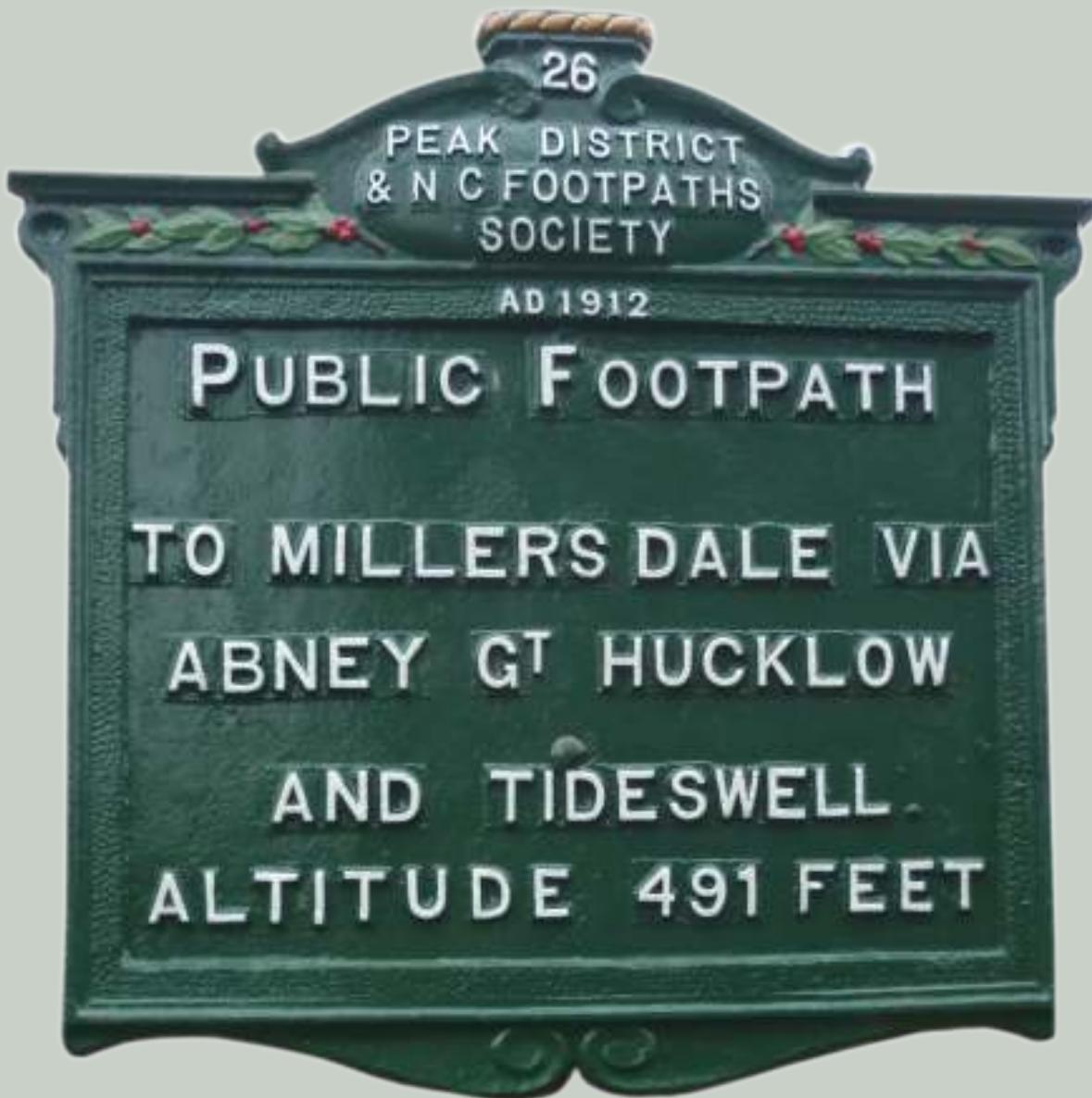


# PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

HELPING WALKERS & PROTECTING FOOTPATHS

Since 1894



**ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

**2011**

## Annual Report 2011

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Registered Charity No. 212219

***Front Cover - The recently restored Signpost No.26***

***Back Cover - February 2012 Long Walk Group Photo.***

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THIS IS YOUR INVITATION  
TO THE AGM OF THE PNFS

*Sat April 28th*  
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 Bratt Email bratty41@hotmail.com or  
Phone 01925 762472 as soon as possible  
and no later than April 20th as we have to give one weeks  
notice of the numbers to the Hotel

*Thank you*

# President's Report

## ***David Bratt***

From my perspective 2011 was a year of mixed fortunes for the Society - a bit like the Curate's egg - good in parts but not universally so! Lets get the not so good stuff out of the way first. Our striving to hold the membership from declining below 1400 failed by a hundred or so, so now we have a new level to defend - and to grow from.

The illustrated lecture I give usually to around 10 varied interest groups a year yields around 50 new members but not so in 2011 where 6 lectures produced only 21 new members. It looks a glitch year as 2012 is already well back on track. Also in 2012 we plan to be back in the attendance at one day shows business - our sole effort in 2011 was at Stockport Carnival where an all day marathon under the influence of blaring fairground music and the pungent vapours of hot dogs and candy floss produced 10 brave new souls joining us. A hearty welcome to all new members!.

As we could not raise a new Chairman to replace Clarke at the AGM we embraced on a membership approved trial run of a new form of governance viz management by a board of 5 Trustees. Whilst the 5 themselves have worked very well together the initiative has not been universally acclaimed within the Society and there has been a period of distinctly not plain sailing however the clear signs are that the good ship PNFS has now moved into much calmer waters. The challenge for the whole Society this coming year is to agree on the best practical and available form of governance and to change the Constitution accordingly to reflect that.

The recent death of Adrian Littleton has dealt a grievous blow to his wife Gwynneth and his family and also to PNFS. Adrian, a man of many roles and latterly our Legal Adviser was a pillar of strength and reliability and I was honoured and proud to be asked by Gwynneth to give a tribute on behalf of the Society at the very well attended Celebration of his life at Styal Mill.

The decision of the Inspector at the Public Inquiry to grant the PNFS fought for and funded Bridestones missing link footpath is the highlight of our year and testimony to the endeavours of Adrian Littleton and Alan Soper and fully reported elsewhere.

The Longer walks programme that I organize has continued to attract attendees both new and regular. There are on average 15 participants - more welcome - and again I thank the band of leaders for their initiative and enthusiasm in producing such enjoyable walks—and also for finding suitable hostelries for sherbet and crisps afterwards.

Having proudly served in the front line management of the Society as Chairman and President these last 8 years I have decided not to stand for any Officer role at the forthcoming AGM but to gracefully retire to the backbenches. I will be very pleased to offer my services on an ongoing basis delivering the illustrated lectures and involvement in other membership raising initiatives, organizing the longer walks and a return to my first role in PNFS as an Inspector.

I thank each and everyone of you as members for your support over the years and all volunteers out in the field or at Taylor House for their commitment and industry in the noble, great and good cause of footpath protection.

I wish Clarke - who works passionately and phenomenally hard for the Society - and all the Trustees and Officers the very best that through their efforts the Society may go forth and flourish. Thank you all.

# ADRIAN LITTLETON 1930-2012

## ***PNFS Tribute to his life***

When the good Lord doled out surnames He showed at times a mischievous sense of humour. In Adrians case He inserted the word Little. Adrian was no way Little being Big in physical bulk, integrity, intellect and all-round personality. Truly he was Adrian Bigton!

Adrian mattered hugely to PNFS and PNFS was very dear to his heart. He served in a variety of roles, all with distinction, over nearly 2 decades. He was variously an Assessor, a Courts and Inquiries Officer, the Secretary, Inspector and latterly our Legal Adviser. You will note never Chairman or President - these front of house roles were not to Adrian's taste - he vastly preferred to be in support as a bedrock and the most recent 3 Chairmen ,Derek Seddon, myself and Clarke Rogerson can all testify that at times of a Chairman wobbling when under duress Adrian was there to insert the necessary steely resolve.

Of his attributes in meetings and other discussion groups June Mabon a long time colleague recalls *"Adrian never raised his voice or entered any confrontation. He just used gentle reasoned arguments to knock down conclusions others came to in haste. Humour was often employed to soften the much needed blow to someone's pride when chastisement was called for. I don't think he had any enemies - just admirers"*

Another long time colleague Keith Wykes recalls that Adrian was always very laid back and relaxed and in one Officers meeting fell well asleep but on having a direct question addressed to him by the Chairman immediately sprang into life and delivered the correct response.

Adrian was the architect and protector of our Constitution - he knew it had to be fit for purpose as whenever any bother surfaced the first question was *"what does it say in the Constitution"*. When I was very new in the Chairman role I had a chat with Adrian and said despite a number of re-readings I found parts of it obscure to which he replied *"Excellent - that's as it should be to help the management to manage - its way"!!*

At times changes were necessary to reflect changed operating circumstances and Adrian took ownership of the process by drafting the changes then seeking Officer approval with the odd mod here and there to take to the next AGM to put before the membership. Very occasionally he would adopt a certain technique at these gatherings to get the desired outcome - it was BTBIS - Bore the blighters into submission!. Via a slow monotone delivery in vague terms with a sprinkling of mumbling, bumbling and fumbling he sized up his audience and when he judged their feelings were *"how much longer will this go on"* and *"what do we have to do to get our lunch"* he knew the time was right for the vote - duly passed- nem con and down he would sit with a satisfied smile - Job done.

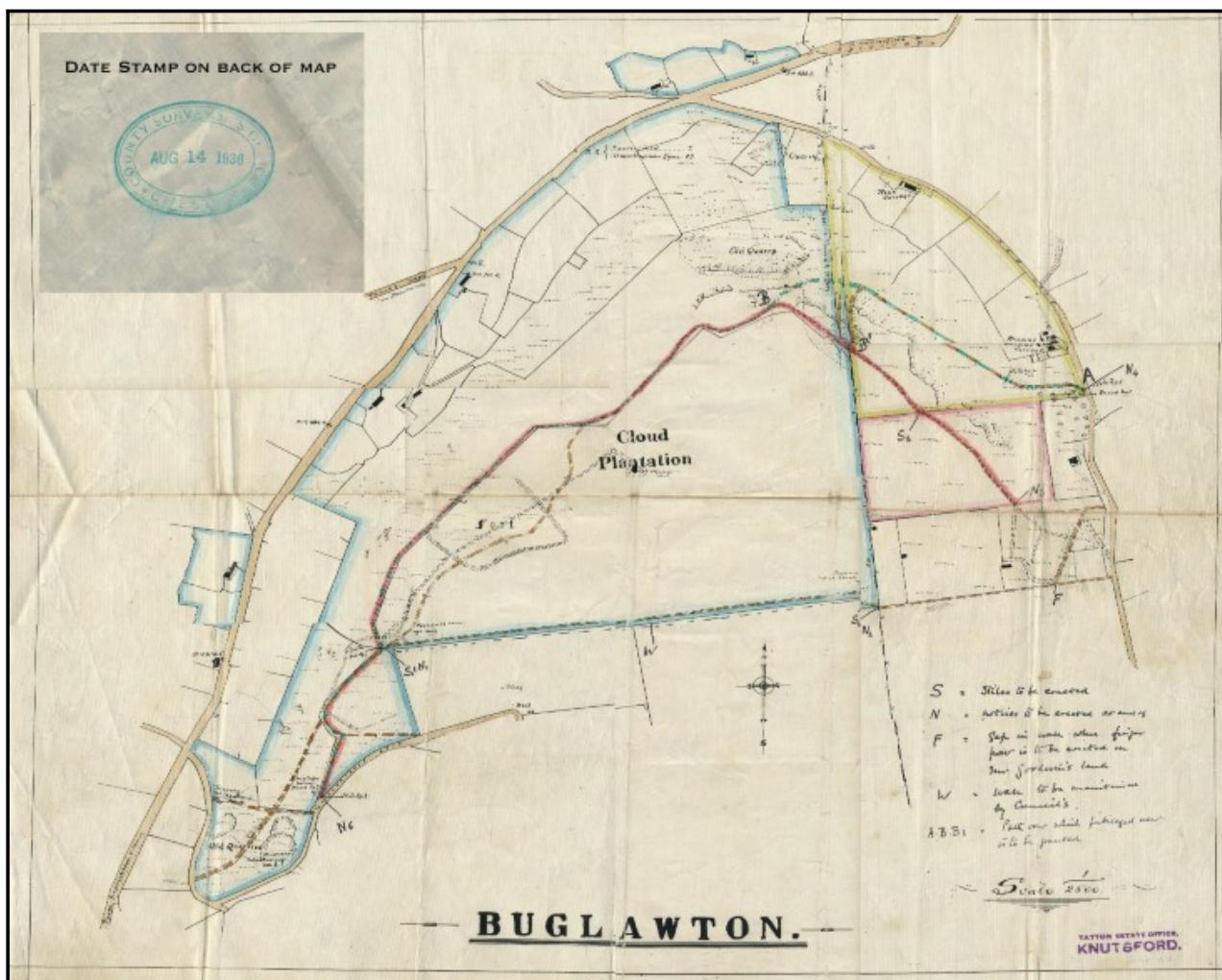
He was involved in his legal capacity in a number of contested footpath issues eg diversions and closures but two at Public Inquiry level stand out. At the outer reaches of our northern territory a new householder sought to prevent use of a long established quite short passageway. The locals were up in arms and sought our help. Adrian attended, was delighted to promote their cause and identified and prepared a raft of key witnesses many of a certain age. They gave their usage evidence with Adrian as their legal rep and withstood hostile cross examination. The cause was won, a public right of way declared and in appreciation the locals collected £500 for the Society and many joined us.

But his magnum opus was without doubt winning the Bridestones missing link. This long standing crusade was the inspiration of member Alan Soper but to move the project on needed money for legal representation at QC level (which PNFS exclusively provided) and a towering individual as interface between witnesses and the legal people making sure every last detail, statement and organizational arrangement was spot-on. That man was Adrian. Alan Soper was magnificent as star witness and using a circus analogy it was Alan up on the high-wire with the spotlight on him but down below in the shadows was Adrian - Ringmaster Supreme.

Alan Postill says of his colleague *"I always felt Adrian had a solidity and warmth that made him very likeable. In a way he represented what PNFS is all about - principles - working for the common good without expecting anything in return - and with a sense of history"*

So Adrian, no doubt now Courts and Inquiries Officer for Paradise West we Salute you - and hear you say in response *"Thanks for that, but no complacency down there. Keep fighting for footpaths - and if all else fails BTBIS."*

David Bratt



**Map of the Cloud used in the 1938 Agreement  
see page 18 for the full story.**

# Chairman's Report

## ***Clarke Rogerson***

I started last year's report by saying that Saturday 12th of March 2011 was a date that will be etched on my mind forever. I was referring to the Inspector's decision relating to the Bridestones path. We are still waiting to celebrate that decision as the order is yet to be confirmed. I am told this is due to a reduction in the number of Planning Inspectors, that plus, in the case of Bridestones the Inspector has decided that a further site visit is required. This is now programmed for May and hopefully we will be able to arrange a celebratory walk later in the year.

Having read David Bratt's tribute to Adrian Littleton you will know that any chance of walking this path would have been far less likely without his sterling efforts. You will also know that his efforts were consistent over nearly 20 years of serving the best interests of the Society. I think it would be fitting if the Society honoured Adrian's memory by some suitable memorial. For that reason I will be launching an appeal for funds at this year's AGM. I have it in mind that a bridge would be the most fitting memorial for a man who supported the Society the way Adrian did. It is too early to be specific and any appeal has to be handled carefully, so for now I will leave the idea open pending further discussion at the AGM.



Sadly, during the year we also lost Harold Thompson, our Inspector for Blackburn and Darwen, and Vernon Hill. Vernon was a long term member and supporter of the Society, perhaps best known to his many walking companions with our affiliate group Altrincham and District Rambling Club.

As you may know I stated my intention to step down as Chairman at this year's AGM. David's report mentions the difficulty we have had finding a person willing to take over my role. Much has happened since then, which I will detail in this report. The upshot is that I will be standing for re-election as Chairman for another year.

Shortly before he became ill, Adrian Littleton introduced a new volunteer, Peter Rothwell, who is proving to be a valuable addition to the team. After a few weeks and with apologies for the management speak, (his excuse being that he had only just retired), he described the Society to me as "*..... a loose federation of widely dispersed, independently minded, individuals who pursue a single set of objectives and who recognize and leverage the synergistic value of co-operation.*"

That just about sums us up, but for my own part I like to think of the running of the society as very much like that of a small business; one that needs to adapt and change as circumstances change. We need to ensure a healthy cash flow with more coming in than flowing out. We have always been a volunteer-led Society and I do not think we would wish that to change. Looking back to 2007 when I was elected to Vice Chair, we were in the position of having received a series of legacies which were masking a worrying, underlying trend which was a relentless march towards insolvency. Reversing that trend has been my main aim during the last four years.

We have moved subscriptions from £6 to £15 in two steps and some may question whether or not this was the right thing to do, especially given the dip in membership we have seen over the last two years. When I was still amongst the ranks of the employed, we had a saying - unprofitable business is not good business. Much the same can be said of our membership. Back in 2007 when

# Chairman's Report (continued)

subs were £6 we spent over £4.50 keeping members informed of our good work through the Newsletter and Annual report. That left just £1.50 from each member to do the real work we are here for. Now let's not forget that as part of the deal for increasing subscriptions we said we would reduce costs. We have left no stone unturned in an effort to reduce costs, utility bills have been cut, insurances reviewed, rationalisation of the number of publications we send out each year, etc. etc. At last year's AGM a proposal to reduce the cost of printing and posting those publications gained the full support of the membership. The proposal moved us in the direction of electronic communication, very apt in this modern age. For a number of reasons we are running a little behind schedule on the implementation of this proposal. However nearly 300 members no longer receive paper Newsletters or Annual Reports, saving us some £1500 per annum. We will be pushing hard to get as many members as possible onto electronic communication.

We introduced Direct Debits to reduce the cost of reminding and chasing members when subscriptions are due. It was not plain sailing; mistakes were made and some people paid twice (quickly corrected I hasten to add). I'm glad to say we have recently recruited Derek Slater who has first-hand experience in this area from his working days. I think we will see some vast improvements in the coming year, and we will be pushing for more people to join the scheme.

Recruitment and retention is a major issue; as fast as we get new members in, others are leaving. The reality is we need to do more, David Bratt does a tremendous job but cannot do it all on his own. David Williamson suggested we should be contacting all parish councils in our area with the aim of recruiting them as Affiliates. For a number of reasons this didn't happen during 2011, it will be happening in 2012.

During 2011 we became aware of an issue, in that the society had relied on a set of simple but largely unwritten rules laid down by our founding fathers. The review by our independent Examiner, mentioned at the Half Year Meeting, made it clear that these rules are no longer adequate for a modern society in a changing world. Some may question the value of that review but I feel that what we learnt makes it worth every penny of its cost. Liz Hudson highlighted shortcomings in our financial processes and procedures. Her report delivered 12 recommendations which the trustees fully endorse and, in addition to those recommendations, the trustees identified other areas of weakness. The need to implement these changes in short timescales is one of the main reasons I am standing for re-election.

David Bratt also referred to agreeing the best form of governance for the future. We had planned to bring finalized plans and a revised constitution to the AGM. Adrian's passing and other matters have conspired against us doing that. What I can say is that I have been speaking with all the officers individually and the Trustees held a review meeting, in February, with Officers and some other members to agree the way forward. The Officers are fully in support of the arrangement whereby the Trustees manage the Society with a few minor modifications and we will outline these plans at the AGM. Whilst we will be one Trustee short of the ideal of five, due to David standing down as President, we are developing plans to ensure that we get the best possible replacement for David's unquestionable talents.

2011 was a busy year during which a lot was achieved, none which would happen without the hard work of all our volunteers. The help and support I get from the office volunteers and Inspectors is just as important as that from the Officers and my fellow Trustees, I thank them all for their continued support. I am keen to complete the items on the current agenda and am sure that, if re-elected and with the continued help and support of all our volunteers that can be done during the coming year.

## ***Alistair Taylor***

### **Notes on Receipts & Payments 2011**

#### **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 surplus of receipts over payments of £10,656.



#### **Receipts**

Overall receipts for 2011 were £57,746 compared to £50,129 in 2010. This increase is largely accounted for by a temporary inflow of £28,434 in cash from investments that have matured and are awaiting reinvestment. Although donations for signposts at £4,448 are little changed from 2010, general donations and legacies are at £8,752 considerably down from the £24,386 received in 2010 which benefited from a bequest of £15,345.

Subscriptions received of £7,680 were considerably down on the £11,742 received in 2010. The reason for this drop in subscription receipts is the removal of the 5 and 10 year membership options. This had the effect both of inflating the comparison with previous years and the loss of income in 2011 on 5 and 10 year renewals. It is believed that this shortfall will correct itself over time. The remaining income sources remained roughly in line with those of 2010 with gift aid slightly up at £2,649 and miscellaneous income down at £793.

#### **Payments**

Total payments of £47,090 are considerably higher than £38,983 seen in 2010. This is largely due to a combination of increased spend on bridges and signposts which had been promised in previous years (£10,528 compared with £6,545 in 2010) and the high legal costs incurred in the Bridestone's campaign. Legal and Professional fees were £12,179 compared with £3,754 in 2010.

Printing costs of £5,388 are much reduced from the 2010 figure of £8,455 which suggests that more economic ways of working were starting to pay dividend.

Computer expenditure of £650 is considerably down on £1,436 in 2010.

Subscriptions and Donations of £524 were down on the 2010 figure of £2122 which included a single donation of £2,000 for signage to the 5 Weirs Walk. The £524 included the cost of legal training of £412.80.

Sundry costs of £686 were up from £150 in 2010. This reflects costs of setting up the Direct Debit system £574.

# 2011 Accounts



Charity name Peak and Northern Footpaths Society	No (if any) 212219
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>	
For the period from 01/01/2011	Period start date To 31/12/2011 Period end date

CC16a

## 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Legacies, bequests donations (General)	8,752			8,752	24,386
Donations (signposts)	-	4,448	-	4,448	4,323
Donations (Footbridges)	-		-	-	-
Gift aid Tax	2,649	-	-	2,649	2,221
Interest/ dividends	4,990	-	-	4,990	6,979
Subscriptions/ Affiliations	7,680	-	-	7,680	11,742
Miscellaneous	793	-	-	793	1,478
<b>Sub total (Gross income for A1)</b>	<b>24,864</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,312</b>	<b>50,129</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Inv Matured	28,434	-	-	28,434	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>28,434</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,434.00</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>53,298</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,746</b>	<b>50,129</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Taylor House Running costs	3,825	-	-	3,825	4,640
Signposts and Footbridges	-	10,528	-	10,528	6,545
Travel & Subsistence	5,388	-	-	5,388	4,768
Printing and Coping (Including Newsletter)	5,822	-	-	5,822	8,455
Postage/ Telephone/ Stationary	4,726	-	-	4,726	4,234
Computer & Software	650	-	-	650	1,436
Functions	1,458	-	-	1,458	1,389
Insurances	1,504	-	-	1,504	1,490
Subscriptions/ Donations	524	-	-	524	2,122
Legal/ Professional/ Secretarial	12,179	-	-	12,179	3,754
Sundries	686	-	-	686	150
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>36,562</b>	<b>10,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,090</b>	<b>38,983</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>36,562</b>	<b>10,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,090</b>	<b>38,983</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>16,736</b>	<b>-6,080</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,556</b>	<b>11,145</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>95,811</b>	<b>13,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>109,806</b>	<b>98,861</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>112,547</b>	<b>7,915</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,462</b>	<b>109,806</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment
		funds to nearest £	funds to nearest £	funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash investments	109,290	7,915	
	Bank & Petty cash	3,559	-	-
		-	-	-
		<b>112,849</b>	<b>7,915</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Unrestricted funds to nearest £		Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Unrestricted Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Government Stocks		-	43,103
	Loan Stock		-	24,905
	Equities		-	775
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Unrestricted Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Taylor House (Building)		60,153	-
	Computer Equipment		2,500	-
	Furniture fittings & Equipment		4,351	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	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	
		Alistair Taylor Clarke Rogerson	19/3/2012 18/03/2012	

# 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 2011.

### 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

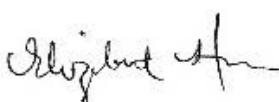
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2012

# PNFS People



**Top Row:** David Bratt, David Brown, Bill Buckley

**Middle Row:** Rhoda Barnett, John Harker, Terry Norris, Harry Scott

**Bottom Row:** Alan Hooley, Hilda Bowler, Dave Morton, Neil Collie

# Courts & Inquiries Reports

## ***Rhoda Barnett***

Another year of routine work, with no outstanding success or failures, just the usual day to day tasks of trying to get rights of way faults resolved and the Society's views on proposed changes heard and acted upon.

My fears about the effect of local authority budget cuts on Derbyshire County Council have not been realised; the Council appears to have maintained its spending on both projects and staff. The rights of way officer who covered a large part of the most well-walked areas of Derbyshire resigned at the end of the year, but we have been told that he will be replaced. Funding of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan priorities continued.

The County Council's Rights of Way Charter has been adopted; from our point of view it is far from perfect, and it is not yet fully implemented, but it does provide us with another weapon to seek to influence priorities and secure real improvements.

I have only had recourse to serving the County Council with one s130A and one s56 Highways Act 1980 notice for the removal of obstructions and repair of the path surface, and these appear to have had the necessary effect, although the jury is still out as the promised work has not yet been carried out. In other potential cases the Council has managed to convince me that problems are being tackled as resources permit.

Public path orders, mainly diversions, in the interests of landowners, continue to be made readily by all the councils in the Derbyshire area – I have responded to a total of 28 consultations in 2011. Provided that the public interest is safeguarded in accordance with the legislation, and the orders are technically correct, we cannot object to them, but we do seek improvements for walkers wherever possible. It continues to be disappointing that the needs of landowners can receive prompt attention, whereas problems with paths which affect walkers often have to wait many years. The County Council seems to be immune to correcting this disparity when challenged.

Planning applications for developments which could affect rights of way continue to be frequently made, and I do now seem to have persuaded all the planning authorities in my area to consult me routinely about these. Both applicants and council planning officers need frequent reminders that the effect of proposed development on rights of way is a material consideration in determining applications. Applications are a fruitful source of improvements to footpaths.

Terry Norris and I have been sharing the chairmanship of the Legal and Policy Committee and we are pleased that we are coming to grips with the production of policies to guide the basic work of the Society, as well as dealing with a myriad of legal issues. If anyone wishes to attend one of these meetings to see what we discuss, you would be very welcome.

Finally my thanks to John Harker for organising a very interesting and useful meeting of the Derbyshire Inspectors. I hope that we can use this as a basis to develop the activities of all Inspectors, who continue to be the bedrock of the Society.

# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

## ***John Harker***

2011 saw the successful outcome of a case in Derbyshire that had its origins more than four years earlier with an application to divert Brampton Footpath 29 near Chesterfield. We opposed it then, and continued to do so despite the applicant applying directly to the Secretary of State for a diversion order. For a fuller summary of the case go to 'Signpost' No.40 but it demonstrated how long-winded some cases can become, and how perseverance as much as legal knowledge is required to resolve a case.

Perseverance was certainly needed to resolve other Derbyshire problems last year. Wormhill Footpath 28 running between Dove Holes and Peak Dale was obstructed in four separate places by two separate landowners. In Dove Holes village itself, Chapel en le Frith Footpath 48 was an obstacle course. When cajoling failed, section 130A notices were authorised by the Legal & Policy Committee but the County Council finally acted to clear the obstructions before we needed to serve the notices. Other positive news concerns Killamarsh Footpath 5, a gem if you are an aficionado of obscure and overlooked rights of way, and Hayfield Footpath 36. Those of you who think you know Hayfield - I can guarantee you don't know Footpath 36. Long-forgotten and unwalkable, as the year ended a possible diversion may bring this footpath back from the dead.

Continuing with the perseverance theme, since early 2009 we have been assisting a local resident in Wessington N.E. Derbyshire to claim a footpath for the Definitive Map. The application was due to be considered by the relevant council committee as the year ended with the officer's recommendation being to refuse it. We pointed out serious flaws in the report, enough for the report to be withdrawn for further consideration of our legal submission. Even if the application is refused by councillors at their next meeting, we will assist the applicant with her appeal and are confident that the Secretary of State would direct the County Council to publish an Order.

Elsewhere in my sphere of operations, we seem to be on a collision course with Stockport MBC over a package of changes at Woodley Sports Club. One diversion and two extinctions are in the offing for Bredbury & Romiley Footpaths 112, 113 and 114 respectively. We think proposed development is driving this package, but a failure to provide any information is making our task of assessing the scheme harder than it needs to be. On a more positive note Bredbury & Romiley Footpath 91, (mentioned last year), is moving slowly towards some kind of dénouement. A new foot-bridge over Gigg Brook is on the cards and notice has been served on the landowner to remove a barbed-wire fence.

However, let me end on a positive note this year for a change. Within weeks walkers, horseriders and cyclists will be able to get from Killamarsh in N.E. Derbyshire to Halfway in Sheffield on a brand new public bridleway paid for by lottery funding. Two huge new multi-user bridges were lifted into place by giant cranes, one across the river Rother and the other across the Sheffield/Chesterfield railway line on the 5<sup>th</sup>. February this year (see our website for photos). Local people have campaigned for this scheme for over 30 years. What was I saying about the virtues of perseverance?

## ***Terry Norris***

Our work to protect public footpaths has been made more difficult by extensive cuts in Council services. As well as the large cuts in path maintenance, experienced staff familiar with local paths and rights of way law are losing their jobs. This has affected the processing of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders, i.e. claims to add paths to the Definitive Map on the basis of user and historic evidence. I have filed 5 such applications on behalf of the Society. None has yet

# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

been determined by the council concerned, despite two of the paths in question being obstructed. In Kirklees there are over 80 outstanding applications and a single officer to deal with them at the rate of about 6 p.a. This is not untypical.

A welcome increase in the number of Courts and Inquiries Officers – how did we ever manage with just one for the whole area covered by the Society? – has meant my losing responsibility for Cheshire and Lancashire. A welcome development which gives me more time to concentrate on areas closer to my home near Marsden in West Yorkshire. In particular I have been working the Society's Inspectors in Oldham and Tameside. In Oldham the Society joined with the RA and some local residents to oppose a number of Gating Orders in Chadderton which would have deprived walkers of the use of a number of ginnels, all definitive footpaths, providing access to the towpaths of the River Irk and the Rochdale Canal. With one exception these Orders have now been withdrawn and new procedures agreed which should result in greater involvement of the PROW officer in prior consultation about any further orders which would affect definitive paths.

The position in Tameside is less satisfactory. Whilst the Council has adopted an enforcement policy drawn up by the Society and the RA this has yet to lead to any very determined action on the ground. At the request of the PROW officer our inspector has drawn up a priority list of important paths which are either obstructed or out of repair. Despite this being accepted by the Council, progress is very limited. Authority has been given by the Legal and Policy Committee to serve legal notices on the Council with respect to the most important route, a Roman Road and sunken path from the centre of Mottram.

Also in Tameside I can record the quickest removal of an obstruction ever. The path was Longendale 50 blocked by a 'temporary' fence erected some years ago by United Utilities whilst pipes were being replaced. An amiable conversation with the landowner led to a promise of the matter being attended to. Some 10 minutes later he was observed to be hard at work demolishing the fence.

## ***Harry W Scott***

Looking back over the year at my roles as Courts and Inquiries Officer and Area Officer, which seem to merge into one job. I am satisfied that 2011 has been a successful year and that progress has been made in all aspects of my work for the Society. The most significant success of 2011 was the provision of a £25,000 bridge over the Church Eaton Brook on footpath 19 Bradley Parish Stafford Borough, after 17 years of campaigning.

Over the year I have submitted over a 100 footpath reports to Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Office. All have been acknowledged and a significant number have been resolved. Unfortunately some problems are still taking over a year to resolve, but it is fair to say this number is reducing as the years go by. It has not been necessary to serve any notices on the County Council as requests to move work up the priority list have been agreed and the work has been carried out. The following are a small sample of the footpaths opened this year, Alstonefield footpath 3, Blymhill bridleway 10, Brewood footpath 80, Bradley footpath 27, Grindon footpath 27 and Bradnop 40.

The number of planning applications which could affect footpaths has reduced by half this year, no doubt due to the current economic situation. A number of planning applications over the year would have directly affected public footpaths. One planning application in Abbots Bromley East Staffordshire if granted would have allowed a house to be built directly onto a footpath. Along with the Ramblers' Association we advised the planning authority that a footpath would have been built

# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

on and this application was turned down and is now subject to a public inquiry, but the footpath has now been protected. The quarry at Waterhouses Staffordshire Moorlands is to be extended, as are the smaller quarries in Horton and Kingsley Parishes, all these affect footpaths.

I received 20 diversion consultations from Staffordshire County Council and the District Councils; this is down on 2010, again most likely due to the current economic situation. Only one gave rise to an objection. Negotiations took place with a small number of diversion consultations resulting in our proposals being adopted. Staffordshire County Council proposed to divert a bridleway and a footpath at Coppenhall Parish Stafford Borough, but the diversions were unacceptable to the Society and I objected at the informal consultation stage. However during negotiations I was able to secure better diversions and the creation of a new footpath.

The impact of the budget cuts at Staffordshire County Council have not had a significant effect on the workings of the Rights of Way department, however this year one Rights of Way Officer retired and his work on orders was transferred to another department. More worryingly a very experienced Rights of Way Officer resigned and left the County Council. At the time of writing, Staffordshire County Council have informed me that the Rights of Way Officer will be replaced.

## ***Alan Hooley***

For yet another year the Assessment Team has remained unchanged. I acknowledge with thanks the work of the team and that of the inspectors for their prompt submission of their reports. A special word of thanks goes to those inspectors who have agreed to do 'off patch' inspections in a parish where we have no inspector.

Two troublesome issues this year have been procedural points, the first being temporary stopping up orders and the second statements of reasons, or the lack of them, for making orders. The latter issue is becoming a regular feature of my reports.

Temporary stopping up orders are made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and there is no obligation on an authority to notify the Society when they make such an order, although many do. One council made such an order, without consulting anybody, to close a well-used path for six months whilst the path was being reconstructed. When the path was obstructed without adequate warning, several local residents approached me in the expectation that the Society would know the background. We did not, and it took me some time to extract from the council the information the residents were seeking. We shall write to all authorities asking them to notify the Society, as a matter of good practice, when they close temporarily any definitive path or way. We like to feel that we are always up to date, and to be perceived not to be so does nothing for our reputation, even when the failure is not our fault.

The council mentioned in the previous paragraph at about the same time made a diversion order, with a related extinguishment order, in a different part of their area. The proposals were complicated and raised some unanswered questions. When we asked for a statement of reasons to answer those questions the response was that the regulations did not require the council to issue such a statement unless and until an objection was lodged. The advice issued by DEFRA, that a full explanation of the reasoning behind the making of an order should be issued at consultation stage, was ignored. An objection was duly lodged, thus requiring more time effort and expense for everyone concerned. Fortunately this approach is rare amongst order making authorities. These few councils seem to regard the Society as an obstacle to be overcome, rather than a constructive body with a fund of expertise that can be placed at the disposal of anyone who wishes to benefit from it.

# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

A third procedural point that has arisen, although not really troublesome, is the Society's address for service. The Public Path Orders Regulations 1993 name the Society as a statutory consultee for proposed changes to the network within our area. As the Regulations do not specify an address for service the Society must inform every order making authority of the address at which it will accept service of legal process. Where there is an Area Officer in post that address is the home address of the Area Officer. Elsewhere it is Taylor House. In recent years some OMAs have adopted the practice of writing to the local inspector direct, not only at consultation stage but when the order is made. At Taylor House we have no objection to this because it shortens the lines of communication. However it is important that everything going to inspectors goes to Taylor House as well. Recently appointed members of staff at local authorities may not be aware of the Society's requirements for service of documents and may assume that service on the local inspector is good service. The reason we insist on service at Taylor House is that if an inspector is away from home for a period of time the envelope may be lying behind his or her door until the objection period has expired. The last thing we want is to lose our right to argue an objection on good grounds because we are out of time. It is therefore opportune to remind OMAs of our requirement for service of documents, and this we shall do.

Having got that lot off my chest I will leave you with the statistics for 2011 (2010 figures in brackets);

Received at Taylor House: 290 orders of all types (315), 355 pre-order consultations (461) 146 allegating orders (332), 250 other matters (268). We lodged 12 objections (5).

## **Two Cheshire landmarks now linked by public footpath a historic victory for the Society.**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 a public inquiry opened in Congleton Town Hall. This was to adjudicate on the Society's claim that a public footpath existed along the Cheshire / Staffordshire Border to join the gap between the definitive paths south from the Cloud and north from the Bridestones. The former being the site of a Bronze Age fort now in the ownership of the National Trust and the latter, a megalithic Chambered Tomb. Over the next three days the Inspector was to hear our case based on historic records including maps and correspondence from the 1930s to the late 60's, nineteenth century tourist guides, witnesses' oral testimony and written statements from those who have since died. Our case was presented by counsel, Giles Cannock. Landowners opposing the application were also legally represented.

For the Society this was the continuation of unfinished business which started in 1938, when Lord Edgerton and Mr Goodwin, as landowners, signed an agreement with the Society and Cheshire and Staffordshire County Councils, as highway authorities recognising specified paths on the Cloud as public highways. Under the agreement claims to any other paths on this land were abandoned. The agreement was accompanied by a map showing the agreed routes. A brown line on land outside the scope of the agreement indicated, what the Inspector found to be the start of a route to the South, towards the Bridestones. This became part of Rushton Spencer 50 when the definitive map was produced some years later. The agreement was silent on the remainder of the route because it crossed land not belonging to the parties to the agreement. In the 1950's and 60's when the definitive maps for Staffordshire and Cheshire were being produced the Society sought to include the missing link path but to no avail. The best that was achieved was an undertaking by Cheshire

# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

County Council to correct the error at the first review of the definitive map. This never took place. In 1994 the right of the public to use the link path was brought into question by a sign erected by the landowner stating there was no footpath beyond the southern end of Rushton Spencer 50.

The claim for legal status for the link path was based on two arguments. Firstly that the route had been enjoyed by the public as of right without interruption for a period of not less than 20 years. The alternative argument was that a highway had been created at common law by the dedication of the owner with its acceptance and use by the public. The first argument failed as the evidence of use of the path by the public before 1994 was not sufficient to demonstrate that there had been use for the full 20 years period required by the Highways Act 1980. In particular the extent of public use after 1990 was insufficient to bring home to a reasonable landowner that a public right of way was being asserted.

Fortunately the claim based on common law was accepted by the Inspector. The 1938 agreement was held to indicate the reputation of a footpath to the Bridestones. This evidence was supplemented by first hand evidence of persons living at Bridestones Farm. Miss Peggy Rodger, interviewed at the age of 94, recalled that people used to go to the Cloud through the farmyard. Paul Naden, whose family owned the Bridestones between 1944 and 1969 and lived at the farm from age 8 to 20, recalled that during this time walkers would pass through the farmyard and if lost would be directed towards the Cloud. He also occasionally used the claimed route to reach the Cloud where he would picnic with his nanny. Other witnesses gave evidence of their personal use of the route including Elaine Swetnam who recalled using the path when camping with the Guides. Others gave evidence of use of the route by ramblers' groups. The combination of this evidence of public use and acquiescence of the owners of the Bridestones over at least a 40 year period satisfied the inspector that dedication at common law could be implied.

That this claim was brought to a successful conclusion is the result of the herculean efforts of two remarkable men, Alan Soper and the late Adrian Littleton. Alan as Congleton RA footpath secretary diligently researched the evidence, made the initial application to the Cheshire Council and successfully took it to appeal to DEFRA when the Council refused to make an Order recognising the path. Adrian, for many years the Society's legal adviser, spent many hours putting the evidence in order to provide the basis for instruction of counsel.

Despite the Society's case being successful, the costs of our legal representation have been met by the Society. This is normal practice in this type of case. The Trustees saw this cause as a singularly appropriate use of our legal fund and were very pleased to step in and support Alan Soper, when the RA declined to become involved financially.

Following the Inspector's finding in our favour, the Goodfellows, the current owners of the Bridestones suggested a diversion of Rushton Spencer 51 and the southern end of the link path. This will take the path thorough a pleasant wooded area and across a field providing wonderful views across the Cheshire Plain. This is a hugh improvement over the existing route along a muddy lane, thorough a concrete pipe and across a well used stock yard. The Society has given the diversion its enthusiastic support. The proposal has not attracted any opposition so should be in place in the near future. The Society intends to hold a celebration walk later in the year.

T.Norris

# Faults, Inspectors & Signpost Reports

## ***Hilda Bowler***

### **Footpath Faults and Inspectors**

During 2011 768 new faults were reported, and 411 previously reported faults were again reported during this year. The majority of reported faults, (almost half) were obstructions of some kind, with footpath signage and damaged stiles each accounting for about one-fifth of the total.

Of the faults first reported in 2011, we have 101 being cleared, and during the year a total of 789 faults were cleared - very encouraging! However, we do still have a lot of outstanding faults and I would like to thank those Inspectors who responded so promptly to our request for outstanding faults to be checked.

Sue Clarke and Andrew Harter have continued to work on the database, and Brian Summerscales continues to prove invaluable for looking up footpath numbers. My thanks to them all, without them I would be really struggling!

Thank you also to all our Inspectors for their hard work for the Society, and for the clear reports which are sent or copied to Taylor House. The Inspector's role is a vital one for us and their work is much appreciated. We currently have 79 Inspectors and 5 Area Officers, but more would be very welcome! Please contact Taylor House if you feel you can help.

## ***Dave Morton***

### **Signpost Report**

As in 2010, no new signposts were funded by the society, but members' donations again enabled us to erect a respectable number. The maintenance budget enabled me to refurbish three old signposts :

**SP26** at Hathersage, dating from 1912 and a Rowland Mower design – the help of a passing fisherman in carrying it to my car was enlisted and its "theft" was almost instantly reported to me at Taylor House.

**SP92** at Hope, dated 1938, which Bill Buckley, Jim Rattray and other members of my walking group also straightened up, using brute force, a rope and wedges, before our walk began (see photo).

**SP124** at Rushup Edge, dated 1958, which had lost an arrow and one or two letters to the weather.

The old signpost 37, south of Hope Church, dated 1909 and by R Mower, was also straightened, using wedges and the help of a large passer-by, who leaned on it at the crucial moment.

102 at Coppice Farm, near Lyme Park gates, which had recently replaced a tubular post-style sign, was accidentally broken by a 4 x 4 clattering into it. It has been repositioned in a safer place.

My favourite refurbished signpost is Fingerpost 8 at Blackshaw Farm, north of Lantern Pike. It appears in all its pristine glory on the back cover of 'Signpost 40'. It was made, supplied and erected at no cost to PNFS by the **Peak Park** in the persons of Pam Pickering and Kevin Thompson, using the old fingerpost as a template, but reinstating its sixth finger, which had been sawn off!

Our thanks are again due to Ted Wolfe and John Hodgson for their often arduous work in all weathers, plus Sue Clarke, Keith Wykes, David Bratt, Michael Granger and especially Margaret

# Signpost & Bridge Reports

Buckley, who has begun helping to repaint signs in situ – take a look at SP247 at the top of William Clough when it gets warmer. My apologies to any other helpers whose names I have forgotten.

15 new signposts have been added in 2011, giving a total of **336**. This compares with 15, 31 and 16 over the preceding three years. We've extended their spread to Mixon in Staffordshire Moorlands and I hope to spread our presence further in 2012. **If you wish to make an enquiry, or help by making a donation, or help by cleaning a signpost, phone me on 0161 283 7824.**

## New signposts erected in 2011 :

335x	Summertrees Café, Delamere	Relocated by D.Bratt
383	Wright's Farm, Kettleshulme	In memory of Jim Guy
396	Little Padfield Farm	Donated
397	Padfield Cemetery	In memory of Jim Brown(LGFPs)
398	Longstone Edge	In memory of Pat Hancocks
399	Cock Knowle Farm, Hr Disley	Donated by Martin and Margaret Wright
400	Rocher Head, Bradfield	Donated
401	" " "	Donated
402	Damflask Dam, "	In memory of Paul from Jude
403	Vincent House, Hartington	In memory of Lilian McManus (RA)
404	" " "	In memory of Ronnie McLoughlin (RA)
405	Mixon, Onecote	Donated
406	" " "	In memory of Bryan Luckham
407	" " "	Donated
408	Yorkshire Bridge, Bamford	In memory of Allan and Yvonne Stringward

## ***Neil Collie***

### **Footbridge Report**

This has been a year of 'consolidation'. There have been no completed projects, although there are a number of interesting prospects. We remain hopeful that the project on National Trust land at the Longshaw Estate near Grindleford will move forward, Derbyshire County Council have promised to take the lead. We have offered funding from the Ward legacy to replace a very narrow footbridge and extensive improvements are required to the adjacent footpath so that it is accessible for less mobile visitors.

We have also had discussions with Bolton Council about improvements to a footpath near the popular Jumbles Reservoir and with Derbyshire County Council about footpath improvements in Chinley.

# Membership Secretary's Report

## ***Bill Buckley***

In 2011 three major changes were made to the membership scheme and I'd like firstly to record my thanks to Reg Boot, our previous Membership Secretary, for guiding me through these changes and continuing to provide help whenever the need has arisen. Reg is proving to be a hard act to follow.

A Direct Debit option has been introduced, and as a consequence all 5 & 10 year memberships are now being phased out as they expire. To complicate matters somewhat, an increase in subscriptions was also agreed at the 2011 AGM in May.

The table below showing membership trends follows the same format as previous to allow comparison with previous years. Total membership is down by approximately 10%, but the overall figure masks significant differences between the different categories. For example, as would now be expected, the 5 & 10 year numbers show the highest fall, but the overall individual 1 year total remained almost the same. By December 2011 some 10% of the total membership count were actually new members recruited during the year, but against that about 18% of the existing membership failed to renew.

Our two main aims must therefore be both recruitment & retention of members. In this respect, I'm struck by a paragraph in David Bratt's Chairman's Report in 2005:

“.....The membership figure is the definitive yardstick of the Society's progress as it directly reflects how we are perceived in what our PNFS is trying to accomplish and how well it is performing in the overarching reason for its existence-the robust defence of our precious footpath heritage.....”

In 2011 both Clarke Rogerson and David Bratt have once again put in considerable time & effort to recruit new members through talks to local societies and by attending shows & festivals. Last year Reg did question whether this source of new members may be becoming exhausted, (although recent experience would suggest otherwise). The retention of members is more difficult. Financial problems, age profile and relocation out of area are all known reasons for non-renewal, but are we are doing enough to convince all our existing members we are “batting for them” every day of the week and making them feel it's a cause worth their continued support?

<b>Members</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Annual	754	747	834	739	674
Ten Year	300	302	299	292	266
Five Year	350	351	378	351	275
Honorary Life	17	17	22	32	33
Junior	5	2	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1426</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>1274</b>
Affiliates	81	79	87	84	75

## Honorary Members

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

## Affiliated Society

Abbotsfield Fellwalkers of Flixton	Manchester Associates Rambling Club
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society	Manchester & District Retired Teachers Association.
Altrincham & District Rambling Club	Manchester Field Club
Anchor Ramblers	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	Northenden Walkers
Buxton Rambling Club	Northwestern Naturalists Union
CAE - Rambling Club	Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club
CHA Manchester Rambling Club	Poynton Rambling Club
CHA Mansfield	Probus Club of Newton-le-Wilows WG
CHA Nottingham 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	RA Manchester & High Peak Area
Club AZ Walkers	RA New Mills & District
Congleton Ramblers and P**! Artists	RA North & Mid Cheshire
Crescent Ramblers Northwich	RA Nottinghamshire Area
Denby Dale Parish Walking Group	RA Oldham Group
Derby Nomad Ramblers	RA South Yorks & NE Derbyshire Area
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society	Rochdale CHA Rambling Club
Derbyshire Pennine Club	Rock and Heather Club
Disley Footpaths Society	Romiley Ladies Group
Eccles Rambling and Social Club	Rucksack Club
Eyam Village Society	Sale U3A Walking Club
Friends of Springfield Park	Sheffield Clarion Ramblers
Hanliensian Rambling Club	Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club
Hasland Walking for Health	Sheffield U3A Walking Group 'A'
Heatons Reddish U3A	Shirland & Higham Parish Council
HF Bolton Group	Stockport & District Federation of TWGs
HF Bury Group	Stockport East Area Bridleways Association
HF Nottingham Group	Stockport Field Club
HF Warrington Rambling Club	Stockport Rambling & Social Club
High Peak Hikers	Stockport Walkers
Holymoorside & Walton P C	Sutton-in-Ashfield Rambling Club
Hunshelf Parish Council	The Good Companions Rambling Club
Ladybrook Valley District Scout Club	The Scramblers Rambling Club
Leek & District FP Preservation & Rambling Group	The Strollers
Littleborough Civic Trust	Trafford Walkers
Longdendale & Glossopdale FP Preservation Society	Warrington U3A Walking Group
Macclesfield & District Field Club	West Lancashire Footpath Group
Macclesfield Rambling Club	

## 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.

# Constitution Reg Charity No. 212219

- 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) Household membership is available to two or more people living at the same address. A maximum of two Household members will be entitled to full voting rights at GMs.
- 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.

