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# PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT &  
ACCOUNTS HANDBOOK

**2007**

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Registered Charity No. 212219

***The Cover Photograph Shows:***

***The Dream Team - The Landowner, PNFS Inspector, PNFS Bridge Project Manager and Cheshire County Council PROW Officer toast the handover of the new Bosley Bridge.***

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# Officers and other Taylor House Volunteers (as at 31st December 2007)

## **PRESIDENT AND ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY**

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## **VICE PRESIDENTS**

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Terry Norris (Western)  
Harry Scott (Staffs)

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c/o Taylor House  
Also 0161 439 7159  
arbee@talktalk.net

## **SIGNPOST OFFICER (Admin)**

David Morton

## **CONSULTATIONS AND ORDERS MANAGER**

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## **OTHER SIGNPOST PERSONNEL**

Neil Collie  
Bill Johnson  
Ted Wolf

## **MEDIA COORDINATOR**

June Mabon

## **ILLUSTRATED LECTURES**

### **PRESENTER**

Peter Rhodes

## **WEBSITE MANAGER**

Geoff Errington

## **HONORARY EXAMINER**

Liz Hudson

## **FOOTPATH FAULTS AND OBSTRUCTIONS**

Hilda Bowler

## **INSPECTORS/AO COORDINATOR**

Hilda Bowler

## **TRUSTEES**

David Bratt  
Alan Postill  
Clarke Rogerson  
Derek Seddon

## **ASSESSORS**

John Grimsey  
Jeff Lomax  
Wally Smith  
Geoff Errington

## **SIGNPOST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

Derek Seddon (Editor)  
Peter Rhodes (Typesetter)

## **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

Jean Arnett  
Peter Bowler  
Harold Fore  
Eric Kime  
Adrian Littleton  
Jerzy Matuszewski  
Margaret Matuszewski  
Brian Summerscales  
David Tattersall  
Ted Wolfe

## **PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY**

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# President And Environment Secretary

## **Derek Seddon**

So this is farewell after nine years in office for the PNFS. A fair total until set beside the number amassed by some of the stalwarts who built the society we know today - Frank Head, President and Chairman for 27 years, Tommy Boulger, Chairman and Secretary for 43 years, Arthur Smith and more recently Leslie Meadowcroft. But, noting advancing years and deteriorating sight and hearing, I have taken the hint.

Fortunately, I can leave with a clear conscience, knowing that I could not have a better replacement. David Bratt has revolutionised the society, its workings and its procedures in his time as Chairman. Due to his leadership we are fully computerised, our membership is the largest ever and signposts and bridges are going up at a surprising rate.



Ably backed by Clarke Rogerson as Vice Chairman, he has made the Society's presence felt around the region. The initiative shown in organising the Enforcement Policy Forum to which all the local authorities in the region were invited had a great impact and is a solid foundation to build on in future years. Thus we have risen in seven years from the near disaster of the deaths of both the long-serving Hon Secretary and the President and the serious consideration of closing down the Society after over a century's activity to the happy situation we find ourselves in now, a flourishing, influential body full of enthusiasm and ideas.

I would like to thank those members of the Taylor House staff who laboured through those difficult days to keep the show on the road. Some are no longer with us, others are not as fit as they were but all were part of a valued team. At this point I would particularly commend the work of Peter Rhodes, the skill behind the Signpost Newsletter. Together we have produced 27 issues and between times Peter has been out and about giving the Society's lecture, spreading the word, recruiting members and raising funds.

Finally, while wearing my other hat as Environment Secretary, I can report that the Wind Farm on Scout Moor near Bury now has eight of its 26 proposed turbines erected. It is perhaps time to arrange one of our walks over some of the paths there to settle once and for all the dispute about how much a wind farm interferes with a walker's enjoyment.



## 50 YEARS AGO

Concern was raised that Sec. 43 of the National Parks Act was being used to close paths in the National Parks "*because they are not being used*". Members and affiliated societies were urged to walk thinly-used paths to ensure their survival.

Derbyshire County Council had accepted responsibility under the Act for the repair of stiles but not yet the repair of footpaths.

GHB Ward of Sheffield, a firm friend and generous supporter of the Society died. He was the Chairman of Hallamshire Footpath Society which also lost its Secretary, Mr Mercer. The Society closed and handed its funds, maps and records to the PNFS.



The PNFS made representations to the Footpath Survey, collecting evidence for our claims to paths omitted from the Draft Maps. 137 paths were claimed in Staffordshire, many more in Lancashire including the Knowl Hill area and the Rochdale Canal towpath. Hearings of our claims were about to start in Derby.

More heated correspondence concerned motorcycle trials held on footpaths and bridleways in Milnrow, Crompton and Jagers Clough, two motorcyclists being fined for riding on paths in Bredbury and Romiley following a complaint laid by one of our Inspectors.

The Secretary was busily writing to Macclesfield District Council over problems with 16 footpaths and to Marple UDC over 4 more, not counting the 4 ploughed-up footpaths, the bull and two unfriendly dogs on rights of way in other areas. Negotiations were under way for replacement paths for those flooded by the new reservoirs at Lamaload and Greenfield/Chew Brook.

A curious item in the accounts shows that 25 different Local Authorities contributed a total of £115.1.5 to the Society's funds. By 1973 this had reduced to £33 and by 1977 had disappeared completely.



Winhill Pike



# Chairman's Report

## **David Bratt**

First and foremost it's time for the annual exhortation for those members whose renewals fall due this year(ie 2008 against your name in the members list) to renew your membership; but you need take no action until after the AGM when we will write to you again when we will have determined the agreed and applicable rates. Wishing to continue of course presupposes that you are satisfied with what we your Officers and other volunteers are doing to fight the good fight of footpath protection.

In particular I hope that the very substantial number of new members recruited at the Cheshire Show and New Mills Festival will continue in our ranks—your commitment and support for what PNFS stands for has greatly helped us to our highest ever Society membership( 1426) We have in addition a very healthy total of 81 Groups and Societies affiliated to us.



The Society, your Society, has had another year of sound progress: many more new signs erected and others maintained, more bridges funded, the hosting of a forum with Rights of Way officers from across our considerable Northern territory to debate best practice in enforcement procedures, more volunteers coming forward for Taylor House and in the field, our well patronised walks and our ongoing use of Signpost, the Annual Report, the website and our 2 member meetings a year to communicate with you all as to progress.

But in one other area, the key area, of our activity we have made not just sound progress but a great leap forward and that is the leverage we can now bring to bear in getting footpath faults rectified. A year ago we had but one Courts and Inquiries Officer, we now have four viz Rhoda Barnett (Derbyshire), John Harker (Eastern), Terry Norris (Western) and Harry Scott (Staffordshire). That I can assure you is one formidable team and already more than making its presence felt amongst the Highway Authorities with whom we deal.

With sadness I record the passing of three of our volunteers who worked long and diligently for the Society in Taylor House roles—Dennis Rowlinson, Ernest Sutton and Jim Wild. All will have signposts erected in their memory. It is good to report however that Vice President Eric Kime is making progress after major heart surgery.

At the forthcoming AGM we have Derek Seddon (President), June Mabon (Media Coordinator) and Peter Rhodes(Signpost Publisher and Lectures presenter) all standing down and I thank them all for their good works and the support given me in my four years as your Chairman. These same warm and personal thanks extend to all other Office holders and volunteers who have made the term of office a privilege and a pleasure for me. I hope it was mutual!! We have had some fun and laughs along the way but when it gets round to footpath issues we become deadly serious.

My heartfelt thanks also to each and every one of you as members and I can think of nothing more fitting for our outstanding and committed Chairman elect Clarke Rogerson than that he should receive the level of support that you have given me. Subject to voting at the AGM I will be your new President and Clarke has already skilfully worked it that I will have responsibility for new recruitment

# Chairman's Report (continued)

at Shows and Lectures so that can only be a just reward for my relentlessly banging on about membership growth and bellwethers these recent years. Where one sows one reaps!.

There is something very special about the Peak and Northern. There is something very special about those who work for it and very special about those who support it. I am very proud to have led it for the last four years.



**Clarke, Ted and David  
do a *Ritual Dance in the Hills* to  
celebrate the new sign**

**While Alan supervises the digging  
during the planting of Signpost 98**





# Vice Chair's Report

## ***Clarke Rogerson***

Little did I think, when out on a PNFS walk, as I made the offer to David to act as caretaker VC that I would be sat here, 10 months later, contemplating what has been achieved in that time and what needs to be done in the next 12 months. David talks about my skilfully having worked it so that he retains responsibility for membership growth. But it is David's skilful leadership that has lead me to the position where I feel I can stand for Chairmanship of the longest standing Footpaths Protection Society in the country. Derek has already detailed David's many achievements during his time in office, but to me his biggest achievement has been the team of dedicated volunteers that he has built. Without that team the society would be nothing and I can say with certainty that I would not be writing this report.



I'd like to focus for a while on our volunteers; at Taylor House over 1000 volunteer days have been dedicated to preserving our footpath heritage in the last 12 months. In addition to those days in the office I know many continue the good work at home which probably doubles the time commitment. Then we have our Inspectors, the "eyes and ears" of the Society, whilst we have no figures to the time committed I think a conservative estimate would put it in the region of 8000 volunteer days. For any charity to claim around 10,000 volunteer days especially when it is all unpaid, is a massive achievement and you are all to be commended for your commitment.

Of course all this good work would not be possible if it were not for the support of our membership. It is their annual subscriptions, donations and the legacies of past members who make all this good work financially possible. I can only reiterate David's words in saying I hope you will continue to support the Society and support the increase in subscription rate which will be put to the vote at the AGM.

In terms of what I have achieved in the last 10 months I have been splitting my time between shadowing David to ensure a smooth changeover, getting to know people and laying the foundations for the future. A great deal of work has been done to make Taylor House a safer place to work and to provide space for expansion, though not complete, this work is well underway. In addition work has been going on in the background to improve our support systems to provide us with better more timely information on "black spots" in the footpath network where we need to concentrate our efforts.

Looking to the year ahead, that is assuming I have your support at the AGM, it will be more of the same. David already has plans in place to attend the Lancashire and Bakewell shows in 2008 with the aim of growing our membership in areas where we currently have few members. I shall be targeting areas where we are light on the ground with Inspectors in an attempt to grow our presence. We shall be working closely with Highway Authorities "helping them to help us". We shall focus on those authorities who need to raise their game. We will continue to act reasonably when appropriate. But for those who choose to defy the law and deny our rights there will be no concession. We will not baulk at pursuing every legal remedy that is open to us.



## **John Harker**

Since becoming Courts & Inquiries Officer in May last year, I have focused on the many outstanding problems we have in Derbyshire. There was a large backlog of obstructions on the database, some of which dated back over 15 years. It was having a demoralising effect on inspectors to see the lack of progress in resolving these problems. I saw it as a high priority to get out into the field to meet & talk to inspectors & reassure them that efforts were being made to reduce this backlog. It is all too easy to feel isolated, so distant from Taylor House, so in a further move to get closer to inspectors, I assumed the position of Area Officer for Derbyshire. We have benefitted from a number of new inspectors in the county who have brought a fresh impetus & enthusiasm to the job. We need still more, especially outside the National Park.



I have attempted to resolve a number of longstanding problems. These have been repeatedly reported to County Hall without a resolution. By generally making a nuisance of myself with emails & phone calls, this has had some positive results. Some paths are now open; others are well on the way to being reopened. The parish names & path numbers may not mean much to the casual reader, but are worth listing:

Eckington Footpaths 41, 42, 50, 99, 111, 112, 120 (photo in recent Signpost) & bridleway 119. Killamarsh Footpaths 15, 43 & 47. Barlow Footpath 14. Brampton Footpath 15. Taddington Footpaths 30 & 62. Flagg Footpaths 4 & 17. Charlesworth Footpath 47. Whaley Bridge Footpath 102. Barlborough Footpaths 3, 21, 22 & 28. Many other more minor faults & obstructions have been resolved by the local inspectors dealing directly with the council under the new ways of working. Much happens beneath the surface that gets no publicity.

However, what happens when making a nuisance of oneself doesn't get what we want? It is becoming clear that in some cases more extreme measures are going to be called for. Problems that are proving insoluble by 'peaceful' means because of a reticence by the council to tackle serious obstructions of longstanding. There are legal remedies available to us which the Society's Legal Events Review Meeting will not hesitate to take if required. Action under sections 56, 130A or 137 of the Highways Act will be used in the right circumstances. That time is fast approaching

If space had permitted I would have expanded on the work I'm doing in the National Park on the 'off-road vehicle' issue which blights many 'green lanes' in the Park. I have attended numerous meetings & site visits with the Park's Footpaths Officer & colleagues from the local Ramblers' Association. It is a question of 'watch this space' but we may soon see Traffic Regulation Orders for some of the most threatened routes such as Chapel Gate, Bradley Lane, Moss Road & Washgate.

Finally, I have not forgotten other areas within my remit as C&I Officer. 2008 will see me turning my attention to some of the many long running problems we have on our database in Stockport MBC. Again, 'watch this space'. Life is never dull if you work for this organisation.



# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

## **Terry Norris**

The Society successfully opposed the deletion of Brighouse 4 from the Calderdale Definitive map. The Council alleged that the path had been recorded in error at the time of the production of the original map in the 1950s. The Definitive map was created following a democratic open process, which allowed for objections to a path's inclusion being argued before an independent inspector. It seems highly objectionable that it should be possible for another landowner some 50 years later to claim that the path was recorded in error. We are joining the RA in opposing another such claim with regard to a path on farm land in the Wigan parish of Standish. The Society's file on the path has evidence of use going back to the 1920s.



Unfortunately the Society was unsuccessful in opposing the extinguishment of a path in Trawden village in Lancashire. The Council supported the landowner who claimed that the path was not needed for public use in view of the alternative routes available. This path went across the garden of a sixteenth century farmhouse and had been there since at least the middle ages but did not suit the modern day owner. The application was not opposed by other user groups or local residents. In these circumstances it is often very difficult to persuade an inspector that the path is of public use. The Society's plea that there was a wider public interest in retaining an ancient path was not accepted.

The Society will be joining the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society and the North & Mid Cheshire RA in opposing the diversion of Cuddington 16 in Cheshire. This diversion is to enable the creation of a bridleway. The new route would result in the loss of a fine view and be a longer route. Whilst we welcome the creation of a new bridleway we cannot accept that this would be at the cost of losing a valued footpath.

Much of my time since taking over from my predecessor has been taken up with trying to resolve long standing problems at the request of either local inspectors or Hilda Bowler. Examples include the obstructed paths on the Holmfield Industrial Estate in Calderdale. This estate was built some 20 years ago with no account being taken of the public footpaths crossing the site. I have suggested a number of ways forward which will involve diversions and complicated negotiations with several companies worried about the security implications of re-opening routes. Another area of problems is the paths around Sandyforth Farm open cast mining site in Wigan. The mining has finished and the mining company has gone into liquidation. The area is now to be landscaped with public funds and the paths closed or diverted to allow the mining to be re-instated. However it would be in the interests of walkers if the diversions could be retained and the original paths re-instated.

So far attempts to resolve long standing problems have not given rise to the serving of notice under section 63 of Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (path obstructed) or an order sought under section 56 Highways Act 1980 (path out of repair) but I firmly anticipate using these procedures in 2008, Wigan to be the first target.

# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)



## ***Harry W Scott***

During the year 2007/08 twenty-eight diversion consultations were received from Staffordshire County Council and the District Councils. Proposing the diversion of public rights of way across the county, many were resolved by negotiation. Stafford Borough Council made an order under the Town and Country Planning Act to divert footpaths 0.1230 and 0.1231 in Bradley Parish, to allow for the building of a large house and ornamental lake. We objected to the length of the diversions and as we were unable to reach an agreement with the landowner a public inquiry was held, unfortunately the Inspector confirmed the order. Two notable achievements of 2007/08 was the opening up after fifteen years of footpath 13 High Offley Parish in the Stafford Borough. Footpath 13 leads into High Offley Churchyard, which is on a sandstone outcrop, with views of the Shropshire Hills. Also the opening up of footpath 16 Lapley Parish in South Staffordshire after 20 years. Footpath 16 takes the walker away from Wheaton Aston village into open countryside and the wider footpath network. Stoke on Trent, over thirty orders have been received to close or divert definitive and non-definitive footpaths to allow for the continued redevelopment and regeneration of the city. I am pleased to say that the network of green routes continues to grow.



**Stile, Cattle Trough or Obstruction?**



# Consultations & Orders Report

## ***Alan Hooley***

The year has been one of change, ushered in by the New Ways of Working conference held in 2006. I take this opportunity to report to the Society how the system is operating in practice.

Area Officers are now in post for Barnsley, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Staffordshire Stoke-on-Trent and Warrington. Elsewhere the system will continue as before until an Area Officer is appointed for a particular local authority.

In addition, following Roy Spoors' resignation, there are now three Courts and Inquiries Officers, each one being responsible for all court proceedings and public inquiries within a discrete geographical part of the Society's area of operations. All consultations on Stopping Up Orders, and the Orders themselves, go to the relevant C and I Officer, including those in areas not currently covered by an Area Officer.



During the year the response of local authorities to the changes became an issue. The Society must of course be notified when an Order changing the footpath network is made, and in practice all authorities also engage us in the pre-order consultation process. The statutory instrument that gives us consultee status is the Public Path Orders Regulations 1993.

Although the Regulations state the name of the Society, they do not specify the Society's address. The Society must therefore furnish every local authority with an address for service. Hitherto that address in all cases has been Taylor House, but we are at liberty to give different addresses for service to different authorities. Where Area Officers have been appointed the address for service has become the AO's address. If it was not the Taylor House assessors would still receive everything and would need to photocopy two sets of the papers, one for the AO and one for the inspector. That would create more work at Taylor House and defeat the objective of New Ways of Working.

It took some time to resolve this issue but the system is now operating. It is the AOs dealing with the 'live' Orders who retain the file and nothing is kept at Taylor House. Any enquiry from an interested party, either inside or outside the Society, about a current matter is referred to the AO. Once an Order is confirmed, or the LA says they are withdrawing it, or the Planning Inspectorate refuses to confirm it, the complete file is returned to Taylor House.

By contrast with all this change, there have been no changes at all on the staffing side. All the assessors who were with us at the beginning of 2007 stayed the course throughout the year. I note with sadness the passing of Dennis Rowlinson. Denis was an assessor for some years before moving to other duties in the Society.

I acknowledge with gratitude the sterling work of the assessment team at Taylor House, and that of the inspectors for their helpful reports, which enables us to have a sensible dialogue with local authorities.

# Faults & Inspectors Report



## ***Hilda Bowler - Footpath Faults***

During 2007 approximately 750 footpath faults were reported, of which a known 120 were cleared before the end of the year. Around 50 old faults were also cleared, probably more as due to changes to the database it has not been possible to get accurate figures. (In future we shall be able to give much more detail).

Of the faults reported in 2007, almost 300 were obstructions of some kind - electric fences across or beside the path, fences, walls, streams - and dangerous dogs! Around 200 missing or damaged signposts were reported: most of these will probably be on a rolling programme and we expect them to be cleared eventually.



Just over 150 fault reports reported damaged or difficult stiles, and the remainder is made up of paths where waymarks are needed, or ploughing and cropping with no reinstatement.

I now have David Tattersall who is helping with inputting data onto the database - thank you David - and Brian Summerscales continues his work with looking up footpath numbers - thank you Brian.

## ***Hilda Bowler - Inspectors***

Sadly we have said good-bye to a number of Inspectors this year, for a variety of reasons, and we would like to thank them all for the work they have put in on the Society's behalf.

We have been fortunate this year in having a number of volunteers, some new to the Society, coming forward to offer their services as Inspectors, and would like to welcome them and hope they enjoy their time walking their footpaths - or trying to, in some cases!

Having lost 10 and gained 10 Inspectors over the year, we have kept our numbers up and now have 75 Inspectors and Agents, with 4 Area Officers.

Inspecting is a vital role for the Society and a way of enjoying walking and getting to know the Public Rights of Way in a, perhaps unfamiliar, area. We do still need more volunteers for our more distant areas, especially south Derbyshire and west Cheshire, Leeds and the Wirral. If you feel you can help or would like to know more, please contact Taylor House.

The New Way of Working adopted by some Inspectors - i.e. reporting directly to Highway Authorities - is working well, but if you are an Inspector working this way, please remember we need copies at Taylor House for archiving. There are a few Inspectors who still have not let us know which way they prefer to work - this information would help us to avoid duplication. Please let us know if you have not already done so.

Thank you to all our Inspectors, you are doing a great job!

**Resigned:** Alec Beard, Ken West, Brian Taylor, Jack Robinson, Andy Overton, Roy Spoors, John Carter, Charles Wildgoose, Ken Stringfellow, Christopher Green

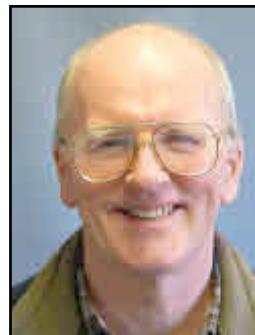
**New:** William Allan, Mary Heaps, Terry Woodhouse, Lesley and Alan Witton, Dee Hadfield, Jim Cowley, Alistair Taylor, Ralph Dickin, David Sissons, Eric Davies.



# Signpost Officer's Report (Admin)

## **Dave Morton**

Fred has been a hard act to follow. Neil Collie has completed his task of replacing pressed metal plates on tubular posts. Ted Wolfe has planted an increased number of new and replacement posts, latterly with the help of a new contractor John Hodgson of Mellor. The Access Database has up to date information and photos for all our posts and bridges and I've pitched in to help Brian Morrison and Ted with in situ painting and maintenance. Bill Johnson has painted all the new plates to a very high standard.



### **Erected in 2007 (excluding Neil Collie's TP replacements)**

314 Taxal Moor	In memory of Mary Chambers (Bequest)
317 Birch Vale	Replacement for F035 (Jim Simmonds)
318 Chisworth	L&GFPS for Edwin Holmes
319 Holcombe Moor	P.Rowley in memory of Janet Rowley
320 Holcombe Moor	PNFS
321 Adlington	RA East Cheshire Group in memory of Bill Shercliff
322 Delamere Forest	Altrincham RA in memory of Stan Davies
323 Moscar	Mr and Mrs D. Das in memory of Jim Das
324 Parwich	C. Mottershead and Stockport Walkers in memory of Olive Hugo
325 Tissington	In memory of John Robert Shaw (Bequest)
326 Tissington	PNFS
327 Tissington	PNFS
328 Ilam	Susan Titford for 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of Ray Jones
329 Jenkin Chapel	Mrs M. Gould in memory of David Gould
330 Bollin Valley	In memory of John Robert Shaw (Bequest)
331 Culcheth	Julie Boursin in memory of Clem Boursin
333 Leek	PNFS
334 New Mills	Lynne McPeake in memory of Miriam Miller
102 Disley	For Frank Bruckshaw's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday – replacement



## **Ted Wolfe**

Once again 2007 was an exceptionally busy year, of which the main activities are as follows.

New Posts planted	19
Re-Planting Posts out of ground	10
Tubular Posts Re-Placed	4
Way Marker Posts	2
JUPs, Mem Plaques, Painting, Cleaning etc	21
General Inspections no action required	183



Highlights were SP 170 Lydgate 2miles E Dronfield Re-Placed Tubular, our most Easterly. New SP322 Delamere Forest our most Westerly. The fantastic turn out to Re-Plant the old (heavy cast iron) SP98 on Rushup Edge. A special thanks to everyone who turned out.

For everyone involved throughout the year I would like to give a big thank you, because without your continued assistance this work could not be carried out. I would like to give a special thanks to Brian Taylor our contractor for the past 4 years who has had to stand down from the job due to persistent injury problems. But this in turn has introduced our new contractor John Hodgson, who is doing an equally superb job, and without whom it would not be possible to carry out all the work we do. Please remember our signposts are our "window on the world" and anyone wishing to get involved in the maintenance will be most welcome.





# Bridges & Other Projects

## ***Neil Collie - Bridge Report***

I have gradually been taking over responsibility for our bridge projects from David Bratt. We have been able to fund seven bridges during the last year, thanks to generous legacies and, in one important case, through the generosity of one of our members.

A footbridge (B17) at Rainow, Cheshire was completed in March 2007. This was quickly followed in May by the handing over of three footbridges (B20, B21 & B22) in Morton Woods near Scholes on the Kirklees Way. This was a major achievement and much appreciated by the Rights of Way staff at Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council.



In July we handed over a bridge (B23) across Gigg Brook in Werneth which had been proposed and donated by Dr David Miller, one of our long-standing members. A bridge (B18) in lovely countryside was completed near Bosley, Cheshire in October. Funding has been agreed for a bridge (B24) in Hey Wood, Slaithwaite and it will probably have been completed by the time you read this.

There are about fifteen proposals 'in the pipeline'. During 2008 we will be concentrating on Local Authorities and areas where we have not worked in the past. Hopefully, this will raise the profile of the Society and lead to an increase in the number of members in these areas. They include a number of proposals where, by offering to fund the bridge, we can persuade the Local Authority to make improvements to the path network in the vicinity. A busy year ahead!

## ***Neil Collie - Tubular Post Replacement Report***

The replacement programme has now come to a natural conclusion. A total of sixteen signs have been replaced. Two tubular signposts remain, at Rowarth and Phoside Farm, Hayfield, as they are both in very good condition. A tubular signpost near Stalybridge has become obsolete and will eventually be removed, as the information is duplicated on adjacent Local Authority signs.

I would like to thank **Bill Johnson, David Morton and Ted Wolfe** for their considerable assistance with the implementation of this project.



**Our sturdy bridge at Rainow with anti slip surface**



## **Geoff Errington**

Our redeveloped website at [www.peakandnorthern.org.uk](http://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk) has now been in operation since July 2006 & forms an important means of publicising the society and attracting new members. We receive on average 30,000 visits to the site per year. Of these, about 60% originate in the UK, 20% from the United States and 20% elsewhere.



The website content has been updated regularly throughout 2007/08 to include news of significant society activities, such as dedication of new footbridges and signposts and successes in removal of footpath obstructions. Links have been added to a number of Highway Authorities mapping systems which contain useful rights of way information. The Peak and Northern short and long walks programmes are regularly updated and back numbers of the quarterly Signpost newsletter made available for downloading.

If you have any news that you feel needs publicising on our website, please feel free to send in details. The website provides easy means of getting in touch with Taylor House via the Contact Us page. You can also report faults on footpath and society signposts via custom forms under the Footpath Faults and Signposts website options.

Plans for the future, when time permits, include a revamp of the Volunteers pages to give a better idea of our activities to prospective volunteers and an improved Photo Album to show more of the large collection of our archive photographs. We would also like to add details of some of our members' favourite walks on the Select a Walk Guide page, possibly with links to Google Earth to create 'virtual walks'.

## **Peter Rhodes**



Once again the Society's illustrated lecture has been well received and the digital projector and laptop again proving their worth by showing the Society as modern and up-to-date in its approach. Since last year's report the following groups have received the presentation. We have received many generous donations and new members as a result of these presentations.

Rainow Women's Institute  
Hazel Grove Town Women's Guild  
Burslem Historical Society  
Poynton Evening Guild  
Stockport Field Club  
Warrington HF Rambling Club  
Hope Historical Society  
Biddulph Probus Group  
Heatons Reddish U3A

High Lane U3A  
Cheshire Wildlife Trust  
Disley Footpaths Society  
Cameo Church Group  
CPRE Trafford District  
Holy Trinity Gee Cross Thursday Group  
Hayeswater Church Davyhulme 3rd Age Group  
St John's Church Wilmslow Ladies Fellowship



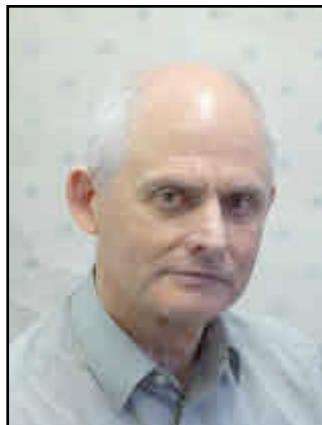
**Tree trouble on the Ashley walk**



**Magnificent Shutlingsloe**



# Treasurer's Report



***Alan Postill***

## **PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 31 DECEMBER 2007**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	£	£		£	£
Legacies & Bequests	36,901	20,729	Taylor House running costs	3,266	3,832
Donations (General)	3,134	1,263	Depreciation	3,709	2,424
Donations (Signposts)	2,179	1,805	Travel & subsistence	3,712	3,037
Donations (Footbridges)	1,200		Printing & photocopying	3,959	3,412
Tax reclaimed re Gift Aid	117	1,193	Newsletter & distribution	3,321	2,976
Advertising	255	250			
Sundry	76	218	Postages & carriage	1,455	1,182
Sale of assets	0	742	Telephone	627	563
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>43,862</b>	<b>26,200</b>	Office stationery books, maps	1,533	1,591
Dividends received	141	4,190	Insurances	2,065	1,876
Interest received	9,158	3,937	Functions	2,391	2,900
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>9,299</b>	<b>8,127</b>	Subscriptions	115	111
Subscriptions	17,387	5,454	Donations	1,030	500
Affiliation fees	560	776	Bank charges	7	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>17,947</b>	<b>£6,230</b>	Legal, professional & secretarial fees	695	1,170
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>71,108</b>	<b>40,557</b>	Sundry	557	230
			Signpost	6,016	5,128
			Footbridge	6,219	2,120
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,677</b>	<b>33,052</b>
			<b>EXCESS</b>	<b>30,431</b>	<b>7,505</b>

# Treasurer's Report (Continued)



<b>BALANCE SHEET</b> at 31 December 2007	<b>2007</b> £	<b>2006</b> £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	62,259	65,968
<b>LONG TERM INVESTMENTS</b>	100,170	100,424
<b>CASH INVESTMENTS (SHORT TERM)</b>	129,841	105,050
 <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Bank balance current/cheque account	2,564	2,086
Petty cash	8	8
<b>DEBTORS</b>	Nil	1,253
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>294,842</b>	<b>274,789</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Advance subscriptions - 5 and 10 years	Nil	-10,124
<b>NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>	<b>294,842</b>	<b>264,665</b>
 <b>Represented by</b>		
General funds brought forward including former defence fund	243,186	232,084
Surplus for 2007	30,431	7,505
Movement in funds and valuations	8,164	3,597
Signpost Fund	0	3,399
Mary Chambers Memorial	200	200
Footbridge Fund	12,861	17,880
 <b>294,842</b>	<b>264,665</b>	



# Treasurer's Report (Continued)

## Notes on Income & Expenditure 2007

### Accounting Basis

These accounts have been prepared using the "receipts and payments" method rather than the "accruals" method as used in previous years. However to ensure consistency, depreciation has been charged on assets acquired before 31st December 2006. As long term investments represent a significant proportion of the Society's assets they appear at market value. This is in accordance with Charity Commission guidance and trustee decisions made last year.

Previously deferred 5 and 10 year subscriptions have been credited to this year.

Tax reclaimed re Gift Aid is the amount received from HM Revenue and Customs during the year.

### Income

Once again we have benefited from legacy income, this year totalling £36901 (Compared to £20729 in 2006), from the estates of GHB Ward and John F Shaw.

The Trustees have decided to set aside the sum of £17950 (50% of the total) from the GHB Ward legacy to fund a suitable memorial eg. Bridge/s or other tangible benefit to walkers.

The year also shows an increase in income from donations to the Society, (£6513 in 2007 against £3068 in 2006). Both the Signposts and General funds have benefited from the generosity of members when renewing, whilst the request for donations made prior to last years AGM has significantly benefited the General Fund.

Total income from investments has increased from £8127 in 2006 to £9299 in 2007.

Subscriptions & Affiliations show a substantial increase (£17947 against £6230).

This is largely due to the change in accounting method whereby accrued income from 5 and 10 year memberships has been taken into income for the current year giving a "one off" increase.

**It is still true to say that once the above is taken into account total income from subscriptions covers less than half our basic running costs (Taylor House costs, travel, insurance, postage and stationery).**

### Expenditure

The Expenditure figures reflect the continued increases in our all round activities. Total expenditure has increased from £33052 in 2006 to £40677 in 2007.

Taylor House running costs showed a decrease (£3266 from £3832).

Travel costs (£3712 against £3037 in 2006) do not fully reflect the increased travel associated with the increase in general activity of the Society. Once again it appears that members are supporting our work by choosing not to claim travel expenses.



## Notes on Income & Expenditure 2007

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# Treasurer's Report (Continued)

Printing costs (up to £3959 against £3412 in the previous year) are largely accounted for by an extra £308 for display printing and lamination.

"Signpost" newsletter costs have increased from £2976 to £3321 reflecting the longer print runs.

Postages, telephones, stationery, insurances and subscriptions are similar to last year.

Professional fees (£695) represent the full year cost of minute taking at Officers Meetings introduced in September 2005.

The cost of Functions (£2391 against £2900 in 2006) is made up from the AGM in April, the Half Year Meeting in November and the Rights of Way Conference held in December. The Cheshire Show booking fee (£240) is also included in this total.

Signpost Expenses (£6016 in 2007 against £5128 in 2006) are the direct costs of new and replacement signposts, repair work, and work done for us by a sub-contractor.

Footbridge Expenses show a substantial increase (£6219 in 2007 against £2120 in 2006). They are the cost of donations made to local authorities for the provision of footbridges. (located in Compstall, Rainow, Kirklees (3) and Bosley).

A donation of £1000 was made to the Green Lane Protection Group (GLPG) to support legal action in order to clarify some of the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill (NERCA). GLPG is formed from 14 bodies including the Ramblers' Association (RA), The Country Land and Business Association (CLA), The Green Lanes Action Movement (GLEAM) and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

## Balance Sheet Notes

### Assets

Fixed Assets: At a value of £62259 net of depreciation against £65968 last year. Taylor House is valued at a "cost" basis as in previous years.

**Long Term Investments:** (£100170 from £100423 in 2006) show increases in valuations in Government Stocks (£97953 compared to £97217 in 2006) and decreases in Equities (£2217 compared to £ £3207 in 2006). The reduction in the value of the Society's long term investments (£254) is included in the £8164 "Movement in funds and valuations"

**Short Term Investments:** The bulk of our cash (totalling £79638) is now held on immediate access, interest bearing accounts with CAF Bank, a subsidiary of Charities Aid Foundation. A further £50000 is held with Birmingham Midshires Building Society.

	2007
	£
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>294842</b>
<b>Less Fixed Assets</b>	<b>62259</b>
<b>Less Committed Funds</b>	<b>17950</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>214633</b>

# Independent Examiner's Report



## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

On accounts for the year  
ended

31st DECEMBER 2007

Charity no  
(if any)

212219

Set out on pages

30 to 34

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act, as amended),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, as amended), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the 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 accounts.

Independent  
examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below\*).

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 9th March 2008

Name:

ELIZABETH HUDSON

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

ACA

Address:

BLADLEY FOLD WOODFORD LANE NEWTON  
MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE SK10 4LH

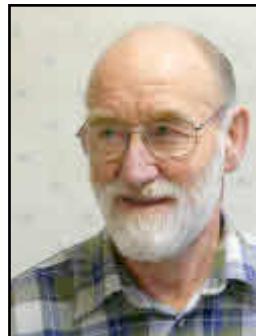


# Membership Secretary's Report

## **Reg Boot**

We are pleased to report another very good year for recruitment and a significant increase in Membership.

As in previous years the presentations about the Society given by Peter Rhodes to local societies have resulted in a significant number of new members. However the most significant and pleasing recruitment activity was the Society's presence at the Cheshire Show and at a smaller event at New Mills. These two events generated about 45% of the new memberships. The Cheshire Show attendance produced 139 members.



However we cannot afford to be complacent because we lose some members every year for various reasons – moving out of the area, changes in interests and circumstances, age and of course the other certainty of life (besides taxes). It is with regret that we report that during the year we have been notified of the death of eight of our members. It is with particular regret that we record the passing of Jim Wild and Dennis Rowlinson who as Inspectors and Assessors have actively supported the Society for many years.

This year about 130 members did not renew their membership so we do need to recruit actively if we are to maintain and increase our membership and influence. One of the best recruiting methods is, of course, by personal recommendation so we would greatly appreciate any support existing members can provide in helping us to continue to increase Membership by bringing the Society to the attention of their friends and acquaintances.

The following table illustrates the progress the Society has made in the last few years.

<b>Members</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Annual	275	396	487	617	754
Ten Year	353	318	275	281	300
Five Year	193	209	256	299	350
Honorary Life	15	15	18	18	17
Junior	2	2	6	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>1426</b>
Affiliates	83	79	77	77	81



## NAME, OBJECTS AND NATURE

1. We are called 'Peak & Northern Footpaths Society'. Our objects are:-
  - a) Creating and preserving open spaces, public access rights and rights of way (other than for mechanically propelled vehicles); particularly in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire, the former Metropolitan Counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South and West Yorkshire and in Blackburn & Darwen, Blackpool, Derby, Halton, Stoke-on-Trent and Warrington.
  - b) Preventing the abuse of such rights.
  - c) Monitoring, supporting and opposing proposals and orders for the creation, closure, diversion and regrading of public rights of way.
  - d) Erecting and maintaining direction posts, signs, footbridges and commemorative structures.
  - e) All objects conducive to the foregoing.

1.2 We pursue our objects via negotiation: but when appropriate, engage in legal proceedings, including public inquiries and mediation.

1.3 We are an equal opportunities Society.

## PROVISION OF TRUSTEE INDEMNITY INSURANCE

1.4 The trustees shall have the power to provide trustee indemnity insurance for themselves out of our income.

## TRUSTEES NOT TO HAVE A PERSONAL INTEREST

1.5 Subject to the provisions of clause 1.4 (provision of trustee indemnity insurance clause) and except with the prior written approval of the Charity Commissioners no trustee may:  
a) receive any benefit in money or in kind from us; or  
b) have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to us; or  
c) acquire or hold any interest in property belonging to us (otherwise than as our trustee) or receive remuneration from us or be interested (otherwise than as our trustee) in any contract entered into by trustees.

## DEFINITIONS

2. In this Constitution –  
'AGM' means Annual General Meeting;  
'EGM' means Extraordinary General Meeting;  
'GM' means General Meeting' and includes an AGM and an EGM;  
an 'Officer' is a person who is appointed to a specific office including the presidency but not a vice-presidency.  
'we' and 'us' mean the Society;  
'our' means the Society's.

## OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

- 3a) Each Officer and each Trustee (who must also be an Officer) shall be appointed at a GM or (if the appointment is between GMs) by other Officers.



- b) at each AGM all existing Officers and Trustees willing to continue in post shall be subject to re-election.
- c) The Trustees may invest our funds as they see fit and may borrow, charge our assets and own the freehold or leasehold of land and buildings. At all times they must exercise overall control of our management but in so far as is compatible with their legal duties as trustees they shall implement the wishes of the generality of our members.
- d) The Officers may change the duties of existing Officer posts from time to time, re-name such posts and create new ones: but there shall never be more than 15 Officers.
- e) Subject to Clause 3 (c, our business which is not conducted in G M shall be conducted by the Officers. They may determine the rules for conducting their business and may delegate their powers to any committee and co-opt (for a specified period) anyone to serve thereon. The quorum for an Officers' meeting shall be 3 Officers.
- f) If a resolution is passed by the Officers or a G M, but the majority of the Trustees decide that its implementation may create greater liabilities than our funds can prudently bear, the Trustees may within 28 days annul this resolution via a written veto, signed by each of its supporters and explaining its reasons. This veto shall be reported to the next meeting of the body which passed the resolution.
- g) The Treasurer shall be consulted about any decision to invest or spend our funds (except on an ordinary outgoing) unless he/she cannot be consulted and the item is urgent; when the President or Chairman shall be consulted.
- h) Tenure of an office shall cease upon the holder's resignation or permanent incapacity to perform most of his/her work; or when an AGM does not confirm further tenure; or on the expiry of a written termination notice given by two thirds of the fellow Officers.

## MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 4a) Subscriptions shall be due within 1 month of each A G M, at the rate set at an AGM.
- b) Notice of Officers' recommendations for
  - i) any proposed rate changes and
  - ii) variations in the number, specification and/or title of subscription classes shall be included in the notice of the A G M: which may vote to accept or reject them but may not amend or delete any of them.
- c) Joint members (two), shall each be entitled to full voting rights at G Ms.
- d) Individual members of 20 or more years standing, aged at least 65 years, shall be entitled (on application) to honorary life membership.
- e) The A G M may elect, for life, Vice Presidents; who shall enjoy honorary membership.
- f) A body having an interest in our work which pays us an affiliation subscription may nominate one delegate and two other persons to us, who shall be deemed to be members.
- g) All members may attend GMs and shall receive our Annual Report and other publications.
- h) A member may be expelled by our Officers if in the opinion of a majority of them his/her actions have been seriously detrimental to us. Prior to resolving to expel, these Officers shall give the member written notice of the alleged actions and detriments and a copy of this Clause 4 h) plus a reasonable opportunity to prepare and state his/her response. Within one month of expulsion that member may appeal by giving written notice of appeal to an Officer .The appeal will be heard by a panel consisting of one Vice President and 4 members (none of whom shall be an Officer) chosen by that Vice-president. The appellant shall be reinstated if the majority of the panel votes to allow the appeal.



## DATA STORAGE

5 We may hold on computers personal information about members; solely for the maintenance of our membership records and conduct of our activities. We may not divulge such information outside the Society.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

6a) An AGM shall be held in the first six months of each year and shall consider and (if approved) adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the past year and transact any other business that may arise. Ten members shall form a quorum.

(b) Each GM shall be convened by written notice, given by the Chairman or an Officer deputising for him or her. This notice shall be dispatched to each member at the last known address, at least 10 days before the Meeting and stating the business of the GM. Ten members shall form a quorum.

c) Subject to Clause 6 e), approval of a motion put to a GM requires a simple majority of votes cast. A tie may be resolved by the Chairman of the meeting casting a second vote. A member attending a GM may propose a motion about an issue which is not mentioned in the notice of the GM. If the Chairman of the GM decides that the issue is not urgent and may also be of controversial interest to the generality of members this Chairman may defer the motion to the next GM.

d) An E G M shall be held upon the requisition of ten members, sent to the Secretary or other Officer, specifying the reason for the meeting, or upon a resolution of an Officers' meeting.

e) A motion for the alteration of this constitution requires the approval of at least two thirds of the members present and voting at an E G M. If the motion is proposed pursuant to a Clause 6(d) requisition the Secretary must receive this motion at least six weeks before the EGM where it is to be discussed.

f) No alteration to Clause 1 (Objects), Clause 8 (Dissolution) or this Clause 6f) shall take effect without the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction. No alteration may be made which would deprive us of the legal status of charity. No amendment enabling the provision of any form of trustee benefit shall be made without the prior written approval of the Charity Commission.

## AFFILIATION

7 We may affiliate to such other societies, constituted for like objects, as may be decided at a G M. In pursuing our objects we may act alone or in collaboration with other parties.

## DISSOLUTION

8a) We may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an E G M convened for that purpose, of which at least 6 weeks notice shall have been given to the Secretary.

b) Assets remaining after satisfaction of our liabilities shall not be distributed among our members but shall be given to such other charitable institution(s) with objects similar to some of ours as we shall decide: but should this be impracticable, then to other charitable purposes.



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