



**PEAK & NORTHERN
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY**
HELPING WALKERS
PROTECTING FOOTPATHS

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY



**ANNUAL REPORT &
ACCOUNTS
2009**

Annual Report 2009

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Registered Charity No. 212219

Front Cover - Signpost 80 - photo by Nick Ham (member of the society)

Back Cover - The Dells, Eccleshall. The late Bob Brooks (former Inspector for the Society) started the claim for this path over 20 years ago. The order was finally confirmed in February 2009.

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THIS IS YOUR INVITATION
TO THE AGM OF THE PNFS

Sat May 1st
AT
BRITANNIA HOTEL, DIALSTONE LANE,
OFFERTON, STOCKPORT

AMPLE FREE CAR PARKING IS AVAILABLE
NUMBER 383 BUS FROM STOCKPORT OR MARPLE STATION STOPS OUTSIDE
SERVICE 192 BUSES FREQUENTLY AVAILABLE AT NEARBY A6

10:30 COFFEE, TEA, BISCUITS

11:00 AGM COMMENCES

12:30 HOT BUFFET LUNCH (Donations welcome)
BAR FACILITIES

14:00 AGM CONTINUES

14:30 OPEN FORUM

15:30 MEETING CLOSES

To reserve your place at the AGM kindly inform
David Brown Email pnfs.meetings@gmail.com or
Phone 01663 733236 as soon as possible
and no later than April 25th as we have to give one weeks
notice of the numbers to the Hotel

Thank you

President's Report

David Bratt

2009 has proved to be another year of solid progress for your Society, so again all credit to Clarke and the whole team of volunteers both out in the field and at Taylor House.

Membership at over 1,500 has reached another all-time high in our 116 years history and properly reflects the support, regard and esteem of the members for the good works undertaken on their behalf to safeguard our footpaths.

There are still people who, for selfish and spoiling purposes, strive to prevent lawful footpath access, or in some cases seek diversions not in the interest of the walking public. It will no doubt be ever thus.

So we will continue to need our counter-offensive forces, namely our Inspectors, Assessors and Courts and Inquiry Officers, all with back-up management and admin support.

We have in place an operating structure and team very fit for purpose and, thanks to the time, energy and commitment they put in, we achieve a good proportion of successful outcomes. May this continue for ever and a day.

A new and welcome initiative has been the project led by Gilly Gostick to research and identify footpaths accessible to those with disabilities and in due course to provide an easy-to-use and comprehensive information service on our website.

My year has again been a healthy mix of member recruitment via shows and our illustrated presentation. With regard to shows, we were on active duty at the Cheshire Show (two days) the New Mills One World Festival and the Marple Locks Festival, gaining in total over a hundred new members. Many thanks go to all show reps., who braved weather that ranged from the desert heat of Cheshire to the rains of Derbyshire.

In addition I have been busy inspecting diversions on site where we have no representative in place, and organizing the long-walks programme. Thanks, leader team!

Two of my inspections have led to objections on the basis of diminished enjoyment for walkers, which will result in Public Inquiries where I will give evidence under the guidance of Lord Chief Justice Norris!!

Possibly the greatest challenge facing the Society this year is to square the books as, despite the economies already applied, we are still some £8,000 a year short in terms of income versus expenditure. We hope the generosity of those members who can afford it will save the day.

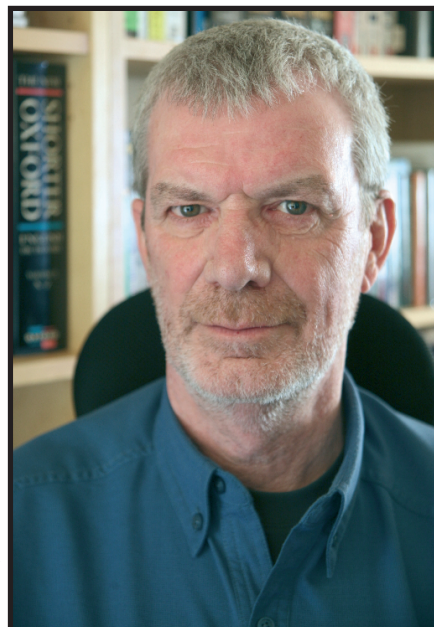
Thanks go as ever to the full spectrum of members and volunteers, and for me it continues to be an honour and pleasure to work for our respected Society and its noble purpose.



Chairman's Report

Clarke Rogerson

2009 was a very good year, with the Society going from strength to strength in all aspects of our work. In fact, the year has been a record breaker: membership passed the magic 1,500 barrier; we now have over 300 signposts; we have funded five new bridges; and volunteer numbers are up yet again. These, of course, are wonderful headline numbers that we can all feel proud of; but let us not forget the real work of removing obstructions, commenting on proposals and attending public inquiries – all to the benefit of walkers for years to come.



As chairman, I'm very proud to be able to start this year's report with such wonderful claims, but none of them would be possible if were not for the tremendous support of you the members and the commitment of so many dedicated volunteers. I really cannot praise the work of our volunteers enough: our Inspectors are our eyes and ears out in the field, and they work closely with the rights of way staff of 35 highway authorities. Our area officers take the pressure off the HQ team by dealing directly with their designated highway authorities on consultations and orders. When faults are proving difficult to resolve or we need to oppose or support an order, we have a very able team of courts and inquiry officers. Supporting all our field volunteers we have the HQ team, and I can honestly say it is a pleasure going to work at Taylor House on a Monday morning with such a great team. Our signpost and bridge teams, walk leaders, volunteers who man the stands at shows or ensure that our leaflets are on display throughout our area, all play an important part in making PNFS a respected society we can all be proud of.

Special mention must be made of Harry Sutcliffe and Mike Dearden, who passed away during the year. Both gave many years' loyal service to the Society. Thanks also to Bill Johnson and Peter Bowler, who retired from active service. I'm sad to report that Harold Fore is no longer able to offer his services due to ill health.

The objectives of the Society state our purpose as "*creating and preserving open spaces, public access rights and rights of way*". It was an honour to be able to represent the Society and hand over a cheque for £6,000 as a loan to Hunshelf parish council to enable them to secure the open space known as the "Isle of Skye" for the benefit of future generations. April saw the opening of the Dells at Eccleshall, where Harry Scott did the honours as the traffic on the M6 motorway delayed my journey. In May I was asked to speak at the opening ceremony for the restored kissing gates on the Snake Path at Hayfield. The restoration was funded by the Hayfield Civic Trust with the help of various grants. The Snake Path was the first major success for the Society, when the right to walk it was secured in 1896. Each gate bears a plaque commemorating the work of the Society. I also attended handover ceremonies for the five new bridges we funded. All in all, I think we can justly claim to have met our objectives in 2009.

In Alan Hooley's report, you will hear mention of requests to help thwart planning proposals. 2009 saw an increase in requests for help where open spaces were under threat of development. Whilst

Chairman's Report (continued)

we can give only limited assistance where no right of way is affected, our courts and inquiry team have been able to offer sound advice to local groups fighting to retain access to open spaces.

Outside of footpath work, the biggest challenge of 2009 was undoubtedly the Society's finances. We are in no immediate danger of running out of funds, BUT our expenditure continues to exceed income. The half-year meeting gave approval to plans set out by the trustees and officers for cut-backs in expenditure to ensure that our core activity can continue unabated.

You will notice some significant changes to the format of this publication as part of the cut-back. We have aimed to maintain the overall quality while reducing some of the content; most notably we no longer list all our members. Whilst some will mourn this change, I hope to be able to announce significant cost savings on this year's report at the AGM.

The Society has never been one to rest on its laurels, and I think it appropriate to take a brief look at what the year ahead holds for us. Potentially we have two very significant public inquiries (PIs) in the year ahead in our claims for the Bowstones path and the coastal path at Silverdale. I say potentially as the dates for the PIs have not been set; you can rest assured that we are ready for both inquiries.

Gilly Gostick's project for the less able and families with pushchairs is new and exciting territory for the Society.

David Bratt is leading a fundraising project, which will be discussed at the AGM. As you will see from David's report, we need to find £8,000 to balance the books. In addition, all spending on bridges and signposts in 2010 will depend on income from donations and legacies. In 2009 we received some very significant one-off donations, which were really welcome. In 2010 we will aim to increase income by seeking regular donations over and above membership subscriptions. Your support in making small regular payments by standing order will make a big difference and will be appreciated by future generations of walkers.

Whilst every volunteer is important I would like to offer my personal thanks to Alan Postill, David Brown & Judy Brown. Alan stands down this year after 5 years of sterling service. During that time he has guided us through the minefield of Charity Commission guidelines and simplified our accounts, and his clear thinking will be missed at Trustee meetings. David Brown's modest report belies the work he has undertaken and the many hours he has put in at Taylor House during the past year. Our newsletter receives many plaudits thanks to David's editorship and Judy's proofreading. Judy (a professional proofreader and associate of The Plain Language Commission) has given generously of her time to ensure our newsletter, forthcoming volunteers handbook and this report don't offend lovers of the English language.

Vice Chair's Report



Dave Brown

The post of Vice Chairman is unusual in that it does not have any specific responsibilities beyond assisting and standing in for the Chairman. He has to define his own portfolio and I have made mine mainly that of finding opportunities to reduce spending and improve the efficiency at Taylor House.

In the first year in post I have identified a number of such opportunities and have started implementing them. I hope to be able to report to the AGM that these projects are coming to fruition.

I am completely upgrading the computer system at Taylor House, replacing the old computers with more efficient net-tops and the old, expensive, inkjet printers with modern colour laser printers. This upgrade also assists Donald Cruttenden to run his data base, which will allow Inspectors online access to faults. Taylor House has been rearranged to better accommodate the three new volunteers who have joined us this year. Worthwhile savings on our utility bills can be made when the current contracts expire.

I am editing the new Society Handbook for Volunteers, which is being written by the Courts and Inquiries Officers, and we intend to have this available at the Inspectors conference this summer.

I am continuing to edit the Society newsletter and welcome comments from you. The production of the newsletter has been moved to a local printer and I am sure that you will have noticed the improvement in quality. I intend to give members the choice of receiving the newsletter by email.



Isle of Skye - Hunshelf Parish - Handover

Rhoda Barnett

My first full year as Area Officer for the Derbyshire Dales, South Derbyshire and Derby City areas, and Courts & Inquiries Officer for all of Derbyshire, has been a mixture of success and frustration. I have been able to appreciate the sterling work of our Inspectors, who report, monitor and chase the resolution of path problems. However, the dearth of Inspectors in much of the area, especially the southern part, and the failure of Derbyshire County Council to inform us of the priority which it has given to problems and hence the time it might take to resolve them, has meant that progress with real improvements in the path network often seems to be painfully slow. During the year we did have constructive meetings with other user groups and eventually with county council officers, and we hoped these would bear fruit. The county council has consulted the Local Access Forums in its area about prioritisation for dealing with applications for public path and definitive map modification orders, and with path problems, but as yet nothing final has been produced. We will continue to press for this to happen.



One notable success was the defeat of an attempt by High Peak Borough Council to divert part of a footpath, which it had illegally blocked, on to an existing public right of way; the Inspector at the inquiry rightly rejected this as being in effect an extinguishment. The seemingly inevitable frustration is that the path remains blocked and neither the borough council nor the county council, as the authority responsible for protecting the interests of path users, have yet done anything about it.

I have commented on many diversion orders made in the interests of landowners by both district and county councils, and they have generally heeded suggested improvements for the benefit of walkers, in several cases withdrawing orders and making new ones. Derbyshire Dales District Council has also been very good at consulting me about planning applications which affect public paths, though again it is annoying that I frequently have to discuss such applications with the county's rights of way officers as they themselves have not known about them. Between us we have managed to safeguard and even improve some rights of way.

Consultations about proposed definitive map modification orders have been fewer, though I have been able to help provide evidence in a number of cases. At least no paths have been deleted from the definitive map, and several footpaths, bridleways and byways have been added.

With cuts in councils' spending in 2010, the need for effective and transparent methods of working will become even more crucial, and I expect the Society will inevitably have to take strong action in the form of serving legal notices to enforce the removal of obstructions if the county council does not produce and implement the necessary robust policies.

Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

John Harker

Leading on from last year's report, some ongoing cases have been resolved one way or another, whilst others continue to defy an easy resolution.

In Tameside, the public inquiry that we were expecting went ahead in June. Lasting into a third day, the inquiry was keenly contested. The proposed diversion of Longdendale footpaths 76 and 77 and Chisworth 24, which straddled the Tameside/Derbyshire border, was motivated by a desire, on the local authority's part anyway, to avoid having to comply with a magistrates' court order to repair a bridge which carried 77 across the river Etherow. Regrettably, the inspector found in favour of the diversions. The current interpretation of section 119 of the 1980 Highways Act means that the interests of the public in a wider context, such as saving money on the maintenance of a bridge, can be taken into account, if the diversions meet the other criteria of not being substantially less convenient as the original, or not spoiling people's enjoyment of the paths in question. My prediction last year, that new inspectors in Tameside would generate extra work, has proved prophetic. Serious faults and obstructions are being exposed. At year's end, we have used the threat of legal notices to force Tameside to address matters. We are also due to meet Tameside staff in an attempt to reach a greater understanding of the way they work, and for them to understand what we expect of a highway authority.



In South Yorkshire, we saw off a proposal to close Aston cum Aughton 6 in Rotherham on anti-social behaviour grounds. Instead, Rotherham MBC is spending money on the path to bring it up to the standard of other paths on the same estate. Aston cum Aughton 5, which had been flooded and unusable for over two years, is now walkable again. However, serious drainage problems in the area as a whole leave the path vulnerable to further flooding in future. We may not have heard the last of this path. In Doncaster we were able to offer our help to Auckley Parish Council, who had claimed a path in the village for addition to the definitive map. The authority was proposing to take a neutral stance at the public inquiry, so I offered to be the Parish Council's advocate and make the case in favour of confirmation. I am pleased to be able to report that despite the objectors being represented by a barrister, the inspector found in our favour and confirmed the Order. Auckley Parish Council has made a generous donation to the Society in recognition of our help. We are also actively supporting another claimant for a footpath addition at Thorne in Doncaster. That Order will go to public inquiry in August, and again the authority is taking a neutral stance. I shall be appearing as advocate seeking confirmation of the Order. This case has aroused much controversy in the local community and I am expecting a hotly contested inquiry.

Looking to the future rather than the past, there are worrying signs that local highway authorities are going to suffer cutbacks in funding for rights-of-way work in the next few years. Whoever wins the general election in May, local authority budgets face severe pressure, and rights of way are not immune to the consequences. My personal view is that we are entering a period of path rationalisation by neglect, as authorities concentrate limited funds on a smaller percentage of the network. This could mean difficult times ahead for this Society, as we are faced by more and more 'hard-to-use' paths and have limited personnel to address the problems.

Terry Norris

Section 130A notices, whereby a local authority can be forced to exercise its duty to remove obstructions, continued to prove a very useful tool. Long-standing obstructions on three paths in Kirklees were removed, following a letter warning that the Society had given authority for the procedure to be used.

During the year there were several examples of objectionable use of gating orders. These orders mean the highway authority can close a path where the existence of the path facilitates anti-social behaviour that affects premises adjoining the highway. Whilst the majority of these orders are to close off back alleys of terraced properties in inner city areas, where the Society would not want to become involved, in some cases the procedure has been used to close definitive paths providing access to open countryside. If there are objections from the public or walking groups, the final decision is that of the Council; there is no possibility of a public inquiry unless the police or emergency services object, which is unlikely. The worst case arose in Colne, where a path through a factory yard, which provided a useful and well-used route to open countryside, was closed by Lancashire County Council at the request of Pendle Council under pressure from the factory owners. The evidence of crime facilitated by the path included a number of cases of thefts by employees! Walkers now have to use a busy road and a narrow road bridge with poor visibility. It is important that members of the Society who sit on local access or user forums try and persuade their council to adopt proper procedures. These would allow independent review of proposed gating orders and would involve PROW officers in the decision-making process, so that the matter is not left solely in the control of the community crime unit.



I have made a number of claims in the name of the Society to add paths to the definitive map at the request of local residents aggrieved when the authorities close or question the use of a path which has been used as a public right of way for a long period. The most important of these concerns a path in Silverdale, which passes in front of some cottages on the shore line. If the claim to add this path to the definitive map is successful, then the route of the Lancashire Coastal Path can be amended to avoid a lengthy detour inland. At present, walkers wishing to follow the coast line have to struggle along a rocky shore badly affected by marine erosion. Collecting evidence for these claims is relatively straightforward; the real difficulty arises from the immense delays before they are resolved. Most councils have a huge back-log of claims for processing and only decide a handful each year. Thus delays of several years before the matter is resolved, usually involving a public inquiry, are commonplace.

A very useful exercise has been to update the Inspectors' handbook, which I have undertaken with my fellow courts and inquiries officers. This has been a salutary exercise, which has caused all of us to reassess our knowledge of the law affecting public rights of way. Hopefully we are all now better informed and have produced a document which will better serve the needs of inspectors.

Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

Harry W Scott

I am pleased to report that the footpath network in Staffordshire continues to improve. Members can be assured the P&N follows through with your complaints.

In 1975 (yes, you read correctly – 1975), the Society reported a problem with footpath 4 Ruston Parish in the Staffordshire Moorlands to Staffordshire County Council. The County Council have now agreed to make an order to overcome the problem, which will secure a definitive legal route for the Staffordshire Way and the Gritstone Trail. So the file will close in 2010 after 35 years. In 2004, the Society objected to the diversion onto a road of footpath 24 Bobbington Parish in South Staffordshire. Since 2004 we have maintained our objection, and I am pleased to report that in 2009 the County Council accepted the alternative diversion we suggested in 2004.

Our signposts moved south during 2009, when we erected three signs on the Weaver Hills, East Staffordshire. If you are looking for new area to walk in, I can recommend the Weaver Hills.

During the year I have submitted 141 footpath complaints to Staffordshire County Council, of which a good number have been resolved. I have commented on 29 diversions, consultations, and minor objections have been resolved with the County Council. Staffordshire County Council has produced 46 orders, diverting highways and modifying the definitive map. I continue to monitor planning applications which may affect footpaths and have commented on 29 around the county. A particular breakthrough this year has been the realignment of six footpaths meeting at New Barn, Colton Parish, Lichfield, which have been obstructed for a number of years.

Ploughing and cropping affects around a third of the footpath network in Staffordshire. The County Council continues to fail to implement their own policy when dealing with these activities. My challenge for 2010 is to see an improvement in the way Staffordshire County Council deals with ploughing and cropping complaints.



Consultations & Orders Report

Alan Hooley

There have been two changes of personnel in 2009. Brian Hamilton has joined the Assessment Team and Jean Parrish has taken over responsibility for the incoming mail log. Jean succeeds Peter Bowler, who has retired after five years' service in the Section. We thank Peter for his service and welcome Jean and Brian to the team.

I acknowledge with gratitude the work of the inspectors and the members of the team at Taylor House. Last year (2008) I noted the low number of objections (eight) the Society had lodged. In 2009 there were just six. I am sure that the reason for this is the practice of pre-order consultation that most order-making authorities (OMAs) adopt. OMAs that are aware of the Society's policies will often go into some detail to explain the reasoning for making an order. A few do not, and that sometimes means lodging a holding objection whilst we obtain answers to our questions.

Increasingly, OMAs are contacting the local inspector direct to discuss a proposal informally before the consultation proposals take firm shape. We at Taylor House encourage this, because the inspector has detailed local knowledge that we rarely have, and the Society's response is based primarily on the views of the inspector. If an OMA rights of way officer asks us at Taylor House for the contact details of the local inspector, we do not supply them without the consent of the inspector concerned. If an inspector prefers to work through Taylor House we respect that wish.

For our part we do take note of OMA policies. One example that has come to the fore in 2009 is the policy adopted by some authorities to replace stiles with gates. We are largely in favour of this. In one case it turned out that the landowner, a farmer, was not. He argued that gates are liable to be stolen, whereas stiles are not. We judged that this was an issue which we would be unlikely to win at a public inquiry, and therefore accepted the provision of a stile.

Much has been done over the years to publicise the work of the Society, and that process continues. Misunderstandings do arise about the scope of our remit. Twice in 2009 the Society's help has been sought to thwart planning proposals where there was no risk of the footpath network being compromised. Local residents were not happy with the proposed developments. It may be gratifying that we are perceived as having the power to influence general planning issues, but the downside is that we may disappoint those who have over-estimated that power and influence. However, we are prepared to support local residents if we think they have a valid point. The local planning authority may rebuff us for exceeding our terms of reference. None has yet done so, and if they do it is a criticism we shall bear with fortitude.

Statistics: This year we have received at Taylor House 296 orders of all types, 196 pre-order consultations, 561 alley-gating orders and 172 other matters. These figures apply to material received at Taylor House and do not include the areas where AOs have been appointed. As the figures for 2008/09 were for a nine-month period only they are not comparable, but I judge the workload to be about the same with the exception of alley-gating orders, which have shown a large increase.



Faults & Inspectors Report

Hilda Bowler - Footpath Faults

During 2009 1,240 footpath faults were reported, and 429 current and old faults were cleared.

Of the faults reported in 2009, obstructions of some kind – fences, walls, streams or electric fences across or beside the path – accounted for 491.

There were 274 reports of missing or damaged signposts, and 288 reports of broken or difficult stiles.

Waymarking was needed in 113 cases, and there were 74 reports of cropping and ploughing where the footpath had not been reinstated.

I would like to thank all Inspectors for their hard work for the Society, and for the clear reports which are sent or copied to Taylor House. David Tattersall and Brian Summerscales continue their sterling work inputting data onto the database and looking up footpath numbers – my thanks to them both. Sue Clarke has recently come to help with inputting data on to the database, and is proving a very welcome addition to the team.



Inspectors

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all our Inspectors, both those who have resigned during the year for various reasons and those who are still with us. The work our Inspectors do is vital for the Society.

We have been fortunate to welcome a number of new Inspectors, and hope they are enjoying their role.

We currently have a total of 83 Inspectors, Agents and Area Officers, as well as our five Area Officers. We would welcome more, especially in our outlying areas. If you would like to volunteer, or find out more about an Inspector's role, do contact Taylor House. We would very much like to hear from you.

Treasurer's Report

Alistair Taylor

Notes on Income & Expenditure 2009

Accounting Basis

These accounts have been prepared using the "receipts and payments" method rather than the "accruals" method as used up to 2006. This is in accordance with Charity Commission guidance and trustee decisions made in 2006.

The year saw a deficit of income over expenditure of £21,268 which represented a further deterioration of the 2008 deficit of £12,484.

Income

Although we received generous donations of £8,414 (£3,137 for signposts) in 2009 which was substantially up from the £4,545 (£2,291 for signposts) seen in 2008, there was nothing on the scale of GHB Ward and John F Shaw bequests which were received in 2007. Consequently this shortfall in legacy income goes partly to explain the overall shortfall in income over expenditure for 2009.

Reclaims of Gift Aid produced a further £1,377 up from £715 last year, reflecting the increase in donations and improved awareness of Gift Aid forms.

Income from interest and dividends were substantially lower at £5,755 compared to £10,744 reflecting the harsh economic climate we suffered in 2009. In an attempt to redress this shortfall for the future stockbrokers Charles Stanley have been employed to manage our investments.

Income from subscriptions was, at £12,820, substantially up on last year's £8,946 reflecting the benefits of the increased subscription rates.

Overall income for 2009 was £28,395, a healthy increase on the 2008 figure of £25,330. This is a remarkable achievement given the economic climate.

Expenditure

However total expenditure has, at £49,597, increased substantially from the £36,862 spend seen in 2008. This increase generally reflects the increased pro-activity of the Society.

Increases in expenditure can be clearly seen in the areas of Signposts and Footbridges which at £11,900 was substantially more than the £6,936 seen in 2008. In a number of



Treasurer's Report (Continued)

cases this reflects a legacy spend in which commitments made in previous years had now worked through.

Postage, phone and stationery costs at £7,459 compared to £4,163 in 2008 are again substantially up, reflecting the increased activity of the Society in keeping members informed of current events. Opportunities clearly exist to economise in this area, but care must be taken not to lose vital communication with our membership.

Other areas of considerable increase are the subscriptions and donations paid out, which at £6,226 are considerably up on the £228 of 2008. This is accounted for by a donation of £6000 to Hunshelf Parish Council to assist in the purchase of an area of land known as the "Isle of Skye".

Legal and professional fees of £3,018 were up on the £1,475 spend in 2008. This was largely due to the need to seek Counsel's opinion (cost £1,811) as to the risks of progressing the Bridestone campaign.



*Neil Collie cleaning the bridge at Sun Wood
prior to handover*

2009 Accounts



Charity Name Peak and Northern Footpaths Society		No (if any) 112219		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2009	To	Period end date 31/12/2009	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Legacies, bequests donations (General)	5,277	-	-	5,277	2,254
Donations (signposts)	-	3,137	-	3,137	2,291
Donations (Footbridges)	-	-	-	-	-
Gift aid Tax	1,377	-	-	1,377	715
Interest/ dividends	5,755	-	-	5,755	10,774
Subscriptions/ Affiliations	12,820	-	-	12,820	8,946
Miscellaneous	29	-	-	29	350
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	25,258	3,137	-	28,395	25,330
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	92,244	-	-	92,244	-
Total receipts	117,502.00	3,137	-	120,639	25,330
A3 Payments					
Taylor House Running costs	3,958	-	-	3,958	6,607
Signposts and Footbridges	-	11,900	-	11,900	6,936
Travel & Subsistence	5,402	-	-	5,402	5,959
Printing and Coping (Including Newsletter)	6,665	-	-	6,665	6,769
Postage/ Telephone/ Stationary	7,459	-	-	7,459	4,163
Computer & Software	735	-	-	735	-
Functions	1,908	-	-	1,908	3,162
Insurances	1,864	-	-	1,864	1,166
Subscriptions/ Donations	6,226	-	-	6,226	228
Legal/ Professional/ Secretarial	3,018	-	-	3,018	1,475
Sundries	462	-	-	462	397
Sub total	37,697	11,900	-	49,597	36,862
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	92,310	-	-	92,310	952
Total payments	130,007	11,900	-	141,907	37,814
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 12,505	- 8,763	-	- 21,268	- 12,484
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	87,013	32,916	-	119,929	132,413
Cash funds this year end	74,508	24,153	-	98,661	119,929

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash Investments	72,619	24,153	-
	Bank and Petty cash	1,889	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	74,508	24,153	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Government Stocks	67,711	-	-
	Loan Stock	26,360	-	-
	Equities	1,214	-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Taylor House (Building)	60,153	-	-
	Computer Equipment	9,818	-	-
	Furniture fittings & Equipment	4,351	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Wes Taylor</i>	Alistair Taylor	23/3/10
<i>B. Rogerson</i>	Clarke Rogerson	23/8/10

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)

22/03/2010

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2009.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state 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 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 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

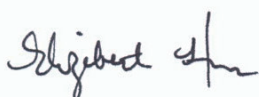
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have 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.



Elizabeth Hudson ACA
Bradley Fold, Woodford Lane, Newton, Macclesfield SK10 4LH
22nd March 2010

Signpost Officer's Report

Dave Morton

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the interest of Area Officers and Inspectors and the help of other volunteers with maintenance, I've again enjoyed my third year as your Signposts Officer. Bill Johnson retired, so I've tried to live up to his high standards in painting and posting, while Ted Wolfe and John Hodgson (our contractor) have done the hard work of erecting and Brian Morrison has helped me with maintenance. In response to my plea last year, Philip Jones from Hoylandswaine, Penistone, came forward and took responsibility for our more easterly signposts around Alport and the Derwent reservoirs. Graham Broadbent of Chadderton likewise helped north of Manchester until serious illness prevented him.



We erected 15 new signposts in 2008, but in 2009 we erected 31, of which two were long-lost 'friends'. Most went up in far-off places like Wakefield, Rotherham, north Staffs and the Wirral, giving PNFS a visible presence in new areas. By the end of December '09 we had **303** signposts extant.

'New signposts erected in 2009:

85	Jacobs Ladder	Reinstated, helped by M. Sharp, PNP
339	Thurstaston	PNFS (idea of Terry Norris)
351	Hartford	In memory of Bob and Marian Clark
352, 353, 354	Weaver Hills	PNFS (idea of H.Scott and D.Hewett)
355	Lr. Watermeetings	In memory of Helen and Bill Boyle
356	Whitegate	PNFS
357	Pennine Way	Dedicated to Abbotsfield Fellwalkers, Flixton
358	Pennine Way	PNFS (idea of Terry Norris)
359	Kirklees Way	PNFS (idea of Terry Norris)
360/1/2/3/4/5	Anglers C.P,W'fld	PNFS (idea of John Harker)
366	Harrop Fold	In memory of Edward L. Barras
367	Barlow Ho.Farm	In mem. of Jim Wild, M/cr Assocs.
368	Middlecale Farm	Stockport Walkers' Centenary
369 (ex 005)	Hr. Hills Cottage	Returned to PNFS after 20 years
370	New Rocklands	PNFS
371	Clatterbridge	PNFS, in memory of 'Thomas'
372	Back Tor	In mem. of John Beard, Staffs LDWA
373	Dunge Valley Gdns	Donated by Buxton Rambling Club
374	Aston Common	In memory of Stan Rouse
375	Besom Hill Res'r	PNFS (idea of M. Riley & B Taylor)
376	Tame Valley, Delph	In memory of Harry Sutcliffe
377	Knotlow, Flagg	In memory of Brian Hamilton, Snr.
378	Dale Head, Flagg	PNFS (idea of Ian Ray)

Thanks again to the team and especially to donors, whose gifts are now the sole source of funding for new signposts. Please, if you can, keep the donations coming in 2010.

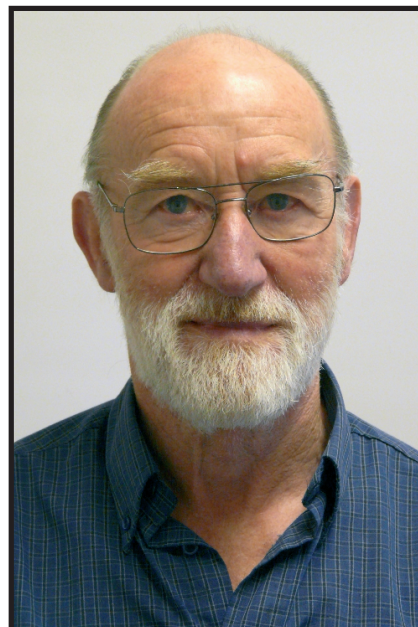
Membership Secretary's Report

Reg Boot

As you can see from the figures below 2009 was a good year for the growth of the Society. For the first time in it's history the Society finished the year with over 1500 members. This was the result of continuing success in recruiting new members and a better renewal rate than last year. Over half of our new members come from giving talks to local societies and attending shows and festivals.

Although we are grateful that we have so many committed members some do not renew their membership and last year they represented about ten percent of our membership. It is therefore important that we continue our recruitment campaign. More members will increase the standing of the Society and provide more income to carry out our work.

We would be very grateful for any help that members can provide with recruitment. The most obvious way would be to bring the activities of the Society to any of your acquaintances with an interest in walking. We would also be interested in knowing of any local societies, shows or festivals which you think might be a good recruiting ground for members.



The following table shows the development of membership over the last few years.

Members	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Annual	487	617	754	747	834
Ten Year	275	281	300	302	299
Five Year	256	299	350	351	378
Honorary Life	18	18	17	17	22
Junior	6	2	5	2	3
Total	1042	1217	1426	1419	1536
Affiliates	77	77	81	79	87

Membership



Honorary Members

Mr D R Andrew	Mrs S Hulme	Mr J Robinson
Miss O Bowyer	Sir J Johnson	Mrs J Sutton
Mr & Mrs J Burling	Mr & Mrs J C Law	Mr F Travis
Mr A M Davies	Mrs K Mayall	Mrs K Wells
Mr & Mrs F R M Fysh	Mrs L G Meadowcroft	Mr S Wraith
Mr F H Hall	Mr J Ogden	
Mrs J Head	Mr C R Peers	

Affiliated Society

Abbotsfield Fellwalkers of Flixton	Manchester Field Club
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society	Manchester Pedestrian Club
Altrincham & District Rambling Club	Manchester Rambling Club
Ashover Footpath & Bridleway Committee	Marple District Rambling Club
Ashton-u-Lyne & District Walking Club	Marple Naturalists
Barlborough Parish Council	Mid Cheshire Footpath Society
Barnsley Mountaineering Club	New Mills and District U3A
Blackbrook Conservation Society	New Mills Radical Ramblers
Bolton CHA Rambling Club	Northwestern Naturalists Union
Buxton Rambling Club	Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club
CAE - Rambling Club	Plumley with Toft & Bexton Parish Council
CHA Manchester Rambling Club	Poynton Rambling Club
CHA Mansfield	Probus Club of Newton-le-Wilows WG
CHA Nottingham Rambling Club	RA Bolton Group
CHA Oldham & District Rambling Club	RA Congleton Group
CHA Sheffield Rambling & Social Club	RA Doncaster
Cheadle Hulme & Bramhall Natural History Society	RA East Cheshire Area
Cheshire Tally Ho Hare & Hounds Club	A Manchester & High Peak Area
Club AZ Walkers	RA New Mills & District
Congleton Ramblers and P**! Artists	RA North & Mid Cheshire
Crescent Ramblers Northwich	RA Oldham Group
Denby Dale Parish Walking Group	RA Sheffield Group
Derby Nomad Ramblers	RA South Yorks & NE Derbyshire Area
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society	RA Stockport Group
Derbyshire Pennine Club	Rochdale CHA Rambling Club
Disley Footpaths Society	Rock and Heather Club
Eccles Rambling and Social Club	Romiley Ladies Group
Eyam Village Society	Rotherham Rambling Club
Friends of Rosevale	Rucksack Club
Friends of Springfield Park	Sale U3A Walking Club
Friends of Springfield Park	Sheffield Clarion Ramblers
Hanliensian Rambling Club	Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club
Heatons Reddish U3A	Sheffield U3A Walking Goup 'A'
HF Bolton Group	Shirland & Higham Parish Council
HF Bury Group	Stockport & District Federation of TWGs
HF Nottingham Group	Stockport East Area Bridleways Association
HF Warrington Rambling Club	Stockport Field Club
Holymoorside & Walton P C	Stockport Rambling & Social Club
Hunshelf Parish Council	Stockport Walkers
Ladybrook Valley District Scout Club	Sutton-in-Ashfield Rambling Club
Leek & District FP Preservation & Rambling Group	The Scramblers Rambling Club
Littleborough Civic Trust	The Strollers
Longendale & Glossopdale FP Preservation Society	Trafford Walkers
Macclesfield & District Field Club	Warrington U3A Walking Group
Macclesfield Rambling Club	West Lancashire Footpath Group
Manchester Associates Rambling Club	

Bridge Report

Neil Collie

During 2009 five footbridges have been completed, thanks to donations from our funds. All are in the east of our area in Calderdale, Bradford and Wakefield, and have given the Society some welcome local publicity.

The first bridge is at Sun Wood, near Shelf, in Calderdale and replaces an earlier structure which was swept away by floods some years ago. The bridge is in a delightful area of woodland. As a condition of the donation, Calderdale Metropolitan Council improved the surface of this well-used path. The hardwood footbridge has been completed to a very high standard and blends in well with the surroundings. It is a great advertisement for the Society.

Two footbridges on Keighley Footpath 275, north of East Morton, were also completed in the spring. This path meanders through an area of woodland known as the Glen above Sunnydale Reservoir. Walkers had to clamber across two streams; this was certainly awkward and sometimes impossible. Two press photographers attended the handover ceremony, which resulted in an online article in the Bradford Telegraph & Argos.

We have also provided a donation to replace two dilapidated footbridges at Ackworth and North Elmsall in Wakefield. The new bridges were constructed by local volunteers working for BTCV, and a handover ceremony took place in September 2009.

In addition to the above, a new steel footbridge is under construction at Shaw, Oldham, where we are providing a critical part of the funding. Also in 2010, we hope that the long-running project on Brampton Footpath 15, above Linacre Reservoirs in Derbyshire, may come to fruition, once access problems are overcome.

Because of the moratorium on financing new footbridges, new projects are not being undertaken at present. However, we welcome any donations or legacies from members who wish to contribute, in a really practical way, to the enjoyment of the countryside by the next generation.



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 G M 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.

