

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

HELPING WALKERS & PROTECTING FOOTPATHS

Since 1894



Success for PNFS
Congleton 82
added to definitive map

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

2012

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Annual Report 2012

Officers etc at Taylor House	2
Chairman's Report	4
Vice Chairman's Report	6
Treasurer's Report	7
Accounts 2012	8
Independent Examiner's Report	10
PNFS People	11
Courts & Inquiries Reports	12
Consultations & Orders Report	16
Special Report	18
Signpost Officer's Report	20
Faults & Inspectors Reports	21
Bridge Projects	21
Membership Secretary's Report	22
Area Officers/Inspectors/Agents Areas	24
Constitution	29

Registered Charity No. 212219

Front Cover - The Ancient Burial Chamber (Bridestones) near the start of Congleton 82.

Back Cover - Neil Collie inspecting the new bridges and boardwalks on Turton Bradshaw FP9, near Jumbles reservoir.

We are very grateful for the continuing support of our advertisers and request that you patronise them whenever possible.

Printing: Lymetrees 0161 480 5232
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Officers and other Taylor House Volunteers (as at 31st December 2012)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Andrew Bennet

David Bratt

Norman Edwards

Gilly Gostick

Sir John Johnson

Eric Kime

(RIP 1st March 2013)

Gwynneth Littleton

Derek Seddon

CHAIRMAN

Clarke Rogerson

42 Southgate

Flixton

Manchester M41 9EG

0161 749 8412

clarke.rogerson@googlemail.com

VICE CHAIR

John Broadbent

19 Flaggwood Avenue

Marple

SK6 6HP

0161 449 7251

johnbroadbent@ntlworld.com

TREASURER

Alistair Taylor

18 Bredbury Green

Romiley

Stockport

SK6 3DN

0161 430 3356

TRUSTEES

Rhoda Barnett

Terry Norris

Clarke Rogerson

Alistair Taylor

COURTS AND

INQUIRIES OFFICERS

Rhoda Barnett (Derbyshire)

John Harker (Eastern)

Colin Miller (Cheshire E & W)

Terry Norris (Western)

Harry Scott (Staffs)

MEMBERSHIP

SECRETARY

Bill Buckley

c/o Taylor House

SIGNPOST OFFICER

David Morton

21 Grange Avenue

Cheadle Hulme

Stockport

SK8 5EN

0161 283 7824

davidcmorton@ntlworld.com

OTHER SIGNPOST

PERSONNEL

Ted Wolfe

FOOTPATH FAULTS

OFFICER

Hilda Bowler

CONSULTATIONS AND ORDERS MANAGER

Alan Hooley

29 Buxton Lane

Marple

Stockport SK6 4EN

0161 427 4772

ASSESSORS

Brian Hamilton

John Grimsey

Wally Smith

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Mike Barnes

Suzanne Clarke

Peter Goulden

Andrew Harter

Jerzy Matuszewski

Brian Summerscales

HONORARY EXAMINER

Liz Hudson

PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 212219

Taylor House, 23 Turncroft Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4AB. 0161 480 3565

Email: mail@peakandnorthern.org.uk website: www.peakandnorthern.org.uk

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION
TO THE EGM & AGM OF THE PNFS

Sat April 27th
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 EGM COMMENCES

11.30 AGM COMMENCES

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

14:00 AGM CONTINUES

14:30 OPEN FORUM

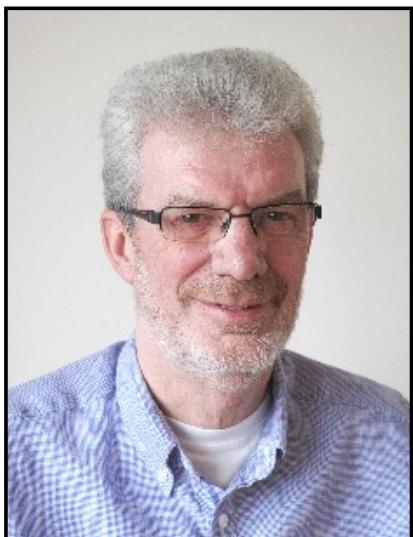
15:30 MEETING CLOSES

To reserve your place at the AGM kindly inform
John Broadbent johnbroadbent@ntlworld.com or
Phone 0161 449 7251 as soon as possible
and no later than April 19th as we have to give one weeks
notice of the numbers to the Hotel

Thank you

Chairman's Report

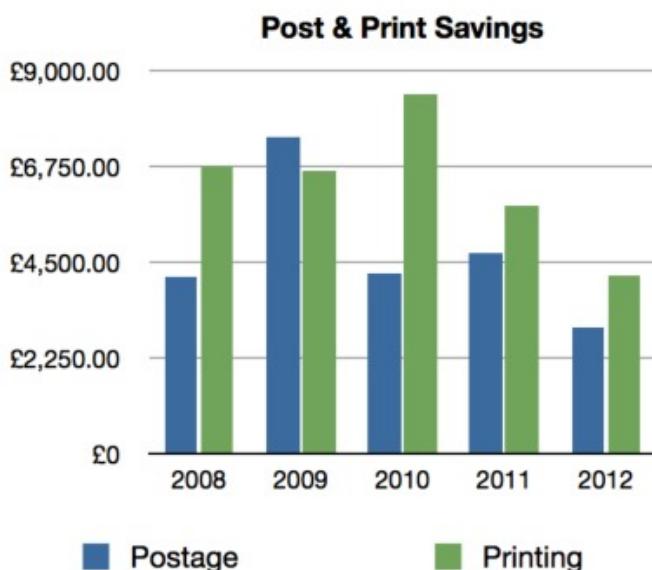
Clarke Rogerson



According to press reports charities are in crisis with one in six fearing they may be forced to fold in the coming year! Fortunately Peak and Northern is bucking the trend, thanks to the continued support of our members, the hard work of all our volunteers and the dedication of the management team.

At the 2009 Half Year Meeting I presented a financial forecast which suggested that by the end of 2012 we would have exhausted our cash reserves and started to bite into our investments. At the same meeting you, our members, endorsed a plan put forward by the management team aimed at reversing that trend. As you will see, in this year's accounts, that plan has been successful not only do we still have healthy reserves we also produced a modest surplus in 2012.

The graph, below, shows how postage and printing costs were escalating. Given that since 2008 postage rates have almost doubled the savings are all the more remarkable. The savings have been achieved by a combination of reducing the size of the Annual Report, the frequency of our newsletter and the introduction of the option to receive communications electronically. I know some of you would like to see more newsletters, but I hope you will agree what they lack in quantity they more than make up for in quality and content.



Whilst it is not immediately obvious from this year's accounts Signpost funding deserves a mention. Since the start of 2010 all new signposts have been funded directly by donations. During that time Dave Morton and the signpost team have installed 60 new signs, which is no mean feat. Perhaps more impressive is that fact that Dave has managed to contain costs by persuading 'Rangers' to erect the posts at no cost to the society.

Of course all of the above would count for nothing if we did not meet our charitable objective of preserving rights of way. As you will see from the reports from Hilda Bowler, Alan Hooley and our Courts and Inquiries team there has been plenty of activity in this area.

The most notable event of the year was undoubtedly the confirmation of the order to add Congleton 82 to the definitive map making it possible to walk from the Bridestones Ancient Monument to the Cloud overlooking Bosley. The extract from a letter I received from John and Helen Read says it all:

My wife Helen and I had an excellent short day out from Timbersbrook near Congleton on New Year's Day. We Decided to explore the Bridestones path and were delighted to find it fully useable, despite the weird and questionably 'wonderful' tunnel at the south end entering the farm yard! It is such an excellent way to approach the Cloud with far-reaching views all the way along the ridge. The new gates and ladder stile really help as well. So many thanks for all the hard work put in by the society over so many years to ensure that this important route finally secured.

David Bratt will be leading a celebratory walk of Congleton 82, details can be found in the current Walk Programme. Both the long and short walk programmes continue to be well attended, thanks to all the leaders who contributed to the walk programme in 2012.

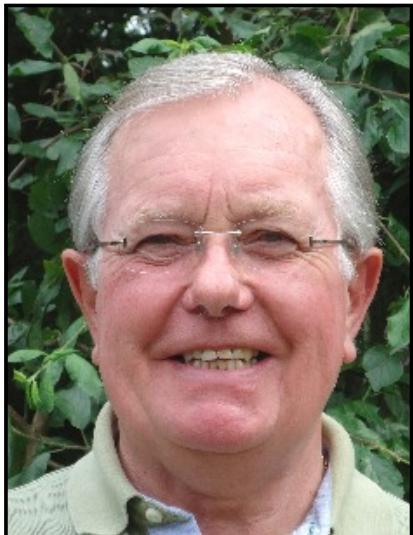
Whilst we may have secured Congleton 82 the same cannot be said of Silverdale 14, at least not yet. The late Mike Dearden (Inspector for the area) identified a problem on a short stretch of this wonderful costal path. His efforts resulted in a claim for a Definitive Map Modification Order by the society. Our claim had the full support of the Rights of Way Team at Lancashire CC who recommended that an order should be made. Rather perversely their recommendation was rejected by the Regulatory Committee. For the full story read 'We Fight On'..... In a Special Report on page 17.

Sadly I have to report the deaths of Jeff Errington, Vernon Hill and Hilda Mayall during the year and the death of Vice President Eric Kime on 1st March 2013.

After five years as chairman it is time for me to stand down. Fortunately we have a very able replacement in John Broadbent. It has been pleasure working with John over the last 12 months, not only has he been shadowing me, he has been very busy recruiting new members and Inspectors. On top of that he has taken the lead role to bring a fully revised constitution together for your consideration. I cannot stress enough how important it is that we adopt the revised constitution, it will enable John to focus all his attention on the things that really matter i.e. footpath issues and growing our membership. The EGM/AGM in April will be your opportunity to vote for the revised constitution and John as your new chairman. I hope you will join me by giving John your full support.

Finally I'd like to thank all our volunteers at Taylor House, our Inspectors in the field and the management team for all their support during my time as chairman. I'd like to make special mention of Hilda Bowler, Harry Scott and Colin Miller who are not seeking re-election at the AGM but who will all continue to offer their invaluable services in support of the good work of the society.

Vice Chairman's Report



John Broadbent

During last year I have been "shadowing" Clarke and others, in order to try and get an understanding of what makes PNFS tick. I know I still have a long way to go but do feel that I have made substantial progress. I am particularly encouraged by the positive support I am receiving from all the Officers, Trustees, Taylor House Volunteers and other Members I have met and consequently I am feeling extremely confident about the future of our tremendous society.

I have also been actively involved in other areas; learning from David Bratt how to successfully deliver the society's illustrated lecture to interested groups whilst at the same time recruiting new members. Representing PNFS at Country shows. Recruiting 5 new Inspectors and approximately 35 new members.

Since the Half Year Meeting in November I have been very much active in the development of a new Constitution. The general feeling of members at the HYM was that there was the need for a new Constitution particularly as our current constitution does not meet the requirement of the Charity Commission i.e. that "The Charity shall be managed and administered by the Trustees". Our current constitution gives authority to the Officers to manage rather than the Trustees, even though it is the Trustees who carry the responsibility.

The new Constitution has the 100% approval of the Officers, Trustees and Taylor House volunteers, including Vice President David Bratt. It is based on the Charity Commission model, modified slightly, in order to meet PNFS requirements and this is the Constitution we will be presenting to you for your approval at the EGM on April 27th. There has been a great deal of effort by a number of people, but I would like to make special mention of David Williamson for his input.

Like Clarke I feel it is imperative that the new constitution is adopted, so that all our effort can be focused on Footpaths and what I believe is our core purpose ie. Keeping Footpaths Open.

If appointed Chairman my aims will include:-

Chairing the Management Team to achieve full participation and effective decision making.

- Recruit, train and develop more footpath Inspectors
- Grow membership numbers.
- Increase signpost numbers in areas further afield.
- Understand the skills and competencies we have within PNFS and how they might be matched with the Society's requirements.
- Identify any additional resources we need and how to obtain them.
- Develop PR/Media activity to broadcast our achievements.

Quite a list which will require a lot of help and support from you, our members.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on April 27th, Britannia Hotel, Stockport.

Alistair Taylor

Notes on Receipts & Payments 2012

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.

Although the accounts show a large payments surplus of £37,842 this can be explained by the £38,490 purchase of assets for investment by Charles Stanley on our behalf. After making an adjustment for this transaction the result for 2012 is in fact a surplus of receipts of £648. This is good news and suggests that recent efforts to improve the financial position of the society are starting to take effect.



Receipts

Overall receipts for 2012 were £31,317 compared to £57,746 in 2011. This decrease is accounted for by a temporary inflow of £28,434 in cash during 2011 from investments that had matured and were awaiting reinvestment. This action has now taken place and is mentioned above.

Donations for signposts of £3,184 are down on the £4,448 received in 2011 as are general donations and legacies of £6,843 compared with the £8,752 received in 2011. This is despite a generous legacy of £1000 received from the estate of R.A.Redfern during 2012.

Subscriptions received of £13,530 are considerably better than the £7,680 received in 2011. The reason for this increase is largely due to the increase in subscription rates which came into effect during 2012. This increase was anticipated in last year's commentary.

Gift aid receipts for 2012 were disappointing at £1,188 compared to £2,649 in 2011. This reduction is as a result of the lower subscription receipts in 2011. The move to direct debits also created a number of technical challenges in calculating the amount of gift aid that could be claimed. Work is already underway to improve our technical ability in this area.

Investment income of £6,444 is substantially up on the £4,990 received in 2011.

Payments

Total payments of £30,669 are considerably lower than the £47,090 spent in 2011. This is largely due to the exceptional nature of the previous year's expenditure which included the legal costs incurred in the Bridestone's campaign.

Efforts to run the society in a more economic manner are starting to be successful. For example, postage costs at £2,984 were considerably less than the £4,726 recorded in 2011. Also printing costs of £4,180 were much reduced compared with the £5,822 previously reported.

Taylor House running costs at £5,334 included the purchase of a new central heating boiler costing £1,550 which explains the increase from last year's figure of £3,625.

Signpost expenditure of £6076 is considerably higher than donations received of £3184. This can be explained by funds that were donated in 2011 but the corresponding signpost not being erected and paid for until 2012.

2012 Accounts



Charity Name
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society
No (if any)
212219

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2012	To	Period end date 31/12/2012
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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 £
A1 Receipts					
Legacies, bequests donations (General)	6,843		-	6,843	8,752
Donations (signposts)	-	3,184	-	3,184	4,448
Donations (Footbridges)	-		-	-	-
Gift aid Tax	1,188	-	-	1,188	2,649
Interest/ dividends	6,444	-	-	6,444	4,990
Subscriptions/ Affiliations	13,530	-	-	13,530	7,680
Miscellaneous	128	-	-	128	793
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	28,133	3,184	-	31,317	29,312
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Inv Matured		-	-	-	28,434
Sub total	-	-	-	-	28,434
Total receipts	28,133	3,184	-	31,317	57,746
A3 Payments					
Taylor House Running costs	5,334		-	5,334	3,625
Signposts and Footbridges	-	6,076	-	6,076	10,528
Travel & Subsistence	5,575	-	-	5,575	5,388
Printing and Coping (Including Newsletter)	4,180	-	-	4,180	5,822
Postage/ Telephone/ Stationery	2,984	-	-	2,984	4,726
Computer & Software	659	-	-	659	650
Functions	1,669	-	-	1,669	1,458
Insurances	1,517	-	-	1,517	1,504
Subscriptions/ Donations	262	-	-	262	524
Legal/ Professional/ Secretarial	2,267	-	-	2,267	12,179
Sundries	145	-	-	145	686
Sub total	24,593	6,076	-	30,669	47,090
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	38,490	-	-	38,490	-
Sub total	38,490	-	-	38,489.98	-
Total payments	63,083	6,076	-	69,159	47,090
Net of receipts/(payments)	-34,950	-2,892	-	-37,842	10,656
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	112,547	7,915	-	120,462	109,806
Cash funds this year end	77,597	5,023	-	82,620	120,462

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Cash investments	73,179	5,023	
	Bank & Petty cash	4,418	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	77,597	5,023	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Government Stocks		-	42,276
	Loan Stock		-	73,330
	Equities		-	1,155
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Taylor House (Building)		60,153	-
	Computer Equipment		2,500	-
	Furniture fittings & Equipment		4,351	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	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	4/3/2013
		4/3/2013

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 2012, which are set out on form CC16a.

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 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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
9th February 2013

PNFS People



Top Row: Rhoda Barnett, John Harker, Terry Norris, Harry Scott

Middle Row: Alan Hooley, Hilda Bowler, Dave Morton

Bottom Row: Neil Collie, Bill Buckley

Courts & Inquiries Reports

Rhoda Barnett

Another busy year in my role as both Courts and Inquiries Officer and Area Officer in Derbyshire. I have dealt with consultations on 50 planning applications for developments which affected public rights of way, 22 proposals for diversions or extinguishments of paths, 16 proposed modification orders seeking to legally recognise existing rights of way, and nearly 30 significant faults on paths reported by Inspectors, or found by myself in areas not covered by Inspectors, and about which the County Council has been slow to act. I have also attended regular meetings of the National Trust Peak District Kinder and High Peak Advisory Committee to help safeguard access for walkers to these moorland areas, and worked with John Harker to encourage the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council to take measures to protect walkers on vulnerable routes used by motor vehicles.

John and I have also spent time trying to ensure that the County Council follows government guidance and best practice with respect to the technical points made in both public path and modification orders, such as descriptions of widths and limitations on the public's use of paths. If they get this wrong, it can be much more difficult for the Council to take action in the future if the public rights are challenged by the landowner. I gave evidence in December at a 3-day modification order public inquiry; the Inspector agreed with my submissions and modified the order to specify the width more exactly and accurately and to remove the description of a culvert as a limitation.

There have been a disturbing number of instances where the routes of paths used by walkers and shown on the map on the Council's web site have not corresponded with the routes shown on the current definitive map, the legal record of the location of rights of way. This has resulted in planning applications for developments not respecting the true routes, a particular problem with quarries and the installation of wind turbines, where public rights can so easily be detrimentally affected. I have been able to secure a number of improvements to proposals when such discrepancies have been pointed out.

The number of diversion applications dealt with by the County Council on behalf of landowners this year has increased, but at least some proposals have been improved and others abandoned as a result of my comments, in some instances working with the relevant Ramblers and Open Spaces Society representatives.

Progress in remedying path faults has been patchy – some of the Council's officers have taken effective action when pressed, resulting in paths in parishes such as Wirksworth, Parwich and Hognaston being available again, but with other officers it seems to take repeated nagging, culminating in the serving of legal notices, to get results.

I am very grateful for the continued efforts of Inspectors who report faults and assess diversion and other proposals; without them, the "bread and butter" work of the Society could not take place – I just wish that there were more Inspectors, particularly in the south of the county. Any offers?

Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

John Harker

Last year's report mentioned a case at Wessington N.E. Derbyshire where we were assisting a local resident claim a footpath for the Definitive Map. Her claim was refused by the County Council so we assisted her with an appeal to the Secretary of State against that refusal. Unfortunately, an independent inspector found that the user evidence fell short of that which was needed to satisfy the threshold test in relevant case law. Therefore the appeal was refused and the case lost. A sad end to nearly 4 years work. Also in N.E. Derbyshire at Killamarsh, we attempted to save an urban alleyway on a housing estate from closure where planning consent had been given for change of use from footpath to part of someone's garden. This also failed as the Secretary of State for Transport rejected our legal argument that closure had to be strictly 'necessary' for the draft order to be confirmed.

A site meeting early in the year in Hayfield agreed the line for a diversion of Footpath 36 to resolve this obstructed path. We await the order to put this into effect. In Edale, we objected to the order to divert part of Footpath 4 because the order failed to specify British Standard stiles on the new section and should have specified gates as we had requested. However, we supported the Peak District National Park in their attempts to prevent damage to Chapel Gate caused by motorised vehicles by imposing a Traffic Regulation Order. The Order has been quashed by the High Court on appeal by the Trail Riders' Fellowship because of a legal point, but hopefully a new one will be imposed. Also heading for a higher court was the case of New Mills Footpath 84. We had supported a local resident in her action against the County Council for obstructions on this path on the edge of the town and I was to appear as a witness in support at Buxton Magistrates' Court. The County Council conceded defeat just days before the court was to sit, but is now disputing the level of costs to be paid and is seeking judicial review (see Signpost 41 page 4).

In Stockport, we have resolved some issues such as the obstructed Bredbury & Romiley Footpath 15 at Watermeetings Farm (see Signpost 42) and Marple Footpath 143 below Cobden Edge part of which had been unwalkable for many years. Misleading signs on Bredbury & Romiley Footpath 41 have been removed and on Bredbury & Romiley Footpath 91 (mentioned last year) we are closer to having a walkable path across the Gigg Brook valley near Compstall. We have agreed in principle to fund a bridge and Stockport Council will make the approaches walkable in return. Site meetings with the contractor are being held to thrash out details.

In South Yorkshire, legal action under section 130A of the Highways Act was needed to resolve padlocked gates on Worsbrough Footpath 14 in Barnsley. From serving the notice by email, to receiving an email saying the padlock had been removed took just 4 hours! A record maybe? Other gates on nearby Worsbrough Footpath 13 were padlocked but the threat of legal action saw the padlock removed. However we believe the gates are unauthorised and by their size intimidate users. We are pursuing their removal. See Signpost 42 for further good news from Barnsley re a long-missing bridge over the river Dearne on Barnsley Footpath 159. In Doncaster, 3 Society members including myself provided evidence of long use at a public inquiry in Tickhill. It had been called to resolve an order to add a footpath to the Definitive Map on land owned by the Earl of Scarborough at Sandbeck Hall. One of them had travelled from Cornwall to give his evidence in person! I am delighted to report that the inspector confirmed the Order on the 11th January this year. This footpath is a vital link in the local path network. Without it, users would have to do a large detour on roads.

Space precludes mention of other cases which are at varying stages of progress in Stockport, Wakefield, Leeds, Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Derbyshire. There is more work to deal with than time available to deal with them. One walk I did recently, to look at a diversion proposal in

Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

Derbyshire's Amber Valley, revealed at least half a dozen serious obstructions previously unknown to us on other paths. As local authority cuts bite, one fears that this will be a familiar occurrence.

Terry Norris

It is the first year as a Courts and Inquiries Officer that I have not represented the Society at a public inquiry into an application to divert or close a footpath. This is a reflection of the declining use of diversion applications as a result of the economic climate and effective work by the assessors working in conjunction with inspectors to negotiate modifications to proposals which would adversely affect walkers.

Authorisations for the erection of stiles and gates across footpaths for stock control purposes under s.147 of the Highways Act 1980 are normally not a matter on which the Society is consulted it being a matter for the professional judgement of rights of way officers. A case in Kirklees proved an exception. A tenant having grazing rights for her horses applied for authorisation to gate a public footpath. This path also provided access to a house, the owners of which asked the Society for help in resisting the application. We had concerns that the gate would deter walkers, as would the presence of horses on the path and most importantly the horses were causing severe damage to an adjoining path by puddling of the surface. Relying on the advice in DEFRA guidance, 'Authorising structures on rights of way – Good practice for LA's on compliance with the Equality Act 2010' we argued that a better solution would be fencing of the grazing area, so the horses would not have access to the path and no gate would be required. The application was duly refused by the Council. However despite there being no provision for an appeal, on the request of the applicant the Council purported to grant a temporary permission for a rope barrier across the path. The Society protested and threatened to serve a s130A notice as the rope barrier would be an unlawful obstruction. Following an immense flurry of e mails a meeting was held with the applicant, councillors, officers, the land owner and the occupiers of the house served by the path. It was agreed that a fence would be erected, the cost being shared by the affected parties (not including the Society). A pleasing victory for walkers but I was left wondering how many other unnecessary gates and stiles are authorised for control of stock, when fencing would have provided a better solution for walkers.

Despite the assiduous efforts of the local inspector the performance of Tameside Council continued to cause concern. Whilst the standard provision of stile kits to landowners to replace unsatisfactory stiles was a welcome step forward, many reported faults remain unresolved. Two s.130A notices were served with respect to stiles in so poor a condition as to amount to an obstruction. In one case the rotting away of the horizontal step meant the structure was in effect a fence across the path. The other case concerned a ramshackle 'stile' so poorly constructed as to be a 'significant interference with the exercise of public rights of way over the path'. In both cases the stiles have been put into good order.

It is now possible to use the path between the Cloud and Bridestones (Congleton 82) following the erection of gates and a ladder stile at the northern end of the path by Cheshire East Council. This was the route which was confirmed as a public right of way following a public inquiry at which the Society was represented by counsel, the Council having initially refused to make an order modifying the definitive map. Thus it is now possible, after many years of access being denied to walk in a direct line from the Bridestones to the Cloud by a direct line joining the two existing paths. Approaching the path from the Bridestones end, it is necessary to pass through a tunnel and cross a stock yard. This is unsatisfactory but an excellent diversion has been agreed and work should be starting in January. The new route passes through fields and woodlands to join the newly opened path. This will provide a magnificent route with excellent views across the Cheshire plains.

Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

Harry W Scott

Looking back over 2012 the year did not get off to a very good start with Staffordshire County Council making cuts to its Countryside budget. The cuts fell mainly on the Ranger service and on the amount of funding for projects, which suffered a reduction of 62%. However there was no loss of staff in the Rights of Way department. I continued to monitor planning applications, receiving 128 applications during 2012 from Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. All were investigated and commented on if footpaths were directly affected. The number of diversion consultations fell to 16 during 2012. I put this down mainly to the fees charged by the County Council. Only one proposed diversion was opposed, involving footpath 10 Sheen Parish in the Staffordshire Moorlands. The proposal was to close a section of footpath 10 through Pool Farm and create a new section of footpath some distance away. Currently I am still maintaining our objection. I received 24 orders made by Staffordshire County Council and the District Councils. I objected to the order to divert footpath 1 Fradswell in Stafford Borough due to drafting errors which were later corrected. One bit of good news was the cancellation of an order made in 2011 to divert footpath 21 Warslow Parish, where the diversion would have sent walkers up a 30% hillside. I objected to the order and maintained our objection. Staffordshire County Council decided to cancel the order and not take it to a Public Inquiry. I submitted 71 footpath complaints to Staffordshire County Council over the year all of which have been acknowledged. The County Council is generally resolving problems much more quickly. On the other hand Stoke on Trent can only be described as a black hole, I have had to resort to contacting City Councillors to get problems resolved. A final happy note: the following footpaths were opened up in 2012, Alstonefield 3, Yoxall 51, Brewood 15 & 80, Blore 28, Bradnup 40, Bradley 0.1222 and Blymhill 13.



New Ladder Stile and Gate on Congleton 82

Consultation & Orders Report

Alan Hooley

The section lost two members in 2012. First we had the sad death of Geoff Errington, and later Jeff Lomax retired. We miss them both and I thank Jeff for his sterling work during the years he has been with us.

I express the gratitude of the staff to the inspectors for their excellent reports. The success of our operation depends in a large measure on the work of the inspectors. Our particular thanks go to those inspectors who have done inspections off their own patch to cover a diversion or extinguishment in a parish where we have no inspector.

No major consultation issue arose in 2012. In last year's report I said we would write to all Order Making Authorities (OMAs), where no Area Officer is in post to ensure that they are aware that the Society's only address for service is Taylor House. This has been done, but in a few cases the information has not filtered through to all departments concerned, because there have been one or two instances of the authority contacting an inspector direct or, in one case, a member of the Society who was not the local inspector. If anyone receives an approach from an OMA about a proposed change to the network, please ask them to contact Taylor House as well.

In the course of the year we have heard much of staff reductions in PROW departments. Certainly the workload in the C & O Section has fallen. The total number of matters we dealt with, 942, was 10% down in 2012, following a drop of 24% a year earlier. Numbers alone are a crude measure. The numbers of orders of all types actually rose from 290 to 341. Over 40% of these were confirmed orders that would have been in the pipeline for some time, before the impact of the staff cuts was felt. At 78, the number of alley gatings was at the lowest for some years. By now I should imagine that most of the alleyways in urban areas have been gated. There have been a handful of cases of definitive paths being gated and the proposals have been challenged. The Society will become involved usually if members of the public object. Given that an objection by anyone other than the emergency services will not trigger a public inquiry, is it dawning on some OMAs that a gating order is a cheap and convenient way of closing a public path!!!

Whilst the decline in numbers may make the section's working life more relaxed, that is not the essential point. If local authority ROW work is being curtailed, how much work out there that needs to be done is not being done? The downward trend could presage a decline in the quality of the footpath network, which is something we need to think about.

On a more upbeat note the consultation process between OMAs and the Society seems to be working well, at least as far as I can ascertain. We found it necessary to lodge only 5 objections in 2012 against 12 in 2011.

Received at Taylor House (2011 figures in brackets): 341 orders of all types (290), 309 pre-order consultations (355) 78 alley-gating orders (146), and 214 other matters (250). We lodged 5 objections (12).

"We fight on" – Silverdale 14, politics and the law: a tale of conflict.

December 11th, 2012 saw a decision by Lancashire County Council remarkable for its disregard of the law and evidence. It perfectly illustrates the continuing need for vigilance and decisive action by the Society if justice is to be secured for walkers. It is so remarkable that members with an awareness of the law and an interest in the work of the Society are recommended to view the webcast available until June on the Lancashire County Council web site (the link is on the Society's web site and the case is item 5 on the agenda of the Regulatory Committee meeting on 11 December 2012) It is a complicated case and a very long web cast but downloading the officers' report, reading (on screen) the executive summary and flicking through the pages of map evidence before turning to the webcast for about 20 minutes starting at 1 hour 55 minutes will give you the flavour and hopefully whet your appetite for viewing the whole webcast.



The 'Brown Route' lies beyond the gate marked Private

Until 1994 walkers enjoyed an outstanding view across Morecambe Bay as they traversed the smooth and level 30 metres of track (the so called "brown route") to the north of the sea wall in front of Brown's Houses near Jenny Brown's Point from the end of Lindreth Road, Silvedale, to join footpath 14 shown on the Definitive Map. In that year, the path was deliberately obstructed and has remained so since. At the time, the obstruction was the subject of considerable protest into which the County Council made extensive, detailed, enquiries, before resolving, (on the basis of apparently excellent user evidence among other things) that the route was a public highway but then taking no action for around 15 years. After some difficult and prolonged enquiries to find new evidence for the Council to consider, in 2009 the Society submitted an application for a Definitive

Special Report (continued)

Map Modification Order to have the route shown on the Definitive Map. That was due to be considered by the Committee in April 2012 but the members postponed consideration for other footpath issues in the vicinity to be researched and the outcome included in the officer's report: hence the delay until 11th December. All the evidence points to the omission of the Society's claimed 30 metre route from the Map as a result of a drafting error in the course of preparing the First Definitive Map.

Since 1994 walkers have had to pick their way carefully across the rocky foreshore (washed by the high tide and dangerous in stormy weather); a route which is difficult for all but the most agile and impassable for most walkers of advanced years. But for the contention surrounding the route, it is highly likely that users of the Lancashire Coastal Path would now enjoy the coastal route rather than being diverted inland before reaching Jenny Brown's Point.



The 'Rocky Foreshore'

Following the Society's DMMO application, the Council's Officers did an excellent job in researching considerable map evidence and producing a long report arguing the case in support of their unqualified recommendation to make the requested order on the basis that the "higher test" had been satisfied, that is the existence of the path had been established on the balance of probabilities. Their report also examined the case for there being a public footpath across the foreshore and recommended (in addition to and not as an alternative to the brown route) the making of an order in respect of that route but on the basis that the case for the existence of the path was not proven on the balance of probabilities.

Despite that, on 11th December 2012, the Regulatory Committee resolved to reject the Society's application, delete the length of path on the Definitive Map with which the brown route would connect and make the order for the foreshore route on the basis that the higher test had been satisfied. Only 8 of the Committee's 15 members attended the meeting. Of them, 7 voted and, judging by the web cast, the basis for the majority view was that, as a matter of principle in this day and age, public footpaths should not go through the curtilage of dwellings. This is not a consideration the law allows the highway authority to take account of: instead it requires the decision to be made on the basis of the Committee's evaluation of the evidence in favour of the existence of the path which is placed before it. Such was the contrast with the law that the Society immediately sought and secured a conference with a specialist barrister for advice on the options open to it. A similar contrast with the applicable rules underlies the Committee's decision to promote the deletion of the length of path already on the Definitive Map with which the Society's claimed "brown route" would connect. Its sole basis for doing that seems to be that it would be logical to delete it, given the Committee's view about the brown route.

The Society has lodged an appeal against the decision in respect of the brown route and asked for an expedited appeal decision to lessen the chances of the Council promoting its other orders ahead of, and to the consequent disadvantage of, a brown route order. The road ahead looks bumpy, otherwise difficult and quite probably expensive. It may even require the Society to object to the Council's route across the tide-washed, rocky, foreshore in order to preserve the best case for the brown route. Nevertheless we intend to "fight on".



Beyond the chimney lies the 'Rocky Foreshore' opposite

Signpost Report

There have been numerous donations throughout 2012 for memorial signposts, including several from affiliated clubs commemorating anniversaries, plus others to celebrate birthdays, etc. Many thanks to you all. **363** signposts in situ (up from **336** in Dec '11) as follows:

New in 2012:

409 at Dobruden Farm, Baildon Moor.

410 at Cow and Calf Rocks, Ilkley.

411 at Penistone Hill C.P., Haworth; our first signs in Bradford were all erected with the help of Bradford PROW officer Darren Hinchcliffe and his men.

412 on the Pendle Way, Trawden Forest, E of Colne, in memory of Tony Cross and Ellen Morris of Blackburn Ramblers.

413 was erected at Stockport G.C., Torkington to celebrate Allan Brackenbury's 70th birthday.

414 by Bollinhurst Brook, Hazel Grove, commemorates the 90th anniv. of Manchester CHA Walkers.

415 at Bridge End Farm, Crowdecote in memory of David Murphy.

416 at Hankin Farm, Whatstandwell for the 30th anniv. of Geoff Errington and his partner Ruths' walking together.

417 on Taxal Moor Road, celebrates New Mills Radical Ramblers.

418 and **419** at Langden Castle, Bowland, to celebrate the birthday of twins Brenda and Margaret Carr of Eccles R & S C.

420 50m W of Main Rd, Flagg is in memory of Ben Johnson, VP of Cheshire Tally Ho!

421 at Wessenden Lodge, Marsden in memory of Brian Barnes.

422 S of The Ranger YH., Dimmingsdale, Alton, in memory of Jane Hewett; it is our southern-most sign.

423 NE corner of Hill Top Farm, Alderley Edge; our first on the Edge, thanks to Colin Miller and Club AZ Walkers.

424 ESE of Cadster Ho, Whaley for 40th anniv. of New Mills R.A.

425 and **426** at Isle of Skye, Hunshelf Bank, Barnsley, for the Friends of the I.O.Skye.

427 near Fallinge, Rowsley, in memory of Mick Torr.

428 S. of Allgreave in memory of Wilf and Doreen Simcock.

429 at Peak View Tearoom by Cat and Fiddle, in memory of Pat Holmes of M/cr and PD R.A.

430 at Manor House Farm, Marsden.

431 at Mellor G.C., in memory of Hilda and Ken Mayall.

432 at 10th tee of Mellor G.C., in memory of Jack and Joyce Berry.

433 and **434** near Lr. Ballgreave Farm at Lamaload, Rainow.

436 and **437** at Common Barn farm near Rainow.

Repairs etc in 2012:

14 rescued and refurbished after a vehicle knocked it down.

26 by the A6187, W. of Hathersage, was refurbished and, being one of Rowland Mower's works of art from 1912 is well worth a visit.

52 retrieved from nr Flouch Inn, Langsett as the F/p extinguished.

Finally, my thanks to Mike Barnes, Margaret and Bill Buckley, Sue Clarke, Dave Brown, Bill McGuinness and Stephen Young for their help with the website, cleaning and painting; also to John Hodgson and Ted Wolfe for their hard labour, to Rhoda Barnett for her survey and of course to all my illustrious predecessors from Thomas and Rowland Mower onwards through Harold Wild to Jack Ogden, Percy Hutchinson, Keith Wykes and Fred Ogden.

Faults, Inspectors & Bridge Reports

Hilda Bowler

Footpath Faults and Inspectors

A total of 1367 faults were reported during 2012, of which 959 were new faults and 408 had previously been reported. 351 faults were reported by Inspectors as cleared. We have a long way to go before our clearance rates catch up with faults!

Over one third of the faults were obstructions, signage and waymarking accounted for almost as many, with broken or damaged stiles less than a quarter. Ploughing and cropping, at 49 reports, was the smallest category.

Sue Clarke and Andrew Horton have continued to work on keeping the database up to date, and Brian Summerscales continues to prove invaluable for looking up footpath numbers. My thanks to them all, their input is really appreciated.

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 the Society and their work is valued greatly.

During the year we have lost a number of Inspectors, for various reasons, and we would like to express our thanks to them for the hard work and commitment they have shown. We have also been fortunate to welcome a number of new Inspectors, and trust that they will enjoy their time footpath inspecting. At present we have 85 Inspectors and 5 Area Officers, but more would be very welcome! If you feel you can help, either by taking on a parish or helping an existing Inspector, please do contact Taylor House - you will be very welcome!

Neil Collie

Footbridge Report

During 2012 we have offered funding for footbridges in Bolton and Doncaster. Working in partnership with Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, we are providing funds for two bridges and a boardwalk on a footpath close to the popular Jumbles Country Park, near Bromley Cross (see photo on back cover). The path, which had become overgrown, provides connections to the footpath network to the east of the park. Bolton Council arranged for a section of the path to be stabilised and for the overgrown vegetation to be cut back as part of the funding arrangement.

In Doncaster the project is at an early stage. Our offer of funding for an essential footbridge should enable Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to dedicate a new length of footpath as a Public Right of Way. This path will provide 'access-for-all' to Sandall Beat Wood. The wood is an extensive area of open space close to Doncaster and is well used by local residents.

Discussion continues with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council over the re-opening of the 'Far Benfield' path on Werneth Low. A new footbridge over Gigg Brook and extensive footpath improvements will be required.

Our two projects, at Chinley and Grindleford, with Derbyshire County Council are on hold at present due to lack of Council resources. We are hopeful the 'access-for-all' project on National Trust land at the Longshaw Estate, near Grindleford, will move forward in their 2013-14 financial year.

Membership Secretary's Report

Bill Buckley

Over the last three years membership of the Society has been in decline and it is pleasing to be able to report that this trend has been checked in 2012.

Last year some concerns were expressed regarding the changes made to the membership system in 2010/11 and how they might affect the overall numbers renewing their subscriptions. Nevertheless, an increase in recruitment activity during the year combined with a historically low number of members failing to renew left the total at the end of 2012 at almost the same level as the start. Overall turnover of membership was about 13%, of which some 6% was directly attributable to members moving out of area, changes in circumstance or other personal reasons. Regrettably, this past year has seen more members reporting financial hardship, and a number of affiliated organisations did not renew this time for the same reason. Many of the smaller societies operate on very limited budgets and have reported making drastic cuts just to remain in existence.

The changes we've introduced (direct debit membership, email communication etc.) are helping us to trim our operating costs to an absolute minimum whilst ensuring that the Society's resources are directed towards achieving our main objectives. Inevitably there have been a few problems encountered with the new membership schemes, typically mis-read email addresses, incorrectly completed direct debit mandates and clerical errors in computer record-keeping at Taylor House. If any members are still experiencing problems please get in contact with us by phone, email or post and we'll be only too glad to help.

The low turnover of membership reflects a high level of loyalty and commitment by all its members and the Society is grateful for all the support received during the year.

Members	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Annual	747	834	739	674	823
Ten Year	302	299	292	266	226
Five Year	351	378	351	275	187
Honorary Life	17	22	32	33	32
Junior	2	3	0	0	0
Total	1419	1536	1414	1274	1268
Affiliates	79	87	84	75	81

Honorary Members

Miss O Bowyer	Mr & Mrs A Howcroft	Mrs J Sutton
Mr & Mrs Brandreth	Mrs S Hulme	Mr F Travis
Mr & Mrs J Burling	Mr & Mrs J C Law	Mr & Mrs F Whitehead
Mr B Clark	Mrs K Mayall	Mr S Wraith
Mr A M Davies	Mrs L G Meadowcroft	
Mr M H Deakin	Mr T L Norris	
Mr & Mrs F R M Fysh	Mr J Ogden	
Mrs M M Haigh	Mr C R Peers	
Mrs J Head	Mr & Mrs W Peters	
Mr & Mrs D Hilliker	Mr J Robinson	

Affiliated Society

Abbotsfield Fellwalkers of Flixton	Manchester Associates Rambling Club
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society	Manchester Field Club
Altrincham & District Rambling Club	Manchester Rambling Club
Anchor Ramblers	Marple District Rambling Club
Ashover Footpath & Bridleway Committee	Merseyside & West Cheshire Area RA
Ashton-u-Lyne & District Walking Club	Mid Cheshire Footpath Society
Barnsley Mountaineering Club	New Mills Radical Ramblers
Blackbrook Conservation Society	Northenden Walkers
Bolton CHA Rambling Club	Northwestern Naturalists Union
Buxton Rambling Club	Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club
CAE - Rambling Club	Poynton Rambling Club
CHA Manchester Rambling Club	Probus - Newton le Willows
CHA Mansfield	RA Congleton
CHA Nottingham Rambling Club	RA Doncaster
CHA Sheffield Rambling & Social Club	RA East Cheshire Area
Cheshire Tally Ho Hare & Hounds Club	RA Manchester & High Peak Area
Club AZ Walkers	RA New Mills & District
Crescent Ramblers Northwich	RA North & Mid Cheshire
Denby Dale Parish Walking Group	RA Nottinghamshire Area
Denton Local History Society	RA Oldham Group
Derby Nomad Ramblers	RA Stockport Group
Disley Footpaths Society	Rochdale CHA Rambling Club
East Cheshire Ramblers	Rock and Heather Club
Eccles Rambling and Social Club	Romiley Ladies Group
Eyam Village Society	Rucksack Club
Hanliensian Rambling Club	S Yorks & NE Derbyshire Ramblers
Heatons Reddish U3A	Sale U3A Walking Group
HF Bolton Group	Sheffield Clarion Ramblers
HF Bury Group	Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club
HF Nottingham Group	Sheffield U3A Walking Group 'A'
HF Warrington Rambling Club	Shirland & Higham Parish Council
High Peak Hikers	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 Good Companions Rambling Club
Littleborough Civic Trust	The Strollers
Longdendale & Glossopdale FP Preservation Society	Trafford Walkers
Macclesfield & District Field Club	Warrington U3A Walking Group
Macclesfield Rambling Club	West Lancashire Footpath Group
Manchester & District Retired Teachers Association.	

Area Officers/Inspectors

Area Officers

Barnsley MBC

Chris Davison

Tel: 01226 296267

EMail: t_c_davison@yahoo.co.uk

Derby City Council, Derbyshire Dales DC, South Derbyshire DC

Rhoda K Barnett

Tel: 01335 344809

EMail: rhodabarnett@tiscali.co.uk

Amber Valley BC, Bolsover DC, Chesterfield BC, Erewash BC, High Peak BC, NE Derbyshire DC, Doncaster MBC, Rotherham MBC, Sheffield CC.

John Harker

Tel: 0114 2397629

EMail: trueblade55@yahoo.co.uk

Staffordshire CC, Stoke-on-Trent UC

Harry Scott

Tel: 01543 274805

EMail: harrywscott@btinternet.com

Warrington UC

David O'Leary

Tel: 01925 764707

EMail: dmols@tiscali.co.uk

Inspectors

Blackpool UC

Graham Sencicle

Tel:

EMail: sencicle@hotmail.com

Bolton MBC

Jim Foster

Tel: 0161 439 5408

EMail: jacinda48@aol.com

Brian Gerrard

Tel: 01942 816377

EMail: bgerrard2000@yahoo.co.uk

Bury MBC

Vince Anderson

Tel: 0797 904 2058

EMail: vince.anderson@btinternet.com

Calderdale MBC

Terry Norris

Tel: 01484 840294

EMail: terrynorris46@yahoo.co.uk

Cheshire East CC

George Anwar

Tel: 01663 734448

Email: georgeanwar@yahoo.com

Mike Barnes

Tel: 01663 764279

EMail: mb-pnfs@thedowerhouse.com

David Brandreth

Tel: 01625 263497

EMail: david.brandreth@gmail.com

Eric Davies

Tel: 01260 281174

EMail: eric.davies@talktalk.net

Hazel & Brian Ellison

Tel: 0161 485 5620

EMail: brian.ellison4@btopenworld.com

Denis Flinn

Tel: 01625 820530

EMail: dn.flinn@ntlworld.com

Inspectors

John Goodman	Tel: 01625 572480	EMail: jfb.goodman@btinternet.com
Brian Hamilton	Tel: 01625 484253	EMail: brian767@btinternet.com
Richard Hinckley	Tel: 01260 274124	EMail: richardhxxx@aol.com
Sam Lloyd-Jones	Tel: 07940 068002	EMail: samlloydjones@hotmail.com
Jerzy Matuszewski	Tel: 0161 449 8675	EMail: jerzymargaret@btinterenet.com
Justin McCarthy	Tel: 01270 568486	EMail: bothmccarthys@talktalk.net
Gavin Miller	Tel: 01565 634510	EMail: gavin-miller@ntlworld.com
Ian G Ray	Tel: 0161 486 0326	Email: ianray42@btinternet.com
Graham Redford	Tel: 0161 928 8975	EMail:
Brian Summerscales	Tel: 0161 437 8500	EMail:
David Taylor	Tel: 0161 439 8656	EMail: janeanddavetaylor@hotmail.com

Cheshire West CC

Peter Chapman	Tel: 01925 269511	EMail: chapman.pepperstreet@virgin.net
Eric Davies	Tel: 01260 281174	EMail: eandm.davies@onetel.com
John Gascoyne	Tel: 01928 733779	EMail: jlgascoyne@yahoo.com
Joe Park	Tel: 01606 76250	EMail: joe888.park@btinternet.com
Brian Summerscales	Tel: 0161 437 8500	EMail:
John & Felicity Whitelock	Tel: 01260 275509	EMail: j.whitelock@tesco.net

Derbyshire Amber Valley BC

Mike Barnes	Tel: 01663 764279	EMail: mb-pnfs@thedowerhouse.com
Ted Roadhouse	Tel: 01773 828269	EMail: tedroadhouse1@gmail.com

Derbyshire Dales DC

Mike Barnes	Tel: 01663 764279	EMail: mb-pnfs@thedowerhouse.com
Jenny Biltcliffe	Tel: 01142 660591	Email: jenny.biltcliffe@gmail.com
Derek Bodey	Tel: 01289 22081	EMail: derekbodey@hotmail.com
Bill Buckley	Tel: 01457 855639	EMail: buckley@fairfield75.plus.com
Jim Cowley	Tel: 0114 272 7886	EMail: jcowley@onetel.com
John Glentworth	Tel: 0114 221 8660	EMail: johnglentworth@hotmail.com
John Goodman	Tel: 01625 572480	EMail: jfb.goodman@btinternet.com

Inspectors

Michael Hamilton Tel: 01298 78956 EMail: mickhamilton31@hotmail.com

Steve Hird Tel: 01709 369363 EMail: hirds@talktalk.net

Derek Northin Tel: 01629 814847 Email: dereknorthin@gmail.com

Ian Ray Tel: 0161 486 0326 EMail: ianray@ray2003.fsworld.co.uk

Kirsty Tyre Tel: EMail: kirsty_d_tyre@hotmail.com

Terry Woodhouse Tel: 01246 276108 EMail:

Derbyshire Erewash BC

Martin Davies Tel: 0115 982478 EMail: martin.davies@care4free.net

Derbyshire High Peak BC

W P Allan Tel: 01298 25639 EMail: b_allan@btinternet.com

Mel Bale Tel: 01142 455953 Email: mel.bale@gmail.com

Anthony Brackenbury Tel: 01663 750752 Email: tonybrackenbury@btopenworld.com

David Frith Tel: 01663 732706 EMail: dabat@tesco.net

Ian MacKenzie Tel: 01663 742920 EMail: i.mackenzie@tiscali.co.uk

David Sissons Tel: 0114 268 3975 EMail: sissonsdavid@hotmail.com

North East Derbyshire DC

Graham & Barbara Baldry Tel: 01246 418207 EMail: grahamandbarbara@talktalk.net

Barrie Clark Tel: 0114 236 0416 EMail: barrieclark@forty9.fsnet.co.uk

Keith Feltham Tel: 01246 270047 EMail: felthk@btinternet.com

Kirklees MBC

Brian T Lawrence Tel: 01484 866396 EMail:

Chris Horbury Tel: 01924 470531 EMail: chrishorbury2000@aol.com

Knowsley MBC

Peter A Burns Tel: 01744 893432 EMail: gillburnsett@gillburnsett.plus.com

Lancashire CC

John Barnes Tel: 01706 213979 EMail: john_and_claire_barnes@hotmail.com

Louise Hardy Tel: 0161 486 0855 EMail:

Martin Lee Tel: 01704 505466 EMail: martinlee.byways@fsmail.net

Inspectors

Shirley Northcott	Tel: Contact via Taylor House	
Graham Sencile	Tel:	EMail: sencicle@hotmail.com
Brian Taylor	Tel:	EMail: taylor.brian@tesco.net
Rossendale BC		
Mr Barry Starkie	Tel: 01925 762809	EMail: starkieb@aol.com
Liverpool MBC		
Peter Burns	Tel: 01744 893432	EMail: gillburnsett@gillburnsett.plus.com
Manchester City Council		
Harold Addie	Tel: 0161 998 2349	EMail:
Oldham MBC		
Martin Riley	Tel: 01706 848408	EMail: martinriley1@yahoo.co.uk
Rotherham MBC		
Steve Hird	Tel: 01709 369363	EMail: hirds@talktalk.net
Sefton MBC		
Peter Burns	Tel: 01744 893432	EMail: gillburnsett@gillburnsett.plus.com
Brian Naylor	Tel: 01925 763001	EMail: bandl@talktalk.net
Sheffield		
John Adler	Tel: 0114 263 0433	EMail: johnadler@nhs.net
David Hurrel	Tel: 0114 288 6474	EMail: david.hurrell@ahemsltd.co.uk
St Helens MBC		
Peter Burns	Tel: 01744 893432	EMail: gillburnsett@gillburnsett.plus.com
East Staffordshire BC		
David Hewett	Tel: 01889 563474	EMail:
Ken Stewart	Tel: 01283 540 521	EMail: Stewartken100@hotmail.com
Staffordshire Moorlands DC		
Hilda Bowler	Tel: 01625 432426	EMail: hpbowler@aol.com
Christine Carter	Tel: 01538 266827	EMail: chris@hebes.eclipse.co.uk

David Hewett	Tel: 01889 563474	EMail:
Richard Hinckley	Tel: 01260 274124	EMail: richardhxxx@aol.com
Stockport MBC		
Steve Clarke	Tel: 0161 612 5900	EMail: clarkesa@fsmail.net
Nick Gregg	Tel: 0161 973 8649	EMail: hensgregg@waitrose.com
Frank Hollingworth	Tel: 0161 426 0097	EMail: ramblingfrank@virginmedia.com
Ann Papageorgiou	Tel: 0161 477 5143	EMail: lakispap@hotmail.com
Allan & Lesley Witton	Tel: 0161 283 2439	EMail: lesleywitton16@yahoo.co.uk
Tameside MBC		
Mark Atherton	Tel: 0161 343 2402	EMail: mark.r.atherton@mcc.ac.uk
Pat Thomas	Tel: 01457 867803	EMail: ms.p.Thomas@btinternet.com
Trafford MBC		
Malcolm Clarke	Tel: 0161 283 0085	Email: mclarke@headwayconsuhancy.co.uk
Robert M Fysh	Tel: 0161 980 3091	Email:
Wakefield		
J C Morley	Tel: 019254 255893	EMail:
Warrington UC		
David Bratt	Tel: 01925 762472	Email: bratty41@hotmail.com
Margaret O'Leary	Tel: 01925 764707	EMail: dmols@tiscali.co.uk
Wigan MBC		
N J Atherton	Tel: 01257 425991	EMail:
Peter Burns	Tel: 01744 893432	EMail:gillburnsett@gillburnsett.plus.com
Wirral MBC		
Peter Burns	Tel: 01744 893432	Email: gillburnsett@gillburnsett.plus.com

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) 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.



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A collage of images for Kingsmaid Domestic Cleaning. It includes two women in blue uniforms standing with cleaning supplies, a woman in a uniform ironing a shirt, a woman sitting in the open door of a van, and a hand holding a smartphone displaying the Kingsmaid mobile app. The app screen shows two workers and cleaning icons. To the right, there is a blue background with the text 'DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE WEB APP...', the Kingsmaid logo (three crowns), and a QR code with the text 'SCAN OUR QR CODE' below it.

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