £1,839, less other movements. The Society's grateful thanks are conveyed to all donors.

Notes on Balance Sheet

- **Fixed Asset** values are 1.6% lower
- **Investment** values have increased (+67%) as a result of acquiring a further 7,000 non redeemable Class A Preference Shares of £1 each with our *Hampshire Trust plc* bankers and also investing £20,000 in a 6.35% Fixed Interest deposit with the Providian National Bank; this latter investment is currently under close scrutiny by your Society's Trustees who have been notified of the pending sale of this American Bank's UK interests as a result of the difficulties of 11 September .
- **Hampshire Trust 12 Month Notice**
Deposit account exposure continues to reduce, at 11.5% (2000: 23%) reflecting Council's recommendation.
- **The Tax Refund Due**
figure of £516 is a conservative estimate of claims remaining to be made. Grateful thanks are also given to all those who have completed *GiftAid Forms*; these may be completed in respect of Membership subscriptions and donations and the Society benefits from the Inland Revenue refund at no cost to yourself

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2001

		2001	2000
ASSETS			
Fixed	Freehold property at cost	60,153	60,153
	Furniture, fixtures & fittings	1,141	1,770
	Computer equipment	372	745
		61,666	62,668
Investments	Long Term (at market value)		
	Government stock	18,736	19,427
	UK equities	27,508	20,291
	Deposit	20,000	0
		66,244	39,718
	Short Term		
	Hampshire Trust 12 Month Notice Deposit	42,874	48,467
	Cafcash High Interest cheque	21,250	19,775
	Royal Bank of Scotland ~		
	• Bus. High Interest	1,090	250
	• Current	150	150
	Skipton BS Matured Instant Access	100	100
	Leeds & Holbeck BS Charityline	100	100
	Cash & postages float	110	45
		65,674	68,887
	Badge stock on hand	104	119
	Tax refund due	516	466
		194,204	171,858
LIABILITIES	Funds of the Society	187,289	166,236
	Ten year membership suspense	5,044	4,258
	Five year membership suspense	1,856	1,258
	(Creditors &) advance subscriptions 2002/3	15	106
		194,204	171,858

Keith D Wykes, Honorary Treasurer

16 January 2002

FUNDS of the SOCIETY as at 31 December 2001

figures are £

Fund name	2000	Movements	2001
General	143,358	20,985	11,389
Defence	7,305	11,424	18,729
Signpost	1,259	1,894	1,376
Development	2,393	75	180
MIRR (*)	10,974		118
			10,856

Memorial Funds

F S H Head	142	142	—
E Royce	55	55	—
D Taylor	500	74	139
H E Wild	250		250
Footbridge Fund			
	166,236	+ 34,452	- 13,399
			187,289

notes

General Funds of the Society have increased by 6%: £9,596 (2000: 5%: £5,979) including £3,569 contributed by the *Income & Expenditure Account* surplus.

The **Defence Fund** benefitted by £11,389 as transferred from the General Fund in accordance with Council policy of maintaining the Defence Fund balance at 10% of total fund balances.

Whilst the **Signpost Fund** has benefited from your very generous donations £1,197; a £500 bequest; and a transfer of FSH Head and E Royce Memorial Funds £197, increased costs relating to signpost erection and maintenance have been incurred: £ 1,376 (2000: £1,131). Accordingly, and as last year, please consider the Signpost Fund as your number one donation priority.

The **Development Fund** is closed to new donations; the £2,288 balance held represents the residual balance remaining from funds raised to purchase Taylor House Office Equipment, etc. £180 of expenditure has been charged to this fund as it has arisen.

* The **MIRR** (*Matured Investment Revaluation Reserve Fund*) effectively reduces the Balance Sheet *Market Value* of Investments to the lower of maturity and cost values on account of the fact that such investments are intended to be held indefinitely or until maturity.

Memorial Funds

Both the *FSH Head* and *E Royce Memorial Funds* were closed this year and the total balance of £197 more appropriately transferred to the Signpost Fund.

The *Derek Taylor Memorial Fund* continued to receive donations £74 and incurred expenditure at £139 in relation to the plate erected IMO our late General Secretary.

The *H Wild Fund* has been more appropriately renamed the *HE Wild Footbridge Fund*.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE for the year ended 31 December 2001

INCOME	2001	2000	EXPENDITURE	2001	2000
Subscriptions			Taylor House:		
Annual	1,722	1,351	• Running costs	2,146	1,959
Ten year transfers	1,244	1,235	• Depreciation	1,002	975
Five year transfers	766	555	Travel	1,411	1,167
Junior	6	5	Newsletter	926	281
Affiliations	1,110	878	Annual Report (net)	898	749
Total subscriptions	4,848	4,024	Computer consumables	810	189
Investment Income	6,757	5,886	Printing & stationery	774	167
Other Income			Postages	586	479
Sponsorship	825	—	Photocopying (net)	502	410
Advertising	787	840	Telephones	274	150
Affiliation service	100	80	Newspapers & publications	177	—
Lecture fees	55	50	Subscriptions & insurances	144	154
Sundries	56	154	Room hire (Secretariat costs)	72	281
Total	1,823	1,124	Sundries	137	184
Total income	13,428	11,034	Total expenditure	9,860	7,045
			Transfer to Gen Funds	3,569	3,989
				13,428	11,034

Income & Expenditure Account - notes

- The annual surplus of £3,569 is 10% lower than in the year 2000 (£3,989).
- **Subscription income** totalling £4,848 reflects a full year's income at the increased subscription rates.
- The 15% increase in **Investment Income** results from the Society's policy of investing in high interest rated products when it is prudent to do so as well as having greater surplus funds, available for investment, at its disposal; this remarkable achievement has occurred at a time when interest rates generally are at their lowest since the 1950s.
- **Sponsorship** income refers to Newsletter Sponsorship by the **Cheshire Building Society**.
- Thanks are due to our President in procuring £787 of **advertising** income which substantially offsets the cost of Annual Report production (£898).
- **Sundry** Income at £56 comprises badge sales £13; excess Annual Dinner Income over Expenditure (£43).
- **Expenditure** has increased substantially (40%) and over most account heads.
- Whilst general increases may be expected under cost heads Taylor House Running Costs and Depreciation; Postages; Photocopying; Telephones, your specific attention is drawn to the following:
- **Travel costs** reflect both increased activity and a greater number of claimants.
- **Newsletter costs** reflect a full year's charge as against the year 2000 partial year charges.

Income & Expenditure Account ~ notes (continued from previous page)

- **Computer consumable costs** at thrice the 2000 levels reflects the extent to which the Society is computer reliant. All software etc is written off to the Income & Expenditure Account (as opposed to remaining on the Balance Sheet as an Asset) as and when incurred.
- **Printing and Stationery** includes the costs of the Membership leaflets and items for stock.
- **Secretariat** costs have disappeared this year leaving £72 costs of Room Hire as the comparator.
- Sundry expenditure (£137) comprises: Bank charges £20; Maps £3; Attache case £5; Keys £8; Unanalysed expenses £78; Projector related £23.

Independent Examiner's Report

to the Trustees of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2001.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements ~
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(signed) Elizabeth Hudson ACA

Bradley Fold, Woodford Lane, Newton, Macclesfield

19th February 2002

As will be seen from the figures below, last year's numbers compare very favourably with those of the previous year. The biggest loss has been amongst the ten year members but these have been largely offset by the increase in the five year section.

Over the year we have welcomed 64 new members, mostly Annual but a few in the other groups. No fewer than 34 have joined since the middle of October, the reason for this being the Promotional Lecture given by your President, the publicity through local newspapers and members 'spreading the word' by distributing informative leaflets.

An article in 'The Guardian' on 1 December last, and which I understand was unsolicited, by Mr Roger Redfern the well known writer on countryside matters gave a very informative account of our Society and its activities. As a direct result of this article, within a few days we received four enquiries/tributes each containing a financial donation; I feel sure that others received since then are the result of this article.

I deeply regret having to report the deaths of one honorary life member and several other members whose years of loyalty, interest and support will be sadly missed.

Once again, my annual but always most sincere thanks to individual members and affiliated societies for their continuing and generous financial support.

**MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY**
Ernie Sutton

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Annual	360	339	318	298	306
Ten year	607	571	556	468	428
Five year	49	79	117	146	180
Honorary Life	13	10	11	14	14
Junior	4	4	3	3	3
Total	1033	1003	1005	929	931
Affiliates	89	89	85	85	84

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

- 1 Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society
- 2 Altrincham & District Rambling Club
- 3 Ashton-u-Lyne & District Walking Club
- 4 Barlborough Parish Council
- 5 Barnsley Mountaineering Club
- 6 Bayhorse Homewatch & Residents Association
- 7 Blackbrook Conservation Society
- 8 Bolton CHA Rambling Club
- 9 Brookdale Ramblers
- 10 Buxton Field Club
- 11 Buxton Rambling Club
- 12 C A E ~ Rambling Club
- 13 CHA Eccles
- 14 CHA Manchester Rambling Club
- 15 CHA Mansfield
- 16 CHA Nottingham Rambling Club
- 17 CHA Oldham & District Rambling Club
- 18 CHA Sheffield (B Section) Rambling & Social Club
- 19 Chapel-en-le-Frith Amenity Society
- 20 Cheadle Hulme & Bramhall Natural History Society
- 21 Cheshire Tally Ho Hare & Hounds Club
- 22 Club AZ Walkers
- 23 Crescent Ramblers Northwich
- 24 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society
- 25 Derbyshire Pennine Club
- 26 Eyam Village Society
- 27 Geriatrics Group
- 28 Hanliesian Rambling Club
- 29 Hayfield Civic Trust
- 30 HF Bolton Group
- 31 HF Bury Group
- 32 HF Manchester Group
- 33 HF Nottingham Group
- 34 HF Warrington Rambling Club
- 35 High Lane Residents Association
- 36 Ladybrook Valley District Scout Council
- 37 Leek & District FP Preservation & Rambling Group
- 38 Littleborough Civic Trust
- 39 Longendale & Glossopdale FP Preservation Society
- 40 Macclesfield & District Field Club
- 41 Macclesfield Rambling Club
- 42 Manchester & District Retired Teachers Assn
- 43 Manchester Associates Rambling Club
- 44 Manchester Field Club
- 45 Manchester Pedestrian Club
- 46 Manchester Rambling Club
- 47 Marple Community Council
- 48 Marple District Rambling Club
- 49 Marple Naturalists
- 50 Mellor Society
- 51 Mid Cheshire Footpath Society
- 52 North Western Naturalists Union
- 53 Poynton Rambling Club
- 54 RA Bolton Group
- 55 RA Congleton Group
- 56 RA East Cheshire Area
- 57 RA Manchester Area
- 58 RA New Mills Group
- 59 RA North & Mid Cheshire Area
- 60 RA Oldham Group
- 61 RA Sheffield Group
- 62 RA South Yorks & NE Derbyshire Area
- 63 RA Stockport Group
- 64 Rochdale CHA Ramblers
- 65 Romiley Townswomen's Guild Walking Group
- 66 Rucksack Club
- 67 Sale U3A Walking Club
- 68 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers
- 69 Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club
- 70 Sheffield U3A Walking Goup 'A'
- 71 Shirland & Higham Parish Council
- 72 St Catherine's Rambling Club
- 73 Stockport & District Federation of TWGs
- 74 Stockport East Area Bridleways Association
- 75 Stockport Field Club
- 76 Stockport Rambling & Social Club
- 77 Stockport Walkers
- 78 Sutton-in-Ashfield Rambling Club
- 79 The Moorsiders (Urmston) R/Group
- 80 The Wayfarers Rambling Club
- 81 Toc H Matlock
- 82 West Lancashire Footpath Group
- 83 YHA Central Region
- 84 YHA Stockport